

THE WAR IN EUROPE

Selected Chronology

(National Archives and Records Administration, 208-AA-161-20.)

- JANUARY 30, 1933** Adolf Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany.
- MARCH 16, 1935** Hitler announces the beginning of German rearmament, a direct violation of the Treaty of Versailles.
- MARCH 7, 1936** Germany remilitarizes the Rhineland.
- MARCH 12–13, 1938** Germany announces the *Anschluss*, or German annexation of Austria.
- SEPTEMBER 30, 1938** British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain secures a promise from Hitler not to seek additional territorial gains in Europe.
- NOVEMBER 9–10, 1938** Thousands of Jewish homes, schools, businesses, and places of worship are vandalized during *Kristallnacht*.
- MAY 22, 1939** Germany signs the “Pact of Steel” with Italy.
- AUGUST 23, 1939** The Nazi-Soviet Pact is signed in Moscow.
- SEPTEMBER 1, 1939** German forces invade Poland.
- NOVEMBER 4, 1939** Congress amends the Neutrality Act to allow sales of arms and matériel on a “cash-and-carry” basis.
- MAY 27, 1940** British troops begin evacuating France at Dunkirk.
- JUNE 22, 1940** France surrenders to German forces.
- JULY 10–SEPTEMBER 15, 1940** The Battle of Britain; the German *Luftwaffe* is ultimately defeated.



(National Archives and Records Administration, 111-SC-196053.)

- SEPTEMBER 2, 1940** The United States and Britain sign a “destroyers for bases” agreement.
- MARCH 11, 1941** President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signs the Lend-Lease Act.
- JUNE 22, 1941** German forces invade the Soviet Union (Operation Barbarossa).
- AUGUST 14, 1941** President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill issue the Atlantic Charter.
- DECEMBER 7, 1941** Japanese planes attack Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Germany and Italy declare war on the United States four days later.
- NOVEMBER 8, 1942** US and British forces invade North Africa (Operation Torch).
- JANUARY 14–24, 1943** Roosevelt and Churchill meet at the Casablanca Conference in Morocco.
- FEBRUARY 2, 1943** The five-month Battle of Stalingrad ends in a German surrender.
- MAY 13, 1943** Axis forces surrender to the Allies in Tunisia, ending the North Africa campaign.
- JULY 9–10, 1943** United States and British forces invade Sicily (Operation Husky).
- SEPTEMBER 9, 1943** American forces land on the Italian mainland at Salerno.
- JANUARY 22, 1944** American forces land at Anzio and Nettuno.
- JUNE 4, 1944** Allied forces enter Rome, the first Axis capital to fall.



- JUNE 6, 1944** Allies launch the D-Day invasion of Normandy, France.
- AUGUST 25, 1944** Paris is liberated.
- DECEMBER 16, 1944–
JANUARY 25, 1945** The Battle of the Bulge is fought.
- FEBRUARY 13–14, 1945** Dresden is destroyed by Allied firebombing.
- APRIL 6, 1945** US troops liberate their first concentration camp at Ohrdruf.
- APRIL 12, 1945** President Roosevelt dies; Harry S. Truman is sworn in as president.
- MAY 7, 1945** All German forces unconditionally surrender to the Allies.
- JULY 17–AUGUST 2, 1945** Churchill, Truman, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin gather for the Potsdam Conference.