

VE-DAY!

PUBLIC HOLIDAY TODAY AND TOMORROW—OFFICIAL

Czechs flown from Britain to save Prague

Soon after a Czech Spitfire squadron left Britain for Czechoslovakia yesterday large formations carrying Czechoslovak ground troops also took off for home—and the battle for the liberation of Prague. The commander, before leaving, said, "This is the greatest day of my life."

IN a final burst of fiendishness, S.S. troops in Prague last night were firing the last shots of the war on helpless Czech civilians.

S.S. men went through the streets driving people out of their homes as other S.S. troops waited to mow them down with machine-guns.

So bad has been the conduct of the German troops that the Wehrmacht commander of the area broadcast a warning to his men to respect international law.

"Some breaches," he actually admitted, had occurred. But earlier he had announced that he did not recognise what he described as the "armistice."

"German troops will continue to fight until they have secured a free passage out of the country," he added. According to refugees who

have reached Pilsen the S.S. men, knowing that they will be executed when caught, have abandoned all normal conduct.

Another Prague broadcast reached Czechoslovak circles in London yesterday. It was an SOS from the Czechs pleading for speedy Allied help and asking "send us aircraft."

It spoke of heavy fighting in the streets, said the Germans were throwing hand grenades at houses showing Czechoslovak flags and reported the bombing by German planes of broadcasting house and other public buildings.

Meanwhile Patton's famous Fourth Armoured Division is speeding towards the capital and last night was reported to be fifteen miles south of the city.

War winners may broadcast today

The Prime Minister will broadcast at 3 p.m. today.

It is probable that later in the afternoon General Eisenhower, Field-Marshal Montgomery and Field-Marshal Alexander will also speak over the radio to the Allied world.

At 9 p.m. the King will broadcast.

SPAIN BREAKS WITH GERMANY

Spain has severed diplomatic relations with Germany, it is officially announced in Madrid.

Goebbels and his family are found, poisoned

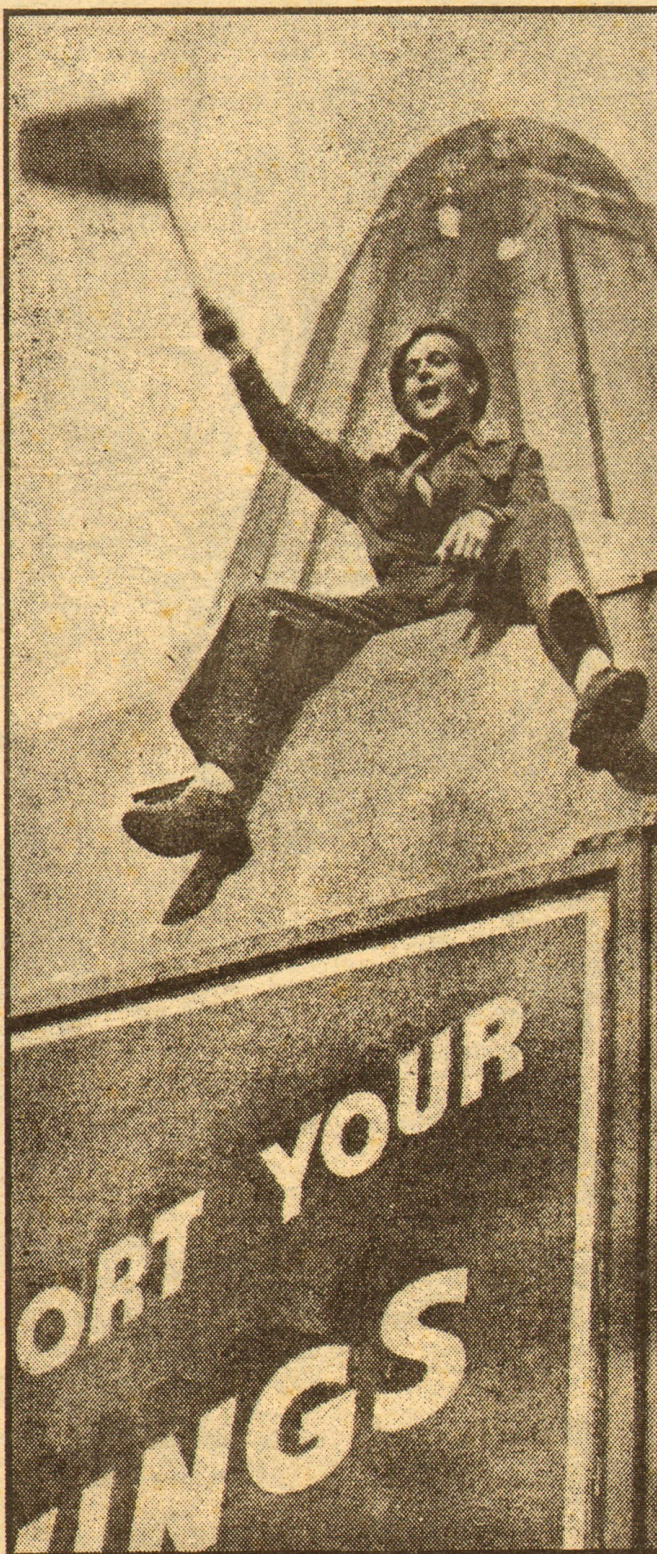
DISCOVERY has been made in Berlin of the bodies of Dr. Goebbels, his wife, and their six children.

