

WE DAY 75 ACTIVITY PACK





This year we are commemorating 75 years since VE Day (Victory in Europe Day). Discover more about VE Day and take part in some activities inspired by the festivities that took place 75 years ago.

VE Day took place on 8 May 1945, the day after Nazi Germany surrendered. It marked the end of nearly six years of conflict in Europe during which time many thousands of people had contributed to the war effort and served their country.

For many, VE Day was a day of celebration. Bunting was hung in the streets and people danced with friends and neighbours. Many people gathered outside Buckingham Palace to catch a glimpse of King George VI, who gave a radio broadcast at 9.00pm, and the future Queen Elizabeth II.

However, for some it was a day of mixed emotions. Many people had lost friends or family members to the conflict and were grieving. Meanwhile, the conflict in the Far East continued and many people were still serving overseas. Japan did not surrender until 15 August 1945 when VJ Day (Victory over Japan Day) was announced.

This year, we are remembering all those who served their country and celebrated on VE Day.

Churchill's Speech

At 3.00pm on 8 May 1945, Prime Minister Winston Churchill addressed the nation.

Here are a couple of extracts from his iconic speech:

"God bless you all. This is your victory! It is the victory of the cause of freedom in every land. In all our long history we have never seen a greater day than this. Everyone, man or woman, has done their best. Everyone has tried. Neither the long years, nor the dangers, nor the fierce attacks of the enemy, have in any way weakened the independent resolve of the British nation. God bless you all."

"My dear friends, this is your hour. This is not victory of a party or of any class. It's a victory of the great British nation as a whole."



"Tomorrow our great Russian allies will also be celebrating victory and after that we must begin the task of rebuilding our health and homes, doing our utmost to make this country a land in which all have a chance, in which all have a duty, and we must turn ourselves to fulfil our duty to our own countrymen, and to our gallant allies of the United States who were so foully and treacherously attacked by Japan."

"We will go hand and hand with them. Even if it is a hard struggle we will not be the ones who will fail."

VE Day Street Parties

On VE Day many people celebrated in the streets with friends and neighbours. As with all good celebrations, food was at the heart of the festivities. However, rationing was still in place and people were only allowed a small amount of certain food types including sugar, eggs and butter. Thankfully, over the years people had come up with creative recipes that did not require ingredients that were in short supply.

Food commonly eaten on VE Day included:



Dripping sandwiches

Sandwiches made with beef fat



Pork faggots

Faggots were made from offal wrapped in fat and were served with gravy



Homity pie

Potato, onion and leeks, topped with cheese



Eggless fruit cake

Eggs were rationed, so people baked cakes without key ingredients.

Here are some recipes that you may want to try at home, to mark 75 years since the end of the war.



Welsh Cakes

Ingredients

170g self-raising flour
55g margarine or butter
55g sultanas (or mixed dried fruit)
55g sugar
1 small carrot grated
1 egg
1 tablespoon milk
1/4 teaspoon of ground nutmeg

Method

1. Rub the butter and flour together until it resembles bread crumbs
2. Stir in nutmeg, sugar and dried fruit
3. Mix in the egg and milk to make a dough
4. On a floured surface, roll the dough to 5mm thick
5. Using a cookie cutter cut the dough into circles of 7cm diameter
6. Pre-heat griddle or heavy frying pan on a moderate heat, and grease
7. Put in Welsh Cakes and cook until golden brown on both sides (about 4 minutes)
8. Take the Welsh Cakes out of the pan and sprinkle a little sugar over



Berry Shortbread

Ingredients

250 g of plain flour
115 g margarine
115 g sugar
large handful of small berries

Method

1. Preheat the oven at 180 degrees Celsius
2. Melt the margarine
3. Add in the sifted flour and sugar and stir
4. Knead the mixture and flatten out with your hands
5. Sprinkle the berries evenly out over the top
6. Very gently fold the dough in and knead very gently
7. Press gently into an 18cm tin
8. Bake for 20 minutes until golden brown
9. Remove and cool in tin for 20 minutes,
10. Cut into slices and leave to cool on a wire rack



VISIT OUR ONLINE EXHIBITION 'TEA FOR II' AND DISCOVER THE ROLE TEA PLAYED DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND THE VE DAY CELEBRATIONS.

