



## SESSION 1: Factsheet 1

### What is VE Day?

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May 8th 1945 was the date the British and their allies celebrated the defeat of Nazi Germany and the end of Adolf Hitler's aggression. This formally recognised the end of the Second World War in Europe, and became known as VE (Victory in Europe) Day.

We had been at war since September 1939 and life had become very difficult for families left at home, with rationing of food, blackouts at night and the fear of being bombed.

The Allies had begun to overrun Germany from the west during April as Russian forces advanced from the east. On 25th April 1945, Allied and Russian forces met at the Elbe River where the German Army was all but destroyed. Five days later, Hitler took his own life and at 2:41 am on 7th May, General Jodl signed the unconditional surrender of German forces, which was to take effect from 8th May at 11:01 p.m.

This year is extra special because 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War in Europe.

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## SESSION 1: Factsheet 2

### Pictures of World War II

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The battle in the skies above Britain 1940



Blitz bombing damage caused to London, 1940–1941



Allied troops land in France 1944

## SESSION 1: Factsheet 3

### Celebrations marking the end of the war

These images show how celebrations on VE Day took place across the country. There were street parties and dancing as families came together with strangers to celebrate the end of six years of hardship and worry.



## SESSION 2: Factsheet 1 Fareham at War

These pictures show what wartime looked like in the south of England.



In the lead-up to D-Day, the UK became an air base, port and military camp for the forces that were to take part in the invasion of occupied Europe in June 1944. Training and accommodation for the troops dominated the landscape of the south coast.



Land Armies were made of many women as men were away fighting in the Army, Navy or Air force.



**HMS Daedalus** now Solent Airport was a British Royal Navy air station and training establishment between 1940 and 1946.

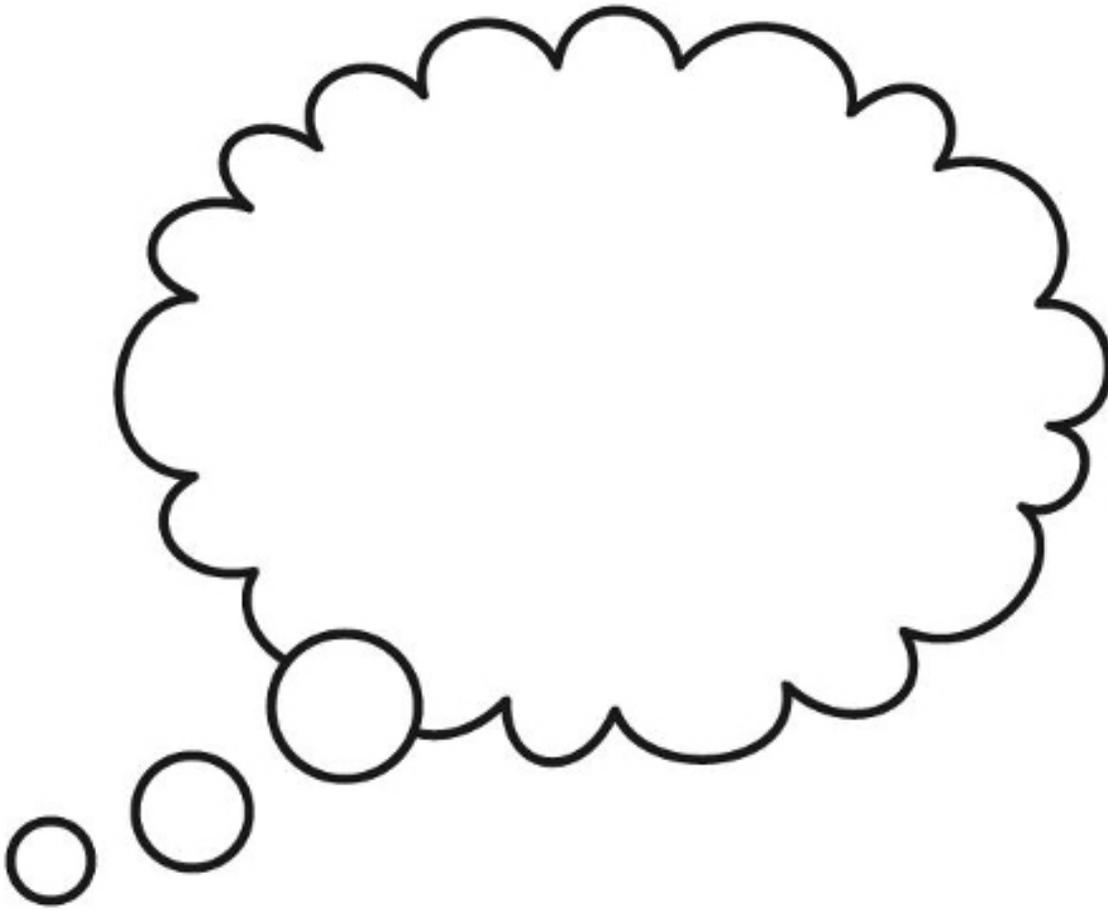


## SESSION 2: Factsheet 2

### Fareham at War

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Use this thought bubble to write down what you think of heroes at home during wartime, or what you feel about our lockdown heroes today.



