Teacher Resource World War II Anniversary

Q Focus Questions

Γ'n

History of WWII

- 1. Discuss the BTN *History of WWII* story as a class and record the main points of the discussion.
- 2. Who was Adolf Hitler?
- 3. In 1938 the Nazis invaded which country?
 - a. Austria
 - b. United Kingdom
 - c. France
- 4. What year did the Allies declare war on Germany?
- 5. Who were the Allied forces? Name one country.
- 6. Who were the Axis powers? Name one country.
- 7. What was the name of the US naval base that was bombed in 1941?
- Complete the following sentence. Jewish people were persecuted by the Nazis and sent to prisons called ______ camps.
- 9. What year did Germany surrender in World War II?
- 10. What words would you use to describe World War II?

Australia's Involvement in WWII

- 1. What did the BTN Australia's Involvement in WWII story explain?
- 2. Complete the following sentence. When World War II started Australia was still part of the _____ Empire.
- 3. It was compulsory for Australian men aged between 18 and 35 to join the armed forces. True or false?
- 4. Approximately how many Australians served during World War II?
 - a. 1,000
 - b. 100,000
 - c. 1,000,000
- 5. How many Indigenous Australian soldiers served during World War II?
- 6. What was the role of women during World War II?
- 7. Where is Kokoda? Find using Google Maps.
- 8. Describe the conditions on the Kokoda track.
- 9. How many Australians died during World War II?
- 10. What questions do you have after watching the BTN story?

Bombing of Darwin

- 1. Discuss the BTN Bombing of Darwin story with another student.
- 2. Where is Darwin? Locate using Google Maps.
- 3. What 3 words would you use to describe Darwin?
- 4. What country attacked Darwin in 1942?

Episode 22 11th August 2020



Students will develop a deeper understanding of World War II including its impact on the world and Australia's involvement.

Curriculum

HASS – Year 5 & 6

Develop appropriate questions to guide an inquiry about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

Locate and collect relevant information and data from primary sources and secondary sources.

Sequence information about people's lives, events, developments and phenomena using a variety of methods including timelines.

HASS – Years 6 & 7

Examine primary and secondary sources to determine their origin and purpose.

HASS – Year 7

Construct significant questions and propositions to guide investigations about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

Present ideas, findings, viewpoints, explanations and conclusions in a range of texts and modes that incorporate source materials, citations, graphic representations and discipline-specific terms, conventions and concepts.

Please note: Teachers

may wish to be sensitive to those students who have personal experience with conflict, family members who are veterans, or parents serving overseas in war zones.

4. What

- 5. What was destroyed during the attack on Darwin?
- 6. How many times was Darwin raided?
- 7. Why was Darwin bombed during World War II? Give one reason.
- 8. What was built to defend Darwin from more attacks?
- 9. How does Darwin commemorate the Bombing of Darwin?
- 10. What do you understand more clearly since watching the BTN story?

The World After WWII

- 1. Briefly summarise the BTN The World After WWII story.
- 2. Describe how people celebrated when World War II ended.
- 3. What does VP Day stand for?
- 4. What percent of the world's population died during World War II?
- 5. What was the Holocaust?
- 6. Complete the following sentence. The tension between communist and democratic powers was known as the _____ War.
- 7. What factors contributed to Australia's population growth after World War II?
- 8. Who are Baby Boomers?
- 9. What year was the United Nations created?
- 10. Why was the United Nations created?

Activity

Personal response

After watching the BTN *World War II Anniversary* special, ask students to finish one or more of the following incomplete sentences:

- This episode of BTN made me wonder why...
- It was interesting to learn that...
- Learning about the Second World War made me feel...
- BTN covered this because...

Class Discussion

Discuss the information raised in the BTN *World War II Anniversary* special. Use the questions below to guide the discussion.

- When did World War II start and finish?
- Who were the Axis powers?
- Who were the Allies?
- What does VP stand for?
- What was Australia's involvement in World War II?

Activity

Act like an historian

Provide your students with the opportunity to act as historians. After watching the BTN *History* of *WWII* story students will write down a list of key events, they think defined World War II. Students can take notes as they watch the story or download the transcript after watching the story to guide them through the activity. Students will use the following as a guide:

- Make a list of 5 key events that you think shaped World War II.
- Record each event on a timeline. Include a title, date, and description for each event, which is added with a dot on the timeline.







