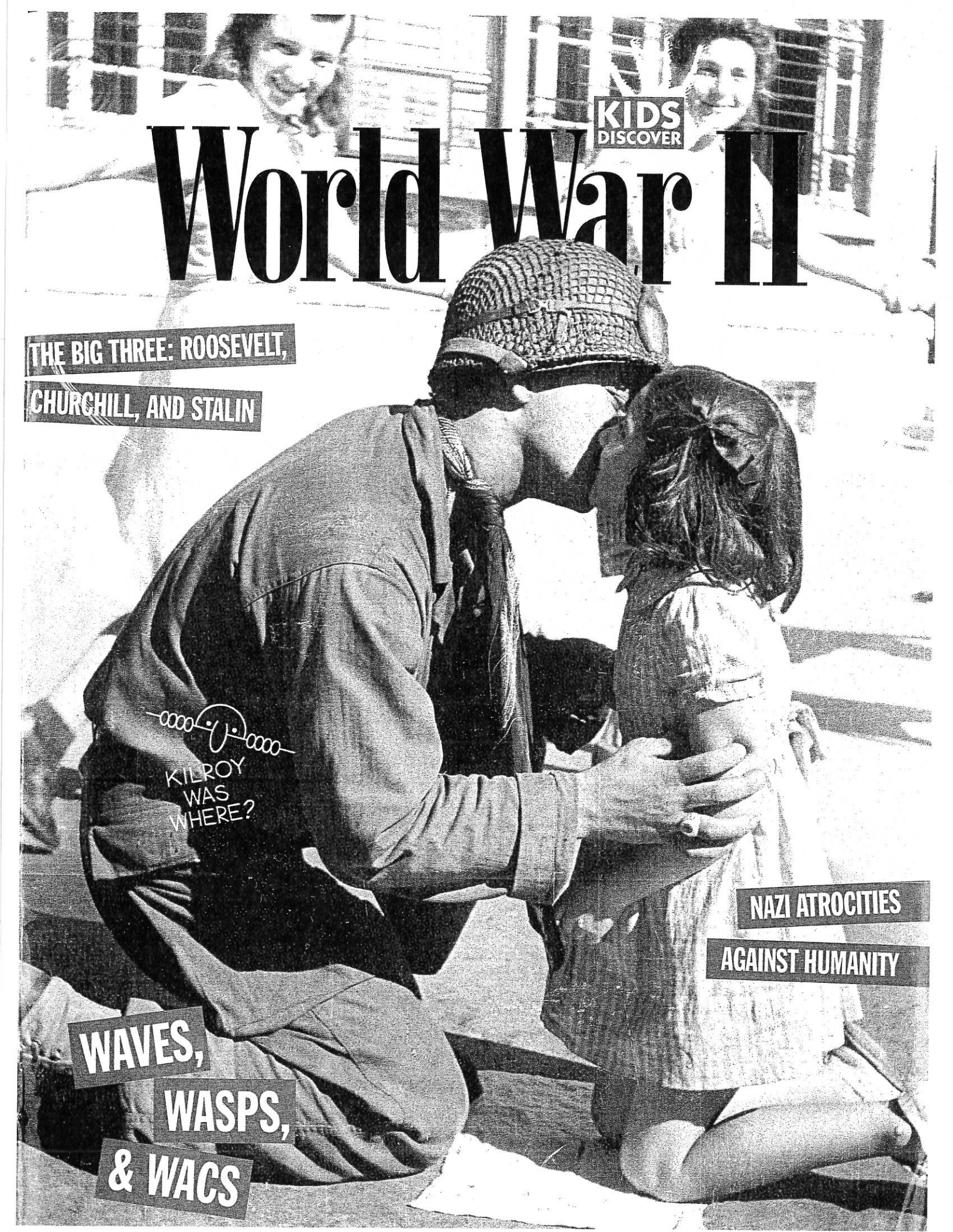
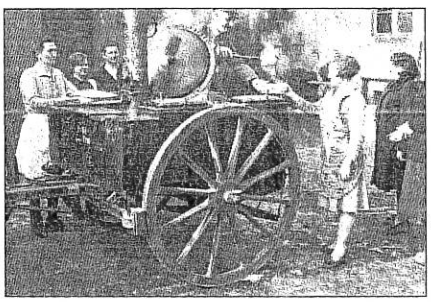

KIDS DISCOVER
World War II
THE BIG THREE: ROOSEVELT, CHURCHILL, AND STALIN
KILROY WAS WHERE?
NAZI ATROCITIES AGAINST HUMANITY
WAVES, WASPS, & WACS

➤ At the height of the war, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the United States were the major **ALLIED POWERS**. By war's end, 50 nations were Allies, including France, Australia, Canada, and Mexico.

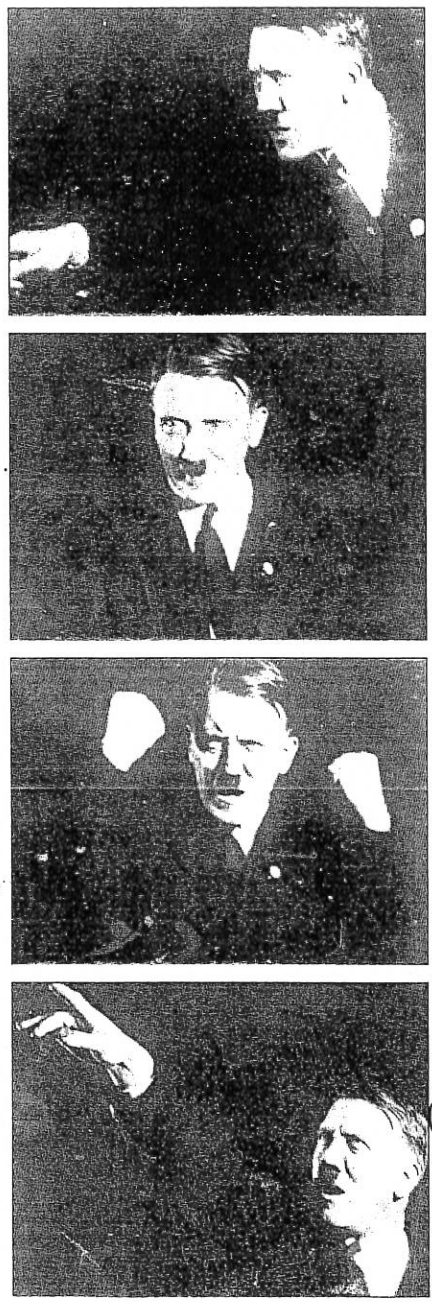
The GOOD War

World War II was the deadliest war in history. Fought on land, sea, and in the air, it killed more people and destroyed more property than any war before or after it. On three continents—Europe, Asia, and Africa—around seventeen million people lost their lives in bloody combat. Civilian deaths were even higher as bombing raids, disease, and hunger took their toll. Over six million European Jews died in death camps and slave labor

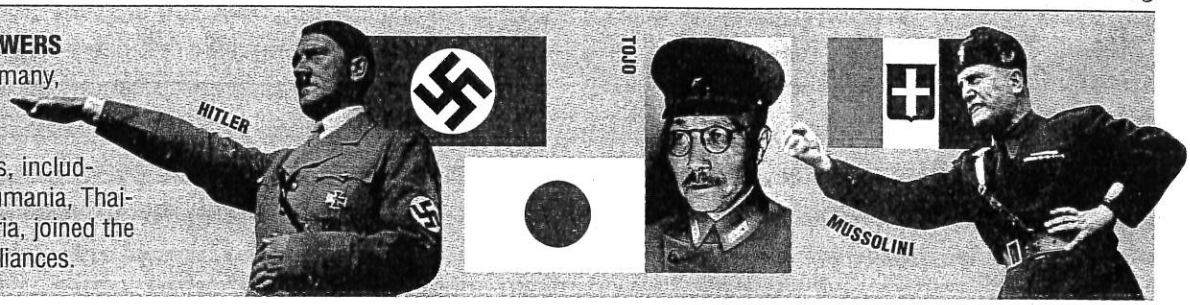
(1) ▲ **In Germany, the** path to World War II began almost as soon as World War I ended. Many Germans resented the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, which blamed Germany for starting World War I, stripped it of land and arms, and required it to pay the victors for war damages. Above, leaders of the U.S., Britain, and France are jubilant after signing the treaty in 1919.



(2) ▲ **In the 1930s,** terrible economic times, known as the Great Depression, spread from the U.S. to Europe. In Germany, millions lost their jobs. Their money lost its value. The cost of a postage stamp would have paid for a house 30 years earlier! Fearful of the future and angry about the past, Germans looked for a strong leader.



