

Chronology of World War II

1939

September 1	Germany invades Poland; Evacuation of children, expectant mothers and the blind
September 3	Great Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand declare war on Germany <i>Battle of the Atlantic</i> begins
September 10	Canada declares war on Germany and the British Expeditionary Force enters France
September 17	The Soviet Union invades Poland
September 27	Warsaw surrenders to Germany
October 16	First German air raid on the British Isles - Firth of Forth
November 30	The Soviet Union invades Finland
December 13	<i>Battle of the River Plate</i>

1940

March 16	Germany bombs Scapa Flow naval base
April 9	Germany invades Denmark, and Norway
May 1	Norway surrenders.
May 10	Germany invades Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and France
May 15	Holland surrenders
May 26	Evacuation of British and Allied Troops from Dunkirk begins
May 28	Belgium surrenders
June 3	Evacuation of British and Allied Troops from Dunkirk ends
June 10	Italy declares war on Great Britain and France
June 14	Paris falls to the Germans
June 21	France surrenders
June 29	Germany occupies the Channel Isles
August 8	<i>Battle of Britain</i> begins
August 24	First air raid on Central London
August 26	First all night raid on London
September 7	Three months' air attack on London began
September	Italy invades Egypt
October 27	MV <i>Alfred Jones</i> sunk
October 28	Italy invades Greece
October 31	<i>The Battle of Britain</i> ends
November 14	Heavy air raid on Coventry
November 29	First German Plane shot down in Scotland
December 22	The Manchester Blitz
December 29	Massive air raid on London

1941

January 22	British and Australian Troops capture Tobruk, Libya
March 13-14	Major air raids destroy most of Clydebank
March	Battle of the Atlantic begins; Bulgaria joins the Axis
April 6	Germany invades Yugoslavia and Greece
April 17	Yugoslavia surrenders to Germany
April 27	Greece surrenders to Germany
May	Massive air raid on Liverpool
May 7/8	Massive air raid on Hull
May 24	Sinking of <i>HMS Hood</i> by <i>Bismark</i>
May 27	German Battleship <i>Bismark</i> sunk
June 22	Germany invades Russia under Operation Barbarossa
July	<i>Operation Substance—Malta Convoy</i>
September 3	First use of gas chambers at Auschwitz
October 20	Germany begins the siege of Moscow
November 13	<i>HMS Ark Royal</i> sunk off Gibraltar by U-boat

November 18	British Offensive launched in the Western Desert
December 6	Japanese bomb Pearl Harbour
December 8	Great Britain and the USA declare war on Japan
December 11	Germany declares war on USA
December 17	First Battle of the Sirte
December 25	Hong Kong surrenders to the Japanese

1942

January 16	The Japanese invade Burma
January 26	The first American forces arrive in Britain
February 15	Singapore falls to the Japanese
March 22	Second Battle of the Sirte
April 16	George Cross awarded to Malta
April 23	"Baedeker" raids begin against cathedral cities in Britain
April 29	Japanese cut Burma Road and take control of central Burma
May 1	The Japanese take Mandalay: Burma under total Japanese control
May 14	Japanese retake Maungdaw
June 4-14	<i>Battle of the Midway</i>
June 18	Second siege of Tobruk by Axis troops begins
June 21	Tobruk captured by Germans
July 1	Building of the Burma-Thailand Railway begins
September	<i>Operation Agreement</i>
September 14	HMS <i>Sikh</i> & HMS <i>Zulu</i> sunk off Tobruk
September 27	British/Indian troops begin offensive into Arakan, Burma
October 23	Second Battle of <i>El Alamein</i> begins
November 4	Second Battle of <i>El Alamein</i> ends
December 17	First Arakan offensive launched

1943

January 31	The Germany army defeated at Stalingrad.
February 13	Chindits enter Burma
February 15	Russian convoy JW-53 leaves Liverpool
March 14	Russian Convoy RW-53 arrives Liverpool
March 25	Chindits withdraw to India
April 19	Nazi troops attack the Warsaw ghetto in Poland
May 12	The German army in North Africa surrenders
May 12	Japanese take Maungdaw, Burma; end of first Arakan offensive
May 13	Axis troops surrender in North Africa
May 17	The RAF Dams Raid in the Ruhr
May	Final victory over the U-Boats in the Atlantic
July 10	Allied troops invade Sicily, Italy
August 26	Formation of South East Asia Command under Lord Mountbatten
September 1	Allies invade Italy
September 3	Italy surrenders
October 1	Building of the Burma-Thailand Railway ends
October 13	Italy declares war on Germany
October 15	General Slim becomes the Commander of the Fourteenth Army in Burma
December	Start of the second Arakan campaign

1944

January 9	British/Indian troops recapture Maungdaw, Burma
January 22	Allied Troops land at Anzio
February 6-23	<i>Battle of the Admin Box</i>
March 1	Chindits re-enter Burma
March 15	Japanese offensive on Imphal and Kohima launched
March 18	German troops enter Hungary

March 29	<i>Battle of Imphal</i> begins
March	Japan attempts an invasion of India
April 4-20	Japanese siege of Kohima
April 30	End of the second Arakan offensive
June 4	Rome captured by the Allies
June 6	D-Day: Allied forces land in Normandy, France
June 13	Flying bomb (V1) attacks on London start
June 15	Sinking of HMS <i>Mourne</i>
June	Defeat of Japanese invasion of India
July 8	Japanese begin withdrawal from Imphal
July 9	British and Canadian troops capture Caen
August 19	The Battle of Normandy ended
August 25	The Allies liberate Paris, France
August 27	Last Chindits leave Burma
September 3	Brussels liberated
September 4	Antwerp liberated
September 8	The first rocket bomb (V2) falls on England
September 17	The Battle of Arnhem <i>Operation Market Garden Begins</i>
September 20	The Allies capture Nijmegen Bridge
September 25	The Battle of Arnhem <i>Operation Market Garden Ends</i>
November	The Allies capture Flushing
October 20	The US re-land in the Philippines
December 17	First major units of the British Pacific Fleet arrive in Sydney, Australia

1945

January 17	Warsaw liberated
January 26	Auschwitz liberated by Soviet Troops
January 27	Fire at the Orthopaedic Hospital Shropshire
March 20	British recapture Mandalay
March	British and US troops cross the River Rhine, Germany.
May 2	German Forces in Italy surrender
May 3	Rangoon recaptured
May 7	Germany unconditionally surrenders
May 8	<u>VE (Victory in Europe) Day</u>
August 6	First Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima
August 9	Second atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki
August 14	Japan unconditionally surrenders
August 15	<u>VJ (Victory in Japan) Day</u>
August 30	British Troops re-occupy Hong Kong
September 5	British Troops land in Singapore
September 13	Japanese sign surrender in Burma