

# RUSSIAN MIND

LA PENSEE RUSSE

№133/05 (5004)  
May 2021

Russkaya Mysl  
Russian/English

Founded in 1880  
[www.RussianMind.com](http://www.RussianMind.com)



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Основана в 1830 году  
при участии А. С. Пушкина  
Издание возобновлено  
в 1929 году при поддержке  
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EDITOR'S LETTER

## MAY HOLIDAY



During my childhood there was a common Soviet expression: “May holidays”. This meant May 1, International Workers Day. The day was a day off, but with a “voluntarily forced” demonstration. Another “May holiday” included May 9 – a favourite holiday for all of us, boys. Due to the military parade, of course. We loved watching how military equipment went noisily, and we realised with awe that the “uncles” with orders on their jackets fought, that they were the same guys in caps that we saw in war films, but as matured survivors.

This year we have another May holiday – Easter! Orthodox people will

start celebrating Christ on May 2. This does not happen often. Easter usually happens in April.

The month of May is always a joy. April is usually pointless. How to dress, for example? It seems warm today, but tomorrow may be so cold, God forbid. But May is all about the sun, brightness, blossom, fragrances. Such a grace!

Although this year, because of the damned COVID, we will probably not be allowed to lie on the grass in the park or sit out on the sunny terrace with a glass of chilled white wine.

So I do not even know should I be happy or, on the contrary, sad. After all, we are now almost like prisoners who look at the blue sky sitting behind bars.

Although the freedom, as the classics say, is an internal state.

That is why, happy May holidays to you, dear readers!

Victor Loupan

Russian Mind  
№133/05(5004),  
MAY 2021

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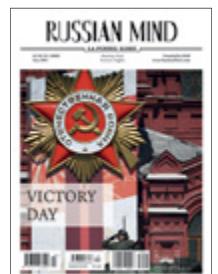
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# HIGHLIGHTS

## GREAT GREATNESS

*The Soviet soldiers defeated the metaphysical evil underlying German fascism*

VICTOR LOUPAN,  
Head of the Editorial Board

Every year I write an article about the great victory for the May issue of the magazine “Russian Mind”. Although we all seem to know everything about it. The Ninth of May, the red banner above the Reichstag, the Victory Parade on the Red Square and everything connected with it. But we often overlook one simple fact. A great victory is preceded by a great war. With the big difference that a great victory is a great joy, but a great war is a terrible grief! It is so terrible, that there are simply no words in the human language to describe the indescribable essence of it.

The war, the great victory in which we almost religiously celebrate on May 9, began 80 years ago, on June 22, 1941. Today there is a debate: was it unexpected and treacherous or quite expected? But one thing is absolutely clear – the Soviet people, the ordinary citizens of the USSR did not expect it.

On the night between June 21 and 22, graduation parties were traditionally held at all Soviet schools. Dressed high school graduates celebrated, danced, and then – also according to the established tradition – moved somewhere to picturesque settings to meet the sunrise with their classmates. One of the girls graduating on this beautiful Saturday night was my mother. She sat with her friends on the banks of the Dniester, watching the sunrise, while Messerschmitts flew over them. This is how the war began for the inhabitants of the western regions of the

USSR, where for the rest citizens its beginning was associated with the powerful voice and clear diction of Yuri Levitan. The text he read was simple and literally one-minute-long:

“Attention! Moscow is speaking! We are transmitting an important announcement from the government. Citizens of the Soviet Union!

Today at four o’clock in the morning, without declaring war, the German armed forces attacked the borders of the Soviet Union. The Great Patriotic War of the Soviet people against the German fascist invaders began. Our cause is just! The enemy will be defeated! Victory will be ours!”

For the Soviet people, Levitan’s voice was the “voice of the Motherland”. His radio reports always began with the same phrase: “From the Soviet Information Bureau!” It is interesting to note here, that despite the complete informational secrecy during Stalin’s times, Levitan’s reports in the beginning of the war did not hide the defeat and retreat of the Red Army at all the fronts.

And this is what the Soviet people heard from Yuri Levitan on May 8, 1945: “Order of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief for the Red Army and the Navy.

On May 8, 1945, in Berlin, representatives of the German command have signed the German Instrument



of Surrender. The Great Patriotic War, which the Soviet people waged against the German fascist invaders, is victoriously over. Germany has been completely defeated.

Comrades, Red Army soldiers, Red Navy sailors, sergeants, foremen, army and navy officers, generals, admirals and marshals! I congratulate you on the victorious end of the Great Patriotic War!

In commemoration of the complete victory over Germany, today, on May 9, on Victory Day, at 22:00 the capital of our Motherland, Moscow, on behalf of the Motherland, will salute the valiant troops of the Red Army, ships and units of the Navy that have won this brilliant victory.

Eternal glory to the heroes who fell in the battles for the freedom and independence of our Motherland!

Long live the victorious Red Army and the Navy!

Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Marshal of the Soviet Union Joseph Stalin.”

Since we are talking about appeals to the people and the perception of the tragedy of what was happening, by the same people, I cannot miss to recall the famous, albeit belated, Stalin’s first speech after the beginning of the war. Before that, on June 22, only Molotov spoke briefly, clumsily and stumblingly. On July 3, 1941, the “leader of the peoples” started speaking on the radio in the following manner: “Comrades! Citizens! Brothers and sisters! Soldiers of our army and navy! I appeal to you, my friends!” This appeal was so unusually emotional, that millions of radio listeners immediately had tears in their eyes. “What is required in order to eliminate the danger hanging over our Motherland, and what measures must be taken in order to defeat the enemy?”, he asked further. Then he continued: “The war against fascist Germany cannot be considered as an ordinary war. It is not only a war between two armies. At the same time, it is a war of the entire Soviet people against the German fascist troops. The goal of this nationwide Patriotic war against the fascist oppressors is not only to eliminate the danger hanging over our country, but also to help all the European peoples groaning under the yoke of German fascism.”

I do not know who exactly wrote this Stalin’s appeal to the people, but it was written masterfully. It was later replicated as a brochure, which was read again and again by millions of people at the front and in the rear, including those who were in the rear of the enemy. In my opinion, Vladimir Putin valued this speech very correctly: “When the Great Patriotic War began, Stalin – despite all his policy towards the church, which was tough, if not to say cruel, – addressed the people in a completely different way – as “brothers and sisters”. And that made a lot of sense, because such an address is not just words. It was an appeal to the heart, to the soul, to history, to our roots, in order to outline, firstly, the tragedy of the current

events, and secondly, to encourage people, to mobilise them to defend their Motherland.”

It should not be forgotten, that the beginning of the war was preceded by horrible times. The thirties were not only the years of “Stalinist repressions” and other “party purges”, which generally did not concern the majority of ordinary people. Such social phenomena as “collectivisation”, “dispossession”, “decossackisation” and other organisational processes during establishment of the Soviet system in all its specifics were much more massive and terrible. The terrible thirties were preceded by the hungry and cold twenties, and before that there was a horrible Civil War bringing death to up to 10 million people.

We are already accustomed to the idea that the Soviet people idolised Stalin, as evidenced from the general hysteria and the deadly spontaneous crush in the streets of Moscow on the day his death was announced. In fact, the “personality cult” and true love of tens and hundreds of millions of people for Stalin, not only in the USSR, but throughout the world, developed after 1945 as a result of the Great Victory. But by the beginning of the war, millions of Soviet people had no sympathy for either Stalin or the Soviet regime. And therefore, in order to convince the whole people of the sacred essence of country-wide resistance to the barbaric invasion of the German fascist hordes, it was necessary to forget for a while about the Bolshevik rhetoric dividing us into “whites” and “reds”, forget about the monstrous persecution of the church, forget about “public enemies”, about “Zinovievites” and “Trotskyists”, who were recently shot in the basements, with a clear belief that not all of them were killed.

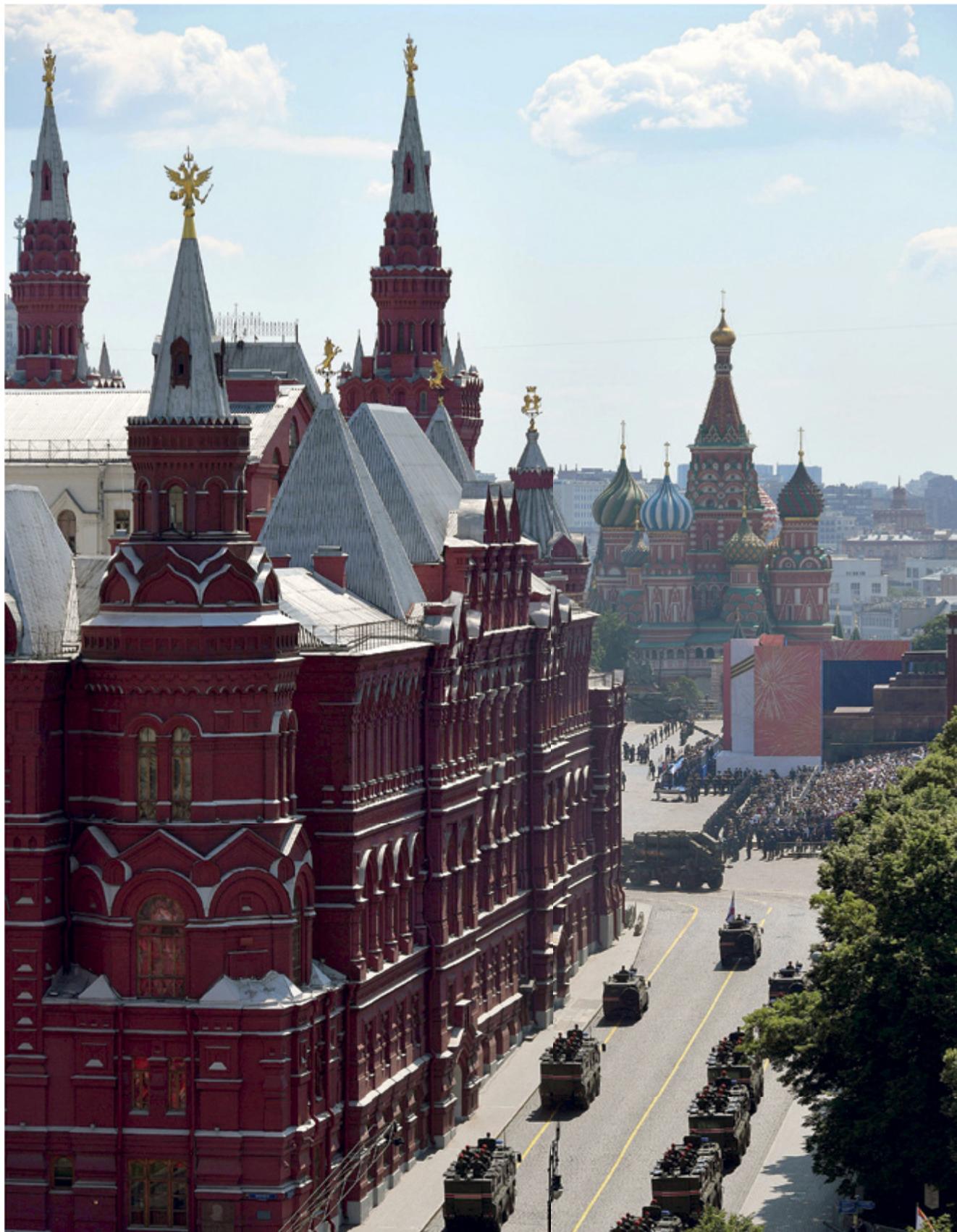
It should not be also forgotten that having started the war almost by the