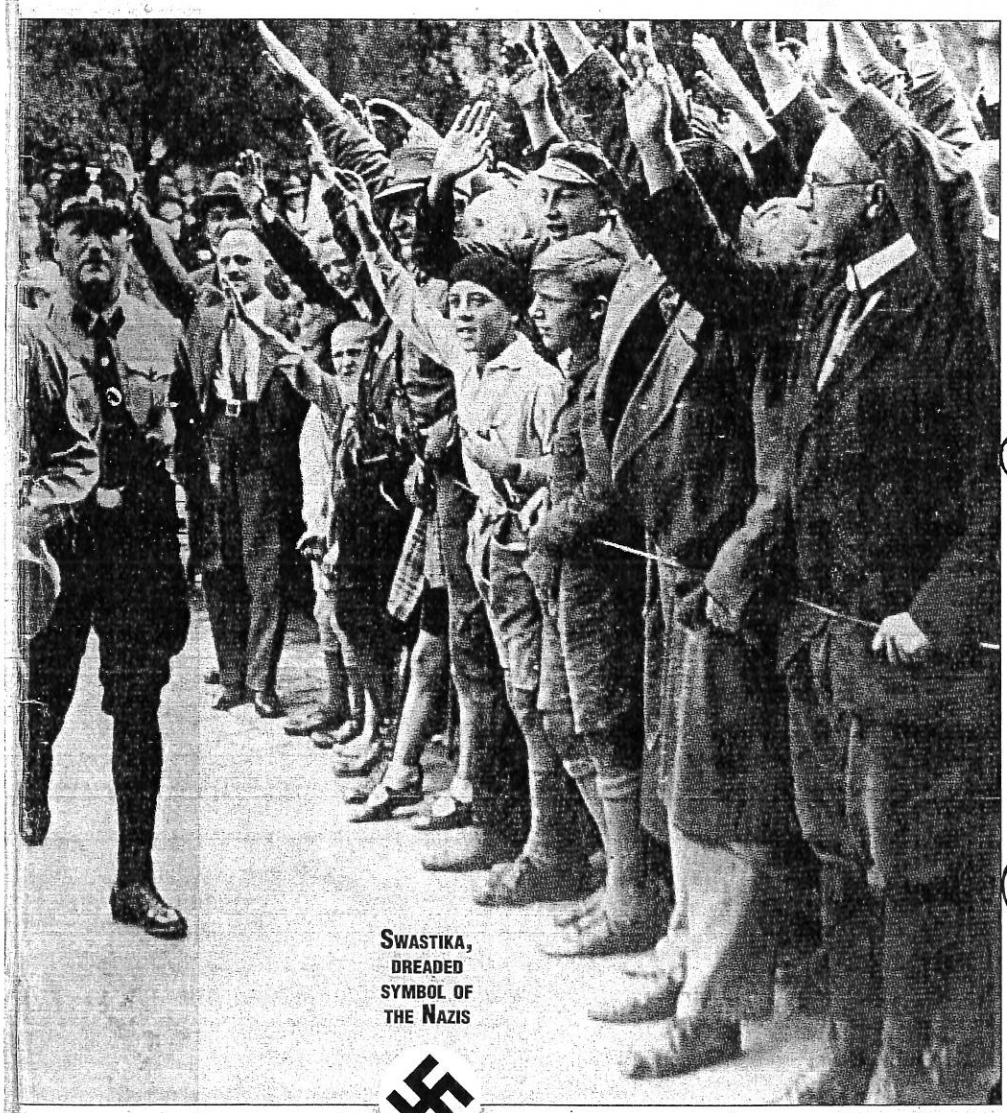
(3) ▲ **In 1933, Adolf** Hitler and the Nazi party took power in Germany. Hitler won supporters by promising to build a vast German empire. Calling the Germans a superior "master race," he preached hatred of the Jewish people



➤ The **AXIS POWERS** were led by Germany, Japan, and Italy. Over time, six other nations, including Hungary, Rumania, Thailand, and Bulgaria, joined the Axis in formal alliances.

camps set up by Germany's Nazi leaders.

Yet, despite its horror, World War II is often called the "good war" because it pitted Germany, Italy, and Japan—nations led by brutal dictators—against many democratic nations, led by Great Britain and the United States. After almost six years of struggle, from 1939 to 1945, the democracies won, because they vastly overpowered the enemy in troops and industrial might, especially after the U.S. entered the war. But the price of freedom was high and the road to victory was long and hard.



SWASTIKA, DREADED SYMBOL OF THE NAZIS

(4) ▲ **THE NAZIS WON** support by blaming the Jews for Germany's defeat in World War I and for its economic hardships. Many Germans looking for simple answers to Germany's problems believed Hitler's lies and other groups such as Gypsies (now known as Roma) and Slavs, whom the Nazis considered inferior.

(5) ▲ **LIKE GERMANY,** Italy was also unhappy about the treaty ending World War I. Although it was on the winning side, it gained less land than it had expected. When hard times hit, Benito Mussolini, leader of the Fascist party, promised to bring order to Italy and restore the country to the great and glorious power it had been long ago.

(6) ➤ **IN JAPAN DURING** the 1930s, military officers began taking control of the government. Japan's military leaders eagerly began a program of expansion. In 1941, General Hideki Tojo became premier of Japan.

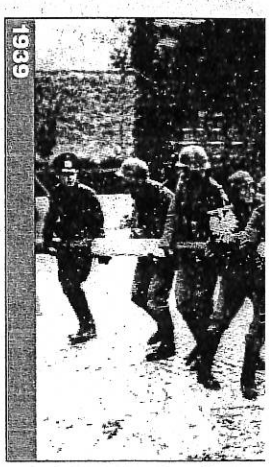
The Road to War...

Once they came to power, both Hitler and Mussolini took total control of their nations. Elections ended. Newspapers that spoke out against the dictators were closed. The Nazis and the Fascists jailed or killed those who disagreed with them. Fear silenced most of their opponents. Both dictators rebuilt their nation's armed forces and in 1936 formed an alliance called the Rome-Berlin Axis. Four years later, Japan joined them. Throughout the 1930s, all three con-

(1) ➤ **In 1931, Japan** invaded Manchuria, a Chinese province rich in coal and iron. Six years later, it attacked and occupied much of eastern China. Its leaders then made plans to bring all of eastern Asia under Japanese control.

(2) ➤ **Italy, too, was** on the path of conquering nations. Haile Selassie was emperor of Ethiopia when it was invaded and conquered by Italy in 1936. Ethiopians (right) tried to fight the Italians with spears, but it was a losing battle. Selassie lived in exile in England until 1941, when British forces helped free Ethiopia from the Axis powers and restored Selassie to his throne.

(3) ➤ **In March 1938,** a newly rearmed Germany marched into Austria and united it with Germany. With a growing Nazi party in Austria, many Austrians favored the union.



(5) ## THEY DID THEIR PART

Some four hundred **Navajo Indians** *played a key part in winning the war in the Pacific by serving as codetalkers. Working for the Marine Corps as radiomen, they sent messages in a code based on their language. In Navajo, a word spoken in four different tones has four different meanings. For terms not in the Navajo language, they used familiar words.* Fighter plane *was* hummingbird, grenade *became* potato, *and* battleship *was* whale.

(6) ➤ **Born Joseph** Djugashvili, the Soviet Union's leader took the name "Stalin," or man of steel. Like Hitler and Mussolini, he was a ruthless dictator. Under his brutal regime, the Soviet Union became a great world power, but over five million died as a result of famines he created with artificial food shortages. His

secret police killed close to one million more. Others were worked to death in slave labor camps in places like Siberia, where temperatures can fall to -104 degrees F.

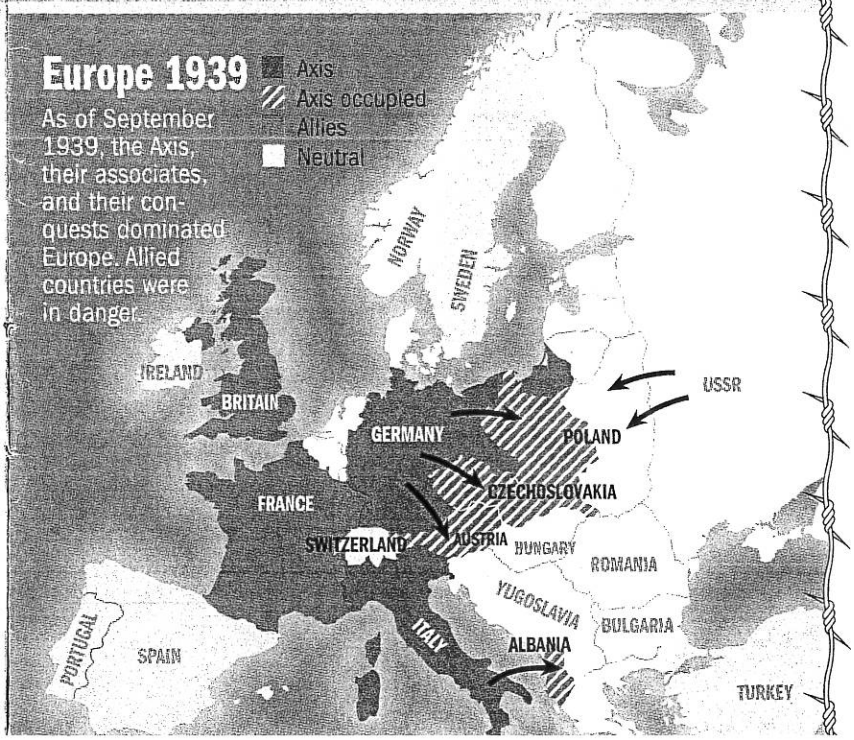
(7) ➤ **When Germany** invaded Poland, Britain and France hoped the Soviet Union would come to Poland's aid, but instead Stalin joined Hitler. The two signed an agreement not to fight each other and secretly agreed to divide up Poland. Without the threat of war between the Axis powers and the Soviet Union, Germany was free to invade Poland. Below, Stalin and Germany's foreign minister agree on the division of Poland.

quered weaker nations. When democratic countries like Britain, France, and the United States did little to stop them, the dictators grew bolder. On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland. Britain and France then declared war on Germany. World War II had begun.

WHEN THE tanks of the German army rolled into Poland, the Polish army met them on horseback. Its outdated weapons were no match for German bombers.

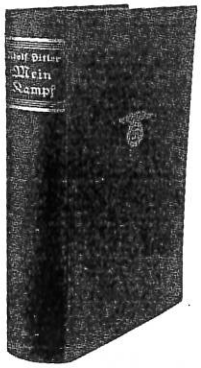
Europe 1939

As of September 1939, the Axis, their associates, and their conquests dominated Europe. Allied countries were in danger.

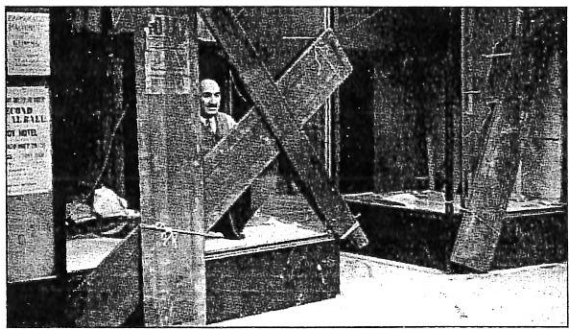


...and to Horror

IN HIS BOOK *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle), Hitler laid out his plans to increase "living space" for Germans and his beliefs about the superiority of the light-skinned, blue-eyed blonds, whom he called the Aryan race. Hitler believed Aryans, the master race, had the right to rule. Non-Aryans such as Jews and Slavs were meant to be slaves.

