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'My friends gave their lives for what, the country of today?': 100-year-old WW2 veteran shocks GMB hosts as he declares winning the war 'wasn't worth it' because of the nation's sorry state - echoing major new poll on Starmer's **Britain** 

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By JESS LESTER

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A 100-year-old veteran shocked the hosts of Good Morning Britain today by

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## **DON'T MISS**

**EXCLUSIVE Country** icon, 58, looks unrecognizable as he steps out to support nepo-baby daughter after surgeries



Diddy 'caught drinking moonshine in prison'



declaring that winning World War II 'wasn't worth it' due to the state of the UK.

Alec Penstone told **Adil Ray** and **Kate Garraway** how he quit his factory job to sign up for the Royal Navy and fight for his country as soon as he came of age.

The war hero recalled serving alongside close friends, many of whom lost their lives, and called himself 'just a lucky one' for having survived.

Asked by Ms Garraway what **Remembrance** Sunday meant to him, the veteran said he felt that winning the war was 'not worth' how the country had turned out today.

His concerns about the state of the nation are shared by an increasing number of Britons, with a new survey revealing national pride has plummeted and society is more divided than ever under Sir **Keir Starmer**.

In findings which will send alarm bells ringing in **Downing Street**, eight in ten said they felt the nation was divided - up five percentage points from two years ago and ten points from 2020.

Commenting on the survey results this morning, former Tory minister Michael Gove argued 'mass immigration' was partly to blame for the perception that Britain felt more divided.

The poll found Reform voters were most worried about the cultural state of the nation, suggesting Nigel Farage's party stand to make big gains in future elections.

And half of the public said Britain's 'culture' was changing too fast, up from a third.



World War II veteran Alec Penstone said he felt that winning the war was 'not worth' how Britain had turned out today

after telling judge he is sober



Meghan has always been a terrible actress... but watch the moment she catches Harry completely off guard. It tells you everything about what's next: MAUREEN CALLAHAN



Sofia Vergara, 53, makes rare move of posing with mini-me sister Sandra, 37, who stars on Selling Sunset



Chrishell Stause
QUITS Selling Sunset
after nine seasons amid
mental health concern



EXCLUSIVE Why
Sydney Sweeney can't
stop dating MUCH older
men... amid Scooter
Braun fling



AMANDA
PLATELL: Ruthless Kate
has now conquered
Meghan, Harry, Andrew
and Fergie - and I
believe she's not
finished



Playboy vet Brande Roderick, 51, is still in her Baywatch swimsuit shape as she makes rare sighting, see her now



George Clooney, 64, names the 2 actors he thinks will become megastars... 30 years after he found fame



Princess Beatrice lands major new role amid scandal engulfing her family



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Taylor misses out on Grammy nominations despite having biggest album of the year





The war hero told Adil Ray and Kate Garraway how he quit his factory job to sign up for the Royal Navy and fight for his country as soon as he came of age

## **TRENDING**



Rarely-seen country icon steps out to support his nepo baby daughter

4.2k viewing now



m+ Jeremy Renner's film partner claims he sent her explicit videos

26.4k viewing now



Sofia Vergara, 53, rare move of posing with mini-me sister Sandra, 37

5.2k viewing now

Mr Penstone left the Good Morning Britain hosts 'mortified' with his saddening admission about the state of the country.

He told viewers: 'My message is, I can see in my mind's eye those rows and rows of white stones and all the hundreds of my friends who gave their lives, for what? The country of today?

'No, I'm sorry - but the sacrifice wasn't worth the result of what it is now.'

When he was asked to clarify what he meant by Mr Ray, he continued: 'What we fought for was our freedom, but now it's a darn sight worse than when I fought for it.'

The veteran did not specify the factors he believes are responsible for Britain's decline.

Consoling him, Ms Garraway chimed in: 'Alec, I'm sorry you feel like that and I want you to know that all the generations that have come since, including me and my children, are so grateful for your bravery and all the other service personnel.

'It's our job now to make it the country that you fought for, and we will do.'

Reassured, Mr Penstone continued: 'It's so wonderful to know there are people like you who spread the word around to the younger generations.'

Baron Gove, the former Secretary of State for Education, suggested this morning that concerns about changes to Britain's culture were linked to 'mass immigration'.

'I think you can't separate the question of mass migration from the question of a common culture,' he told BBC Radio 4's Today Programme.

