



# GET TO KNOW WW2

## WW2 News Quiz



### Part A: Words

A1 Why did Germany invade Poland?



A2 **Allied Power** or part of the **Axis** - which country was on what side in WW2?

**France, Italy, USA, Japan, Poland, Greece, Romania, China, Canada, Russia**

**Allies (Allied Powers)**

e.g. Britain

**Axis**

e.g. Germany

A3 Who was British Prime Minister in WW2?

A4 After war was declared, the British Army sent its **BEF** (British Expeditionary Force) to France to help its Allies but when large numbers of British and Belgian troops were cut off and surrounded by the German Army in the Battle of France, a mass rescue was organised from the beaches of Dunkirk. What was the code name of this operation, which managed to save 300,000 UK soldiers?

A5 Which WW2 figures said the following?

**'The task will be hard. There may be dark**

● **days ahead and war can no longer be confined to the battlefield.'** Speaker:

**'There can only be one end to this battle,**

● **and that is another success. Forward to**

**victory! Let us knock Italy out of the war'**

Speaker:

**'I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears**

● **and sweat'** Speaker:

A6 Why did both sides want to control North Africa?



A7 What battle was Prime Minister Winston Churchill talking about when he said: 'Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilisation. Upon it depends our own British life, and the long continuity of our institution and our empire.'?

A8 Which country had to admit defeat in its attempt to invade the Soviet Union and take the city of Stalingrad, on 2nd February 1943?

A9 What was the Nazi capital city of Germany?

A10 Who is thought to have sneaked out of Buckingham Palace to join the war victory celebrations in Trafalgar Square?

A11 Why was the royal ruler of Russia, Tsar Nicolas II, forced to give up his monarchy in 1917?





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### Part B: Pictures

What news stories do these pictures tell?



### Part C: Place

Where in the world is this scene of destruction?



### Part D: Person

Who is this person talking to paratroopers and why was he such a well-known figure in WW2?



### Part E: Object

What is the object that has created this cloud in the photo and why is it in the WW2 news?



### Part F: Statistics

What news do these numbers tell us about WW2?

- F1** 11am
- F2** 3 million children and adults
- F3** 150,000 Londoners
- F4** 50 million
- F5** 28 shillings a week
- F6** 241 days
- F7** 12 years and 83 days







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### Glossary

**advance** – attack, push

**aircraft carrier** – a big warship with a deck from which planes can take off and land

**air strike** – an attack by air craft (e.g. planes)

**ally (plural allies)** – another country which is on the same side as you

**announcement** – a formal, public statement

**armoured division** – an army with armoured vehicles, e.g. tanks

**artillery** - big guns, cannons and tanks etc.

**barracks** – group of buildings where soldiers (or prisoners live)

**base** – military (e.g. army) centre

**breakthrough** – a sudden and important development

**British Expeditionary Force (BEF)** – the British force in France in WW2

**broadcast** – a radio programme or message

**cavalry** – soldiers who fight on horses

**communications** – providing information by speaking, writing and broadcasting via radio etc

**concentration camp** – a camp where prisoners (civilians, non-soldiers) are kept

**confined** - restricted

**conflict** – clash, hostility, battle

**deadline** – the cut-off point, target time

**defences** – fortification e.g. trenches

**devastated** (by bombing) – destroyed, ruined

**evacuation** – taking people (e.g. children) in WW2 to the country to avoid the bombing in the towns and cities

**feat** – an achievement showing courage and skill

**forces** – the military (the army, navy, air force)

**incendiary devices** – weapons and bombs which start fires

**inevitable** – certain, unavoidable, unpreventable

**infantry** – foot soldiers, soldiers marching on foot

**invincible** – unconquerable, too powerful to be defeated

**liberated** – freed from enemy occupation

**liquidation** – killing people

**paratrooper** – a soldier who parachutes from an airplane into enemy land

**“Pure” Society** – the name given to the Nazi idea of its perfect race of people: Northern European and white (not Jewish, black, gypsy, homosexual etc)

**rations** – the fixed amount of food people were allowed in the shortages during WW2

**reinforcements** – additional troops

**regime** – a government in power (especially a controlling, authoritarian one)

**rehearsals** - practice

**resistance** – opposition to, fighting against

**slave labour** – The Nazis forced groups of people, including Jews, to work without money in brutal conditions in factories etc for the war effort.

