



VE DAY



## WHAT IS VE DAY?

Victory in Europe Day is generally known as VE Day in the UK and is a day celebrating the formal acceptance of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces on 8th May 1945. It was reported that Adolf Hitler, the Nazi leader, had committed suicide on 30th April and during the Battle of Berlin, Germany's surrender was authorised by Adolf Hitler's successor, Reichspräsident Karl Dönitz. The act of military surrender was first signed at 02:41 on 7th May in SHAEF HQ at Reims and a slightly modified document was signed on 8th May in Berlin.

On 8th May 2021 our nation is remembering VE day during another very difficult period for our country. We are remembering all those who served to win our peace, and all those who gave the greatest sacrifice for our freedom. This is a time when we are facing different threats. More than ever, it is good to remember we have been through difficult times before, and we did it by working together.



## **WHERE DOES THE TERM ‘TOMMY’ COME FROM?**

The origins of the term Tommy is widely disputed, the most common interpretation is that the term comes from Tommy Atkins, which is slang for a common soldier in the British Army. It is known to have been used as early as 1743, however the term Tommy was chosen as a generic name by the war office in 1815. Legend has it that in WW1 German soldiers would call out “Tommy” across no man’s land if they wanted to speak to a British soldier.

Established in 1919, Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI) helped and supported many wounded, injured and sick ex-Forces personnel returning from war and continued ever since expanding its range of services through the funds it raises through charitable donations. RBLI Tommy represents military services and all those that have served for our country.







# TOMMY'S RACE TO **VICTORY**



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Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI) Charity No. 210063. RBLI, Hall Road, Aylesford, ME20 7NL, Kent

-  [rbli.co.uk/tommys-race-to-victory](https://rbli.co.uk/tommys-race-to-victory)
-  [fundraising@rbli.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@rbli.co.uk)
-  [@RoyalBritishLegionIndustries](https://www.facebook.com/RoyalBritishLegionIndustries)
-  [@RBLICharity](https://www.instagram.com/RBLICharity)

RBLI is completely separate to The Royal British Legion and receives no financial support from the annual poppy appeal. The charity must raise its own funds to deliver care and employability support, and build more homes