

TIME



The Miracle of Dunkirk

How the darkest hour of World War II became the year's most powerful movie

Plus

"That was the choice: surrender or annihilation"

Director Christopher Nolan on the meaning of his film

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Members of Royal Ulster Rifles wait to evacuate Dunkirk from an improvised pier of lorries at low tide on June 1, 1940

Photograph by March of Time/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images; colorization by Sanna Dullaway for TIME

ON THE COVER: Photograph courtesy of Warner Bros.

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