



This is an accurate account of VE Day through the eyes of children at the time. It's a primary source and any words in red were added to ensure it makes as much sense as possible.

To us as a family, we had no one really involved in the war apart from a cousin in the air force who was in Britain still. From nowhere, Union Jack flags appeared and were everywhere. I remember my Dad took us around Selby with my sister to make sure we remembered what the day was like because we hadn't seen anything like it before. No one seemed to know where they all came from. We managed to buy a little one to wave and my Dad was mortified (**embarrassed or ashamed**) because it was made in Japan. We tied it on our bikes.

For the party, everyone on the street had to give up coupons (**vouchers used for rations**) and 2 shillings to help pay for it. Also everyone gave two teaspoons of tea and two teaspoons of sugar too so that everyone could have tea to drink. When the party was about to start, everyone had to take out a chair, and sheet to make a table cloth. A poor family didn't have any but neighbours brought out spares for them. They also let them join in even though they couldn't afford to pay the 2 shillings people had contributed because everyone was rallying together. There was a piano, singing, dancing and an accordion (**type of musical instrument**).

People that could bake made buns. There were sandwiches with either fish or meat paste in them as there still wasn't much food about.

It was the first real jollity (**a cheerful celebration**) we grew up with because I was a toddler when the war started – there were never any celebrations because of the blackout conditions.

Questions to think about:

- Does this present the day in an entirely positive way?
- Which aspects of the day surprise you? Why?
- What questions would you ask someone that was there?

Grandma's account