

VICTORY IN JAPAN – CELEBRATIONS AT ABERAERON

Aberayron celebrated the V.J. Celebrations in a worthy manner. Soon after the momentous announcement was made at midnight on Tuesday, residents who had stayed up for it woke up the town with hand bell ringing and the sounding of whistles and gongs, those who had retired rolled out of their beds and made for the Square Field where Mr Alfred North, the amusement caterer, was prevailed upon to switch on the electric light. More and more people arrived from all parts of the town. The Square field soon filled up with people in a gay mood. Merry music was played on the electric organ and the scene became an animated one; dancing was indulged and Mr North declared the galloping horses and swings were at the disposal of the public for free, young and old threw themselves without reserve into the fun. Other sections of the fair opened up and the scenes were reminiscent of the Good Old Days when Ffair-Lan-y Mor was at its heyday. The rejoicing went on until 3a.m.

At 11.00 o'clock Wednesday morning a service of thanksgiving was held at the Memorial Hall which was filled to capacity and an appropriate address was delivered by Archdeacon Alfred Williams. The singing was conducted by R. J Evans Closeburn. In the afternoon sports were held in Square field in aid of the Ambulance Service. There was a large attendance. Community singing followed in the evening in the Memorial Hall and after that dancing.

It was possible to hold the Victory Tea until the Tuesday when all the townspeople sat down to a sumptuous repast. The arrangements were carried out by the Ladies Committee. A procession formed outside the County Hall with representatives of the Urban Council, Police, British Legion, and every branch of the Civil Defence Service, children in fancy dress and the general public. Following tea there was a Carnival and Sports.

A Victory Ball was arranged by Mr Abel Davies for children aged 16 years and younger on August 28th -200 children attended.

Welsh Gazette June? 1945.

Evan Hill Thomas pictured below was the Aberaeron Correspondent for the Welsh Gazette

A report for VE printed in the Welsh Gazette on 17/5/45 ends with the following paragraph:

When final victory is declared Aberayron will undoubtedly set no limits to its celebrations. It was due to the feeling that the time is not yet ripe that influenced the Celebrations Committee to postpone the victory tea for the towns people.

Compiled by Elinor Gwilym

W.G VJ Article from Gareth Bevan

Photos: Gwilym Jones, Eirlys Ebenezer, and Hazel Prothero

IMAGES OF ABERAYRON VJ CELEBRATIONS



Parade with Pipers led by Capt. T Griffiths



Capt. Griffiths, Evan 'Hill' Thomas (right). Rear: Davy John Davies, E.J Thomas, Chemist



- L-R 1. Dolhalog Family possibly Maggie and her mother wearing the hat
 2. John Davies Frimley, Market Street, great grandfather of Phill Davies photographer @ Aberaeron.
 3. Capt. Thomas Owen Griffiths Sunnycroft, Aberaeron 1882 -1959 sailed from the early 20's to the late 30's. He is holding the flag of the British Legion
 4. Dan Davies Bodryddan, North Rd
 5. Thomas Talvan Davies, Gerallt & Glynderi Panteg 1894-1957.
 He was awarded MILITARY CROSS for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during the First World War. The M.C. and his war record is held in the Military Museum in Brecon



Rhiannon Davies Peace, Nita Morgan Nurse



A Parade: Alban-Square –Top of North Rd



? Keith Foulkes (Chamber of Trade)?



Hazel Evans? Eirwen Evans, Eirlys Bowen Davies, Kathleen Morgan, Haydn Lloyd, Iona Williams



Parade at Cadwgan Place



Sightseers with a Couple at their front window



Sally Williams in Naval Costume
Annie Owen lady in dark coat



Eleanor Lewis daughter of
Laurence Lewis, Aldborough



Tom Arfryn, Neville Evan's
Grandfather



Kathleen Morgan (Evacuee) Haydn Lloyd
(Birmingham House)



Marion Pengarreg's Children



Adults in Fancy Dress



Hazel Protheroe Head of Parade
Hazel now lives at The Elms, her
family home built by Capt. Evans



Hazel Protheroe in Square Field
Dove of Peace on her wrist, it was
made by J. D. Lloyd