

The Times Crossword

The War Years Collection – 1944

Sources: The Times Atlas of The Second World War

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The Times Archive

- January 1** Rommel takes command of Army Group B.
- January 1-31** First test flights US XP80 jet fighter.
- January 3** Russians take Olevsk and cut railway to Warsaw.
- January 4** Yugoslav Partisans capture Banja Luka.
- January 6** Russians advance into Poland. ‘Merrill’s Marauders’ set up in Burma.
- January 7** Russians advance in Ukraine.
- January 8** Verona trial of Italians involved in deposing Mussolini.
Russians take Kirovograd.
- January 9** British capture Maungdaw in Burma.
- January 13** Chinese occupy Hukawng Valley.
- January 14** Russians break through on a broad front.
- January 15** 5th Army takes Mt. Trocchio; Germans withdraw across River Rapido.

- January 16** Eisenhower assumes command as Supreme Commander Allied Expeditionary Forces.
- January 17** Allies cross River Garigliano.
- January 19** Russians take Novgorod.
- January 20** Americans reach River Rapido.
- January 22** 6th Army landings at Anzio.
- January 27** Leningrad finally relieved after almost 900-day siege.
- January 30** 5th Army breaks into Gustav line.
- January 31** US troops invade Kwajalein and Majura Atolls (Marshall Is.)
- February 1** French Forces of the Interior formed to co-ordinate Resistance. Polish Resistance assassinate Major Kutschera, Chief of Gestapo in Poland.
- February 4** Japanese offensive in Arakan drives Allies back into India. Chinese attack in Hukawng Valley.
- February 7** German counter-attack at Anzio. Allied forces (India) cut-off in 'Admin Box'. First use of *Snorkel* equipment on U-boat.
- February 8** *Overlord* plan agreed.
- February 10** Italian rule returned over Sicily, South Italy and Sardinia.
- February 14** Eisenhower sets up SHAEF HQ
- February 14-17** US and New Zealand forces take Green Island
- February 15** Monastery of Cassino destroyed by artillery and bombing.
- February 16** Second German counter-attack at Anzio almost cuts Allied forces in two.

- February 17-18** Truk raid – severe damage to Japanese navy and air base.
- February 19** Allied air power halts Germans at Anzio. US troops land on Eniwetok Island.
- February 20-27** ‘Big Week’ bombing of German fighter factories.
- February 21** Tojo made Chief of Japanese Army General Staff.
- February 25** British relieve ‘Admin Box’.
- March 1** Russians attack across River Narva. Chindit 16th Brigade crosses River Chindwin.
- March 3** German attacks at Anzio cease. Greek Resistance fights Germans.
- March 4** US and Chinese troops combine in Hukawng Valley.
- March 5** Chindit air drops north of Indaw.
- March 6** First major Allied daylight raid on Berlin. Russians advance on 100km front in Ukraine. US Marines land at Talasea in New Britain.
- March 8** Battle of Imphal begins.
- March 9** Japanese attack on Bougainville.
- March 12** Czech government in London calls for Resistance in Slovakia.
- March 13** Russians take Kherson. Russo-Italian agreement.
- March 14** Germans trapped in Nikolayev pocket. British fall back from Imphal.
- March 15** New Zealanders and Indians attack Monte Cassino. US landing on Manus Island (Admiralty Is.).
- March 16** Japanese cross River Chindwin and cut Kohima-Imphal Road.

