

VE-DAY 75th

ANNIVERSARY EDITION



Soar Boating Club
Normanton-on-Soar



SOAR POINTS – VE DAY 75

Editorial

Hello and welcome to this special VE DAY Edition of Soar Points, "Yes" it's hot on the heels of the "Wartime "edition, which apparently was received well by you, the members.

What we have aimed to achieve in this issue, is to attempt to gather your thoughts and recollections about the WWII and the period thereafter.

I asked for input from the membership in the form of any recollections or associated stories that may have been experienced by members or have been handed down from their parents.

Let's see how it all worked out!!!

Chris Hartny-Mills ... Editor

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Please note: Due to time restrictions and the need to get this to you today, I have not had this proofed by Helen Taylor, so any gaffs and typo's please put them down to the Isolation Gin Bottle!!!



Ed!!!

A Time to Celebrate and a Time to Remember



Being slightly too young to remember VE day, the first time I can particularly remember it being a thing is for the 50th anniversary in 1995. For the day we went into London for the parades and fly past on the Mall. Quite how early we got there or how sharp our elbows were I don't know but along with my brothers and our cousins I ended up sat on the kerb outside the Victoria monument facing Buckingham Palace. In some of the published photos of the event you can see us sat between some police men. Such viewpoints don't seem to be allowed for more recent parades. The poppy drop really did feel like it was raining poppies- fortunately only the paper part!

Beryl McDowell



Victory Celebrations in France

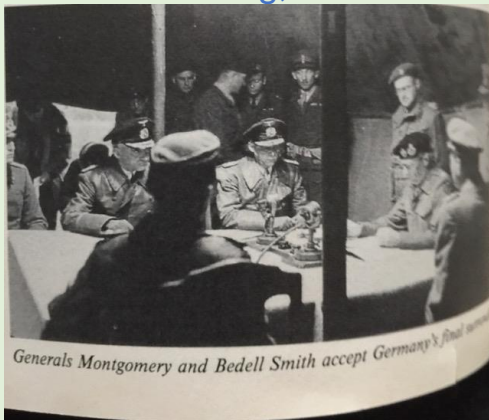
“ALEXA, What’s VE –Day all about!”

“VE stands for Victory in Europe and marks the day of the German surrender.”

To quote from the press of the day...

Peace came to a battered Europe at 2.41am today in a small red schoolhouse in Rheims where General Eisenhower, the Allied Supreme Commander, has his HQ. After General Alfred Jodl, German Army Chief of Staff, the German emissary, had signed the instrument of unconditional surrender, he said: “With this signature, the German the German armed forces are, for better or for worse delivered into the victors hands”. General Bedell Smith, Eisenhower’s Chief of Staff, signed for the Western Allies, and General Ivan Suslapatov was witness for Russia.

The German army had delayed signing to give their soldiers the opportunity to surrender to the Allied Forces rather than to the Russians. But the end had really come three days earlier in Field Marshall Montgomery’s tent on the desolate Luneburg Heath just south of Hamburg. It was here that Monty received the surrender of all German forces in North West Germany. Also on this day in 1945 the Russian Army took control of the Reichstag, the German main HQ



Generals Montgomery and Bedell Smith accept Germany's final surrender



A German soldier, his battles all fought, feels the bitterness of defeat.

Germans are weary, hungry and crushed

May 23. When they are not looking for food, Germans are to be seen attempting to clear the rubble, brick by brick, often working with bare hands, in the hope of having a shelter before next winter.

Other Germans have a more disagreeable task. They have been assigned to the concentration camps, to clear the skeleton-like corpses of the Nazis' victims. In some camps, heaps of charred bodies are lodged against the perimeter wire, where they were set on fire by Nazi guards before fleeing. The Allies are arranging for civilians, who say they knew nothing about the camps, to be taken on educational visits.

German soldiers will be sent to France, Holland and Belgium to spend the next few years repairing the damage they caused in the early

years of the war. The fanatics of Hitler's Death's Head Waffen SS are being sent to an island off the German coast until it is decided what to do with them.

Most of the best-known Nazi leaders have been rounded up. Himmler was spotted near Hamburg and taken to a British camp. When a medical officer tried to inspect his mouth he crunched a cyanide pill and died within minutes.

