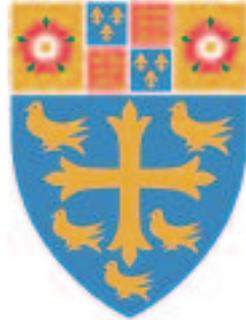
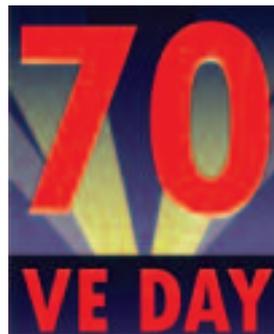


Westminster Abbey



A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
TO MARK
THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF
VE DAY



Sunday 10th May 2015
11.00 am

FOREWORD

Welcome to Westminster Abbey for this service of thanksgiving and commemoration on the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe. The Abbey played a full part on the day itself.

After making his public broadcast officially announcing Germany's total surrender, the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill MP, went to the House of Commons to make a short address and then moved that the House attend at the Church of St Margaret's, Westminster, the Parish Church of the House of Commons, to 'give humble and reverent thanks to almighty God for our deliverance from the threat of German domination.' The House then rose and followed the Speaker to the Church.

In Westminster Abbey itself, on VE Day, short services of thanksgiving were held every hour from 9.00 am to 10.00 pm. An estimated 25,000 people attended during the day, with the Lord Chancellor and House of Lords attending at 3.00 pm. The short services offered 'high praise and thanksgiving to the God of all mercies for the success which He has granted to us and to our Allies: for the faith which has upheld us through the years of danger and suffering; for the skill of our leaders and the valour and steadfastness of sailors, soldiers and airmen; for the hope that we are about to enter upon a righteous and abiding peace; for the holy memory and high example of that great company of men and women, known and unknown, whose faith and courage God has inspired and used.'

A service was also held on the following Sunday, 13th May, when the standards of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa were laid on the High Altar to symbolise the loyalty of the whole Empire during the war.

Westminster Abbey marked the 40th, 50th, and 60th anniversaries of the end of the Second World War in services of thanksgiving and remembrance. Today we give thanks for the reconciliation of former enemies, and pray for world peace.

*The Very Reverend Dr John Hall
Dean of Westminster*

HISTORICAL NOTE

On 8th May 1945, the Allied Powers formally accepted the unconditional surrender of the Armed Forces of Nazi Germany and the end of the Third Reich. Adolf Hitler had committed suicide on 30th April during the Battle of Berlin. The surrender of Germany was therefore authorised by his successor, Grand Admiral Doenitz, and the Instrument of Surrender was signed at Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force at Reims on 7th May. This surrender was formally ratified the next day.

More than one million people converged on the streets of the United Kingdom. In London, people thronged the city's streets and monuments. Winston Churchill made a radio broadcast at 3.00 pm announcing that war in Europe was finally at an end.

In the suburbs, parties were thrown, with furniture and tables brought into the street. Fancy dress parades were held for children, and many people went to church to give thanks to God for victory.

Huge crowds, many dressed in red, white and blue, gathered outside Buckingham Palace in London and cheered as the King, the Queen, and the Princesses appeared eight times on the balcony over the day and into the evening, at one point joined by Winston Churchill.

In the evening, many London landmarks, such as the Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, and Nelson's Column, were floodlit specially for the occasion. There were fireworks, and effigies of Hitler burned on bonfires around the capital. On the day, crowds sang a popular song which expressed this joyous return to light: 'I'm going to get lit up when the lights go up in London'. Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret—escorted by Guards Officers—left the palace and mingled anonymously with the great crowds outside, joining in the celebrations. In the course of the day, Churchill delivered two short speeches from the balcony of the Ministry of Health building to the crowds in Whitehall. In the first he told them: 'This is your victory!', to which they roared back: 'No! It's yours!'. And during his second appearance at 10.30 pm, he conducted the crowds in the singing of 'Land of Hope and Glory'.

The exuberance of the day was tempered by the fact that, for many, this would be a time of sadness and reflection, and that because of the ongoing war in Japan, many other parts of the world would not be able to join in the celebrations. It would not be until the Japanese surrendered to the Allies on 15th August, now known as Victory over Japan Day, that the Second World War would finally come to an end.

Today, in marking the 70th Anniversary of Victory in Europe, we look back with pride and respect at the remarkable generation of men and women who helped secure peace and freedom.

Photography, filming, and sound recording are not allowed in the Abbey at any time. Please ensure that mobile telephones, pagers, and other electronic devices are switched off.

The church is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T.

The service is conducted by The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster.

