



# Second World War Timeline

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# Allies, Axis & Neutral Countries

## Map Activity

Countries that fought in the Second World War were divided into two sides: the **Allies** and the **Axis**. Countries who were not involved in the war were called **Neutral Countries**.

### Allies:

- United Kingdom (Great Britain, Scotland & N. Ireland)
- U.S.A.
- France
- USSR (Soviet Union, Russia)
- Australia
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Canada
- China
- Denmark
- Greece
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Poland
- South Africa
- Yugoslavia
- Czechoslovakia
- Estonia
- India
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Malta

### Axis Powers:

- Germany
- Italy
- Japan

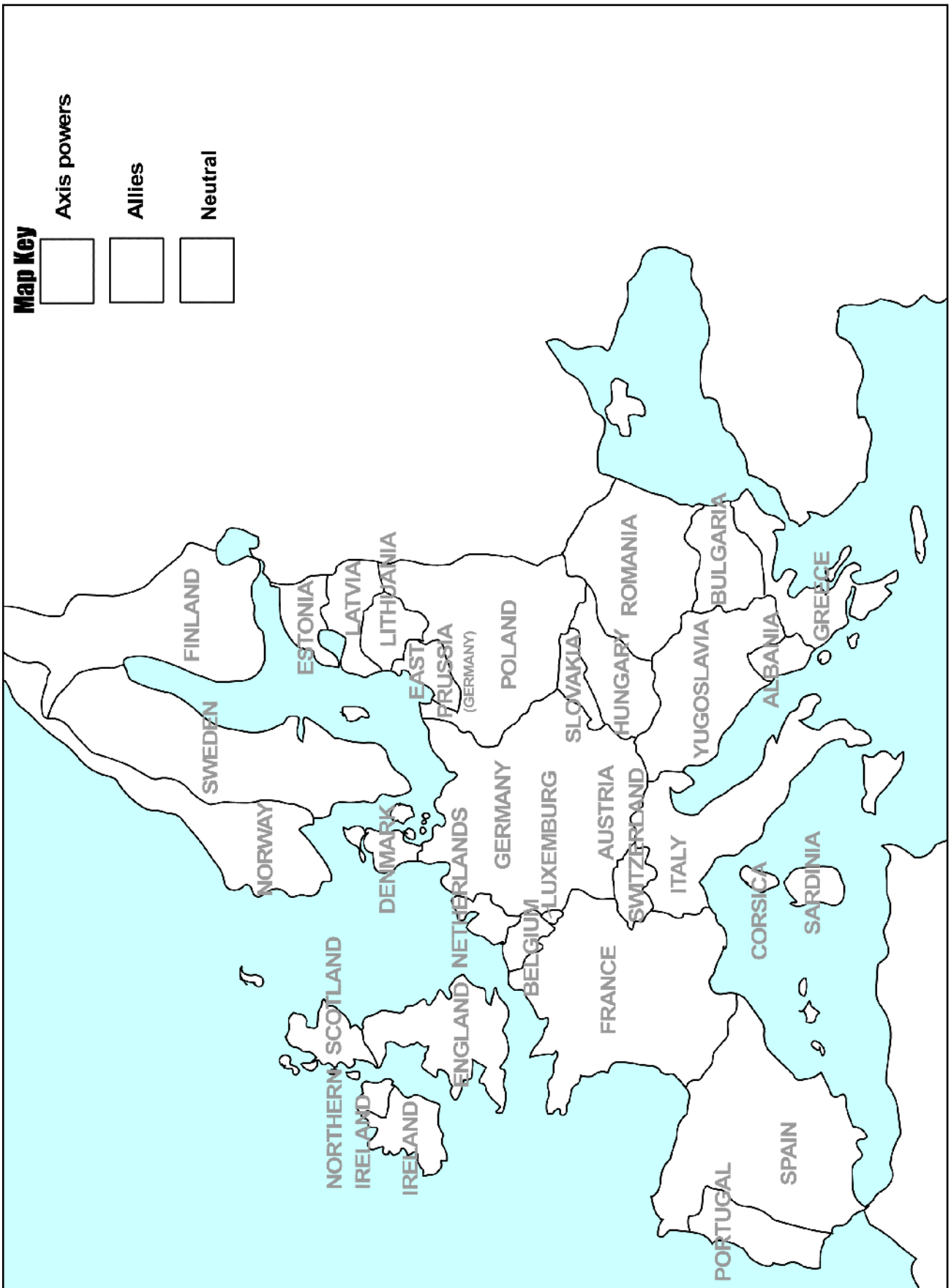
### Neutral Countries:

- Republic of Ireland
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Afghanistan
- Portugal

## Your Task

Colour in the map of Europe to show which European countries were part of the Allies and Axis Powers.