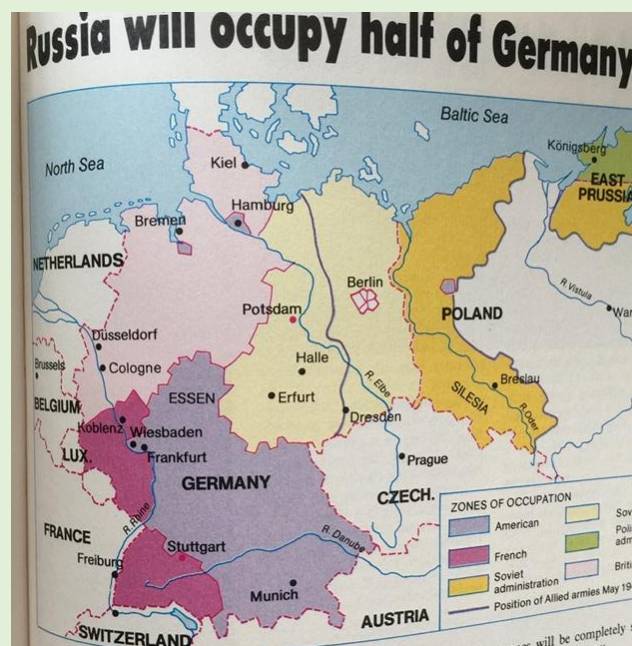
The rest of the gang - Goering, Ribbentrop, Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, Hitler's army toady, Julius Streicher, the Jew-baiter, and Dr Hjalmar Schacht, the financial wizard who made Nazi economics work, but ended up a prisoner for being too close to an anti-Hitler cabal - are expected to stand trial for war crimes (→ 7/6).

Ed

On the other hand ... here in Great Britain we were celebrating!!!



All was not entirely satisfactory though as A: The War in Asia with Japan was in full throw, and B: The talks between Britain, America, France and the Russians broke down in disagreement of the territory borders of Germany. Typical of Russia they were motivated by greed at any cost and they negotiated hard to gain a large share of Germany, which was split into four zones each under the control of either Britain, USA, France or the Russians. Berlin, although totally within the Russian zone, was also divided into four internationally controlled sectors. In 1961 hostilities between Russia and the West heightened Russia erected a dividing wall across Berlin as part of what was known as the Iron Curtain. It remained this way until the taking down of the wall in 1989 when Germany was finally liberated and East and West Germany became one.



This map represents the territory share out as was agreed, after the post victory negotiations. French: dark pink. USA: Violet. Great Britain: pale pink and the huge Russian territory in pale yellow!

Ed

A War Time Recipe for Ration CARROT SCONES from Laura Brookes



12 tbsp self raising flour & 1 teaspoon baking powder – sifted together
2 tbsp butter (or margarine)
4 tbsp sugar
8 tbsp grated carrot
A few drops of vanilla essence English Heritage Raspberry Preserve

METHOD

1. Pre-heat oven to gas mark 6 / 200°C. Grease a baking tray.
2. Leave the butter out so that it becomes nice and soft to work with - this makes it easier to mix in the sugar. Beat these until they are light and creamed.
3. Add in the grated carrot, a bit at a time. It won't look like the prettiest thing in the world – but stick with it. Add in the vanilla.
4. Slowly add the sifted flour. The more you beat, the more moisture the carrots will release to bind the mixture together. You will be left with a ball of sticky carrot-flecked dough.
5. Pinch and roll the desired amount between your hands. This recipe should make around 12 scones.
6. Place on baking tray and sprinkle with a little sugar (optional). Cook in the centre of the oven for about 20 minutes.
7. Once firm on top and at the sides, remove from the oven and cool before serving with raspberry preserve.



A typical war-time “fitted” kitchen!

Laura Brookes

Here is a short piece about my family's recollections from the war – Robert Aspey

My father was 13 years old when War was declared in September 1939, and when he left school in 1940 he was placed in a large local factory called The Villiers Engineering Company in Wolverhampton. It was a filthy job where he had to clean various components with paraffin. After nine months he decided he wanted to do something more skilled and handed in his notice and got a job as an apprentice toolmaker at Charles Snape and Co. press tool makers, whilst attending evening classes in production engineering.

All his family did their bit for the war effort, Dad becoming a cadet in the Air Training Corps, to prepare him to be a member of The Royal Air Force where he had volunteered for aircrew, but would not be called up until July 1944 when he was eighteen.

He was then sent for training in London to the sound of V1 rockets being sent all over the Capital and was then chosen to be trained as a pilot. Dad said he could not believe his luck, an elementary schoolboy being chosen to be trained as a pilot.

