**1 January 1944** At Plaszow, a suburb of Krakow, a forced labor camp is converted to a death camp.

The US Treasury ends the minting of zinc-coated steel pennies and resumes the use of copper.

**2 January 1944** Allied troops retake Saidor, Northeast New Guinea from the Japanese.

383 British planes drop over 1,000 tons of high explosives and incendiaries on Berlin. 245 people die.

**3 January 1944** Soviet troops capture Novograd-Volynskiy (Novohrad-Volyns'kyi, Ukraine), 360 km east of Lublin.

Three trains collide in a tunnel near Torre del Bierzo, León Province, Spain. Officially put at 78, the death toll could be over 500.

**4 January 1944** Soviet forces take Belaya Tserkov (Bila Tsverkva, Ukraine), south of Kiev.

Germans begin terror killings in Denmark, beginning with the clergyman and poet Kaj Munk.

**5 January 1944** Soviets capture Berdichev, 450 km southeast of Lublin.

The Argentine military government institutes press censorship.

William Grant Still’s (48) orchestral work *In memoriam: The Colored Soldiers Who Died for Democracy* is performed for the first time, in Carnegie Hall, New York.

**6 January 1944** Elements of the Red Army cross the 1939 Polish border and capture the town of Rokitno (Rokytne, Ukraine).

**8 January 1944** Soviet troops take Kirovgrad, 200 km west of Dnepropetrovsk.

The trial of 19 Italian fascists held responsible for the downfall of Mussolini last summer opens in Verona. Among the defendants is his son-in-law and former foreign minister, Count Ciano.

**9 January 1944** Soviet forces capture Polonnoye, 250 km east of Lvov (Lviv).

Two German soldiers are shot dead in Lyon. 22 Frenchmen are killed in reprisal by order of Lyon Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie.

**10 January 1944** 84-year-old Victor Basch, former National President of the League of Human Rights, scholar and philosopher, along with his 79-year-old wife, are executed in Lyon.

18 of the 19 Italian fascists held responsible for Mussolini’s downfall are sentenced to death in Verona. Chief among them is Count Galeazzo Ciano.

**11 January 1944** The Japanese cruiser *Kuma* is sunk by a British submarine off the western coast of Malaya. 138 of her crew are lost.

Five former Italian fascist leaders are executed by the newly reconstituted fascist republic, in Verona. Among the dead are Mussolini’s son-in-law and former foreign minister, Count Ciano.

**12 January 1944** The Japanese destroyer *Sazanami* is sunk by a US submarine southeast of Yap Island. 153 men are killed, 89 are rescued.

Allied (Great Britain-United States-Canada-Free France) forces begin an offensive against the Germans across the Rivers Garigliano and Rapido in Italy. The French make the first assaults on Monte Cassino.

**13 January 1944** Soviet troops capture Korets, 130 km east of Lutsk.

The orchestral arrangement of *Circus Polka* by Igor Stravinsky (61) is performed for the first time, in Sanders Theatre at Harvard University. On the same program is the premiere of the composer’s *Four Norwegian Moods* for orchestra. Both works are conducted by the composer.

**14 January 1944** Australian forces capture Sio on the Huon Peninsula, Northeast New Guinea.

The Red Army drives a salient into the middle of the German line, taking Mozyr and Kalinkovichi on the Pripyat, 200 km northwest of Kiev. They simultaneously begin a major offensive to relieve Leningrad.

**15 January 1944** Soviet forces break the ring around Leningrad. Troops driving into and out of the city link up. Soviets take Pushkin and Gatchina, just south of the city, Mga to the east as well as Slutsk, south of Minsk.

American forces capture Monte Trocchio and reach the River Liri.

The Germans begin a new offensive against the Yugoslav partisans. Tito is forced to move his headquarters 65 km west from Jajce to Drvar.

An earthquake centered in San Juan Province, Argentina destroys much of the capital city of San Juan and kills as many as 10,000 people.

The day after Igor Stravinsky (61) conducted a concert in Boston which included his arrangement of *The Star Spangled Banner*, he is informed in his dressing room by a police official of a Massachusetts law forbidding tampering with national property. The police patriotically remove the offending music from the stands and confiscate it.

**16 January 1944** The Red Army breaks through the German lines at Velikiye Luki.

**17 January 1944** Soviet troops take Slavuta, 210 km east of Lvov (Lviv).

A British attack across the River Garigliano is almost entirely repulsed.

Sonata for violin and piano by Aaron Copland (43) is performed for the first time, in Town Hall, New York, the composer at the keyboard.

**18 January 1944** Three songs by Charles Ives (69) are performed for the first time, in the Minneapolis Institute of the Arts: *A Farewell to Land* to words of Byron, *Tolerance* to words of Kipling, and *Song for Harvest Season* to words of Phillimore.

**19 January 1944** Soviet troops capture Krasnoye Selo, just south of Leningrad.

British forces take Minturno, 120 km southeast of Rome.

**20 January 1944** An American attack across the Rapido River is repulsed by the Germans.

More than 1,000 Jews are deported from Paris to Auschwitz.

759 British planes drop 2,456 tons of bombs on Berlin. 428 people die.

*Symphonic Metamorphoses on Themes of Carl Maria von Weber* for orchestra by Paul Hindemith (48) is performed for the first time, in New York.

**21 January 1944** Major Heinrich, Prinz zu Sayn-Wittgenstein, a descendant of Princess Carolyne Sayn-Wittgenstein, the mistress of Franz Liszt (†57), is shot down over Magdeburg by British planes. He was an air ace, with 87 kills to his credit.

447 German bombers attack London. Only 32 tons of bombs find the city.

**22 January 1944** Just after midnight. American and British forces land at Anzio, 50 km south of Rome, taking the Germans by surprise. Within hours, 36,000 men are ashore.

Kleine Suite for violin and piano by Bernd Alois Zimmermann (25) is performed for the first time, in Cologne, the composer at the keyboard.

**23 January 1944** Edvard Munch dies in Oslo at the age of 80.

The destroyer *HMS Janus* is sunk by German warplanes off Anzio. 162 of her crew are lost, 80 survive.

*United Music* for orchestra by Henry Cowell (46) is performed for the first time, in Orchestra Hall, Detroit.

*Processional (Funeral March)* op.36 for band by Wallingford Riegger (58) is performed for the first time, in West Point, New York. See 3 July 1945.

**24 January 1944** The Red Army begins a major offensive in Ukraine.

In heavy fighting at Anzio, the Germans retake Castelforte and Monte Rotondo from the British.

After Richard Strauss (79) refuses to take evacuees into his Garmisch home (saying “no one had to die on my account”), Hitler orders that his porter’s lodge be seized. Strauss is forbidden to travel to Switzerland for his annual cure and the Führer further orders that “leading party personalities who have hitherto had personal contacts with Dr. Richard Strauss are to cease to do so in any way.” However, his works are not banned.

*Pandora*, a ballet by Roberto Gerhard (47) to a scenario by Jooss, is performed for the first time, in Cambridge, England in a version for two pianos and percussion.

Six Sonatas for cembalo by Lou Harrison (26) are performed completely for the first time, in Los Angeles.

**26 January 1944** After several unsuccessful attempts, American forces achieve a bridgehead over the River Rapido north of Cassino.

Argentina breaks diplomatic relations with Germany and Japan.

**27 January 1944** The USSR officially announces that the siege of Leningrad is over. 750,000 people died during the siege. The Moscow-Leningrad Railroad is cleared. Soviet troops capture Tosno, south of Leningrad and Shpola, north of Kirovograd (Ukraine).

102 Poles are publicly executed in Warsaw.

British planes bomb Berlin. 656 people die as a result.

**28 January 1944** 102 Poles are hanged in Warsaw by the Germans.

John Kenneth Tavener is born in Wembly Park, the first of two children born to Kenneth Tavener, a surveyor and organist currently a member of the Royal Engineers, and Muriel Brown, daughter of a dentist.

Symphony no.1 “Jeremiah” for mezzo-soprano and orchestra by Leonard Bernstein (25), to words from the Bible, is performed for the first time, in Pittsburgh under the baton of the composer.

**29 January 1944** Soviet troops capture Chudovo, 120 km southeast of Leningrad and Novosokolniki, just west of Velekiye Luki.

800 American bombers attack Frankfurt-am-Main.

*Fantasy Sonata* for clarinet and piano by John Ireland (64) is performed for the first time, in Wigmore Hall, London.

German bombers attack London. Only 40 tons of bombs reach the city.

**30 January 1944** The first Allied attack in strength out of the Anzio beachhead fails to make progress.

During his freshman year at the College of William and Mary, a concert of the works of Ben Johnston (17) is organized by some of the faculty. Music performed includes the piano works Fugue in d minor, Scherzo in b minor and Rondo in D, also Sonata for clarinet and piano, Theme and Variations and Ballade in E for violin and piano, Concerto in E for two pianos and the songs *Homeward* and *The Voice of Autumn* for soprano and piano.

*Take the Sun and Keep the Stars* for chorus and band by Roy Harris (45) to his own words is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of NBC radio originating in Denver, the composer conducting.

**31 January 1944** Allied troops occupy Majuro Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

A US submarine sinks the transport *Yasukuni Maru* off Truk Island. 1,188 people are lost, while 43 are rescued.

**1 February 1944** American forces begin an invasion of Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

A Soviet offensive captures Kingisepp, 115 km southwest of Leningrad and reaches to the Estonian border.

An earthquake centered near Gerede and Bolu, Turkey kills about 4,000 people.

Oswald T. Avery, Colin M. MacLeod, and Maclyn McCarty publish “Studies on the Chemical Nature of the Substance Inducing Transformation of Pneumococcal Types” in the *Journal of Experimental Medicine*. In one of the most important scientific documents, the three explain their work showing that DNA is the carrier of genetic material.

Piet Mondrian dies in New York at the age of 71.

**2 February 1944** Allied forces capture Roi-Namur Atoll at Kwajalein.

Soviet troops enter Estonia, taking Vanakula.

Polish partisans kill Gen. Franz Kutschera, commander of the Warsaw SS.

Allied attacks out of Anzio are halted at great cost.

**3 February 1944** German forces counterattack and effectively seal the Anzio beachhead.

300 Poles are executed in reprisal for the death of SS Gen. Franz Kutschera.

**4 February 1944** A British advance in Burma (Myanmar) is halted by a Japanese counterattack in the Arakan Hills.

Soviet troops take Gdov, on the border with Estonia.

American troops reach within 1,000 meters of Monte Cassino Monastery.

Argentina breaks relations with Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and Vichy France.

**5 February 1944** Soviet forces occupy Lutsk and Rovno (Ukraine).

Colossus Mark 1 begins breaking German coded messages at Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes, northwest of London. It is the first electronic, programmable, digital computer.

**6 February 1944** Soviet troops take Manganets, south of Dnepropetrovsk.

Piano Concerto op.42 by Arnold Schoenberg (69) is performed for the first time, in New York.

**8 February 1944** American forces complete their conquest of Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. The battle for Kwajalein costs approximately 9,000 lives.

Soviet troops capture Nikopol, south of Dnepropetrovsk.

British forces break out of Aprilia, north of Anzio.

The German merchant ship *SS Petrella*, carrying 3,100 Italian prisoners, is torpedoed and sunk by a British submarine off Crete. 2,670 men go down with her.

**9 February 1944** At Lesno, Poland, 60 Polish women railroad workers are executed in reprisal for an act of sabotage.

**10 February 1944** American and Australian forces link up near Saidor, virtually completing their conquest of the Huon Peninsula, Northeast New Guinea.

Soviet troops capture Shepetovka, southeast of Rovno.

140 Poles are executed in Ochota in reprisal for the killing of SS Gen. Franz Kutschera on 2 February.

The Resistance does serious damage to the Peugeot factory making airplane parts at Sochaux-Montbéliard.

*Lady in the Dark*, a film with music by Kurt Weill (43), is released in the United States.

**11 February 1944** American troops come within a few hundred meters of Monte Cassino Monastery but repeated attacks fail.

Control of Sardinia, Sicily, and southern Italy is passed from the Allied command to the government of Prime Minister Pietro Badoglio.

**12 February 1944** American forces land on Arno Atoll to the east of Majuro in the Marshall Islands.

A Japanese submarine sends two torpedoes into the British troops ship *SS Khedive Ismail* off the Maldive Islands. It goes down in three minutes taking almost 1,300 men and women with her. 214 survive.

Radio Moscow announces that a National Council of Poland has been set up in areas of the country occupied by the Red Army, in opposition to the London government-in-exile.

The German transport *SS Oria*, carrying Italian prisoners from Rhodes to Piraeus, goes down in a gale off Cape Sounion. Over 4,000 people are killed, only about 30 survive.

German newspapers carry notices that all men 51-60 years old not yet mobilized must report for duty by 16 February.

**13 February 1944** Soviet troops capture Luga, Polna, and Lyady all to the north of Pskov.

*The Soundless Song* for soprano, chamber ensemble, dancers, and lights by Otto Luening (43) to his own words, is performed for the first time, in the New York Public Library, 21 years after it was composed. The premiere is an arrangement for soprano and piano. Also premiered is Luening’s *Gliding O’er All* for voice and piano to words of Whitman.

**14 February 1944** Canon and Fugue op.33a for orchestra by Wallingford Riegger (58) is performed for the first time, in New York. See 1 August 1942.

**15 February 1944** New Zealand troops land on the Green Islands, north of Bougainville.

A general Allied attack on Cassino begins with an aerial destruction of the hilltop monastery 80 km north of Naples. 250 people, including the bishop, are killed. Rather than dislodging the Germans, the rubble of the monastery provides a superior defensive position. An assault by Indians and New Zealanders fails and the Germans counterattack.

875 British bombers hit Berlin. 845 people die.

*Ludus Tonalis* for piano by Paul Hindemith (48) is performed for the first time, at the University of Chicago.

**16 February 1944** American planes bomb Truk Island, destroying 40 ships and 265 planes.

German forces begin a major counterattack to drive the Anzio beachhead into the sea.

**17 February 1944** American troops land on Enewetak in the Marshall Islands.

The armed merchant cruiser *Aikoku Maru* is sunk by US warplanes at Truk Island. Most of the 945 crew and troops aboard are killed. US surface ships sink the destroyer *Maikaze,* killing all 240 of her crew.

William Schuman’s (33) *William Billings Overture* is performed for the first time, in New York.

**18 February 1944** The Japanese destroyer *Oite* is sunk at Truk Island by US warplanes. All but 20 of her 192-man crew are lost, along with 523 survivors from the *Agano* whom she rescued two days ago. The cruiser *Katori* is sunk by US surface ships with the loss of 315 aboard. The cruiser *Naka* goes down with 240 of her cruw.

Soviet troops capture Staraya Russa and Shimsk, south of Novgorod.

Germans continue to make gains against the Anzio beachhead against fierce resistance.

The cruiser *HMS Penelope* is torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine off Naples. 417 of her crew go down with her. 206 survive.

A third successive attack in as many days by Indian forces fails to dislodge Germans defending Monte Cassino. New Zealanders force their way across the River Rapido near the town of Cassino but are driven back.

**19 February 1944** American troops land in strength on Enewetak proper to strong Japanese resistance.

American bombers strike Leipzig in the afternoon, British bombers at night, twelve hours apart. 13,696 people are killed, 50,000 are left homeless.

**20 February 1944** American bombers strike Regensburg, Fürth, Graz, Zell-am-See, Fiume, Pola, and Zara.

A Prisoner’s Music Festival begins at the prisoner of war camp in Eichstätt, Germany. It is organized by British Lieutenant Richard Wood and concludes with the world premiere of a specially commissioned choral work by Wood’s good friend, Benjamin Britten (30): *The Ballad of Little Musgrave and Lady Barnard* for male chorus and piano.

**21 February 1944** Americans land on Parry, Enewetak to strong resistance.

Japanese resistance on the Green Islands, north of Bougainville, comes to an end.

Soviet troops take Soltsy and Kholm, east of Pskov.

Hans Pfitzner’s (74) 37-year-old son Peter dies in Russia.

American bombers strike Steyr, Gotha, and Schweinfurt.

*Ballad of a Boy Who Remained Unknown* op.93 for soprano, tenor, chorus, and orchestra by Sergey Prokofiev (52) to words of Antokolsky, is performed for the first time, in Moscow.

The New York City Opera puts on its first production with a performance of *Tosca*.

**22 February 1944** Soviet forces capture Dno, east of Pskov.

31 Soviet POWs are executed at Dachau.

Two Songs op.18 for voice and piano by Samuel Barber (33) are performed for the first time, in Town Hall, New York: *The Queen’s Face on a Summery Coin*, to words of Horan, and *Monks and Raisins*, to words of Garcia Villa.