- Write a summary for each key event, which answers the 5 W's Who, What, Where, When and Why?
- Analyse each of the events on your list. What caused each event? What effect did it have?
- Compare your list of key events with that of another classmate. How are your list of events similar or different? Collaborate to create a class timeline which includes each students' key events. Can you add any more detail to your class timeline?

Collect objects from WWII

In this activity, students will explore how objects can help tell the story of war. Students will use the internet to 'collect' a range of items and categorise them into primary and secondary sources. Students will reflect on each item by responding to a range of questions. Before starting this activity analyse the Australian War Memorials <u>World War II Memorial Box</u> as a class. Then, individually or in pairs, students will use the following as a guide as they create their own memorial box:

- 'Collect' 6 items to create your own World War II memorial box. Use the internet to find your memorial box items, including equipment, objects, works of art, photographs, letters, diaries or souvenirs. Alternatively, you may have family member or friend that can share items they have from WWII.
- Include an illustration/photo and a description of each object. Why did you include each object in your memorial box? Are there any stories related to the object?
- Categorise the objects into two columns, is it a primary source or secondary source?

Mapping World War II

In this activity, students will research and create a historical map of the key events of World War II. Students will investigate who the Allied and Axis powers were and use maps to locate the places that were affected by World War II. Students will use the following as a guide as they work through this activity:

- What countries were involved in World War II?
- What are the Axis powers and the Allied powers? Make a list of the Allied powers and Axis powers and mark them on a world map.
- What other information about World War II can you add to your world map? Pinpoint where key events happened on your map including: the bombing of Darwin, the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, fighting on the Eastern Front which came to a head at Stalingrad, the battle of Normandy and the Kokoda Track campaign.

Reflections on World War II

Provide your students with the opportunity to reflect on the anniversary of the end of World War II. After watching the BTN *History* of *WWII* story ask your class to brainstorm a list of words to describe World War II (E.g. solemn, warfare, destructive, conflict). Record students' responses on a mind map. Students will then choose one of the following activities to work on as they reflect on World War II:

- Write a Haiku poem about WWII.
- Use the internet to find a letter from World War II. It could be a letter from a soldier to his family, or a letter of address from the Prime Minister. Analyse the letter and answer these questions: How did you feel after reading the letter? How do letters help us understand World War II? What is the purpose of the letter? How is the language used in the letter similar or different to language used today?
- Choose one of the Australians at War stories on the <u>Anzac Portal</u>. Read and analyse the story. Illustrate an aspect of the story. Discuss unknown words and concepts with your teacher. How did the story make you feel? Write a letter to one of the people featured in the story.
- Design your own class World War II Memorial exhibiting your research. Visit Australia's virtual <u>war</u> <u>memorial</u> for ideas





Australia's involvement in WWII

On 3 September 1939, Prime Minister Robert Gordon Menzies announced that Australia was at war with Germany.

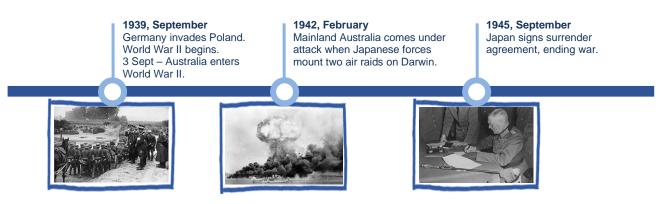
Fellow Australians, it is my melancholy duty to inform you officially, that in consequence of a persistence by Germany in her invasion of Poland, Great Britain has declared war upon her and that, as a result, Australia is also at war. No harder task can fall to the lot of a democratic leader than to make such an announcement.

As a class, discuss the Prime Minister's announcement. Can you explain why the Australian Government felt that Australia should be involved in World War II? How do they think Australian's would have felt about hearing that Australia was at war? How did the speech make you feel?

Working in small groups, students will build on their understanding of Australia's involvement in World War II. The following questions can help guide their research:

- When did World War II begin and end?
- What was Australia's involvement in World War II?
- Which campaigns was Australia involved in?
- How did Australia's participation in World War II vary from that of earlier wars?

Students can display their research as an Interactive timeline, infographic or a presentation.



