

Chinese Factory Produces Thousands of British Flags After Queen's Death

By [AP](#)

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Orders for thousands of British flags started to flood into a factory south of Shanghai in China 90 minutes after the Queen died.

More than 100 employees at Shaoxing Chuangdong Tour Articles Company set aside other work and put in 14-hour days starting at 7.30am making nothing but British-themed flags.

They turned out at least 500,000 in the first week, according to general manager Fan Aiping.

Some are British flags to be carried by mourners or hung outside homes.

Others show Elizabeth's portrait and the years of her birth and death.

They range from 21 to 150 centimetres (8in to 59in) wide and wholesale for about seven yuan (87p) each.

The first customer sent an order at 3am Chinese time for tens of thousands, according to Ms Fan.

She said 20,000 flags that the factory had in stock were sent out that morning.

“The customer came to our factory directly to grab the products,” Ms Fan said.

“Many of the flags weren't even packaged. They were put in a box and shipped away.”

The factory had been making flags for the football World Cup before the Queen's death.

Chuangdong has been in the industry since 2005 and produces flags for the World Cup and other sports events or national day celebrations.

It also makes sports-themed scarves and banners.

Employees pay attention to news for events that might bring in orders.

“There is a business opportunity behind every news event,” Ms Fan said.

Ni Guozhen, an employee since 2005, said she has learned about the world through her work.

“I’ve learned a lot about current events,” said Ms Ni, who was sewing flags with the Queen’s portrait.

“My knowledge has grown. Therefore I’m proud and happy that I’m making flags.”

Ms Ni remembers filling orders for British-themed flags for a royal wedding.

“There is a story behind each flag,” Ms Fan said.

“This time it’s about the Queen in the United Kingdom. They are buying these flags to mourn the Queen deeply.”

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Featured image: General manager Fan Aiping holds up flags featuring the Queen’s image at the Shaoxing Chuangdong Tour Articles Company factory (Ng Han Guan/AP)

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