

The Times Crossword

The War Years Collection – 1942

Sources: The Times Atlas of The Second World War

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The Times Archive

January 1 UN Declaration signed by 26 nations in Washington.

January 2 British and S. Africans recapture Bardia. Japanese occupy Manila and Cavite naval bases.

January 5 British attack Halfaya. Russians control Kerch peninsula. Stalin orders general offensive.

January 6 American forces to be stationed in Great Britain.

January 7 Japanese defeated by Chinese at Changsha, but break through into central Malaya.

January 11 British recapture Sollum. Japanese enter Kuala Lumpur. Japanese capture Tarakan in Dutch East Indies.

January 13 Russians recapture Kiev. German U-boats commence Operation *Paukensschlag* on east coast of America, sinking 150,000 tons. Conference of Allied governments pledges to punish war criminals.

January 15 *Tirpitz* sails to Norway.

January 15-28 Rio de Janeiro Conference.

- January 16** Japanese invade Burma from Siam.
- January 17** Germans surrender in Cyrenaica.
- January 18** Germany, Italy and Japan sign new military pact.
- January 21** Rommel begins surprise attack to reconquer Cyrenaica.
- January 22** Japanese planes attack New Guinea; Americans retreat on Bataan.
- January 23** Japanese land on Rabaul.
- January 24** Battle of Macassar Strait.
- January 25** Australia and USA mobilize.
- January 26** Japanese land on Solomon Islands.
- January 27** Formation of Chief of Staffs Committee.
- January 28** Timoshenko's forces advance in the Ukraine.
- January 29** Germans recapture Benghazi. Anglo-Persian agreement.
- January 30** British withdraw into Singapore, destroying the causeway.
- January** Allied shipping losses: 106 ships of 419,900 tons.
- February 1** US carrier attack on Gilbert and Marshall Islands.
- February 4** Lord Beaverbrook becomes British Minister of Production.
Germans take Derna.
- February 5** Rommel's advance halted at Gazala.
- February 6** Announcement of British and US joint command in Washington.
- February 7** Japanese land on Singapore Island.

- February 8** Speer made German Arms Minister.
- February 11-12** *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* reach Brest.
- February 13** Russian advance slows in White Russia.
- February 14** Area bombing directive shifts RAF from specific to general urban targets. Japanese parachute drop on South Sumatra.
- February 15** British surrender at Singapore; over 80,000 men captured.
- February 16** German U-boats shell oil installations on Aruba; also sink 3 tankers.
- February 19** Japanese invade Bali, carrier aircraft bomb Darwin.
- February 20** Japanese land on Portuguese Timor. USA grants billion loan to USSR.
- February 23** Russians reach River Dnieper. Signing of Mutual Aid agreement between Great Britain, USA, Australia and New Zealand.
- February 27** Bruneval commando raid captures secret 'W' system. Japanese win battle of Java Sea.
- February 28** Japanese invade Java. Allied shipping losses: 54 ships of 181,200 tons.
- February 29** Britain promises full Dominion status to India after the war.
- February** Allied shipping losses: 154 ships of 679,600 tons, 85 of 476,500 to U-boats.
- March 1** Russian offensive in Crimea.
- March 2** Japanese land on Mindanao.
- March 6** HMS *Eagle* carrier ferries 18 Spitfires to Malta.
- March 8** Japanese enter Rangoon.

- March 9** Dutch East Indies capitulates, General Yamashita appointed Commander-in-Chief in Philippines.
- March 10** General Stilwell appointed Chief of Staff in China.
- March 18** Mountbatten appointed Chief of Combined Operations. Allied shipping losses: 252,000 tons.
- March 19** General Slim takes charge in Burma.
- March 20** Midget submarine trials in Great Britain.
- March 20-23** Second Alexandria convoy to Malta wiped out.
- March 22** British defeat Italians in naval battle at Sirte.
- March 24** Army Air Corps – paratroops and gliders – set up in Great Britain.
- March 28** Commando raid on St. Nazaire. RAF destroys Lubeck with aid of Gee radar system.
- March 30** Russian counter-offensive ends; Germans much weakened. Pacific War Council set up in Washington.
- March** Allied shipping losses: 273 ships of 834,000 tons, 98 to U-boats.
- April 1** Japanese land on Dutch New Guinea. Beginning of US convoy system.
- April 3** New Japanese offensive on Bataan.
- April 4** Fires sweep Mandalay after Japanese bombing. Japanese sink HMS *Dorsetshire*, *Cornwall*, *Hermes* and *Hollyhock* in Indian Ocean.
- April 7** 2,000 plane air raid on Malta.
- April 9** Japanese carriers attack Trincomalee. British warships sunk. General King surrenders at Bataan.

