

Wartime West Sussex 1939 – 1945

VE DAY and VJ DAY

VJ Day celebrations in Worthing

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Beyond a five-minute impromptu ceremony at the Town Hall, a display of Flags; the Floodlighting of the Town Hall and Dances at the Assembly Hall, little was done civically to celebrate VJ Days, and it was left to the general public to inaugurate their own ways and means of making the best of the brief yet momentous holiday.



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There was no official programme arranged for the benefit of children, and they had to follow in the wake of their elders and also make the best of it among the dancing and singing crowds gathered in front of the Pier and the Town Hall and parading the principal streets.

"Let the People Sing" was the motto of the people, and in this universal way of expressing their pent-up feelings the crowds let themselves go until they were dry and hoarse. Dry because there was very little traditional lubrication for celebration on sale in the town and hoarse because it was left to individual efforts without the relief of accompanying music to lead and sustain the community singing.

The public, left to their own devices, packed the beach, the Promenade and the pavements linking arms and singing until nightfall, when the lights went up. The Town Hall was silhouetted in floodlit brilliance and the singing started all over again.

LONDON-STREET Holds Own Celebration

More than seventy-five children and adults in London-street celebrated VJ by a grand street tea-party on Saturday, at which the tables were laden with such party goodies as blanc-manges, cakes and tomatoes, lemonade and apples.

In the centre of the festivity was a resplendent Victory cake, which was cut by Mr. H. Bricknell, until recently a member of the Forces and a resident in the road.

Organised by Mrs. E. Lethby, aided by a Committee of mothers, the party was a great success; and visitors were invited to join in the fun, while the food question was tackled in a public-spirited way, with some contributing in kind and some in money towards expenses.