

World War Two

World war two lasted from September 1st1939 to September 2nd1945 - a duration of 6 years and 1 day. The main countries involved were, the Axis power which included Germany, Italy, and Japan, and the Allies France, Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union.

How did it start?

It began as Adolf Hitler had been building up power in Germany. His political stances were approved by many, and his anti-Jew, anti-black, anti-gay and anti-disabled laws were popular. The anti-Jew laws as described by Anne Frank in the book *A Diary of Anne Frank* were,

- Jews were required to wear a yellow star.
- Jews were required to turn in their bicycles.
- Jews were forbidden to ride in cars (even their own).
- Jews were required to do their shopping between 3 and 5pm.
- Jews were required to frequent only Jewish-owned barber shops and beauty parlours.
- Jews were forbidden to be out on the streets between 8pm and 6am.
- Jews were forbidden to attend theatres or any other form of entertainment.
- Jews were forbidden to use swimming pools, tennis courts, hockey fields or any other athletic fields.
- Jews were forbidden to go rowing.
- Jews were forbidden to take part in any athletic activity in public.
- Jews were forbidden to visit Christians in their homes.
- Jews were forbidden to sit in their garden or those of their friends after 8pm.
- Jews were required to attend Jewish schools and much more.



Hitler and the Nazi party laws forced Jews away from each other and isolated them, which made them very vulnerable. You may be thinking, "how could someone support another person that evil." But Hitler and the Nazi party didn't always appear evil. After the first world war Germany lost a lot of money and power and many thought that the deal was unfair. Hitler and the Nazi

party promised to get back that money and power and represented the citizens of Germany. It was only after he rose to power that he began to reveal his true plans.

The First Invasion



September 1, 1939, Hitler invaded Poland from the west killing 6,600, wounding 133,700 and capturing 694,000. Two days later, France and Britain declared war on Germany beginning World War II. On September 17, Soviet



troops invaded Poland from the east, sixteen days after Germany invaded.

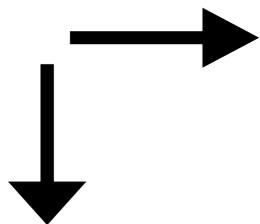
Concentration Camps

After September 1939, with the beginning of the Second World War, concentration camps became places where millions of ordinary people were enslaved as part of the war effort, often starved, tortured and killed. During the war, new Nazi concentration camps for "undesirables" spread throughout the continent. Many Jews, Romanis/Sintis, Serbs, Soviet POWs, Poles, disabled people, and clergymen were captured. The number of people in the camps, which had fallen to 7,500, grew again to 21,000 by the start of World War II and peaked at 715,000 in January 1945. Many countries had



them. The most famous probably being Auschwitz in Poland altogether over the years holding an estimated 1.3 million.

Auschwitz concentration camp



The Hitler youth

The Hitler youth was an organization set up by Adolf Hitler in 1933 for educating and training male youth in Nazi principles. Under the leadership of Baldur von Schirach, head of all German youth programs, the Hitler Youth included (by 1935) almost 60 percent of German boys. By 1936, all "Aryan" children in Germany over the age of six were required to join a Nazi youth group. At ten, boys were initiated into the Jungvolk (Young People), and at 14 they were promoted to the Hitler Youth. Their sisters joined the Jungmädel (Young Girls) and were later promoted to the League of German Girls. Hitler used children to spy on parents and find out information. One

case involved a teenager named Walter Hess who turned in his father for calling Hitler a crazed maniac. His father was then hauled off to Dachau,

Dachau 

(a concentration camp) under Schutzhaft (protective custody). For setting such an example, Hess was promoted to a higher rank within the Hitler youth. Physical fitness, according to Hitler, was much more important for his young people than memorizing "dead facts" in the classroom. In his book, *Mein Kampf*, he stated that "a less well-educated, but physically healthy individual with a sound, firm character, full of determination and willpower, is more valuable to the community than an intellectual weakling."



School schedules were adjusted to allow for at least one hour of physical training in the morning and one hour each evening. Prior to this, only two hours per week had been set aside. Hitler also encouraged young boys to take up boxing to heighten their aggressiveness.