Hailey Bieber celebrates Justin's surprise Grammy nominations with swee clip of son Jack Blues









Grammy nominations 2026: Sabrina Carpenter, Billie Eilish and Lady Gaga made



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Meet Whoopi Goldberg's rarely-seen lookalike daughter Alex who shot down 'nepo baby' claims

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'The rate at which a society changes demographically can be accepted, managed, tolerated, and indeed welcomed by the host population if there is a feeling that the culture they cherish is not being challenged or changed.

'One of the problems with the current pace of migration is not just the numbers, which obviously put a pressure on public services, but it is also the sense that new arrivals are not being invited to share in a common culture.

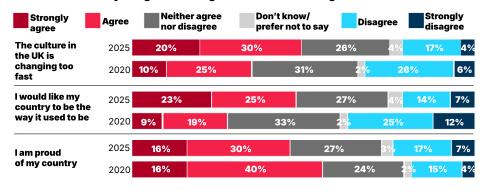
'That culture is either being wrenched out of shape or is fragmenting under pressure.'

The new survey about national pride was carried out by researchers at King's College **London** and pollsters lpsos, who have been tracking UK cultural trends annually since 2020.

They branded their latest set of findings 'frightening' and said they laid bare an increasingly divided, polarised and downbeat society.

They also highlight how much of the public thinks Labour has failed to get to grips with several of their key priorities - and has potentially even fanned the flames of division with its wavering stance on issues like trans rights and Net Zero.

## To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



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Princess Kate and William pay heartfelt tribute after death of Holocaust survivor Manfred Goldberg aged 95



Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie share emotional hug after intense conversation as disgraced father Andrew was stripped of titles



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)

Lord Young of Acton, boss of the Free Speech Union, said: 'This is the effect of Labour's divisive identity politics.

'Sir Keir Starmer and his ministers have been pandering to minorities who claim to be the victims of intersectional oppression, prioritising their rights and needs over those of ordinary Britons.

'Labour politicians justify this two-tier approach by claiming it promotes community cohesion, but in reality it creates social division, as this poll makes clear.'

Reform UK MP Lee Anderson said: 'Of course national pride has fallen. The education system is corrupting our youth, leadership has been weak for decades and millions can no longer afford a home of their own.

'For patriotism to flourish, Britons need strong leadership and the confidence that their government is working for them, not against them.'

Sir John Hayes, chair of the Tory common sense group of MPs, said: 'Keir came in with no clear defining purpose.

'So people are feeling at sea because they think the Government doesn't know which way it wants to take the country in.

'The absence of a plan from Government doesn't build popular confidence.

'Ideological multi-culturalism basically said to people you can live how you like, do what you like, you don't need to mingle, you can be introspective, and then we're surprised that we've got a fragmented society.

'We have to deconstruct that and have more people buying into British values and a shared sense of Britishness.'

The survey found 48 per cent said they would like the country to 'be the way it used

Are YOU proud of your country? Yes No Not sure

How 'wonky' teeth became the latest status symbol with It-**Girls like Aimee Lou Wood and Georgia May** Jagger - as dentists say veneers are falling out of fashion



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Millie Bobby Brown says she and David Harbour are 'lucky to have each other' after bullying and harassment claims



**EXCLUSIVE Harry** and Meghan were invited to LA Dodgers game by billionaire owner who faces fan backlash 'over his company's links to ICE



Cameron Diaz's husband Benji makes rare comments about their daughter as he shares she's a Taylor Swift fan



Pregnant Paloma Faith, 44, showcases her blossoming bump in a racy lace catsuit



Livvy Dunne lands \$2m New York apartment after being blocked from buying Babe Ruth's former co-



Prince Harry apologizes to Canada over baseball cap 'Hatgate' - and adds a joke about thinning on



EXCLUSIVE 'Bi-polar Kanve begs forgiveness for anti-Semitic rants in sitdown with celebrity rabbi as he and wife Bianca are seen together for first time in months



Sydney Sweeney reveals what 'terrified' her so much she had to get 'drunk' to deal with



Tori Spelling looks



to be', up from 28 per cent.

Strikingly, nostalgia for Britain's past rose in every single age-group, even among 16 to 24-year-olds.

Nearly a third of this age group wanted the country to return to how it 'used to be', up from 16 per cent in 2020.

The next biggest jump was in people aged over 55, which soared from 34 per cent to 62 per cent.

