

# The Times Crossword

## The War Years Collection – 1943

Sources: The Times Atlas of The Second World War

Edited by John Keegan

The Times Archive

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|----------------------|--|
| <b>January 2</b>     | Allies capture Buna.   |
| <b>January 3</b>     | Germans begin withdrawal from Caucasus                               |
| <b>January 4</b>     | Japanese begin evacuation of Guadalcanal.                            |
| <b>January 6</b>     | Admiral Raeder resigns as Commander-in-Chief German Navy.            |
| <b>January 8</b>     | German 6 <sup>th</sup> Army refuses surrender demand.                |
| <b>January 8-9</b>   | Battle of Huon Gulf.   |
| <b>January 11</b>    | Roosevelt asks Congress for \$100 bn budget.                         |
| <b>January 14-24</b> | Casablanca Conference: Roosevelt demands unconditional surrender.    |
| <b>January 15</b>    | 8 <sup>th</sup> Army attacks at Buerat. US offensive in Guadalcanal. |
| <b>January 16</b>    | First RAF raids on Berlin since Nov 1941.                            |
| <b>January 18</b>    | Siege of Leningrad raised. First Tiger tanks in Tunisia.             |
| <b>January 21</b>    | Russians capture airfield supplying Stalingrad.                      |

- January 22** End of fighting in New Guinea.
- January 26** Russians capture Voronezh.
- January 27** First USAAF bombing raid on Germany at Wilhelmshaven.
- January 28** 8<sup>th</sup> Army captures Tripoli.
- January 30** First RAF raids using HS bomb-aiming radar. Vichy government forms *Milice* under Joseph Damand.
- January 31** General Paulus surrenders 6<sup>th</sup> Army at Stalingrad. USA announces first gaseous diffusion plant.
- January** Allied shipping losses: 50 ships of 261,400 tons, 37 of 203,100 tons to U-boats.
- February 1-19** Japanese 17<sup>th</sup> Army evacuated from Guadalcanal.
- February 2** Remaining Germans surrender at Stalingrad.
- February 5** Mussolini dismisses Clano and Grandi.
- February 6** Russians reach Sea of Azov and cut off German Army Group A. First Allied air success in Pacific, 26 Japanese planes shot down for no loss.
- February 8** Russians take Kursk. 8<sup>th</sup> Army enters Tunisia. First Chindit raids of Wingate's 77<sup>th</sup> Indian Brigade.
- February 14-25** Kasserine campaign.
- February 14** Russians take Rostov. Heavy German counter-attack at Kasserine Pass.
- February 16** Russians take Kharkov.
- February 18** U-boat pack attacks Convoy ON-166 sinking 14 ships of 850,000 tons.

- February 20** Germans break through at Kasserine.
- February 24** Allies recover Kasserine Pass.
- February 27** Battle of Hunt's Gap.
- February 28** Norwegian commandos destroy 'heavy water' factory at Vemork. (USSR) Guderian reorganises Panzer forces.
- February** Allied shipping losses: 73 ships of 403,100 tons, 63 of 359,300 tons to U-boats.
- March 1** HS radar used by Allied Coastal Command.
- March 2-4** Germans defeat Russian 3<sup>rd</sup> Tank Army at Kharkov.
- March 2** German withdrawal begins in Tunisia.
- March 2-5** Battle of Bismarck Sea, destruction of Japanese troop convoy to New Guinea.
- March 5** First flight of Gloster Meteor jet.
- March 5-20** Biggest convoy battle of the war; SC122 and HX229 lose 22 ships for 1 U-boat, 21 ships of 140,800 tons – Crisis of Atlantic Battle.
- March 6** Rommel leaves Afrika Korps.
- March 9** Arnim takes command of Afrika Korps.
- March 12** Washington Military Conference on the Pacific. Closing of Atlantic 'air gap' with first escort carriers.
- March 13** Chinese push Japanese back over River Yangtze.
- March 15** Germans recapture Kharkov.
- March 17** Japanese attack on Arakan Front.
- March 20-28** 8<sup>th</sup> Army attacks and breaks through Mareth line.

