

# **Materials on the Pursuit of Victory in World War II 1943-1945**

In the Second World War enormous military force was brought to bear against Germany in Europe and the Empire of Japan in the Pacific, and in each case this military force resulted in a complete surrender. This result was achieved, however, in quite different ways in the two theatres of operation. As you review these materials, consider how the causal chain from application of force to Allied victory and control differed between the two fronts.

**CITATIONS**  
**Pursuit of Victory in World War II**

ATLANTIC

No title (Tehran), Department of State Bulletin, 1943, p. 409.

No title (Normandy), New York Times, June 6, 1944, p. 1.

No title (7 miles Berlin), New York Times, April 21, 1945, p. 1.

No title (Berlin Falls), New York Times, May 3, 1945, p. 1.

PACIFIC

No title (N. Africa), Department of State Bulletin, 1943, p. 393.

"July 26, 1945" (Surrender Terms), Department of State Bulletin, 1945, p. 137.

The Following Four Pages Contain Information on U.S. Propaganda Leaflets

Source: Sergeant B. Spink, Office of Air Force History.

Truman Announces Dropping Atomic Bomb On Hiroshima, Aug. 6, 1945, White House Press Release No. 180, Foreign Relations of the United States, 1945, Vol. VI, p. 621.

No title (USSR War), FBIS, Far Eastern Section, August 9, 1945.

No title (Offer of Surrender), Department of State Bulletin, 1945, p. 205.

No title (Air Might), New York Times, August 15, 1945.

No title (Emperor's Address), FBIS, Far Eastern Section, August 15, 1945, p. BB3.

Wesley Frank Craven & James Lea Cate, The Army Air Forces in World War II. Volume Five. The Pacific: Matterhorn to Nagasaki; June 1944 to August 1945, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1953, pp. 755-756.

No title (Surrender Instructions), Department of State Bulletin, 1945, pp. 364-5.

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS** **The Pursuit of Victory in World War II**

### ALLIES:

James Byrnes, Secretary of State of the United States

Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain

Vyacheslav Molotov, Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union

Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States

Joseph Stalin, Premier of the Soviet Union

Harry Truman, President of the United States following F.D.R.'s death in 1945

### EUROPE:

Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz, Hitler's successor as leader of the Third Reich

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe

Heinrich Himmler, Head of German SS

Adolph Hitler, Fuehrer of Germany

Colonel General Gustav Jodl, German Chief of Staff

François Sevez, Major General of the French Army

Lieutenant General Walter Bedell Smith, Chief of Staff to Eisenhower

Ivan Sousloparov, General of the Soviet Union

### PACIFIC:

Max Grässli, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of Switzerland (Representative of United States interests to Japan)

Emperor Hirohito, Leader of Japan

Chiang Kai-Shek, Generalissimo of China

General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Allied Commander in the Pacific

## **CHRONOLOGY**

### **The Pursuit of Victory in World War II**

#### **1943**

- December 1           Cairo Parley: Plan of attack on Japan organized by Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Chiang Kai-Shek.
- December 7           Three-power Declaration by Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin in Teheran to concert plans for the destruction of Germany.

#### **1944**

- June 6                         Allied armies land in France. The invasion of Europe begins.

#### **1945**

- March 9                   1st Army crosses the Rhine, breaching last natural barrier between Western allied armies and the heart of Germany.
- April 24                  Himmler offers German surrender to Western Allies but not Soviet Union
- May 2                     Hitler dies, apparently by suicide. Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz takes over and orders war to go on.
- May 3                     Berlin falls to Russians.
- May 7                     Germans surrender unconditionally. War in Europe is ended.
- July 27                    In Potsdam Communique, Allies order Japan to surrender or face "utter destruction."
- August 4                  Japan responds to Communique saying, "It's inadequate for a foundation for world peace."
- August 6                  1st atomic bomb is dropped on Japan by the U.S. 60% of Hiroshima is obliterated.
- August 9                  Atomic bomb is dropped on Nagasaki.  
USSR declares war on Japan and attacks Manchuria.
- August 10                 Japan offers to surrender.
- August 11                 Allies permit Emperor Hirohito of Japan to remain on throne.

1/16/90

August 14            Japan surrenders. War is ended.

September 2        Japan surrenders formally and unconditionally to Allies.

Source: The New York Times

**FURTHER READING**  
**The Pursuit of Victory in the Second World War**  
**1943-1945**

Blumenson, Martin. *The Patton Papers*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company (1972-1974)

*Campaign Atlas to the Second World War: Europe and the Mediterranean*, Department of History, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.: The Dept. (1980)

Hastings, Max. *Victory in Europe: D-day to V-E day*, Boston: Little Brown (1985)

*Japan at War: an Illustrated History of the War in the Far East, 1931-45*, London: Sidgwick & Jackson (1975)

Marshall, George C. *The Winning of the War in Europe and the Pacific*, Published for the War Department in Cooperation with the Council on Books in Wartime by Simon and Schuster (1980)

Morison, Samuel Eliot. *Strategy and Compromise*, Boston: Little Brown (1958)

Nafi, Albert A., ed. *The War against Hitler: Military Strategy in the West*, New York: Hippocrere Books (1982)

Patton, George S. *War as I Knew It*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. (1974)

Vaughan-Thomas, Wynford, Intr. *Great Front Pages: D-Day to Victory 1944-45* London: Collins (1984)

Willmott, H.P. *June 1944*, Poole, Dorset: New York: Blauford Press (1984)

Wood, Anthony. *War in Europe, 1939-1945*, London; New York: Longman (1987)