

Timeline to the liberation of Rome on June 5, 1944

compiled by Phillip W. Weiss

October 29, 1922 – King Victor Emmanuel III appoints Benito Mussolini prime minister.

November 1923 – Parliament passes the Acerbo Law giving Mussolini's fascist party a majority in the parliament.

1923 - 1932 – Second Italo-Sanusi War. Italy invades and conquers Libya.¹

January 30, 1933 – Adolf Hitler appointed Chancellor of Germany.

1935 - 1939 – Italy invades and conquers Ethiopia.

November 5, 1937 – Italy joins the anti-Comintern Pact.

March 13, 1938 – Hitler invades Austria and incorporates that country into the Third Reich. Italy now shares a common border with Germany.

Autumn 1938 – Mussolini proposes that the major powers meet at Munich to resolve the Sudeten crisis.

October 1938 – Italy demands partial control of the Suez Canal.

April 1939 – Italy invades and conquers Albania.

May 22, 1939 – Mussolini signs the Pact of Steel with Hitler.²

September 1, 1939 – Hitler invades Poland. Start of World War II.

September 3, 1939 – France and Great Britain declare war on Germany.

June 10, 1940 – Italy declares war on France and Great Britain.

June 20, 1940 – Italy invades and occupies parts of southern France.

October 28, 1940 – Italy invades Greece. Invasion fails.

April 6, 1941 – Italian forces invade Yugoslavia.

June 22, 1941 – Operation Barbarossa. Hitler invades the Soviet Union.

¹ On August 30, 2008 Italy and Libya signed a Treaty of Friendship, Partnership and Cooperation. In this treaty Italy formally apologized for its invasion and occupation of Libya and agreed to pay Libya \$5,000,000,000 in reparations. On February 26, 2011 Italy's Minister of Defense, Ignazio La Russa, declared that the treaty was "inoperative and suspended." Source: Colonialism Reparation.

² The term "Pact of Steel" (Patto d'Acciaio) was Mussolini's creation. Source: This Day In World History.

July 1941 - July 1942 – Italy sends troops to the Soviet Union.³

December 7, 1941 – Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. United States enters the war.

December 11, 1941 – Italy declares war on the United States.

August 1942 - February 1943 – Italian forces participate in the Battle of Stalingrad.

November 8, 1942 – Operation Torch. British and American forces land at Casablanca, Oran, and Algiers in North Africa.

February 2, 1943 – German forces surrender at Stalingrad.

May 7, 1943 – British troops enter Tunis while American infantry enter Bizerte from the north. Axis forces start surrendering.

May 12, 1943 – Mussolini orders Italian troops in Tunisia to surrender.

July 9, 1943 – Operation Husky. Allied forces invade Sicily.

July 1943 – Axis forces withdraw from Sicily to the Italian mainland.

July 25, 1943 – King Victor Emmanuel III dismisses Mussolini as prime minister. Mussolini is arrested.

September 3, 1943 – Operation Avalanche. Allied forces invade mainland Italy at Salerno, Calabria and Taranto.

September 3, 1943 – Italy signs an armistice with the Allies and immediately switches sides.

September 1943 – German forces disarm over 1 million Italian soldiers and occupy much of Italy, including Rome.

January 22, 1944 – Operation Shingle. Allied forces invade mainland Italy at Anzio.

June 5, 1944 – Allied forces capture Rome. Rome is liberated. Operation Shingle ends.

³ “The Italian participation in operations in Russia proved extremely costly. Losses of the 8. Army from 20 August 1942 - 20 February 1943 totaled 87,795 killed and missing (3,168 officers and 84,627 NCOs and soldiers) and 34,474 wounded and frostbitten (1,527 officers and 32,947 NCOs and soldiers).”
Source: Internet Archive Wayback Machine.

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⁴ The sources listed herein are just a small sample of the immense amount of material published on the events noted in the timeline.

May 22 1939 – Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini Sign the Pact of Steel.
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⁵ In this treaty Italy agreed to pay reparations to the following States: Albania - \$5,000,000, Ethiopia - \$25,000,000, Soviet Union – \$100,000,000, Greece - \$105,000,000, and Yugoslavia - \$125,000,000.