



defence

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Dear Head of History/Head of Citizenship/Headteacher/ Head of Years 5/6

SCHOOL GROUPS WELCOMED AT WW2 LIVING MUSEUM EXHIBITION

4- 10 JULY – ST JAMES’S PARK, LONDON.

To mark the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, a number of events are being held in St James’s Park, London. School groups will be interested in the Living Museum, a 25,000 square metre site, which offers an unprecedented opportunity for the public to see highlights from 28 of the Nation’s major museum collections. Through the ‘Living Museum’ visitors will be able to learn about the experience of the war generation first hand, through real ‘living history’. Re-enactments and hands-on displays will give them a glimpse of wartime life, both military and domestic – from air-raids and black-outs, through to gas-mask training and code-cracking. Visitors will be able to try on the clothes, pick up the objects and join in the songs.

More than 200 staff, including Veterans, curators and enthusiastic amateur historians will be on hand to answer questions. What was it like to be in a jungle camp, on an airfield on the South Coast or living through the Blitz? Who ‘manned’ the searchlights? How did you put your gas mask on? How did you post a letter from the Front? What was food like? What did the word ‘spam’ mean then?

All ages, but particularly children and young people, will be catered for at the ‘Living Museum’. There will be activities including quizzes, interactive computer spy games and site trail maps. There will also be many other events such as true life reminiscences from the Bletchley Park code-breakers (on Saturday and Sunday) to Bergen - Belsen Concentration Camp survivors. The trail maps and some of the resources by the organisations present are specifically designed for school and youth group activities, and reflect curriculum needs.

In addition to demonstrating a strong commitment to veterans, the purpose of Veterans Awareness week is to provide a focus for the Nation, including children and young people, to remember the events and those who were part of the Second World War. This is an opportunity to learn about the continued significance of the Second World War and learn about the individuals who all contributed to creating the peaceful Europe we know today.

We are particularly keen that schools are able to participate in this experience, and in particular the Living Museum. We have set aside morning time slots at 1100 hrs Tuesday 5 July to Friday 8 July specifically for groups. However, schools are also welcome to visit in the afternoon.

Enclosed is a leaflet on the events and a DVD showing a 1 minute television advert which you are free to use around your school.

COMMUNICATING DEFENCE

If you do wish to attend the events, and in particular the Living Museum please contact Martin Hine at the Ministry of Defence Schools Presentation Team on 020 7218 5639 or 020 7807 8935. More details can be found on the Ministry of Defence Website – www.mod.uk/ww2.

Yours sincerely

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Schools Presentation Team