

LAIRG MAGAZINE

VE Day Edition



Photo of the Lairg school children celebrating VE day, with the kind permission of Joan Lead to reproduce. The photo was taken at the front of the Community Centre, which was the Drill Hall in those days!

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Welcome to Issue 8 of the Lairg Magazine! We are looking for stories, recipes, film/book reviews and craft/activity ideas to put in to our magazine.

Please email Jodie at :

projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk or call Chair of

LDCI Kaye: 07500453301 or Vice Chair Norman:

07742025719.

VE Day Special

We would like to dedicate this week's issue to the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. This includes pictures of Lairg, VE Day quiz, rationing, bunting making and colour your own spitfire picture !



Woolton Pie

Serves 8

1lb cauliflower
 1lb parsnips
 1lb carrots
 1lb potatoes
 Bunch of spring onions chopped
 2 teaspoons of Marmite (yeast extract – or you can use a stock cube)
 Tablespoon of rolled oats
 Salt and pepper to taste once cooked.
 Parsley (fresh or dried)

Pastry:

8oz wholemeal/wholewheat flour
 4oz mashed potato
 3oz margarine or lard
 2tsp of baking powder
 Dash of water if needed

**Recipe of the
Week!**

- Chop up the vegetables into chunks with those that take longest to cook into smaller pieces. Place in pot and bring to simmer with just enough water to reach 3/4 of the way up the veg in the pot.
- Add in Marmite and rolled oats, salt and pepper and cook until tender and most of the water has been absorbed.
- Place mixture in deep pie dish and sprinkle with fresh parsley (or add dry parsley to mixture and mix in).
- Make the pastry by mixing the flour with the baking powder and salt and then rubbing in the margarine.
- Mix the mashed potato in to form a dough and knead (add a little water to the mixture if too dry).
- Roll out to form pie crust and place on top and decorate then brush with milk.
- Place in oven at 200C for 30 minutes or so until top is firm and browned.

RATIONING DURING THE WAR

Although war was declared on September 2nd 1939, hostility did not start till September 7, 1940 with the bombing of the London Docks. The government had to take measures to ensure the food would last and hence rationing was introduced. This was because as well as the people at home there was also a huge amount of men and women serving in the theatre of war that needed feeding.

Much of our food was imported, our merchant navy vessels carrying supplies became a frequent target for sinking by the Uboats (German submarines).

Winston Churchill appointed Lord Woolton as the Minister of Food, and it was he who introduced not only rationing but the special Woolton pie (see today's recipe) he knew the hardships families would face and set about helping the nation make their food rations go further.

Most things were rationed in the drive to make households more self-sufficient. Petrol was rationed straight away in 1939, then food was severely rationed from 1940. Everyone had to register at chosen shops, and was given a ration book with coupons. Shopkeepers were given enough food for registered customers. Would-be buyers took ration books with them when shopping, so that coupons could be torn out or cancelled.

The weekly ration allowed by the Ministry of Food.

Bacon & Ham 4 oz. and other meat (equivalent to 2 chops), Butter 2 oz., Cheese 2 oz., Marg 4 oz., Cooking fat 4 oz., Milk 3 pints, Sugar 8 oz., Tea 2 oz.,

Extra allowances of butter, cheese, ham, were available for sandwiches for workers who could not use British Restaurants.

Running out of Ration Coupons was common and to compensate, people used to eat at British Restaurants, run by local councils on a non-profit basis, staffed by WVS volunteers. Large numbers went there every day. Many factories had a canteen for midday meals. Women volunteers worked in these canteens to keep costs down.

