

**THE STATES assembled on Friday,
9th May 2003 at 9.30 a.m. under
the Presidency of the Bailiff,
Sir Philip Bailhache.**

**His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor,
Air Chief Marshal Sir John Cheshire, K.B.E., C.B.,
was present**

All members were present with the exception of –

Francis Herbert Amy, Connétable of Grouville – ill
Michael John Touzel, Connétable of St. John – ill
Philip John Rondel, Deputy of St. John – out of the Island
Gerard Clifford Lemmens Baudains, Deputy of St. Clement – absent
Jeremy Laurence Dorey, Deputy of St. Helier – out of the Island
Celia Joyce Scott Warren, Deputy of St. Saviour – ill
Jennifer-Anne Bridge, Deputy of St. Helier – out of the Island
James Gordon Reed, Deputy of St. Ouen – out of the Island

Prayers

Welcome – distinguished visitors

The Bailiff, on behalf of all members, welcomed to the States distinguished visitors including representatives of the President of the Government of Madeira, namely Dr. Eduardo Brazao de Castro, Regional Secretary for Human Resources in Madeira and his wife Mrs. Ana Paula de Castro, and Mr. Goncalo Nuno dos Santos, Director of the Centre of Madeiran Communities, who were in the Island to attend the Liberation celebrations, and for the five year anniversary of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Island and Madeira.

Liberation of the Island – statement

Senator Frank Harrison Walker, made a statement in the following terms –

“This is the fourth time that the Assembly has been specially convened to commemorate the most significant day in the history of our Island.

The day in 1945 when the inhabitants of Jersey were at last liberated. The day, which after five long years of deprivation, fear and occasionally despair, announced the return of freedom and with it the return once again of hope and optimism.

After so long, it is all but impossible, at least for those who weren't there in person on May 9th 1945, to fully appreciate the joy and the sense of relief that those who had endured the dark days of the Occupation must have felt. But today, we nevertheless reach back to share in and to rejoice in their joy and their new found sense of liberty and purpose.

In doing so, however, we should never forget that that joy was, for some, short lived as they learnt the terrible truth that members of their family or close friends who had fought for their country or who had been deported from Jersey would not be returning. Today, therefore, is not just a day of celebration, it is also a day of remembrance.

Our duty today, as much as we can, is to bring Liberation Day to life and to ensure that it continues to be commemorated as the most special day in our rich and varied history. To ensure that we never take for granted the freedom we have now enjoyed for 58 years. To ensure that future generations understand and value the importance of Liberation Day in giving them the privileged lifestyle that we are fortunate to be able to enjoy in this beautiful, safe and prosperous island.

In common with a number of other members of this Assembly, I was born during the Occupation and although I know I was at, or near, the harbour, in my Union Jack romper suit, when the troops came ashore, I can remember nothing of it. I can well remember, however, the stories repeated over and over again by my parents, uncles, aunts, grandparents and other family members. Stories of deprivation to be sure, but also stories of courage, caring and humour. Stories, above all, of sharing. Sharing in a common bond of oppression but also the selfless sharing of food, clothing, fuel and other essentials which were all in such short supply.

Now in a time of plenty, perhaps we should think back to those days and when we feel depressed, disgruntled or hard done by, remember to count our blessings, to celebrate what we have, and to work to develop a new sense of shared determination, community spirit and pride in our remarkable Island.

But above all, let us never forget that unlike so many other people in the world today, and those in Jersey who had to live through the Occupation, we enjoy many gifts and that above all we enjoy a gift that is beyond price – the gift of freedom.”

THE STATES rose at 9.46 a.m.

M.N. DE LA HAYE

Greffier of the States.