

Lieutenant  
Audie  
Murphy ►



## WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

### Audie Murphy, American Hero

Audie Murphy received more medals than any other American in World War II. In January 1945, his squad was set upon by German troops near Holtzwihr, France. Ordering his men to withdraw, Murphy climbed atop a burning tank that was in danger of exploding. For an hour, the young lieutenant used the tank's machine gun to hold off the enemy on three sides:

“Germans reached as close as 10 yards, only to be mowed down by his fire. He received a leg wound, but ignored it and continued the single-handed fight until his ammunition was exhausted. He then made his way to his company, refused medical attention, and organized the company in a counterattack.”

—Medal of Honor Citation for Audie Murphy

# Victory in Europe and the Pacific

## Objectives

- Analyze the planning and impact of the D-Day invasion of France.
- Understand how the Allies achieved final victory in Europe.
- Explore the reasons that President Truman decided to use the atomic bomb against Japan.

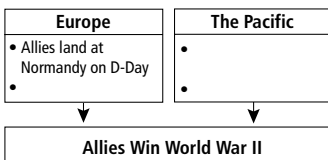
## Terms and People

D-Day	kamikaze
Battle of the Bulge	Albert Einstein
Harry S. Truman	Manhattan Project
island hopping	J. Robert Oppenheimer

## NoteTaking

### Reading Skill: Recognize Sequence

Identify the steps that led to the Allied victory.



**Why It Matters** In 1942 and 1943, the Allies turned back the Axis advances. In the last two years of the war, 1944 and 1945, they delivered the final, crushing blow. They attacked Germany from the west and east, and the United States advanced across the Pacific to the doorstep of Japan. In the process, Americans created a new form of weapon that would change both warfare and global politics. **Section Focus Question:** How did the Allies defeat the Axis Powers?

## Planning Germany's Defeat

Throughout 1943, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin squabbled over when they would start a second front in France. Up to that point, Soviet troops had done most of the fighting in Europe. Stalin insisted that Britain and the United States carry more of the military burden by attacking Germany in the west, thereby forcing Germany to divide its troops.

Roosevelt sympathized with Stalin's position, but Churchill hesitated and delayed. Recalling the slaughter of British troops on the Western Front in World War I, he was not anxious to see history repeat itself. He argued that the German U-boat presence was too great in the English Channel and that the Allies needed more landing craft, more equipment, and better-trained soldiers.

In November 1943, Roosevelt and Churchill traveled to Teheran, Iran, for their first face-to-face meeting with Stalin. Churchill continued to voice reservations about a cross-channel invasion, but

FDR sided with Stalin. Reluctantly, Churchill agreed. After years of war, British and American soldiers would invade France and begin their march toward Germany. At the end of the Teheran Conference, the Big Three issued a joint statement that gave no hint of their earlier disagreements:

### Primary Source

“We have reached complete agreement as to the scope and timing of the operations to be undertaken from the east, west and south. The common understanding which we have here reached guarantees that victory will be ours. . . . No power on earth can prevent our destroying the German armies by land, their U Boats by sea, and their war planes from the air.”

—Declaration of the Three Powers, December 1, 1943

Six months after the Teheran Conference, the plan to open a second front in France became reality. The massive Allied invasion of France was given the code name Operation Overlord.

✓ **Checkpoint** On what issues did Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill disagree?

## D-Day Invasion of Normandy

Overlord involved the most experienced Allied officers in Europe. American General Dwight D. Eisenhower again served as Supreme Commander. British General Bernard Montgomery served as commander of the ground forces, while General Omar Bradley led the United States First Army.

**Eisenhower Plans the Invasion** Overlord involved landing 21 American divisions and 26 British, Canadian, and Polish divisions on a 50-mile stretch of beaches in Normandy. The fleet was the largest ever assembled, comprising more than 4,400 ships and landing crafts.