Activity

The Kokoda Campaign

Students will investigate Australia's involvement in the Kokoda campaign. Watch the <u>BTN Kokoda</u> <u>Anniversary</u> story as a starting point for students' research. The following questions can help guide their research:

- Who was involved in the battle of Kokoda?
- When did the Kokoda campaign begin and end?
- Why were Australian troops sent to Kokoda?
- What were the experiences of the Australian soldiers?
- How were Papuans impacted by the Kokoda campaign?
- What were the experiences of the Japanese soldiers?
- Why was victory at Kokoda so important to the war effort?
- What impact did the Kokoda campaign have on Australia and its people at the time?
- What is the significance of Kokoda today?
- Has your thinking about Kokoda changed? If so, in what ways?



Students will investigate who was involved in the Kokoda campaign and why. Students will use the internet to learn more about the Kokoda campaign from the perspective of the Australians, Papuans and Japanese, and use the following table to record their findings.

	Australians – 39 th Battalion	Papuans – Papuan Infantry Battalion	Japanese
Why were you fighting in New Guinea? What were your objectives?			
How many people participated in this campaign?			
Explain your strategy			
How successful were your operations in Kokoda? Did they go smoothly? What were some of the challenges?			
Describe some of your experiences			
What was the impact of this campaign on your country and people?			

Activity

Analyse wartime posters

During this activity students will look at war posters as historical documents and learn about the visual and verbal aspects of war posters. Begin a class discussion by asking your students if they know what a war poster is or if they have seen war posters before. What else do they know about war posters?





Choose one of the above posters from the Australian War Memorial website to analyse as a class. Explain to students where you found the poster, who created it and the poster's title and date. Analyse the poster together as a class, responding to the following questions throughout the discussion:

- What do you see? Describe the elements of the poster including text, colour, images, shape, scale.
- How would you explain the mood of the poster? What emotions does the poster evoke?
- What do you think the poster's message is?
- Why do you think the poster was created?
- Who do you think the poster is targeting?
- Where do you think people would've seen this poster?
- What question/s do you have about the poster?
- Are war posters a primary or secondary source of information?
- Further challenge: Is this poster an example of persuasion, propaganda or argument?

Students will choose a war poster from World War II to investigate using the above questions to guide them through their analysis. It could be a war poster from Australia or from another country involved in World War II. Below are some examples of war posters from countries other than Australia.



Activity

Life in Australia during WWII

Students will explore what life was like living in Australia during World War II. Hold a class discussion about the topic using the following questions to help guide the discussion:

- What did the BTN special tell you about what life was like in Australia during WWII?
- What insight did the people who remembered the war give?
- What do you think life might have been like for children in Australia during WWII?
- What do you think were some challenges for people living in Australia during WWII?
- How did the role of women change during the war?

Students will explore in more detail what life was like for children in Australia during World War II. Watch the video <u>Growing up during World War II</u> and respond to the following questions:

- Where was Terry's father sent during World War II?
- How did the war change the types of work done by women and children?
- Where did people get information about the war from?
- What roles did Carmel's dad and sister have in the war?
- What work did Carmel and her mum do during the war?
- How were the experiences of Carmel and Terry as children different to yours? What might be some similarities?



Further research: Investigate how work changed for women and children in Australia during World War II. Students could extend their research to include experiences of children from other countries that were involved in World War II.

Examine the <u>children's jigsaw puzzle</u> showing military aircraft used by the Allied and Axis forces during World War II. Ask students to respond to the following questions:

- Why do you think this jigsaw was made for children?
- The symbols on the tail and wings of each country's aircraft are shown at the bottom of the jigsaw. Why do you think those symbols were included in the jigsaw?



Source of image

In small groups or as a class, discuss what is meant by home security in the context of a war and what role children were given.

Discuss with students the idea that food and clothing were rationed during the World War II to manage shortages of essential goods. Watch these videos <u>Lean times and wartime rationing</u> and <u>Getting around</u> town during the war years to learn more about the rationing of essential goods. Students can then reflect on the following questions:

- Why were some goods rationed during the war?
- What sorts of goods could you get with coupons?
- How do you think your family would cope with rationing food, clothing and fuel?
- What do you think would have happened if rationing had not been introduced?

Activity

Memories of WWII

Do you know someone who remembers World War II? Students will interview someone who remembers World War II (perhaps a great grandparent) and ask them to share their memories about the event. They will prepare a list of questions, conduct the interview and then share their interview findings. Below are some example questions.

