OPERATION CHARIOT
MEMORIAL PROJECT

LESSON 1
Who Am I?

Made possible with Heritage Fund

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Operation Chariot Memorial Project is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players, we can ensure the legacy of Operation Chariot is preserved for future generations.

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St Nazaire Raid Memorial Trust Registered charity number 1208309 www.stnazaireraid.org

Lesson 1: Introduction

It is 22.00 hours on 27th March 1942. There is a full moon, but the sky is overcast. A fleet of 18 small, wooden boats and one modified, American, First World War destroyer, carrying 625 men between them, pauses at the mouth of the River Loire. Having sailed from Falmouth (Cornwall) on the 26th, ahead of them lies a monumental task - vital to the war effort but one from which few are expected to return home. Setting off up the river, which is heavily defended on both sides by the enemy's guns and searchlights, they are determined to achieve their goal. But what is the plan? Why are they risking their lives? What is their objective? How can they possibly hope to reach it undetected? And how many will survive and make it home?

The fleet did not arrive here by chance; it involved a lot of creative thought, planning and preparation.

What follows is a true story; one of strategy, subterfuge, and above all, courage. One that brought hope to an embattled France and raised morale in both the UK and France.

Welcome to the story of **"The Greatest Raid of All", codename: Operation Chariot** – the daring World War Two (WW2) Combined Operations attack on the docks at St Nazaire in France – and its contribution to **The Battle of the Atlantic**!

This set of lessons, aimed at KS3/Year 9 level education, uses information and activities to explore the historical events leading up to WW2 and to the necessity for the raid, and the story of the raid and its aftermath.

Additionally, it tests a wider KS3 curriculum knowledge by posing questions and challenges that involve History, Geography, Science, Mathematics, English, Art/Design and Critical Thinking.

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Activity 1 (online) – Who Am I? – Learning Objectives and Instructions

This activity introduces various political and military people involved, and their role, in events that led up to the start of World War 2 (WW2) in September 1939 and to the raid on the docks in St Nazaire in March 1942.

Learning Objective:

> **Exploring and learning about major political and military characters and their roles in the build up to WW2 and to the raid on St Nazaire**.

Resources:

a) A Who Am I? 'Matching Pairs' game (17 characters)
b) A printable quiz (20 questions, make as many copies as required)

Instructions:

The Pairs game includes a set of 17 historical characters.

Each game presents 6 pairs (12 cards) randomly selected from the 17 characters and randomly placed in two rows.

The player chooses two cards to turn over. If a pair is made, information about the character is displayed. The player then gets another turn.

If not, the cards are turned face down. The game continues until all 6 pairs are revealed.

To find the answers to all 20 quiz questions, the game needs to be played several times.

The 20 quiz questions are based on the information presented when pairs are made.

As a teacher, you can choose to use the game in various ways, e.g.:

> As a class exercise, provide the class with a copy of the quiz sheet, project the game onto a screen and moving around the classroom asking students to find the pairs (e.g. by stating the row and card numbers they want turned over);
>
> If students have access to appropriate technology in the classroom, they can play it as individuals, pairs or small groups (after handing out copies of the quiz);
>
> Or, again if all students have access to the internet, it can be set as a homework exercise. Or in any other way you elect to use it.

If used in class, you could make it competitive by using either time or the number of attempts taken to complete each set of 6 pairs or, if going around the classroom, award a point for each pair made. Or another method of your choosing.

You may need to stress that time available may not permit finding all 17 characters, in which case they will not be able to answer all the questions. This is okay and would not be expected. Of course, they may then wish EITHER to play a few more rounds in their own time OR do their own research to find out the answers.

Note: Some quiz questions (marked with a *) relate to information on more than one person, so students will need to have the information from all the characters to which the question refers to be able to answer these questions in full.