The plan dictated striking five beaches in Normandy (code-named Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword), but it also involved an elaborate deception. The Allies created a fictional army under General Patton. Although the army existed only on paper, the Allies set up fake headquarters in southeast England across the English Channel from Calais, equipped with wood and cardboard tanks, useless ships, and detectable radio traffic. The Allies hoped to convince the Germans that the Allied attack would come at Calais, not farther west in Normandy. In the end, the deception worked. Hitler ordered his top tank division to Calais.

**Heroes Storm the Beaches** On June 6, 1944—known as **D-Day**—the Allies hit Germany in force. More than 11,000 planes prepared the way, attempting to destroy German communication and transportation networks and soften Nazi beach defenses. At 6:30 A.M., after a rough crossing of the English Channel, the first troops landed.

On four of the beaches, the landings were only lightly opposed and casualties relatively low. But at Omaha, one of the two beaches assigned to American forces, the Germans offered stiff opposition. On the cliffs overlooking the beach, the Germans had dug trenches and built small concrete pillbox structures from which heavy artillery could be fired. They had the beach covered with

### HISTORY MAKERS

#### Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890–1969)

As a young man, Dwight Eisenhower had not been considered a brilliant student at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. During the 1930s, though, his career rose due to his organizational skill and ability to work with others. In 1942, Ike was given command of all American forces in Europe—even though more than 350 other generals had more seniority. After strong performances in North Africa and Italy, he was made Supreme Commander of Allied Forces. His skillful handling of the D-Day invasion and the drive to Germany won wide respect. Eisenhower went on to serve two terms as President before retiring.



a wide variety of deadly guns. They had also heavily mined the beaches. When the first American soldiers landed, they stepped out of their landing crafts into a rainstorm of bullets, shells, and death. Some crafts dumped their occupants too far from the beach; soldiers, weighted down by heavy packs, drowned.

One writer called D-Day “the longest day.” For many Americans, it was a very short day—and their last on Earth. Some fought bravely and died. Others fought bravely and survived. By the end of the day, the Allies had gained a foothold in France. Within a month, more than one million Allied troops had landed at Normandy. Berlin, the capital of Germany, was still a long road ahead, but the Allies had taken the first, and most important, step on that road.

✓ **Checkpoint** What was the primary objective of the D-Day invasion at Normandy?

## Events That Changed America

### THE ALLIES LAND ON D-DAY

“You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months.” General Eisenhower gave this message to Allied troops on the morning of June 6, 1944. “You will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.” That day, Allied troops stormed the beaches of Normandy, paving the way for the liberation of France and the final defeat of the Nazis. But victory came at a tremendous cost. Wave after wave of soldiers were mowed down by German fire. One American later recalled, “As our boat touched sand and the ramp went down, I became a visitor to hell.”



*“The carnage on the beach was indescribable.... Although many wounded men were crying for help, aid-men were scarce and others could not help because they had an assigned task to accomplish.”*  
—Thomas E. Herring, C Company



- ▲ The invasion of Normandy was truly a massive international effort. U.S., Canadian, and British forces were assigned to different beaches. Members of the French Underground were waiting to offer aid and support.

## Liberation of Europe

After D-Day, Germany faced a hopeless two-front war. Soviet soldiers were advancing steadily from the east, forcing German armies out of Latvia, Romania, Slovakia, and Hungary. Mile by mile, Germany lost the lands it had once dominated and the natural resources it had once plundered.

**Allies Advance** Allied armies were also on the move in the west. In August 1944, the Allies liberated Paris. Hitler had ordered his generals to destroy the French capital, but they disobeyed him, leaving the “City of Lights” as beautiful as ever. As Parisians celebrated, Allied troops kept advancing.

As a mood of hopelessness fell over Germany, Rommel and other leading generals plotted to overthrow Hitler. On July 20, 1944, an officer planted a bomb at Hitler’s headquarters. The explosion killed or wounded 20 people, but Hitler



▲ Sixty years after D-Day, an American veteran revisits the cemetery in Normandy where so many of his comrades are buried.

