



The War is Ending!

by reporter Terence Dunn

Tuesday 8th May 1945

Yesterday, it was announced that Germany had surrendered. General Alfred Jodl signed the document of surrender on behalf of Germany. After nearly six years of fighting, the war is coming to an end.

Germany's surrender was not a surprise and Great Britain has been on standby for this announcement for some time. The news was announced to the people of our proud nation on the radio late yesterday evening. Cheers could be heard coming from houses up and down the land as the news was delivered.

Many people were out celebrating last night. Men and women across the land enjoyed themselves in drinking establishments. Jubilant groups sang and danced in the streets to rejoice in the news. Tim Budd, a local warden said, "This is such fantastic news. I cannot wait for my sons to return home from the frontline and celebrate with them too."

Street parties are being planned in villages, towns and cities across Britain to continue the celebrations today as a national holiday has been declared. Bunting and flags have been hung ready to celebrate Great Britain's triumph!



1. Who wrote this newspaper article?

2. Who signed the document of surrender for Germany?

3. What did 'jubilant groups' do?

4. Name two things that were hung up to celebrate?

_____ and _____

5. When did the Germans surrender?

6. '*...rejoice in the news.*'

What does the word 'rejoice' mean?

7. Find and copy a word that means *news*.

8. '*Germany's surrender was not a surprise...*'

What do you think this phrase means?

9. *'Cheers could be heard coming from houses ...'*

Why do you think the people were cheering?

10. Where are Tim Budd's sons?

Use information from the text to help explain your answer.

11. This text is a newspaper recount.

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

VE Day

What is VE Day?

VE Day stands for Victory in Europe Day and is celebrated on 8th May. It was the end of six years of suffering, misery and courage during the Second World War in Europe. Although it was not the end of the Second World War, it was the end of warfare in Europe.

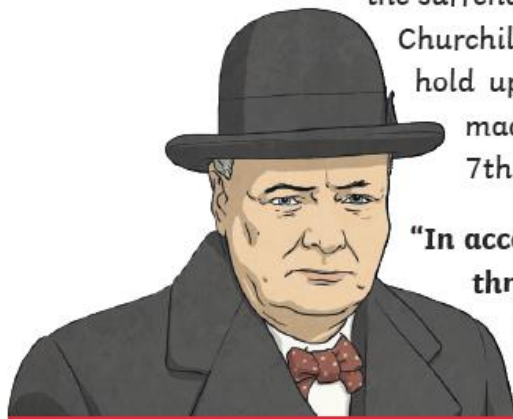
How did it happen?

On the morning of 7th May, 1945, following Hitler's death in the April, the German President of the Third Reich, Grand Admiral Donitz, gave orders that General Jodl should go to the American Head Quarters based in France. Jodl surrendered on behalf of the Germans, to the Western and Russian officers, and agreed to all their demands.

The Announcement

The British people began celebrating as soon as they heard the news. Although no official announcement had been made, bell ringers in the churches around the country, were on standby to ring out the good news when an official notice was given.

Joseph Stalin, the leader of the Russians, was taking his time to announce the surrender, but the British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, did not want to give Stalin the chance to hold up what everyone already knew! Churchill made the following announcement at 19.40, 7th May.



"In accordance with arrangements between three great powers, tomorrow, Tuesday, will be treated as Victory in Europe Day and will be regarded as a holiday."



The Effects of War

In Britain, during the war in Europe, half a million homes were destroyed, thousands of ordinary people were killed and millions of lives had been torn apart.



Did you know ...?

The three great powers were Britain, France and the Soviet Union, now known as Russia.

Bring on the Celebrations!

People began decorating the streets with banners, bunting and ribbons. They organised street parties where neighbours shared food, which was still rationed, and listened to the radio news broadcasts.

King George VI and the Queen appeared eight times on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, and their two daughters, Princess Margaret and

Princess Elizabeth – who is now Her Majesty the Queen – walked amongst the crowds! Churchill told the crowds, “This is your victory!”

Churchill spoke to the nation, reminding them that although Japan still had to be defeated, and the war was not yet over, for now Great Britain “May allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing. God Save the King!”

