

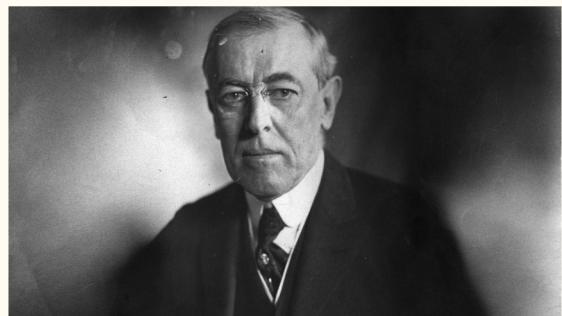
Crusade in Europe: The Americans at War

—
Dr. Tod Worner

1

The Great War & American Ascendancy

- In the First World War, America came into its own. What brought America into the war?
 - The threat of Germany in its unrestricted submarine warfare.
 - The Zimmerman telegram revealing Germany's designs to form an anti-American alliance with Mexico.
 - President Wilson's aim to make the world safe for democracy.
- America rapidly mobilized, massively industrialized, and changed the course of the war sending troops to Europe in 1917.
- In the wake of the First World War, the Ottoman Empire, the Russian Empire, the German, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire collapsed. . . Great Britain and France were reeling. . .
- AMERICA ALONE WAS ASCENDANT



2

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

- Political rising star
 - Harvard-educated
 - NY State Senator (1911-13)
 - Assistant Secretary of the Navy (1913-20)
 - *** Developed polio ***
 - NY Governor (1928-32)
- Elected president (1932 - 1945)
 - Elected unprecedented 4 times
 - Navigated the Great Depression with “the New Deal”
 - CCC, WPA, Social Security Act



3

The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.

– President Franklin Delano Roosevelt

4

“America First”

- Political movement that originated in the 1930s
 - Non-interventionists/No aid to European war
 - Nationalist
 - Defense oriented & aversion to war
 - Favored domestic investment > foreign engagement
- America First Committee
 - Established officially in September, 1940
 - 800,000 members, 450 chapters
 - Business leaders, influential figures (Charles Lindbergh)



5

If England can draw this country into the war, she can shift to our shoulders a large portion of the responsibility for waging it.

– Charles Lindbergh

6

The Neutrality Acts

- Isolationist U.S. laws passed to prevent involvement in foreign wars
 - No export of arms, ammo, war implements
 - No loans to belligerent nations
 - No government protection to international travel on ships of warring nations
- Initially signing, FDR recognized shortcomings
 - Failed to discern between aggressors and victims
 - At outbreak of war in September, 1939, he described embargo as “vitally dangerous to American neutrality, American security, and American peace” and urged their repeal.



7

And while I am talking to you mothers and fathers, I give you one more assurance. I have said this before, but I shall say it again and again. Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars.

– President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, October 30, 1940

8



9

He who would live must fight. He who doesn't wish to fight in this world,
where permanent struggle is the law of life, has not the right to exist.

– Adolf Hitler

10



11

Even though large tracts of Europe and many old and famous States have fallen or may fall into the grip of the Gestapo and all the odious apparatus of Nazi rule, we shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this Island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, would carry on the struggle, until, in God's good time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old.

– British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill, June, 1940

12

Well, Harry, if we give aid to England, it's not like the French – money down the rathole. . . As long as that old bastard's in charge, Britain will never surrender.

– President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to friend (& future British envoy) Harry Hopkins, immediately after hearing Churchill's speech on the radio. He then decided to militarily support Britain through "Lend-Lease" which began 9 months later.



13

Yes, even our right of worship would be threatened. The Nazi world does not recognize any God except Hitler; for the Nazis are as ruthless as the Communists in the denial of God. What place has religion which preaches the dignity of the human being, the majesty of the human soul, in a world where moral standards are measured by treachery and bribery and fifth columnists? Will our children, too, wander off, goose-stepping in search of new gods?

We do not accept, we will not permit, this Nazi "shape of things to come." It will never be forced upon us, if we act in this present crisis with the wisdom and the courage which have distinguished our country in all the crises of the past.

