



# Isle of Man VE Day 1945

## Extracts from the Manx Newspapers

### Isle of Man Daily Times

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## VE VICTORY VE

### GERMAN CAPITULATION.

#### ACCEPTED BY "BIG THREE."

#### "MASTER RACE" UTTERLY VANQUISHED.

#### PREMIER'S HISTORIC BROADCAST TO-DAY AT 3 P.M.

#### VICTORY IN EUROPE IS HERE!

THE DAY WE HAVE WAITED FOR SINCE SEPTEMBER 3rd, 1939, HAS COME, AND ON THE 8th OF MAY, 1945, AT 3 P.M., MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL, WARRIOR LEADER OF BRITAIN AT WAR, PRIME MINISTER OF ENGLAND AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE, WILL ANNOUNCE THE GREAT NEWS OVER THE WIRELESS. A SIMILAR STATEMENT WILL BE MADE BY PRESIDENT TRUMAN.

German arms might is broken. Right, sustained by the unswerving courage of its defenders, has triumphed, and the German capitulation to Britain, the United States and Soviet Russia is unconditional and unquestioned.

"The road has been hard, and it has been paved with tears, toil and sweat" by the nations who followed Britain's lead in making war against aggression. Saturated by the example of this comparatively small nation and its great Empire, they fought on incessantly, doggedly, and without respite to stem the tide of the black horror which threatened to engulf the world and plunge it back into the Dark Ages.

To-day these people have earned the right to celebrate their victory soberly but joyously, even though there must remain in their minds the fact that Japan must be forced to accept similar terms—"unconditional surrender."

The last week has been crammed with incident. It was fitting that Field-Marshal Sir Harold Alexander, who evacuated our weary, ill-equipped, but not defeated men from Dunkirk, should receive the first news of surrender; it was fitting that Field-Marshal Montgomery, who has defeated the Germans all the way from El Alamein to Hamburg, should receive the second news of surrender; it was fitting that the Americans and French should also receive news of surrender of a beaten foe, and it was fitting that the Allied flags should fly victoriously over Berlin. It was more than fitting that the Prime Minister of Britain, the man above all others who epitomised the soul of the man-in-the-street, and his will to fight on when we were all alone, will have told the world the news.

Germany has given herself up to the Allies. The Germans announced this at 2 p.m. yesterday, on their wireless, and later, war correspondents described the signing of the documents. She has been totally defeated in the air, on sea, and on land. The British men and women in the Royal Navy, the Army and the R.A.F. have each done their share, together with the civilians of Britain, that great band of staunch men and women in "civies" who withstood bombing, and who worked until they almost dropped when needed, so that the men would "have the tools" to finish the job.

The job is now finished.

Fly flags, be light of heart; but do not forget those brave souls who, in making the supreme sacrifice, have made this victory possible. Do not forget that there will be a further price to pay before aggression can be totally hushed from the face of the earth. Our men are still fighting in Burma and in other sections of the Pacific front. Japan faces stark disaster, but she has to be subdued, and this will cost further Allied lives.

And do not forget at all times our duty to make our wishes worthy of the sacrifices of those who did not return.

#### SURRENDER SIGNED EARLY YESTERDAY.

In Schoolhouse at Rheims.

Eisenhower Represented by His Chief of Staff.

Unprecedented reports received at this country house in the morning told that the surrender terms were signed at the schoolhouse at Rheims. The ceremony took place in the presence of the British and American High Commanders who were in the house.

The document was presented to the Allied High Command at 11 a.m. and high-ranking British and American officers were also present. The surrender terms were signed by the German General, Günther von Kluge, and the Allied High Commanders, General Eisenhower and General J. M. G. Thompson.

At 11 a.m. the German High Command signed the terms, and at 11.30 a.m. the Allied High Command signed the terms. The terms were signed in the presence of the Allied High Commanders and the German High Command.

#### THE KING'S MESSAGE TO EISENHOWER.

A Tribute to High Courage Under Skilled Leadership.

Enemy Crushed With Finality Without Parallel.

His Majesty the King has sent a message to General Eisenhower in which he expresses his admiration for the high courage and skilled leadership of the Allied High Command. The message is a tribute to the high courage and skilled leadership of the Allied High Command.

#### ARCHITECTS OF VICTORY.

Churchill, Our Great Leader.

The King has named the Allied High Commanders as the architects of victory. The King has named the Allied High Commanders as the architects of victory.

#### GERMAN COMMUNICATIONS VERY POOR.

German High Commanders in a State of Confusion.

The German High Commanders are in a state of confusion. The German High Commanders are in a state of confusion.



## Announcing the News

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### **Isle of Man Times, Tuesday 8 May 1945 p.2**

To-day is VE Day—it is the day on which Victory in Europe is ours. Thank God. Although it has been made known differently from the way provided by the Imperial Government, when it was to be announced by the Prime Minister to the world, it is nevertheless more than welcome. And what a victory!—complete and absolute, unconditional surrender. So to-day, celebrate—and then, back to work on Thursday, until our last foe, Japan, is crushed also.

### **Mona's Herald, Tuesday 8 May 1945 p.1**

THIS IS THE DAY OF VICTORY IN EUROPE.

This is "V" Day, the day which marks the end of the war in Europe; the day for which we have waited for five and a half bitter years. The most stupendous drama the world has ever witnessed moved to its climax with breath-taking swiftness, so speedily indeed that plans for the formal announcement of the final and complete overthrow of the Nazi monster were outstripped by the march of events.

For days, as triumph resounded upon triumph, we waited with eagerness for the promised declaration by the Prime Minister - the supreme architect of Victory - that Germany's surrender was complete and unconditional. Confident were the predictions that Monday would prove to be VE-Day. True, the news for which the world had been waiting came then, but it came first of all from unofficial sources.

Still the awaited pronouncement of our Prime Minister did not come; but in the evening, at 7.45, wireless programmes were interrupted with the news that this historic day — Tuesday, May 8th, 1945, is to be for ever a red-letter day in the annals of our Empire, as the day which officially marks the end of the war in Europe.