Ronald Ernest Aspey Cornell Trainer Aircraft - Canada 1945



After a brief time in England, he was sent to complete his training at Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Canada (See attached photo). Dad said what a wonderful experience it was, no food rationing, plenty of sunshine, he met many of his relations who lived in Toronto, and visited Niagara Falls. Luckily for him the war finished before he saw any active service and he was sent home to be de-mobbed.



My mother (photo attached) was still at school when the war started, but started work as a secretary at the Goodyear tyre factory in Wolverhampton in 1943. She remembers her father digging an air raid shelter in the back garden and the searchlights looking for German bombers. Just after the war she recalls one of her girl-friends meeting an SS Officer at the nearby prisoner of war camp, whom her friend later married. I remember saying to Mum that this seemed a bit wrong cavorting with an SS man, and she said not at all, as they were all tall handsome men!

Robert Aspey

VE DAY WORDSEARCH

YOU HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED
A TOP SECRET MISSION!

Can you find these hidden words?:

SPITFIRE

VICTORY

SOLDIER

POPPY

DOVE

PEACE

BUNTING

V	S	P	I	T	F	I	R	E	E
I	K	N	Y	E	B	E	N	V	L
P	Y	M	N	X	U	J	O	S	V
E	Z	O	Q	F	N	D	O	O	J
A	Z	O	S	F	T	V	M	L	V
C	X	K	D	Y	I	A	G	D	J
E	I	Y	P	E	N	B	U	I	A
M	X	P	E	P	G	E	A	E	B
T	O	T	C	K	U	D	R	R	O
P	V	V	I	C	T	O	R	Y	T

Laura Brookes



1940s MUSIC AND DANCE

SING-ALONG



LAMBETH WALK

Any time you're Lambeth way
Any evening, any day,
You'll find us all,
Doing the Lambeth Walk - oil

Every little Lambeth gal,
With her little Lambeth pal,
You'll find 'em all
Doin' the Lambeth Walk - oil

Everything free and easy,
Do as you darn well pleasy,
Why don't you make your way there
Go there, stay there.

Once you get down Lambeth way,
Every evening, every day,
You'll find yourself
Doin' the Lambeth Walk - oil

WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER

There'll be bluebirds over,
The white cliffs of Dover,
Tomorrow, just you wait and see.

There'll be love and laughter,
And peace ever after,
Tomorrow when the world is free.

The shepherd will tend his sheep,
The valley will bloom again,
And Jimmy will go to sleep,
In his own little room again.

There'll be blue birds over,
The white cliffs of Dover,
Tomorrow, just you wait and see

Laura Brookes

HOW TO DANCE THE LINDY HOP



The 'Lindy Hop' is a swing dance that originated in New York in the late 1920s and early 1930s. It gained popularity in the UK in the 1940s thanks to the American servicemen stationed here during the Second World War.

THE SWING OUT

The Swing Out is a cornerstone Lindy Hop move. It's danced in 8-counts and is a basic building block for other dance steps.

STEP 1

Rock step - take a step back with your full weight, then transfer the weight to your front foot while keeping it in place.

STEP 2

Triple step - take a step to your side. Bring your feet together. Take another step to your side.

STEP 3

Walk

STEP 4

Walk

STEP 5

Triple step



READY FOR MORE?

When you triple step, try to swing the rhythm three-a-four, or long-short-short



Laura Brookes



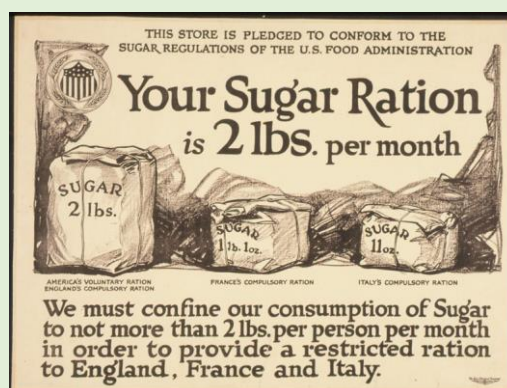
Churchill and Mrs Landemare

Mrs Landemare cooked for the Churchill family from 1939 throughout the duration of the war, until she retired in 1954.

During the war period, meals were often created using the most basic of ingredients as part of the rationing era.

According to Mrs Landemare, Churchill was an 'incredibly fussy eater' but she was often able to produce something delicious that satisfied his appetite for 'simple' British food.

