

# World War II

World War II is the second war called a World War- meaning that it was a global war, involving many countries across the world. World War II is the most global war in history. It is also the most deadly war in history. It is nicknamed the “Good War”

Date: September 1, 1939 - September 2, 1945 (6 years and 1 day)

Combatants: Allied Powers, Axis powers

Location: Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, North America, South America, Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean

Casualties: +73,000

Outcome: Collapse of European Economy, destruction of European Industrial infrastructure, collapse of Nazi Germany, separation of Germany, fall of the Japanese and Italian Empires, dissolution of the League of Nations, rivalry between the United States and Soviet Union, lead up to the Cold War, homelessness of millions, and displacement of millions.

Victor: Allied Powers

Allied Powers- allied forces during World War II who fought against the Axis Powers included the United Kingdom, the United States, the Soviet Union, France, China, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Belgium, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Greece, the Netherlands, Poland, Luxembourg, Norway, India, Ethiopia, Brazil, Mexico, Philippines, Nicaragua, Mongolia, Panama, El Salvador, and Costa Rica.

The Big Four- United States, United Kingdom, China, Soviet Union

The Allied Powers included governments in exile- France, Poland, Yugoslavia, Greece, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Norway, and Czechoslovakia.

Axis Powers- the Axis Powers fought against the Allied Powers in World War II. The countries making up the Axis Powers were Germany, Japan, Italy, Romania, Hungary, Croatia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Thailand, Iraq, and Yugoslavia.

The states that signed the Tripartite Pact were Germany, Japan, and Italy. Others were puppet governments and countries who fought alongside the Axis Powers.

Tripartite pact- a pact signed in Berlin on September 27, 1940 between Germany, Italy, and Japan that cemented their military alliance.

League of Nations- an international organization founded on January 10, 1920 after the end of World War I. It was created to maintain international peace. It was officially dissolved on April 20, 1946.

Cold War- political tensions between the Eastern and Western Bloc following the Second World War. This 'conflict' lasted from 1947 to 1991.

### Timeline of Events

January 30, 1933- Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany. The Nazi Party, or Third Reich, takes power into Germany.

March 12, 1938- Hitler annexes Austria in Germany.

September 1, 1939- Germany invades Poland.

September 1, 1939- British government declares a general mobilization of its army and begins evacuation plans in case of an air attack by Germany.

September 1, 1939- Great Britain and France issue an ultimatum to Germany, telling them to evacuate Poland.

September 3, 1939- Great Britain and France declare war on Germany.

September 17, 1939- The Soviet Union invades Poland.

April 9, 1940- Germany invades Denmark and Norway.

May 10, 1940- Blitzkrieg (lightning war) begins and Germany is able to take over Belgium, Northern France, and the Netherlands.

May 30, 1940- Winston Churchill becomes the leader of the government in Great Britain.

June 10, 1940- Italy enters the war on the side of the Axis Powers.

June 10, 1940- Germany begins a series of air attacks on Great Britain, these would last until October.

September 22, 1940- The Axis Powers sign the Tripartite Pact.

June 22, 1941- The Axis Powers attack Russia.

December 7, 1941- the Japanese attack the naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

December 8, 1941- The United States enters World War II on the side of the Allied Powers.

January 20, 1942- The 'final solution' was decided upon for European Jews

June 4, 1942- The United States Navy defeats the Japanese Navy at the Battle of Midway.

September 3, 1943- Italy surrenders to the Allies. Mussolini sets up a government in Northern Italy with the help of Germany.

June 6, 1944- D-Day and the Invasion of Normandy.

August 25, 1944- Paris is liberated.

December 16, 1944- Germany launches an attack in the Battle of the Bulge. They lose to the Allied Army.

February 19, 1945- United States Marines launch an invasion of the island of Iwo Jima and take the island.

March 22, 1945- the US Army under General George Patton crosses the Rhine River into Germany.

April 12, 1945- President Franklin D Roosevelt dies, Harry S Truman becomes President.

April 30, 1945- Knowing that Germany has lost the war, Adolf Hitler commits suicide in Berlin.