www.thenma.org.uk/whats-here/exhibitions/tea-for-ii-online-exhibition

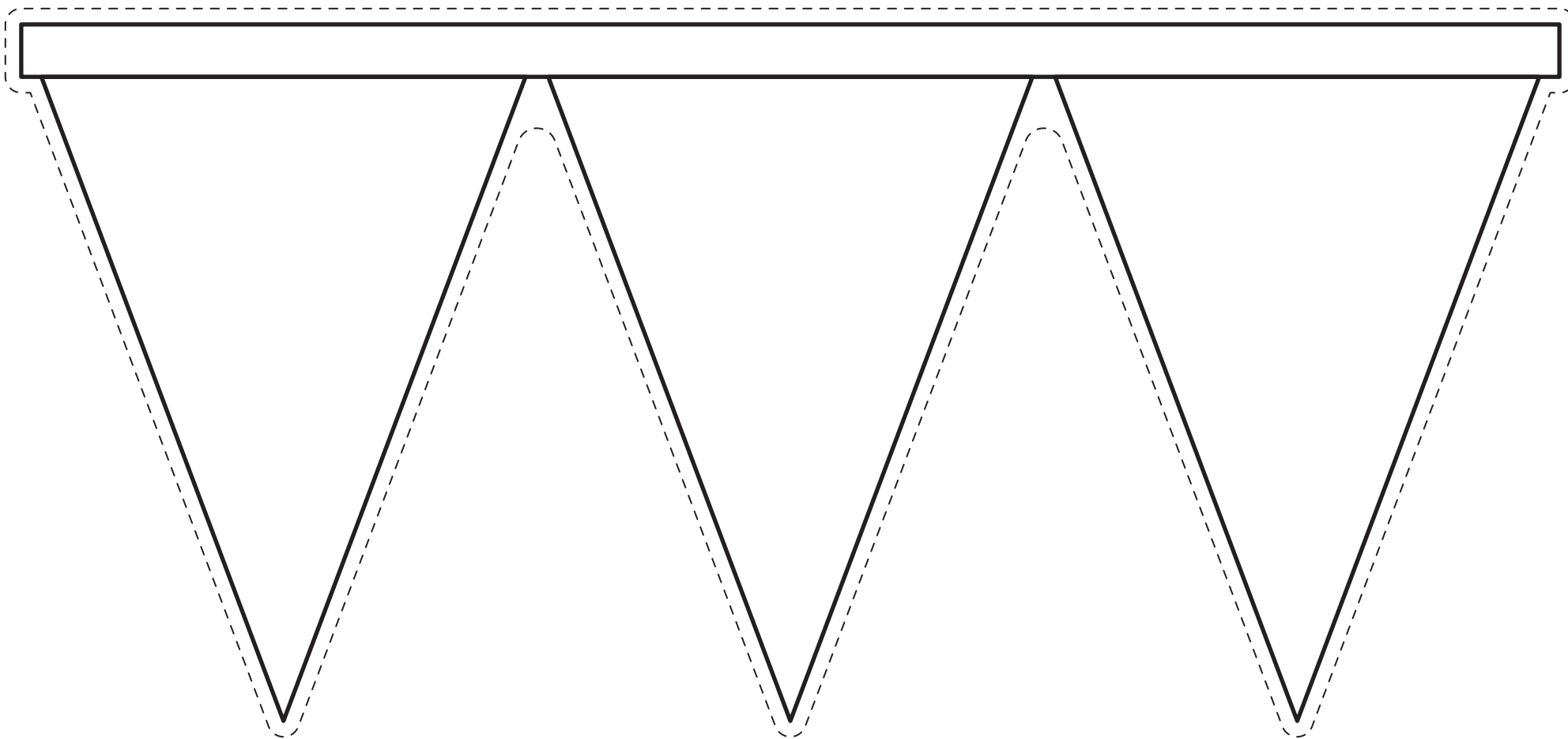
VE Day Street Parties

For VE Day, red, white and blue bunting was available without ration coupons and was hung in the streets.

To mark 75 years since VE Day, people will be decorating bunting and hanging it in their windows.

Using this template or on pieces of paper decorate some bunting and hang it in your window for passers-by to see.

Your bunting doesn't need to be red, white and blue but could be inspired by other flags and symbols such as a rainbow or a poppy.

