

## POPULAR NEWSPAPERS DURING WORLD WAR II

**Parts 1 to 5:** 1939-1945 (The Daily Express, The Mirror, The News of The World, The People and The Sunday Express)

### *Publisher's Note*

This microfilm publication makes available complete runs the *Daily Express*, *The Daily Mirror*, the *News of the World*, *The People*, and the *Sunday Express* for the years 1939 through to 1945. The project is organised in five parts and covers the newspapers in chronological sequence. Part 1 provides full coverage for 1939; Part 2: 1940; Part 3: 1941; Part 4: 1942-1943; and finally, Part 5 covers 1944-1945.

At last social historians and students of journalism can consult complete war-time runs of Britain's popular newspapers in their libraries. Less august than the papers of record, it is these papers which reveal most about the impact of the war on the home front, the way in which people amused themselves in the face of adversity, and the way in which public morale was kept high through a mixture of propaganda and judicious reporting.

Most importantly, it is through these papers that we can see how most ordinary people received news of the war. For, with a combined circulation of over 23 million by 1948, and a secondary readership far in excess of these figures, the *News of the World*, *The People*, the *Daily Express*, *The Daily Mirror*, and the *Sunday Express* reached into the homes of the majority of the British public and played a critical role in shaping public perceptions of the war.

Extended runs of such papers are only held by a handful of libraries and their physical condition is generally perilous. Some books have made available selections of front pages, lauding the importance of headlines and pictures in conveying news. But here—for the first time—are complete runs of these papers including the fashion, sports, entertainments and advertisements, providing countless teaching and research opportunities for those studying social history, journalism and popular culture. These papers show both the hopes and the fears of the British people writ large, Air-Raids, black outs, the destruction of property, evacuation of children, the loss or absence of loved ones, rationing, and conscription all became facts of life.

These papers played a central role in satisfying the public's appetite for news and in carrying out the government's wishes in control morale. They created and fed off the products of popular culture—especially popular music, sports and cinema—and gave the war a human scale by relating events to individuals.

The First Part of this project offers complete runs of each of the newspapers for 1939. It is interesting to compare coverage of identical issues and events and to identify political viewpoints and attempts to gain readership of the tense international situation before war broke out. On Sunday January 1, 1939 the *News of the World* declared the "we must be ready to meet a life-and-death challenge". In contrast the *Daily Express* ran a story pacifying the public- "This is why you can sleep soundly in 1939".

Chamberlain's "satisfactory" negotiations with Mussolini and Hitler can be contrasted with the fierce struggles of Arsenal, Blackpool, Wolves and Everton in the League Championship. Throughout September and October the mood changes significantly as Europe was pushed over the precipice into war. Even the advertising was placed on a war-footing as fruit-gums, for instance, are suggested as the ideal alternative to cigarettes for sailors.

Part Two—covering 1940—carries us through the fall of Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg and the redundancy of the Maginot line to the miracle of Dunkirk in which a defeat was turned into a victory in the eyes of the press. The Battle of Britain was joined and night-raids on London forced mass evacuation which is well reported. Chaplin's "Great Dictator" and Selznick's "Gone With the Wind" are rapturously received. Although all newspapers in Britain were limited in size in 1940 because of the shortage of newsprint, and circulation numbers were restricted to the then revailing level for the duration of the war, the newspapers lost none of their appeal or popular enthusiasm.

Part Three covers 1941. Lend-Lease, the sinking of the HMS Hood followed by the hunt and sinking of the Bismark, Operation Barbarossa and the German advance towards Moscow, the sudden switch of allegiance to Russia and her heroic armies, the intensification of the German U-Boat Campaign, Rommel's determined counter-offensive in North Africa, meetings between Roosevelt and Churchill and the signing of the Atlantic Charter, marked a year culminating in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. The year of 1941 also witnessed the loss of HMS Repulse and HMS Prince of Wales, the surrender of Hong Kong to the Japanese, and a fierce and resolute struggle to turn the tide in the Battle of the Atlantic. Through the setbacks and the triumphs the Popular Press played a key role in controlling civilian morale.