Mr Churchill's statement is to be broadcast at 3 p.m. to-day, a tribute to His Majesty the King will be paid at 8.30 p.m., and His Majesty is to speak to his people and to the world at 9 p.m.

## CAPITULATION.

The first news of Germany's capitulation came from an agency correspondent yesterday afternoon. It said the surrender was made at 2.41 a.m. G.M.T., yesterday, in the Schoolhouse at Rheims, General Eisenhower's headquarters. The instrument of surrender was signed for Germany by Colonel-General Gustav Jodl, the new Chief of Staff of the German Army. Lieut.-General Bedell Smith signed for General Eisenhower. Major-General Suslapatov signed for Russia, and General Francois Sevez for France. The Germans were repeatedly asked if they understood the significance of the terms. They replied "'Yes," and said they would be carried out by Germany.

The German Foreign Minister, Count von Schwern von Krosigk, broadcasting from Flensburg, announced the unconditional surrender of all German armed forces, and declared that Germany had succumbed to the overwhelming power of her enemies. To continue the war would only mean senseless bloodshed and futile disintegration, he said.

## VE DAY IN ISLAND

The fact that the good news "broke" in advance of the formal and official announcement caused a hasty revision of many plans. In the Island, as elsewhere, it was received with "bewildered satisfaction," but in no time the main streets of Douglas and the other towns blossomed with flags and bunting in profusion.

## FOOD SHOP QUEUES TO-DAY.

This morning, the shopping streets in Douglas were filled at an early hour—not with holidaymakers on pleasure bent, but with housewives replenishing food-stocks. Fears of a bread shortage were quickly dispelled when the bakers opened up with good supplies, and the butchers also met



the demand, "so far as the goods would extend." Grocers, greengrocers and chemists were also meeting the public needs. At many of the foodshops queues formed, but they were quickly cleared.

## CHURCH SERVICES

Places of worship were open from an early hour to-day, and many people attended the services of prayer and thanksgiving.

## BUS ARRANGEMENTS.

Changed plans affected the Corporation bus services. It had been intended that the services should be withdrawn one hour after the "Cease Fire" was received, but under the new arrangement the buses will continue to run until 4 o'clock this afternoon. To-morrow a normal bus service will run between 8.15 a.m. and 8.15 p.m.

## OUT-TOWN BUSES.

To-day—VE-Day—normal week day services are being run by the Isle of Man Road Services on all routes. To-morrow (Wednesday), a Sunday service will operate until 5 p.m., when the last buses for the day will leave Douglas.

On the Isle of Man Railway, normal services are being operated to-day. To-morrow, the trains scheduled to leave Douglas at 12 noon will be cancelled, and also the last train from Douglas on each line.

## MANX ELECTRIC RAILWAY.

Normal services will operate both to-day and to-morrow, but on both days the last trains will be those leaving Douglas and Ramsey at 5.30.



## SCHOOLS

All schools are closed, and the special school buses were cancelled after the B.B.C. news last night.

We understand that no extension of hours have been granted to licensed premises in Douglas in connection with the Victory holidays.

## BRIEFS.

The monthly meeting of the Douglas Town Council, which was to have been held to-morrow afternoon, has been postponed until Thursday at 2.30 p.m.

The Mayor of Douglas (Councillor S A. Quirk, J.P.) and members of the Corporation will attend an official service of thanksgiving at St. Thomas' Church, at 4 p.m. to-day.

Douglas bakers, who had hoped for a holiday on VE+1, are now to continue working throughout the celebrations to ensure the bread supply. Their shops remained open to-day until dinnertime as an alternative to the restricted delivery.

The Speaker of the House of Keys, Mr. J. D. Qualtrough, has received from Field Marshal Sir Harold Alexander, the following telegram - "On behalf of all ranks in this theatre of war, I thank you for your kind message of congratulations."

## THE LAST " ALL CLEAR."

The Air Raid Sirens throughout the Island will sound the last "All-Clear" this afternoon immediately after the Prime Minister has broadcast his statement.



## NO VICTORY BON-FIRES OR FLOOD-LIGHTING.

The ban on Victory bon-fires and flood-lighting remains in force. This is in accordance with security measures imposed by the authorities outside the Island.

## POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

There will be no deliveries of mail to-day or to-morrow, as none is coming to the Island, and there will be no collections. Douglas Head Post Office, closed to-day, will be open from 9 to 12 a.m. to-morrow, as will offices at Ramsey, Peel and Castletown. The larger country Post Offices will be open to-morrow from 9 to 10.30 a.m. Telephone services are restricted. Telegrams may be sent, by phone, to-day from 4 to 9 p.m. Sub-offices in Douglas will remain closed both to-day and tomorrow.

## "GUARDIANS' MALE VOICE CHOIR "

The members of the Douglas Board of Guardians celebrated VE-Day —and their last meeting of the year - to-day by opening the proceedings with a rousing rendering of the National Anthem, the tune being raised by Mr. Jack Scarff.

The only other business was the "thanksgiving" votes—for services rendered—and very appropriate, too!

To commemorate VE-Day the Guardians decided to give every relief recipient and Infirmary inmate a gift of 2s. 6d., children of recipients to receive 1s.

Several queues to be seen in Douglas this morning were long and hungry - for ice cream!



Liberated Manx Prisoners of War. MANY MORE WELCOMED HOME.

The past week has seen the arrival on King Edward Pier of many more Servicemen recently released from prisoner of war camps, the pier being the scene of many happy reunions.

Tuesday's Arrivals.

Eight men arrived on Tuesday's steamer. They were Cpl. James D. Blackburn, youngest son of Mrs. F. C. Blackburn, 5, Myrtle Street, Douglas: Cpl. Douglas A. Jackson, of Ballasalla. Both these men and their fellow colleagues from the Athol Garage, Cpls. Robt. J. Curphey and Ian Mackie, were captured at Tobruk in June, 1942, after seeing plenty of service in France (they were all evacuated from Dunkirk), and later in Egyptian campaign.





