



Press Release

Issued on behalf of Visit Kent

Dunkirk Evacuation 70th Anniversary Events in Kent

2010 marks the 70th anniversary of the evacuation of troops from France known as Operation Dynamo.

Kent played a pivotal role in many of the most salient offensive and defensive operations throughout the Second World War and Operation Dynamo is considered to be one of the most important as over 330,000 Allied troops were evacuated from the beaches of Dunkirk in only nine days.

For information on all the attractions below, visit www.visitkent.co.uk

Dover Castle

To mark the 70th anniversary of the evacuation of troops from France, Dover Castle will be commemorating the 'Miracle of Dunkirk' from Saturday 29 to Monday 31 May.

Take part in WWII events, experience living history encampments and find out what life was really like for English, French and German soldiers. There will also be tours of the tunnels from where Vice Admiral Ramsay masterminded the evacuation deep within the White Cliffs.

The event will include military vehicles and bikes, horse displays and the firing of a 25lb Field Gun.

www.english-heritage.org.uk

The Hop Farm, Paddock Wood

The Hop Farm will be commemorating the 70th anniversary of the evacuation of Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain at this year's War and Peace show from 21 to 25 July. The event is also the largest military vehicle spectacular in the world with tank and helicopter rides, a fun fair and vehicle convoys.

www.thehopfarm.co.uk

Norfolkline Ferries

The Dover to Dunkirk ferry line is commemorating the Evacuation of Dunkirk on 27th May, which will form part of a week-long programme of activities that have been planned by the Dunkirk Mayor's Office.

As part of the activities, Norfolkline is arranging for guests to be escorted, at their expense, across from Dover to Dunkirk on Thursday 27th May.

Guests invited to travel to France include veterans, War Graves commission, families of serving military and families who have lost and suffered bereavement in recent conflicts. The charity Help for Heroes and representatives of the Royal British Legion will be amongst those also present. The Parachute Regimental Band will perform on the dock side at Dover together with a 200 voice choir from the Royal Choral Society, who will also accompany the veterans on the journey to Dunkirk.

For more information please contact Emma Batchelor at emma@westgatecomms.com or call 01732 779087.

Margate's Big Event

On 19 and 20 June, set on Margate's stunning Palm Bay, Margate's Big Event has thrilling flying displays headlined by the Red Arrows with a special tribute to the Battle of Britain Anniversary.

There will also be live bands, street performers, a fairground and lots to see and do for all the family.

www.thanet.gov.uk/margatesbigevent

RAF Manston Spitfire & Hurricane Memorial Museum, near Ramsgate

On Sunday 30 May the Manston RAF museum will be hosting a variety of aerial displays including the Boeing Stearman, Kent Spitfire, Meschersmitt 108, Russian YAK 44, military helicopters and The Red Arrows.

There will also be static displays, refreshments, children's rides and lots more fun for all the family.

www.spitfirememorial.org.uk

Historic Dockyard, Chatham – Salute to the 40s

On 18 and 19 September the Dockyard will be brought alive with wartime vehicles, uniforms, music and activities. Step back in time and enjoy a day of nostalgia, memories and wartime experiences. There will also be a 1940s style street party with some of the best of today's 1940s live entertainers.

<http://www.chdt.org.uk>

Dunkirk Little Ships

Once again Ramsgate is fortunate to have been asked to host the gathering of the Dunkirk Little Ships to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Operation dynamo before their voyage to Dunkirk early on 27th May, returning on 31st

May. It is anticipated that up to 50 Little Ships will gather at Ramsgate from 22 May (subject to confirmation and weather).

www.visitthanet.co.uk

Penshurst Place and Gardens – Civilians at War

Find out more about life on the Home Front during World War II, as Hands on History enlist you into the Home Guard on the August Bank Holiday. Interactive demonstrations and presentations.

www.penshurstplace.com

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For enquiries please contact Sarah Whelband on 01732 779087 or sarahw@westgatecomms.com

About Visit Kent:

Visit Kent Limited is a public/private sector partnership supported by Kent County Council, Medway Council, the district and borough councils, Tourism South East and the leading sector tourism businesses in Kent. Visit Kent champions Kent's £2.5 billion tourism industry by targeting UK and overseas markets.

For further information visit www.visitkentbusiness.co.uk.