

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.

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.

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.

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.

AUG. 9, 1945

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

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.

SEPT. 2, 1945

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

NOV. 20, 1945

Nuremberg War Crimes tribunal for Nazis begins.



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



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

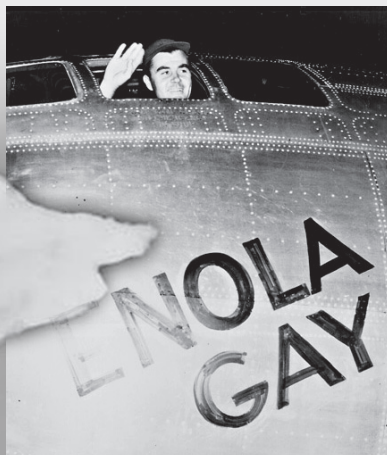
"A jubilant American soldier hugs a motherly English woman and victory smiles light the faces of happy servicemen and civilians at Piccadilly Circus in London, England," celebrating Germany's unconditional surrender to the Allies as the war in Europe comes to an end.  
Pfc. Melvin Weiss, England, May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



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



### 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



### 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

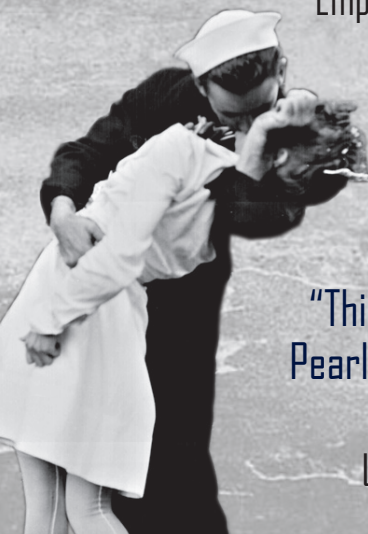
### VICTORY OVER JAPAN DAY

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.



"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



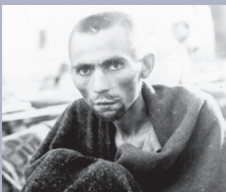
"This is the day we have been waiting for since Pearl Harbor. This is the day when fascism finally dies, as we always knew it would."

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

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

