



Top News Stories from 1945

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World Events

- [Yalta Conference](#) (Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin) plans final defeat of [Germany](#) (Feb).
- [Hitler](#) commits suicide (April 30); [Germany](#) surrenders (May 7); May 8 is declared V-E Day. Background: [World War II](#)
- [Japan](#) signs official surrender on V-J Day (Sept. 2).
- [Potsdam Conference](#) (Truman, Churchill, Stalin) establishes basis of German reconstruction (July–Aug.).
- San Francisco Conference establishes the [United Nations](#) (April–June).
- US drops atomic bombs on [Japanese](#) cities of [Hiroshima](#) (Aug. 6) and [Nagasaki](#) (Aug. 9). Background: [nuclear weapons](#)

World Statistics

Population: 4.378 billion

[population by decade](#)Nobel Peace Prize: [Cordell Hull \(US\)](#)[More World Statistics...](#)

U.S. Events

- [FDR](#) dies (April 12) and [Harry S. Truman](#) becomes president.
- [Manhattan Project](#) tests first atomic bomb in Alamogordo, New Mexico (July 16).
- A [B-25 bomber](#) flies into the [Empire State Building](#), damaging the 78th and 79th floors and killing 13 (July 28).

U.S. Statistics

President: [Franklin D Roosevelt](#)Vice President: [Harry S Truman](#)

Population: 139,928,165

Life expectancy: 65.9 years

Homicide Rate (per 100,000): 5.7

[More U.S. Statistics...](#)

Economics

US GDP (1998 dollars): \$223.2 billion

Federal spending: \$92.71 billion

Federal debt \$260.1 billion

Consumer Price Index: \$18

Unemployment: 1.9%

Cost of a first-class stamp: \$0.03

[More Economics...](#)

Sports

World Series

Detroit d. Chicago Cubs

Stanley Cup

Toronto d. Detroit

Wimbledon

Women:

Not held

Men: Not held (World War II)

Kentucky Derby Champion

Hoop Jr

NCAA Basketball Championship

Oklahoma A&M d. NYU

NCAA Football Champions

Army (9-0-0)

Entertainment

Events

- The [FCC](#) creates the commercial broadcasting spectrum of 13 channels, and receives 130 applications for broadcast licenses.
- [Benjamin Britten's](#) *Peter Grimes* premieres in London, which signals the rebirth of British opera.

Movies

Sports Links

[Pro Football Summary](#)

[Pro Basketball Summary](#)

[Pro Baseball Summary](#)

Entertainment Awards

Pulitzer Prizes

Fiction:

A Bell for Adano, John Hersey

Music: *Appalachian Spring*, Aaron Copland

Drama: *Harvey*, Mary Chase

Academy Award, Best Picture: *Going My Way*
(Paramount)

- *The Lost Weekend, Mildred Pierce, National Velvet, A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, Spellbound*

Music

- [Gene Autry](#), "At Mail Call Today"
- [Bing Crosby](#), "Aren't You Glad You're You?"
- [Judy Garland](#), "This Heart of Mine"
- [King Cole Trio](#), "The King Cole Trio"
- [Glenn Miller](#), "Glenn Miller"
- *Carousel* soundtrack
- [Frank Sinatra](#), "Put Your Dreams Away"

Books

- [W. H. Auden](#), *The Collected Poems*
- [Gwendolyn Brooks](#), *A Street in Bronzeville*
- [F. Scott Fitzgerald](#), *The Crack-Up and Other Uncollected Pieces*
- [John Steinbeck](#), *Cannery Row*
- [Richard Wright](#), *Black Boy*

Science

- ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Calculator), the first all-electronic [computer](#), completed. Background: [Computers and Internet](#)
- First atomic bomb is successfully detonated at Alamogordo, NM. Background: [nuclear weapons](#)
- Grand Rapids, Michigan becomes the first community to [fluoridate](#) its water supply.
- Raymond Libby develops oral [penicillin](#).
- American Cyanamid discovers [folic acid](#), a vitamin abundant in green leafy vegetables, liver, kidney, and yeast. Background: [Health & Nutrition](#)

Death

Nobel Prize for Literature: Gabriela Mistral (Chile)

Miss America: Bess Myerson (NY)

[More Entertainment Awards...](#)

Nobel Prizes in Science

Chemistry: Artturi Ilmari Virtanen (Finland), for research in the field of conservation of fodder

Physics: Wolfgang Pauli (Austria), for work on atomic fissions

Physiology or Medicine: Sir Alexander Fleming, Ernst Boris Chain, and Sir Howard Florey (all UK), for discovery of penicillin

[More Nobel Prizes in 1945...](#)

- [Béla Bartók](#)
- [Ernie Pyle](#)
- [George Patton](#)
- [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#)
- [Theodore Dreiser](#)

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[Year by Year: 1900-2014](#)

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