

Please use this space to share your timeline events from the Second World War. Please take credit for your work by reporting your first name only. The titles are in **BLUE**, please add your info in **BLACK**.

Ex. INVASION OF POLAND

By:

When:

Where:

What:

Why:

Outcome:

So-what(s)

### #1 EVACUATION OF DUNKIRK

By: Kiri D

**When:** 27 May through to 4 June, 1940

**Where:** The beaches and harbour of Dunkirk, France

**What:** The evacuation of Dunkirk, codenamed Operation Dynamo, was a successful Allied withdrawal of 338,226 soldiers from the beaches of Dunkirk, France. The Allies were rescued by over 800 boats of all kinds that were called into emergency service for the evacuation.

**Why:** The Allied troops had been cut-off and surrounded by the German army during the Battle of France.

**Outcome:** Troops were successfully evacuated, but all military supplies were left behind.

**So-what(s)** The evacuation of Dunkirk signaled the fall of France.

### #2 FALL OF FRANCE

By: Tyler G

**When:** May 10, 1940 - June 22, 1940

**Where:** Entered through Ardennes Forest, Belgium

**What:** Nazi Invasion of France, Using Blitzkrieg Tank and infantry attacks with air support and paratroopers

**Why:** To defeat a powerful enemy and take control of a huge part of Europe

**Outcome:** They defeated the French army and British expeditionary forces making them evacuate France, France was in Nazi control

**So-what(s)** Shows how powerful and fast the blitzkrieg tactics actually were and now the Brits stand alone in the west, gave Nazi weapons, ammo, tanks etc.

### #3 BATTLE OF BRITAIN

By:

When: 10 July - 31 October 1940

Where: Britain, London and Berlin, Germany

What: it was Germany's air force (the Luftwaffe) attacking Britain's air fields and cities like London. It was a big battle in WWII with many losses, but in the end Britain took the victory.

Why: Because the Germans needed to get rid of the Royal Air Force

Outcome: London got destroyed and Britain won.

So-what(s) Lots of planes got destroyed along with cities. The RAF survived. Germany failed.

### #4 WINTER WAR

WHO: Tierra L.

When: 1939–1940

Where: Finland

What: Military conflict between Soviet Union and Finland. Embarrasses Russia as Finland holds their own first few months (PURGES left Russian army weak)

Why: They wanted to conquer parts of Finland that were originally part of the Russian Empire

Outcome: Declared war on Finland and were kicked out of the league

So-what(s)- Hatred between the Finnish and Russians ; Many "Fins" chose to join and fight with the Nazi's against Russia because of the land Russia had taken from them.

### #5 BARBAROSSA

By: Sam C.

When: June 21st, 1941 to December 7th, 1941

Where: Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

What: Barbarossa was the codename for the German invasion of The Soviet Union

Why: Germany wanted to expand her empire and crush the communists, so they, along with her allies, invaded Russia with the hopes of securing the capital, Moscow, before the winter.

Outcome: Russian resistance slowed the German advance enough that Moscow remained in Russian hands by winter's arrival.

So-what(s) The operation was one of the first German failures of the war, and eventually became a turning point against the Axis powers.

## #6(a) BATTLE OF STALINGRAD

By: Sawyer

**When:** August 23, 1942 – February 2, 1943

**Where:** Stalingrad

**What:** German and Axis soldiers launched an attack on the city of Stalingrad. Ended up being one of the bloodiest battles in history as the Soviets fought with everything they had to defend the city.

**Why:** while holding little military value, the city of Stalingrad held great symbolic value. The capture of the city bearing the name of the Soviet leader would be a huge moral victory for the German's and a blow to the Soviet morale.

**Outcome:** Over 1 million Soviet soldiers and civilians either killed or wounded, but they managed to surround and capture what was left of the attacking German army.

**So-what(s):** this was a major defeat for Germany, both in terms of military losses and for morale. This was a turning point in the eastern front, as the German offensive was starting to run out of steam. They were put on the defensive for the rest of the war.