- What was life like as a child in the 1940s?
- Where were you during World War II?
- What was it like living through World War II?
- Did you know anyone that went to World War II?
- What are your memories of the war?
- How did the war affect your family?
- Can you remember the day the war ended and what was it like?
- How did you feel when the war ended?
- What do you think the world learnt from the war?





The Bombing of Darwin

Discuss with students the Bombing of Darwin story in the BTN Special. They can also watch a previous BTN story **Bombing of Darwin Anniversary**. Use the following questions to guide the discussion:

- Why was Darwin bombed during World War II?
- What were the events leading up to the bombing?
- What impact did the bombing have on Darwin?
- Why was it an important event in Australian history? •

Listen to Army veteran Basil Stahl describe his experience of the Darwin bombing. Students retell his account (written or oral) then respond to the following questions:

- What was surprising about Basil's story?
- How did his story help you understand the bombing . of Darwin more clearly?
- How did his story make you feel? •



Images of the bombing of Darwin

Below are photographs depicting the bombing of Darwin. Ask students to look at the images and then respond to the following questions:

- What is happening in the image? •
- What question/s would you like to ask about the image? •
- How does the image make you feel? •
- Create a caption for each image. •





Source of image



Source of image



Source of image



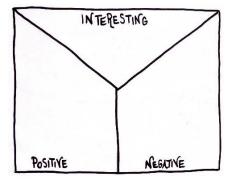


The World after World War II

Students will practise their note-taking skills while watching the BTN *The World After WWII* story. After watching the story, ask students to reflect and organise the information into three categories.

What information in this story was ...?

- Positive
- Negative or
- Interesting



Students may want to watch the story again or download a copy of the *The World After WWII* transcript to assist them with this activity.

KWLH

The KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on World War II and its impact on Australia after the war. Students will consider what they would like to know and learn.

What do l	What do l <u>w</u> ant	What have I	<u>H</u> ow will I find
<u>k</u> now?	to know?	<u>l</u> earnt?	out?

Research questions for inquiry

Students will determine a focus for their inquiry and develop a key question to guide their inquiry (below are some examples). Students will collect and record information from a wide variety of sources (internet, books, newspaper and magazines).

- In what ways did the war affect Australians? Explore the social and economic effects on Australia.
- How did the war affect people in other countries? Choose one country and investigate the impact of World War II.
- The popular belief after World War II was that Australia must 'populate or perish'. What does this mean? Explore and explain.
- Who are the Baby Boomers? Explore the economic impact of World War II on Australia and what it was like for kids growing up in the 1950s.
- How has post-war immigration transformed Australian society? Investigate the contributions that migrants have made to Australia since World War II.
- Why was the League of Nations (now the United Nations) created? Explore the history of the United Nations highlighting your findings on a timeline.
- What were the causes of the Cold War? Create a cause and effect diagram to help understand the Cold War.

Further Investigation

After watching the BTN *The World After WWII* story, students will choose one of the following to work on (in pairs or individually):

• Imagine you are a reporter for an Australian newspaper. Write a news article dated 2nd September 1942 which reports on the end of World War II.



- Imagine you are a reporter from 1942. The war has just ended, and you have been given the opportunity to interview an Australian that served during World War II. Who will you interview? Think about the questions you would like to ask. Write a list of questions and then try to find answers to your questions.
- Listen to this <u>ABC reporter</u> describe the scenes of jubilation as he broadcasts live in Sydney on the 15th of August 1945. What words would you use to describe people's feelings on the streets of Sydney on this day?
- Imagine you are an Australian that served during World War II. Write a journal entry in your diary about your experiences before, during or after World War II.
- Imagine you are an artist and it is post-war 1945. You have been commissioned by the Australian government to create a poster which promotes immigration to Australia. Think about the images, colours and composition of your poster. Who is your target audience?

