



VE DAY COMMEMORATION #VEDAYISLEOFMAN SCHOOL & FAMILY TOOLKIT

INTRODUCTION

When VE Day dawns on 8th May 2025 it will be 80 years since the guns fell silent at the end of the war in Europe. Years of carnage and destruction had come to an end and millions of people took to the streets and pubs to celebrate peace, mourn their loved ones and to hope for the future, but not forgetting those still in conflict until 15th August when it was announced that Japan had surrendered unconditionally to the Allies, effectively ending World War II.

The 80th anniversary will provide our nation, and our friends around the world, with an opportunity to reflect on the enormous sacrifice, courage and determination of people from all walks of life who saw us through this dark and terrifying period. It will be an opportunity for us all to remember the enormous sacrifices that were made at home and abroad and to joyously celebrate as people did 80 years ago, the arrival of peace in Europe.

This pack is full of ideas that will help you to all celebrate in your own ways across our beautiful Island.

Find more information here:

<https://ve-vjday80.gov.uk/ve-day/>

<https://ve80.com/>

MONA'S HERALD, Tuesday, May 8th, 1945.

**WE HAVE A FINE STOCK OF
MEN'S SUITS**
(Stock or Measure).
Balmain, Overalls, Boots & Shoes
Boys' Suits and TRENCH-
COATS.
We Guarantee all we Sell.
NO WINDY SHOW MEANS
KEEN PRICES.
LINDSAY
QUINN'S CORNER,
NORTH QUAY, DOUGLAS.

Mona's Herald
One Hundred and Twelfth Year of Publication.
Registered at General Post Office as a Newspaper.
No. 6834 (First Issue: 3rd Aug., 1833). TUESDAY, MAY 8th, 1945. Twopence.

See
Official Notices
Page 4.

THERE IS STYLE, QUALITY,
and
GOOD HONEST BRITISH
WORKMANSHIP
in
EVERY FLETCHER GARMENT.
AND NO BETTER VALUE IS
OBTAINABLE.
FLETCHER
LADIES' & GENTS' TAILOR,
25, NELSON ST., Douglas, L.M.
Telephone: Douglas 5111.

**THIS IS
THE DAY
OF
VICTORY IN EUROPE.**

Douglas Corporation
Transport Department.
AMENDED NOTICE.
VE-DAY
(To-Day, Tuesday).
Corporation buses will be
withdrawn at 4 p.m.
VE-DAY + 1
(To-Morrow (Wednesday)).
Normal Bus Services will
run between approximately
8.15 a.m. and 8.15 p.m.
Time Tables available in Buses.

**W. G. KERMODE
AND SON,**
33, Castle Street.
Phone 871.
WELLINGTONS!
We are expecting a delivery of
Wellingtons
during the week ending May 17th.
Also, in the same delivery,
Children's & Maids' Sandals



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KNOW YOUR HISTORY - MANX WORLD WAR TWO VIDEOS

Culture Vannin have produced a series of ten amazing videos on different aspects of the Second World War. The final video of the series is all about peace in the Isle of Man.

The videos are excellent and are available to view at: <https://vimeo.com/album/3723244>

They cover the following aspects of Island life during the war:

