

West Cumberland

VE Day Celebrations



At 3pm on 8th May 1945 Winston Churchill's radio broadcast to the nation announced the long awaited news that after years of conflict the war in Europe was finally at an end.

Across the county various events were organised to mark the occasion, from bonny baby competitions to blazing bonfires. Read how some of the local towns and villages celebrated.



Are you here?

ORIGINAL 1945 street parties and parades, such as this one ABOVE for the kids from King Street and Mark Lane in Whitehaven, are still vivid in the memories of many.

The photograph belongs to Millie Peet of Millie's shop, Cleator Moor, and was brought into the News office by Mrs Elizabeth Clingan (nee Curwen), who is

pictured front row, third from left, aged four. Millie is in the front row, in front of "Britannia".

Alec Robinson, steward of the Haven Club, is the little elf kneeling in the left foreground and the little girl with the hat, standing sixth from the right is Christine Keven, who used to run Christine's pram shop in the Market Place.

Borough of Whitehaven

V.E. (3) DAY CELEBRATIONS

Next MONDAY, June 4, 1945
(PUBLIC HOLIDAY)

THIS PROGRAMME
IS ISSUED AT SHORT NOTICE.

IT IS OF INTEREST TO YOU, SO READ IT AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS TO DO LIKEWISE.

10 a.m. Band will Parade the Town.

IMPORTANT FOR ALL SCHOOL CHILDREN:
100 a.m.: All Schoolchildren will assemble at their own School and proceed to the Castle Park by the shortest route.
10-30 a.m.: Assemble at the Castle Park for Community Singing.
2-5 p.m.: All Schoolchildren again assemble at their own School for Sports and Games. Tea will be served at the Schools afterwards.

AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, KILLS:
1-30 p.m.: Opening remarks by A. B. Haddock, Esq. (General Manager of the Cumberland Coal Co. (Whitehaven) Ltd.), His Worship the Mayor and members of the Town Council will attend.
1-40 p.m.: Sports for Children (Kills Central and Monkway only) and Adults. Entries for Adults will be taken at the Community Centre up to 1 p.m. on Monday. For details of Events see Programmes at the Centre.
Side-shows at the Centre. Bowls Competitions: Treasure Hunt; Clock Golf; Long Kick; Greasy Pole; Throwing at Hais; Conic Football; Marbles; Roundabout, etc.
3-30 p.m.: Tea for Old Age Pensioners resident in Kills and Sandwith Wards. Transport will be provided for those living at Greenbank and Sandwith. Bus leaves Greenbank at 5 p.m.
8-10 p.m.: Grand Dance in the Community Centre until 1 a.m.
11-15 p.m.: Fireworks Display and Great Bonfire, to be lit by His Worship the Mayor, Coun. H. Harrison, J.P., on the Brow, near Arrowthwaite.

AT THE CASTLE PARK:
2-30 p.m.: Band Concert and Dance. Admission Free.
6-8 p.m.: Band Concert, Building at 7 p.m. Admission Free.
8-10 p.m. to 11-30 p.m.: Dancing. Free to all.

AT THE EMPRESS BALLROOM:
8-10 p.m.: Invitation Dance and Refreshments free to all returned Prisoners of War, Servicemen and Women on Leave, and Discharged Men & Women. No charge was, resident in the Borough of Whitehaven. Invitations (including a friend) now ready and may be obtained by bona-fide applicants from The Whitehaven News Office and the Police Station, Whitehaven. The invitation is also extended to men of the Merchant Navy.

AT THE BRITISH RESTAURANT, HOWGILL STREET, WHITEHAVEN:
3-10 to 5-0 p.m.: Old Age Pensioners (except Kells and Sandwith Wards, who go to the Community Centre) entertained to Tea. All Old Age Pensioners over the age of 60 are invited to attend. Buses (free) leave Hestingham Square at 5 p.m. and Bransby Crescent at 5-45 p.m.
Tea Time: Hestingham Ward Pensioners at 5 p.m.; Hestingham Ward Pensioners at 5 p.m., and the remaining Wards at 5 p.m. Pensioners living in the Town who must take Transport are taken to arrive at the Town Clerk's Department at the Town Hall immediately.

KEEP THIS PROGRAMME FOR REFERENCE AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENTS.

PUT OUT YOUR BUNTING!
MAKE IT A REAL V-DAY!

This space is donated by The Birkbeck Ltd., Whitehaven and Workington.



