

Scottish National VE DAY 75th Commemoration – Delivered by Scottish Government (Lead organisation Legion Scotland in Partnership with Poppyscotland



VE Day 75th Anniversary Commemorations Edinburgh 07 - 09 May 2020

Military Support Tri Services

Unit	Task	Report point	Report time	End time	Remarks
Royal Regiment Of Scotland Band	Orchestra	Ross Band Stand	0800	1510	Bid for not confirmed
Royal Regiment Of Scotland Mascot Cruachan IV & Pony Major	Lead Parade	Charlotte Square	0930	1200	
Tayforth University Officer Training Corps	Reception Pipers	Assembly Rooms	1000	1200	3 Pipers
Scots Guards Regimental Support Team	Sentries	Assembly Rooms	0945	1200	4 x Guardsmen Ushers and Sentries in Home Service Clothing
Royal Regiment Of Scotland Regimental Support Team	Ushers	Assembly Rooms	0945	1200	4 x Ushers 1x Colour Sergeant
Scots Guards Regimental Support Team Piper	East Drawing Room Assembly Rooms	Assembly Rooms	1000	1200	
Royal Air Force Pipes and Drums	Lead band for veterans	George St / St Andrews Sq	1045	1515	Confirmed
Regular Detachments RN,Army,RAF	Marching Contingents	George St / St Andrews Sq	1045	1230	30 regular 90 Total
Reserve Detachments RN,Army,RAF	Marching Contingents	George St / St Andrews Sq	1045	1230	30 Reserve 90 Total
Cadet Detachments from Sea Cadets,Army Cadet Force & Air Cadets	Marching Contingents	George St / St Andrews Sq	1045	1230	15 cadets 45 Total
RAF Lossiemouth	Flypast	Edinburgh Castle over Ross Band Stand	1345	1346	2 Typhoon

Synopsis of VE DAY Planning as of 11th Feb 2020

WW2 Veterans Attending the Commemorations We currently have 15 veterans from World war 2 that have said they will be attending the event, most of these have been sourced internally from our membership and they come from all three services, further calling notices will be pushed out across the country to allow as many veterans and other contributors to the War effort in WW2 to attend as is possible.

Reception at Edinburgh Castle Great Hall A request is being made to the Governor of Edinburgh Castle By the Lord Provost of Edinburgh for a reception to be held in the Great hall of Edinburgh Castle on the evening of Thursday 07th May 2020 timings TBC for all of the WW2 veterans we will be hosting. Format for the evening will be a VIP reception to allow the veterans to meet VIPs followed by a meal which will have Pipers playing during interval in the meal this event will need to be reasonably short in length to allow the veterans to rest before the following day's activities.

Edinburgh Hoteliers Association An introduction was made by the Lord Provosts office to the Edinburgh Hoteliers Association they have agreed to assist in accommodating veterans and are confident that they can accommodate them and a nominated carer or companion in central Edinburgh Hotels for the duration of their stay. Efforts will be made to allow veterans and carers have rooms that are close by that will cater for any mobility issues they might have accommodation will be made available for the veterans from Thursday 07th May until Saturday 09th May. At the moment the Hoteliers Association will do all it can to provide the accommodation free of charge.

Fares For Free Fares for free were approached and they have agreed to provide free transportation of WW2 Veterans and Carers for the duration of their stay in Edinburgh.

Scotrail Poppyscotland has asked for free rail transportation for WW2 Veterans and a nominated carer this was agreed to by Scotrail details of those travelling will be collated and sent to Scotrail prior to the event.

Lothian Buses Lothian Buses have agreed to provide free transport to veterans on production of a veterans badge or card for VE Day.