National pride across all age groups also plummeted, with less than half (46 per cent) saying they were 'proud' of their country - down ten points from 2020.

The most prominent drop was among 16 to 24-year-olds (47 per cent to 29 per cent), followed by 35 to 54-year-olds (54 per cent to 43 per cent).

Across all age groups, 86 per cent said they believed there were greater tensions today between immigrants and people born in the UK, up from 74 per cent two years ago.

Nearly seven in ten who took part in the study cited 'culture wars' issues as being central to widespread divisions, up from less than half (46 per cent) in 2020.

downcast as she seen for first time since finalizing divorce from Dean McDermott



Royal expert scathingly likens Meghan Markle to Sarah Ferguson after sparking shock with her return to acting



Fans turn on Raven-Symone after Bill Cosby comments go viral



EXCLUSIVE Kim
Kardashian risks wrath
of industry she so
desperately wants to
be part of as aspiring
lawyer's new legal
drama is blasted



Tom Ford, 64, reveals the heartbreaking moment he discovered his husband Richard Buckley died aged 73



Kim Kardashian casts Tradwife Nara Smith and her hunky husband Lucky Blue Smith in loved-up SKIMS campaign



Taylor Swift puts on leggy display in miniskirt and boots for another date night with Travis Kelce in New York City



b 'Disturbing yet delightful' drama with perfect 100% Rotten Tomatoes score wows Netflix viewers with 'awesome lead star and great twists'



Jon Bon Jovi reads
Paul McCartney's Hey
Grandude!



Blake Lively claims she lost staggering nine-figure amount in damages due to Justin Baldoni drama



Harry is accused of 'copying' William after taking part in VERY similar photo opportunity





Mr Penstone pictured in 1945, when he was stationed in Hong Kong

Meghan' Hollywood career comprised seconds-long cameos and bit parts before meeting Prince Harry - as she's set to return to acting after eight years



Millie Bobby Brown and David Harbour put on a bizarrely overly affectionate show at Stranger Things party after bullying and harassment claims



P David Harbour avoids being pictured alone with co-star Winona Ryder at Stranger Things final season premiere in LA



EXCLUSIVE Millie
Bobby Brown and David
Harbour are accused of
performing an 'OTT
comedy double act for
the cameras' by body
language expert



EXCLUSIVE Frail Bruce Willis, 70, holds carer's hand on very rare public outing in LA amid heartbreaking dementia battle



Sydney Sweeney wins patriotic hearts with stunning response to criticism of her 'good genes'



Figer Powell spills all on his awkward naked scene in latest film the Running Man and how he was left red-faced after receiving Tom Cruise's expert advice



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Netflix drops first five minutes of Stranger Things' final season and fans are already in floods of tears





Among the cultural issues to spark public anger in recent weeks has been the decision by some ITV stars not to wear poppies while presenting their shows.

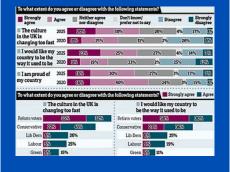
They include Kevin Maguire, who was seen without one on GMB on October 29.

While the left-wing journalist did not address his decision, he has previously told of opting not to wear until the week before Remembrance Sunday.

Meanwhile, Loose Women host Charlene White defended her decision not to wear a poppy on screen, insisting she had taken the decision to avoid being seen to favour a particular charity.

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She said: 'I support the [Royal British Legion], I donate to its work, I believe in its work, and I wear a Poppy off screen.

'But I believe in the impartiality rules which exist in broadcasting regarding charities.

'You may not agree with me, and I genuinely don't expect everyone to, but disagreement does not legitimise the abuse.'

Ms White revealed her Jamaican father had served in the RAF and she was passionate about honouring war veterans.

Good Morning Britain airs weekdays from 6am on ITV1 and ITVX.

Kate Garraway ITV Adil Ray Good Morning Britain

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Millie Bobby Brown, 21, looks loved-up with husband Jake Bongiovi, 23, at Stranger Things premiere after she praised him as a new dad



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Jessie J joins starstudded line-up for Christmas concert following cancer diagnosis



Jeremy Renner's film partner claims he sent her explicit photos and videos to woo her... then threatened the unthinkable when they

fell out



Sadie Sink looks incredible in an abflashing white bra top and satin skirt as she attends Stranger Things final season premiere in Los Angeles