V.E.-DAY

West Cumberland Celebrations

AFTER what was generally regarded as an untidy ending to the war, with rumour and counter-rumour keeping people in a state of tense excitement all day on Monday, West Cumberland celebrated V.E.-Day on Tuesday in right royal fashion. From all the towns and villages came the same story of flags, of bonfires, of rejoicing, of thanksgiving for the overthrow of a tyranny, which, but for Britain's lone fight at one period, might have enslaved the whole world.

Fully aware that the end of hostilities was very near, Whitehaven people set about the task of decorating on Monday, so that on Tuesday there was an impressive display of flags and bunting. There were flags of all descriptions—some of the vessels in the harbour were flaunting all their signal flags, even the "plague" and "no water" flags—and in some of the narrower streets householders had achieved results which were greatly admired.

Throughout Britain's history bonfires have been symbols of national rejoicing, and as darkness fell on Tuesday great beacons were lit all over the town and on the surrounding hills. Many of these were surmounted by ingenious effigies of Hitler. Star shells and rockets also ascended high into the skies. In the town one of the biggest bonfires was that beside the hospital, which, from a distance, produced a delightful flood-lit effect on the trees in the park. It was at the hospital, too, that one of the most imposing victory signs in the town was to be found, for blazoning from the roof was a brilliantly lighted red, white, and blue "V," with the word "Victory," and the victory sign stretched in between the two arms of the letter.

In all the churches good congregations assembled to offer thanksgiving to God.

10 May 1945

A UNITED SERVICE

On Wednesday a united gathering, attended by the Mayor and members of the Corporation, was held in St. Nicholas' Church. The Rev. C. E. Nurse officiated and the address was given by the Mayor's chaplain, the Rev. J. A. James, Methodist minister.

Mr. James said that it was with a feeling of relief and of thanksgiving that they had gathered together after a war in which a new paganism, supported by well-organised military power, had threatened a Christian civilisation, which had endured for over 1,000 years. Throughout the long and bitter struggle we had never doubted the justice of our cause, and as we counted our losses we realised that the end had been worth it all.

"Throughout the perils of the war God has been ever near to us; in the darkest days He sustained our hope; in misfortune He renewed our faith; in adversity He allayed our fears; in every emergency of danger and of duty He kept us steadfast to our purpose and true to our resolve." It was our duty, ended Mr. James, to rededicate ourselves to God.

10 May 1945

BECKERMET AND CALDERBRIDGE

Gay colours were again in evidence in Beckermest with The White Mare Hotel presenting an especially attractive picture. Floodlights were used at night, a free dance at the Royal Oak Hotel was enjoyed, and community singing in the streets lasted until midnight. Calderbridge, too, held many celebrations. Thanksgiving services on V.E.-Day and on the following Sunday in both villages were well attended.

17 May 1945



V.E. 3-DAY

Whitehaven Celebrations

MASSED singing by over 1,000 Whitehaven schoolchildren assembled under the trees and on the green lawns of the Castle Park formed the fitting and impressive opening to Whitehaven's third day of victory celebrations — celebrations which catered for the children, the old people, for Servicemen and women, and ex-Servicemen and women.

Myriads of small Union Jacks fluttered in the hands of the youngsters gathered in the park, while at the entrance, and, in fact all over the town, were the larger flags of the Allied nations. From the flag-bedecked bandstand, the Mayor (Coun. H. Harrison) told the children that he hoped this day would live long in their memories. He then handed over the microphone to the Holiday Week Band, under Mr. C. McGuinness, who led the children in the rousing choruses of our national songs.

In the afternoon the children met at their respective schools for sports, games, and tea, and each child received a sixpence.

KELLS HAPPENINGS

There was a big crowd of both children and adults at Kells, where the events, which were many and varied, were well organised. It was here, too, that the celebrations were officially opened with speeches by Mr. A. B. MacDonald, general manager of the Cumberland Coal Co., and the Mayor.

Mr. MacDonald said how grand it was for them all to be celebrating V.E. (3)-Day, and to know that the Nazi regime was crushed for ever. Many children did not know what it was like to live in a world of peace, but had been brought up with ration books and sweet coupons, never knowing the joys of going into a shop and buying what they wanted. To-day, however, was the children's day, and it was to the children that they looked to build the future, and become the citizens of our great Empire.

Mr. MacDonald said they could not let such a day pass without some mention of those still fighting in the Far East. "Our hearts go out to them," he declared. He also paid tribute to those who had paid the supreme sacrifice, who had gone into battle without thought for their own safety.

The Mayor said the day had started well in the park. The people of Kells had a fine community centre, one of the best views in the town, and, so he was told by Coun. Evans, the best people. He hoped they would all enjoy themselves.

