

Facts About World War Two from Churchill's Memoirs of the Second World War (abridged)

Compiled by Phillip W. Weiss

- 1. Churchill urged the French not to give up Paris without a fight. The French rejected this advice on the grounds that they had no more reserves and that they did not want Paris to be destroyed.**
- 2.. Churchill wrote a personal appeal to Mussolini not to attack France. Mussolini replied, rejecting Churchill's appeal, citing Britain's role in imposing sanctions on Italy over Abyssinia.**
- 3. Churchill expected the Germans to invade Britain.**
- 4. The Germans caught the British by surprise TWICE in the space of one month - first, in Norway, and second, at Sedan.**
- 5. Germany used a few thousand armored vehicles to defeat France.**
- 6. Germany defeated France by breaking through French defenses, thus splitting the French army.**
- 7. A second front, long demanded by Stalin, existed in 1940.**
- 8. Germany deployed 135 divisions to attack France.**
- 9. After Germany attacked Poland, France did not attack Germany because it would have left French forces exposed.**
- 10. Churchill visited France four times during the Battle of France.**
- 11. After the Dunkirk evacuation, the US re-supplied the British army.**
- 12. As a matter of standard procedure, Churchill conducted business in writing.**
- 13. British war policy was formulated and directed by a War Council comprised of Britain's most senior political leaders.**

14. At no time did Britain consider surrendering to Germany.
15. Britain had ten divisions in France, including one armored division.
16. The French asked Britain to provide more airplanes while considering whether to surrender.
17. France was prepared to make significant concessions to Italy to keep Italy from attacking France.
18. Britain wanted to launch air attacks on Italy from Marseilles but could not do so due to protests from the local population.
19. Petain was a defeatist.
20. Germany halted its armor outside of Dunkirk on orders from Runstedt, not Hitler.
21. Churchill asked France to issue orders to its soldiers permitting them to be evacuated from Dunkirk.
22. French forces were involved in 99 percent of the fighting in the Battle of France.
23. In the Battle of France, British forces had two choices: attack or withdraw. They chose the latter, on the recommendation of their commander, Lord Gort.
24. France had exhausted its strategic reserves. This made counter-attack impossible.
25. Stalin approved Hitler's attack in the West.
26. Neville Churchill rejected all suggestions of an alliance with the Soviet Union.
26. Italy could have stayed neutral.
27. In 1940 the Soviet Union invaded and annexed Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

28. Britain maintained control of the seas.
29. After war broke out, 325 German merchant ships, totaling 750,000 tons of shipping, were interred in foreign ports.
30. Churchill recognized the strategic importance of air power.
31. Churchill is critical of how the Poles deployed their forces in the Battle of Poland.
32. Churchill recognized the strategic importance of keeping forces in reserve.
33. The British were able to evacuate most of their army at Dunkirk due to the rearguard actions of the French.
34. The Belgian army provided cover for the British.
35. Britain operated under a modified form of marshal law during the war.
36. Churchill headed a national government, a broad coalition which included Labor, Liberals and Conservatives, the latter of whom was in the majority in parliament.
37. Days after the conclusion of the Dunkirk operation, the British 51st Highlands division, comprising 8,000 men, surrendered to the Germans.
38. Churchill understood the war as a fight for survival of the West against Nazi tyranny.
39. The Germans completely out-maneuvered the British in Norway.
40. Churchill advocated going on the offensive and recognized the strategic importance of taking the initiative.
41. Churchill had a good working relationship with Clement Attlee.

42. The British put aside partisan politics while the war was going on.
43. Upon becoming Prime Minister, Churchill formed a government of National Unity, which included Labor and Liberal parties.
44. Approximately two weeks after the conclusion of the Dunkirk operation, the British evacuated another 156,000 troops from France.
45. In July 1940 at Oran the British navy effectively knocked the French navy out of the war in ONE DAY.
46. Hitler called off Operation Sealion, the plan to invade Britain, because of German inability to achieve control of the air.
47. On July 19, 1940 Hitler offered peace terms to Britain. The British government rejected the offer outright, without even bringing the matter to the floor of the parliament for debate.
48. One million people served in the British Home Guard.
49. After the Fall of France, the British expected to be invaded and made preparations for that event.
50. Admiral Darlan assured Churchill that he would never hand over the French fleet to the Germans.
51. Hitler began amassing troops and ships to invade Britain.
52. Goering believed that he could defeat Britain through air power alone.
53. The British had and maintained control of the air over Britain and the Channel.
54. After the fall of France, the whole world expected Britain to capitulate.
55. The Battle of Britain was a fight over control of the air over the Britain and the Channel.

56. The Germans deployed about 3,000 aircraft for the Battle of Britain.
57. In the German military command, the army, navy and air force failed to coordinate their efforts.
58. The Battle of Britain was the decisive battle of the war.
59. In the Battle of Britain, the German plan had 3 phases: 1. draw the British airplanes out and then destroy them. 2. Attack and destroy British air bases and other military targets. 3. Bomb London and other centers of production.
60. During the Battle of Britain, Stalin provided material support to Hitler.
61. The British offered to form a union with France. France rejected the offer on the grounds that they expected Britain to lose.
62. Everyone misjudged and underestimated the spirit and fighting power of the British people.
63. The French possessed the fourth largest naval fleet in the world. For the British, it was critical that France NOT transfer the fleet to the Germans.
64. Britain was determined to act to prevent the French from transferring their fleet to the Germans.
65. The British never gave formal approval to France to make a separate treaty with Germany.
66. Darlan could have been the hero of France.
67. After the Fall of France, Britain was the sole country left fighting the Germans.
68. Goering believed the British were too decadent and peace-loving to withstand aerial bombardment.
69. The British would rather have the island be in shambles before surrendering to the Germans.

70. Hitler's peace offer was tantamount to a surrender.
71. Hitler's air fleet in Battle of Britain totaled almost 2,700 airplanes.
72. On September 15, 1940 the Germans launched an attack on London, marking the start of the Battle of Britain
73. On October 17, 1940 Churchill witnessed an attack on London that killed 500 and injured over 2,000.
74. During the Battle of Britain the parliament building was bombed.
75. During the Battle of Britain the parliament continued to stay in session without interruption.
76. During the Battle of Britain the Germans bombed London 57 consecutive days.
77. The British conducted the Battle of Britain from a special 2-story war room.
78. During the Battle of Britain Churchill remained in London.
79. Hitler predicted that Churchill would move to Ottawa, Canada.
80. Ribbentrop was "ignorant" of the status of British defenses.
81. Ribbentrop predicted that Britain would not last even one attack by the German air force.
82. After the Germans stopped bombing London, they targeted other cities, including Coventry that suffered major damage.
83. FDR proposed Lend Lease.
84. By 1940, Britain was running low on cash.
85. Churchill considers Lend Lease the most unsordid act in history.
86. Churchill wanted FDR to win the 1940 e deal election.