The service is sung by the Choir of Westminster Abbey, conducted by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers.

The organ is played by Daniel Cook, Sub-Organist.

The State Trumpeters of the Household Cavalry are directed by Major Craig Hallatt.

The Band of the Welsh Guards, directed by Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Roberts, Director of Music, participates by kind permission of Major General Edward Smyth-Osbourne CBE, Major General commanding the Household Division.

Music before the service:

The Band of the Welsh Guards plays:

David of the White Rock	<i>traditional</i> <i>arranged by David Cresswell</i>
Nicaea (Holy, Holy, Holy)	<i>John Bacchus Dykes (1823–76)</i> <i>arranged by William Himes (b 1949)</i>
Ballad	<i>Philip Sparke (b 1951)</i>
Panis Angelicus	<i>César Franck (1822–90)</i> <i>arranged by Philip Sparke</i>

Martin Ford, Assistant Organist, plays:

Pièce Héroïque	<i>César Franck</i>
Elegy	<i>George Thalben-Ball (1896–1987)</i>
Fugue in E flat ‘St Anne’ BWV 552ii	<i>Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)</i>

The Band of the Welsh Guards plays:

Let Us Rejoice!	<i>anonymous</i> <i>arranged by Philip Sparke</i>
Consolation	<i>Jan de Haan (b 1951)</i> <i>after Georg Neumark (1621–81)</i>
By Kell’s Waters	<i>Peter Graham (b 1958)</i> <i>arranged by Nick Johnson</i>
All Through the Night	<i>traditional</i> <i>arranged by Sammy Nestico (b 1924)</i>
Aranjuez Mon Amour	<i>Joaquín Rodrigo (1901–99)</i> <i>Hal Shaper (1931–2004)</i> <i>arranged by P J Rutterford</i>
Chaconne <i>from</i> Suite in E flat Op 28 no 1	<i>Gustav Holst (1874–1934)</i>
Nimrod	<i>Edward Elgar (1857–1934)</i>

The Sub-Organist, plays:

Fantasie Choral no 1 in D flat	<i>Percy Whitlock (1903–46)</i>
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A procession of faith representatives in the United Kingdom moves to places in the Lantern. All remain seated.

A procession of representatives of the Christian Churches in the United Kingdom moves to places in the Sacrarium. All remain seated.

The Prime Minister is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster at the Great West Door, and is conducted to a seat in Quire. All remain seated.

The Lord Mayor of Westminster is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster at the Great West Door, and is conducted to her seat in Quire. All stand, and then sit.

His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster at the Great West Door, and is conducted to his seat in the Lantern. All remain seated.

His Royal Highness The Earl of Wessex is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster at the Great West Door, and is conducted to his seat in the Lantern. All remain seated.

His Royal Highness The Duke of York is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster at the Great West Door, and is conducted to his seat in the Lantern. All remain seated.

Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall are received at the West Gate. All remain seated.

A fanfare is sounded. All stand.

Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh are received at the West Gate.

Presentations are made.

ORDER OF SERVICE

All remain standing. The Dean gives

THE BIDDING

ON Victory in Europe Day seventy years ago, 25,000 people came to services of thanksgiving held throughout the day and evening here in Westminster Abbey. We today share the spirit of that day of rejoicing.

We give thanks for the valour and bravery of the sailors, soldiers, airmen, and civilians who gave all they had, and for the determination and skill of their leaders. We pray that the peace they won through victory over cruelty and oppression may be a blessing in our day for Europe and for the whole world.

Humbly, we remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives.

A wreath is laid at the Grave of the Unknown Warrior by Her Majesty The Queen.

Silence is kept.

The Dean says:

Inspired by the remembrance of those who made the ultimate sacrifice, let us pray for the coming of God's reign among us as Jesus himself has taught us:

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

All sing

THE HYMN

during which the Collegiate Procession, together with Her Majesty The Queen, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, and Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, moves to places in the Lantern, Quire, and the Sacrarium



PRAISE to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
come ye who hear,
brothers and sisters draw near,
praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
hast thou not seen
all that is needful hath been
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work, and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
ponder anew
all the Almighty can do,
he who with love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who, when tempests their warfare are waging,
who, when the elements madly around thee are raging,
biddeth them cease,
turneth their fury to peace,
whirlwinds and waters assuaging.

Praise to the Lord, who, when darkness of sin is abounding,
who, when the godless do triumph, all virtue confounding,
sheddeth his light,
chaseth the horrors of night,
saints with his mercy surrounding.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
sound from his people again:
gladly for ay we adore him.