The Monkway and Kells Central School children enjoyed exciting sporting events, which were supervised by their teachers, and run in conjunction with the events organised by the Welfare organisations. One of the most enjoyable events was a comic football match between Haig United and Kells, when, not only were the players dressed in such ridiculous garbs as bathing costumes and ballet skirts, but they were at variance as to what they were playing—Rugby League rules holding sway at one end of the pitch and Soccer being played at the other. Not content with their strenuous efforts in this football hotch-potch, the teams next made a combined assault on the greasy pole, one of the players eventually gaining the top after a ladder had been brought, and he had received helping hands from the rest of the team. The rest of the Centre side-shows included a treasure hunt, long-kick competitions, goal shooting, and a rifle range. Senior sports were also held, and a bowling competition was another attraction.

PENSIONERS ENTERTAINED

Over 1,000 pensioners were entertained to an excellent tea, which included ham and tongue, in the Centre, and in the British Restaurant. Transport to and from these gatherings was provided, and the old people were visited by the Mayor and members of the Town Council.

In the evening the park was again thronged with young and old alike, the young to enjoy dancing to the Holiday Week Band, on the lawn in front of the bandstand. Dances and band concerts were given in the park throughout the day, while Frizington St. Paul's Band paraded the town in the morning and Kells in the afternoon.

HEROINES OF THE DANCE

At the request of the Town Council the "News" Comforts Fund Committee and friends, who had made such a pronounced success of the reunion organised for the Burma men, ran a dance held in the Empress Ballroom for returned prisoners of war, Service personnel on leave, and discharged Servicemen of this war. The real heroines of this event were the women who provided supper. They made a shot in the dark at the number likely to be present and catered for 600. Actually 900 turned up, but all were expeditiously served, a commendable feat considering all the circumstances. Next in order of merit must be listed the Empress Band. Under that martinet of an M.C., Mr. W. S. Newall, they were given little respite, but they responded gallantly, especially with some of the old-time numbers, which were exceedingly popular.

A beautiful cake given by Mrs. McArthur (Bransty) was won in a spot dance by Pte. Bell (Border Regiment) and Mrs. Bell, and other prizes went to L.A.C. Gill and Miss Leece, Pte. Ward (D.L.I.) and Miss Goodall, and A.B. Davidson and Mrs. Nicholson.

Introduced by Mr. J. R. Williams, the Mayor warmly welcomed the returned prisoners and thanked them and the Services personnel for all they had done for the country.

A HUGE BONFIRE

The day finished literally in a blaze of glory when the Mayor lighted the great bonfire before a big crowd which had gathered on Arrowthwaite Brows. Over 30ft. in diameter and of like height, it was an inspiring sight and was still burning the following morning. Fireworks added to the festivities, and the hospital was lit up by the attractive red, white and blue "V" which shone so splendidly from the roof on V.E. Day 1. In the town a quiet contrast was found in the beautiful flood-lighting of St. Nicholas' Church, whose silvered entrance and clock tower stood out like an immense wood-cut against the black background of the night.

June 1945

After years of quiet darkness people were able to enjoy the brightly lit bonfires and firework displays that were organised.

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8 oz. Hindhaugs Self-Raising Flour,
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Lightly work all suet into the flour and salt. Add water, a little at a time, and mix to a stiff dough. Cut in half, roll out and line basin smoothly inside with half the dough. Almost fill with meat seasoned to taste, add cold water and cover top with remaining dough. Join by damping edges and pressing together.

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MEAT YOUR VEGETABLES



AN IMPRESSIVE PARADE

Egremont Thanksgiving Service

There have been many big parades at Egremont during the war years, but none of them surpassed in size or impressiveness that of Sunday, when some hundreds of people paraded through the town for a service of thanksgiving for the European victory. The parade was marshalled at North Road by Sergt. W. A. Howe and was headed by the Egremont Home Guard Band. Although the Home Guard has been officially "stood down," many members had carefully preserved their uniforms and the smart turn-out in large numbers was one of the chief features of the day.

The Services were led by a company of the Royal Armoured Corps followed by the Police and Special Constables, the Air Training Corps, Home Guard, British Legion, Egremont Town Band, the National Fire Service, Women's Junior Air Corps, Civil Defence Units, Guides and Brownies, Women's Land Army and Women's Voluntary Services with representatives of other movements in the town.

Particularly pleasing was the appearance of returned prisoners of war. This was the first opportunity most of them have had to take part in a Services parade in Egremont and their smartness and general appearance gave as great pleasure to the townsfolk as they themselves obviously felt in parading.

At the Parish Church, the parade was welcomed by members of the Parish Council. So crowded was the church that some of the congregation had to stand throughout the service.