– President Franklin Roosevelt



14

Lend-Lease Act of 1941



- U.S. law allowing the lending or leasing of food, weaponry, or vehicles to Allied nations during WWII (while getting payment at a later date)
 - The 1940 Fall of France and the Battle of Britain transformed American public opinion (from 35% support to nearly 70%)
- Arose out of recognition that GB and SU served as bulwark against rising tide of Nazi aggression
- \$50 billion (largely to GB & SU)

15

Give us the tools, and we will finish the job. We shall not fail or falter; we shall not weaken or tire.

– Winston Churchill, February 9, 1941
(Lend-Lease passed in March, 1941)



16

The Bombing of Pearl Harbor

- At 7:55 a.m. on December 7, 1941
 - Nearly 200 Japanese planes attacked American Pacific Naval base at Pearl Harbor
 - 8 battleships and 180 aircraft destroyed
 - 2,403 Americans killed, 1,200 wounded
- December 8, 1941 – President Roosevelt and U.S. Congress declared war on Japan
- 4 days later, Germany declared war on the United States



17

Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy, the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

— President Franklin Delano Roosevelt



18

So we had won after all! I went to bed
& slept the sleep of the saved &
thankful.

– Winston Churchill, upon hearing
the news of the bombing of Pearl
Harbor



19

“Europe First”

- American and British plan to defeat
Nazi Germany prior to Japan
 - Germany perceived as the greater threat
 - “Franklin & Winston” letters
 - Dozens of letters, telegrams, secret cables
 - Majority of Allied military resources dedicated to German defeat
 - Allied capitals (London, Moscow) imminently threatened by Nazis
 - Alliance held together by common enemy
 - Formalized at the Arcadia conference between Churchill and FDR (planned 1942 Operation Torch in North Africa)



20

No lover ever studied every whim
of his mistress as I did those of
President Roosevelt.

– Winston Churchill



21

General George C. Marshall

- U.S. Army Chief of Staff (1939-1945)
 - Principal architect of America's global military effort in WWII
 - Appointed the day Germany attacked Poland (Sept 1, 1939)
 - Transformed 174,000 man Army into an 8.3 million strong fighting force across 3 continents
 - Coordinated Lend-Lease
 - Selected every senior commander & enforced ruthless standards of competence
 - Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley, Clark, Stilwell
 - Champion of Europe First and D-Day strategy
 - Always wanted to command in the field, but FDR deemed him too valuable to leave his side



22

Military power wins battles, but spiritual power wins wars.

– General George C. Marshall

23

Statesman and soldier, he had courage, fortitude, and vision, and best of all a rare self-effacement. He has been a tower of strength as counselor of two Commanders-in-Chief. His standards of character, conduct and efficiency inspired the entire Army, the nation and the world. To him, as much as to any individual, the United States owes its future. He takes his place at the head of the great commanders of history.

– President Harry Truman awarding the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Service Medal to General George C. Marshall



24

Battle of the Atlantic

- 1939-1945
- Secure the Atlantic against Nazi U-boats
 - Protect shipping lanes to supply the British
- Radar, Enigma code-breaking, and bomber air escorts changed the tide of this battle
- Loss of 3,500 Allied Merchant Ships, 175 Allied Warships, & 72,200 sailors vs. 783 U-Boats and 30,000 sailors



25

To be ultimately successful in world mastery, Hitler knows that he must get control of the seas. He must first destroy the bridge of ships which we are building across the Atlantic and over which we shall continue to roll the implements of war to help destroy him.

– President Franklin Roosevelt



26

[The Atlantic battle was] the dominating factor all through the war. . . Never for one moment could we forget that everything happening elsewhere, on land, at sea, or in the air, depended ultimately on its outcome, and amid all other cares we viewed its changing fortunes day by day with hope or apprehension.

The only thing that ever really frightened me during the war was the U-boat peril.