The End of the VE Day

At 21:00, King George VI made a final broadcast to the nation. Buckingham Palace was lit up in floodlights for the first time since the start of the war, and two searchlights formed a V, the sign of peace, above St Paul’s Cathedral in London.

All the lights were turned off again the next day.



Although everyone was pleased the war in Europe had ended, for many the celebrations would have been a sad reminder of the loss of many loved ones. They would have been fighting abroad, caught by the enemy or died in air raids attacks. This meant that many did not completely feel the lasting joy of the time.

Questions

1. In detail, explain what V.E. day ended?

2. What did General Jodl do?

3. What does 'the bell ringers were on standby' mean?

4. Explain, in your own words, the effects of war in Europe, on Britain.

5. What did Stalin do, and how did this affect Britain?

6. What date was VE Day?

7. Name two ways people might have lost loved ones during the war in Europe.

8. Describe how people celebrated VE Day.

9. Why do you think the author has used an exclamation mark when commenting on the princesses walking around in the crowds in London?

10. Was this the end of the war? Explain your thoughts.

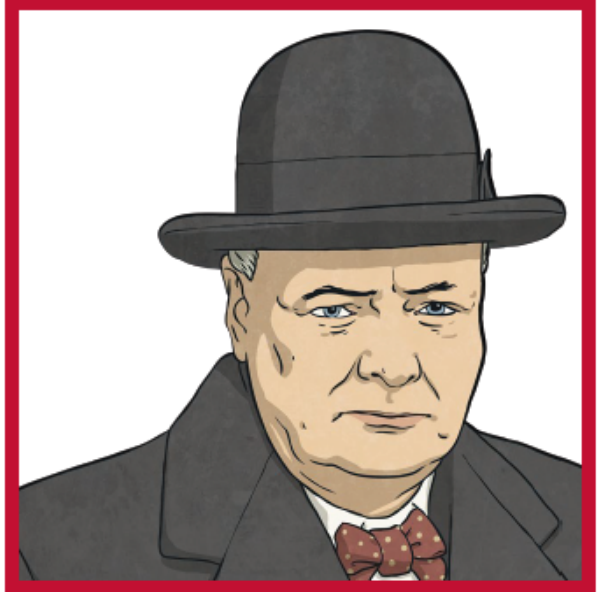
11. Why do you think two searchlights were lit in the shape of a V?

Winston Churchill Fact File

Winston Churchill is one of Great Britain's most famous statesmen and Prime Ministers because he was the British leader twice and he also led Britain to victory in the Second World War.

Early Life

He was born Winston Leonard Spencer-Churchill on 30th November 1874 at Blenheim Palace (the seat of his grandfather, the 7th Duke of Marlborough) in Oxfordshire. His father was Lord Randolph, a Conservative politician, and his mother was Jeanette, Lady Randolph Churchill. When he was 13, he only managed to make the lowest class at Harrow school, so his father put him in the army class to prepare for a career in the armed forces.



Early Career

Churchill began his army career as a cadet in 1893 at Sandhurst, after having three attempts to pass the entrance exam. He eventually became a cavalry officer and war reporter, spending his 21st birthday working in Cuba. In 1898, he went to fight in the Sudan but he knew that politics was his first love. He, therefore, spent time following the news from home and doing lots of reading.

Famous Churchill Quotes:

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

"Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm."

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

"We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender."

Into Politics

At the 1900 general election, he became a Member of Parliament (MP) for Oldham and he made his first speech in Parliament in 1901. He always prepared well and used notes as part of his method to overcome his lisp. Meanwhile, in his private life, he was married to Clementine in 1908 and they went on to have five children.

Rising to the Top

By 1910, Churchill had become Home Secretary and was in charge of the Royal Navy. He then spent a short amount of time as Chancellor of the Exchequer, in charge of the country's taxes and money. The first part of the Second World War in 1939 did not go well for Britain and in 1940, Britain needed a new Prime Minister. That was to be Winston Churchill.

Later Life

Churchill led Britain through the Second World War with his direction and his many famous speeches. However, not long after the war, Britain needed a change and the Conservatives lost power. Churchill kept up with his writing. A second chance to lead the country came round when the Conservatives were re-elected to power and Churchill was Prime Minister once more from 1951 to 1955. Even after that, he continued to be an MP until 1964. In 1965, he died aged 90. He is buried in a small churchyard in Oxford and his headstone reads: 'Remember Winston Churchill'.

