

Watt can you discover about VE Day?



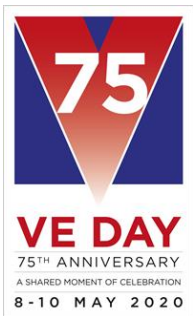
This pack provides home-based activities about your heritage using the collections at the Watt Institution.

The VE Day pack includes information and images from the Watt Institution and creative opportunities for all the family.

We'd love to have your feedback about the pack, also drawings and stories about VE Day. Why not send completed activities to central.library@inverclyde.gov.uk or [#VE75Inverclyde](https://twitter.com/VE75Inverclyde) and we will showcase your work on our Facebook and Twitter pages and perhaps add to the resources to support the museum collections?

VE Day, or Victory in Europe Day marks the day towards the end of World War Two when fighting against Germany came to an end in Europe.

At 3pm on 8 May 1945, Prime Minister Winston Churchill made an announcement on the radio that war in Europe had come to an end.



2020 is a special anniversary because it marks 75 years since the end of WW2 in Europe and there are lots of creative challenges available to take part in.

Inverclyde Council are inviting you to create bunting similar to the bunting put up in households across Britain on 8th May and to share your images #VE75Inverclyde

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/tourism-and-visitor-attractions/ve75>



Greenock Blitz

On the 6th and 7th of May 1941, Greenock was bombed by the Luftwaffe as they targeted the many ships and shipyards around the town. Scotland was a strategic interest point for Germany due to its coast, many naval sites and shipyards.

The civilians took the brunt of the attack in Inverclyde during the Blitz which began around midnight on May 6th. 271 people were killed and more than 10,200 injured during the intense bombing. 5,000 homes were destroyed and a further 25,000 were damaged. Residents fled to tunnels and air raid shelters and this managed to reduce the casualties and dead in the second night.

On the second night an Air Ministry decoy was lit in the hills, which consisted of mounds of combustible materials lit over a wide part of moorland to appear as a burning urban area from the sky. The decoy was a success and dozens of bomb craters were found in an inspection once the raid had ended.

In Greenock a distillery had been blazing from the first night which acted as a beacon for the bombers to bomb. The final wave came at 2am when parachute land mines were dropped and by 3.30am the entire town appeared to be alight. Damage to the shipyards was minimal but factories, distillery and sugar refineries were damaged.



Three local firemen were awarded the George Medal after entering a burning building to control and stop a fire which would have destroyed a mass amount of materials contributing to the war effort.

WATCH: My Story - John McQuarrie was 7 when Greenock was targeted by German bombers. Click on the link below to watch the short 2:30mins film

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=10154102904483670>

The links below are from an archive of recordings taken in 1983. As part of the Peoples Network Project the McLean Museum and Inverclyde Libraries recorded wartime reminiscences from members of the public.

The towns of Inverclyde - Greenock, Gourock & Port Glasgow - played a crucial part in the war effort, being the point of entry for the vast majority of troops. Many convoys started their journeys from here, and many foreign troops spent time here.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/69/a2451269.shtml>

As Friday 8th May is the 75th anniversary of VE Day while you are staying safe, join in the commemorations in fun and creative ways to learn about the history of VE day – create posters, colour pictures, make flapjacks

Think about how you would tell the story of VE Day today. You could:

- Write a short news report in the style of today or 75 years ago
- Make a short video that tells the story of VE Day, either in the style of 75 years ago or how you would tell it today
- Design a newspaper front page or article
- Write or perform a poem, song, drawing or other work of art
- Share the story of someone in your family or area who was involved in the War
- Write or perform a short play about VE Day and what it would have been like 75 years ago

There are lots of online resources you use to find out more about VE Day and the Second World War:

<https://ve-vjday75.gov.uk/dan-snows-ve-day-challenge/>

Click on this link below and you'll hear about a local man who flew Lancaster bombers during the war and how he was "just doing as he was told".

https://inverclyde-tv.com/story_threads/387-heritage/story/4067-mclean-museum

The former top-secret home of Britain's World War Two Codebreakers, Bletchley Park, was one of the first organisations to learn of the formal surrender of Germany in the early hours of 7 May 1945.

<https://bletchleypark.org.uk/cms/2020/04/ve-day-activity-pack-3.pdf>

Throughout World War Two, against seemingly impossible odds and in total secrecy, the Codebreakers at Bletchley Park systematically broke enemy codes developed the world's first computer to provide the Allies with vital intelligence.

It played a major role in WWII, decrypting secret intelligence which had a direct and profound influence on the outcome of the conflict. To help them decipher the codes, the team at Bletchley Park invented machines to help them break the codes.

A code is a substitution of words or phrases, whilst a cipher is a substitution of individual letters or symbols. German, Italian and Japanese ciphers were being decrypted at Bletchley Park. The rules of many of these ciphers changed daily – so when the team had broken it one day, they would have to start nearly from scratch the next.

- What is a code?
- Why might you send a message in code?

- Are all codes secret? Think about the Highway Code, Morse Code, computer codes and other picture codes, e.g. fire exit signs.
- Why might reading your enemy's codes be useful?
- Why would you not want people to know that you have broken their codes?
- Have you ever used a code yourself in order to say something secretly or to hide something?

Items from the McLean Museum:



1930-1945 Radio

World War II period military radio receiver type R1082. Made by Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd. (STC); London. The unit is in a wooden case. The receiver covered 111 kHz to 15 MHz in 14 bands with exchangeable coil pairs for aerial and anode circuits (28 coils). It could also be used for direction finding DF with an add on unit.

Wooden box containing coils for a World War II period military radio receiver type R1082. Made by Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd. (STC); London.

Second World War (1939-1945)



75
VE DAY



VE Day celebrations

75
VE DAY



Soldiers from across the Commonwealth