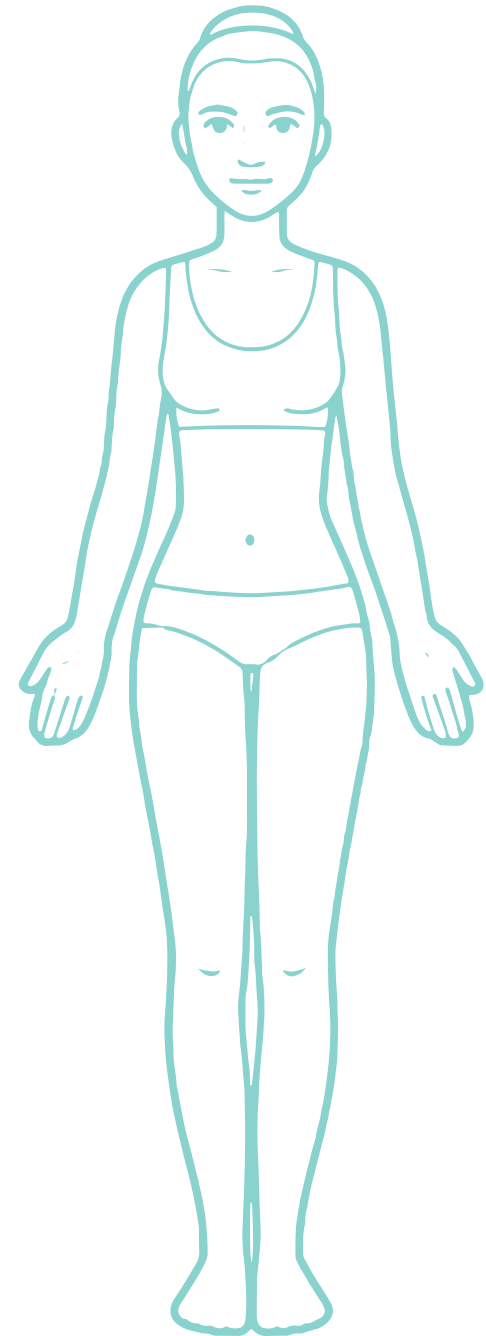
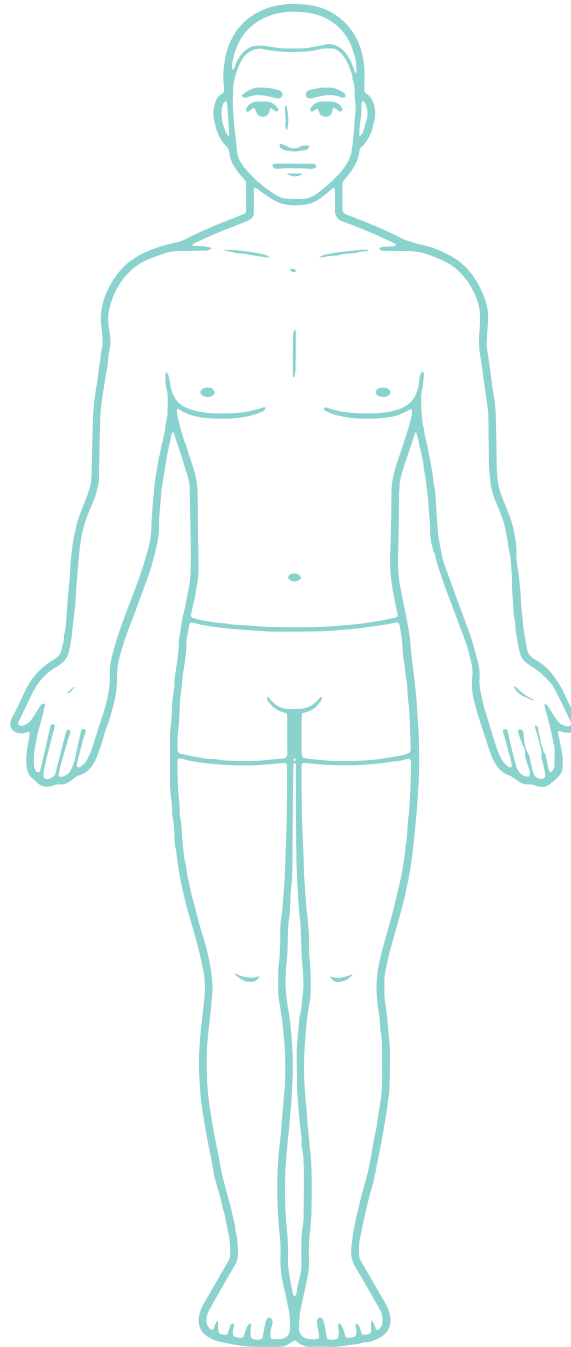