Winston Churchill Questions

1. What was Churchill's career before he went into politics?

2. What was the name of his wife?

3. Which political party was he part of?

4. In what year did he officially get a job in politics?

5. Why has the author used the subheading 'Rising to the Top' for that paragraph?

6. Find an example of a fronted adverbial in the text.

7. In what month was he in Cuba?

8. In the Famous Churchill Quotes section, what does the word 'conflict' mean?

9. What does the word 'victory' mean?

10. Churchill is famous for his quotes; what do you think about the ones here? Have any of them made you think, and why? Which do you like best?



1. Who wrote this newspaper article?

Terence Dunn

2. Who signed the document of surrender for Germany?

General Alfred Jodl

3. What did 'jubilant groups' do?

They sang and danced (in the streets)

4. Name two things that were hung up to celebrate?

bunting

and

flags

5. When did the Germans surrender?

7th May

6. '...rejoice in the news.'

What does the word 'rejoice' mean?

To rejoice means to be glad and delighted.

7. Find and copy a word that means *news*.

announcement

8. 'Germany's surrender was not a surprise...'

What do you think this phrase means?

This means that people were expecting Germany to surrender, they knew that it

was coming.

9. *'Cheers could be heard coming from houses ...'*

Why do you think the people were cheering?

People were cheering because the war had ended (and it had been going on for nearly 6 years).

10. Where are Tim Budd's sons?

Use information from the text to help explain your answer.

Tim Budd's sons are away fighting in the war. We know this because he says that they are on the frontline.

11. This text is a newspaper recount.

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

Examples might include:

headline, date, byline showing who wrote the newspaper article, set out in columns, written in the past tense, has direct speech.

Answers

1. In detail, explain why the VE Day ended.
Answers will vary, based on: VE Day ended six years of suffering, misery and courage during the Second World War in Europe/ ended warfare in Europe.
2. What did General Jodl do?
General Jodl went to the Head Quarters based in France. He surrendered on behalf of the Germans, to the Western and Russian officers, and agreed to all their demands.
3. What does 'the bell ringers were on standby' mean?
The 'bell ringers were on standby' means the bell ringers were waiting to be told when they could all ring the church bells to let people know the good news.
4. Explain, in your own words, the effects of war in Europe, on Britain.
Answers will vary.
5. What did Stalin do, and how did this affect Britain?
Stalin took his time announcing the surrender, so this meant Churchill could not let Britain know officially that there was an end to the war in Europe.
6. What date was VE Day?
VE Day was Tuesday, 8th May 1945.
7. Name two ways people might have lost loved ones during the war in Europe.
Accept any two: fighting abroad, caught by the enemy or died in air raids attacks.
8. Describe how people celebrated VE Day.
People celebrated VE day by decorating the streets with banners, bunting and ribbons, and by having street parties, and sharing food.
9. Why do you think the author has used an exclamation mark when commenting on the princesses walking around in the crowds in London?
Answers will vary.
10. Was this the end of the war? Explain your thoughts.
No this was not the end of the war because Japan still needed to be beaten.
11. Why do you think two searchlights were lit in the shape of a V?
I think two searchlights were lit in the shape of a V as a sign of peace.

Winston Churchill **Answers**

1. What was Churchill's career before he went into politics?
He was in the Army (cavalry officer) or he was a war reporter
2. What was the name of his wife?
Clementine
3. Which political party was he part of?
The Conservative party
4. In what year did he officially get a job in politics?
In 1900 when he became an MP.
5. Why has the author used the subheading 'Rising to the Top' for that paragraph?
The paragraph is about progressing (rising) to be prime minister, which is the 'top' job in the country.
6. Find an example of a fronted adverbial in the text.
'Meanwhile', 'In 1898', 'By 1910'
7. In what month was he in Cuba?
November (it was his birthday).
8. In the Famous Churchill Quotes section, what does the word 'conflict' mean?
War/fighting/battle
9. What does the word 'victory' mean?
Winning/having won
10. Churchill is famous for his quotes; what do you think about the ones here? Have any of them made you think, and why? Which do you like best?
Open ended, good for class or group discussion