

Year 3 - Week 13
Catshill Home Learning

This week is your final week of learning based around WW2. You will find a selection of activities that we hope you enjoy.

Subject Suggested Activities – English/Topic

- ➔ Home Guards – who were they?
- ➔ Songs from WW2 – have a sing along or consider how songs of today can be so different
- ➔ D-Day and VE Day
- ➔ Design a D-Day medal
- ➔ Non-chronological report – showcase your learning

Other Website links

Handwriting <https://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/writingRepeater/>

David Walliams (audio story – we know how much you love World’s Worst Children)
<https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>

Fun news videos and animal videos <https://www.reachoutreporter.com/>

Please look on the school website for additional resources as well as our Year 3 class page.

Take care and stay safe!

Miss Moody and Mrs Braiden-Smith ☺

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/war/homeguard.htm>

Home Guard

The Home Guard were volunteers who defended the five thousand miles of Britain coastline in the event of an invasion by Germany. They were originally called the **Local Defence Volunteers**.



Why was the Home Guard formed?

On Friday 10 May 1940, the Germans had started their attack on Belgium and the Netherlands using soldiers dropped by parachutes. British troops in mainland Europe were pushed back to the Channel ports. Many people feared that the Germans would soon invade Britain.

To protect Britain, a new part time force was to be set up, the **Local Defence Volunteers** (LDV).

Radio appeal

On the evening of Tuesday 14 May 1940, the Government made an urgent appeal on the radio to all men aged between 17 and 65. They wanted all men not already serving in the armed forces to become part-time soldiers. Within 24 hours of the radio broadcast a quarter of a million men had volunteered. By the end of July this number had risen to over a million.

Who joined the Home Guard (Local Defence Volunteers)?

Many of the men who joined the Home Guard were those who could not join the regular army because their day time jobs were necessary to keep the country running. They included farm workers, bakers, teachers, grocers, bank staff and railway workers.

Other men who joined were either too young or too old to join the regular army.

Training and equipment

The men were given **military style training** and, at first, they had no uniforms and little equipment. The public were invited to give their shotguns and pistols to the Home Guard and within a few months over 20,000 weapons were handed in. Many of the men made their own weapons too.



Photograph showing the back of a homeguard



Home Guard

At the end of July 1940 the name was changed from Local Defence Volunteers to Home Guard.

What was the job of the Home Guard?

The Home Guard defended key targets like factories, explosive stores, beaches and sea fronts. At night they patrolled fields in which the enemy gliders or paratroops might land. No one expected them to beat well-trained German soldiers. Their job was to slow them down until the army arrived.

The expected invasion by Germany never came. Instead the main role of the Home Guard was capturing German airmen whose planes had been shot down over Britain. They also guarded munitions factories and aerodromes and checked people's **identity cards**.

The photograph below was sent to us by Martin Philbrick



WW2 Songs

We'll Meet Again https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsM_VmN6ytk

We'll meet again

Don't know where

Don't know when

But I know we'll meet again some sunny day

Keep smilin' 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

Bicycle Built for Two <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=>

Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer, do.

I'm half crazy all for the love of you.

It won't be a stylish marriage,

I can't afford a carriage;

But you'll look sweet upon the seat of a bicycle built for two.

D-Day

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-d-day/zf49rj6>



VE Day

VE Day – Victory in Europe celebrates the end of the Second World War on 8th May 1945. Winston Churchill announced VE Day and street parties were held all over Britain to celebrate the end of the war.



D-Day Facts

- 6th June 1944 was D-Day.
- Allied¹ forces landed in Normandy (France).
- It began the liberation of Western Europe from the German occupation².
- Over 150 000 soldiers landed on the beaches of Northern France.



Why Did It Take Place?

Germany had invaded France and most of Europe. Hitler was trying to take over Britain from France. However, Britain and the United States had managed to slow down the advancing³ German forces. They were now able to strike back.

The Allies gathered troops and equipment in Britain in preparation for the landings. They also increased the number of air strikes and bombings in German territory. Just before the invasion, over 1000 bombs a day were hitting German targets. They bombed railways, bridges, airfields, and other important places to slow down and delay the German army in its advance.

Did You Know?

- The D-Day landings were planned for a clear, moonlit night.
- The landings needed a high tide to be successful.
- The plans were called Operation Overlord.

What Were the Plans?

The Germans knew that troops were gathering in the South of England. They could tell preparations were in place, but they didn't know when or where the attacks would happen. They thought the invasion would be at Calais (a much shorter sea crossing), so enemy troops were sent there.



The Attack

The first part of the attack began with paratroopers.

These were the men who jumped out of planes using parachutes. They jumped at night in the pitch dark and landed behind enemy lines. Their job was to destroy important targets and capture bridges so that the main invasion force could land on the beaches. Thousands of dummies were dropped to make the enemy think that many more men were parachuting down.

The next stage of the battle involved thousands of planes.

They dropped bombs on German defences.

Shortly after that, warships began to bomb the beaches from the water.

While the bombing was going on, members of the French Resistance spoiled the German communications by cutting telephone lines and destroying railways.

Finally, the main invasion force of over 6000 ships carrying troops, weapons, tanks, and equipment approached the beaches of Normandy.