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Activity 1 (online) – Who Am I? Quiz (2 pages)

No.	Question	Answer
1	Who founded the *Deutsche Arbeiterpartei* (DAP); AND In which year was it founded?	a) b)
2	What was Paul von Hindenburg's most distinctive facial feature?	
3*	In which year was Adolf Hitler appointed as Chancellor of Germany (*Reichskanzler*)?	
4*	Who were the four main attendees at the Munich Conference, 29-30 September 1938; AND which country did each represent?	Name: Country: Name: Country: Name: Country: Name: Country
5	What was the name of the British Prime Minister who announced that the UK was at war with Germany?	
6	Who was the leader of the Soviet Union during World War Two?	
7	Who was the French Prime Minister at the start of World War Two?	
8*	Which five people on the raid were awarded Victoria Crosses (only need their names not their military ranks)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)
9*	How many of the five Victoria Crosses were awarded posthumously (i.e. after death)?	

No.	Question	Answer
10	By what name was Benito Mussolini known?	
11	Who was at the helm of the Campbeltown when she struck the caisson (dock gate)?	
12*	Of the three senior commanders (Ryder, Newman, and Beattie), which was the only one to get back to the UK immediately after the raid?	
13	Which person is photographed wearing a beret?	
14	Which party won the 1945 British general election and who led the party?	Party: Leader:
15	On which boat was Able Seaman William 'Bill' Savage killed?	
16	What was the name of the German vessel that engaged ML306 on her way out of the Loire and on which Sergeant Tom Durrant was killed?	
17	What was the name of the PoW camp in which Lieutenant-Commander 'Sam' Beattie and other naval personnel were held?	
18	Who was in command of Combined Operations throughout the planning and execution of Operation Chariot?	
19	What was Franklin D Roosevelt's number in the order of US Presidents?	
20	Which British Prime Minister had a reputation for his oratory skills?	

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Activity 1 (online) – Who Am I? Quiz – Answers

Teacher only

No.	Question	Answer
1	Who founded the *Deutsche Arbeiterpartei* (DAP) AND in which year was it founded?	a) Anton Drexler b) 1919
2	What was Paul von Hindenburg's most distinctive facial feature?	His walrus moustache
3	In which year was Adolf Hitler appointed as Chancellor of Germany (*Reichskanzler*)?	1933 (January)
4	Who were the four main attendees at the Munich Conference, 29-30 September 1938, AND which country did each represent?	Name: Adolf Hitler Country: Germany Name: Benito Mussolini Country: Italy Name: Edouard Daladier Country: France Name: Neville Chamberlain Country: The UK
5	What was the name of the British Prime Minister who announced the UK was at war with Germany?	Neville Chamberlain
6	Who was the leader of the Soviet Union during World War Two?	Joseph Stalin
7	Who was the French Prime Minister at the start of World War Two?	Edouard Daladier
8	Which five people on the raid were awarded Victoria Crosses (only need their names not their military ranks)	1) Robert 'RED' Ryder 2) Stephen 'Sam' Beattie 3) Charles Newman 4) William 'Bill' Savage 5) Tom Durrant
9	How many of the five Victoria Crosses were awarded posthumously (i.e. after death)?	2 (Savage and Durrant)
10	By what Italian name was Benito Mussolini known?	Il Duce (the Leader)
11	Who was at the helm of HMS Campbeltown when she struck the caisson (dock gate)?	Lieutenant Nigel Tibbits
12	Of the three senior commanders (Ryder, Newman, and Beattie), which was the only one to get back to the UK immediately after the raid?	Ryder
13	Which person is photographed wearing a beret?	Charles Newman
14	Which party won the 1945 British general election and who led the party?	Party: Labour Leader: Clement Attlee

No.	Question	Answer
15	On which boat was Able Seaman William ‘Bill’ Savage killed?	MGB 314
16	What was the name of the German vessel that engaged ML306 on her way out of the Loire and on which Sergeant Tom Durrant was killed?	The Jaguar
17	What was the name of the PoW camp in which Lieutenant-Commander ‘Sam’ Beattie and other naval personnel were held?	Marlag und Milag Nord
18	Who was in command of Combined Operations throughout the planning and execution of Operation Chariot?	Louis Mountbatten
19	What was Franklin D Roosevelt’s number in the order of US Presidents?	32nd
20	Which British Prime Minister had a reputation for his oratory skills?	Winston Churchill

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Activity 1 (offline) - Who Am I? – Learning objectives & Instructions

This lesson introduces the various political and military people involved, and their role, in events that led up to the start of World War 2 (WW2) in 1939 and to the raid on the docks in St Nazaire in 1942.