Activity

World War II Quiz

WW	/II Quiz Questions	Your Answer
1.	What year did WWII start? a. 1939 b. 1942 c. 1945	
2.	Which was NOT one of the Allies during WWII?a. Britainb. United Statesc. Germany	
3.	The Axis countries werea. Germany, Poland and Italyb. Germany, Italy and Japanc. Germany, Italy and the Soviet Union	
4.	Why did Britain declare war on Germany?a. Germany invaded Britainb. Germany invaded Polandc. Britain wanted to rule Europe	
5.	Who ruled Germany during WWII?a. Adolf Hitlerb. Winston Churchillc. Joseph Stalin	
6.	The United States joined the war after Japan attacked its base at Pearl Harbor. a. True b. False	



. Who w	as Australia's Prime Minister at the start of World War II?
a.	Robert Menzies
b.	Billy Hughes
С.	John Gorton
. During is that?	WWII the Australian government brought in rationing. What
a.	When the government controls how much of certain things you can buy
b.	When people are forced to join the military
с.	When people are forced to work in certain jobs
. Which	of these was rationed during WWII?
a.	Sausages
b.	Теа
C.	Chicken
0. The su	rrender of which country marked the end of WWII?
a.	Japan
b.	Italy
C.	Britain
	a. b. c. . During is that? a. b. c. . Which a. b. c. 0. The su a. b.

Answers: 1a, 2c, 3b, 4b, 5a, 6a, 7a, 8a, 9b, 10a

Useful Websites

Second World War – BTN https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/second-world-war/11460762

VE Day - BTN https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/ve-day/12201810

Hiroshima Anniversary – BTN

https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/hiroshima-anniversary/12507256

Anne Frank - BTN

https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/anne-frank/11981700

Second World War – Australian War Memorial <u>https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/second-world-war</u>

Kokoda 75th Anniversary https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/kokoda-75th-anniversary/10522230

World War 2 - Virtual War Memorial Australia <u>https://vwma.org.au/explore/conflicts/3</u>

Homefront: Second World War – Australian War Memorial <u>https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/homefront</u>

All in- The Australian homefront 1939-1945 – Anzac Portal <u>https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/world-war-ii-1939-1945/resources/all-australian-homefront-1939-1945</u>

Bombing of Darwin Anniversary – BTN https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/darwin-bombing-anniversary/10523548



Bombing of Darwin – Australian War Memorial <u>https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/E84294</u>

the Bombing of Darwin – ABC Education https://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/2806912/the-bombing-of-darwin

Growing up during World War II – ABC Education https://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/102758/

Lean times and wartime rationing – ABC Education https://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/102780/rations-and-coupon-shopping

Getting around town during the war years – ABC Education <u>https://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/102802/getting-around-town-during-the-war-years</u>

History of the United Nations – UN https://www.un.org/en/sections/history/history-united-nations/index.html

United Nations – BTN https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/united-nations/10537538

End-of-war celebrations, Sydney, 1945 – ABC Education https://education.abc.net.au/home/#!/media/521177/end-of-war-celebrations-sydney-1945



BTN Transcript: Episode 22 – 11/8/20

Hi, I'm Amelia Moseley and welcome to this very special episode of BTN. 75 years ago Australia and a lot of the world erupted in celebration as the Second World War came to an end. Today we're going to be taking a closer look at that war and its impact. We'll find out about Australia's role and the fighting that happened in the Pacific. Learn about the day that the war came to Australia and Darwin was bombed. And we talk to some grandparents about what it was like being a young person during the war.

History of WWII

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

INTRO: But first, we're going to go a little further back in time to when the war started in 1939. Let's find out why the war happened and how it became the world's deadliest conflict.

It was the 1930s. Air travel was glamorous, talking movies were all the rage, and swing was in. But fresh in the memories of many of these people was the First World War, which had finished just over a decade earlier. It had battered economies, toppled dynasties and governments, and torn lives apart, and many countries were still recovering. But, in Europe, there was a dark cloud forming over the world of politics.

In 1933, this man, Adolf Hitler, became Germany's leader. He was a convincing speaker who won fans by talking about ways to restore the country to its former glory. He was also obsessed with the idea of a "pure" German race and he wanted that race to control all of Europe. He started building up the German Army and in 1938, the Nazis invaded Austria. At first, other countries didn't really react. In fact, some signed agreements with Hitler to keep the peace.

NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN, UK PRIME MINISTER 1938: We regard the agreement signed last night and the Anglo-German Naval Agreement as symbolic of the desire of our two peoples never to go to war with one another again.

But all that changed when the Nazis invaded Poland. They secretly had the help of the Soviet Union, a group of states including Russia. Poland was an ally of Britain and France and, on the 1st of September, 1939, they declared war on Germany and the Second World War began.

