

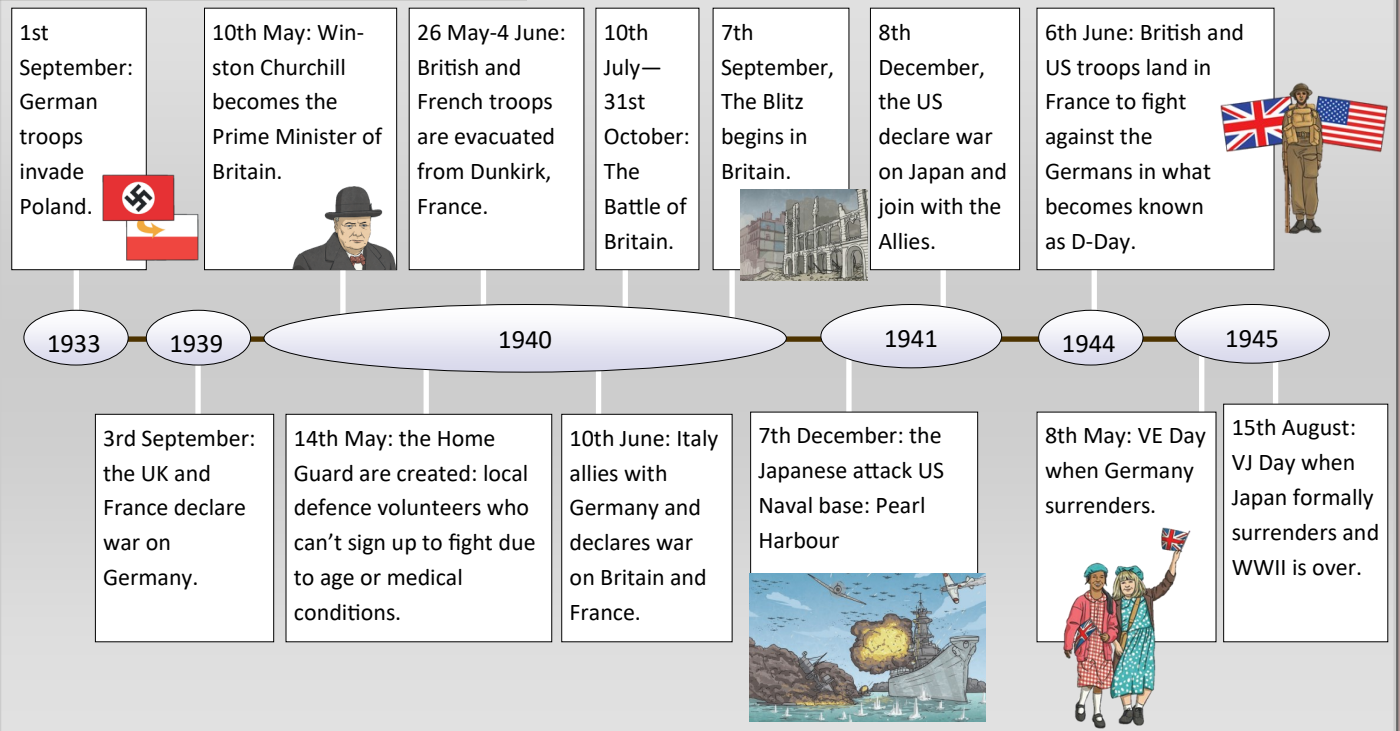
Core Knowledge

- World War II began on the 1st September 1939 and lasted till the 2nd September 1945.
- WWII began when German troops, lead by Adolf Hitler, invaded Poland.
- Adolf Hitler, who was leader of the **Nazi** Party, rose to power as Germany's chancellor in 1933 then became the Führer in 1934. He ruled Germany as a **dictator**.
- Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain announced the United Kingdom were declaring war on Germany on the 3rd September 1939.
- Many countries, though not all, were involved in the war either fighting on one of two sides: the **Allies** or **Axis powers**.
- Germany, Italy and Japan were the main **Axis power countries**.
- Great Britain, France and Poland were the main **Allied countries** at the start of the war and were later joined by the United States and the Soviet Union (Russia) in 1941.
- Neville Chamberlain was the initial Prime minister during WWII until 1940, then Winston Churchill took over this role.
- Over 3.5 million people were **evacuated** from the biggest cities to safer rural areas during the war.
- In January 1940 war time food **rationing** began in Britain and lasted until 1954 (9 years after the war had ended).
- The Battle of Britain, between the German Luftwaffe and the Royal Air Force, was the first ever battle to be fought only in the air and it lasted from 10th July to 31st October 1940.
- British Prime Minister **Winston Churchill**, US President **Franklin Roosevelt** and Soviet Union leader **Joseph Stalin** were known as the 'big three' and were all leaders of Allied countries.
- Directed by Hitler, the German Nazi party organised the killing of over six million Jews and other people during WWII. This is known as the **Holocaust**.
- Many Jews were sent to **concentration camps** built by the Nazis where they were treated as slaves or killed in gas chambers.
- Around 50 million people lost their lives in WWII.
- WWII ended in Europe on 8 May 1945 – this is also known as VE Day (Victory in Europe Day).
- WWII carried on for a few months after it ended in Europe, only officially ending when Japan formally surrendered to the Allies on 2nd September 1945 also known as VJ day (Victory over Japan Day).

Keep Calm and Carry On



Timeline of key events



Key Vocabulary

Allies and Axis Powers — the two sets of countries that fought in WWII



propaganda—information, ideas or rumours deliberately spread to harm a person or group of people



rationing—only allowing people a fixed amount of food during a shortage of supplies



evacuation—the process of moving children and vulnerable people from highly populated areas (cities) that could be targeted for attack to safer parts of the country



Nazi— a member of the far right-wing Nazi party lead by Adolf Hitler



dictator— a ruler with total power over a country



holocaust— a mass scale killing or destruction of people



concentration camp— a place where a large number of prisoners are kept in a small area and forced to work as slaves or killed



conscientious objector— an person who refuses to fight for the armed forces as they do not believe in violence or war



