VE DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION TIME

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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.

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.
VE DAY 1945: THE NATIONAL PICTURE CELEBRATION TIME

British woman 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.

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

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

A truck of revelers passing through the Strand, London, 8 May 1945. © IWM.

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

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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.

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