

Memories of the Second World War from the Royal Collection

This simple resource is designed to evoke memories, and start conversations, about life in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead during the Second World War.

All photographs are taken from the Royal Collection – one of the most important art collections in the world. Collected over the centuries by past kings and queens it is now held in trust, for the nation, by The King. To find out more about each photograph use the given RCIN number to search the Collection Online at www.rct.uk.

Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret spent most of the war years at Windsor Castle, with the Kings and Queen spending most of their time at Buckingham Palace.

Photograph shows:

- *King George VI, Queen Elizabeth, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret, November 1943 (RCIN 2315121)*

Conversation starters:

- Were you affected by the Second World War?



Memories of the Second World War from the Royal Collection – Evacuees

Berkshire was categorised as an Evacuee 'Reception' area due to its rural nature. In the first wave of evacuations, in 1939, 23,915 children were received into the administrative area of Berkshire County Council.

The 14 year old Princess Elizabeth broadcast a message to evacuees as part of the Children's Hour radio programme.

Photograph shows:

- *Princess Elizabeth's first broadcast during a 'Children's Hour' programme, 12 October 1940 (RCIN 2002152)*

Conversation starters:

- Were you evacuated during the war, or did any evacuee children come to your town or village?



Memories of the Second World War from the Royal Collection – the Guards

On her 16th birthday, 21 April 1942, Princess Elizabeth was appointed Colonel of the Regiment of the Grenadier Guards. This inspection was the Princess's first official public engagement.

The Grenadier Guards are one of the five footguards regiments of the Household Division. The other four being the Coldstream, Scots, Irish and Welsh Guards.

There are two mounted regiments, forming the Household Cavalry – the Life Guards and the Blues and Royals.

During the Second World War the Victoria Barracks housed the various Footguards Regiments of the Household Division, whilst Combermere was home to the Household Cavalry.

Photograph shows:

- *Princess Elizabeth on an inspection of Grenadier Guards, 21 April 1942 (RCIN 2304473.1)*

Conversation starters:

- Do you or your family have any connections to the Guards?



Memories of the Second World War from the Royal Collection – VE Day

In her memories of VE Day, when she was 19 years old, Queen Elizabeth II recalled:

‘...it was one of the most memorable nights of my life...I remember lines of unknown people linking arms and walking down Whitehall, all of us just swept along on a tide of happiness and relief.’

In her VE Day message, broadcast from Windsor Castle, 75 years after her father’s radio broadcast, Queen Elizabeth said,

‘Never give up, never despair – that was the message of VE Day

Photograph shows:

- *King George VI and family during VE Day, Tuesday May 8th, 1945 (detail), (RCIN 2108359)*

Conversation starters:

- Crowds formed outside Buckingham Palace on VE day as the Royal Family and the Prime Minister appeared on the balcony – where did you gather and how did you celebrate?

