

Emsworth and Havant Celebrate Victory in Europe in 1945

by Dorothy Bone and Ralph Cousins

Emsworth: Help Wanted!!

Can you name any of these people?



These photographs of mothers and children celebrating the Allies Victory in Europe were taken in South Street, Emsworth by an unknown photographer. The black and white prints were donated to the Museum by Mrs Linda Griffin, n e Smith, and the photographer may well have been her mother. Linda is the pretty blond girl in a white dress in the front row of children walking down South Street. Some of the children were in fancy dress and she was 'the doll in a box'.

Apparently, so as not to put the table in South Street, the celebration party was held in the bomb damaged area now known as Orange Row. The open window is into the sweet shop and the food was prepared in the



shop. EM&HT Steward Jill Littleton, n e Prior, identified herself, sister Averil and brother Rusty plus several others. A relative of Gary Miller of Miller Shine is in one of the pictures as is Sue Treagust's mother.

Some of these photographs were printed in the *Portsmouth News* and *Chichester Observer* in May and the Museum is grateful



to all those people who got in touch to name names. However, not everyone has been identified so we are now asking for more help. If you recognise anyone please contact me and help make our records complete.

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Havant: Parade in the Recreation Ground

VE day was celebrated in rather a subdued manner in Havant. It was not until midnight was approaching that the residents and uniformed visitors gave way to outbursts of enthusiasm. Parties were held in the streets. Bonfires were lit and effigies of Hitler and his gang thrown into the flames.

On Wednesday crowds marched along the main street singing request songs. Tenants of the council houses led the merriment by getting a piano out on to the roadway and holding an open air celebration in which hundreds of people joined while most of the nearby houses were illuminated.

At the Recreation Ground there was a parade of Civil Defence workers, and an open air service in which the Revs P H Duke-Baker, (Rector of Havant), P H W Grubb (Rector of Bedhampton) took part. Sir Dymoke White MP gave an address. Mr J Flanders (Council Chairman) also spoke, and community singing was led by Mr Perraton to accompaniments of the British Legion Band under the direction of Mr A Vince. A programme of sports for the children followed. The prizes were presented by Mrs Dewhurst.

For the children's sports held in the Recreation Ground on Wednesday afternoon the officials were: Judges, the Rev P H W Grubb, Cllr C L Waters and Mr N Adams; starter Mr F Stockley; recorder, Mr R W Fitt; course stewards, Messrs J V Knight, L Shoemsmith and A Till.

The results were as follows:

50 yards, boys flat, 5 to 8 years – 1. Michael Ginman; 2. Ralph Cousins; 3. Brian Clapham. Ditto girls – 1. Jean Watts; 2. Mary Roberts; 3. Sheila Brown.

60 yards, boys 8 to 11 – 1. David Yoxall; 2. Michael Goodhall; 3. Robin Griffin. Ditto girls – 1. Beryl Brown; 2. Julie Goodhall; 3. Sadie Comben.

Potato race, boys, 11 to 16 – 1. Gerald Mears; 2. Ronald Comben; 3. Peter Haywood.

Thread the needle, girls under 11 – 1. Margaret Hodgson; 2. June White; 3. Sheila Grant.

Sack race, boys under 11 – 1. William Fox; 2. Phillip Sherrott; 3. Geoffrey Bailey.

Skipping race, girls under 15 – 1. Lillian Stockley; 2. Ann Martin; 3. Cynthia White.

100 yards flat, boys 11 to 16 – 1. Billy Searle; 2. John Hamper; 3. Patrick Green. Ditto girls – 1. Joan Dalton; 2. Lillian Stockley; 3. Ann Martin.

Refreshments were served by the local Red Cross Detachment, including Lady White, Mrs Dewhurst, Mrs Paxton and Mrs Street.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr A Burbidge and endorsed by a cheering crowd.

Ralph Cousins