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VICTORY IN EUROPE

.. Georgetown Celebrates End of History's Most Terrible War ..



Public Thanksgiving Church Services, Parades, Bonfire, Dancing

The great news that Germany had surrendered unconditionally to the Western Allies and Russia was flashed to the world at 8.38 a.m. last Monday evening. Word of the victory spread wild-fire through Georgetown, where an ordinarily quiet Monday morning on Main Street suddenly turned into a joyous, exuberant crowd of townsfolk. First word to reach the Herald Office was conveyed by Mrs. W. P. Smith, who had scarcely passed on the good news when factory whistles, fire sirens, and church bells proclaimed it to the town in general.

As if by magic, flags appeared up and down Main Street, as merchants hurried to decorate their store-fronts. Local factory-workers left their jobs to join in the celebrating and decorated cars were soon seen in the downtown district. One of the gayest corners was at Brill's where the Smith & Stone office staff were out in force with confetti and streamers. Previously declared a holiday by proclamation of Mayor Cleave, it mattered little to citizens and merchants that V-E Day was not officially pro-

claimed till Tuesday. This was it, and stores and factories closed down to let owners and employees savour the news and relieve nerves tensed from months of waiting for victory and peace. Monday afternoon was featured by impromptu parades downtown, and at 4.30 a large parade formed at the Legion Hall. Legion members, the Legion W.A., Lorne Scouts Band, Girls and Boy Scouts marched to the High School grounds, where a public service of Thanksgiving was held, conducted by Ven. W. G. O.

Thompson, Rev. R. C. Todd and Rev. J. E. Ostrom. As befits a solemn occasion, there was emphasis on the religious aspect of the day, with evening services in Knox, Presbyterian, St. George's Church of England, the United and English Churches, and in St. Alban's Church of England in the Glen. In the evening there was a spontaneous celebration in the downtown district when a huge bonfire was lighted at the corner of Mill and Market Sts. An impromptu street dance, commencing at 8.30, and the burning of Hitler's Prime Minister Mackenzie King

culminated in an announcement by Mayor Cleave that a street dance would be held the following evening. The Legion rooms were gay as veterans of the two great wars celebrated the victory with dancing and sing-songs. Tuesday was a holiday in town, when citizens heard the official proclamation of the surrender announced by Prime Minister Churchill at 9.20 a.m. He was followed by President Truman of the United States, and in the afternoon, King George VI and Prime Minister Mackenzie King

made radio addresses. There was morning communion at St. George's Church, and a joint service of the Baptist and United Churches in the United Church in the evening. High Mass was celebrated at Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church on Wednesday morning. The street dance planned for Tuesday evening was moved indoors to the Legion Rooms due to inclement weather, and large crowds enjoyed dancing to the Rhythmic Rites.