87. U-boat warfare poses the greatest threat to Britain's survival.
88. In late 1940 the British decisively defeat a much larger Italian army in Egypt.
89. Britain's goal was to achieve overwhelming air power.
90. Churchill lunched with the king every week during the course of the war.
91. Prior to Lend Lease British paid for everything they received.
92. Britain entered the war with about 4.5B in dollars, or gold or investments convertible to dollars.
93. After defeat of France, Churchill was concerned that Vichy France could declare war against Britain.
94. Greek army defeats Italian army in Albania.
95. During Battle of Britain, Italy attacked Britain one time, sustained heavy losses and did not attack again.
96. In March 1941 Germany placed troops in Bulgaria.
97. Britain tried to create united front of Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey. That effort failed.
98. Yugoslavia publicly renounced the Tripartite Pact AFTER King Paul gave Hitler verbal permission to send troops to Yugoslavia.
99. Hitler defeats Yugoslavia in one week.
100. Hitler defeats Greece in 2 weeks; British were forced to evacuate 50K troops; 10,000 are left behind.
101. Churchill opposed sending troops to Greece; the War Cabinet overruled him.
102. It was critical for Turkey not to enter the war on Germany's side.
103. By early 1941 Germans had based aircraft in Syria and Iraq.

104. Syria remained under control of Vichy France; Iraq had a pro-Nazi government under Rashid Ali.
105. Britain had 2 air bases in Iraq.
106. In the battle for Crete the Germans used airborne troops 4 first time in history.
107. The British evacuated 16,500 men from Crete; 5,000 were left on the island. German killed and wounded was over 15,000.
108. While fighting in Greece, the British were also fighting Rommel in Egypt.
109. On May 22 and 23, 1941, the Germans sunk 2 cruisers, 3 destroyers, put one battleship out of action and damaged many other vessels.
110. During the evacuation from Crete, the Germans sunk one destroyer and "hit" 2 cruisers and another destroyer.
111. Wavell opposed sending troops to Iraq.
112. British and Free French forces fought Vichy France forces for control of Syria. Allies lost over 4,600; the enemy about 6,500.
113. On Dec. 18, 1940 Hitler issued his Barbarosa directive. Invasion was set for May 15, 1941.
114. At the moment of their assault, Germans attacked with 120 divisions, 17 of which were armored and 12 motorized.
115. In April 1941 Churchill sent a message to Stalin warning of German panzer movements to southern Poland.
116. On May 3, 1941 the Soviet Union officially recognized the pro- German government of Rashid Ali in Iraq.

117. In early June 1941 the Greek Legation was banished from Moscow.
118. German ambassador to Russia, Schulenberg, advised against war with Russia.
119. Head of the German Foreign Office, Weizacker, also opposed war with Russia.
120. Russian government dismissed reports of German troop movements northward from the Balkans as "clumsy propaganda."
121. At 4 A.M. on June 22, 1941 Germany formally declared war on the Soviet Union.
122. Stalin received repeated warnings of German plan to attack Russia.
123. German attack took the Russian army by surprise.
124. On June 14, 1941 Hitler issued verbal orders that German troops were not to adhere to the Hague Convention.
125. Upon learning of Hitler's invasion of Russia, Churchill made a public broadcast declaring Britain's support of Russia.
126. In Sept. 1941 FDR proclaimed that Russian front would hold and that Moscow would not be taken.
127. Britain organized convoys to ship supplies to Russia.
128. On July 7 and 10 Churchill sent telegrams to Stalin.
129. On July 19, 1941 Churchill received his first direct communication from Stalin.
130. Immediately Russia pressured for a Second Front.

131. The Russians claimed that they were bearing the brunt of the fighting and continuously demanded the opening of a Second Front in the form of an amphibious assault.

132. Stalin proposed that the British land 25 or 30 divisions in Archangel.

133. In August 1941 Harry Hopkins flew to Moscow to meet with Stalin.

134. On September 22, 1941 the Anglo-American Supply Mission left Scapa Flow for Moscow.

135. On the way to his meeting with FDR, Churchill traveled on the Prince of Wales without destroyer escort.

136. On August 9, 1941 Churchill and FDR meet for the first time in the cruiser Augusta.

137. On August 12, 1941 Churchill and FDR issue a joint declaration, which became known as the Atlantic Charter.

138. By end of July 1941 Japan completed its military occupation of Indo-China.

139. On July 24, 1941 FDR asked Japan to withdraw its troops from Indo-China. FDR also ordered a freezing of all Japanese assets in the US. Britain and the Dutch did likewise, thus depriving Japan of her oil supply.

140. After meeting with FDR, Churchill visited Iceland.

141. An active and numerous German mission established itself in Teheran.

142. On August 25, 1942 a joint British and Soviet force entered Iran. Goal: take control of the oil fields and create a major supply route to Russia thru Iran. Iran was jointly occupied on September 17, 1941.

143. Churchill and General Auchinleck had major disagreements concerning the conduct of operations in the Middle East.
144. Hitler had an Oriental plan.
145. Churchill wanted Auchinleck to launch an offensive in North Africa; Auchinleck wanted to wait. There was a four and a half month delay.
146. Rommel's line of communication was 1,000 miles long.
147. In October 1941 over 60 percent of Rommel's supplies were sunk in passage.
148. The German command's goal was to eliminate Tobruk.
149. Rommel launched an offensive that succeeded in entering Egypt. Rommel's attack failed.
150. Auchinleck replaced Cunningham with Ritchie because Auchinleck felt that Cunningham had begun to think defensively.
151. On Nov. 12 a U-boat sank the aircraft carrier Ark Royal 25 miles from Gibraltar. Ten days later the Barham was sunk. On Dec. 18 the Italians heavily damaged the battleships Queen Elizabeth and Valiant. 2 cruisers were seriously damaged by mines, a third cruiser sank.
152. On Dec. 5, 1941 Hitler ordered the transfer of a whole air corps from Russia to Sicily.
153. By the end of 1941 the Germans controlled the air over the routes to Tripoli.
154. On Sunday evening, Dec. 7, 1941, Churchill's butler, Sawyer, informed Churchill that Pearl Harbor was attacked. Hardiman and Winant were with Churchill.

155. That US was on Britain's side was to Churchill the greatest joy. Britain was saved. "We had won the war." "Hitlers fate was sealed."

The Japanese "would be ground to powder."

156. Churchill "went to bed and slept the sleep of the saved and thankful."

157. On Dec. 8, 1941 Churchill notified Japan that Britain and Japan were now at war. decl

Both Houses of parliament approved unanimously.

158. Britain declared war upon Japan before Congress could act.

159. By Nov. 22, 1941 the Japanese had fixed Dec. 7 as the date for the attack.

160. Ninety-four ships of the US Navy were present in Pearl Harbor.

161. Hitler and his staff were astonished. Hitler was completely surprised.

162. Hitler gave orders to attack American ships three days before officially declaring war.

163. On Dec. 10, 1941 the Japanese sunk the Prince of Wales and the Repulse.

164. Churchill traveled accompanied by his physician, Lord Moran.

165. Churchill traveled by ship to Washington at times without destroyer escort.

166. Dec.25, 1941 Hong Kong capitulated to the Japanese.

167. While enroute to Washington to meet FDR. Churchill wrote three papers outlining his proposed objectives for the war. One objective was a Anglo-american invasion of Europe in 1943. Churchill gave these papers to FDR.

