

# Finest Hour : How the Allies Fought and won in the WW II

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昭和の前半は戦争の時代であり、特に第二次世界大戦は我が国に甚大な被害をもたらしました。この作品は連合国の視点から、第二次世界大戦の勃発から終結までを詳しく描いたテーマチック作品です。

戦争の背景や各国の動向、戦局の変化などを多角的に捉え、世界戦争における昭和の戦争も取り上げています。希少なマテリアルや貴重な資料も活用し、当時の状況を臨場感もってお伝えします。

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## Finest Hour

How the Allies fought and won in the WWII

### The Scope of the Exhibit

Was the Allied victory in WWII an inevitable triumph of good over evil? No, the Axis powers were triumphant in every world theater in early 1942. What caused the reversal - the Allies turned their economic strength into effective fighting power and turned the moral energies of their people into an effective will to win. This exhibit, consisting of 4 chapters, shows how the Allies fought and won in the WWII. It was the process of making crisis to finest hour in Churchill's words. The first two chapters describes the cause of forming the Allies and their crisis in the early time. The last two chapters covers Allied reversal in the war and their road to victory. This exhibit is also unique in that it provides a comprehensive overview of WWII without being biased towards Europe or the Asia-Pacific.

### The Plan

0. Title and Plan	1
<b>PART I</b>	
<b>The Allies were formed ...</b>	
1. ...by the rise of fascism in Europe...	2 - 8
2. ...but were defeated by German Blitzkrieg.	9 - 16
<b>PART II</b>	
<b>The U.S. joined the Allies ...</b>	
3. ...against Japan's expansion in the Asia-Pacific...	17 - 24
4. ...but went on the defensive at the beginning of the war.	25 - 32
<b>PART III</b>	
<b>The Allies got out of harm's way ...</b>	
5. ...by securing sea lanes, bombing, and mass production...	33 - 40
6. ...and Their reconquest of Europe sealed Hitler's fate.	41 - 48
<b>PART IV</b>	
<b>The Allies on the road to victory ...</b>	
7. ...defeated Germany and broke Japan's logistics ...	49 - 56
8. ...then the war was ended with Japanese surrender.	57 - 64
Total number of pages (A3 format)	64

### References

"The Second World War" - Winston Churchill, 1967  
"The War Plan ORANGE" - Edward Miller, 1991  
"Why the Allies Won" - Richard Overy, 1995  
"Extracts from Wartime Diary 1939-1945" - Christine Earle (Thematic Exhibit)

### Note

Thematic text in normal font.  
Philatelic text in gray italics and smaller font.  
**Bold font indicates connection between material and thematic text.**  
Orange underline indicates rarity of material.

1968 Yemen,  
a hand drawn  
artwork of  
Churchill, Allied  
Leader ▶



4. ...but went on the defensive at the beginning of the war.

**4.1 The Pearl Harbor Attack - The Americans united instead of losing their fighting spirit**

On the morning of December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service **attacked the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.**



Japanese military aircraft flying over the Pearl Harbor. Japanese picture postcard issued by the ministry of communications ▶



USS Pennsylvania, one of the damaged battleship. Her postmark on the day of the Pearl Harbor Attack.



**19 U.S. ships were damaged or sunk, 188 U.S. aircraft were destroyed, and 2403 Americans were killed.**

Japan intended the attack as a preventive action to keep the U.S. Pacific Fleet from interfering with its planned military actions in Southeast Asia against overseas territories of the Allies.



Issued stamp



1995 Penrhyn, 50th anniversary of the end of WWII, Hand drawn artwork by G.L.Vasarhelyi



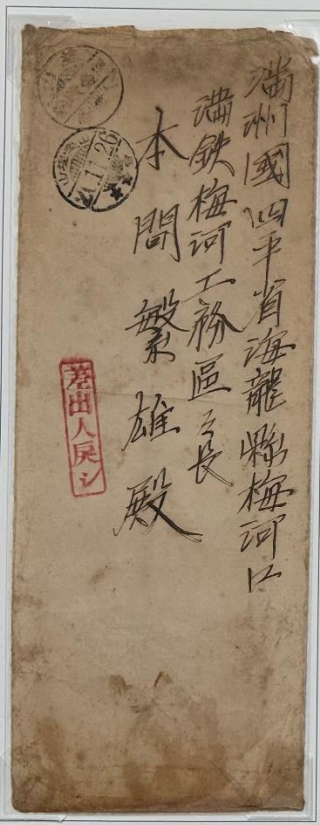
Returned to sender cover because of the outbreak of the war, sent from Yokohama to California dated 2 Feb. 1942. Hand endorsed "Return to sender, Postal route blocked".

8. ... then the war was ended with Japanese surrender.

**8.6 Russia Declared War on Japan - Final stage of the war**

Russia agreed with U.S. to enter the Pacific conflict 90 days after the end of the European war and did so exactly on schedule on 9 August by invading Manchuria.

Russia also invaded South Sakhalin (11-25 August) and the Kuril Islands (18 August to 1 September), and...



1945 Japan, returned to sender cover by the Russian Invasion, sent from Yamanashi, Japan to Manchukuo. 10 Sen postage for domestic letter paid.



Manchukuo 1945, Unissued stamps by Russian invasion.

One million-strong Russian force, transferred from Europe, attacked Japanese forces and occupied from Manchuria to north Korea.

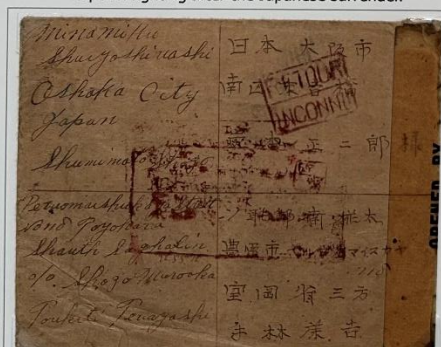


Manchukuo stamp → Overprint "China"



The victory monument of South Sakhalin

...kept on fighting after the Japanese surrender.



1946 Russia, Cover sent from the remained Japanese in South Sakhalin to Japan, early usage of re-opening of communications between Japan and Russia.

Japanese POWs were sent to Siberia and held after the war.



A postcard sent from Japanese POW in Siberia to Saga, Japan, dated 4 Dec. 1946.