Glossary

1. Most troops came from Britain, USA, Canada or France. However they were also supported by troops from Australia, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Poland.
2. The invasion and control of a country or area by enemy forces.
3. To move or bring forward: The general advanced his troops to the new position.



Questions

1. What was the date of D-Day?

2. Which countries made up the allied forces?

3. How many soldiers landed on the beaches of France?

4. Why were railways, bridge and roads bombed?

5. Why did the Germans think the attack would be at Calais?

6. What was the French Resistance doing whilst the bombing was going on?

7. Why do you think the attack was planned for a moonlit night?

8. Why do you think the attack was planned for a high tide?

9. How does the glossary help you to understand the text?

10. If you had to make up a name for the attack, what name would you give it and why?

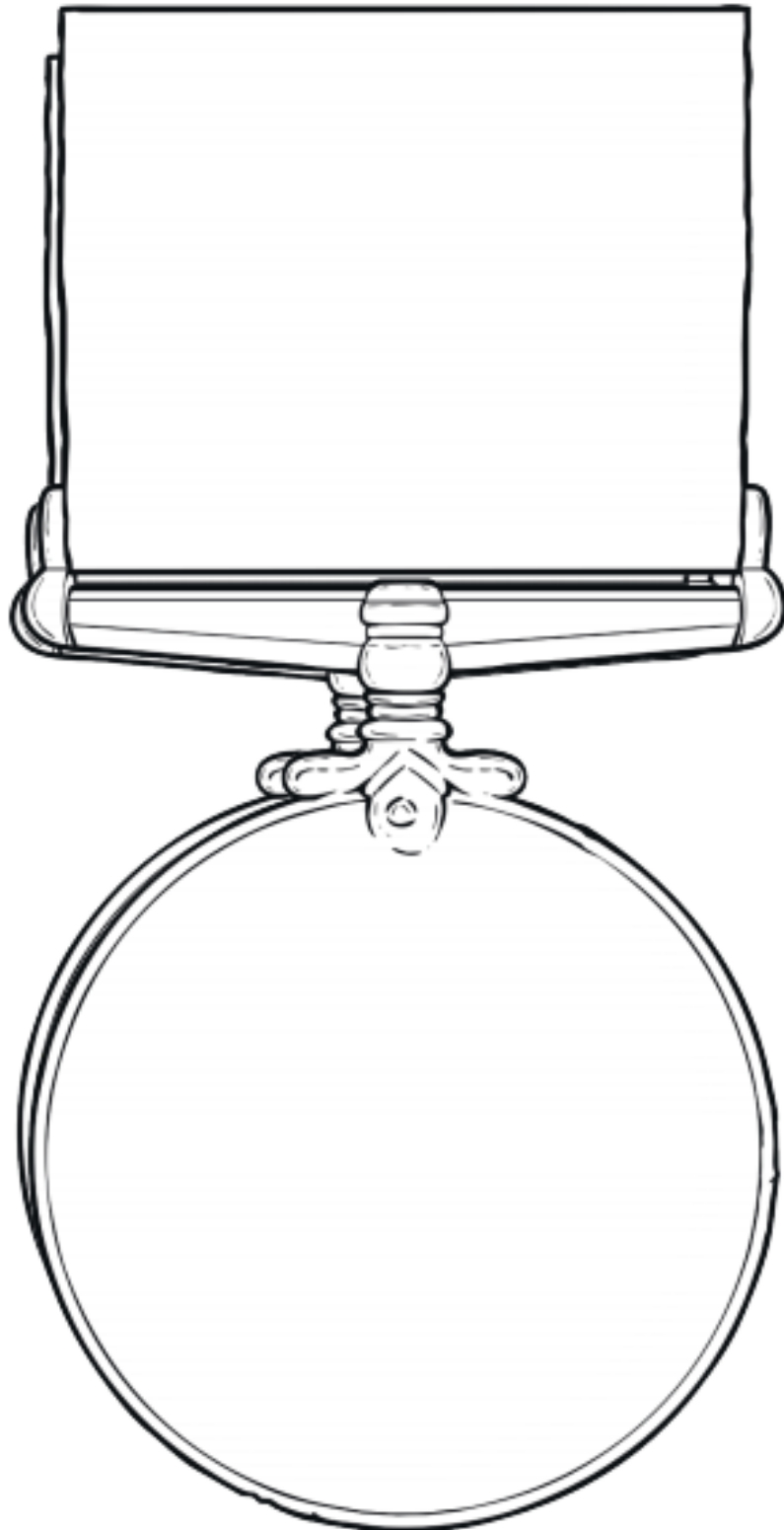
Design a D-Day Medal

Medals are often given to soldiers for showing bravery during a conflict.

Can you create a medal for British soldiers who served on D-Day?

Try to include:

- the date of D-Day (6th June 1944);
- the colours of the Allies;
- a symbol to signify the war and the soldiers' sacrifice and victory;
- a reference to the different armed forces who took part (air force, army and navy)



Non-chronological report

Now that you have spent so much time learning about WW2, we would like you to create a non-chronological report to illustrate all of your learning. You can present your report how you wish but it should illustrate what you know about WW2.

Non-chronological – not in any particular order

Some examples (not all linked to WW2 but just to give you an idea...)

