



## **Part 10: Introduction to the World War II Memorial.**

**Background.** Many would agree that World War II was the most dramatic event of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and one that will impact world events well into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Over 50 years ago, millions of Americans tirelessly and often selflessly gave of themselves to aid the war effort as the Allies stood against fascism, intolerance, brutality, and hatred. But those citizens who gave so much are still awaiting a national memorial that pays tribute to their sacrifices and heroism.

As of early 2001, the future of the World War II Memorial on the National Mall was still somewhat in question. Although all appropriate commissions have approved the Rainbow Pool site and revised architectural plans for the World War II Memorial, opponents filed a lawsuit against several parties, including the NPS. On January 23, DOI approved the issuance of a construction permit which angered opponents and caused them to file a request for an injunction by a federal judge in hopes of delaying construction. They have once again called into question the process used for selecting the site and the propriety of using the Rainbow Pool site for this tribute to the World War II generation.

**Daily and Standing Operating Procedures for Duty at the World War II Memorial.**  
To be determined.

**Special Equipment.** To be determined.

**Twenty Most Frequently Asked Questions.**  
Pending.

**Description of the Cultural Resource.**  
Small aspects of the memorial design are not yet final, but the general theme calls for an oval-shaped pool surrounded by pillars and two triumphal archways

**Origins of the World War II Memorial.**  
U.S. Representative Marcy Kapture deserves substantial credit for introducing to fellow legislators the notion of a national tribute. One of her constituents, Roger Durbin, convinced her that the nation had not formally or completely recognized the contributions of our World War II heroes and heroines.

**Congressional Resolutions.** In 1993, the Congress passed legislation authorizing the building of a national World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., or its immediate environs. President Bill Clinton signed the authorizing legislation (Public Law 103-32) into law on May 25, 1993. The responsibility for designing and constructing the memorial was given to the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), an independent federal agency created by law in 1923.

Public Law 103-32 also authorized the president to appoint a Memorial Advisory Board to offer advice to ABMC on site selection and design of the memorial, as well as to perform its primary duty of promoting and encouraging private donations for the building of the memorial. The board was appointed in September 1994, and works under the chairmanship of Pete Wheeler, commissioner of veterans' affairs of the state of Georgia.

**Site Selection.** The first step in establishing the memorial was the selection of an appropriate site. Congress provided legislative authority for siting the memorial in the prime area of the national capital, known as Area I, which includes the National Mall. The National Park Service, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission approved selection of the Rainbow Pool site at the east end of the Reflecting Pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

This prominent location is commensurate with the historical importance and lasting significance of World War II to America and the world. In the immediate vicinity are the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the District of Columbia World War I Memorial, and Constitution Gardens.

The historic Rainbow Pool will be rebuilt as an important part of the memorial design, and existing views along the Mall will be preserved.

President Clinton dedicated the memorial site during a formal ceremony on Veterans Day, November 11, 1995. The dedication closed the culminating week of activities commemorating the 50th anniversary of World War II. A plaque now marks the site as the future location of the World War II Memorial.

**The Design Competition.** The American Battle Monuments Commission engaged the General Services Administration's (GSA) Public Buildings Service to act as its agent to manage execution of the memorial. The ABMC announced a two-stage, open competition modeled on the GSA's Design Excellence Program.

The following information about design parameters and the open competition itself was taken from the GSA website:

*The Second World War was history's greatest war and the single most momentous event of the 20th Century. The perspective of a 50-year interval has brought a renewed awareness and a fuller recognition of the magnitude, the tragedy and the lasting impact of this global clash of arms and ideals on modern world history.*

*The 50th anniversary commemorative events of WWII and the rapid approach of the 21st Century have stimulated further study and reflection on the meaning, as well as the sacrifices that were called for in bringing this titanic conflict to a close. Many nations and peoples achieved the victory. It was America's most costly foreign war, with heavy American losses and battlefield casualties on land, sea and air in the Atlantic, North Africa, Europe, Asia and the Pacific.*

*To memorialize these sacrifices and accord this watershed event full honor, the Congress has directed the American Battle Monuments Commission to construct a National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. In recognition of the unique historical significance of the event, the WWII Memorial has been given a place of honor on the Mall between two of America's greatest and most revered landmarks, the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial.*

*The Commission, rather than prescribing a mandatory design program for the WWII Memorial, prefers to offer the fullest opportunity for the design professions to interpret and develop a composition of civic design elements to achieve a result worthy of the event, of those being remembered, and of the Memorial's incomparable setting. In design, the Commission asks only for the*

*highest quality of artistry, spiritual substance, and respect for the Memorial's environs.*

*The purposes and philosophy underlying the World War II Memorial serve as broad guidelines for its design. It is to honor and express the nation's deep and enduring respect and gratitude to all the American men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces during WWII, those who gave their lives as well as those who survived. Without hubris or vainglory, the memorial should convey a sense of remembrance and national pride in the fortitude, valor, suffering and sacrifice of its fighting forces and their heroic accomplishments.*

*Further, the Memorial is to acknowledge and honor the Nation at Large, the patriotism and vigorous, spirited commitment of the American people to the war effort and the Home Front's vital contribution to the victory won.*

*It should stand for all time as an important symbol of American national unity, a timeless reminder of the moral strength and the awesome power that can flow when a free people are at once united and bonded together in a common and just cause.*

*Also memorialized should be the high moral purpose and idealism that motivated the nation's call to arms as it sought, in concert with its Allies, to roll back and defeat the forces of totalitarianism and darkness then threatening the security of nations and the lives of millions. The Atlantic Charter, the Four Freedoms, the Allied war aims should all be remembered. Due homage should also be given to America's wartime leadership in planning for the peace and a reconstructed and more hopeful and humane postwar world.*

*The design challenge is to strive to capture in architectural form, memorial art, inscribed words and landscaped setting, the stirring spirit and meaning of this unique moment in American history, a moment in time which, in profound ways, changed forever the face of American life and the direction of world history.*

*The Monuments and buildings in and around the Mall are for the most part classical in character. The strong presence of the Washington Monument, Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the White House and its grounds and the Mall itself, provide a formal context to which the designer of the WWII Memorial may wish to respond, but the choice of design philosophy and style guiding the proposed memorial design are to be the prerogative of the designer. The resulting work, however, must be respectful of and compatible in configuration and quality with its historic surroundings.*

*The Memorial may occupy any amount of the WWII site area except that nothing can be designed that will detract from the Mall's east-west vista formed by the rows of elms bordering the Reflecting Pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. Changes in topography are permitted. Earth sculpture or berms may be considered on either side of the Rainbow Pool. Designed enclosed interior space for the Memorial should be provided for below grade.*

*Centered on the visually compelling central axis of the Mall, the site suggests either a symmetrical design, or on in which either side of the Memorial will be in compositional balance, though not necessarily of identical form or dimension.*

*Both the site and the nature of the Memorial offer opportunities for significant landscaping forms in the Memorial itself, in linkages with existing spaces and landscaping beyond the immediate Memorial site.*

*Site Parameters:*

- *The total site area including the Rainbow Pool is approximately 3 hectares, rectangular in shape.*
- *The boundaries are roughly 215 meters by 130 meters.*
- *The crowns of the existing elm trees are suggested as a reasonable height limit within the Memorial area.*
- *The site lies within the 50-year flood plain and is only 9.6 meters above the river level. Below-grade construction will require mitigation for the presence of water.*
- *Existing geotechnical data suggest that due to the presence of rock, the maximum depth of any construction below grade should be approximately 7.5 meters.*

*Project Requirements:*

- *The historic Rainbow Pool, and its rehabilitation, be an important part of the Memorial's total design composition. Certain aspects of the design such as the height and form of water and the detailed configuration of the Pool itself may be subject to modification.*
- *Pedestrian circulation and pathways to other sites on the Mall must be a part of the design.*

- *Space for the launching of annual Fourth of July national fireworks display must be retained.*
- *On-site flag pole(s) required.*
- *Open space for commemorative services and ceremonies at the Memorial should be factored into the design.*

*The Memorial is intended to convey, through a variety of means and art forms, the meaning of WWII to America and the World. This objective may be met in part by above-grade, unenclosed architectural and other design elements. Below-grade interior space should be included in the design to provide for special rooms or halls of honor and remembrance, multimedia interactive educational facilities, an auditorium theater and a visitor information center. The estimated space needed for these purposes is approximately 7400 SM. Provisions for entrances and exits are required.*

*Project Cost. The total project cost is estimated in the range of \$90-\$100 million.*

*Design Competition. The competition is open to all designers: architects, engineers, landscape architects, sculptors, artists, teachers and students, or a collaborative design team of any of the foregoing. The lead designer must be an American citizen.*

*The design competition will be in two stages. The first stage will be concerned with design excellence and the capabilities of the competing designers and their visions for the WWII Memorial. The submissions will be reviewed by a panel consisting of architects, engineers, landscape architects and other professionals who will select at least five of the most qualified designers or design teams.*

*In the second stage, the finalists will be invited to assemble a full design team and to submit a design concept. Qualifications of the finalists' full design team will be further evaluated by the original panel of professionals. A distinguished independent jury of design professionals will review the design concepts and recommend a winning submission. A stipend will be issued to the finalists for developing their design concepts, and a contract for full professional services will be negotiated with the winning team/firm.*

*The General Services Administration (GSA) will be the American Battle Monuments Commission's Agent for the Memorial. The design competition will be administered by the GSA as part of its Design Excellence Program. The Commission will seek the advice of the WWII Memorial Advisory Board throughout the design phase.*

*Additional Information. The American Battle Monuments Commission and the General Services Administration request the Lead Designer review and follow the announcements published in the Commerce Business Daily dated June 11, 1996 and July 24, 1996, or URL: <http://www.govcon.com>.*

During Stage I, an Architect-Engineer (A-E) Evaluation Board reviewed approximately 400 preliminary design visions. Entries were evaluated on their originality, appropriateness, feasibility, and compliance with project requirements. The board selected six design visions to compete in Stage II.

A 12-member architect-engineer evaluation board was appointed to evaluate design concepts for the World War II Memorial and recommend a project design team to the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). The board evaluated more than

400 design visions before selecting six competition finalists. The board used recommendations from the Design Jury and interviews with design team members to prepare a selection report that ABMC used to select Friedrich St. Florian's winning design. Bill Lacy, the board's professional advisor, wrote the selection report.

### **The Architect-Engineer Evaluation Board:**

**Chairman:** Hugh Hardy, FAIA, a partner in Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates

**Professional Advisor:** Bill Lacy, FAIA, licensed architect and president of Purchase College, State University of New York

### **Board Members:**

- J. Max Bond Jr., FAIA, formerly a principal of Bond Ryder James, Architects, recently joined Davis, Brodie and Associates

- Robert Campbell, FAIA, architecture critic of the *Boston Globe* and a contributing editor of *Architecture Magazine*

- Edward A. Feiner, FAIA, chief architect of the Public Buildings Service at the General Services Administration (GSA), serving as the agency's design advocate

- Colonel Mary A. Hallaren, USA (Ret), World War II veteran

- Mary Margaret Jones, principal landscape architect of Hargreaves Associates

- Diane Hauserman Pilgrim, director of the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum of the Smithsonian Institution

- Luther H. Smith, World War II Tuskegee Airman

- Cynthia Weese, FAIA, founding principal of Weese Langley Weese, and dean of Washington University's School of Architecture in St. Louis

- Russell F. Weigley, distinguished university professor in the Center for the Study of Force and Diplomacy, Department of History, Temple University, Philadelphia

- Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, ABMC commissioner and chairman of its Site and Design Committee; World War II veteran

- General Louis H. Wilson, USMC (Ret), World War II veteran

Stage II design concepts were judged by a Design Jury. Evaluation criteria in this stage included design concept, past performance, specialized experience and technical competence, professional qualifications, and capacity to accomplish the work in the required time.