## Ramsey Courier, Friday 11 May 1945 p.4

### THE HOUR OF TRIUMPH

IN the hour of triumph we have been instinctively drawn to join, in all solemnity, in rendering heartfelt thanks to Almighty God for the deliverance of our country from the hands of a cruel and barbaric foe, and the whole world from threatened domination by the forces of evil. In the past five-and-a-half years, how many fervent and beseeching prayers have gone up from myriads of homes in our land for the end of the nightmare of war in Europe and for the dawn of the very day that has now come to pass. It is right and proper, therefore, that, first, our hearts should be unfeignedly thankful to the Giver of victory for the success vouchsafed our arms and for the triumph, once more, of right over might used for shameful and inhuman ends.

It is nothing short of staggering to think how nearly a vast nation, depraved to a degree which is only now coming fully to light and blindly following an hysterical swindler who had instilled in it a brutal lust for war, came to achieving its evil purposes. Thank God that in England, in its darkest and most dangerous hours, though our country was ill-prepared to wage war and contend with deadly terror rained from the skies, there were those

Who never turned the back, but  
Marched straight forward,  
Never doubted clouds would break,  
Never dreamed though right seemed worsted, wrong  
Would triumph,

and thus it was that under the inspired leadership of Winston Churchill, this country, while subject to the most terrible attacks on the civil





population and the threat of invasion, achieved the incredible feat of equipping itself and holding on and fighting back, until eventually, with its gallant Allies, it gained the ascendancy and has now exacted just retribution from the hateful aggressor.

That arch-enemy of man, Adolf Hitler, who was the means of starting the most devastating war in history, is dead and despised and his name will ever be remembered among men with shame and horror. He has brought his country, duped and deceived by his flaunting arrogance, to ruin and disaster and Righteousness, Justice and Liberty have been supremely vindicated. There is no Armistice this time as last, but Victory complete, decisive and, let us hope, final, and that is the only way to ensure that Germany will never again be permitted to threaten the civilised world as she did in 1914 and 1939.

### **All At Stake**

Great Britain, once again caught almost totally unprepared, has emerged honoured and triumphant from a struggle in which she has been called upon to stake all to save the world and, at one time, to stand alone save for the loyal and devoted sons and daughters of the British Empire. Then, at a sorely critical moment, came the vast armies of the United States of America, that great nation to which we are more closely linked than any other by ties of language and kinsmanship, and whose contribution towards the Victory it is impossible to compute so near to the event, but which nowhere will be more ardently acclaimed than in this country. It is sad to recall that America's outstanding war leader, that great lover of humanity, Franklin Roosevelt, has not lived to see this day, though, like Nelson, he died with the knowledge that Victory was assured.

Then what of mighty Russia who, treacherously attacked by Hitler, fought defiantly with her back to the Volga and then turned on her foe with such courage and valour as has brought her in the end to Berlin itself! These



three great powers have stood solidly side by side in the fight for Freedom and now join in the paen of Victory.

### **The Island's Share**

And in the triumph our little Island has its share. When the part taken by the Isle of Man in the war is fully revealed, we believe it will be worthy of this loyal and patriotic corner of the Empire. It has had the proud honour of raising its own Manx Regiment, which right up to the closing stages of hostilities has continued to bring credit and distinction on the Island, and in addition thousands of young men and women from Manx homes have taken their place in the Navy, the Army, the Air Force and the auxiliary services. We think of all those who have fought with great courage and gallantry and helped to bring us to the hour of Victory. There are many, alas, who we will not be able to welcome home, and they are foremost in our thoughts. We believe that they have passed "into the light that nevermore shall fade," and of each one of them it can be said:

He died the noblest death a man may die,  
Fighting for God and Right and Liberty,  
And such a death is Immortality.

And as just now, with full hearts, we welcome home so many of our men who have endured long years of privation in captivity let us not forget those who lie in hospitals—blind, perhaps, or suffering from grievous wounds, and those for whom there has been no respite with VE-Day in Europe for for them the fight must go on elsewhere. In the celebrations which, rightly, attend this historic and never-to-be-forgotten time, there is a natural feeling of restraint out of respect for those who have still to wage war against the yet unconquered but doomed enemy, Japan, but as the Prime Minister has very properly said, there is ample justification for expression of the joyousness of the human heart we all must feel in the victorious conclusion of this desperate European war. For the future it is



for all of us who are alive to see this day, as we stand on the threshold of a new world, to pledge ourselves, that in our public life, our relations with our fellows and in all our personal undertakings we will strive to walk worthily of this great victory and of the heritage of freedom and decency in human affairs triumphantly defended.

### **Isle of Man Times, Saturday 12 May 1945 p.4**

The Last "All Clear."

Jubilant Scenes on VE-Day.

Happy Crowds Greet "Cease Fire" in Europe.

Sunday's Victory Parade.

ALTHOUGH the sounding of the last "All Clear" had less significance in the Isle of Man than in the bomb-battered cities of Britain, the Island on Tuesday, VE-Day, gave vent to its feeling of relief and thankfulness that in Europe, at least, there was peace once more after nearly six years of war—2,077 days, to be exact.

But not all the rejoicing was of the boisterous kind. In churches throughout the Island people gave thanks to God for the great victory, and in the homes of the people there was quiet rejoicing that loved ones would be safe and that many would soon be home. But at back of people's minds was the knowledge that Japan has still to be beaten, and that, although her ultimate defeat is certain, it is no mean task which lies ahead of us.

On Sunday the Island will have its Victory Parade, when 2,000 men and women of the services and men of civilian war-time organisations will march past His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor on the Douglas Promenade, prior to a service in Villa Marina.



## ISLAND CELEBRATES VE-DAY.

Happy Crowds Throng Streets

### **Bonfires and Fireworks After the Last “All Clear”**

The Prime Minister's VE-Day broadcast on Tuesday and the sounding of tlast “All Clear”, with which was mingled the notes of ships' sirens and the pealing of church bells, was the signal for a spontaneous expression of jubilation in Douglas and the other towns and districts.

In the Island's capital, crowds thronged the streets till alter midnight—happy, jostling crowds, in which there was a predominance of young people in the Services, bent on letting the world see what VE-Day meant to them, the great step towards that coming last victory which will free the world from the dread of domination by the aggressor Powers, of whom only Japan is left.