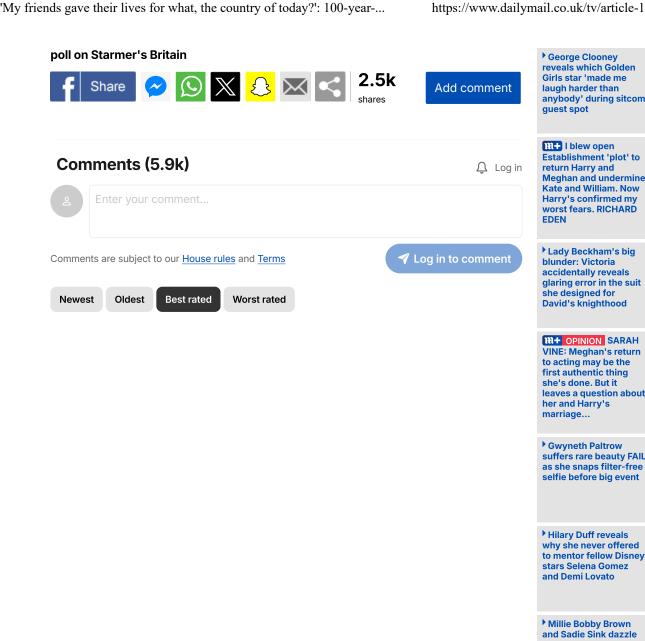


Disco Queen! Kate Middleton looks unrecognizable in yellow shorts and rollerblades as she lets her hair down at fundraiser before marrying Prince William



Prince Harry dines with veterans on his pseudo-royal tour - after apologizing to Canada for LA Dodgers baseball hat gaffe saying it covered his 'bald spot'





anybody' during sitcom







leaves a question about



suffers rare beauty FAIL as she snaps filter-free





as they lead stars at Stranger Things final season premiere in LA



You look Kate, Letizia! Queen of Spain takes a leaf out of the Princess of Wales's book as she debuts ultra-glamorous glow-up at state banquet in Madrid



Millie Bobby Brown reunites with David Harbour at Stranger Things premiere... after bullying and harassment claims

