

# TIMELINE OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

# 1939

**I September** – Hitler invades Poland. Britain evacuates children from cities.

**3 September** – Britain and France (the Allies) declare war on Germany.

#### 1940

January – rationing begins.

**May** – Winston Churchill becomes for control of the Pacific Ocean.

British prime minister.

-Allied troops begin to be rescued from the beaches at Dunkirk.

**June** – Italy joins the war on Germany's side (the Axis powers).

**July** – the Battle of Britain starts.

**September** – The Blitz begins.

### 1941

**June** – the Axis powers invade the Soviet Union.

**December** – Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. The United States enters the war on the Allies' side.

#### 1942

June – success at the Battle of Midway helps the Allies in the fight for control of the Pacific Ocean.

# 1943

**February** – Nazi defeat at Stalingrad.

**September** – the Allies invade Italy.

October – Italy joins the Allies.

# 1944

**June** – the Allies launch the D-Day landings in Normandy, France.

#### 1945

**April** – the Soviet army advances on Berlin, Germany. Hitler dies in his bunker.

**May** – German troops surrender to the Allies.

8 May - Victory in Europe (VE Day).

**August** – the United States drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, causing destruction on a scale never seen before.

**15 August** – Japan surrenders – the war is over.

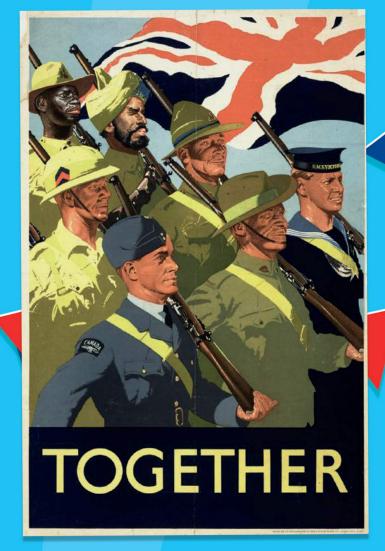


# "WE PREVAILED BECAUSE WE WERE UNITED"

Dame Vera Lynn

fter almost six years of hardship, danger and destruction, the war came to a close in Europe when Hitler died and the Nazis surrendered. 'Victory in Europe' or 'VE Day' was declared on **8 May 1945**.





On **8 May 1945**, fighting in Europe ended. Huge crowds celebrated Victory in Europe Day.

**Home Again** tells twelve moving tales of homecoming, centred around VE Day.

A child evacuee, a Bletchley Park codebreaker, a rebel fighter, an Indian Army soldier... Each inspiring and authentic story helps to bring the end of World War Two into focus. Every story is followed by a fact file, packed with detail on different parts of the war.

With a foreword by Forces Sweetheart

Dame Vera Lynn.

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