**stench** – a strong and unpleasant smell

**strategy** - a plan of action

**surrender** – lay down arms, capitulate, give up fighting

**“Undesirables”** – the word the Nazis gave to groups it wanted to destroy including: Jews, gypsies, black people and homosexuals

**withdrawal** – retreat, pulling-out







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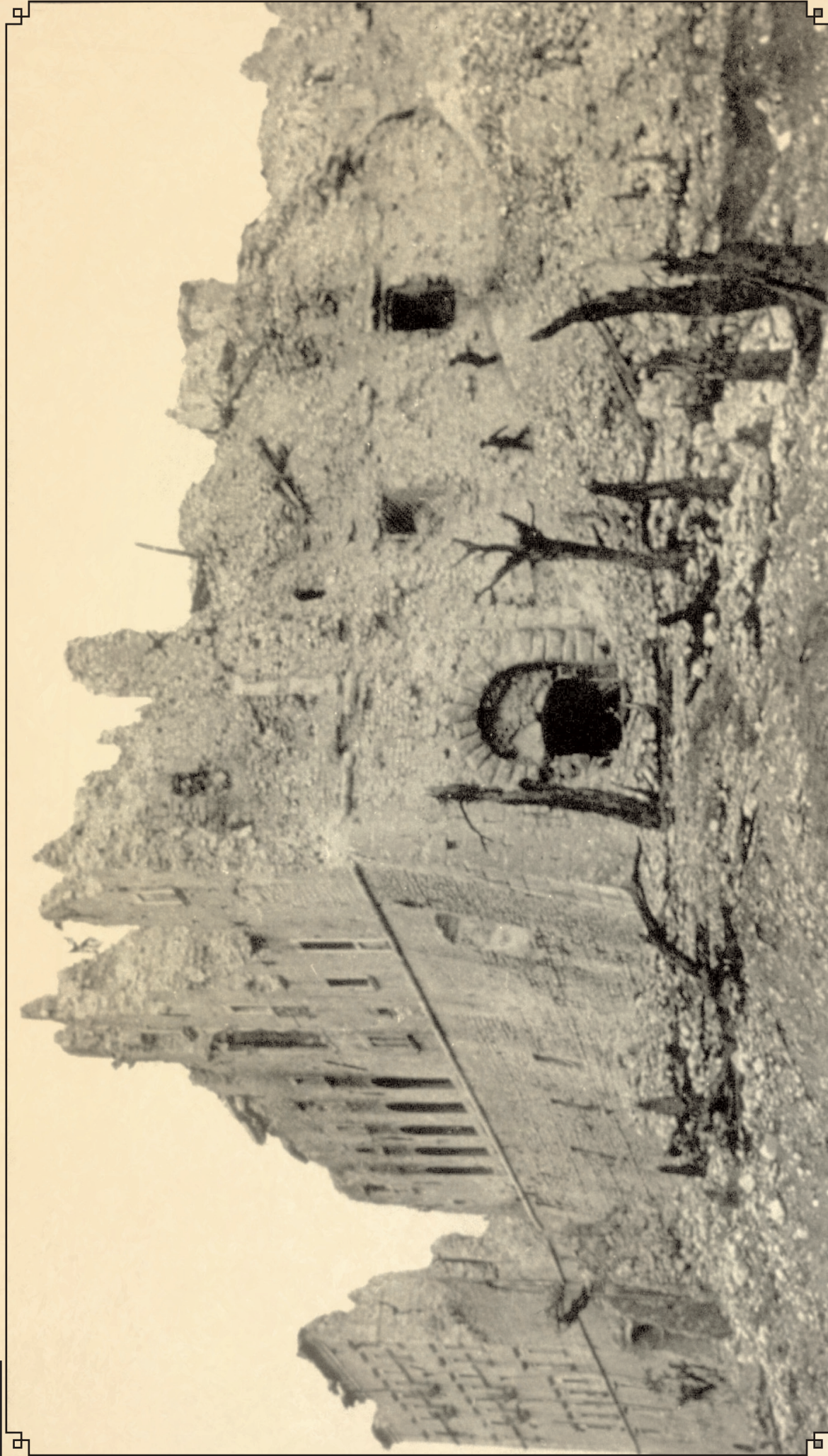
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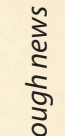