Britain's black community played an important part in the First and Second World Wars. This was born from the British Empire and later Commonwealth.

- During World War I, King George V wanted to show the world a united empire in wartime so, in October 1915, the British West Indies Regiment (BWIR) was established as a separate black unit within the British Army. The BWIR accommodated growing numbers of volunteers from British Guiana and the islands of the Caribbean including Jamaica, St Lucia, Trinidad and Barbados. The British army was also strengthened by forces from across the British Empire including India, Africa, South Africa and Canada.
- When soldiers returned to the UK after WW1 there was a jobs shortage and a lack of opportunities. Black servicemen and workers, who had fought for Britain, found themselves without jobs after a "colour bar" was introduced in many industries, with white workers, often backed by unions, refusing to work alongside black people.
- After WW1 ended the British Empire began to fall apart. In 1926, a conference of leaders from many of the Empire's dominions, countries which were partly independent from Britain, met together. Here, it was agreed that countries within the Empire would be separate with equal status: "freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth".
- Many of the countries in the British Commonwealth sent troops to fight in Europe during WW2.
- In 1947, India became independent from The British Commonwealth and 1949 the London Declaration said that republics and other countries could now be part of the Commonwealth. The modern Commonwealth of Nations was born.
- After WW2 black people from the Caribbean and Africa, and people from India, were asked to come to Britain to help rebuild the country. However, some companies still chose not to employ black and Asian people. At this time it was not illegal to discriminate based on race (the first Race Relations Act was passed in 1965, but didn't include legislation about employment or housing until 1968). This led to protests including a boycott of buses across the city of Bristol after the Omnibus Company refused to employ black drivers. (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-52939694>)



A newspaper cutting shows students marching in Bristol in protest against a "colour bar" on the buses.

Paul Stephenson, Roy Hackett and Guy Bailey were the brains behind the boycott and Paul drew inspiration from the bus boycott in the US, started when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat for a white passenger when the bus was at capacity.

- Before the National Health Service was founded in 1948, many West African and West Indian women trained as nurses in British hospitals during World War II. These included Princess Ademola, daughter of the Alake of Abeokuta, the most important chief in northern Nigeria. She was based at Guy's Hospital in London.
- Equality, justice and democracy are the core beliefs of the modern Commonwealth. There are now 54 member countries spread through Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, the Mediterranean, North America and the Pacific. Its 1.7 billion people are over a quarter of the world's population.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/about/lzone_school_blackasian.shtml