Nottinghamshire Remembers

VE DAY
75TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION
8-10 MAY 2020

The Nottingham Guardian

THE WORLD ACCLAIMS VICTORY
30 Sep 1938
Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain returns to Britain after signing the Munich Agreement with Germany, promising “peace for our time”.

Image courtesy of the Imperial War Museum

1 Jun 1939 Women’s Land Army Reformed

1 Sep 1939 Germany invades Poland

1 Sep 1939 Operation Pied Piper. First wave of British children evacuated to Nottinghamshire.

2 Sep 1939 National Service (Armed Forces) Act 1939 – enforces conscription on certain categories of UK resident males
3 Sep 1939 Britain, the British Empire and France declare war on Germany, followed by Australia, New Zealand and India

4 Sep 1939 Dominion of Newfoundland declares war on Germany

1st British offensive by the RAF

5 Sep 1939 USA declares neutrality

6 Sep 1939 South Africa declares war on Germany

17 Sep 1939 Japan attacks China

1939 Rufford Abbey is requisitioned by the War Office. It houses first the 6th Cavalry of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, then the 4th Battalion of the Coldstream Guards. It was later used to house Italian prisoners of war.

National Registration Act 1939 introduces identity cards in Britain and allows the government to control labour.

October 1939 Nottingham Goose Fair cancelled due to wartime blackout regulations. It will not reopen fully until 1945.

Dec 1939 Canadian and French troops arrive in Europe
Jan 1940 Food rationing begins in Britain

10 May 1939 Germany invades Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands. Chamberlain resigns and Winston Churchill becomes PM and forms a wartime coalition government.

14 May 1940 Local Defence Volunteers founded (it is renamed the Home Guard in July)

This register of attendance is for the 7th Sutton-in-Ashfield Battalion, Nottinghamshire Home Guard

26 May – 4 Jun 1940 338,000 British Expeditionary Force troops evacuated from Dunkirk in Operation Dynamo

4 Jun 1940 Prime Minister Winston Churchill delivers his famous “we shall never surrender” speech in Parliament.
June 1940 to 1945
Reminiscences of Lydia Knight who was evacuated to Thurgarton from Southend-on-Sea. Initially lived at Hill top Farm. Photo was taken opposite the school.

25 Jun 1940 France surrenders to Germany

30 Jun 1940 Germany invades the Channel Islands

10 Jul – 31 Oct 1940 the Battle of Britain is fought in the skies above Britain

504 (County of Nottingham) Squadron pilots scramble during the Battle of Britain

21 August 1940
Churchill thanks the RAF for their service in his speech in which he says:

“Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few”.
Battle of Britain over the skies. In this photo Flying Ace Flight Lieutenant MEA Royce is with the Squadron Wartime mascot Susie the Bulldog.

Aug 1940 – May 1941 – The Blitz bombing campaign sees air raids across the UK

Nottingham is bombed on 8th May 1941
22 Jun 1941 Hitler embarks upon Operation Barbarossa, the campaign in Russia.

28 Oct 1941 Italy invades Greece

6-9 Dec 1941 British and Indian troops of the Western Desert Force launch Operation Compass against the Italian forces in Egypt

7 Dec 1941 Japan attacks the US Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbour
21 Jan 1942 British and Australian troops capture Tobruk, Libya from the Italians. This is followed by a lengthy siege.

Photo is of Eric Chadwick and comrades from the 227th City of Nottingham HRAA Battery Royal Artillery

January 1942 Warship Week. West Bridgford adopts the HMS Fury.

Image courtesy of the Imperial War Museum
15 Feb 1942 the fall of Singapore.

Colonel Lily of the 1/5th Battalion the Sherwood Foresters was taken prisoner of war.

April 1942 Foundation of the Women’s Timber Corps

16-17 May 1943 Operation Chastise in which the Dam Busters used their famous “bouncing-bomb”.

Jul 1943 Goose Fair runs a limited daytime fair

Queen’s Royal Lancers in North Africa from Nov 1942 until Spring 1943
Edwinstowe Parish Council 1943 runs ‘Holidays at Home’ week

8 Mar – 3 Jul 1944 Battle of Imphal, India
May 1944 the 16th and 5th Lancers in a Sherman tank at Monte Cassino, Italy.

6 Jun 1944 Operation Overlord aka D-Day

25th Jun 1944
Edwinstowe Parish Council organises “Salute the Soldier Week”
Aug 1944 Goose fair runs a second daytime fair

17-26 Sep 1944 Battle of Arnhem in the Netherlands was part of Operation Market Garden

The Newark Home Guard stands down. 17 Platoon, D Company, 11th Newark Battalion Notts Home Guard, 20 October 1944

16 Dec 1944 – 25 Jan 1945 Battle of the Bulge was the largest battle fought by American troops in WWII.

13-14 Feb 1945 Dresden raids by RAF and the US AF

15 Apr 1945 Liberation of Belsen Concentration Camp

8 May 1945 Victory in Europe Day
VE Day night illuminations at Nottingham Council House

12th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, on parade in India on VE Day 1945
VE Day party at Linton Close, Farndon, near Newark, May 1945

VE Day street party in Farndon, near Newark, May 1945

VE Day Celebrations at Carlton

VE Day party at Dunstan Street, Netherfield
VE Day street party at Farndon near Newark, May 1945

VE Day fancy dress parade, Deabill Street, Netherfield

6 Aug 1945 US drop atomic bomb “Little Boy” on Hiroshima

9 Aug 1945 US drop second atomic bomb on Nagasaki

15 Aug 1945 Japan surrenders

1945 VJ Day (victory over Japan) Street Party, Long Hill Rise, Hucknall (DD1868-2)
1945 Hucknall celebrates the end of the war

Housewives of Britain

In Fentory, praise has been heaped on our fighting men and serving women everywhere.
But what about you—housewives of Britain?

For five years you have worked miracles with rationed food often hard to come by. To the children, traded the ailing, without complaint or complaint, and made home feel like home.

Yes, your patient courage and unselfish kindness have been an inspiration.

Brooke Bond Dividend Tea
1/7d - ½-lb.

The Newark Home Guard stands down. It is eventually disbanded on 31st December 1945.
Roger Jephson of the RAF of By-Pass Road, Chilwell, awarded Soviet Medal for Valour

8th May 1945
1946 Life gets back to normal