

Summary: Ending the War

Battles in North Africa and Europe

German and Japanese victories surprised the Allies at first. In late 1942, they fought back. The Allies defeated Germans and Italians in North Africa. Then the Allies attacked Italy. At the same time, the Soviets defeated German troops. Allied airplanes took control of the skies over Europe.

On June 6, 1944, nearly 200,000 Allied soldiers invaded France. This is known as D-day. One million soldiers landed in France within 10 days. The Allies and Soviet soldiers advanced on Germany. Germany surrendered in May, 1945. This day was called Victory in Europe Day, or V-E Day.

Fighting in the Pacific

Japan still held parts of the western Pacific and eastern Asia. In June 1942, the Allies won the Battle of Midway. Allied planes shot down Japanese planes. They sank Japanese aircraft carriers. America won more power in the Pacific. However, the Japanese still held islands there. The Allies skipped over some Japanese islands and captured others. They used the captured islands to attack islands closer to Japan. Navajo Indian code talkers used a secret code to send messages to Allied leaders. The Japanese could not understand the messages.

On August 6, 1945, Americans dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. It killed nearly 100,000 people. Three days later, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki. Japan surrendered. August 14, 1945, was called Victory in Japan Day. It is known as V-J Day.

A Changed World

Millions of people died during the war. Many people lost their homes and had no food. Cities were ruined. After the fighting ended, Allied soldiers discovered that the Nazis had killed millions of people in concentration camps. About twelve million people died or were killed in concentration camps. About six million were Jews. This mass murder is called the Holocaust.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

aircraft carrier *noun*, a large ship that carries airplanes far from land

atomic bomb *noun*, a powerful bomb that can destroy an entire city

concentration camp *noun*, a place where large numbers of people are held prisoner and forced to work



After You Read

REVIEW **Why was D-day important?** What did Allied soldiers do on D-day? Circle the sentence that tells you the answer. What did it allow the Allies to do? Draw a box around the sentence that tells you the answer.

REVIEW **Why was the Battle of Midway important?** What did America win? Circle the answer.

REVIEW **What was the Holocaust?** What did Nazis do in concentration camps? Highlight the sentences that tell the answer.