

ELLESMERE PORT PIONEER

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Three Halfpence

How The Town Celebrated

VE Day

BON-FIRES AND ILLUMINATIONS

STREET PARTIES

LIKE the war itself, Ellesmere Port's VE celebrations on Tuesday got off to a comparatively slow start but rose in a crescendo of combined effort to a triumphant conclusion.

Rather than hilarious merry-making, however, there was a dignified restraint which at once fittingly marked a glorious victory and held respect for those who gave their all to bring it about yet did not return to rejoice.

The victory atmosphere was "unsettled" on Monday, as unconfirmed reports of Germany's unconditional surrender constituted the main topic of conversation. The more optimistic chose to believe German broadcasts for at least once, while the more cautious hoped for the truth of these reports but awaited the official announcement which seemed an uncountable time in coming.

But it was clear that after more than five long years the end could not long be delayed, so that that special spirit of preparation born of war-time again asserted itself and there was a rush on the food shops. By 5 o'clock all the bread had been bought up, although the bakers intended to see, and carried it out, that there should be no shortage over the two days' holiday.

Expectancy, too, led to the commencement of street decorations, a pleasurable task in which many more people hurriedly joined when it was announced that Tuesday would be observed as VE Day.

Whitby

VE HOSPITAL COLLECTION

Large crowds attracted to Messrs. Offley Bros'. decorated and illuminatel premises for VE-night dancing so enjoyed themselves that they asked for a repeat programme on Wednesday.

This was agreed to, and to express their appreciation the dancers contributed £11.0s.2d, in collections for the Distriet Hospital

EPL&FHS

Ellesmere Port Local and Family History Society



Severndale



Thamesdale

P.O.W. GUEST OF HONOUR

Celebrations have not concluded even yet. Stoke-road residents are to have their street tea party on Whit Monday, when the guest of honour will be Private A. Thomas, who recently returned home after being a prisoner of war for nearly five years. Other prisoners of war from adjacent streets will also be invited to the party.



Arthur Avenue



ARTHUR AVENUE V.E. DAY

Ashfield Road



Exeter Road



Lime Street





Livingstone Road



Off Merseyton Road



VE NIGHT IN OVERPOOL

(contributed).

Overpool set the pace for celebration on VE night. As in most streets, the children arranged for a bon-fire and the chance to burn Hitler in effigy.

The day passed with Sabbath-like restraint until the bon-fire was lighted, surrounded by rather puzzled and excited youngsters, many of whom were too young to have seen a bon-fire previously.

At this stage of the proceedings Mrs Spivey was induced to encourage the children in community singing, although the children needed very little encouragement.

With the aid of Mr. S. Jones, Mrs. Sorenson, Mr. Davies and Mr. Burgess things began to liven up considerably, while the rockets discharged by one of the neighbours roused some hearty cheers. It was not long before a procession was formed, making its way round the estate, growing bigger and bigger all the while.

On returning to the now diminished fire we all took part in community singing. Mr. Frank Williams enabled us to start dancing by broadcasting records from his radiogram. Mr. Catterall was heartily applauded for his welcome interlude with his piano accordion, while the solo "Jerusalem" was ably rendered by Master Kenny Popper.

Mr. Manley provided the climax to a riotous evening by relaying dance records from his radio stores.

Although we "let ourselves go," we all had a spot in our hearts for those who are in the different theatres of war, especially our fellows in Burma. Overpool showed its appreciation to its sons, husbands, brothers and sweet-hearts with real sincerity.

OVERPOOL FINALE

A grand finale to VE week was provided by an impromptu dance held in Overpool-road on Saturday evening. The illuminations, arranged by Mr. Perry, greatly added to the success of the evening, and the music was provided by Mr. C. Manley, of Overpool Radio & Electrical Service. Thanks are due to the many neighbours who so kindly loaned records, so many, in fact, that it was not possible to play them all.

RED CROSS DOUBLE-UP

It was announced on Wednesday that if the dancers and spectators would contribute to a collection with a target of £10, a local resident would double the amount. Due to the enthusiasm of the voluntary collectors and the generosity of the crowd, the amount collected totalled £11.7s., so that the Red Cross Fund will receive £22.14s.

Overpool thoroughly enjoyed VE week, for which residents give thanks to those lads who have fought, and are still fighting, so that, in the words of the song, "There'll always be an England."

Straker Avenue





VICTORIA ROAD V.E. DAY

Great Sutton

GREAT SUTTON

Great Sutton residents combined in their celebrations, which commenced with a service at the Parish Church conducted by the Rev. G. H. Bradley. This was followed by a social in the Reading Room, packed to over-flowing, which continued until the early hours of the morning.

On Wednesday afternoon the children had a splendid programme of sports arranged for them by Messrs. Kimber, Clapperton (in whose field they were held), Devon, Lacey, L. Jones, Mason and Deakins. Prizes were provided by residents of the village, who also gave more than enough food for a tea party which the children also thoroughly enjoyed.

It was the adults' turn to enjoy themselves again in the evening with a whist drive and social in the Reading Room.

Whetstone Hey



LITTLE SUTTON

VE celebrations have also continued at Little Sutton with street parties for children and late night dancing for adults, the music being provided by radio-gram. The latest of these events was held at Duddleston-road on Tuesday night, and another street party is due to be held tomorrow. Tea tables have been loaded with delicacies most generously provided by street residents, who have also organised sports for the children. Illuminations have been provided by bon-fires and extended house lighting.

Little Sutton was also well lit up on Tuesday night with bon fires and illuminations, residents congregating round them to indulge in community singing.

On the Unit Estate sports were held for children on Wednesday, and Hawthorne-road, Briardale Estate, children are to have their party tomorrow.

A victory dance was held at the Carlton Cafe on Tuesday night, a large company enjoying a varied programme of social games and dancing directed by Mr. H. Williams.

There was also a large congregation at Hooton Parish Church on Tuesday night for a thanksgiving service conducted by the Rev. F. H. Cooke. Next Sunday morning a large contingent of the R.A.F. will attend the church.



Little Sutton party
At the Carlton Cafe

**Hawthorn Road VE Day party
at the back of Carlton's café**



SUTTON VE PARTY

Children of Hawthorn-road, Little Sutton, had their VE party at the Carlton Cafe on Saturday. There were approximately 100 of them to do justice to a splendid fare provided by Mesdames Stone, Hartley, Dodd and Arthur and a host of willing helpers.

After tea they were entertained with games and singing under the leadership of Mr. F. Parr, of the Briardale Sports Club. On leaving each child received a decorated Victory beaker, filled with sweets, and a metal V badge.

The parents were later entertained with dancing and songs by Master Trevor Ellis, a Briardale boy with a pleasing voice. During the evening Councillor W. P. Cartwright addressed the gathering, congratulating them on the good neighbourly feeling that is always evident at these functions.

It was announced that any surplus money will be donated to the Red Cross.

Mr. Parr was M.C. for dancing, and the music was provided by Joe Hartley's Band.