

The Times Crossword

The War Years Collection – 1945

Sources: The Times Atlas of The Second World War

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The Times Archive

- January 1-17** Germans withdraw in the Ardennes.
- January 2** Germans counter-attack at Budapest.
- January 3** US 1st Army attacks Ardennes salient. New Greek government under President Plastivas. US TF38 attacks aircraft and ships at Formosa.
- January 4** British attack in Arakan and break through to Akyab Island.
- January 6** *Kamikaze* attacks against invasion forces approaching Lingayen Gulf.
- January 7** 14th Army reaches Shwebo, occupies Kinu.
- January 16** Ardennes salient eliminated.
- January 17** Russians take Warsaw.
- January 18** Polish Provisional government set up.
- January 20** Hungarian armistice.
- January 21** 14th Army takes Monywa.

- January 22** Burma Road reopened.
- January 25** De Gaulle demands permanent occupation of Rhineland. Americans capture airfield on Luzon.
- January 26** Russians liberate Auschwitz. Japanese troops ordered to withdraw to Chinese coast.
- January 27** Russians cross River Vistula.
- January 28** Supply convoy reaches China over Ledo Burma Road.
- January 29** Poznan surrounded: Germans evacuate 2 million troops and civilians from East Prussia.
- January 30** (to 2 Feb) Malta Conference.
- February 1** US 7th Army reaches Siegfried Line. US 6th Army advances on Manila.
- February 4-11** Yalta Conference.
- February 9** Allies break through Siegfried Line.
- February 11** US 3rd Army enters Prüm. Russians advance towards Breslau and Dresden, overrun Budapest.
- February 13-14** Destruction of Dresden in fire storm, 100,000 civilians killed.
- February 13** 14th Army establishes bridgeheads over River Irrawaddy south of Mandalay.
- February 15** Russians attack Danzig, surround Breslau.
- February 16** Iwo Jima bombarded from sea and air.
- February 16-17** Fast carrier raid on Japan.
- February 17-24** Germans wipe out Russian Hron bridgehead.

- February 17** Bridgeheads hold out against Japanese counter-attacks (mainland Asia). Americans occupy Bataan peninsula.
- February 19-26** US Marines land on Iwo Jima.
- February 21** US carrier *Saratoga* badly damaged in *Kamikaze* attack.
- February 22** Air Operation *Clarion* against German communications network.
- February 23** Russians take Poznan. US Marines take Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima.
- February 24** Manila secured.
- February 25** US 1st Army captures Düren.
- February 27** Americans land on Verde Islands.
- February 28** Corregidor secured.
- March 1** US 1st Army takes München-Gladbach. US infantry land on Lubang Island.
- March 2** US 3rd Army takes Trier.
- March 3** US troops land on Burias Island and Ticao Island.
- March 4** Manila falls. Allies take Meiktila.
- March 5** Cologne captured, US 9th and 1st Armies reach the Rhine. Tito forms new Yugoslav government.
- March 6** Germans counter-attack (Budapest).
- March 7** 1st Army crosses River Rhine by Remagen Bridge. Chinese take Lashio.
- March 8** Indians enter Mandalay. Americans land at Zamboanga on Mindanao.

- March 9** Japanese attack French forces in Indo-China, set up Empire of Annam.
- March 9-10** Fire blitz on Tokyo.
- March 11** Czech government in exile leaves London for Slovakia
- March 13** 14th Army secures Maymyo, cutting Japanese escape route from Mandalay.
- March 15** Indian 17th Division besieged at Meiktila.
- March 16** German peace overtures via Sweden.
- March 17** 14th Army takes Sagaing and Ava. 3rd Army takes Coblenz.
- March 19** Japanese evacuate Mandalay.
- March 20** US 7th Army takes Saarbrücken.
- March 22** Russians besiege Danzig and Gdynia.
- March 25** 3rd Army crosses the Rhine.
- March 27** Last V2 lands in Great Britain. Allied armies link up near Coblenz (1st and 3rd) and Darmstadt (3rd and 7th). Americans take Cebu City (Pacific). Operation *Starvation* against Japanese shipping.
- March 28** Eisenhower shifts emphasis of Allied advance away from Berlin. Gdynia falls to the Russians.
- April 1** US 1st and 9th Armies complete encirclement of German Army Group B in the Ruhr. US 10th Army invades Okinawa.
- April 3** General MacArthur becomes Commander-in-Chief US Armed Forces, Pacific, with Nimitz as Naval commander.
- April 4** US troops reach and cross River Weser. Last Germans leave Hungary.

- April 5** Russia denounces neutrality pact with Japan; Japanese Cabinet resigns.
- April 6** Yugoslav Partisans take Sarajevo.
- April 7-13** Russians attack and occupy Vienna.
- April 7** Battle of East China Sea.
- April 9** Russians take Königsberg. 14th Army captures Thazi.
- April 10** US 9th Army takes Hanover.
- April 11** Soviet-Yugoslav treaty. 8th Army crosses River Santerno. *Kamikaze* attacks on US TF38 at Okinawa.
- April 12** Allies liberate Belsen and Buchenwald.
- April 14** 5th Army attacks in Po Valley.
- April 15** Arnhem captured.
- April 16** (to 2nd May) Russian final offensive on Berlin.
- April 18** Ruhr pocket forces surrender.
- April 19** 14th Army takes Magwe and Myingen.
- April 20** Nuremberg taken.
- April 23** Russians enter Berlin. Americans control central Philippines.
- April 24** 5th and 8th Armies cross River Po.
- April 26** US 1st Army and Russian patrols meet at Torgau. Allies cross River Adige.
- April 27** US 6th Army takes Baguio on Luzon.
- April 28** Mussolini captured by partisans and publicly hanged.

