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The Southern Herald

ONE PENNY

VICTORY IN EUROPE!

By our Current Affairs reporter, Mr. Hugh Bentley.

The streets of London were filled with merry revellers yesterday as the country celebrated Germany's official surrender and the end of the war!

Huge crowds flocked to the capital, with both Trafalgar Square and the Mall filling entirely with cheering people.

'It was like nothing I've ever seen before!' said Mr. Edward Jones, a bank manager from Cheshunt, 'I was here for the King's coronation and even that didn't feel as full as the Mall did today!'

'Some friends of mine who came over from Trafalgar Square told me that Nelson's Column looked like a narrow, tall island in the middle of a sea of people! What a day to be alive!'

Everywhere one looked in the city, red, white and blue could be seen. Bunting, flags, tablecloths; even the clothes of some of London's wealthier women matched the colours of the Union Jack!

The capital has endured such a horrendous six years, bearing the brunt of the Nazis bombing campaign. For Londoners, hearing that the war is finally over has relieved them of year upon year



Prime Minister Churchill waves at crowds in London yesterday, as a national holiday saw thousands flood the city to celebrate the end of the war.

of tension and pressure. London has been worn down, but it has not been crushed! The city and her people had their first taste of true freedom in years yesterday, and the sense of relief could be felt all around the city.

'Oh, thank God it's over,' said Mrs. Judith Groves, breathless from singing a hearty rendition of the national anthem. 'To be able to look at the skies and not have to worry that German planes could arrive at any moment! It's wonderful! I had forgotten what it is like to feel carefree. Oh, it is so sweet!'

Sweet for many, but bittersweet for more. It is estimated that Nazi planes dropped over 18,000 tons of

explosives on our capital city during Hitler's 'Blitz' air raids. With over 30,000 Londoners killed and many more injured during these terrible years, there is barely a person in the capital who is not mourning or caring for a relative, neighbour or friend. At least the people of Britain can now take comfort that no more deaths will come.

When news of Adolf Hitler's death reached British ears at the end of April, hope really began to take root around the country that the war would soon be finished. That hope was finally rewarded yesterday when the Germans formally surrendered in Berlin. They had surrendered in France one day earlier.

The celebrations have not been limited to London. From Land's End to John O'Groats, bright bunting and beer were brought out to mark the end of the most terrible conflict this country has ever endured. Street parties were held in every town and village in the country yesterday as people enjoyed the public holiday granted to mark the occasion. The bunting is still up but the beer has certainly gone!

It is reported that public houses in London ran out of beer long before the drinking curfew as people finally allowed themselves to relax the stoic restraint demanded by years of 'Keep calm and carry on'.

Prime Minister Winston Churchill appeared with King George and Queen Elizabeth on the balcony of Buckingham Palace to wave to the cheering crowds on the Mall. Onlookers describe the Prime Minister as looking relieved.

'Churchill looked tired but happy, as well he might!' remarked Mr.

David Watson, one of the few lucky enough to be in the front rows of the crowd. 'There was such a deep pride in him. He's led us to victory. He's a hero!

'The King and Queen looked wonderful. They have stood tall in the face of a terrible threat. The entire Royal Family has shown just what it means to be British!'

Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret did not appear with their parents and the Prime Minister on the Palace's balcony, leading some people to speculate that they had been allowed to join the festivities.

'I saw them both!' claimed bootmaker Mr. Albert Sole. 'I know it was them. They weren't dressed in any finery. I think they were trying to blend in, but I've seen their photos in the papers before and recognised them just like I would my own daughters. I didn't let on though. They deserved to enjoy the celebrations just as much as the rest of us!'

The celebrations continued all day, with street parties held on seemingly every road and lane of the capital. Neighbours and friends brought out all the special food they could to celebrate, with sweet cakes and some fruit finding their way onto tables.

It is not known how long the government's rationing policies will last but with Germany's surrender, the end is surely in sight.

'Everyone wants to share the best they have today,' explained Mr. Sole. 'It doesn't matter that we don't have much. It's this attitude of sharing and caring which has got us through this war, and sharing and caring is how Britain will go on!'

Section A

1. What is the headline of this article?

2. How much does *The Southern Herald* cost?

3. When was this newspaper published?

Section B

4. What is the picture of?

5. 'The King and Queen looked wonderful.' Is this a fact or an opinion?

Section C

6. What does 'Current Affairs' mean?

7. How do you know that 'the Mall' is the name of a specific place in London?

8. What does it mean to 'bear the brunt' of something such as the Nazis bombing campaign?

9. Albert Sole says that the princesses 'weren't dressed in any finery'. What does he mean?

10. As well as providing a summary in the first paragraph, some newspapers use bullet points to indicate what an article is about. Come up with two bullet points of your own to summarise this article.

Section D

11. Now that you have read the entire article, what do you see is the purpose of the very first paragraph?

12. What is the effect of the writer including the phrase 'breathless from singing a hearty rendition of the national anthem' when describing what Mrs. Judith Groves said?

13. What does the word 'one' mean as it is used in the fifth paragraph?

14. To whom or what do the people belong in the phrase 'The city and her people'?

15. What was the date of VE day?

Victory in Europe! – Challenge Activity

Section A

These words have been taken from the text. Match each word to the correct meaning.

- | <u>Word</u> | <u>Meaning</u> |
|--------------|--|
| 1. surrender | a. to gather in a large group |
| 2. carefree | b. to give in to an opponent or enemy |
| 3. flock | c. a condition that keeps someone or something under control |
| 4. restraint | d. free from worry or responsibility |
| 5. campaign | e. a serious disagreement or argument |
| 6. conflict | f. to work in an organised way toward a particular goal |

Section B

‘Oh, thank God it’s over,’ said Mrs. Judith Groves, breathless from singing a hearty rendition of the national anthem. ‘To be able to look at the skies and not have to worry that German planes could arrive at any moment! It’s wonderful! I had forgotten what it is like to feel carefree. Oh, it is so sweet!’

Look at the definitions below. Identify the word they are describing from the above passage.

<u>Definition</u>	<u>Word</u>
a rising or uplifting song identified with a particular group	
loudly vigorous and cheerful	
gasping for breath	
a performance or interpretation	
anxiety or unease	

Victory in Europe! – Challenge Activity

Section C

Write the meaning of each of these words.

revellers	
horrendous	
coronation	
mourning	
curfew	
stoic	
speculate	
ration	

Section D

The capital has endured such a horrendous six years, bearing the brunt of the Nazis bombing campaign. For Londoners, hearing that the war is finally over has relieved them of year upon year of tension and pressure. London has been worn down, but it has not been crushed! The city and her people had their first taste of true freedom in years yesterday, and the sense of relief could be felt all around the city.

Identify words in the text that mean the same as:

defeated		anxiety	
metropolis		tolerated	
dreadful		liberation	
liberty		burden	