

Past Tense

*The official Magazine of St Thomas More
History Dept. Where History
Begins & Ends...*

Issue 1 Feb 2010

Adolf Hitler

Adolf Hitler was born on the 20th April, 1889 in Brannau am Inn, Austria. His father was a customs official. Hitler left school at 16 with no qualifications and struggled to make a living as a painter in Vienna. His art was where many of his extreme political and racial ideas originated. In 1913, he moved to Munich and, at the beginning of WWI, he enlisted into the German army. During the four years of WWI, he was awarded medals for his astounding work for the German army.

In 1919, Hitler joined the German Workers' Party (DAP). Germany was suffering with many problems and the DAP blamed the Jews and Bolsheviks. By 1921, he became the leader of the NSDAP or Nazi Party.



In 1923, Hitler attempted an armed uprising in Munich, but fortunately, it was unsuccessful. He was put into prison for 9 months, which was where he dictated his book entitled 'Mein Kampf' which is German for 'My Fight', which stated his political ideas. When he was released from prison, he



commenced the rebuild of the Nazi Party and used new techniques of communication, backed up with violence to get his point across. During the years, the Nazi Party became stronger and in 1932, it became the largest party in the German parliament. In January 1933, Hitler became chancellor of a coalition government. He gradually became more and more powerful and introduced anti-Jewish laws.

Later, he started German militarization and expanded the land he owned and all this led to WWII. But the Germans did not invade alone, they became allies with Italy and later Japan, and this created the axis.

Hitler's invasion of Poland in September 1939 began World War Two. After successful invasions of Denmark, Norway and Western Europe, but after failing to overcome Britain in 1941, Hitler ordered the invasion of the Soviet Union. The Jewish populations of the countries conquered by the Nazis were rounded up and killed. Millions of others that the Nazis thought were not worthy were also killed or worked to death. In December 1941, Hitler declared war on the United States. The war on the eastern front drained Germany's resources and in June 1944, the British and Americans landed in France. With Russian troops approaching the German capital, Hitler committed

suicide in his bunker in Berlin on 30 April 1945.

Article written by Joe Smith 8/3

D-day



D-day is a military term designating the start of a military operation.

D-day took place on the 6th of June 1944.

This should have taken place two days before but it was so foggy that the ships could have crashed.

The invasion took place in Northern part of France called Normandy.

It took months to plan D-day and to ready the troops and equipment for the invasion.

Shortly after midnight three airborne divisions, the U.S. 82nd and 101st and the British 6th, numbering 23,000 men to secure the flanks of the beach. All though the night

The English bombed the coast of France.

The next day over 75,000 British and Canadian troops and another 57,000 U.S. troops

Landed, from 7,000 ships and landing crafts.

The reason for D-day and for the war in Europe can be traced back to the First World War in 1918.

These landing craft were used to carry



the men to the beaches.

They were also used to cover the men from heavy fire.

BATTLE OF HASTINGS 1066

IT ALL STARTED WHEN EDWARD THE CONFESSOR DIED .HAROLD GODWIN, WAS PROMISED THE THRONE. HOWEVER EDWARD PROMISED MANY OTHER PEOPLE ASWELL SO THIS MEANT EVERYBODY HAD A CLAIM.THE PEOPLE THAT CLAIMED WERE

HAROLD WILLIAM AND HARDRADA .THIS CAUSED A RIOT AND THAT'S WHEN IT CAME TO VIOLENCE.THE NORMANS AND THE VIKINGS WERE GOING TO INVADE ENGLAND .FIRST CAME HARDRADA FROM SCANDINAVIA .THIS BATTLE TOOK PLACE AT STAMFORD BRIDGE.THE ENGLISH CAME OUT AS WINNERS BUT LESS THAN HALF THE AMOUNT SURVIVED AND MOST OF THEM WERE SEVERELY INGURED.THEY MARCHED DOWN SOUTH AND WERE CAUGHT BY SURPRISE BY THE NORMANS BUT LUCKILY THEY WERE ON A HILL NAMED SENLAC HILL. THE NORMANS WON AND WILLIAM MARCHED UP NORTH TO BE CROWNED KING ON CHRISTMAS DAY! ALL THIS WAS RECORDED TWO YEARS LATER IN AN ANCIENT SCROLL NAMED THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY.

BY JAMIE SOLOMON 7/3

“VICTORY” FOR GEOGRAPHY TEACHER

On New Year's Day this year I visited the Historic Dockyard in Portsmouth with my family. Portsmouth is the home of the Royal Navy and has 600 years of history. So even as a staunch Geographer I have to admit that this was a fantastic place to visit!

A real highlight was going aboard HMS Victory. This was the

warship which Lord Nelson sailed in the battle of Trafalgar in 1805. HMS Victory was the flagship of the British fleet which led 27 British ships into battle off Cape Trafalgar against a much larger combined French and Spanish fleet.