Such was the impact of her cooking, on VE night Churchill actually thanked Mrs Landemare for her efforts by saying that he 'could not have managed throughout the war without her cooking'.



CHURCHILL'S FRUIT CAKE

This cake was one of Winston Churchill's favourites. It originates from Churchill's long-standing cook, Georgina Landemare who catered for Winston during the war at Downing Street and then at his family home, Chartwell in Kent.

Here is a version of the fruit cake, inspired by Mrs Landemare's original recipe which Churchill would have enjoyed.

Ingredients

225g butter

170g dark brown sugar

285g self raising flour

280g dried mixed fruit

2 cups strong black tea

5 eggs 110g halved glacé cherries

1tsp mixed spice

1tbsp black treacle (optional)

Soak the dried fruit in tea, preferably overnight

Cream together the butter and sugar in a mixing bowl, until almost white. Remember to scrape the sides of the bowl and continue to cream together

Gradually beat the eggs into the mixture, remember to add a little flour to stop the mixture from splitting or curdling.

Fold in the flour and add the mixed spice to the mixture.

Add the mixed fruit and the glacé cherries and continue to fold together.

Continue to fold and stir, whilst adding in the black treacle.

Preheat the oven to 150 degrees and line and grease a cake tin.

Once completely mixed together, scrape the mixture into the cake tin and leave to bake for 2 hours.

Check that the cake is cooked throughout before leaving to cool on a wire rack.
Finish with a light dusting of castor sugar.



Laura Brookes

Editor's Wartime Recollections

As we have had only a few actual recollections of VE day, I assume you are all a bit young for it, so with your permission I'll add a few of my own...

I was born in 1941 the year that Japan stormed into WWII at Pearl Harbour on December 7th at 8am with a surprise air and sea attack on the American fleet. The Japanese had been training for over a year in complete secrecy as they believed that the only way they could win at war with the Americans was a sudden death, as Japan couldn't sustain a protracted war. They tried many new tricks to use on the big day, such as adding wooden fins to their aerial torpedoes so they could cope with the relatively shallow 45 depth of Pearl Harbour. The Japanese attacking force consisted of six aircraft carriers and 420 planes, they had sailed 3,500 miles, in stealth without radar to congregate 230 miles off the Hawaiian island of Oahu. Their torpedo bombers flew just fifty feet above the water while other planes dropped bombs and strafed the decks of the ships with bullets. Midget submarines were also employed in the deadly strike, which took out six US ships and 169 army and navy corps planes! The following day the Japanese attacked US bases on the Philippines, Guam and Wake Island. Despite all of this unprecedented destruction the objective of the Japanese was not achieved as it didn't entirely cripple the US fleet. They failed to sink the US aircraft carriers and didn't break up the infrastructure such as repair shops and fuel tanks.



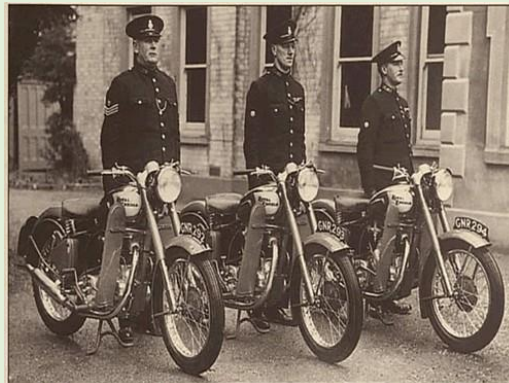
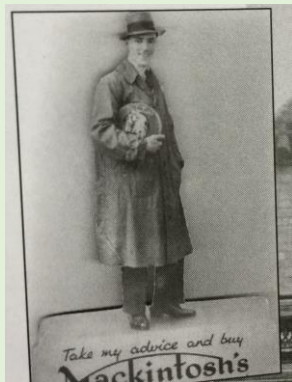
My early recollections of wartime are held in several different patches of memory that have stayed with me. I was raised at the back of my father's confectionary shop (see picture) which was right on the A34 trunk road, which ran from Manchester to Southampton, I can remember seeing all sorts of military vehicles passing by the front of our shop. They were lots of tanks and other track laying vehicles some on massive low-loaders some actually driving on the road itself leaving black patches of exposed tarmac behind them, the noise and air contamination was stifling.



I remember going in to the centre of our town at night seeing search lights with men sat pedalling the operating a device to rotate them as they scoured the skies for enemy aircraft. Just outside of our town there was an army encampment with massive guns sunken into the

ground and set into brickwork, these were intended to shoot down enemy planes pick out by the search lights. I believe they claimed only ne direct hit in the whole of the war!