May 7, 1945- Germany surrenders to the Allies

August 6, 1945- An atomic bomb is dropped on the city of Hiroshima, Japan. The city is devastated.

August 9, 1945- Another atomic bomb is dropped on Japan, this time in Nagasaki.

September 2, 1945- Japan surrenders to the Allies.

Adolf Hitler- (April 20, 1889- April 30, 1945) German political leader from 1933- 1945. He was one of the driving forces in instigating WWII and starting the Holocaust. He committed suicide in 1945 two days before Berlin fell.

Heinrich Himmler- (October 7, 1900- May 23, 1945) German police officer and military member. He became the Reichsführer of the Schutzstaffel (Protection Squadron), or SS, and was charged with facilitating and overseeing concentration camps. He was arrested by British forces in 1945 and committed suicide while in their custody.

Winston Churchill- (November 30, 1874- January 25, 1965) British politician, army officer, and writer who served as Prime Minister from 1940-1945 and helped lead the United Kingdom and Allied Powers to victory in WWII.

Franklin D Roosevelt- (January 30, 1882- April 12, 1945) 32nd President of the United States from 1933- 1945 (also the longest serving President). He was President during World War II and worked with China, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union to lead the Allies to victory.

Harry Truman-(May 8, 1884- December 26, 1972) 33rd President of the United States. He took office near the end of World War II and the onset of the Cold War. He is responsible for setting up the Marshall Plan to help rebuild Europe after the war.

General George Patton- (November 11, 1885- December 21, 1945) General of the United States Army. He commanded the United States 7th Army in the Mediterranean and the United States 3rd Army in France and Germany after the invasion of Normandy. After the war, he was made military governor of Bavaria for a while. He died after complications in an automobile accident in Germany.

General Douglas MacArthur- (January 26, 1880- April 5, 1964) Five Star American General who served in WWII, among other wars. In WWII he had a prominent role in the Pacific Theater and received a Medal of Honor for his work in defending the Philippines. After going to Australia he was made Supreme Commander of the Southwest Pacific Area. He accepted the surrender of Japan and oversaw the occupation from 1941-1945.

Nazi Party- (1920-1945) The National Socialist German Workers Party; a far right political party in Germany. The party created the ideology of Nazism. The party attempted to draw workers away from communism and into German Nationalism; it was anti-capitalist and anti-big business.

Nazism- A form of fascism that came from the political ideology of the Nazi Party. There was a pronounced disdain for liberal democracy along with anti-Semitism, scientific racism, eugenics, nationalism, and anti-communism.

Third Reich- (third realm or third empire) Nazi Germany from 1933-1945.

Benito Mussolini- (July 29, 1883- April 28, 1945) Italian politician and leader of the National Fascist Party. He served as the Prime Minister of Italy from 1922-1943, but after 1925, he became a dictator. He founded Italian Fascism. He aligned himself with the Axis Powers in WWII and after he was removed from his post as Prime Minister, Hitler made him the head of a puppet regime in Northern Italy. He was executed by a firing squad in 1945 when he was caught trying to escape to Switzerland.

Joseph Stalin- (December 18, 1978- March 5, 1953) Soviet leader and revolutionary. He led the Soviet Union from the mid 1920's until his death in 1953. He allied himself with the Allied Powers during World War II, and though the Soviet Union incurred tremendous losses, they went on to capture Berlin. He was also in charge of the reconstruction efforts after the war and the annexation of the Baltic States.

Emperor Hirohito (April 29, 1901- January 7, 1989) the 12th Emperor of Japan, and Emperor during World War II. He sided with the Axis Powers, but eventually surrendered, Unlike several other leaders, he was not charged with war crimes (they were not sure how much he actually did during the war) and went on to continue to be the Emperor of Japan. By the end of his reign, Japan had the second largest economy in the world.

Battle of the Bulge- December 16, 1944- January 25, 1945. The last major German offensive on the Western front taking place in Belgium, Luxembourg, and France. The objective was to stop the Allied use of the Port in Antwerp. It was intended to split Allied lines in order to destroy the army. It did not go as planned and ended in a decisive Allied Victory.