Learning Objective:

> **Exploring major political and military characters and their roles in the build up to WW2 and to the raid on St Nazaire.**

Instructions:

This activity asks students to match a randomized set of images of key characters with a randomized set of descriptions of those characters by identifying the image from the description and inserting the letter of that image in the right-hand column of the description page.

There are various ways of using this resource.

EITHER distribute a copy of the descriptions (3 pages) to each student (or group of students), project the images on the screen and ask them to write in the letter of each image against the appropriate description.

OR distribute a copy of the images (1 page) to each student (or group of students), project each description and ask them to name the images on their worksheets from the descriptions

OR to distribute copies of both sheets to each student and ask them to work independently, in pairs, in small groups or for homework.

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Activity 1 (offline) - Who Am I? – Images (1 page)

Instructions to students:

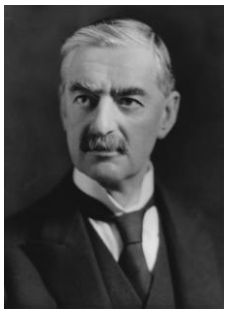
I seem to have mixed up my descriptions of the main players. Can you help me sort them out by matching the photographs (A-Q) with the descriptions (1-17). Insert the letter corresponding to the description in the right-hand column of the Descriptions table?

Images of Characters (A-Q) – 1 page

A

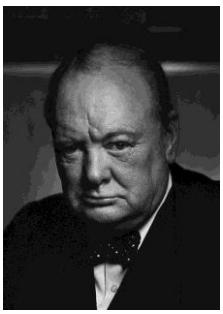
B

C


D

E

F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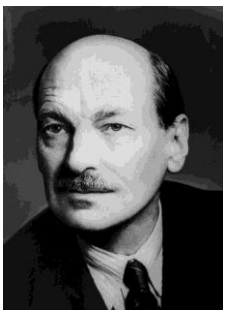
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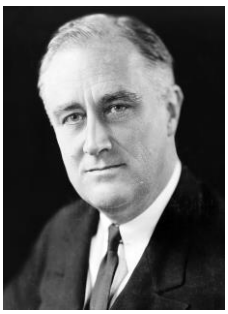
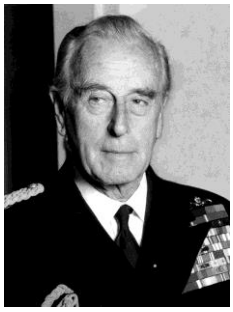

I

J


K

L

M

N

O

P

Q

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Activity 1 (offline) - Who Am I? – Descriptions (3 pages)

Descriptions of Characters (1-17)