On one side were the Allied forces including Britain, France and Australia, and on the other were the Axis powers including Germany, Japan and Italy; although Italy would later switch sides. In 1940, France fell to the Nazis. But two powerful forces soon joined the Allies. The United States after the bombing of its naval base, Pearl Harbor, in 1941 and the Soviet Union after it was invaded by its former ally, Germany, in 1941. The fighting spread across the globe, from the streets of Europe, to the seas of the Pacific, and the deserts of Northern Africa.

Meanwhile, in Germany and German occupied countries, the Nazis were persecuting and rounding up people that Hitler said weren't worthy members of society, mostly Jewish people. They were sent to specially built prisons called concentration camps. Millions of people were killed or died from terrible living conditions and those events are now known as the Holocaust. For a while, it looked like Germany was actually going to win the war, but a few big battles changed the course of history. The Nazis underestimated the Soviet Army and lost a big deadly battle at Stalingrad in Russia in 1943.

Then in 1944, American, British, Canadian and some Australian troops landed on the beaches of Normandy in France to begin the take-back of Nazi-occupied Europe. Nazi Germany was on the verge of collapse and its fate was sealed when the Soviets moved in and captured Germany's capital, Berlin. Hitler was dead and, on the 8th of May 1945, Germany surrendered.

While millions celebrated the end of the fighting in Europe, it would be another three months, two nuclear bombs and many more deaths before Germany's biggest ally, Japan, would also surrender, bringing the most destructive war in history to an end.



Quiz

What was the name given to the countries that fought with Nazi Germany? the Allied powers, the Axis powers or the Triple Entente. They were the Axis powers. The countries that fought against them were the Allies.

Do you know who this is? It's Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister during World War Two.

Do you know the name of this German Jewish teenager who famously wrote a diary while hiding from the Nazis in the Netherlands? It's Anne Frank.

Australia's Involvement in WWII

Reporter: Jack Evans

INTRO: All around the country you can see memorials just like this one dedicated to people who died fighting in the Second World War. Hundreds of thousands of Australians went away to serve in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. Let's find out more about Australia's role in the war and the fighting that happened right on our doorstep. Here's Jack.

ROBERT MENZIES, FORMER PRIME MINISTER: Fellow Australians, it is my melancholy duty to inform you officially, that in consequence of a persistence by Germany in her invasion of Poland, Great Britain has declared war upon her and that, as a result, Australia is also at war.

This was the announcement broadcast across the country that marked the start of Australia's role in the Second World War. Back then Australia was still part of the British Empire and strongly believed in supporting Britain. But the country wasn't really prepared for another war, the army only had around 3000 soldiers. So, the military set out to recruit a new expeditionary force to fight across land, sea and sky. There was also the Citizens Military Forces or Militia, which was similar to today's Army Reserve. In 1942 the government made it compulsory for all men aged between 18 and 35 to join the CMF, some would end up on the front lines.

By the end of the Second World War close to a million Aussies would serve. That included more than 5000 Indigenous soldiers who signed up to fight for a country that didn't yet count them as citizens. Women also played a much bigger role in the Second World War. For the first time they were allowed to enlist in the armed forces and by the end of the war they were serving in all sorts of roles from driving to manning anti-aircraft guns. Women also kept the economy going at home, taking on many of the jobs usually done by men.

At first many Australian soldiers were sent to fight in Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa. But in 1941 the war got a lot closer to home. Japan, which was already at war with China, attacked British, Dutch and American territories in Asia and the Pacific. It had allied itself with Nazi Germany and had its own plans to control the whole Pacific region. Its armies swept across South East Asia and many feared Australia would be next.

After brief attacks on the city of Darwin and submarine attacks in Sydney and Newcastle they began an invasion of New Guinea, which was an Australian territory at the time. The Japanese Navy wanted to take control of the capital, Port Moresby, by sea. But they were defeated by US and Australian forces in a major naval and aerial battle known as the Battle of the Coral Sea.

Meanwhile a force of 2,000 Japanese soldiers set out to take Port Moresby over land trekking across a track we now know as Kokoda. They were met by a much smaller group of Australian soldiers who were trekking towards an airfield in the north and the battle of Kokoda began. It's remembered as one of the most difficult campaigns of the war. The soldiers, who were mostly young and inexperienced, battled not just the Japanese but also the elements. The Kokoda track is tough, it's narrow, steep and muddy. The days were hot and the nights freezing. By the time they even encountered the Japanese they would be exhausted. However, they persisted and with help from local Papuan people and additional soldiers that were sent in they were able to stop Japan from taking control.