Naval ratings from the Island's training establishments were "Jolly Jacks" indeed, and hundreds of them thronged Strand Street. For once they were certainly not the "Silent Service," and their noise, the glad noise of victory, had to be heard to be believed. But it was good to hear and to see. Their Army comrades were fewer in number, but lacked nothing in the joyful expression of their feelings on this day of days.

One of the star turns was a crowd of about a hundred sailors and soldiers led by a piano-accordion player and a "drum major" with Army greatcoat worn back to front and a peaked cap also back to front. Their boisterous merry-making was infectious and caught the imagination of the crowds who saw them.

One of the biggest bonfires was in front of Noble's Hall, and there were others on the foreshore. A surprising number of fireworks, including rockets, had been provided by the shopkeepers, some of whom had a good stock in from 1939, and the cracks and bangs were "noises off" in the boisterous scene.

Douglas was gaily beflagged, Strand Street and Victoria Street being real pictures, while the Town Hall was also decorated, and the Promenade, with



its flags and bunting, presented quite a peace-time spectacle, minus the fairy lights.

Chester Street, in one of the poorest quarters of the town, also had a brave show, and here the mothers had combined to give the children a real "victory" spread. They had baked cakes and made jellies, and the youngsters, most of them with fathers serving, had a fine party out in the street under the flags, and with the table decorated with the victory colours. Chester Street certainly rose to the occasion.

But the town as a whole put up a fine show with flags and bunting: buses and all kinds of vehicles were also decorated, and no one who walked through its streets could doubt that the spirit of victory was abroad.

### **Services in the Churches.**

All day on Tuesday churches were open, and were well attended. In Douglas, at four o'clock, the Mayor and Corporation, with a large congregation of townspeople, attended at St. Thomas's Church, where the Mayor's Chaplain (the Rev. C. Ingram Cox ) conducted the service and gave a short address.

The Manx Music Festival was interrupted while the Prime Minister's speech was broadcast from the stage and again in the evening when the King spoke.

### **VE+1.**

The rejoicings were continued on Wednesday. The Band of the Royal School of Music played on the Promenade opposite Villa Marina in the morning, the Salvation Army Band at the Jubilee Clock at 2-30, and the Douglas Band School of Music later on near the Villa Marina.

## **VICTORY PARADE ON SUNDAY.**

### **2 000 in Great March Past.**

The culmination of the VE celebrations in the Island will be the great victory parade on Sunday afternoon, in which 2,000 people will take part. They will march off at 2-20p.m., the Services part of the parade starting from the assembly point on the north side of the Arcade Buildings.

Headed by a band of 70 from the Royal Naval School of Music, the Services will march round the Arcade and go along to Walpole Avenue, the parade of the civilian service moving off from the Car Park in time to carry on behind the last of the Services.

His Excellency will take the salute at a point opposite the War Memorial about 2-30 p.m., and the Services band will dispense musical selections from 2 p.m. His Excellency will have a guard of honour from H.M.S. St. George, and the ship's bugle band will also be in attendance.

The officer in charge of the parade is Lieut-Commander F. W Bethell, R. N., of H.M.S. St. George, and following the band there will be 230 men from H.M.S. Valkyrie, 500 from H.M.S. St. George, and 100 from H.M.S. Urley, and there will be representatives of other naval ships' crews, personnel of the Royal Naval School of Music, Wrens, Army units including 166 O.C.T.U., Royal Corps of Signals, P.O.W. camp guards, A.T.S., R.A.F., Home Guard, Army-Cadet Force, Air Training Corps, Sea Cadets, and all the various civilian services connected with the Island's war effort.

The Bishop will preach at this service, which will be held in the Villa gardens if the weather is fine, but, if wet it will be in the hall. A number of the public will be admitted, all the civilian personnel in the parade and representatives of the Services. The Mayor and Town Council will attend, as they will at the official service in St. George's Church in the morning conducted by the Ven. Archdeacon Stockwood, at which the Bishop will also preach. Members of the Legislature will be there, and His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Lady Granville will attend these services.



### **Governor's Message to the King.**

The following telegram was despatched to the Secretary of State:— "On behalf of the people of the Isle of Man, I beg you to convey to His Majesty the King an expression of their loyalty and of their heartfelt joy at the triumphant conclusion of the hostilities with the German Reich. — Granville, Lieutenant Governor."

### **Mayor's Message to King and Prime Minister.**

It was announced at the monthly meeting of the Douglas Town Council on Thursday that the Mayor had sent a telegram to His Majesty the King, presenting his loyal and dutiful respects on behalf of the Council and inhabitants of Douglas, and conveying warmest congratulations on the victorious termination of hostilities in Europe. He had also sent a telegram of congratulations to the Prime Minister.

A telegram was read from the King's private secretary, conveying His Majesty's sincere thanks to the Mayor and all associated with him in the message.

Speaking in front of a large Union Jack and a large flag bearing the Three Legs, the Mayor said it had been a long and bitter struggle, and a period of sacrifice and suffering, but with the help of God and the magnificent fighting qualities of the Forces and those of our allies, our cause had been vindicated. They sincerely hoped and prayed that the final defeat of Japan would not be long delayed.

Members of the Council stood, and the Mayor led them in three hearty cheers.

### **He Sounded the "All Clear."**

The honour of sounding the sirens in the Isle of Man for the last time fell to Police-Sergt. Jack Lace. It was Jack, therefore, who told Manxland the war was over.





Sergt. Lace is himself an ex-service man of the last war; he served with one of the Manx Service Companies. He joined the Police Service afterwards. He is an exceedingly popular and efficient officer.

### **The "Alert" Has Sounded for the Last Time."**

The Home Secretary has issued a regulation that "the Alert," that fearsome syren sound which in the years *1940-43 woke one* out of one's beauty sleep and drew many to a post of duty at a cold and often wet corner of the street, ready to use the stirrup pump, to the wardens' post, police post, fire, rescue, or nursing station, will sound no more. The Hun is beaten, and never more, we hope, will the "alert," that herald of death and destruction, be heard in any part of the world.

The "all clear" has sounded for the last time, and may the years to come remain all clear for this suffering world.