My father was a Wartime Reserve Police Officer and he rode a Royal Enfield Motorbike with blacked out lights, his main role was escort duty for the massive military convoys that passed through our county. He also told us stories of his home visits to the mining fraternity of our town, where typically a coal miner, who earned a good wage, would go to the pub on the way home and drink the house keeping money away before he got home to his wife and children. My dad told me about the Coal Board allocated houses he had been in where all the furniture they had was wooden orange boxes scrounged from the green grocers and sacking, for curtains at the windows. Yet the miners were earning far more money right through the war than anyone else!



There was an ex-serviceman's club a few doors down the road from us and on VE day they lit a big bonfire on the pavement and ceremoniously burnt straw stuffed images of Hitler, Mussolini and Goring to the great delight of the assembled crowd. I guess everyone thought the war was won then, but what followed was also a disaster as it left this country economically in pieces as our infrastructure was smashed to pieces and there were thousands of homeless people due to relentless bombing raids. As John Wilkinson explains in his article on page 18. Coventry was ablaze, I can also remember seeing the sky lit up just as John explains.

Food was very scarce for many years afterwards. I remember seeing my first banana, I must have been about six years old. We had one between the four of us. My Dad said to me and my sister "Guess what this is?" I said I thought that it was Aladdin's lamp!!! But when we tasted that banana it was simply wonderful, we all had a quarter, and I had never experienced anything quite like it, I can still taste it today! We also used to get little bright blue packets of cocoa or coffee from the Americans passing through on foot with the convoys. Everything was on ration for many years after the war, I guess that why I never leave a morsel on my plate even now!

The photo on the left above shows my Dad featured in a Mackintoshes Toffee's advert. It appeared in all the national daily's and magazines etc. We had a huge cut-out of this mounted on plywood presented to my Dad by the CEO of Mackintoshes!

Ed

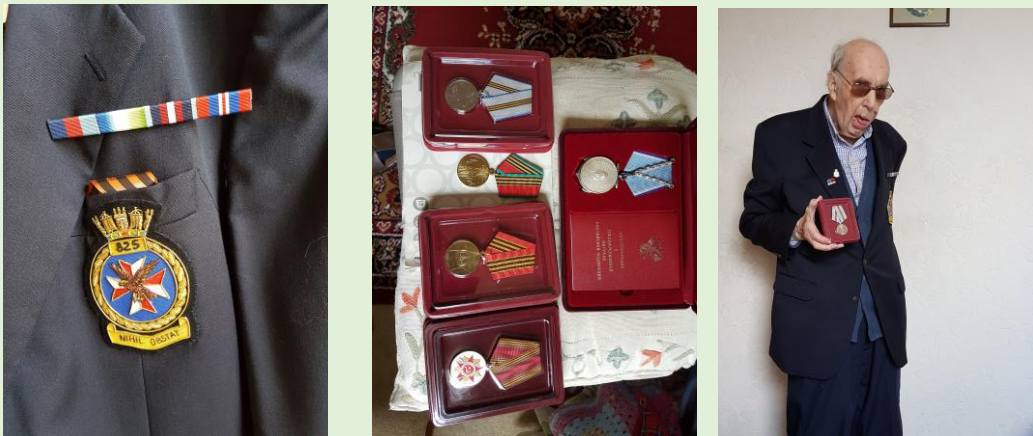
From the Commodores Cabin.

This week my grandfather received an unexpected surprise through the post!

His name is John Glenn, (but rather than go to the moon) he served in the Royal Navy on Russian convoy duty, during WWII. He was a member of 825 Naval Air Squadron. John is currently 96 years old.

What he received this week, most appropriately, was a package containing a letter of extreme thanks from the Russian Embassy for the work he and his comrades performed, plus a special medal and a certificate. He was obviously over the moon!

My guess is that Mr Putin had heard about Chris's request for Soar Points material and he sent this just in time for us to tell you about it!



Here are John's medals: All these were awarded during, or after WWII.

Services Medal Atlantic Star. North Atlantic Medal. End of War Medal.
The Russian Star (John is holding this one in the picture above).