The form of service was that being used simultaneously in churches throughout the country as well as at St. Paul's Cathedral. The clergy were the Rev. W. J. Bucks (Rector), the Rev. F. A. Payne (Methodist minister), and the Rev. J. A. Shaw (curate of Bigrigg). The address was given by the Rector, and a collection was taken for a fund which has as its object the rebuilding of the blitzed churches of Europe.

Egremont

Flags and bunting, which first made their appearance in Egremont during the Boer War, were amongst the decorations which gave the town a real festive appearance on Tuesday. One flag actually bore a picture of Lord Roberts and many parents had difficulty in remembering sufficient about "Bobs" to answer the children's questions. Whilst the whole town was gay with the Allied flags, including some hastily contrived red banners with the hammer and sickle, it was in the back streets that the most profuse and original displays were to be seen.

Festivities started early on Tuesday morning when a large party of girls returning from a factory paraded the Main Street lustily singing "All's Well, Mademoiselle." In the afternoon impromptu dances were held in the streets. Towards evening the pace quickened and gay, laughing, singing crowds made their way through the town in a real spirit of celebration.

The lights did not go up, with three notable exceptions—the Electric Shop, Mr. W. Smith's radio shop, and Mr. T. Herd's neon display in South Street. The greatest blaze was from the display of neon lighting arranged by Mr. Smith, whose shop windows were fully illuminated with a huge "V" sign in neon lighting as the centre-piece. A large crowd of people gathered there towards midnight to gaze at the lights. As the clocks struck midnight the crowd sang the National Anthem, gave cheers for the King—and then stood gazing at the lights.

10 May 1945

The Board of Trade announced that people could purchase red, white and blue bunting without using ration coupons so that streets and houses could be decorated with colourful flags and bunting.



VICTORY CELEBRATIONS

A Distington Dispute

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "NEWS"]

Sir,—We wish to draw attention to the public dissatisfaction in Distington regarding the inactivity of the Parish Council in organising some official VE Day celebration and the obstructive attitude of the Council now that the inhabitants have taken the matter into their own hands and appointed their own committee to organise a Celebration Fund. Any celebration to have any meaning must be held as soon as possible after the event it commemorates, and other districts have already held their VE celebrations. As the Chairman of the Distington Parish Council has thought fit to warn the public, by notices displayed in the village, against the activities of the committee, we consider that the facts of the dispute should be brought to public notice, and we are content that the public should decide which body, our committee or the Parish Council, has been the more public-spirited.

After a fortnight had passed from VE Day and the Parish Council had given no sign that it was aware of the fact or the need for a public celebration, a public meeting was called on May 24. A deputation was sent to see the Clerk to the Council and from him it was learnt that a grant from the rates could be authorised for a celebration day, but that the Council had taken no action up to then. This was reported to a second public meeting on May 27, when it was decided to go ahead and a committee of 20 residents was appointed. We made a last attempt to arouse the interest of the Council and approached the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, but we met with obstruction and were informed that no particulars could be given until after June 11, the date of the next Council meeting.

Our committee, therefore, proceeded to make its own arrangement; a house-to-house collection was organised after authority had been obtained in the proper manner from the Chief Constable, circulars were sent to other organisations appealing for support, and arrangements made for other means of raising funds. We were gratified by the ready public response and we have already raised about £50.

Presumably it was the very success of our efforts which aroused the active opposition of the Chairman of the Council, for, after the house-to-house collection, notices above his name appeared in Distington "advising" the public that "the collections being made are unofficial and without the authority of the Parish Council" and letters were sent in similar terms to the organisations we had approached.

If the Council is incapable of organising a celebration itself, it might at least refrain from interfering with the public-spirited efforts of others. Finally, we wish to make public the objects of our committee. We propose to give a tea and field day, with sports, to all the children up to school-leaving age in Distington. If funds permit, we hope that every child will receive a souvenir. There are 700 children in Distington so that we need all the support we can have—and we feel sure the public will respond gladly and will make their contributions a thank-offering for victory.—Yours, &c.,
JOSEPH MESSENGER (chairman),
JOHN BARNES (secretary),
Distington Children's VE Day
Celebration Fund.

Those Parish Councils who failed to organise any events found themselves under attack by residents who were quick to take matters into their own hands.