*“I remember the bullets flying over our craft and seeing the ricochets of the bullets hitting the water. The landing craft’s door fell open and we ran into the surf. We were in very deep water and I thought I was either going to drown or be shot before getting to land. By the grace of God, I made it ashore and started running through the deep water toward the seawall.”*

—Jack Fox, combat medic

### Why It Matters

Six decades later, Americans still take pride in the young heroes who secured Omaha Beach. Whether they died on the blood-soaked sands or survived against impossible odds, the D-Day invaders helped create an enduring standard of courage, sacrifice, and patriotism. Books like Tom Brokaw’s *The Greatest Generation* and movies like Steven Spielberg’s *Saving Private Ryan* honor their memory.

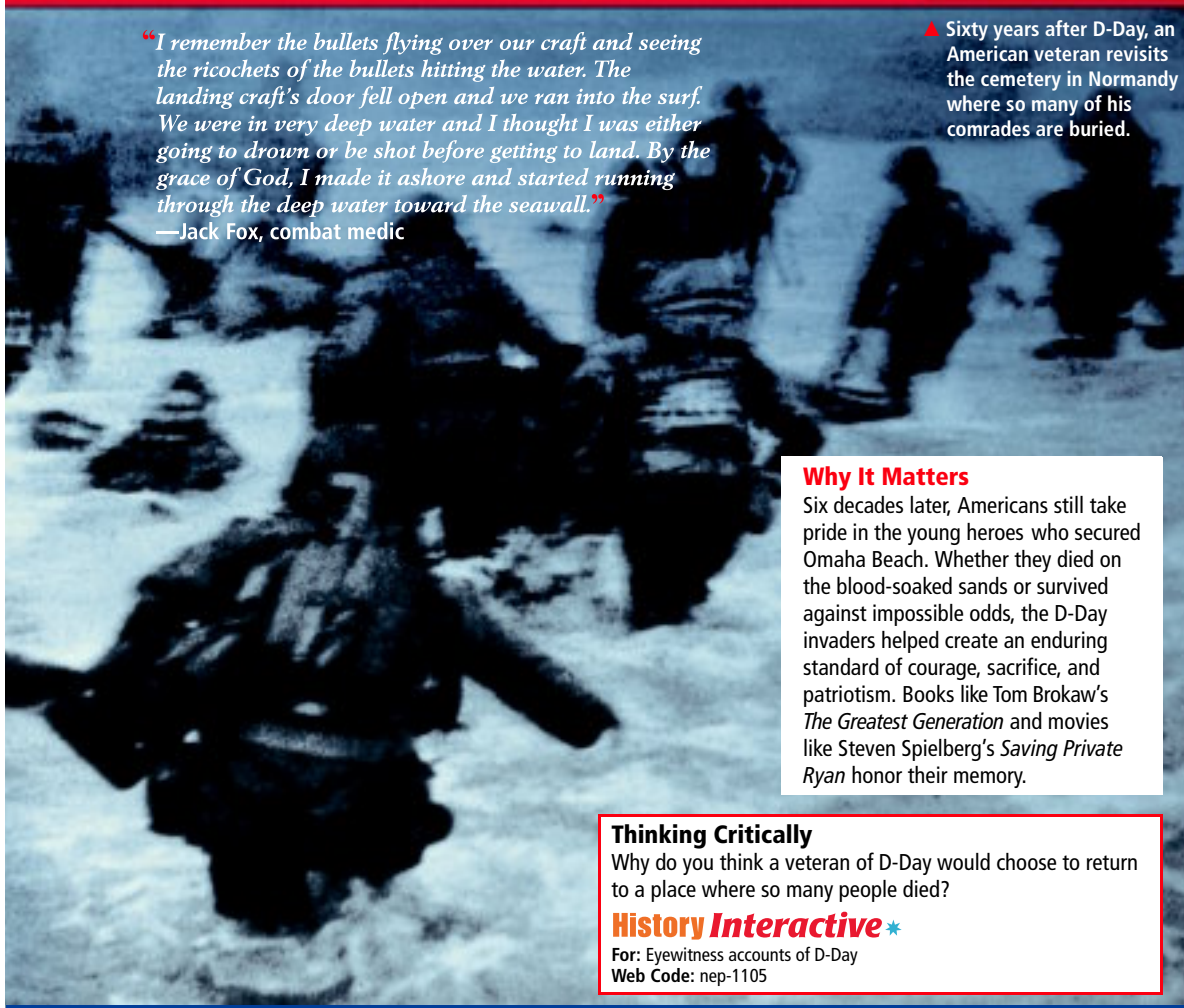
### Thinking Critically

Why do you think a veteran of D-Day would choose to return to a place where so many people died?

### History Interactive \*

For: Eyewitness accounts of D-Day

Web Code: nep-1105





# World War II in Europe, 1942–1945

Geography Interactive

For: Interactive map  
Web Code: nep-1106



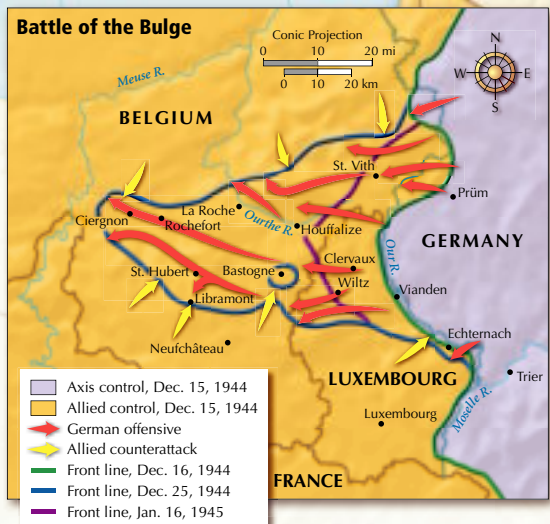
Winston Churchill gave U.S. forces full credit for the Allied victory at the Battle of the Bulge:

**Primary Source** “The United States troops have done almost all the fighting and have suffered almost all the losses. They have suffered losses almost equal to those of both sides at the Battle of Gettysburg. . . . [The Battle of the Bulge] will, I believe, be regarded as an ever-famous American victory.”

—Winston Churchill, Address to the House of Commons, January 18, 1945

