VE DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION TIME

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ASHFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

VE DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

VE DAY 1945: THE NATIONAL PICTURE

Victory in Europe (VE) Day, 8 May 1945, celebrates the German surrender during the Second World War. Millions of people rejoiced in the news that Nazi Germany had surrendered.

However, it was not the end of the conflict, the war against Japan did not end until 15 August 1945, known as Victory in Japan (VJ) Day, and the impact of the Second World War was felt long after Germany and Japan surrendered.

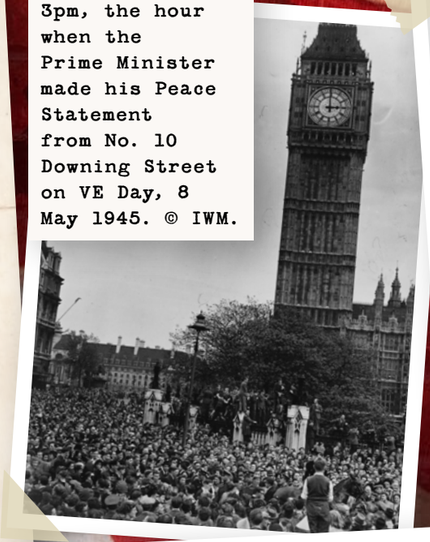
The announcement that the war had ended in Europe was broadcast to the British people over the radio on 7 May 1945. The BBC interrupted its scheduled programming with a news flash announcing that VE Day would be a national holiday. Newspapers ran the headlines as soon as they could, and special editions were printed to carry the long-awaited announcement.

Tuesday 8 May 1945 was an emotional day that millions of people had long been waiting for. Many people were extremely happy that the fighting in Europe had stopped and there were big celebrations. Various events were organised to mark the occasion, including parades, thanksgiving services and street parties as communities came together to share in this historic moment.

The Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, at a BBC microphone about to broadcast to the nation on the afternoon of VE Day. © IWM.

Churchill waves to crowds in Whitehall on the day he broadcast to the nation that the war with Germany had been won, 8 May 1945. © IWM.

Eager soldiers pulling copies of "Stars and Stripes" from the press of the London Times at 9pm on 7 May 1945, when an extra edition was put out to announce the news of Germany's surrender. © IWM.



Big Ben at 3pm, the hour when the Prime Minister made his Peace Statement from No. 10 Downing Street on VE Day, 8 May 1945. © IWM.

Crowds gather in Trafalgar Square, London, to celebrate VE Day. © IWM.

Thousands of people massed in Trafalgar Square to listen to the broadcast speech by Prime Minister Winston Churchill, announcing peace in Europe. © IWM.

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VE DAY 1945: THE NATIONAL PICTURE CELEBRATION TIME

British women of the Picture Division of the London Office of War Information dance in the street with American soldiers during the VE Day celebration in London, 8 May 1945. This scene took place outside the building of the U.S. Army Pictorial Division. © IWM.

The VE Day celebrations continued after nightfall with the burning of 'Victory Bonfires'. © IWM.

Two British sailors and their girlfriends wading in the fountains in Trafalgar Square on VE Day, 1945. © IWM.

A truck of revelers [illegible] the Strand, London, 8 May 1945. © IWM.

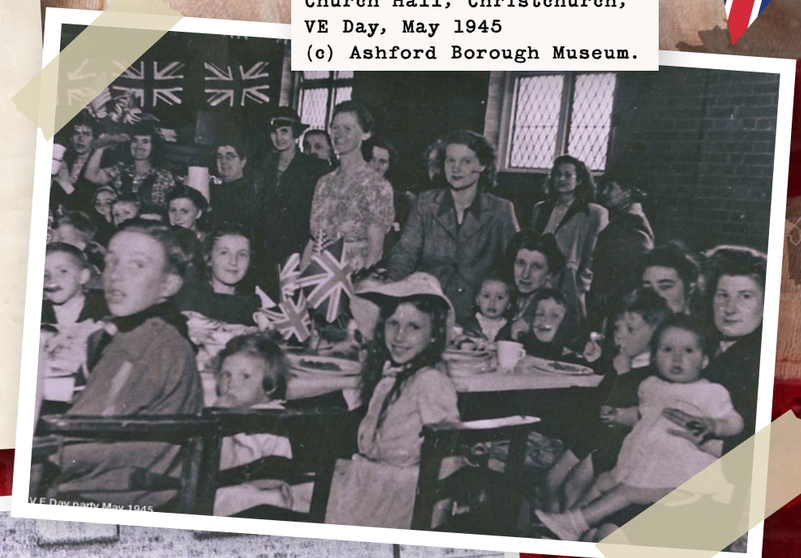
Revelers give the V for Victory sign as they celebrate VE Day outside the Houses of Parliament. © IWM.

