

SUBJECT: History

UNIT: How was World War Two a 'total war'? 2



How did the Second World War change medicine?

During WWII, blood transfusion methods improved with stored blood used on the battlefield. Heart surgery advanced for treating shrapnel injuries. Plastic surgery developed further, especially for burned airmen, led by Archibald McIndoe. Penicillin was mass-produced for the first time, saving thousands. Wartime health efforts highlighted the need for better care, leading to the creation of the NHS in 1948.

Key event – D-day, June 6th 1944

On June 6, 1944 the Allied Forces of Britain, America, Canada, and France attacked German forces on the coast of Normandy known as the Normandy 'landings'. One of the most famous is American soldiers landing on **Omaha** beach pushing the Germans back. With a huge force of over 150,000 soldiers, the Allies attacked and gained a victory that became the turning point for World War II in Europe. Soldiers continued arriving and began to push the **Nazi's** out of France.

Atomic bomb, August 1945.

By May 1945 Germany had surrendered. However, the war continued in the Japan. Rather than prepare for a costly invasion, the allies planned to drop an atomic bomb on Japan.

Justified: Japan refused to surrender, Japan attacked the USA at Pearl Harbour, and The Japanese Army had treated captured American soldiers terribly.

Not justified: Japan were not a threat, nuclear warfare killed, American estimate that 79,000 people were killed in Hiroshima. The Japanese claim this was 240,000. 80% of the building in Hiros were destroyed and 140,00 made homeless.



War at home



During WWII, 827,000 children and vulnerable people were evacuated from cities to the countryside for safety.

Rationing began in January 1940 to manage food and goods due to German blockades. Clothes and other items were also rationed.

As men joined the armed forces, women took over their jobs—especially in factories making planes, weapons, and supplies.

From 1941, single women aged 20–30 could be conscripted into war work, including the Armed Services (non-combat), factories, and farming. Over 14 million women worked by 1941.

Many also volunteered, helped during bombings, and managed homes under tough conditions. While many gained independence, some had to leave work after the war.

How did the war end?

Hitler, realising that defeat was now inevitable- following America joining the war after Pearl Harbour and the successful D-day landings, died by suicide on 12 April. Germany surrendered on 8 May- VE day.

War in the Empire

Over 2.5 million soldiers from India fought for Britain—the largest volunteer army in history. Troops from Africa, the Caribbean, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand also played key roles in battles across Europe, Asia, and Africa. Many served as soldiers, pilots, medics, and support workers. Empire workers also contributed in British factories, farms, and hospitals

Alan Turing

Who? An English scientist, mathematician and codebreaker during WW2.

What? Alan and team of codebreakers cracked the German Enigma code (used to disguise messages)

He was significant as he saved thousands of lives but was not remembered until the mid-1970s – due to being criminalised for his sexuality.

