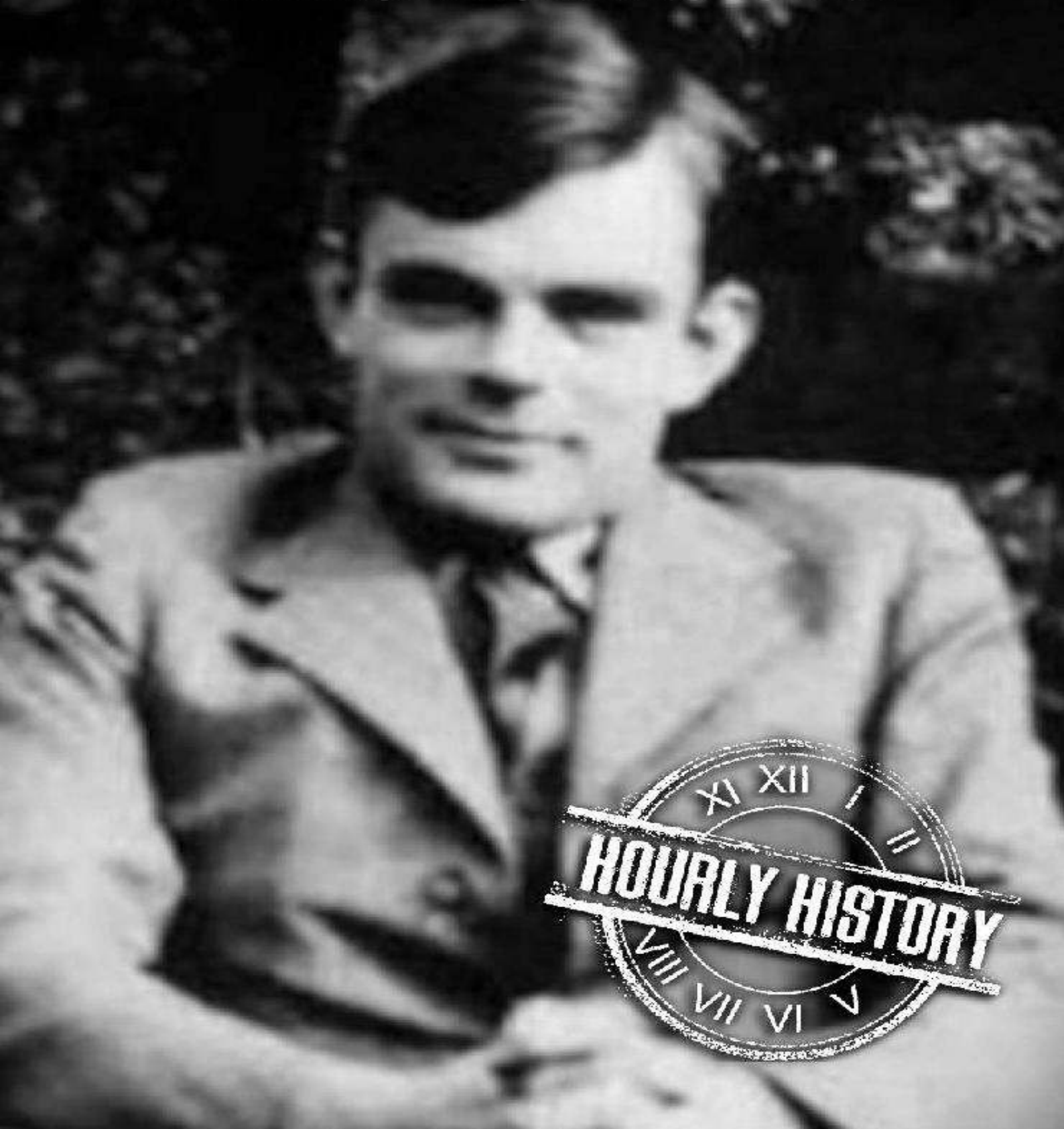


— ALAN —

# TURING

A LIFE FROM BEGINNING TO END



# **ALAN TURING**

*A Life From Beginning to End*

*Series Information: World War 2 Biographies Book 7*

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# Table of Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Childhood and Adolescence](#)

[The Death of His First Love](#)

[Turing Machines](#)

[Breaking the Nazis' Enigma Codes](#)

[Taking the Turing Test](#)

[Conviction and Chemical Castration](#)

[Life Made Unbearable](#)

[The Poison Apple](#)

[The Long-Awaited Apology](#)

[Conclusion](#)

[Your Free eBooks!](#)

# Introduction

Alan Turing was a genius. He was in fact, one of the few clear-cut examples of true genius that history has bestowed upon us. He bestowed on the world several breakthroughs and discoveries which are relevant to this very day. In our modern world of artificial intelligence for example, when you wonder just how smart your smartphone is, you might feel inclined to give it the Turing test.

Alan Turing's fingerprints are everywhere, and yet his own country for quite some time failed to acknowledge it. It wasn't until 2009 that the then prime minister of the United Kingdom, Gordon Brown, issued an official, posthumous apology to Alan Turing for "the appalling way he was treated." To many, this was an admission that was far too long in coming.

Alan Turing is considered one of the fathers of artificial intelligence, and his theories on this matter range from purely mechanical to almost spiritual. As much as Turing was interested in the physicality of machinery, he was also interested in the finer things of the soul. In fact, Turing often thought of the afterlife and what might occur to the spirit once it left the body. He pondered if our physical forms are merely temporary vessels that our spirits inhabit. And while Turing never directly claimed to believe in reincarnation, he was rather fond of proclaiming that the spirit needs a body in order to react with the universe, and as soon as the spirit detaches from its host, it is bound to return to find another form to inhabit once again.

Some say it was the early loss of his dear friend Chris Morcom that led Turing to think so deeply about such things. After all, he always did say that he felt Morcom in one form or another had continued to carry on their work from afar, giving him inspiration right when he needed it most. Many have had such flights of fancy while grieving the loss of loved ones, but Turing was the kind of person who wouldn't merely speculate on such a scenario—he was the type that would try to prove it.

Armed with quantum mechanics and his own theory of the universal machine, Alan Turing was prepared to delve deep into the mysteries of life and what it means to be an intelligent human being —perhaps more than anyone else before him.

As the chronicling of this book demonstrates, Turing's life was by no means easy; there were hardships, trials, and tribulations that would shake him to his core. But no matter how much anyone tried to dampen or darken his spirits, the spark ignited by Alan Turing's short life was still something exceedingly brilliant to behold.