VE DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

ASHFORD CELEBRATIONS

Street parties were hastily organised across the length and breadth of the country and Ashford was no different. Here family, friends, neighbours and children gathered for impromptu streets parties to celebrate the historic victory.

VE Day Party, Beaver Road (c) Ashford Borough Museum.



Church Hall, Christchurch,
VE Day, May 1945
(c) Ashford Borough Museum.

Penny Moore VE Day Party, June 1945
(c) Ashford Borough Museum.

Tennyson Road, VE Day 1945
(c) Ashford Borough Museum.

WI Hall, Faversham Road, Kennington, 1945.
“The reason we all look a bit annoyed is because there was no jelly or ice cream.”
John Willis, who was 10 at the time.
Image courtesy of Robin Britcher.

VE DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

ASHFORD CELEBRATIONS

Ashford Street Parties – these images, which have kindly been supplied by Ashford Borough Museum, are from unknown locations in the Ashford borough. If you have any further information on where you believe these photos were taken please contact heritage@ashford.gov.uk.

VE Day Street Party, Unknown Location 1945
(c) Ashford Borough Museum.

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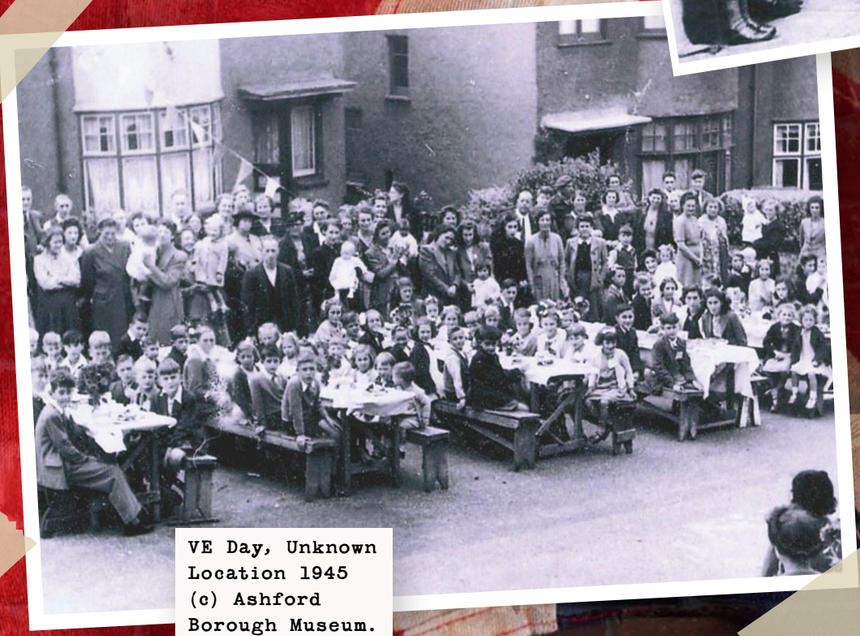

VE Day, Unknown Location 1945
(c) Ashford Borough Museum.

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VE DAY
75TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION
8-10 MAY 2020

VE DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

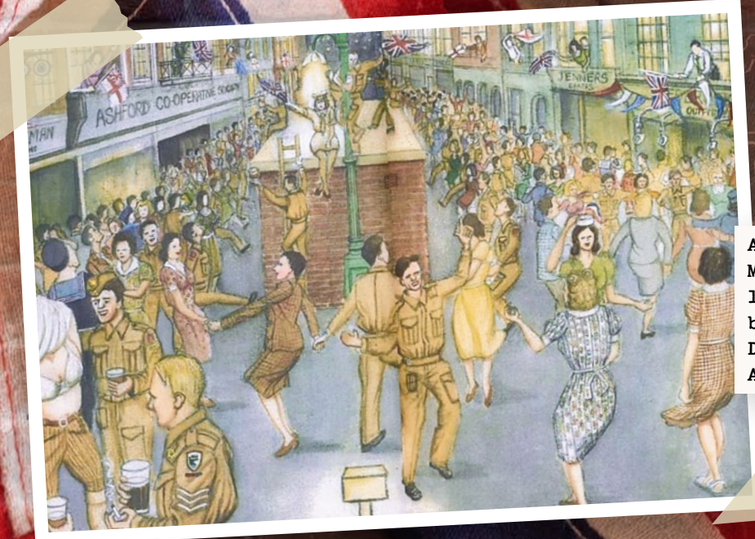
ASHFORD CELEBRATIONS

As part of the celebrations to mark Victory in Europe, Ashford hosted a parade that processed through the High Street.

VE Day Parade, Ashford
(c) Ashford Borough Museum.

VE Day Parade,
(c) Ashford Borough Museum.

VE Day Parade, Ashford
(c) Ashford Borough Museum.



A drawing by Michael Wise, an 11-year-old school boy's view of VE Day in Ashford (c) Ashford Museum.