- March 26** Laval assumes reins of power in France; Pétain a figurehead. Spring thaw halts fighting around Kharkov. Sea battle of Komandorski Islands.
- March 29** Allies take Gabès.
- March 30** (to 1 April) Adana Conference.
- March 31** Atlantic escorts fitted with 'Hedgehog'.
- March** Allied shipping losses: 120 ships of 693,000 tons. 108 of 627,000 tons to U-boats.
- April 1** Invasion of Europe plans begin. Convoy protection improved; British and Canadians in north, US Navy in south.
- April 5** Air raids open battle of the Ruhr.
- April 7** Hitler and Mussolini meet in Germany.
- April 8** General Kawabe takes over from General Lida as Japanese Commander-in-Chief Burma.
- April 9** British push through Fondouk Pass.
- April 12** Germans announce discovery of Katyn Massacre graves.
- April 18** Admiral Yamamoto shot down and killed by US fighters.
- April 19** Beginning of Warsaw Ghetto uprising.
- April 21** 8<sup>th</sup> Army takes Enfidaville Line. US airmen captured in Japan are beheaded. Admiral Koga commands Japanese combined fleet.
- April 22** US 1<sup>st</sup> Army attacks at Bou Arada, pressing on Tunis.
- April 26** Russia severs relations with Polish government in London over Katyn massacre.
- April 28** (to 6 May) Battle of Convoy ONS-5, the turning point in Atlantic, 7 U-boats sunk.

- April 30** RN 'Support Groups' provide improved convoy protection.
- April** Allied shipping losses: 64 ships of 334,700 tons, 56 of 327,900 to U-boats.
- May 4-12** Last Allied offensive in North Africa.
- May 5** U-513 sinks 4 ships off Brazil.
- May 7** 18<sup>th</sup> Army Group takes Tunis.
- May 9** German Ju88 equipped with *Lichtenstein* radar captured intact in Great Britain.
- May 11** Americans land on Attu.
- May 12-25** Second Washington Conference.
- May 12** Arnim surrenders all Axis troops in North Africa.
- May 13** Marshal Messe surrenders Italian 1<sup>st</sup> Army.
- May 14** Japanese occupy Maungdaw in Burma.
- May 15** (to 9 June) 5<sup>th</sup> Axis offensive versus Yugoslav Partisans; Tito's forces almost destroyed.
- May 16-17** The Dams raid – RAF's 'bouncing bombs' breach Mohne and Eder Dams.
- May 16** Warsaw Rising defeated.
- May 17** Japanese attack over River Yangtze.
- May 21** Japanese attack in central China.
- May 22** Test flight of German Me262 jet fighter. Comintern dissolved. Admiral Dönitz suspends U-boat operations in North Atlantic.

- May 27** British mission to aid Tito lands.
- May 30** (to 11 June) Fortress island of Pantelleria taken after heavy bombardment prior to invasion of Sicily.
- May** Allied shipping losses: 58 ships of 299,400 tons, 50 of 264,900 tons to U-boats, 41 U-boats sunk.
- June 1** Beginning of US submarine war against Japanese shipping.
- June 2** Battle over Kursk.
- June 3** Formation of French Committee for National Liberation.
- June 4** Second RAF Tactical Air Force formed in Great Britain. Night raid by Germans on Gorki tank factory.
- June 8** Japanese begin to evacuate Kiska.
- June 10** 'Point Blank' directive improves Allied bombing strategy.
- June 11** Russians raid airfields west of Kursk.
- June 12** Lampedusa surrenders.
- June 15** First flight German Arado Ar 234 jet bomber.
- June 16** Japanese suffer heavy air losses in attacks on Guadalcanal.
- June 18** Announced Wavell to be Viceroy of India, installed Oct; Auchinleck becomes Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army.
- June 20** First Allied 'shuttle' raid. Japanese attack Australians in New Guinea.
- June 21** US troops land on New Georgia in Solomon Islands.
- June 30** Amphibious Operation *Cartwheel* against Japanese on Rabaul, landings on New Guinea.
- June** Allied shipping losses: down to 28, 20 to U-boats.

