**Dates.**

**June 1941:**

* On June 22, 1941, Nazi Germany launched Operation Barbarossa, invading the Soviet Union along a massive front of over 2,900 kilometers. The attack was carried out by over 3 million Axis soldiers.
* The Germans advanced rapidly, capturing cities such as Brest, Minsk, and Riga.
* The Soviet Air Force suffered massive losses in the first days, with thousands of aircraft destroyed on the ground.
* Stalin initially refused to believe the reports of invasion, leading to delays in Soviet countermeasures.
* Soviet citizens began mobilizing, and the government called for a "Great Patriotic War" against the invaders.

**July 1941:**

* German forces continued their rapid advance, capturing Smolensk on July 16.
* Soviet forces launched counterattacks but suffered heavy casualties.
* The Germans implemented brutal occupation policies, including mass executions and destruction of villages.
* The Siege of Leningrad began as German and Finnish troops cut off access to the city.
* Soviet partisans started guerrilla warfare in occupied territories.

**August 1941:**

* German forces reached the outskirts of Leningrad, intensifying the siege.
* In Ukraine, the Germans advanced towards Kyiv, preparing for a major battle.
* The Soviets conducted scorched-earth tactics, destroying infrastructure to hinder the enemy.
* The Soviet Union and the United Kingdom jointly occupied Iran to secure oil supplies.

**September 1941:**

* The Battle of Kyiv began, resulting in the encirclement of Soviet forces.
* Leningrad was completely surrounded, marking the official beginning of the 872-day siege.
* The Babi Yar massacre occurred near Kyiv, where Nazi forces executed over 33,000 Jews.
* German forces pushed towards Moscow, initiating the Battle of Smolensk.

**October 1941:**

* Operation Typhoon, the German offensive towards Moscow, was launched.
* Panic spread in Moscow, leading to evacuations and martial law.
* The Red Army suffered heavy defeats, with thousands of troops captured.
* The first snowfall signaled the beginning of harsh winter conditions, slowing the German advance.

**November 1941:**

* Soviet forces launched counterattacks near Moscow to halt German advances.
* German supply lines were stretched thin due to worsening weather conditions.
* The Soviet T-34 tank proved highly effective in muddy and snowy terrain.
* The United States extended its Lend-Lease aid to the Soviet Union.

**December 1941:**

* On December 5-6, the Soviet Red Army launched a major counteroffensive around Moscow.
* German troops, exhausted and unprepared for winter, were forced to retreat.
* Hitler dismissed several generals and assumed direct control of the German army.
* Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, bringing the United States into World War II, indirectly aiding the Soviet Union by shifting German strategic priorities.

**January 1942:**

* Soviet forces continued pushing the Germans back from Moscow.
* The Red Army launched the Rzhev-Vyazma offensive, attempting to encircle German forces.
* The Siege of Leningrad persisted, with severe starvation among civilians.
* The Wannsee Conference was held in Germany, finalizing plans for the Holocaust.

**February 1942:**

* Soviet advances slowed due to logistical challenges.
* The German army began regrouping for future offensives.
* The British and Soviets strengthened their alliance.

**March 1942:**

* Harsh winter conditions continued to affect both sides.
* The Red Army attempted further offensives but lacked sufficient resources.
* The Germans focused on fortifying positions in preparation for the summer campaign.

**April 1942:**

* Hitler ordered preparations for a major summer offensive in the southern sector.
* Soviet factories in the Urals and Siberia ramped up production.
* The Soviets anticipated a renewed German attack but were unsure of its target.

**May 1942:**

* The Second Battle of Kharkov took place, resulting in a major Soviet defeat.
* German forces captured hundreds of thousands of Soviet soldiers.
* Soviet morale suffered as preparations for a renewed Axis offensive continued.

**June 1942:**

* The Germans launched Operation Blue, their summer offensive in the south.
* Axis forces advanced towards Stalingrad and the Caucasus oil fields.
* The Soviet Union faced increasing pressure to resist the offensive.

**July 1942:**

* The Battle of Stalingrad began, becoming a pivotal moment in the war.
* Soviet forces fiercely defended the city, leading to brutal urban warfare.
* The Germans made rapid advances in the Caucasus.

