

# Press Release

<b>Date:</b>	Monday 23 June 2008
<b>Embargo until:</b>	N/A
<b>Released by:</b>	Redoubt Fortress & Military Museum
<b>Photo opportunity:</b>	Yes – throughout the weekend by appointment See contact details at bottom of page 2
<b>Other images</b>	Attached

## **Eastbourne Veterans Weekend A weekend of free events at the Redoubt Fortress 27, 28, 29 June 2008**

The Redoubt Fortress & Military Museum is pleased to announce a weekend of free events to celebrate national Veterans Day on Friday 27 June.

The lively programme of musical events aims to celebrate the contribution made by Veterans and raise awareness of Veterans issues. It has been organised by **Eastbourne Borough Council, Eastbourne Combined Ex Services Association**, and the **WRVS**. The programme begins on Friday at 10am with an inspection of the Standards by the Mayor, a Drumhead church service and a presentation of Veterans Badges by **Nigel Waterson MP**. In the afternoon visitors will be entertained by Johnny Spice and his Swing Orchestra. On Saturday there will be a Tea Dance led by dancers from **Ragroof Theatre** and on Sunday dance group **In the Mood** will demonstrate their 1940s Swing dance. *Please see attached programme for full details*

All the events and activities are FREE and everyone is welcome. In addition to the planned programme there will be an exhibition by the **WRVS Heritage Plus Project** which celebrates and records people's histories through activity sessions, events and outings as well as a number of stalls from other Veterans related organisations including Sussex charity **Thank the Forces** who send gift boxes to the troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the **Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association** (SSAFA) who provide support for serving men and women and their families.

**Refreshments** will be available from the Redoubt's own NAAFI style canteen including Sussex Cream Teas on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Entrance to the military museum is free for all Veterans and at a reduced rate for all other visitors.

For the first time the Redoubt Fortress will be physically accessible. To enable **disabled access** to the building, a platform stairclimber, able to take most wheelchairs and scooters, will be available throughout the weekend at the seafront entrance to the building.

Councillor Bannister, spokesperson for Eastbourne Borough Council said, *"It is great to see so many organisations come together in support of our Veterans. The Redoubt is the right setting for this important event especially with the improved disabled access to the site."*

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# Programme of Events

## Friday 27 June

10am Presentation of Standards

10.30am Drumhead Service led by Reverend Howard John

The service will be followed by the presentation of Veteran's Badges by Nigel Waterson MP.

1-3.30pm The Johnny Spice Swing Orchestra will entertain everyone with musical variety of wartime tunes.

## Saturday 28 June

2-5pm Tea Dance at the Redoubt

Ragroof Theatre invite you to come and trip the light fantastic to the sounds of the roaring 20s, 30s and 40s. This stylish Tea Dance is suitable for all ages and experiences. There will even be dancers on hand to help teach you the steps as you go along!

## Sunday 29 June

2-5pm Wartime Swing at the Redoubt

Dance group, In the Mood will put on a show which will transport you back to the dance halls of wartime Britain.

## Background information about Veterans

The term Veteran applies to all UK ex-servicemen and women. To be a Veteran service personnel do not need to have served overseas or in a conflict. There are an estimated 5.5 million veterans in the UK and with their families they form a 10.5 million strong Veterans Community.

For further information about National Veterans Day please see:

[www.veterans-uk.info/veteransday08/index.htm](http://www.veterans-uk.info/veteransday08/index.htm)

ENDS

Images attached

## CONTACTS

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