**23 February 1944** Japanese resistance on Parry, Enewetak ends.

American forces bomb the Japanese-held island of Saipan. In defense of the island, the Japanese lose 168 planes while managing to destroy only six American planes.

Soviet forces capture Strugi Krasnye, northeast of Pskov.

*Le Voyageur sans bagage*, a film with music by Francis Poulenc (45), is shown for the first time, in Paris.

*To Russia* for baritone, chorus, and orchestra by Arnold Bax (60) to words of Masefield, is performed for the first time, in Royal Albert Hall, London.

**24 February 1944** Soviet forces take Rogachev, south of Mogilev (Belarus).

*Work in Progress* for orchestra by Arnold Bax (60) is performed for the first time, in a “new hall at a big factory in the London Suburbs.”

Edelmiro Julián Farrell Piaui replaces Pedro Pablo Ramírez Machuca President of the military government of Argentina.

**25 February 1944** The Japanese troop transport *SS Ryusei Maru* is sunk by an American submarine in the Dutch East Indies with the loss of 5,000 people. The same submarine sinks the *Tango Maru* which is carrying hundreds of Allied (mostly Dutch) prisoners and 3,500 slave laborers from Java. Only about 500 survive.

**26 February 1944** Soviet troops capture Porkhov, east of Pskov.

**29 February 1944** American troops land on Los Negros in the Admiralty Islands. (Papua New Guinea).

The House of Representatives of South Carolina passes a resolution expressing “belief in and allegiance to established white supremacy.” They also warn “damned agitators of the North to leave the South alone.”

**1 March 1944** After two weeks of heavy combat, German forces give up their attempt to reduce the Anzio beachhead.

An army regiment outside Buenos Aires revolts against President Edelmiro Farrell of Argentina but the coup fails when other units fail to support them.

Trio for flute, cello, and piano by Norman Dello Joio (31) is performed for the first time, in Town Hall, New York.

**2 March 1944** Allied planes make their first bombing mission in support of Yugoslav partisans, at the railroad junction at Knin.

A train stalls in a tunnel near Balvano, Italy. Low grade coal used to power the train produces carbon monoxide which kills over 400 people.

**3 March 1944** The Japanese ship *Amerika-maru*, carrying 1,700 passengers, almost all civilians fleeing Saipan, is sunk by an American submarine.

Symphony no.2 “Flight Symphony” op.19 by Samuel Barber (33) is performed for the first time, in Symphony Hall, Boston. It is dedicated to the United States Army Air Forces, of which the composer is presently a member.

**4 March 1944** 84 civilians are shot by the Germans in the ruins of the Warsaw Ghetto. The dead and wounded are thrown into the basement of a ruined house and the house is set alight. The screams can be heard for six hours.

US bombers make their first attack on Berlin.

**5 March 1944** The Red Army shatters the German lines in Ukraine, taking Izyaslav, 200 km east of Lvov (Lviv), and Yampol on the Dnestr.

Max Jacob, 60-year-old Jewish poet, dies at Drancy, France of bronchial pneumonia. Despite his devout Catholicism of over 30 years, Jacob is in Drancy awaiting deportation to a death camp.

The United States Army drops plans to distribute a pamphlet called *The Races of Mankind*, written by two Columbia University professors, which gives scientific evidence for the equality of the races. The House Military Affairs Committee has threatened to “expose the motives behind this book.”

Symphony no.2 by Walter Piston (50) is performed for the first time, in Washington.

**6 March 1944** Soviet forces take Volochisk, 160 km east of Lvov (Lviv).

Finland rejects a Soviet offer of peace. They object to the Soviet demand of internment of German troops in the country and acceptance of the 1940 borders.

Eight British and American Folk Songs for voice and orchestra by Dmitri Shostakovich (37) is performed for the first time, in Moscow.

**7 March 1944** 3,860 Czech and Slovak Jews newly arrived at Auschwitz from Theresienstadt (Terezín) attack their SS guards with their bare hands. All but 37 are killed.

**8 March 1944** Japanese troops begin a massive counterattack on Americans on Bougainville making some initial gains.

Japanese forces begin a general counteroffensive in Burma (Myanmar) at Tiddim, crossing into India.

**9 March 1944** Allied troops recapture Talasea on New Britain.

Soviet troops capture Shepetovka and enter into heavy fighting at Ternopol east of Lvov (Lviv).

**10 March 1944** Soviet forces capture Uman, halfway between Kiev and Odessa.

*Ma-Tovu* for tenor, chorus, and organ by David Diamond (28) is performed for the first time, in Park Avenue Synagogue, New York.

**11 March 1944** British forces take Buthidaung, Burma, north of Akyab (Sittwe).

Soviet troops take Berislav near the mouth of the Dnieper.

**12 March 1944** Americans occupy Wotje Atoll in the Marshall Islands without resistance.

Soviet forces reach the River Bug at Gayvoron and take Dolinskaya 210 km to the east.

*Two-Bits* for flute and piano by Henry Cowell (47) is performed for the first time, at the Brooklyn Museum. Otto Luening (43) plays the flute part. Also premiered is Cowell’s three part songs for female voices *American Muse.*

**13 March 1944** American forces on Bougainville undo all Japanese gains since 8 March.

Indian troops in Burma withdraw to Imphal, India.

Soviet forces capture Kherson at the mouth of the Dnieper.

*Bachianas Brasileiras no.7* for strings by Heitor Villa-Lobos (57) is performed for the first time, in Rio de Janeiro under the baton of the composer.

**14 March 1944** The *Primavera Quintet* for flute, violin, viola, cello, and harp op.156 by Charles Koechlin (76) is performed publicly for the first time, at the École Normale de Musique, Paris. See 10 June 1943.

Suite for violin and piano by William Grant Still (48) is performed for the first time, in Jordan Hall, Boston.

Duke Ellington (44) delivers a lecture in Paine Hall of Harvard University. His topic is “Negro Music in America.”

**15 March 1944** American troops land on Manus Island in the Admiralty Islands. (Papua New Guinea).

Japanese troops in Burma cross the River Chindwin, heading for India.

Allied planes drop 992 tons of bombs on Monte Cassino Monastery. Allied artillery fire 195,000 rounds at the Monte Cassino Monastery. British, Indian, and New Zealand infantry assault the building but fail to dislodge the Germans.

**16 March 1944** The Japanese destroyer Shirakumo, with a crew of 219, is sunk by a US submarine off Hokkaido. She goes down quickly with all hands.

**17 March 1944** Soviet forces capture Dubno, southeast of Lutsk.

Finland rejects a second set of Soviet conditions for a cessation of hostilities. Radio Moscow states that the Finnish government bears “full responsibility for what will follow.”

*Knickerbocker Holiday*, a film with music by Kurt Weill (44), is released in the United States.

*Pages from Negro History* for orchestra by William Grant Still (48) is performed for the first time, at Western Maryland College, Westminster.

**18 March 1944** Soviet troops take Zhmerinka, 320 km east of Lvov (Lviv) and reach the west bank of the Dniester.

On Hitler’s summons, Hungarian head of state Admrial Horthy goes to Klessheim Castle south of Salzburg. He is forced to accept a new government under Döme Sztójay, German troops in Hungary, German control of Hungarian raw materials, and the deportation of all Hungarian Jews.

**19 March 1944** Eight German divisions occupy Hungary to forestall their ally making a separate peace with the Soviet Union. They install a puppet government and begin the elimination of Hungary’s Jews (under the direction of Adolf Eichmann). All leftist and centrist parties are banned, all leading politicians are arrested and sent to concentration camps.

*A Child of Our Time*, an oratorio for four vocal soloists, chorus, and orchestra by Michael Tippett (39) to his own words is performed for the first time, in the Adelphi Theatre, London. The work was inspired by the murder of Ernst von Rath by Herschel Grynszpan and the pogroms which followed. See 7-9 November 1938.

Passacaglia and Fugue op.34a for orchestra by Wallingford Riegger (58) is performed for the first time, in Washington. See 16 June 1943.

**20 March 1944** Soviet forces capture Vinnitsa, 330 km east of Lvov (Lviv) and Mogilev-Podolskiy 90 km to the south. They also capture Soroki on the west bank of the Dnestr (Moldova).

The express train between Moscow and Leningrad resumes service.

**22 March 1944** Soviet troops take Pervomaysk on the Bug (Ukraine).

Döme Sztójay replaces Miklós Kállay de Nagy-Kálló as Prime Minister of Hungary.

In Koldyczewo (Belarus), slave laborers revolt against Nazi guards killing ten. 25 die in the revolt but hundreds escape.

95 members of a Jewish labor battalion in Köszeg, Hungary are locked in their barracks and killed by Germans with gas.

**23 March 1944** After initial progress, Allied (India-New Zealand) forces withdraw from their gains at Cassino and the attack is called off.

4,000 Greek Jews are deported to Auschwitz.

A bomb planted by Italian partisans kills 33 SS in Rome.

Concerto for cello and orchestra op. 52 by Hans Pfitzner (74) is performed for the first time, in Solingen.

Henry Cowell’s (47) *Hymn and Fuguing Tune no.2* for string orchestra is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of station WEAF, New York.

**24 March 1944** The last organized Japanese resistance on Bougainville ends.

Soviet forces capture Voznesensk, 140 km north of Odessa, and Zaleschik, 180 km southeast of Lvov (Lviv).

In reprisal for the blowing up of 33 German soldiers in Rome yesterday, 335 Italian men and boys are shot to death at the Fosse Ardeatine by Germans.

811 British planes attack Berlin. 472 people die.

*Cantata for Wartime* for female chorus and orchestra by Ernst Krenek (43) to words of Melville is performed for the first time, in Northrop Memorial Auditorium, Minneapolis.

**25 March 1944** American forces on Manus Island in the Admiralty Islands (Papua New Guinea) crush the last Japanese resistance.

German troops attack the French Resistance on the Plateau des Glières above Annecy. 400 Resistance fighters are killed.

**26 March 1944** Soviet troops take Balta (Ukraine) 115 km northeast of Kishinev (Chisinau, Moldova) and reach the River Prut along a 90 km front.

A Political Committee of National Liberation is formed in Greece in opposition to the government-in-exile.

**27 March 1944** The Red Army captures Kamenets-Podolsky (Kamianets-Podilskyi, Ukraine) and Horodenka (Gorodenka, Ukraine) in western Ukraine.

German troops occupy Romania.

Several thousand Jewish children, the last surviving residents of the Kovno (Kaunas) Ghetto under 14, are rounded up and driven to their deaths. 37 Jewish policemen who refuse to take part in the roundup are killed on the spot. The operation takes two days to complete.

**28 March 1944** Soviet troops capture Nikolayev (Mykolaiv, Ukraine), northeast of Odessa.

**29 March 1944** Red Army troops cross into Greater Germany, taking Kolomyja (Kolomya, Ukraine).

**30 March 1944** The United States Navy attacks Palau, destroying many ships.

Japanese troops begin the siege of Imphal, India.

The Red Army captures Chernovtsy (Chernivtsi, Ukraine).

A German submarine sinks the destroyer *HMS Laforey* near Palermo. Of the 247 on board, 65 survive.

800 British planes attack Nuremberg. 714 people die. Of the dead, 545 are British airmen, the worst loss of any single raid during the war.

**31 March 1944** Soviet forces take Ochakov (Ochakiv, Ukraine) on the Black Sea, 60 km east of Odessa.

Hungarian Jews are required to wear the yellow badge.

Several chamber works by Alois Hába (50) are performed for the first time, in Prague: the first, fourth, and fifth movements of the Sonata for guitar op.52, the fourth movement of the Suite no.1 for quarter-tone guitar op.54, the third movement of the Suite no.2 for quarter-tone clarinet op.55, and the Suite for quarter-tone trumpet and trombone op.56.

**1 April 1944** Vladimir Ussachevsky (32) completes the US Army Specialized Training Program in Chinese Area and Language Studies at the University of Washington, Seattle.

**2 April 1944** The Red Army enters pre-1939 Romania.

In the village of Ascq, near Lille, 86 French civilians are shot in reprisal for the derailment of a German troop train in which no one was killed.

An uprising against Salvadoran dictator Maximiliano Hernández Martínez lasting four hours kills 53 people and injures 134. Two square blocks of San Salvador are destroyed. The uprising fails.

**4 April 1944** Japanese forces attack Allied (Great Britain-India) defenders of Kohima, India, key to the Assam Valley 450 km northeast of Dhaka.

Charlie Chaplin is acquitted by a federal court in Los Angeles of violating the Mann Act.

**5 April 1944** Several works for prepared piano by John Cage (31) are performed for the first time, at the Studio Theatre, New York to dances by Merce Cunningham: *The Perilous Night*, *Tossed as it is Untroubled*, *Root of an Unfocus*, *Spontaneous Earth*, *The Unavailable Memory of*, *Triple-Paced No.2*. It is the first complete evening of Cage/Cunningham collaborations. The press reaction to his music is so hostile, Cage begins to question whether self-expression is a viable reason for producing art.

**8 April 1944** Soviet forces begin a drive into Crimea.

Soviet troops capture Botosani, Dorohoi and Siret in northeast Romania.

**9 April 1944** The John Simon Guggenheim Foundation fellowships are announced, including ones for Harry Partch (42) and Norman Dello Joio (31).

**10 April 1944** Soviet troops occupy Odessa after heavy fighting.

Soviet forces capture Radauti and Suceava in northeast Romania.

Dr. Robert Burns Woodward and Dr. WE Doering, working for the Polaroid Corporation at Harvard University, produce the first chemical quinine.

Lt. Antonio de la Lama Rojas attempts to shoot President Manuel Ávila Camacho during a conversation at the Presidential Palace in Mexico City. He fails and is later shot and seriously wounded by guards. The attacker will die on 12 April.

Arnold Schoenberg’s (69) organ work Variations on a Recitative is performed for the first time, in New York.

**11 April 1944** Soviet troops take Dzhankoy and Kerch in Crimea.

British planes destroy a building in The Hague housing records of the Gestapo in the Netherlands. Six bombers attack at a height of 15 meters. 61 Dutch are killed but hundreds in the resistance are saved.

**12 April 1944** Soviet forces capture Tiraspol on the Dnestr east of Kishinev (Chisinau, Moldova).

German forces begin evacuating Crimea.

**13 April 1944** A federal judge in Honolulu rules that continued martial law in Hawaii is unnecessary and invalid.

Soviet troops capture Feodosiya, Yevpatoriya and Simferopol in Crimea.

Sophoklis Eleftheriou Venizelos replaces Emmanouil Ioannou Tsouderos as Prime Minister of the Greek government-in-exile in Cairo.

**14 April 1944** The cargo ship *Fort Stikine* carrying cotton, gold bullion, and 300 tons of TNT, catches fire in the harbor of Bombay. Lengthy firefighting efforts prove ineffective and the ship explodes killing 1,300 people and injuring 3,000 others.

Symphony no.6 “Gettysburg” by Roy Harris (46) is performed for the first time, in Symphony Hall, Boston, on the 79th anniversary of the murder of Abraham Lincoln.

**16 April 1944** Soviet forces capture Yalta.

American planes bomb Belgrade.

*Concierto de estio* for violin and orchestra by Joaquín Rodrigo (42) is performed for the first time, in Teatro San Carlos, Lisbon.

*The Expiring Frog: recitative and aria ranatica* for voice and piano by Paul Hindemith (48) to words of Dickens and the Encyclopedia Britannica is performed for the first time, in New Haven.

**17 April 1944** Japan begins a major offensive in China across the Huang River.

Anton Webern (60) is conscripted into the air raid police in Mödling. He is required to organize shelters and clear rubble.

**18 April 1944** Soviet troops take Balaklava, Crimea.

Leonard Bernstein’s (25) ballet *Fancy Free*, to a scenario by Robbins, is performed for the first time, at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York conducted by the composer. Agnes de Mille will write, “The volume of the reaction nearly threw them [the dancers] off their counts…At the conclusion there was a genuine ovation with approximately twenty curtains and a house cheering from its heart.” (Oja, 17)

**19 April 1944** Sweden rejects demands by the Allies to halt sales of ball bearings to Germany.

Pierre Boulez (19) begins weekly counterpoint lessons with Andrée Vaurabourg (Mme Arthur Honegger) at her apartment on Montmartre.

**20 April 1944** After fierce and desperate resistance, the Allied (Great Britain-India) defenders of Kohima are relieved and the Japanese advance into India is halted.