Adolf Hitler's Origins and Ideals

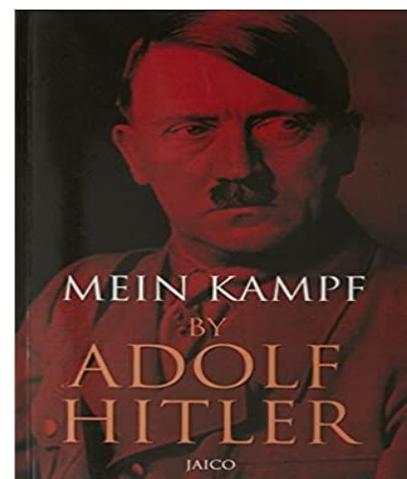
Adolf Hitler wasn't always a power-crazy genocidal maniac. His childhood wasn't good. For about 11 years his father, Alois, beat and humiliated him daily. His mother, Klara, was grieving for three older children (Adolf's siblings) who had died of highly contagious bacterial disease called diphtheria. She participated in the abuse of her son, and her hunchbacked sister, Johanna (Adolf's aunt) terrified him.

When he was younger, he wanted to be an artist. He applied to go to art school but wasn't accepted, after this he decided to get into politics.

Hitler believed that Jews were less than human. He also believed in the superiority of the Aryan race. He wanted to use Darwinism (a theory of evolution created by Charles Darwin) and breeding to create a race of perfect people. Hitler's idea of perfect was blue eyes and blonde hair even though he had none of these traits.

Before Hitler rose to power, he wrote a book called *Mein Kampf* stating that when he became ruler, he would rid Germany of all the Jews. Not many people believed he would really do this, but as soon as he became Chancellor, he started his work against the Jews.

He organized attacks on Jewish businesses and homes. On November 9th 1938 many Jewish homes and businesses were burnt down or vandalized. This night was called the Kristallnacht or "Night of Broken Glass".

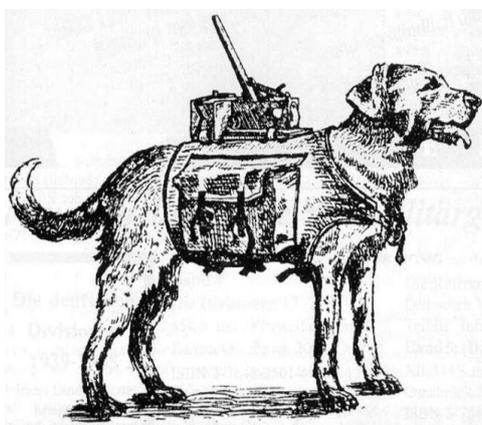




Unusual Tactics, fashion

At the start of WW2, to confuse German spies, British soldiers removed from train stations, towns and streets. They enforced blackouts to stop all aircraft from finding them.

The Germans recruited some unusual spies, dogs. They believed they could understand the different tones and noises of barks and how they tapped their paws on the ground. They even tried communicating telepathically. One dog could even say Führer (which was Adolf Hitler's title). They planned to have a whole network of spy dogs. There was one problem the dogs sometimes had accidents and there were many hygiene issues. Adolf Hitler himself authorised the setting up of animal talking school.



The Russians also had pet problems. The Russians didn't have much money and needed a cheap way to destroy the unbeatable German tanks, so they invented dog bombs. Dogs were trained to run underneath German tanks with bombs strapped to their backs. The Russians sent their brilliant new weapon into battle but there was a problem. The dogs had been trained to run under Russian tanks in training. So, they ran under the Russian tanks during battle.

The Germans also had trouble with machines. The German U-boat sleek, silent, fast, deadly. It was the perfect designed fighting machine. But there was a minor dilemma. It was fitted with a very complicated high-pressure toilet system. During the voyage one U-boat captain went to the toilet and tried to flush it but rather than flush the sewage out, he'd opened the wrong valve and let out raw sewage and seawater in. It seeped into the engine room, mixed with chemical batteries and produced a lethal gas. The submarine had no choice but to surface 12 miles off Scotland. It was instantly spotted and had to surrender to the British.



In England it was very fashionable to wear gravy stockings. To make the gravy they would boil down cow bones and smear it on their legs. Some even used eyeliner to draw a seam. Even though they sound ridiculous it became a very popular thing to do as materials were very limited.