On our tour we saw the plaque on the quarterdeck where Nelson was shot during the battle. He was taken to the ship's surgeon but he was mortally wounded and died soon after the

battle was won. We learnt that his dying wish was to be taken back to England to be buried there. It was normal for sailors to be buried at sea by placing them into a wooden crate laden with a cannon ball so that it sunk to the bottom of the sea. Instead Nelson was placed in a barrel of neat brandy to preserve his body and he is buried at St Paul's Cathedral where his tomb can still be seen.

It was amazing to look round a boat which could tell so many

stories. 800 men lived, worked and fought on this ship. The quality of life for the sailors would have been very hard and often brutal. Sailors who did not work hard enough were whipped with a cat o' nine tails. This happened on the quarterdeck because on the gun decks there was not enough room for the flogger to swing the cat o' nine tails. This was where the phrase "not enough room to swing a cat" comes from.

It was gruesome to see the tools the ship's surgeon used when he was treating injured sailors. There was no anaesthetic on board so amputations were carried out by giving the sailors huge quantities of rum! There was always plenty of alcohol on board HMS Victory as each sailor had a ration of rum and beer everyday. This was to compensate for the miserable food they were served. This included cold porridge in the mornings, stew for lunch and bread for

tea. The food was served on a square tray which led to phrase "three square meals a day".

Well, this is the end of the story about my visit to HMS Victory. Of course it must be remembered that it was Nelson's **geographical** skills of map work and navigation which brought him victory at the battle of Trafalgar.

Mr Hollingsworth

Propaganda poster of the month



Not all propaganda posters were stirring and emotive, many were produced as a way to cheer people up and make the enemy less frightening.



The Scots-Russian Connection

From the middle ages to the twentieth century a multitude of Scots flocked to Russia, the most immense country history has known. Scots came from every part of Scotland and their field of action was Russia's whole expanse from the Baltic to Alaska, from the Arctic to the Chinese frontiers.

Peter the Great's principal advisor, General Patrick Gordon of Auchleucheries, Aberdeen (1635-1699); Prince Michael Barclay de Tolly, commander-in-chief in the Napoleonic wars, or Michael Lermontov, the poet whose forebears sprang from county Fife. These are just a few names of the Scots who made their prominent mark in Russian and world history.

It was not a one-way street, as many Russians pursued the road to Britain as well, including members of the Romanov dynasty and major figures like Yekaterina Dashkova, the writers Alexander and Ivan Turgenev, Admiral Feodor Lutke, revolutionary Prince Peotr Kropotkin, Chemist Dmitry Mendelejev and philosopher Vladimir Soloviev, to name the few.

But the flow in the opposite direction was by far the mightier. Hundreds of Scottish names became distinguished in Russian History, industrial development and culture. They often stood for families of many generations, veritable clans. Scottish soldiers made a promising start already in the reign of Tsar Ivan the Terrible, and, significantly, Russian's first military reform was entrusted to the supervision of a Scot, Alexander Leslie, who in early 1630s imported thousand of men and arms from the West. In between 1650-1700 alone there were fifteen Russian generals of Scottish provenance, and two of them, George Ogilvie and James Bruce, reached the supreme rank of field marshal. No other contemporary foreign party can match this record. It did not come as a surprise that the principal Russian order of knighthood and the saltire chosen by Peter the Great as the banner for his nascent fleet bear an obvious resemblance to Scottish prototypes. The debt is plainly acknowledged in the original statues of the Russian order of St. Andrew. On the other hand, as ancient legend has it, the Scots originated from 'Greater Scythia', i.e. Southern Russia, so that St. Andrew the Apostle was inherited by both the kingdom of Scotland and the Tsardom Russia.

Scottish entrepreneurs and engineers also had ample chances to shine. Charles Gascoigne and Charles Baird created their own industrial kingdoms in St. Petersburg and beyond. Baird owned a wharf where in 1815 he devised and launched Russian maiden ship, the Elizaveta. In 1856, Murdoch Macpherson founded his own Baltic Works and Shipyard, still running today at the mouth of the Neva.

By Mrs Stephenson

**Try this word search and find
the words.**

P A R L I A M E N T R I G H T
 E K R N E V E L E K M D A N I
 G N I E X K L V M X T L O U W
 G K I N L B B X U Y D A I V C
 B M V V G I G W R A C U O C H
 Z C J H I S G A Z S H D B O E
 B N Y Z U D N I U T A I Z W Z
 S Y E V N N O P O T R U W F R
 B E N F Y V G D E N L E H T I
 S Y O J B T D W Q F E T P S B
 M P M E G I X Z X I S F R M K
 Y L W C Q L U U S L M A L Q P
 F M T C W V E H R E E A Z U W
 H E I E P O I P N Y L P Y H Z
 Z E R U X P M S D S R K H R V

**CHARLES
 DIVINE
 ELEVEN
 KINGS
 LAUD
 MONEY
 PARLIAMENT
 RELIGION
 RIGHT
 SHIP
 THE
 TYRANNY
 YEARS**



By Ankit George, yr8