– Winston Churchill



27

Peripheral Invasions – Operation Torch (North Africa)

- Operation Torch
 - Launched November 8, 1942 (British started in 1940)
 - Invasion of North Africa under General Eisenhower (and British General Montgomery)
 - First major joint Anglo-American venture



28

Peripheral Invasions – Operation Torch(North Africa)

- Churchill favored attack on the “soft underbelly” of the Axis powers (Germany, Italy)
 - Operation Torch goals
 - Secure French Morocco/Algeria
 - Capture Nazi oil supplies
 - Relieve pressure on Soviet Eastern front
 - Pincer Rommel’s Afrika Korp between Torch in the west and British 8th Army in the east
 - Secure Suez canal & Mediterranean shipping lanes
- Complete Axis surrender by May, 1943 after Rommel’s defeat at 2nd Battle of El Alamein.



29

General Dwight D. Eisenhower

- Commander of many European campaigns
 - Operation Torch (North Africa)
 - Operation Avalanche (Italy/Sicily)
- Supreme Allied Commander of Allied Expeditionary Force (including from D-Day to VE-Day)
- Managed MAJOR egos
 - Churchill, Montgomery, De Gaulle, Patton
- Maintained superior’s confidence
 - Roosevelt, Marshall



30

The best political general since Scipio Africanus.

– General George C. Marshall, on General Eisenhower

(Scipio Africanus defeated Hannibal in the Second Punic War by successfully commanding a fractious multinational coalition army where political, diplomatic, and personal considerations mattered as much as military ones)

31

The history of free men is never really written by chance but by choice—their choice.

– Lieutenant General Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1942



32

General Erwin Rommel - The Desert Fox

- General Erwin Rommel

- Brilliant & innovative military strategist
- Lead the Blitzkrieg of the 7th Panzer "Ghost" Division during 1940 French invasion
- Commanded Afrika Korps in North Africa with numerous wins against Allied forces (dubbed "The Desert Fox")
- Commanded the "Atlantic Wall" German defense against D-Day invasions
- 1944 - Committed suicide for indirect involvement in plot to assassinate Hitler



33

No plan survives contact with the enemy.

– General Erwin Rommel

34

Peripheral Invasions – Operation Avalanche (Italy)

- Invasion of Sicily and Italy (1943-45)
 - Knock Fascist Italy out of war
 - Secure the Mediterranean for the Allies
 - Pull away German forces to soften France for D-Day invasion
- Mussolini arrested July 25, 1943
- Battles at Anzio (28,000 Allied/40,000 Axis casualties) & Monte Cassino (55,000 Allied/20,000 Axis casualties)
 - Led to German collapse & Allied capture of Rome on June 4, 1944



35

Let us have a dagger between our teeth, a bomb in our hands, and an infinite scorn in our hearts.

– Italian Fascist leader Benito Mussolini

36

Strategic Bombing

- U.S. Army Air Force & Royal Air Force (1942-1945)
 - Round the clock bombing
 - U.S. daytime (military), British nighttime (industrial) carpet bombing
- Bombing industrial & military sites
 - Bombing factories, oil supplies, and transport networks
 - Demoralize civilians and bleed support
- Bombing Luftwaffe capacity
 - Striving to gain air superiority in prep for future land invasion
- Estimated 600,000 German civilian deaths



37

The ruthless bombing from the air of civilians in unfortified centers of population during the course of the hostilities which have raged in various quarters of the earth during the past few years, which has resulted in the maiming and in the death of thousands of defenseless men, women and children, has sickened the hearts of every civilized man and woman, and has profoundly shocked the conscience of humanity.

I am therefore addressing this urgent appeal to every government which may be engaged in hostilities publicly to affirm its determination that its armed forces shall in no event, and under no circumstances, undertake the bombardment from the air of civilian populations or of unfortified cities, upon the understanding that these same rules of warfare will be scrupulously observed by all of their opponents. I request an immediate reply.

– Telegram from President Franklin D. Roosevelt to American Ambassador to Great Britain Joseph P. Kennedy, September 1, 1939.

As the war progressed, Roosevelt would change his mind.

38

Terror Bombing

- Cologne
 - May 31, 1942
 - First “thousand bomber raid”
 - 75 minutes of bombing with explosives and high incendiary bombs (model method for area bombing)
 - 61% of city destroyed
 - 486 deaths, 59,000 homeless
- Hamburg
 - 8 days/nights in July/August, 1943
 - “Fire typhoon” mounted to 1000 degrees
 - 40,000 killed, 250,000 homeless
- Dresden
 - February 13-15, 1945
 - 2 waves, 4000 tons of bombs, massive firestorm
 - 25,000 killed
 - Was it necessary at this point in the war?