Distington V.E. Celebrations

The Distington V.E. celebrations were held recently during heavy rain. Maryport Silver Band headed a procession and tea was served in the H.D.A. canteen. Mrs. J. Singleton performed the opening ceremony. A baby show was held with the judges Mrs. Singleton, Nurse Thompson, and Nurse Styler. Their awards were:—

Six months old: 1. Baby Smethurst; 2. Baby Dickenson; 3. Baby Wilkinson. Six to nine months: 1. Baby Messenger; 2. Baby Canfield; 3. Baby Simpson. 10 to 18 months: 1. Baby Percival; 2. Baby Phillips; 3. Baby Palfreyman. Twins: Babies Hudson and Palfreyman.

Procession awards, judged by Mrs. Warren, Mrs. McSherry, and Mr. Caterer. Humorous: 1. Joseph Burns; 2. W. Messenger; 3. Ronald Taylor. Original: 1. Joan Manduell; 2. Ken Iredale; 3. Joyce McLean. Novel: 1. Jean Hope; 2. J. Hunter; 3. Margaret Corsfield. Best dressed lorry: 1. Frank Coates (Girl Guides camp fire); 2. Mesdames Morrison and Murray (Britannia); special, Ernest Lamb (Soldier's last request). Best dressed horse: Mr. Anderson, Prospect. Best dressed horse and cart: Mr. Cowan.

All the children received a gift of a shilling and free ice cream, tea, and donkey rides. The sports were postponed until the summer holidays.

14 June 1945

19 July 1945



DISTINGTON

Once again flags and bunting were well to the fore and in the evening a dance was held in the Enterprise Hall, the money raised being given to the A.T.S. Several bonfires were lit at night. The church was crowded for Sunday's thanksgiving service at which were represented the Girl Guides, under Miss D. Hodgson and Miss Pattinson, and the Men's and Women's Sections of the British Legion. Mr. T. Crook-dake read the Lesson and the address was given by the Rev. C. J. Warren. The organist was Mr. J. Michinson.

17 May 1945

CLEATOR MOOR CELEBRATION.—

A V.E.-Day celebration for Keir Hardie and Robert Owen Avenues, Cleator Moor, organised by Mesdames Howland, Pearson, Cox, and Watson, proved a great success. 100 adults were entertained to a splendid tea, and 150 children received minerals and a bag containing cakes and sweets. Those waiting on were Mesdames Sullivan, Bennett, Curnow, Kelly, McGlennon, McCarten, Walsh, Agnew, Rowe, and Burns. Finally a dance was held to music by Mr. F. Adair.

12 July 1945

Pica

Haile V.E. Celebrations

On Thursday evening, to celebrate victory in Europe, Major General Sir John and Lady Ponsonby, of Haile Hall, held a party to which they invited the people of Haile and Wilton. The party was held in the fine old banqueting hall. Over 200 guests were present and were personally welcomed by Sir John and Lady Ponsonby.

The party commenced with a whist drive for which Mr. J. S. Noble was M.C. More than 60 players took part, and Lady Ponsonby presented prizes to Mrs. E. Holliday, Miss S. Beaty, Mrs. T. Trohear, Messrs. H. Kirkby, C. F. Wightman, J. Bowes, H. Poole, and J. J. Lamb.

Mr. J. S. Dixon's band played a lively dance programme, Sir John Ponsonby and Miss Robley leading off the dance.

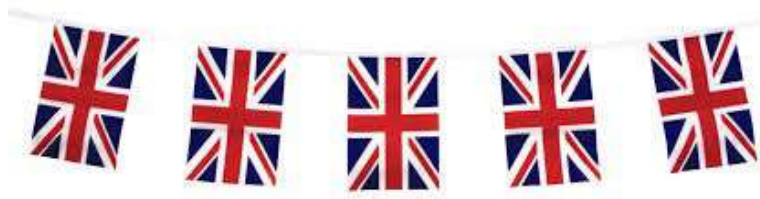
A splendid supper was provided and in addition the guests were treated to ices and liquid refreshments at intervals throughout the dance.

This is the first occasion since pre-war days that a whist drive and dance has been held in Haile and all the company thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

12 July 1945

The end of the Prime Minister's broadcast on Tuesday afternoon was the signal for celebrations to begin in a beflagged village. A small procession was headed by Mr. T. Leece, senior, as General Eisenhower; Mr. G. Graham, Churchill; Mrs. W. Porter, Field-Marshal Montgomery; Miss J. W. Porter, Field-Marshal Alexander; Miss J. McDonald, General Clark, and Miss E. E. Porter, General Patton. An effigy of Hitler was carried by Mrs. Graham and Mrs. W. Porter. A dance held in the Miners' Welfare Hall in the evening was crowded. Lively music was played by the Silver Stars Band. The stewards were Messrs. R. Heslop and F. Branthwaite and Mr. W. Porter, senior, was the M.C. A vocal item was given by Mr. H. Semple. The proceeds went to the comforts fund and the arrangements were carried out by the committee of the newly-formed Pica Social Service Club with S. Roper as treasurer, W. Porter as secretary, and F. Branthwaite as chairman. A huge bonfire, built by Messrs. S. Metherell and S. Foster, assisted by the schoolchildren, was lit after the dance and Hitler's "remains" were burnt. The Comforts Fund Committee has sent to each local boy and girl in the Forces a victory gift of 10s. A thanksgiving service held in Dyon Council School on Thursday was well attended. The villagers are now making efforts to have placed in the village school a suitable memorial to all who have fallen both in this war and the last.