Part 1: The Outbreak of War

Part 2: Defending the Island

Part 3: Conscription

Part 4: The Steam Packet Boats

Part 5: Rationing

Part 6: Keeping the Island safe

Part 7: Bride Radar Station

Part 8: Air Crashes of the Second World War

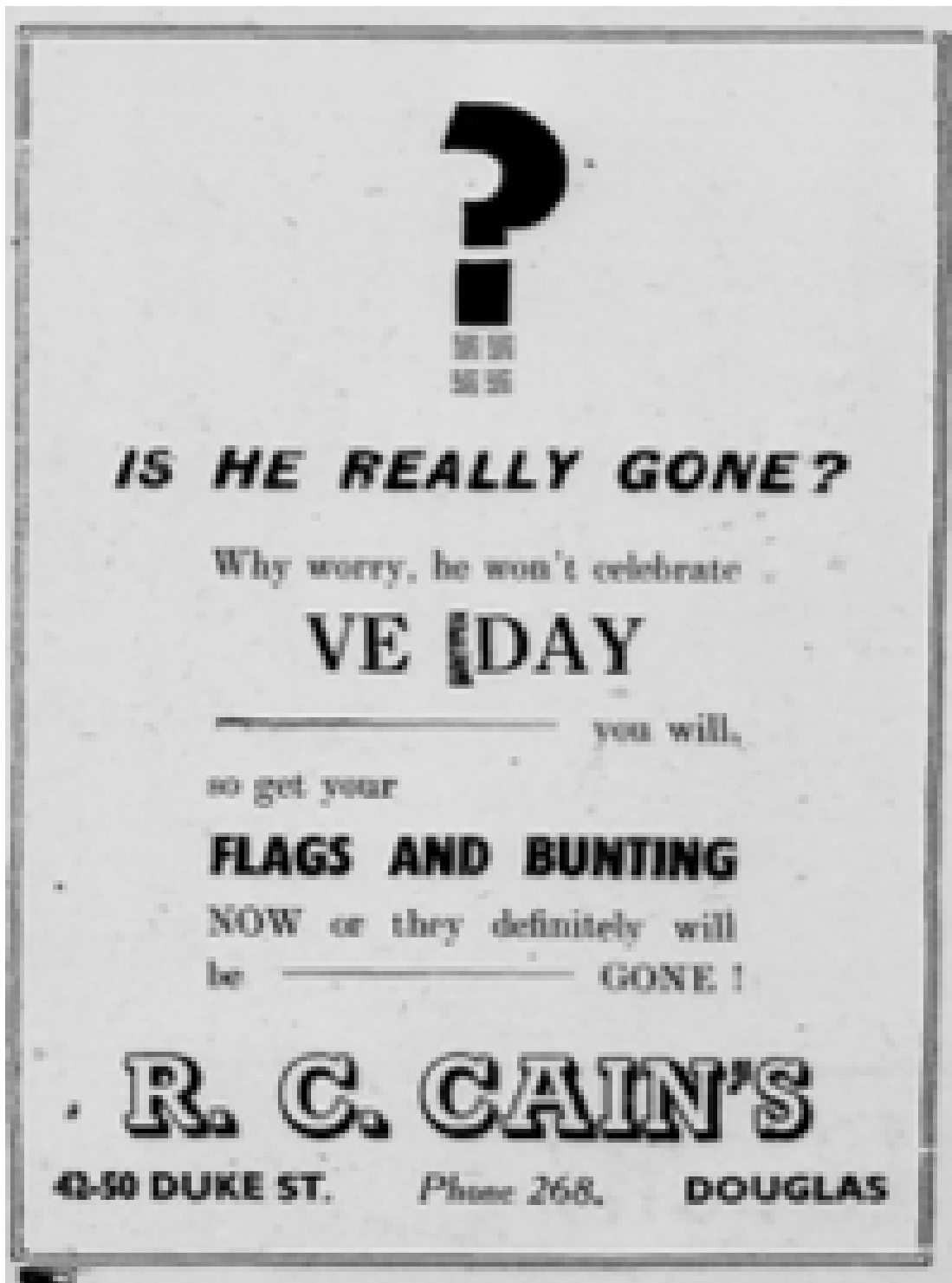
Part 9: Bombs in the Island

Part 10: Peace





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An advert from the 1945 Manx papers encouraging you to buy your flags and bunting as soon as possible incase the shops run out!



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HOW DID THEY CELEBRATE THEN?

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.

Marown Parish was gaily decorated to celebrate V-E Day. On Tuesday evening there were Church services at which large congregations attended. On Wednesday the proceedings started with a Faith Tea given free to all the children, and held in the Parish Hall, followed by a United Service on the Tennis Courts, conducted by the Rev. H. Bennett, the address being given by the Vicar (the Rev. W. George). A collection was taken for the rebuilding of Christian Churches in Europe. Hymns were accompanied by the newly-formed Crosby Brass Band.

After the service Sports were held in the field adjoining, after which parishioners returned to the Courts for an open air social. The social came to a sudden end when it was discovered that a large bon-fire had been lit near the old Church! About 200 people made their way to the fire, where jollifications continued well on into the night.

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.

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 panatrophe.

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

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 tables decorated with the victory colours. Chester Street certainly rose to the occasion.



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MUSEUM NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS:

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

ISLAND CELEBRATES VE-DAY.

Happy Crowds Throng Streets

The Prime Minister's VE-Day broadcast on Tuesday and the sounding of the last "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 after 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.



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MUSEUM NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS:

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

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.