**Map Skills** In the final phases of the war in Europe, the Allies hemmed in Germany from the east, west, and south.

- 1. Locate:** (a) Stalingrad, (b) Sicily, (c) Normandy, (d) Berlin
- 2. Movement** Describe American and German troop movements at the Battle of the Bulge.
- 3. Draw Conclusions** Why do you think there was no Allied attempt to approach Germany from the north?



## Battle of the Bulge ▲

The Battle of the Bulge was the last Nazi offensive of the war. After its failure, the German armies were in constant retreat.

survived. Rommel took poison to escape being put on trial. Claiming that fate was on his side, Hitler refused to surrender to the advancing troops.

**Germany Counterattacks** In December 1944, Hitler ordered a counterattack. With Allied troops strung out between the English Channel and the Alps, German forces massed near the Ardennes. Hitler's **scenario** called for English-speaking German soldiers in U.S. uniforms to cut telephone lines, change road signs, and spread confusion. German tanks would then secure communication and transportation hubs.

The counterattack, known as the **Battle of the Bulge**, almost succeeded. The Germans caught the Allies by surprise, created a bulge in the American line, and captured several key towns. Snowy, cloudy skies prevented the Allies from exploiting their air superiority. But at the Belgian town of Bastogne (bas TOHN), American forces held despite frostbite and brutal German assaults. Then, on December 23, the skies cleared and Allied bombers attacked German positions. After reinforcements arrived, the Allies went back on the offensive, steadily pushing the Germans out of France.