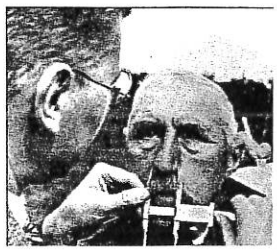


AS GERMANY rebuilt its supply of weapons and the Nazis became more powerful, Hitler's war against the Jews grew more vicious. From 1933 to 1938, Hitler passed laws that deprived German Jews of all their rights. Jewish teachers, government workers, lawyers, and doctors lost their jobs. Stores owned by Jews lost almost all their customers.



ON NOVEMBER 9, 1938, the Night of Broken Glass, almost all Jewish synagogues in Germany were burned down. Nazis and their supporters looted and destroyed German-Jewish homes and businesses. They dragged Jewish people from their homes and forced them into concentration camps, places where Nazis kept prisoners under very harsh conditions. Some Jews were shipped to death camps, where they were killed. Jewish children were barred from attending schools in Germany. Families could not own land or businesses. In this way, the Nazis hoped to rid Germany of Jews. Some did leave, but many were too attached to their homeland to leave. Others had no place to go. Most countries would not accept them.

NAZIS MEASURE A MAN'S NOSE DURING AN ARYAN RACE DETERMINATION.



The Darkest Days

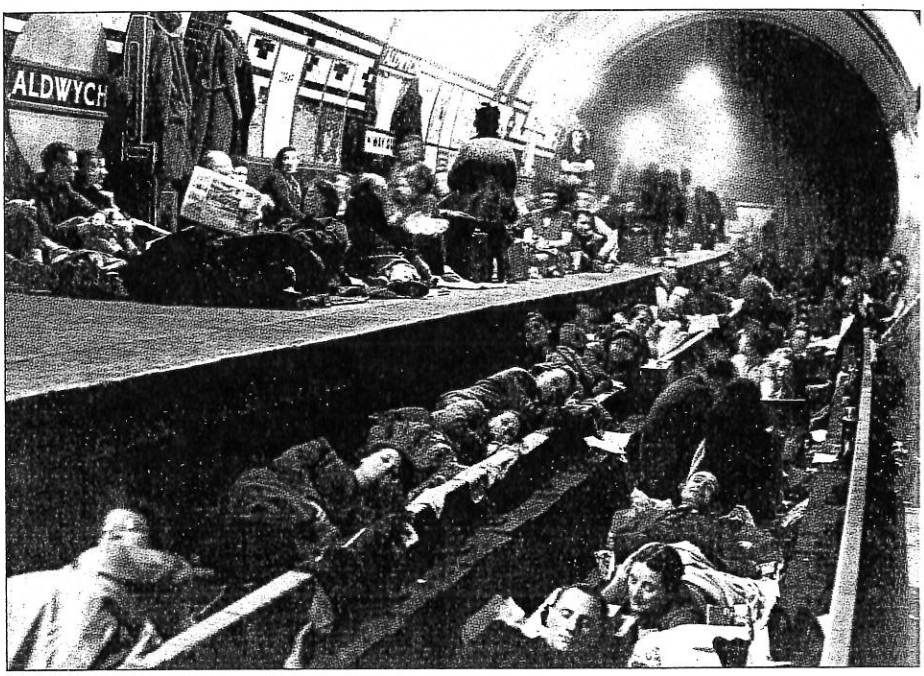
By mid-1940, almost all of Western Europe had fallen to the Nazis. When France surrendered to the Germans in June 1940, the Nazis seemed unstoppable. All that stood between the German conquerors and the island nation of Britain was the narrow English Channel.

Hitler's successes encouraged Japanese forces to move from China into Southeast Asia. The U.S. protested but took no military action.

Most people in the U.S. favored the Allied cause but didn't want to go to war. They saw it as an issue among European nations and felt protected by the oceans that separate the U.S. from Europe and Asia. President Roosevelt gave economic aid to the Allies, but he could do little more. Britain now stood as the leader of the free world against the Axis threat.

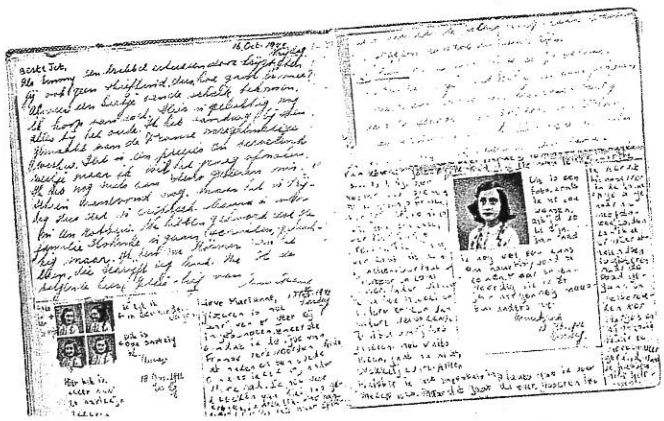
After conquering much of Western Europe, including France, Hitler's strategy was to defeat Britain and then invade the Soviet Union. His troops got ready to cross the English Channel, but his winning streak stopped at water's edge. Led by their new prime minister, Winston Churchill, the British bravely battled back. Churchill's stirring radio speeches rallied the people. "We shall defend our island whatever the cost may be," he said. "We shall fight on the beaches. We shall fight on the landing grounds. We shall fight in the ... streets. We shall never surrender!"

We shall



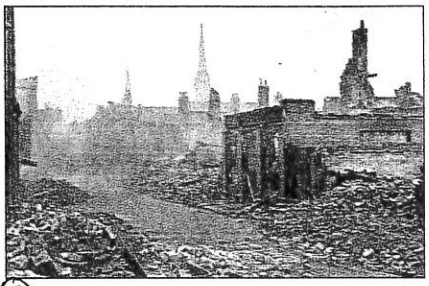
As German control of Europe spread, Hitler's troops rounded up Jewish families in occupied countries and forced them into closely guarded, crowded, and filthy ghettos in cities throughout Europe. There, as many as one-fifth of the residents died of disease or starvation.

In Holland, Anne Frank and her family went into hiding to escape capture. Eventually, the Nazis found them. After the war, the diary Anne kept during her years in hiding was published. Although Anne died in a Nazi concentration camp, her courageous spirit and belief in humankind continues to touch the hearts of readers everywhere.



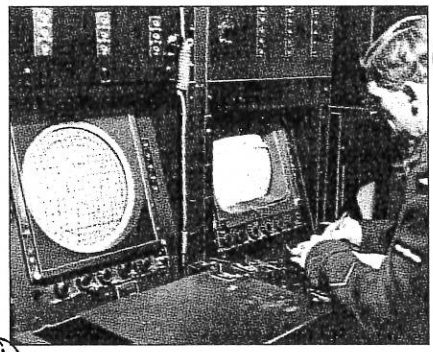
Auschwitz gate

never surrender!



2 Before the Germans could invade Britain, they had to defeat Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF). The Battle of Britain, the first battle ever fought to control the air, began in July 1940. German bombs rained down on airfields and factories in England and Scotland.

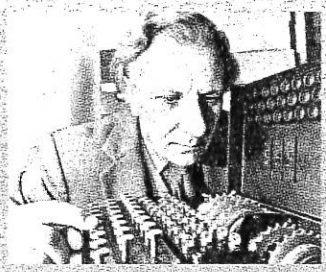
3 After the RAF won the Battle of Britain, Hitler hoped to frighten the British into giving up by attacking civilians. Massive bombing raids turned much of London into smoking ruins, but when air-raid sirens sounded, Londoners sped to bomb shelters, many of them in subway stations. By May 1941, Germany gave up trying to defeat Britain from the air.



4 Although Ger- man fighter planes greatly outnumbered the RAF, the British had radar, an electronic instrument that detects objects too far away for the human eye to see. A chain of radar stations along the British coastline spotted German planes and helped the RAF to intercept them.

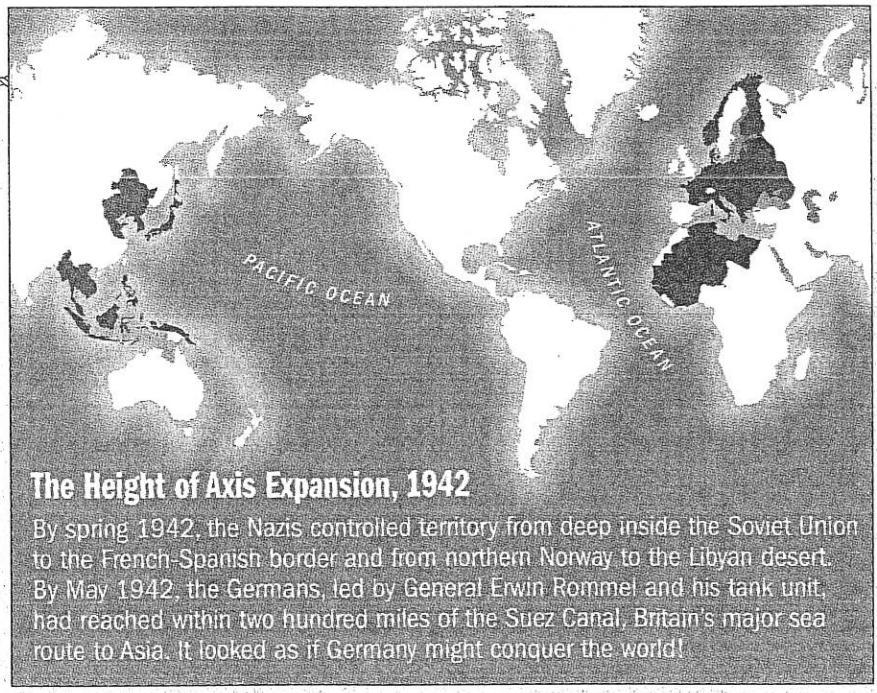
7 They Did Their Part

The German military used electrical coding machines, called **Enigma**, *to send radio messages to their field commanders. To decode a message, the receiver needed an identical machine wired the same way. The machine had almost 500,000 ways of sending messages. The Germans believed they had an unbreakable code. In 1939, just months before the start of the war, Polish spies smuggled a machine to Britain, where mathematicians and codebreakers succeeded in figuring out how it worked. The top secret information, known as the Ultra Secret, saved many Allied lives. Codebreakers knew when the Germans planned to attack during the Battle of Britain, and they provided the Allies with the Nazi battle plan, which helped the Allies defeat the Nazis in Egypt.*



5 The German- Soviet partnership didn't last long. Hitler had used the agreement to keep the Soviet Union out of the war until Germany conquered Western Europe. Then Germany turned on its Soviet ally. German troops seemed headed for victory until the cold Soviet winter of 1941–42 stalled their advance.