**August 1942:**

* Stalingrad became the focal point of the war, with both sides suffering heavy losses.
* The Germans reached the Volga River but failed to secure complete control.
* The Allies launched the Dieppe Raid, testing German defenses in France.

**September 1942:**

* Fighting in Stalingrad intensified, with street-to-street combat.
* The Soviet Union coordinated its counteroffensive plans.

**October 1942:**

* The Battle of Stalingrad continued with high casualties.
* The British won the Second Battle of El Alamein in North Africa.
* The Germans struggled with supply shortages.

**November 1942:**

* The Soviets launched Operation Uranus, encircling the German 6th Army at Stalingrad.
* Hitler refused to allow a retreat, leading to a prolonged siege.

**December 1942:**

* The Soviets repelled a German relief attempt for Stalingrad.
* The Red Army began launching offensives along the Eastern Front.
* The Siege of Stalingrad entered its final phase.

**January 1943:**

* The Soviet Red Army launched Operation Ring, tightening the noose around the German 6th Army in Stalingrad.
* The German forces in Stalingrad, suffering from starvation and extreme cold, began surrendering in large numbers.
* The Soviet Union conducted further offensives in the Caucasus region, forcing the Germans to retreat.
* The Casablanca Conference took place, where the Allies decided to demand unconditional surrender from Axis powers.
* The Siege of Leningrad continued, with some success in opening supply routes to the starving city.

**February 1943:**

* On February 2, the remaining German troops in Stalingrad surrendered, marking a decisive Soviet victory.
* The Soviets launched further offensives, liberating Kharkov and Kursk, though Kharkov was temporarily recaptured by the Germans in March.
* The Wehrmacht struggled to stabilize its front after the Stalingrad disaster.
* The Soviet victory at Stalingrad significantly boosted morale and shifted momentum in favor of the USSR.

**March 1943:**

* German forces, under Field Marshal Manstein, launched a counteroffensive and temporarily recaptured Kharkov.
* The front stabilized as both sides prepared for upcoming large-scale offensives.
* The Soviet and Allied leadership coordinated strategies for continued pressure on Axis forces.

**April 1943:**

* The Soviets discovered the mass graves of Polish officers in Katyn Forest, executed by the NKVD in 1940, leading to a diplomatic crisis with the Polish government-in-exile.
* Both the Soviet and German sides prepared for a decisive summer campaign.
* Soviet partisan activity increased in occupied territories.

**May 1943:**

* The Germans continued strengthening their positions for a planned summer offensive.
* The Soviets intensified their industrial and military production efforts.
* The Allies discussed future strategies for opening a second front in Europe.

**June 1943:**

* Both the Soviets and Germans made final preparations for the anticipated Battle of Kursk.
* The Soviet Union continued reinforcing its defenses, setting up elaborate fortifications and deep defensive lines.
* German intelligence underestimated Soviet strength in the region.

**July 1943:**

* The Battle of Kursk began on July 5, becoming the largest tank battle in history.
* The Soviets successfully defended against the German offensive in the north and south of the Kursk salient.
* On July 12, the Battle of Prokhorovka, one of the largest tank engagements, took place.
* By mid-July, the Germans called off their offensive, marking a major turning point.
* The Soviets launched a massive counteroffensive, pushing the Germans westward.

**August 1943:**

* The Soviets continued their counteroffensive, liberating major cities such as Orel and Kharkov.
* The Germans began a strategic withdrawal from the Eastern Front, focusing on defensive operations.
* The Red Army advanced westward, gaining momentum.

**September 1943:**

* The Soviet forces crossed the Dnieper River, initiating the Battle of the Dnieper.
* Fierce battles took place as the Soviets aimed to liberate Kyiv and other major cities.
* The Germans struggled to hold defensive positions.

**October 1943:**

* The Soviets intensified their offensive along the Dnieper, capturing several bridgeheads.
* Kyiv was heavily contested as the Soviets prepared for its liberation.
* German forces faced increasing logistical challenges and growing Soviet pressure.

**November 1943:**

* On November 6, the Soviet Army liberated Kyiv after intense fighting.
* The Red Army continued its westward push, liberating more Ukrainian territory.
* The Tehran Conference took place, where Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill coordinated future military efforts, including plans for D-Day.