The Battle of the Bulge was a desperate attempt to drive a wedge between American and British forces. Instead, it crippled Germany by using its reserves and demoralizing its troops. Ultimately, it shortened the time Hitler had left.

**Allies Push to Victory** By January, the Soviet Army had reached the Oder River outside Berlin. The Allies also advanced northward in Italy. In April 1945, Mussolini tried to flee to Switzerland but was captured and executed. By this time, American and British troops had crossed the Rhine River into Germany. In April, a U.S. army reached the Elbe River, 50 miles west of Berlin. Allied forces were now in position for an all-out assault against Hitler's capital.

Hitler was by now a physical wreck: shaken by tremors, paranoid from drugs, and kept alive by mad dreams of a final victory. He gave orders that no one followed and planned campaigns that no one would ever fight. Finally, on April 30, he and a few of his closest associates committed suicide. His "Thousand Year Reich" had lasted only a dozen years.

On May 7, in a little French schoolhouse that had served as Eisenhower's headquarters, Germany surrendered. Americans celebrated V-E (Victory in Europe) Day. Sadly, FDR did not see the momentous day. He had died a few weeks earlier. It would be up to the new President, **Harry S. Truman**, to see the nation through to final victory.

✔ **Checkpoint** What were the results of the Battle of the Bulge?

## Advancing in the Pacific

While war still raged in Europe, American forces in the Pacific had been advancing in giant leaps. They followed an **island-hopping** strategy, capturing some Japanese-held islands and ignoring others in a steady path toward Japan. From Tarawa and Makin in the Gilbert Islands, American forces jumped ahead to Eniwetok and Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands. Then, they took another leap to Saipan, Tinian, and Guam in the Mariana Islands.

**Japanese Troops Fight to the Death** American forces took each island only after a nearly unbelievable life-and-death struggle. Time and again, Japanese defenders fought

### Vocabulary Builder

**scenario**—(suh NAIR ee oh) *n.*  
outline for a proposed series of events; script

### Navajo Code Talkers

Navajo troops played a vital role in the Pacific island-hopping campaign. Using a code based on their own language—which was a mystery to the Japanese—Navajo radio operators sent critical messages from island to island. *What other special ethnic units played a role in the American war effort?*



# World War II in the Pacific, 1942–1945



**Map Skills** The island-hopping strategy brought U.S. forces closer and closer to the Japanese home islands, but it took even more drastic measures to bring the war in the Pacific to an end.

- 1. Locate:** (a) Guadalcanal, (b) Okinawa, (c) Iwo Jima, (d) Hiroshima, (e) Nagasaki

- 2. Movement** Describe the two separate island-hopping paths that brought American marines to Okinawa.

- 3. Predict Consequences** What might have happened in the Pacific if Japan had been able to take Midway and Hawaii early in the war?




virtually to the last man. Rather than surrender, many Japanese troops readily killed themselves. At the same time, Japanese **kamikaze** (kah muh KAH zee) pilots deliberately crashed their planes into American ships. By the end of the war, more than 3,000 Japanese pilots had died in kamikaze missions. Their deaths, however, did not prevent General Douglas MacArthur from retaking the Philippines or the United States Navy from sinking Japanese ships.

**American Forces Near Japan** One of the fiercest battles in the island-hopping campaign took place in February and March 1945. On Iwo Jima (EE woh JEE muh), a 5-mile-long island 650 miles southeast of Tokyo, United States Marines faced a dug-in, determined enemy. In 36 days of fighting, more than 23,000 marines became casualties. But they took the island. The famous photograph of six marines (including Native American Ira Hayes) planting the American flag on Iwo Jima symbolized the heroic sacrifice of American soldiers.

