NORTHERN IRELAND
WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

CRAFT
Challenge

Ogilvie Street, Woodstock Road, Belfast

Foundry Street, Belfast

Images courtesy of
Belfast Telegraph

MAKE YOUR OWN VE DAY BUNTING

In May 1945 the end of the war in Europe had been expected for some time, so people had been getting ready to celebrate by making decorations and saving food to celebrate with.

On 7 May 1945 it was announced that the next day, Tuesday 8 May, would be **Victory in Europe** Day (**VE Day**).

On **VE Day** houses were decked with homemade decorations such as bunting and paper chains. Celebrations broke out everywhere as everyone rejoiced and street parties were organised. Tables were pulled out into the street and covered with homemade sweet treats and sandwiches. Children played games, sang songs, ate lots of food, and sometimes celebrated in fancy dress.

Paper was salvaged during the Second World War to help the war effort, so it was important not to waste it. People used scrap paper and odds-and-ends from around the house to make decorations.

Just like they did in 1945, you can use scrap or waste paper (from your recycling bin) to make colourful bunting to decorate your house and garden. All you need is scrap paper or cardboard (newspapers, magazines and old cereal boxes are perfect), some string, wool or ribbon and sticky tape. You could use paints, colouring pens and stickers to make your bunting all the colours of the rainbow!

Follow the steps on the next page to make your own bunting and be sure to tell us if you had fun making it for your **VE Day** party!

MAKE YOUR OWN VE DAY BUNTING

· FOLD ·

1. Place this template onto scrap paper.
2. Draw around it and cut out the shape.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 to make as many as you can.
4. Decorate each flag with paints, pens and stickers.
5. Measure your string to suit where you will hang your bunting.
6. Fold each piece of bunting along the dotted 'FOLD' line above and fold over your string.
7. You could glue each one or fix it with sticky tape.