

February 6th 1952: King George VI dies in his sleep

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday>

His Majesty, King George VI, has died peacefully in his sleep at Sandringham House.

The official announcement from Sandringham, given at 1045 GMT, said the King retired in his usual health, but passed away in his sleep and was found dead in bed at 0730 GMT by a servant. He was 56, and was known to have been suffering from a worsening lung condition.

Princess Elizabeth, who is at the Royal hunting lodge in Kenya, immediately becomes Queen at the age of 25.

She has been informed of her father's death, and is preparing to return to London, but a thunderstorm has delayed the departure of her plane.

She is expected back tomorrow afternoon, when she will take the Royal Oath which will seal her accession to the throne.

King George VI Dies, Elizabeth Is Queen; New Ruler Flying Back From East Africa



<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/royal-family/2022/02/06/queen-elizabeth-ii-platinum-jubilee-accession-day-throne-king/>



“We cannot at this moment do more than record the spontaneous expression of grief” Prime Minister Winston Churchill

The House of Commons has also been suspended as a mark of respect.



<https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo-crowds-mass-outside-buckingham-palace-following-the-news-of-the-sudden>

As the news of the King's death spread, all cinemas and theatres closed, and BBC programmes were cancelled except for news bulletins. Flags in every town were at half-mast, and sports fixtures were cancelled.

A crowd began to gather outside Buckingham Palace during the afternoon, as diplomats from around the world arrived in official cars to write their condolences in the visitors' book.

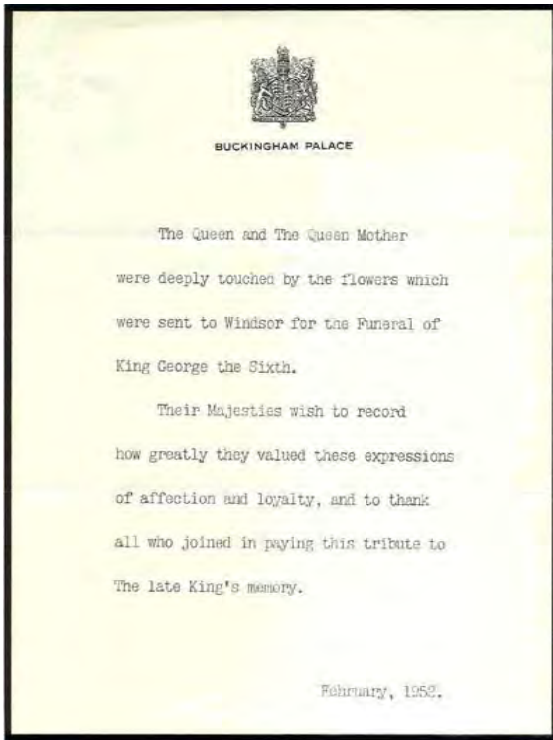
The news was greeted with shock and grief throughout the world. The body of King George is to lie in state in Westminster Hall from next Monday, 11 February, until the funeral.

What happened on Accession Day?

1952, February 06 King George VI dies; Elizabeth becomes queen

On February 6, 1952, after a long illness, King George VI of Great Britain and Northern Ireland dies in his sleep at the royal estate at Sandringham. Princess Elizabeth, the oldest of the king's two daughters and next in line to succeed him, was in Kenya at the time of her father's death; she was crowned [Queen Elizabeth II](#) on June 2, 1953, at age 27.

Following the death of King George VI, bulletins - printed announcements of the death on letterheaded paper - were posted on the railings of Buckingham Palace and Sandringham House in Norfolk, where he died.



https://www.nationalarchives.ie/topics/PRES/image_pages/21.htm



<https://www.royal.uk/accession-day-2022>

Flags were flown at half-mast throughout the country until after the funeral. Only the Royal Standard was flown at full mast wherever The Queen was in residence - the Standard is always flown at full-mast, representing the continuity of Monarchy.