For the next three years Australian's continued to fight in the Pacific and in Europe and the Middle East until the tide of the war turned against the Nazis and then against Japan. By the end of the war close to 30,000 Australians had died. Many more were injured physically and mentally, including the tens of thousands who



spent time as prisoners of war. They and the country they left behind would be forever changed by the Second World War.

Quiz

Who was Australia's Prime Minister at the start of the Second World War? It was Robert Menzies.

The USA joined the war after Japan attacked its base at Pearl Harbor. Where is that? In Florida, Guam or Hawaii. It's in Hawaii. 2,403 Americans were killed in the surprise attack and a bunch of ships and aircraft were destroyed.

Which city, home to a major British military base, was captured by Japan in 1942? Shanghai, Singapore or Saigon. It was Singapore. Around 15,000 Australian troops were stationed there too, and they became prisoners of war.

Bombing of Darwin

Reporter: Nat Kelly

INTRO: As you've heard, the Second World War came pretty close to Australia but most of the fighting actually happened overseas. That was, until the morning of the 19th of February 1942 when the continent itself was attacked for the very first time. Nat headed back to his hometown of Darwin to find out more about the day the war came to Australia.

Welcome to my hometown Darwin, the capital of the Northern Territory. Famous for its pristine coast, the sunset markets and of course, the warm weather. But it's also known for something that happened here nearly 80 years ago, on the 19th of February 1942.

At 2 minutes to 10 on a humid wet season morning the Imperial Japanese Navy carried out a massive attack on Darwin, destroying ships, buildings, and much of the town. It was the first time Australia had been attacked by a foreign power since the start of European settlement. But Darwin wasn't just bombed once.

AUSTIN ASCHE, WWII VETERAN: A lot of people don't know how often Darwin was bombed and for how long, the Japanese raided us 64 times over 18 months and caused a lot of damage.

Austin Asche was in the Royal Australian Air Force toward the end of the Second World War.

AUSTIN ASCHE, WWII VETERAN: There was an awful lot of damage in Darwin, they certainly bombed very accurately.

But why carry out such a big attack on such a small town? Well it turns out, Darwin was actually a pretty important place during the second world war.

JUDY BOLAND, HISTORIAN: Darwin was important because it had a big naval base here and large storages of naval fuel oil. It also had a military presence and it also had a RAAF presence.

Many historians now think that Japan never actually wanted to invade Darwin.

NORMAN CRAMP, DARWIN MILITARY MUSEUM: The importance of them attacking Darwin was to nullify it, was to try and destroy the town, destroy the infrastructure so that Darwin couldn't be used as a marshalling point for allied military forces to hit back at Japan.

On the 12th of November 1943, Japan carried out its last air raid on Darwin and then in August 1945 the news came through, the war had ended.

AUSTIN ASCHE, WWII VETERAN: It came as a big surprise. I think everybody believed there would be many more years of war.

Every year, on the 19th of February, the city of Darwin holds commemoration services to remember the Battle for Darwin. In many ways, it's a very different place today. But this little town won't be forgetting its history any time soon.

KID 1: In class I've been learning about the bombing of Darwin.

KID 2: And how the Japanese air raids attacked, and it was the largest attack on Australia in World War Two.

KID 3: And tonnes of buildings ships and infrastructures got destroyed.

KID 4: I think it's important to learn about history because if we know what the past is like we get a hint of the future.

Memories of WWII

Reporter: Olivia Mason

INTRO: While it was a long time ago there are still plenty of people who remember the war, including the grandparents of some of our BTN reporters. We asked them to share some of their stories to find what it was like being a young person back then. Take a look.

OLIVIA: Hi, grandma and grandpa. So, where were you during World War Two?

OLIVIA'S GRANDMA: I was born during an air raid under the stairs at night. I can't remember anything about that of course.

OLIVIA'S GRANDPA: I was born actually two weeks before the war. My first memory was being up on the on the cliff and booming out to sea. It was two naval ships having a battle.

CALE: So, Pa. How old were you when the Second World War started?

CALE'S PA: When it started I was just six and a half years old. Yeah. And I can remember coming home from church one day and my sister sitting in the chair with tears in her eyes because it's just been announced by the Prime Minister that Australia was at war with Germany.

CHARLOTTE: So, Nana you obviously had a very different childhood to what I had growing up, you were in England at the time of World War Two, where exactly in England were you?

