

# Wartime West Sussex 1939 – 1945

## VE DAY and VJ DAY

### VE day in Worthing

Extracts from *Despatches from the Home Front, The War Diaries of Joan Strange 1939-1945* (Monarch Publications, 1989)

#### 1945

**May 8<sup>th</sup>** It's come at last. I woke up at 7 am to hear the sound of Mother wrestling with the flags (rather moth-eaten and patched, relics of Queen Victoria's jubilee!). But we weren't the first in the road after all as we were when Mussolini was captured in July 1943. The weather's been good for the first of the two VE holidays. It's been a queer sort of day, the highlights being the Prime Minister's short broadcast at 3pm and the King's at 9 pm. ...Hostilities cease officially at one minute past midnight tonight when it's hoped that any fighting against the Russians will cease. Mother and I listened in to the thrilling broadcasts on the European victory. There were services in all churches and cinemas at 12 pm today.

**May 9<sup>th</sup>** The papers are full of yesterday's rejoicings. Today is still being celebrated as a public holiday - it's Russia's V-Day today... The King and Queen have made a "victory" tour of London's badly bombed, but much beflagged East End.

**May 13<sup>th</sup>** Thanksgiving Sunday all over Britain. All Worthing churches are full and there was a huge victory procession up South Street and Chapel Road to Broadwater Green where an open-air service was held....

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