17 May 1945



To prolong the festivities pubs were given extended licences. Local schools were also closed for the day so that children could participate in the events. Hensingham School and St James' School celebrated with a special tea and sports.

June 4th. School closed all day today for the 3rd day of the Victory Holiday. Community Songs were sung by all the school children in the Castle Park in the morning. In the afternoon we had Sports + Games in the yard - followed by tea. His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Harrison, + the Mayoress, and Mr. + Mrs. Chet (deputy Town Clerk) visited us in the afternoon. The Mayor spoke to the children, who, in reply, gave him three rousing cheers.

Hensingham Infant School log book
(ref: YDS 16/3)

Monday, June 4th 1945
The Ennerdale Rural District
187
Council has arranged that special V.E.-Day Celebrations shall be held on Monday June 4th. The Council asks that schools in its area shall be closed for this day to enable school children to participate in the celebrations, & I have no doubt that the Managers will wish to concur in this arrangement.
The time is short & I am communicating both with the headteachers & the correspondents at the same time, together with the canteen organisers.
(Signed) G. B. Brown.

Cleator Council School log book (ref: YDS 4/10)

June 1st. I have received a letter from the Director of Education saying that as the Ennerdale R.D.C. has arranged that special V.E.-day celebrations shall be held on Monday, June 4th the schools in the area shall be closed for the day.

Keekle School log book (ref: YDS 22/2)

4 June '45. School closed all the day at the request of the Whitehaven Corporation who wished to treat the scholars to a tea + sports — a victory effort!

St James' School log book (ref: YDS 82/1/5)



ARLECDON CELEBRATIONS. — To celebrate V.E., Arlecdon children were entertained to tea and sports. St. Paul's Band played selections. Each child received 3d for ice cream. The ladies serving were Mesdames G. Walker, H. Adams, J. Wilson, I. Huddart, I. Stainton, J. Gilmore, H. Pritt, J. Dale, L. Ballance, W. Kirkbride, Vickers, Merritt, Bewley, Miss Kelly, and Miss Hume. At a free dance music was by the Golden Echoes Band. Mr. I. Fitzwilliams was M.C. First prize winners in the sports were W. Blackburn, J. Wannop, M. Hodgson, N. Troughton, T. Clark, G. Sisson, H. Martin, T. Clark, T. A. Hodgson, J. Hellon, A. Irving, E. Hullican, J. Casson, N. Irving, A. Christopherson. Winners of women's races: M. Dockwray, Mrs. Bewley, and Mrs. Watson; Youths: W. Blackburn; Married Men's Race: T. Huddart. In charge of the sports were Mrs. Bewley, Miss Kelly, Miss Hume, Messrs. G. Walker, T. Huddart, L. Ballance, J. Percival, E. Holywell, W. Kirkbride, J. P. Kirkbride, A. S. Huddart, T. Stephenson, and J. Gilmore.

July 1945

Frizington

In Frizington and district every house had its display of bunting and streamers. In the morning Masters Aubrey Jackson and Thomas Garner paraded the streets with an effigy of Hitler, which was burnt on the bonfire at night. In the afternoon a procession, led by St. Paul's Band, under Mr. J. Moore, included dancers from the various schools, with other children singing popular war-time tunes. Preceding the procession were Messrs. Davidson and Watson in the characters of Mr. and Mrs. Churchill.

In the evening all the churches held special services, which were well attended.

A dance was held in the Masonic Hall to music by the Golden Echoes Band. The proceeds go to the local comforts fund.

10 May 1945

MILLOM CELEBRATIONS

Fun in the Streets

At Millom on VE-Day there were packed congregations at all the churches, and the Salvation Army conducted a thanksgiving service in the Market Square led by Major Mannouch. The Revs. T. J. Evans and E. Hirst also took part. The Free Churches held a united service at Queen Street Methodist Church.

The Holborn Hill Royal Band paraded the gaily decorated streets at night, returning to the Square for open-air dancing. Bonfires were lit and fireworks let off.