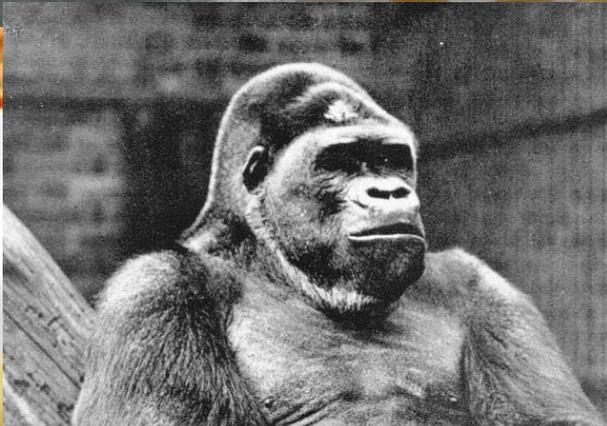
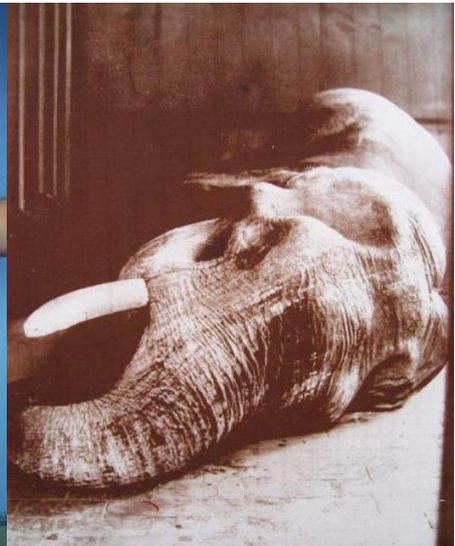


The German soldiers had orders not to wake up Hitler until midday. If they did Hitler would be grumpy and irritable for the rest of the day. Some speculate that it is because he was an alcoholic and a cocaine addict,



he would consume them in huge quantities. He would also give his soldiers scribbled pieces of paper with "orders", his breakfast orders: marmalade on toast and apple strudel.

The food supplies in Germany began to decrease and people began to starve so they mixed different foods together here is an actual recipe to make mock duck: sausage, apples, onions and old sage. Another thing that happened as people became more desperate was that they killed zoo animals and ate them. Rhinos, tigers and gorillas were all eaten out of desperation.





The Irish bombings

The first bombing of neutral Ireland by German aircraft happened on the 26th of August 1940, when bombs destroyed a creamery at Campile, Co. Wexford, killing three people. On the first three days of January 1941, German bombs were dropped at a number of locations along the east coast of Ireland, including counties Carlow, Kildare, Louth, Meath, Wexford and Wicklow, but without any deaths. On the 2nd and 3rd of January 1941, German bombs were dropped for the first time on Dublin City in the Donore area of Meath, around the South Circular Road and in Terenure in Dublin, districts where many Jewish families resided. The excuse offered by Hitler's government for the January bombings, as it was for the Campile bombing, was that German aircraft had mistaken the Irish east coast for the west coast of Britain. Despite this Ireland remained neutral.



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VAN HOUTEN'S COCOA
CHEAPEST BECAUSE YOU USE LESS

The Irish Press

Vol. X., No. 205. Do Cum Saire de Agor Gada, na n-Éireann TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1940. The Truth in the News PRICE THREE-HALFPENCE

Sealed Cream
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AIRMEN WRECK IRISH CREAMERY

GERMAN BOMBS KILL THREE

IN CO. WEXFORD

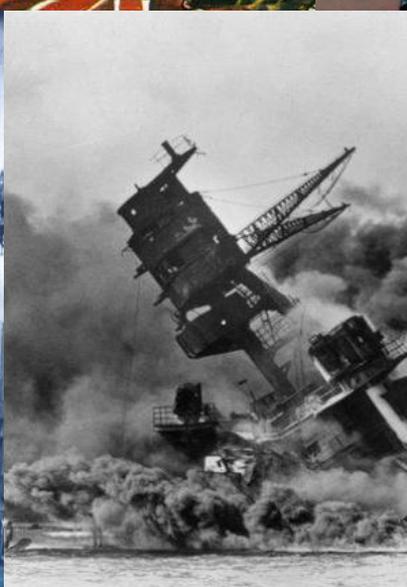
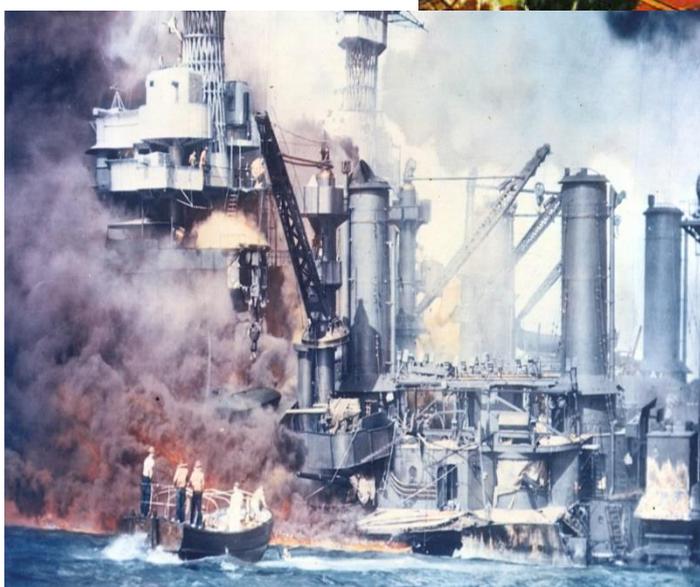
Government Protest To Berlin: Demand For Reparation

