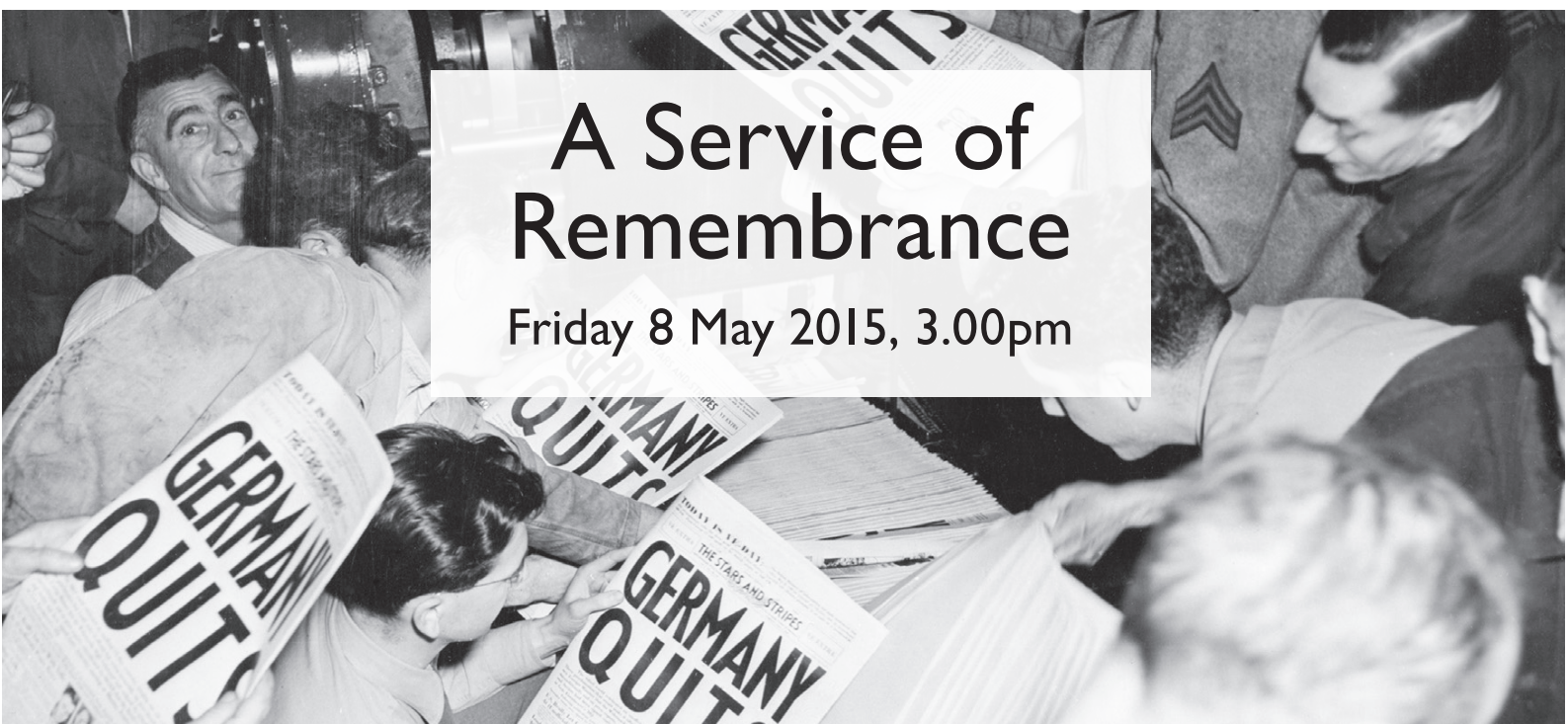




70

VE DAY



A Service of Remembrance
Friday 8 May 2015, 3.00pm



Ministry of Defence



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Museum







A Service of Remembrance to mark the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day

Friday 8 May 2015, 3.00pm
The Cenotaph, London
In the presence of HRH The Duke of York



ORDER OF SERVICE

VE Day

On the 8 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 30 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 7 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 3pm 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 a total of eight times on the balcony over the day and into the evening, at one point joined by Winston Churchill.