They were found by the Russians. All had taken poison and this was the cause of death.

Hitler's body has not been discovered and neither has the body of Goering.

There is now some speculation as to whether, after all, the Fuehrer and Goering may not have fled to a place of hiding.

It is pointed out, however, that their bodies may have been burned and the ashes lost in the wreckage of the burning Chancellery, or some other of Berlin's destroyed buildings.



***On top of the world** In the heart of London* an Allied soldier — he climbed the Eros statue in London's Piccadilly — gets just as high as he can to celebrate the lifting of the shadow from Europe.

Celebrations delay due to a 'technicality'

By BILL GREIG

THIS IS VE-DAY. AFTER FIVE YEARS, EIGHT MONTHS AND FOUR DAYS OF THE BLOODIEST WAR IN HISTORY BRITAIN AND HER ALLIES HAVE GAINED VICTORY IN EUROPE.

Capitulation of Germany to the Allies was announced by Doenitz yesterday—but a mere technicality in the arrangements made with Russia and America delayed the British people's celebration.

One result of the delay is that Britain's workers get two clear days' holiday—today and tomorrow. This Cabinet decision was disclosed last night.

Spend VE in camp, CO's say

"Daily Mirror" Reporter
COMMANDING officers of Army and RAF camps all over Britain told their men yesterday: "Spend VE-Day how you will, but PLEASE spend it in camp."

Thanksgiving services, concerts and later "closing time" for the canteen and sergeants' and officers' mess bars were some of the arrangements to persuade the men to stay in camp.

At an operational station near London the *Daily Mirror* was told by the Station Commander: "I have a lot of Australian air-crews here and they don't think VE day means the war is over as far as they are concerned. They've volunteered to forgo celebrations to do any odd job that comes up. German prisoners of war have erected victory flag-poles at Catterick camp in North Yorkshire."

Originally it was intended that the first day's holiday would not begin until the Prime Minister had spoken.

The announcement late last night that today will be VE-Day was the final act in a bewildering day following the German surrender.

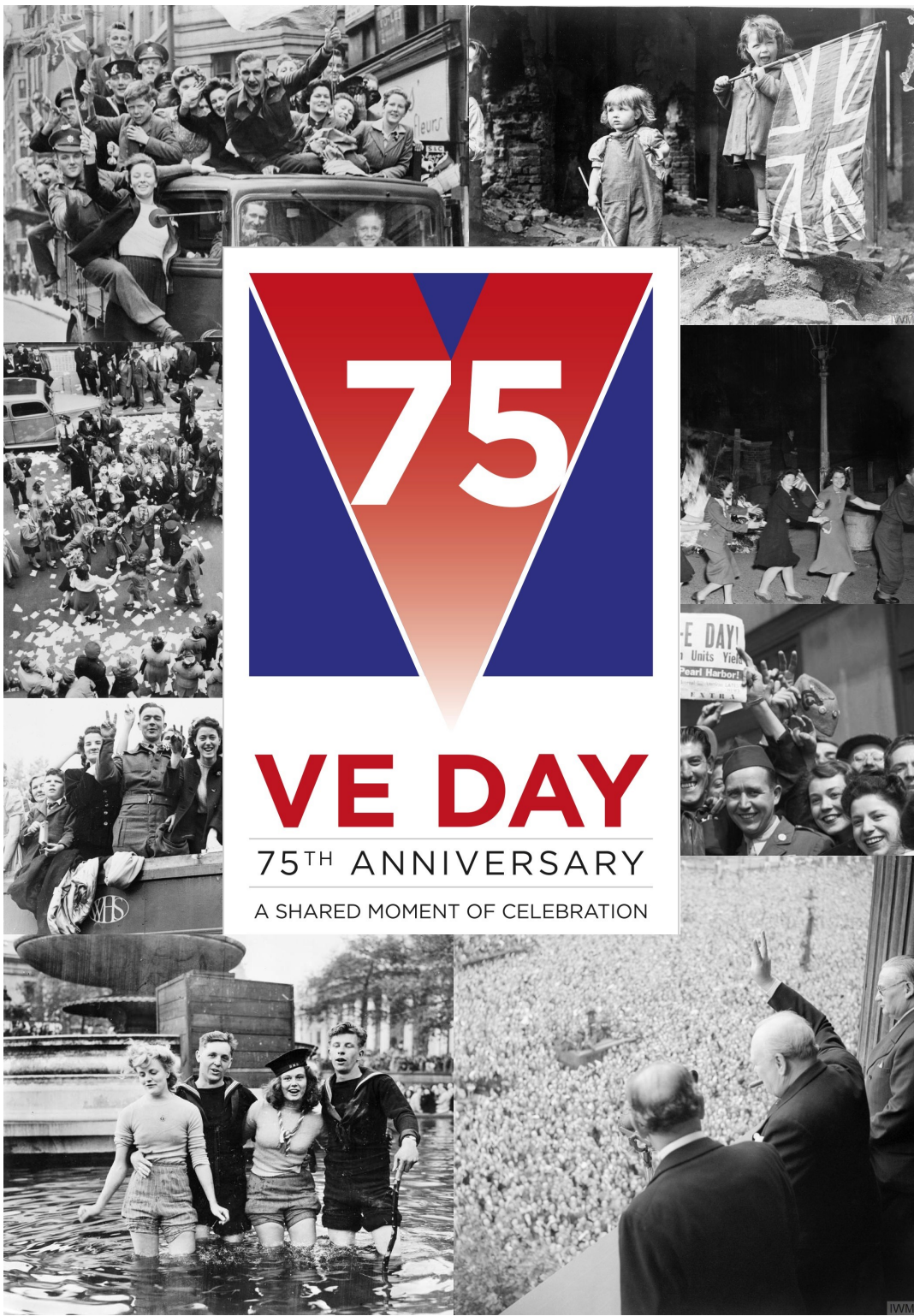
The people thronged out into the streets all over the country. In London there were thousands in Whitehall outside Downing-street patiently waiting for the word, little aware of the drama taking place inside No 10.

