



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Date: 27th May 2010

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EXPERIENCE LIFE IN WARTIME BRITAIN.

**GCR wartime weekend all set to remember when the
Americans came to Quorn.**

12th and 13th June 2010

The Great Central Railway's evocative wartime weekend returns for 2010. The event which always attracts thousands of visitors will feature period entertainment, displays of military vehicles and 'visiting dignitaries' including Winston Churchill at stations along the line.

As always, remembrance is at the heart of the event. On Sunday morning there will be a church service and on Sunday afternoon a closing ceremony will involve the Royal British Legion and a Spitfire flypast.

There is a stateside twist this year, remembering the 82nd airborne division who were briefly based in the village of Quorn in 1944. The paratroopers had already seen service in Italy when they came to Leicestershire.

The soldiers and their equipment boarded trains at the village station to travel to the south coast before the D Day invasion. A memorial stone can be found in the centre of Quorn adjacent to the war memorial sent by the Americans from a town in Europe where they saw action.

Christine Brown, the wartime weekend event organiser said "**The weekend will give visitors the real chance to experience what life was like in wartime Britain. The memories of a generation will be kept alive in the music and memorabilia, but we should never forget those who paid the ultimate**



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price. The American soldiers were only in Quorn for a few months but they left a lasting impression and are still remembered by some residents today."

Hundreds of re-enactors will bring the stations and trains to life wearing period clothes, giving twenty first century visitors the closest experience to time travel they can get. Period music and singers will be appearing throughout the weekend along with cameo scenes invoking the warring forties.

A busy timetable of steam hauled passenger trains will operate on both days. At Quorn and Woodhouse there will be a memorabilia market alongside a real ale tent.

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

Details on the above and all forthcoming events can be found on the Great Central Railway's extensive website: www.gcrailway.co.uk
Additional information can also be obtained from the Booking Office, Loughborough Central Station, (Daily 9.00 - 5.30) on 01509 230726

NOTES

Voted number 12 on the list of the 50 greatest railway journeys in the world the Great Central Railway is the UK's only double track, main line heritage railway. It's the only place in the world where full size steam engines can be seen passing each other – just as it was when steam ruled the rails. The preserved railway celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2009, and is manned by around 700 volunteers and a small team of permanent staff. Preservation of this section of the Great Central Railway began in 1969. The route was originally part of a main line from Sheffield to London. The 8 mile preserved section between Loughborough and Leicester is fully operational and the 4 stations reflect a different period of the railway's 111 year history. Around 100,000 visitors a year come to the railway from all over the world.

Trains run every weekend of the year, bank holidays and daily in the summer. In addition, First Class Restaurant Car Services provide famous dining experiences, whilst passengers travel between Loughborough and Leicester. Childhood engine driver dreams can come true with a Drive a Train Experience. We also run a number of family events, including Santa Specials.

The railway has won a number of awards including "independent railway of the year", and a gold award for the East Midlands best visitor experience and is a quality assured visitor attraction as designated by Enjoy England.

BRITAIN'S ONLY DOUBLE TRACK, MAIN LINE HERITAGE RAILWAY

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