

Worthing Gazette 13th November 1918 page 6

THE DAY OF VICTORY!

Local Rejoicings.

How Worthing Received the Great and Glorious News.

It was the proud privilege of the GAZETTE to give publicity on Monday morning to the eagerly expected news of the end of the World War. In view of the imminence of the event we had kept ourselves in constant telephonic communication with the Central News, having found from experience that the telegraph is a very unreliable medium in these times.

Happily our vigilance, exercised in the public interest, was rewarded, for one of our representatives received an official intimation of the signing of the armistice within a very minutes after the Premier had publicly announced it in London.

From an early hour of the morning people had been streaming into Chatsworth-road, and immediately the news was posted on our windows

A Bousing Cheer

proclaimed to those far distant from the scene of the assembly that the end of four terrible years had been reached. With astonishing rapidity flags began to make their appearance in all parts of the borough, and the people, possessed of the spirit of Victory, placed patriotic emblems in their button holes and on other parts of their apparel.

These indications of rejoicing were not confined to the central thoroughfares, but similar symbols of rejoicing were to be found in all parts of the borough; and the display, though not profuse, was indicative of a wide-spread patriotic spirit.

A large crowd assembled in the neighbourhood of the Town Hall before noon, in the obvious expectation that there would be some public ceremonial; and the Mayor (Alderman J. Farquharson Whyte, J.P.), upon his arrival at the Municipal Offices, was invited to address the crowd.

Accompanied by the Mayoress and the Town Clerk, he took up his position at the top of the Town Hall steps and made a brief but happily phrased speech, whilst Mr. W. W. Chilton and another gentleman stood behind him with a large Union Jack outspread. His Worship alluded to the

Magnitude of the Victory

and the satisfaction with which the news had been received; and intimated that an opportunity for a more elaborate form of rejoicing would present itself when the real Peace Day arrived.

Cheers were given for the King, our Army and Navy, and the Allies, and these brief and

informal proceedings were brought to a close with the singing of the National Anthem.

Typical November weather had now set in, but in spite of the drizzling rain that descended for the remainder of the day, people were reluctant to leave the streets, and the greatest animation continued to prevail, some of those who came forth to demonstrate being amusingly exuberant in their joy.

In a very few cases shops were closed for a time or for the rest of the day; but, generally speaking, there was very little disturbance of the ordinary tenour of business operations.