A 10-member independent design jury, the majority of whom are nationally recognized design professionals, evaluated design concepts for the World War II Memorial. The jury judged design proposals of six competition finalists selected from approximately 400 initial entries, and made recommendations to the Architect-Engineer Evaluation Board.

### **The Design Jury:**

**Chairman:** David M. Childs, senior design partner in the New York office of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP

### **Design Jury Members:**

- John S. Chase, president and CEO of John S. Chase, FAIA, Architect, Inc.

- Hugh Hardy, FAIA, partner in Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates

- Ada L. Huxtable, former architecture critic of the *New York Times*

- Donald M. Kendall, co-founder of PepsiCo, Inc. and CEO for 21 years; World War II veteran

- Admiral Robert L. Long, USN (Ret), World War II veteran

- Laurie Olin, chairman, Department of Landscape Architecture, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, and a principal of Hann/Olin Ltd., Philadelphia

- Earl A. Powell III, director of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

- Cathy J. Simon, a founding principal of Simon Martin-Vegue Winkelstein Moris, she directs the firm's architecture group (studio)

- General John W. Vessey Jr., USA (Ret), World War II veteran

The Design Jury identified the strengths and weaknesses of each concept and provided a rationale for their final ranking to the A-E Board. The board, in turn, reviewed the jury's recommendations and interviewed the design teams before making a final recommendation to ABMC, the design by architect Friedrich St. Florian. St. Florian's winning design was the unanimous choice throughout the Stage II process.

**Design Approval.** The ABMC concurred with the advisory board's recommendations and selected St. Florian's design.

**The Winning Design and Designer.**

Friedrich St. Florian's preliminary design was unanimously selected from 400 entries for the Memorial in October 1996. An early article by journalist, Specialist Bradley Rhen, assistant editor of the Pentagon newspaper at Fort Myer, Virginia, captured St. Florian's plan:

*The memorial itself will consist of a Memorial Plaza, two Memorial Arches, "Embracing Arms" and a ceremonial area, all of which are designed around the Rainbow Pool. The 237-by-338-foot lowered plaza and the Rainbow Pool are the principal design features of the memorial.*

*Two 70-foot flagpoles flying the American flag will frame the ceremonial entrance at 17th St. The two 47-foot Memorial Arches will be located at opposite ends of the memorial and with one representing victory in Europe and the other representing victory in the Pacific. Inside the arches, four bronze American eagles rise from the bronze columns and support laurels with ribbons held in their beaks.*

*The "Embracing Arms" celebrate the unprecedented unity of the nation during World War II and symbolize the bonding of the nation. Each state and territory from that period will be represented by a 23-foot stone pillar adorned with laurels and inscribed with its name.*

The article also quoted Betsy R. Glick, director of communications for the National World War II Memorial at the American Battle Monuments Commission in Arlington, Virginia, as she talked about a proposed

database of names to be placed at the memorial:

*"...the commission is still collecting names for what's called the 'Registry of Remembrances', an electronic display like a kiosk, that will be located somewhere near the memorial and will list people who served both in the military and those who served on the home front."*

*"Women who worked in factories making equipment, people who grew victory gardens, kids who collected rubber and oil to help with the effort – so it's not just for the military, it's for the whole generation," she said.*

*Glick said they have collected more than 400,000 names but it's continually growing. When complete, visitors will be able to type in a name, or a keyword search on something like the 82nd Airborne Division or other military units.*

*"We're still collecting names so we encourage people to register themselves and/or family members living or deceased," Glick said.*

Frederick St. Florian's World War II Memorial design immediately drew unwelcome attention and raised issues over its size. The architect scaled down some of the dimensions and made other changes. Although smaller, his memorial design will honor the significant historical event it commemorates and pay full respect to its magnificent site on the National Mall. The following text describes the Final Architectural Design, as of July 1, as stated on the World War II Memorial webpage:

*The National World War II Memorial design recognizes that the site itself pays special tribute to America's WWII generation. The memorial design creates a special place*



*within the vast openness of the National Mall to commemorate the sacrifice and celebrate the victory of WWII, yet remains respectful and sensitive to its historic surroundings. The vistas from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial and the site's park-like setting are preserved, and the double row of elm trees that flank the memorial will be restored. Above all, the design creates a powerful sense of place that is distinct, memorable, evocative and serene.*

*Memorial Plaza. The memorial plaza and Rainbow Pool are the principal design features of the memorial, unifying all other elements. The principal sculptural element, the Light of Freedom, will be placed in the center of the Rainbow Pool, giving the Pool new responsibility and historical significance as the centerpiece of the memorial. When completed, the sculpture will celebrate the triumph of democracy over tyranny, freedom over totalitarianism, light over darkness – the true legacies of WWII.*

*Two 70-foot flagpoles flying the American flag will frame the ceremonial entrance at 17th Street. The bases of granite and bronze will be adorned with appropriate iconography. Ceremonial steps and ramps lead from 17<sup>th</sup> Street into the plaza. A series of 24 bronze bas relief panels along the ceremonial entrance balustrades will depict America's war years, at home and overseas. Announcements of the memorial will be located at the 17<sup>th</sup> Street entrance and a dedication stone will be at east edge of the Rainbow Pool.*

*Curvilinear ramps at the north and south approaches provide access to the plaza for visitors walking along the existing east-west pathways between the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument. These ramps provide a gentle entry to the plaza. Granite benches follow the curvilinear rampart walls.*



*Memorial Arches. Two 41-foot arches serve as markers and entries on the north and south ends of the plaza. Bronze baldacchinos are an integral part of the arch design. Four bronze columns support four American eagles that hold a suspended victory laurel to memorialize the victory of the WWII generation. Inlaid on the floor of the arches will be the WWII victory medal surrounded by the words "Victory on Land," "Victory at Sea," and "Victory in the Air." These sculptural elements will celebrate the victory won in the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters.*

*Embracing Arms and Pillars. Fifty-six granite pillars celebrate the unprecedented unity of the nation during WWII and symbolize the bonding of the nation. Each state and territory from that period and the District of Columbia will be represented by a pillar adorned with laurels and inscribed with its name. The 17-foot pillars are open in the center for greater transparency, and ample space between each allows viewing into and across the memorial.*

*Commemorative Area. Within a commemorative area at the western side of the memorial is recognized the sacrifice of America's WWII generation, the contribution of our allies, and the suffering of all humankind. A field of sculpted gold stars on the Freedom Wall will commemorate the more than 400,000 Americans who gave their lives. During WWII, the gold star became the*



*enduring symbol of family sacrifice. The Freedom Wall will contain one star for every 100 Americans who died in service to their nation during the war.*

*Rainbow Pool and Waterworks. The historic waterworks of the Rainbow Pool will be completely restored and will contribute to the celebratory nature of the memorial. The design provides seating along the pool circumference for visitors. Semi-circular fountains at the base of the two memorial arches and waterfalls flanking the Freedom Wall will complement the waterworks in the Rainbow Pool.*

*Landscaping. Two-thirds of the 7.4-acre memorial site will be landscaping and water, allowing the memorial to nestle comfortably within its park-like setting. The ceremonial entrance has three large lawn panels between the monumental steps. The double row of elm trees will be restored to their original splendor, and a replanting plan will replace unhealthy trees. A landscaped contemplative area will be located at the northwestern corner of the site. Canopies of flowering trees will augment re-seeded lawns.*

**Architect's Ideas, Intent, and Theme.** The official memorial website states this intent:

*The memorial will be an inviting and welcoming place to celebrate the American spirit that brought victory of democracy over tyranny, light over darkness. It will also be a place for quiet contemplation of the sacrifices made in a common and just cause.*

**Memorial Statistics: (tentative)**

**Anticipated cost:** over \$100 million.

**Acreage:** 7.4 acres.

**Column Height:** 17 feet.

**Number of Columns:** 56.

**Height of Arches:** 41 feet.

**Number of Arches:** 2.

**Number of bas-relief panels:** 24.

**Artwork in the Memorial.** Not finalized at this time. Some accounts call for a sculpture to rest in the center of the oval pool. The final design as quoted above mentions sculptured stars and bas-relief panels, but currently, no designs are available.

**The Inscriptions.** See “Winning Design” section, but probably not finalized at this time.

**The Groundbreaking Ceremony.** Despite a pending lawsuit and the lack of an official construction permit, President Clinton led a ceremonial groundbreaking at the Rainbow Pool site on Veterans Day, 2000. Thousands of veterans, visitors, dignitaries, and politicians met at the site, amidst a musical and patriotic show. President Clinton and others, armed with glistening shovels, symbolically turned the earth for the groundbreaking, although the dirt was contained in special containers and had to be removed following the show. Mr. Clinton captured the contributions of the World War II generation in a segment of his speech:

*The ground we break today is not only a timeless tribute to the bravery and honor of one generation, but a challenge to every generation that follows. This memorial is built not only for the children whose grandparents served in the war, but for the children who will visit this place a century from now, asking questions about America's great victory for freedom.*

*With this memorial we secure the memory of 16 million Americans, men and women who took up arms in the greatest struggle humanity has ever known. We hallow the ground for more than 400,000 who never*

*came home. We acknowledge a debt that can never be repaid.*

*We acknowledge, as well, the men and women and children of the homefront, who tended the factories and nourished the faith that made victory possible; remember those who fought faithfully and bravely for freedom, even as their own full humanity was under assault – African Americans who had to fight for the right to fight for our country; Japanese Americans who served bravely under a cloud of unjust suspicion; Native American code talkers who helped to win the war in the Pacific; women who took on new roles in the military and at home – remember how, in the heat of battle, and the necessity of the moment, all of these folks moved closer to being simply Americans.*

*And we remember how after World War II those who won the war on foreign battlefields dug deep and gave even more to win the peace here at home, to give us a new era of prosperity, to lay the foundation for a new global society and economy, by turning old adversaries into new allies, by launching a movement for social justice that still lifts millions of Americans into dignity and opportunity.*

*I would like to say once more before I go to the veterans here today what I said in Normandy in 1994. Because of you, my generation and those who have followed live in a time of unequaled peace and prosperity. We are the children of your sacrifice, and we thank you forever.*

Other highlights of the groundbreaking ceremony included remarks by Senator and World War II veteran Bob Dole, Captain Luther Smith, veteran pilot from the Tuskegee Airmen, and Ambassador Haydn Williams (World War II veteran and ABMC

commissioner and chairman of its Site and Design Committee), as well as performances by the U.S. Army Band and singer Beryl Davis. A short film entitled “Remember When: Victory!” was aired on large screens. The singing of “God Bless America” concluded the event.

**The Dedication Ceremony.** Pending.

**Funding.** The National World War II Memorial will be funded almost entirely by private contributions, as specified in Public Law 103-32. Leading the campaign are National Chairman Senator Bob Dole and Co-Chairman Frederick W. Smith, chairman and CEO of FedEx Corporation.

Through the generosity of a variety of giving constituencies, the campaign has received, in cash and pledges, the funding needed to complete the memorial project. Support has come from hundreds of thousands of individual Americans, corporations, foundations, veterans groups, civic, fraternal and professional organizations, states, and students in schools across the country. Donations continue to come in as several groups work to complete major fund-raising efforts by the end of the year.

Donated and pledged funds will be used to cover the costs of site selection and design, construction, a National Park Service maintenance fee required by the Commemorative Works Act, groundbreaking and dedication ceremonies, fund raising, and administration of the project from its inception in 1993 through completion. These costs are estimated to total about \$140 million.

Funds remaining after all project costs have been paid, and funds received thereafter through programs such as planned giving, will be held on deposit with the U.S. Treasury

in a National WWII Memorial Trust Fund. The funds will be used by the American Battle Monuments Commission solely to benefit the World War II Memorial.