Part four covers both 1942 and 1943 as paper rationing continued to reduce the size of newspapers. 1942 was in many ways a mirror image of 1941. 1942 began where 1941 had left off—with a string of disasters for the Allies such as the fall of Singapore and the capture of Tobruk. German forces regained the initiative on the Eastern Front. But commando raids along the French coast help to revive public morale, the RAF began its unrelenting saturation bombing of German cities, and the Battle of Midway turn the tide of the war in the Pacific. The Battle of Stalingrad ended Germany's forward progress in Russia and Montgomery courted media attention as his Eighth army engaged and defeated the Afrika Korps at El Amamein and recaptured Tobruk.

1943 saw a different sort of disappointment. The Allied forces pushed back Axis opposition on all fronts (North Africa is cleared, German forces quit Stalingrad, Italy surrenders) but hopes of a rapid end to the war are revealed to be no more than wishful thinking and the Allies commence the hard slog towards Axis capitulation.

Part Five concludes the project and covers 1944-1945. The difficulties of gaining victory are exemplified by drawn-out campaigns at Monte Cassino, Kohima/Imphal and Guam in 1944. However, the Second Front that Stalin had pressed for was created when Allied forces landed in Normandy and Paris was promptly recaptured. German V1 and V2 attacks created a mini-blitz in London and morale was tested again after the failure of Arnhem and the loss of supplies during the German counter-offensive in the Ardennes.

1945 brought an end to the war and political changes throughout the world. Roosevelt died in sight of victory, Churchill was ousted in the July election by a Labour landslide, and Stalin's race for Berlin heralded the onset of a Cold War that was to last for 45 years. Anyone reading the pages of the newspapers will find it difficult not to understand the Allied motives for the saturation bombing of Dresden and the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The allies-particularly Britain-had been economically and emotionally drained the war and sought a swift end to it. The horrendous revelations of German and Japanese concentration camps fuelled hatred. Enemy resistance as troops bore down on Berlin and Okinawa became more intense and required immense sacrifice to ensure conquest. The Popular Press fanned the flames of vengeance without regard to moral propriety. However, a new world order was eventually set in place. The newly created United Nations promised much, the World Bank was created and reconstruction began. The seeds of European Unity were planted, and the Labour government in Britain presided over the creation of the Welfare State and the final collapse of the British Empire.

Within each part the newspapers are organised alphabetically, with complete runs of the two dailies—the *Daily Express* and *The Daily Mirror*, followed by the three Sunday papers—the *News of the World*, *The People* and the *Sunday Express*.

Brief portraits of the papers:-

### ***The Daily Express***

If Winston Churchill was Britain's bulldog, then Lord Beaverbrook's *Daily Express* and *Sunday Express* were surely his bark. His papers were always bright, lively and fiercely patriotic, and Beaverbrook had no qualms in telling a Royal Commission on the Press that he used them "purely for the purpose of making propaganda". This is particularly true in the period after 10 May 1940 when Beaverbrook entered the war-time government at first as Minister for Air Production and later as Minister of Supply. His record achievements – a factor in the Battle of Britain – are regularly reported on. He entered the War Cabinet on 3 August 1940 (as one of only six members) as Churchill respected his dynamic entrepreneurial style, scything through red tape to make matters happen. In 1941 he took part in an official visit to Russia and he helped to change public perceptions towards Stalin.

However, in the months before the war the *Daily Express* had a less than sure touch. George Malcom Thomson's assurance that "there will be no great war in Europe in 1939" was followed by a number of

articles on the same theme. Japanese agitation in China was viewed as the most serious threat until Chamberlain's August 25th announcement of the "*imminent peril of war*".

