

ULTRA ACCESS

VE Day 80 - Victory Europe 80th Anniversary

Celebrating the end of the European Campaign of WW2

8th May 1945 was the day when the Allies celebrated the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany and the end of the European Campaign of World War 2. Today is the 80th anniversary of that day, and its one that is celebrated around the world.

(Whilst VE Day signified the end of the war in Europe, the fighting in the Pacific theatre continued ferociously until 15th August later that year, when Japan finally surrendered after the devastating impact of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, which become known as VJ Day)



Adolf Hitler allegedly committed suicide on 30th April 1945, after learning that Berlin was surrounded on all sides - the combined forces of the British Empire, the US and our Western Allies on one side, and the unstoppable red wall of Soviet Russia on the other.

Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz - as the ranking Nazi commander left alive negotiated (with his staff) an end to the war with the Western Allies, to stop the war before the Soviets could rampage through Berlin in revenge for the actions of the Nazi's against them - among other atrocities.

A German delegation of senior military staff arrived at the HQ of the **British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery** at Lüneburg Heath, east of Hamburg, on 4th May to negotiate.

With **Supreme Allied Commander General Eisenhower** accepting the unconditional surrender of all German forces on 7th May.

To appease the Soviet leader **Josef Stalin**, on 8th May another final surrender document was signed - this time by **German Field Marshal William Keitel**.

The plan by **Dönitz's** was successful with many millions of German soldiers surrendering to Western Allied forces, and (thankfully for them) avoiding a fate worse than death at the hand of the Soviet's.

Victory Europe Day 1945 was celebrated in many cities, towns and places around the world with joyous street parties, dancing and merriment, along with a huge rise in national pride and patriotism, along with a never waning respect for our returning troops - that lasts to this very day.

The highest award for British military - the Victoria Cross (VC) was awarded 182 times during/after World War 2. And with the war costing many tens of millions of deaths and trillions \$ in damage, it will be remembered in the history books as a global event that changed the world forever...



Today is marked to celebrate the incredible sacrifices of **The Greatest Generation** and its many millions of brave men and women who, regardless of their nationality, ethnicity, and cultures, all stood strong in defiance of the tyranny and evil of the Nazi regime.

We shall never see their like again... and we shall never forget them.