CHARLOTTE'S NANA: Well, I was in a city called Kingston upon Hull, and it was highly vulnerable to bombing from Germany. I got a notice through the desk books to say that all children had to evacuate with the school the next day. My memory of that is getting on to double decker buses and my mother standing in the street with the tears flowing down her cheeks.

OLIVIA: Are these some of the letters from your dad?

OLIVIA'S GRANDMA: Yes they are. Every time he wrote to mum, he'd write a letter to me as well. And there was always a picture. This is one of the family. That's mum and dad and my half sister. He was a supply truck driver and this one is when he was working on his truck, they're all all sort of what was happening to him at the time.

CALE'S PA: I was a boy and I was growing up. I wanted to be in the army, but I guess it became a bit more real to me when I heard of my uncle one of my uncle's nearly being taken prisoner of war. And I guess that really sank home to me that, oh, this is real stuff. I had some friends who lost a son during the war and to watch their mother. Well you can see it still affects me.

OLIVIA'S GRANDMA: Just a time of sadness and it was a horrible, horrible time really.

CALE'S PA: On August the 15th 1945 was the big celebration and people started to shout and suddenly we realised that peace had been declared. There were just crowds and crowds of people and they were hugging and shouting.

CHARLOTTE'S GRANDMA: It was the most marvellous day. You can't, you can't express the joy and the feeling and the camaraderie that you got.

Quiz

In 1942, the Australian government brought in rationing. What is rationing? Is it when the government controls how much of certain things you can buy? Is it when people are forced to join the military? Or is it



when people are forced to work in certain jobs? It's when the government controls what you buy to make sure essential items don't run out. During the war, the government rationed clothes and some types of food.

What was used to warn people if there was an aerial attack? Was it flashing lights, a message on loudspeaker or a siren? It was a siren. School kids used to practise what to do if the sirens went off.

The World After WWII

Reporter: Olivia Mason

INTRO: On the 15th of August 1945 after six long years of war Japan surrendered and the Second World War was finally over. As you can imagine, there were some huge celebrations. But the effects of the war were felt for a long time after that. Liv can tell you more.

In New York, London, Paris and Sydney people spilled into the streets. They cried and kissed and danced. This was VP day, short for Victory in the Pacific. It was when Japan surrendered to the Allies and six years of war finally came to an end. But World War Two left behind a world completely changed. Up to 85 million people or about 3 percent of the entire population, most of them civilians, were dead. Many more were injured. People lost their homes and family members. Around two thirds of Europe's Jewish population were murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust. In the years that followed the war, many Nazis were put to trial and punished for the war crimes they committed.

The war had a huge effect on world politics. It left European countries that were once the richest and most powerful in the world defeated or weak and territories in Asia and Africa that were ruled by European countries began to push for independence.

Meanwhile new superpowers were emerging. By the end of the war the US and the communist Soviet Union, or USSR, had the world's biggest armies and while they were allies in the war, after the war they became rivals. The tension between communist and democratic powers was known as the Cold War and it had a huge effect on the world. Then there was the threat of nuclear weapons. The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki may have sped up the end of the war, but it also sparked a race between the world's superpowers to build more and bigger weapons.

Meanwhile Australia was growing. Hundreds of thousands of people from European countries that'd been hit hard by the war were invited to start a new life here. Like the US, Australia had avoided the worst damage and economic consequences of the war, but the government was convinced that the population needed to grow.

NEWSREADER: Without immigration the future of the Australia we know will be both uneasy and bleak. As a nation we shall not survive.

And as well as new migrants there were lots and lots of babies. Here in Australia and all around the world there was a huge rise in births after the Second World War. It was partly because soldiers had returned home but also because, for the first time in decades, people felt confident that they'd be bringing kids up in a world that was safe. And it's why even now we call people born in that era baby boomers.

The Second World War also resulted in this organisation. The United Nations was created in 1945 to try to bring the world together, improve people's standards of living, and most importantly, to avoid another world war. Today, that's still the hope of many. That the world will never again be torn apart by the sort of conflict that we saw 75 years ago.

Closer

Well, that's it for this special episode of BTN. But we'll be back next week with more news. In the meantime, as always, you can stay up to date with BTN Newsbreak every weeknight. And you can head to our website for more stories and specials. Thanks for watching and I'll see you soon.