Number	Description	Image letter
1	Able Seaman **Bill Savage**. I am smiling, wearing my naval uniform and cap tilted back on my head and have a full set (beard and moustache). I was a gunner on MGB 314. I was killed in action on the raid and posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for silencing enemy positions and sticking to my guns despite injury.	
2	**Adolf Hitler**. I was a founding member and became leader of the renamed Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (NSDAP) party. I became known as the Führer in 1934 after merging the roles of Chancellor and President of Germany. I am looking to the right of the camera and have my trademark toothbrush moustache.	
3	Sergeant **Tom Durrant:** I am looking straight at the camera, have hair parted on the left and sport a pencil moustache. A member of No 2 Commando I manned a twin Lewis gun on Motor Launch 306 in its battle with the German torpedo boat, Jaguar. Despite multiple injuries I stuck to my gun but died of my wounds. I was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross on the recommendation of the enemy Captain of the Jaguar.	
4	**Benito Mussolini:** known as Il Duce (the Leader), I was the dictatorial leader of Italy between 1922 and 1943. As a fascist state we aligned with Germany during the war. I am totally bald, looking straight at the camera and look very serious.	
5	Lieutenant **Nigel Tibbits**. I am looking to the right of camera, wearing a white officer's cap and am clean shaven. I designed the explosive charge mounted in the bows of HMS Campbeltown. I was at the helm of the Campbeltown as she rammed the dock gate. Killed in action, I was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.	
6	**Neville Chamberlain**. As the British Prime Minister, I sought, unsuccessfully to prevent war with Germany at the Munich Conference in 1938. I am looking slightly to the right of the camera, have a slight frown, a full moustache and a winged collar and tie.	
7	**Anton Drexler**. I was a minor player, but I founded the *Deutsche Arbeiterpartei* (DAP, or German Workers Party) in 1919. It attracted the attention of Adolf Hitler, who became a member, then leader. After a name change, the Party became known as the NAZI party by its opponents. I am looking at the camera, I have a serious demeanour, a neatly trimmed moustache and wearing a pair of round spectacles.	

Number	Description	Image letter
8	**Édouard Daladier**. I am not well known but I was the French Prime Minister from 1938 to 1940. As such I was present at the Munich Conference in September 1938 when we sought to curb Hitler's ambitions. I am looking to my left, am clean shaven and wearing a wing-collared shirt.	
9	**Franklin D Roosevelt:** As the 32nd President of the United States, I tried to keep my country out of the war in Europe. This changed after Japan attacked Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, in December 1941. I was disabled and wheelchair-bound by polio in 1921 at age 39 but still became the longest serving President (1933-1945). My head is turned just to the left of camera, but my eyes are looking straight at you. I am wearing a wide-lapelled jacket, a spearpoint-collared white shirt and dark tie.	
10	Lieutenant-Colonel **Charles Newman**: In my portrait I am proud to be wearing a beret with its regimental badge directly over my left eye. I have a small moustache and am looking directly to camera although my head is tilted to my right. I led the Commando assault on the raid, for which I was awarded the Victoria Cross.	
11	**Winston Churchill**: For most of the war (from 10th May 1940 until the 1945 general election), I was the British Prime Minister. Famous for my speeches and oratory skills, I am frowning and tight lipped. My eyes are looking straight down the camera lens, and I am wearing a bow tie.	
12	Commander **Robert "RED" Ryder:** Based on what I am wearing I am clearly a naval officer, wearing a peaked cap with a badge on the brim and braiding on the peak. I am clean shaven and facing the camera, but my eyes are looking slightly to the left of camera. I led the naval contingent on the raid, made it back to the UK, and was awarded the Victoria Cross.	
13	**Joseph Stalin:** I became General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1922. In 1941 I also became its Premier, combining both roles. Since the Party had a near monopoly on power, I ruled the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (or Soviet Union) from 1922 to 1953. I have a moustache, am facing the camera, but looking slightly downwards. I am wearing a military uniform with a rigid standing collar and a peaked cap decorated with braiding.	
14	**Clement Attlee:** I have a receding hairline, dark hair, with my head turned to, and I am looking, slightly to my right (or slightly left of the camera). I also have a small moustache. I was leader of the British Labour Party, became Deputy Prime Minister in Churchill's cross party war cabinet, and led the Labour Party to a landslide victory in 1945.	

Number	Description	Image letter
15	**Louis Mountbatten**. As head of the staff at Combined Operations Headquarters, I played a pivotal role during the instigation, planning and execution of Operation Chariot. I was appointed by Churchill for my diplomatic skills (needed to coordinate resources from the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force and the Army, who each had their own agendas and resource constraints). I am facing the camera, glancing slightly to my right and have a slight smile on my face.	
16	Lieutenant-Commander **Stephen "Sam" Beattie:** My portrait has me in profile, facing left of camera. I am wearing a naval officer's cap and uniform and have a full set (moustache and beard). I commanded HMS Campbeltown, was taken Prisoner of War and incarcerated in the *Marlag und Milag Nord* PoW camp, near Westertimke, Germany. This camp was for merchant navy and royal navy prisoners of war..	
17	**Paul von Hindenburg:** I have my head turned slightly to my right but am looking at the camera. However, my most distinctive feature is my walrus moustache. I was President of Germany between 1925 and 1934. After the NAZI party won most, but not a majority of seats in the German Parliament (the *Reichstag*) in the July and November 1932 elections, I reluctantly appointed Adolf Hitler as Chancellor of Germany in January 1933.	