168. FDR agreed to "Operation Torch," the invasion of North Africa.

169. By Feb. 1942 Hitler had moved 100,000 troops into North Africa.

170. The Allies did not gain control of the entire North African coast until May 1943. The cross-channel landing had to be postponed till the summer, 1944.

171. During his visit with FDR. Churchill and his staff stayed at the White House. He also addressed the Congress.

172. On Dec. 30 Churchill spoke to the Canadian Parliament.

173. FDR proposed the term "United Nations."

174. On Jan. 1, 1942, FDR, Churchill, Litvinov and Soong issued a joint Declaration representing 26 nations. Each government pledged to fight the Axis and not to make a separate armistice or peace with the enemy..

175. The conference, now known as the Washington conference set up the Combined Chiefs of Staff Committee. During the war the CCSC held 200 formal meetings, of which 89 were conferences. They met in various locations throughout the world. The Russians were not represented on the CCSC.

176. On Jan.14, 1942 left Washington. He flew back to England in an American flying boat.

177. The press suggested that Churchill cede actual control of the war.

178. On Jan.21. 1942 Rommel attacked. The British retreated 300 miles and lost Benghazi. In May Rommel struck again.

179. Jan 27 to 30, the House of Commons debated the conduct of the war. The House gave Churchill a vote of confidence, 464 to 1.

180. Churchill wanted an official inquiry into the circumstances of the fall of Singapore.

181. Churchill attributed the fall of Singapore to Japanese mastery of the air and the "dissipated" army.

182. The British expected a sea-borne attack. There were no permanent fortifications covering the landward side of the city. Churchill did not know this but ought to have known.

Churchill was shocked to learn that the rear of the city had no defenses.

183. Wavell doubted that Singapore could be held and informed Churchill. The British had to decide whether or not to divert forces needed to defend Burma to Singapore.

184. Australia feared an invasion by Japan.

185. The Australian prime minister, Curtin, asserted that the evacuation of Singapore would be an "inexcusable betrayal."

186. The British decided to reinforce Singapore. On Sunday, February 15, 1942, Singapore capitulated.

187. U-boats patrolled off the US and Canadian coasts. In Jan. 1942 U-boats sunk 31 ships of nearly 200,000 tons; in Feb. 71 ships of 384,000 tons. All this destruction was caused by 12 U-boats.

188. Germans jammed British radar stations along the English Channel and two German battlecruisers were able to pass through the English Channel, but both were struck by mines.

189. In seven months Allied losses from U-boats amounted to over 3 million tons, which included 181 British of 1,130,000 tons. The Germans lost 14 U-boats.

190. Between Jan. and Oct. 1942, the number of U-boat had more than doubled. One hundred ninety-six were operational.

191. In Nov. 1942, U-boats sank 117 ships of over 700 000 tons.

192. On Nov. 4, 1942 Churchill convened a new Anti-U-boat Committee.

193. By end of March 1942 the Japanese occupied Hong Kong, Siam, Malaya, and nearly all the Dutch East Indies. They were advancing in Burma and winning in the Philippines.

194. The Japanese decided to extend their perimeter to include the Western Aleutians, Midway Island, Samoa, Fini, New Caledonia, and Port Moresby in Southern New Guinea.

195. Churchill believed that command of the Pacific would be regained by American Navy.

196. Doolittle's air attack against Tokyo on April 18, 1942 may have been a factor in determining the new Japanese policy.

197. The actual battle of the Coral Sea, May 8, 1942, began at 11 AM and ended by 11:40 AM. Japan lost 1 light carrier and another carrier was damaged. The Japanese postponed until July their advance towards Port Moresby.

198. Americans lost the carrier Lexington due to an internal explosion. The carrier Yorktown also sustained damage.

199. On June 4, 1942, the Japanese bombed Midway Island. The Americans struck back at the Japanese fleet, which included 4 aircraft carriers. Of 41 torpedo bombers which attacked, only six returned.

200. The Japanese lost 4 aircraft carriers, the Americans lost one, the Yorktown. The Americans lost 60 aircraft. The Battle of Midway was the turning point of the war in the Pacific.

201. The Japanese withdrew because they lost their air cover.

202. In April 1942 the US Joint Staff proposed operations in Western Europe. Earliest date for the invasion - April 1, 1943. 60 percent of supplies carried by non-U.S. ships.

203. Britain's first priority was defense of India from a Japanese invasion. Churchill was receptive to American proposal but in the meantime wanted to engage the enemy.

204. In May 1942 Churchill and Molotov negotiated an Anglo-Russian Alliance. Churchill made no promises or commitments pertaining to a second front.

205. On May 26, 1942 Rommel attacks the British 8th Army in North Africa. British losses are 10,000 of whom 8,000 are prisoners. While the battle is going on, Churchill decides to visit Washington.

206. On June 17 Churchill flew to Washington and on June 19 met with FDR.

207. Churchill proposed that Britain and the US collaborate on research on building an atomic bomb.

208. On June 20, while still in Washington, Churchill learned that Tobruk had fallen. 25,000 men were taken prisoner. This was one of the heaviest blows Churchill can recall during the

war. This was the second battle in which a British army lost to a much smaller enemy army.

209. On June 21, 1942 Churchill has his first meeting with Dwight Eisenhower and Mark Clark. On June 24 Churchill flew back to London.

210. In July the House of Commons debated the central direction of the war. A motion of No Confidence was defeated by 475 to 25.

211. The fall of Tobruk opened the way for the conquest of Egypt by the Axis. Hitler postponed the assault on Malta.

212. On June 24, 1942 Rommel invaded Egypt. On June 25 General Auchinleck took direct command of the British Eighth Army. Auchinleck counterattacked and Rommel went on the defensive. The British took 7,000 prisoners.

213. Neither General Marshall nor Admiral King were inclined to invading North Africa. FDR, however, supported it. FDR believed that the US Army must fight Germans in 1942.

214. July 1942: London Conference. Purpose: to reach agreement on joint operational plans.

215. Churchill opposed an invasion of Europe in 1942. Americans dropped "Sledgehammer" in favor of "Gymnast," which later was re-designated "Torch." Churchill agreed to drop "Jupiter," the Norway operation. There would be no channel crossing in 1942.

216. August 2, 1942 Churchill flies to Cairo. Middle East Command was split into 2 separate Commands: Near East and Middle East. Alexander became C in C of Near East and Montgomery in "Torch." Auchinleck was relieved of command.

217. General Gott, designated to command 8th Army was shot down. He was replaced by Montgomery. Alexander became commander of Middle East Command.

218. On August 10, 1942 Churchill flew to Moscow.

219. During a stopover in Teheran, US agreed to take over the Trans-Persian railway from the Gulf to the Caspian.

220. During his visit to Moscow, Churchill stayed at State Villa No. 7 eight miles out of Moscow.

221. On August 12, 1942 @ 7 PM Churchill and Stalin met for the first time.

Churchill informed Stalin that there would be no invasion of France in 1942. Stalin did not agree with Churchill's explanations. He said that troops must be bloodied in battle.

