

NEDERLANDSCHE REGEERINGS VOORLICHTINGSDIENST

STRATTON HOUSE—STRATTON STREET—LONDON, W.1

RADIO-ORANJE



On May 5th 1993, the Dutch Post Office issued two 80 cent stamps as part of a general series on the Second World War. The stamps deal with Radio Oranje (Radio Orange) which was a programme compiled and presented by the Dutch government in exile and broadcast over BBC transmitters.

Holland capitulated in May 1940. With the broadcasting service in Holland under Nazi control, the Dutch government wanted to reach its own people in The Netherlands, at sea and in the Dutch colonies. It is for that reason that frequencies on long wave (200 kHz) as well as medium and short-wave were used. The first Radio Oranje broadcast from London was at the end of July 1940. It opened with a speech from Queen Wilhelmina. It was thought that the Dutch Royal House of Orange was something that united all Dutch people, whatever their background. But with Germany scoring so many successes, there was little positive news to report at first. A second Dutch language broadcast "De Brandaris" (the lighthouse), aimed at Dutch seamen, was started with a much more active tone of resistance. By the end of 1942 the two programmes were combined under the name Radio Oranje and the programming improved. It is difficult to judge the effect of such clandestine broadcasts but it wasn't for nothing that the Nazi occupying power forbid listening to foreign radio stations. The transmissions of Radio Oranje were also jammed. In the summer of 1943 the Nazis decided to confiscate wireless sets. German controlled radio in Holland used cable for distribution. After the war, many of the broadcasters with Radio Oranje were involved in the foundation of Radio Netherlands.

The two commemorative stamps are unusual as they are printed side by side on each sheet. One shows the lead singer "Jetje of Orange" who sang resistance songs over Radio Oranje as part the cabaret group the "Watergeus". The second stamp shows two lads illegally listening to the broadcasts using a home-made radio hidden under the floor of the house. The text on each of the stamps is taken from the opening announcement which gave the wavelengths and greeted Dutch listeners around the world.

The stamps were designed by René van Raalte and each had a print run of 17 million. But the first day cover is already a collectors item. The FDC with this sheet of paper is even more unique because we have added a RADIO ORANJE banner from the original rubber stamp used in London on official correspondence. The stamp is now part of a collection at Radio Netherlands. This headed note paper is a reprint of the original.

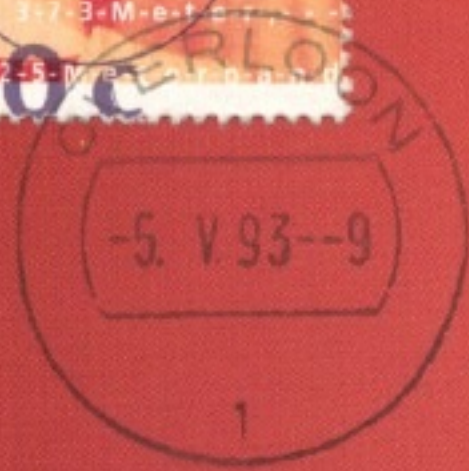


RADIO-ORANJE

NR



309





Radio-Oranje-...
Goedenavond,
Luisteraars in...
Nederland, in Oost
en West, of waar
ook u bent. Wees ledig...

80c

OVERLOOY
-5. V95-9
1



32. Maar van Londen uit klonk de stem van de vrije wereld, de stem van Radio Oranje, die de hoop levend hield.

TOESPRAAK

van

H.M. de

Koningin

ANJE

H.M. Koningin Wilhelmina
sprak als volgt op 28 November
1941 over Radio Oranje...

OVERLOON

-5. V. 93--9

Hilversum Radio

Oranje - de Stem

van 15.11.41 - 1

Nederlands - op 1.5.0

0 - 1.7.3 - Met de r...

80c