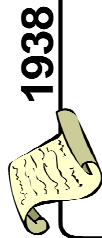
1. Select 3 different colours to represent the **Allies**, the **Axis Powers** and **Neutral Countries**. Colour in the **Map Key** with your chosen colours.
2. Using your Map Key colours, colour in the European countries which were part of the Allies, Axis Powers and Neutral Countries.



# Build a Timeline



Explore the **Timeline** to learn about the war's key events.



1938



1939



1940



1941



1942



1943



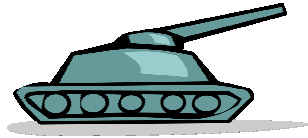
1944



1945

Fill in the boxes with the important events of each year.

# The Start of the War



Read the information for the dates **1933** and **1939**, then answer the questions.

Why did Great Britain and France declare war on Germany?

What were Hitler's main aims or goals?



Examine all of the sources in **Sep 3, 1939**. People recall of how they first heard that the second world war had begun.

How did people in Northern Ireland first hear the news that Great Britain was at war with Germany?

What types of emotions were people feeling?



In **Sep 3, 1939**, watch the video **Video: the beginnings of war**. In the video, you will see pictures of Adolf Hitler and Nazis. People remember hearing that the war was announced. A soldier remembers seeing German plane for the first time and the rattle of a machine gun.

At the start of the video a woman describes watching a Nazi military parade in Berlin in late 1938 and seeing Hitler. How did the reality of seeing Hitler in person differ from how people imagined him?

At the end of the video a Royal Air Force serviceman talks about capturing a German soldier. Why do you think the German soldier was not killed?

## Story

# Ronnie Cartwright's Capture



**Daily life for others was behind barbed wire. Ronnie Cartwright, RAF, was shot down on mission number 31 and spent 4 years as a prisoner of war. He recalls vividly the moment he was shot down and his subsequent capture.**

I knew that a shell came through the aircraft, behind where I was sitting. An engine was put out of order, so it must have gone through one of the engines. So we landed four or five miles out in the English Channel. We got into the dinghy, the wee rubber boat we had. Unfortunately that too was punctured. We had sense enough to hold onto the dinghy even though it was punctured and deflated. It kept us together so we held onto it.

Now it wasn't until 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning when a German boat came alongside us with a Swastika flying. First of all they threw us out a rope. Before we let go of the old dinghy we all said, "Make sure everybody has got a catch on the rope before you let go." I remember I felt that I was sinking down into the sea, so I thought, 'Well, this is it'. I remember opening my mouth just to take a gulp of water but at the same time I must have had my eyes closed.

I opened my eyes but I was right at the top of the water almost. I was just underneath the boat and no more. I gave myself another wee pull and I was out. Then the Germans got me onto the boat. I was unconscious. I can't remember getting onto the boat, but what I do remember is waking up and seeing a big German standing over me with a great big knife in his hand. He just looked at me and he said, "For you, the war is over."

Do you think Ronnie was relieved when he saw a boat coming towards him? Explain your answer.

What did the German soldier mean by "*For you, the war is over.*"?

How might Ronnie's story have ended had he not been captured by the Germans?

# Story

## Tommy Jess' Boat Rescue

Tommy Jess talks us through the sinking of his ship and his rescue.

### Royal Navy ABC's

**Bow** – the front end of a ship

**Upper Deck** – the top of the ship which people walk on

**Hatches** – the covering of an opening on the deck of a ship. People would open these to get to the lower decks

**Life Jacket** – a sleeveless jacket to support a person in deep water to prevent drowning

**Life Raft** – a raft used in emergency when abandoning ship

**Lower Decks** – the floors underneath the top deck

**Stern** – the rear of a ship



When our ship was hit I was at the bridge at the time cleaning the guns. Well there was this massive explosion. A bang. It scared the living lights out of me. So I was blown about ten or twelve feet from the deck. The whole ship shook from stern to bow. There were so many people running around shouting and somebody said, "We're hit."

I gathered myself up and I ran to my action station. The ship's doctor, he was going about. There was a lot of people lying moaning and he was injecting them and that, you know. Everybody's running here and running there. The screws of the ship attracts the torpedo and hits the stern of it. The screws that drives the ship. The sterns blew off with one or two compartments to stay afloat, but we got around a mid ship's.

