

GLOSSARY

Air Raid Precautions	Measures taken against air attack on British cities. Also the name of the government department in charge of air defence
Allies	Term generally used to describe the USA, British Empire and their allies in WW2
Artillery	Heavy guns
Atomic Bomb	Powerful bomb that could destroy cities and used by the USA against Japan in 1945
Auschwitz	Death camp where many thousands of Jews, gypsies and other groups were murdered by the Nazis from 1942-45
Axis	Alliance of Germany, Italy and Japan in WW2
Barbarossa	Codename for the German invasion of the USSR (Russia) in 1941
Battle of Britain	Campaign in 1940 to prevent German invasion of Britain that involved the RAF, Royal Navy and Army
Belsen	Concentration camp in Germany that was liberated by the British in 1945
Blitz	Heavy and frequent bombing raids carried out over British cities, ports and industrial areas from 1940-1941
Blitzkrieg	The German for "lightning war". A swift, sudden military attack using bomber aircraft to support fast moving tanks and motor vehicles
Boycott	Avoid, reject, blacklist
British Expeditionary Force (BEF)	British forces which fought against the Germans in France in 1940
Camouflage	Covering up weapons, buildings, troops or equipment so that they are difficult to see
Casualties	People killed and/or wounded in war
Caucasus	Region in southern USSR rich in oil
Censorship	Banning or deleting any information of value to the enemy
Churchill, Winston	British Prime Minister in WW2 from 1940-1945
Civilian	Person not belonging to the armed forces
Cold War	A state of political tension and military rivalry between nations that stops short of full-scale war,

	especially that which existed between the United States and Soviet Union following WW2
Collaborate	To work with, or co-operate with, usually referring to people who co-operated with forces who had taken over their countries
Colossus	British machine designed to break secret German codes
Commonwealth	Countries that were formerly part of the British Empire (e.g. Canada, New Zealand)
Communism	Political system that believes in the importance of the working classes and regards individual freedom as less important than the good of society as a whole
Concentration Camp	Camps in Germany used by the Nazis to hold and torture their opponents, not the same as death camps. However, many died in such camps
Convoy	A ship, fleet, or group of vehicles accompanied by a protecting escort
D-Day	Allied invasion of German held France in June 1944
De Gaulle, Charles	Leader of the Free French forces that were based in Britain after the fall of France in 1940
Death Camp	Camps for killing racial groups, especially Jews, which the Nazis considered to be inferior
Democracy	System of government based on people voting for their leaders with a strong emphasis on the freedom of the individual
Dowding, Sir Hugh	Head of the Royal Air Force
Dunkirk	Seaport in Northern France and site of the evacuation of British forces from May 29-June 4, 1940
Dysentery	Serious illness usually caused by poor food or infected water supplies
Enigma	Machine used by German forces to turn their messages into code. It was supposed to be unbreakable but was cracked by British intelligence
Evacuation	The withdrawal or removal of troops or civilians
Extermination Camp	See Death Camp
Fascism	Originally, the term "fascism" (fascismo) was used by the political movement that ruled Italy from 1922 to 1943 under the leadership of Benito Mussolini. A system of government that opposes individual freedom and democracy, is anti-communist and favours extreme nationalism
Fifth Column	People willing to cooperate with the enemy against

	their own country
Final Solution	Nazi plan to kill the entire Jewish population in Europe dating from spring 1942, although hundreds of thousands of Jews already had been killed by death squads and in mass pogroms (see below) before this time
Focke-Wulf	A type of German aircraft
Free French	French forces who did not surrender to Germans in 1940 and escaped to Britain
George Cross	Medal for individual acts of outstanding bravery carried out by civilians. The award was created by King George VI in 1940
Gestapo	German Secret Police
Ghetto	A poor section of a city that is inhabited by people mainly of the same race, religion, or social background, often because of discrimination
Goering, Hermann	Head of the German Air Force and high-ranking Nazi leader
Himmler, Heinrich	Head of the SS and high-ranking Nazi leader
Hitler, Adolf	Leader of Germany in WW2 and head of the Nazi party
Holocaust	The mass murder of around 6 million Jews and other racial groups by the Nazis in WW2
Hurricane	British fighter plane
Infiltrate	To move into an organization, country or territory, secretly
Internment	The practice of detaining persons considered dangerous during a war. For example, Americans of Japanese descent were held in internment camps in the USA
Iron Curtain	Phrase used by Winston Churchill to describe the division of Europe after WW2 into Communist East and non Communist West
Juno	Codename for one of the beaches in the D-Day landings of 1944, also known as Canadian beach as Canadian forces used it
Lebensraum	This was the name given to Hitler's policy to provide extra "living space" for the German population by conquest of the lands of Eastern Europe and the USSR
Lend Lease	Scheme introduced by US President Roosevelt in 1941 to give Britain military equipment in WW2 on very easy terms
Logbook	A book in which details of a trip made by a ship or aircraft are recorded
Luftwaffe	German Air Force