**Relevant Celebrations or Gatherings at the Site.** Pending.

**Possible Themes and Universal Concepts for Rangers at the World War II Memorial.**

- Sacrifice
- Valor
- Persistence/ Perseverance
- Freedom
- Unity

**Biographical Sketch of the Architect.**

Friedrich St. Florian, Architect of the National World War II Memorial. Friedrich St. Florian, was unanimously selected from 400 entries to design the National World War II Memorial to be built in Washington, D.C. He holds a Master Degree in Architecture from the Technical University in Graz, Austria, and a Master in Urban Design from Columbia University in New York City. He has been the recipient of numerous prizes in national and international design competitions, including a second prize in the George Pompidou Center Competition in Paris.

Professor St. Florian has been a practicing architect in the United States since 1974. His early career is distinguished by landmark theoretical works and critically acclaimed residences in the Rhode Island area. His role as a proponent of high standards of design has left its impact on the Providence architectural community and, most importantly, his

students at the Rhode Island School of Design.

Since 1994, he has been Associate Architect for Providence Place, a \$450 million retail and entertainment facility located in historic downtown Providence. He is presently designing the National World War II Memorial that will be built in the center of the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Professor St. Florian joined the Rhode Island School of Design faculty in 1963. During his long tenure there, he served as Acting Provost for three years, Dean of Architectural Studies for 11 years, and Chief Critic of the European Honors Program in Rome for four years. He also taught at the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London, Columbia University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, McGill University in Montreal, the University of Texas in Austin, and the University of Utah. He is listed in Who's Who in America.

Honors include the Rome Prize Fellowship at the American Academy in Rome, a Fellowship at the Center for Advanced Visual Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Fullbright Fellowship, and a citation for excellence in architectural design from Progressive Architecture in 1979. His projects have been exhibited and published in major architectural magazines in Europe, Japan and the United States. His work is included in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the George Pompidou Center in Paris.

**Biographical Sketch of the Artist.** Pending final design.

**Overview of the Second World War.** The following summary was published as **The War in Brief**, by Vincent J. Esposito, Colonel, United States Army, Head,

Department of Military Art, United States Military Academy:

At the end of World War I the victorious nations formed the League of Nations for the purpose of airing international disputes, and of mobilizing its members for a collective effort to keep the peace in the event of aggression by any nation against another or of a breach of the peace treaties. The United States, imbued with isolationism, did not become a member. The League failed in its first test. In 1931 the Japanese, using as an excuse the explosion of a small bomb under a section of track of the South Manchuria Railroad (over which they had virtual control), initiated military operations designed to conquer all of Manchuria. After receiving the report of its commission of inquiry, the League adopted a resolution in 1933 calling on the Japanese to withdraw. Thereupon, Japan resigned from the League. Meanwhile, Manchuria had been overrun and transformed into a Japanese puppet state under the name of Manchukuo. Beset by friction and dissension among its members, the League took no further action.

In 1933 also, Adolf Hitler came to power as dictator of Germany and began to rearm the country in contravention of the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles. He denounced the provisions of that treaty that limited German armament and in 1935 reinstituted compulsory military service. That year the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini began his long-contemplated invasion of Ethiopia, which he desired as an economic colony. The League voted minor sanctions against Italy, but these had slight practical effect. British and French efforts to effect a compromise settlement failed, and Ethiopia was completely occupied by the Italians in 1936.

Alarmed by German rearmament, France sought an alliance with the USSR. Under the

pretext that this endangered Germany, Hitler remilitarized the Rhineland in 1936. It was a dangerous venture, for Britain and France could have overwhelmed Germany, but, resolved to keep the peace, they took no action. Emboldened by this success, Hitler intensified his campaign for *Lebensraum* (space for living) for the German people. He forcibly annexed Austria in March 1938, and then, charging abuse of German minorities, threatened Czechoslovakia. In September, as Hitler increased his demands on the Czechs and war seemed imminent, the British and French arranged a conference with Hitler and Mussolini. At the Munich Conference they agreed to German occupation of the Sudetenland, Hitler's asserted last claim, in the hope of maintaining peace.

This hope was short lived, for in March 1939, Hitler took over the rest of Czechoslovakia and seized the former German port of Memel from Lithuania. There followed demands on Poland with regard to Danzig (Gdansk) and the Polish Corridor. The Poles remained adamant, and it became clear to Hitler that he could attain his objectives only by force. After surprising the world with the announcement of a nonaggression pact with his sworn foe, the Soviet Union, he sent his armies across the Polish border on Sept. 1, 1939. Britain and France, pledged to support Poland in the event of aggression, declared war on Germany two days later.

As the Germans ravaged Poland, the Russians moved into the eastern part of the country and began the process that was to lead to the absorption in 1940 of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania. They also made demands on Finland. The recalcitrant Finns were subdued in the Winter War of 1939-1940, but only after dealing the Russians several humiliating military reverses.

Meanwhile, Japan had undertaken military operations for the subjugation of China proper, and was making preparations for the expansion of its empire into Southeast Asia and the rich island groups of the Southwest Pacific. Mussolini watched the progress of his fellow dictator, Hitler, while preparing to join in the war at a propitious moment.

Military Course of the War. The bitter struggles and the enormous casualties suffered by Great Britain and France in World War I had engendered in their military leaders a defensive attitude with a reliance on such permanent fortifications as the Maginot Line and on blockade as means of subduing a resurgent Germany. Placing their faith in the impotent League of Nations, both countries neglected the development of armaments and allowed those they possessed and their armed forces to deteriorate. The Germans, on the other hand, smarting under their failure in World War I to capitalize on initial breakthroughs of the Allied lines because of lack of sustained power, developed fast, hard-hitting tank-airplane forces and the strategy of the blitzkrieg (lightning war). Since they had been disarmed by the Allies, they were unencumbered by obsolescent armaments and could equip their forces with the most modern weapons. As a result, initial German operations met with surprisingly rapid success.

In less than a month, Poland had been conquered. There followed an inactive period (dubbed the Phony War) that lasted until April 1940. Then, despite Allied intervention, the Germans quickly seized Denmark and Norway. In May the blitzkrieg struck the western front in all its fury. Within six weeks the British had been driven from the Continent, and the French had been forced to surrender. The speed of the advance also surprised Hitler, who was not ready to follow his success with an invasion of the British

Isles. The Luftwaffe, called upon to soften the islands and gain air superiority while preparations were made for invasion, received a stunning defeat at the hands of the small but highly competent and brave Royal Air Force. Frustrated in the west, Hitler turned against the USSR in June 1941. In a series of brilliant military maneuvers in which several million Russians were captured, he reached the gates of Moscow in December, only to be stopped by bad weather and Russian reinforcements rushed to defend the city.

Meanwhile, Mussolini sought to realize his dream of an Italian Mediterranean empire. In the late summer and fall of 1940 he launched an offensive from Libya against the British in Egypt and an invasion of Greece from Albania (which he had occupied in 1939). Both enterprises eventually proved disastrous for the Italians, and German forces were sent to their rescue. Greece fell to the Germans, but they met stiff British opposition in Africa. In December 1941, Japan thought the time ripe to extend her empire into a Greater East Asia Coprosperity Sphere which it did very rapidly against meager opposition. It was the Japanese plan to fortify this area so strongly as to withstand American counterattacks and eventually gain a negotiated peace based on the status quo. The attacks on Pearl Harbor and the Philippines brought the United States into the war and greatly altered the balance of power in favor of the Allies.

The year 1942 saw the turn of the tide for the Allies. In June, Japanese naval airpower was decimated by the United States Navy in the Battle of Midway. Having been repulsed at Moscow, Hitler turned to the Caucasus, but the Germans were severely defeated and turned back at Stalingrad (now Volgograd) by the Russians in the closing months of the year. At the same time the British dealt the Germans and Italians a defeat at El Alamein that sent them reeling in retreat westward

along the African Mediterranean coast. In Tunisia they encountered newly landed British and American forces and were expelled from Africa in May 1943.

The Allies now had the initiative and, with the vast production facilities of the United States in full operation, took the offensive on all fronts. Resistance was bitter, and progress slow though inexorable. From bases in Africa the Allies invaded and captured Sicily in July-August 1943. In September, Italy was forced out of the war. British (The term "British, as applied to military forces, includes where appropriate other Commonwealth forces--Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, South African, and Indian--which performed outstandingly during the war.), American, and French forces began a methodical and relentless advance up the Italian Peninsula against the Germans, who had been rushed in to defend it. After Stalingrad the Russians, in a series of alternating offensives, gradually forced the Germans back with heavy losses, until by late April 1945 they were approaching Berlin.

Following a massive buildup of troops, air and naval power, and equipment in the British Isles, American, British, and French troops landed on the Normandy coast of France in June 1944 and pressed the Germans back to the West Wall. There, in December, the Germans launched a final counterattack, which failed. Aided by troops landed in southern France from Italy, the Allies forced the Germans back across the Rhine River and deep into Germany. Assailed on all sides, and their major cities devastated by aerial bombardment, the Germans surrendered on May 7, 1945.

Because of a lack of resources, Allied strategy had envisioned the prior defeat of Germany while remaining on the defensive against the Japanese. Only after victory in

Europe would the full Allied power be applied to Japan. American industrial production increased so rapidly, however, that limited offensives could be initiated against the Japanese as early as August 1942. Thereafter, a persistent two-pronged offensive across the Central Pacific and along the Solomon Islands-New Guinea axis steadily pushed the Japanese back. By the fall of 1944, American forces were landing in the Philippines, and they regained the islands the next spring. Then the island of Okinawa, at the threshold of Japan proper, was captured, and preparations were begun for the invasion of the home islands. Meanwhile, the Japanese position in Asia progressively deteriorated. By the summer of 1945, with its navy and air force virtually destroyed, its cities at the mercy of American aircraft, and cut off from sources of supply of much-needed raw materials, the Japanese foresaw doom. The dropping of two atomic bombs on Japanese cities and the Soviet invasion of Manchuria hastened their decision to capitulate, which they did on August 14.

Diplomatic History of the War and Postwar Period. The League of Nations having failed through inertia and internal discord to prevent war, the major powers aligned themselves in rival groups. In September 1940, Germany, Italy, and Japan signed the Tripartite Pact in Berlin, formalizing the Axis coalition. Hitler's invasion forced the Russians into the Franco-British camp. As the war progressed, the United States departed from its policy of strict neutrality and rendered greater and greater aid short of war to the beleaguered Allies. Blocked in negotiations with the United States from furthering its aims of expansion, Japan attacked the American base at Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and forced the United States into the war.

Meanwhile, in August 1941, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill met on

shipboard off Newfoundland and subsequently issued the Atlantic Charter, in which they subscribed to certain general principles for achieving peace. The charter forbade territorial changes contrary to the wishes of the inhabitants; recognized the right of people to choose their own forms of government; promised greater freedom of trade and of the seas; and supported international cooperation to improve conditions of labor and social security. Armaments were to be reduced, and a permanent system of general security was to be created. The aggressor nations were to be disarmed. On Jan. 1, 1942, the United States, Great Britain, France, the USSR, China, and 21 other countries signed in Washington the Declaration by United Nations, pledging mutual assistance and promising not to enter into separate armistice or peace negotiations with the Axis powers. The member nations also subscribed to the Atlantic Charter's purposes and principles.

At the Casablanca Conference in January 1943, Roosevelt and Churchill--most probably to allay Joseph Stalin's suspicions of the loyalty of his allies--proclaimed a policy of unconditional surrender for Germany, Italy, and Japan as the only means of maintaining the peace. This policy may have prolonged the war, but it solidified the Allied nations and may have forestalled Soviet efforts toward a separate peace with Germany in 1943.