Lobe den Herren 440 NEH
Praxis pietatis melica 1668
arranged by James O'Donnell (b 1961)

Joachim Neander (1650–80)
translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827–78)
and Rupert Davies (1909–94)

All sit. Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach KCB CBE ADC DL, Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, reads from the Great Lectern

ISAIAH 58: 6–9a, 11–12

IS not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

All remain seated. The Choir sings

PSALM 107: 1–16

OGIVE thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious: and his mercy endureth for ever.

Let them give thanks whom the Lord hath redeemed: and delivered from the hand of the enemy;

and gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west: from the north, and from the south.

They went astray in the wilderness out of the way: and found no city to dwell in; hungry and thirsty: their soul fainted in them.

So they cried unto the Lord in their trouble: and he delivered them from their distress.

He led them forth by the right way: that they might go to the city where they dwelt. O that men would therefore praise the Lord for his goodness: and declare the wonders that he doeth for the children of men.

For he satisfieth the empty soul: and filleth the hungry soul with goodness. Such as sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death: being fast bound in misery and iron;

because they rebelled against the words of the Lord: and lightly regarded the counsel of the most Highest;

he also brought down their heart through heaviness: they fell down, and there was none to help them.

So when they cried unto the Lord in their trouble: he delivered them out of their distress.

For he brought them out of darkness, and out of the shadow of death: and brake their bonds in sunder.

O that men would therefore praise the Lord for his goodness: and declare the wonders that he doeth for the children of men.

For he hath broken the gates of brass: and smitten the bars of iron in sunder.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)

The Prime Minister reads from the Great Lectern

ROMANS 8: 31–39

WHAT shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN



I HEARD the voice of Jesus say,
‘Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast.’
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
‘Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down, and drink, and live.’
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
‘I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright.’
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk
till travelling days are done.

*Kingsfold 376 NEH
traditional melody*

Horatius Bonar (1808–89)

THE ADDRESS

by

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England and Metropolitan

All remain seated. The Reverend Dr James Hawkey, Minor Canon and Precentor, says:

Let us give thanks to almighty God for the victory which brought peace to Europe, for the reconciliation of former enemies, and for the task of promoting peace and goodwill among all people.

All remain seated. Simon Russell Beale CBE, actor, reads from the Nave Pulpit

from the VE DAY SPEECH OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI

TODAY we give thanks to almighty God for a great deliverance. Speaking from our Empire's oldest capital city, war-battered but never for one moment daunted or dismayed—speaking from London, I ask you to join with me in that act of thanksgiving.

There is great comfort in the thought that the years of darkness and danger in which the children of our country have grown up are over and, please God, for ever. We shall have failed and the blood of our dearest will have flowed in vain if the victory which they died to win does not lead to a lasting peace, founded on justice and good will.

This is the task to which now honour binds us. In the hour of danger, we humbly committed our cause into the hand of God and he has been our strength and shield. Let us thank him for his mercies and in this hour of victory commit ourselves and our new task to the guidance of that same strong hand.

All remain seated. The Choir sings

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS

WE praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.
To thee all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein.
To thee Cherubin and Seraphin continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.
The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.
The noble army of martyrs praise thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee,
the Father, of an infinite majesty;
thine honourable, true, and only Son,
also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ;
thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man, thou didst not abhor the Virgin's
womb.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, thou didst open the kingdom of
heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come to be our Judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants, whom thou hast redeemed with thy
precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy saints, in glory everlasting.

O Lord, save thy people, and bless thine heritage.
Govern them and lift them up for ever.
Day by day we magnify thee, and we worship thy Name ever world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee.
O Lord, in thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded.

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958) in G

All kneel or remain seated. The Reverend Christopher Stoltz, Minor Canon and Sacrist, leads

THE PRAYERS

Trusting the promises of God, and with faith in his mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

Able Cadet Rebecca Holloway says:

LET us give thanks for the selfless and courageous service and sacrifice of those who brought peace to Europe, and for the good example they have given us; let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Barbara Hurman, VE Day veteran, says:

WE pray for nations still devastated by war, for their people and their leaders, and for those who suffer the effects or memories of past wars; for veterans, for those who mourn, and for all innocent victims whose lives have been shattered by the cruelty of others; Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Cadet Warrant Officer Jordy Black says:

LET us give thanks for those who work for peace and liberty throughout the world, for Her Majesty's Armed Forces, and for all who strive to bring an end to injustice and oppression; let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

George Riley, Student Vice President, Harris Westminster Sixth Form, says:

WE pray for those in our own day who have grown weary or lost hope as a result of violence or terror; for all refugees and displaced people, and for those who seek to address the causes of discord and distrust; Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Cadet Staff Sergeant Charlotte Connor says:

LET us give thanks for the reconciliation of former enemies, for the flourishing of goodwill between them, and for the many blessings we enjoy as a result of the sacrifices which have made for peace; let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Reverend Jane Sinclair, Canon in Residence, says:

WE pray for the young people of our own day and for all who will shape the future of our world, that they may be inspired by those who have gone before them to serve as they have been served; Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

All sit. The Choir sings

THE ANTHEM

O GIVE thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious: for his mercy endureth for ever.
O thank the Lord of all lords: for his mercy endureth for ever.
Who only doeth great wonders: for his mercy endureth for ever.
And hath delivered us from our enemies: for his mercy endureth for ever.
O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth for ever.
O give thanks unto the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Eternal God, in whose kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, and no strength known but the strength of love: We pray thee so mightily to shed and spread abroad thy Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under one banner, of the Prince of Peace; as children of one God and Father of all; to whom be the dominion and glory now and for ever. Amen.

*Judith Weir (b 1954)
Master of The Queen's Music
specially commissioned for this service*

*verses from Psalm 136
prayer said in hourly services of thanksgiving
on 8th May 1945*

All remain seated. The Precentor leads

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

With heartfelt gratitude to God our Father and seeking the peace of Christ's kingdom, let us pray together:

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us, and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

All stand for

THE ACT OF REDEDICATION

John Wilson, VE Day veteran, says:

WE fought for peace, that the world might never again know such violence and destruction.

Zoë Churchill, great-great-granddaughter of Sir Winston Churchill, says:

WILL you work for peace and reconciliation in your homes and communities, and promote peace throughout the world?

With the help of God, we will.

John Wilson says:

WE fought for justice, that the scourge of prejudice and oppression might never again take root in our societies.

Zoë Churchill says:

WILL you work for a world in which hatred and injustice never have the final word, and where all people can flourish with dignity and hope?

With the help of God, we will.

John Wilson says:

WE struggled so that the whole human family might know good will, security, and freedom.

Zoë Churchill says:

WILL you always acknowledge how precious are the gifts which God has entrusted to us, and exercise the freedoms and responsibilities you have with gratitude and humility?

With the help of God, we will.

The Right Reverend Nigel McCulloch KCVO, National Chaplain, Royal British Legion, says:

MAY Almighty God, who has given us the will to undertake these things, bless us with the strength to perform them. **Amen.**

All sing

THE HYMN



C HRISt is the world's true Light, its Captain of salvation, the Daystar shining bright to every man and nation; new life, new hope awakes, where'er men own his sway: freedom her bondage breaks, and night is turned to day.	In Christ all races meet, their ancient feuds forgetting, the whole round world complete, from sunrise to its setting: when Christ is throned as Lord, men shall forsake their fear, to ploughshare beat the sword, to pruning-hook the spear.
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One Lord, in one great name
unite us all who own thee;
cast out our pride and shame
that hinder to enthrone thee;
the world has waited long,
has travailed long in pain;
to heal its ancient wrong,
come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

*Nun danket 494ii NEH
in Johann Crüger's Praxis pietatis melica c 1647
arranged by Christopher Robinson (b 1936)*

Gilbert Briggs (1875–1959)

All remain standing. The Dean pronounces

THE BLESSING

GOD grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, The Queen, the Commonwealth, and all mankind, peace and concord; and to us sinners, life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All remain standing.

The Last Post is sounded from the Triforium Gallery.

Silence is kept.

Reveille is sounded.

All sing

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

GOD save our gracious Queen.
Long live our noble Queen.
God save The Queen.
Send her victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save The Queen.

*from Thesaurus Musicus c 1743
arranged by Gordon Jacob (1895–1984)*

*anonymous and
W E Hickson (1803–70)*

Music after the service:

Chorale Fantasia on The Old Hundredth

Hubert Parry (1848–1918)

The Collegiate Procession, together with Her Majesty The Queen, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, and other members of the Royal Family, moves to the west end of the church.

The Band of the Welsh Guards plays:

Pomp and Circumstance March no 4

Edward Elgar

The Sub-Organist plays:

Sinfonia to Cantata 29
'Wir danken dir, Gott'

*Johann Sebastian Bach
arranged by Marcel Dupré (1886–1971)*

The Band of the Welsh Guards plays:

Spirit of Pageantry

Percy Fletcher (1879–1932)

**Members of the congregation are requested to remain in their places
until invited to move by the Stewards.**

The bells of the Abbey church are fired (struck simultaneously) seventy times, followed by 570 changes of Stedman Caters. Church bells were fired in celebration throughout the United Kingdom on 8th May 1945.

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