

VE DAY

Celebrating 75 years



Victory in Europe



Victory in Europe Day/VE Day took place on May 8th 1945. There had been a war all over the world for 6 years, and people wanted to celebrate the end of it.

Time to Celebrate

- People ran out on to the streets, hanging bunting and banners and dancing.



- Church bells pealed across the country to share the news: peace in Europe!

- Everyone brought out food to share at street parties.



- Tuesday May 8th was to be a national day of celebration: Victory in Europe Day.



Time to Celebrate



- The capital city, London, was the place to be on VE Day.
- Fireworks filled the sky with flashes of light.



- Anyone who could reach the city did so.
- The centre of London was full of people wearing red, white and blue, waving flags, dancing and singing.

"The German war is therefore at an end."



- On VE Day, everyone, both in London and at home sitting by their wireless sets, wanted to hear just one man: Winston Churchill. He was the Prime Minister, just like Boris Johnson is today. Remember there were no televisions or internet then.
- At 3pm the Prime Minister broadcast to the nation: the war was over.

“The German war is therefore at an end.”

- Crowds gathered in Trafalgar Square and up The Mall in London.



- They were waiting for Winston Churchill and King George VI (Queen Elizabeth's father) to make an appearance on the balcony of Buckingham Palace. Our present Queen was a Princess then.

- Shortly after Churchill's speech, King George VI, Queen Elizabeth and the two princesses (Queen Elizabeth, her sister and parents) came out onto the balcony at Buckingham Palace.

"This is your victory!"



- It was to be the first of eight appearances by the King and Queen on VE Day. Our present Queen, Elizabeth, is wearing uniform. She was a driver and mechanic during the war.

- Churchill told the crowds: "This is your victory!"



Celebrating still

This year, many parties and events were planned to celebrate such a milestone. Unfortunately, due to COVID 19 it will be impossible to celebrate how we would like.

How do you think you would have celebrated all of those years ago?