middle of summer, German troops were already preparing to storm Moscow by the beginning of winter. They believed that the “blitzkrieg” was a success, that soon Soviet Russia would be defeated and enslaved, and that the Aryan Reich would finally take over the entire boundless European space. Millions of Soviet soldiers captured by Germany, who often surrendered without a fight, were for them a confirmation of the racial superiority of the Aryans over the Slavs and Jews, because for them Soviet regime was equal to “Judeo-Bolshevism”. In the minds and souls of the Germans intoxicated by fascism, anti-Communism and anti-Semitism combined into one consistent idea added by the racial classification of the Slavs as “untermensch”, which translation into Russian means “subhuman”. Where the “subhuman” had a foreseen fate: death or slavery.

In the beginning of the war, the Soviet people did not know all of these. But those who knew it, took it for the Pravda-newspaper-style Soviet anti-fascist and anti-capitalist propaganda, or simply could not believe that such a thing was possible.

But the German style of war of extermination quickly convinced our people that this was the case. In the occupied territories, the Germans and their collaborators mercilessly exterminated the Jewish population regardless of their age or gender. Hundreds and thousands of people were driven into ravines and shot



Military parade on the Red Square in Moscow to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945. Photo: RIA Novosti

from machine guns. But the horror was not only racial or ethnic. In the occupied territories, for example, they hunted Komsomol members. Almost all high school students and all students were members of the Komsomol. In small towns, especially in Ukraine and southern Russia, traitors led policemen and SS men to homes and apartments, pointing at the Komsomol members, who were then immediately arrested. Most often they were sent to concentration camps. But when it was impossible, they were simply killed.

In 1942, my mother was present at such a massacre in the village of Aksai near Rostov-on-Don. Recently a ruthless dispossession took place there, and the son of one of the executed esaul decided to avenge his father and became a policeman. So he pointed to a dozen of his former Komsomol classmates, and the Germans drove them into a small cellar. The residents who evidenced the case thought that it would be like a prison, because there was no prison in their village. But the policemen threw two grenades there. And then they forced the women to clean all this mess. There were practically no men in the village, but if they were, then only disabled and old people. My mother was also a Komsomol member, but she was evacuated, and no one knew her in the village. So, after this terrible scene, my grandmother took her Komsomol member card and threw it into the oven. Led by fear for her one and only surviving daughter.

The great German writer Ernst Jünger described in his famous diary how he lodged with his squad in an abandoned Soviet mental hospital located in a garden surrounded by a high fence, which housed several dozens mentally ill patients. Both local people and even good-natured German soldiers (from the elderly people) fed the poor fellows. But suddenly an SS medical detachment arrived at the hospital with a load of Aryan blood delivered for trans-

fusion to the bloodless wounded. The SS men instantly shot the madmen as unnecessary human trash. And Jünger regarded it as an example of the prevalence of technology over morality.

The cult of technology was one of the ideological pillars of fascist modernism. The great German philosopher Martin Heidegger devoted one of his fundamental works, “The Question Concerning Technology”, to this topic. For him, technology is not just a method, but an area of getting out of secrecy, realising the truth. Proceeding from this, the unbearable episode briefly described by Jünger reveals the true and unbearable essence of German fascism.

Despite Communism as a reality, despite its extreme manifestation in the form of Stalinism, on May 9, 1945, Russia won the Greatest Victory in its entire history. Because there was something apocalyptic in the Great Patriotic War. Not in World War II, but in the Great Patriotic War. Because there was practically no war as such in Europe. France, who was the major and most powerful enemy of Germany in Western Europe, was defeated in a couple of weeks. The Poles heroically fought back, but this also did not last long. Even the terrible and apocalyptic genocide of the Jewish people in the Nazi death camps began to manifest itself in full force since 1942, after the defeat of the German troops near Stalingrad. This heroic victory became the beginning of the end for the Third Reich.

The famous Hitler biographer and Pulitzer Prize winner, American historian John Toland wrote how difficult it was for the Nazi ideologists to explain the unthinkable fact that Russian “subhumans” were driving them, “supermen”, with “impossible” technical superiority, to the ingloriously retreating German soldiers. The Soviet people not only inflicted a military defeat on them. The victory over fascism was also moral, as poorly equipped and not

always well-fed Soviet soldiers defeated the metaphysical evil underlying German fascism.

The metaphysics of evil is just as important for our consciousness as the metaphysics of love and death, about which Schopenhauer wrote so profoundly.

Those who today are trying to underestimate the essence and importance of the celebration of the Great Victory, those who are trying to introduce negative notes into the major triumphal march of millions of soldiers who laid down their lives for the Victory, simply do not know what they are doing. Christians have understood long ago that an unbeliever, or in other words, a skeptic, does not understand the word “truth”. Does not understand like Pontius Pilate. For an educated Roman of the time of Christ, the truth is the meaningless delirium of a fanatic who does not understand the subtleties of life.

Here is what the philosopher, theologist and GULAG prisoner Pavel Florensky wrote about it: “What is the truth?” – Pilate asked Truth. He did not receive an answer <...>. The Living Answer stood in front of him, but Pilate did not see Truth as its trueness. Let us imagine that the Lord <...> would answer the Roman Procurator: “I am the Truth”. But even then, again, the questioner would have remained unanswered, because he did not know how to recognise Truth as the truth”.

Those who downplay the fundamental role of Victory Day celebration today, do not really understand the role of truth in the continuous struggle between good and evil. Without understanding the metaphysical essence of evil, they do not understand that their irony and giggling are metaphysical defilement. But you can only dirty something clean and beautiful. Dirt and uncleanness cannot be stained.

“Our cause is just! The enemy will be defeated! Victory will be ours!” There is only one word missing. And this word is – Amen!

TRIBUTE

# THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S CAREER IN THE ARMED FORCES

Prior to marrying Princess Elizabeth, the Duke of Edinburgh has had a distinguished career in the Royal Navy.

Joining the Royal Navy at Dartmouth in 1939, he won the prize for best cadet, then swiftly rising through the ranks to serve as First Lieutenant during the Second World War. However, his link to the Royal Navy started much earlier than that – as early as in his childhood.

## Young Prince Philip: early life

Prince Philip was born in Corfu on 10 June 1921. He was the only son of Prince Andrew of Greece, and his mother was Princess Alice of Battenberg. He therefore held the title 'Prince of Greece and Denmark'.

Prince Philip and his family had to leave Greece when he was only 18 months old. The country had become politically unstable and his uncle, the King of Greece, Constantine I, was forced to abdicate.

Fearing for the family's safety, Prince Philip's uncle, King George V ordered a Royal Navy ship to collect them and the young Prince was carried to safety in a cot made from an orange box.

During the First World War Prince Louis of Battenberg, Prince Philip's grandfather, changed the family's name to Mountbatten. Prince Philip adopted this name when he also became a naturalised British subject and renounced his Royal title in order to marry Princess Elizabeth.

Upon his marriage Prince Phillip was bestowed with the titles Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth and Baron Greenwich.

## The Royal Navy and the Second World War

Prince Philip joined the Royal Navy as a cadet in 1939, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Prince Louis, who was Admiral of the Fleet and First Sea Lord.

After completing his initial training under the auspice of Best Cadet of his entry, Prince Philip spent six months in the Indian Ocean as Midshipman aboard the battleship HMS RAMILLIES in 1940.



Prince Philip was subsequently promoted to sub-lieutenant and appointed to the destroyer HMS WALLACE. In 1942 he became the ship's First Lieutenant at the unusually early age of 21.

In 1952 he was promoted to Commander, but his naval career came to an end on the death of his father-in-law, King George VI.

Aged 17 Prince Philip joined the battleship HMS VALIANT, which fought in the Battle of Cape Matapan. The Prince was in charge of the ship's searchlight control, enabling VALIANT to pinpoint enemy vessels in the dark. For this work, he was mentioned in despatches.

Prince Philip was then appointed First Lieutenant of the W-class destroyer, HMS WHELP, which was present in Tokyo Bay when the Japanese signed the surrender.

In July 1947 the engagement of Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten to Princess Elizabeth was announced. Four months later, on 20 November, they were married in Westminster Abbey.

## Connected to every branch of Service life

Although Prince Philip gave up his active naval career in July



1951, he remained closely connected to, and actively interested in every branch of Service life.

In 1952 he was appointed Admiral of the Sea Cadet Corps, Colonel-in-Chief of the Army Cadet Force and Air Commodore-in-Chief of the Air Training Corps.

The following year His Royal Highness was appointed to the rank of Admiral of the Fleet and appointed Field Marshal and Marshal of the Royal Air Force.

He was also Captain-General of the Royal Marines and Colonel-in-Chief, or Colonel, of a number of British and Commonwealth regiments.

Throughout his public life, His Royal Highness regularly visited these Regiments both at home and on operational duties overseas, showing his support for servicemen and women of all ranks, and their

families. From 1974 until 2015 he was Grand President of the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League.

The Duke of Edinburgh formally opened The Royal British Legion's annual Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey for a number of years. His Royal Highness met veterans from conflicts past and present as well as family members who had lost loved ones in service of their country.