At the Teheran Conference in late 1943, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin agreed on broad principles of operation for an international organization to mediate differences between nations and maintain peace. At Dumbarton Oaks in Washington in the fall of 1944 details were worked out, and it was decided to call the new organization the United Nations. The San Francisco Conference convened on April 25, 1945, to

organize the United Nations; its charter was adopted unanimously on June 26.

War's end found the United States and the USSR the two greatest powers in the world. By the time of the signing of the Axis satellite treaties early in 1947, the two countries were drawing apart. Friction over the treaties with Austria, Germany, and Japan and Soviet aggressive designs in eastern Europe brought increasing tension, and by the end of 1948 their relationship could be considered one of cold war. In 1950 armed conflict arose in Korea between Soviet-backed Communist forces and United Nations forces led by the United States. The cold war between the East and West continued thereafter, with the Communists striving for world domination through subversion and infiltration, and the West seeking to frustrate their designs.



**Quick Facts: The Second World War.** From Grolier Encyclopedia Online by John R. Elting, Colonel, United States Army, United States Military Academy

### **Costs, Casualties and Other Data**

World War II spread death and devastation throughout most of the world to an extent never before experienced. The loss of life can be only generally summarized; an attempt to express the value of property and livelihoods destroyed in terms of money is futile: the resulting sums reach astronomical figures that have little if any practical meaning.

### **Military Casualties**

Probably the best documented and most meaningful figures are the battle casualties. Those for the United States, Great Britain, and the Commonwealth nations are accurate; those for other nations, Allied or Axis, vary in reliability. Chinese figures are largely estimates because of the lack of documentation, information on Soviet losses has been given only grudgingly and in very general terms, and many records of the Axis nations were lost when those countries were overrun. The most accurate available figures are shown in Tables 1, 2, 3 & 4.

In utilizing strength figures, it should be noted that total strength means the total number of personnel belonging to the armed forces during the entire war, whereas peak strength is the greatest strength reached at any one time during the war. Several methods of classifying and computing casualties are in use, and other variations result from the differing periods covered by the various computations. Consequently, different reputable reference works sometimes show slightly different figures even for United States casualties. Non-battle deaths include deaths from accidents and disease.

### **Civilian Casualties**

Casualties among civilians were much less accurately recorded than military losses. In part, this was unavoidable because of the population shifts that took place as civilians fled before invading armies or the continual air attacks on major industrial centers, or were sent to Germany or the Soviet Union for forced labor. Civilian casualties in the United Kingdom, slightly over half of which were inflicted in the London area, were as follows:

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Killed</b>	<b>Seriously injured</b>	<b>Total</b>
Aircraft bombs	51,509	61,423	112,932
V-1 (flying bombs)	6,184	17,981	24,165
V-2	2,754	6,523	9,277
Artillery fire	148	255	403
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,595</b>	<b>86,182</b>	<b>146,777</b>

Civilian casualties in the USSR have been placed roughly at 2,500,000 killed. The loss of population (including both military and civilian casualties) caused directly or indirectly by the war has been stated at 20,000,000. Air raids against Germany killed approximately 300,000 Germans and seriously injured about 780,000 more. Numerous additional casualties occurred during the Soviet invasion of 1944-1945, but no specific estimates are available. Japanese civilian casualties

probably approached 500,000 killed and 625,000 seriously injured, plus a considerable number reported as missing after the fire raids and atomic bombings. In addition, about 360,000 Japanese captured by the Russians in Manchuria, Korea, and the Kuril Islands were still missing in 1950; a large number of them have never been accounted for. Chinese civilian losses are unknown but probably numbered several million.

### **Industrial Conversion and War Production**

In the final analysis, victory was won by the Allied powers' technological superiority--the ability to raise, arm, equip, move, and supply superior forces throughout the world, and through them to break up and destroy the technological resources (as well as much of the armed forces) of the Axis nations. Of all the Allies, it was the United States that possessed the raw materials, skilled manpower, and industries that made their victory possible. This potential American technological power, however, required precious time to change from peacetime to military production. The process of conversion, and of reconversion at the war's end, is illustrated in Table 4.

Among the varied items purchased by United States defense expenditures were 57,027 medium tanks (9 different types), 676,433 two-and-one-half-ton, six-wheel-drive trucks (11 types), 1,054 eight-inch howitzers (48 of them self-propelled), 476,628 2.36-inch rocket launchers (bazookas), 4,014,731 Garand rifles, 106,658 gunner's quadrants, 4,072,000,000 rounds of .45-caliber ammunition, 57,488,000 wool undershirts, 116,000,000 pounds of peanut butter, 206,753 SCR-536 (Handie-Talkie) radio sets, 500,754 30-dose bottles of influenza virus vaccine, 7,570 locomotives (48 types), 23,510,030 military gas masks (2 types), and 3,898 B-29 (Superfortress) very heavy bombers. One of the best indications of the growing tempo of American military production during the war is the following data on machine-gun production, covering the period July 1, 1940-Aug. 31, 1945:

<b>Year</b>	<b>.50 Caliber(1)</b>	<b>.30 Caliber</b>
1940	5,155	3,633
1941	49,479	27,672
1942	347,492	314,839
1943	641,638	188,311
1944	677,011	121,771
1945	239,821	62,977

(1)The increasing preponderance of .50-caliber machine guns reflects their growing use as aircraft and armored vehicle armament.

## Shipping Losses

Allied merchant shipping losses during the war were as follows:

Year	Number of vessels	Tonnage
1939	221	755,237
1940	1,059	3,991,641
1941	1,299	4,328,558
1942	1,664	7,790,697
1943	597	3,220,137
1944	205	1,045,629
1945	105	438,821
Total	5,150	21,570,720

Of the 5,150 Allied merchant vessels sunk, 2,828 were victims of Axis submarines, principally German. The parallel German submarine losses (revised according to the latest British Admiralty assessment) therefore furnish an interesting indication of the gradual Allied success in antisubmarine warfare:

Year	Loss
1939	9
1940	24
1941	35
1942	87
1943	237
1944	242
1945	151

Other German naval losses included 2 battleships, 2 battle cruisers, 3 pocket battleships, 2 old battleships, 2 heavy cruisers, 5 light cruisers, 44 destroyers, and 86 light warships and armed merchant raiders, as well as 1,377 minor and auxiliary warships and approximately 550 landing craft. Japanese naval battle losses included 10 battleships, 20 carriers, 38 cruisers, 115 destroyers, and 119 submarines. The rapid disappearance of the Japanese merchant marine is shown in the tonnage available: 6.1 million tons in 1941, but 1.8 million tons in 1945.

British Commonwealth naval losses from Sept. 3, 1939, to Aug. 15, 1945, including Allied warships operating under British control, comprised 4 battleships, 2 battle cruisers, 5 aircraft carriers, 5 auxiliary aircraft carriers, 33 cruisers, 154 destroyers, 90 submarines, and 138 light warships and armed merchant cruisers, as well as 1,307 auxiliary and minor warships and 1,326 landing ships and craft of all types.

U.S. naval losses and gains during the war were as follows:

Type of vessel	Losses	New ships(1)
Battleships	2	8
Aircraft carriers	5	27
Escort aircraft carriers	6	110
Cruisers	10	48
Destroyers	71	349
Submarines	52	203

(1) Part of this new construction, particularly escort aircraft carriers, was transferred to Great Britain as lend-lease material.

**Data Table 1--United States Armed Forces Total Strength And Casualties In World War II, Dec. 7, 1941-Dec. 31, 1946**

Service	Total strength	Battle deaths	Deaths from other causes	Wounds(1)	Captured or missing
Army(2)	11,260,000	234,874	83,400	565,861	135,524
Navy	4,183,466	36,950	25,664	37,778	2,429
Marine Corps	669,100	19,733	4,778	67,207	1,756
Coast Guard	241,093	574	1,345	955	0
Totals	16,353,659	292,131	115,187	671,801	139,709

(1) Not mortal. (2) Includes Army Air Forces.

**Table 2--Armed Forces Peak Strengths And Battle Deaths Of The Principal Allied Powers**

Nation	Peak strength	Battle deaths
Australia	680,000	23,365
Belgium	650,000	7,760
Canada	780,000	37,476
China	5,000,000	2,200,000(1)
Denmark	25,000	3,006(2)
France	5,000,000	210,671
Greece	414,000	73,700(2)
India	2,150,000	24,338
Netherlands	410,000	6,238
New Zealand	157,000	10,033
Norway	45,000	1,000
Poland	1,000,000	320,000
USSR	12,500,000	7,500,000
Union of South Africa	140,000	6,840
United Kingdom	5,120,000	244,723
United States	12,300,000	292,131
Yugoslavia	500,000	410,000(2)

(1) Casualties beginning with the Japanese invasion in 1937.(2) Most of these casualties were suffered in guerrilla warfare that followed German occupation of the country. In the case of Denmark they include more than 1,200 merchant sailors in the service of the Allied powers.

**Table 3--Armed Forces Peak Strengths And Battle Deaths Of The Axis Powers**

<b>Nation</b>	<b>Peak strength</b>	<b>Battle deaths</b>
Bulgaria	450,000	10,000(1)
Finland	250,000	82,000
Germany	10,200,000	3,500,000
Hungary	350,000	140,000
Italy	3,750,000	77,494(2)
Japan	6,095,000	1,219,000
Romania	600,000	300,000(1)

(1) A limited number of these casualties occurred after the country joined the Allies.(2) Of these, 17,494 were killed after Italy became a cobelligerent with the Allies.

**Table 4--United States Budget Expenditures, July 1, 1940-Aug. 31, 1945 (Billions Of Dollars)**

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>1940</b>	<b>1941</b>	<b>1942</b>	<b>1943</b>	<b>1944</b>	<b>1945</b>
Defense expenditures:						
War Department	0.90	7.30	29.50	46.50	49.20	34.00
Navy Department	0.90	4.20	14.00	24.60	29.60	19.40
Other departments	0.10	2.70	8.90	14.10	12.10	6.40
<b>Total Def Exp.</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>14.20</b>	<b>52.40</b>	<b>85.20</b>	<b>90.90</b>	<b>59.80</b>
Nondefense expenditures	3.40	6.00	5.40	5.00	6.30	6.20
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>5.30</b>	<b>20.20</b>	<b>57.80</b>	<b>90.20</b>	<b>97.20</b>	<b>66.00</b>

**World War II Chronology.** This basic timeline is by John R. Elting, *Colonel, United States Army; Department of Military Art, United States Military Academy.*

A chronological outline of the major events preceding World War II, the chief military and political occurrences in the various areas during the war, and peace treaties and other postwar developments are presented under the following headings: (1) prelude to war, (2) European and Mediterranean operations, (3) Pacific and eastern Asian operations, and (4) political and diplomatic developments of the war and postwar periods.

## **Prelude To War**

### **1931**

Sept. 18--Japanese begin conquest of Manchuria.

### **1932**

March 1--Manchuria becomes Japanese puppet state of Manchukuo.

### **1933**

Jan. 30--Adolf Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany.

March 27--Japan leaves League of Nations.

Oct. 14--Germany leaves League of Nations.

### **1934**

Jan. 26--Germany and Poland sign 10-year nonaggression pact.

June 30--Hitler carries out blood purge of Nazi Party.

July 25--Unsuccessful pro-Nazi revolt takes place in Austria; Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss is assassinated.

### **1935**

March 16--Hitler reintroduces compulsory military service.

May 2--France and the USSR sign five-year mutual assistance treaty.

June 18--Anglo-German naval agreement is signed.

Oct. 3--Benito Mussolini invades Ethiopia.

### **1936**

Jan. 15--Japan withdraws from London Naval Conference.

March 7--Hitler remilitarizes Rhineland.

May 5--Italians capture Addis Ababa, ending major operations in Ethiopia.

