

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF

# WORLD WAR II



## THE MARCH TOWARD ALLIED VICTORY

The tide of the war turned in the Allies' favor with the Normandy invasion in June 1944. But it was more than a year before hostilities ceased in the Pacific Theater and the world was forever changed by the deployment of America's nuclear arsenal.

**APRIL 1, 1945**

Operation Iceberg begins with the invasion of Okinawa, the largest amphibious assault in the Pacific Theater of World War II.



A Marine of the 1st Division draws a bead on a Japanese sniper with his tommy-gun as his companion ducks for cover. S.Sgt. Walter F. Kleine, Okinawa, 1945

**APRIL 12, 1945**

U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt dies; Harry Truman becomes president.



**APRIL 30, 1945**

Führer Adolf Hitler commits suicide in a bunker in Berlin.



**MAY 7, 1945**

Germany surrenders to the Allies in Reims, France.

**MAY 8, 1945**

Victory in Europe Day as the ceasefire takes effect.



Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel signs the ratified surrender terms for the German Army at Russian Headquarters in Berlin. Lt. Moore, Germany, May 7, 1945

"A jubilant American soldier hugs a motherly English woman and victory smiles light the faces of happy servicemen and civilians at Piccadilly Circus in London, England," celebrating Germany's unconditional surrender to the Allies as the war in Europe comes to an end. Pfc. Melvin Weiss, England, May 7, 1945

**GERMANY DIVIDED**

Post-war Germany was divided into four occupation zones, to be controlled by the SOVIET UNION, BRITAIN, the UNITED STATES and FRANCE.



**JUNE 22, 1945**

Americans complete defeat of Japan in Okinawa.

**JULY 16, 1945**

United States conducts the Trinity test in New Mexico, the first test of a nuclear bomb.

**JULY 17, 1945**

The Potsdam Conference begins under British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin and U.S. President Harry Truman, all calling for the surrender of Japan.



A mushroom cloud billows after a nuclear bomb was detonated above Hiroshima, Japan. U.S. Army, Aug. 6, 1945



**JULY 30, 1945**

The USS Indianapolis is sunk shortly after midnight by a Japanese submarine after having delivered atomic bomb material to Tinian, Mariana Islands.

**AUG. 2, 1945**

Potsdam Conference ends with Potsdam Agreement.

**AUG. 6, 1945**

The B-29 bomber Enola Gay drops the first atomic bomb, "Little Boy," on Hiroshima, Japan.

**LITTLE BOY**

Carried by the Enola Gay and detonated 1,890 feet over Hiroshima, Japan, at 8:15 a.m.  
Yield: 16 kilotons  
Core: Uranium 235  
Killed: 90,000 that day; 140,000 within months



**AUG. 9, 1945**

The B-29 bomber Bockscar drops the second atomic bomb, "Fat Man," on Nagasaki, Japan.

**FAT MAN**

Carried by the Bockscar and detonated 1,800 feet over Nagasaki, Japan, at 11:02 a.m.  
Yield: 21 kilotons  
Core: Plutonium 239  
Killed: 40,000 that day; 70,000 within months



**AUG. 15, 1945**

Emperor Hirohito issues a radio broadcast announcing the Surrender of Japan; Victory over Japan Day celebrations take place worldwide, falling on Aug. 14 in the United States.



"The enemy has begun to employ a new and most cruel bomb, the power of which to do damage is, indeed, incalculable, taking the toll of many innocent lives."

Emperor Hirohito of Japan

"New York City celebrating the surrender of Japan. They threw anything and kissed anybody in Times Square." Lt. Victor Jorgensen, Aug. 14, 1945

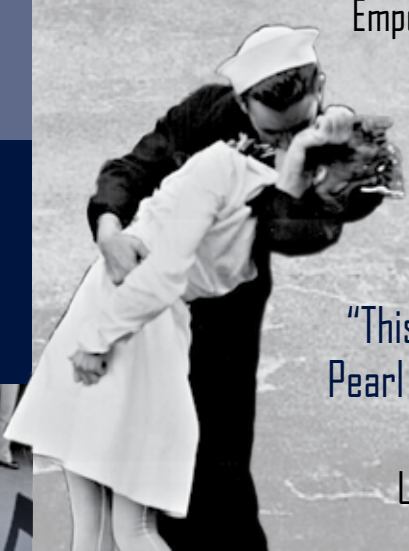


**VICTORY OVER JAPAN DAY**

Rhode Island is the only state that celebrates the end of World War II as a legal holiday. Victory Day falls on the second Monday of August.

"This is the day we have been waiting for since Pearl Harbor. This is the day when fascism finally dies, as we always knew it would."

U.S. President Harry Truman on Aug. 14, 1945



**SEPT. 2, 1945**

The Japanese Instrument of Surrender is signed on the deck of the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

## THE WAR WAS OVER ... BUT THE COST WAS GREAT.

**11 MILLION**  
PERISHED IN  
THE HOLOCAUST



**65 MILLION**  
PEOPLE DIED  
ACROSS THE GLOBE

**405,000**  
AMERICANS KILLED  
IN THE CONFLICT

**NOV. 20, 1945**

Nuremberg War Crimes tribunal for Nazis begins.

Photos: National Archives; U.S. Army | Source: National Archives; The National World War II Museum

Graphic by Heather Bremer | CNHI News Indiana

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