

# The Nation Celebrates

by reporter Terence Dunn

*Wednesday 9th May 1945*

Street parties were held up and down the land yesterday to celebrate our victory in Europe following Germany's surrender. A national holiday was declared so that the whole nation could join the celebrations.

Villages, towns and cities were strewn with bunting and flags as people danced and sang in the streets. Families had brought tables and chairs from inside their houses so that whole neighbourhoods could gather together. Stella (aged 14) said, "This has been the best day! It is so lovely to see everyone smiling and singing again." Her mother, Mrs Edna Chalk agreed that it was wonderful to see everyone so happy.

Communities did also spend time remembering the many service men and women, as well as civilians, who had lost their lives during the war. Over 700,000 British soldiers have been killed in the conflict. Prayers

were said and hymns sung, as families remembered loved ones that they had lost, bringing a more sombre mood at times.

In his jubilant address to the nation at 3pm, Winston Churchill said, "We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing; but let's not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead." He reminded the public that the war was not over as Japan still had to be defeated.

In London, King George VI and his family appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace to wave to the cheering crowds. The monarch also praised the people of Great Britain for their endurance through difficult times and called for lasting peace during his radio address.

Celebrations continued well into the night, with pubs staying open late and dancing and singing heard in many streets.

1. Who wrote this newspaper article?

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2. What date was the newspaper written?

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3. How old was Stella?

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4. What did Stella's mother think was 'wonderful'?

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5. What time did Winston Churchill address the nation?

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6. What stayed open late?

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7. Why did Stella say that it is '*...the best day!*'?

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8. Find and copy a word that means *sad*.

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9. '*A national holiday was declared...*'

What does *declared* mean?

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10. Find and copy a word that means *scattered*.

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11. Why do you think that ‘...everyone was smiling and singing again.’?

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12. Why did communities spend time remembering?

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13. Winston Churchill said, ‘Let’s not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead.’

What do you think he means by this?

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14. Why do you think King George VI appeared on the balcony?

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15. This text is a newspaper recount. Write down some examples of features that you can see that show it is a newspaper recount.

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