nearby held on a pipe-line which takes the local water supply to the creamery. Accidentals had damaged the railway line, and a third in a field near the local hotel owned by Mrs. J. Sheehan.
 Mrs. J. Sheehan told our reporter that she saw a plane overhead. It was while everyone was lighting the tops of the houses. It was very dark and the back was fogged but she saw the machine.
 Witnesses were available for some 150 yards away from where the bombs dropped and told of the point where the plane was seen about the same distance away.

Showing the wrecked creamery at Campile

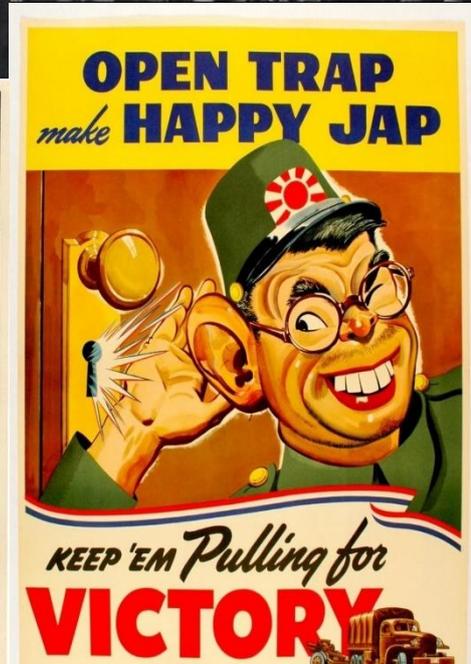
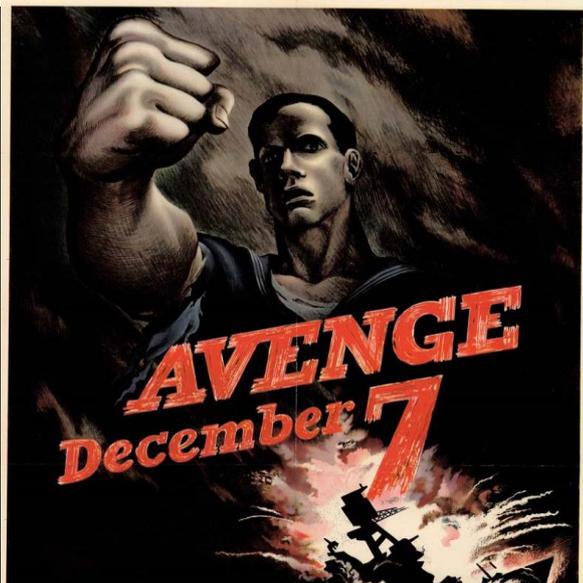
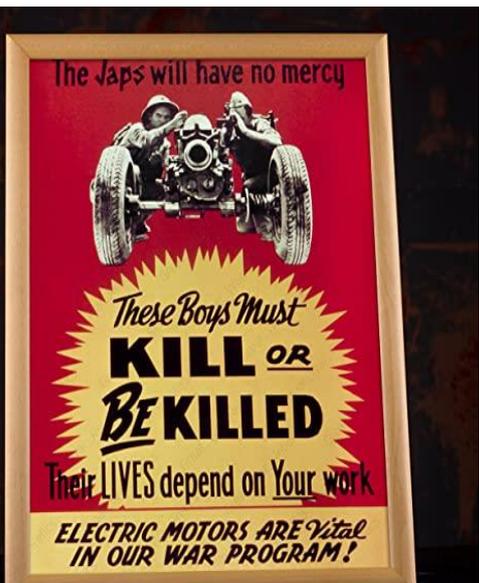
Japan attacks Pearl Harbor

Pearl Harbor is a U.S. naval base near Honolulu, Hawaii, that was the scene of a shocking attack by Japanese forces on the 7th of December 1941. Just before 8 a.m. on that Sunday morning, hundreds of Japanese fighter planes descended on the base, where they managed to destroy and damage nearly 20 American naval vessels, including eight battleships, and over 300 airplanes. More than 2,400 Americans died in the attack, including civilians, and another 1,000 people were wounded. The day after the assault, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan.