In the evening London landmarks, such as the Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral 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. During 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 10.30pm, 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 join in the celebrations. It would not be until the Japanese surrendered to the Allies on 15 August, now known as Victory over Japan Day, that World War II would finally come to an end.

Today, on 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.

Participants in today's service

The service will be led today by **The Right Reverend Nigel Stock, Bishop to Her Majesty's Forces**

The **Band of the Welsh Guards** will provide music under the direction of Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Roberts and will be assisted by **The Buglers of the Royal Marines and Trumpeters of the Royal Air Force**

Music to be played before the service:

David of the White rock

Arr. Cresswell

Air from Rinaldo

Handel



ORDER OF SERVICE

Two Minute Silence

The Last Post

The Laying of Wreaths

Wreaths will be laid at the Cenotaph by:

His Royal Highness The Duke of York on behalf of The Royal Family
Representatives of Her Majesty's Government & First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval
Staff Admiral Sir George Zambellas, Army Chief of the General Staff General Sir
Nicholas Carter & Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshall Sir Andrew Pulford on behalf
of the Armed Forces
Mr. Robert Gale, a veteran of the Second World War accompanied by Mr. Randolph
Churchill, Great-Grandson of Winston Churchill

Introduction:

by The Right Reverend Nigel Stock, Bishop to Her Majesty's Forces

On this day, at this hour, We commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE Day.
We give thanks for all who played their part in achieving victory in the
Second World War.
We remember with sorrow all those who were killed
and whose lives were changed forever.

Historic Reading

*Extracts from Winston Churchill's speech of 8 May 1945
Read by Mr. Randolph Churchill, Great-Grandson of Winston Churchill*

Yesterday morning at 2:41 a.m. at Headquarters, General Jodl, the representative of the German High Command, and Grand Admiral Doenitz, the designated head of the German State, signed the act of unconditional surrender of all German Land, Sea, and Air Forces in Europe to the Allied Expeditionary Force, and simultaneously to the Soviet High Command.

Hostilities will end officially at one minute after midnight to-night (Tuesday, May 8), but in the interests of saving lives the "Cease fire" began yesterday to be sounded all along the front, and our dear Channel Islands are also to be freed to-day.

The German war is therefore at an end. After years of intense preparation, Germany hurled herself on Poland at the beginning of September, 1939; and, in pursuance of our guarantee to Poland and in agreement with the French Republic, Great Britain, the British Empire and Commonwealth of Nations, declared war upon this foul aggression. After gallant France had been struck down we, from this Island and from our united Empire, maintained the struggle single-handed for a whole year until we were joined by the military might of Soviet Russia, and later by the overwhelming power and resources of the United States of America.

We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing; but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead. We must now devote all our strength and resources to the completion of our task, both at home and abroad.

Advance, Britannia! Long live the cause of freedom! God save The King!

Pause for Reflection

Prayer:

O Almighty God, grant, we beseech thee,
that we who here do honour to the memory of those
who have died in the service of their country and
of the Crown, may be so inspired by the spirit of
their love and fortitude that,
forgetting all selfish and unworthy motives,
we may live only to thy glory and to the service of mankind
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

The Hymn

**O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.**

**Beneath the shadow of thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting thou art God,
To endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.**

**O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.**

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Prayer of St. Ignatius

Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest;
to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds;
to toil and not to seek for rest;
to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of
knowing that we do thy will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN



The Lords Prayer:

**Our Father
Which art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
In earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive them that trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom
The power and the glory**

The Blessing:

Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you
The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
And be gracious unto you
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you
And give you his peace this day and always.

AMEN

The Rouse

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.

Guests are invited to lay wreaths.



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