In the Island "the alert" was sounded 43 times, the first being on August 31, 1940, and the last on March 25, 1943, covering a total period of 59 hours 16 minutes. The longest alert was on April 15, 1940, lasting from 10-27 p.m. to 3-29 a.m., a period of five hours two minutes, and the shortest, on March 3, 1941, lasted six minutes.

During the period of "the alerts" a number of bombs were dropped on the Island, the first on September 18, 1940, when three fell on mountains near Dalby; others fell near Port Soderick; at Cronk Ruagh, in the north of the Island; and at Scarlett, near Castletown. The only time that any damage was done was on May 31 1941, when two high explosive bombs dropped in the Ballanard district, some houses being damaged and a few people treated for cuts and bruises. On April 7, 1941, the Island, from north to south, was lit by enemy flares, but no bombs were dropped. The metal containers were later found in Onchan, Sulby, Castletown, and Rushen.



## THE PRICE OF FREEDOM.

### 480 Manxmen Died and Missing in the War.

*Their lives to their Country,  
Their souls to their God.*

The Isle of Man, like the rest of the world, has taken a full share in the cost of victory over the Germans and Italians, and against the Japanese. Our records show—

#### KILLED.

Navy .....	114
Army .....	125
R.A.F. ....	66
	— 305

#### DIED ON SERVICE.

Navy .....	30
Army .....	52
R.A.F. ....	15
	— 97

Total... 402

#### MISSING.

Navy .....	28
Army .....	17
R.A.F. ....	34

A total of 481 out of a population of 50,829.

Let us not forget in this hour of victory over the Germans those who have laid down their lives to save us from slavery and from the horrors of the concentration camp, which would have been the fate of many of the people of this Island had the Germans prevailed in their intention to enslave the rest of the world.



## Soldier Stories

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### **Isle of Man Examiner, Friday 11 May 1945 p.7**

#### **Maughold**

One of the first passengers off the steamer at Douglas on V.E. Day eve was a young soldier home on leave from Burma—Pte. Maurice Tate, of The Corony, Maughold. He has been in the Far East about two years and after his leave will return to duty in Burma. His brother, Sergt. J. C. Tate, who was recently released from a P. of W. camp, had reached home the previous day, so there was a pleasant re-union.

### **Mona's Herald, Tuesday 15 May 1945 p.1**

#### **FLAGS AND GLAD HEARTS.**

VE-Day has come and gone. But celebrations continue as each passenger steamer arriving at Douglas Pier brings home more Manxmen from German prison camps. Yesterday, came the largest single group of 129th Battery men captured in the Battle of Crete.

Leading Seaman Douglas Corlett, of "Nyroca," Victoria Road, Ramsey, and Flying Officer J. E. Clague, of Bay View Road, Port Erin, arrived home on V.E. Day. Leading Seaman Corlett has been a p.o.w. for 4 1/2 years, and has had a tough time.

Flying Officer Clague was captured at Arnhem on Sept. 21st, 1944, when serving with the 1st Airborne Division. He, too, has had terrible experiences. He is married, his wife formerly being Miss Sylvia Cain, of Buck's Road, Douglas. Their home is at Bay View Road. Port Erin. F/O. Clague is a son of the late Mr. J. E. Clague, grocer, of Port Erin, and Mrs. Clague.



## **Isle of Man Times, Saturday 26 May 1945 p.5**

Home After Five Years.

Signalman Bernard Aspell, son of Mr and Mrs W. Aspell, 7, Hawarden Avenue, Douglas, is home after service lasting five years. He has served in Abyssinia, the Sudan, and Eritrea; in Palestine and Egypt, in Cyprus and in Italy. While in India he was with the 8th Indian Division, and later with the 6th Armoured Division, in operations which led to storming the Gothic Line and the capture of various Adriatic ports. He was in Cyprus for eighteen months, and describes the climate as very fine. He missed the visit to the island of Mr Winston Churchill, as he was on a mountain outpost when the Prime Minister arrived. The date of his landing in Britain was VE Day.

## **Isle of Man Times, Saturday 26 May 1945 p.5**

HOW MANX REGIMENT SPENT VE-DAY.

Interview with Onchan Man.

(By a Military Observer.)

"It is pretty hard to celebrate this great occasion when you are so far away from home and actually in the country of your recent enemy. Victory in Europe Day will be a grand celebration at home, but there is still work for us all here, and we must stick to the job until that long-awaited moment—De-mob Day—comes along."

With these words Bombardier Robert Butterfield, whose home is at Glen Bower, Onchan, summed up the feelings of all the men of the 15th (Isle of Man) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, who are serving with the 7th Armoured Division—the famous Desert Rats.



I spoke to Bdr. Butterfield in the sun-lit front garden of a little village near the Kiel Canal. Broken and dispirited Germans passed us in a continual stream on their way to the prisoner cages. "It's a great relief now that the end has come. Just take one look at these Jerries and you can see that the war is really finished here. There is a great difference between these surrendered men and the prisoners we saw after the fall of Tunis. They were arrogant then, but they are completely beaten now.

"How are we going to celebrate VE Day? Well, what can we do? Our biggest treat is going to be that we will have no camp black-out to-night. We are going to get a double issue of rum, but that is not quite the right spirit for the occasion. Still, it will do.

"You cannot prepare celebrations like they do at home when you are on active service. We've been looking forward to this for a long time, yet in spite of our expectations it has come suddenly. We shall soon forget all the bad times such as the dirt, dust, and lack of water in the Desert, and think only of the fine spirit of comradeship that has carried us all through to victory."

Bdr. Butterfield has certainly lived up to the Royal Artillery battle-cry "Ubique" — "Everywhere." Since joining up at the start of the war he has seen service in the Sudan, Eritrea, Abyssinia, the Desert, Tunis, Italy, France, Belgium, Holland, and finally Germany.

"Looking back down the years, I must consider myself lucky to be here for VE Day. My first close call was in Eritrea when a shell exploded two feet from my head; then, in the Desert, I was not more than ten yards from a 500 lb. bomb when it fell. My guardian angel was working overtime that day. Another spine-chilling moment was when I was in a slit trench at El Alamein and a Bren carrier charged right over me. We laughed about it afterwards, but it was by no means funny at the moment.



