



V.E. Day is a day of celebration in Europe which marks the end of World War Two.



FACT: On VE Day in 1945, people gathered in the streets to rejoice the end of the war. Bunting and flags lined villages and towns across the UK, people lit bonfires and communities hosted parades and parties.

WHAT WAS WORLD

World War 2 was a global war which lasted six years, from <u>1939</u> to <u>1945</u>. It remains the <u>deadliest war</u> <u>ever</u> and around 24 million soldiers and 49 million civilians were killed.



WHY DID WORLD WAR TWO HAPPEN?

The main purpose of the war was to defeat the <u>Nazi Party</u> which controlled Germany from <u>1933</u> to <u>1945</u>. The Nazi Party was led by a politician called <u>Adolf Hitler</u>.

The Nazis wanted to control more than just Germany. In fact, they wanted to control the entire world.

At first, the Nazi's spent lots of money to improve lives, jobs and motorways in Germany. However, this soon changed.

The Nazi's took away people's freedom and human rights, and they killed lots of people just because of their religious beliefs or race.

FACT:



Adolf Hitler loved to paint and watch opera.

He wanted to study art but was rejected from art school twice. Some people think that if Hitler had studied art, he wouldn't have become a politician and led the Nazi Party to war.

HOW DID THE WAR START AND END?

The war officially started when Germany and the Nazi's <u>invaded</u> <u>Poland</u>. When this happened, France and the UK decided to team up against Germany.

Over the next six years, almost all of the world's largest countries got involved in the war, until the Nazi's were finally



defeated. The <u>Battle of Berlin</u> which took place in Germany between 16 April and 2 May 1945 is thought to be the last major battle of World War two, before the Nazi's surrendered.

Onward

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FACT:

On VE Day in 1945, the British Prime Minister Winston Churchill said: "We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing; but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead". He knew that the impact of the war on people's lives would be felt for a long time.

GET INVOLVED:

On 8 May 2020 countries in Europe will celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

++ To help us celebrate, we would love for you to write a letter and email it back to emily.burke@onward.co.uk ++

++ The letter will be used as part of several WW2 commemorative displays which will be exhibited at our sheltered and supported housing schemes ++

++ In the letter, talk a little bit about yourself and write some questions to ask our customers about their memories of wartime ++

++Share pictures of your letter on social media using #onward #VEday #VE75++

Some questions to help you get started:

Were you born before the end of World War two? What do you remember?

Did you have any relatives who fought in World War two?

Do you have any family stories about World War two?

MINISTRY O OF FOOD

Do you have any memories of the VE Day celebrations in 1945?

For more information about VE Day, visit: www.britishlegion.org.uk www.veday75.org Charges to pay

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