World War II: 70 Years On

On May 8, 1945, the Allied countries of World War II formally accepted Germany's unconditional surrender of its military. Victory in Europe (V-E) Day marked the end of World War II in Europe. August 14, 1945, Victory Over Japan (V-J) Day marked the day Japan unconditionally surrendered to the Allies, effectively ending World War II.

Living U.S. World War II Veterans

28% of all males 18 and over in 1950 were WWII veterans

Active Duty Military Strength Totals 1940–2011

Women in World War II
Total: 342,000
Died: 217

Women's Army Corps (WAC)
Navy’s Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES)
Army Nurse Corps
Marine Corps Women’s Reserve
Coast Guard Women’s Reserves (SPARS)
Navy Nurse Corps
Women’s Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)

Women’s Army Corps (WAC) 150,000
Navy’s Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES) 88,000
Army Nurse Corps 59,000
Marine Corps Women’s Reserve 20,000
Coast Guard Women’s Reserves (SPARS) 13,000
Navy Nurse Corps 11,000
Women’s Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) 1,000

United States Census Bureau

Data Sources:
U.S. Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2003 (Table 523, page 348)
American Community Survey, 2010 and 2013
IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, Online Data Analysis System, www.ipums.org