The US Liberty ship *SS Paul Hamilton* is attacked by German planes off Algiers. The cargo of high explosives detonates and she goes down in less than a minute with all 580 of those aboard.

A German munitions ship explodes in the harbor of Bergen, Norway. 166 people are killed and 5,000 injured. 5,000 people are left homeless from the fires started in the city.

**21 April 1944** 640 French are killed in an Allied bombing raid on Paris.

Prime Minister Churchill tells the House of Commons that the words dealing with freedom and self-determination in the Atlantic Charter do not apply to the British Empire.

The French Provisional Government extends voting rights to women.

**22 April 1944** Americans land 84,000 men at Hollandia, Netherlands New Guina (Jayapura, West Irian) and Aitape, Northeast New Guinea (Papua New Guinea).

American forces take Ungelap, completing their conquest of the Marshall Islands.

The first three of the four parts of *The Wayward* by Harry Partch (42) are performed for the first time, in Carnegie Chamber Music Hall, New York: *Eight Hitchhiker Inscriptions from a Highway Railing at Barstow, California* for voice and guitar; *US Highball: a Musical Account of a Transcontinental Hobo Trip* to the composer’s words for chorus, guitar, and chromelodeon; and *San Francisco: a Setting of the Cries of Two Newsboys on a Foggy Night in the Twenties* for solo voice, viola, chromelodeon, and kithara. Also premiered is Partch’s *YD Fantasy* for soprano, tin flutes, tin oboe, flexatone, and chromelodeon to his own words. The chromelodeon is played by Henry Brant (30). See 29 November 1943.

**23 April 1944** Allied forces retake Hollandia, Netherlands New Guinea (Jayapura, West Irian) from the Japanese.

**24 April 1944** Australian forces capture Madang, Northeast New Guinea.

400 French die in an Allied air attack on Rouen.

The United Negro College Fund is founded.

**26 April 1944** The Japanese troop transport *Yoshida Maru no.1* is torpedoed and sunk by an American submarine. Of the almost 2,700 on board, none survive.

Two British and two Greek agents capture General Heinrich Kreipe, commander of Crete, on the road between Arhanes and Heraklion. He is spirited away to Egypt and will be transferred to London, finally ending up in Calgary.

Georgios Andreou Papandreou replaces Sophoklis Eleftheriou Venizelos as Prime Minister of the Greek government-in-exile in Cairo.

**27 April 1944** Symphony no.1 by Elliott Carter (35) is performed for the first time, in Eastman Theatre, Rochester, New York conducted by Howard Hanson (47).

**28 April 1944** At Slapton Sands near Dartmouth, a massive practice for the invasion of France is spotted by German patrol boats. They torpedo two tank landing ships, killing 639 Americans.

**29 April 1944** A German torpedo boat sinks the destroyer *HMCS Athabaskan* in the English Channel. 128 of her crew are lost.

**30 April 1944** Yitzhak Katznelson, songwriter and poet, along with his 18-year-old son are gassed at Auschwitz.

**3**17:30 The American Broadcasting Station in Europe (ABSIE) begins broadcasting from England to the continent. Its music director is Sergeant Marc Blitzstein (39).

March op.99 for winds by Sergey Prokofiev (53) is performed for the first time, in a radio broadcast from Moscow.

**1 May 1944** In a secret meeting in Romania, the Trade Union Congress and the General Confederation of Labor come under almost complete domination by communists.

Howard Hanson (47) wins the Pulitzer Prize in Music for hisSymphony no.4.See 3 December 1943.

**2 May 1944** Under pressure from the Allies, Spain agrees to stop exporting tungsten to Germany.

**3 May 1944** Two Harvard University chemists, Dr. Robert B. Underwood and Dr. William E. Doering, announce the development of synthetic quinine.

The Mexican government issues a decree banning the siesta.

**4 May 1944** Meat, with a few exceptions, is taken off ration in the United States.

Russian-American inventor Igor I. Sikorski receives a US patent for a helicopter and its controls.

George Cukor’s film *Gaslight* is shown for the first time, in New York.

**5 May 1944** After almost two years internment in Aga Khan’s palace in Poona, Mahatma Gandhi is released unconditionally for medical reasons. It will prove to be his last imprisonment. During his life, the Mahatma has spent 2,338 days in jail.

Sonata for violin and piano by Paul Hindemith (48) is performed for the first time, in Lisbon.

**6 May 1944** The Red Army begins its final assault on Sevastopol.

Symphony no.2 “Ascensão” by Heitor Villa-Lobos (57) is performed for the first time, in Rio de Janeiro under the baton of the composer 27 years after it was written.

**7 May 1944** *Organ Mass* by Zoltán Kodály (61) is performed for the first time, in St. Stephen’s Basilica, Budapest.

A suite from music for the film *Our Town* by Aaron Copland (43) is performed for the first time, in Boston, conducted by Leonard Bernstein (25).

**8 May 1944** Ethel Mary Smyth dies in Woking, aged 86 years and 16 days.

Salvadoran dictator Maximiliano Hernández Martínez resigns.

Gigue and Musette for piano by Lou Harrison (26) is performed for the first time, in Los Angeles. Also premiered is Harrison’s Suite for piano.

**9 May 1944** Soviet forces occupy Sevastopol. The Germans retreat to Cape Kersonesski to continue the evacuation.

With 565 grams of U-235 in a 30 cm sphere of water, the 50-milliwatt water boiler reactor at Los Alamos goes critical. This is the world's first reactor to use enriched uranium.

**10 May 1944** Chinese forces cross the Salween River at Kunlong 300 km northeast of Mandalay moving towards Japanese positions in Burma (Myanmar).

**11 May 1944** 23:00 2,000 Allied artillery guns open fire on a line from Cassino to the Tyrrhenian Sea.

23:45 Allied (United States-Great Britain-India-New Zealand-Poland-Free France) forces begin a general offensive against the German defenders of the Cassino front.

**12 May 1944** The Allied offensive in Italy makes little or no gain.

*Obertura para el “Fausto” criolo* op.9 for orchestra by Alberto Ginastera (28) is performed for the first time, in the Teatro Municipal de Santiago de Chile.

*The Passion*, an oratorio by Bernard Rogers (51), is performed for the first time, in Cincinnati.

**13 May 1944** The Red Army completes the conquest of Crimea.

The Allied offensive in Italy begins to make headway.

**14 May 1944** *Seven Anniversaries* for piano by Leonard Bernstein (25) is performed for the first time, in the Opera House, Boston by the composer.

*The Prairie*, a cantata for solo voices, chorus, and orchestra by Lukas Foss (21) to words of Sandburg is performed for the first time, in Town Hall, New York. See 15 October 1943.

**15 May 1944** The Gustav Line (German defensive line on the Cassino front) begins to collapse.

The Germans begin the deportation of Jews from Hungary to Auschwitz at a rate of 4,000 per day.

The Slovak Parliament forbids further deportations of Jews.

**17 May 1944** American bombers attack oil installations at Surabaya on Java.

Allied (United States-China) forces capture the airfield at Myitkyina 400 km north of Mandalay.

Rival Greek factions meeting in Lebanon agree to form a joint government-in-exile in Cairo.

Allied forces capture Esperia and Formia, 100 km southeast of Rome.

**18 May 1944** Allied troops recapture Manus Island and Musau Island northeast of New Guinea.

After five months of bitter and furious struggle, British forces capture the town of Cassino while Polish troops occupy what is left of Monte Cassino monastery.

Incidental music to Aguet’s radio play *Battements du monde* by Arthur Honegger (52) is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of Radio Lausanne. The work was composed in 1940.

**20 May 1944** The Communist Party of America, meeting in convention in New York, votes to disband, but to continue as the Communist Political Association.

**21 May 1944** American amphibious units land at Sperlonga while other Americans capture Fondi, 100 km southeast of Rome.

Three of the Quatre chansons pour voix grave for voice and piano by Arthur Honegger (52) to words of Verlaine, Ronsard, and Aguet are performed for the first time, in the Salle du Conservatoire, Paris.

An accidental explosion in the West Loch area of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii destroys six LSTs and kills 163 people. Almost 400 are injured.

**22 May 1944** Allied forces retake Wake Island from the Japanese.

French troops capture Pico, 100 km southeast of Rome.

**23 May 1944** American forces break out of the Anzio perimeter, making some gains at Cisterna.

A referendum in Iceland votes for breaking ties with the Danish crown and creating a republic.

**24 May 1944** 200 delegates of the Albanian National Liberation Front meet in Përmet. They depose King Zog and create the Antifascist Council of National Liberation. Enver Hoxha is named head of government and commander-in-chief.

Canadian forces break through the German defenses in the Liri Valley causing a wholesale German retreat. They take Pontecorvo, west of Cassino while Americans capture Terracina on the Tyrrhenian Sea 90 km southeast of Rome.

All 325 inhabitants of Pogonion, Greece are deported to a camp near Yanina as hostages. When guerrillas attack a German division, all of the hostages are killed.

**25 May 1944** American forces from the south link up with the Anzio beachhead and capture Cisterna and Cori, and enter Velletri, 30 km south of Rome.

Germans use parachute and glider-borne troops in an attempt to capture Tito in the village of Drvar (Bosnia-Herzegovina). He narrowly escapes, but almost all the villagers are killed.

Several hundred Hungarian Jews newly arrived at Auschwitz sense danger and scatter into the woods. They are all shot by the SS.

The National Broadcasting Company in the United States stop the sound and change camera focus during a television act by singer Eddie Cantor. The network found the lyrics and gestures “objectionable.”

**26 May 1944** Lyon is bombed by the Allies. 717 French are killed.

**27 May 1944** American forces invade Biak Island off northwest New Guinea and establish a beachhead.

Incidental music to Morax’s play *Charles Le Téméraire* by Arthur Honegger (52) is performed for the first time, in the Théâtre du Jorat, Mézières.

**28 May 1944** Japanese on Biak Island counterattack the American landing.

The events of 25 May at Auschwitz are repeated.

**29 May 1944** Canadian forces capture Ceprano, 90 km southeast of Rome.

President Carlos Alberto Arroyo del Río of Ecuador is overthrown and replaced by a revolutionary junta temporarily led by Julio Teodoro Salem Gallegos.

A New York magistrate finds *The First Lady Chatterly* by DH Lawrence obscene and holds the publisher for trial.

**30 May 1944** American forces penetrate the last German defense line before Rome.

Less than a year after the previous election, voting in Ireland produces a majority for the ruling Fianna Fail Party.

**31 May 1944** Canadian forces capture Frosinone, 75 km southeast of Rome, Allies take Sora, nearby while Americans capture Velletri, 30 km south of Rome.

José María Velasco Ibarra replaces Julio Teodoro Salem Gallegos as President of Ecuador.

**1 June 1944** Anton Webern (60) is discharged from service in the air raid police in Mödling.

Ivan Ivanov Bagrianov replaces Dobri Bozhilov Khadzhiyanakev as Prime Minister of Bulgaria.

**2 June 1944** American planes begin bombing Silesia, Hungary, and Romania from Italian airbases, landing in Ukraine.

British planes bomb the railroad yards at Trappes. This is the last raid in an operation begun 6 March to destroy transportation in northern France and Belgium in advance of the invasion. 8,000 bombers have dropped 42,000 tons of bombs.

The French Committee of National Liberation votes to change its name to the Provisional Government of the French Republic.

Producers Paul Feigay and Oliver Smith sign a contract with Betty Comdon, Adolph Green, Jerome Robbins, and Leonard Bernstein (25) for a musical to be called *On the Town* to be produced before 26 January 1945. All of the authors are in their 20s.

**3 June 1944** American troops take Albano and Frascati, 20 km southeast of Rome. Canadians take Anagni, 60 km southeast of the city.

Josip Broz Tito is evacuated to Bari to meet with Allied commanders.

**4 June 1944** Evening. American troops reach the center of Rome. The Hotel Plaza is taken over by Free French forces for their officers. All guests are required to leave, except for Pietro Mascagni (80) and his wife.

**5 June 1944** King Vittorio Emanuele III of Italy relinquishes his power and prerogatives to his son Umberto who is given the title Lieutenant-General of the Realm. The King will retain his crown and title.

Pope Pius XII speaks to crowds at St. Peter’s giving thanks to God and all belligerents for leaving Rome largely intact.

3,000 ships begin to cross the English Channel carrying the Normandy invasion force.

23:55 British glider-borne troops land at Bénouville north of Caen.

Harry Partch (42) receives $1,000 from the University of Wisconsin Research Committee.

**6 June 1944** The Japanese destroyer *Minazuki* is sunk by a US submarine off Tawitawi near Sabah. 109 men are lost.

British forces win back Kohima, India from the Japanese after 64 days of fierce fighting.

Dawn. 18,000 British and American airborne troops are on the ground in Normandy with the intention of capturing bridges and disrupting communication.

Beginning 06:30 Carried by the largest armada yet assembled, an Allied (United States-Great Britain-Canada-Free France-Poland-Netherlands-Norway-Greece) invasion force lands in Normandy on a line from Carentan to Caen, immediately establishing an effective beachhead. By midnight, 155,000 troops are ashore.

Germans on Crete put 400 Greek hostages, 300 Italian POWs and 260 Jews on a boat, take it 1,500 km out to sea and scuttle it. None survive.

French troops capture Tivoli, 25 km east of Rome.

Members of a panzer division in Magdeburg, who have formed a secret Antimilitarist Club, including Hans Werner Henze (17), drink a toast to the invasion of Europe.

**7 June 1944** In fierce fighting, American troops capture Mokmer Airfield on Biak Island.

The Japanese destroyer *Hayanami* is sunk by a US submarine east of Borneo. 208 of the 253 aboard are lost.

American troops capture Bracciano and Civitavecchia, 60 km northeast of Rome while South African forces take Civita Castellana, 45 km north of the city. Other Allied troops capture Subiaco, 50 km west of Rome.

British forces capture Bayeux.

SS troops capture 34 Canadians near the villages of Buron and Authie in Normandy. All are shot or stabbed to death. Over the next 48 hours, 43 more Canadians will meet the same fate.

**8 June 1944** The Supreme Soviet creates the title “Heroine Mother” for any woman bearing more than ten children. It is estimated that 90% of all Soviet men between the ages of 18-21 have been killed in the war. The leaders of the nation fear for its future.

British troops take Port-en-Bessin, north of Bayeux.

**9 June 1944** The Japanese destroyer *Tanikaze* is sunk by a US submarine near Tawitawi in the Philippines off Sabah. 114 men are killed while 126 are rescued.

American forces capture Vetrella and Viterbo, 65 km northeast of Rome.

Ivanoe Bonomi replaces Pietro Badoglio as Prime Minister of Italy. Crown Prince Umberto, the acting monarch, takes on the title Governor-General of the Kingdom.

American troops take Trévières, west of Bayeux.

In Tulle, south of Limoges, the SS carry out a reprisal against local sabotage activity. 100 men are chosen at random and publicly hanged. Their wives and children are forced to watch them strung by lampposts and the balconies of their own houses.

**10 June 1944** Japanese forces begin an offensive across the River Liuyang towards Changsha.

Soviet forces launch an offensive against Finland in the Karelian Isthmus.

Allied troops capture Chieti and Pescara on the Adriatic. New Zealanders take Avezzano, 80 km east of Rome.

Germans kill 642 citizens of Gradour-sur-Glane in reprisal for a Resistance attack. Among the dead are 190 children. Only two villagers escape.

**11 June 1944** American planes attack Saipan and Tinian destroying over 100 Japanese planes.

French forces capture Montefiascone, 80 km north of Rome.

American troops take Lison, west of Bayeux. British take Caumont, south of Bayeux.

A two-week festival of the music of Richard Strauss culminates today in Vienna, the 80th birthday of the composer. He conducts *Till Eulenspiegel* and *Symphonia domestica* with the Vienna Philharmonic. In the evening he conducts a performance of *Aridane auf Naxos* in a live radio broadcast.

The Greek government-in-exile votes to prohibit King Georgios from returning until a referendum on his status can be held in Greece.

**13 June 1944** The Germans launch the first V-1 flying bombs on England. Of ten launched this day only four reach England, killing six people and destroying a railroad bridge. Through early September the V-1s will kill 6,184 and injure 17,981 in Britain. Thousands will die in Belgium as well.

French troops take Narni, 65 km north of Rome.

British forces capture Carentan.

The destroyer *HMS Boadicea* is sunk by German warplanes off the Isle of Portland, England. Of the 182 aboard, twelve survive.

Sweden agrees to cut its export of ball bearings to Germany by one-half.

**14 June 1944** The Japanese destroyer *Shiratsuyu* collides with a tanker and sinks southeast of the Surigao Strait. 104 men are lost.

