

## My Great--Great Grandad's Letter Tray and Ink Well

from VE Day, 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945

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Here are some photos of my Great-Great Grandad's Letter Tray and Ink Well which we have in our home. They are very special to us because they were given to him to remember how kind and brave he was during World War 2 on VE Day in 1945.

You can see a little bit of his life story from the writing on the letter tray, but let me tell you a bit more about him. His name was Frederick Stanley Sparrow, but his friends called him Fred. He was born in 1895. He was 44 when World War 2 started, and 49 when the war ended on VE Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1945.

Let me tell you what he did before the war started. He worked in a big office in the heart of London. He was a civil engineer. But when the war suddenly started, bombs flew down at lightening speed and made fires all over the city. So they knew when the bombs were falling, there was a siren which made a big noise to tell everyone to stop what they were doing and hide in special places. The German fighters would drop bombs in the middle of the night and so British people tried not to have any lights on to make it more difficult for the air force.

Fred's new job in the war was to organise the Fire Watch to protect London's people and buildings. I am very proud of the work my Great-Great Grandad did to keep people and buildings safe. He must have been really, really, really brave to stay up all night in such a terrible time.

He was given the letter tray and ink well for his kindness. The message says:

**F.S. SPARROW**

**A TOKEN OF GRATITUDE**

**FROM THE TENANTS OF WESTMINSTER CHAMBERS**

**FOR ALL HIS HARD WORK**

**AND FOR HIS UNFAILING AND FRIENDLY HELP**

**AS FIREGUARD ORGANISER**

**VE DAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1945**



# VE day Celebrations

75years

After the war, my Great-Great Grandad moved to Beckenham and my Daddy's Grandad and Great-Aunt spent some of their childhood here too!

Sadly, Great-Great Grandad died of old age, but we will always remember and be grateful to him too. When my Great Grandad died many years later, he left the letter tray and ink well for my Daddy to look after. It is one of my family's favourite things that we have and we will always treasure it.

Here is a picture of my Great-Great Grandad Fred which was taken after the war with his wife, my Great-Great Grandma Evelyn.