222. Churchill informed Stalin of "Torch." Stalin understood the strategic advantages of "Torch."

223. On August 13, 1942 Churchill and Stalin met again, @ 11 PM. General Wavell spoke Russian.

224. Churchill was offended by many things which had been said at the conference. The Soviets demanded a second front NOW. The military conference was abruptly concluded.

225. On August 15 Stalin invited Churchill to Stalin's private apartment for drinks. Churchill accepted. Churchill stayed to 2:30 AM. By accepting this invitation, Churchill had to put off a meeting with General Anders. Churchill and Stalin drafted a joint communique. Relations were entirely restored. Churchill left Moscow with a splitting headache.

226. On August 17, 1942 Churchill was notified of attack on Dieppe.

227. On August 19 Churchill visits the Desert Front. On August 23 Churchill returns to London. On September 22 the date of Torch was fixed for November 8.

228. On August 30 Rommel makes his last thrust towards Cairo. The Eighth Army held. Rommel withdrew.

229. After 28 months in charge, the British had sustained an almost unbroken series of military defeats.

230. On October 21, 1942 Churchill deferred on whether Russia was a world power and felt that the Chungking government in China was not a world power.

231. In the fall of 1942 the British greatly strengthened the Eighth Army.

233. In the four autumn months over 200,000 tons of Axis shipping was destroyed.

234. On October 23 the British launched an offensive. On Nov. 2 the British broke through German defenses. By Nov. 5 Rommel was in full retreat. Four German divisions and eight Italian divisions ceased to exist as fighting formations. Thirty thousand prisoners were taken. Battle of Alamein. After Alamein the British never had another defeat.

235. De Gaulle was excluded from information about Torch.

236. Americans looked to Giraud as the outstanding French figure. Giraud expected to be given command of the Anglo- American forces.

237. On Nov. 8 Torch began. The French resisted. The French surrendered Algiers. Darlan ordered a general cease fire throughout North Africa and assumed complete authority throughout French North African territories. No one of importance accepted Giraud as Supreme Commander.

238. On Nov. 27 French officers scuttled the fleet. 73 ships were sunk.

239. On Dec. 24 Darlan was murdered.

240. Torch resulted in Germany occupying the whole of France.

241. Torch closed the possibility of crossing the Channel in 1943.

242. January 12, 1943: start of the Casablanca Conference. Churchill and Roosevelt meet. Giraud and De Gaulle also attended. Churchill could not recognize De Gaulle as representing France.

243. Britain & US agree to the goal of unconditional surrender of all their enemies. They also agreed to a full-scale offensive against Japan as soon as Germany was defeated. The conference ended on Jan. 24, 1943.

244. After the conference, Churchill and FDR visited Marrakesh.

245. From Casablanca Churchill flew to Cairo, and from Cairo to Adana, Turkey, where he met with the Turkish president, Ismet Inonu. Churchill wanted Turkey to enter the war in the autumn of 1943.

246. After meeting with Inonu, Churchill flew back to Cairo.

247. On Feb. 4, 1943 the Eighth Army crossed in Tunisia, thus completing the conquest of the Italian Empire by Great Britain. On Feb. 7 Churchill flew back to London.

248. After his return to London, Churchill contracted pneumonia. After one week, Churchill recovered.

249. On August 9, 1942, the German First Panzer Army reached the Maikop oilfields. They found them destroyed. The Baku oilfields were 300 miles away. The Russians held firm.

250. German Army Group B was stretched over a 700-mile front. Hitler refused withdrawal.

251. On Nov. 23, 1942, the Russians trapped the Sixth Army between the Don and Volga rivers. On Feb.2, 1943 the battle of Stalingrad ended. Russians took 90,000 prisoners.

252. Spring 1943 marked the turning point of the war on the Eastern Front.

253. In December 1942 the Allies fail to conquer Tunisia. On May 13, 1943 the Tunisian campaign ended. Allies took nearly 250,000 prisoners. Africa was cleared of the enemy. Churchill compared it to Stalingrad.

254. May 4, 1943: Churchill travels to Washington for meeting with FDR. Churchill crosses the Atlantic on the Queen Mary.

255. On May 12 Churchill arrived in Washington and meets with FDR. Both agree that they must do something to relieve Russia. Churchill proposed an attack on Italy. FDR proposed an operation across the Channel. Eventually they agreed on invading Sicily. No decision was made about invading Italy.

256. On May 25 Churchill, accompanied by General George C. Marshall, flew to Gibraltar, and from there to Algiers where he met with Eisenhower.

257. By May 31 it was decided to select the Post-Sicily alternative that would give the best results. The British pushed for an invasion of Italy. On June 3 Churchill and Eden flew back to London.

258. The Germans shot down a civilian aircraft which they believed Churchill was on board. Thirteen were killed including the actor Leslie Howard.

259. By 1943 the danger was not destruction but stalemate. Anglo-American maritime power became supreme.

260. "The Battle of the Atlantic was the dominating factor all throughout the war." 235 U-boats were in action.

261. In April 1943 the balance turned. Atlantic losses fell by nearly 300,000 tons.

262. On July 3, 1943, Allies started bombing airfields on Sicily and Sardinia. On July 10 the invasion of Sicily. It was a joint British and American operation under the overall command of General Eisenhower.

263. On July 19 American bombers attacked railway yards and airport at Rome.

On the same date Mussolini and Hitler met at Rimini. Mussolini was advised to tell Hitler that Italy could not continue the war.

264. On July 22 Dino Grandi informs Mussolini that he intends to propose the formation of a National Government and restoration of the King as supreme commander of the armed forces. On July 24 the Grand Council approved Grandi's motion. On July 25 the King had Mussolini arrested. He was replaced by Marshal Badoglio.

265. According to Churchill, Mussolini's fatal mistake was the declaration of war on France and Great Britain following Hitler's victories in June 1940.

265. On August 4, 1943 Churchill left London for another conference with Roosevelt. Roosevelt suggested that they meet in Quebec. Included in his entourage were Brigadier Wingate, the Clive of Burma, Guy Gibson, Churchill's wife and daughter.

266. Churchill and Roosevelt met on August 19. Subject discussed: Overlord. According to Churchill, he and FDR earlier had agreed that the commander of Overlord should be British and Churchill proposed for that purpose the CIGS, General Brooke. Churchill informed Brooke in early 1943.

267. At Quebec, Churchill took the initiative of proposing to Roosevelt that an American commander should be appointed. They agreed that an American should command Overlord and a British command the Mediterranean.

268. On August 10, 1943 Eisenhower decided to begin the assault on Italy in early September by an attack across the Strait of Messina. Later it was proposed to land an airborne division to capture the airfields south of Rome. FDR and Churchill accepted this plan. The Quebec Conference ended on August 24.

269. On September 1, 1943 Churchill met FDR in Washington.

270. On September 3, 1943 Italy surrendered. The same day, the British Eighth Army crossed the Strait of Messina and entered the Italian mainland.

271. On Sept. 8-9 German forces began the encirclement of Rome. On Sept. 8 the Italian fleet left Genoa and Spezia to surrender in Malta.