Allied troops capture Orvieto, Terni, and Todi, south of Perugia.

The Germans launch 244 V-1 flying bombs causing severe damage to London.

All 1,800 Jews on Corfu are deported to Auschwitz.

*Hymn and Fuguing Tune no.1* for symphonic band by Henry Cowell (47) is performed for the first time, in New York.

**15 June 1944** American forces land on Saipan in the Mariana Islands to fierce resistance.

**16 June 1944** American B-29 long range bombers attack Japan for the first time, from China. The attack, on Yawata, Kyushu, is militarily a failure but psychologically a success.

British forces capture Spoleto, 50 km south of Perugia. Americans take Grosseto, 120 km south of Pisa.

Over two days 15-16 June, 73 V-1s reach London.

The United States orders the minister and three other Finnish diplomats to leave the country because of activities “inimical to the interests of the United States.”

The Commonwealth Cooperative Federation wins 43 of 52 seats in the Saskatchewan provincial elections. It will thus constitute North America’s first socialist government.

**17 June 1944** Senegalese French troops land on Elba.

The Republic of Iceland declares its independence from Denmark under President Sveinn Björnsson and Prime Minister Björn Thordarson.

42 people are killed by V-1s in England.

**18 June 1944** American forces on Saipan split the Japanese defenders in two.

Japanese forces capture Changsha in Hunan province, 300 km south of Wuhan.

The Red Army breaks through the Mannerheim Line and advances toward Viipuri (Vyborg).

Allied forces capture Perugia.

The doors of the Jewish synagogue in Rome are reopened.

A V-1 hits Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks during Sunday service. 121 people are killed. 47 people are killed elsewhere in England.

Paul Lansky is born in New York, the son of a recording engineer.

Sonatina no.1 for 16 wind instruments by Richard Strauss (80) is performed for the first time, in Dresden as part of celebrations surrounding Strauss’ 80th birthday.

**19 June 1944** Japanese and American carrier-based planes engage west of Saipan resulting in the loss of 346 Japanese and 15 American planes. Two Japanese carriers (*Taiho* and *Shokaku*) are sunk by American submarines, with the loss of almost 3,000 men.

French troops complete the occupation of Elba.

American troops capture Montebourg and Valognes, south of Cherbourg.

Robert Ward (26) marries Mary Raymond Benedict, a Red Cross recreation worker, in Hawaii.

**20 June 1944** American naval air forces sink the Japanese carrier *Hiyo* northwest of Saipan, the final action in the Battle of the Philippine Sea. In the battle, the Japanese lost 1,475 planes and three carriers while the Americans lost two oilers and 130 planes (only 50 of which were actually shot down by the Japanese).

**21 June 1944** Soviet forces capture Viipuri (Vyborg), Finland.

**22 June 1944** Allied (Great Britain-India) forces effect the relief of Imphal ending the Japanese hope of advance into India.

1,700,000 Soviet troops begin a general offensive against the Germans on a 320 km front from Vitebsk to Gomel, Byelorussia (Belarus).

American planes drop 1,000 tons of bombs on Cherbourg.

US President Roosevelt signs the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act, known colloquially as the GI Bill. It provides money for veterans to attend college and will change the face of higher education in the United States.

**23 June 1944** Trio for violin, viola, and cello by Bernd Alois Zimmermann (26) is performed for the first time, at Cologne University.

A tornado strikes Shinnston, West Virginia, killing over 100 people.

**24 June 1944** Eyewitness accounts of events in Auschwitz are received in London and Washington with urgent pleas to bomb the railways leading to the camp. No plans are made.

The British cargo ship *MV Derrycunihy* strikes a mine off Normandy. 183 soldiers and 25 crew are lost.

**25 June 1944** After days of intense fighting, American forces take Mt. Togpachau, Saipan.

The Red Army traps five German divisions near Vitebsk.

German Foreign Minister Ribbentrop arrives in Helsinki and forces President Ryti to sign a document promising never to conclude a separate peace.

American troops take Piombino, 90 km south of Pisa.

**26 June 1944** Allied (Great Britain-India-Gurkah-United States) troops capture Mogaung, west of Myitkyina, Burma.

Soviet forces take Vitebsk and Zhlobin (both Belarus).

South African troops capture Chiusi, 35 km west of Perugia.

After nine days of heavy fighting, American forces capture most of Cherbourg as the Germans destroy the port.

Railroad workers in Guatemala join a nationwide strike against the conservative President Jorge Ubico.

**27 June 1944** Soviet forces take Orsha, south of Vitebsk and Mogilev.

On the northern front, Soviets take Petrozavodsk, 300 northeast of Leningrad.

American troops complete the capture of Cherbourg.

**28 June 1944** Japanese forces attack Henyang (Hengyang) in Hunan province, but the Chinese defenders hold.

Soviet forces capture Bobruysk, southeast of Minsk.

As Soviet troops approach the Maly Trostenets concentration camp near Minsk, SS troops take all surviving prisoners, Russian civilians, Jews from the Minsk Ghetto, and Viennese Jews from Theresienstadt (Terezín), and lock them into the barracks. They then set the barracks on fire. Those fleeing the building are shot. 20 manage to escape into the woods.

Philippe Henriot, Vichy Minister of Propaganda and leader of the collaborationist Milice, is shot to death in Paris by the Resistance.

Pierre Boulez (19) visits Olivier Messiaen (35) for the first time, in Paris.

**29 June 1944** The Japanese troop transport *Toyama Maru* is sunk by an American submarine off Taira Jima in the Nansei Islands. About 5,400 men are killed, with 600 surviving.

Lim Bo Seng, a leading Malayan resistance fighter, dies of the effects of disease and torture at the Japanese prison of Batu Gajah in Perak, Malaya.

Soviet forces capture Slutsk and Lyuban, south of Minsk.

**30 June 1944** A general strike begins in Copenhagen against curfew and other occupation restrictions. Germany cuts off all water, gas, and electricity to the city.

The last season at the Vienna Opera House ends, appropriately enough, with a performance of Richard Wagner’s (†61) *Götterdämmerung*. See 12 March 1945.

The United States breaks diplomatic relations with Finland.

US President Roosevelt signs a bill providing independence for the Philippines as soon as the Japanese are removed from the islands.

**1 July 1944** Admiral Horthy orders a halt to the deportation of Hungary’s Jews.

American forces capture Cecina, 80 km south of Pisa.

In the face of nationwide opposition, conservative President Jorge Ubico of Guatemala turns power over to a three-man junta and flees to the United States.

**2 July 1944** Australian and American troops land on Noemfoor (Numfoor) Island, northwest of New Guinea.

British forces take Foiano della Chiana 75 km southeast of Florence.

**3 July 1944** The Red Army captures Minsk and 150,000 Germans.

French troops capture Siena while the British take Cortona, 80 km southeast of Florence.

American forces begin a slow advance south from the Normandy beachhead.

Despite pleas from local authorities, the general strike spreads to the Danish mainland.

**4 July 1944** Allied troops take Kornasoren airfield on Noemfoor (Numfoor) Island.

Soviet troops take Polotsk, northwest of Vitebsk.

Canadian forces capture Carpiquet, west of Caen.

**5 July 1944** The Japanese destroyer *Usugumo*, with 219 aboard, is sunk by a US submarine in the Sea of Okhotsk. She goes down in six minutes with all hands.

Germany accedes to Danish demands that Danish Nazi troops be withdrawn from Copenhagen, lifting of the curfew, no reprisals, and no firing on unarmed crowds. The strike and German reprisals caused 87 deaths and around 700 injuries.

American troops take La Haye du Puits, south of Cherbourg.

**6 July 1944** Soviet troops take Kovel, northeast of Lutsk and Svir, 80 km east of Vilna (Vilnius).

Polish troops capture Osimo, south of Ancona.

Prime Minister Churchill announces in the House of Commons that penicillin, hitherto restricted to military use, will be made available to victims of the V-1.

Former French Colonies Minister Georges Mandel (Louis-Georges Rothschild) is executed outside Paris. His executioners, all French Milice, will themselves be executed.

A fire during a circus performance in Hartford, Connecticut kills about 168 people.

**7 July 1944** The last surviving Japanese troops on Saipan launch a suicide attack. After some gains, almost all are killed.

The Japanese destroyer *Tamanami* is sunk by a US submarine off Manila taking all 228 of her crew with her.

**8 July 1944** Soviet troops take Baranovichi (Belarus).

A major British and Canadian attack begins at Caen.

**9 July 1944** American forces complete their conquest of Saipan. In the battle for the island, approximately 60,000 people were killed, including 22,000 Japanese civilians.

Raoul Wallenberg arrives in Budapest with a list of 630 Jews for whom Swedish visas are available.

Ivan Subasic replaces Bozidar Puric as Prime Minister of the Yugoslav government-in-exile.

**10 July 1944** Soviet forces capture Slonim, east of Bialystok.

American troops take Volterra, 50 km southeast of Pisa.

British and Canadian forces gain effective control of Caen.

**11 July 1944** The United States recognizes the French Provisional Government as the de facto government of liberated France.

**12 July 1944** Soviets take Idritsa, east of Velikiye Luki.

**13 July 1944** Japanese troops and their Indian allies begin retreating from India back into Burma (Myanmar). By the time they reach their staging points, the invasion of India will cost Japan and its allies 65,000 lives.

Soviet forces launch a general offensive against the Germans in a line from Kovel to Stanislav towards Lvov (Lviv). They also capture Vilna (Vilnius).

Germans bring the American advance toward St. Lo to a halt.

**14 July 1944** Soviet forces capture Pinsk (Belarus).

In Kovno (Kaunas), the Gestapo discover over a hundred Jews hiding in a cellar. They lock the door and set the house afire. None survive.

French troops take Poggibonsi, 40 km south of Florence.

48 Italian partisans captured 12 July near Arezzo and tortured for two days are ordered to dig a deep pit and are buried in it up to their necks. Sticks of dynamite are placed next to their heads. After all refuse to divulge any information, the sticks are ignited.

28 prisoners revolt at Santé Prison, Paris. All are shot.

**15 July 1944** Soviet troops take Opochka, south of Pskov.

**16 July 1944** British forces capture Arezzo, 60 km southeast of Florence.

Soviet forces cross the Nieman (Neman) River.

**17 July 1944** 57,000 German prisoners lead by 19 generals are marched through Moscow followed by water canons which cleanse the streets soiled by German boots.

American forces enter St. Lo, southwest of Bayeux.

German commander Erwin Rommel is severely wounded by an Allied plane on the road from Caen to La Roche-Guyon.

Munitions stored at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in Port Chicago, California explode. Three ships are sunk. 320 people are killed and 390 injured.

*The Razor’s Edge* by Somerset Maugham is published in Britain.

Cinco canciones populares argentinas for voice and piano by Alberto Ginastera (28) are performed for the first time, in Buenos Aires.

**18 July 1944** Soviet troops reach the East Prussian border but are met with a German counterattack.

Allied forces capture Ponedera on the Arno, 20 km east of Pisa.

British and Canadian troops begin a major push east of the Orne. Allied planes bomb villages to the east of Caen. 3,000 French civilians are killed and much of the city is destroyed

**19 July 1944** The Japanese cruiser *Oi* is sunk by a US submarine in the South China Sea. 153 men are lost but 369 are rescued.

The Red Army enters Latvia.

Polish forces capture Ancona on the Adriatic coast, 180 km east of Florence, while American troops take Livorno on the west coast of Italy, 75 km west of Florence. The two cities share the same latitude on opposite sides of the peninsula.

**20 July 1944** 12:42 A bomb explodes at Hitler’s headquarters in East Prussia. It was left by Colonel Claus, Count von Stauffenberg as part of a plot to overthrow the government by certain members of the officer corps. Four people are killed, but Hitler is only injured. Von Stauffenberg flies back to Berlin to spring the plot but upon landing he learns that Hitler is alive. The conspirators go ahead with the plan and arrest Gen. Fromm, Commander of the Reserve Army.

18:45 Minister of Propaganda Joseph Goebbels announces over German radio that Hitler is alive and well. Conspirators in Paris order the arrest of all Gestapo and security service officers. When it is learned that Hitler lives, the plan collapses.

Evening. Gen. Friedrich Olbricht and Count von Stauffenberg are executed in the War Ministry, Berlin. Over 5,000 men and women, most not directly connected with the plot, will be executed.

One of the units chosen to move to Berlin to support the uprising is a panzer division in Magdeburg which includes Private Hans Werner Henze (18). After traveling for several hours they stop and return to Magdeburg.

**21 July 1944** American forces invade Guam to moderate resistance.

**22 July 1944** Kunaiki Koiso replaces Hideki Tojo as Prime Minister of Japan.

Americans on Guam begin to encounter heavy resistance.

Soviet troops cross the River Bug and capture Chelm, 65 km east of Lublin.

The last inhabitants of the Shavli (Siauliai, Lithuania) ghetto are sent to death camps on foot.

Representatives of 44 nations sign agreements in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire creating the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. See 27 December 1945.

Chorale for Orchestra, a transcription by Roy Harris (46) of his Chorale for Organ and Brass is performed for the first time, in Bedford, United Kingdom. See 26 September 1943.

**23 July 1944** Soviet troops take Pskov.

Soviet forces capture Lublin, 150 km southeast of Warsaw, and set up a Polish Committee of National Liberation, dominated by communists in opposition to the Polish government-in-exile in London.

As Soviets reach the outskirts of Lublin they come upon Majdanek, the first death camp to be reached by Allied troops. They find hundreds of unburied corpses and seven gas chambers. Over 1,500,000 people, Poles, Soviets, Jews, died at Majdanek.

Hermann Göring is appointed Reich Commissar for Total War Mobilization.

**24 July 1944** American troops land on Tinian in the Mariana Islands and establish a beachhead. They employ napalm for the first time.

In spite of Admiral Horthy’s order to the contrary, 1,500 Jews from Savar are deported to Auschwitz. These are the last Hungarian Jews to go to Auschwitz.

The Germans arrest all 2,000 Jews on Crete and transport them to Auschwitz. Only 275 manage to hide through the intercession of local citizens.

**25 July 1944** American forces begin a general offensive south from St. Lo throwing the German defenders into disarray.

**26 July 1944** Red Army forces take Narva, Estonia.

Soviet troops reach the Vistula (Wista) west of Lublin and take Deblin.

At Stalin’s direction, the Lublin government begins to wield civil power over liberated areas of Poland.

**27 July 1944** Soviet forces capture Bialystok, Poland, Lvov (Lviv), Ukraine, Dvinsk (Daugavpils) and Rezekne, Latvia and Siauliai, Lithuania. They also take Stanislawow, 36 km east of Warsaw.

US Secretary of State Cordell Hull invites Heitor Villa-Lobos (57) to come to Washington and serve as “Consultant on Brazilian Music” for the Library of Congress. It also includes a commission for a string quartet and allowance to conduct in the United States.

**28 July 1944** Soviet troops occupy Przemysl, 90 km west of Lvov (Lviv, Ukraine), and Brest-Litovsk (Brest, Belarus).

Two V-1s kill 96 people in London.

Americans take Coutances, west of St. Lo.

**29 July 1944** Organized Japanese resistance on Biak Island ends.

Radio Moscow broadcasts appeals from Polish communists for Warsaw to rise against the Germans.

Soviet troops capture Sandomierz, 85 km southwest of Lublin.

Witold Lutoslawski (31) and his mother flee Warsaw for Komorów, 18 km to the southwest to stay with relatives.

*Of New Horizons*, an overture by Ulysses Kay (27), is performed for the first time, at Lewisohn Stadium, New York.

*Rhythms of Today* for band by Roy Harris (46) is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of radio station KOA originating in Ft. Logan, Colorado the composer conducting.

**30 July 1944** Americans take Granville on the Golfe de St.-Malo and enter Avranches, 25 km to the southeast.

**31 July 1944** Allied troops capture Sansapor on the western tip of New Guinea.

Soviet forces reach Radzymin, 25 km northeast of Warsaw and Otwock, 25 km to the southeast of Warsaw. They halt on a defensive line Kobylka-Milosna. Soviets also take Siedlice, 90 km east of the capital.

American forces capture Avranches.

*Vira*, a song for voice and piano by Heitor Villa-Lobos (57), is performed for the first time, in Rio de Janeiro.

**1 August 1944** American troops complete the conquest of Tinian in the Mariana Islands.

Khuang Aphaiwong replaces Plaek Pibulsongkram as Prime Minister of Siam.

The Red Army captures Kovno (Kaunas), Lithuania.

In Warsaw, the Polish Home Army, the Communist People’s Army, and other armed civilians seize about two-thirds of the city.