There was chaos and bewilderment where there should have been celebration.

Here is the story of what happened in No. 10. When the news of the German surrender arrived the Prime Minister was ready to broadcast at 4 p.m. Hurried telephone calls were made to Marshal Stalin and President Truman so that the announcement could be made simultaneously.

Then it was that the trouble started. It was found that arrangements already made did not allow for the war ending so suddenly. Mr. Churchill put his broad-

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VE Day in Blackford

The news of Victory in Europe was announced in the morning newspapers of May 8th 1945 as it is today in 2020
In Blackford we will pick up two national plans and events

11:00am Remembrance

We join the national moment of remembrance to pay tribute to heroes of the past and present. Our 2 minute silence starts with the Bell of Hope and will be followed by the pipe tune "Battle's O'er" played by Drew Sinclair. Current and ex-service personnel or key workers may wish to wear uniforms or caps.

This will be shared through the Church Bell Tower speakers and live on the Blackford Cares Facebook Group. Many of the village have stood safely at a distance three times this past fortnight to pay respects. You may choose to be present near the church where the Bell and pipes will be played, or to take in the silence at the War Memorial or to mark it at home.

3:00pm Celebration

The Last Post and an edited version of Winston Churchill's victory speech will be played through the Church Bell Tower.

Join with your drink of choice from your home, door step or street as the nation toasts to the Heroes of WWII, using the suggested toast "To those who gave so much, we thank you."

Continue your virtual Street Party with music, food and drink.

It's been tricky to get some clarity on planned timings and content of the day as national circumstances have changed. Hopefully this helps you mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day in your own way.



Legion Scotland are working in partnership with the Scottish Government and Poppyscotland to celebrate and commemorate this important milestone in our nation's history. They will deliver a virtual Service of Remembrance and VE Day concert and tributes from 10:35am to 1:00pm through their Facebook channel facebook.com/LegionScotland



10:55am The Nation Remembers
2:45pm The Announcement of Victory
8:00pm The People's Celebration
9:00pm Message from HM The Queen



Search "**Horrible Histories, Heroic Home Front**" on the BBC website for various ways to learn about today's significance including a VE Day song, a quiz, When American GIs came to Britain and The RAF Pilots—The Few Song.



VE Day 75 Celebrations Play list on Spotify

A compilation of classic wartime hits for you to help celebrate VE Day in style at a virtual street party. (e.g. Joe Loss, Vera Lynn, Harry Lauder, Fred Astaire)

Captain Tom's War, 8:00pm, STV

Britain's new national treasure will tell the story of his part in WWII having fought in "the forgotten war" in Burma.



poppyscotland.org.uk/get-involved/ve75

ve-viday75.gov.uk/plan-your-ve-day-party

goodtoknow.co.uk/family/ve-day-celebrations-in-lockdown-540015



Blackford Cares

for Blackford residents to support each other during COVID-19



Unmentioned in Despatches

Some of them never come home to fanfares,
they dump their kit-bags down at the door,
kiss their wives and let their children
wrestle them down to the kitchen floor;
switch the telly on, pour out a whiskey,
search for the local football score.

Some of them skip the quayside welcome,
dodge the bunting and cannonade,
make their landfall in silent harbours,
nod to the coastguard, but evade
the searchlight of public scrutiny
like those engaged in the smuggling trade.

Some of them land at lonely airfields
far removed from the celebration,
hang their flying gear in a locker,
cadge a lift to the railway station,
make for home and take for granted
the short-lived thanks of a grateful nation.

Some of them miss the royal salute,
the victory parade along the Mall,
the fly-past, the ships in formation passing
the cheering crowds on the harbour wall.
Remembered only by friends and relatives,
some of them never come home at all.

Poet: Peter Wyton