I could feel me getting further and further from where I was standing. Further and further up. And I said, "My Goodness, the ship's loosened terrible", you know. And then everybody was trying to get rafts. And most of the lifeboats were shattered and useless. The next thing I heard was, "Abandon ship, every man for himself." And I jumped and I must have jumped as high as this house into the water. I had my life jacket on. It was one of them ones that you blow up. It wasn't like the ones you have now, like. I never got even taken my boots off, I had woollen socks inside them. You know and all your heavy clothes, I jumped in with everything.

When I came up, I spied this raft you see, and somebody says, "There's a line." Somebody was on it already and there was a line attached to the ship from it and I had a knife down here in the pocket. I always carried that knife, you see. I cut the line and the line was about that thick and I had to saw it and saw it until I got it off. It was about an inch thick, I'm sure. A couple of boys pulled me onto the raft.

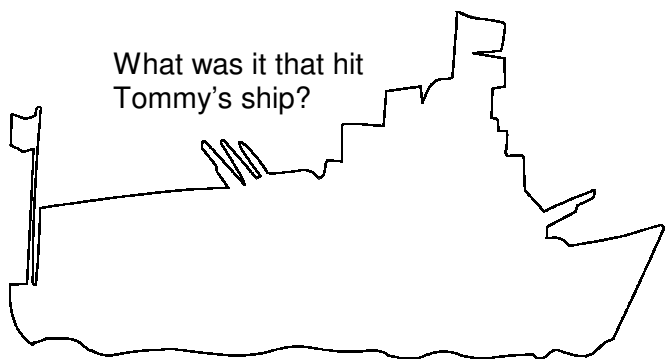


### Tommy Jess' Story Continued...

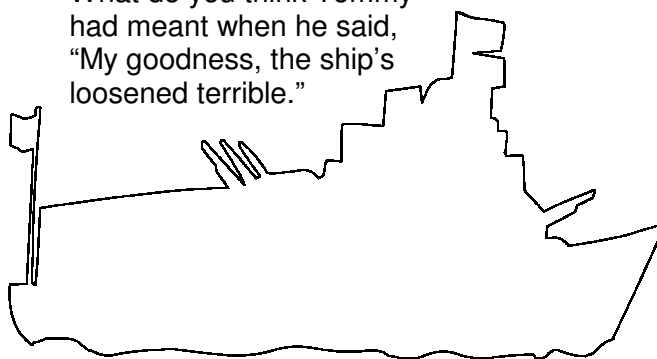
See you're in it, you're in the water in it, but there's nets - there's all net - a net bottom. It's a life raft. There was twelve of us on the raft and they reckon they don't know where they went to. There was only seven of us picked up and the seventh one died after two hours or more. When I jumped the first thing that came into my head is the shock of my father and mother gets when they hear I'm dead, you know.

It was snowing and through the haze I could see the ship. I remember they threw us into showers and brought us around and poured brandy down our throats, so I was able to come around. I spat up oil for days after it, my lungs were full of oil and everything else. You know, you swallowed so much aul oil and stuff. The screams of the men below will haunt me for the rest of my days, but I could do nothing for them. You see when the ship was set on all the hatches were jammed and they couldn't get out, you know so we could hear them screaming. There was about a hundred and eighty lost.

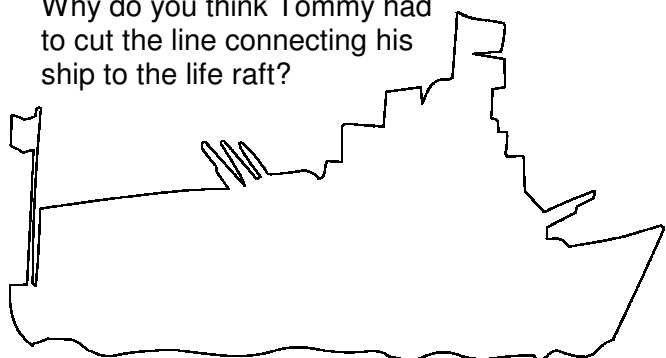
What was it that hit Tommy's ship?



