

Sheila Joy's VE Day memories

As a child, Sheila along with her father and mother lived in Mombasa in Kenya during the war. Due to this Sheila had little awareness of the battles going on over Europe. She does remember seeing planes flying over ahead and being excited but not really understanding what was happening. Sheila's father was working on the railways during this time as a Permanent Way Inspector (this was a Railway Employee who had the responsibility for the condition of the railway track and associated embankments etc in his area of jurisdiction).



Just before the end of the war in Europe, when Sheila was 10 years old, her father received a transfer to Nakuru. So, they packed up their home and belongings and went on an overnight train to their destination. Upon arrival they were greeted with news that it was a bank holiday and that there was no one

working that could help them move in to their accommodation. Due to this they had to stay in the Stags Head Hotel for two nights which was exciting in itself (pictured above). Looking back on this memory Sheila now knows that this bank holiday was VE day. Sheila and her parents eventually returned to England and her first outing was for the Queen's coronation in 1953.