By 1942, the Nazis' war against the Jews had taken an even more horrifying turn. The Nazis put in place what they called the "final solution." They built six death camps in rural Poland where victims were systematically gassed or worked to death. At left are prisoners at Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest death camp, where around 1.3 million people died.



The Height of Axis Expansion, 1942

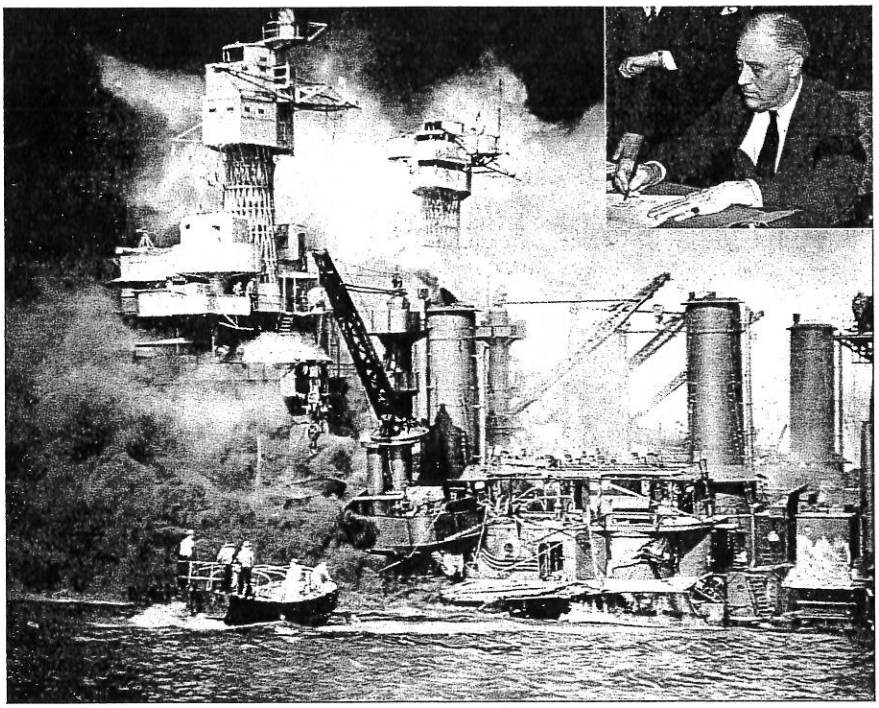
By spring 1942, the Nazis controlled territory from deep inside the Soviet Union to the French-Spanish border and from northern Norway to the Libyan desert. By May 1942, the Germans, led by General Erwin Rommel and his tank unit, had reached within two hundred miles of the Suez Canal, Britain's major sea route to Asia. It looked as if Germany might conquer the world!

This Is No Drill

At 7:55 on Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, this grim message blared out of loudspeakers aboard the battleship *Oklahoma* anchored at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii: "Air Raid Pearl Harbor real planes, real bombs; this is no drill." Waves of Japanese dive bombers and torpedo planes thundered across the island, sinking ships in the harbor and ripping apart airplanes parked at a nearby air base. It was the most devastating attack on American forces in history. Within a few hours, the Japanese sank or crippled eight battleships, three cruisers, and two destroyers. Americans, once so reluctant to go to war, now felt they had little choice.

(1)

➤ **Japan targeted** Pearl Harbor because it needed oil for its war in China. The U.S. had halted all oil sales to Japan in July 1941. Japan made plans to conquer oil-rich Dutch East India and prepared to seize the Philippines, then a U.S. colony. Knowing this would lead to war with the U.S., Japan struck first, hoping to damage the U.S. Navy and tighten its grip on Southeast Asia before the U.S. had time to recover.



(2)

◄ **Calling December** 7, 1941, a "date that will live in infamy (disgrace)," President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) asked Congress to declare war on December 8. Within hours, Congress did so. Then Japan's partners, Germany and Italy, promptly declared war on the United States. FDR's strong leadership helped Americans keep their courage and faith in democracy.

(3)

▲ **After Pearl** Harbor, many Americans were gripped by fear of further Japanese attacks. Panic and racial prejudice led to terrible mistreatment of Japanese Americans. In February 1942, FDR signed an order forcing Japanese Americans on the West Coast to move to internment camps. Although no Japanese Americans were ever accused of spying or disloyalty, they were labeled security risks. Most evacuees were children.

(4)

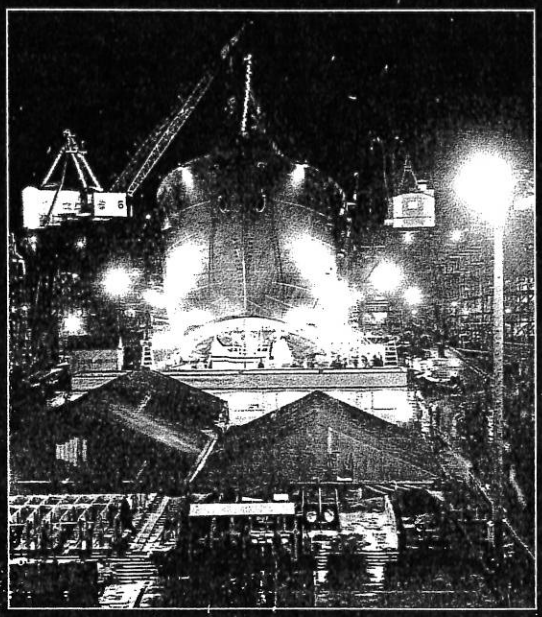
▼ **Camp Manzanar** was one of ten relocation centers in the western states. Before they left, the evacuees had to sell their homes and businesses—sometimes within two days. In 1982, a special government commission blamed the government's actions on prejudice and war hysteria. The government apologized to Japanese Americans, and in 1988, Congress voted to pay $20,000 to each of the nearly 60,000 Japanese American internees still alive.

(5)

THEY DID THEIR PART

Even though their families were in internment camps, many **Japanese Americans** *volunteered for military service, eager to show their patriotism. Two of the war's most decorated units were made up of Japanese Americans. These units served in the Mediterranean and Europe. The 442nd was the largest Japanese American unit. It fought in Italy and southern France. The Hirano family shows a picture of their son.*

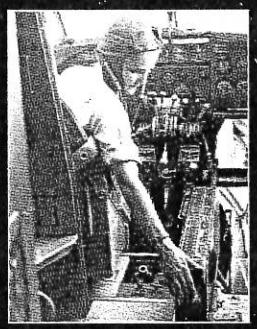
PATRIOT PATROL



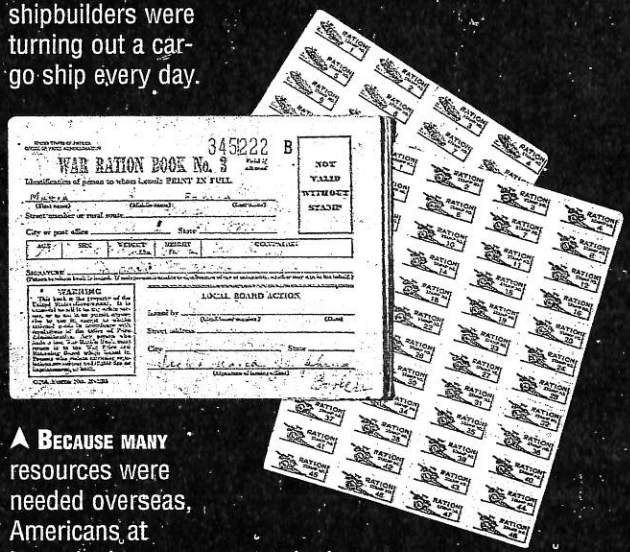
➤ **Almost overnight,** U.S. factories went from peacetime to wartime production. In 1941, workers took six months to build a merchant ship. In 1943, the same ship was seaworthy in less than two weeks. By 1945, U.S. shipbuilders were turning out a cargo ship every day.

➤ **Carmakers** turned their assembly lines to production of trucks, tanks, and jeeps. Factories that once made refrigerators, stoves, radios, or vacuum cleaners now made war weapons.

➤ **Hollywood did** its part, too, making films that showed GIs as freedom-loving heroes and the Axis soldiers as evil fiends. *Casablanca,* which won an Oscar for best picture in 1943, featured Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman in a moving story of love and resistance to the Nazis.



➤ **World War II** was the first war to include women in the military in large numbers. They joined the WAVEs (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service), WASPs (Women's Air Force Service Pilots), and WACs (Women's Army Corps).