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Activity 1 (offline) – Who Am I? Answers

Teacher only

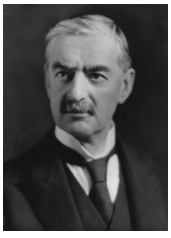
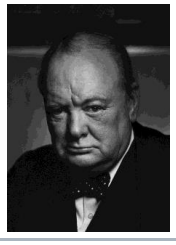
Image	Image Letter	Description Number	Name
	A	**7**	Anton Drexler
	B	**17**	Paul von Hindenburg
	C	**2**	Adolf Hitler
	**D**	**6**	Neville Chamberlain
	E	**8**	Edouard Daladier
	F	**4**	Benito Mussolini
	**G**	**11**	Winston Churchill

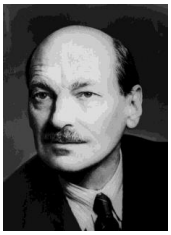
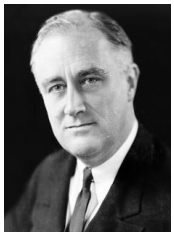
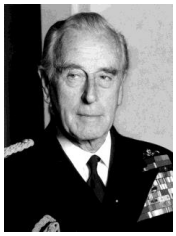
Image	Image Letter	Description Number	Name
	**H**	**14**	Clement Attlee
	**I**	**9**	Franklin D Roosevelt
	J	**13**	Joseph Stalin
	**K**	**15**	Louis Mountbatten
	L	**12**	Commander Robert ‘RED’ Ryder VC
	M	**10**	Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Newman VC
	N	**16**	Lieutenant-Commander Stephen ‘Sam’ Beattie VC

Image	Image Letter	Description Number	Name
	O	**5**	Lieutenant Nigel Tibbits DSC
	P	**1**	Able Seaman William ‘Bill’ Savage VC
	Q	**3**	Sergeant Tom Durrant VC

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Teaching Notes – Information and extra questions

Some additional questions related to or arising from this Activity

Question:

In many History books, and even in the Imperial War Museum, the term most used when referring to the United Kingdom during World War Two is ‘Britain’.

Do the terms ‘United Kingdom’ and ‘Britain’ mean the same thing? If not, what is the difference?

Answer:

Checkout the Ordnance Survey website on the distinction at:

https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/blog/whats-the-difference-between-uk-britain-and-british-isles

Geographically, Britain refers to Great Britain which is the largest island in the United Kingdom including just England, Scotland and Wales.

Informally and politically, however, it is often (but incorrectly) used as a nickname or shorthand term for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

In 1942, all citizens of the four countries were British, and so referring to the armed forces as British was, and still is, correct.

However, since the Good Friday Agreement (10 April 1998) which ended the 30 years of violent clashes in the province, citizens of Northern Ireland can choose to identify as either British or Irish. But there is still a difference between the two terms United Kingdom and Britain.

The term British Isles is rarely used these days because it included Ireland, and the Irish find it inappropriate and even offensive.

Other possible questions/activities …

For students to do and find out

Activity 1 mentions Franklin D Roosevelt as the longest serving President of the United States (1933-1945). After the war, the Constitution of the United States was amended to limit a President to just two terms in office.

What is the US Constitution? How many articles form the foundation of the Constitution (Answer = 7) and how many Amendments have been ratified (Answer = 27)?
See: https://constitutioncenter.org/

What are the basic differences between the legal systems of the USA and the UK?

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END OF LESSON 1