- July 1** US troops capture Viru Harbour, New Guinea.
- July 4** General Sikorski killed in air crash.
- July 5** Operation *Zitadelle* last German offensive at Kursk.
- July 9** Allied airborne troops land by night on Sicily.
- July 10** Operation *Husky* main Allied landings on Sicily.
- July 12** Largest tank battle in history at Kursk.
- July 12-13** Sea battle at Kolombangara, Japanese defeated.
- July 15** Russian counter-attacks at Orel.
- July 16** Australians defeat Japanese in New Guinea and Solomon Islands.
- July 17** Hitler and Mussolini meet at Feltre.
- July 19** First Allied air raids on Rome.
- July 20** Roosevelt orders US atom research to be shared with British scientists.
- July 22** Americans capture Palermo.
- July 24** 'Window', metallic strips used to 'baffle' German radar. (to 2 Aug)  
RAF raids Hamburg destroying 70% of city, 30,000 casualties.
- July 25** Mussolini resigns and is arrested, Fascist government dissolved.
- July 26** Badoglio takes over, establishes martial law.
- July 27** Fire storm in Hamburg.
- July 28** Roosevelt broadcasts surrender terms to Italy.
- July 31** New Allied shipping tonnage overtakes losses.

- July** Allied shipping losses: 61 ships of 365,400 tons, 46 to U-boats, 37 U-boats sunk.
- August 1** De Gaulle made President of French Committee of National Defence, Grand Commander-in-Chief. Burma declares war on Great Britain and USA.
- August 2** Italians make peace moves through their embassy in Lisbon.
- August 3** U-boats abandon Wolf Packs for independent patrols.
- August 5** Russians capture Orel and Bielgorod.
- August 6-7** (Pacific theatre) Battle of Vella Gulf, successful US naval ambush.
- August 10** First use of penicillin during invasion of Sicily.
- August 10-11** Churchill in Quebec for War Committee conference with Canadian government.
- August 12-17** Germans evacuate Sicily.
- August 14** Rome declared an open city.
- August 14-24** Quadrant Conference in Quebec.
- August 15** (Pacific theatre) US troops invade Kiska Island.
- August 17** First Schweinfurt raid, 60 B17s lost. Allies take Messina.
- August 21** First photos of V1 reach Great Britain from Denmark. Australians capture Mt. Tamba in New Guinea.
- August 23** Russians recapture Kharkov.
- August 25** Mountbatten becomes Supreme Commander South East Asia.
- August 26** Russian Four Front offensive in Ukraine.



- August 28** Japanese bomb Chungking (first time since 1941). End of Japanese resistance on New Guinea.
- August 31** First test firing of German *Rheintochter* anti-aircraft rocket. US Fast Carrier Force raids Marcus Island.
- August** Allied shipping losses: 100,000 tons, 25 U-boats lost including 10 U-tankers.
- September 1** (to 1 Nov) Russians take Dorogobuzh. Partisan campaign against railways begins.
- September 3** Armistice signed with Italy. Allies land in Calabria.
- September 7** German V-weapon sites bombed. Germans begin evacuation of Ukraine.
- September 8** Yugoslav Partisans round up and disarm Italian forces. Eisenhower and Badoglio announce Italy's surrender.
- September 9** Russian Black Sea fleet outflanks German Blue Line on Taman Peninsula. Allies land at Salerno; British Airborne Division lands at Taranto.
- September 10** Germans occupy Rome; British take Taranto, landings in Dodecanese.
- September 12** Germans evacuate Kuban. Mussolini rescued by Germans.
- September 13** Chiang Kai-shek becomes President of Chinese Republic.
- September 14** British occupy Kos.
- September 17** Russians take Briansk.
- September 17-18** Allied breakout at Salerno.
- September 18** Wolf Pack raids resumed in North Atlantic.
- September 21** Russians take Chernigov.