39



40



41

The Nazis entered this war under the rather childish delusion that they were going to bomb everyone else, and nobody was going to bomb them. They sowed the wind, and now they are going to reap the whirlwind."

—Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris,
Marshall of the Royal Air Force

During the war, the Allies dropped 2.7 million tons of bombs on Germany and the Occupied Territories. The Germans dropped 825,000 tons.



42

Operation Overlord - D-Day

- Operation Neptune (Initial D-Day landings)
 - June 6, 1944
 - 150,000 troops via parachute, glider, landing craft across 50 miles of northern French beach
 - 7,000 ships and 13,000 aircraft assisted
- Operation Overlord
 - Full D-Day campaign
 - Largest amphibious assault in history
 - Commanded by General Dwight D. Eisenhower
 - Involved 3 million troops
 - Concluded with the August, 1944 liberation of Paris
- Operation Bodyguard
 - Deception campaign to convince German forces the invasion would occur at Pas-de-Calais



43



44

Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hope and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!

Good luck! And let us beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

– Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Eisenhower, June 6, 1944 “Order of the Day”

45

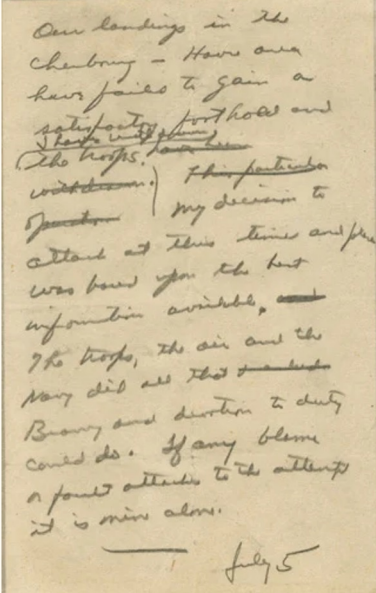
I have my doubts, Ike, when I think of the beaches of Normandy choked with the flower of American & British youth, & when, in my mind's eye, I see the tides running red with their blood. I have my doubts, Ike. . .I have my doubts.

– British Prime Minister Winston Churchill

46

Our landings in the Cherbourg-Havre area have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available. The troops, the air and the Navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone.

– Speech scrawled on June 5, 1944, by General Eisenhower, in case the D-Day invasion failed