Make Do and Mend

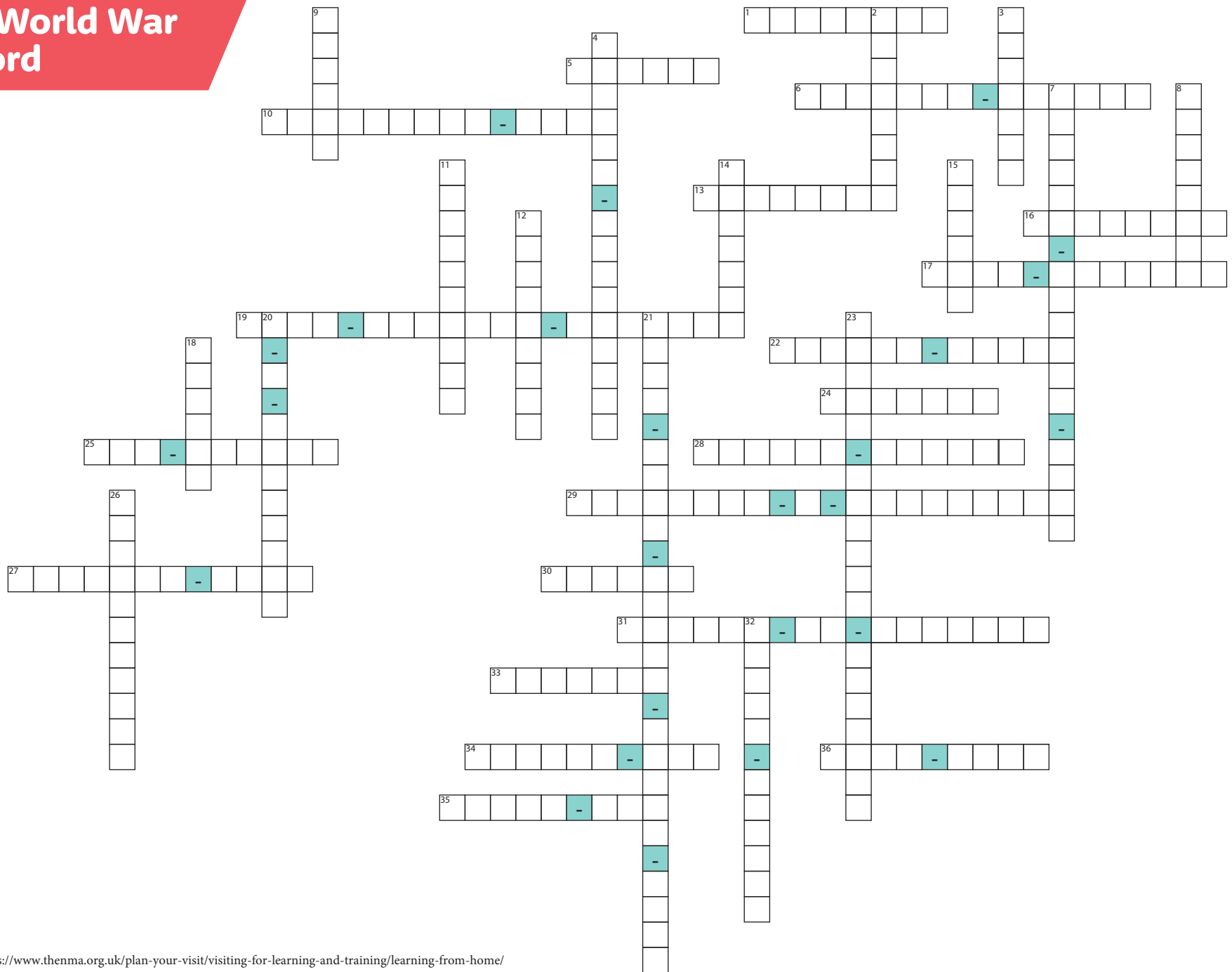
Fabrics were essential to the war effort so clothing was rationed from the summer of 1941. With clothing and fabrics in short supply, people had to come up with creative ways to make clothes and often used the fabric from old items to make new items of clothing. Even people's best clothes were often made from old items and many people would have been wearing clothes that they'd made on VE Day.

Using items from around the house, such as magazines, buttons and pieces of fabric, collage a VE Day outfit for the man and woman opposite.

If you're skilled with a needle and thread then perhaps you could make a new item out of old pieces of fabric or clothing that you have lying around.



Second World War Crossword



Answers available at <https://www.thenma.org.uk/plan-your-visit/visiting-for-learning-and-training/learning-from-home/>

Second World War Crossword

Across

1. The Battle of the Bulge took place in which densely forested area? (8)
5. The Native American language used by the US Marines as code. (6)
6. The person appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Luftwaffe in 1935. (7,6)
10. Where was the Government Code and Cypher School based? (9,4)
11. What were the Nazi 'lightning war' tactics which conquered Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium and France in April-June 1940 called? (10)
12. Which city was first bombed by an atomic bomb? (9)
16. The longest battle of the Second World War, from 1939 to 1945. (8)
17. The British Minister for Food who a pie was name after. (4,7)
18. The Dunkirk evacuation went under what codename? (6)
19. Who created the British Special Operation Unit, the Chindits? (4,7,7)
22. The Maltese people were awarded this in 1942 by the UK (6,5)
24. The professional football club that was used as a prisoner of war camp during the Second World War (7)
25. Where was the first atomic bomb tested? (3,6)