**2 August 1944** A Polish assault on Warsaw’s Okecie Airport is annihilated by the Germans.

The Communist Party of Macedonia proclaims a Macedonian Peoples Republic inside Yugoslavia.

American troops take Villedieu-les-Poêles east of Granville.

Turkey breaks diplomatic relations with Germany.

Sonata for two pianos by Igor Stravinsky (62) is performed for the first time, in the Edgewood College of the Dominican Sisters, Madison, Wisconsin. Nadia Boulanger (56) and Richard Johnson are the pianists.

**3 August 1944** Allied (United States-China) forces capture Myitkyina, Burma (Myanmar).

The liquidation of the Lodz ghetto begins in earnest.

American troops take Montain, southwest of Flers.

The destroyer *HMS Quorn* is sunk by German E-boats in the English Channel with the loss of 130 men.

**4 August 1944** British troops take Tamu, Burma just over the Indian border from Imphal.

Carl Gustaf Mannerheim replaces Risto Heikki Ryti as President of Finland.

South African troops occupy Florence south of the Arno.

American forces capture Rennes.

British take Villers-Bocage southwest of Caen.

In Amsterdam, the family of Anne Frank is discovered, seized, and deported.

**5 August 1944** 2,000 Japanese POWs attempt a mass break out at a prison camp west of Sydney, Australia. 183 of them are killed, 29 more kill themselves.

The privately-owned motor schooner *MV Mefküre*, carrying over 300 Jewish refugees from Constanta, Romania to Palestine, is torpedoed and sunk by a Soviet submarine in the Black Sea northeast of Igneada, Turkey, in spite of the fact that it flies both the Turkish and Red Cross flags. Five refugees and seven crew members are rescued.

Poles liberate the Gesiowka Street labor camp, freeing 348 Jews from Greece, Belgium, France, Romania, Hungary, and Poland.

American troops take Vannes on the Bay of Biscay, 100 km southwest of Rennes.

17:30 German Gen. von dem Bach-Zelewski orders that executions of women and children in Warsaw be halted. By this time, 15,000 civilians have been murdered. All Polish men captured continue to be killed, insurgents or not. Cossacks and other non-Germans fighting for the Nazis disregard the order. Over the next three days, 30,000 more civilians will die.

**6 August 1944** Japanese forces on Guam begin a fierce counterattack.

Germans begin a counterattack against the Americans toward Avranches.

American forces capture Laval.

A suite from the incidental music to *Masquerade* by Aram Khachaturian (41) is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of Radio Moscow. See 21 June 1941.

**7 August 1944** The Japanese cruiser *Nagara* is sunk by a US submarine of Kyushu. 349 aboard are lost but 235 will be rescued.

Germans retake Mortain from the Americans.

The Automatic Sequence Controlled Calculator (known as Mark 1) is officially presented to Harvard University by IBM, although it has already been working since May. It was developed by Howard Aiken.

Doce Preludios Americanos op.12 for piano by Alberto Ginastera (28) is performed for the first time, in Buenos Aires.

**8 August 1944** Japanese forces occupy Henyang (Hengyang).

Antti Verner Hackzell replaces Edwin Johannes Indegard Linkomies as Prime Minister of Finland.

Executions of the bomb-plotters of 20 July begin in Plötzensee Prison, Berlin. They are hung with wire nooses.

American troops enter Le Mans.

**9 August 1944** American forces capture Le Mans.

**10 August 1944** American troops complete their reconquest of Guam.

Railroad workers strike in Paris paralyzing German troop movements.

**11 August 1944** A Soviet offensive moves 25 km through the German lines south of Lake Peipus.

**12 August 1944** Allied troops complete the conquest of Florence.

Americans retake Mortain while French troops capture Alençon, north of Le Mans.

**13 August 1944** American forces capture Nantes at the mouth of the Loire and take most of Argentan.

**14 August 1944** American troops take most of St. Malo.

28 British bombers fly supplies from Italy to Warsaw in lieu of Soviet help. Only eleven planes survive and they manage to drop only five tons of supplies.

Allies in France launch an offensive to destroy the Falaise pocket and simultaneously move on Paris.

**15 August 1944** British forces enter Tinchebray, west of Flers. A large number of Germans are now trapped between British and Canadians in the north and Americans to the south. They begin to furiously drive towards the east.

Allied (United States-Great Britain-France) troops invade southern France at St. Tropez and other points on the Riviera between Cannes and Hyères.

**16 August 1944** Canadian forces enter the ruins of Falaise and engage the Germans in fierce combat.

American troops take Chartres, 80 km southwest of Paris.

*Die Liebe der Danae*, an opera by Richard Strauss (80) to words of Gregor after Hofmannsthal, is performed for the first time, in an open dress rehearsal in the Salzburg Festspielhaus. The premiere will be cancelled in the aftermath of the bomb plot on Hitler. See 14 August 1952.

**17 August 1944** Japanese resistance on Noemfoor (Numfoor) Island ends.

The Japanese troop transport *Mayasan Maru* is torpedoed by an American submarine southwest of Korea, and goes down in less than five minutes. Over 3,500 go down with her while other ships rescue 1,300.

Two Red Army infantry divisions cross into East Prussia at Schirwindt and plant the red flag. It is the first part of pre-war Germany reached by the Allies.

Canadian forces complete the capture of Falaise.

American forces capture Orléans and Chateaudun, 45 km to the west, as well as Dreux, 75 km west of Paris. Germans in the St. Malo Citadel surrender to Americans.

Allied troops on the Riviera take St. Raphael, St. Tropez, and Fréjus.

Gestapo and Milice in Lyon take 109 prisoners from Lyon to Bron Airport and shoot them to death.

**18 August 1944** The Japanese troop ship *Teia Maru* is sunk by a US submarine in the South China sea during a typhoon. Over 2,600 people are lost.

The Japanese escort carrier *Taiyo* is sunk by a US submarine of Cape Bolinao off Luzon. Very few of her compliment of about 750 survive.

The Japanese cruiser *Natori* is sunk by a US submarine east of Samar. 330 aboard go down with her but 246 will be rescued, some up to a month from now.

The Communist-controlled National Council of Poland declares Lublin as the temporary capital.

Poles from the north and Americans from the south close the Falaise gap at Chambois, 160 km west of Paris, trapping a considerable German force to the west.

The Red Cross enter Drancy a day after its evacuation by the Germans. It was the main transit camp for Jews from France to Auschwitz. 84,000 French Jews were deported to the east. 500 survivors are liberated.

2,453 French political prisoners are deported from Nancy to Ravensbrück and Buchenwald.

Pierre Schaeffer (34), under authority of the Resistance, goes to the Studio d’Essai in Paris to “take possession of the premises, personnel and means of the ex-Radiodiffusion nationale and the ex-Radio-Paris.”

*Ex ore innocentium*, a motet for female chorus and piano or organ by John Ireland (65) is performed for the first time, in Durham Cathedral.

Piano Concerto no.1 (performed as Fantasy for two pianos) by Roy Harris (46) is performed for the first time, at Colorado College, Colorado Springs. See 19 September 1944. Also on the program is the premiere of Harris’ *Lamentation* for wordless soprano, viola, and piano.

**19 August 1944** The Japanese ship *Tamatsu Maru* is sunk by an American submarine off the Pescadores (Penghu Islands). Around 4,500 men are lost.

The Paris police side with the Resistance and seize the Préfecture de Police, raising the tricolor and singing the Marseillaise. The Resistance begins attacking Germans on the streets of Paris, capturing 600.

**20 August 1944** The Red Army begins a major offensive from the Dnestr along a 500 km front centered between Jassy (Iasi) and Tiraspol into Romania. They destroy five German divisions on the first day.

American troops enter Fontainbleau, 60 km south of Paris.

When Marshal Henri Pétain refuses to retreat with the Germans from Vichy, they arrest him.

In Lyon, 100 French men and women are taken by the Gestapo and shot to death. Their bodies are set afire.

A major hurricane hits Jamaica causing floods which do major damage to crops.

Fantasia for piano and band by Roy Harris (46) is performed for the first time, at Colorado College, Colorado Springs.

**21 August 1944** German forces begin the last drive to break out of the Falaise trap.

Pierre Schaeffer (34) begins broadcasting from the Studio d’Essai, Paris.

American troops capture Aix-en-Provence.

Foreign ministers of the Allied nations meet at Dumbarton Oaks near Washington to create the United Nations Organization.

**22 August 1944** Japan begins the conscription of women aged 12-40.

A US submarine sinks the Japanese passenger ship *Tsushima Maru* near the island of Akusekijima. It is carrying almost 1,500 civilians, mostly children, from Okinawa to Kagoshima. A total of 177 people survive.

Soviet troops take Jassy (Iasi), Romania.

Pierre Schaeffer (34) broadcasts the call to arms to the Resistance.

The Jamaica hurricane crosses the Yucután Peninsula.

*Four Walls* for piano and voice by John Cage (31) is performed for the first time, in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

**23 August 1944** Nikolay Andreyevich Roslavets dies of a heart attack in Moscow, aged 63 years, seven months, and 19 days. His mortal remains will be buried in Vagankovsky Cemetery.

The Soviet Army reaches the mouth of the Danube.

As Soviet forces capture Vaslui, 270 km northeast of Bucharest, King Mihai of Romania and his advisors engineer a coup d’etat in the capital, arresting the pro-Axis Prime Minister Ion Antonescu and replacing him with Constantin Sanatescu. As the Romanian Army follows suit, all Germans in Romania are captured or flee the country. King Mihai orders a unilateral cease-fire and offers an armistice with the Allies, simultaneously declaring war on Hungary for the return of Transylvania.

Italian partisans capture Baceno, an Italian mountain stronghold on the Swiss border.

American troops capture Melun, 45 km south of Paris and Evreux, 85 km west of the capital, while the French take Rambouillet, 45 km southwest of the city.

The Resistance is now in control of most of Paris. They free all French civilian captives in the city.

The Germans attack the Grand Palais in Paris, setting it afire.

Allied troops reach Bordeaux.

Switzerland breaks relations with Vichy France.

**24 August 1944** Soviet troops take Kishinev (Chisinau, Moldova).

The SS murder 3,000 prisoners before evacuating the Mielec slave labor camp in southern Poland.

Marshal Antonescu, the former Prime Minister of Romania, is handed over to the Communist Party who lock him in a safe until the Red Army enters Bucharest. The Luftwaffe bombs Bucharest. A pro-Axis Romanian government-in-exile is constituted in Berlin under Prime Minister Horia Sima.

French forces begin an advance on Paris and enter the city from the south through the Porte d’Orleans.

Americans in the south of France take Arles, Grenoble, and Cannes.

German Minister of Propaganda Joseph Goebbels orders that “all theatres, music halls, drama schools and cabarets” are to be closed. Soon, all orchestras, music schools, and conservatories will also cease operations. Publication of fiction will soon end. Artists, musicians, and writers are to be conscripted into national service. A 60-hour week is required, holidays are forbidden and students are conscripted.

Sweden breaks relations with Vichy France.

The Jamaica hurricane comes ashore at Veracruz and falls apart. Over the last week it has killed 216 people.

**25 August 1944** Finland sues for an armistice with the Soviet Union.

The Red Army captures Tartu, Estonia.

Romania declares war on Germany.

14:30 The German commander of Paris, Dietrich von Choltitz, surrenders the city.

16:00 General de Gaulle arrives in Paris and walks through a vast crowd to the Hôtel de Ville. A wave of retribution sweeps the city.

British troops cross the Seine and take Vernon, 70 km northwest of Paris.

Canadian forces capture Elbeuf, south of Rouen.

American troops take Avignon.

Spain, Portugal, and Turkey break relations with Vichy France.

The US embassy in Rio de Janeiro sends a response to Cordell Hull’s telegram of 27 July. The Brazilian government will allow Villa-Lobos (57) out of the country for only three months. He will not accept unless he is allowed to visit other countries and if the conducting engagements are definite.

Darius Milhaud (51) begins writing his autobiography.

**26 August 1944** The Red Army reaches the Danube east of Galati.

Bulgaria announces its withdrawal from the war and that German troops in Bulgaria will be disarmed.

Allied forces in Italy begin a general offensive. The British capture Pisa but the Germans hold their defensive line.

General de Gaulle leads a ceremonial parade through Paris. Arthur Honegger (52) records in his diary, “de Gaulle’s procession. Fighting in the Montmartre cemetery. German bombing.”

**27 August 1944** Soviet troops capture Focsani and Galati, Romania.

American forces take Château-Thierry, 80 km east of Paris.

**28 August 1944** Over the next two days, Ambon, Dutch East Indies, is destroyed by Allied bombers.

Soviet forces take Braila, Romania, 170 km northeast of Bucharest.

Ernst Thaelmann, former leader of the German Communist Party, is shot at Buchenwald after more than ten years imprisonment. Meanwhile, Allied bombs dropped accidentally on Buchenwald kill Princess Matilda, daughter of the King of Italy and Marcel Michelin, the tire manufacturer.

While Allied troops occupy Marseille and Toulon, taking 47,000 Germans prisoner, Charles de Gaulle becomes provisional President of France in Paris.

Of 97 V-1s sent to England today, 88 are shot down by air and anti-aircraft defenses, two hit barrage balloons and three fall short. Only four land on London.

**29 August 1944** Soviet and Polish communists announce the discovery of evidence of 1,500,000 murders at Majdanek.

Soviet troops take Constanta on the Black Sea 200 km east of Bucharest and Buzau, 100 km northeast of the capital.

The Bulgarian cabinet votes to abolish all anti-Jewish legislation as of 5 September.

The last deportation transports leave Lodz.

Partisans declare a Czechoslovak Republic, taking Banska Bystrica and much of the area surrounding it to Brezno, Zvolen and Rozomberok (Slovakia).

American forces capture Soissons, Reims, and Châlons-sur-Marne, 90, 130, and 150 km north and west of Paris respectively.

British planes bomb Königsberg (Kaliningrad) leaving 134,000 civilians homeless.

**30 August 1944** Géza Lakatos replaces Döme Sztójay as Prime Minister of Hungary. The new government announces it is ready to negotiate with the Soviet Union.

Soviet troops capture Ploesti, Romania the last source of crude oil for the Germans.

British forces take Beauvais, 65 km north of Paris.

**31 August 1944** Soviet troops occupy Bucharest.

British forces capture Amiens.

American forces capture Verdun, 200 km from the Rhine.

American troops cross the Meuse at Commercy, west of Nancy.

The Provisional Government for France sets up operations in Paris.

**1 September 1944** Soviet troops take Calarasi, 100 km southeast of Bucharest and reach the Bulgarian frontier at Giurgiu on the Danube, 65 km south of Bucharest.

Yugoslav partisans begin a weeklong campaign of destruction of the transportation system to confuse and prevent a German retreat.

Canadian forces capture Dieppe, scene of their 1942 commando raid. British forces take Arras. American troops take Verdun and Commercy while the French capture Narbonne on the Mediterranean and St. Agrève, 90 km southwest of Lyon.

**2 September 1944** Polish Resistance in Warsaw is forced to give up the Old Town and retreat into the sewers.

Finland breaks diplomatic relations with Germany and demands all Germans leave the country.

Canadian forces break through the Gothic Line and reach the Conca River, west of Cattolica.

Konstantin Vladov Muraviev replaces Ivan Ivanov Bagrianov as Prime Minister of Bulgaria.

As Allied troops capture Douai and Lens in northern France, British troops enter Belgium.

“Francisco Fiorentino with Orchestra conducted by Astor Piazzolla (22)” makes its debut at the Circulo Almagro in the Villa Urquiza district of Buenos Aires.

**3 September 1944** Prime Minister Muraviev of Bulgaria halts the execution of political prisoners.

American forces capture Mons, Belgium while in the south, French troops enter Lyon. British forces enter Brussels and capture Tournai and Abbeville in northern France.

A cease-fire is agreed to by Finland and the USSR to take effect tomorrow at 08:00.

*Theme and Variations: The Four Temperaments* for piano and string orchestra by Paul Hindemith (48) is performed for the first time, in Boston. The soloist is Lukas Foss (22).

**4 September 1944** Soviet troops take Brasov and Sinaia, 135 km north of Bucharest.

Four days of anti-government strikes and demonstrations begin in Bulgaria. Most are violent.

British forces enter Antwerp. Allied troops capture Lille and Etaples in northern France as well as Louvain (Leuven), Belgium.

**5 September 1944** Stefan Tiso replaces Vojtech Tuka as Prime Minister of Slovakia.

The USSR declares war on Bulgaria. Bulgaria breaks diplomatic relations with Germany.