- September 22** Allied landings at Bari. Russians take Poltava and cross River Dnieper.
- September 23** Mussolini re-establishes Fascist government.
- September 25** Russians take Smolensk.
- September 28** Germans recapture Split.
- September** (Pacific theatre) Japanese shipping losses: 160,000 tons to US submarines.
- September** Allied shipping losses: 29 ships of 156,400 tons, 9 to U-boats, 3 U-boats sunk.
- October 1** Fifth Army captures Naples and Benevento.
- October 2** Russian offensive halted. British commandos land at Termoli and link up with 8<sup>th</sup> Army. (Pacific) Australians take Finschhafen.
- October 3** Japanese attack in central China.
- October 4** Corsica liberated.
- October 6** Americans land on Kolombangara Island.
- October 9** Russians control Kuban peninsula.
- October 12** Allies cross River Volturno but offensive is halted.
- October 13** Italy declares war on Germany.
- October 14** Second Schweinfurt raid: heavy losses (60 B17s) halt US daylight raids.
- October 14** Russians recapture Zaporozhe.
- October 17** German raider *Michel* sunk off Japan by US submarines.

- October 18** (to 1 Nov) Second Moscow Conference. Second Panzer Army occupies Yugoslavia.
- October 20** US Commission on War Crimes set up.
- October 25** Burma-Siam 'Death' Railway completed.
- October 27** New Zealand forces land on Treasury Island in Solomon Islands.
- October 30** Germans counter-attack on River Trigno (Italian theatre).
- October** Allied shipping losses: only 9 merchant ships in North Atlantic.
- November 1** Russians cut land routes to Germans in Crimea. US Marines land on Bougainville.
- November 2** Naval Battle of Empress Augusta Bay secures Bougainville landings.
- November 6** Russians take Kiev.
- November 8** 8<sup>th</sup> Army takes Sangro Heights.
- November 10** Start of battle of Cherkassy; Russian paratroops and partisans link up.
- November 15** Germans abandon U-boat operations in Atlantic.
- November 18** Heaviest RAF raid of war so far opens Battle of Berlin.
- November 20** US troops land on Makin and Tarawa Atolls, Gilbert Islands.
- November 22-26** First Cairo Conference.
- November 24** US carrier *Liscombe Bay* sunk by submarine off Makin.
- November 26-26** Sea battle of St. George.
- November 28** (to 1 Dec) Teheran Conference begins, meeting of 'Big Three'

- December 2** Hitler calls up German youth.
- December 3** Russians advance on a wide front. 5<sup>th</sup> Army (Italy) opens new offensive.
- December 4-7** Second Cairo Conference.
- December 4** Yugoslavs announce Provisional Government.
- December 11** British Admiralty announce 2-day battle against U-boats.
- December 12** Rommel appointed Commander-in-Chief *Fortress Europe*. Czech-Soviet alliance signed in Moscow.
- December 14** Cherkassy captured. Russians begin Winter offensive.
- December 15** First trial of Nazi war criminals. (USSR)
- December 17** 5<sup>th</sup> Army takes San Pietro.
- December 18** Stilwell appointed to command Chinese troops in India and northern Burma.
- December 25-26** Battle of North Cape, RN sinks the *Scharnhorst*.
- December 26** Russians attack in Kiev salient.
- December 28** Russians make rapid advances on a wide front, cut Polosk-Vitebsk railway. 8<sup>th</sup> Army captures Ortona.
- December 31** Russians take Zhitomir.
- December** Japanese shipping losses: 265,000 tons; merchant fleet reduced to 80% of 1941.
- December** Allied shipping losses Nov.-Dec.: 60 ships of 313,000 tons, 12 of 17 U-tanker boats sunk, 17 U-boats likewise.