On Wednesday the residents of Cleator Street, Holborn Hill, held a successful victory party, when the generosity of the residents provided a well-stocked tea table. Sports for both children and adults were followed by community singing, games, and dancing.

On Thursday the children of Nelson Street were entertained to tea by the residents in the Y.W.C.A. Rooms, and the evening was spent in games and dancing. Tea tables were erected in the centre of Millom Road the same afternoon and decorated with flowers and laden with good things. Sports were held, followed by games and dancing.

Lord Street, the most gaily decorated street in the town, organised sports for the children, followed by a tea in the Y.W.C.A. Rooms for about 100 children. Games and dancing followed. Mrs. Harris and a committee made the arrangements.

The residents of Lonsdale Road and Earl Street combined for their celebration. A parade was led by Flight Sergt. Colin B. Armstrong, a returned prisoner of war, and the Bugle Band of Squadron 471 Millom A.T.C. Children's sports were organised by Mr. W. H. Dawson (secretary), with Mr. A. Warrener (treasurer), and a committee.

One hundred and sixty children were provided with bags of confectionery and cups of tea. Flight-Sergt. Armstrong was presented with a gift of £6 subscribed by the neighbours. Community singing, dancing, games, and fireworks ended a memorable day.

17 May 1945



V.E.-DAY

Celebrations in the Villages

At Moor Row and Scalegill there was a fine display of flags and bunting on every house. On Tuesday special thanksgiving services were held. Mr. H. C. Wright, Whitehaven, conducted the service in Scalegill Methodist Church and the Rev. W. J. Bucks officiated at St. John's Church, Big-rigg. On Wednesday over 60 children took part in a colourful fancy dress parade. A collection raised over £6 for the W.V.S. Home-coming Fund. The children also enjoyed a picnic and dance in Mr. J. Blair's field. In the evening 170 adults spent an enjoyable time in games and dancing in the Infants' School. Mr. R. Jackson was the M.C., Mrs. Barlow the pianist, and Messrs. T. Beattie and J. Berryman the stewards. The proceeds went to the W.V.S. Home-coming Fund and the Soldiers' Comforts Fund. Celebrations were continued on Saturday, when Scalegill children again paraded in fancy dress. After the kiddies had tea and also received a well-filled bag and a threepenny piece. Sports were held at night and then a dance, followed by fireworks. Mrs. Postlethwaite was the pianist for the Scalegill dance.

17 May 1945

WHITEHAVEN AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

Termination of Hostilities in Europe
THIRD DAY OF CELEBRATIONS (V.E. 3)

At the Request of the Town Council

Business Premises will be Closed

ON MONDAY, JUNE 4th, 1945

FRED CARR AND WILLIAM PATTINSON,
Joint Hon. Secretaries.

c2840

31 May 1945

V.E. (3) Day at Moor Row

Organised by the Moor Row and Scalegill Comforts Fund these celebrations were held at Moor Row. Through the generosity of the inhabitants, all the children were given a free tea and 3d each. Afterwards sports were held for children and adults.

For a baby show the judge was Nurse McIntyre, Galemire Hospital. Results.—Up to nine months: 1, Anne Sharpe; 2, Margaret Savage. Up to 18 months: 1, Colin Sharpe; 2, Yvonne Smith. Ankle show: 1, Mrs. Porter; 2, Miss L. Ross. The Ladies' Committee was under the supervision of Mrs. H. Simpson and Miss S. Laidlow; Mr. J. Kilburn was the starter, and Mr. J. Sharpe the steward for the sports, and all of the arrangements were under the supervision of Mr. J. Inglemell (chairman) and Mr. J. Kilburn (secretary).

A dance was held in the evening outside the Station Hotel, Mrs. Postlethwaite being the pianist. A waltzing competition for children was won by Len Smith and Dorothy Fletcher; musical chairs were won by Rosemary Forrester and Elizabeth Johnson; a spot waltz by Gladys Armstrong and Ann Tolson; musical mat by Tony Wills and G. Benson, and a waltzing competition for adults by Mr. J. Trodden and Mrs. J. Kilburn. The judges were Mr. Inglemell and Mrs. Hargreaves.

At the dance Mr. Kilburn presented, on behalf of the Comforts Fund, a cheque for £5 to L./Cpl. W. Dickinson, of the R.A.S.C., who was a prisoner in Germany for nearly five years. The recipient, who received a rousing reception from the crowd, thanked the committee and the villagers and made special reference to what the Red Cross had done for prisoners.

