

Captain Tom Moore

Captain Tom Moore is the war **veteran** who made headlines around the world in mid-April 2020, when he pledged to raise money for the National Health Service (NHS), by walking 100 laps around his garden before his 100th birthday on April 30th.

The Challenge

Captain Tom has long been a supporter of the NHS. He had spent some time in hospital after a hip replacement a few years ago and has been following the news about the NHS, as they battle to treat patients during the COVID-19 crisis. He decided to set himself the challenge of completing 100 laps of his 25 metre garden, by walking 10 laps each day, with the help of his walking frame and finishing before his 100th birthday. Captain Tom hoped to raise £1000 for NHS Charities Together.



Worldwide Support

Captain Tom's challenge was reported by his local news and word soon spread about his amazing effort. People very quickly took Captain Tom to their hearts and his story was shared more widely, including on the national news. As more people heard about his challenge, they donated money to the cause. Within a day, Captain Tom had exceeded his target.



Captain Tom completed 100 laps (his last ten, with a **guard of honour**) two weeks before his birthday, so decided to increase the number of laps he walked to 200.

Fundraiser and Record Breaker

To help celebrate reaching 100 laps, singer Michael Ball, the NHS Voices of Care Choir and Captain Tom released a version of the song 'You'll Never Walk Alone', which went straight to number one in the singles charts. Captain Tom (aged 99 at the time) is the oldest person ever to reach number one and the single is

the fastest selling of 2020 so far. Every single sold raises more money for the charity. Captain Tom also holds the record for the largest amount of money raised on a charity walk, by an individual. The money will be used to fund community groups that help support patients when they have left hospital, as well as wellbeing packs for NHS workers.

Biography

Thomas Moore was born in Yorkshire on 30th April 1920.

As an adult, he joined the army and served as a British Army officer in the Second World War. During his time in the army, Captain Tom was awarded three medals, which he has worn whilst completing his fundraising laps. A short **documentary** has been made about his military career and is due to be televised in early May 2020.

When he was younger, his hobbies included motorcycle racing and he won several competitions.

He currently lives with one of his two daughters and her family in Bedfordshire.

He has had so many birthday cards sent to him from around the world, Royal Mail have had to re-route his post to a special collection box and a group of volunteers have been employed to help open the cards, which will go on display at a local primary school that Captain Tom's grandson attends.

No-one has been more surprised by his success than Captain Tom himself. 'Never in my wildest imagination did I think this would be possible,' he exclaimed.

Captain Tom in Numbers

£1000 - The target amount Captain Tom originally hoped to raise for charity.

24 hours - The time it took to reach his target.

£13,000,000 - The amount Captain Tom had raised by the time he completed 100 laps.

82,000 - The number of copies his hit single sold in the first week.

100,000 - Birthday cards have been sent to him by the public.

1.3 million - People had donated money to his campaign before the final week of April.

Pride of Britain

Captain Tom has been called a national treasure by the public and was awarded the Pride of Britain Award. This award is given to people who have demonstrated great courage or inspired people with their campaigning. Captain Tom had received several hundred thousand nominations from the public and a judging panel agreed that he was more than worthy of receiving the award.

For his 100th birthday, Captain Tom is being honoured with a special postmark from the Royal Mail. All letters sent during the week of his birthday, will be stamped with a postmark that reads, 'Happy 100th Birthday Captain Thomas Moore NHS fundraising hero 30th April 2020'.

Glossary

veteran	An ex-member of the armed forces.
guard of honour	A group of soldiers arranged in a row for a special occasion
documentary	A factual television or radio programme.

Questions

1. How many laps of his garden did Captain Tom walk each day?

- a) 100
- b) 25
- c) 10
- d) 30

2. Number the events to show the order in which they happened.

Captain Tom began his challenge.

Captain Tom released a single.

Captain Tom finished his 100 laps.

Captain Tom celebrated his 100th birthday.

3. Find and copy one word that means promised.

4. What does NHS stand for?

5. Fill in the missing words.

Within a _____, Captain Tom had _____ his target.

6. How do you think Captain Tom felt when he received his Pride of Britain award? Explain your answer.

7. Why do you think so many people have donated to Captain Tom's campaign?

8. What do you think the money raised will be used for?