

Born in 1945

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FAMOUS BIRTHS

Rod Stewart – Bob Marley
Tom Selleck – Steve Martin
Goldie Hawn – Debbie Harry
Priscilla Presley – Helen Mirren
Bette Midler – Jacqueline Wilson
Mia Farrow – John Lithgow
Shaw – Dave Lee Travis
Francesca Annis – Martin Tyler
David Starkey – Eric Clapton



KEY STATS

World Population: 2.3 billion
UK Population: 48.7 M
Prime Ministers: Churchill/Attlee
USA Population: 140 M
Presidents: Roosevelt/Truman
Average UK House Price: £620
Average Annual Salary: £214

DEATHS

Anne Frank – Bela Bartok
Franklin D. Roosevelt
George Patton – Eric Liddell
David Lloyd George – Glenn Miller
Benito Mussolini – Adolf Hitler

MARRIAGE

American actor Humphrey Bogart
(44) weds (his fourth time)
American actress Lauren Bacall (20)

1984

17 August – George Orwell's
political allegory *Animal Farm* is
published.

FILMS

Anchors Aweigh – Brief Encounter
The Wicked Lady – Blithe Spirit
The Lost Weekend

INVENTIONS

Percy Spencer, while employed at
Raytheon, would patent a magnetron
based microwave oven.

CLOTHES COUPONS

The war coupon allowance was at its
lowest in 1945 with only 3 coupons a
month. One dress might require 11
coupons, while a suit could require 26.

NEWS

The Battle of the Bulge, the last major
German offensive, ends on 25 January.

The last V2 rocket attack on London took
place on 27th March 1945 when it hit a
block of flats killing 134 of its residents.

The first SNP Member of Parliament is
elected to the Parliament of the UK.

British troops liberate the Bergen-Belsen
concentration camp; Richard Dimbleby
reports on it for the BBC.

8 May – eight days after the suicide of Adolf
Hitler, V-E Day is celebrated in the UK.

The Family Allowances Act is passed to
provide payments to families with children.

July general election: Winston Churchill
resigns after defeat by the Labour Party.

The atomic bomb is developed by the
Manhattan Project and swiftly used in
August in the bombings of Hiroshima and
Nagasaki, effectively ending the war.

5 August – V-J Day is celebrated in the UK,
marking the end of World War II.

16 August – in the House of Commons,
Leader of the Opposition Winston Churchill
speaks of an "Iron Curtain" descending.

The United Nations was officially founded
on October 24.

COMEDY

The Bullfighters is the last feature film
released by Laurel and Hardy in America.

When Paramount threatened to stop
production of the "Road" pictures starring
Bing Crosby and Bob Hope, they received
75,000 letters of protest.

Abbott and Costello dominated US film and
radio.

The Marx Brothers keep audiences in
stitches with *A Night in Casablanca* (filmed
1945, released 1946).

TELEVISION

The BBC television service had been
suspended in September 1939 at the
outbreak of the Second World War and
only resumed in June 1946.

SPORT

Sport was disrupted because of WWII.
Marquee events like Five Nations
rugby, Wimbledon, and Tour de France
remained on hiatus until 1946–47.

MUSIC

Vera Lynn, the Forces' Sweetheart,
uplifts the nation with her "We'll Meet
Again" performances.

"Rum and Coca-Cola" by The Andrews
Sisters tops the Billboard charts for ten
weeks.

Yank magazine says that Bing Crosby
was "the person who had done the most
for the morale of overseas servicemen".

"Sentimental Journey" is Doris Day's
first number one hit.

RADIO

30 April – Lord Haw-Haw records his
final (audibly drunk) propaganda
broadcast for Nazi German radio.

Family Favourites is the successor to
the war radio show *Forces Favourites*.

ITMA, which stands for "It's That Man
Again", is a popular BBC radio comedy
show featuring comedian Tommy
Handley. The show's title came from a
newspaper headline about Hitler.

BBC's *Music While You Work* continues
to broadcast live dance band music
daily to keep factory morale up.

Gracie Fields shines in radio broadcasts
and wartime shows, boosting morale.

MEDICINE

Alexander Fleming jointly win the
Nobel Prize in Medicine "for the
discovery of penicillin and its
curative effect in various infectious
diseases".