*The Daily Express* always carried a high news content together with analysis by a stable of regular writers supplemented by special field reporters and outside contributors. The regular writers included Anthony Cotterell, Sefton Delmer, William Barkley, Selkirk Panton, Olga Collett and Hilde Marchant. Delmer also contributed memorable field reports concerning the Spanish Civil War. Feature writers of note included Michael Foot writing on the spread of anti-Semitism (23 March 1939); G B Shaw predicting peace (26 May 1939); J B S Haldane on the future (13 September 1939); and Leon Trotsky in an exclusive article explaining that "Stalin is afraid of Hitler" (18 September 1939). Lord Beaverbrook also wrote a number of leaders such as "Britain's Financial Debt to America" and why it should not be prepaid (6 January 1940); "They Also Serve" (17 February 1940); "Prospects of Victory" (13 January 1940) "The way the war is going" (4 March 1940); "Paying for the war" (5 March 1940); "What is the Damage?" (6 May 1940); Man, the Front Line of Science (18 June 1940); and on Production (29 January 1942). Robert Menzies explains the colonial dimensions of the war in "we do not turn away from you" (6 January 1942) and in 1945 Chapman Pincher ponders the implications of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Nagasaki and the nightmare vision of the nuclear age (10 August 1945). Also in 1945, Winston Churchill is given an opportunity to put his ideas in front of the electorate in "I stand for the rights of the Common Man" (5 June 1945).

Serialized stories were also a strong feature and were of the highest calibre. Agatha Christie's Poirot was a regular visitor to the pages of the *Daily Express* as were short stories and serials by writers such as Lord Dunsany, R C Sheriff, Ring Lardner, Dorothy Parker and Ngaio Marsh. The Air Ministry's account of "The Battle of Britain" was also extremely popular, appearing from 31 March 1941.

Other notable elements of the *Daily Express* were William Hickey's gossip column, book reviews by Jonah Barrington and film reviews by Guy Morgan and Paul Holt. Mention should also be made of the back page, reserved for Photonews (photos are used sparingly otherwise). Also to the endearing and beautifully drawn Rupert stories (as paper restrictions contracted the papers, Rupert shrinks from three illustrations to just one).

A paper that claimed the "World's Largest Daily Sale" also attracted numerous advertisements and it is interesting to see how such staple products such as Marmite, Ovaltine and Robinson's Wine Gums adapted their campaigns. Sailors banned from smoking were encouraged to chew gums instead, Marmite was a filling food in times of rationing and Ovaltine offered the prospect of a sound sleep even through the Blitz.

### ***The Daily Mirror***

*The Daily Mirror* offers a complete contrast to the *Daily Express*. It is a tabloid where the *Express* is a broadsheet, it is full of pictures and large captions where the *Express* is more soberly styled, and the *Mirror* offers glamorous showgirls and Hollywood filmstars as pin-ups for Britain's heroes – at home or at the front. *The Daily Express* could be equally enigmatic with stories such as "Mrs Hitler gets rates demand" and "Tattooed seaman on beach reveals new disaster off St Ives" but the *Mirror* cornered the market in bizarre accounts, stories to amuse rather than to inform, and human interest stories. One early example asks "What would have happened if Hitler had married Mae West?".

*The Daily Mirror* also offered a wealth of cartoons – Pip, Squeak and Wilfred; Beezebub Jones; Ruggles; Belinda Blue Eyes; Buck Ryan; Popeye; and the "Jane" stories, which put the 'strip' back in to 'strip cartoons' and was followed eagerly by the troops. Readers were also given a chance to air their views and receive advice through "Our Live Letterbox", "Ivor Lambe's Tales", Eileen Ascroft's "Sincerity" and "Cassandra". They were soothed by Patience Strong's "Quiet Corner".

More than any other paper *The Daily Mirror* also showed that it had its finger on the pulse of popular culture by creating the images and ideas which whipped up jingoistic and patriotic sentiments. In October 1939 it offered a front page to be cut out and pasted on to a dartboard, with Hitler as the target. On 4 September 1939 and following, is issued "Wanted" posters for Hitler and Ribbentrop, picturing them as gangsters. *The Daily Mirror* promoted a smile campaign and its pictures of the Queen amidst the Blitz (September 1940) helped to turn the Queen's brave and compassionate actions into a powerful royalist myth. In 1941 *The Daily Mirror* pushed the "Victory V" campaign which rapidly spread from Churchill to the people, the army, and resisters in occupied Europe.