In 2011, to mark his 90th birthday, The Duke of Edinburgh was appointed Lord High Admiral of the Royal Navy by Her Majesty The Queen, and in 2016, in celebration His Royal Highness's 95th birthday, The

Massed Bands of the Royal Marines performed their world-renowned Beating Retreat on London's Horse Guards Parade. The Duke was their Captain General.

## Maritime interests

His Royal Highness had a life-long affection for boats and the sea and a keen interest in maritime history. He was on board Brunel's SS Great Britain (a steamship which Prince Albert had seen launched) when it was returned to Bristol from the Falkland Islands in 1970.

The Duke of Edinburgh held many patronages related to his maritime interests. In 1948 His Royal Highness became Trustee of the National Maritime Museum and remained Patron until his death. He was also an Elder Brother and then Master of the Corporation of Trinity House; President of the Maritime Trust and Patron of the HMS Trincomalee Trust.

His Royal Highness took a close interest in the Cutty Sark in Greenwich throughout his life and was co-founder of the Cutty Sark Preservation Society in 1952. He visited the ship during its restoration following a fire in 2007 and again to mark The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and formally re-open the newly restored ship.

*Images and biography credit: the official information resource channels of the British Royal Family*



## HISTORY

# LIFE IN MOSCOW'S PARKS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Gorky Park never closed during the war, French pilots were treated in Sokolniki Park, and fighters took off from Khodynskoye Polye (Khodynka) airfield. Natural areas made a substantial contribution to the defence of Moscow. This story describes life in the parks in 1941–1945, as captured by the official portal of the Moscow Mayor and Moscow Government.



Gorky Park Photo: Gorky Park Archive

The people of Moscow always liked to relax in local parks, many of which were built in the 1930s. At that time, the local authorities laid out new parks, improved old ones, installed fun rides, and built theatres, stages and houses of culture.

When the Great Patriotic War began, many natural areas were converted into military installations. They shielded the city from enemy air raids, and anti-aircraft guns, training camps and hospitals were deployed among trees and on paths.

For example, Babushkinsky Park accommodated an anti-aircraft battery. The headquarters of the 251st Anti-aircraft Artillery Regiment, a medical unit and facilities for repairing artillery systems, motor vehicles and tractors were located in what is now Mitino Landscape Park. A school for training secret agents was located in Izmailovsky Park which was also home to a mortar regiment. Anti-aircraft guns in Perovsky Park shielded the Perovo railway station.

In the summer of 1942, officers and soldiers of the 40th Order of the Red Banner Yenakiyev-Danube Suvorov Guards Rifle Division gathered in Hermitage garden before they were later redeployed to the front.

## Gorky Park

The city's Park of Culture and Leisure opened in 1928 and was eventually named after writer Alexei "Maxim" Gorky. The park remained open to visitors when the war began and hosted exhibitions of enemy military equipment, as well as grenade-tossing and bayonet-thrusting competitions. Located in a summer house in Neskuchny Garden, the Park's Military Town for Young Pioneers hosted Ready for Labour and Defence, target-shooting and grenade-tossing competitions.

Besides boosting Muscovites' morale with its exhibitions and competitions, Gorky Park boasted a 35-metre parachute tower that served as a fun

ride before the war. In 1941–1945, it acted as an air defence observation post and made it possible to spot enemy aircraft approaching the capital. The sooner they were sighted, the faster anti-aircraft batteries would swing into action along Krymskaya Embankment.

Anti-aircraft batteries were also deployed in the park, one of them in a rose garden with a fountain, which was one of the most beautiful local sites. The rose garden was almost totally destroyed during enemy air strikes. Nazi planes wiped out arches, benches and a majolica fountain. This area was partially rebuilt in the early 1950s.

Gorky Park suffered grievously during the war. In addition to the rose garden, the famous sculpture Girl with an Oar and a cinema, designed by Brazilian architect Rodrigo da Costa, were destroyed. Despite the repeated air strikes, Gorky Park never closed even for a day. Musicians performed pieces by Russian and Soviet composers, and literary

soirees were held each Tuesday. The Park's Green (Zelyony) Theatre hosted public lectures and concerts.

## Vorontsovsky Park

The Moscow defence zone also included Vorontsovsky Park. The second line of the 9th Barrage Balloon Regiment was later deployed here to beef up the capital's air defence.

In April 1943, vegetable gardens appeared at the Vorontsovo Estate, cultivated by employees of the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts.

## Sokolniki Park

Sokolniki Park was open to visitors until October 1941. It hosted training sessions, as well as a track-and-field race on 5–6 October, just before closing. The race involved about 18,000 people, including many orderlies, medical nurses and instructors as well as members of the People's Volunteer Corps. Many park employees joined the Red Army, and some of them received medals, For the Defence of Moscow.

In January 1942, Evacuation Hospital No. 5019 opened at the park's tuberculosis sanatorium and functioned until April 1944. In March 1942, the Nazis were hurled back from Moscow, and the city has faced no major threats since then. Sokolniki Park reopened and started working for the front. First, the decision was made to manufacture wooden ammunition crates in the park. In October 1942, a full-fledged hospital of the Moscow Air Defence Front was established in Sokolniki Park. Its personnel treated 19 pilots of the Normandie-Niemen Fighter Division. General Charles de Gaulle, the future President of France, visited the hospital in December 1944.

In 1943, the first vegetable gardens were established in the park.

A firing range opened between the park's 6th Luchevoiy Prosek

and Maisky Prosek, where soldiers learned to shoot machine guns and other weapons. In 1944, a commando squad consisting of professional athletes was established at the local skiing station.

## Fili Park

Located in western Moscow, Fili Park became part of the capital in 1935. One of the last lines of defence passed here during the Great Patriotic War. When the war began, the rear area of the 1st Rifle Regiment of the Moscow Defence Area's Western Group was located here. It consisted of four "extermination" battalions from Moscow's Sovetsky, Tagansky, Baumansky and Moskvoretsky districts. These battalions were to fight German paratroopers and commandos. Later, the 1st Rifle Regiment became part of the 4th Moscow Rifle Division that fought near Rzhev, on the Kursk Bulge and eventually liberated Ukraine, Poland and Austria.

## Tsaritsyno Park

In the 1930s, the township of Lenino was located in what is now Tsaritsyno Museum-Reserve. During the war, its residents helped defend Moscow, enlisted and worked for the home front.



Tsaritsyno Park Photo: Expedia

Local residents built additional defensive positions. An eight-kilometre-long line of defence linked Tsaritsynskiy Ponds with the Pererva railway station. Firefighting companies consisting of Young Communist League (Komsomol) members also took part in the construction project.

"Company members dug moats near Lenino-Dachnoye and installed anti-tank obstacles on local streets. This was really hard work. For days and nights, we patrolled the district's streets, while lorry convoys, supply trains and collective farm cattle moved inexorably along," a Komsomol member later recalled.

The military placed an anti-aircraft gun in Tsaritsyno Park and repelled Nazi air raids on Moscow. A military transceiver station was located not far from what is now Orekhovo metro station. A military hospital operated in Tsaritsyno until the spring of 1942, treating also local residents wounded during air strikes.

Both fields near Bolshoi Tsaritsynsky Palace became vegetable gardens. Women and children planted potatoes, carrots, cabbages and turnip fodder there.

The Nazis bombed this area almost daily, with the locals hiding in trenches and dugouts. A bread/grain elevator was destroyed during the first air raid. Enemy planes also tried to demolish a bridge across a ravine that served as a route for medium tanks.

# UK LAUNCHES WORLD'S LARGEST OCEAN MONITORING SYSTEM

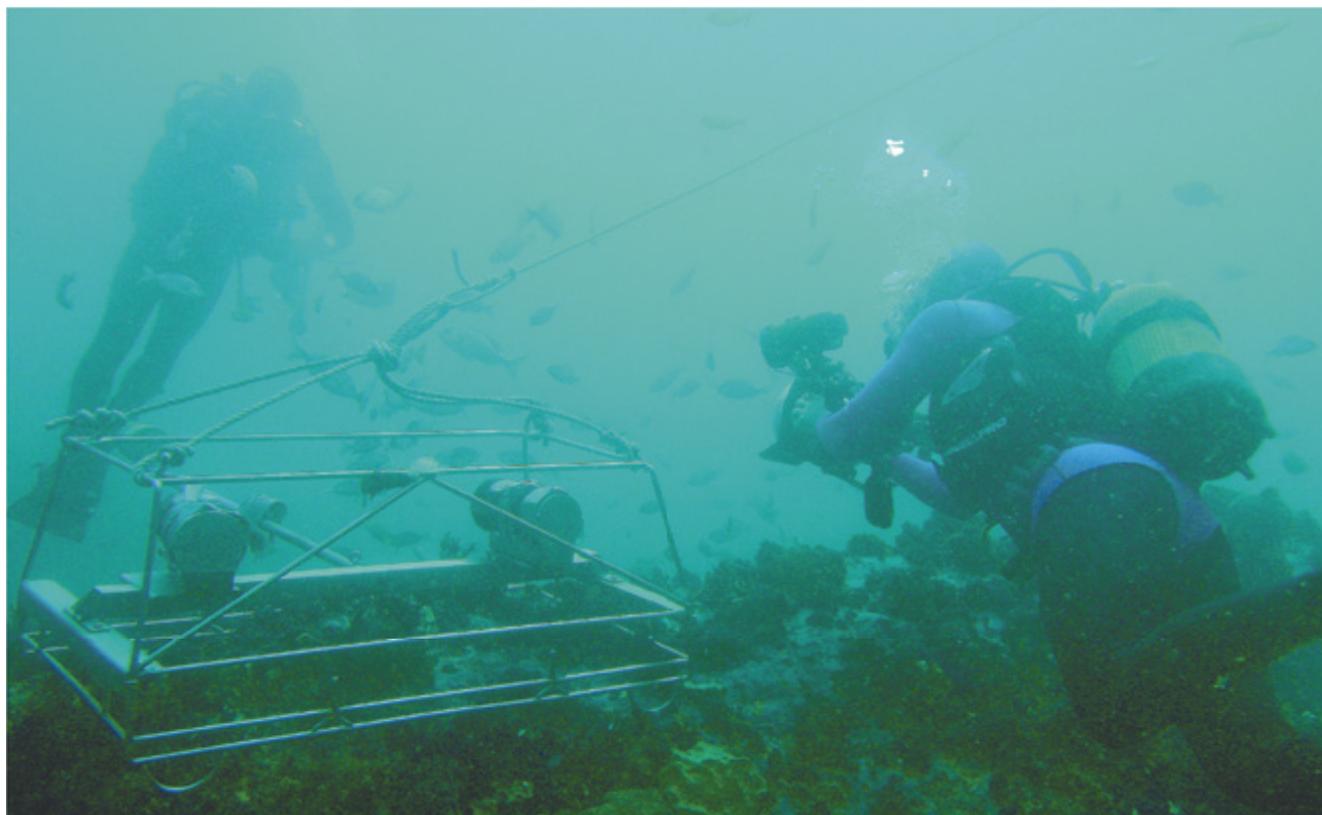


Photo: Baited remote underwater video system

The UK is to become the first country to pioneer a major network of underwater camera rigs, funding the world's largest ocean wildlife monitoring system to help protect life below water.

