

5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



**RadioTimes** Official Cover

80 Wood Lane · London · W12 0TT



---

On 8th May, 1945 the Second World War came to an end in Europe.

---

Hitler's suicide in the Berlin bunker on 30th April had been followed swiftly by the German surrender, but the bureaucrats delayed for days and days of agonizing impatience the announcement of victory. When it came it brought a surge of happiness to the millions whose lives, for six long years, had been blighted by the war.

At 7.40pm on 7th May the Ministry of Information issued a statement on the radio saying; *'It is understood that, in accordance with arrangements between the three great powers, an official announcement will be broadcast by the Prime Minister at three o'clock tomorrow, Tuesday afternoon, 8th May. In view of this fact, tomorrow, Tuesday, will be treated as Victory in Europe Day and will be regarded as a holiday. The day following will also be a holiday.'*

Throughout the early hours of VE Day, a great thunder storm raged, reminiscent of the storm on the last night of peace in 1939. But by the time Winston Churchill made his speech at 3pm, the sun was shining brightly. As he finished, the buglers of the Royal Horse Guards blew the cease fire then the band struck up *God Save the King*. The King made his speech at 9pm and the Royal family appeared on the balcony at Buckingham Palace to vast cheering crowds.

Main illustration: The Special VE Day cover of *Radio Times* featuring the BBC's Victory Programmes dated Thursday, 10th May 1945.

---

**RadioTimes** Official Cover

80 Wood Lane · London · W12 0TT