"But perhaps the stickiest time of all was in the Desert when the Afrika Korps was advancing on Alexandria. We were holding specially prepared defence positions, but gradually Rommel's men encircled us. We went \*o action stations at 2 a.m. one Sunday morning, and it was two in the afternoon before we got a break. The Jerry fire was deadly, and we hardly dare lift our heads, Stukas dive-bombed us, sixty planes at a time, and all hell was let loose in the shape of H.E. But the position was held and the advance halted. I shall think of that Sunday when we have our Thanksgiving Sunday service."



## Celebration Stories

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**Isle of Man Examiner, Friday 11 May 1945 p.2**

### **Laxey and District**

#### **VE DAY CELEBRATIONS**

V.E Day celebrations in Laxey were of an informal character. Villagers made a good show of flags and the young people got together and organised a social in the Workingmen's Institute.

In Christ Church there were services at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Tuesday, and in the evening in Minorca Chapel there was a united service of thanksgiving in which the Vicar of Laxey (Rev. S. B. Botwood), the Revs. C. C. Payne, and E. Lacey (Methodist), and Capt. Iris Loades (Salvation Army) took part and members of the Village Commissioners and other bodies were among the congregation.

There is to be an official service at Christ Church on Sunday evening for the Commissioners and civil defence organisations.

The Vicar of Lonan (the Rev. W. S. Robertson) had a V.E. Day service for the people in his district.

The youngsters of the village made sure their part in the rejoicing would not be overlooked and set fire to a patch of gorse on the brow near the Old School. Unfortunately the bonfire got beyond their control, and the local police sergeant and others had to come to the rescue to prevent it spreading and causing damage to property.





## **Isle of Man Times, Monday 7 May 1945 p.2**

### **Special Thanksgiving Services**

On VE Day, St. George's Church, the State church of the Island, will be the scene of thanksgiving services at 12 noon, 3 p.m., and 7-30 p.m. The vicar (the Ven. Archdeacon) will be in the church all day, prepared to lead people in their devotions. This means that he will devote himself to presence in the church on any day until "Cease Fire" comes.

In other Anglican churches, the hours of service are understood to be 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7-30 p.m. The hours of 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7-30 p.m. have been fixed for services in the Nonconformist churches.

## **Isle of Man Examiner, Friday 11 May 1945 p.8**

### **V.E. DAY IN CHILDREN'S HOMES**

V.E. Day was appropriately observed by the children in the Isle of Man Homes at Castletown. In the evening there was a short service conducted by the Master (Mr. W. J. Brookfield), and the children gave rousing cheers for Their Majesties and the Premier. Later the youngsters darkened their faces in "commando" style, waved flags, and banged drums and had a good time. Sports followed in the afternoon with cash prizes given by the chairman (Mr. Chas. Gill, M.L.C.) and Mrs. Gill, who visited Lorne House and also entertained the children to a special tea with ice cream! In the evening Mr. Hall, manager of the Cosy Cinema, invited all the children to a free film show, which was greatly enjoyed.



## Celebration Stories – Douglas

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Isle of Man Examiner, Friday 11 May 1945 p.3

### V-E DAY IN DOUGLAS

Tuesday was truly a day for great rejoicing in the Isle of Man. It was the day when Victory in Europe was officially proclaimed by the broadcast of the Prime Minister—V.E. Day.

Following Mr. Churchill's historic announcement of the unconditional surrender of the whole of the German forces—land, sea, and air - there was pandemonium for a little while in Douglas when the sounding of the last "All Clear" from the sirens vied with the blare of ships' sirens and the pealing of church bells heralding the glad tidings and calling people to services of thanksgiving. The Mayor of Douglas and members of the Town Council attended St. Thomas' Church.

Following the announcement of capitulation the Services were early astir in the town. Naval men were in great force and provided great fun with their antics, and the Army paraded with greatcoats and caps back to front, complete with accordion and drums.

Long queues formed for ice cream, the making of which had just been permitted by revocation of the control order, and there were crowds at shops which happened to have stocks of fireworks.

It was sheer bedlam going through Strand Street during the evening, with fireworks popping off all over the place. Many of the hotels, seeing the way things were going, decided to close down about 8-30 p.m. A wise decision!



There was great merriment in many of the streets. In Hillside Avenue and Hillside Terrace, for instance, children and grown ups danced to a barrel organ, and games followed, prizes being provided by neighbours.

Chester Street rose to the occasion, mothers bringing tables out on the pavements and giving the children a tea and dance by lamplight under waving decorations.

Many bonfires were built, the largest being on the "Tar Patch" opposite Noble's Hall, an effigy of Hitler taking the place of the "Guy."

Night on the Promenade saw a lovely display of fireworks provided by the Services, while officers at the "Falcon" set off hundreds of Verey lights.

On V.E. Day plus 1, the celebrations were continued, though there was a noted anti-climax in rejoicing. The Band of the Royal Naval School of Music played opposite Villa Marina, in the morning, the Salvation Army Band played at the Jubilee Clock in the afternoon, and the Douglas Brass Band did their share later by the Villa.

#### V.E. DAY BABY

One young man will not remember V.E. Day—and yet will never forget it! He is the baby son born at the Jane Crookall Maternity Home on Tuesday to Chief Petty Officer and Mrs. Sykes, 69, Bray Hill, Douglas. The committee of the Home have decided to present him with a Savings Certificate to augment his auspicious start in life.

The children in Murray's Road and Farrant Street were entertained at a party given in Salisbury Street Schools on Wednesday, over 100 children and helpers being present. After an excellent tea, which was made possible by the generosity of the residents and the tradesmen in this area, ice cream



and sweets were distributed and races were held for which war savings certificates were given as prizes. Mrs. Hunter and Mrs. Christian organised the effort and the balance in hand will be donated to a war charity.