The network is being set up as part of the UK Government Blue Belt programme – which covers more than 4 million square kilometres of ocean.

The camera systems – known as BRUVS – will allow the UK's Overseas Territories to observe and manage ocean wildlife in their diverse ecosystems. The non-intrusive method of capturing information on species will

be used to document the incredible marine biodiversity in 10 Overseas Territories: Pitcairn, Ascension, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, British Indian Ocean Territory, Cayman Islands, the British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Montserrat and within the British Antarctic Territory.

The rigs are being rolled out at a time when the health of the ocean is declining and will allow scientists to improve their understanding of the marine environment and restore our oceans.

“The marine wildlife living along the coastlines of our Overseas Territories is some of the most spectacular in the world and we must do more to protect

it,” said UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson. “Cutting-edge technology, such as these cameras, will be vital in our crusade against climate change. Our marine experts are world-leaders in protecting our ocean and the myriad of species that live within it.”

UK Minister for the Environment, Lord Goldsmith, added: “Understanding and protecting marine life is essential to maintaining our world's biological diversity. The lack of information on the variety and abundance of different species in large parts of the ocean makes it difficult for countries to protect them effectively. The UK is com-

mitted to tackling the biggest global challenges, including climate change and loss of biodiversity. In addition to nurturing and growing the magnificent Blue Belt – 4 million square kilometres of marine protected areas around UK Overseas territories – we are building a strong network of international science and technology partnerships.”

According to Lord Goldsmith, these UK-funded underwater video cameras will provide a wealth of information on the biodiversity in the seas around the Overseas Territories, including on globally threatened species of shark and migratory fish, like the bluefin tuna.

The 66 stereo-Baited Remote Underwater Video Systems (BRUVS) will be used to film and analyse data on many species, including white marlin, sailfish, silky sharks, black triggerfish, loggerhead turtles, Gould's squid, bottlenose wedgefish and sea snakes.

The 4-year programme – named the Global Ocean Wildlife Analysis Network – is expected to cost £2 million and will provide information on the ocean wildlife found in the vast maritime areas of the Overseas Territories, in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. It will also be used at the British Antarctic Survey Station, Rothera, in the Southern Ocean.

Project partner Blue Abacus, based in Perth, Western Australia, has pioneered the development of cutting-edge carbon fibre BRUVS.

“The world's tunas, sharks and large reef fish continue to decline in numbers and this trend must be reversed. This programme will give decision makers the evidence they need to act decisively in support of their blue economies,” said Co-founder of Blue Abacus and Professor at the University of Western



Photo: Sebastian Pena Lambarri

Australia, Jessica Meeuwig. “We are delighted that the UK Government and Overseas Territories support the drive for increased knowledge as we rebuild our oceans. Our refinements to conventional underwater cameras are what makes possible the rollout of this programme over four ocean basins, the largest single such government-supported initiative globally.”

Blue Abacus will work with the 10 participating Territories to provide a benchmark of scientific understanding of the marine species and habitats within their maritime area, allowing the Territories to take more informed decisions about protecting and managing these diverse ecosystems.

“The Cayman Islands Department of Environment is very excited at the opportunity to participate in the network that will bring the BRUV network into the Caribbean region for the first time. The opportunity to take this technology further offshore will greatly enhance the Cayman Islands' ability to implement meaningful and effective conservation regimes for this data limited, poorly understood, but crucially important ecosystem,” said Timothy Austin, Deputy Director, Research and

Assessment, Cayman Islands Department of Environment.

Diane Baum, Director of Conservation and Fisheries, Ascension Island Government, commented: “Ascension is committed to safeguarding its vast 445,000 square kilometre Marine Protected Area, but we recognise how challenging this will be. The support of the Blue Belt Programme and the opportunity to join this network will help us to meet that challenge. Our previous use of BRUVS has given us an insight into the amazing diversity of our open ocean ecosystems and enabled us to identify hotspots of biodiversity that need special protection. Being part of this initiative will provide Ascension with the information we need to take good local management decisions.”

This initiative builds on significant progress to improve our understanding of the marine environment of the Overseas Territories through the Blue Belt programme, and ensure these diverse ecosystems are protected and managed for future generations. Through the Blue Belt programme, the Overseas Territories have put in place large-scale marine protection measures covering over 4 million square kilometres.

## WORLD OF CHANGE

## THE FUTURE OF WORK

Productivity gains of remote working can be sustainable beyond the pandemic.

A majority of organizations have witnessed strong productivity gains in the last part of 2020 by allowing employees to work remotely; however, employees are being impacted by the feeling of being “always-on”. That’s according to a new report by the Capgemini Research Institute titled, “The future of work: from remote to hybrid.” In order to continue realizing remote working benefits and manage employee expectations, organizations need to find the right operating model for a more balanced hybrid approach. To do this, leaders need to question and rethink the effectiveness of existing structures, and break down organizational silos and barriers between teams cites the report.

Employee productivity grew at 63% of organizations during the third quarter of 2020 thanks to less commuting time, flexible work schedules and the adoption of effective virtual collaboration tools. IT and digital functions (68%) lead the way in productivity, followed by customer service (60%) and sales and marketing (59%). Digitization and the use of technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) has helped organizations to see improved productivity in these areas. Functions like produc-



Photo: Paige Gody

tion/manufacturing, research and development (R&D) /innovation and the supply chain, which involve more on-premise work and a higher proportion of blue-collar workers, represent the lowest percentage of organizations to have reported a productivity increase (as low as 51%).

Organizations project an overall productivity rise of 17% in the next two to three years. Furthermore, 88% have realized real estate cost savings thanks to remote working in the last three to four months, and 92% expect savings in the next two to three years.

Nearly 70% of organizations believe that the productivity gains of remote working are sustainable beyond the pandemic. However, this will highly depend on how quickly organizations learn and reorient themselves – factoring in changes in employee mindset and building individual and organizational resilience.

**Hybrid model**

In the next two to three years, around three in ten organizations expect more than 70% of their employees to work remotely, up from just 10% before Covid-19, and nearly half (48%) of the organizations see their total office space needs reducing by at least 10%. Additionally, around 45%

of employees expect to spend three days or more per week working from remote locations going forward, indicating a fast-rising trend of a hybrid and collaborative workplace.

While employee productivity has gone up recently, employees have expressed concerns about remote

working in the long-term. Some 56% feel apprehensive of the expectations of being ‘always on’, and younger workers need more support to deal with the stress associated with uncer-

tainty as this statistic rises to 60% of employees between the ages of 26–35. These concerns raise questions about whether productivity gains can be sustained in the long-term for a successful hybrid working model.

Capgemini also found that new joiners feel disengaged in a remote set-up and limited support left 54% of new joiners feeling confused and lost during their initial days with their company; 52% weren’t even aware of their organization’s values and benefits. These difficulties extended to existing employees where 38% found it harder to collaborate virtually with new joiners.

**Trust is key for**

The limitations of fully remote working points to a future built on a hybrid model, which strikes a balance between work-from-home and office models, and which aims to differentiate the company and build its employee proposition. Organizations have to find the right balance for a hybrid approach and leaders need to question existing structures, rethink the effectiveness of operating models, and break down organizational silos and barriers between teams. The Capgemini report recommends that organizations:

Rethink the sourcing model to enable “deliver where you are”:

Removing the need for people to be present at a place of work means organizations can expand their talent sourcing boundaries to include a fluid workforce such as freelancers, or independent workers.

Redefine leadership and encourage autonomy, empathy and transparency: Empower employees to make data-driven decisions, use data to manage remote workforce, and enhance remote leadership skills such as empathy, active listening and adaptability.

Reinvent a “trusted” work culture with new collective rituals: Build digital communities to activate purpose and a sense of belonging, and embrace new collective rituals, such as more virtual team-building activities.

Install a robust digital infrastructure to accelerate seamless digital working: IT teams need to pivot quickly towards adopting a digital infrastructure that offers resilience, agility, and scalability at its core. Organizations also need to make targeted investments in their employees and their expertise in using new tools.