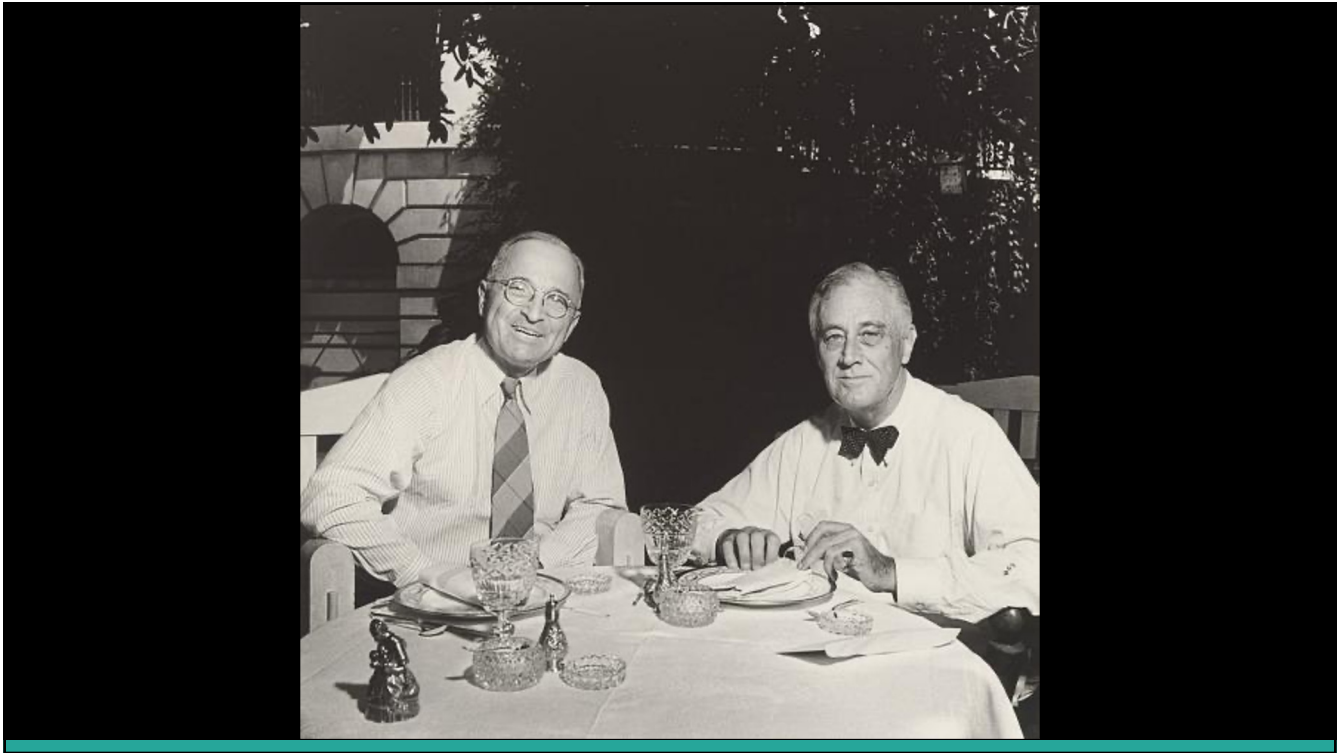
Our landings in the
Cherbourg - Havre area
have failed to gain a
satisfactory foothold and
I have withdrawn
the troops. My decision
to attack at this time and place
was based upon the best
information available. The
troops, the air and the
Navy did all that
bravery and devotion to duty
could do. If any blame
or fault attaches to the attempt
it is mine alone.
— July 5

47

Your Majesty's wishes and indeed commands.

– Winston Churchill, glum that he couldn't be near the action aboard the HMS Belfast and land on Normandy on D-Day. King George VI suggested they could go together.

48



49

1944 American Election

- November 7, 1944 Presidential Election
 - Roosevelt/Truman defeat Dewey/Bricker
 - Unprecedented 4th term for FDR
 - Roosevelt in poor health
- Truman iced out and only met with FDR twice.
- No knowledge of the Manhattan Project.
- Served only 82 days before becoming president.

“Don’t fly. Ride the trains. Can’t both of us afford to take chances.”

– President Roosevelt to Harry Truman



50

I knew he was a sick man.

– Harry Truman



51

Battle of the Bulge

- December, 1944 - January, 1945
 - German surprise offensive through the Ardennes forest (where they started the war in the West) to split the Allies and capture the port of Antwerp
 - During poor weather so Allied air cover was hampered
 - Created “bulge” in the Allied lines
 - Repelled by the Allied resistance at Bastogne & loss of fuel/resources
 - 80,000 American/100,000 German casualties (deadliest American battle in WWII - 1 out of 10 American soldiers lost in war)
- Turning point – last major Nazi offensive in Western theater



52



53

December 22, 1944

To the German Commander,

N U T S !

The American Commander

– Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe's "formal" answer to German emissaries demanding their Allied surrender at the Battle of the Bulge

54

The Yalta Conference

- THE BIG 3
 - President Roosevelt is increasingly ill (63 years old)
 - February, 1945
 - All agreed Germany must surrender unconditionally & divide Germany & Berlin into 4 occupation zones
 - Competing priorities
 - Churchill – wanted free democratic Europe
 - Stalin – wanted Eastern European “sphere of influence”
 - Roosevelt – wanted defeat of Japan, & world organization (UN)
 - Stalin receives assurances that he will be able to stay in Eastern Poland... essentially in exchange for Stalin’s promise to fight Japan



55

Never before have the major allies been more closely united – not only in their war aims but also in their peace aims. And they are determined to continue to be united, to be united with each other – and with all peace-loving nations – so that the ideal of lasting peace will become a reality.

– President Franklin D. Roosevelt, on the Yalta Conference

56

I fear that very great evil may come upon the world. . . the Russians are drunk with victory & there is no length they may not go.

