

## **Bailiff's Introduction to the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception**

**10<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

### **Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

1. Those of you who were in Liberation Square yesterday will have heard a speech from me and the last thing you would want would be another one! Accordingly, this is not a speech but I cannot let the occasion pass without saying a few words of welcome.
2. Whilst the ceremony in Liberation Square has at its heart the commemoration of and thanksgiving for our liberation, it has also become something wider and is a way of celebrating what Jersey means to us. It is intended to involve many young people who were not alive during the war.
3. This year's anniversary, being the 65<sup>th</sup>, is a special one. You may not appreciate this because of my white hair but I was born after the war! I felt it was important to mark this special anniversary by holding an event intended specifically for those who lived through the war and therefore have personal experience of what liberation means. Hence this reception.
4. You all experienced the Second World War. Many of you lived here during the Occupation and suffered the loss of freedom, the hardship when food became scarce, and the uncertainty of what the next day would bring. Others of you left before the Occupation in order to serve in Her Majesty's forces and contributed to the ultimate victory of the allies over Nazi Germany. Others of you were children who were evacuated, often at the last moment, and had to spend your formative years in a strange place far from your home. Others of

you were deported in 1942 and had to spend the rest of the war interned in Germany, again never knowing what the future might hold.

5. My generation has not had to go through what you all suffered. We have had the benefit of peace in Western Europe for over 65 years. This reception is intended as a token of our appreciation for all that you went through.
  
6. I hope that you enjoy yourselves. My wife and I together with the Lieutenant Governor and Mrs Ridgway, and the Chief Minister and Mrs Le Sueur look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the course of the afternoon.