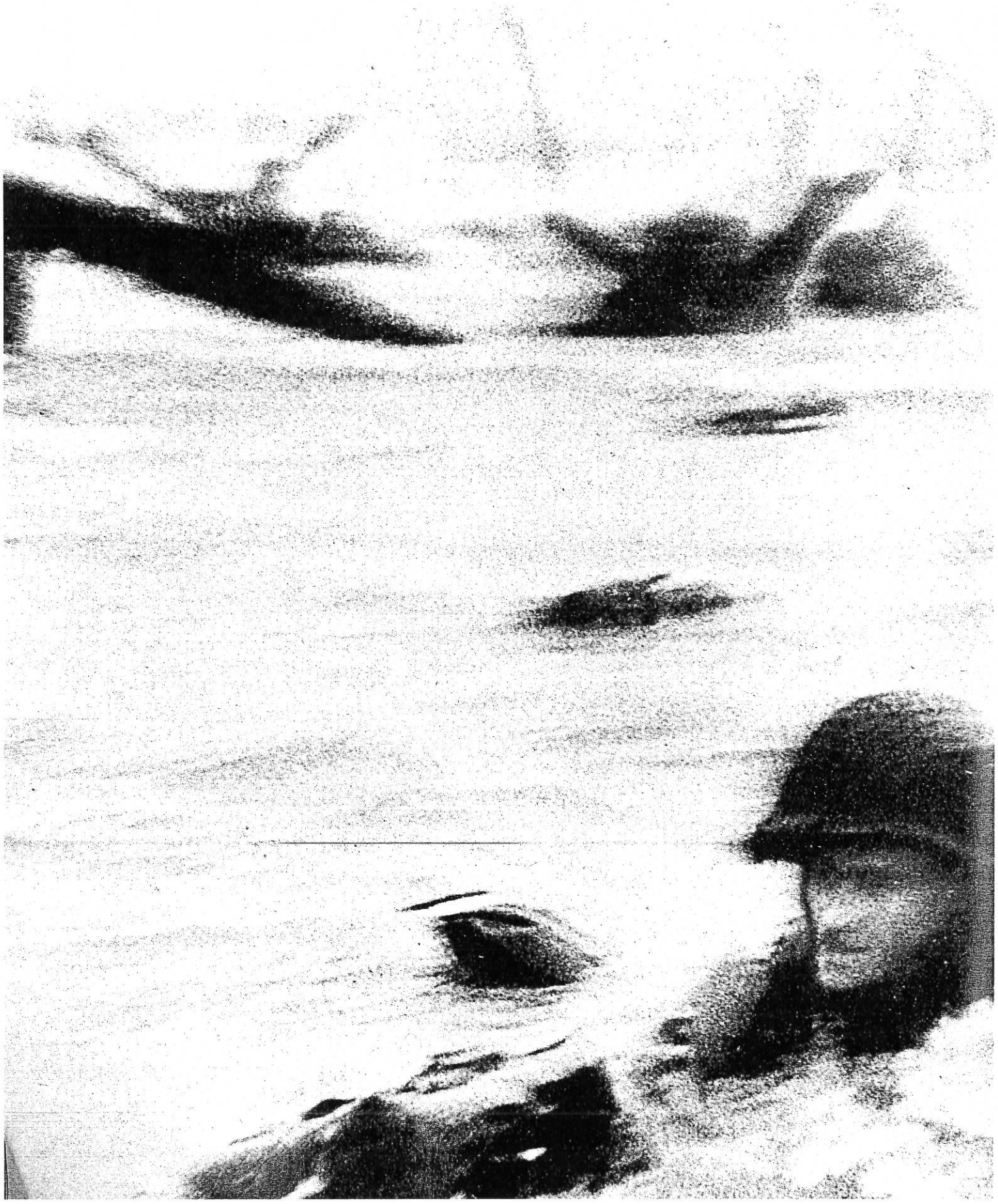
➤ **Because many** resources were needed overseas, Americans at home had to practice conservation. Each person was given a monthly allotment of gasoline, meat, coffee, sugar, butter, and cheese. Americans had meatless Tuesdays. Some people planted victory gardens so more of farmers' produce could go to soldiers.

➤ **Posters helped** sell war bonds, which were like loans to the government that provided money to buy guns, tanks, planes, and ships. Americans went to war bond rallies, where stars like Lucille Ball and Fred Astaire entertained and urged people to buy bonds.

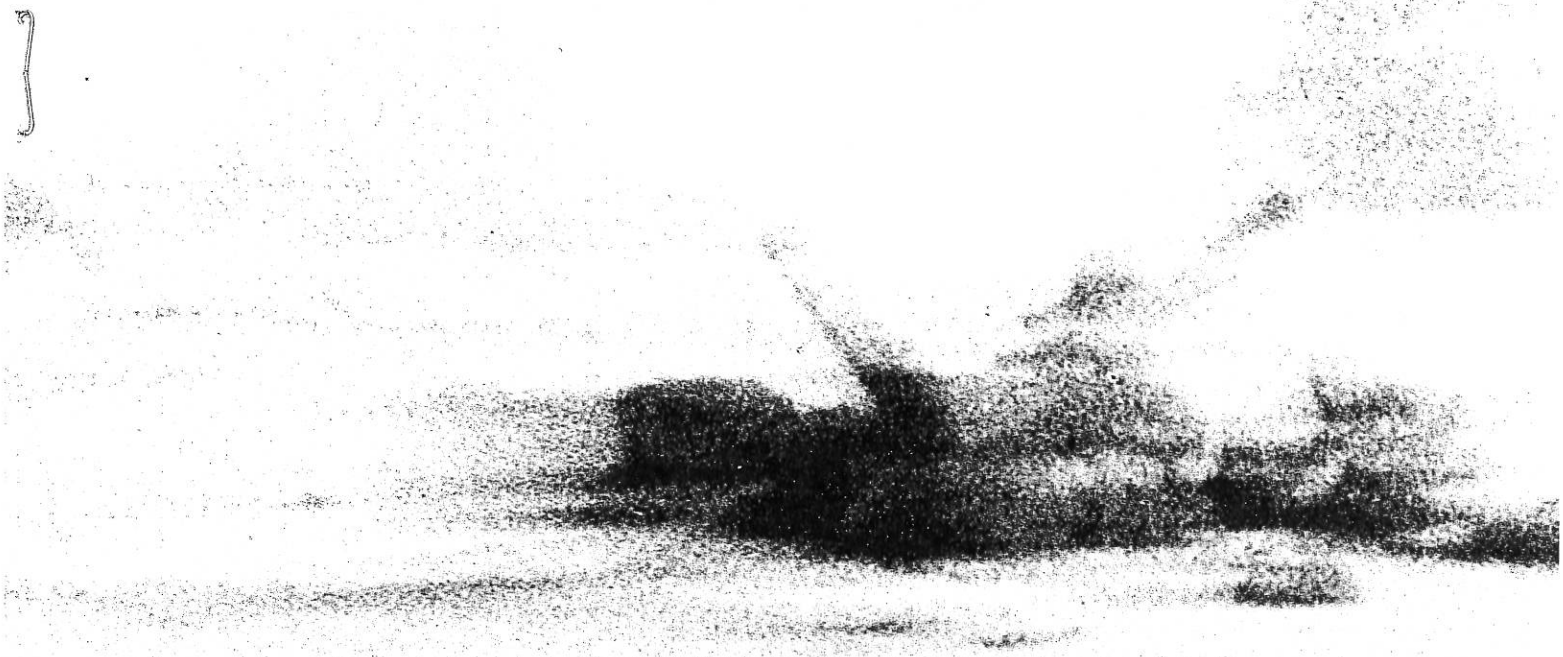
➤ **As men went** off to war, women took their places in factory lines, defense plants, and shipyards. Many women got their first chance to work outside the home. The poster of "Rosie the Riveter" (far right) became a symbol for the female war worker.

"At a time like that you don't hold out too much hope that you're going to survive this whole i

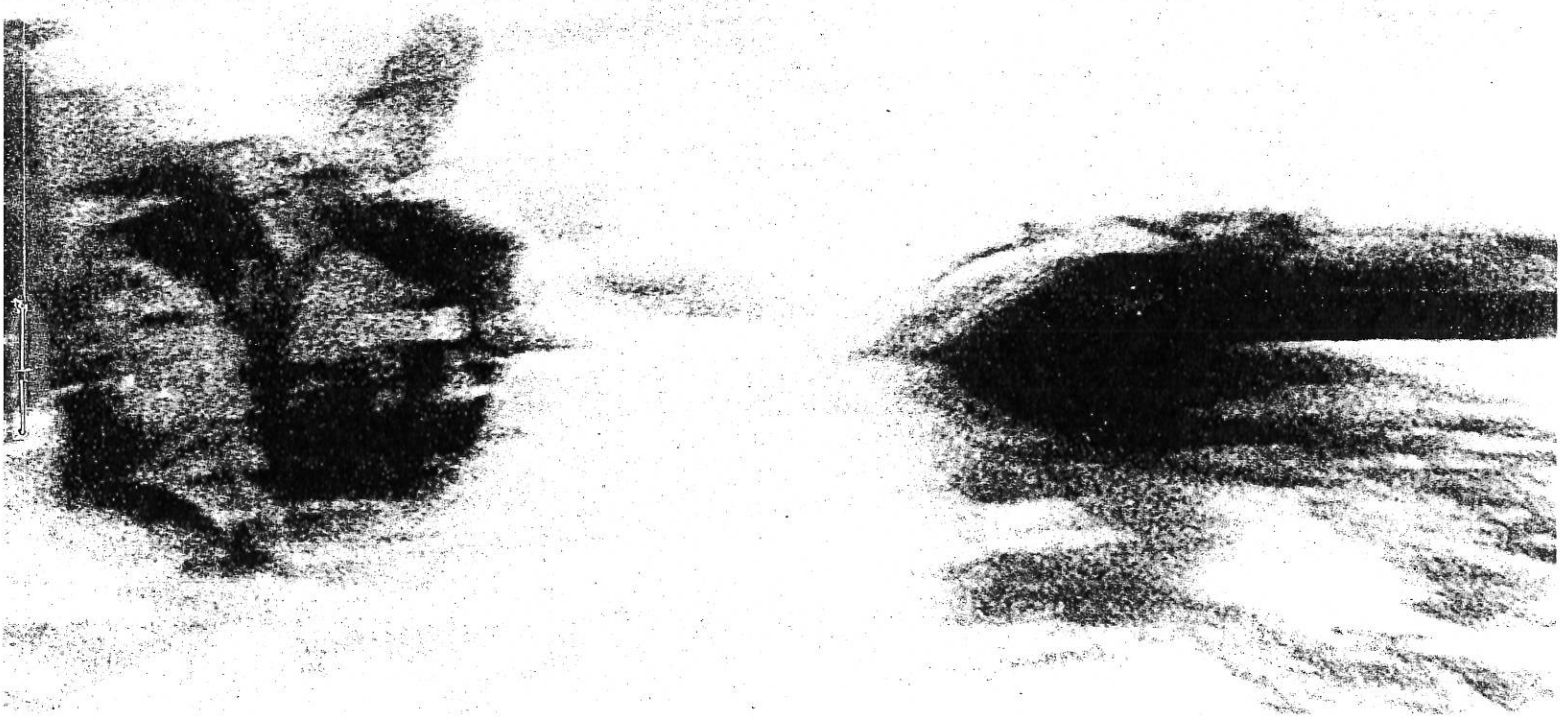
—Clair Galdonik



ar. Some of us did, and some of us didn't. God rest their souls that lie over there in foreign soil."
, 90th Infantry Unit



