

HOW DID WW2 END?



Battle of Stalingrad August 1942-February 1943

Fierce battle that sees Soviet Red Army push back Axis forces on Eastern Front.



Fall of Mussolini's Government July 1943

Allies invade southern Italy and Hitler loses a key ally.



D-Day 6th June 1944

Allies open up Western Front with amphibious invasion of Normandy.



Vistula-Oder Offensive January 1945

Soviet Red Army reach the Oder River, less than 50 miles from Berlin by the spring of 1945.



Concentration Camps Liberated Spring 1945

Allies advance east on Berlin, liberating concentration camps (and discovering the horrors of the Holocaust) as they go.

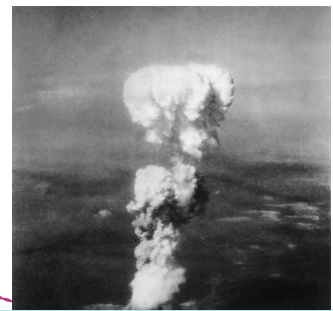


Death of Hitler 30th April 1945

As Allies advance on Berlin and defeat is inevitable, Hitler commits suicide in his bunker.

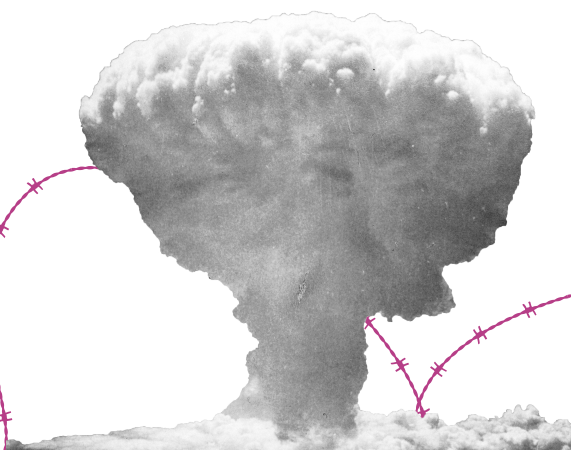
Unconditional Surrender of Germany 7th May 1945

Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz authorises the unconditional surrender of Germany, which will come into effect the following day.



US Drops Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima 6th August 1945

American B-29 Bomber Enola Gay drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima, killing 80,000 people instantly, with tens of thousands dying later from radiation exposure.



US Drops Atomic Bomb on Nagasaki 9th August 1945

Failure to surrender prompts the US to drop another atomic bomb, this time on Nagasaki. It kills 35,000 people instantly – and 50,000 in its aftermath.

Soviets Declare War on Japan 8th August 1945

Soviet forces invade Japanese-occupied Manchuria in northeastern China, putting more pressure on Japan to surrender.

WW2 Ends

2nd September 1945

Japan surrenders, ending the fighting in the Pacific theatre and formally ending WW2.