## #6 BATTLE OF STALINGRAD (Summer M.)

**When:** Start-September 1, 1942 ... End-January 31, 1943

**Where:** Russian city Stalingrad

**What:** German attack on the suburbs of Stalingrad. One of the bloodiest battles of the war.

**Why:** The city Stalingrad was named after the Russian president Joseph Stalin, although not very large the conquering of the city would be a large moral victory for the Germans

**Outcome:** Hitler lost a large part of his glorious army and was no longer allowed access to Caucasus oil fields. Began the road to the liberation of Eastern Europe.

**So-what(s):** Horrific urban fighting, large number of deaths on both sides, Soviet Victory.

## #6 b.) Battle of Kursk *\*Largest tank battle*

By: Julian

**When:** **July 5, 1943 - August 23, 1943**

**Where:** City of **Kursk**, Russia SFSR

**What:** an attempted **German offensive** that was successfully defeated by Soviet forces

**Why:** To encircle and capture Soviet forces at Kursk gathering for an offensive and to weaken Soviet defensive lines. That would result in relieving their strained forces.

**Outcome:** A stunning **Soviet victory** which became a turning point in the Eastern Front.

**So-What:** Made the Germans turn to the defensive and stopped them from doing anymore offensives. Moreover the Soviets were now on the offensive afterwards.

## #7 BATTLE OF EL ALAMEIN

By: Celena

**When:** July 1-27 1942 and October 23 - November 11 1942

**Where:** El Alamein, Kingdom of Egypt

**What:** A battle fought in the deserts of North Africa, between Axis forces and Allied forces. They were led by the commanders Rommel and Montgomery.

**Why:** If the Afrika Korps had control of the Suez Canal, the Allies ability to supply themselves would be hindered, and it would give Germany access to the oil in the Middle East.

**Outcome:** The Allies took victory.

**So-what(s):** It was a decisive battle, the Allies were having trouble in Europe and western Europe seemed to be in the control of the Germans.

## #8 BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

By: Zoe

**When:** Earliest skirmishes in 1939 to the defeat of Germany in 1945 (The longest military campaign of World War Two)

**Where:** Various locations in the Atlantic Ocean

**What:** A series of naval battles, featuring fighter planes, unrestricted submarine warfare, and battleships

**Why:** Germany wanted to prevent America from aiding Britain, and likewise Britain sought to starve off Germany by blocking her trade routes.

**Outcome:** The Allies came out victorious, but not until the end of the Second World War

**So-what(s):** War was no longer restricted to land, there was a new front to consider.

## #9 ITALIAN CAMPAIGN

By: Connor

**When:** July 10, 1943 – May 2, 1945

**Where:** Italy

**What:** The Allied forces commanded an invasion of Sicily and then all of Italy

**Why:** It was one of the steps in liberating Europe and the Allies needed to eliminate any further conflict from the Axis forces

**Outcome:** Allied victory; collapse of Fascist Italy

**So-what(s):** It was a prerequisite step for the liberation of Europe and it occupied many German troops, thereby making them unavailable for the defence of France

## #10 NORMANDY "D-Day"

By: Kayli

When: 6 June, 1944

Where: Beaches of Normandy, France

What: Allied Troops were to take 5 beaches from the Germans- Utah, Omaha, Gold, Sword and Juno. Biggest amphibious assault to date.

Why: To liberate France.

Outcome: Though they lost many men, the Allies were victorious.

So-what(s) Rommel predicted that whoever won the beaches would win the war- he was right.

This was the beginning of the take back of lost territory, it was a huge victory for the Allies.

Opened up a second front for the Germans to fight on, relieving pressure on the Soviets. Hitler was now on the defense.

By: Ronan M

When: 6 June, 1944

Where: Coast of Normandy, France

What: Canada, U.K., U.S.A and other allies launched the biggest amphibious invasion at the time on beaches codenamed: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Sword and Juno.

Why: To free France from German occupation

Outcome: Beachheads and harbours setup to supply the frontline deeper into France to eventually take back most of France.

So-what(s) One of the most important battles of the war, a huge loss for the Germans and most of France is taken back by the Allies.

