E for Empire Day

May 24th …..Queen Victoria's birthday was chosen to be the day when children across the world (well, the Commonwealth) were supposed to think about what it meant to be part of a 'glorious Empire'. It seems ridiculously imperialistic when we look back to over 60 years ago. By the 1950s the Empire was in decline and many countries were beginning to gain their independence. I'm sure I didn't understand the significance of the day but enjoyed the parade around the school field dressed up with my doll's pram decorated with red, white and blue crepe paper ribbons. We gathered around the flag pole with its Union Jack flag raised and sang "*Land of Hope and Glory*", "J*erusalem*" and "*God Save the Queen*".

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