Christina Dunwoodie & Annette Gilles Christina Dunwoodie and Annette Gilles have both agreed to take on positions as Artistic Director and Designer of the Concert they will source talent and come up with a storyline for the Concert to follow a soldier leaving home at the outbreak of war and returning home after VE Day. They have done well to source talent and storylines so far and will be able to confirm all aspects of the concert once band allocation has been confirmed by the MOD. At the moment they are having difficulties due to not knowing the size or make up of any band we might be assisted with, this is causing problems with the repertoire and also is needed to allow for accurate quotes for staging, sound and Lighting that has to be erected in front of the Ross Band stand.

Alasdair Hutton OBE Edinburgh Lothian & Borders Area President and "voice of the tattoo" has kindly agreed to work on script and narration for the concert at the Ross Band Stand.

Wesley Cameron Wesley Cameron of WES productions will provide support and advice for the procurement of professional services and equipment and support that will allow the site to be set up and de rigged in a timely and safe manner. He will be responsible for site safety and event production Management

Edinburgh Council EPOG Edinburgh Council were approached and the planning process with them is well under way the EPOG was held on Monday 13th Jan 20 and the proposal for a parade along George St and into Castle Street has been submitted with no objections.

Temporary Traffic Restriction Orders have been submitted for Kings Stable road Charlotte Square and George St. These will be used as holding areas for RBLS Riders Branch and horses in Charlotte Square.

After a meeting with the Lord Provost of Edinburgh on 05th Feb 2020 it was suggested that the Lord Provosts office will approach the EPOG committee to further request that the central reservation of George Street be cleared of vehicles before the parade and barriers be put in place for crowd control measures to allow more spectators to observe the parade and follow on to the concert

Licensing proposals have been submitted and a sub licensing hearing will take place in due course.

Tower Farm Riding Stables Stuart Nicoll the organiser of the Riding Marches approached us with a proposal to use horses to lead the event he has spoken to Tower Farm Riding Stables and they will provide us with 10 horses to lead the parade at a much reduced cost, 5 of the horses will carry the National Flags of the Main Countries from the Allies during WW2.

Scottish Military Vehicle Group The Group has agreed to take part in the Event it has said they can provide 10-15 Vintage Military vehicles from WW2 2 x Motorcycles 3x Willis Jeeps, 1x Bren Carrier, 1 x Half Track, 1 x Austin 3 Tonner, 1x Bedford 3 Tonner, 1 x Canadian Ford 30 CWT, 1 x Dodge Field Ambulance 7 1 x Hillman Tilly. The vehicles will be taking part in the parade and will also be utilised to carry Veterans from BLESMA and also veterans with mobility issues to allow them to take part in the parade. After the march past they will be used as static displays in Princes St Gardens they will also provide us with a static display from the land army.

Iain Hutcheson Merlin ERD has been asked to provide a full size replica Spitfire to be a centre piece for the static display; he also has 2 flying replicas of Spitfires that could potentially be used for a flypast if permission was granted from the CAA. Mr Hutcheson is currently abroad on holiday we will get further details from him on his return.

Poppyscotland BUD A further recce took place on Friday 14th Feb 20 to see if the BUD will be able to take part as a static display, it is assessed that this will be possible and BUD will now form part of the static Display .

Service at St Giles' Cathedral The Lord Provost Office will approach the minister of St Giles to see if a service of remembrance can take place at a timing TBC in St Giles'

Outline of the Parade

The parade will consist of the following:

1 Mascot Cruachan IV and Pony Major from the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

5 Flag bearing horses carrying national flags of UK, France, Soviet Union, USA and China.

5 Horses at rear

10 to 15 SMVG vehicles carrying veterans from Blesma and veterans with mobility issues all vehicles will carry Union Flags

Up to 50 RBLs Riders Branch members in double file carrying Union Flags and Saltires. After initial part of parade they will move to positions between Ross fountain and Ross band stand to line route for WW2 Veterans arrival

Children's groups Guides and Boys Brigade etc. carrying the National flags of all other countries that contributed to the Allied war effort during WW2, as a secondary task they will place the flags in prepositioned receptacles around the perimeter fence of the Ross Band Stand.

