

# A YEAR IN REVIEW

1941



## British Army Captures Tobruk

The British Army captured Tobruk on January 22nd, defeating the Italian garrison. Tobruk was a major naval base for the Italians. The capture of this key port city should prove to be very advantageous for the British during their North African campaign.



## Female Psychologists to Form National Committee Promoting Employment Opportunities

On November 13th, thirteen female psychologists met in the apartment of Alice Bryan to plan a national organization of female psychologists. They hope to use the organization to promote the employment of female psychologists during wartime.



## Skinner and Estes Discover the Conditioned Emotional Response

In April, experimental psychologists BF Skinner and William Kayes Estes introduced the conditioned emotional response into the field of psychology. By experimenting with rats, Skinner and Kayes discovered that a negative emotional response (anxiety) can be elicited by a neutral stimulus. Skinner and Estes quantified anxiety levels in rats by measuring food-seeking behavior; they used operant conditioning to train food-deprived rats to seek food by giving them periodic reinforcement of food pellets when they pressed a lever. The two psychologists then designed a clever classical conditioning paradigm to see if they could elicit a state of anxiety in rats. Repeated presentation of a tone (neutral stimulus) paired with an electrical shock (painful stimulus) conditioned the rats to associate the tone with a painful electrical shock. Repeated presentation of a tone paired with an electrical shock

conditioned the rats to associate the neutral tone with pain. As a result, the previously neutral stimulus (a tone) elicited a state of fear and anxiety in the rats. During the playing of the tone, food-seeking behavior decreased drastically because of the elicited state of anxiety; the conditioned emotional response inhibited the operant food-seeking behavior. This breakthrough provides firm evidence that classical conditioning and operant conditioning have a complex interactive relationship that alters behavior. Additionally, Skinner and Estes' experiment measures both conditioned excitation and conditioned inhibition, whereas Ivan Pavlov's original classical conditioning experiment only measured conditioned excitation. This experiment proved that classical conditioning can indeed inhibit behavior, as well as excite it.



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## Psychoanalyst Erich Fromm Publishes *Escape From Freedom*

Sigmund Freud and his psychoanalysis has left a great mark on the field of psychology. He had many pupils, one of them being Erich Fromm. The German American, influenced by psychoanalysis, and the greater societal landscape, published the book *Escape from Freedom*. Throughout the book, Fromm highlights the connection between the human condition and freedom. Fromm makes the assertion that as man continues to strive for freedom from the shackles of obligations. They feel emotional distress from the innate pursuit. He highlights this relationship by bringing up the creation myth of Adam and Eve: ***“The myth identifies the beginning of human history with an act of choice, but it puts all emphasis on the sinfulness of this first act of freedom and the suffering resulting from it.”***

Fromm links this back to the rise of Fascism and Nazism in the Europe. During the Medieval Period, social mobility was nearly impossible. However, as capitalistic dogma began to rise, the individual became the authors of their own fate and the medieval principle of mobility was crushed, giving people the freedom to finally move. It is because of this freedom that Europeans turned a blind eye to Hitler and Mussolini. ***“He adopts entirely the kind of personality offered to him by cultural patterns; and he therefore becomes exactly as all others are and as they expect him to be. The discrepancy between ‘I’ and the world disappears and with it the conscious fear of aloneness and powerlessness.”*** Fromm expresses that Nazism and Fascism have provided an authoritarian and rigid way of life that appealed to the anxieties of the European mass, which has led to the tyrants’ rise into power.



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## Requirement to Wear the Star of David Extended to All Jews Living in German-Occupied Areas



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## Psychologist Elizabeth Duffy Posits that Emotions Are “Imprecise Descriptions of the Human Experience”



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## 10,000 People with Physical/Mental Disabilities Killed in Gas Chambers



## Japan Attacks Pearl Harbour

Throughout the war, America had been adamant on staying away from militarily involving itself, only lending aid through arms and financial support. They sung a similar tune during the Great War. However, the Empire of Japan had other plans in mind for the boys in blue. On the morning of December 7th, 1941, in a desperate attempt to spur the fires of war, The Empire's Navy and Aerial fighters attack American soil at Pearl Harbour. The attack came as a surprise to Americans as they were hoping for peaceful diplomacy with the Axis power. At 7:55am, Japanese planes roared in the skies pelting the Harbour in a hailstorm of bullets, with submarines and bombers bombarding the docked battleships with torpedoes and bombs respectively. Of the known casualties, the USS Arizona, USS Oklahoma, and USS Utah were the battleships destroyed in the surprise attack. As of now, the current total of American casualties is at 2,403. 1,177 of the total were aboard the USS Arizona during the attack, and 68 of the remaining casualties were American civilians. In the aftermath, A Japanese crewmember of a submarine, Kazuo Sakamaki, was taken prisoner after the attack.

Franklin D. Roosevelt lamented the event: ***"Yesterday, December 7, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy – the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan."***

Cecil W. Camp - ***"On the morning of December 7, 1941, I had relieved the watch in the port engine room [of the USS Utah]. I had been on watch about 20 minutes when the first torpedo hit the ship on the port side."***

Joe Morgan - Joe was on Ford Island when the bombs started falling December 7, 1941. He ran into a hangar and found a huge I-beam to shelter himself from the fury of the bullets, bombs and explosions.

Sterling Cale - On the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, Sterling Cale had just finished up a long night of work. He was a pharmacist's mate in the Navy, a self-proclaimed "farm boy from Illinois." He worked at the dispensary, where Sailors got their medicine. Just after signing out, he noticed planes flying over Battleship Row.



## America Enters World War Two

On December 8th, the day after the events of Pearl Harbour, the United States of America declared war on the Empire of Japan. On December 11th, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States, and the USA became fully immersed in WW2. The USA has begun mobilizing troops into Europe and the Pacific ocean.



## Harold Schlosberg Develops a Scale for the Judgment of Facial Expressions

In December, American Psychologist Harold Schlosberg introduced a new and innovative way of assessing the judgment and categorization of facial expressions. Traditionally, when examining how facial expressions are perceived, psychologists examine how people sort facial into certain distinct categories of expressions. Schlosberg's scale has eliminated predefined categories all together, and instead focuses on classifying facial expressions on a continuum.



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## British House of Commons Damaged by Air Raid

On May 10th, the British House of Commons was damaged by an air raid by the German Luftwaffe. The ongoing German bombardment of London has had a devastating effect on the citizens of London, leaving over 375,000 people without a home.

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## Study Shows That Lack of Sleep Leads to Deficits In Motor Skills, Reaction Time, and Memory



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## Germany Invades the Soviet Union

On June 22, Germany launched their invasion of the Soviet Union. The German invasion caught the Soviets by surprise, which allowed the German army to swiftly sweep through Russia during the summer. In the fall, Hitler's army reached the Soviet capital, Moscow. Despite the success of the German invasion so far, the Red Army has fiercely defended their nation's capital, and has not yet allowed for the German capture of Moscow. Hitler's invasion is far from over; the Germans must continue fighting through the harsh Soviet winter if they wish to successfully conquer the Soviet Union.