



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Celebrating 40 years of preservation in 2009

Date: 7th June 2009

PLEASE NOTE- MEDIA CALL DETAILS AT END OF PRESS RELEASE

HALF A MILLION REASONS TO REMEMBER D-DAY

**Spectacular poppy drop one of the highlights of
Great Central Railway wartime weekend: 13th/14th JUNE**

Royal British legion to salute fallen comrades.

Half a million poppy petals will fall from a vintage aircraft onto Quorn and Woodhouse railway station this weekend. It will be one of the highlights of the railway's wartime weekend which will commemorate the sixty fifth anniversary of the D Day landings. The event takes place on the 13th and 14th of June.

Remembering those who paid the ultimate price in the war will be the theme this year. A special remembrance garden (using specially blessed soil) is being created where relatives can leave tributes. A Sunday service will bring together the re-enactors, visitors and veterans to pay their respects. This will also be attended by the Mayor of Charnwood and the assistant Lord Lieutenant.

The wartime weekend co-ordinator is Christine Brown. She said, "**This will be a very evocative event. Naturally we'll have an excellent line up of vehicles and period displays with characters from the 1940s mingling amongst visitors. As this is the 65th anniversary of D Day we're committed to reflecting and remembering the invasion and allowing veterans to do likewise.**"

Characters including Prime Minister Winston Churchill and General's Eisenhower and Montgomery will be making an appearance. There will be separate flypasts on Saturday and Sunday from a Lancaster, a Hurricane and a Spitfire.

The Royal British Legion are supporting the event. Members from across Leicestershire will present their standards during the poppy drop and will also take



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part in the Sunday church service. Chairman of the legion's standard bearers association, in Leicestershire and Rutland, Keith Hassall said, "**We're very pleased to take part in this event which will allow us to remember the fallen. As the poppies drop from the aircraft we will present our standards and then dip them in respect. There should be ten different standards on show, representing branches from across the area.**"

There will be entertainment and action throughout Saturday and Sunday will also reflect on the lighter side of 1940s life. A football team in period kit will tour the line from Loughborough to Quorn complete with their cup. Meanwhile a Vera Lynn style singer will perform at Loughborough station. On Saturday night, entertainer Fiona Harrison will stage a special show.

This year, the railway has introduced new ticket prices for the event which will allow cheaper admission for people arriving after three o'clock. The event details are on line now at www.gcrailway.co.uk

Please note parking will be very limited at stations, particularly at Quorn and Rothley. A dedicated car park is being provided near Quorn station with a vintage bus shuttle (9am to 6pm both days) to the station yard.

ENDS.

WORDS: 467

MEDIA CALL

You are invited to Quorn and Woodhouse Station (Woodhouse Road, Quorn village, LE12 8AL) station at 11am on Friday 12th June, to see the memorial garden being created. The final set dressing for the weekend will be taking place and some of the world war two vehicles will be in place. Interviews will be available with wartime weekend co-ordinator Christine Brown and also General Montgomery - in uniform (as played by Mike Batten).