The fight for Okinawa (oh kuh NAH wuh) in April 1945 was even deadlier. Only 340 miles from Japan, Okinawa contained a vital air base, necessary for the planned invasion of Japan. Taking Okinawa was the most complex and costly operation in the Pacific campaign, involving half a million troops and 1,213 warships. U.S. forces finally took Okinawa but at a cost of roughly 50,000 casualties.

From Okinawa and other Pacific bases, American pilots could bomb the Japanese home islands. Short on pilots and aircraft, low on fuel and ammunition, Japan was virtually defenseless. American bombers hit factories, military bases, and cities. In a single night in March 1945, B-29 bombers destroyed 16 square miles of Tokyo. The raid killed over 83,000 Japanese—more than either of the later atomic bombs—and injured 100,000 more.


 **Checkpoint** Why was the island-hopping campaign in the Pacific so deadly to both sides?

## The Atomic Bomb Ends the War

Advances in technology, as well as the troops, helped determine the outcome of World War II. (See the Quick Study chart.) Allied and Axis scientists labored to make planes faster, bombs deadlier, and weapons more accurate. The most crucial scientific development of all was the atomic bomb.

**The Manhattan Project Develops the A-Bomb** The atomic bomb began with an idea. In the early 1930s, scientists learned how to split the nuclei of certain elements. They also discovered that this process of nuclear fission released tremendous energy. Over the next decade, they learned more about the nature of the atom, the effect of a chain reaction, and the military uses of uranium.

▼ A soldier reading a radar screen

Science and Technology of World War II			 Quick Study
Advance	Military Use in WWII	Civilian Applications	
Radar	Detected objects such as bombs, incoming gunfire, or enemy ships	Used to track weather systems and monitor automobile speed	
Calculating machines	Allowed cryptographers to break enemy codes by detecting letter patterns and frequencies	Developed into small personal computers	
Jet engines	Enabled planes to fly much faster than non-jet-powered planes	Used in commercial airplanes	
Penicillin	Cured soldiers' infected wounds, saving many lives	Used to treat bacterial infections	





## Vocabulary Builder

**priority**—(prī AHR uh tee) *n.*  
degree of importance or urgency

Early in the war, **Albert Einstein**, the world's most famous scientist, signed a letter that alerted President Roosevelt about the need to proceed with atomic development. In 1942, FDR gave the highest national **priority** to the development of an atomic bomb. The program, code-named the **Manhattan Project**, cost several billion dollars and employed tens of thousands of people.

The two primary leaders of the project were General Leslie Groves and physicist **J. Robert Oppenheimer**. Groves was responsible for building facilities, acquiring the necessary materials, recruiting scientists, and providing security. Oppenheimer ran the scientific aspect of the project from the construction site in Los Alamos, New Mexico. Scientists working on the project included many refugees from Europe, including Enrico Fermi, developer of the first atomic reactor. Security on the Manhattan Project was tight. People worked on small parts of the puzzle, little realizing the whole picture.

On the morning of July 16, 1945, in a barren area outside of Alamogordo, New Mexico, the first atomic bomb was tested. The flash of light was clearly visible 180 miles away, and the sound was heard at a distance of 100 miles. Watching the blast, Oppenheimer recalled the following line from a Hindu poem: "Now I am become Death, the destroyer of Worlds."

The general's thoughts were less poetic. Turning to an aide, Groves said, "The war's over. One or two of those things and Japan will be finished."

**Truman Makes His Decision** The decision to use the bomb fell directly on the narrow shoulders of Harry Truman. The new President fully understood the ethical issues presented by using the bomb, especially against civilians. At the same time, he also knew that the Axis Powers had nuclear scientists, and there was no way to tell how close they were to developing their own bomb. Ultimately, Truman's chief priority was to save American lives. His military advisers predicted that, in light of the ferocious defense waged by Japanese soldiers during

## Decision Point

### Should the United States Drop the Atomic Bomb?

President Truman had to decide whether to drop the bomb on Japan. Read the options below. Then, you decide.