- March 18** Heaviest RAF raid so far on Hamburg: 3,000 tons of bombs dropped.
- March 19** Germans occupy Hungary.
- March 20** Russians take Vinnitsa.
- March 22** Allied attacks at Cassino halted. Admiral Dönitz orders U-boats to operate singly and to give up convoy attacks.
- March 24** Russians reach River Dniester. Major-General Wingate killed in air crash. Japanese counter-offensive on Bougainville defeated.
- March 25** Russians capture Proskurov.
- March 27** Lentaigne takes over Chindits.
- March 29** Siege of Imphal begins.
- March 31** Russians take Ochakov on Black Sea.
- March** Allied shipping losses: Jan. – March 54 ships, but 60 U-boats sunk.
- April 4-20** Japanese besiege Kohima.
- April 10** Russians take Odessa.
- April 11** Russians take Kerch; Germans retreat into Sevastopol. Japanese give up Gasmata and Cape Hopkins.
- April 13** Russians capture Feodosiya and Simferopol.
- April 14-17** Russians take Tarnopol and cut German front in two.
- April 16** Yalta falls. Eichmann begins round up of 800,000 Hungarian Jews.
- April 18** Operation *Ichi-go*; Japanese attack to control Peking-Hankow railway.

- April 22** Americans land unopposed at Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea. Tito's partisans take Korcula Island.
- April 24** US War Department considers invasion of Japan necessary.
- April 26** E-boats attack Force U in Channel during D-Day exercises. Australians take Alexishafen, Americans advance in Hollandia and Aitape.
- April 28** Japanese advance in Honan province.
- April 29-30** US TF58 attacks Truk Atoll.
- May 1-16** Commonwealth Prime Minister's Conference in London.
- May 2** Spain guarantees continued neutrality.
- May 4** Chinese overrun Inkangahtawng on Kamaing road.
- May 5** 14th Army counter-attacks at Imphal.
- May 8** Eisenhower chooses June 5th for D-Day. Japanese attack 14th Army in Manipur Hills.
- May 9** Allied Bombing prepares for D-Day. Russians capture Sevastopol. Japanese capture Lushan and cut Peking-Hankow railway.
- May 10** Chinese attack across River Salween.
- May 11** Allies attack Gustav line.
- May 15** Germans withdraw to Adolf Hitler Line.
- May 16** First operation flight of German Me 163 rocket fighter.
- May 18** Poles capture Monastery Hill at Cassino; last U-boat sinking in Mediterranean.
- May 19** Last fighting in Wakde Islands.
- May 20** US troops clear up Gaeta peninsula.

- May 23** Breakout from Anzio begins.
- May 25** Germans retreat from Anzio.
- May 26** Japanese offensive against US airbases in China.
- May 27** Monsoons curtail fighting in Burma. Americans land on Biak Island.
- May 31** (USSR) Germans counter-attack north of Jassy.
- June 2** First air 'shuttle' raid. Chinese besiege Myitkyina.
- June 3** End of Kohima battle.
- June 4-6** Resistance disrupts communications in France.
- June 5** 5th Army enters Rome.
- June 6** D-Day landings between Cherbourg and Le Havre; use of Mulberry artificial harbours.
- June 7** 5th Army takes Civitavecchia, 8th Army takes Subiaco. American capture airfield on Biak.
- June 9** Allied aircraft begin operating from French airstrips. Russian offensive begins on Finnish front.
- June 10** Massacre at Oradour-sur-Glane near Limoges by SS. 8th Army advances up Adriatic coast.
- June 11** French Resistance rising at Vercors begins (to 29 July). US TF58 begins bombardment of Marianas.
- June 12** All Normandy landing zones linked up.
- June 13** First V-1s land in Great Britain.
- June 14** First B29 Superfortress raid on Japan.

- June 15** First use of 22,000 lb 'Tallboy' bomb by RAF. US Marines land on Saipan.
- June 18** Russians break through Mannerheim Line. Japanese take Changsha
- June 19-20** Battle of the Philippine Sea: Japanese lose 300 aircraft and 14 ships sunk or damaged.
- June 20** 8th Army takes Perugia.
- June 22** Siege of Imphal lifted.
- June 23** Russian offensive in Byelorussia.
- June 24** Russians reach River Drina.
- June 25** General Koenig appointed to command the French Forces of the Interior.
- June 26** Chinese take Mogaung.
- June 27** Americans capture Cherbourg. Russians cross River Dnieper. Heavy fighting on Saipan.
- June 30** Finns halt Russian attack. General Strike in Copenhagen. USA severs relations with Finland.
- July 1** Russians cross the Beresina. 5th Army captures Cecina.
- July 2** Kluge replaces von Runstedt as Commander-in-Chief West.
- July 3** Russians recapture Minsk.
- July 7** Japanese wiped out on Saipan. Admirals Yagumo and Yano die.
- July 9** Second Army takes Caen.
- July 10** Japanese counter-attack near Aitape on New Guinea.
- July 11** Russians attack 'Panther Line'.