– Winston Churchill

57

The Race to Berlin

- January – May, 1945
- Soviet race to arrive at the German capital
 - Military & political prize
 - Postwar dominance
 - Revenge
- Churchill wanted to arrive first
 - Prestige
 - Postwar influence
 - Brush back the Soviets
 - British General Monty & American General Patton agreed
- Eisenhower disagreed
 - Following Yalta agreement with Soviet control of Eastern Germany
 - Not strategically important
 - Avoid direct military conflict with Soviets



58



I deem it highly important that we should shake hands with the Russians as far to the East as possible.

– Winston Churchill

59

April 12, 1945 - President Roosevelt dies



60

“I knew it, I knew it! . . . I always had a feeling something would happen to him!”
Hitler threw up his arms and laughed a hideous laugh like a devil’s laugh. There was
something unnatural in it.

– Gerhardt Herrgoselle, Hitler’s typist witnessing Hitler after he heard Roosevelt
had died

61



62

Boys, if you ever pray, pray for me now. I don't know if you fellows ever had a load of hay fall on you, but when they told me yesterday what had happened, I felt like the moon, the stars and all the planets had fallen on me.

I've got the most terribly responsible job a man ever had.

– President Harry Truman, in his first press conference, April 13th, 1945

63



I just can't call that man President.
– Grace Tully, FDR's secretary, on Truman

64

The Battle of Berlin

- April 20 – May 2, 1945
- American/British forces halted at the Elbe River
 - In accordance with Yalta Agreement
- Total War
 - Final major battle of the Eastern Front
 - German women, children, elderly conscripted
 - Relentless Soviet shelling of Berlin
 - Widespread rape and murder of Germans by Russians
 - 81,000 Soviet, 100,000 German, 125,000 civilian casualties
- Germany surrenders unconditionally



65



The American/Russian Meeting at the Elbe River, April 25, 1945

(After this picture, several of the Russian officers were promptly arrested, stripped of party membership.)

66



67

I ask you: Do you want total war? If necessary, do you want a war more total and radical than anything that we can even yet today even conceive?

– Nazi Minister of Propaganda Joseph Goebbels

68



The damned papers, which are full of propaganda and pretend the war is as good as won. By golly it's not. Lots of 16-year-olds are keen to die for Hitler.

– Major Bill Deedes of the 12th King's Royal Rifle Corps

69



70

The Liberation of Dachau

- April 29, 1945
 - Dachau concentration camp was the original, est. 1933
 - U.S. 7th Army (42nd and 45th Infantry Division) & 20th Armored Division
 - The military was unprepared for what they saw
 - Found camp with 32,000 survivors, but 39 boxcars on the rails overflowing with thousands of emaciated corpses
 - Summary execution of 55 SS guards (by American soldiers or prisoners)
 - U.S. soldiers charges dropped as “liberation reprisals”
 - U.S. military held Dachau trials prosecuting hundreds of camp personnel
 - 200,000 imprisoned there, 41,500 deaths (but countless unnumbered/named)



“I cry every day when I think about it.”

– Patient of mine

71



[I have] never been so angry in his life. . . [The] English language didn't even have words that could describe what I saw. Everything you read in the paper does not adequately describe what has really happened here.

– General Eisenhower writing to Winston Churchill following his inspection of Ohrdruf camp (subcamp of Buchenwald). He was profoundly impacted by the horrors that he witnessed and demanded that newspaper editors, representative groups, German civilians, and Allied soldiers bear witness.

72

I think people ought to know about such things.

– General Eisenhower’s answer to reporters when asked whether publishing photographs and stories about the concentration camps was a “wise idea.”

73



April 30, 1945 - Adolf Hitler commits suicide in his Berlin bunker

74

Well, I must say I think he
was perfectly right to die
like that.

— Winston Churchill



75



Well, of course, the two principal war criminals will not have to come to trial, and I am very happy they are out of the
way.