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.



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MUSEUM NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS:

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.

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.



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SAVOURY SNACKS

CHEESE & MARMITE SWIRLS

12 oz / 340g plain white or wholemeal flour

4 oz / 115g margarine

4 oz / 115g strong cheddar cheese

2 eggs (or 7tbsp dried eggs)

1 teaspoon dried mustard powder

Salt and pepper

3 teaspoons of quick rise dried yeast

Marmite for spreading

METHOD

1. Mix together the flour, mustard powder, seasoning, yeast in a large bowl.
2. Break up the margarine and rub into the dry mixture, then add in the grated cheese.
3. Mix in the two beaten eggs and knead until a dough is formed.
4. Next, flour your work surface and rolling pin. Roll out the dough into an oblong shape about 1cm thick. You can make two smaller batches by breaking the dough in half.
5. Spread the Marmite across the dough sheet, then roll up into a long swiss roll shape and slice along with a sharp knife. This recipe makes about 30 swirls.
6. Place whirls on a greased baking tray, and brush with a little milk (optional) to glaze.
7. Place in the oven at gas mark 6 / 200 C for about 12-20 minutes.



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SWEET TREATS

CARROT SCONES

12 tbsp self raising flour & 1 teaspoon baking powder – sifted together

2 tbsp butter (or margarine)

4 tbsp sugar

8 tbsp grated carrot

A few drops of vanilla essence

English Heritage Raspberry Preserve

METHOD

1. Pre-heat oven to gas mark 6 / 200°C. Grease a baking tray.
2. Leave the butter out so that it becomes nice and soft to work with - this makes it easier to mix in the sugar. Beat these until they are light and creamed.
3. Add in the grated carrot, a bit at a time. It won't look like the prettiest thing in the world – but stick with it. Add in the vanilla.
4. Slowly add the sifted flour. The more you beat, the more moisture the carrots will release to bind the mixture together. You will be left with a ball of sticky carrot-flecked dough.
5. Pinch and roll the desired amount between your hands. This recipe should make around 12 scones.
6. Place on baking tray and sprinkle with a little sugar (optional). Cook in the centre of the oven for about 20 minutes.
7. Once firm on top and at the sides, remove from the oven and cool. Remove from the oven and cool.



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EXTRA INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES

Royal visit

Did you know there was also a Royal visit to the Isle of Man in 1945? Which was the first Royal visit the King and Queen had taken out side of Great Britain since the war had begun. They came to the Isle of Man on July 4th 1945 for a three day visit.

Here are some pictures of our Manx Women's Land Army with the Queen on Tynwald Day 1945.





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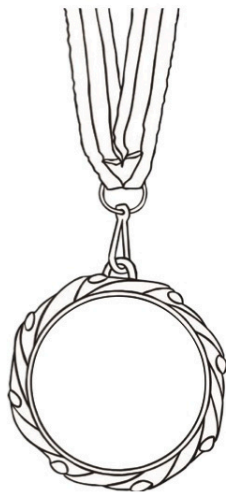
EXTRA INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES

Design a VE Day Medal

This medal celebrated the end of the First World War and was given to soldiers who had fought in active theatres of the war. It was a symbol of **great pride** but its design was also highly **symbolic**.



Bronze medal, not too expensive after the war, but long lasting.



Your task is to create a medal for British soldiers who served in the Second World War that is just as symbolic and creative.

Your medal can be any shape or size but you must have considered the metal and ribbon choices.

You must include:

- The years of the war (1939-45)
- The colours of the Allies
- A symbol to signify the war and the soldier's sacrifice and victory
- A reference to the many theatres of the fighting (Europe, Africa, Asia, Air, Sea, Land)
- Annotations to explain your choices

Photo courtesy of Jim Linwood (via wikimedia commons) granted under creative commons licence



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EXTRA INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES

VE Day Teacup Design

Victory in Europe (VE) Day took place on 8th May 1945. It marked the end of the Second World War in Europe.

VE Day was commemorated in many ways, including the production of special cups.



- Do you recognise the people on the cup? Who are they?
- Why is there a flag on the cup?
- What do you think the slogan on the cup means?
- Why do you think commemorative cups like this were made?

VE Day Teacup Design

Design your own VE Day cup. Think about your design and make sure it is bright and eye-catching.

You could include flags, important buildings or people who were involved in the Second World War.

