



WORLD WAR TWO ENDED IN EUROPE 75 YEARS AGO ON 8 MAY 1945

Students and staff at Highlands School were asked to contribute personal stories from their families about VE Day (Victory in Europe Day), which we celebrate on Friday 8 May this year. This marks the formal acceptance by the 'Allies of World War II' of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces on Tuesday 8 May, 1945.

Name of relative: Cosmas Philippou (my great grandfather)

I recently spoke to my younga (grandmother) about her father and how he contributed to World War II. His name was Cosmas Philippou and he was a Greek Cypriot. I would like to share with you how my great grandfather contributed to World War II.

My great grandfather lived in Cyprus and he was 19 years old when he contributed to World War II. He recently got engaged to my great grandmother when he had to leave his home to complete his war duties.

His role in the war was a runner and this means that he had to deliver ammunition to soldiers on the frontlines. My great grandfather had to travel to and from Egypt. He spent 4-5 years delivering ammunition and weapons to soldiers on the frontlines.

Cosmas Philippou

Elena, Year 7

Highlands School Remembers.... Victory in Europe, 8th May 1945

William (Billie) Milne
45 at the time

The incident: stadium he was working at was bombed by incendiary (summary) - devices that made fire. Billie was afraid of a bomb that saved the stadium from damage.

During the WWII, my great granddad was a former football player and moved on to be an assistant manager. He was stationed as an AFK worker at Highbury. He was at the stadium on the same night that the stadium was bombed. The bomb created a fire in the stadium. Billie Milne stepped up and helped put out the resulting fire and saved the stadium from further serious damage.

Add one or more photos here

William, Year 8

Highlands School Remembers.... Victory in Europe, 8th May 1945

Relative's name: Chitta Ranjan
Relative's age (then/now): 25 years /deceased now
Contribution: Police officer in Assam Railforce on India(Assam)/Burma border
Created by: Ms Biswas

Additional detail:
Where: Assam/Burma border
When: 1943-1946

Mrs DeBiswas

Describe in detail what the contribution was:
My dad was an officer in the Assam Rifles, Police section during 1943-1946. He was assigned to protect the railway line that ran between Burma and India in the north east of India in the state of Assam. His duties consisted of patrolling along the railway track, making sure that the Japanese enemy did not attack any trains going through, or if they tried to enter India through this border, they were to prevent this from happening.

India was a strategically important country in the British Empire at the time of World War II. The British did not want India to be invaded and occupied by Japan, an ally of Germany in Asia.

Quotes from the interview with your relative:
My father passed away many years ago so unfortunately cannot include any quotes.

He did tell us of his colleague once who was cleaning his rifle and he witnessed him accidentally letting the rifle off and shooting himself! I think that really disturbed him. He never talked much of his years in that role, I think it really was quite traumatising, but I also remember he said that he had to say 'Halt! Who goes there?' he loved reminding us of this first English line he learned!

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MY FAMILY DURING WW2
Lest we forget

Chitta Ranjan Biswas
Police officer in Assam Railforce on India(Assam)/Burma border
1943-1946

My father's story:
My father was a police officer in the Assam Rifles, Police section during 1943-1946. He was assigned to protect the railway line that ran between Burma and India in the north east of India in the state of Assam. His duties consisted of patrolling along the railway track, making sure that the Japanese enemy did not attack any trains going through, or if they tried to enter India through this border, they were to prevent this from happening.

My mother's story:
My mother was a nurse during World War II. She worked in a hospital in India, where she cared for soldiers who were injured in battle. She was very brave and dedicated to her work.

My brother's story:
My brother was a soldier in the British Army. He fought in the Burma campaign and was wounded in battle. He was very brave and dedicated to his duty.

Emily, Year 8

Jake, Year
13

Krzysztof, Year 7

Nathan, Year 7

Saira, Year 7

Jessica, Year 8

Laura, Year 13

Mrs Junker



Josie, Year 7

Highlands School Remembers.... Victory in Europe, 8th May 1945

Relative's name: Janet Bell
Relative's age (then/now): Age then: 3
Age now: 79
Contribution: memories as a boy
Created by: Josie Jones

Additional detail:
Where: Rushden
When: 1943

Describe in detail what the contribution was
(include key dates, events and places):

During the war, my nan lived in Rushden. She was 3 years old and never remembered seeing her father before. To pass the time, my nan would play with her pet rabbit, as her neighbours were rabbit breeders. Until one afternoon, she went out to play with her rabbit and found it was not there. She thought maybe it had escaped and asked her mother at the road dinner where the rabbit was. Her mother then told her that she had just eaten him. At age 4, she finally got to see her father in 1945, but simply did not recognise him. She had no clue who this man was or why he was going to live with her, as she hadn't seen her father since she was a baby.

