

VE Day memory

From Ben (5LT) and Georgina Green's (2SB) Grandfather – Malcolm Green

I was only 5 years old in 1945, so my memory isn't all that good.... BUT I was there on that great day when the country celebrated the end of a terrible war, which included enormous numbers of bombs falling on London and other cities of the country. These caused huge fires and of course the smashing of numerous buildings and the killing of millions of people. It was the first war in which huge numbers of civilians were killed as well as those who were fighting for their country in the forces.

On VE Day I happened to be in London with my Mum and Dad. My Dad was a Naval Officer who spent the war on ships - and he was awarded a very important medal twice (the Distinguished Service Cross, which was the highest medal after the VC for members of the Navy). I don't know why my Dad was able to be in London then, and I can't remember where we were staying in London - but it was probably with my old Granny, who had a house in Beckenham, which was just outside the main part of the city.

The major celebration happened on that huge area outside Buckingham Palace, where the Royal Family was living. We had a King then - George VI - and his wife the Queen and two Princesses, the eldest being our present Queen. Anyway, on Victory in Europe Day the country was celebrating the end of the war: I believe the major reason that there was such celebration was that the war had ended and we were once again at peace, rather than the fact that we had won the war - but it was probably both which made everyone so pleased.

What I remember best of all was that we stood in a huge, joyous crowd outside Buckingham Palace, and I was sitting on my Dad's shoulders so I could see a lot of what went on. The King, Queen and all the Royal Family came out onto the balcony and waved to the crowd. With them was the great Winston Churchill, who as Prime Minister had guided the country through the good and bad times of the war and whose "bulldog" spirit had been so influential in keeping the country's hopes alive through the five years of fighting. The Royal family came out onto the balcony over and over again, and they were greeted with cheers and arm waving, and many of



VE day Celebrations

75years

the crowd kissed each other, even if they didn't know who they were kissing! The crowd didn't allow the Royal Family to rest for a very long time.

I hope, when we celebrate VE Day on Friday, the papers might show us pictures of that great gathering outside Buckingham Palace. I'm sure our Queen remembers it well.....