- April 29** Allies liberate Dachau.
- April 30** Hitler commits suicide.
- May 1** British airborne troops land south of Rangoon. Australians land on Tarakan Island.
- May 2** Russians hold Berlin, German casualties in battle for city 150,000 dead, 300,000 captured. German Armies in Italy surrender. 14th Army rescues Pegu (mainland Asia).
- May 3** Indians capture Rangoon.
- May 4** German forces in Holland, Denmark, and NW Germany surrender. Dönitz orders U-boats to surrender.
- May 5** Ceasefire in West.
- May 7** General Jodl signs unconditional surrender.
- May 8** VE Day.
- May 9** German surrender ratified in Berlin. Russians occupy Prague.
- May 9-12** Channel Islands liberated.
- May 10** 14th Army links up with troops from Arakan.
- May 11** US 10th Army attacks on Okinawa.
- May 14** Daylight fire raid on Nagoya.
- May 18** Chinese occupy Foochow. US Marines take Sugar Loaf Hill on Okinawa.
- May 23** German High Command imprisoned. Himmler commits suicide.
- May 26** Chinese occupy Yung-ning, cutting Japanese land route to Indo-China.

- May 27** US 6th Army takes Santa Fe on Luzon.
- June 4** US Marines land on north Oroku Peninsula.
- June 5** Occupying powers partition Germany and Berlin.
- June 10** Australian 9th Division invades Borneo.
- June 18** Last resistance in Mindanao ends.
- June 22** End of resistance in Okinawa.
- June 25-26** World Charter of Security signed in San Francisco.
- June 27** US 6th Army reaches Apani, ending Luzon campaign.
- July 1** US, British and French troops move into Berlin.
- July 10** 1,000 bomber raid on Japanese mainland.
- July 16** First atom bomb test at Alamogordo in Mexican Desert.
- July 17** (to 2 Aug) Potsdam Conference on reparation, peace treaties, Austria and Poland. 1,500 plane raid on Tokyo meets no air opposition. British Pacific Fleet and US 3rd Fleet raid Japan.
- July 25** Potsdam declaration on Japan.
- July 26** Labour Party wins British election; Atlee becomes Prime Minister.
- July 30** Japan rejects Potsdam ultimatum.
- July 31** British midget submarine attack at Singapore.
- August 3** Complete blockade of Japan in effect.
- August 6** Atomic bomb 'Little Boy' detonated over Hiroshima and a large military garrison resulting in circa 20,000 soldiers killed, and between 70,000 and 126,000 civilians excluding the later sizable after effects.

August 8 Russia declares war on Japan and invades Manchuria (Manchukuo).

August 9 Atom bomb 'Fat Man' dropped on Nagasaki. Mitsubishi munitions and steelworks centre. Also a small number of Allied POWs affected accounting for 1 British, 7 Dutch, and 12 American fatalities. 25 Australian POWs miraculously survived. Japanese soldiers guarding them accounted for between 150 and 200 deaths. Estimates of immediate deaths of civilians in this explosion vary between 39,000 and 80,000.

August 12 On receiving the assurance from the Allied Nations that the Sovereignty of Japan was not in danger and therefore exempt from the demand for unconditional surrender, the Emperor Hirohito announced to his immediate family and close councillors his decision to accept the terms of surrender with this statement:

"Despite the best that has been done by every one—the gallant fighting of military and naval forces, the diligence and assiduity of Our servants of the State and the devoted service of Our one hundred million people, the war situation has developed not necessarily to Japan's advantage, while the general trends of the world have all turned against her interest. Moreover, the enemy now possesses a new and terrible weapon with the power to destroy many innocent lives and do incalculable damage. Should we continue to fight, not only would it result in an ultimate collapse and obliteration of the Japanese nation, but also it would lead to the total extinction of human civilization. Such being the case, how are we to save the millions of our subjects, or to atone ourselves before the hallowed spirits of our imperial ancestors? This is the reason why we have ordered the acceptance of the provisions of the joint declaration of the powers"

August 14 Japanese agree to unconditional surrender terms, and the Emperor's statement is broadcast to the Japanese nation.

August 15 VJ Day.

August 18 Manchuria overrun.

August 21 Japanese surrender in Manchuria.

August 27 US and Allied naval units enter Japanese ports.

August 28 Mao Tse-tung and Chiang Kai-shek meet in Chungking, Japanese sign surrender documents in Rangoon.

September 2 Japanese High Command sign instrument of surrender on board USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.

September 5 British land in Singapore.

September 7 Japanese surrender in Shanghai.

September 9 Japanese surrender in China signed.

September 13 Japanese surrender in Burma signed.

September 16 Japanese surrender in Hong Kong signed.