## Celebration Stories – Peel

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**Peel City Guardian, Saturday 12 May 1945 p.4**

### V-E DAY

The end of hostilities in the European theatre was marked by a celebration in the Island on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Tuesday was VE Day, but a large section of the community were unable to participate in the holiday which was arranged —food shops having to keep open until 2-30 p.m., banks were open their usual hours, transport services were almost fully maintained and what are termed utility services carried on as usual, so that the day was somewhat of a mixture. The streets were busy with shoppers all the morning in view of the holiday on the Wednesday and the food shops were kept going at full pressure all the morning. The weather was dull in the morning but as the day progressed there was bright sun shine and it got very warm.

The celebration in Peel, as it should be, seeing that as yet the first stage has only yet been accomplished was of a quiet character. There was a very good show of flags and bunting, practically every street in town having a good show of colour. A few sections of the boys, and some girls, however, were busy collecting material for bonfires on the shore and they were able to collect sufficient for four sizeable bonfires. Owing to the restrictions still being in force these fires had to be burned during daylight, which, of course, took away from the effect. With so many away in the Forces people generally were not in the mood for mad jollification, yet they did not lose sight of the magnitude of what had already been accomplished and the cause for heartfelt gratitude that hostilities in Europe had ceased and that the brutality and slavery symbolised by Nazism had been overcome and unconditional surrender by the Nazi forces had been accomplished. Thought was given to those who are still risking their lives and who are prisoners in the Far East and the celebration was duly modified.



The main feature of the day was a united service in the Parish Church which attracted a large congregation the Church being almost full. The service was of a most impressive character. The Rev Howard P. Thomas took the preliminaries and the Vicar preached a most appropriate and thoughtful sermon. Mr J. W. Kelly presided at the organ. The collection, which amounted to over £15, was for the rebuilding of blitzed churches and is to be divided between the Church of England and Methodist funds.

In the evening there were bonfires on the shore which attracted large crowds, the Pavilion Cinema, a dance at the Albert Hall and a whist drive at the Legion Clubroom and these were well patronised.

With the beautiful mild weather and the prospect of another holiday, people were out and about until late and there appeared to be an absence of rowdiness.

The schools were closed both on Tuesday and Wednesday. Some thing unusual was that there were no delivery of mails on both days. The Post Office was closed on Tuesday but was open from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Wednesday.

#### MESSAGE TO THE KING

The following message was despatched to the Secretary of State on Tuesday -

On behalf of the people of the Isle of Man I beg to convey to His Majesty the King an expression of their loyalty and of their heartfelt joy at the triumphant conclusion of the hostilities with the German Reich

Granville, Lieut Governor, Isle of Man



## Celebration Stories – Ramsey

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**Ramsey Courier, Friday 11 May 1945, p.4**

### **RAMSEY CELEBRATES VE DAY**

#### Thanksgiving and Rejoicing

Following the announcement on Tuesday afternoon by the Prime Minister, there was a general flocking to the churches in Ramsey for the special services of thanksgiving.

The town was beflagged: there was great excitement abroad, and copies of a **special Victory edition of the 'Courier'** were eagerly bought up by the large crowds congregating in Parliament St. As the evening advanced large crowds, including many Service folk, assembled in Parliament Street and other main thoroughfares and there was dancing in the street to music provided by a panatrope.

Many townsfolk heard the King's speech on the wireless before turning out to take part in the celebrations. Wednesday, as elsewhere, was also regarded as a general holiday, and the spirit of celebration continued.

Members of the Women's Land Army were given two days holiday to celebrate the victory.

A humorous touch was provided by a band of locals who paraded the town as black-faced minstrels, one beating an enamel dish for a drum, followed by a host of youngsters.





## THANKSGIVING SERVICES

### ST. PAUL'S

St. Paul's Church was packed to the doors on Tuesday afternoon for the special service of thanksgiving held immediately after the announcement of the end of the war in Europe. The ringing of the bell brought people flocking to the church, anxious to give thanks to Almighty God for deliverance from the enemy, and the service, deeply reverent and devout in character, was conducted by the Vicar Canon M. W. Harrison. The service concluded with the hearty singing of the National Anthem.

### ST. OLAVE'S

A special service of thanksgiving was held in St. Olave's Church at 6-30 p.m. A large congregation took part, and a brief but moving address from the Rev. J. H. Jones, of St. Jude's opened the service. The Vicar. Rev. Halford Young, returned from a holiday in Buxton in time to join in the service; which concluded by the entire congregation singing lustily God Save the King.

### WATERLOO ROAD CHURCH

A large congregation filled the body of Waterloo Road Church when Rev. Charles Gimblett, Superintendent Minister, conducted the service. The hymns included "O God our Help in Ages Past" and Kipling's Recessional, and the minister gave a short but impressive address appropriate to the occasion.

### ST. MAUGHOLD'S

Prayers of thanksgiving by the Parish Priest, Father J. Aikin, were offered in St. Maughold's R.C. Church on Tuesday afternoon and evening, and the Te Deum was sung. On Sunday next there will be special Masses to mark the end of the conflict in Europe.



## PARLIAMENT STREET METHODISTS

A service of thanksgiving was held in the Parliament Street Methodist Church on Tuesday evening, being conducted by the Rev. Wm. Gollins, superintendent minister, and was well attended.

## END-OF-THE-WAR BRIEFS

In the list of Regiments who have fought in Europe since D-Day to the great surrender, the 15th L.A.A. Regiment (Isle of Man ) has an honoured place.

The sitting of the High Court at Ramsey fixed for Wednesday was adjourned to the same hour (11 o'clock) this (Friday) morning. The next High-Bailiff's Court in Ramsey will be held on 23rd May.

## **Late Night Dance in Parliament Street.**

From his new place of business in Parliament Street, Mr A. F. Hughes, electrician, by means of a loud speaker, gave large numbers assembled in the street the opportunity of hearing the King's VE Day speech. Afterwards music was turned on and there was an immediate response, dancing being carried on up to midnight by about 200 people.

About 8 o'clock while a small party of R.A.F. and W.A.A.F. members, full of the joys of Spring, was making its way along Parliament Street, one of the company carried in front of her a "Contents bill" of the special edition of the "Courier" — it was her VE Day souvenir, she declared.