272. Churchill left Washington on Sept. 8. On Sept. 14 he departed from Halifax, Canada for London.

273. On October 1, 1943 the British entered Naples.:

274. On Oct. 7 Churchill cabled FDR asking for assistance from Eisenhower to take Rhodes. FDR refused to approve a diversion of forces as it could "prejudice Overlord." Turkey denied Britain use of their airfields.

275. The British and Germans fought for control of the Aegean Sea.

276. Hitler ordered German forces to fight as far south as possible in Italy. The position changed greatly to the Allies' disadvantage. The Germans were strongly reinforced and ordered to resist.

277. The Germans had 20 divisions in Italy. Churchill called it the Third Front.

278. By the end of 1942 what was left of the German fleet, including the Tirpitz, was now concentrated in Norwegian waters and presented a formidable and continuing threat to convoys going to Russia. Supplies to Russia by convoy were suspended till autumn darkness.

279. The battles of Kursk, Orel, and Kharkov, all within the space of two months, marked the ruin of the German army on the Eastern Front.

280. On Sept. 25, 1943 the Russians took Smolensk. On October 25 they took Dniepropetrovsk. On Nov. 6 they took Kiev.

281. On September 29, 1943 the British disabled the Tirpitz.

282. Churchill sent a cable to Stalin informing of a plan to sail a series of convoys to Northern Russia in Nov., Dec., January, and Feb, but that this was not to be considered a contract but a resolve.

283. Churchill sent a cable to Stalin complaining about Russian treatment of British naval personnel in Russia. The Russians refused to issue British personnel visas to go to Northern Russia. Churchill asked Stalin to grant them visas.

284. Ten days later Stalin sent Churchill a reply. Stalin said that the sending of supplies was an obligation and that the British were refusing to fulfill their obligation. Stalin also questioned the need for British personnel in North Russia and complained of inadmissible behavior of individual British servicemen.

285. Eden met with Molotov and eventually the convoys were resumed.

286. In December 1943 the Scharnhorst tried to strike at the convoy twice. The British sank the Scharnhorst. Out of a crew of 1,970, only 36 were saved.

287. On November 12, 1943 the British bombed the Tirpitz located in the Tromso Fiord. The Tirpitz capsized; more than half of the crew of 1,900 were killed.

288. The forty convoys to Russia carried a total of 428M pounds worth of material, including 5,000 tanks and over 7,000 aircraft.

289. In the whole of the war 91 merchant ships were lost on the Arctic route, 7.8 percent outward and 3.8 percent of those returning. The Merchant Navy lost 829 lives; the Royal Navy lost 2 cruisers and 17 other warships, and 1,840 officers and men died.

290. Churchill wanted to have another conference with FDR to arrive at a general agreement on the policy for Overlord.

291. On November 12 Churchill left London, and after stopovers at Algiers and Malta, arrived in Cairo on Nov. 21. Chang Kai-Shek and his wife would also attend the conference.

292. The Americans believed that China would be the fourth world power. Churchill did not share that belief.

293. FDR promised the Chinese an amphibious operation across the Bay of Bengal. Churchill asked Roosevelt to detract that promise.

294. On Nov. 28 Churchill, FDR and Stalin met in Teheran. They discussed the future disposition of Germany and the future of Poland. They agreed that Germany must be prevented from starting a new war. FDR proposed that Germany be partitioned in not 5 self-governing states and 2 territories. Churchill proposed the idea of moving Poland westward.

295. Roosevelt proposed a post-war government carried out by Four Policemen: USSR, USA, GB and China. Stalin disagreed on including China.

296. FDR and Churchill informed Stalin that Overlord is to be undertaken by 35 divisions.

297. Stalin asked Churchill if he believed in Overlord. Churchill indicated his support of Overlord if certain conditions were met. Churchill also said that they must continue to engage the enemy where at present they can fight them, meaning in Italy.

298. FDR and Churchill agreed to May 1, 1944 as the date for Overlord. Stalin was informed and was greatly pleased.

299. Churchill denied that he was lukewarm about Overlord. Churchill wanted to get what he needed for the Mediterranean.

300. Stalin warned Churchill that the Red Army was depending on the success of the invasion of Northern France.

301. Churchill expected that General Marshall would command Overlord.

302. On Dec. 1 the Teheran Conference ends. In Teheran Stalin proclaimed that the Soviet would declare war on Japan the moment Germany was defeated.

303. On Dec. 2 Churchill and FDR confer in Cairo. They discussed Overlord. Churchill suggested that it might be necessary to withdraw resources from Montbatten. FDR rejected that suggestion.

304. On Dec. 5 FDR decided to abandon the Andamans plan (invasion of Burma). The project would require more troops than FDR had originally expected.

305. Churchill and Roosevelt met with the Turkish president. They tried to convince Turkey to enter the war on the side of the Allies. Turkey stayed neutral.

306. Roosevelt proposed to nominate Eisenhower to command Overlord. On Dec. 7 the conference ended.

307. Churchill flew to Tunis where he met Eisenhower. He also diagnosed with pneumonia. He stayed in Carthage while recuperating.

308. Eisenhower decided to launch an amphibious landing to break the stalemate in Italy.

309. Churchill spent three more weeks further recuperating in Marrakesh. FDR agreed to delay the departure of 56 LSTs for Overlord so they could be used for the Anzio operation.

310. On January 14, 1944 Churchill left Marrakesh for Gibraltar; on January 15 Churchill left Gibraltar for England. He had been away for more than two months.

311. After the German invasion and occupation of Yugoslavia in April 1941, a partisan war started. The partisans were led by Tito. Meanwhile other Yugoslavs made accommodations with the Germans. They were now known as Cetniks led by Mihaklovic who represented the official resistance to the Germans. The Cetniks and Tito partisans fought each other.

312. In May 1943 the British decided to establish contact with the partisans.

313. The Yugoslav anti-Axis movement was containing about 33 Axis divisions in the area.

314. After the surrender of Italy, the partisans disarmed six Italian divisions and armed 80,000 men. The Yugoslavian Partisan army totaled 200,000 men, fighting primarily as guerrillas.

315. In November 1943 Tito set up a provisional government and forbade the king from returning until after the war. In December the British withdrew their support of Mikhailovich. Stalin dismissed Yugoslavia's role in the war as of minor importance.

316. In Greece, occupied by the Axis in April 1941, a resistance group emerge. This group, the EAM-ELAS organization was dominated by communists. Another resistance group also emerged, the EDES. In October 1943 the ELAS attacked the EDES. In February 1944 the British succeeded in establishing an uneasy truce between the two factions.

317. The EAM leaders decided on a communist coup d'etat. The King arrived in Cairo and on April 12 proclaimed that a government composed largely of Greeks from within Greece would be formed in Cairo.

318. On September 12, 1943 German paratroopers freed Mussolini from confinement. Mussolini was flown to Munich where he met Hitler.

319. On September 15 Mussolini announced a new fascist government in the north known as the Republic of Salo.

320. The Italian surrender caught the armies in the Balkans completely by surprise. In the Balkans and Aegean, the Italian armies lost nearly 40,000 men after the surrender.