The US declares war

On the 11th of December 1941, four days after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor the United States declared of war against the Japanese Empire, Nazi Germany declared war against the United States, in response to what Germany said was a series of affronts by the United States government, when the U.S. was still formally neutral throughout World War II. The decision to declare war was made by Adolf Hitler, apparently offhand, virtually without discussion.

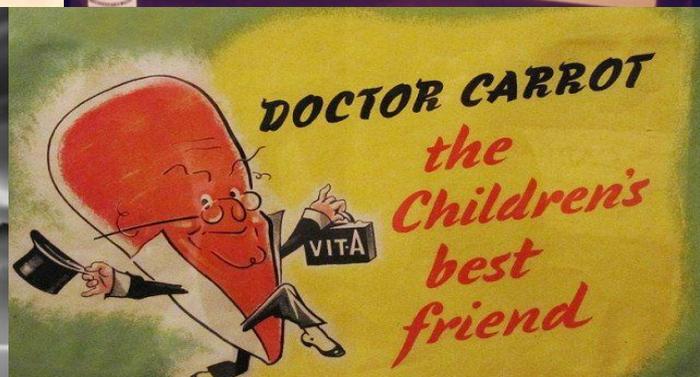
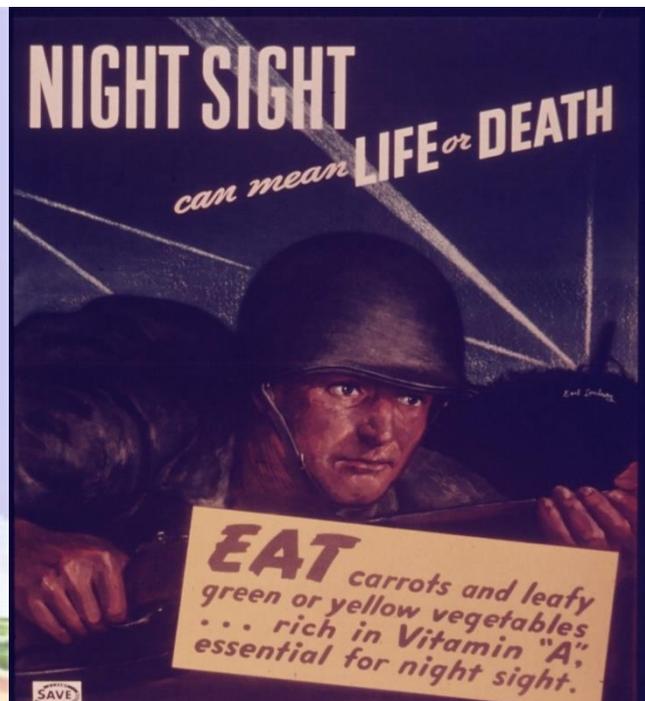
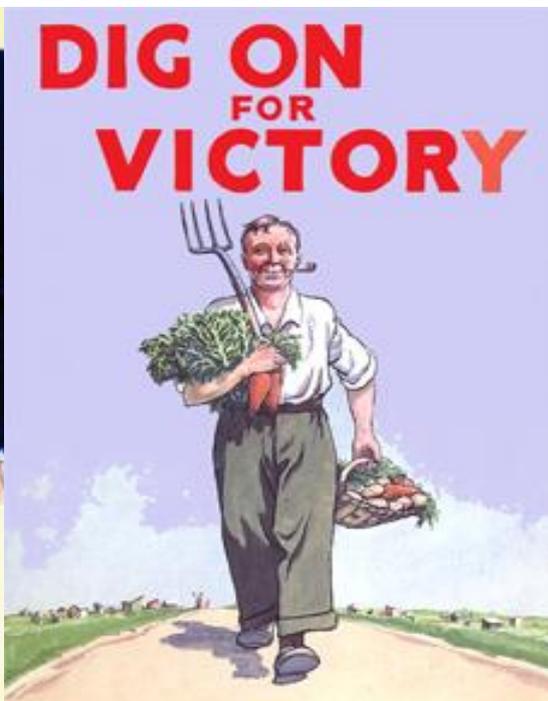