He served on the HMS Vindex (D15) as Leading Air Mechanic. Vindex was a brand new Nairana class aircraft carrier, that had been built on Tyneside at the Swan Hunter yard. It was originally intended to be a merchant ship when construction commenced in 1942. But was completed and launched as an escort carrier in 1943. She carried Fairey Swordfish, Grumman Wildcats and Sea Hurricanes aircraft and was involved in the sinking of four U-boats during her service. Under the captaincy of Captain Bayliss she was assigned to patrol Western Approaches and the North Atlantic. After 10 months at sea the Vindex was allocated Russian convoy duty. An operation that Churchill called "The journey to hell!" Over a period of 2 years Vindex accompanied many convoys whilst being continually hounded by German U-boats and naval warships.

Eventually, HMS Vindex became the naval flagship under Admiral Hamilton, who commanded the operations of the all the ships in the convoy, whilst Captain Bayliss retained his position as ships captain. During their final assignment, the convoy were en-route to Scapa Flow when they received news of the German forces surrender. John still remebers “splicing the mainbrace” and the “Firework display” of Veiry flares in celebratrion. They left the convoy and stayed at “Action Stations” once they reached Scapa flow and then returned to Belfast. Soon after this 825 was disbanded. Hms Vindex then went on to serve in the Far East transporing men and materials to and from Japan, in 1947 she was decommissioned and sold for commercial use to Port Line and renamed Port Vindex, In 1971 sadly she was scrapped in Taiwan. After the VE-Day voyage, John was sent back to the Fleet Air Arm HQ in Lee on Solent and soon again made the three day journey back to Scapa flow to join 848 Squadron, they then flew Avenger bombers, a change from the lovely old Swordfish. Also on VE-Day, Sheila John’s wife, was celebrating in Sheffield. John then went with his new squadron from Scapa to Crail in Scotland near St Andrews to round up a program to take Avenger bombers into the Far East.



Dear veteran of the Arctic Convoy,

Dear friend,

It is a great honour for me to thank you and your comrades-in-arms on behalf of the Russian Government for what you have done to help defeat Nazi Germany 75 years ago. Russian people do remember the dramatic and heroic story of the Arctic Convoys – a period of unique collaboration between Russia and Britain.

From August 1941 to May 1945 the Convoys delivered more than 4 million tons of cargo to Russia including at least 7000 airplanes, 5000 tanks, trucks, tires, fuel, food, medicine, clothes, metals and other raw material. Thousands of Allied seamen lost their lives as the British ships sailed in the stormy waters of the Arctic ocean under a constant threat from German U-boats and aircraft. Your heroism and courage will always be remembered. We strongly believe that this inseparable bond between our two nations should be preserved.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**CERTIFICATE
OF COMMEMORATIVE AWARD**

Unofficial translation

Leslie John Glenn

is awarded

the commemorative medal
“THE 75th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE VICTORY
IN THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR
1941-1945”

By Decree of the President
of the Russian Federation
of 13 June 2019

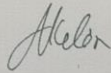
The medal is delivered on behalf of the President
of the Russian Federation by
the Ambassador of the Russian Federation
on 8 May 2020
(signed by hand)

A № 0079069

This year the world commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the Victory in the World War Two. The Russian Government finds it extremely important to recognise those who contributed to the Victory, both in Russia and overseas. On this occasion Russian authorities have issued a special commemorative medal that is being awarded to the Russian veterans as well as members of the Allied forces who were previously decorated with Russian awards.

On the instruction of the President of the Russian Federation I have the honour to present to you the commemorative medal "75 Years of Victory in the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945" and wish you and your family good health and all the best.

Sincerely yours,



Andrei Kelin
Ambassador

Dear Sir,

Due to the coronavirus, unfortunately, we cannot present this anniversary medal to you in person, so as not to risk your health. With this said, we would greatly appreciate it if you could send us back a photo of yourself with the medal, either by post or by email: press@rusemb.org.uk.

We hope you will not mind us using your photo in our public work aimed at promoting the memory of the Victory.

With deep respect,

Embassy of the Russian Federation

Just to complete the story, this picture shows members of five generations of John's family. Left to right we have: Me, Gary, John himself, holding his great granddaughter Hallie, John's Daughter (Gary's Mum) and Gary's son Joseph (Hallie's father).



Gary Askam

BRAIN FODDER! Here is a bit of light hearted mathematical fun to exercise your grey matter while we are all stuck at home.

1. If OLLIE is worth 31,770, and ELSIE is worth just 197 less, what value should you place on LESLIE?

2. TWO x TWO = THREE

Each letter stands for one and only one digit, and no digit is represented by more than one letter. Can you work out what digits the letters in the above multiplication stand for so that the above statement is actually correct?