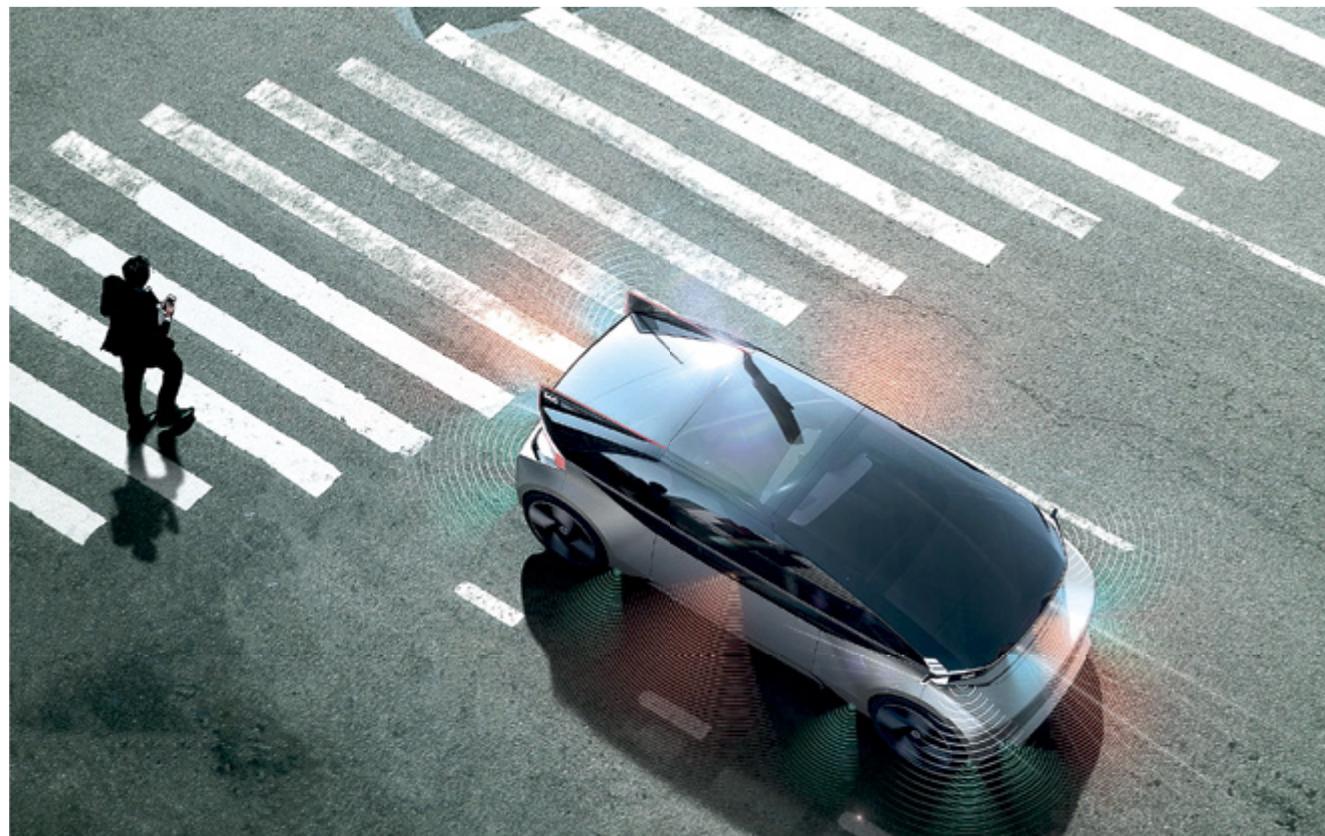
“Performance management systems need to be upgraded to measure productivity and outcome, rather than output and hours logged by employees to sustain productivity gains,” said Claudia Crummenerl, Managing Director, People and Organization at Capgemini Invent. “Our research shows that the impact on the mental health of the workforce in a remote setting can be detrimental. Executives therefore need to actively step in and offer additional support to create an environment where people can openly talk about their concerns and can foster a better work-life balance. Communicating the organization’s values and beliefs in an impactful way and developing a sense of trust for the workforce are critical aspects for striking stronger connections. All this, backed by a suitable digital infrastructure to enable seamless digital working, can drive employee efficiency, and eventually the sustenance of a hybrid working model.”



Photo: Michael Soledad

TECHNOLOGY

# IMAGINING THE FUTURE OF AUTONOMOUS DRIVE



Numerous automotive companies around the world are looking further into the future, considering how autonomous cars will communicate with other road users in a driverless world. One of such companies is Volvo – its research looks beyond current Highway Pilot plans, which aims to have cars drive safely on their own on chosen areas of highway that Volvo has verified as safe. To design this future, however, Volvo’s experts are seeking inspiration from the past.

“We make no secret about the fact that we see autonomous drive as the real long-term solution to avoid car

accidents and to achieve traffic safety,” says Mats Moberg, Senior Vice President of R&D at Volvo Cars. However, as is always the case at Volvo Cars, safety is the first concern.

The Volvo 360c autonomous concept car, unveiled in 2018, provides one possible avenue of future development. It explores the type of safety-focused communication Volvo Cars believes will be essential to cars of the future when it comes to sharing the road with other road users, including other vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. The design for the 360c explores a combination of external sounds, lights, and even subtle move-

ments to communicate the vehicle’s intentions to other road users.

While the Highway Pilot will only be available on highways verified safe, when future autonomous cars eventually enter environments shared with pedestrians, cyclists and other road users, the vehicles will need to navigate all these complexities on their own. Although the communication is intended for highly advanced cars that won’t be realised for years to come, the inspiration behind it is simple and age-old: the human body language.

“What we’re really after is to give the self-driving car a type of body



language that everyone understands,” says Mikael Ljung Aust, Senior Technical Leader for Collision Avoidance Functions at the Volvo Cars Safety Centre.

“If you want to set up a global standard for communication, there are some basic ground rules you need to follow. One, you need to speak a language that everybody understands, otherwise it isn’t global. Two, it needs to be fairly quick. You can’t have any uncertainties in traffic situations.”

Inspired by aspects of such universal human communication, Volvo is investigating sounds which aim to indicate an autonomous car’s intentions to other road users.

“What we really need is three or four key sounds that tell you what the car is going to do,” says Ljung Aust. “One of these sounds is informing the driver or the pedestrians around the car what its intentions are, for example: ‘I do not intend to move.’”

“For this, we use a low frequency sound, one we as humans naturally

associate with something big. It’s a pulse, oscillating very slowly, which indicates the car is standing still.”

This intuitive approach has also inspired the acceleration and deceleration sounds being proposed by the 360c, which consist of a soft ticking that gradually increases and decreases in frequency respectively.

For a sound that warns a pedestrian of an oncoming car, Volvo was inspired by a technology used in submarines. The company is researching a new technology that uses ultrasounds via parametric speakers to “ping” pedestrians and cyclists with a noise only they can hear, similar to a submarine’s sonar.

However, as with most human communication, sound is most effective when accompanied by a synchronized visual display. Volvo Cars thus is looking into the possibilities of replacing the eye-to-eye acknowledgement of driver and other road users using contextual lights on the car.

On the 360c concept car, this is visualised by a light band wrapped

around the car’s sides. The band lights up to alert other road users that they have been “seen” by the car and are thus taken into account by its safety systems. The same light band synchronises with the car’s sounds to safely and clearly communicate its intentions.

“There is an almost behavioural or ancestral reflex in people that make them jump or at least alert themselves if things happen in two channels at the same time,” says Ljung Aust. “Thunder and lightning is an easy example.”

While this technology is in the developmental stages, it’s all part of Volvo Cars’ efforts to create the safest traffic situations possible. By tapping into a combination of movement, sounds and light – non-verbal communications that have been so deeply ingrained in humans for tens of thousands of years – Volvo Cars hopes to make the intentions of autonomous cars to be understood quickly, safely and universally in years to come.

# THE TOMB OF LORD JESUS

Dr. AUGUSTINE SOKOLOVSKI,  
*Doctor of Theology, Priest*

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! In this year of 2021 the Orthodox Church celebrates Easter on May 2. This is one of the latest possible dates for the celebration of Easter throughout the year. As known, Easter is celebrated on the first full moon after the vernal equinox. According to the Julian calendar the date of the equinox is 13 days later and falls on April 4. This Easter also falls in the period between April 4 and May 7.

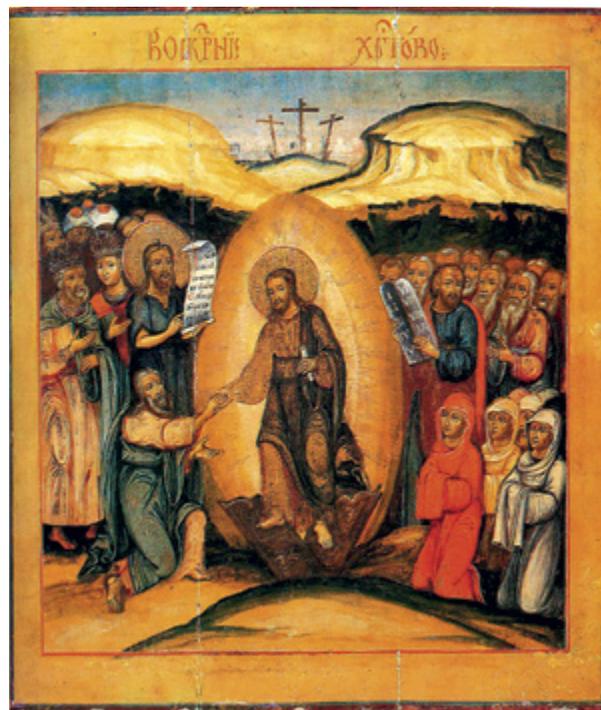
According to the Creed of Nicea and Constantinople (381), Jesus “was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried, and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures”. For Orthodox Christians the celebration of Easter is a cause for reflection about the mysteries of our faith. One of the signs of the presence of the Easter mystery in the Gospel is the tomb of Lord Jesus. “Quickly Peter and the other disciple went to the tomb. They both ran away together; but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and came to the tomb first. He stooped down, saw the veils lying; but he did not enter the tomb” (John 20,3).

The story of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus, as it is described in the Gospel, is preceded by the pilgrimage of the disciples and the women disciples – myrrhbearers – to the tomb which turns out to be empty. “Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb while it was still dark and sees that the stone is taken away from the tomb. She runs to Simon Peter, and another disciple whom Jesus also loved, and says to them, “They have taken the Lord away from the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him” (John 20;2). The empti-

ness of the Lord’s tomb is a very important aspect of the Easter event, a particular topic of the faith of the early apostolic Church, that we absolutely must catch.

Otherwise, we may end up with a misunderstanding so inappropriately used by some contemporary preachers. “The emptiness of the Holy Sepulchre in the Gospel” – say these – represents a kind of prototype and even a legitimation (i.e. justification) of the empty churches in the times of the secularisation we are currently experiencing. The tomb of Jesus is empty but filled. It is filled with sacramental presence. And its emptiness is the place of this real presence, of meaning and life.

However, every tomb and grave site is a place of recognition of the fact that the person we loved is not there



*The Resurrection of the Jesus. XVIII*

anymore. It testifies in a very radical way that the human time and the Exodus which took place are irreversible. The crucial point of the Gospel accounts of the pilgrimages of the disciples and myrrhbearers to the Holy Sepulchre is that – in the perception of the apostolic community – the Savior’s tomb was designated from the beginning as a place of presence. “Simon Peter comes after him, enters the tomb, sees some shrouds lying, and the board that was on his head, not lying with the shrouds, but rolled up in another place. Then came in another disciple who had come before unto the sepulcher, and saw, and believed. For they did not yet know from the Scriptures that he was to be raised from the dead” (John 20:8–9). The Tomb of the Lord Jesus was the place of presence of whom “who suffered and was buried”, as it is said in the Creed.

