

PR 739

5 April 2005

VE DAY IN THE HATTING TOWN

Hat Works Museum

16th April – 11th September 2005

What was it like to live in Stockport during the Second World War? What contribution did Stockport make to the War Effort? How was VE Day celebrated in Stockport? And what happened to the Hatting industry during and after the war?

VE Day in the Hatting Town is Hat Works' major Spring work. This thought-provoking exhibition ties in with the 60th anniversary celebrations of VE Day and VJ Day and will explore the above questions using objects from Stockport Heritage Services' collection, photographs from the Stockport Heritage Library and loan items from the British Aerospace Heritage Centre in Woodford (formally known as AVROs).

The exhibition includes some fascinating items. Visitors will be able to see 'Churchill's Chair' - the chair is from an AVRO York aircraft converted for the use of Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Yorks were originally built as transport aircraft for troops and military equipment and only three were converted for VIP's (the Governor General of Australia and Lord Mountbatten had the other two). The Yorks were built from 1942, and were made at Woodford, Stockport in 1945-48.

Another interesting exhibit is a model of a Lancaster Bomber. Every day during the war, up to 17 Lancaster bombers were assembled at Woodford's Avro factory. Local women worked long tiring shifts riveting plane components together. A plane could be finished at 4pm, flown to a Royal Air Force base by 6pm and be a flaming wreck in Belgium by 8.30pm.

To complement the exhibition, Hat Works in conjunction with Stockport Air Raid Shelters, will also be hosting a VE Day Party on Sunday 22nd May from 1-5pm to celebrate the 60th anniversary of VE Day.

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Transport your family back in time and experience the sounds, tastes, fashions and games from 1945. Lots of fun activities for all the family to enjoy and entry to the party is FREE.

For more information on this new exhibition, please contact Hat Works on 0161 355 7770.

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