The Channel Islands, occupied by the Germans in June and July, 1940, were liberated on Wednesday morning.

Mr Churchill stated in the House of Commons on Thursday that Conscription would be continued for some years to relieve men on service who had borne the heat and burden of the day.

## Messages to the Manx Nation

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**Isle of Man Times, Saturday 12 May 1945 p.4**

MESSAGES TO THE MANX NATION.

At our request, the following messages to the Manx people everywhere have been kindly sent to the Times for publication: —

**From His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor,**

On this great day of deliverance I wish to join with all the Manx people everywhere and with all the Service personnel and other British and Allied residents in the Isle of Man in expressing our heartfelt thanks to the Almighty who has vouchsafed us our overwhelming victory over our European enemies, and our grateful thanks to all in the Fighting Services and the Merchant Navy, and to all who have fulfilled their parts in achieving this victory. This great defeat of the German Reich gives us good cause to rejoice and enjoy a short holiday. We must realise, though, this this must be brief, as there is still much to be done, and many sacrifices to be made, before the World War comes to a conclusion with the final defeat of Japan. We must all still pull together to achieve this as soon as possible, and then continue to work together for an enduring Christian peace.

GRANVILLE, Lieutenant-Governor.

**A Message to the Women of the Isle of Man.**

The end of the war in Europe will bring the most profound feelings of relief and gratitude to the heart of every woman on this Island. We are grateful to Almighty God that after these long years of suffering He has granted us this glorious victory, and we thank Him with full hearts. Our prayers and thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones, and also with those gallant men who have lost their health or limbs for the great cause of

freedom, and have saved us from the unbelievable horrors of being an enslaved nation. All of us who remained at home, and those who are serving with H.M. Forces and doing other war work, are now faced with the task of seeing that the great sacrifice of our men shall not have been in vain, and of giving all our energies to the slow and difficult years of reconstruction.

ROSE GRANVILLE.

### **From the Bishop of Sodor and Man.**

On this great day, for which we have hoped and striven ever since we threw down the gauntlet to aggression and tyranny on September 3rd, 1939, two thoughts are uppermost in my mind.

First, our gratitude to God for deliverance from our enemies. "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." It is a day of rejoicing, in which I join most heartily with you and all Manx people throughout the world.

But it also a day of resolution. Like the victorious horseman of the Apocalypse, who came forth "conquering and to conquer," we have further victories to gain, not only in the war against Japan, but in the peace that we pray will follow. There are other freedoms to fight for in the world - political, social, moral, and religious. And to that conflict we go forward, trusting in God with greater confidence because of the present victory which He has granted us.

Ralph Sodor and Man.



### **From Deemster Cowley.**

As chairman of the War Committee of Tynwald, I gladly accede to your request to send a message to Manx men and women everywhere on this occasion of universal thanksgiving and relief on VE Day.

To our gallant sailors, soldiers, and airmen, and to the members of the Merchant Navy, our hearts go out in gratitude at this hour, and words cannot express what we feel as we think of their hardships and privations, especially those of our returning prisoners of war and the debt which we owe to those who have given their lives that others may live.

Our feelings of gratitude and our sense of relief will be tempered by the thought of those whose anxieties for loved ones in far-distant lands still facing the perils of war must remain uppermost in their minds.

A great task still lies before us - the building of a happier post-war world, which shall be worthy of their sacrifice - and to that task let us all in this hour of rejoicing consecrate our energies and the best that is in us.

Rolls Office, Douglas.

### **From Mr J. D. Qualtrough, Speaker of the House of Keys.**

The end of the war in Europe must inspire in every breast profound gratitude that through the merciful providence of God the cause for which our Empire went to war has been triumphantly vindicated, and the evil things that threatened us have been utterly destroyed.

Uppermost in our hearts is humble thankfulness for the men and the women who have died that freedom might live. We remember the valour of all who fought our battles, and the endurance of those who suffered wounds and endured prison camps. To their heroism and patience we owe the victory in which we now rejoice.



Not many of us imagined in 1939 the appalling magnitude of the struggle that lay ahead. There have been days since then when it seemed that there was little left to us except the will that said "Hold on!" But, inspired by the noble example of our beloved King and Queen, and brilliantly led by our great Prime Minister, we have held on through the darkest days. Backed by the steadfast efforts of men and women in every rank of life, our Fighting Services by their skill and fortitude have saved this land and the cause for which they took up arms. The heroic quality which the hour of danger produces gives us a calm confidence for the tasks both of war and peace which the future may hold in store.

We have lived through one of the most fateful and decisive epochs in the world's history. If we had failed, all the priceless achievements of a thousand years would have been overwhelmed by a flood of insensate wickedness and cruel Nazi oppression. The victory enables us to breathe freely again, and to organise our energies for the building of a better way of life.

To this generation has been vouchsafed the proud experience of witnessing these decisive events, and generations yet unborn will surely say of these six years "This was their finest hour."

You that have faith to look with fearless eyes  
Beyond the tragedy of a world at strife,  
And trust that out of night shall rise  
The dawn of ampler life:

Rejoice, whatever anguish rend your heart,  
That God has given you for a priceless dower  
To live in these great times and have your part  
In Freedom's crowning hour;

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That you may tell your sons who see the light  
High in the heaven, their heritage to take;  
“I saw the powers of darkness put to flight!  
I saw the morning break!”

**Mayor of Douglas (Councillor S.A. Quirk, J.P.), to the People of Douglas.**

On the termination of hostilities in Europe, I would like, on behalf of the Council, to extend to the inhabitants of Douglas warmest admiration for the part they have played in the long and bitter struggle.

We rejoice over the news that we received, and we are proud that our own little country has taken part.

God has blessed our arms and carried us to victory.

The termination of hostilities in Europe will bring many problems for which we must prepare, bringing to bear the energy, courage, and enthusiasm which have seen us through the war thus far.

Let us all work and pull together in the years ahead so that we may make Douglas one of the finest seaside resorts in the British Isles, and a heritage worthy of the magnificent efforts and sacrifices so nobly borne by our sons and daughters.

S.A. QUIRK, Mayor.

Town Hall, Douglas