

VIRTUAL VE DAY 75 FESTIVAL

7-9 MAY 2020



PROGRAMME

STAND WITH YOUR SERVICES TO CELEBRATE
75 YEARS SINCE VE DAY.



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#VEDay75



THURSDAY 7 MAY

RYING FOR VICTORY: BRITAIN'S ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE IN MYTH AND MEMORY

DISCUSSION, [YOUTUBE](#), 5.00PM
LIVE Q&A, [CROWDCAST](#), 7.00PM

The Second World War was the first major conflict to see the implementation of a truly joint operations and command: three different services with three different sets of traditions, cultures and experiences.

Now, 75 years after Victory in Europe, how do we recognise the contribution of the separate branches of the armed forces on the Road to Victory? Should we view it as anything but a joint operation?

Author and historian James Holland (pictured) joins lead curators from the National Museum of the Royal Navy, the National Army Museum and the Royal Air Force Museum to explore the highs and lows in the evolution of this unique working relationship.

And, as the modern media continues to draw on wartime experiences and expressions, they will assess how each of the services has cemented its own contribution in myth, tradition and popular culture today.



SIGN UP TO THE CROWDCAST LIVE Q&A BY [CLICKING HERE](#)

FRIDAY 8 MAY

In May 1945, the Second World War in Europe came to an end with the unconditional surrender of all German forces. The 8 May was declared a national holiday Victory in Europe Day and celebrations swept the country.



10.00AM LIFE ON THE HOME FRONT

Find out what life was like on the Home Front as the Second World War drew to a close, our Living History groups have brought it to life in a series of short films.

- [In the News, Spring '45!](#) What were you hearing over the radio 75 years ago?
- [Digging for Victory and rationing](#) of food during the war, what could you eat?
- [Upcycling and repairing clothes](#) were necessary during the war, you had to Make Do and Mend
- [Be inspired by our 1940's Hair video](#) and learn about the make-up of the time
- [All night celebrations and street parties](#), find out what it would have been like on VE Day 75 years ago
- [Get inspiration for your celebration](#) from the National Museum of the Royal Navy Collection
- Learn about the role of the [Women's Voluntary Service](#) to the Home Front Section.

11.00AM TUNE IN TO THE BBC FOR NATIONAL COMMEMORATIONS, INCLUDING A TWO MINUTE'S SILENCE

11.15AM WOMEN IN THE FORCES

Women served in the three services during the Second World War. Listen to their reflections and discover what their work involved. These women have their stories brought to life by our Living History Groups.

- [Auxiliary Territorial Service](#)
- [Women's Royal Naval Service](#): Meet Jean Gordon who was a typist in the Writer Branch and worked as part of Admiral Ramsey's staff, preparing plans for Operation Overlord. After D Day, she travelled to France, celebrating VE day in Paris
- [Women's Auxiliary Air Force](#)
- [Special Operations Executive](#): A new recruit (part one)



12.00 NOON VOICES FROM THE FIGHTING FORCES

What was it like to survive the Battle of Britain, what did a soldier carry on his back, and who signaled across the world that war had ended in Europe? Stories from the Frontline!

- [Life as a Pilot](#), still a long way to go
- [Pack your bag](#) - discover the uniform and kit soldiers used in the Second World War
- [Forgotten Fighter](#) - the story of a soldier who served in the Far East
- [Homecoming Hero](#) - the story of a VC winner's war
- HMS Victory signals Victory in Europe
- [Action Stations](#) - Learn about what it is like to be under attack, under the sea! With the 'Action Stations' video providing an insight into the extraordinary experience of Second World War Submarineers.
- [Peter Stevens, a Jewish Hidden Hero](#), told by Joshua Levine for the RAF Museum - supported by the Roman Abramovich and Chelsea FC Foundation.

1.00PM WE WERE THERE!

Hear accounts and stories from veterans of the Second World War.

- [Army Commandos](#): Interview with Army Veteran Stan Scott, who landed on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day
- [Jewish Hidden Hero](#): Interview with Lawrence 'Benny' Goodman
- [Spreading the news of peace](#): Meet Dorrie Thomas, as she reflects on her experience as a Telegraphist in the Women's Royal Navy Service sending news of peace in Europe to members of the British Naval Fleet
- [Working in the Ops Room](#): Katherine Du Plat



2.00PM WHY THE ALLIES WON **LIVE**

Renowned historian James Holland and National Army Museum curator Dr Peter Johnson discuss the events that brought the Second World War in Europe to an end in 1945 in this live webinar.

2.45PM TUNE IN AGAIN TO THE BBC TO WATCH SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL'S FAMOUS VICTORY SPEECH

4.00PM VICTORY DANCE **LIVE**

Swing Dance UK will teach you to Jitterbug and Jive from the safety of your own home in this live beginner's class.



5.00PM THE BLUEBIRD BELLES CONCERT

Round off your Bank Holiday celebrations with a live concert from 40s trio The Bluebird Belles. Sing along to some iconic tunes and practice your newly learnt dance moves.

9.15PM WE'LL MEET AGAIN

Join in with the National Museum of the Royal Navy staff and volunteers as they sing from around the country.



SATURDAY 9 MAY

8.00AM WALK THROUGH HMS ALLIANCE

Take a virtual walk through HMS Alliance, a Second World War era submarine and consider the isolation of submariners as Europe celebrated.

11.00AM SOLDIER STORIES

Enjoy our instalment of today's videos as we continue to explore what life was like on the front line.

- RAF Regiment - an RAF film Production with thanks to the IWM Film Archive
- Special Operations Executive: Tools of the trade. Discover the kit a member of the SOE used in the field
- Special Operations Executive: Behind Enemy Lines. This video follows yesterday's exciting tale of a new recruit
- Pack Your Bag part two - discover the weapons soldiers used in the Second World War. This video continues on from yesterday's instalment
- West Indies ATS: Learn about the important work of the West Indies ATS during the Second World War
- Meet a member of the ATS trainee.



12.00 NOON WE WERE THERE!

Hear accounts and stories from veterans of the Second World War.

- Old and the Bold: Interview with Norman Mitchell
- Meet Roy Finch as he shares his story about being shot down
- Squadron Leader Sandy Johnstone DFC remembers 602 Squadron.

2.00PM FIGHTING THE PEOPLE'S WAR **LIVE**

In this live webinar, Dr Jonathan Fennell discusses the history of the British and Commonwealth armies in the Second World War.

He will show how fractures on the home front had profound implications for the performance of the British and Commonwealth armies.

Last month, Dr Fennell was awarded the prestigious Templer Medal Book Prize for **Fighting the People's War: The British Commonwealth Armies and the Second World War**.

4.00PM VYING FOR VICTORY

Catch up on Thursday Night's live Q&A with James Holland and historians from each of the forces museums, debunking the myths to reveal the lesser known stories of how the Second World War was won.

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