



VE Day

What is VE DAY?

- On 8th May, the UK will commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day.
- The Royal British Legion Industries has designed Tommys to raise money for veterans and their families.

Illustration: A Tommy in a window.

Tommys in Windows for 75th VE Day

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

People are being encouraged to join the anniversary from their own homes. One of the ways they can do this is by placing a Tommy soldier in their window.

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.

A charity called the Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI) has created the models. It is asking people to buy the models and put them in their windows. This is to show that they remember the sacrifice soldiers made during the Second World War.

The Tommys are being made by injured ex-soldiers in a factory. The factory 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 it is a chance to “remember our

relatives who gave so much for us 75 years ago.” The money they raise from people buying the Tommys will go to veterans and their families.

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, King George VI, gave a speech on VE Day, 75 years ago.

There will also be a singalong to Dame Vera Lynn’s song, ‘We’ll Meet Again.’ It was a popular song during the Second World War.

Glossary

anniversary	The date that something happened.
commemorates	To mark an event.
veterans	People who used to be in the armed forces.
nation	A country or group of countries.

Questions

1. '...remember our relatives who gave so much for us 75 years ago.' Tick the word closest to 'relatives' in this sentence.

- people
 family
 friends
 others

2. How long ago was the original VE Day?

3. Why do you think George VI spoke on VE Day?

4. Put a tick in the correct box to show whether each answer is true or false.

	True	False
The Queen will make a speech on VE Day.		
VE Day was the end of the Second World War in Europe.		
The Queen has been on the throne since 1945.		
VE Day is on the 7 th May		

5. Why is The Queen making a speech at 9.00 p.m.?

6. Summarise the story in 20 words or fewer.

Answers

1. ‘...remember our relatives who gave so much for us 75 years ago.’ Tick the word closest to relatives in this sentence.

- people
 family
 friends
 others

2. How long ago was the original VE Day?

75 years ago

3. Why do you think George VI spoke on VE Day?

Any reasonable answer that refers to the story, e.g. He was the King and people would want to hear from him.

4. Put a tick in the correct box to show whether each answer is true or false.

	True	False
The Queen will make a speech on VE Day.	✓	
VE Day was the end of the Second World War in Europe.	✓	
The Queen has been on the throne since 1945.		✓
VE Day is on the 7 th May		✓

5. Why is The Queen making a speech at 9.00 p.m.?

Her father, George VI, made a speech at the same time on VE Day.

6. Summarise the story in 20 words or fewer.

Accept any reasonable answer, e.g. People are being encouraged to put Tommies in their windows to celebrate VE Day on 8th May.