Battle of Midway- June 4-7, 1945. This battle culminated with a decisive defeat of the Japanese Navy by the US Navy.

Blitzkrieg- (lightning war) a military tactic that consists of an attacking force spearheaded by a dense concentration of armored and mobilized infantry with air support breaks through the defense with short powerful attacks to break the defense and then encircle.

D Day- (Operation Neptune) June 6, 1944, the Allied forces undertook the largest seaborne invasion in history. The objective was to take back the beaches in France from German control. Nearly 160 thousand troops crossed the English Channel on the first day, with 875 thousand making landfall by the end of June. D Day ended with an allied victory.

Invasion of Normandy- Normandy is a city in France that was occupied by the German army. It was the site of the invasion by Allied forces on D Day.

Nagasaki- city in Japan on which an atomic bomb (the last used in warfare) was dropped on August 9, 1945. The city housed one of the largest seaports in southern Japan as well as being an industrial center. The atomic bomb was carried on *Bockscar* and nicknamed 'Fat Man'. The bomb was dropped at 11:01 am (Nagasaki time) and created a 1 mile area of total destruction with fires burning across 2 miles. Thirty-five to 40 thousand people were killed and 60 thousand injured.

Battle of Britain- (July 10, 1940-October 31, 1940) A military campaign in World War II during which the Royal Air Force (RAF) defended the UK against large scale air attacks by the German Air Force. This was the first major military battle fought entirely by air forces.

Hiroshima- city in Japan on which an atomic bomb (the first ever used in war) was dropped on August 6, 1945. It was a city with industrial and military significance. The atomic bomb was carried on the *Enola Gay* and nicknamed 'Little Boy'. The bomb was dropped at 8:15 am (Hiroshima time) and created a 1-mile area of total destruction, with fires burning across 4.4 miles. Seventy to 80 thousand people were killed (about 30% of the city's population) and another 70 thousand injured.

Pearl Harbor- (December 7, 1941) an aerial attack on the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii by the Japanese. It was the gateway to the United States entering World War II.

Battle of Iwo Jima- (February 19, 1945- March 26, 1945) Battle in which the United States Marine Corps landed on the island of Iwo Jima and took control of it from the Imperial Japanese Army.

Rhine River- A European River that flows through the German Rhineland

Soviet Union- (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, USSR) A Union of multiple, national Soviet Republics with a centralized economy and government. Joseph Stalin led the Soviet Union fought with the Allies in WWII.

Final Solution- the Nazi plan for the genocide of Jews. The 'final solution to the Jewish question' was the codename for the murder of all Jews within reach.

## The War Begins

World War II began between European countries, and the US stayed neutral in the beginning- even adopting an official position of neutrality. Though they were not taking sides officially, the US did help the United Kingdom, Soviet Union, and China with a lend-lease program. Public sympathies were with China, but against Nazi Germany and Japan. In fact, while the country was officially neutral, that was not always the case with American citizens. Americans were able to fight in other countries' armies before the United States officially joined the war, though it came at a cost. It is unconstitutional for Americans to join the military of another country, and these soldiers would lose citizenship upon fighting with another country (though Congress would issue a blanket pardon in 1944). One notable exception to the rule were the Eagle Squadrons of the Royal Air Force (RAF) made up of British Personnel and American volunteers.

Neutral- not taking a side or helping either side in a conflict

Lend-lease- American aid program in World War II, in which America helped to defeat the Axis by leading food, oil, weapons, and materials to the Allied Powers, for no charge.

Unconstitutional- goes against the laws written in the Constitution of the United States of America

Royal Air Force- United Kingdom aerial defense force. It was created after World War I, and at the time was the largest air force in the world.

Eagle Squadron- three fighter squadrons in the RAF early in WWII. The squadrons were made up of Royal Air Force members and American volunteers.

## Pearl Harbor

The attacks on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, USA was a military strike by the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service, perpetrated against the US Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, and the US as a whole. The attack on Pearl Harbor led the United States into World War II, though the attack was meant to destroy the US Navy in order to keep them out of the war. During the attack, more than a dozen US destroyers and more than 300 aircraft were damaged. Over 2,400 servicemen died in the attack.