In this photograph, taken on 7 February 1952, the Royal Standard is flown at Clarence House following The Queen's return from Kenya

The new Queen was formally proclaimed at an Accession Council at St James's Palace held on the day of The King's death. It was attended by members of the Privy Council along with Great Officers of State, the Lord Mayor and City of London Civic party, Realm High Commissioners and civil servants.

On 8 February, once Her Majesty had returned from Kenya, The Queen took an oath known as the Accession Declaration in which she pledged to maintain the established Protestant succession.

Following Her Majesty's oath, the public proclamation of the new Sovereign was read by Garter King of Arms at St James's Palace, in the presence of the Earl Marshal and two of the Sovereign's Serjeants-at-Arms. It was also read with similar ceremony in Edinburgh by Lord Lyon King of Arms, in Belfast and Cardiff.

<https://blog.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/2019/02/04/6-feb-2019-the-king-is-dead-long-live-the-queen/#>



The Queen's Accession Day message 5th February, 2022



SANDRINGHAM HOUSE

5th February, 2022.

Tomorrow, 6th February, marks the 70th anniversary of my Accession in 1952. It is a day that, even after 70 years, I still remember as much for the death of my father, King George VI, as for the start of my reign.

As we mark this anniversary, it gives me pleasure to renew to you the pledge I gave in 1947 that my life will always be devoted to your service.

As I look ahead with a sense of hope and optimism to the year of my Platinum Jubilee, I am reminded of how much we can be thankful for. These last seven decades have seen extraordinary progress socially, technologically and culturally that have benefitted us all; and I am confident that the future will offer similar opportunities to us and especially to the younger generations in the United Kingdom and throughout the Commonwealth.

I am fortunate to have had the steadfast and loving support of my family. I was blessed that in Prince Philip I had a partner willing to carry out the role of consort and unselfishly make the sacrifices that go with it. It is a role I saw my own mother perform during my father's reign.

This anniversary also affords me a time to reflect on the goodwill shown to me by people of all nationalities, faiths and ages in this country and around the world over these years. I would like to express my thanks to you all for your support. I remain eternally grateful for, and humbled by, the loyalty and affection that you continue to give me. And when, in the fullness of time, my son Charles becomes King, I know you will give him and his wife Camilla the same support that you have given me; and it is my sincere wish that, when that time comes, Camilla will be known as Queen Consort as she continues her own loyal service.

And so as I look forward to continuing to serve you with all my heart, I hope this Jubilee will bring together families and friends, neighbours and communities – after some difficult times for so many of us – in order to enjoy the celebrations and to reflect on the positive developments in our day-to-day lives that have so happily coincided with my reign.

Tom Servant

Elizabeth R

By definition, Accession Day – the anniversary of when Queen Elizabeth II became the monarch – is as much a day of mourning as a celebration, because it's also the 70th anniversary of the death of her beloved father, King George VI.

Thus, Feb. 6 has traditionally been a low-key affair, one the queen marks by somber reflection in private, usually at Sandringham, her Norfolk estate where the king died in 1952 at age 56 following surgery for lung cancer.

But this is simultaneously the 70th anniversary of the queen's accession, the longest-ever reign for a British or English monarch, exceeded by only two other European monarchs in history (including Louis XIV of France, who was king for 72 years). It's an important milestone and will be marked with royal hoopla during a four-day Platinum Jubilee beginning June 2, when the weather is (usually) better.

<https://eu.usatoday.com/story/entertainment/celebrities/2022/02/04/why-queen-elizabeth-ii-will-mark-70th-accession-day-privately/9200372002/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAD6P_y-ZAo = 'I don't matter': Queen jokes about her platinum jubilee cake being upside down



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

On 6th February this year Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

To celebrate this unprecedented anniversary, events and initiatives will take place throughout the year, culminating in a four day UK bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. The bank holiday will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the historic milestone.



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