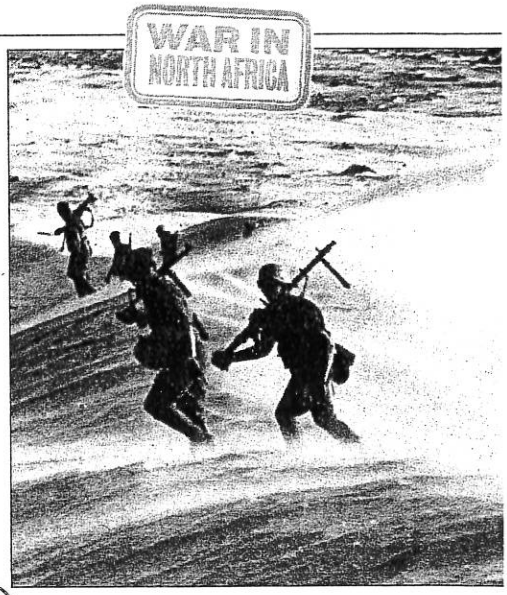
On D-Day, June 6, 1944, photographer Robert Capa joined American troops in the amphibious landing on a section of the Normandy coast in France, code-named Omaha Beach. Before dawn, Capa, along with the first wave of troops, jumped into the ice-cold water, and the men fought their way to the beach. German mines, nicknamed "Bouncing Betties," made their swim treacherous. Because the mission was so secret and dangerous, Capa was the only photographer to get pictures under fire. He rushed his four rolls of film back to London. Because of a problem in the darkroom, only 11 images, including this one, survived.



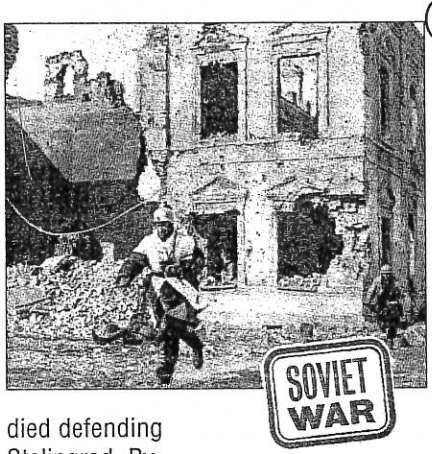
The Tide Turns

At the end of 1941, the outlook for the Allies was bleak. Nazi forces held much of Europe. Japan controlled the western Pacific and a large part of Asia. But the tide soon turned. Although the Germans were slow to realize it, their steamroller advance across Europe was over.

(1) **▲ After the U.S.** declared war on December 8, 1941, Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill (above), known as the Big Three, worked together to defeat the Axis powers. Stalin wanted the Allies to open a second fighting front in Western Europe to draw German troops from his country. The others wanted to wait until they were better prepared.



(2) **▼ The five-month** battle for Stalingrad, a key Soviet industrial city, marked a turning point in the war in Europe. Not only did it break the German offensive into the Soviet Union, but it also showed the staying power of the Soviet Red Army. The Soviets stopped Germany's eastward advance, but at great cost. Over a million Soviet soldiers died defending Stalingrad. By battle's end, on January 31,1943, only 90,000 half-starved, frostbitten German troops remained from an army of 330,000.



(3) **◀ By November** 1942, starving German soldiers were eating their own horses. In the streets, soldiers fought hand to hand. More Soviet soldiers died in this battle than the United States lost in the entire war. In time, the Soviet army drove the Germans back along a thousand-mile front.

(4) **▲ In November** 1942, the Allies won a key victory in North Africa. Using the Ultra Secret information on the German battle plan, British forces broke through German lines at El Alamein. In that same month, General Dwight D. Eisenhower landed American and British troops in Morocco and Algeria. Months of heavy fighting followed, but by May 1943, the last German and Italian troops in Africa had surrendered.

BOMBING OF GERMANY

5 **In 1944, the** Allies took control of the air. They bombed strategic points, such as Hamburg, Germany's major seaport (above). Later, they used bombing raids to terrorize enemy peoples and cause civilian deaths. The bombing of Dresden left thousands dead.

8 THEY DID THEIR PART

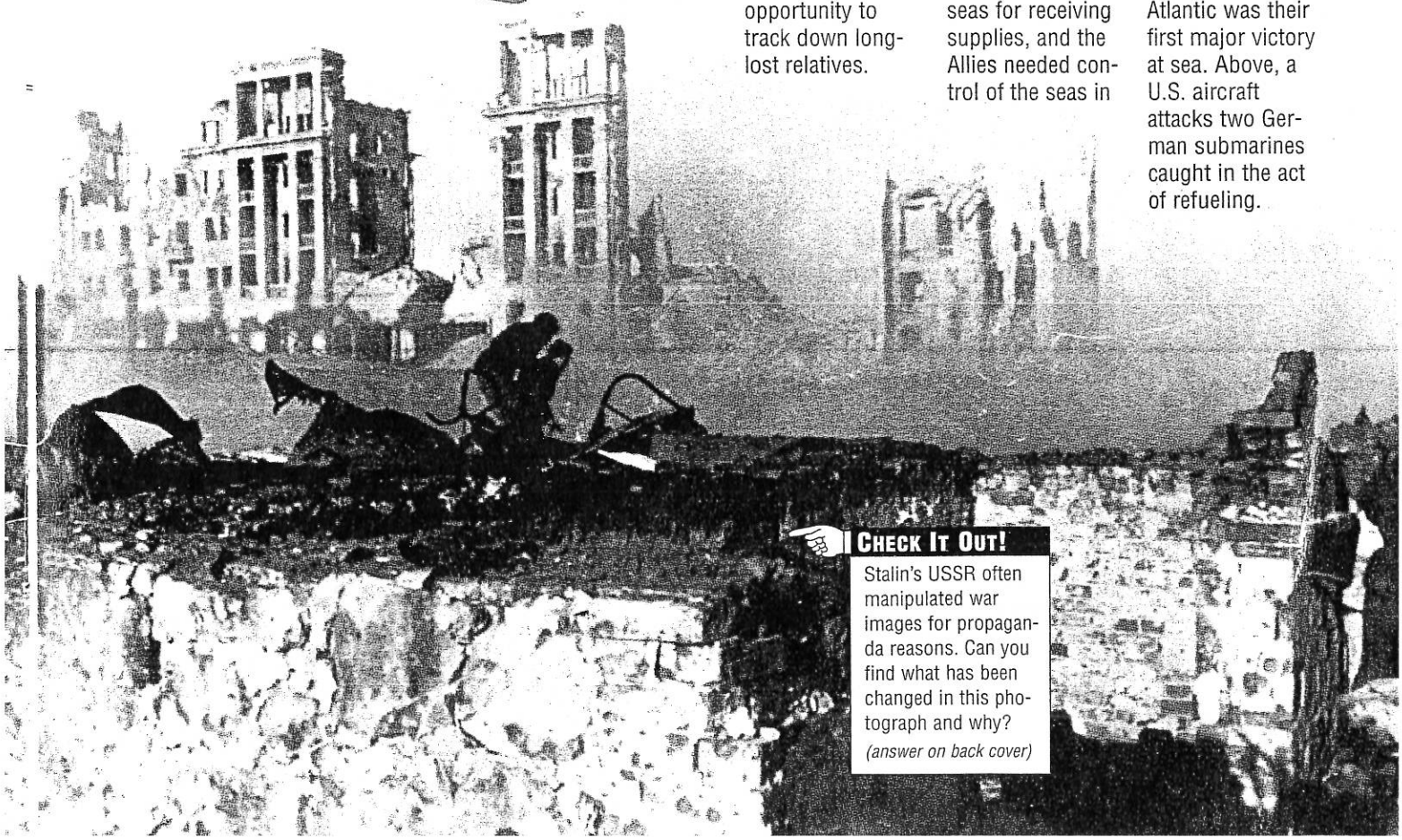
About one million **African Americans** *served in the armed forces during the war. Because of prejudice, most served in all-black units with white officers. At first, African Americans were kept out of combat units, but this policy was changed as the war dragged on. The all-black 761st Tank Battalion gained distinction fighting in Germany, and the 99th Pursuit Squadron won 80 Distinguished Flying Crosses in combat against the German Luftwaffe (air force). This poster honors Dorie Miller, a Pearl Harbor hero.*

ITALIAN WAR

6 **American troops** entered Palermo, Sicily, in July 1943, making it the first European city to be liberated from Germany's grip. Thereafter, other Italian cities were liberated, including Naples (left). Many of the U.S. soldiers were of Italian heritage and took the opportunity to track down long-lost relatives.

WAR AT SEA

7 **The Battle of** the Atlantic (1939–43) was a turning point of the war. Britain depended on the seas for receiving supplies, and the Allies needed control of the seas in order to make a successful landing in Hitler's Europe. The Allies' victory in the Battle of the Atlantic was their first major victory at sea. Above, a U.S. aircraft attacks two German submarines caught in the act of refueling.



CHECK IT OUT!

Stalin's USSR often manipulated war images for propaganda reasons. Can you find what has been changed in this photograph and why?

(answer on back cover)

Victory in Europe

June 6, 1944, marked the beginning of the final Allied campaign, with the landing of troops in Normandy, France. A little more than a year later, after Allied bombings and troop invasion, Germany surrendered unconditionally.

THE LONGEST DAY

With the Axis forces out of North Africa, the Allies began planning the invasion of northern France, code-named *Operation Overlord*. Because the Germans expected an Allied invasion along the north coast of France, they strengthened their defenses along the English Channel. They guessed that the Allies would cross the Channel at its narrowest point, near Calais, France. But they guessed wrong.

1 June 6, 1944, was D-Day, the beginning of the Allied invasion. A region of northern France known as Normandy was chosen for the landing site. The night before, officers used models of the beaches to plan the attack.

