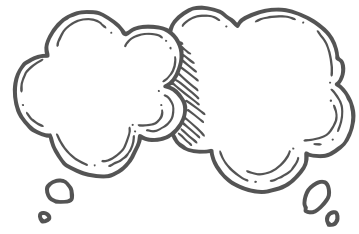


ON REFLECTION



Memorialising... The Commandos

The commandos were highly elite forces trained to the highest standards of combat. In 1942, the training centre at Achnacarry Castle in the West Highlands ensured that their history was part of Highland history too.

1

EXPLORE

Explore the Commando knife from West Highland Museum.

This knife is both a distressing object and an iconic design, usually known as the First Pattern. It was designed by William Fairbairn and Eric Sykes in 1940 in response to the conditions of World War Two. It gives us a good insight into the desperate situation facing those trying to end the war.

Do you think it's appropriate to celebrate the design skills needed to make a knife be more lethal?

This knife was handed in during a knife amnesty but was saved from destruction by the police officer who recognised the design. Do you think objects like this belong in museums?

Why or why not?



2

TALK ABOUT IT

The commandos were taught war tactics including silent killing and combat, signalling, and orienteering, as well as survival skills in the changeable weather and terrain around Lochaber.

Doing things under the cover of darkness was greatly valued, so the recruits often practised at night. Their training regime was very tough!

The commandos were so damaging to Nazi morale that Hitler issued his famous 'Commando order' – so that captured commandos were executed instead of being taken to Prisoner of War camps.

Talk about – why do you think the commandos deserve to be remembered?

Here, a recruit practises at Achnacarry crossing a river on a rope.



3

TRY IT YOURSELF

Learn some basic survival skills. You could try some of these:

- Teach yourself how to tie two different knots.
- Try map reading - find your school and house on a map and learn which direction is north.
- Find out what cumulonimbus clouds look like – these often mean that bad weather is on the way
- Learn some first aid – can you strap a sprained wrist? Do you know what the recovery position is?

4

FIND OUT MORE

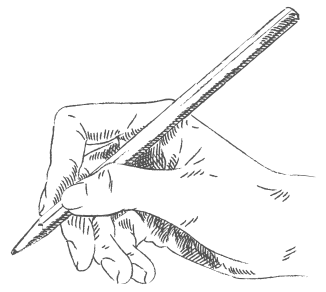
Find out about the Commando Memorial in Lochaber that was created in 1952.



5

CREATE A COMMEMORATION

Use this page to plan your ideas.



Who do you want to commemorate?

Why do you want to remember what happened to them?

What could your design look like? What shapes or pictures could you include?

What message could you write?