### Timeline of Events

December 7, 1941

3:42 am- Japanese submarine is spotted off the harbor. It is observed by the minesweeper USS Condor.

6:45 am- The submarine is sunk by the USS Ward.

7:02 am- Incoming Japanese fighters are observed by the Opana Mobile Radar Station in Oahu. They call Fort Shafter to report this and are told to wait for an commanding officer to call them back.

7:20 am- a lieutenant calls Opana back and tells them not to worry, he believes this to be a B-17 scheduled to arrive that morning.

7:33am- US Code Breakers decipher a code telling Japanese negotiators to cease talks with the US. General George C Marshall considers this a sign of war.

7:55 am- Commander Logan C Ramsey on Ford Island sees the first plane. He transmits a telegraph reading "AIR RAID ON PEARL HARBOR X THIS IS NOT A DRILL". The first bombs hit Wheeler and Hickam.

8:10am - The first battleship is hit, it is the USS Arizona. Over 1100 crewmembers are killed in the initial attack.

8:19am- The Arizona begins to sink.

**\*\*The next hours are filled with chaos and trying to fight back\*\***

December 8, 1941

1:10 pm- the US declares war on Japan. The Senate vote is unanimous, the House of Representatives only has 1 opposing vote.

4:10 pm- President Roosevelt signs the declaration of war against Japan.

USS Condor- A United States coastal minesweeper that made first contact with the Japanese on the day of the Pearl Harbor attacks.

USS Ward- A United States destroyer. The first American shots in World War II were fired from this ship on December 7, when it sank an enemy submarine.

USS Arizona- battleship bombed during the attacks on Pearl Harbor that then sank, killing 1,177 officers and crewmen.

Wheeler- airfield that was one of the major targets for the attacks at Pearl Harbor.

Hickam- Air Force base in Hawaii that was severely damaged in the attacks on Pearl Harbor.

Pearl Harbor- United States Naval Base in Hawaii. It was bomb by the Japanese on the morning on December 7, 1941.

Japanese Navy Air Service- air force of Japan, carried out the bombings at Pearl Harbor.

## America in the War

“No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory”. Franklin D Roosevelt, December 8, 1941

Once the United States joined the war, they had a hand in all major campaigns. They would play crucial roles in both the Pacific and Atlantic theaters and all over Europe. At home, things had changed for them as well; everyone was working and making sacrifices to help the war effort.

On the home front during World War II, the American people were facing huge changes. After the onset of the war, unemployment virtually disappeared- women and minorities who would have previously worked at home or been unable to secure work now worked to better the war effort- war plants began mass production all over the country for anything and everything the soldiers would need.

Along with beginning to work, people made changes in every aspect of their lives. They began rationing everything, especially things like sugar that could be used for producing war goods. People and whole communities also began planting victory gardens in their yards and wherever else they were able, which gave people fresh fruits and vegetables. Another important sacrifice that was made on the home front was that of substitution- for instance, they began making pennies out steel instead of copper because of the importance of copper wire. Other important aspects of the war effort at home included higher taxes, the buying and selling of war bonds, and the creation of a civilian defense.

Overseas on the front lines of the war, changes were being made to strengthen the Allied forces. One of the major changes was the bringing in of code talkers. Code talkers were not necessarily a new phenomenon, but they brought in a new group. They used Native Americans from the Navajo tribe to create and use a new code- one that would prove to be unbreakable. The Navajo Code Talkers would participate in every major battle after 1942, from Guadalcanal to Okinawa.

On March 17, 1942, an American General, General MacArthur would take command of all Allied forces. At this time, it was still a war that could go either way, and major cities in Europe, the United Kingdom, and Japan were being bombed heavily. These cities included London, Rome, Berlin, and other major industrial and population centers. As early as 1943, at the Casablanca Conference, Roosevelt and Churchill had decided that they would accept no less than an unconditional surrender from the Axis Powers.