The disciples, not yet knowing or being certain of the resurrection, come again and again to the Tomb in order to expose themselves to the paschal light that had been shining from the Holy Sepulchre of the Lord Jesus. “Suddenly there was an earthquake. For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. His face shone like lightning and his clothing was as white as

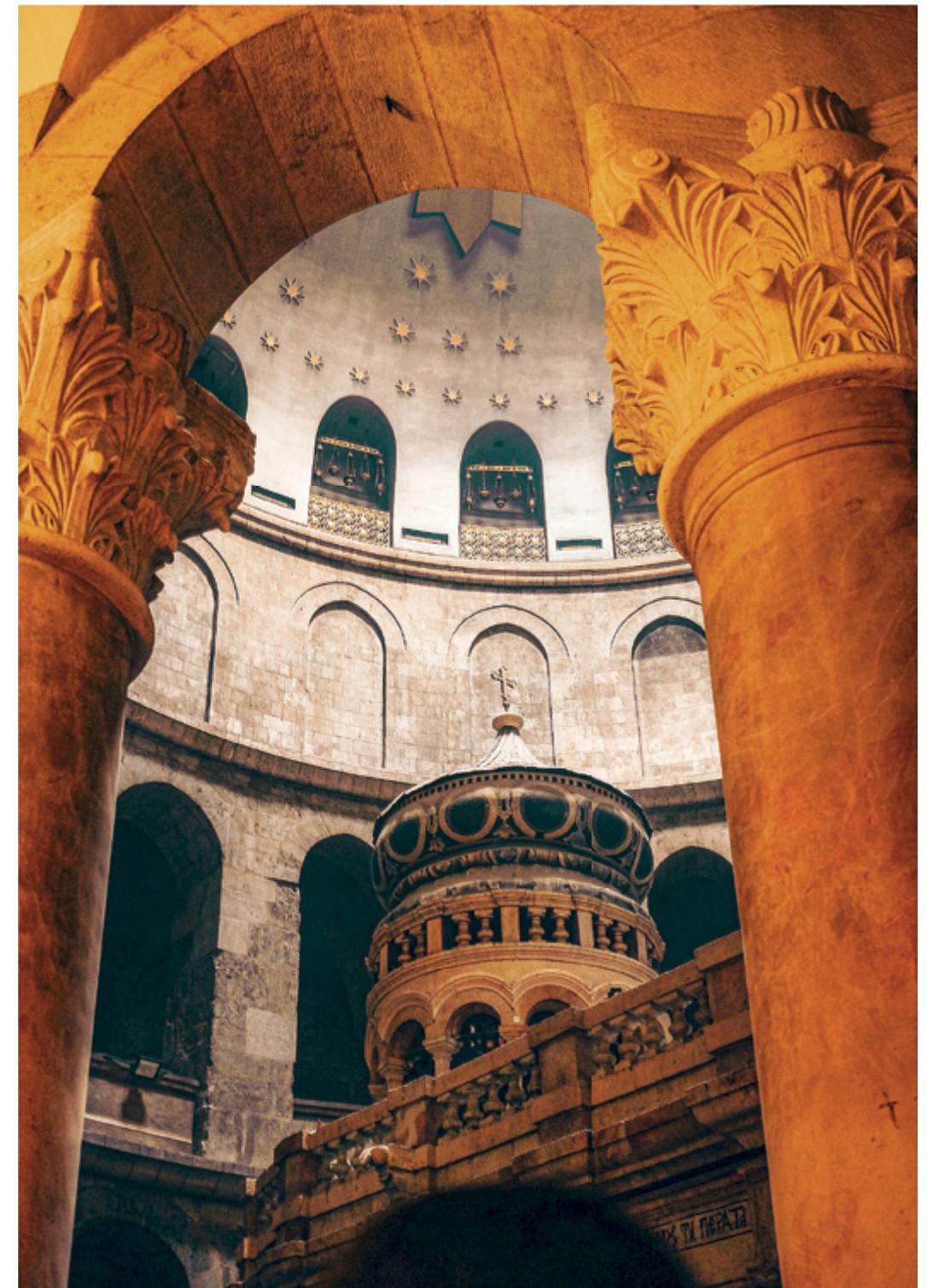
snow” (Mt.28;2–3). The earthquake, the fear of the Roman soldiers, the withdrawal of the stone, the shrouds lying in the place of the body of the Lord became the beginning of the Church.

Between the approach to the Holy Sepulchre and the appearance of the Risen Lord – a new eve of the Resurrection – there was some time. The time that represented the great mystery of the Church as the very place of all human history. In the Holy Sepulchre, together with the angels, were all those who had already experienced the blessing of the Lord. They remained waiting. “The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb. They rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment” (Luke 23;55–56).

All those whom the Lord healed, to whom he did good in his earthly life. The lepers, whom he cleansed; the sinners, whom he forgave; the crippled and paralysed, whom he raised; the dead – and with them their leader Lazarus – whom he raised. The forgotten, the outcasts, all “The Cursed and Killed” – as the title of Victor Astafjev’s (1924–2001) novel reads – were already illuminated by the Gladsome Light of the eve of the

Resurrection. All of them reminded the apostles and women disciples, who were coming and going and again in this sacramental pilgrimage, what they themselves had experienced with Jesus. They testified that

death could not hold Him back. “And many bodies of the saints who had died arose and came out of the tombs after His Resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many” (Matthew 28:53).



*The Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Jerusalem. Photo: Cristina Gottardi*

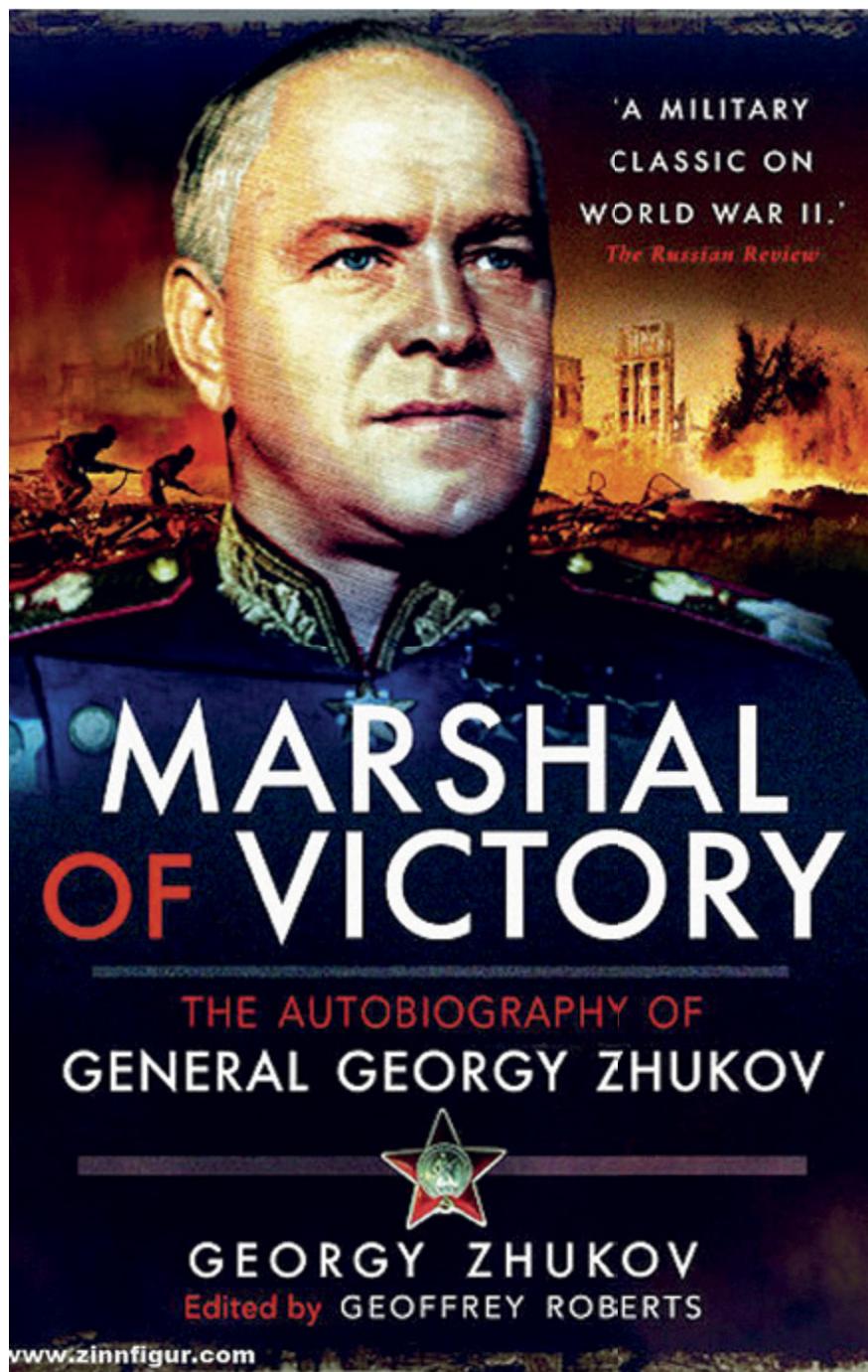
# CELEBRATING THE GREAT VICTORY IN BOOKS

Commemorating the anniversary of the Second World War victory, we have put together a selection of books that cover this significant historical event, which has changed the course of life for millions of people around the world.

**Marshal of Victory:  
The WWII Memoirs of Soviet  
General Georgy Zhukov,  
1941–1945**  
By *Georgy Zhukov*

Marshal of the Soviet Union Georgy Konstantinovich Zhukov remains a national hero in today's Russia as the man who beat Hitler and saved both Russia and Europe from the Nazis. His reputation is that of a Russian patriot and an independent-minded general who remained a key figure in Stalin's high command throughout the Great Patriotic War. Zhukov played a significant role in virtually all the principal battles on the Eastern Front during the Second World War – including Moscow, Leningrad, Stalingrad, Kursk and Berlin. It was Zhukov who formally accepted Germany's unconditional surrender on 9 May 1945.