321. Italy plunged into civil war. Italian resistance movement formed. Partisans established contact with the Allied armies and with the Badoglio government.

322. Mussolini had his son in law, Count Ciano, executed as a traitor. All the fascists on the council who could be caught and who had voted against him in July were put on trial and executed in January 1944.

323. On January 21, 1944 the Anzio operation, code named Shingle, began. Initial progress was slow. Hitler ordered that the Gustav Line be held at all costs.

324. On February 15 the Allies bombed the monastery at Cassino.

325. By the beginning of March there was a deadlock. Allies could not break the main front at Cassino and the Germans could not drive the Allies into the sea. The Anzio bridgehead pinned down 20 German divisions.

326. Due to bad weather, Overlord was postponed from June 5 to June 6. The assault force would comprise 176,000 men and 20,000 vehicles.

327. The deadlock at Anzio and Cassino lasted nearly two months.

328. On May 11, 1944 at Anzio the Allies began a great offensive. On June 2 German resistance broke. On June 4 the American 88th Division entered the Piazza Venezia in Rome.

329. Stalin paid high compliments to the D-Day landing. In the English translation of his message, Stalin described the landing as grandiose. Churchill believes that Stalin meant majestic.

330. On June 10 Churchill and other major figures including Smuts, Brooke, General Marshall and Admiral King, visited the beach. The front was 3 miles away.

331. Marshal Runstedt commanded the whole Atlantic Wall with 60 divisions, including ten Panzer divisions.

332. Hitler appeared to have had reports that Normandy would be the principal battleground.

333. In the first six days 326,000 men, 54,000 vehicles, and 104,000 tons of stores were landed. By the middle of July thirty Allied divisions were ashore. Half were American and half British and Canadian. Against these the Germans gathered twenty seven divisions. But they had already suffered 106,000 casualties.

334. On June 12-13 the first flying bombs fell London.

335. On July 20 Churchill visited Cherbourg harbor and Arromaches.

336. On July 25 the American VII Corps struck southward from St. Lo. On August 7 Churchill visited Montgomery's headquarters.

337. The Third United States Army under General Patton had been formed and was in action.

338. On Aug.7 five Panzer and two infantry divisions attacked Mortain.

339. The British and Germans fought a major and prolonged battle for control of Caen. Twice German Panzer divisions repulsed British efforts to extend the Caen bridgehead southward and eastward.

340. On July 17 Rommel was severely wounded. In early July Runstedt was replaced by von Kluge.

341. On July 20 there took place an attempt on Hitler's life.

342. The German attack on Mortain failed. Allies counterattacked and almost surrounded the entire German force at Falaise. Most escaped but 8 German divisions were annihilated.

343. On August 24, 1944 the French 2nd Armored Division under the command of General Le Clerc entered Paris. On Aug. 25 General von Choltitz, commander of the German forces in Paris, surrendered. On Aug. 26 De Gaulle entered Paris.

344. By August 30 German losses were 400,000 men, half of them prisoners, 1300 tanks, 20,000 vehicles, 1500 field guns. The German Seventh Army was torn to shreds.

345. Churchill opposed Anvil - an invasion of southern France. Many of the forces would have to come from Italy. Roosevelt and Stalin favored the Anvil operation.

346. Roosevelt explained to Churchill that military operations to achieve political objectives must be subordinated to striking at the heart of Germany by a campaign in Europe.

FDR further explained that his goal was to defeat the Germans in front of Eisenhower and drive on into Germany than on limiting this action for the purpose of staging a full major effort in Italy. In this matter Roosevelt prevailed.

347. On August 7 Churchill met Eisenhower to try to stop Anvil. Eisenhower was unmoved.

348. Churchill visited Italy. He reached Naples on Aug. 11. On Aug. 12 he met with Tito.

349. On Aug. 15, 1944 Anvil commenced. The Seventh Army, commanded by General Patch, carried out the attack. It involved 7 French and 3 American divisions, a mixed British and American airborne division supported by 6 battleships, 21 cruisers, and 100 destroyers.

350. Lyon was taken on Sept. 3. Overlord and Anvil forces linked up on Sept. 11 at Sombornon. 70,000 Germans were taken prisoner.

351. Churchill stayed in Italy through August. By Sept. 1 the Eighth Army had penetrated the Gothic Line. By the 18th it had been turned at its eastern end by the 8th Army and pierced in the center by the Americans.

352. Kesselring received further reinforcements until he had 28 divisions. From mid November 1943 no major offensive was possible.

353. By April 1944 the Russians had freed Leningrad and had pushed the Germans back to the old Polish frontier. In the Crimea the Russians regained Sevastopol.

354. On May 18, 1944 the British suggested that the USSR regard Romania as their affair while leaving Greece to Britain.

355. On May 31, 1944 Churchill requested Roosevelt's approval of the British proposal. On June 11 Roosevelt replied. He expressed concern over the division of the Balkans into spheres of influence. Nevertheless, Roosevelt agreed to a three-month trial.

356. By the end of August 1944 Finland sued for an armistice. On June 23 Russia invaded the Baltic region. In five weeks, the Russians advanced 250 miles. The Germans lost 25 divisions. On July 17, 57,000 German prisoners were marched through Moscow.

357. On August 22 Russia advanced toward Romania. Germans lost 16 divisions. In Romania. A coup d'etat restored King Michael to power. By September 1 the Germans evacuated Bucharest. The Russians overran the country.

358. Russians overwhelm Bulgaria.

359. In late July the Russians were at the Vistula River in Poland. On July 20 Hitler is almost assassinated. On July 22 the Germans ordered a general withdrawal to the west of the Vistula. The same day the Russians crossed the Vistula.

360. On August 1 the Polish Underground army ordered a general insurrection. The Polish government in London authorized the operation. The Germans responded by deploying five divisions plus the Herman Goering division and two SS divisions.

361. In a communication to Churchill on August 4, Stalin indicated the he had no confidence in the strength of the Polish Home Army and their ability to defeat four tank divisions.

362. On August 16 the Russians notified the US ambassador in Moscow that the Soviet government does not wish to associate themselves either directly or indirectly with the adventure in Warsaw. Later on, Stalin blamed the situation in Warsaw on the failure of the Poles to notify the Soviet command prior to the uprising. The Russians described the leaders of the uprising as criminals who exploited the good faith of the inhabitants of Warsaw.

363. The Poles claim they did inform a Soviet colonel of the planned uprising.

364. Roosevelt and Churchill sent Stalin a joint appeal for all three of them to drop munitions and supplies to the Poles in Warsaw.

365. Stalin replied that the best way to help the Poles in Warsaw is for the Red Army to break the Germans round Warsaw and to free Warsaw for the Poles.

366. The Russians based their plans for Poland on the Lublin Committee.

367. On September 10 the Russians began bombing Warsaw and dropping supplies. On September 15 they occupied the Praga. Meanwhile the Germans continued to liquidate centers of Polish resistance throughout the city.

368. On October 2 the Polish forces in Warsaw surrendered. The Polish Underground lost 15,000 and 200,000 others died. The Germans lost 10,000 killed, 7,000 missing, and 9,000 wounded.