In 1944, the Allies launched the D-Day attacks, which would end up being the bloodiest day in American history since the Civil War Battle of Antietam; 2,500 US soldiers would be dead by the end of the attack. D-Day involved dropping 24,000 paratroopers behind enemy lines in Normandy, France, then crossing the English Channel with more troops and ships in order to begin taking back France. D-Day would culminate with a victory for the Allies.

While D-Day was successful in showing the might of the Allies on land, the turning point of the war in the Pacific had come 2 years earlier, with the Allied victory at the Battle of Midway. This battle was the first time that the Japanese Navy had been defeated in 350 years,

In Germany, Adolf Hitler had supreme control. There was a German resistance group, which included some of his closest advisors and generals, that tried to assassinate him in 1944, but their attempt, Operation Valkyrie, was not successful. Hitler would remain in control of Germany until April 30, 1945, when he committed suicide in an underground bunker in Berlin. His suicide came 2 days before the Soviet Red Army took Berlin.

The United States and Soviet Union came together in a joint effort to liberate Germany and other occupied territories across Eastern Europe. They moved from opposite sides, the United State to the west and the Soviets from the east, and began liberating concentration camps and people. The Soviet Army was the first to reach Berlin, and upon reaching it, found that Hitler, Goebbels, and others had committed suicide rather than face defeat.

Soviet Red Army- (Workers and Peasants Red Army) the armed forces of the Soviet Union; it is credited as the decisive land force in the Allied Victory in the European Theater and was the army to capture Berlin.

Berlin- the capital of Nazi Germany, it fell to the Soviet Red Army

Adolf Hitler- (April 20, 1889- April 30, 1945) German political leader from 1933- 1945. He was one of the driving forces in instigating WWII and starting the Holocaust. He committed suicide in 1945 two days before Berlin fell.

Joseph Goebbels- (October 29, 1887- May 1, 1945) Nazi politician who served as the Reich Minister of Propaganda from 1933-1945. He was one of Hitler's strongest supporters and replaced him as Chancellor of Germany after his suicide. He would only serve as Chancellor for one day, as he too committed suicide, on May 1, 1945.

War bond-debt securities issued by a government during times of war to finance military operations. It also helps to take money out of circulation in order to prevent inflation.

Victory Garden- a garden used to increase food production during a war

## Concentration Camps

An estimated 6 million people were victims of the atrocities of Nazi Germany. Large numbers of them were put into concentration camps across occupied Europe. Main targets of the camps were Jews; thousands of others were sent to and perished in the camps, including political prisoners, dissidents, and other 'undesirables'.

The first concentration camps in Germany were opened as early as 1933 and mostly used for political dissidents. It was not until the onset of the war that they opened in all occupied territories and became more than forced labor camps, but the death camps that we know them as today. The 'camps' were not just one camp, but a series of camps, sub camps, and factories. The camps were under the command of Heinrich Himmler and the SS. It is estimated that during the time they were opened (193-1945) that between 15 and 20 million people were imprisoned. Liberation of the camps came between 1944 and 1945, as the Allies advanced.

## The Aftermath

After the war, Europe was in turmoil. Millions were dead, millions more were displaced, and infrastructure all over the continent was in ruins. Europe would have to be rebuilt. Germany was split between east, west, controlled by the United States (west), and the Soviet Union (east). Tensions between the United States and Soviet Union reached a peak, and the Cold War stemming from the tensions between these two superpowers would last for decades.

To help rebuild Western Europe, the United States enacted the Marshall Plan, in which the government allocated \$13 billion dollars for post war reconstruction. Along with a plan for rebuilding Western Europe, the United States also occupied parts of Japan and Germany.

Both Germany and Japan lost the territories that that annexed and occupied during the war. Close to ¼ of Germany was annexed by the Allied Powers at the conclusion of WWII. Japan was also

occupied and US military bases were built around the country. Japan and Germany also paid reparations to the Allies and dealt with sanctions in the post war years.

The Soviet Union annexed countries that the Red Army invaded while trying to drive Germany out of Eastern Europe. Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany were made Soviet Socialist Republics under the control of the Soviet Union.

