

# VE DAY

SEB AND AUSTIN



# Background: Germans

## Winners and losers

After Germany lost World War I, it felt very unhappy with the peace terms. This unhappiness and anger led to the election of the radical National Socialist political party, better known as the Nazis. Under the command of Adolf Hitler, the Nazis brought Germany into World War II.

### Old Memories

- ▶ By the 1930s, Germany was in a pretty bad position. The country had to pay money to the nations that had defeated it in World War I. Germans were humiliated by this and wanted an answer.
- ▶ In 1932, they saw an answer in the Nazi Party, which promised a return to German greatness, and blamed the war's failure on Jews and communists. Hitler and the Nazis took control of the German government in 1933. That same year, they opened a **concentration camp**, meaning a giant prison.

### Rough going

- ▶ Germany didn't fight World War II alone. It had allies in Italy and Japan, but Japan was too far away to provide much help and Italy wasn't nearly as powerful. This meant that Germany had to deal with its biggest enemies in the war - France, Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union - almost by itself. Hitler managed to knock France out of the war quickly, but the other enemies were much more difficult to fight.



# Background: The United Nations

- ▶ The **League of Nations** (French **La Société des Nations**) was the predecessor to the United Nations. The League was founded in 1920, after WW1, but failed to maintain peace during WW2. The League had a Council of the great powers and an Assembly of all the member countries.
- ▶ The League of Nations was thought up by Woodrow Wilson, the American President during the First World War. It was to be a group of nations that worked together to keep peace. One of the reasons for its downfall was that, after a vote, the American public refused to join. The League did not have the power it needed to enforce any of the rules that made it up. This later proved to be a fatal flaw in the League's structure.



Country	Military	Civilian	Deaths
USSR	13,600,000	7,700,000	21,300,000
China	1,324,000	10,000,000	11,324,000
Germany	3,250,000	3,810,000	7,060,000
Poland	850,000	6,000,000	6,850,000
Japan	-	-	2,000,000
Yugoslavia	300,000	1,400,000	1,706,000
Rumania	520,000	465,000	985,000
France	340,000	470,000	810,000
Hungary	-	-	750,000
Austria	380,000	145,000	525,000
Greece	-	-	520,000
United States	500,000	-	500,000
Italy	330,000	80,000	410,000
Czechoslovakia	-	-	400,000
Great Britain	326,000	62,000	388,000
Netherlands	198,000	12,000	210,000
Belgium	76,000	12,000	88,000
Finland	-	-	84,000
Canada	39,000	-	39,000
India	36,000	-	36,000
Australia	29,000	-	29,000
Albania	-	-	28,000
Spain	12,000	10,000	22,000
Bulgaria	19,000	2,000	21,000
New Zealand	12,000	-	12,000
Norway	-	-	10,262
South Africa	9,000	-	9,000
Luxembourg	-	-	5,000
Denmark	4,000	-	4,000
<b>Total</b>	-	-	<b>56,125,262</b>

## World War II

- ▶ WW2 was 6 years long.
- ▶ World War 2 was fought between two groups of countries. On one side were the Axis Powers, including Germany, Italy and Japan. On the other side were the Allies. They included Britain, France, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, India, the Soviet Union, China and the United States of America.
- ▶ The amount of deaths was horrifying - 56 million people died during the war.



Families were taken apart  
and houses were destroyed  
with people in them.

# World War II

- ▶ Winston Churchill
- ▶ Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- ▶ Sir Winston Leonard Spencer-Churchill was a British politician, army officer, and writer. He was Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from May 1940 to July 1945. He led the fight for England in WW2.
  
- ▶ In the military, D-Day is the day on which a combat attack or operation is to be initiated. D-Day in World War II was led by Churchill, on June 6, 1944 the day of the Normandy landings initiating the Western Allied effort to liberate western Europe from Nazi Germany. It was the turning point for the war.



# VE Day - Victory in Europe Day

- ▶ VE day is a day celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces on Tuesday, 8 May 1945. VE Day stands for victory in Europe and is celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> May. Although it was not the end of the second world war it was the end of fighting in Europe.
- ▶ Most countries celebrate the end of World War II on 8 May. Russia, Belarus, and Serbia celebrate on 9 May, as did several countries. Israel also marks VE Day on 9 May, as a result of the large number of immigrants from the former Soviet bloc, although it is not a public holiday. The term VE Day existed as early as September 1944, in anticipation of victory.



Here is a video where it shows you what celebrations take place on VE Day back in 1945



# VE Day 2

## All the reasons

- ▶ The Early May Bank Holiday, also known as May Day, is on the first Monday of May, but in 2020, it has been moved back four days.
- ▶ This is to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day, which falls on the second Friday of May.
- ▶ The second Friday of May will mark 75 years since VE Day as the United Kingdom remembers the end of war in Europe.



## All the celebrations

- ▶ Musicians are going to play the Last Post at 2.55pm along with the Pipers undertaking Battle's O'er and VE 75 years at 3pm as well as Town Criers, Crying out for Peace at 6.55pm.
- ▶ While the Pipers are playing Battle's O'er, and the recorded speech by Prime Minister Churchill is being played into our homes at 3pm on the 8th May, we would still like people to stand at 3pm and undertake the Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW II, using the following words. **"TO THOSE WHO GAVE SO MUCH, WE THANK YOU."**

# Comparison

## VE Day

- ▶ Happiness :10
- ▶ Sadness :1
- ▶ Age :75
- ▶ Demolition :0
- ▶ Overall rating :8



## WW2

- ▶ Happiness :1
- ▶ Sadness :8
- ▶ Age :76
- ▶ Demolition :10
- ▶ Overall rating :2

