

# World War II 1945 Timeline

**February 13-14:** 900 British and American bombers hit Dresden, Germany

- A large population center
- A cultural center
- Using incendiary bombs
- Intending to cause catastrophic firestorms
- 35,000 + people died

**March 19-29:** Firebombing of Tokyo and other Japanese cities

- Using Napalm
- 100,000 deaths

**April 12:** Roosevelt dies. Truman takes over/

**May 7:** Germany surrenders to allies

**May 9:** Germany surrenders to the Soviets

**June 22:** Okinawa conquered – last island on the way to the Japanese homeland. To be used as a jumping off point for the eventual invasion of the Japanese islands.

**July 16:** Atomic bomb successfully tested

**July 17- Aug. 2:** Potsdam meeting (Truman, Churchill, Stalin) and the resulting final ultimatum to the Japanese

- “Unconditional” surrender with only a slight, and hardly definitive, hint at the possibility of retaining the emperor
- Or face “utter destruction”

**July 31:** Japanese reject the Potsdam ultimatum

**Aug. 6:** Hiroshima attack

**Aug. 8:** Soviet Union declares war on Japan

**Aug. 9:** Nagasaki attack (Only 3 days after Hiroshima)

**Aug. 10:** Japan requests “conditional” surrender. Denied.

**Aug. 14:** Japan accepts “unconditional” terms.

**Aug. 30:** Occupation of Japan starts with the emperor left greatly weakened, but in place, despite the “unconditional” terms of the surrender.

**Sept. 2:** Japanese formally surrender to the allies on board the U.S.S. Missouri