2 American and British soldiers waited for the go-ahead at a port in southern England. On the evening of June 5, about two thousand ships carrying four thousand landing craft and soldiers silently set out across the choppy waters of the English Channel.

3 Under cover of night on June 5, paratroopers like these landed behind German lines to capture bridges and railroad tracks. At the same time, minesweepers went ahead of the landing craft to try and clear the waters of mines.

4 At dawn, the largest seaborne invasion in history began. By 6:30 a.m., Allied troops were storming ashore at beaches code-named Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword.

In August 1944, the Allies liberated Paris. Hitler had ordered the city burned, but his commander disobeyed, deciding to avoid senseless destruction by surrendering.

A Soviet soldier raises the Hammer and Sickle on top of the German parliament on April 30, 1945, signaling the fall of Berlin. The Red Army sustained over 300,000 casualties in the Battle of Berlin.

Sensing defeat, Hitler committed suicide on April 30, 1945. A few days later, Germany surrendered. The Allies called May 8 V-E (Victory Europe) Day.

London had been heavily bombed during the war, and thousands were killed. At right, ecstatic Londoners dance in the streets during V-E Day celebrations.

KILROY WAS HERE

Mischievous Kilroy, a popular graffiti symbol, appeared all over the world proclaiming "a U.S. serviceman was here."

SOVIET UNION — OTHER ALLIES — 100 miles

SPAIN

By war's end, Dwight Eisenhower was America's favorite military hero. He led the U.S. and British forces that invaded North Africa in 1942. After becoming Supreme Commander of the Allied forces in 1943, he directed *Operation Overlord*, the successful invasion of northern France. In 1952, he became the 34th president of the United States.

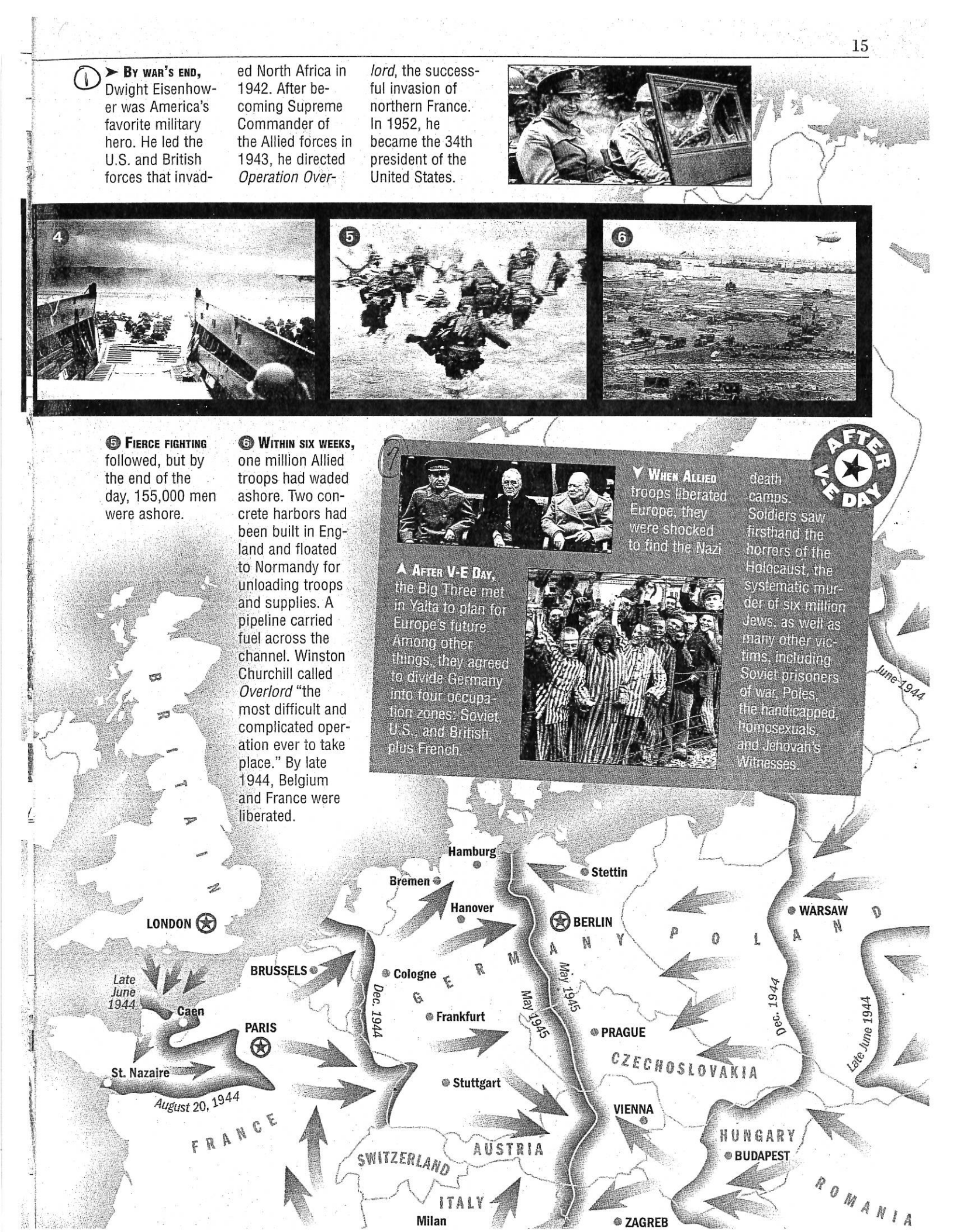
5 Fierce fighting followed, but by the end of the day, 155,000 men were ashore.

6 Within six weeks, one million Allied troops had waded ashore. Two concrete harbors had been built in England and floated to Normandy for unloading troops and supplies. A pipeline carried fuel across the channel. Winston Churchill called *Overlord* "the most difficult and complicated operation ever to take place." By late 1944, Belgium and France were liberated.

After V-E Day

When Allied troops liberated Europe, they were shocked to find the Nazi death camps. Soldiers saw firsthand the horrors of the Holocaust, the systematic murder of six million Jews, as well as many other victims, including Soviet prisoners of war, Poles, the handicapped, homosexuals, and Jehovah's Witnesses.

After V-E Day, the Big Three met in Yalta to plan for Europe's future. Among other things, they agreed to divide Germany into four occupation zones: Soviet, U.S., and British, plus French.

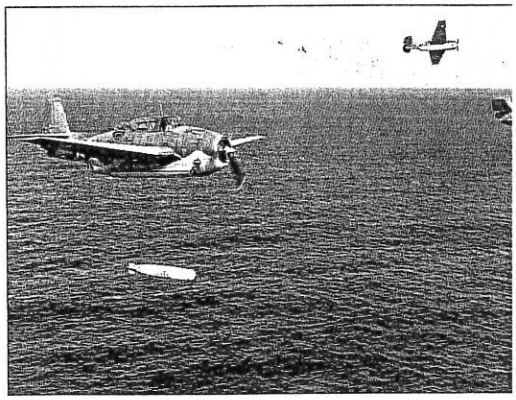


The Pacific War, the Bomb, and Peace at Last

While Americans celebrated victory in Europe with ticker-tape parades and dancing in the streets, the war in the Pacific continued. The Allies leapfrogged from island to island, moving nearer and nearer to the enemy, Japan. Fighting in thick, hot jungles, marines braved heavy rains and waded through muddy swamps. Slimy vines clung to their skin, and biting insects, leeches, and diseases such as malaria attacked them. As the Pacific war dragged on, the U.S. faced a fateful decision. Would it use its terrible secret weapon?

(1) ▲ **By spring 1942,** the Japanese seemed unbeatable. In April 1942, FDR sent a decorated World War I pilot, James Doolittle, and a squadron of B-25 bombers on a daring raid on Tokyo. All reached their targets. The raid did little damage, but it boosted Allied spirits.

(2) ▼ **As the Japanese** smashed across the Pacific, Australia grew increasingly more alarmed. In May 1942, American warships met Japanese forces in the Coral Sea off the coast of Australia. It was the first naval battle in history fought completely from aircraft carriers. Both sides took heavy losses, but Japan's losses stopped its advance.

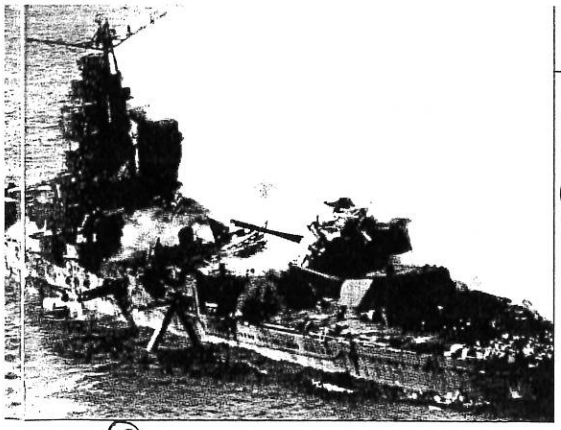


(7) ➤ **In April 1945,** a month after Iwo Jima, Americans landed on the island of Okinawa, the base for the planned invasion of Japan. Nearly three months of ferocious combat followed. U.S. forces counted 50,000 dead. More than 110,000 Japanese soldiers and civilians died.

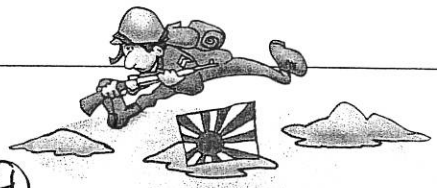
TOUGH CHOICE

(8)

▲ **By summer 1945,** Japan had lost its navy and most of its captured territory. However, the Japanese fought on. American leaders feared an invasion of Japan would cost too many U.S. lives. Some favored using the atomic bomb to end the war quickly. With FDR's death in April 1945, the awful job of deciding what to do fell to new president Harry S Truman.



(3) **In June 1942,** the Allies won the Battle of Midway. This victory was a turning point in the war. Midway Island was a key supply point for U.S. forces between Hawaii and Japan. U.S. Signal Corps codebreakers cracked the Japanese naval code, learning in advance about a planned attack on Midway. Using this information, U.S. bombers sank four Japanese aircraft carriers and destroyed more than two hundred enemy planes.