July 17-18--Spanish Civil War begins.

Oct. 25--Germany and Italy form Rome-Berlin Axis.

Nov. 25--Germany and Japan sign Anti-Comintern Pact.

### **1937**

July 7--Marco Polo Bridge incident near Peiping sets off Sino-Japanese War.

Dec. 12--Japanese planes sink United States gunboat *Panay* in Yangtze River.

Dec. 13--Japanese sack Nanking.

## **1938**

March 13--Hitler annexes Austria.

Sept. 29-30--Munich Conference approves German acquisition of the Sudetenland.

## **1939**

March 15--Hitler occupies rest of Czechoslovakia.

March 28--Insurgent forces complete conquest of Spain.

April 7--Mussolini invades Albania.

Aug. 23--Germany and the USSR sign nonaggression pact.

## **European And Mediterranean Operations**

## **1939**

Sept. 1--Germany invades Poland.

Sept. 17--Soviet forces invade Poland.

Sept. 27--Warsaw capitulates.

Oct. 6--Last organized Polish resistance is broken at Kock.

Nov. 30--Soviet forces invade Finland.

## **1940**

March 12--Finland capitulates, signing Treaty of Moscow.

April 9--Germans begin invasion of Norway and seize Denmark.

April 14--Anglo-French forces reach Norway.

May 2--Anglo-French forces are driven from central Norway.

May 10--Germans invade the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg.

May 14--Dutch Army surrenders.

May 20--Germans break through to English Channel at Abbeville.

May 28--Belgium surrenders unconditionally.

June 4--British complete evacuation of Dunkerque.

June 8--Allies leave Narvik.

June 9--Norwegian Army agrees to armistice.

June 14--Germans enter Paris.

June 22--German-French armistice is signed (fighting ends June 25 after signature of Italo-French armistice June 24).

July 3--British attack French Fleet at Oran and Mers-el-Kebir.

July 10--Battle of Britain begins.

Aug. 5--Italians invade British Somaliland (conquest is completed Aug. 19).

Sept. 13--Italians invade Egypt.

Sept. 23--British and Free French attempt unsuccessfully to take Dakar (attack ends Sept. 25).

Oct. 28--Mussolini invades Greece.

Oct. 31--Germans begin breaking off Battle of Britain.

Dec. 9--Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell launches British counteroffensive in Egypt.

## **1941**



Feb. 7--Trapped Italian army surrenders to British at Bedafomm, Libya.  
 Feb. 12--Gen. Erwin Rommel arrives in Tripoli to take over North African campaign for Axis.  
 March 1--Italians finally check Greek counteroffensive.  
 March 5--British forces reach Greek mainland.  
 March 16--British land at Berbera, British Somaliland.  
 March 24--Axis forces launch offensive in North Africa (Tobruk is invested by April 11).  
 April 6--Axis forces invade Yugoslavia and Greece; British occupy Addis Ababa.  
 April 17--Yugoslav Army capitulates; British begin evacuating Greek mainland.  
 April 30--Organized resistance ends on Greek mainland.  
 May 2--British attack insurgents in Iraq (campaign ends May 31 with occupation of Baghdad).  
 May 20--Germans begin airborne attack on Crete.  
 May 31--Germans complete conquest of Crete.  
 June 8--British attack Vichy French forces in Syria, defeating them in six days.  
 June 22--Hitler invades the USSR.  
 Aug. 21--Hitler turns German main effort southward toward Kiev.  
 Sept. 8--Leningrad's land connections with rest of the USSR are severed.  
 Sept. 19--Kiev is captured.  
 Nov. 18--British begin second invasion of Libya.  
 Nov. 20--Germans capture Rostov.  
 Nov. 27--Conquest of Italian East Africa is completed with surrender of Gondar.  
 Nov. 28--Germans are forced to evacuate Rostov.  
 Dec. 5--German offensive stalls 25 miles from Moscow.  
 Dec. 6--Russians launch counteroffensive.  
 Dec. 7--Rommel begins withdrawal to El Agheila.  
 Dec. 10--British advance in Libya relieves Tobruk.  
 Dec. 24--British enter Benghazi.

## 1942

Jan. 2--British capture bypassed fortress of Bardia, Libya.  
 Jan. 11--Rommel withdraws westward toward El Agheila.  
 Jan. 17--British reduce bypassed German garrison of Halfaya.  
 Jan. 20--Russians recapture Mozhaishk, 65 miles west-southwest of Moscow.  
 Jan. 21--Rommel launches major counteroffensive.  
 Jan. 26--First United States troops arrive in Northern Ireland.  
 Jan. 28--British Eighth Army withdraws to El Gazala-Bir Hacheim Line.  
 Feb. 1--Soviet counteroffensive begins to bog down in German hedgehog defense system.  
 Feb. 12--German warships *Scharnhorst*, *Gneisenau*, and *Prinz Eugen* escape from Brest and run up English Channel to German ports.  
 March 27--British carry out successful raid against St. Nazaire, France.  
 May 8--Germans begin minor operations to prepare for summer offensive in the USSR.  
 May 12--Russians launch large-scale spoiling offensive against Kharkov.  
 May 17--Germans counterattack in Kharkov sector.  
 May 27--Rommel launches major offensive against El Gazala-Bir Hacheim line.  
 May 28--Germans complete defeat of Soviet Kharkov offensive.  
 May 30--Royal Air Force begins major air offensive against Germany with heavy raid on Cologne.  
 June 10--Rommel forces evacuation of Bir Hacheim.

June 14--British withdraw toward Egypt.  
 June 20--Rommel breaks into Tobruk, completing its capture June 21.  
 June 24--Rommel reaches Sidi Barrani, Egypt.  
 June 28--Germans launch main summer offensive in the USSR.  
 June 30--British are forced back on prepared positions at El Alamein.  
 July 1--Germans complete capture of Sevastopol.  
 July 2--British Eighth Army begins limited counterattacks against Axis forces in Egypt.  
 July 4--American crews participate in Royal Air Force raid on airfields in the Netherlands, in the first United States air operation in Europe.  
 July 6--Germans capture Voronezh, near Don River.  
 July 9--German offensive in the USSR divides, one army group advancing through Rostov into the Caucasus oilfields and the other toward Stalingrad.  
 July 23--Germans capture Rostov.  
 Aug. 9--Germans penetrate northern foothills of the Caucasus.  
 Aug. 19--British and Canadians, accompanied by small detachment of United States Rangers, make amphibious raid on Dieppe, France.  
 Aug. 31--Axis forces attack El Alamein position (Battle of Alam el Halfa).  
 Sept. 7--Lt. Gen. Bernard Law Montgomery halts British counterattack at Alam el Halfa; begins elaborate preparations for major counteroffensive.  
 Sept. 16--Germans penetrate Stalingrad suburbs.  
 Oct. 23--British Eighth Army opens El Alamein offensive.  
 Nov. 1--Heavy fighting continues in Stalingrad and the Caucasus; Russians are gradually wearing down German offensive.  
 Nov. 5--Axis troops withdraw from El Alamein area.  
 Nov. 8--British and Americans land in Morocco and Algeria.  
 Nov. 9--German troops begin occupying Tunisia.  
 Nov. 10--Adm. Jean Francois Darlan orders French forces in North Africa to cease resistance to Allied invasion.  
 Nov. 11--Eighth Army's pursuit crosses Egyptian frontier into Libya, taking Bardia; Axis troops move into unoccupied France.  
 Nov. 19--Russians begin offensive in Stalingrad area.  
 Nov. 22--Converging Soviet attacks cut off German Sixth Army around Stalingrad.  
 Nov. 27--French warships in Toulon harbor are scuttled to prevent seizure by Germans.  
 Nov. 30--Determined German resistance halts Allied invasion of Tunisia.  
 Dec. 12--Germans counterattack to relieve Sixth Army at Stalingrad.  
 Dec. 16--Soviet offensive against Italian Eighth Army on middle Don River forces abandonment of effort to relieve Stalingrad.  
 Dec. 24--Lt. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, commanding Allied forces in North Africa, decides to postpone Tunisian offensive until end of rainy season.

## **1943**

Jan. 2--German troops in Caucasus area begin withdrawing northward through Rostov.  
 Jan. 10--Russians begin attack against Stalingrad pocket.  
 Jan. 12--Russians attempt to raise siege of Leningrad.  
 Jan. 16--Berlin is raided by Royal Air Force for the first time since Nov. 7, 1941.  
 Jan. 18--Germans open limited offensive in Tunisia; Russians reopen land communications with

Leningrad.

Jan. 23--British Eighth Army occupies Tripoli; Germans break off Tunisian offensive.

Jan. 27--United States Eighth Air Force bombs Wilhelmshaven in its first attack on Germany.

Feb. 2--Last elements of German Sixth Army surrender at Stalingrad; Russian spearheads push energetically toward Rostov, Kharkov, and Kursk.

Feb. 4--British Eighth Army crosses into Tunisia from Libya.

Feb. 8--Russians capture Kursk.

Feb. 14--Germans launch spoiling offensive against United States 2d Corps in Tunisia; Russians capture Rostov.

Feb. 16--Russians capture Kharkov.

Feb. 20--Rommel breaks through Kasserine Pass in Tunisia.

Feb. 21--Germans launch counteroffensive toward Kharkov.

Feb. 22--Rommel begins to withdraw through Kasserine Pass.

March 6--Rommel is repulsed in attack on British Eighth Army near Medenine.

March 12--Russians capture Vyazma.

March 14--Germans complete recapture of Kharkov.

March 17--United States 2d Corps begins offensive in Tunisia.

March 20--British Eighth Army attacks Mareth Line.

March 27--Enveloping attack by British Eighth Army forces Germans to evacuate Mareth Line and retire northward.

April 23--British-United States staff is established in England under Lt. Gen. Sir Frederick E. Morgan to plan invasion of northwestern Europe.

May 4--Final Allied offensive opens in Tunisia.

May 13--Last Axis forces surrender in Tunisia.

May 16-17--Royal Air Force raid breaches Mohné and Eder dams, flooding portions of the Ruhr.

May 18--Air offensive begins against Pantelleria Island to clear way for invasion of Sicily.

June 11--Pantelleria surrenders unconditionally.

June 14--With occupation of Lampedusa in Pelagie Islands, Allies gain control of all islands between Sicily and Tunisia.

June 20--Royal Air Force makes first shuttle-bombing raid between England and North Africa.

June 22--United States Eighth Air Force makes its first large-scale daylight raid on Ruhr area.

July 5--Germans launch offensive against Kursk salient.

July 9--Allied forces invade Sicily; German Kursk offensive is checked.

July 12--Russians open major offensive against Orel salient.

July 22--United States Seventh Army takes Palermo, Sicily; Soviet offensive spreads across entire front.

July 24--United States Eighth Air Force makes its first raid on Norway.

Aug. 1--Mass, low-level American air raid is made on Ploesti, Romania.

Aug. 5--Russians capture Orel and Belgorod.

Aug. 17--American and British forces converge at Messina, Sicily; United States Eighth Air Force raids Schweinfurt and Regensburg; Royal Air Force attacks German V-weapons experimental center at Peenemünde.

Aug. 23--Germans evacuate Kharkov; Russians attack heavily on Mius River front.

Sept. 3--British Eighth Army forces, crossing from Sicily, land on Italian coast; Italian government signs secret armistice (effective Sept. 8).

Sept. 8--Italian armistice is announced; Italian Fleet and aircraft surrender to Allies.