RAF Pipes and Drums will be the lead band of the marching contingents from Regular Reserve and Cadets then move into position at St Cuthbert's to lead Taxis Carrying WW2 Veterans into position at Ross Band Stand

Detachments of Regular, Reserve and Cadet Forces from all three Services if available.

Scots Guards Association Pipes and Drums will lead RBLs Standards and Regimental Associations thereafter straight into a set at the Ross band stand to provide entertainment until start of the concert thereafter into a holding location in Ross Band Stand until finale at 1515hrs.

RBLs Standard Bearers.

RBLs Veterans.

Regimental Associations.

The Highland and Lowland Bands of the Royal Regiment of Scotland will provide the main orchestral support for the concert and will be supported by other Musicians to deliver the Repertoire

Outline of timings

Thursday 07th May 20

0800 Set up of site, sound systems, lighting and decorative preparations of Ross Band Stand for the event

Pm arrival receptions for veterans

1800 possible reception and meal in Great Hall in Edinburgh Castle TBC

Friday 08th May 20

0800 Final set up of Ross Band Stand

0800 Sound checks and rehearsals for performers and orchestra

0900 Rehearsal for RBLS Riders Branch and confirmation of positions for SMVG Displays and vehicles

0920 Rehearsal for youth groups flag bearers at Ross Band Stand

0930 Horse boxes move to holding area at Charlotte Square for final preparations.

0930 Veterans Breakfast Club Meeting at The Royal Scots Club Abercromby Place.

0945 Riders Branch and SMVG move from Kings Stable road to the Parade Assembly Area at Eastern side of George St on the south carriageway at St Andrews Square.

1000 Road closures come into effect on George St.

1015 VIP Arrival at Assembly Rooms for Reception in East Drawing Room.

1030 WW2 Veterans Arrive at Assembly rooms Tayforth Pipers Play to welcome in reception area Piped into East Drawing Rooms by Single SG RST piper.

1045 Parade personnel arrive in assembly area at east side of George St at St Andrews Square.

1115 Horses move from holding Area along north Carriageway of George Street to take position at front of the Parade.

1125 VIP and WW2 Veterans take position on Saluting Dias outside Assembly Rooms.

1130 Parade steps off following route George St to Castle Street.

- a. Horses will move back to Charlotte Square once they have passed the Saluting Dias.
- b. SMVG will proceed directly to Red Blaise in Princes Street Gardens and will take up positions at Static Display entry Via Kings Stable road.
- c. RBLS Riders Branch will enter via St Cuthbert's and take up positions between the Ross Fountain and Ross Band Stand to line the route with their Motorcycles and flags.
- d. Once dismissed in Castle St all parade members will move across Princes St and into Princes St Gardens to the Ross Band Stand.
- e. Youth Groups will position national flags to surround the Ross Band Stand.

- f. The RAF Pipes AND Drums will move to the Western Side of Princes St Gardens to lead WW2 Veterans to the Ross Band Stand.
- g. All VIP vehicles will pick up VIPs once the parade has passed they will enter via Kings Stable road and proceed to the rear of the Ross Band Stand.
- h. All Fares For Free Vehicles will pick up WW2 Veterans and take them to Princes St Gardens Via St Cuthbert's on entry to the Gardens the Royal Marines Band will Play them into the ross band Stand.
- i. The Senior Person attending will be invited to do a welcome to all WW2 Veterans and those attending.

1230 Concert begins

1330 Interval until 1400

1345 Flypast 2 x Typhoons

1455 The Nations Toast

1500 Single Round Fired from time gun at Edinburgh castle

1500 VE 75 Pipe Tune played from Edinburgh Castle by single Piper

1510 Finale (RAF Pipes and Drums)

1515 Dispersal and Clear up

All Timings subject to change and confirmation

Kings Stable Road has been reserved for Coach Pick up of Bands and Military personnel

Saturday 09th May 2020

Church service at St Giles Cathedral timings TBC

Original Signed
B Ward
Events Manager
RBLS