#### KS3 Extension Questions:

- What would you write to the Prime Minister about these heroes at home?
- Describe in detail why you admire them so much?
- What qualities do you think a hero has to have?

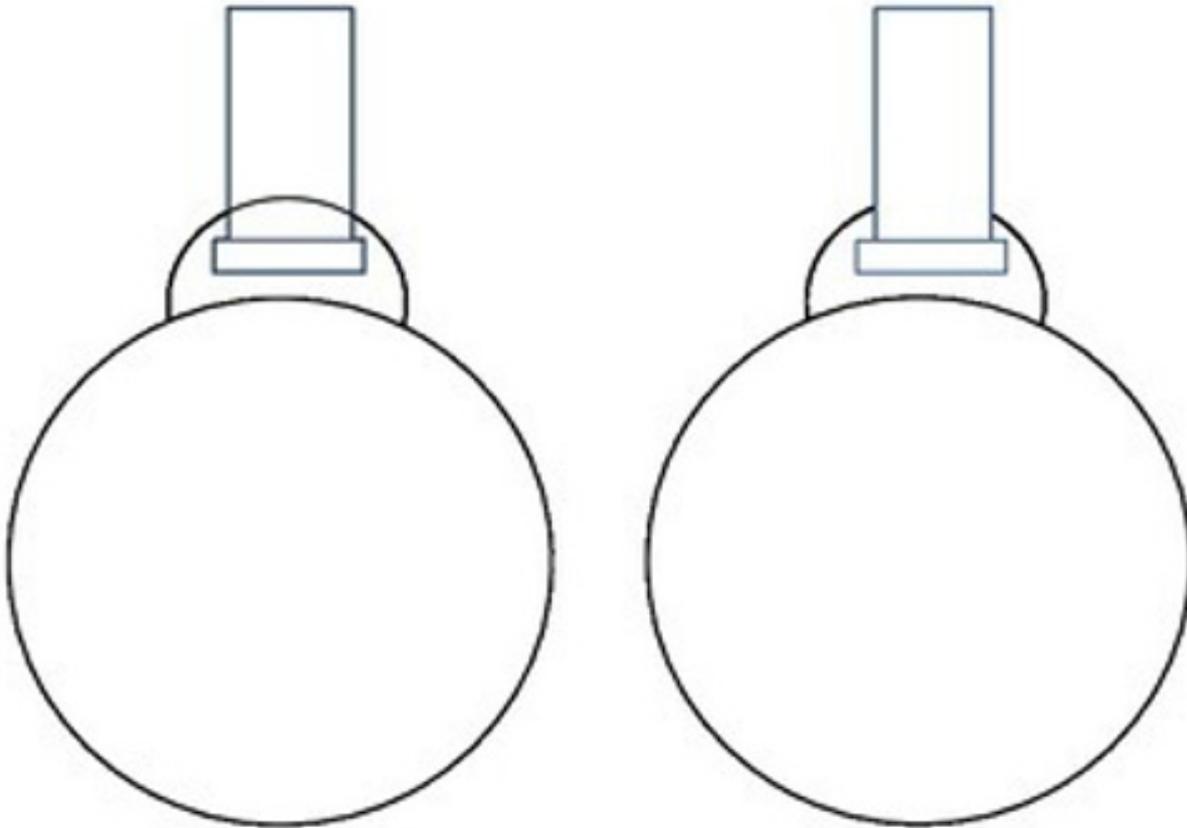
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## SESSION 2: Factsheet 3

### Fareham at War

Design a medal for your hero at home and write about what your design shows. Don't forget to design a front and back for your medal! These designs could look quite different.



#### KS3 Extension Questions:

- What sort of ceremony would take place where this medal might be presented?
- Who would you invite to be there, and would it be held nationally or locally?

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## SESSION 3: Factsheet

### What was it like to be there?

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#### KS3 and KS3 Extension Questions:

- What would your eye-catching headline be?
- Would everyone have been celebrating?

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## SESSION 4: Factsheet

### How did the south celebrate?

These images show local celebrations to mark the end of the war in Europe, May 8th, 1945.