Sept. 9--British amphibious assault seizes Taranto; Allied forces land at Salerno.  
 Sept. 11--German counterattacks begin in Salerno area.  
 Sept. 13--German counterattacks seriously threaten Salerno beachhead.  
 Sept. 14--German Salerno attacks are contained.  
 Sept. 17--Germans begin fighting withdrawal from Salerno front; Russians take Bryansk.  
 Sept. 18-19--Allies occupy Sardinia, following German evacuation.  
 Sept. 24--Germans evacuate Smolensk and Roslavl.  
 Oct. 1--Allied forces enter Naples.  
 Oct. 4--Germans seize Kos, site of only Allied air base in Aegean Sea; Allied forces gain control of Corsica.  
 Oct. 6--United States Fifth Army reaches Volturno River in Italy.  
 Oct. 12-13--United States Fifth Army carries out assault crossing of Volturno River.  
 Oct. 14--United States Eighth Air Force raids Schweinfurt ball-bearing plants.  
 Nov. 1--Soviet offensive against the Crimea makes progress.  
 Nov. 5--United States Fifth Army begins assault against Winter Line in Italy.  
 Nov. 6--Germans evacuate Kiev.  
 Nov. 12--Russians capture Zhitomir.  
 Nov. 14--Germans launch counterattack in Zhitomir area (recapture city Nov. 19).  
 Nov. 15--Attack on Winter Line is halted for regrouping.  
 Nov. 20--British Eighth Army attacks on Sangro River front in Italy.  
 Nov. 26--Germans evacuate Gomel.  
 Dec. 1--United States Fifth Army attacks Winter Line in Liri Valley.  
 Dec. 2--Luftwaffe makes effective raid on Bari, Italy.  
 Dec. 14--Russians begin winter offensive.  
 Dec. 16--Germans evacuate San Pietro Infine, key point in Winter Line.  
 Dec. 24--United States Eighth Air Force makes major effort against German secret weapon sites.

## **1944**

Jan. 5--Final phase of Winter Line offensive begins in Italy.  
 Jan. 15--Operations against Winter Line are successfully concluded; Russians launch major surprise offensive on Leningrad front.  
 Jan. 16--Eisenhower assumes post as supreme commander of Allied Expeditionary Force.  
 Jan. 22--Allies begin landing at Anzio, Italy; Germans halt Russians around Vitebsk, though Russians continue gains elsewhere.  
 Jan. 23--Americans are repulsed in attempt to force Rapido River in Italy.  
 Feb. 3--German counteroffensive against Anzio beachhead begins during night; Allies on main Italian battlefield stall in front of Cassino.  
 Feb. 6--Soviet offensive in the Ukraine makes great progress near Nikopol.  
 Feb. 18--Anzio beachhead is under extreme pressure.  
 Feb. 19--Allied counterattack checks German Anzio offensive.  
 March 4--German forces around Anzio beachhead go over to the defensive; first American air raid is made on Berlin.  
 March 13--Soviet troops force Dnieper River and take Kherson.  
 March 15--Allies make third assault on Cassino; Russians break through German defenses along Bug River.  
 March 30--Royal Air Force bombing raid on Nurnberg suffers extremely heavy losses.

April 10--Russians recover Odessa.  
 April 15--Soviet offensive into Poland captures Tarnopol.  
 May 9--Russians recapture Sevastopol; United States Eighth Air Force begins attacks on German airfields in northern France.  
 May 11--Allies launch major offensive against Gustav Line in drive for Rome.  
 May 12--United States Eighth Air Force attacks oil plants in central Germany.  
 May 13--French Expeditionary Corps penetrates Gustav Line.  
 May 18--Allies capture Cassino.  
 May 21--Allied fighter aircraft begin operations against enemy railroads in France and Germany.  
 May 23--Allied forces in Anzio beachhead begin breakout offensive.  
 May 30--Loading of Allied assault forces for Operation Overlord is begun.  
 June 2--United States Fifteenth Air Force begins shuttle bombing between Italian and Soviet bases.  
 June 3--Combat loading of troops for Operation Overlord is completed.  
 June 4--Allied forces enter Rome; D-day for Operation Overlord is postponed from June 5 to June 6.  
 June 6--Operation Overlord begins; Allies land on coast of Normandy.  
 June 8--American and British beachheads establish contact.  
 June 9--Russians launch offensive against Finns on Karelian Isthmus.  
 June 12--Allies capture Carentan in Normandy.  
 June 17--French force lands on Elba.  
 June 27--Americans capture Cherbourg.  
 July 3--United States First Army attacks southward from beachhead (battle of the hedgerows).  
 July 8--British enter Caen.  
 July 13--Russians capture Vilnius.  
 July 18--United States First Army captures St.-Lo; Soviet offensive is checked at Augustow, but still advances elsewhere.  
 July 19--United States Fifth Army captures Leghorn.  
 July 21--Soviet offensive crosses Bug River.  
 July 25--United States First Army launches major breakout offensive (Operation Cobra).  
 Aug. 1--United States Twelfth Army Group becomes operational in France; Polish underground forces revolt as Soviet advance nears Warsaw.  
 Aug. 4--Allied forces in Italy halt along Arno River to regroup for offensive against Gothic Line.  
 Aug. 7--United States Third Army reaches Brest; Germans launch major counterattack near Mortain; Soviet offensive is generally checked.  
 Aug. 10--Having halted German Mortain counteroffensive, United States First Army resumes advance.  
 Aug. 13--Allied forces begin closing Falaise-Argentan pocket.  
 Aug. 15--United States Seventh Army lands in southern France (Operation Dragoon).  
 Aug. 16--United States Third Army captures Orleans.  
 Aug. 19--French underground forces begin Paris uprising.  
 Aug. 20--Falaise-Argentan pocket is completely closed; United States Third Army crosses Seine near Mantes-Gassicourt; Russians open offensive against Romania.  
 Aug. 23--Romania surrenders unconditionally.  
 Aug. 25--Allied forces enter Paris; attack on Gothic Line begins in Italy.  
 Aug. 28--French complete capture of Toulon-Marseille area.  
 Sept. 1--Gasoline shortage halts United States Third Army; Germans begin withdrawal from Greek

mainland and adjacent islands.

Sept. 4--British enter Antwerp; truce is established between the USSR and Finland.

Sept. 6--United States Third Army attacks Moselle River line.

Sept. 7--United States Third Army begins attacks on Metz.

Sept. 9--The USSR grants Bulgaria an armistice.

Sept. 10--Decision is reached to postpone opening Antwerp's port until effort (Operation Market-Garden) has been made to secure a Rhine crossing; United States Third Army begins large-scale Moselle crossing; United States First Army captures city of Luxembourg.

Sept. 11--Patrols from Overlord and Dragoon forces establish contact near Dijon.

Sept. 12--German garrison of Le Havre surrenders; United States First Army reaches West Wall.

Sept. 13--Shuttle bombing between Western and Soviet bases is discontinued.

Sept. 14--United States First Army reaches suburbs of Aachen; United States Third Army surrounds Nancy; Russians capture Warsaw suburb of Praga, and begin offensive in Estonia and Latvia; United States Fifth Army is repulsed in attacks on Gothic Line in Italy.

Sept. 15--United States First Army breaches West Wall.

Sept. 17--Operation Market-Garden is launched.

Sept. 18--Germans counterattack British airborne troops at Arnhem, Netherlands.

Sept. 19--United States Ninth Army completes mopping up in Brittany.

Sept. 20--British force Germans to withdraw from Rimini Line in Italy.

Sept. 23--Russians break through German lines to Gulf of Riga.

Sept. 25--United States Fifth Army completes penetration of Gothic Line in Italy.

Sept. 26--Germans overrun last British units in Arnhem area, ending decisive phase of Operation Market-Garden.

Sept. 30--Russians cross Danube in drive on Belgrade.

Oct. 2--Germans complete suppression of Warsaw revolt.

Oct. 3--British troops land in southern Greece.

Oct. 13--British airborne troops are dropped near Athens; Germans begin V-1 attacks on Antwerp.

Oct. 14--British troops enter Athens; Russians and Yugoslavs encircle Belgrade.

Oct. 15--United States First Army surrounds Aachen.

Oct. 18--Russians break into eastern Czechoslovakia.

Oct. 20--Belgrade is captured.

Oct. 21--Aachen garrison capitulates.

Oct. 22--Russians advance from Petsamo, Finland, to Norwegian frontier.

Oct. 24--British and Canadians begin clearing approaches to Antwerp port.

Oct. 25--Russians enter Kirkenes, Norway.

Nov. 4--Channel to Antwerp is opened for minesweeping.

Nov. 8--Approaches to Antwerp are completely cleared; United States Third Army begins offensive toward the Saar.

Nov. 16--United States First and Ninth armies begin attempt to clear area between Wurm and Roer rivers (Operation Queen).

Nov. 19--United States Third Army surrounds Metz.

Nov. 20--French First Army breaks into Belfort.

Nov. 23--French troops with United States Seventh Army take Strasbourg.

Nov. 28--Antwerp port is opened for shipping.

Dec. 5--Clashes occur between British troops and Greek factions in Athens.

Dec. 6--Russians intensify offensive toward Budapest, Hungary.

Dec. 13--Last bypassed Metz fort (Jeanne d'Arc) surrenders to United States Third Army.  
 Dec. 16--Germans open major counteroffensive against United States Twelfth Army Group in Ardennes area.  
 Dec. 19--United States 101st Airborne Division reaches Bastogne; elements of United States Third Army prepare to move north; United States Seventh Army goes on defensive in Alsace-Lorraine.  
 Dec. 21--Germans begin siege of Bastogne.  
 Dec. 23--Soviet forces close in on Budapest; heavy fighting takes place in Lake Balaton area of Hungary.  
 Dec. 26--Tanks of 4th Armored Division of United States Third Army break through to Bastogne.  
 Dec. 27--Roads into Bastogne from the south are opened for trucks and ambulances; Russians complete encirclement of Budapest.  
 Dec. 30--Allied forces begin counterattacks in the Ardennes.  
 Dec. 31--Germans launch offensive against United States Seventh Army in Alsace-Lorraine.

## **1945**

Jan. 1--Last major German air raid is made against Allied airfields.  
 Jan. 2--Germans counterattack to relieve Budapest.  
 Jan. 3--United States First Army begins counteroffensive against northern flank of Ardennes salient.  
 Jan. 5--Allied forces in Italy begin regrouping for spring offensive.  
 Jan. 12--Russians launch large-scale winter offensive in Poland (extend it to East Prussia Jan. 14).  
 Jan. 17--Russians capture Warsaw.  
 Jan. 20--French First Army begins offensive in Alsace-Lorraine against Colmar pocket.  
 Jan. 25--German Alsace-Lorraine offensive ends with unsuccessful attack near Haguenau.  
 Jan. 28--Russians complete conquest of Lithuania and envelopment of Konigsberg.  
 Feb. 2--United States First Army begins advance to seize Roer River dams.  
 Feb. 4--Allied forces in Italy begin limited operations in preparation for spring offensive.  
 Feb. 8--Canadian First Army begins Operation Veritable to clear area between Maas and Rhine rivers (with subsidiary Operation Blockbuster, successfully completed March 10).  
 Feb. 9--French First Army completes reduction of Colmar pocket.  
 Feb. 10--United States First Army seizes main Roer dam but finds that Germans have destroyed outlet controls.  
 Feb. 12--Varkiza agreement ends civil war in Greece.  
 Feb. 13--Russians overrun last German position in Budapest.  
 Feb. 16--Russians surround Breslau.  
 Feb. 23--United States Ninth Army attacks across Roer River (Operation Grenade) toward Rhine.  
 March 6--Operation Grenade is successfully completed.  
 March 7--United States First Army completes capture of Cologne; its 9th Armored Division seizes Rhine bridge at Remagen intact.  
 March 15--United States Third and Seventh armies launch coordinated offensive (Operation Undertone) to clear Saar-Palatinate triangle (successfully completed March 25).  
 March 16--Russians begin offensive against Vienna.  
 March 22--United States Third Army makes assault crossing of Rhine at Oppenheim.  
 March 23--British Second Army crosses Rhine (Operation Plunder) in Rees-Wesel area.  
 March 24--United States Ninth Army attacks across Rhine in Dinslaken area; United States Third Army begins similar attack (completed March 25) at Boppard.