British forces enter Ghent. American troops capture Charleroi and Namur.

The Benelux Customs Union is agreed to by the three governments-in-exile.

British planes bomb Le Havre causing a firestorm and the deaths of 2,500 French citizens.

Igor Stravinsky’s (62) *Scherzo à la Russe* for jazz ensemble is performed for the first time, over the NBC Blue Network originating in New York.

**6 September 1944** American forces bomb the Japanese-held Palau Islands for three days.

The Red Army crosses the Danube into Yugoslavia at Kladovo, 160 km east of Belgrade. They also capture Ostroleka, 100 km north of Warsaw.

Hungary declares war on Romania.

British and Canadian troops take Ghent and Courtrai (Kortrijk), Belgium and Armentiers in northern France. French troops capture Chalons-sur-Saône.

**7 September 1944** Off Mindanao, an American submarine sinks the Japanese freighter Shinyo Maru. On board are 675 American POWs. 85 survive the sinking.

The British government announces the end of the V-1 threat. It has been seven days since the last attack.

**8 September 1944** Japanese airplanes bomb Chengtu (Chengdu).

US forces complete the conquest of Biak Island, Netherlands New Guinea.

The first German V-2 rocket to hit London kills three people. The V-2 will eventually kill 2,724 people and injure 6,467 others.

American forces capture Besançon and Liège while the Canadians take Nieuport (Nieuwpoort) and Ostend (Oostende).

The Belgian government-in-exile returns home to Brussels.

Malta ends blackouts.

**9 September 1944** American forces begin a two-day bombing of Mindanao.

Largely Communist soldiers and partisans overthrow the government of Prime Minister Konstantin Vladov Muraviev of Bulgaria. The first Regency Council for seven-year-old King Simeon II is replaced by a council consisting of Regents Ganev, Pavlov, and Boboshevski. They replace Prime Minister Muraviev with Kimon Georgiev Stoyanov. A pro-Axis Bulgarian government-in-exile is constituted in Germany under Prime Minister Asen Tsolov Tsankov. All pro-German members of the previous government are arrested.

The Soviet Union agrees to send aid to Warsaw and allow the Allies to use Soviet airstrips.

The Germans and Italian fascists sign an agreement with Italian partisans whereby Germans will withdraw from Domodossola and surrounding valleys.

Canadian troops take Bruges (Brugge).

French forces capture Beaune, Le Cruesot, and Autun in Burgundy.

Provisional President Charles de Gaulle of France names himself Prime Minister.

**10 September 1944** 41 days after the beginning of the Warsaw uprising, Soviet forces (only ten km away) begin shelling and air attacks on German positions near the city.

American forces capture Malmédy, Belgium and the city of Luxembourg.

American Charles D. Hiller and Belgian Henri Souvée become the first Allied soldiers to enter Germany from the west near the village of Roetgen, south of Aachen.

**11 September 1944** Communist leader Boleslaw Bierut assumes the presidency of a new provisional government of Poland.

Bulgaria begins releasing Allied prisoners of war.

South African troops take Pistoia, northwest of Florence.

Allied forces from the south reach Dijon. As French resistance fighters liberate the city, forces from the Normandy and Riviera invasions meet at Sombernon.

British troops enter the Netherlands near Bourg Leopold.

American bombers strike Chemnitz.

British bombers strike Darmstadt. 12,300 people die in the firestorm.

Yvonne Loriod plays Olivier Messiaen’s (35) *Vingt Regards sur l’Enfant-Jésus* for piano at the home of Guy Bernard-Delapierre in Paris. Messiaen completed the work two days ago. See 26 March 1945.

Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt meet in Quebec.

**12 September 1944** The Japanese troopship *Rakuyo Maru*, carrying 1,317 Allied prisoners of war, is sunk by a US submarine in the Luzon Strait. 1,159 people are killed. 63 will be rescued.

American planes fly 2,400 sorties against the Visayan Islands in the Philippines.

Romania signs an armistice with the USSR, Great Britain, and the United States in Moscow. They agree to take part in the war, pay $300,000,000 of goods and raw materials to the USSR, ban all fascist organizations, repeal all anti-Jewish laws, and revert to their 1940 borders. The Soviet Union takes control of Bessarabia and northern Bukovina.

The Hungarian Communist Party is reconstituted.

The German garrison of Le Havre surrenders to the British.

The Greek government moves from Cairo to Caserta.

**13 September 1944** The first airdrop of Soviet supplies takes place over Warsaw. The Red Army captures Lomza, 130 km northeast of Warsaw.

American bombers attack the synthetic fuel plant at Morowitz, eight km from Auschwitz. Although destroying the target, some bombs accidentally fall on the death camp. 15 SS are killed, 28 injured. 40 inmates are killed, 65 injured. Some bombs also fall on Birkenau, damaging the railway and killing 30 Polish laborers. Although the Allies possess overwhelming evidence of the events of the death camps, no air raids are sent to put them out of action.

Arnold Schoenberg, on his 70th birthday, is required by law to retire from the faculty of UCLA.

*14 Arten, den Regen zu beschreiben* for flute, clarinet, violin/viola, cello, and piano by Hanns Eisler (46) is performed for the first time, at the home of Arnold Schoenberg in Los Angeles for Schoenberg’s 70th birthday.

The “Great Atlantic Hurricane” sinks the destroyer *USS Warrington* off Florida with the loss of 248 hands.

**14 September 1944** Soviet and Polish forces capture Praga, just across the Vistula (Wista) from Warsaw, but make no attempt to cross the river.

**15 September 1944** American forces land unopposed on Morotai Island in the Netherlands East Indies, but simultaneous landings on Peleliu (Palau) Island in the Caroline Islands meet fierce Japanese resistance.

Soviet forces occupy Praga, near Warsaw, but again come to a halt.

The “Great Atlantic Hurricane” comes ashore on Long Island after devastating the Jersey shore. It continues on to cross Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Maine. 390 people died in the storm, mostly at sea.

**16 September 1944** American troops complete their conquest of Morotai Island.

A Polish advance across the Vistula (Wista) at Czerniakow is badly mauled by the Germans.

Soviet forces occupy the Bulgarian capital Sofiya.

American troops capture Beaugency, southwest of Orléans and 20,000 Germans.

A general strike takes place today and tomorrow in Denmark to protest the firing on a crowd in Copenhagen by German troops, wounding 29.

Michael Tippett’s (39) motet for chorus *Plebs angelica* is performed for the first time, in Canterbury Cathedral.

**17 September 1944** American forces land on Angaur Island south of Peleliu (Palau).

The Japanese carrier *Unyo* is sunk by a US submarine southeast of Hong Kong. About 240 of the approximately 1,000 aboard are killed.

Allied (United States-Great Britain-Poland) forces begin a land and airborne offensive into the Netherlands from Eindhoven to Arnhem. American paratroopers land at Grave, south of Nijmegen while British troops land near Arnhem.

Blackout restrictions are relaxed in London.

In parliamentary elections in Sweden, the ruling Social Democratic Party loses 19 seats but retains its majority. Communists make strong gains.

**18 September 1944** An American attempt to extend their perimeter on Peleliu (Palau) is thrown back by the Japanese with heavy losses.

The Japanese cargo ship *Jun’yo Maru*, carrying over 1,400 Allies (mostly Dutch) prisoners of war along with 4,000 slave laborers from Java, is sunk by a British submarine. Over 5,600 people die with less than 700 rescued.

American forces capture Eindhoven. British forces moving up from the south link with the Americans at Eindhoven and Veghel.

While on trial in Rome, former prison director Donato Carretta is attacked by a mob of about 7,000 and thrown into the Tiber where he drowns. His body is then hung from a prison window. An investigation will exonerate Carretta in November, saying he put himself at risk to shield anti-fascist prisoners.

**19 September 1944** Finland concludes an armistice with the Soviet Union and Great Britain. Finnish borders are returned to those of 1940. Finland must disarm all German troops in the country and surrender them to the Soviets. Finnish airfields are placed at the disposal of the USSR and Finland must pay $300,000,000 reparations.

Soviet troops take Valga on the Estonia-Latvia border. The Germans begin the evacuation of Estonia. 3,000 Jews at Klooga (Estonia) slave labor camp and 426 at nearby Lagedi camp are shot to death.

A Polish attempt to relieve the remaining Poles in Czerniakow fails.

American forces capture Brest in Brittany.

A state of siege is declared in Copenhagen when Danish police resist and fire on Germans trying to subdue and arrest them.

British troops link with Americans in Grave. Together they head for Nijmegen twelve km to the north.

Piano Concerto no.1 by Roy Harris (46) is performed for the first time in its orchestral setting, over the airwaves of the Blue Network, conducted by the composer. See 18 August 1944. Also on the program, Harris conducts the premiere of his *Rock of Ages* for chorus and orchestra.

**20 September 1944** Japanese resistance on Angaur (Palau) effectively ends.

US warplanes attack a Japanese convoy off the west coast of Luzon. All eleven ships are sunk, including the *Hofuku Maru* carrying British and Dutch prisoners of war. Over 1,000 prisoners are killed.

4,000 Jews are deported from Theresienstadt (Terezín) to Auschwitz. They all appeared in the film *The Führer Donates a Town to the Jews*.

British troops enter San Marino.

Allied (Great Britain-United States) forces capture Nijmegen and its bridges intact.

Charles, Count of Flanders, becomes regent for his brother, King Leopold III of Belgium, who retires to Switzerland.

American troops take Châtel, south of Lake Geneva and Lunéville, 90 km west of Strasbourg.

**21 September 1944** American planes bomb the Manila area destroying 200 Japanese planes and much shipping in Manila Bay, at the cost of 15 planes.

Urho Jonas Castren replaces Antti Verner Hackzell as Prime Minister of Finland.

The new government of Bulgaria proclaims equality of women, religious freedom, civil marriage, and separation of church and state.

Josip Broz Tito flies in a Soviet airplane to Romania and thence to Moscow. He will sign an agreement allowing Soviet entry into Yugoslavia with the provisions that they leave when their task is completed and that they have no control over the partisans.

Roman Chief of Police Pietro Caruso, found guilty of providing execution lists to the Germans, is shot to death by a firing squad.

Canadian and Greek forces capture Rimini on the Adriatic coast, 110 km west of Florence.

**22 September 1944** Finland breaks diplomatic relations with Japan.

Soviet troops capture Talinn, Estonia and Arad, Romania.

Allied troops take Elst, eight km south of Arnhem.

Canadian forces capture Boulogne.

**23 September 1944** American troops occupy Ulithi Atoll near Yap (Micronesia).

Soviet forces reach the Baltic at Pärnu, Estonia.

Finnish forces attack Germans refusing to withdraw from northern Finland in accordance with the Finland-USSR armistice.

George Rochberg (26), serving with American military forces, is wounded in Mons, Belgium.

**24 September 1944** Soviet and Bulgarian forces begin an offensive against the Germans, south of the River Danube, into Yugoslavia.

British troops are dropped onto the Greek mainland at Cape Araxos, 30 km west of Patras.

Toccata for organ and brass by Roy Harris (46) is performed for the first time, in the Busch-Reisinger Museum, Cambridge, Massachusetts the composer conducting.

**25 September 1944** Soviet troops take Haapsalu, Estonia on the Baltic.

Yugoslav partisans take Banja Luka (Bosnia-Herzegovina).

Remnants of British forces in Arnhem are ordered to withdraw. At night, 2,400 escape, 6,400 are captured, thus ending the Arnhem adventure. British troops take Helmund and Deurne, east of Eindhoven.

Harvard Medical School announces that women will be accepted as students beginning next Autumn.

**26 September 1944** Hitler signs a decree creating a People’s Army. Every able-bodied male 16-60 will be drafted.

British troops land at Katacolon (Katakolo) on the western shore of the Peloponnesus.

British forces take Turnhout, northeast of Antwerp.

**27 September 1944** The Japanese troop transport and hospital ship *Ural Maru* is sunk by a US submarine in the South China Sea. About 2,000 people are lost.

Soviet troops land on Vormsi Island off Estonia.

The last Warsaw resisters surrender. In the fighting for Warsaw, 15,000 Polish resisters and 10,000 Germans were killed. The Germans begin five days of vengeance in which 200,000 Poles will be killed.

**28 September 1944** American troops land on Negesbus and Kongauru Islands, north of Peleliu (Palau), to little resistance.

**29 September 1944** Soviet troops land on Muhu Island off Estonia.

**30 September 1944** The United States announces that Peleliu, Angaur, Negesbus, and Kongauru Islands (Palau) have been completely occupied.

Canadian forces capture Calais.

Concerto for oboe and strings by Ralph Vaughan Williams (71) is performed for the first time, in Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool.

**1 October 1944** Alejandro Córdova, publisher of Guatemala’s most important daily newspaper, *El Imparcial*, is murdered. The conservative President Federico Ponce Vaides is blamed.

**2 October 1944** After waiting for two months while the resistance in Warsaw is brutally crushed by the Germans, Soviet forces resume their advance on the city.

American forces begin an offensive against the Siegfried Line between Aachen and Geilenkirchen.

**3 October 1944** Soviet troops occupy Hiiuma Island off Estonia.

British planes bomb the dykes protecting Walcheren Island. Hundreds of meters of dykes are destroyed allowing the sea to rush in. 125 Dutch islanders are killed.

**4 October 1944** British and Greek forces occupy Patras as the Germans withdraw from Greece.

Soviet troops capture Pancevo across the Danube from Belgrade.

Allied planes bomb Prague for the first time.

Resigning after only a few weeks as director of Radio France, Pierre Schaeffer (34) becomes technical adviser to the Studio d’Essai.

**5 October 1944** Soviet troops land on Saaremaa Island off Estonia.

German forces complete their operations against the Polish partisans in Warsaw.

Soviet forces cross into Hungary near Arad, 220 km southeast of Budapest.

Further cuts in food rations are announced in Germany.

**6 October 1944** Soviet and Romanian forces begin an offensive into Hungary, towards Budapest. Prisoners revolt at Birkenau organized by the Sonderkommandos. They blow up a crematorium and other buildings, and kill guards. It is doubtful that any escape. All captured are executed.

**7 October 1944** Representatives of Allied nations end their meetings at Dumbarton Oaks near Washington. They have agreed on an outline for a world security organization to be proposed to the governments of China, the US, the UK and the USSR for approval.

**8 October 1944** Finnish forces take Kemi at the head of the Gulf of Bothnia, the last Finnish port still held by the Germans.

British troops take Corinth and Samos.

A meeting of representatives from Egypt, Syria, Transjordan, Iraq, and Lebanon ends in Cairo. They sign a protocol calling for the creation of an Arab League.

*Capricorn Concerto* op.21 for flute, oboe, trumpet, and strings by Samuel Barber (34), is performed for the first time, in Town Hall, New York. The work is named after the composer’s house in Mount Kisco, New York.

**9 October 1944** Canadian forces land at Breskens opposite Flushing.

**10 October 1944** The Battle of Leyte Gulf begins with American raids on Japanese airfields from Japan to the Philippines. 100 planes and large amounts of shipping are destroyed on Okinawa.

Soviet forces reach the Baltic Sea north of Memel (Klaipeda), cutting off German retreat.

During a German counterattack in Hungary, a group of Jewish slave laborers including György Ligeti (21) find themselves unattended near Nagyvárad. Over the next ten days Ligeti will be captured four times by the Soviets, and four times will escape in the chaos. He will walk back to Kolozsvár to find his parents and younger brother have been taken off to death camps.

**11 October 1944** Soviet troops occupy Szeged and lay siege to Kolozsvár, Hungary (Cluj-Napoca, Romania).

A delegation sent in secret by Hungarian head of state Miklos Horthy signs a provisional cease-fire agreement in Moscow. Hungary agrees to declare war on Germany and give up all acquisitions gained since 1937.

New Zealanders cross the Rubicon.

Miniatures for flute, oboe, and piano by William Grant Still (49) is performed for the first time, in Chelsea Town Hall, London.

**12 October 1944** Soviet forces take Oradea, Romania.

Soviets and Yugoslav partisans take Subotica near the Hungarian border.

The three-year-old blackout restrictions in Leningrad are lifted.

British paratroopers land at Megara airfield, 15 km from Athens as the Germans evacuate Piraeus. The British also land on Corfu. Vasilis Zannos, a minister in the National Liberation Front, together with Mikis Theodorakis (19) disarm the staff of the Luftwaffe. The weapons are handed over to the Lord Byron student group, whose members include Iannis Xenakis (22).

String Quartet in a minor by Ralph Vaughan Williams is performed for the first time, in the National Gallery, London on the composer’s 72nd birthday.