- July 16** 8th Army takes Arezzo and reaches River Arno.
- July 17** Rommel badly wounded. Russians cross River Bug into Poland.
- July 18** Operation *Goodwood* begun by 2nd Army; US troops take St. Lô
Japanese retreat from Imphal-Kohima. Tojo's cabinet resigns: Kase replaces Tojo,
Umezu becomes Army Commander-in-Chief.
- July 20** Von Stauffenberg's plot to blow up Hitler fails.
- July 21** US Marines land on Guam.
- July 24** US Marines land on Tinian. Russians liberate first concentration
camp at Maidanek.
- July 25-30** Operation *Cobra* achieves breakthrough west of St. Lô.
- July 28** Russians take Brest-Litovsk. End of resistance on Biak.
- July 29** (to 1 Aug) Germans counter-attack on River Odon.
- July 31** Russians 10 miles from Warsaw. Baltic Fleet lands troops on
Hiiumaa and Saaremaa.
- August 1** Polish Underground Army revolts in Warsaw. Tinian secured by
US troops.
- August 3** Chinese take Myitkyina.
- August 4** 8th Army enters Florence.
- August 4-8** German bomb plotters tried and executed.
- August 6** Third Army takes Nantes and reaches Brest. Russians take
Drohobycz oil centre (Poland).
- August 9** Destruction of Japanese on Guam.
- August 12** PLUTO pipeline provides oil across English Channel.

- August 14** Russians begin offensive from Vistula bridgehead.
- August 15** Operation *Anvil/Dragoon* begins. Allied 7th Army invades southern France.
- August 16** Last Japanese resistance in India ends. Canadians surround Falaise.
- August 17** Russians reach east Prussian border.
- August 20** Falaise Gap closed, bridgehead established over River Seine. Russian fleet lands troops in mouth of Danube, attacking Rumania.
- August 21-29** Dumbarton Oaks Conference.
- August 22** Rising in Paris.
- August 23** Russians surround German 7th Army at Kishinev.
- August 25** Allied forces liberate Paris.
- August 28** Allies take Marseilles and Toulon.
- August 29** Slovak uprising begins. US troops take Soissons. French cross the Rhine.
- August 30** Russians take Ploesti. Germans abandon Bulgaria.
- August 31** British 1st Army reaches Amiens, captures Somme bridgeheads. Montgomery made Field Marshal. Russians take Bucharest. 8th Army attacks Gothic Line.
- September 1** Artois, Dieppe and Rouen taken; US troops cross River Meuse.
- September 2** Provisional Russo-Finnish treaty ends fighting. 5th Army enters Pisa. Wake operation completed (Pacific).
- September 3-4** Allies liberate Antwerp and Brussels.
- September 5** USSR declares war on Bulgaria.

September 6 Russians reach Yugoslav border.

September 7 US troops cross River Moselle.

September 8 First V2s land in London. Russians enter Bulgaria unopposed. 5th Army breaks through Gothic Line.

September 10-11 US 3rd Fleet attacks Palaus (Pacific)

September 11 Second Quebec Conference.

September 12 US 1st Army enters Germany. Le Havre surrenders.

September 14 Russians enter Warsaw suburbs.

September 15 US 1st Army reaches Siegfried Line.

September 17-21 Operation *Market Garden* results in destruction of Allied airborne forces.