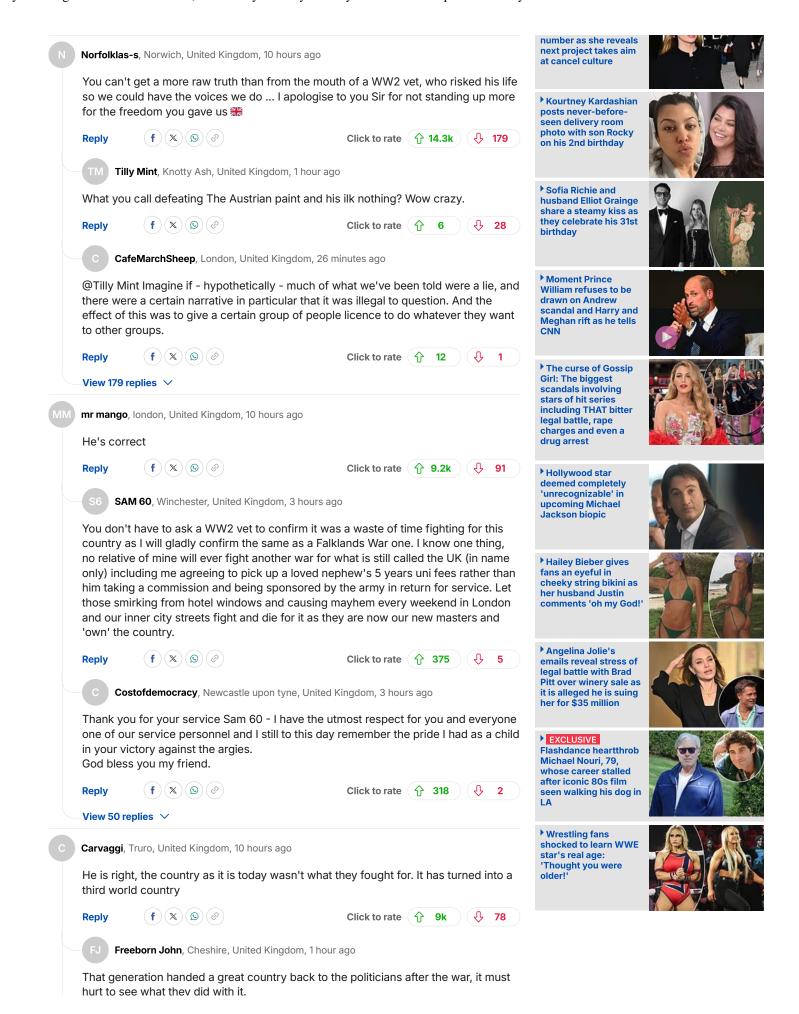


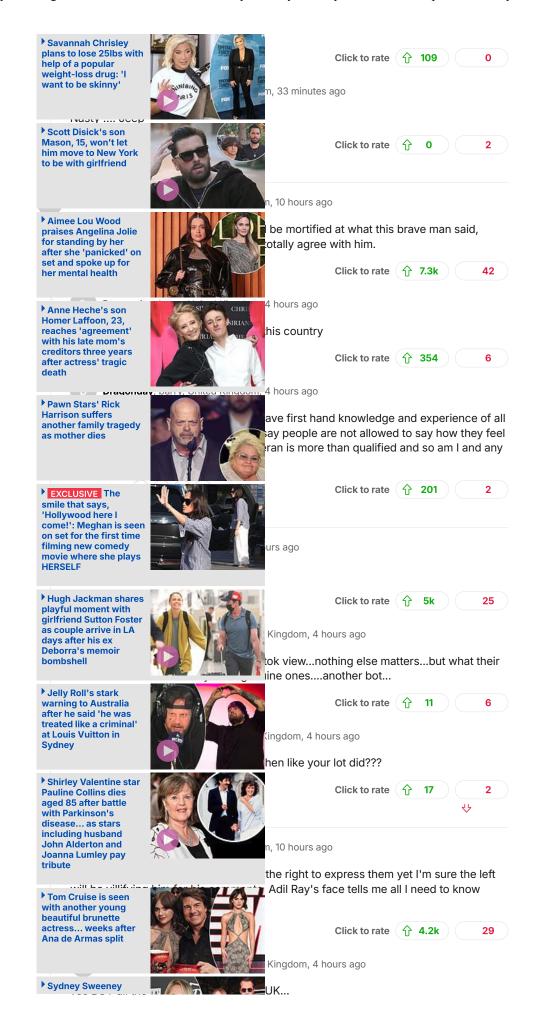
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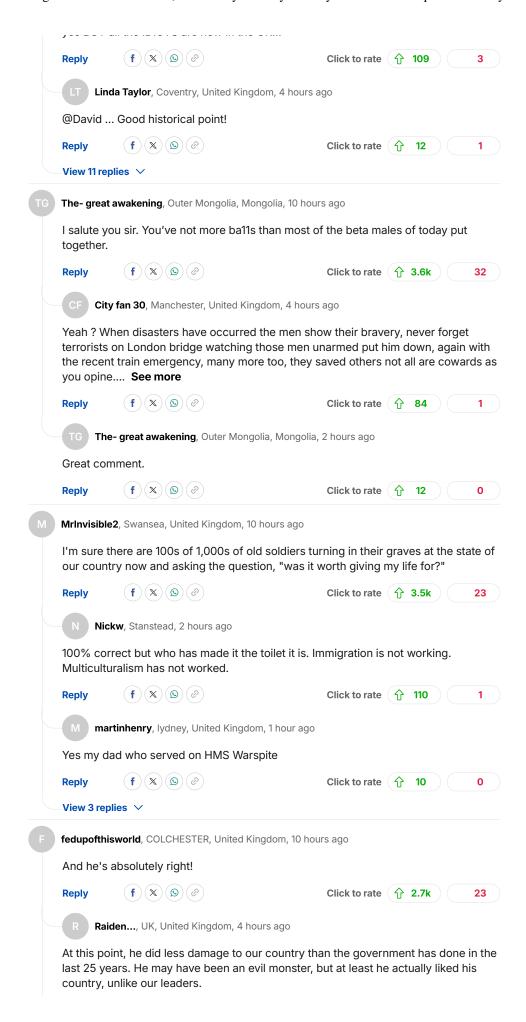