27. Who was known as the Radio Doctor during the war? (7,4)
28. The name of the person who invented the bouncing bomb. (6,6)
29. The President of the USA when Pearl Harbour was attacked. (8,1,9)
30. What was the first commodity to be rationed during the Second World War? (6)
31. Adlertag was the German codename for which military operation? (6,2,7)
33. Hitler had two trains, one was named Brandenburg, what was the other? (7)
34. What was the quiet period between September 1939 and Spring 1940 known as? (6,3)
35. What was the name of the aircraft that dropped the atomic bomb on Nagasaki (5,3)
36. Who was known as the Forces' Sweetheart? (4,4)

Down

2. Where did D-Day take place? (8)
3. The code name for the Allied landing on Provençe in 1944. (7)
4. The single-seat aircraft accounted for 60% of RAF victories in the Battle of Britain. (6,9)
7. Who devised the radio-wave device that was used for radar? (6,6,4)
8. Who was the Emperor of Japan during the Second World War? (8)
9. What was Sir Arthur Harris commonly known as? (6)
13. Which British city on 14 November 1940 suffered a huge air raid with 515 bombers? (8)
14. Which German city was the target of the first thousand-bomber raid? (7)
15. This vegetable was grown for animals but was encouraged for humans during the Second World War. (6)
20. The English aeronautical engineer who designed the Supermarine Spitfire (1,1,8)
21. Name alphabetically the 5 code names for the D-Day beaches (4,4,5,5,4)
23. The Potsdam Conference was held at Cecilienhof, whose home was this? (5,6,7)
26. The country Douglas MacArthur was driven from by the Japanese. (11)
32. Who was known by the nickname, the Desert Fox? (5,6)

Books and Films

The service given and sacrifices made during the Second World War have inspired many books and films. Here's a selection which you may enjoy:

Fiction Books



The Book Thief
by Markus Zusak



All the Light we Cannot See
by Anthony Doerr



The English Patient
by Michael Ondaatje



The Boy in the Striped Pajamas
by John Boyne

Non-Fiction Books



Band of Brothers
by Stephen E. Ambrose



Diary of a Young Girl
by Anne Frank



Ghost Soldiers
by Hampton Sides



Stalingrad
by Antony Beevor

Films



Schindler's List (1993)



The Imitation Game (2014)



Dunkirk (2017)



Saving Private Ryan (1998)



The Pianist (2002)



The Railway Man (2013)

All of these books and films are available to order or watch online.

We'll Meet Again

Vera Lynn's 'We'll Meet Again' was hugely popular during the war and its lyrics touched a lot of people. Today, the song feels just as relevant as it did over 75 years ago and many people noticed the Queen's reference to its lyrics in her speech on 5 April 2020.

Spend a moment listening to Vera Lynn's iconic song.

Perhaps you could find her song and sing along with friends and family who you live with or on the phone.



*We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day
Keep smiling through
Just like you always do
'Till the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away*

*So will you please say "Hello"
To the folks that I know
Tell them I won't be long
They'll be happy to know
That as you saw me go
I was singing this song*

*We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day*

*We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day*

*Keep smiling through
Just like you always do
'Til the blue skies
Drive the dark clouds far away
So will you please say "Hello"
To the folks that I know
Tell them it won't be long
They'll be happy to know
That as you saw me go
I was singin' this song*

*We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day*

Covid 19

Given the latest information about the Covid 19 Pandemic and the advice provided on social distancing, it is with great sadness that we have taken the decision to close the Arboretum for the foreseeable future.

We look forward to welcoming you once we reopen.

We'll
meet again

Need to talk?

If you are struggling during this period of social isolation/distancing, then there are a number of organisations which you can call for advice, support or just a friendly voice. Here are just a few:



The Royal British Legion

Call 0808 802 8080

The Royal British Legion supports members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force, Veterans and their families and can offer a range of support.



All Call Signs

Visit: allcallsigns.org

All Call Signs is a peer support organisation for veterans and serving military personnel. Their chat app is manned by over 500 volunteer listeners with experience of life in uniform.



AgeUK

Call 0800 055 6112

AgeUK offers a range of services and support, and has information relating to Covid-19.



Samaritans

Call 116 123

Samaritans offer services for those struggling to cope or going through a difficult time emotionally.