In his post-war autobiography Zhukov chronicled his brilliant career as he saw it – and wanted it to be seen. His memoirs reveal the why and how of decision-making at the highest level of the Soviet command throughout the war, and his continued loyalty to the Soviet dictator despite being demoted after the war. Zhukov's writing is a fascinating and invaluable source for anyone inter-



ested in the war on the Eastern Front and presents intriguing insights into Zhukov the man as well as Zhukov the military commander.

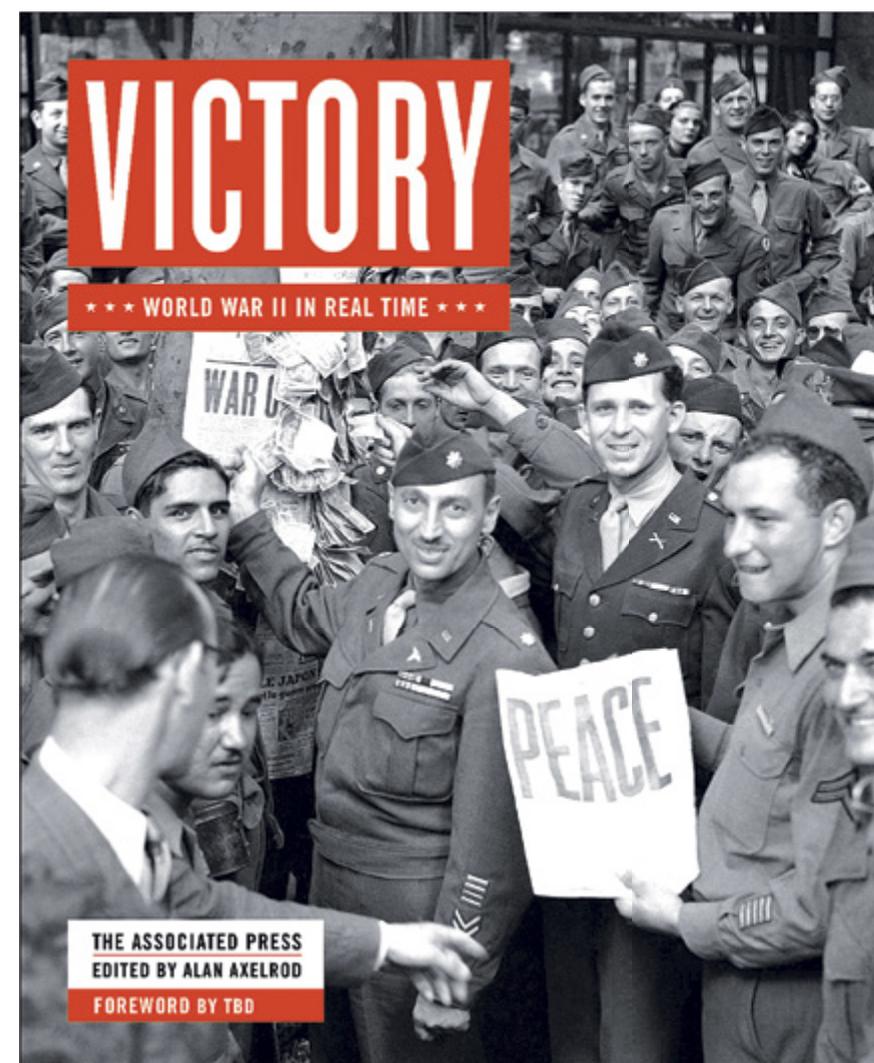
**Victory: World War II in Real Time**  
By *Associated Press, edited by Alan Axelrod*

Published in 2020 as a commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the WWII victory, *Victory* covers the war through “breaking news” stories and photographs from the Associated Press – the main US chronicler of the conflict.

*Victory* commemorates the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII: May 8, 1945, VE Day; August 14, VJ Day;

and September 2, the formal signing of the instrument of surrender. This stunning book covers the war through contemporary Associated Press coverage of 40–45 key events, plus human-interest accounts.

The stories and photographs are presented chronologically so that readers of today can experience the scope of the war in the same way people of that era learned of the events. From Germany's invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, to Japan's ceremonial signing of surrender aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945, each event is vividly brought to life through images and text from the original articles; historian Alan Axelrod provides insightful introductory text for each chapter.

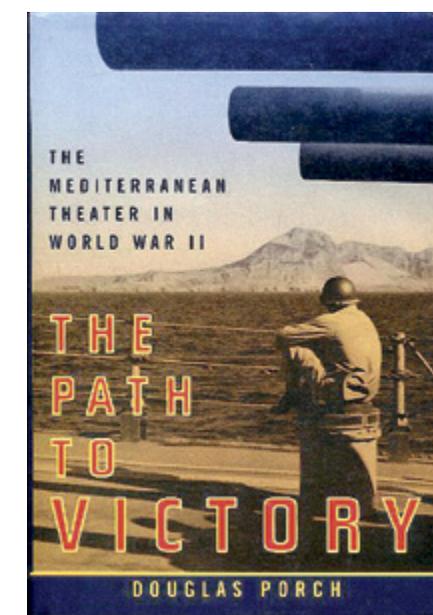


**The Path to Victory:  
The Mediterranean Theater  
in World War II**  
By *Douglas Porch*

The Mediterranean theater in World War II has long been overlooked by historians who believe it was little more than a string of small-scale battles – sideshows that were of minor importance in a war whose outcome was decided in the clashes of mammoth tank armies in northern Europe. But in this ground-breaking new book, one of our finest military historians argues that the Mediterranean was World War II's pivotal theater.

Douglas Porch examines the Mediterranean as an integrated arena, one in which events in Syria and Suez influenced the survival of Gibraltar. Without a Mediterranean alternative, the Western Allies would probably have committed to a premature cross-Channel invasion in 1943 that might well have cost them the war.

Brilliantly argued, with vivid portraits of Churchill, Montgomery, FDR, Rommel, and Mussolini, this original, accessible, and compelling account of a little-known theater emphasizes the importance of the Mediterranean in the ultimate Allied victory in Europe in World War II.





# TILL VICTORY

The Second World War By Those Who Were There



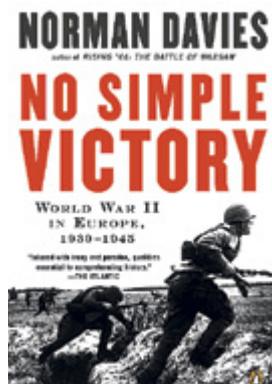
**Till Victory: The Second World War By Those Who Were There**  
By Clément Horvath

From the mountains of Italy to the beaches of Normandy, and from the deserts of North Africa to the ruined cities of Germany, experience the history of the Second World War in Western Europe from 1939–1945 in an entirely different way.

Using unpublished letters and diaries, follow the journeys of some fifty Allied soldiers (American, British, French, Canadian...) as they liberate

the continent from Nazi rule, sometimes at the cost of their own lives. Arranged in chronological order and placed in historical context, their stories and letters are illustrated with many personal photographs, war memorabilia and original uniforms.

Having miraculously escaped wartime censorship, these new firsthand testimonies are transcribed as is, whether they come



from an elite soldier, a combat medic or a USO dancer. These poignant writings, completed in the mud of the European battlefields, reveal the hopes, doubts and fears of these young people sent to hell, making Till Victory first and foremost a book about peace.

**No Simple Victory: World War II in Europe, 1939–1945**  
By Norman Davies

This is one of the world's leading historians re-examines World War II and its outcome.

A clear-eyed reappraisal of World War II that offers new insight by reevaluating well-established facts and pointing out lesser-known ones, No Simple Victory asks readers to reconsider what they know about the war, and how that knowledge might be biased or incorrect. Norman Davies poses simple questions that have unexpected answers: Can you name the five biggest battles of the war? What were the main political ideologies that were contending for supremacy? The answers to these questions will surprise even those who feel that they are experts on the subject.

Davies has established himself as a preminent scholar of World War II. No Simple Victory is an invaluable contribution to twentieth-cen-

tury history and an illuminating portrait of a conflict that continues to provoke debate.

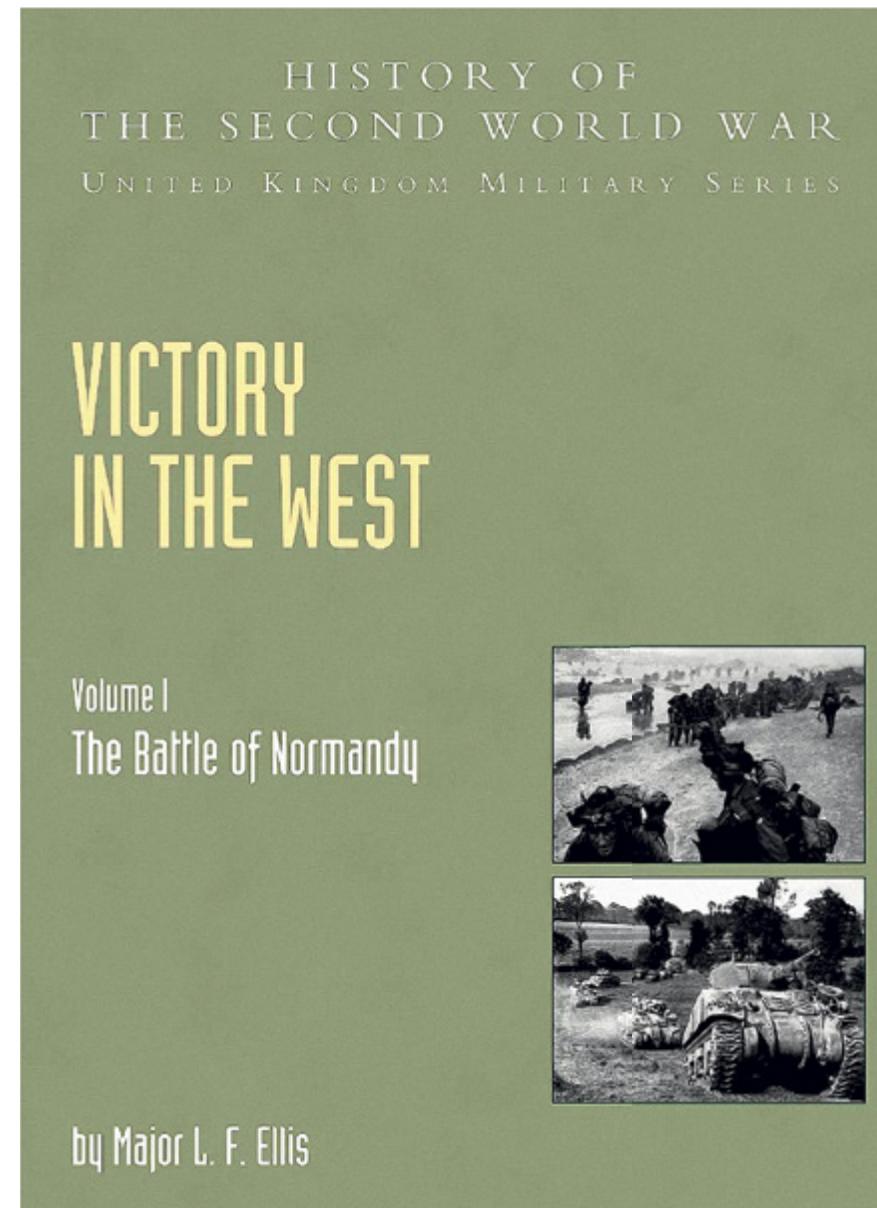
**Victory in The West**  
By Major L. F. Ellis, edited by James Butler