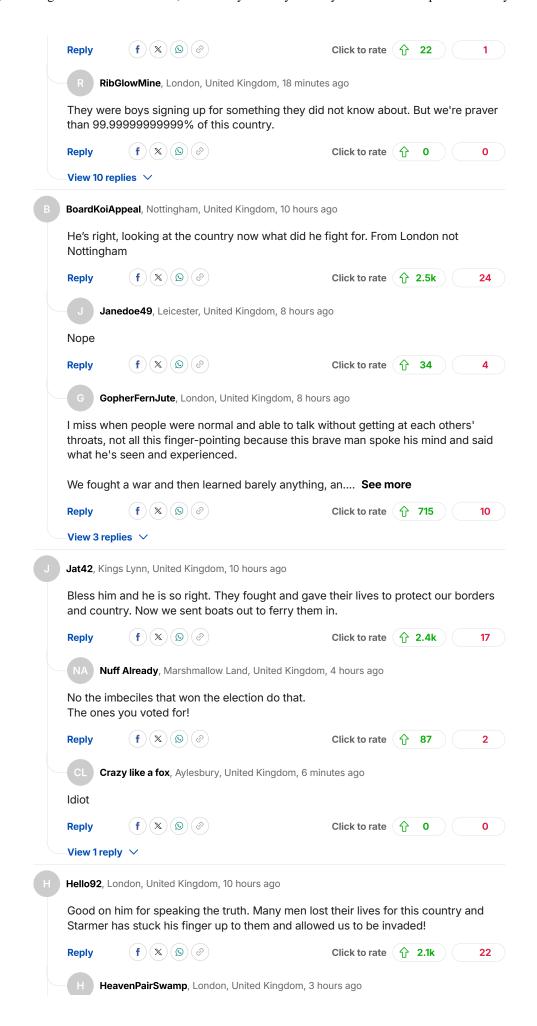
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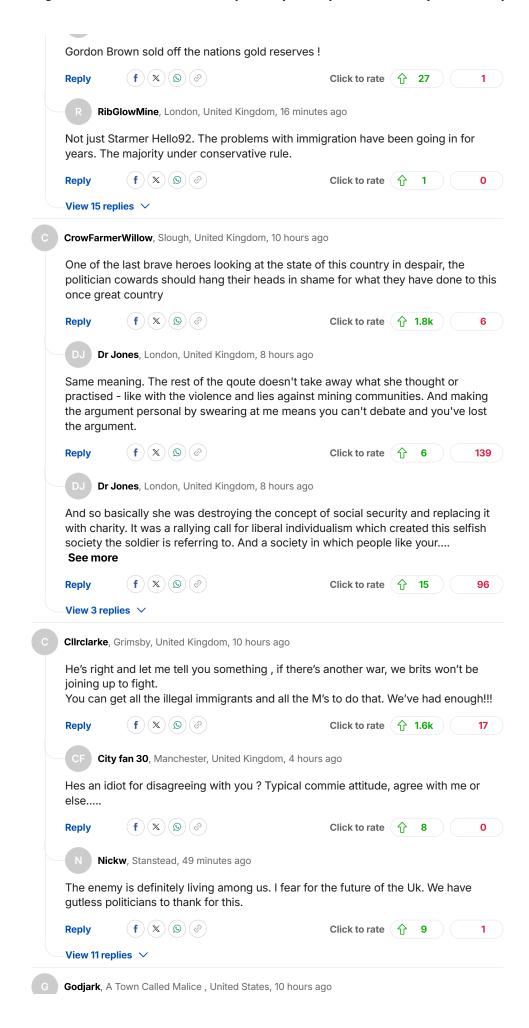


