Tommys to Be Put in Windows for VE Day

What is VE Day?

- VE Day stands for Victory in Europe. On 8th May 1945, the Second World War ended in Europe.

- The Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI) have designed Tommys to raise money for veterans and their families.

On 8th May, the UK will celebrate the 75th **anniversary** of VE Day. This commemorates the end of the Second World War in Europe.

To mark the event, people are being encouraged to join in from their doorsteps. One of the ways they can do this is by placing a Tommy in their window.

The Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI), an armed forces charity, designed a **silhouette** and is asking people to display them. This is to remember the sacrifice soldiers made during the Second World War.

The Tommys are being made by injured **veteran** soldiers in a factory called Britain's Bravest Manufacturing. The business employs people that have been in the army, helping them to gain new skills once they left.

Steve Sherry, who is in charge of the RBLI, said VE Day is a chance to "remember our relatives who gave so much for us 75 years ago."

All the money raised from the Tommys will go to support veterans and their families.

A Tommy was a name for a British soldier. No one is sure where the name comes from; however, it is thought to refer to army slang for 'Tommy Atkins', which goes back at least as far as 1815. It became common in the First World War for people to refer to a British soldier as a Tommy.

On 8th May 1945, many people celebrated the end of the war in Europe. The Royal

Illustration: A Tommy in a window.

Family waved at crowds from the balcony of Buckingham Palace.

This year, on 8th May, there are other planned celebrations. The Queen is set to address the nation at 9 p.m. This will be the exact time that her father, George VI, gave a speech on VE Day, 75 years ago.

There will also be a national singalong of 'We'll Meet Again'. This was a popular song performed by Dame Vera Lynn during the Second World War. Oliver Dowden, a **minister**, said that, although the celebrations will happen inside, he knows everyone "will come together to mark this historic occasion."

Glossary

anniversary	The date that something happened in previous years.
veterans	Ex-member of the armed forces.
silhouette	The outline of a figure.
minister	An MP who works in the government.

Questions

1. What date is VE Day?

   _____

2. 'This commemorates the end of the Second World War in Europe.'
   Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'commemorates' in this sentence.

   ○ allows

   ○ asks

   ○ remembers

   ○ thinks

3. Why do you think the makers are called Britain's Bravest Manufacturing?

   _____

   _____

4. Put a tick next to each statement to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
The Second World War ended on 8th May 1945.		
It is the 75th anniversary of VE Day.		
The Queen will make a special announcement on the day.		
Tommy was chosen because he was a special soldier.		

5. Why do you think we celebrate VE day after 75 years?

   _____

   _____

   _____

6. Summarise the story in 15 words or fewer.

   _____

   _____

   _____

   Challenge

   Now, have a go at writing your own newspaper article linked to VE day.

VE Day

Think

Why is this figure in the window?

Respond

Write a poem of remembrance.

Solve

The Tommy figures are 25cm high. The average height of a man in the UK is 175cm. As a ratio, what scale is the figure? The average arm length is 70cm. How long will the arm be on the figure? Measure your own height and draw a portrait of yourself to the same scale.

Reimagine

Design and make your own bunting. You can then hang this up to mark VE Day on 8th May.

Discuss

Why is it important to remember those who died in war? Why do we have wars? Is there a way to resolve differences without wars?

Discover

Fact: The Cenotaph is a famous war memorial in Whitehall, London. The word 'cenotaph' means 'empty tomb' in Greek.

Question: Where is your local war memorial? What is it made from? When was it erected?