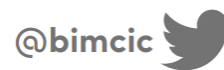




BELIEVE IN ME
CIC



This activity pack is designed to focus on women in the Second World War. This particular pack focuses on the contribution of Noor Inayat Khan as a Special Operations Executive during the Second World War. This activity pack can be stand alone or used in conjunction with the activity pack available on the website. This pack is designed for young people aged 11 and over.

The pack includes:

- A lesson
- Resource pack to support the lesson, including an information board and timeline and a copy of the *London Gazette* page on Noor.

The session begins with an explanation of what the SOE was. There is an opportunity to ask questions to young people such as why was this role so important to the war effort? Why would a woman be good at this role?

Slide 4 introduces Noor Inayat Khan and gives a brief outline of her life. This could provide discussions about how Noor as an Indian-American would have lived, how she would have felt about the war and how her upbringing could have affected her decision to join the SOE.

Slide 5 provides the opportunity for young people to use the information board to complete a timeline on Noor's life and answer the questions, creating a debate. Students are challenged to apply their learning from earlier to debate whether Noor's experience was typical of an SOE and how they would feel if they were in her position.

Slide 6 allows young students to take part in source analysis of the *London Gazette*, adding additional information to their timeline and reflecting on why the source was produced and why the information came out so late.

Slide 7 asks the question why Noor is so important to remember? This can be completed as a discussion between young people or as a written task.

Slide 8 provides the opportunity for young people to be creative and design a memorial to the work of Noor and other members of the SOE. A success criteria is available to support young people with their design as well as images of plaques that have been put up in honour of Noor.



Noor Inayat Khan
SOE Agent

What is the SOE?

- The Special Operations Executive was created in 1940 as a military secret organisation.
- Its purpose was to organise and carry out espionage, sabotage, and reconnaissance in occupied Europe – essentially it was a spying organisation that worked with local resistance groups to make things difficult for the Nazis.
- As its purpose included people travelling from Britain to be in those countries it was allowed to recruit women as well as men who would be able to fit into the countries that the Nazis were in. Noor was a fluent French speaker, used to French society was a perfect recruit.
- The SOE was one of the first military organisations in the UK to actively recruit women. They needed skills and people who were prepared to be in difficult situations – gender was not a deterrent.
- The SOE approached people they wanted – you didn't apply for those jobs.

FINISHING REPORT.

S.T.S. No: 36 Party No: W.X.12.
School No: 27X.16.

NAME BY WHICH KNOWN. INAYAT KHAN.

GRADE: -

Particulars of Finishing Training given:
REPORT: 10 days' W/X Course.

we don't want them overburdened with brain

Not over-burdened with brains but has worked hard and shown keenness, apart from some dislike of the security side of the course. She has an unstable and temperamental personality and it is very doubtful whether she is really suited to work in the field.

CODES. Was given revision in Innocent Letter conventions, writing of practice letters, practice in wording messages, revision of Double Transposition and envelope opening. More routine practice is required.

Makes me cross

Date: 21.5.43. *F.*

Attila Rinken.
Major,
for Commandant, B. Group S.T.S.

Who is Noor?



- Noor Inayat Khan was born on New Year's Day 1914 in Moscow to an Indian father and an American mother. She was a direct descendant of Tipu Sultan, the 18th century Muslim ruler of Mysore. Khan's father was a musician and Sufi teacher, who had travelled widely and was well known. Noor's family moved first to London, where Noor attended school, before going to Paris.
- Noor was the eldest of four children and they all grew up speaking multiple languages, including being perfect in English and French.
- Noor was a writer of children's stories in France – she loved to help young minds develop and learn.
- The family were living in Paris when the Second World War started and decided to go to Britain in June 1940 as they knew they would not be safe living under the Nazis. The family settled in Bloomsbury, London.
- The whole family would have been at risk - for their ethnicity, international attitudes and their relationships to Britain, France, America, and India.
- In November 1942, Noor was recruited to be an SOE.

Activity 1 - Timeline

Task 1: Using the story you have been given, complete the timeline on Noor's life.

Task 2: Did anything surprise you about her life? Why?

Task 3: Do you think her story is typical of an SOE? Why?

Task 4: Do you think you would be able to do this role? Why?

The image shows a worksheet titled "The story of Noor Khan" at the top. The main area of the worksheet is a large rectangle divided into two vertical columns by a single vertical line, intended for students to write a timeline of Noor's life.

Activity 2 – Source Analysis

Task 1: Look at the source. What can you learn about Noor from it? Add any additional information to your timeline.

Task 2: Why do you think it was produced?

Task 3: Why was it published so late after the event? Does it do Noor justice in its words?

Rumb. 38578

1703



SUPPLEMENT TO
The London Gazette
OF FRIDAY, 1st APRIL, 1949

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

TUESDAY, 5 APRIL, 1949

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

5th April, 1949.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the posthumous award of the GEORGE CROSS to:—

Assistant Section Officer Nora INAYAT-KHAN (9901),
Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

Assistant Section Officer NORA INAYAT-KHAN was the first woman operator to be infiltrated into enemy occupied France, and was landed by Lysander aircraft on 16th June, 1943. During the weeks immediately following her arrival, the Gestapo made mass arrests in the Paris Resistance groups to which she had been detailed. She refused however to abandon what had become the principal and most dangerous post in France, although given the opportunity to return to England, because she did not wish to leave her French comrades without communications and she hoped also to rebuild her group. She remained at her post therefore and did the excellent work which earned her a posthumous Mention in Despatches.