369. The Americans wanted to base long-range aircraft in China to attack Japan itself. They were carrying supplies for the Chinese armies over the Himalayas which was known as the Hump.

370. The Americans wanted the British to reconquer Northern Burma. Churchill opposed a large-scale campaign in Northern Burma.

Churchill wanted to contain the Japanese in Burma and break through from the Dutch East Indies.

371. The Burma Campaign opened in December 1943. The Japanese had increased their strength from five to eight divisions and proposed to invade Eastern India.

372. By May 1944 60,000 British and Indian troops were confined in a circle on the Imphal plain.

373. On June 22 British forces opened the road to the plain. Thus ended the Japanese invasion of India. Japanese losses were estimated to be 65,000.

374. Churchill favored an amphibious landing on Rangoon.

375. In January 1945 General Sultan, who had succeeded Stilwell, reopened the land route to China.

376. Montbatten's instructions were to liberate Burma. Aid to China still dominated American policy.

377. On May 2 British forces entered Rangoon. The British also launched an amphibious attack. Thousands of Japanese were trapped and during the next three months greater numbers perished in attempts to escape eastward.

378. In autumn 1942, Americans had 3 aircraft carriers. A year later they had 50, By the end of the war more than 100.

379. By June 1944 the two-pronged American thrust across the Pacific was well in advance.

380. On July 9 Saipan fell to the Americans. By August the American grip on the Marianas was complete.

381. On September 13, 1944 Admiral Nimitz, at Halsey's suggestion, urged the immediate invasion of Leyte Gulf in the Philippines.

382. On October 20 the Americans landed on Leyte.

383. The Japanese deployed their fleet to stop the invasion. The ensuing Battle of Leyte Gulf lasted from October 22 to 27. The Americans defeated the Japanese decisively. During the battle the Japanese carried out a decoy operation which succeeded.

384. The Japanese lost three battleships, four carriers, and twenty other ships. The Americans lost three carriers, three destroyers, and a submarine. The only effective naval weapon left to the Japanese was the suicide bomber.

385. By the end of November nearly 250,000 Americans had landed in Leyte. By mid-December Japanese resistance was broken.

386. In March 1945 the Americans captured Manila after an intense fight. The Japanese lost 16,000 killed.

387. On September 1, 1944 Eisenhower assumed direct command of land forces in Northern France. These comprised the British 21st Army Group under Field Marshal Montgomery, and the American 12th Army under General Omar Bradley. He wielded over 37 divisions, or over half a million fighting men.

388. In late August, Montgomery proposed that both Army groups should strike together towards the Ruhr or the Saar. Eisenhower planned to have each army operate separately. Eisenhower held to his plan.

389. On September 4, the 11th Armored Division entered Antwerp. On September 12, Harvre surrendered. The Polish Armored Division captured Ghent.

390. On September 17, Montgomery attacked Arnhem. The goal: to establish a bridgehead on the Rhine River. Three divisions were assigned to the operation. Of the 10,000 men who took part in the airborne attack, about 2,400 were saved.

391. By November 4 the Scheldt estuary was cleared. Canadian troops took 8,000 prisoners. On November 28, Antwerp was opened for the British and American Armies.

392. On October 21 the Sixth Army Group under General Devers, captured Aachen. The Third Army was 20 miles east of Moselle. The Americans had all but outrun their supplies and had to pause to build up stocks.

393. In autumn 1944 the Strategic Air Forces reverted to their primary role of bombing Germany, with oil installations and the transportation systems as specific targets.

394. In August. Speer warned Hitler the entire chemical industry was being crippled. In November he reported on the decline in railway traffic, and in December paid tribute to the Allies' "far-reaching and clever planning. "

395. On October 9 Churchill flew to Moscow to confer with Stalin. It was agreed to invite representatives of both the Polish Government in Exile and the Lublin Polish Committee. Churchill and Stalin agreed to 90% predominance of Russia in Romania, 10% in Greece, 50% in Yugoslavia, 50% in Hungary and 75% in Bulgaria.

396. On October 13 the Poles from London arrived. Churchill recommended to the Poles that they accept the Curzon Line with an interchange of populations and to make contact with the Polish Committee as a working arrangement subject to discussion at the Peace Conference.

397. The issue of the Polish/Russian border was discussed but not settled. Stalin was against trying to form a united Polish Government without the frontier question being agreed. On October 17 the conference ended.

398. On November 11, 1944, De Gaulle conducted Churchill in an open car across the Seine and through the Place de la Concorde. Churchill laid a wreath beneath the statue of Clemenceau.

399. The Allies entered Strasbourg on November 23 and during the next few weeks the American Army cleared all of Northern Alsace and penetrated the Siegfried Line near Wissembourg.

400. By December 6, the Germans still had 26 divisions in Italy. Allied forces had not yet reached the Rhine in the northern part.

401. On December 16 the Germans attacked through the Ardennes. Their goal was to cut the Allied line in two, seize Antwerp, and thereby sever the lifeline of the Allies' northern armies. This operation was planned by Hitler.

402. Bitter fighting around Marche lasted till December 26. The Germans surrounded the American 101st Division at Bastogne. They held the town for a week. On January 1, 1945 the Luftwaffe launched their last mass attack of the war.

403. By January 16 the Germans were in retreat eastward. The United States troops had done almost all of the fighting, and had suffered all the losses.

404. Churchill states. "The Greeks rival the Jews on being the most politically minded race in the world. No matter how forlorn their circumstances or how grave the peril to their country, they are always divided into many parties, with many leaders who fight among themselves with desperate vigor. It has been well said that wherever there are three Jews it will be found that there are two Prime Ministers and one leader of the Opposition." (900). What a dumb statement - ed

405. In October the liberation of Greece began. By October 12 the Germans were evacuating Athens. On December 3 a civil war began between the Communists and the Papandreou government. Churchill ordered 5,000 British troops to intervene. British troops engaged in house to house combat in Athens. On December 12 the British sent in the 4th British Division.

406. Through the offices of the Greek Archbishop, all parties, including a Soviet military representative met for a conference on December 26 to try to achieve a political settlement. Churchill attended the conference. Churchill agreed to ask the King of Greece, who was in London, to make the Archbishop Regent.

407. On January 11 the British and the Communists agreed to a truce. Greece did not go Communist.

408. On February 2 Churchill and Roosevelt conferred at Malta. At Malta Churchill told Roosevelt that they should occupy as much of Austria as possible and that it was undesirable for the Russians to occupy more of Western Europe than necessary.

409. Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin met at Yalta, February 5 to 11. Poland was discussed during seven of the eight plenary sessions. Also discussed was the treatment of Germany after the war and the formation of the United Nations.

410. The issue of free and fair elections in Poland was repeatedly discussed. Poland was occupied by the Red Army. Molotov proposed that the Lublin government first be reorganized and then they would pledge to hold free elections as soon as possible. They also agreed that the Curzon line would be the Eastern border of Poland and the Niesse river in the west. This would mean moving millions of Germans out of East Prussia and Silesia.