(4) **Each island the** Allies took offered a base for striking the next target. The Allies skipped over islands where the Japanese had dug in and invaded those that were poorly protected by the enemy. By late 1944, the Allies held key islands within striking distance of Japan.

(5) **General Douglas** MacArthur was commander in chief of the Pacific theater of war. When his troops were pushed out of the Philippines in March 1942, he pledged, "I shall return." Over two and a half years later, he did. In the Battle of Leyte Gulf, his troops freed the Philippines from Japan.

(6) **This famous** picture shows U.S. marines raising the American flag at Iwo Jima, a Japanese-held island over seven hundred miles south of Japan. As the Americans inched toward Japan in early 1945, the Japanese fought harder. Many feared the disgrace of defeat more than death.

Truman and Churchill publicly warned Japan to surrender unconditionally or face destruction. However, no mention was made of nuclear attack prior to the bombings. Japan refused. On August 6, 1945, Truman ordered the B-26 bomber *Enola Gay* to drop the first atomic bomb used in warfare on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. A massive ball of fire estimated to be 300,000 degrees centigrade vaporized everything near it, erasing an area about four miles square. Between 70,000 and 100,000 people died instantly. Tens of thousands more died later of radiation poisoning. Three days later, warplanes dropped a second bomb on Nagasaki.

The bombings, plus the decision of the Soviet Union to enter the Pacific war on August 8, led Japan to surrender. On September 2, 1945, Japan signed a statement of surrender aboard the U.S. battleship *Missouri.* World War II, the world's deadliest war, was at last over.

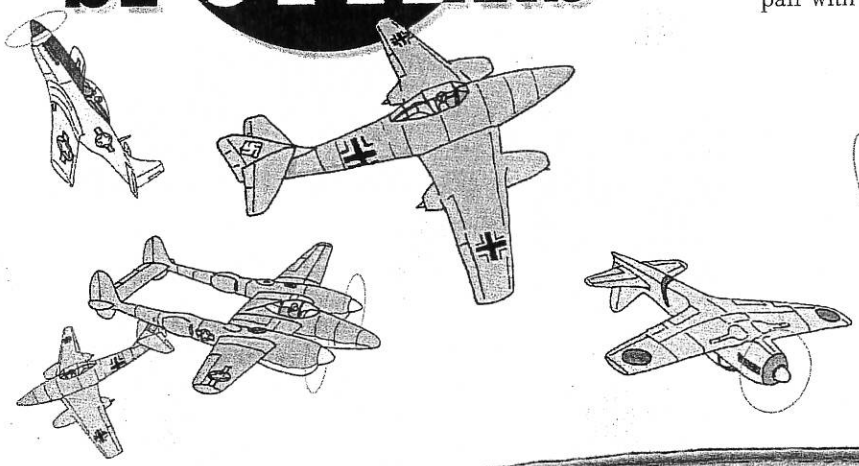
(10) **THEY DID THEIR PART**

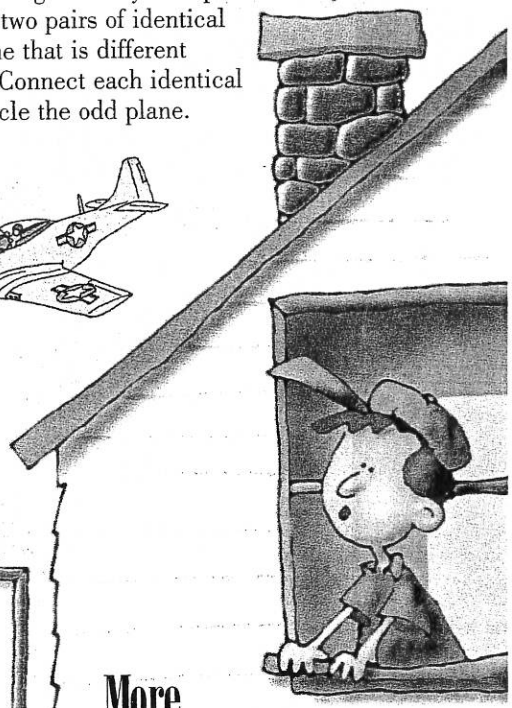
Physics professor **Robert Oppenheimer** *(shown here with Albert Einstein) directed the Manhattan Project to build the first atomic bomb. The work was so secret that its headquarters in Los Alamos, New Mexico, had no address. Workers could spend ten years in prison for telling what they were doing. Not until he became president after FDR's death was Harry Truman told about the bomb, the world's first weapon of mass destruction.*

(9) **A sailor kisses** a complete stranger in Times Square as New Yorkers, along with people in many parts of the world, celebrated the surrender of Japan.

PLANE SPOTTERS

During World War II, children followed the war news with great interest. Many learned to recognize all the different types of planes flown by the various air forces of the Allied and Axis powers. How good are you at plane spotting? There are two pairs of identical planes and one plane that is different from all the others. Connect each identical pair with a line. Circle the odd plane.



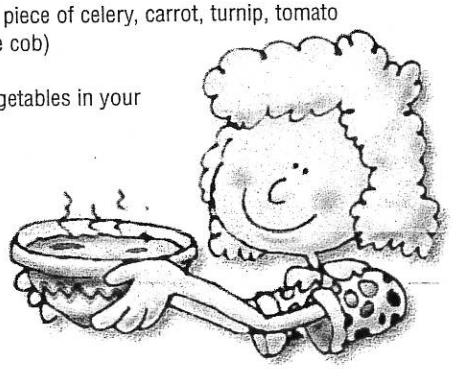


VICTORY GARDEN Feast

During the war, many families planted victory gardens to grow food for their own use. They also planned nutritious meals from whatever foods were available. Try these recipes for a healthful, tasty victory feast. Ask an adult for help.

VICTORY SOUP

1 of each of the following: potato, onion, piece of celery, carrot, turnip, tomato
½ cup of corn (frozen or fresh, cut off the cob)
½ cup of peas (frozen or fresh)
small amounts of any leftover cooked vegetables in your refrigerator
2 tablespoons flour
2 tablespoons butter
2 cups tomato juice
1 cup water
½ tablespoon salt
pepper to taste
¼ cup small pieces of macaroni, any shape you prefer



1. Peel the potato and cut into cubes. Simmer in water in a small pan for 15 minutes.
2. Wash the other vegetables. Peel the carrot and turnip. Chop the onion and celery into small pieces. Slice the carrot. Dice the turnip and the tomato.
3. Mash the potato in the cooking water.
4. Melt the butter over medium heat in a soup pot. Add the onion and celery and cook over low heat for about five minutes, stirring frequently. Add the flour and stir for one minute. Add the tomato juice, water, salt, pepper, and macaroni. Add the potatoes, carrots, turnips, corn, peas, and tomato. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring. When soup begins to boil, lower the heat and simmer for 20 minutes. During the last five minutes, add any leftover vegetables.

More Readings on WW II

Books for Children

- Nathan Aaseng, *Navajo Code-talkers.* Walker & Company, 1992.
- Wallace Black and Jean Blashfield, *War Behind the Lines.* Macmillan, 1992.
- Penny Colman, *Rosie the Riveter.* Crown Publisher, 1995.
- Jean Houston, *Farewell to Manzanar.* Bantam Books, 1983.
- Tom Seddon, *Atom Bomb.* W.H. Freeman, 1995.
- Sylvia Whitman, *Uncle Sam Wants You.* Lerner Publications, 1993.
- *Welcome to Molly's World, 1944: Growing Up in World War Two America.* Pleasant Company, 1999.

Books for Adults

- Stephen E. Ambrose & C.L. Sulzberger, *American Heritage New History of World War II.* Viking, 1997.
- John Keegan, *The Second World War.* Viking, 1990.
- Cornelius Ryan, *The Longest Day: June 6, 1944.* Touchstone Books, 1994.
- Studs Terkel, *"The Good War": An Oral History of World War Two.* Ballantine Books, 1984.
- Edith Velmans, *Edith's Story.* Soho Press, 1999.

WORDS OF INSPIRATION

Fill in the blank spaces with the answers to each clue.

1. U.S. wartime president

___(16) ___ ___(37) ___ ___ ___ ___ ___   ___.   ___ ___(7) ___(29) ___ ___ ___(4) ___ ___ ___(44)

2. First target of atomic bomb

___(2) ___ ___ ___(15) ___ ___ ___(10) ___ ___(43)

3. RAF

___(19) ___(14) ___ ___ ___   ___(3) ___ ___   ___(17) ___(25) ___ ___ ___

4. Oscar-winning movie of 1943

___ ___ ___(36) ___ ___(20) ___(24) ___ ___(6) ___ ___

5. Part of France where Allies landed on D-Day

___ ___(26) ___(35) ___ ___ ___(38) ___(27) ___

6. Battle that was the turning point of the war in the Pacific

___ ___(30) ___(39) ___(41) ___ ___

7. Italy's wartime leader

___(23) ___(5) ___ ___(1) ___ ___   ___ ___(21) ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___(11) ___

8. Britain's codebreaker

___ ___ ___(8) ___ ___   ___(40) ___(18) ___ ___ ___(42) ___(13)

9. Top secret U.S. group that built atomic bomb

___ ___ ___ ___(9) ___ ___(22) ___(32) ___ ___   ___ ___ ___ ___ ___(33) ___ ___

10. Battle that was the turning point of the war in Europe

___ ___(28) ___ ___(31) ___ ___ ___(12) ___ ___(34) ___

Numbers are underneath some of the letters above. Put each numbered letter in the blank with the same number. You will have a statement that **Winston Churchill** made on May 13, 1940, when he became prime minister of wartime Britain.

___(1)   ___(2) ___(3) ___(4) ___(5)   ___(6) ___(7) ___(8) ___(9) ___(10) ___(11) ___(12)   ___(13) ___(14)

___(15) ___(16) ___(17) ___(18) ___(19)   ___(20) ___(21) ___(22)   ___(23) ___(24) ___(25) ___(26) ___(27),   ___(28) ___(29) ___(30) ___(31),

___(32) ___(33) ___(34) ___(35) ___(36),   ___(37) ___(38) ___(39)   ___(40) ___(41) ___(42) ___(43) ___(44).