

# VE Day

## Victory in Europe

On May 8th, 1945, when Nazi Germany surrendered unconditionally to the Allied forces, organized resistance in Europe ceased, and a significant chapter of World War II ended. From December 1941 to May 1945, Americans joined their allies in a fight to defeat the Axis Powers. Service members and civilians around the world suffered and sacrificed to bring an end to the conflict.



Above: General of the Army George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army; Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy, senior member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King, Chief of Naval Operations announcing VE Day.



The United States Navy served as a fighting force and as a vital link between the men and women in factories in the United States, and the American and Allied troops overseas. The Navy shipped supplies and soldiers through dangerous waters where, among other dangers, submarines could attack at any moment. Victory in Europe ended only one small part of that danger. VE Day was a day to celebrate, but it was also a day to refocus on the Pacific and bringing an end to World War II.



Background image: Sailors bring a captured German U-Boat to anchor in Delaware, May 1945.

For more information visit [www.history.navy.mil/nmusn](http://www.history.navy.mil/nmusn)



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