#### Truman Favors Using the Bomb

##### Primary Source

"I asked Gen. Marshall what it would cost in lives to land . . . in Japan. It was his opinion that 1/4 million casualties would be the minimum cost. . . . I asked Sec. Stimson which cities in Japan were devoted exclusively to war production. He . . . named Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We sent an ultimatum to Japan. It was ignored. I ordered atomic bombs dropped on the two cities. . . . Dropping the bombs ended the war, saved lives and gave the free nations a chance to face the facts."

—President Harry S. Truman

#### Scientists Advise Caution

##### Primary Source

"We the undersigned scientists . . . believe that the United States ought not resort to the use of atomic bombs in the present phase of the war, at least not unless . . . Japan is given an opportunity to surrender. . . . A nation which sets the precedent of using these newly liberated forces of nature for purposes of destruction may have to bear the responsibility of opening the door to an era of devastation on an unimaginable scale."

—Scientist Leo Szilard

#### You Decide

1. Why did Truman decide to drop the bomb?
2. What course of action did Szilard favor?
3. What decision would you have made? Why?



the island-hopping campaign, an invasion of Japan might cost as many as 1,000,000 American casualties.

In truth, Truman did not agonize over the decision to use the atomic bomb against Japan. For the President, abstract ethical issues did not outweigh very real American lives and an opportunity to end the war. Later, some critics would condemn Truman's decision. But in the late summer of 1945, no one close to him did so.

**Hiroshima and Nagasaki Are Destroyed** On August 6, 1945, U.S. pilots dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. It exploded at 9:14 A.M. One survivor of the blast later recalled the first moments:

**Primary Source** “After I noticed the flash, white clouds spread over the blue sky. It was amazing. It was as if blue morning-glories had suddenly bloomed up in the sky. . . . Then came the heat wave. It was very, very hot. Even though there was a window glass in front of me, I felt really hot. It was as if I was looking directly into a kitchen oven.”

—Isao Kita, *Hiroshima Witness*

Within two minutes, more than 60,000 of Hiroshima's 344,000 residents were dead or missing.

Over the next three days, Japanese leaders debated whether to surrender or continue to fight. Then, on August 9, two events rocked Japan. First, the Soviet Union declared war against Japan and invaded Manchuria. Next, the United States dropped a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki, killing 35,000 residents.

Debate continued at the highest levels of Japanese government. Finally, Emperor Hirohito made the decision to surrender. On August 15, the Allies celebrated V-J (Victory in Japan) Day. Japan officially surrendered on September 2 aboard the USS *Missouri*. The most costly war in history was over. As many as 60,000,000 people, mostly civilians, had died in the conflict.

**Checkpoint** What were the consequences of the decision to bomb Hiroshima and Nagasaki?



### Hiroshima

This 1945 photograph shows the effects of just one atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima. The heat was so intense that it melted this bottle (right).

## SECTION 3 Assessment

### Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-test with vocabulary practice  
Web Code: nea-1108

### Comprehension

**1. Terms and People** Write a sentence explaining how each of the following was connected with the Allies' final push toward victory in World War II.

- D-Day
- Battle of the Bulge
- Harry S. Truman
- island hopping
- kamikaze
- Manhattan Project
- J. Robert Oppenheimer

### 2. NoteTaking Reading Skill:

**Recognize Sequence** Use your table to answer the Section Focus Question: How did the Allies defeat the Axis Powers?

### Writing About History

#### 3. Quick Write: Identify Impressions

Review the text description of the D-Day landings, including the Events That Changed America feature. Then, make a list of sights, sounds, and smells associated with the event.

### Critical Thinking

**4. Summarize** Summarize the arguments for and against an Allied invasion of France before 1944.

**5. Compare and Contrast** How were the final phases of the war in Europe similar to the final phases of the war in the Pacific? How were they different?

**6. Predict Consequences** What effect do you think possession of the atomic bomb will have on the role of the United States in the postwar world?