The second of two books in the 18-volume official history of the Second World War describing the 1944–45 campaigns in western Europe. Opening in September 1944, the book describes Montgomery's plan to 'leapfrog' the River Rhine, and Eisenhower's preference for a 'broad front' advance. After the failure of the British attempt to outflank the Germans with the airborne landings at Arnhem, the book describes the slow Allied advance into the Low Countries. Hammered by the relentless bombing raids of the RAF and USAF, Hitler attempted an audacious counter-attack through the snowbound Ardennes in December, which, after initial success, was thrown back in the 'Battle of the Bulge'.

Setting the final fighting in the context of debate and disagreement among the Allies on post-war policy towards Germany, the authors narrate the crossing of the Rhine in March 1945, and the subsequent rapid collapse of a shattered and demoralised Germany. The book concludes with the meeting of the western allies and Russian forces on the Elbe, the grim discovery of the Nazi concentration camps, Hitler's suicide, and the surrender of the German armed forces to Montgomery on Luneburg Heath. There are eleven appendices on the forces engaged, and such subjects as the post-war allied administration of Germany.

**How the War Was Won: Air-Sea Power and Allied Victory in World War II**  
By Phillips O'Brien

World War II is usually seen as a titanic land battle, decided by mass

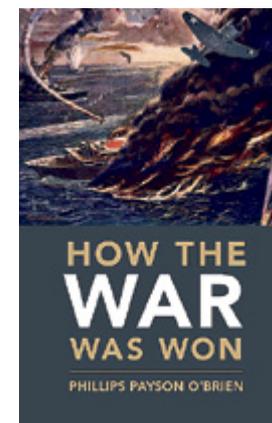


armies, most importantly those on the Eastern Front. Phillips Payson O'Brien shows us the war in a completely different light.

In this compelling new history of the Allied path to victory, he argues that in terms of production, technology and economic power, the war was far more a contest of air and sea than of land supremacy. He shows how the Allies developed a pre-dominance of air and sea power which put

unbearable pressure on Germany and Japan's entire war-fighting machine from Europe and the Mediterranean to the Pacific.

Air and sea power dramatically expanded the area of battle and allowed the Allies to destroy over half of the Axis' equipment before it had even reached the traditional 'battlefield'. Battles such as El Alamein, Stalingrad and Kursk did not win World War II; air and sea power did.



## TRAVEL

# BERLIN: THE CITY THAT BEARS THE MARKS OF WAR



In no other city has the past left as much of a mark as it has in Berlin. If you are making travel plans for when the world opens up again – and want to experience a vibrant city full of history – plan for Berlin.

### *Original historical sites bring history to life*

Although the former wastelands have been redeveloped and the rubble and ruins have disappeared, Berlin's eventful history can still be found all over the cityscape.

If you walk through Berlin with your eyes peeled, you will wonder about the weird damage, craters and small, round holes in the walls and facades time and again. In fact, these are bullet holes from the Second World War.

In many places, such as on the facade of the Natural History Museum, the traces of the war have been deliberately preserved as reminders of the horrors of war. You can also discover bullet holes on the Victory Column, on the arches under the Friedrichstraße S-Bahn station and near Alexanderplatz, on the columns at the Pergamon Museum and the Bode Museum, as well as on the embankments of Museum Island.

### *The ruined tower, a plea for peace*

The traces of the Battle of Berlin are unmissable on the statues of the Gropius Building, on the building of the Stiftung Neue Synagoge Berlin (New Synagogue Berlin Foundation) – and



Victory Column. Photo: Patrick Schiele

also on the tower of the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, probably the most striking memorial in Berlin.

Air raids in 1943 damaged the church so badly that the top of the main spire broke off and the roof collapsed. At the end of the war, the Allies were unwilling to rebuild it, since it had been a symbol of excessive national pride. The ruin stood as a constant reminder to Berliners of the horrors of war. In 1956, plans to completely demolish the church and build a new one led to angry public protests.

As a compromise, the architect Egon Eiermann integrated the ruin in his design for the new church. The present church was completed between 1959 and 1961. The design consists of concrete honeycomb elements with stained glass inlays. Inside the octagonal nave, the stained glass produces a rich blue light and an atmosphere of meditative calm. The memorial hall in the old spire is now a memorial against war and destruction and a symbol of reconciliation. It also contains a crucifix made of nails from the burnt roof timbers of Coventry Cathedral, which was almost completely destroyed by bombs in 1940. The crosses of nails from Coventry, which are also in Dresden, Hiroshima and Volgograd, are a symbol of reconciliation.

You can also see the Stalingrad Madonna here. The charcoal drawing by the military hospital physician Kurt Reuber escaped the besieged city on a final transport plane during the Battle of Stalingrad. In 1983, relatives handed the picture over to the Memorial Church in remembrance of the victims. Another artwork exhibited in the church is the Coventry Cross, which serves as a reminder to maintain peace.

### *Inscriptions of Russian soldiers in the Reichstag*

Behind a protective pane of glass in the Reichstag, you will find the writings and signatures of Russian



Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church. Photo: Gregor Samimi



Inscriptions of Russian soldiers in the Reichstag. Photo: VPC Photo / Alamy Stock Photo

soldiers who, between May 1945 and 1950, immortalised themselves on the walls of the building they had stormed.

The Reichstag is an internationally recognisable symbol of democracy and the current home of the German parliament. Every year, thousands of guests visit the Reichstag – and with good reason: It is not often that you can enjoy such an amazing panorama while, just beneath your feet, the political decisions of tomorrow are being made. Both as an architectural wonder and a historical testimony, the Reichstag has an important role to play in Berlin.

The original building is designed by Paul Wallot and modelled after the Memorial Hall in Philadelphia. Decorative motifs, sculptures and mosaics are contributed by the artist Otto Lessing. The Reichstag is completed in 1894 although it doesn't acquire its iconic dedication to "the German People" until 1916 when the words *Dem Deutschen Volke* are inscribed on its

façade. At the time Kaiser Wilhelm II regards the building as "the pinnacle of bad taste".

### **The surrender in Karlshorst**

On 7 May, Colonel General Alfred Jodl signed the unconditional surrender of the Wehrmacht (German Army) at the Allied headquarters in Reims. On the night of 8–9 May, 1945, Wilhelm Keitel, Chief of the High Command of the Wehrmacht, signed the corresponding



Museum Berlin-Karlshorst. Photo: Museum Berlin-Karlshorst

documents for the Soviet side in Berlin-Karlshorst.

You can still visit the hall in which the Germans surrendered in the former officers' mess of the Wehrmacht pioneer school. From 1945 to 1949, this was the seat of the Soviet military administration in Germany. In 1967, the building became a historical memorial. Numerous original everyday objects, militaria, propaganda posters and field letters now give you an insight into the everyday life of soldiers and civilians on both sides.

### **Memorials and historical sites in Berlin**

The Sachsenhausen concentration camp considers itself an open place of learning. Original sites dating from the time, barracks, cells and the administrative centre as well as several permanent exhibitions make history come alive.

Another place where world history was written in 1945 is Potsdam. Stalin resided in a villa here on Lake Griebnitz during the Potsdam Conference in the summer of 1945. At Cecilienhof Palace, the three main allies discussed the new European order – and the fate of Germany and the future division of the city.



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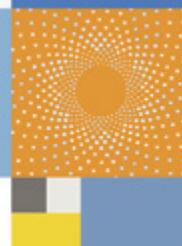


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## EDUCATION

# NEW ACTION GROUP TO BOOST MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION



Photo: Jeswin Thomas

2023, supporting nearly three million children and young people.

“Getting young people back into schools and colleges has been a national priority, not just because of the significant benefits to their education but because of the benefit to their wellbeing as well. Across society the sacrifices we have all had to make to battle to pandemic has had an impact on wellbeing and mental health, and this is especially true for young people who have had to sacrifice so much over the last year,” said Education Secretary Gavin Williamson.

A new coalition of health and education experts in the UK assess the impact of the pandemic on the mental health and wellbeing of children, young people and education staff across England.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson was joined by ministers from across Government, as well as Youth Mental Health Ambassador Dr. Alex George, to discuss how best to respond to the mental health issues of greatest concern including the increase in eating disorders and self-harm among young people, and how to help education staff manage their mental wellbeing.

The coalition agreed to take forward more action across a range of areas, including boosting the support availa-

ble to help children and young people move between schools and year groups, and looking at how schools and colleges can target funding and recovery support to ensure that support reaches pupils who need it the most.

Today’s meeting builds on the Government’s commitment to ensure millions more children and young people have access to specialist support, including significantly expanded mental health services, backed by an additional £79 million.

The number of Mental Health Support Teams – which provide early intervention on mental health and emotional wellbeing issues in schools and colleges – will grow from the 59 set up by last March to around 400 by April

Jointly chaired by the Education Secretary, Minister for Children and Families Vicky Ford and Universities Minister Michelle Donelan, the first meeting of the action group comes as millions of children and young people reunite with friends, classmates and their teachers, returning to the classroom with mental health and wellbeing at the centre of Government plans to enable all pupils to settle back into their daily routines.

“While the pandemic continues to affect so many people in our country, our commitment to improving mental health support for all remains firm, especially through early intervention and specialist care for the young people who need it most,” said Children and Families Minister Vicky Ford.