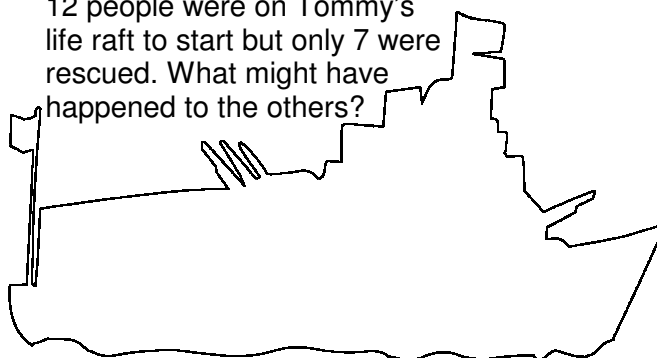
What do you think Tommy had meant when he said, "My goodness, the ship's loosened terrible."



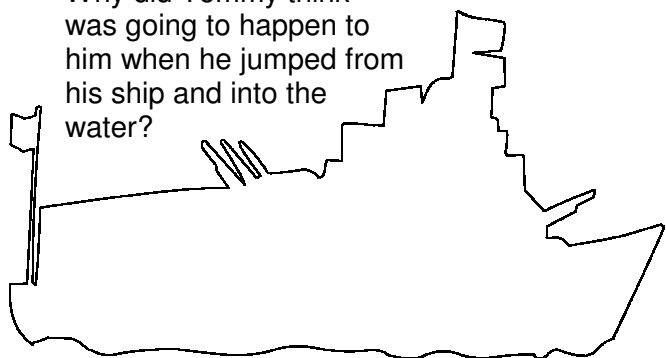
Why do you think Tommy had to cut the line connecting his ship to the life raft?



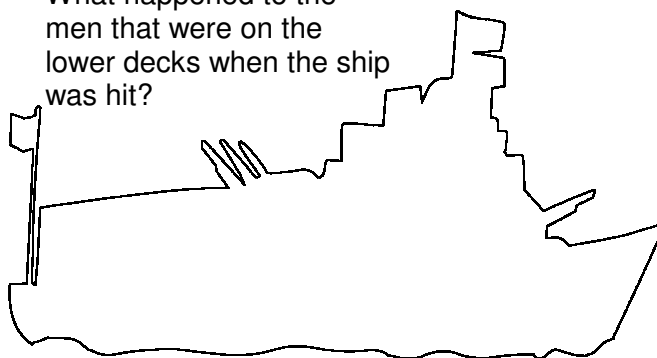
12 people were on Tommy's life raft to start but only 7 were rescued. What might have happened to the others?



Why did Tommy think was going to happen to him when he jumped from his ship and into the water?



What happened to the men that were on the lower decks when the ship was hit?