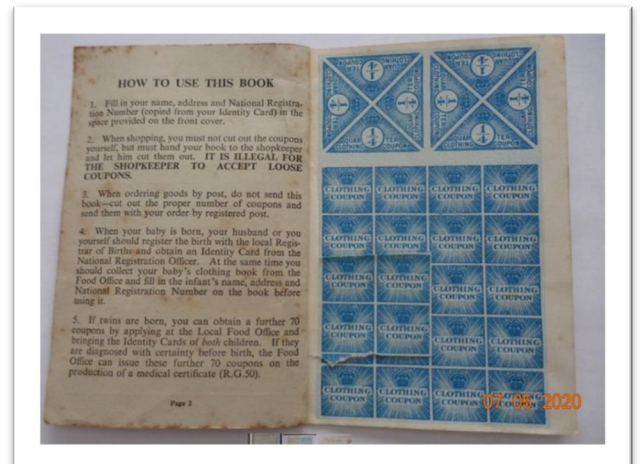
Rationing went on a long time after the war had finished. Most items came off ration in 1950, the last was meat in 1954.

Even clothing was rationed, this was introduced in June 1941. Clothing materials were needed to produce the uniforms that were by then worn by a quarter of the population. Clothes rationing ended on 15 March 1949.

Restaurants



Ration Books



The National Archives are allowing signed in users to download digital records for free! Please visit <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

1. What do the letters VE stand for on VE day?
2. Who was the British Prime Minister on VE day?
3. The book *Animal Farm* was released in 1945, but who wrote it?
4. What word describes the fear of war or physical injury?
5. What was the Chinese Year on VE day?
6. Who was the Monarch of Britain on VE day?
7. Where was the unconditional surrender signed in France on 7th May?
8. Who shared the 1945 Nobel Prize for 'Physiology or Medicine' with a German and Australian?
9. Who was the President of the United States on VE day?
10. Which German General signed the unconditional surrender of all German forces on the 7th May 1945?
11. If you were born on VE day, what star sign would you be?
12. Which British Officer accepted the surrender of the German forces in Hamburg?
13. What were the first 3 items rationed on the 8th Jan 1940?
14. A Farthing minted in 1945 has what design on its tails side?
15. Who was the French leader on VE day?
16. In the NATO phonetic alphabet, what is assigned to the letters V and E?
17. What was the name of Hitler's wife who committed suicide with him?
18. Who was the Russian leader on VE day?
19. Which picture won the Oscar in 1945 featuring the songs 'Swinging on a star' and 'Too Ra Loo Ra Loo Ral'?
20. What were French women allowed to do for the first time on 29th April 1945?

We are delighted to present the names of the people from Issue 1 of the magazine.



Left to Right: Douglas Murray, unknown, Jack Sutherland (white shorts), behind Jack unknown, John Macdonald (green shorts), Willie John Denoon (behind John), Alan Macdonald (light blue t-shirt), Donnie Macdonald (blue shorts with red stripe), beside Donnie unknown, Angie (Saval) Macdonald, George Mackay, Johnnie Lowe.



Back row (left to right): Rhoda Corbett, Rena Macdonald, Peggy Gunn, Joan Macdonald, Lena Ross
 Front row (left to right): Margaret Morrison, Emily Campbell MacLeod, Mary Shearsmith, Sheena Skinner, Irene Macdonald
 Sitting: Mrs R.D. Macdonald

Celebrate with bunting!

Sometimes there's nothing like a string of bunting to mark a celebration, the colourful triangles fluttering gently in the wind, marking birthdays, weddings or street parties. Bunting and beer were at the top of the list when Winston Churchill announced that there would be a national holiday to celebrate Germany's surrender in May 1945. He is even rumoured have ensured that there were enough supplies of beer in the country before he announced the holiday. Recently there's been a boom in sales of bunting, and probably beer too, as people under lockdown held parties in their gardens or outside their front doors, to mark the 75th anniversary of VE day.

Bunting has its origins in pennants used for signalling on ships and thought to date from the 17th century. The *officer responsible for raising signals using flags* was known as a "bunt" and to this day this is *still* the name used to refer to a *ship's communications officer*.

With a boom in sales and supplies short, online ordering and deliveries delayed and maybe time on your hands, why not try and make your own. It's better for the planet too, as you can use old material, bedsheets, pillowcases or even a favourite old shirt. Perhaps when lockdown is over, you will hang bunting around your house or, if you have a street party, decorate your street.

How to make your own bunting

To make bunting, you will need paper or card, fabric or another material for the flags, and bias binding tape or a ribbon to hang the flags on.