**13 October 1944** American planes attack Japanese installations on Taiwan over two days, 12-13 October. At dusk today, the Japanese retaliate against American ships, damaging a carrier and a cruiser.

Soviet forces capture Riga.

The Tuvinian People’s Republic (Tuva) is incorporated into the USSR.

Arrests begin in Romania of those suspected of war crimes. Three former ministers are arrested including former Prime Minister Ion Gigurtu.

Germany lifts the state of siege in place in Copenhagen since 19 September.

American troops enter Aachen and engage the Germans in fierce street fighting.

Symphony no.2 by David Diamond (29) is performed for the first time, in Boston.

**14 October 1944** American carrier-based planes and high level bombers from China attack Taiwan for the third time in as many days. Over the course of the three-day battle, 500 Japanese planes have been destroyed.

As he is convalescing at his home in Herlingen, Erwin Rommel is visited by two generals, emissaries from Hitler, who offer him suicide or a public trial. He takes cyanide, thoughtfully provided by the two generals.

German troops evacuate Athens as British and Greek forces enter the city. The British attempt to reinstate the government-in-exile but the armed partisans refuse to accept the status quo ante.

Soviets and Yugoslav partisans begin their assault on Belgrade.

**15 October 1944** Japanese air forces launch strikes against American naval forces off Taiwan, damaging one cruiser at the cost of many planes downed.

After Admiral Horthy proclaims an end to fighting and calls for action against German occupation troops, German soldiers storm the royal palace in Budapest, kidnap Horthy’s son and force him to appoint Ferenc Szálasi as Prime Minister.

Soviet troops occupy Petsamo (Pechenga) on the Arctic Ocean and take Kolozsvár, Hungary (Cluj-Napoca, Romania) after a four-day siege.

Polish troops take Gambettola, south of Ravenna.

US President Roosevelt proclaims his government’s support for the “establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth.”

Duo concertante for cello and piano by Norman Dello Joio (31) is performed for the first time.

**16 October 1944** British troops land on Lemnos in the Aegean.

Ferenc Szálasi replaces Géza Lakatos as Prime Minister of Hungary. A reign of terror begins. Between now and the end of the war, 85,000 Hungarian Jews and thousands of political opponents will be killed.

Romanian Communists force the government to resign. Prime Minister Sanatescu is retained but the new government includes more communists.

Vlorë is liberated by Albanian partisans.

The Red Army advances in force into East Prussia towards Gumbinnen (Gusev, Russia) and Goldap (Poland).

Soviet troops take Nis, Yugoslavia.

Scenes from *War and Peace*, an opera by Sergey Prokofiev (53) to his own words after Tolstoy are performed for the first time, in a concert setting in Moscow. See 12 June 1946 and 8 November 1957.

**17 October 1944** American forces capture Suluan Island in the Philippines.

Hungarian head of state Miklos Horthy is taken under “protective custody” to Weiheim, Bavaria.

American troops take Venray, 35 km east of Eindhoven.

In their attempt to rid their country of Germans, Finnish troops capture Rovaniemi.

A major hurricane crosses western Cuba and kills 300 people.

Aaron Copland’s (43) work for chamber orchestra *Letter from Home* is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of the ABC radio network, originating in New York.

Clifford Odets’ film *None but the Lonely Heart*, with music by Hanns Eisler (46), is released in the United States.

**18 October 1944** American forces land unopposed on Homonhon Island and Dinagat Island in the Philippines.

Indian forces capture Tiddim, Burma (Myanmar), 300 km northwest of Mandalay.

The USSR announces that the Red Army has entered Czechoslovakia.

German troops recapture Banska Bystrica from Slovakian partisans.

Dance Overture op.20 for orchestra by Vincent Persichetti (32) is performed for the first time, in Rochester, New York conducted by Howard Hanson (47).

**19 October 1944** An American invasion force enters Leyte Gulf and begins shelling landing beaches on Leyte Island. American planes do serious damage to Japanese planes in the area.

American troops capture Bruyères, 85 km west of Strasbourg.

*Forever Amber*, a novel by Kathleen Winsor, is banned in Boston.

After devastating western Cuba, a hurricane comes ashore at Sarasota, Florida and moves north. A total of 300 people are killed by this storm.

**20 October 1944** American forces begin an invasion of Leyte Island in the Philippines. After establishing a beachhead, General MacArthur and Philippine President Osmeña, with his cabinet, come ashore.

The Committee of National Liberation is set up as the defacto government of France.

The Greek government-in-exile under Prime Minister George Papandreou returns to Athens.

Soviet troops along with Yugoslavian partisans occupy Belgrade. Partisans take control of Dubrovnik.

Soviet, Romanian, and Bulgarian forces take Debrecen, 190 km east of Budapest. Deportations of Hungarian Jews resume.

British troops occupy Cesena, 80 km southeast of Bologna.

Seventy workers and students capture the fortress of the Guardia de Honor in Guatemala and distribute the captured arms to their fellows. They oppose the reign of terror by conservative President Federico Ponce. By 17:00, a new government is in place, partly organized by foreign diplomats.

A liquefied natural gas tank on East 61st Street in Cleveland explodes. 130 people are killed and over one square kilometer of the city is destroyed.

William Hugh Albright is born in Gary, Indiana.

Theme and Variations for orchestra op.43b by Arnold Schoenberg (70) is performed for the first time, in Boston.

**21 October 1944** American troops capture Tacloban on Leyte.

Japanese resistance on Angaur (Palau) ends.

American forces capture Aachen, the seat of Charlemagne’s empire.

Olafur Thors replaces Björn Thordarson as Prime Minister of Iceland.

Walter Piston’s (50) *Fugue on a Victory Tune* is performed for the first time, in New York.

**22 October 1944** President Osmeña re-establishes the civilian commonwealth government of the Philippines at Tacloban on Leyte Island.

Soviet troops advancing across arctic Finland reach Norway.

Over the next four days, 35,000 Budapest Jews of all ages are taken to build anti-tank ditches for the defense of the city. Thousands are shot as they march, or left to die.

The Antifascist Council of National Liberation is formed into a de facto government of Albania. Enver Hoxha is named Prime Minister.

Canadian forces capture Breskens, the Netherlands, on the Scheldt estuary.

Canadian troops take Cervia on the Adriatic south of Ravenna.

*Chant de libération* for baritone, unison chorus and orchestra by Arthur Honegger (52) to words of Zimmer, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Conservatoire. The work was composed in 1942.

**23 October 1944** A Japanese task force sent to counter the American invasion of the Philippines is attacked near Palawan Island by American submarines. Two cruisers are sunk, one severely damaged.

Eight countries including the United States, United Kingdom, and Soviet Union, recognize the government of Charles de Gaulle as the legitimate government of France.

Passacaglia for piano by Walter Piston (50) is performed for the first time, in New York.

**24 October 1944** Japanese planes attack American naval forces in the Philippine Sea. Almost all of the 180 attackers are shot down. They manage to sink the American carrier *USS Princeton* with the loss of 108 men. American planes then retaliate against the Japanese task force in the Sibuyan Sea sinking the super-battleship *Musashi* with the loss of 1,023 of her crew.

The *Arisan Maru*, carrying Allied prisoners of war, is sunk in the Bashi Straits by a US submarine. Of the 1,781 prisoners on board, only nine survive.

American troops cross from Leyte to Samar.

British troops enter Lamia, Greece.

Germans retake Gumbinnen, East Prussia (Gusev, Russia).

Soviets capture Kirkenes, Norway on the Barents Sea.

Martial law ends in Hawaii and habeus corpus is restored.

**25 October 1944** American and Japanese naval forces engage in three separate incidents near the Philippines. In a surface action in the Surigao Strait, the Japanese lose six ships, and 3,350 men, at no ship loss to the Americans. In the Philippine Sea, east of the San Bernadino Strait, the Japanese sink four ships. This action sees the first use of kamikaze flights by the Japanese. In the Philippine Sea east of Luzon, American planes sink four ships. Total Japanese losses this day number four carriers, three battleships, six heavy cruisers, three light cruisers and ten destroyers. The Japanese Navy ceases to play a major role in the war.

Great Britain, the United States, and several American republics recognize the Italian government of Prime Minister Ivanoe Bonomi.

**26 October 1944** American planes sink three warships as Japanese naval forces retreat from the Philippines, effectively ending the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

American attacks north of Dulag, Leyte are repulsed by the Japanese.

**27 October 1944** Soviet troops take Uzhgorod, Czechoslovakia (Ukraine).

Canadian forces capture Bergen-op-Zoom.

A five-man regency council takes control in Hungary.

**28 October 1944** Representatives of the Czechoslovak government-in-exile set up an administration in Chust.

Bulgaria signs an armistice with the Allies. Bulgarians are already fighting alongside the Allies.

British troops take Tilburg, 30 km northwest of Eindhoven.

71 civilians are killed in Antwerp by a V-1.

The last deportation from Theresienstadt (Terezín) sends 2,000 Jews to Auschwitz. After 1,689 are gassed, the Germans begin a systematic dismantling of any evidence of mass murder. All death certificates and other files are burned.

*A Legend* for orchestra by Arnold Bax (60) is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of the BBC Home Service, originating in The Guildhall, Cambridge.

**29 October 1944** American troops capture Abuyog, Leyte.

Polish troops capture Breda, 50 km west of Eindhoven.

Partita for violin, viola, and organ by Walter Piston (50) is performed for the first time, at the Library of Congress, Washington.

**30 October 1944** Canadian forces complete a drive across South Beveland to the Walcheren Canal.

Three new ballets are performed for the first time, in the Library of Congress, Washington to celebrate the 80th birthday of Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge: *Jeux de printemps* (six excerpts for chamber orchestra) op.243 by Darius Milhaud (52), *Hérodiade*, an orchestral recitation after Mallarmé by Paul Hindemith (48), and *Appalachian Spring* by Aaron Copland (43) to a scenario by Graham. See 7 May 1945, 4 October 1945, and 11 December 1945.

Sonatina for flute and clarinet by Ernst Krenek (44) is performed for the first time, in Buenos Aires. The work is an arrangement of his Sonatina for flute and viola. See 22 October 1945.

**31 October 1944** RAF planes attack Gestapo headquarters in Aarhus, Denmark killing 150 Germans, 20 Danes (mostly informers), and one Danish civilian. Bombers flying at rooftop level destroy Gestapo records for a planned anti-resistance sweep.

German troops evacuate Thessaloniki stranding many Aegean garrisons.

*Sebastian*, a ballet by Gian Carlo Menotti (33) to his own story, is performed for the first time, in the International Theatre, New York.

**1 November 1944** American troops take Baybay on the western shore of Leyte.

The Japanese troopship *Asama Maru* is torpedoed and sunk by a US submarine off Pratas Island in the South China Sea. 440 men go down with her. 1,434 of those aboard survive.

Soviet forces take Kecskemet, 80 km south of Budapest.

British troops enter Flushing (Vlissingen).

**2 November 1944** 50,000 of Budapest’s Jews are sent on a forced march towards Austria. On the six-day march, 10,000 will die. A thousand Budapest Jews are saved by Raoul Wallenberg.

Yugoslav partisans take Zadar, Croatia.

The last German troops leave Greece. Blackout restrictions are lifted.

British forces take Flushing (Vlissingen) in fierce fighting.

Allies capture Zeebrugge, Belgium.

**3 November 1944** The Japanese destroyer *Akikaze* is sunk by a US submarine off Cape Bolinao, Luzon in the Philippines. All 154 hands are lost.

500 Jews from a Slovak labor camp reach Auschwitz but the apparatus to kill them no longer exists.

A three-man regency council for Hungary replaces the one set up last week.

Turkey ends blackout restrictions.

**4 November 1944** Indians capture Kennedy Peak, south of Tiddim, Burma.

Soviet troops capture Szolnok, 90 km southeast of Budapest and Cegled to the west of Szolnok.

British forces take Geertruidenberg, 35 km southeast of Rotterdam.

**5 November 1944** American and Japanese forces engage in the hills near Limon on Leyte Island (nicknamed the Battle of Breakneck Ridge by American soldiers).

The Japanese cruiser *Nachi* is sunk by US warplanes in Manila Bay with the loss of 807 of her crew. 220 are rescued.

Two members of the Stern Gang kill Lord Moyne, British Resident Minister in the Middle East, in Cairo.

British troops land at Thessaloniki.

*A Song of Thanksgiving* for soprano, speaker, chorus, and orchestra by Ralph Vaughan Williams (72) is performed for the first time, in a recording session at the BBC’s London studio. The work is to be broadcast at the conclusion of the European war. See 13 May 1945.

**6 November 1944** Soviet leader Stalin calls Japan an “aggressive nation.”

**7 November 1944** Americans take Bloody Ridge west of Dagami, Leyte after fierce fighting.

The Greek government orders the dissolution of the two largest resistance groups.

Voting in the United States ensures the election of Franklin Roosevelt to an unprecedented fourth term as president over Thomas E. Dewey, Governor of New York. Parties remain virtually unchanged in the Senate, but Roosevelt’s Democratic Party makes strong gains in the House of Representatives. Adam Clayton Powell of New York is elected the first African-American Congressman since Reconstruction.

**8 November 1944** Japanese Prime Minister Koiso publicly commits his government to victory on Leyte.

British troops take Ft. White, south of Tiddim, Burma.

The Germans begin deporting Jews from Budapest to Austria on foot.

German troops on Walcheren, Netherlands surrender to Canadians.

**9 November 1944** American troops capture Château Salins, 95 km west of Strasbourg.

British troops capture Forli, 60 km southeast of Bologna.

Georges Suarez, editor of the pro-Nazi newspaper *Aujourd’hui*, is executed by firing squad in France.

**10 November 1944** While at anchor in Seeadler Harbor, Manus Island, the ammunition ship *USS Mount Hood* suffers an internal explosion. The force is so great that the ship disintegrates, killing all 350 of her crew. None of their remains are ever found. Several other ships are severely damaged, including *USS Mindanao* which suffers the loss of 82 of her crew. 371 people are injured on ship and on shore.

President Wang Ching-wei of Japanese-occupied China dies as Japanese troops occupy Kweilin (Guilin) and Liuchow (Liuzhou).

*Sex carmina Alcaei* for soprano and eleven instruments by Luigi Dallapiccola (40) is performed for the first time, over the airwaves of Italian Radio originating in Rome. The work was dedicated to Anton Webern on his 60th birthday (last 3 December). See 13 January 1949.

A district court in Salt Lake City, Utah sentences 20 men and eleven women to one year in jail for polygamy.

**11 November 1944** A Japanese reinforcement convoy to Leyte Island is set upon by American planes who kill 10,000 Japanese at the cost of nine planes lost.

The last German troops in Greece leave the country.

The recording divisions of RCA and CBS end their two-year fight with the American Federation of Musicians over recording practices. According to a contract signed today, a fee per recording sold will be paid to the musicians’ union.

**12 November 1944** The Royal Air Force attacks the last German heavy ship, the battleship *Tirpitz* in Tromsø Fjord, 1,100 km north of Oslo. At least two bombs find their marks and the ship capsizes, killing 950 people in the process. This frees British heavy ships to transfer to the Pacific.

80,000 leftists demonstrate in Rome in celebration of the anniversary of the Russian revolution and against the monarchy.

*Pastoral* for piano and english horn by Elliott Carter (35) is performed for the first time, in New York the composer at the keyboard. See 25 April 1988.

**13 November 1944** Belgium carries out the first two death sentences against collaborators.

Three Pieces for violin and piano by Lukas Foss (22) are performed for the first time, in Carnegie Hall, the composer at the keyboard.

Piano Sonata no.3 by Ross Lee Finney (37) is performed for the first time, in Times Hall, New York.

**14 November 1944** Bulgarian and Yugoslav forces enter Skopje, Macedonia.

Two chamber works by Dmitri Shostakovich (38) are performed for the first time, in the Leningrad Philharmonic Bolshoy Hall: Piano Trio no.2 op.67, with the composer at the keyboard, and String Quartet no.2 op.68.

**15 November 1944** A US submarine sinks the Japanese aircraft carrier *Shinyo* in the East China Sea. Of 1,200 aboard, only 70 survive.

American troops enter Mapia Island, north of Netherlands New Guinea (West Irian).

The University of Lublin conducts its first classes in five years.

String Quartet no.7 by Ernst Krenek (44) is performed for the first time, in the War Memorial Building Auditorium, Indianapolis.

**16 November 1944** 263 civilians are killed in Antwerp by ten V-1s.

Sweden announces that the German minister to Sweden has been recalled and that Swedish police have begun a roundup of Gestapo operatives in the country.