411. Churchill was not opposed to the population transfer as a matter of principle.

412. Churchill admits that British had "given way completely on the eastern frontier" of Poland.

413. On February 15 Churchill met Roosevelt for the last time in the harbor at Alexandria, Egypt. On February 19 Churchill flew back to England. On February 28 the House of Commons approved the results of the Crimea Conference. 25 members voted against the government and 11 abstained.

414. On March 7, 1945 the 9th Armored Regiment of the First US Army captured the bridge at Remagen. Soon four divisions had crossed the Rhine River.

415. On March 23 Churchill visited the Rhine River area. On March 25 Churchill and Montgomery met with Eisenhower. The same day they visited the Rhine River and crossed the river.

416. On March 29 the American 3rd Army was in Frankfurt. The Ruhr and its 325,000 defenders were encircled. Eisenhower planned to drive eastward to the Elbe River.

417. On April 1 Churchill telegrammed Roosevelt urging that Allied forces should March as far east into Germany as possible, and to take Berlin if possible. General Marshall replied that it was for the Field Commander to judge the measures which should be taken.

418. Britain, although still very powerful, could not act decisively alone.

419. On March 6 a Soviet-nominated Administration took office in Hungary. The Russians also installed a Communist government in Romania. In Poland the Lublin Committee consolidated its power.

420. On March 8 General Karl Wolff met with Allen Dulles in Zurich. On March 19 a second meeting was held with Wolff. Wolff was told that there was no question of negotiations. Russian reaction to the meetings was blunt and impugned American good faith. Stalin accused Roosevelt of negotiating with the Germans.

421. On April 12, 1945, Roosevelt died. Truman asked Churchill for a meeting. Churchill declined the request.

422. On May 5 Stalin rejected Churchill's proposal that the Three Powers supervise elections in Poland. Churchill contacted Truman recommending a meeting of the three heads of Governments to discuss the Polish deadlock.

423. As for the Germans, they had enough ammunitions and supplies, but lacked fuel.

424. In late April 1945 Allied forces crossed the Po River. On May 2 nearly a million Germans surrendered as prisoners of war, and the war in Italy was over.

425. On April 26, 1945, Communist partisans shot Mussolini and his mistress.

426. On April 25 spearheads of the US First Army met the Russians at Torgau. Germany was cut in two. Over a million prisoners were taken in the first three weeks of April.

427. Churchill advised taking Prague. On May 9 the Red Army entered Prague.

428. On April 18 cabled Truman informing that he did not wish that Allied troops give up territory, occupation zones notwithstanding. Truman proposed that Allied troops should retire to agreed zones in Germany and Austria.

429. On April 22 Hitler decides to stay in Berlin to the end. On April 30 Hitler and Eva Braun commit suicide. That ended the Third Reich.

430. On May 2 British troops reached Lubeck and made contact with the Russians. On May 3 they entered Hamburg. On May 7 Germany surrendered unconditionally in Reims, France. On May 9 the formal ratification by the German High Command took place in Berlin, under Russian arrangements.

431. When Germany surrendered at least 49 U-boats were still at sea.

432. The unconditional surrender of our enemies was the signal for the greatest outburst of joy in the history of mankind.

433. On May 26 Churchill met Joseph E. Davies. Davies proposed that Truman meet with Stalin first somewhere in Europe. Churchill opposed the US bypassing Britain.

434. On July 5 both Great Britain and the US recognized the new Polish Provisional Government. The Polish government was controlled by the Communists.

435. Churchill suggested that the Big Three meeting in Berlin be scheduled for June 15 or July 1, 2, or 3. Truman replied that July 15 was the earliest date for him.

436. On June 4 Churchill cabled Truman about his profound misgivings the retreat of the American Army thus bringing Soviet power into the heart of Western Europe. On June 12 Truman replied. He said that tripartite agreement about the occupation of Germany made it impossible to delay the withdrawal of American troops from the Soviet zone.

437. On July 1 the US and British Armies began their withdrawal to their allotted zones, followed by a mass of refugees.

438. On July 5 the British held their general election. On July 7 Churchill traveled to France. On July 15 Churchill flew to Berlin. Truman arrived in Berlin the same day.

439. On July 16 Churchill and Truman made separate tours of Berlin.

440. On July 17 Churchill learns about the successful test of the atomic bomb. On July 4 British consented in principle to the use of the weapon.

441. On July 26 the Big Three published a document demanding the immediate unconditional surrender of the armed forces of Japan.

442. On July 27, the US warned eleven Japanese cities that they would be subjected to intensive air bombardment. Twelve more were warned on July 31 and four were bombed on August 1.

443. On August 6, 1945, the US dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. On August 9 a second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.

444. On August 8 Russia declared war on Japan.

445. On September 2, 1945 Japan formally surrendered.

446. At Potsdam, the western border of Poland was fixed as well as the composition of the new Polish government, which would be Communist. Poland received German territory. Millions of Germans were to be displaced. Truman informed Stalin of the atomic bomb. Stalin never asked a question about the bomb.

447. On July 26 the Conservatives lost the election and Churchill, having lost his majority, resigned as Prime Minister. Churchill quit the Potsdam conference.

448. Churchill was surprised by the results of the election. The US did not want to side too closely with Britain against Russia.

449. In winter 1945 Churchill visited the US. In March 1946, at Fulton, Missouri, Churchill declared that an iron curtain has descended across Europe. Truman was in attendance. He said that mass expulsions of millions of Germans are taking place. Pravda denounced Churchill as an anti-Soviet warmonger. Truman approved Churchill's comments, which he made as a private citizen.

450. In autumn 1946 Churchill proposed the formation of a United States of Europe. At Fulton Churchill proposed that the UN be equipped with an international armed force.

451. In April 1949 the North Atlantic Treaty was signed, in which, for the first time in history the US bound herself to aid her allies if they were attacked. The association of Germany with the Atlantic Treaty remained in the forefront of Western plans.

452. In June 1948 the Russians cut off Berlin from the outside world. The Allies responded with the Berlin Airlift. The Russians yielded.

453. General Marshall gave his name to a plan for economic aid and mutual cooperation among sixteen free European countries. Benefits were offered to the Soviet bloc but were refused.

454. In 1947 the European Movement was launched to devote itself to the theme of European unity.

455. In 1946 the US Congress passed a bill that most severely curtailed the sharing of information about the Atomic bomb, in contravention of the agreement Churchill made with Roosevelt in Quebec in 1943.

456. In American possession or preponderance of nuclear weapons that the surest foundation for hopes for peace laid.

457. The nuclear age transformed the relations between the Great Powers.

458. Churchill favored Dominion status for India. On August 18, 1947 Indian independence was declared. Two centuries of British rule in India was followed by great bloodshed and loss of life. Burma was also severed from the Commonwealth.

459. At Cairo, in 1943, Roosevelt, Chiang and Churchill determined that Korea should be free and independent. On June 25, 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea. Korean war ensued. Americans incurred 100,000 casualties.

460. The infective violence of the birth of the State of Israel has sharpened the difficulties of the Middle East.

461. The UN in its present form has to cringe to dictatorships and bully the weak. Small states have no right to speak for all of mankind.