- April 11** (to 5th May) 'Bataan death march'. Japanese bomb Trincomalee.
- April 14** New Vichy government under Laval. US destroyer *Roper* sinks first U-boat U 85.
- April 16** Malta awarded George Cross.
- April 18** Surprise 'Doolittle Raid': B25s bomb Japan.
- April 20** USS *Wasp* ferries Spitfires to Malta, but many are destroyed.
- April 23** *Baedeker* raids against Britain's cathedral cities begin.
- April 24** Germans smash spy ring 'A' in Paris.
- April 27** Roosevelt announces war economy measures.
- April 29** Japanese seize Lashio and cut Burma Road.
- April 30** Japanese control central Burma. Allied shipping losses: 150,000 in Indian Ocean.
- April** Allied shipping losses: 132 ships of 674,500 tons, 74 to U-boats.
- May 1** British evacuate Mandalay.
- May 2** British retreat over Irrawaddy.
- May 4-8** First carrier versus carrier battle of Coral Sea: Japanese lose the *Shoho*, US the *Lexington*.
- May 5-6** British capture Madagascar. Japanese land on Corregidor and American garrison surrenders: General Wainwright surrenders all forces on the Philippines.
- May 8** German summer offensive begins (USSR).
- May 9** Russians attack Kharkov. 64 Spitfires arrive on Malta.
- May 11** Japanese offensives in Yunnan and Chekiang provinces.

- May 16-17** Germans capture Kerch and halt Russians east of Kharkov.
- May 20** Germans recapture Kerch peninsula. Japanese take up defensive positions in Burma.
- May 24** General Stilwell arrives in Delhi after 20 days trek through jungle.
- May 26-30** Rommel attacks and outflanks Gazala line.
- May 27** Attempted assassination of Heydrich in Prague (dies of wounds 4 June).
- May 28** German victory at Kharkov. Bir Hakeim tank battle. Free French hold out.
- May 30** 1,000-bomber raid on Cologne. US task force sets out for Midway.
- May 31** Japanese midget submarines fail in attack in Sidney harbour.
- May** Allied shipping losses: 705,000 tons, 125 of 607,000 tons to U-boats.
- June 1** Work begins at Peenemünde on VI flying bomb.
- June 4** Japanese attack Chuhsien. Battle of Midway. US Navy sinks 4 Japanese carriers and destroys 300 aircraft.
- June 5** Germans siege Sevastopol.
- June 7** Japanese invade Aleutian Islands.
- June 10** Reprisal massacre at Lidice for Heydrich's death. Free French retreat from Bir Hakeim.
- June 13** First V2 flight a failure. Gibraltar convoy *Harpoon* and Alexandria convoy *Vigorous* set out for Malta.
- June 16** *Harpoon* gets through. *Vigorous* turns back.
- June 17** British garrison Tobruk and retreat to Egypt.

June 18-19 Churchill in meeting with Roosevelt on Second Front and Manhattan Project working on the atom bomb.

June 20-21 Germans attack and take Tobruk.

June 24 Tito's partisans driven into retreat.

June 25 General Eisenhower made Commander-in-Chief Europe. Auchinleck made Commander-in-Chief Desert.

June 27 Convoy PQ17 leaves Reykjavik.

June 28 Axis summer offensive on southern front.

June 30 Germans break into Sevastopol. Germans reach El Alamein.

June Allied shipping losses: 173 ships of 834,200 tons, 144 of 700,200 tons to U-boats.

July 2 Germans driven back from El Alamein.

July 3 Germans take Sevastopol.

July 4 Germans reach River Don on a wide front.

July 4-9 Convoy PQ17 is attacked and scattered with two-thirds losses. Arctic convoys postponed.

July 12 Australians reach Kokoda.

July 14 Rommel attacks at Tel El Eisa; 8th Army counter-attacks at Ruweisat Ridge.

July 14-19 Malta re-supplied and HMS *Eagle* flies in 31 Spitfires.

July 17 Germans take Voronezh.

July 18 First flight of Me262 jet fighter.

July 19 German U-boats concentrate on Atlantic shipping, abandon US coast.

- July 21** Admiral Leahy becomes Roosevelt's Chief of Staff.
- July 22** First deportations from Warsaw Ghetto to concentration camps. Treblinka opens.
- July 30** Full conscription in Canada.
- July 31** Germans cross River Don on 150-mile front.
- July** Allied shipping losses: 128 ships of 618,100 tons, 96 of 476,100 tons to U-boats. 11 U-boats sunk.
- August 7** US Marines land on Guadalcanal.
- August 8** Battle of Savo Island. US fleet defeated.
- August 9** Germans capture Krasnodar and Maikop. Gandhi is arrested.
- August 10-15** *Pedestal* convoy to Malta badly mauled; HMS *Eagle* sunk.
- August 12** Germans advance in Kuban region. First Moscow Conference: Stalin and Churchill meet.
- August 13** Montgomery made Commander-in-Chief 8th Army.
- August 15** *Pathfinder* force created in Great Britain. General Alexander takes charge of Middle East forces.
- August 17** First all-American bombing raid in Europe.
- August 19** Dieppe raid: 6,000 men suffer 50% casualties. General Paulus orders 6th Army to take Stalingrad.
- August 21** Japanese driven back on Guadalcanal.
- August 22** Brazil declares war on Germany.
- August 23-24** Sea battle of east Solomon Islands.

