

# BLETCHLEY PARK

Friday 1 March 2019

Opens 11 April 2019. Press view, 9 April.

Please contact [communications@bletchleypark.org.uk](mailto:communications@bletchleypark.org.uk)

## NEWS RELEASE

**Bletchley Park's crucial D-Day role to be revealed after 75 years through immersive cinematic experience**



Landing ships putting cargo ashore at Normandy during the first days of the operation, June 1944.  
Photograph from the U.S. Coast Guard Collection in the U.S. National Archives.

Seventy-five years after the Normandy landings, the full scale of Bletchley Park's top-secret impact on the planning and implementation of D-Day is to be revealed to visitors in a new immersive cinematic experience, ***D-Day: Interception, Intelligence, Invasion***, opening 11 April 2019.

Featuring a specially commissioned film projected on a 22m screen, the audio-visual experience will run on site in the newly restored Teleprinter Building where hundreds of thousands of intercepted messages first arrived at Bletchley Park from secret listening posts across the UK, and ULTRA intelligence was transmitted to Allied headquarters.

***D-Day: Interception, Intelligence, Invasion*** highlights include:

- Direct examples of when BP intelligence altered the Allies invasion plans and helped to save lives.
- That on D-Day itself, enemy messages intercepted at Bletchley Park were being decrypted, translated and sent on as intelligence reports in under three hours. This gave the Allied Commanders invaluable insights into how the Germans were responding to the invasion.

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- The existence of the top-secret Western Front Committee at Bletchley Park, formed in October 1942, who week by week patiently accrued intelligence on the German defences in France which directly impacted on the invasion plans.
- How vast the codebreaking operation was at Bletchley Park and its Outstations. By 1944 it had grown from an organisation employing a few hundred people in 1939 to an intelligence factory employing thousands of men and women working in shifts around the clock.
- The importance of the Codebreakers breakthroughs into Enigma, but also Lorenz and Japanese ciphers, both of which gave a unique insight into Hitler's strategy for dealing with the 'Second Front'.
- The race to build machinery to help decipher Lorenz messages that led to the development of Colossus, the world's first large scale electronic digital computer.

Bletchley Park is delighted to have BT, whose wartime history is closely intertwined with the Codebreaking site, as the Sole and Exclusive Corporate Partner of the restoration of Teleprinter Building and the Exclusive and Sole Partner of the Exhibition. It was General Post Office (now BT) engineers who managed Bletchley Park's secure communications network.

Working with Bletchley Park, the General Post Office's research station at Dollis Hill developed codebreaking machines to tackle new ciphers, including Colossus, the world's first large-scale electronic digital computer. The Teleprinter Building restoration project has had additional generous support from The Linbury Trust, The Gosling Foundation, The Hobson Charity and The Wolfson Foundation.

**Iain Standen, CEO of Bletchley Park Trust** said: "D-Day was one of the high points of the Bletchley Park story. 75 years after D-Day, this new experience will allow visitors to understand the vital role ULTRA intelligence played on the invasion plans."

**David Kenyon, Research Historian at Bletchley Park** and author of *Bletchley Park and D-Day* (Yale University Press, 2019), said: "This exhibition portrays the vital link between the men and women at Bletchley Park, and their counterparts on the battlefield, and shows how good intelligence could make the difference on the beaches of Normandy between life and death, success and failure."

**David Hay, Head of Heritage and Archives at BT** said: "As the world's oldest telecommunications company we've always been an organisation with a clear purpose; which is to use the power of communications to make a better world. This was our focus as far back as 1846 when we were founded and is still our vision today."

"The story of GPO engineers at Bletchley Park is a big part of our heritage in research and innovation, and we are immensely proud of how those engineers connected people and communities in ways not previously possible. The pioneering work of our former colleagues is a source of inspiration for BT people today and captures the spirit of innovation which is still at the heart of everything we do."

Entry to **D-Day: Interception, Intelligence, Invasion** is included with Bletchley Park admission tickets.

**ENDS**

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## About Bletchley Park

Bletchley Park is a place of exceptional historical importance, open to visitors throughout the year. It remains highly relevant to our lives today and for the future. It is the home of British codebreaking and a birthplace of modern information technology. It played a major role in World War Two, producing secret intelligence which had a direct and profound influence on the outcome of the conflict.

Over the past twenty years Bletchley Park has become an internationally renowned heritage attraction, visited by people from around the world, which acknowledges the successes from the War and the people responsible for them. It celebrates their values: broad-minded patriotism; commitment; discipline; technological excellence. By presenting and explaining these achievements and these values, in the very place where they occurred, Bletchley Park brings together the dramatic history of the twentieth century with the challenges we face in the twenty first in our rapidly changing and technologically complex society.

## Social Media

Join the discussion about Bletchley Park at:

Facebook /bletchleypark1

Instagram @bletchleyparkuk

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#BletchleyPark

**For further information, contact Rosie Burke, Media and Publications Manager, Bletchley Park +44(0)1908 272661, [rburke@bletchleypark.org.uk](mailto:rburke@bletchleypark.org.uk)**

**For visitor information, contact 01908 640404, [enquiries@bletchleypark.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bletchleypark.org.uk) or go to [www.bletchleypark.org.uk](http://www.bletchleypark.org.uk)**

## About D-Day: *Interception, Intelligence, Invasion*

- Opens 11 April 2019.
- Entrance to the new exhibition will be included in the general admission ticket price.
- For visitor information, contact 01908 640404, [enquires@bletchleypark.org.uk](mailto:enquires@bletchleypark.org.uk), or go to [www.bletchleypark.org.uk](http://www.bletchleypark.org.uk)
- BT are the Sole and Exclusive Corporate Partner of the restoration of Teleprinter Building and the Exclusive and Sole Partner of the Exhibition.
- The Teleprinter Building restoration project has had additional generous support from The Linbury Trust, The Gosling Foundation, The Hobson Charity and The Wolfson Foundation.

## About BT's Heritage

BT is the world's oldest and most established communications company. Its roots extend back to the UK's Electric Telegraph Company, incorporated in 1846 as the world's first national telecommunications provider. Few companies in the world have a history as rich as BT, a heritage of innovation stretching back almost 175 years [www.bt.com/history](http://www.bt.com/history).

BT's Archives have been recognised by UNESCO and Arts Council England as having unique significance to the UK's cultural heritage. In July 2016 BT was awarded Archives Accreditation by The National Archives. BT is the only UK plc to give a firm and clear commitment to safeguard this unique legacy on behalf of the nation in a published Heritage Policy [www.bt.com/heritage](http://www.bt.com/heritage)

Sole and Exclusive Corporate Partner of the restoration of Teleprinter Building and the Exclusive and Sole Partner of the Exhibition.