Lastly, the League of Nations, which had been unable to stop World War II, was replaced by the United Nations, which came into being on October 24, 1945. The main goal of the United Nations was, and still is, to maintain international peace. The only resolutions that are binding by international law come from the United Nations Security Council. The 5 main allied powers, the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, China, and France, all have permanent positions on the Security Council, and they are able to veto resolutions.

Cold War- political tensions between the Eastern and Western Bloc following the Second World War. This 'conflict' lasted from 1947 to 1991.

League of Nations-an international organization founded on January 10, 1920 after the end of World War I. It was created to maintain international peace. It was officially dissolved on April 20, 1946.

United Nations- intergovernmental organization tasked with maintaining international order and peace. I was made in 1945 after the dissolution of the League of Nations and the end of WWII.

United Nations Security Council- council of the United Nations charged with maintaining international peace and security, accepting new UN members, and adopting changes made to UN laws. The United States, United Kingdom, China, and Soviet Union all have permanent spots.

Marshall Plan- plan implemented by President Truman, this was a program of financial aid and other initiatives designed to boost the economies of Western Europe after World War II. The plan was financed by the United States government and advocated by Secretary of State George C Marshall. The plan passed in Congress in 1948. The official name is the European Recovery Plan.

Annex- to add as an extra part

Occupy- to take over- in a military context, an army would invade and then take over another country.

Reparations- making amends for wrongdoing

Sanctions- penalty for wrongdoing

Veto- reject a decision

## Cleveland and Tennessee in WWII

## Paul Huff

Paul Huff was born in Cleveland, Tennessee. He joined the United States Army in 1941.

In 1944, he was serving in the 59th Parachute Infantry Battalion on February 8, 1944, near Carano, Italy, when he received his Medal of Honor citation. It reads:

“For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty, in action on 8 February 1944, near Carano, Italy. Cpl. Huff volunteered to lead a 6-man patrol with the mission of determining the location and strength of an enemy unit which was delivering fire on the exposed right flank of his company. The terrain over which he had to travel consisted of exposed, rolling ground, affording the enemy excellent visibility. As the patrol advanced, its members were subjected to small arms and machine-gun fire and a concentration of mortar fire, shells bursting within 5 to 10 yards of them and bullets striking the ground at their feet. Moving ahead of his patrol, Cpl. Huff drew fire from 3 enemy machineguns and a 20mm. weapon. Realizing the danger confronting his patrol, he advanced alone under deadly fire through a minefield and arrived at a point within 75 yards of the nearest machine gun position. Under direct fire from the rear machine gun, he crawled the remaining 75 yards to the closest emplacement, killed the crew with his submachine gun and destroyed the gun. During this act he fired from a kneeling position which drew fire from other positions, enabling him to estimate correctly the strength and location of the enemy. Still under concentrated fire, he returned to his patrol and led his men to safety. As a result of the information he gained, a patrol in strength sent out that afternoon, 1 group under the leadership of Cpl. Huff, succeeded in routing an enemy company of 125 men, killing 27 Germans and capturing 21 others, with a loss of only 3 patrol members. Cpl. Huff's intrepid leadership and daring combat skill reflect the finest traditions of the American infantryman.”

Paul Huff served in both World War II and the Vietnam War and reached the rank of Command Sergeant, the highest enlisted rank, before leaving the Army.

He died at age 76 and is buried at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Cleveland, TN. Paul Huff Parkway in Cleveland is named after him. His wife loaned many of his military artifacts and pictures to the Museum Center, including his Medal of Honor.

## William E. Vaden

William E. Vaden was a native of St. Elmo in Chattanooga. He joined the Air Force and was stationed at the Thorpe Abbots Air Force Base in England. In March of 1944 his plane was shot down. Vaden was captured and sent to Stalag Luft 1, a prison camp. He was liberated from the camp in 1945.

After the war, Captain Vaden graduated from the University of Tennessee. He then moved to Cleveland where he worked for TVA and American Uniform. He passed away on December 25, 2004 at age 89.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion

The 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion was also called Darby's Rangers, and they were the first Americans to see combat in the European Theatre of World War Two.