Draw a triangle on a piece of paper or card, the size you want your bunting flags to be. Cut the template out with scissors.

Use a simple fabric like a cotton-polyester blend which is easiest for sewing.

Pin each corner of the template to a straight edge of the fabric, making sure the edges are straight. Cut around the template with fabric scissors. Repeat the process until you have the number want to make.

Arrange the flags along bias binding tape so they are evenly spaced. Fold the binding tape over each flag and secure it down with pins, and then sew the binding tape to the flags. Adorn you home, house or street!

LDCI Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Victory in Europe | 9. Harry S Truman | 15. Charles De Gaulle |
| 2. Winston Churchill | 10. General Alfred Jodl | 16. Victor and Echo |
| 3. George Orwell | 11. Taurus | 17. Eva Braun |
| 4. Traumatophobia | 12. Field Marshal Bernhard Law Montgomery | 18. Joseph Stalin |
| 5. Rooster | 13. Bacon, butter, sugar | 19. Going my way |
| 6. George VI | 14. Wren | 20. Vote |
| 7. Allied headquarters Reims | | |
| 8. Sir Alexander Fleming | | |

How did you do?

1-5/20

5-10/20

10-15/20

15-10/20

Poor

Okay

Good

Excellent

The Jellicoe Express ran between London Euston and Thurso in Scotland, linking the South of England with its three great Naval ports and the Fleet's anchorage in Scapa Flow in Orkney. The Naval train, the Jellicoe Express, ran from London to Thurso for Scapa Flow from 1917 in World War One and again in World War Two. Although the train was a naval service it also transported airmen and soldiers throughout the war. Lairg was one of a number of refreshment stops along the route, where local ladies Christina Mackenzie and Renee Munro ran the small kiosk on the station platform.



'Images: Lairg Local History Society/Tommy Campbell Collection - Reproduced with the kind permission of Donnie MacRae.'

Words of the Week

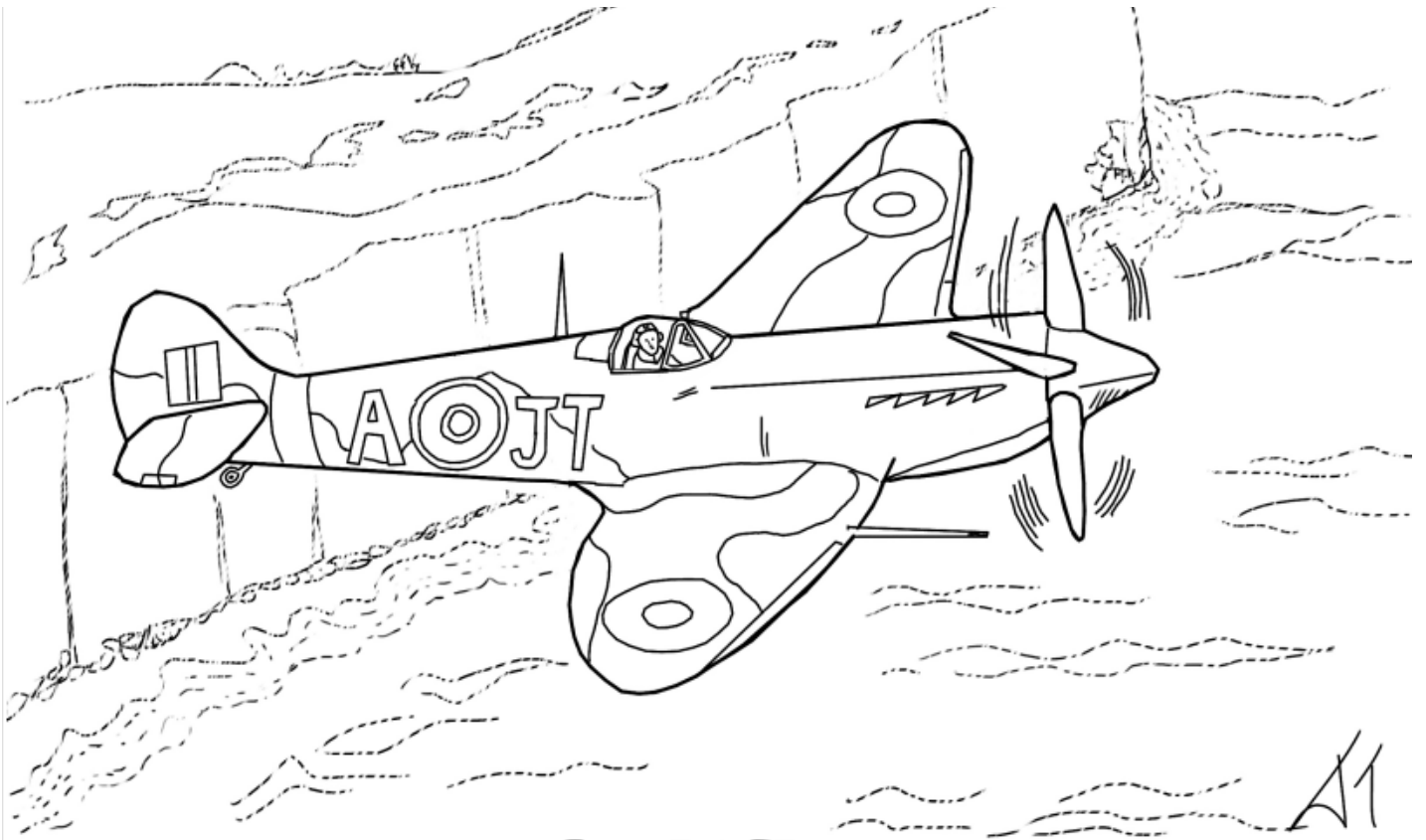
Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