June 1945



COMFORTS FUND

Cigarettes Arrived on V.E.-Day

Men serving with the B.L.A. have sent letters this week acknowledging gifts received on VE-Day, and pay tribute to the fund for allowing them to enjoy a "blighty" cigarette on this momentous occasion. Pte. J. McDowell, Pioneer Corps, B.L.A., writes: "Your very handsome gift of cigarettes came to me on VE-Day, and I can tell you we have all enjoyed a good smoke. The boys here from other counties can't understand how I get these presents, as they never get any. But, as I told them, they don't know the good old Cumbrian tradition. It makes Cumberland men proud of you all, and we will never forget the goodness of the 'News' Comforts Fund."

Others who have sent their thanks are: Pte. H. Hanlon, P.C., B.L.A.; Sergt. N. Wise, R.A.F.; Pte. B. Smith, A.T.S.; Pte. W. Aitcheson, B.L.A.; L./Cpl. R. W. Mandell, M.E.F.; L.A.C. J. H. Lindow; L.A.C. J. Lyons, S.E.A.A.F.; Cpl. W. D. Gill, R.A.O.C., B.L.A.; J. Cowler, C.M.P., B.L.A.; B.S.M. T. Hagan, S.E.A.C.; Tpr. S. Tighe, R.A.C., B.L.A.; Gnr. Stanborough, R.A., B.L.A.; Pte. W. Brannon, R.E., B.L.A.; Pte. J. G. Middleton, R.A.S.C., B.L.A.; Pte. J. Hayhoe, B.L.A.; Cpl. A. E. Wallis, C.M.F.; Miss M. Hannah, N.A.A.F.I.; L.A.C.W. H. Anderson; A./B. J. Glaister; Pte. C. Tremble, King's Own Royal Regt., India; Miss L. Abernethy, N.A.A.F.I.; P./O. Wtr. F. Thompson, R.N.; Pte. M. Armstrong, A.T.S.; Wren M. C. Bullock; Pte. F. E. Woolger, A.T.S.; A./B. S. Wilson; Spr. Mitchinson, B.L.A.; Pte. J. Elliott, Border Regt., S.E.A.C.; Cpl. Telford, R.A.F.; Tpr. Dougan, B.L.A.; Sergt. F. Atkinson, A.T.S.; Miss A. Alcock, N.A.A.F.I.; Cpl. M. Brickle, W.A.A.F.; A./B. D. A. Southam; Ldg. Stö. E. Wright; Pte. J. Rathbone, P.C., B.L.A.; Pte. J. J. Cameron, R.E.M.E., B.L.A.; A./B. R. Burney, and Pte. T. Burney, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, B.L.A.

17 May 1945

This newsletter has been put together using archives and articles from the *Whitehaven News* held at Whitehaven Archive and Local Studies Centre.

Like Winston Churchill, King George VI also gave a radio address. In it, he praised his subjects' endurance and called for a lasting peace. He also paid tribute to those who could not join in the celebrations, saying, 'Let us remember those who will not come back.....let us remember the men in all the Services, and the women in all the Services, who have laid down their lives. We have come to the end of our tribulation and they are not with us at the moment of our rejoicing.'

[Form I]

THANKSGIVING FOR VICTORY ORDER OF SERVICE 1945

5 The Clergy and choir having taken their places, the congregation shall stand and sing the first verse of

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King!

5 The congregation still standing, the Minister shall say

THE BIDDING

BRETHREN, we are met together on this day to pour out our hearts in fervent thanksgiving to the God and Father of us all, and to dedicate ourselves afresh to the service of his Kingdom. We desire to thank him for deliverance from the hand of our enemies; for the devotion, even to death, of those who for the five years past have stood between us and slavery; and for the hopes of a better world for all his people. I bid you, therefore, lift up your hearts that you may tell the praises of our God, and pray that his wisdom may lead us, and his Spirit strengthen us, in the days that are to come.

Minister Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us:

People but unto thy Name give the praise.

Minister The Lord hath done great things for us already:

People whereof we rejoice.

Minister Praise the Lord, O my soul:

People and forget not all his benefits.

HYMN

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
To his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore his praises sing.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King.
Praise him for his grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise him still the same for ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely yet his mercy flows.
Angels help us to adore him;
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him;
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace.

5 Then shall the Minister say,

Now bless the Lord your God.

5 Then, the congregation having knelt down, shall be said

THE THANKSGIVINGS

Minister We give thanks to thee, O Lord our Father:

For the call to do battle for the right,

For the unity of nation and empire,

For the maintenance of faith and hope in the darkest days,

People We thank thee, O Lord.

Nether Wasdale Parish Thanksgiving
for Victory Order of Service
(ref: YPR 20/14)