3. A household has some goldfish, some canaries and some rabbits.

Altogether there are 15 heads and 26 legs. How many of each animal could there be?

4. Can you make 1000 with eight eights?

You can put some of the eights together eg 88 and you can use add, take, multiply or divide and brackets.

The answers will be posted out next week.

Coventry Blitz November 1940

I was born in May 1940 in Coventry. The war had started and my father, Alf, had volunteered to serve in the Royal Navy because he'd been doing a lot of walking as a "Man from The Pru". Flying did not appeal! So he was waiting for a ship in November 1940 and this is how my mother Ellen described the blitz. She dictated it to my daughter who transcribed it for the rest of the family...

"Our house was bombed in November 1940 and we lost all of the windows. It was a Thursday and Alf was going to a meeting in town. He said "I don't want the three of us to stay here tonight, I want you to meet me and we'll go to your sister's in Nuneaton". He said we would spend the night there and decide what to do in the morning. Alf knew that at some time Coventry would "get it" and he didn't want me and my Mom there. That afternoon he went to his work meeting and we met at Pool Meadow to get the bus to Nuneaton. We didn't want to go at all, but he insisted. We arrived in Nuneaton, at Elsie's, at 6 o'clock just as the sirens started.

None of us went to bed that night. We could see the flames of Coventry on fire from 10 miles away. There were flames everywhere and that was Coventry going up. It must have been horrendous I heard stories from our friends afterwards. The next morning Alf set off for Coventry and ended up walking most of the way. His office wasn't there it had been blown to bits. He walked to our house which was close to the Daimler factory and the windows had been blown out and the area around was devastated. Apart from the windows, the house looked OK. He went in and tried to stick something up at the windows to make it secure. He walked into Coventry and was told to go back to Nuneaton. He tried to return to the house but as he was approaching it, an Air Raid Warden stopped him, pointing out a land-mine suspended from a lamp-post. If that had gone up, the whole street would have gone up with it. Luckily they managed to remove the mine without it exploding.

We weren't to return there for five long years. I left my lovely little modern house with a bathroom to go back to the family home in West Bromwich and no bathroom! Alf became a DEMS gunner in the Royal Navy and travelled extensively on merchant ships. He always claimed that the Royal Navy had good working conditions and lousy pay, the Merchant Navy had rotten working conditions and good pay. Guess what the DEMS gunners got?"

Ellen Wilkinson

Even when we returned after the war Coventry was quite a mess. It was a long time before I realised that other cities had shops that weren't made of corrugated iron sheets!



John Wilkinson

Are you getting bored at home?

Give yourself a virtual day out then and have a culture fix!!!

Courtesy of the Editor!



VIRTUAL MUSEUM TOURS:

- Uffizi Gallery – Florence: <https://www.uffizi.it/mostre-virtuali>

- Vatican Museum – Rome:

<http://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en.html>

- National Archaeological Museum – Athens:

<https://www.namuseum.gr/en/collections/>

- Pinacoteca De Brera – Milan: <https://pinacotecabrera.org/en/>

- Acropolis Museum – Athens :

<https://www.google.com/maps/@37.9682863,23.7287594,2a,75y,229.77h,91.2t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1s8TZoEigbxqly5Fd5k47sLw!2e0!7i13312!8i6656>

- Louvre Museum – Paris: <https://www.louvre.fr/en/visites-en-ligne>

- Orsay Museum –: <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/musee-dorsay-paris>

- Rijksmuseum – Amsterdam: <https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/app>

- National Anthropology Museum of Mexico:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/museo-nacional-de-antropologia-mexico>

- Frida Kahlo Museum – Mexico: <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/museo-frida-kahlo>

- British Museum: <https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection>

- Metropolitan Museum – NYC: <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/the->

metropolitan-museum-of-art

- Hermitage Museum – St Petersburg: <https://bit.ly/2UZxrX5>
- Prado Museum – Madrid: <https://www.museodelprado.es/en/itinerary/visita-virtual/742f132f-8592-4f96-8e5a-9dad8647bc4c>
- Andy Warhol Exhibition at the Tate Modern:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjgAd6Z-dd0&feature=youtu.be>
- Google Tour of the National Gallery:
<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/visiting/virtual-tours/google-virtual-tour>
- National Gallery: curators are offering free online tutorials on their masterpieces.
- The Sydney Opera House: has opened its archives sydneyoperahouse.com
- Macchu Pichu: tours without altitude sickness at youvisit.com/tour/machupicchu.
- Van Eyck: can be viewed at closertovaneyck.be

Virtual Theater Visits

Many theatres are now showing performances for free, including:

National Theatre (<https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home>).