March 26--United States Seventh Army crosses Rhine near Worms.

March 31--French First Army crosses Rhine near Speyer and Germersheim.

April 1--United States Ninth and First armies establish contact at Lippstadt, isolating Ruhr area.

April 7--Russians enter Vienna.

April 9--Russians storm bypassed Konigsberg fortress; British Eighth Army opens major offensive in Italy.

April 12--United States Ninth Army establishes bridgehead on east bank of Elbe.

April 13--United States Ninth Army seizes second Elbe bridgehead; Russians secure Vienna.

April 14--Americans lose one Elbe bridgehead; United States Fifth Army joins in Italian offensive.

April 16--Russians begin heavy offensive against Berlin.

April 17--United States Seventh Army attacks Nurnberg.

April 18--Organized German resistance in Ruhr collapses; United States Third Army patrols enter Czechoslovakia.

April 20--United States Seventh Army completes capture of Nurnberg.

April 21--Organized German resistance ends in Harz Mountains.

April 23--Russians fight way into Berlin; United States Fifth Army begins assault crossing of Po River.

April 25--United States First Army patrol makes contact with Russians near Torgau.

April 26--British complete capture of Bremen.

April 29--British Second Army begins advance from Elbe River to Baltic; United States Fifth Army enters Milan; German Southwest Army Group in Italy surrenders unconditionally.

April 30--United States Seventh Army occupies Munich.

May 2--British Second Army reaches Baltic, capturing Lubeck and Wismar; Russians mop up Berlin; fighting ends in Italy; New Zealand troops occupy Trieste.

May 4--Germans surrender forces in the Netherlands, northwestern Germany, and Denmark (effective May 5); patrols of United States Fifth and Seventh armies meet near Brenner Pass.

May 5--United States Third Army begins offensive into Czechoslovakia; German Army Group G surrenders in Bavaria to United States Sixth Army Group.

May 6--United States Third Army takes Plzen, Czechoslovakia.

May 7--German High Command surrenders all forces unconditionally at Reims; Russians finally capture Breslau.

May 9--European hostilities end officially at 12:01 am

## **Pacific And Eastern Asian Operations**

### **1941**

Nov. 26--Pearl Harbor striking force sails from Kuril Islands.

Dec. 7--Japanese carrier aircraft attack United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and nearby Army air bases; Japanese destroyers bombard Midway Island.

Dec. 8--Japanese planes raid American air bases in Philippines; Japanese invade Thailand and Malaya; seize Shanghai International Settlement; attack mainland territories of Hong Kong; bombard Wake and Guam.

Dec. 9--Japanese invade Gilbert Islands.

Dec. 10--Japanese seize Guam and begin landings on Luzon; British warships *Repulse* and *Prince of Wales* are sunk off Malaya.

Dec. 11--Attempt by Japanese to seize Wake Island is repulsed; Japanese begin invasion of Burma.

Dec. 13--Japanese force British to withdraw from mainland to Hong Kong Island.

Dec. 16--Japanese invade British Borneo and Burma.

Dec. 18--Japanese invade Hong Kong Island.

Dec. 20--Japanese land near Davao, Mindanao, Philippines.

Dec. 22--Japanese make major landing at Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, Philippines; Chiang Kai-shek offers Chinese troops for defense of Burma; first American troops reach Australia.

Dec. 23--Japanese overrun Wake Island; Gen. Douglas MacArthur decides to withdraw into Bataan Peninsula, Luzon.

Dec. 25--Japanese complete conquest of Hong Kong.

### **1942**

Jan. 7--American and Philippine forces complete withdrawal into Bataan Peninsula.

Jan. 11--Japanese begin invasion of Netherlands East Indies.

Jan. 20--Japanese begin major offensive in Burma.

Jan. 22--MacArthur orders withdrawal to final Bataan defensive position.

Jan. 23--Japanese make amphibious landings behind American-Philippine positions on Bataan, but are contained; seize Rabaul, New Britain; and land on New Ireland and Solomon Islands.

Jan. 24--United States destroyers raid Japanese shipping off Balikpapan, Borneo (Battle of Makassar Strait).

Jan. 26--Withdrawal to final Bataan defensive position is successfully completed.

Jan. 27--British forces in Malaya begin withdrawal to Singapore Island.

Jan. 31--British complete withdrawal to Singapore Island.

Feb. 1--United States Pacific Fleet attacks Japanese bases in Marshall and Gilbert Islands.

Feb. 2--Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell is appointed chief of staff to Chiang Kai-shek.

Feb. 4--Dutch-United States naval force is badly damaged by Japanese aircraft in Madoera Strait, Netherlands East Indies.

Feb. 8--Japanese forces break off Bataan attacks to reorganize for future decisive offensive; Japanese gain foothold on Singapore Island.

Feb. 14--Japanese paratroopers seize Palembang area, Sumatra.

Feb. 15--Singapore surrenders unconditionally.

Feb. 18--Japanese seize Bali, isolating Java.

Feb. 19--Darwin, Australia, is badly damaged by massive Japanese air attacks.

Feb. 22--President Franklin D. Roosevelt orders MacArthur to leave Philippines.

Feb. 23--British in Burma are forced back across Sittang River; Japanese submarine shells refinery near Santa Barbara, Calif.

Feb. 27--Allied naval forces are decisively defeated during attack on Japanese convoy (Battle of the Java Sea).

Feb. 28--Japanese invade Java.

March 7--British evacuate Rangoon, Burma.

March 7-8--Japanese land on New Guinea.

March 9--Dutch forces surrender to Japanese on Java.

March 11--MacArthur, family, and staff leave Bataan (reach Darwin March 17).

March 24--Japanese begin heavy air and artillery bombardment of Bataan and Corregidor.

April 3--Japanese launch major offensive against Bataan.

April 4--Japanese carrier task force begins large-scale raid into Indian Ocean, attacking Colombo and Trincomalee, Ceylon, during following week.

April 9--American-Philippine forces on Bataan surrender; Japanese concentrate planes and artillery against Corregidor.

April 18--MacArthur assumes command of Southwest Pacific area; Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle leads air raid on Tokyo.

April 29--Japanese seize Lashio, southern terminus of Burma Road.

May 3--Japanese occupy Tulagi, Solomon Islands.

May 4--United States carrier planes raid Tulagi.

May 5--British invade Madagascar; Japanese make assault landing on Corregidor.

May 6--Lt. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright surrenders all forces in Philippines unconditionally.

May 7--Battle of the Coral Sea begins (ends May 8).

May 10--American-Philippine forces in Mindanao, Palawan, and Visayan Islands begin surrendering (process is completed June 9).

May 20--Japanese complete conquest of Burma.

June 3--American aircraft from Midway locate main Japanese fleet approaching that island.

June 4--Japanese are decisively defeated in Battle of Midway (pursuit continues into June 6).

June 6-7--Japanese land troops on Aleutian islands of Attu and Kiska.

July 2--Joint Chiefs of Staff order recovery of New Britain-New Ireland-New Guinea area, beginning with occupation of lower Solomon Islands.

July 22--Japanese land at Gona and Buna, New Guinea, for overland advance against Port Moresby.

Aug. 7--United States Marines begin landing on Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands.

Aug. 8-9--Japanese naval task force inflicts serious losses on Allied fleet off Guadalcanal (Battle of Savo Island); Allied naval forces retire from Guadalcanal area.

Aug. 21--First Japanese assault on Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, is repulsed.

Aug. 24--United States carrier task force defeats Japanese in Battle of the Eastern Solomons.

Aug. 25--Japanese begin attack on Milne Bay, New Guinea.

Sept. 5--Japanese begin evacuating Milne Bay beachhead.

Sept. 9--Japanese plane (launched from submarine) starts small forest fire near Brookings, Oreg. (this was the only bombing attack on the continental United States during war).

Sept. 13-14--Japanese launch unsuccessful major offensive on Guadalcanal.

Sept. 16--Japanese advance against Port Moresby is halted.

Oct. 11-12--United States naval task force defeats Japanese off Guadalcanal (Battle of Cape

Esperance).

Oct. 13--United States Army units land on Guadalcanal.

Oct. 14--Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, is temporarily rendered unusable by Japanese bombardment; Japanese mass for attack on American beachhead.

Oct. 23--Japanese launch major Guadalcanal counteroffensive.

Oct. 25-26--Japanese Guadalcanal attacks fail.

Oct. 26--Japanese are defeated in naval Battle of Santa Cruz.

Oct. 29--Alaska Highway is open for traffic; Japanese break contact with United States forces on Guadalcanal and withdraw northward.

Nov. 1--Americans begin Guadalcanal offensive.

Nov. 12--Series of naval engagements (Battle of Guadalcanal, ending Nov. 15) thwarts Japanese efforts to land reinforcements on Guadalcanal.

Nov. 16--Australians and Americans, having forced Japanese back into Buna-Gona beachhead during past month, attack that position.

Nov. 30--Japanese are thwarted in effort to reinforce Guadalcanal, but defeat United States cruiser task force (Battle of Tassafaronga).

Dec. 1--Australians capture Gona.

Dec. 16--British begin limited offensive in Arakan coastal area in Burma.

Dec. 18--Allies begin major offensive against Japanese positions around Buna.

## **1943**

Jan. 2--Organized Japanese resistance at Buna ends.

Jan. 22--Japanese positions around Sanananda, New Guinea, are overrun.

Feb. 1--Japanese begin evacuation of Guadalcanal (operation is completed Feb. 7).

Feb. 8--Brig. Orde C. Wingate's Chindits begin three-month raid against Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad.

Feb. 9--Organized Japanese resistance ends on Guadalcanal.

Feb. 21--Americans land on Russell Islands.

March 2--Battle of the Bismarck Sea begins (ends March 4 with destruction of entire Japanese convoy).

March 12--Japanese defeat British on Arakan front.

March 26--United States naval task force turns back effort by Japanese to reinforce their Aleutian garrisons.

April 18--Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto is killed when a Japanese plane is shot down over Solomon Islands.

May 11--American expeditionary force lands on Attu.

May 12--British withdraw to original positions in Arakan sector of Burma.

May 30--Japanese resistance collapses on Attu.

June 30--Operation Cartwheel begins with Allied landings in central Solomon Islands, Trobriand Islands, and Nassau Bay area of New Guinea.

July 5--United States naval forces partially block Japanese attempt to reinforce Kolombangara Island, central Solomons (Battle of Kula Gulf).

July 12--United States naval task force fails to prevent Japanese reinforcements from reaching Kolombangara (Battle of Kolombangara or Second Battle of Kula Gulf).

July 28--Japanese evacuate Kiska undetected by Allies.

Aug. 5--After 12 days of heavy fighting, Americans capture Munda Airfield, New Georgia, central

Solomons.

Aug. 6--Japanese naval force is defeated off Kolombangara (Battle of Vella Gulf).

Aug. 15--Allied force begins landing on Kiska (by Aug. 22, concedes island is deserted).

Oct. 2--Japanese withdraw successfully from Kolombangara; Australians capture Finschhafen, New Guinea.

Oct. 6-7--Japanese destroyers fight off smaller force of American destroyers while evacuating Japanese troops from Vella Lavella (Battle of Vella Lavella).

Oct. 12--United States Army Air Forces begin heavy air attacks on Rabaul, New Britain.

Nov. 1--Americans land on Bougainville Island, northern Solomons; during following night, Japanese naval task force is defeated offshore (Battle of Empress Augusta Bay).

Nov. 21--Americans begin landing on Makin and Tarawa, Gilbert Islands (atolls are cleared in three days).