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### Part A: Words

**A1** On 1 September, 1939, Germany invaded Poland because it wanted territory that it had lost after WW1, including the city of Danzig and the 'Polish Corridor' – a stretch of land that led to the Baltic Sea (and separated Germany from East Prussia, which belonged to Germany). 'Germany invades Poland', page 2

**A2**

#### Allies (Allied Powers)

France: 'Germany invades Poland', page 2

Poland: 'Germany invades Poland', page 2

Greece: 'We are at war', page 2

Romania: 'We are at war', page 2

China: 'Japan attacks USA', page 10

USA: 'US victorious in the Battle of Midway', page 12

Canada: 'D-Day – the turning point of war?', page 20

#### Axis

Italy: Benito Mussolini – Italy, 'The key players: Who's who?', page 7

Japan: 'Olympics cancelled', page 6

Russia: Joseph Stalin – Soviet Union, 'The key players: Who's who?', page 7, in August 1939 Germany and the Soviet Union had signed a Non-Aggression Pact and was allied with Germany and the Axis Powers but it joined the Allies after it was attacked by Germany 22nd June 1941 'Germany attacks Russia', page 9

**A3** This is a trick question because there were two: Neville Chamberlain was Conservative Prime Minister when war broke out (but resigned in 1940, after a lack of support from Labour and the Liberals, especially following the loss of Norway to the Germans.) Conservative Winston Churchill took over and remained Prime Minister until the end of the war in 1945. 'Meet Britain's new Prime Minister' page 4, 'The key players: Who's who?', page 7, and 'Public votes Churchill out', page 23

**A4** 'Operation Dynamo', 'Miracle in Dunkirk', page 4

**A5** 'The task will be hard. There may be dark days ahead and war can no longer be confined to the battlefield.' Speaker: **King George VI, 'We are at war', page 2**

'There can only be one end to this battle, and that is another success. Forward to victory! Let us knock Italy out of the war' Speaker: **British Commander General Sir Bernard Montgomery (aka 'Monty' Field Marshal Montgomery) was a key British military figure in WW2. He commanded the Eighth Army in the Western Desert, during the key Battle of El Alamein, until the Allied victory in Tunisia. Then, he was in command of all Allied ground forces during Operation Overlord from the initial landings until after the Battle of Normandy, 'Rommel forced back from El Alamein', page 13 and 'Britain begins Italy invasion', page 17**

'I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat'? Speaker: **Prime Minister Winston Churchill, 'Churchill: Victory is our aim', page 4**

**A6** Because of access to the vital shipping route of the Suez Canal (The Suez Canal was a shipping canal through the desert of Egypt between Africa and Asia and it linked the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. It avoided the need for ships to have to go around Africa to get to Asia for trading etc. and provided a shorter sea route to oil in the Persian Gulf). Both sides also wanted to control the oil fields in the Middle East. 'Rommel forced back from El Alamein', page 13

**A7** This was the name given to an attempt by the Germans to destroy the British RAF (Royal Air Force) in the summer and autumn of 1940. This included the German Air Force or Luftwaffe (pronounced Looftvaff-er) aerial bombing on British defences, including ports and airfields – and the air fights with the RAF to stop them. The name 'Battle of Britain' comes from Churchill's







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speech. 'The Battle of Britain has begun', page 5

**A8** Germany. Its 6th Army surrendered, after 5 months of heavy fighting, 'Germany defeated in Russian city', page 16

**A9** Berlin. As the Russians closed in on a bombed out Berlin, the Germans fought one last bloody battle at Halbe, (pronounced halba) just outside Berlin, where over 50,000 soldiers and civilians died. In an underground bunker back in Berlin, the Nazi leader, Adolf Hitler, took his own life to avoid capture by the Allies and, within days, the Germans signed an Act of Military Surrender on 8th May 1945 at Karlshorst (near Berlin). 'Hitler dies as Germany surrenders', page 23

**A10** 19-year-old Princess Elizabeth (the future Queen) and her younger sister 15-year-old Princess Margaret, 'Future Queen parties with the crowds', page 28

### Part B: Pictures

**B1** Adolf Hitler, the Nazi leader of Germany, 'This Country Is At War With Germany', front page, gives a Nazi salute. This form of greeting was to glorify the German nation and its war effort. The German people were required to salute like this and say, 'Sieg Heil' (pronounced seeg hi-el), which was 'Hail Victory', or 'Heil Hitler'.