Andrew Lloyd Webber's youtube channel, with shows available to stream each weekend - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdmPjhKMaXNNeCr1FjuMvag/featured>

The Royal Shakespeare Company <https://www.rsc.org.uk/education/about-rsc-education/home-learning-with-the-rsc>

The Globe <https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/watch/>

Did you know that Leicestershire library members are able to access Ancestry and Find my Past free from home while the libraries are closed due to the corona virus?

If you log into Leicestershire libraries then click Reference Library then Family History then you will find access to Ancestry from home and Find my past from home. You will then need your library card number and PIN number. As with the using Ancestry and Find my past in the library there isn't complete access to all records but plenty to occupy anyone interested in family history research. Time to get going on that family tree.

Library members with active card and PIN number can also download apps to read: e-books, e-magazines, listen to talking books also newspapers.

All information is on Leicestershire Libraries webpage.

"Who Do You Think You Are" is on the e-magazine site.

You can't escape from Soar Points these days without having a poem!!

Whenever I think of Wartime poetry, I think of this wonderful poem...



The Soldier – by Rupert Brooke

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam;
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

Rupert Brooke was born near Rugby in Warwickshire, his house is still there to see. Quite close by is the house that Guy Fawkes lived in before he left for London to try to blow up The House of Parliament.

Rupert never returned to England that he loved, he was killed in action during the 1914-18 war. Such a pity, he was a wonderful poet.

Ed



At the start of the war the government underestimated how important canals were as a means of transport. After unsuccessful attempts to recruit men to run the barges, it was not until the early 1940s when Daphne March, an Oxford graduate, advertised in the Times for crew to help operate her family's working boat Heather Bell, that the government realised women could do the job.

On the badge IW National Service referred to Inland Waterways, however they became known as the "Idle Women!."

Around 100 women started training in 1942, but only around 45 completed the training. Then teams of three worked a motor boat and unpowered butty, carrying 50 tons of cargo. Unlike the working boatmen who had little or no schooling, these were often very well educated and articulate women. The work was physically hard, numerous locks and tunnels to navigate, long hours, bitterly cold in winter, scorching in summer, living in a tiny cramped space in the boat. Cargo was extremely varied; slack to Worcester, spam to Nottingham, sugar to Wolverhampton, and flour to Tipton, sauce to Wigan, coal to Oxford, copper and aluminium to Birmingham, shell cases to the Potteries, grain to the Mersey, and RAF stores to the Bristol Channel. Only 6 women stayed the full duration of the scheme.



Laura Brookes



**FRIDAY
8th MAY**

**VE
DAY**

**75TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

*Join your neighbours in a nationwide
'stay at home' celebration!*

Prepare for the day by decorating your house in
Red, White and Blue.

11am 2 minutes silence on your door step.

3pm Churchill's speech shown on the BBC

4pm Tea and scones (or coffee and cake)

6pm Dinner and raise a glass to your neighbours.

9pm Nationwide sing-a-long on your door step
to 'we'll meet again' with the Royal British
Legion following the Queens address.

Please remember to follow the social distancing rules.

Laura Brookes

A VERY IMPORTANT

ANNOUNCEMENT



THE GRAND SOAR BOATING CLUB - PHOTO COMPETITION.

Since we can't be out enjoying the canals, rivers and water ways at the moment how about a photo competition? The winner will get their photo framed and hung in the club house and the next 5 best will also be included in a 2021 SBC calendar. We'll repeat the competition in the next edition of Soar Points with the winner of this editions doing the judging.

Any photo is welcome, though ones involving boating, water or the club may find themselves looked on more favourably.

Entries to Daniel_j_lloyd@hotmail.com by 1st August please!

Daniel Lloyd

Editor's Footnote

Well there you are again everyone, I hope you have all found something to tickle your fancy in the VE Special Edition?

It has been a pleasure to receive such good material, it has been a history lesson for me researching and writing it.

I need to say a special thanks to Laura Brookes (nee Orton) for her mammoth contribution throughout this issue. She sent me enough material to have her own newsletter!!!

I hope you didn't find too many typo's...

Bye, until next time...

Chris Hartny-Mills



Ed