Nov. 25--Japanese destroyers are defeated off New Ireland (Battle of Cape St. George).

Dec. 24--Bougainville beachhead, containing new airfields, is secured.

Dec. 26--Americans land at Cape Gloucester, New Britain.

Dec. 29-30--Cape Gloucester airfields are secured.

## **1944**

Jan. 25--Chinese troops under General Stilwell begin counteroffensive in Burma.

Feb. 1--Americans land on Kwajalein, Marshall Islands (atoll is cleared by Feb. 8).

Feb. 18--United States naval task forces complete neutralization of Japanese base at Truk; Americans begin landing on Eniwetok, Marshall Islands (atoll is secured by Feb. 23).

Feb. 24--United States 5307th Composite Unit (Merrill's Marauders) begins raid aimed at Myitkyina airfield.

Feb. 29--Americans land on Los Negros Island, Admiralty Islands.

March 8--Japanese attack perimeter around Bougainville airfields; launch drive from Burma on Imphal and Kohima, India.

March 24--Organized Japanese resistance is broken on Bougainville and Los Negros.

March 31--Japanese surround Imphal.

April 8--Japanese surround Kohima.

April 17--Japanese launch offensive in Honan, China, directed at United States B-29 bases.

April 22--Allied forces land in Hollandia area of New Guinea.

May 17--Allied operations are commenced against Wakde Islands off Netherlands New Guinea coast; Marauders capture Myitkyina airfield.

May 24--Japanese begin counterattack at Myitkyina.

May 27--In New Guinea area, Allied forces land on Biak Island.

June 5--Japanese are defeated in Imphal-Kohima area.

June 15--United States Marines invade Saipan, Mariana Islands.

June 19--Japanese Fleet is badly defeated by United States carrier aviation in Battle of the Philippine Sea ("Marianas Turkey Shoot; battle ends June 20).

June 22--Japanese begin retreat from Kohima-Imphal area.

July 9--Saipan is secured.

July 21--Americans land on Guam.

July 24--Americans land on Tinian, Mariana Islands.

July 28--Organized Japanese resistance ends on Biak.

July 30--Americans land on Vogelkop Peninsula, New Guinea.

Aug. 1--Tinian is secured.  
 Aug. 3--Myitkyina, Burma, is captured.  
 Aug. 10--Organized Japanese resistance is destroyed on Guam.  
 Aug. 20--Biak is secured.  
 Aug. 29--Japanese continue successful offensive against American Honan air bases.  
 Sept. 15--Americans land on Morotai Island and Palau Islands.  
 Sept. 17--Morotai is secured.  
 Oct. 10--United States Third Fleet carrier task force raids Okinawa.  
 Oct. 13--United States Third Fleet begins raids on Taiwan.  
 Oct. 15--Allies begin offensive to clear northern Burma.  
 Oct. 17--United States Ranger units occupy small islands at entrance to Leyte Gulf.  
 Oct. 18--General Stilwell is relieved.  
 Oct. 20--United States Sixth Army invades Leyte.  
 Oct. 21--Palau Islands are secured.  
 Oct. 23--Battle for Leyte Gulf begins between United States and Japanese fleets (ends Oct. 26 with Japanese defeat).  
 Nov. 24--B-29's make first raid on Tokyo from bases in Mariana Islands.  
 Dec. 10--Japanese forces in southern China link up with Japanese forces in French Indochina.  
 Dec. 12--British launch offensive in Arakan sector of Burma.  
 Dec. 15--Americans invade Mindoro, Philippines.

## 1945

Jan. 1--Major offensive operations are completed on Leyte (mopping up continues until May 8).  
 Jan. 2--United States convoys begin moving toward Luzon, Philippines.  
 Jan. 3--British Arakan offensive recaptures Akyab.  
 Jan. 9--United States Sixth Army begins landing at Lingayen Gulf, Luzon.  
 Jan. 20--Converging attacks from China and Burma reopen Burma Road.  
 Feb. 3--United States 1st Cavalry Division enters Manila.  
 Feb. 16--Americans launch airborne-amphibious assault on Corregidor Island, Manila Bay (completed March 2); heavy preparatory naval-air bombardment of Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, begins.  
 Feb. 19--United States Marines land on Iwo Jima.  
 Feb. 25--United States 21st Bomber Command makes first mass incendiary-bomb raid on Tokyo.  
 March 3--Last Japanese position in Manila is wiped out.  
 March 10--Americans land on Mindanao, Philippines.  
 March 16--Iwo Jima is declared secure.  
 March 18-19--United States carrier aircraft attack Japanese air and naval bases in preparation for coming invasion of Okinawa.  
 March 21--British complete recapture of Mandalay, Burma.  
 March 26--Americans land on Kerama-retto near Okinawa (islands are completely occupied March 28).  
 April 1--United States Tenth Army lands on Okinawa.  
 April 7--Japanese naval sortie toward Okinawa is routed (Battle of the East China Sea).  
 April 11--Japanese begin furious air offensive, using Kamikaze aircraft, against United States shipping off Okinawa.  
 May 3--British reoccupy Rangoon.

May 11--Chinese forces halt Japanese drive on Chihkiang (begun April 1944).  
May 20--Japanese in China begin moving troops northward to reinforce their army in Manchuria.  
June 21--Organized Japanese resistance on Okinawa ends.  
June 30--Luzon is declared secure (mopping up continues until end of war).  
July 1--Australians and Dutch begin operations in Balikpapan area of Borneo.  
July 10--United States Navy and Army aircraft begin a major offensive against Japan in preparation for planned invasion.  
July 16--United States tests successful atomic bomb at Alamogordo, N.Mex.  
July 17--British Pacific Fleet joins United States Third Fleet in attacks on Japan.  
Aug. 6--Atomic bomb is dropped on Hiroshima.  
Aug. 8--The USSR declares war on Japan (effective Aug. 9).  
Aug. 9--Atomic bomb is dropped on Nagasaki; Russians invade Manchuria.  
Aug. 12--Soviet troops enter northern Korea.  
Aug. 14--Japan surrenders.

## **Political And Diplomatic Developments Of The War And Postwar Periods**

### **1939**

Sept. 3--Great Britain and France declare war on Germany.  
Sept. 28--Germany and the USSR revise nonaggression pact.

### **1940**

March 12--Finland capitulates, signing Treaty of Moscow.  
May 10--Winston Churchill becomes prime minister of Great Britain.  
June 10--Italy declares war on France and Great Britain (effective June 11).  
June 15--The USSR begins seizure of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia (ends Aug. 6).  
June 22--German-French armistice is signed (fighting ends June 25 after signature of Italo-French armistice June 24).  
June 28--USSR seizes Bessarabia and northern Bucovina.  
July 25--United States begins embargo on shipment of strategic materials to Japan.  
Sept. 3--United States trades 50 destroyers for naval base sites in British possessions.  
Sept. 16--President Roosevelt signs first American peacetime Selective Service Act.  
Sept. 22--Japanese begin occupation of northern French Indochina.  
Sept. 26--United States imposes total embargo on scrap shipments to Japan.  
Sept. 27--Japan joins Axis (Tripartite Pact).  
Nov. 20--Hungary joins Axis.  
Nov. 22--Romania joins Axis.

### **1941**

March 1--Bulgaria joins Axis.  
March 11--Congress passes Lend-Lease Act.  
March 25--Yugoslavia joins Axis.  
March 26-27--Anti-Axis coup d'etat takes place in Yugoslavia.  
April 13--Japan and the USSR sign neutrality pact.  
May 27--Roosevelt proclaims unlimited national emergency.  
June 14--German and Italian assets in the United States are frozen.



June 22--Germany, Italy, and Romania declare war on the USSR.  
June 26--Finland declares war on the USSR.  
June 27--Hungary declares war on the USSR.  
July 23--Japan occupies southern Indochina.  
July 25--Japanese assets in the United States are frozen.  
Aug. 14--Roosevelt and Churchill issue Atlantic Charter.  
Sept. 17--British and Soviet troops occupy Teheran, Iran.  
Dec. 8--Japan declares war on the United States and Great Britain; the United States and Great Britain declare war on Japan.  
Dec. 9--China declares war on Japan, Germany, and Italy.  
Dec. 11--Germany and Italy declare war on the United States, which then declares war on them.  
Dec. 24--British-American Arcadia conferences open in Washington (end Jan. 14, 1942).

## **1942**

Jan. 1--Declaration by United Nations is signed by 26 countries.  
April 8--Bolero Conference begins in London (ends April 14).  
Oct. 22--To clear way for Operation Torch (Allied invasion of French North Africa), Maj. Gen. Mark W. Clark lands from submarine for secret meeting with pro-Allied French officers.  
Dec. 24--Admiral Darlan is assassinated.

## **1943**

Jan. 14--British-United States conference opens at Casablanca (ends Jan. 24).  
May 12--Trident Conference opens in Washington (ends May 25).  
July 25--King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy proclaims fall of Mussolini, replacing him with Marshal Pietro Badoglio.  
Aug. 14--Quadrant Conference opens in Quebec, Canada (ends Aug. 24).  
Sept. 3--Italian government signs armistice (effective Sept. 8).  
Oct. 13--Italy declares war on Germany.  
Nov. 22--Sextant Conference opens at Cairo, Egypt (recesses Nov. 26).  
Nov. 28--Eureka Conference opens at Teheran, Iran (closes Dec. 1).  
Dec. 1--Cairo Declaration is issued.  
Dec. 3--Sextant Conference reopens at Cairo (closes Dec. 7).

## **1944**

July 20--Attempt to assassinate Hitler fails.  
Aug. 21--Dumbarton Oaks Conference opens (ends Oct. 7).  
Aug. 23--Romania surrenders unconditionally.  
Aug. 25--Romania declares war on Germany.  
Aug. 26--Bulgaria opens negotiations for surrender with Allies.  
Sept. 5--The USSR declares war on Bulgaria.  
Sept. 8--Bulgaria declares war on Germany.  
Sept. 9--The USSR grants Bulgaria an armistice.  
Sept. 12--Romania signs armistice; Octagon Conference opens in Quebec (ends Sept. 16).  
Sept. 19--Allied-Finnish armistice is signed.  
Oct. 23--Great Britain, the USSR, and the United States grant *de jure* recognition to French provisional government headed by Gen. Charles de Gaulle.

## 1945

Jan. 30--Preliminary Anglo-American phase (Cricket) of Argonaut Conference begins at Malta (ends Feb. 2).

Feb. 4--Second phase (Magnet) of Argonaut Conference opens at Yalta (ends Feb. 11).

March 3--Finland declares war on Germany.

March 10--Japanese place French Indochina under direct military administration.

April 5--The USSR notifies Japan that it intends to denounce their 1941 neutrality pact.

April 12--President Roosevelt dies.

April 23--Heinrich Himmler's offer to surrender German forces to Western Allies is rejected.

April 25--San Francisco Conference opens (adopts United Nations Charter June 26).

April 28--Mussolini is captured and killed by Italian partisans.

April 30--Hitler commits suicide.

May 7--German High Command surrenders all forces unconditionally at Reims.

July 17--Terminal Conference begins at Potsdam, Germany (ends Aug. 2).

July 26--Terminal Conference issues Potsdam Declaration, presenting surrender ultimatum to Japan.

July 28--Japanese announce that they will reject surrender ultimatum (rejected July 30).

Aug. 8--The USSR declares war on Japan (effective Aug. 9).

Aug. 10--Japan offers to surrender.

Aug. 14--Japan surrenders.

Sept. 2--Japanese representatives sign instrument of surrender aboard the battleship *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.

Sept. 11--Big Four foreign ministers' meeting opens in London (ends Oct. 2).

Dec. 16--Foreign ministers' meeting opens in Moscow (ends Dec. 26).

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