

WW2 Challenge 6

8 May 1945 – VE (Victory in Europe) Day – was a memorable day for everyone involved.

Millions of people celebrated the news that Germany had surrendered, relieved that the war was finally over. A national holiday was declared in Britain for 8 May 1945. In towns and cities across the world, people marked the victory with street parties, dancing and singing.

The Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, made sure that there were enough beer supplies in the capital and that people could purchase red, white and blue bunting without using ration coupons. The largest crowds in Britain were in the capital, but people all around the country took part in the parties, singing and dancing. Many bonfires and fireworks were lit to mark the occasion. The VE Day celebrations continued well into the night!

Despite the celebrations, the war wasn't technically over across the globe until 2 September 1945, when Japan's surrender was officially signed.

Follow this link to listen to people reflecting on what VJ Day meant to them:

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/voices-of-war/vj-day>



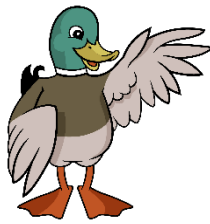
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Treasure Hunt

Can you find these items in your home?

A photograph of a party or celebration

Something you decorate your home with for a special occasion



"I was taken up to town by Dad and Mum... I was lifted up for a moment or two to see the King and Queen come out on to the balcony, and then the mad rush – carried along in the crush, almost off my feet

much of the way along The Mall to Whitehall, and then I nearly suffocated being crushed like a sardine amongst so many people, and again lifted up to see the great man himself when he appeared..."

MALCOLM HUTTON

"... the celebrations came... I do remember kitchen tables and chairs being carried down to the street and set up ...And I remember plates piled high with food – sandwiches and cakes made by all the mums and pooled to make a gigantic feast. Long hoarded goodies were taken from secret stashes – in our case, from the back of the wardrobe... We ate until we were fit to bust"

PETER BAYLIS



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"We had a flag and we went up and we waved the flag. You felt you had to do something. We went to the Mall and looked at Buckingham Palace."

SYLVIA BOURDIN

"...I went up to London. I woke up after lunch, got up and had a bath and met up with friends and spent the evening and most of the night off in London as most people did. Went to Buckingham Palace and I can remember walking down The Strand and seeing St Paul's Cathedral lit up because we'd been in blackout for so long. It was very thrilling... I can't remember exactly but it was very strange. We'd all been busy for so long, I don't think it made me feel anything special, I was just jolly pleased the war was over. The atmosphere in London was terrific, all the people out all night long of course. I didn't get back home to Pinner I don't think until about 4 o'clock in the morning"

MARY HULSE



VE DAY SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

Celebrations and street parties happened all over Harrow to mark VE Day. This photo was taken at a party on Valentine Road in South Harrow.

Has your street or community had a celebration together? When was it and what was it for?



Headstone Manor hosted Harrow's victory celebrations in June 1946, a year after all fighting had stopped.

Draw a scene of the party including the activities mentioned in the timetable. Don't forget to include the Great Barn!

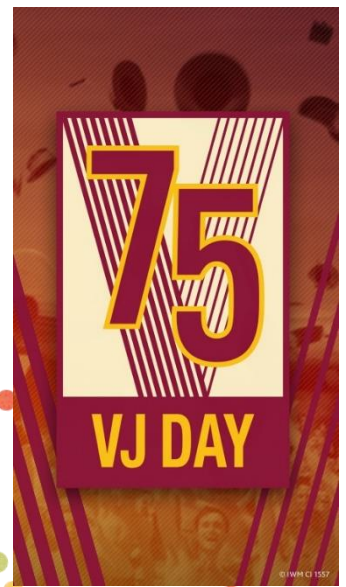
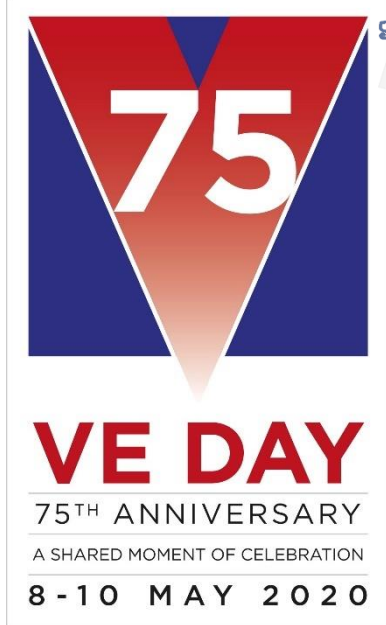
(13) HEADSTONE MANOR RECREATION GROUND.

25th May,
1946.
—
Victory
Celebrations
Committee.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH Commence 2 p.m.		SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH	MONDAY, JUNE 10TH Commence 2 p.m.	
MEDVEDEFF'S BALALAICA ORCHESTRA	BICYCLE POLO	2 P.M. No. 1 REGIONAL BAND OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE	GRAND ATHLETIC MEETING (under A.A.A. Rules)	BAND OF THE EAST SURREY REGIMENT
PONY RIDES	HORSE RIDING GYMKHANA	3 P.M. BAND OF THE IRISH GUARDS	including INTER-CLUB TEAM RACE with well-known Internationals	OPEN AIR DANCING
OPEN AIR DANCING		5 P.M. No. 1 REGIONAL BAND OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE	also EXHIBITION RUN by DOUGLAS WILSON (English 1½ Mile Record Holder)	PONY RIDES
PUNCH & JUDY		7 P.M. BAND OF THE IRISH GUARDS		METROPOLITAN POLICE BAND
MILITARY BAND PERFORMANCES				JIMMY YARDE'S DANCE BAND
TEAS AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS	DISPLAY by MEMBERS of HARDY SEA CADET UNIT			TEAS AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
ADMISSION FREE		ADMISSION FREE	ADMISSION FREE	

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Congratulations – you have completed all of the challenges!

We hope you enjoyed learning about Headstone Manor during WW2. Let us know via social media or email us how you got on!



- We have more VE and VJ Day activities and information on our website https://headstonemanor.org/victory75/?fbclid=IwAR3Yg96LXgnRoj_En9rMLgAe90WQuE3WJ3Kk7O6YTJ9h-uoXa33a9gkRdFc
- Follow instruction on our Online Learning page to make your own Street Party Hat and VE Day Medal! <https://headstonemanor.org/learning/online-learning/>
- There are some more fun resources on this website too <https://ve-vjday75.gov.uk/toolkit/>