The Gestapo had a full description of her, but knew only her code name "Madeleine". They deployed considerable forces in their effort to catch her and so break the last remaining link with London. After 3½ months she was betrayed to the Gestapo and taken to their H.Q. in the Avenue Foch. The Gestapo had found her codes and messages and were now in a position to work back to London. They asked her to co-operate, but she refused and gave them no information of any kind. She was imprisoned in one of the cells on the 5th floor of the Gestapo H.Q. and remained there for several weeks during which time she made two unsuccessful attempts at escape. She was asked to sign a declaration that she would make no further attempts but she refused and the Chief of the Gestapo obtained permission from Berlin to send her to Germany for "safe custody". She was the first agent to be sent to Germany.

Assistant Section Officer INAYAT-KHAN was sent to Karlsruhe in November, 1943, and then to Pforzheim where her cell was apart from the main prison. She was considered to be a particularly dangerous and unco-operative prisoner. The Director of the prison has also been interrogated and has confirmed that Assistant Section Officer INAYAT-KHAN, when interrogated by the Karlsruhe Gestapo, refused to give any information whatsoever, either as to her work or her colleagues.

She was taken with three others to Dachau Camp on the 12th September, 1944. On arrival, she was taken to the crematorium and shot.

Assistant Section Officer INAYAT-KHAN displayed the most conspicuous courage, both moral and physical over a period of more than 12 months.

Air Ministry, 5th April, 1949.

Air Commandant F. H. HANBURY, M.B.E., Women's Royal Air Force, is appointed Honorary Air Aide-de-Camp to the KING. 28th Mar. 1949.
Matron-in-Chief H. W. CARGILL, R.R.C., Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service, is appointed Honorary Nursing Sister to the KING. 28th Mar. 1949.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Appointment to commission.

As Wing Commander (permanent):—

Donald Arthur GARNER, D.S.O. (40528). 20th Sept. 1948.

As Squadron Leaders (permanent):—

Edward Leslie WEST (42926). 22nd June 1948.

Thomas Walter Clayton FAZAN (37093). 16th Aug. 1948.

Anthony David LAMBERT, D.F.C. (80832). 10th Sept. 1948.

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Edmund DONOVAN, D.F.C. (117677).

Colin Norman BURCH, A.F.C. (41519). 16th Nov. 1948.

James Donald Wakefield WILLIS, A.F.C. (44972). 23rd Nov. 1948.

Kenneth Victor GILLING, A.F.C. (41171). 2nd Dec. 1948.

**Why should we
remember
Noor?**

Task: Design a memorial to remember the work of SOEs and Noor Khan during the Second World War. Use the success criteria to label your memorial with additional information.

Success Criteria:

- What will it look like?
- What will be included? Why?
- What will it be made from?
 - How large will it be?
- Will there be any text? What will it say?
 - Where will it be?
- How will the public be able to notice it?



The story of Noor Khan



NOOR INAYAT KHAN

Noor Inayat Khan worked as a spy for Britain during Second World War, was sent to France as a secret agent and then was killed in the most horrific way possible. Noor had lived a life many could not imagine, broken engagement, a secret agent, children's author – here we explore her life and contribution.



© BVMH17/408

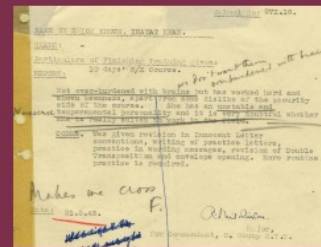
Noor Inayat Khan was born in Moscow on 1st January 1914 to an American mother, Ora Barker, and an Indian Muslim father, Inayat Khan. Noor's father was a Sufi teacher and a musician, also a descendant of Tipu Sultan who ruled the Kingdom of Mysore in south India. Noor and her siblings would often write poetry (Noor's mother was a poet) and play music. Noor had studied child psychology and becoming an established children's author, writing many children's stories both in French and English. Noor had a children's book published called 'Jataka Tales' and her stories were also broadcasted on Children's Hour of Paris. With outbreak the of the Second World War all that changed on 5th June 1940 when the family left France and settled in London.



© Courtesy of Shriyani Rana



© Courtesy of Shriyani Rana



© The National Archives

Noor and her family were pacifists so her decision to join the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) was surprising. Whilst Noor joined the WAAF as a radio operator, her brother, Vilayat, joined the Royal Air Force. Noor was asked to attend an interview that would change her life as she was being asked to join the Special Operations Executive (SOE). The SOE was created in 1940 as a secret military organisation with the purpose to organise and carry out espionage, sabotage and reconnaissance in occupied Europe. It was also the first military organisation in the UK to actively recruit women. Noor was selected as she could speak fluent English and French.

Training was hard physically and mentally. Some of those training Noor seemed overly critical of her- one even stating that she was not very clever, despite speaking several languages. Noor was trained as a wireless operator and the first female to be flown into France on 16-17th June 1943 she was given the codename 'Madeleine'.

Noor became part of a resistance group and the only SOE operator in Paris. She was nearly caught a few times and when the mission became too dangerous and asked to return back to London. Noor refused the order and went on to send several messages. In October 1943 was arrested by the Nazi's, betrayed by an acquaintance, and on 13th September 1944 was executed at Dachau. Her last words were 'Liberte'.



© Kiman Sabata - Believe in Me OC



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