*Ode to Friendship* for orchestra by Roy Harris (46) is performed for the first time, in Madison Square Garden, New York the composer conducting.

**17 November 1944** Juho Kusti Paasikivi replaces Urho Jonas Castren as Prime Minister of Finland.

Virgil Thomson’s (47) orchestral suite *Portraits* is performed for the first time, in Philadelphia, conducted by the composer. The portraits included are: *Bugles and Birds* (Pablo Picasso), *Cantabile for Strings* (Nicolas de Chatelain), *Fugue* (Alexander Smallens), *Percussion Piece* (Jessie K. Lassel), and *Tango Lullaby* (Mlle Flavie Alvarez de Toledo).

**18 November 1944** A US submarine sinks the Japanese escort aircraft carrier *Akitsu Maru* off Saishu Island with the loss of over 2,000 men.

American forces enter Metz.

British troops capture Jülich, 40 km west of Cologne.

Albanian partisans capture Tirana from the Germans.

**19 November 1944** British forces launch an offensive from India into Burma.

**20 November 1944** Hitler leaves his headquarters at Rastenburg, East Prussia (Ketrzyn, Poland). He will never see it again.

Allied troops capture Sarrebourg, 55 km west of Strasbourg.

**21 November 1944** A US submarine sinks the Japanese battleship *Kongo* and destroyer *Urakaze* in the Taiwan Strait. 1,200 men in the *Kongo* are lost, 237 rescued. All 307 aboard *Urakaze* go down with her.

Albanian partisans occupy Durazzo (Durrës).

Occidental College in Los Angeles awards an honorary Doctorate in Law to Heitor Villa-Lobos (57). It is his first public appearance in the United States.

**22 November 1944** French troops take Mulhouse, just west of the Rhine.

Americans capture St. Dié, 65 km southwest of Strasbourg.

Marshall Tito grants amnesty to all Yugoslav followers of Dragoljub Mihajlovic if they surrender by 4 January. This does not include members of the Ustase.

*Zoya*, a film with music by Dmitri Shostakovich (38), is shown for the first time.

French forces capture Belfort.

*Henry V*, a film with music by William Walton (42), is shown for the first time, at the Carlton, Haymarket, London.

**23 November 1944** Japanese resistance on Breakneck Ridge is broken as American forces take Limon on Leyte Island.

Finland announces that all Germans have been cleared from Lapland.

American and French forces enter Strasbourg on the Rhine.

The Canadian cabinet makes 16,000 conscripts available for overseas duty. This is the first time Canadian draftees are to be sent abroad.

*Ode to Napoleon Buonaparte* for speaker, piano, and string quartet by Arnold Schoenberg (70) to words of Byron, is performed for the first time, in New York. This first performance is for string orchestra.

**24 November 1944** Japanese forces occupy Yungning (Yongning), south of Liuchow (Liuzhou).

American planes make the first raids on Tokyo by land-based bombers.

The Red Army completes the conquest of Saaremo Island off Estonia.

A German military train collides head on with a Polish passenger train near Barwald Sredni. 130 people are killed.

Allied forces (mostly French) complete their capture of Strasbourg.

American troops cross the Saar north of Saarbrücken.

*The Seven Lively Arts*, a musical revue with music partly by Igor Stravinsky (62) (*Scènes de ballet*), opens in the Forrest Theatre, Philadelphia. See 7 December 1944.

*Circus Overture* for chamber orchestra by William Schuman (34) is performed for the first time, in Philadelphia. See 17 December 1944.

Rounds for string orchestra by David Diamond (29) is performed for the first time, in Minneapolis.

**25 November 1944** A British submarine between Australia and Indonesia stops a Japanese cargo ship. The crew flees leaving a war cargo and 50 Indonesian civilians. The British then lay charges and blow up the ship, its cargo and passengers.

The demolition of the Auschwitz crematoria begins.

A V-2 strikes Deptford killing 160 people.

**26 November 1944** Soviet troops take Michalovce, Czechoslovakia

All Jews who are used to drag the bodies from the gas chambers to the crematoria in Auschwitz are murdered.

Sonata for solo violin by Béla Bartók (63) is performed for the first time, in New York.

Heitor Villa-Lobos (57) conducts his music in Los Angeles at the beginning of a highly successful United States tour.

**27 November 1944** 157 people in Antwerp are killed by a V-2.

The Norwegian *MS Rigel*, carrying Soviet, Polish, and Yugoslavian prisoners of war, is attacked by British planes off Rosøya and run aground by its captain. 2,571 people are killed while 267 survive.

**28 November 1944** Soviet troops capture Mohács, Hungary on the Danube near Yugoslavia.

An Albanian provisional government is established in Tirana.

The Belgian Chamber of Deputies gives Prime Minister Pierlot broad powers to deal with a wave of civil unrest. Demonstrators object to the disarming of resistance units.

The French government nationalizes coal mines in the northern part of the country.

**29 November 1944** An American submarine sinks *Shinano*, the world’s largest carrier, a converted Japanese super-battleship, off Tokyo Bay. 1,435 men are lost.

Soviet forces cross the Danube 130 km downstream from Budapest. They also take Pecs in southern Hungary.

Albanian partisans enter Shkodër as Germans withdraw.

**30 November 1944** Soviet troops capture Eger 105 km northeast of Budapest.

**1 December 1944** The remaining slaves in Auschwitz-Birkenau are transferred west.

Six communist members of the Greek Provisional Government in Athens resign. The cabinet dissolves the communist guerrillas.

Tomasz Arciszewski replaces Stanislaw Mikolajczyk as President of the Polish government-in-exile in London.

*Concerto for Orchestra* by Béla Bartók (63) is performed for the first time, in Boston. It is an immediate hit with American audiences.

**2 December 1944** The destroyer *USS Cooper* is sunk by a Japanese surface ship in Ormoc Bay, Philippines with the loss of 191 of her crew. 168 are rescued.

*Krakauer Begrüssung* by Hans Pfitzner (75) is performed for the first time, in Krakow. It is dedicated to the Nazi governor of Poland, Hans Frank.

**3 December 1944** Civil War in Greece erupts as British troops and Greek police open fire on a massive leftist demonstration in Athens, killing 28 and wounding 100. The job of dispersing the crowd is accomplished with tanks. Among the injured is Mikis Theodorakis (19), struck by a British rifle butt. Of the day he remembers, “It was the first time I had seen so much blood.”

The Soviet Union sets up a provisional government for Hungary with Béla Dálnoki-Miklós as Prime Minister. The Red Army takes Miskolc, 145 km northeast of Hungary.

American forces cross the Saar near Saarlautern.

The British Home Guards, formed in 1940 to deal with an expected German invasion, is disbanded.

**4 December 1944** Soviet troops cross the Danube at Vac, 30 km north of Budapest.

A general strike begins in Greece. Thousands of mourners returning from funerals of those killed yesterday by police are fired on in Athens by Organization X, a conservative group. A hundred people are killed or wounded. Martial law is declared.

British troops force all Germans east of the Maas.

2,000 tons of incendiaries are dropped on Heilbron. The firestorm kills 7,147 people.

**5 December 1944** British forces begin to counter Greek communist attempts to take Athens. They shell communist positions near Piraeus.

Soviet troops capture Vukovar, Croatia and Szigetvar, Hungary, west of Pecs.

Canadian forces take Ravenna.

**6 December 1944** British planes begin strafing Greek communists in Athens.

Nicolae Radescu replaces Constantin Sanatescu as Prime Minister of Romania. His cabinet includes an increased number of communists.

**7 December 1944** American forces land behind the Japanese at Ormoc on the west side of Leyte Island.

An earthquake centered off southern Honshu, and the subsequent tsunami, kill over 1,200 people. Over 2,000 are injured.

*The Seven Lively Arts*, a musical revue with music partly by Igor Stravinsky (62), opens on Broadway. See 24 November 1944.

William Grant Still’s (49) Poem for orchestra is performed for the first time, in Severance Hall, Cleveland.

**8 December 1944** Pierre Boulez (19) attends a class given by Olivier Messiaen (35) at the home of Guy Bernard-Delapierre in Paris.

**9 December 1944** Soviet troops capture Balassagyarmat, 70 km north of Budapest.

The US government says it will reinstate the practice of drafting 26-37-year-old men.

**10 December 1944** American forces capture Ormoc on Leyte Island.

British forces capture Indaw, Burma (Myanmar), 250 km north of Mandalay.

*Uirapuru* for chorus by Heitor Villa-Lobos (57) is performed for the first time, in Rio de Janeiro.

**11 December 1944** The destroyer *USS Reid* is sunk by Japanese warplanes east of Leyte. 103 men are lost while 150 are rescued.

Radio Moscow reports that the Finnish army has demobilized as part of the terms of the armistice.

**12 December 1944** The Japanese destroyer *Uzuki* is sunk by US PT boats off Cebu in the Philippines. 175 men are killed.

Allied (Great Britain-India) forces begin a general offensive against the Japanese in the Arakan Hills, Burma (Myanmar).

While on a mine laying mission off Estonia, two German destroyers, *Z35* and *Z36* strike mines. They both go down with the loss of 546 men.

American troops capture Düren, 35 km southwest of Cologne.

Heitor Villa-Lobos (57) arrives in New York by train from Los Angeles.

**13 December 1944** Greek communists attack British installations in an around Athens but are driven off.

Wassily Kandinsky dies in Neuilly-sur-Seine at the age of 78.

*On the Town*, a musical by Leonard Bernstein (26) to words of Comden, Green, and the composer, is performed for the first time, at the Colonial Theatre in Boston. See 28 December 1944.

**14 December 1944** 150 American POWs on Palawan Island are ordered into an air raid shelter. The Japanese douse the prisoners with gasoline and set them afire. Those who escape are shot, stabbed and clubbed to death. Five survive.

The destroyer *HMS Aldenham* strikes a mine off Pag Island, Yugoslavia (Croatia) and goes down with 128 of those aboard. 63 are rescued.

Three of the *Seven Stars’ Symphony* op.132 for orchestra by Charles Koechlin (77) is performed for the first time, in Théâtre des Champs-Elysées, Paris and broadcast on French Radio. The three stars honored are Douglas Fairbanks, Clara Bow, and Charlie Chaplin. See 16 November 1969.

**15 December 1944** American forces land without opposition on Mindoro Island, south of Luzon.

American planes sink the Japanese freighter Oryoku Maru. Its cargo is 1,600 American, Dutch, and British POWs being transported from the Philippines to Japan. 200 of them are killed when the Japanese open fire on men in the water.

Prime Minister Churchill tells the House of Commons that he supports Soviet claims for Polish territory east of the Curzon line.

**16 December 1944** German forces launch a major counteroffensive against the Americans on a 135 km front in the Ardennes Forest from Malmédy, Belgium to Echternach, Luxembourg. The protruding salient in the front causes this campaign to be dubbed The Battle of the Bulge.

New Zealand troops capture Faenza, 45 km southeast of Bologna.

A V-2 strikes a cinema in Antwerp killing 567 people.

**17 December 1944** 72 Americans captured near Malmédy are led to an open field and shot by the SS. Twelve of them escape and hide in a cafe. The Germans set the cafe on fire and shoot the Americans as they try to escape.

The US Western Defense Command announces that all persons of Japanese ancestry found to be “either loyal or harmless” will be allowed to return to the coastal areas of California, Oregon, and Washington effective 2 January.

*Circus Overture* for full orchestra by William Schuman (34) is performed for the first time, in Pittsburgh. See 24 November 1944.

**18 December 1944** The destroyers *USS Spence, USS Hull*, and *USS Monaghan* go down in a typhoon in the Philippine Sea. 774 souls are lost. 91 will be saved.

**19 December 1944** A US submarine sinks the Japanese aircraft carrier *Unryu* in the East China Sea. 1,239 people are lost, 146 survive.

American forces are pushed out of Germany.

The SS execute 130 Belgian civilians near Stavelot.

Two extended compositions by Duke Ellington (45) are performed for the first time, in Carnegie Hall, New York: *Blutopia* and *Perfume Suite* (co-written by Billy Strayhorn).

**20 December 1944** German forces surround two vital Belgian junctions, St. Vith, south of Malmédy and Bastogne on the border with Luxembourg.

**21 December 1944** British troops use tanks and airplanes against Greek communists north of Athens.

An anti-German Hungarian government is set up in Debrecen headed by General Béla Miklos de Dálnok and with an assembly.

**22 December 1944** German troops take Houffalize and St. Vith while the Americans recapture Stavelot, Belgium. American forces move north from Arlon to relieve the encircled defenders of Bastogne and reduce the Ardennes salient. Inside the embattled town, the American commander replies to a German surrender demand with the message, “Nuts.”

**23 December 1944** German advances move beyond Rochefort and Laroche, Belgium.

Fighting begins between rival Greek guerrilla groups in the northwest of the country.

The US government bans horse racing effective 3 January to save labor and materials.

**24 December 1944** Soviet troops reach the suburbs of Budapest.

The German offensive in the Ardennes grinds to a halt. They have advanced to Dinant in the west, near Hotten in the north, and to St. Hubert in the south. In the first raid by jet bombers, the Germans attack Liège and other targets.

The Gestapo murders 32 Belgians in Bandes.

The Belgian troop ship *SS Léopoldville* is sunk by a German submarine eight kilometers off Cherbourg. 2,235 US military are on board and 515 go down with the ship along with five crew members including the captain. 248 soldiers die from injuries or exposure.

American band leader Glenn Miller is reported missing over the English Channel.

*Poet’s Christmas* is broadcast as a feature over the airwaves of the BBC Home Service. It includes first performances of Michael Tippett’s (39) motet for soprano and chorus *The Weeping Babe* to words of Edith Sitwell and *A Shepherd’s Carol* by Benjamin Britten (31) to words of Auden and also Britten’s *Chorale after an Old French Carol* to words of Auden.

**25 December 1944** American forces land and secure Palompon, the last port on Leyte Island still in Japanese hands. General MacArthur announces that the Leyte campaign is over, except for “mopping up.”

In Athens, Winston Churchill persuades the Greek communists to join the government of Regent Archbishop Damaskinos. A Soviet representative encourages them to accept.

Trials begin in Bulgaria against former government officials.

American forces attack near Martelange in their drive to Bastogne.

The first irradiated uranium is produced by a reactor at the atomic research center in Hanford, Washington.

**26 December 1944** The Red Army completes the encirclement of Budapest.

American troops advancing from the south relieve the defenders of Bastogne.

The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra awards a $1,000 bond to William Grant Still (49) for his Festive Overture, the winner of a contest for a jubilee overture to celebrate the orchestra’s 50th anniversary. See 19 January 1945.

**27 December 1944** British troops capture Celles, east of Dinant.

US President Roosevelt seizes the properties of Montgomery Ward because the company refuses to comply with a labor agreement. He wants to avoid a strike in a business essential to the war effort.

Amy Marcy Cheney Beach dies of a heart ailment in her rooms at the Hotel Barclay, New York, aged 77 years, three months, and 22 days.

**28 December 1944** The Provisional National Assembly of Hungary renounces all treaties with Germany.

The last large scale V-1 attack on Britain hits central and northern England.

*On the Town*, a musical by Leonard Bernstein (26) to words of Comden and Green, is performed in New York for the first time, in the Adelphi Theatre. It is a smash with the public. Critics are generally happy. It will run for 426 performances. See 13 December 1944.

**29 December 1944** Two Soviet officers sent under a white flag to parley for a surrender of Budapest are killed by the Germans without reaching German lines.

**30 December 1944** In London, King Georgios II of Greece names Archbishop Damaskinos as regent for him with power to form a government and restore order.

The provisional Hungarian government in Debrecen declares war on Germany and asks the allies for an armistice.

Romain Rolland dies in Vézelay, France at the age of 78.

Sergey Prokofiev’s (53) Piano Sonata no.8 op.84 is performed for the first time, at Moscow Conservatory.

**31 December 1944** Archbishop Damaskinos is sworn in as regent for the King of Greece. Prime Minister George Papandreou resigns.

While taking part in street battles by leftists resisting the British occupation of Athens, Iannis Xenakis (22) receives shrapnel in the face from an exploding shell. “My palate was pierced, there were bits of teeth, flesh, blood, holes. My jawbone was broken. My left eye had burst.” He is brought to a makeshift field hospital and left to die.

Hungary declares war on Germany.

British troops capture Rochefort, east of Dinant while Americans take Tenneville, west of Bastogne.

Piano Quintet no.2 by Bohuslav Martinu (54) is performed for the first time, privately in Boston. See 4 March 1945.

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