## #11 BATTLE OF THE BULGE

By: Kevin W :)

When: ~16th December 1944 - 25th January 1945

Where: ~Ardennes Forest, Belgium

What: ~200,000 Soldiers and 1,000 tanks were launched in Hitler's "last bid" in turning the war back into his favor. These soldiers and tanks struck into the seventy-five mile Ardennes Forest. The Germans were on their way to the Meuse River when stopped by the American 101st Airborne Division.

Why:~The Germans were on their way to the English Channel and to take any towns/villages on the way to give help to their coastal casualties.

Outcome:~The 101st Airborne Division were the ones to completely halt Hitler's attack and to silence him by Christmas.

So-what(s)~Hitler wouldn't be able to launch such a strong attack throughout the war.

## #12 PEARL HARBOR

By: Brant.M

**When:** Dec 7th 1941

**Where:** Pearl Harbour, Hawaii

**What:** Japanese air attack on pearl harbour, They bombed the harbour, airfield and land bases and ships in the harbour

**Why:** The attack was intended as a preventive action in order to keep the U.S pacific fleet from interfering with military actions in japan

**Outcome:** The attack lead to the United States to enter the war

**So-what(s)** This event led the Americans into the war, and were a great asset to the Allied forces, also the Japanese never sunk any carriers and the pacific war would mainly become a carrier war

## #12 PEARL HARBOR

By: Cassy

**When:** December 7, 1941

**Where:** Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

**What:** Japanese launched a surprise attack on the U.S. Naval base in Hawaii.

**Why:** The japanese hoped to buy time for Japan to increase its naval strength, and they intended to destroy important American fleet units. Also wanted to prevent the Pacific Fleet from interfering with the Japanese military.

**Outcome:** Japanese sunk a large number of battleships and killed many sailors.

**So-what(s)** Forced the U.S. to declare war on Japan. Which also led Germany and Italy to declare war on the U.S. Japanese never sank any aircraft carriers, which were a big part of the war.

## #13 BATTLE OF CORAL SEA

By: Krista and Sydney

When: May 4-8, 1942

Where: The Battle of the Coral sea was fought in the Pacific Ocean.

What: The Coral Sea Battle was fought entirely by planes over the Pacific Ocean. Japan wanted to isolate Australia so the other allies could not reach or help it, in the event of an attack made by Japan. This would include New Guinea. If this battle had been successful for Japan, Japan would have had a huge opening to attack New Guinea and keep the allied countries from getting to Australia help defend them.

Why: The Japanese wanted to seize New Guinea so that they could build airfields on Tulagi to control allied shipping lanes between the American and Australia, and to enlarge the Japanese empires defensive ring.

Outcome: The Japanese thought they won the battle because they managed to sink more american ships than they lost, whilst the Americans managed to stop the japanese from seizing New Guinea.

So-what(s) The Japanese called off the invasion of Port Moresby fearing that the Americans still had the capacity to destroy many of their landing craft. In numerical terms, the Japanese came out best in the Battle of Coral Sea.

#### #14 BATTLE OF MIDWAY

By:

When:

Where:

What:

Why:

Outcome:

So-what(s)

#### #15 BATTLE OF LEYTE GULF

By Lilian

When: October 23-26, 1944

Where: **Ocean near the Philippines islands** of Leyte, Sumar, Luzon.

What: **Naval** (aerial support) battle between **Americans** and **Australians** against the **Japanese**

Why: The Allies wanted to **isolate** the Japanese from their empire- and the precious **oil**.

Outcome: Japanese **fleet** almost **destroyed** (3 aircraft carriers, 600 aircraft destroyed) = **Allied win**.

So-what(s): First appearance of the **kamikaze** pilots; **crippled Japanese** naval fleet, enforced the **Allies' domination** of the **Pacific**- USA could now **invade the Philippines**. This was the **end of the Japanese naval and aerial forces**.

## #16 IWO JIMA & OKINAWA

By: Dani K

**When:** Iwo Jima: February 19th-March 24th 1945. Okinawa: April-June

**Where:** Iwo Jima and Okinawa (islands near Japan)

**What:** America's attempt to invade and take over islands controlled by the Japanese Empire, in order to have use of the airfields and navy bases. From there, they planned an attack directly on Japan.