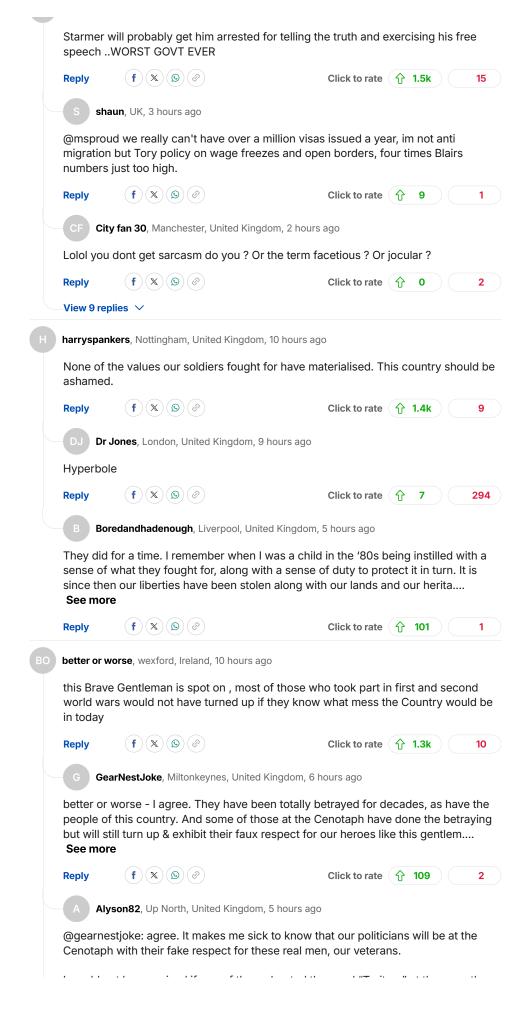


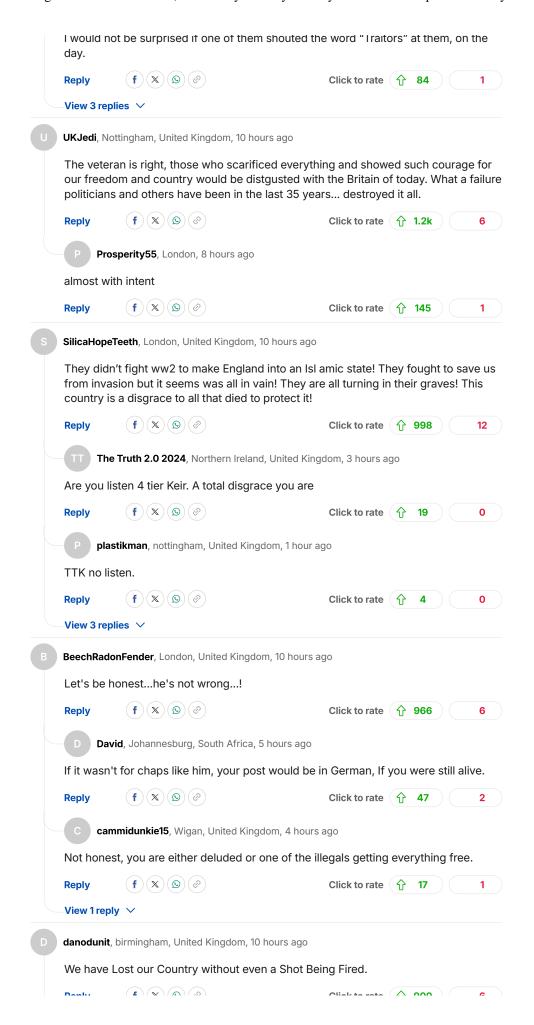


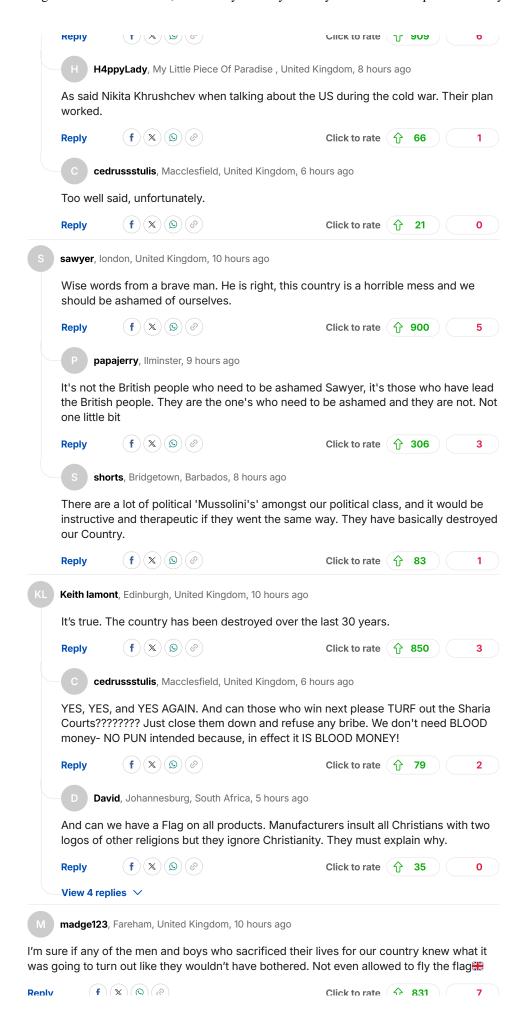


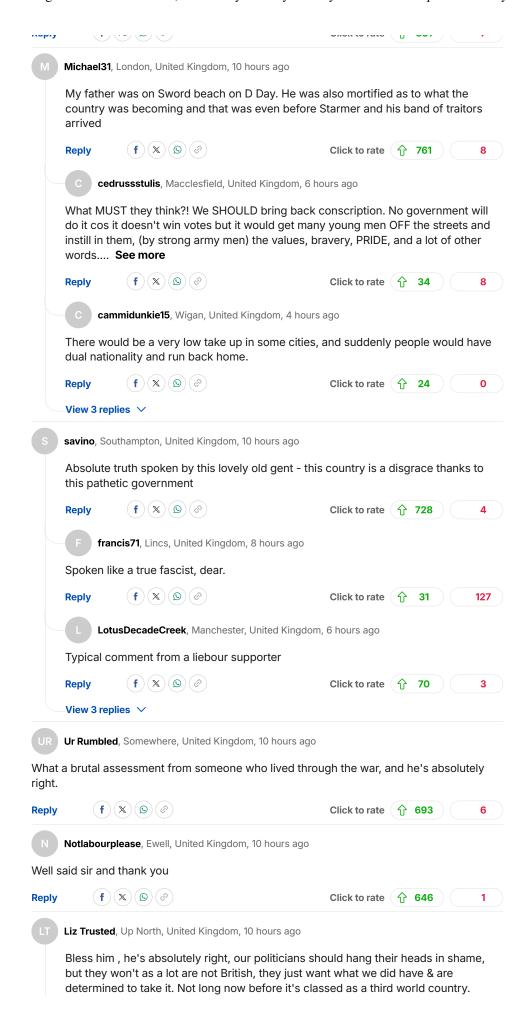


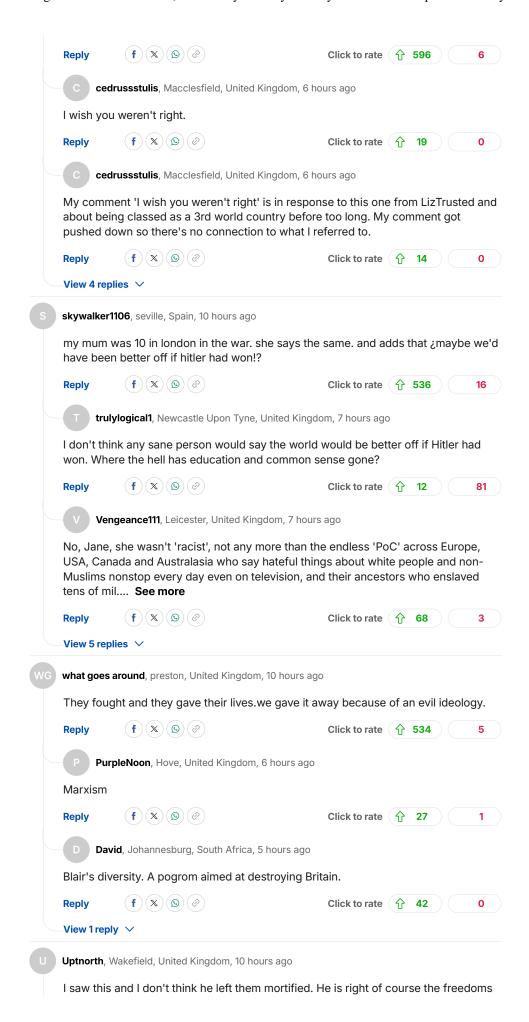


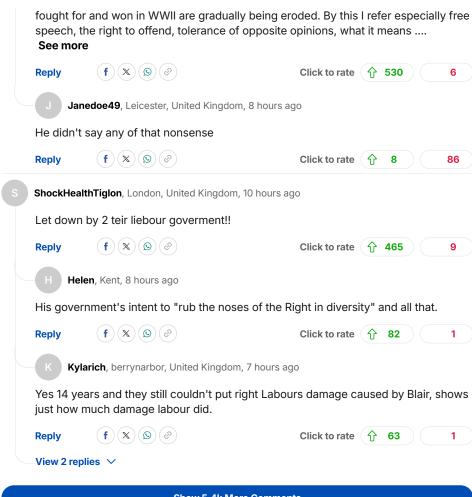












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She was a cute redheaded kid before becoming a Hollywood blonde bombshell, can you guess who she is?



Melrose Place heartthrob looks unrecognizable as he makes rare appearance 33 years after show ended







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Eugenie is spotted for
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Andrew was stripped of
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