



# V.E. Day

Pay attention there are some questions at the end.



On 8<sup>th</sup> of May William Churchill (the Prime Minister) made a speech to Great Britain announcing the end of the war in Europe beginning.

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“My dear friends, this is your hour. This is not victory of a party or of any class. It’s a victory of the Great British nation as a whole. We were the first, in this ancient island, to draw the sword against tyranny. After a while we were left all alone against the most tremendous military power that has ever been seen. We were all alone in this for a whole year.”

V.E. Day is short for victory in Europe day.

The king at the time was King George VI Father of our current queen Elizabeth II.

Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret joined the crowd who were cheering and singing.

The royal family had EIGHT balcony appearances.

Germany officially surrendered at 2:41 on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

Churchill said

"We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing; but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead. Japan with all her treachery and greed, remains unsubdued."

V.J. Day (victory over Japan day) 2020 is 15<sup>th</sup> August. This was the authorised end of ww11. Japan admitted defeat 2<sup>nd</sup> September.



At 21:00 King George made a final broadcast to the nation. Buckingham Palace was lit up with flood lights for the first time since 1939 (the first year of the war) and two search lights formed the letter V, the sign of peace, above St Paul's cathedral.





In Britain, during the war in Europe, half a million homes were destroyed, thousands of civilians killed and millions of lives disrupted. So on V.E. Day although everyone was relieved that the war in Europe had ended. Those lost to fighting abroad or air raids and those alive but captured by the enemy were deeply mourned and missed.



Question Time!!!!

Get a pen and paper

1. Who was the king at the time?
2. Who was the Prime Minister?
3. When did Germany officially surrender?
4. What are V.E. Day and V.J. Day short for?
5. When is V.J. Day 2020?