Carrots and Confusion

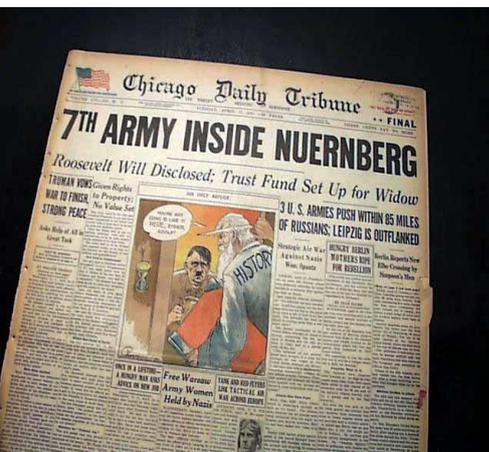
In 1940 the Germans had started carrying out regular air raids (flying over cities and dropping bombs) over Britain. The British were managing the situation brilliantly, often shooting down the majority of German planes. They managed this despite the total blackout enforced on British towns and cities at night. How did they say they achieved this? Carrots! The secret to perfect night vision! The example given to the public of the power of carrots was John “Cat’s Eyes” Cunningham. He shot down 20 German fighter planes in the pitch dark of night using his great eyesight that he got from eating carrots!

The real secret behind his supernatural vision was that pilots were using Airborne Interception Radar, which was both a new technology and top secret, according to the RAF (Royal Air Force) Museum in London. To prevent the Germans finding out about RADAR and using it themselves, the British instead said it was all down to eating carrots. The British government began to make propaganda posters to back up the story which the Germans believed and there were rumours that the Germans started feeding carrots to their own pilots.



The Allies' Triumphs

The Battle of Nuremberg (16th to 20th April 1945) was a five-day battle between the forces of the United States army on one side, and Nazi Germany and Russian Liberation Army volunteers on the other. The battle saw some of the fiercest fighting during the war and it took four days for the United States to capture the city even though American forces heavily outnumbered the German's. The battle was a blow to Nazi Germany as Nuremberg was a centre of the Nazi organisation. The Nuremberg Rally took place in the city and losing the city to the Americans took a heavy toll on already low German morale. The battle devastated the



city.

The Capture of Hamburg was another one of the last battles of World War 2, where the remaining troops of the German army fought the British Corps for the control of Hamburg, between the 18th of April and the 3rd of May 1945. British troops were met with a fierce struggle as Hamburg was the last remaining resistance in the north. Once the British had captured the city, they continued their trek north-east and sealed off the remnants of the air borne Army and The Northwest Army Group in the Jutland peninsula.

And perhaps the most important victory of all, on the 6th of June 1944, the allied forces of Britain, America, Canada and France attacked German forces on the coast of Normandy France. With a huge force of over 150,000 soldiers, the allies attacked and gained a victory that became the turning point for world war 2 in Europe. This victory is known as D day.



The End of World War 2

In Berlin, the Soviet forces were fighting their way through the German capital. Hitler was reduced to hiding in a bunker, giving orders to soldiers that only existed in his head. The Soviets were getting close to the bunker, and on April 30, 1945, Adolf Hitler killed himself.

Command of the German forces passed to Admiral Karl Doenitz, and he quickly sent out peace feelers. He soon realized an absolute surrender would be required, and he was ready to sign. But with the war over, the fragile alliance between the U.S. and the Soviets was turning frosty, an alliance which would eventually break and lead to the Cold War. While the Western Allies agreed to the surrender on May 8, the Soviets insisted on their own surrender ceremony and process. This occurred on May 9, the official conclusion to the 2nd world war in Europe.

Yet the Japanese verses US war raged on. After years of battles and unsuccessful attempts at negotiating a treaty, the US dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They flattened towns and cities. The Nagasaki bombs wounded and killed between 90,000 to 146,000 people and the Hiroshima bombs killed between 39,000 to 80,000 people. Around half the deaths occurred within the first day, on August 8th 1945. A week later, on August 15th, Japan announced its surrender. The Japanese foreign affairs minister, Mamoru Shigemitsu, signed the official document on September 2nd. 6 years and 1 day since the start of the war.

Remembering the People we lost

Even though there were numerous celebrations and parties afterwards, many had lost friends and loved ones approximately 75 million people died. Many were just ordinary civilians. The deaths include, around 6 million Jews, 2 hundred thousand disabled people, 21–25 million military deaths including deaths in captivity of about 5 million prisoners of war. Since then there have been countless books, movies, plays, websites, graves and memorials made to commemorate and remember the brave citizens, soldiers and prisoners of war who lost their lives.





Remember