**December 1943:**

* The Soviet offensive continued, solidifying control over central Ukraine.
* German forces retreated towards more fortified positions in the west.
* The Soviet Union prepared for future offensives aimed at liberating Belarus and advancing into Eastern Europe.

**January 1944:**

* The Leningrad-Novgorod Offensive begins, breaking the nearly 900-day Siege of Leningrad.
* Soviet forces advance in Ukraine, pushing the Germans back.
* The Korsun–Shevchenkovsky Offensive is launched, aiming to encircle German forces.

**February 1944:**

* The Soviet offensive in Ukraine continues, with heavy fighting around Korsun.
* The encirclement of German forces at Korsun-Shevchenkovsky is completed, though some manage to escape.
* The Red Army begins operations to push German forces out of the Baltic states.

**March 1944:**

* Soviet forces liberate Kherson in southern Ukraine.
* The Uman–Botoșani Offensive is launched, forcing Axis troops to retreat from western Ukraine and Moldova.
* Continued Soviet advances threaten German positions in Romania.

**April 1944:**

* The Crimean Offensive begins, aimed at liberating the Crimean Peninsula.
* Odessa is liberated by Soviet troops on April 10.
* The Red Army advances further into Romania and Poland.

**May 1944:**

* Sevastopol is liberated on May 9, marking the complete recapture of Crimea.
* Soviet forces continue preparing for a massive summer offensive.
* The Allies finalize plans for D-Day in the west, increasing pressure on Germany.

**June 1944:**

* Operation Bagration begins on June 22, coinciding with the third anniversary of Operation Barbarossa.
* Soviet forces launch a massive assault against Army Group Center, leading to one of Germany’s worst defeats.
* The Red Army recaptures Minsk by the end of the month.

**July 1944:**

* Soviet forces liberate western Belarus and eastern Poland.
* The Lvov–Sandomierz Offensive is launched, pushing deep into Poland.
* The Warsaw Uprising begins, as the Polish resistance fights against German occupation.
* Majdanek concentration camp is liberated by Soviet troops, revealing the extent of Nazi atrocities.

**August 1944:**

* The Soviet Union supports an anti-German coup in Romania, leading to Romania switching sides in the war.
* The Red Army enters Bucharest.
* The Warsaw Uprising continues but struggles without direct Soviet assistance.

**September 1944:**

* Soviet troops enter Bulgaria and push into the Baltic states.
* The Red Army begins advancing into Hungary.
* The Warsaw Uprising collapses as German forces crush Polish resistance.

**October 1944:**

* The Battle of Debrecen in Hungary begins.
* Soviet forces reach the eastern border of Czechoslovakia.
* The Battle of Memel leads to Soviet forces isolating German troops in Courland.
* The Moscow Conference between Soviet and British officials discusses post-war Europe.

**November 1944:**

* The Soviet offensive in Hungary intensifies, reaching the outskirts of Budapest.
* Soviet forces push further into East Prussia.
* The German front continues to collapse under Soviet pressure.

**December 1944:**

* The Siege of Budapest begins as Soviet forces encircle the city.
* Soviet forces continue preparing for a final push into Germany.
* Heavy winter fighting continues on all Eastern Front sectors.

**January 1945:**

* The Vistula-Oder Offensive begins, leading to rapid Soviet advances in Poland and Germany.
* Warsaw is liberated on January 17.
* Soviet forces enter East Prussia, surrounding Königsberg.

**February 1945:**

* The Yalta Conference takes place, where the Allies discuss post-war Europe.
* The Red Army continues advancing in East Prussia, Pomerania, and Silesia.
* The Siege of Budapest ends as Soviet forces capture the city on February 13.

**March 1945:**

* Soviet forces cross the Oder River, reaching 60 km from Berlin.
* The Battle of Königsberg intensifies.
* German defenses begin to collapse across the Eastern Front.

**April 1945:**

* The Battle of Berlin begins on April 16.
* The Red Army fights through the city, encircling German defenders.
* April 30: Hitler commits suicide in his bunker.

**May 1945:**

* May 2: Berlin falls as the last German forces surrender.
* May 8: Germany signs its unconditional surrender, marking Victory in Europe Day (VE Day).
* Soviet troops take control of remaining German-held territories.