**Why:** America's plans to attack Japan

**Outcome:** Both islands were seized, but neither ended up being used significantly

**So-what(s)** Huge casualties on both sides, and especially of the locals with between 40,000–150,000 deaths in Okinawa.

By: Kelly

**When:** Iwo Jima- 19th of February to 24th of March 1945 Okinawa- April to June/July 1945

**Where:** The Japanese islands of Iwo Jima and Okinawa

**What:** U.S. attack, part of Island Hopping trying to gain control of Japan by taking one island at a time

**Why:** To get to Japan mainland

**Outcome:** U.S. was victorious, with huge losses on both sides and many planes lost mostly for Japan

**So-what(s)** More difficult/more deaths than previously thought

## #17 HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI

By: Hanah L

**When:** Hiroshima, 6 August 1945 and Nagesaki, 9 August 1945.

**Where:** Hiroshima and Nagesaki, Japan.

**What:** America used first atomic bombs on Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagesaki. 'Little Boy' for Hiroshima and 'Fat Man' for Nagesaki.

**Why:** War between Empire of Japan and Allies wanted Japan to surrender. Also wanted Soviet Union to join war against Japan.

**Outcome:** Soviets declare war on Japan 8 August. 15 August Japan surrenders and signs the Instrument of Surrender 2 September that officially ends World War II.

**So-what(s)** Atomic bombs were introduced and used for the first time in war. Forever changed the nature of warfare. Japan suffered huge casualties that effected their abilities to continue in the war and to ultimately surrender.

#17: Hiroshima and Nagasaki:



By: Eleanor L-Y

When: August 6th & 9th, 1945

Where: Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki

What: USA dropped nuclear bombs on both cities in an attempt to end the war with Japan.

Why: America did not want to invade Japan because of how high the losses would be (in both lives and money)

Outcome: Japan surrendered on August 15th, 1945 after mass destruction in both cities and an enormous number of civilian deaths. In the following months, more deaths would occur as a result of radiation poisoning and burns.

So-what(s) This was the first time the world had seen atomic bombs, and the result was horrifying. This shows how far America was willing to go to avoid actually invading Japan, and it also gives a sense of the racism that existed against cultures and races such as Japan. (The Americans were willing to use atomic bombs against the unarmed, Japanese, civilian population, but not against Germany)

## #12 PEARL HARBOR

By: Morgan D

When: Dec 7th, 1941

Where: Pearl Harbour, Hawaii

What: Surprise air Attack by Japanese Imperial navy, against the United States' naval base.

Why: American Navy was there main obstacle, if they were to go on war of conquest.

Outcome: USA declared war on Japan, December 8, 1941. Japanese almost succeeded in immobilizing/ sinking battleships and aircraft carriers; 8 battleships damaged and 2 permanently lost. Almost 200 american aircrafts destroyed.

So-what(s) The US abandoned its policy of isolationism and declared war on Japan the next day, which directly led to their entry in World War II.

## #5 Barbarossa

By: Nichi P

when: June, 22 1941 3:15 am

where: U.S.S.R

what: an invasion of 99 German divisions including fourteen panzer divisions and ten motorized divisions

why: Germany wished to expand her empire through imperialistic gain

outcome: The attack was a complete failure and Germany retreated after careful planning by the russians

so-what(s) This allowed the allies to launch a successful counter attack against Germany

### Barbarossa:

By: Malcolm

When: June, 22 1941

where: U.S.S.R

what: Germany invaded the U.S.S.R with over four million troops along a 1,800 mile front. This was the largest invasion in the history of warfare.

why: Hitler wanted to take over Soviet territories and expand empire

outcome: was a failure (Germany retreated)

### Barbarossa

By: Trent

When: June 22 1941

Where: USSR/Russia

What: Three German fronts attacked then they were stopped by the Russians

Why: To make a statement and to overtake Russia

Outcome: Germans were not prepared for the war at winter and were forced back by the Russians

So What: To Take out a European ally and make a statement that the Germans will not step down from the biggest powers.