September 21 Tito meets Stalin.

September 22 Boulogne surrenders.

September 23 Russians reach Gulf of Riga.

September 26 Russians occupy Estonia. 8th Army crosses River Rubicon.

September 28 Calais surrenders.

September 29 SS massacre at Mt. Sole.

October 1 Russians enter Yugoslavia.

October 2 End of Warsaw Resistance.

October 3 Me262 fighter operational.

October 4 Russians and Tito's partisans link up. British troops land in Greece.

- October 9** US 3rd Fleet bombards Marcus Island.
- October 9-19** Moscow Conference.
- October 10** Russians capture Riga; tank battle at Debrecen, 3 Russian corps destroyed.
- October 11** 3rd Fleet aircraft attack Okinawa.
- October 12** British paratroops take Athens airfield.
- October 12-18** 3rd Fleet air operations against Formosa.
- October 13** 1st Army enters Aachen.
- October 14** Rommel commits suicide. Allies liberate Athens.
- October 17** US Rangers land in Leyte Gulf.
- October 18** *Volksturm*, the last ditch people's army, created in Germany.
- October 19** British capture Japanese supply depot at Mohnyin in Burma.
- October 20** Belgrade liberated. US 6th Army invades Leyte.
- October 21** Germans surrender Aachen.
- October 23** De Gaulle recognised as ruler of France. Russians enter East Prussia.
- October 24** British capture Lamia.
- October 24-26** Naval air battle over Leyte (Pacific) destroys remains of Japanese carrier fleet.
- October 27** *Kamikaze* attacks on US TF38 in Philippines.
- October 28** Germans begin evacuation of Albania. Russo-Bulgarian armistice.

- October 30** Last extermination gassing at Auschwitz.
- October 31** RAF Mosquitoes destroy Gestapo HQ at Aarhus.
- November 2** 14th Army takes Mawlu in Burma.
- November 4** Liberation of Greece completed.
- November 10** 8th Army take Forli. Japanese capture US air base at Kweilin in Kwangsi province.
- November 11** US Navy bombards Iwo Jima.
- November 12** RAF sink Tirpitz in Tromso Fjord.
- November 13** Japanese capture Linchow air base.
- November 14** London Agreement on the organization of Occupied Europe.
- November 15** US 8th Army lands on Mapia Island.
- November 20** French 1st Army drives through Belfort Gap.
- November 21** Albanians take Tirana and Durazzo.
- November 23** Germans evacuate Finnish Lapland. Germans evacuate Macedonia.
- November 24** Allies cross River Saar. French take Strasbourg. First B29 raid on Tokyo.
- November 27** Cordell Hall resigns. Edward Stettinius becomes US Secretary of State.
- November 30** New Polish cabinet formed in London. British submarines redeployed from Mediterranean; end of naval war there.
- December 1** Germans withdraw to evacuation points in Crete.

- December 3** British Home Guard stands down.
- December 4** Athens under martial law.
- December 6** 8th Army crosses River Lamone. Japanese retake Tushan.
- December 10** Franco-Russian Treaty of Alliance. 14th Army reaches Indaw.
- December 12** Americans capture V-weapon factory at Wittring.
- December 15** Chinese take Bhamo in Burma. Mindoro airfield construction begun by US forces.
- December 16-25** Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes. Bastogne holds out.
- December 17** Malmédy Massacre of US prisoners of war by SS.
- December 18** Russians cross River Sajo. Typhoon severely damages TF38.
- December 20** 14th Army takes Kandaung.
- December 22** Final German attempt to reach River Meuse. End of Japanese resistance on Leyte.
- December 26** US 3rd Army tanks under General Patton relieve Bastogne.
- December 27** Siege of Budapest begins.
- December 28** Mindoro airfield fully operational (Pacific)
- December 30** RAF Mosquitoes bomb Gestapo HQ in Oslo. 14th Army takes Kaduma. 10 US vessels lost to air attack off Mindoro.