John chapter 15 verse 13

We remember and honour the memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice during the Second World War, and who are named on Lairg War Memorial.

James Coghill, Private, 4th Bn Seaforth Highlanders
Alexander Grant, Private, 5th Bn Seaforth Highlanders
Walter C MacDonal, Private, 5th Bn Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders
George C MacKay, Sergeant, Royal Air Force
G MacKay, Bosun, Merchant Navy
Archibald MacKenzie, Private, 7th Bn Seaforth Highlanders
D J MacMillan, Corporal, Scots Guards
John R Munro, Driver, Royal Army Service Corps
Adam Stevenson, Lance Corporal, 4th Bn Seaforth Highlanders
J Sutherland, Sergeant, Royal Army Ordnance Corps
David M Weir, Private, 5th Bn Seaforth Highlanders

Words written by Angela Sutherland



Spitfire

World War II Aircraft

A	A	I	R	A	C	O	B	R	A	S	A	U	L
L	T	A	L	L	A	S	L	B	E	T	T	Y	I
N	A	N	E	D	A	U	N	T	L	E	S	S	I
O	L	I	G	H	T	N	I	N	G	N	L	A	L
T	L	L	K	W	A	H	R	A	W	I	E	S	O
G	W	A	U	U	Z	W	E	R	B	O	T	P	E
N	L	N	U	K	C	E	A	E	O	N	A	I	K
I	L	C	D	A	R	K	R	T	U	F	K	T	E
L	E	A	T	E	U	A	I	O	H	I	N	F	A
L	H	S	K	T	T	U	T	A	C	D	L	I	W
E	C	T	S	O	Q	I	N	V	A	D	E	R	C
W	T	E	R	S	H	E	L	L	C	A	T	E	R
U	I	R	O	A	R	M	U	S	T	A	N	G	I
C	M	M	H	U	R	R	I	C	A	N	E	E	U

- DAUNTLESS
- LIBERATOR
- WELLINGTON
- MUSTANG
- BETTY
- LIGHTNING
- SPITFIRE
- WILDCAT
- WARHAWK
- LANCASTER
- AIRACOBRA
- MOSQUITO
- HURRICANE
- MITCHELL
- INVADER
- STUKA
- KATE
- ZERO
- HELLCAT



Thank you for reading issue 8 of the Lairg Magazine, we hope you enjoyed it! If you have any suggestions, or would like to be involved—please get in contact with Jodie at projectofficer@lairginitiative.co.uk.