# ALLIED SOLDIERS



COLERAINE BATTERY MEMBER



AMERICAN TROOPS  
ARRIVING IN BELFAST



ROYAL ARTILLERY MINIATURE CAP



OFFICER'S TAGS



WATER BOTTLE



BRITISH DISPATCH RIDER



BRITISH VICKERS  
MACHINE GUN



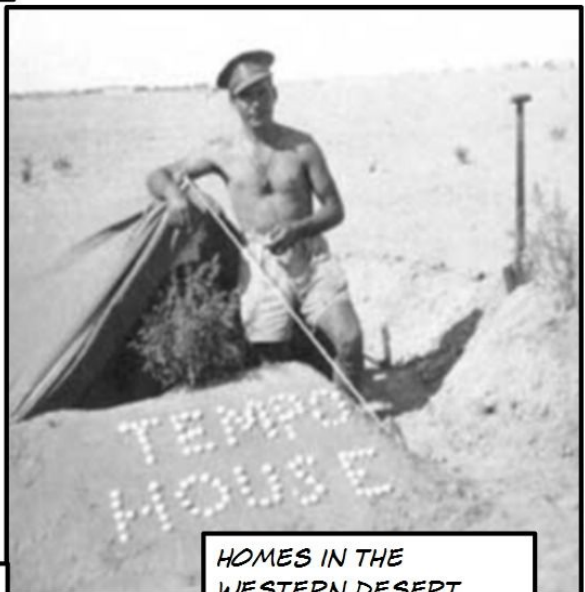
COLERAINE BATTERY, WESTERN DESERT



THE COLERAINE BATTERY



SLEEPING CONDITIONS FOR COLERAINE BATTERY



HOMES IN THE  
WESTERN DESERT

# ROYAL AIR FORCE



ROYAL AIR FORCE MEDALS



ROYAL AIR FORCE UNIFORM



FLYING BOAT ON BELFAST LOUGH



MILITARY BUTTONS



ROYAL AIR FORCE LIEUTENANT



BELFAST MEN IN THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

# ROYAL NAVY



LARNE SEA CADETS



HMS GLORY AT SEA



DERRY MEN IN THE ROYAL NAVY



DERRY NAVAL BASE



WOMEN'S ROYAL  
NAVAL SERVICE



ROYAL NAVAL  
SERVICE BADGE

# GERMAN SOLDIERS



GERMAN CROSSES



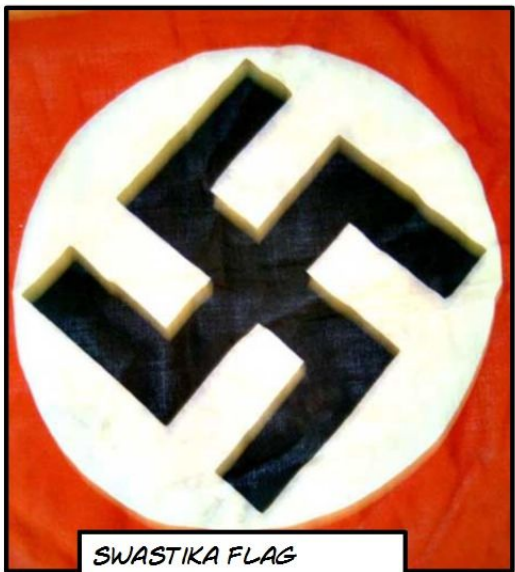
GERMAN UBOATS



SHOT DOWN GERMAN PLANE



A GERMAN SS TUNIC



SWASTIKA FLAG



GERMAN HEAVY MACHINE GUN



**Study the archive photographs of soldiers and officers, their uniforms and related artefacts before making your own accurate drawing of a soldier or officer.**

Your drawing should demonstrate that you have studied archive photographs and artefacts from soldiers and officers from the Second World War.

To do this, add some of the following details to your drawing:

- Add objects, for example a water can or a machine gun
- Add details to the uniform, for example buttons or medals
- Place your officer in an appropriate setting, for example on a boat, in the desert
- Place a flag in the background, for example a Nazi flag or a Union Jack flag

### **Facial Expressions**

Will your officer look happy, sad or scared in your drawing? Think about what your officer is doing in the picture and what is happening around him and decide what emotion he would be feeling at the time. Examine the Facial Expressions below to help you with your drawing.





Explore **MAY 8** and **AUGUST 1945** on the timeline before doing this activity.

## Fill in the blanks

**Victory in Europe**  
**Victory over Japan**  
**August 6, 1945**

**surrendered**  
**street parties**  
**war songs**

**atomic bomb**  
**May 8, 1945**  
**bonfires**

The war in Europe officially ended on \_\_\_\_\_. This date is known as VE Day which stands for \_\_\_\_\_. On this day the Germans formally \_\_\_\_\_ to the Allies. People all across Northern Ireland celebrated by having \_\_\_\_\_ where people danced and sang \_\_\_\_\_ in the streets of their town. Some people burned \_\_\_\_\_ on their main streets.

The war in the rest of the world was not yet over. Japan still had not surrendered. To try and end the war quickly, on \_\_\_\_\_ America dropped an \_\_\_\_\_ on the Japanese cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Hundreds of thousands of people were killed and Japan surrendered. This day is known as VJ Day which stands for \_\_\_\_\_. This day marks the end of the Second World War.

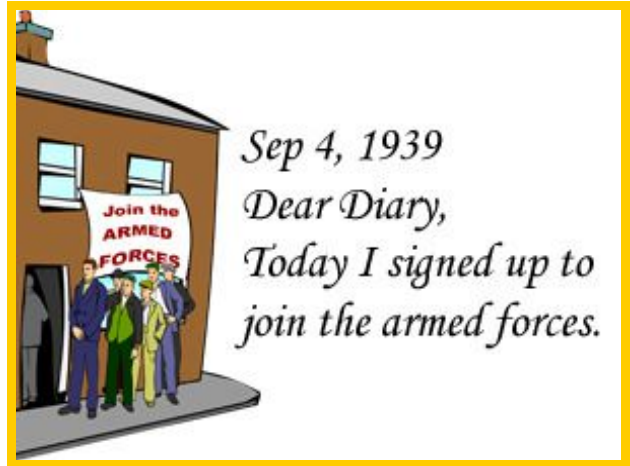


# Digital Diary of a Soldier

**Imagine you are a soldier who fought in the Second World War and lived to tell of the experience.**

**Since the beginning of the war you kept a diary in which you wrote down observations of what was happening around you at the time as well as your innermost feelings.**

**Using PowerPoint or similar software, make a 'digital diary' about your experiences of 5 key events of the war.**



## Writing your five diary entries

Select 5 dates or key events from your timeline worksheet. These will help form the entries of your diary. Use your timeline worksheet and information you learned from listening to people's accounts to help you write the entries.