They were ground soldiers, fighters from the United States Army, and they were specially trained to infiltrate enemy lines, and go where others could not go.

There were only 44 enlisted men and five officers.

They faced the Germans during an ill-fated raid at Dieppe, France, which resulted in the first American death of the war.

A Cleveland/Bradley County native was a member of Darby's Rangers, and was active and involved in the raid.

His name was Joe Williams, and his pictures (from the Dieppe Raid) are still being published in magazine and newspaper articles.

## Tennessee and the Atomic Bomb

At the end of the war, after Germany had surrendered, Japan was still fighting America. Raids were attempted, and while they were wins for the Allies, they came at a heavy cost, and the American public was getting tired of the war.

The American government decided it was time to drop the atomic bomb.

Tennessee played a crucial part in the construction of said bomb at a town in North East Tennessee called Oak Ridge. Oak Ridge was founded for the express purpose of keeping information from leaking. It was an atomic town. If you lived there, you worked for the government, constructing the bomb (Little Boy.)

(Oak Ridge also performed experiments on humans without their knowledge, and while there were no accidental deaths, many died later from radiation poisoning.)

On July 16, 1945, the first successful test of the atomic bomb occurred in New Mexico. By the time of this test, Germany and Italy had surrendered, but Japan was still posing a threat, and still waging a war, even though they had a slim chance of ever winning.

The Allied Powers called for Japan's surrender, saying that if Japan did not comply, they would be met with "prompt and utter destruction."

Japan didn't listen.

On August 6, 1945, the world's first deployed atomic weapon struck the Japanese manufacturing town of Hiroshima. It wiped out 90% of the city and instantly killed more than 80,000 people.

This bomb was called "Little Boy," because it was the smaller bomb.

Japan refused to surrender, and three days later, on August 9, Nagasaki was destroyed.

Because of Nagasaki's location, "Fat Man," though far more powerful than "Little Boy," killed about 40,000 people, only 50% of the devastation caused by "Little Boy."

On August 15, 1945, Japan surrendered, unconditionally.

When the citizens of Oak Ridge learned what their war efforts had caused, many were furious. They were angry with the government for not telling them what devastation, destruction, and death they would cause.

But then, the truth of the matter took hold in a great sweep.

The estimated American death for more fighting, rather than the swift end with the bombs, was into the millions.

## The *Memphis Belle*: America's Most Famous WW2 Plane

The *Memphis Belle*, a B-17 bomber, was based out of England, but filled with an American crew. The *Memphis Belle* is a large part of Tennessee history, because it is named after the large city in West Tennessee.

The pilot was engaged to be married to a young lady from Memphis; she was the Memphis Belle.

This "Flying Fortress" was the first American plane and crew to complete its 25 required missions before retirement, against overwhelming odds. They completed this feat in less than a

year, from September 1942 to May 1943, and not a single crewmember died or was injured, and only one member was awarded the Purple Heart, for a “scratch” in his upper thigh.

The *Belle* herself sustained heavy damage, but always lived to fight another day. After one mission, she came full of bullet holes, numbering to over 800 in all.

After the plane’s tour of service to her country and the world, the *Memphis Belle* and her crew flew back to the States for a bond tour, the first two cities on the route being Asheville, North Carolina (the pilot’s hometown) and Memphis, Tennessee, the namesake of the plane.

After the tour, the Memphis Belle rested in Tennessee for a time, but is now in Dayton, Ohio at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

### Hardwick Clothes: America’s Oldest Maker of Tailored Clothing

Hardwick Clothes has been a long-respected maker of fine clothes, but during World War II, it stopped making fine suits for men and women, and instead, production switched from civilian clothing to military clothing. They produced Army pants, jacket liners, and surgical gowns. The sales staff was furloughed, and many Hardwick employees volunteered or were drafted into military service. The mills operated 24 hours a day to meet military demands.

Following the war, all Hardwick sales clerks were rehired, and the plant prepared for the post-war economic boom with improvements in manufacturing techniques.