

1939



September

- 1** Germany invades Poland and annexes Danzig
- 3** Britain and France declare war



May

- 19** Germany invades Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg; Chamberlain resigns as Britain's Prime Minister; Churchill takes over
- 12** Germans cross French frontier

May 26-June 3

- Dunkerque evacuation—over 300,000 Allied soldiers rescued from Belgium by British civilian and naval craft
- 10** Italy declares war on France and Britain; invades France

June

- 14** Germans enter Paris
- 22** France and Germany sign armistice at Compiègne



April

- 17** Germans launch attacks in Balkans. Yugoslavia surrenders.
- 27** German tanks enter Athens; British Army leaves Greece

June

- 22** Germans attack Russia

August

- 13** Atlantic Charter—Roosevelt and Churchill determine goals for cooperation

December

- 7** Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, Philippines, Guam; U.S. and Britain declare war on Japan; Germany and Italy declare war
- 11** U.S. declares war on Germany and Italy

1942



February

- 19** Roosevelt orders Japanese and Japanese-Americans in western U.S. to be exiled to "relocation centers," many for the remainder of the war

April

- 9** U.S. forces on Bataan peninsula surrender

May

- 6** U.S. and Filipino troops on Corregidor surrender to Japan

June

- 4-6** Battle of Midway, turning point in the war in the Pacific

August

- 7** U.S. forces in the Pacific take the offensive for the first time with the invasion of Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands, a six-month campaign

August

- 9** Battle of Savo Island—Allied naval forces suffer one of their most severe losses of the Pacific

November

- 8** U.S. and Britain land in French North Africa

November

- 6** British victory at El Alamein ends Rommel's advance toward Suez



January

- 14-24** Casablanca Conference: Churchill and Roosevelt agree on unconditional surrender goal

February

- 1-2** German 6th Army surrenders at Stalingrad: turning point of war in Russia

May

- 12** Remnants of German Army trapped on Cape Bon, ending war in Africa
- 30** U.S. forces complete the liberation of the Aleutian Island of Attu

July

- 25** Mussolini deposed; Badoglio named Premier

August

- 17** The Battle of Sicily ends as U.S. troops enter Messina

September

- 3** Secret armistice signed, ending Italy's participation in the war as a member of the Axis. Allied troops land on Italian mainland after conquest of Sicily
- 8** Italy surrenders
- 10** Nazis seize Rome

November

- 22-26** Cairo Conference: Roosevelt, Churchill, Chiang Kai-shek pledge defeat of Japan, free Korea

November 28-December 1

- Teheran Conference: Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin agree on war plans



1944

January

- 22** U.S. and British troops land at Anzio on west Italian coast and hold beachhead

June

- 5** U.S. and British troops liberate Rome
- 6** D-Day: Allies launch Normandy invasion

June

- 19-20** Battle of the Philippine Sea; defeat of Japanese forces ensures U.S. naval superiority in the Pacific

August

- 25** Paris liberated

October

- 13** Athens freed by Allies
- 20** U.S. invades Philippines

December

- 16** Germans launch Ardennes offensive in Belgium—Battle of the Bulge



1945

January

- 8** Germans give up on Ardennes offensive, withdraw from Belgium
- 27** Russian army invades Germany from Poland

February

- 10** Yalta Agreement signed by Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin—establishes basis of occupation of Germany, returns to Soviet Union lands taken by Germany and Japan

February

- 27** MacArthur liberates Manila

March

- 7** U.S. Army breaches the Rhine at Remagen

May

- 1** Admiral Doenitz takes command in Germany; Hitler's suicide announced
- 2** Berlin falls
- 7** Germany signs unconditional surrender terms at Rheims
- 8** Allies declare V-E Day

June

- 21** Okinawa falls—last island before Japanese homeland

July 17-August 2

- Potsdam Conference: Truman, Churchill, Atlee, Stalin establish council of foreign ministers to prepare peace treaties; plan German postwar government and reparations

August

- 6** U.S. drops A-bomb on Hiroshima
- 8** U.S.S.R. declares war on Japan
- 9** U.S. drops A-bomb on Nagasaki
- 14** Japan agrees to surrender

September

- 2** V-J Day
- Japan signs surrender terms aboard Battleship *USS Missouri*