—President Harry Truman, asked about the death of Hitler

76

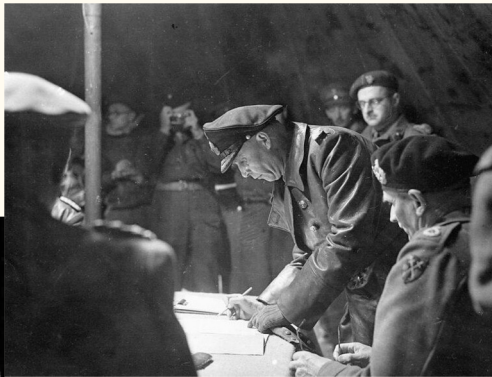
Victory in Europe Day (VE-Day)

- Brutal 11 month campaign across Europe (June 6, 1944 - May 8, 1945)
 - Nazi General Jodl signed unconditional surrender in Reims, France
 - Nazi Field Marshal Keitel signed surrender in Berlin
 - Midnight, May 8-9, official cease-fire
- Millions celebrate flooding the streets of London, Paris, New York, Moscow



77

The Nazis Surrender - May 7, 1945



78

For this victory, we join in offering our thanks to the Providence which has guided and sustained us through the dark days of adversity. Our rejoicing is sobered and subdued by a supreme consciousness of the terrible price we have paid to rid the world of Hitler and his evil band. Let us not forget, my fellow Americans, the sorrow and the heartache which today abide in the homes of so many of our neighbors--neighbors whose most priceless possession has been rendered as a sacrifice to redeem our liberty.

We can repay the debt which we owe to our God, to our dead, and to our children, only by work, by ceaseless devotion to the responsibilities which lie ahead of us. If I could give you a single watchword for the coming months, that word is work, work, and more work. We must work to finish the war.

Our victory is only half over.

– President Harry Truman, on VE-Day

79

This is your victory. It is the victory of the cause of freedom in every land. In all our long history we have never seen a greater day than this. Everyone, man or woman, has done their best! . . . We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing, but let us not forget for a moment the toils and efforts that lie ahead. Japan, with all her treachery and greed, remains unsubdued.

– Prime Minister Winston Churchill, on
VE-Day



80

During the Second World War, nearly 40 million died in the European theater.

81

The beginning of every war is like opening the door into a dark room.
One never knows what is hidden in the darkness.

– Adolf Hitler

82

Then everything includes itself in power;
Power into Will; Will into Appetite;
And Appetite, a universal Wolf,
So doubly seconded with Will and Power,
Must make perforce a universal Prey,
And last eat up itself.

– Ulysses, in William Shakespeare's *Troilus & Cressida*

83



84

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, General George Patton, and General Omar Bradley visited the Ohrdruf concentration camp on April 12, 1945. While driving towards the camp, the surrounding atmosphere was overwhelming, with the smell of decaying flesh, and dead bodies littering the streets. Eisenhower had "never been so angry in his life" stating that the "English language didn't even have words that could describe what he saw." Eisenhower wrote to Winston Churchill following his time at Ohrdruf, stating that "everything you read in the paper does not adequately describe what has really happened here." He was profoundly impacted by the horrors that he witnessed and demanded that newspaper editors, representative groups, German civilians, and Allied soldiers bear witness.

Dwight D. Eisenhower emphasized and understood the importance of bearing witness to the Holocaust. In doing so, he not only called upon the United States troops and media, but also felt it important for Germans to bear witness. He emphasized that ordinary Germans needed to view these camps and see the horrors that they had ignored. Additionally, Nazi party leaders and officeholders were required and forced to visit and view concentration camps, in order to see with their own eyes and be unable to deny the existence of the camps. Susan Eisenhower, the granddaughter of Dwight D. Eisenhower, has emphasized that there were many people at the end of the war that said they didn't know, but that Ike had very little patience for that. He believed that if German citizens didn't know what was taking place, they were closing their eyes to the world they had helped to create.

Conditions of indescribable horror prevail," Eisenhower wrote. "I have visited one of these myself and I assure you that whatever has been printed on them to date has been an understatement.

Congressional delegation, British parliamentary delegation, American press (18 newspaper editors)

Forced German citizens to walk through

In June, when Eisenhower returned to the United States following the German surrender, he was asked by reporters about whether publishing stories and photographs of Concentration Camps had been a wise idea. Eisenhower responded, "I think people ought to know about such things."