Think about these questions as you write your entries:

*What is happening around you? Where are you and what you are seeing? Who are you with? How are you feeling? What are you thinking?*

Write your diary entries into the spaces provided on the **Dear Diary** worksheet.

## Assembling Your Digital Diary in PowerPoint

- You will need at least one image to illustrate each of your diary entries. Save images from the Second World War website to use in your presentation. To do this, right-click on an image, select *Save Image As* and save the image into a folder on your computer.
- If you have drawn a picture of a soldier, you can include it in your presentation, as long as it has been scanned into the computer.
- Your PowerPoint presentation should have 6 slides: Your title slide, your five diary entries, and a final slide which says, 'The End'.
- Your Title Slide – Diary of John Doe, Age when war began, Name of Hometown. If you have your picture of your soldier, insert in onto this slide.
- Your five diary entry slides should have the date, the diary entry text, and at least one picture to illustrate the entry.
- Use advanced PowerPoint features to format text, use slide transitions, slide timings or to add borders to pictures.

# Dear Diary

*This is the Diary of.....*  
*Hometown.....*

**Date**

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**Date**

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# Glossary

<b>Adolf Hitler</b>	The German Nazi dictator during World War 2 (1889-1945)
<b>Allies</b>	The countries that fought against the Axis. The main Allied powers were Britain and the Commonwealth countries, the US, the Soviet Union, France, China, and Poland
<b>Atomic Bomb</b>	An atomic bomb is an extremely destructive type of bomb which produces a gigantic cloud shaped like a mushroom. An atomic bomb can destroy a city.
<b>Axis Powers</b>	The three major Axis powers—Germany, Japan, and Italy—were part of a military alliance on the signing of the Tripartite Pact in September 1940, which officially founded the Axis powers. At their height of power, the Axis powers ruled empires that dominated large parts of Europe, Africa, East and Southeast Asia and the Pacific Ocean. In World War II they were defeated which brought an end to the Axis Powers.
<b>Benito Mussolini</b>	Mussolini was the leader of Italy from 1922 to 1943. He allied Italy with Nazi Germany and Japan in the Second World War.
<b>Bow</b>	The front end of a ship
<b>Dinghy</b>	A type of small boat, often carried or towed by a larger vessel
<b>Hatches</b>	The covering of an opening on the deck of a ship. People would open these to get to the lower decks
<b>Holocaust</b>	The genocide of European Jews and others by the Nazis during World War 2
<b>Life Jacket</b>	A sleeveless jacket to support a person in deep water to prevent drowning
<b>Life Raft</b>	A raft used in emergency when abandoning ship
<b>Lower Decks</b>	The floors underneath the top deck
<b>Nazi</b>	A German member of Adolf Hitler's political party
<b>Neutral Countries</b>	Countries who were not involved in the war

<b>Neville Chamberlain</b>	The British Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from May 1937 to May 1940. Chamberlain signed the Munich Agreement in 1938, giving part of Czechoslovakia to Nazi Germany. When Adolf Hitler continued his aggression, Britain declared war on Germany on 3 September 1939, and Chamberlain led Britain through the first eight months of the Second World War.
<b>Serviceman</b>	A member of the armed forces
<b>Stern</b>	The rear of a ship
<b>Street Party</b>	A party taking place on a road. In Britain, these have historically been held to commemorate momentous events, such as VE Day
<b>Swastika</b>	A symbol of a cross with its arms bent in right directions. This symbol was used on the Nazi flag.
<b>Upper Deck</b>	the top of the ship which people walk on
<b>VE-Day</b>	'Victory in Europe' or VE-Day was May 7 and May 8, 1945, the dates when the World War II Allies formally accepted the unconditional surrender of the armed forces of Nazi Germany and the end of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.
<b>VJ-Day</b>	'Victory over Japan' Day is a name chosen for the day on which Japan surrendered, effectively ending World War 2.
<b>Winston Churchill</b>	A British politician known chiefly for his leadership of the United Kingdom during World War II. He served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945 and again from 1951 to 1955.