- August 26** Japanese land at Milne Bay.
- August 30** (to 2 Sept) Battle of Alam Halfa
- August** Allied shipping losses: 123 ships of 661,100 tons, 108 of 544,400 to U-boats.
- September 1** Fierce fighting around Stalingrad. Tojo resigns as Japanese Foreign Minister.
- September 5** Australians force Japanese withdrawal from Milne Bay.
- September 9** First (and only) Japanese bombing of USA.
- September 10-14** Convoy ON-127 loses 12 ships to U-boat attack.
- September 11** Japanese halted in Owen Stanley Range.
- September 13-18** Allied Convoy PQ18 successful.
- September 13** 'Final' German offensive at Stalingrad. Japanese attack on Guadalcanal airfield heavily defeated.
- September 15** Japanese sink US aircraft carrier *Wasp*
- September 18** British land in Eastern Madagascar.
- September 23** First 'Liberty Ship' produced 10 days after laying keel.
- September 24** USS *Stephen Hopkins* fights German raider *Stier*; both ships sink.
- September 29** Richard Sorge, Soviet master spy, convicted in Japan.
- September 30** 8th Army probing attacks at El Alamein.
- September** Allied shipping losses: 114 ships of 567,300 tons. 98 of 485,400 to U-boats.
- October 2** Successful V2 launch.

- October 4** British commando raid on Sark.
- October 7** Dieppe prisoners put in chains – British retaliate (rescinded 10 Dec). UN Commission to investigate Axis war crimes.
- October 11-12** Battle of Cape Esperance off Guadalcanal.
- October 13** German sea raider *Kamet* sunk.
- October 14-17** Australians meet heavy resistance on the Kokoda Trail.
- October 14** Hitler orders East Front troops to stand fast. Second ‘Final’ offensive at Stalingrad.
- October 18** Hitler orders execution of all captured commandos.
- October 19** US War department offers to equip 30 more Chinese divisions.
- October 22** Unsuccessful German assaults on Leningrad (St Petersburg). Heavy RAF raid on Turin.
- October 23** Beginning of Battle of El Alamein.
- October 26** Heavy fighting in Stalingrad. Battle of Santa Cruz off Guadalcanal, Japanese carrier *Yara* and USS *Hornet* sunk.
- October 27** 8th Army regroup for breakout attack (El Alamein).
- October 28** RAF breaks up German tank formations south of El Alamein.
- October 30** Germans driven back (El Alamein).
- October** Allied shipping losses: 637,800 tons, 94 ships of 619,000 to U-boats.
- November 1** Operation *Supercharge*: breakout from El Alamein begins.
- November 2** Kokoda recaptured by Australians.

- November 4** Axis forces retreat (El Alamein). Churchill coordinates anti-U-boat warfare.
- November 8** (to 29 Nov) Operation *Torch* : US invasion of North Africa begins.
- November 11** Darlan surrenders to Allies. Germans occupy southern France. Axis troops enter unoccupied France and Corsica.
- November 12** 8th Army reaches Tobruk.
- November 15-18** Convoy *Stoneage* reaches Malta without opposition.
- November 18** 8th Army enters Cyrene.
- November 19** Russians counter-attack at Stalingrad, now with air superiority. Admiral Horton takes over British Western Approaches Command.
- November 20** Allies take Benghazi.
- November 23** German 6th Army surrounded.
- November 25** SOE and Greek Resistance blow up Gorgopotamos railway bridge.
- November 28** Russian offensive on Central Front.
- November 30** (to 1 Dec) Naval battle of Tassafaronga. Allied shipping losses: 131,000 tons.
- November** Allied shipping losses: 119 ships of 729,100 tons, nearly all to U-boats.
- December 1-2** Italians recall 3 out of 4 supply convoys. 50% loss of supplies throughout month.
- December 2** Beveridge Report plans Welfare State in Britain. Professor Fermi sets up atomic reactor in Chicago.

December 7-12 Royal Marine Commando raids on Bordeaux and SW France (Cockleshell Heroes).

December 13 Rommel withdraws from El Agheila.

December 14 Japanese reinforce New Guinea. U-boat code *Triton* broken but information not available to operational units yet.

December 16 Russian offensive on River Don. Italian 8th Army collapses.

December 17 Japanese withdraw to Gwedauk-Kondan line. UN declares Nazi crimes against the Jews will be avenged.

December 20 First operation using navigational radar aid *Oboe*.

December 21 8th Army overtakes German rearguard at Sirte. British and Indian forces advance into Burma.

December 25 8th Army occupies Sirte.

December 28 Hitler withdraws Army Group A from the Caucasus.

December 31 Russians advance to Zimovniki. Japanese plan to evacuate Guadalcanal. Battle of Barents Sea – German surface fleet humiliated in attack on Convoy JW-51B. Hitler orders concentration on U-boats.

December Allied shipping losses: 60 of 330,000 tons to U-boats; year's total: 7,990,000 tons; replacements 1,000,000 tons short.