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Maquis	The French underground movement, or Resistance that fought the Germans while they controlled France 1940-44
Memorandum	An official note or statement
Messerschmitt	Type of German aircraft
MI5	Military Intelligence Department 5. This is the Security Service for the UK. The Service has played a secret role over the past century in countering the activities of terrorists and spies
MI6	Military Intelligence Department 6. This is the Secret Intelligence Service, and undertakes spy missions overseas
Midway	Decisive naval battle in 1942 in which the US destroyed several Japanese aircraft carriers
Ministry of Information	British government department that controlled information and propaganda
Montgomery, Bernard	Leading British general in WW2
Morale	Spirits, mood, or confidence of a person or group
Mulberry harbour	An artificial floating harbour built to supply the D-Day landing forces in 1944
Mussolini, Benito	Leader of Italy in WW2 and head of Italian Fascist party
National Government	British government made up of politicians from Conservative, Labour and Liberal parties
Nazi party	Ruling political party in Germany 1933-45, headed by Adolf Hitler. (The National Socialist German Worker's Party)
Nuremburg	German city famous for Nazi rallies and chosen as site for trials of Nazi war criminals after WW2
Omaha	Codename for one of the beaches in the D-Day landings of 1944
Operation Dynamo	Codename for the evacuation of British and French forces from Dunkirk in 1940
Operation PLUTO	(Pipe-lines under the Ocean) was the plan to build undersea oil pipelines between Britain and France to keep Allied forces supplied with fuel after the D-Day landings in 1944
Operation Sealion	Codename for the planned invasion of Britain by German forces in 1940-41
Operation Torch	Codename for the British and US advance to drive German and Italian forces out of North Africa
Panzer	German tank

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Paratroopers	Specially trained soldiers who could be dropped by parachute into enemy territory
Pearl Harbor	Main US naval base, attacked by Japanese forces in December 1941
Potsdam	Suburb of Berlin and location for the conference between Britain, USA and USSR towards the end of WW2
Pogrom	Riot directed against a particular group, ethnic, religious or other, usually involving the destruction of their homes, businesses or religious centres
Propaganda	Spreading a particular message in order to influence public opinion
Radar	Electronic system for detecting aircraft, ships, motor vehicles or weather formations
RDF	Radio Directional Finder. This is a device for finding the direction to a radio source. In Britain, this term is called Radar after 1941 and stands for "Radio Detection and Ranging"
Red Army	Army of the Soviet Union or USSR. In 1946, the Red Army was officially renamed the Soviet Army
Refugee	A person who seeks shelter especially in another country, from war, disaster, or persecution
Resistance	Term used to describe underground forces who fought against German occupation of their countries in WW2
Rommel, Erwin	Leading German commander
Roosevelt, Franklin Delano	American President for almost all of WW2 who died in April 1945
Royal Air Force (RAF)	British air force
Royal Navy (RN)	British navy
Russia	The largest republic in the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics (USSR or Soviet Union). The terms 'Russia' or 'Russians' were often used when strictly the term 'USSR' or 'Soviets' should have been used
Sabotage	A deliberate action to weaken the enemy by destroying equipment in secret raids rather than open attacks
Singapore	Large British naval base in Malaya
Soviet	Workers councils which gave their name to the USSR
Special Operations Executive (SOE)	Special unit formed by the British to carry out attacks on German occupied Europe in WW2
Spitfire	British fighter plane
SS	Huge organisation within Nazi Germany which controlled

	many areas such as security, persecution of Jews and had its own armed forces, the Waffen-SS
Staff Officer	Officer responsible for planning and organising campaigns
Stalin, Joseph	Leader of the Soviet Union (USSR) in WW2
Stalingrad	Large industrial city in southern USSR and a key battleground with Germany in 1942-43
Sword	Codename for one of the beaches in the D-Day landings of 1944
Torpedo	Missile fired by submarines and ships designed to sink other surface vessels or submarines
Treblinka	Nazi death camp in Poland
Tribunal	Type of court in which a group of people are appointed to give judgement on official decisions
Truman, Harry	American Vice President for most of WW2 who took over as President after Roosevelt's death in April 1945
U-Boat	English word used for a German submarine or 'U-Boot'
United Nations	Organisation formed in 1945 to replace the League of Nations
United States Army Air Force (USAAF)	American Air Force. Its main role was to bomb German and Japanese cities in WW2
Utah	Codename for one of the beaches in the D-Day landings of 1944
VE-Day	Day marking Victory in Europe and the surrender of Germany on May 8th 1945
Vichy France	Vichy France, or the Vichy regime, was the government of France from July 1940 to August 1944 led by Marshal Pétain after the fall of France in WW2
VJ-Day	Victory in Japan day which marked the surrender of Japan in August 15th 1945 following the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by atomic bombs
V-weapons (V1 and V2)	German rocket propelled weapons which were launched against Allied targets in 1944 and 1945
Warsaw	Capital of Poland
Yalta	City in the USSR where Britain, the USA and USSR held a conference in February 1945
Zhukov Georgy	Outstanding general who led the Red Army on the Eastern Front
Zyklon B	Cyanide-based gas used in the death camps