**B2** An American WW2 propaganda poster 'Loose Lips Might Sink Ships' to persuade servicemen and others to beware of unguarded talk and not to share any information that could be useful to the enemy and lead to the death of Allied soldiers. Note the use of punchy monosyllabic language and the rhyming couplet to reinforce the message!

**B3** The ruined Monte Cassino Abbey, south of Rome, Italy. It was destroyed by the Allies in a battle on the way to the capital Rome to secure the country from the Axis powers. British, American, French, Australian, New Zealand, Indian, Canadian and Polish soldiers were part of the Allied troops. Monte Cassino, restored in the 1950s, is now a shrine for relatives of the estimated 183,000 soldiers on all sides who lost their lives in the battles around it. 'Brits win key Italy battle', page 18 and 'Britain begins Italy invasion', page 17

**B4** Jewish prisoners arrive at Auschwitz in Poland, one of the Nazi concentration (death) camps, where Jews and other 'undesirables' were executed. (About 1.1 million people died there - 90% of them were Jewish). 'Nazis carrying out "mass executions"', page 13, Related articles: 'New Nazi camp', page 5, 'Prison camp revealed by Russian troops', page 22, and Behind The Headlines' special report on the death camps, pages 24-25

**B5** The Japanese attack on a US naval base at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii signalled the entry of Japan into WW2 on 8th December 1941. Part of World War 2 became about the Allies trying to stop Japan's desire to expand its empire and dominate Asia and the Pacific, including China and French Indochina. 'Japan attacks USA', page 10

**B6** American troops waded ashore onto the coast of Normandy, Northern France, on D-Day to support the Allies in liberating France and the rest of North West Europe from the Germans, 'D-Day – the turning point of war?', page 21

### Part C: Place

Singapore, 'Japan captures Singapore', page 12







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### Part D: Person

It's US General Dwight D. Eisenhower. 'D-Day – the turning point of war?', page 22. Eisenhower was the Supreme Commander of the Allied forces on D-Day – a turning point for the Allies in WW2 - and this is part of what he said to the troops:

“Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms... you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of the Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well-trained, well-equipped and battle hardened. He will fight savagely.”



### Part E: Object

It's the cloud from an atomic bomb, dropped over the Japanese city of Nagasaki. 'What is an atomic bomb?', page 26. Instead of invading Japan, US President Harry Truman decided to use a new weapon called the atomic bomb. The first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan on 6th August 1945. It destroyed the city and killed thousands and thousands of people. Japan did not surrender. After another atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, the Japanese surrendered on 15th August, 1945. Related articles: 'Japan surrenders after atomic bombs destroy city', page 26, 'What did the atomic bombs do?', page 27 and 'Japan surrenders', page 28

### Part F: Statistics

- F1 11am – **was the British deadline for Germany to withdraw its troops from Poland. At 11:15am, the Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, declared Britain was at war with Germany. 'We are at war', page 2**
- F2 3 million children and adults - **were evacuated from British cities to the countryside to avoid the bombing, 'Evacuation of children begins', page 3**
- F3 150,000 Londoners – **used London's underground stations to shelter from the German bomb attacks in what was known as the Blitz. 'Blitz bombing of Britain', page 6**
- F4 50 million – **gas masks were handed out to people in Britain to deal with a potential gas attack by the Germans, 'London hit by the worst Blitz blasts', page 8**
- F5 28 shillings a week – **was the weekly wage, after food and lodging were taken out, earned by a WW2 land girl (a woman who did farm work, such as milking or taking care of the farm animals). It's the equivalent of about £73 a week today, 'A new army', page 21**
- F6 241 days – **is how long the Battle of Tobruk, a coastal town in Libya, took to win from the control of the Nazis. (It was important for both sides to control North Africa to have access to the Suez Canal and the oil fields in the Middle East). 'Tobruk taken by Allies', page 6**
- F6 12 years and 83 days – **the length of time American President Franklin D Roosevelt served in the White House. (After FDR, this was amended and nowadays, an American President can only serve for a total of 2 terms - 8 years). 'Truman takes over after Roosevelt's death', page 22**