Quotes from the interview with your relative:

"I don't see my father till I was 4 years old and by that time, I had said to my mother: I don't like this man."

"I sat down to have my roast dinner and when we finished, I asked where my rabbit was. Mother then told me that I had just eaten him."

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Highlands School Remembers.... Victory in Europe, 8th May 1945

Relative's name: Richard Fairhead (grandad)
Relative's age (then/now): 6 and 80
Contribution: memories as a boy
Created by: Emma Smith 7RKM

Additional detail:
Where: Surrey and Yorkshire
When: 1945 VE Day (and before)

Describe in detail what the contribution was
(include key dates, events and places):

My grandad and granny were only young children during the war but their memories are still vivid as to how they felt and what their parents told them. I especially enjoyed hearing about grandad's dad (my great grandad) colouring in, then rubbing out, the map of Europe and Hitler's progress and defeat. Grandad said that it really showed him the brightening of Europe being revealed from D-Day onwards.

Quotes from the interview with your relative:

Both my grandad and granny have written their memories of the war and what my great grandparents did during the war so I have attached this to the following slides.

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Emma, Year 7

Highlands School Remembers.... Victory in Europe, 8th May 1945

Relative's name: Cynthia Richards
Relative's age (then/now): 34
Contribution: new/lost-south wales
Created by: Ella Mohan

Additional detail:
Where: new/lost-south wales
When: 8th May 1945

Describe in detail what the contribution was
(include key dates, events and places):

Great great grandma was a bakery called burtons bakery it was their shop and they kept it open through the war. My great grandma was only a little girl and her parents owned the bakery in down. They kept their shop open so that people could get bread. She remembers that after the war there was lots of celebrations. Her father was ill so he had to come back. She was evacuated from down in Kent to south wales. When she and her parents moved they left her grandparents and the bakery to evacuate to wales.

Quotes from the interview with your relative:

I was evacuated to wales
there was alot of fright around the town
She got evacuated to the air shelters
The air shelter was fairly big
There was many planes and sirens
That made everyone worried and people had to evacuate and sleep in the air shelters
When my school closed that was when we moved

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Ella, Year 7

Highlands School Remembers.... Victory in Europe, 8th May 1945

Relative's name: Lucie Scholtes
Relative's age (then/now): 22 years /deceased now
Contribution: Forced to work in Germany
Created by: Mrs Junker

Additional detail:
Where: Bavaria, Southern Germany
When: 1942

Describe in detail what the contribution was:

My grand mother was born in 1922 in Luxembourg. When German troops invaded Luxembourg in 1939, the country was simply integrated into Germany, and the citizens treated as though they had always been part of the Third Reich.

In 1942 my grandmother, Lucie, was sent to Germany to complete six months of forced labour for the German state; she was not paid for this work. She had to prove that she had no Jewish ancestry to avoid deportation, and was "lucky" to be chosen for work. She was fortunate to be working on a farm for a nice German family, who treated her well. She always had enough food.

In the photos you can see her with the family she was working for, and with the other ladies in the camp she was staying in when she was not working (and some guards).

Mrs Junker

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Oliver, Year 7

Highlands School Remembers.... Victory in Europe, 8th May 1945

Relative's name: Christel Grossmann
Relative's age (then/now): 1/82
Contribution: Daughter of soldier in German army.
Created by: Candice

Additional detail:
Where: Germany
When: 1939-1945

Describe in detail what the contribution was
(include key dates, events and places):

My great grandmother's father was serving in the war between 1939-1945. She barely saw him, because he was fighting in the war. She was hiding with her mum and siblings trying to keep as low-key as possible.

Quotes from the interview with your relative:

"When a plane was approaching we were alerted with a loud siren and quickly fled into a deep bunker to protect ourselves."

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Candice, Year 8

Highlands School Remembers.... Victory in Europe, 8th May 1945

Relative's name: Emily Armstrong (Great Nan)
Relative's age (then/now):
Contribution: By Oliver Nash

Additional detail:
Where: Hornchurch Aerodrome Essex
When: Summer 1944

Describe in detail what the contribution was
(include key dates, events and places):

1944 Hornchurch Aerodrome Essex On a summers evening back in 1944 my Great Nan who lived in Hornchurch by the Aerodrome saw lots of very low aircraft coming towards them. Everyone was quite excited to see them as they thought they were the RAF flying back home to the Aerodrome. As they got closer they started to wave at the pilots in the cockpit but they soon were very scared as these pilots were the Germans-the Luftwaffe. They were coming in to attack the nearby gasworks in Romeo corner.

Quotes from the interview with your relative:

They were flying so low that you could see the German pilots in such detail and very clearly. That's as close as we ever got to the Germans in the war.

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