*The Daily Mirror* should certainly not be dismissed as a political lightweight. Its pages also carried important exclusives such as David Walker's reports from Europe. The following was sent from David Walker whilst touring the Balkan States (4 January 1939): "*In Poland it has for some time been obvious*

*that Germany is doing precisely what she did in Austria and Czechoslovakia. She first sent her bankers, then her secret agents. The country is stirred up and divided against itself. The German speaking Poles in the Ukraine (Hitler's objective) are encouraged to demand self – government.... Poles and White Russians are set at each other's throats.*

*Germany calculates that by the spring Poland will be so divided against herself that she will be too weak to say "No" to his demand for the Polish Corridor....*

*In the meantime, if you look at a map, you will see that Memel is the perfect curtain – raiser to the Polish scheme....*

*When [Hitler] came to power only a few years ago he demanded 100,000,000 Germans in the Reich. Britain greeted this demand with jeers and laughter. GERMANY HAS GOT 80,000,000 NOW".*

Winston Churchill also wrote a series of provocative features exclusively for *The Daily Mirror* prior to his call up as First Lord of the Admiralty (13 July 1939; 27 July 1939; 11 August 1939; 24 August 1939). Each is worthy of study and captures his deliberate, sonorous phrasing and his resolute spirit in the face of war. On the 13 July he places the responsibility for war squarely with Hitler;

*"Whether war will come rests entirely in the hands of Herr Hitler and his circle of party leaders and party policemen.*

*Unless he gives the order no cannon will fire, no blood will flow....*

*.....this war, should it come – which God forbid – will , because of the weapons of air terror, become incomparably more fierce and more impossible to stop....*

*Napoleon, sword in hand, sought victorious peace in every capital in Europe. He sought it in Berlin, in Vienna, in Madrid, in Rome and finally in Moscow. All he found was St Helena."*

On 11 August he shows his sadly misplaced belief in the impregnability of Britain's eastern fortress of Singapore:

*"A great fortress like Singapore, armed with the heaviest cannon, and defended by air-craft and submarines is in no danger from a purely naval attack. High military opinion in France and England inclines to the view that in another two years China will have defeated Japan."*

By 24 August he can be seen to have accepted the inevitability of war, but not of defeat.

"There can be no question of buying peace. No further concessions can be made to threats of violence... If the Nazi regime forces a war up in the world the very existence of free government among men would be at stake.

Such a struggle could not end until the reign of law and the sovereign power of democratic and parliamentary government had once again been established upon these massive foundations from which in our carelessness we have allowed them to slip".

Clement Atlee and Herbert Morrison were also leading feature writers for *The Daily Mirror*, which always had strong pro-labour sympathies. Atlee appealed to the people of Germany to rise and overthrow Hitler (9 November 1939). Morrison leads attacks on Leslie Hore-Belisha (the War Minister who resigned on 16 January 1940). *The Daily Mirror* also unflinchingly attacked Chamberlain for his hesitant and uncertain handling of Britain's defence culminating with Morrison's attack on 7 May 1940 ("GET OUT!").

Equally uncompromising were ZEC's fierce black and white cartoons. Grim Reapers, desolate landscapes and dark shadows were common to Secretary's work and the biting captions were the perfect complement. His portrayal of a sailor clinging to the debris of his ship accompanied with the line "*The Price of Petrol had Gone Up-Official*" was hastily censored as potentially demoralising.

The Women's Page was rather less cynical. Hilde Marchant, formerly of the *Daily Express*, wrote on genuine women's issues such as the nature of women's work. Her interview with Anne Loughlin, first woman chairman of the TUC, is particularly good on this issue. The paper followed land-girls working on farms throughout the country and recorded the work done by women in munitions factories. Mostly though, it preferred to find women on the beach. Its articles were typically about "*how to held with the war effort and stay beautiful at the same time*".

Social and political campaigns were another common feature and often occupied the centre spread of the paper. The paper understood the frustration of ordinary people fed up with rationing, poor housing and other privations. Typical examples are: "Fat Wallets or Fair Do's? Who is to get some where to live first?" and "Our post war aim should be more work and – LESS OF IT" (arguing for total employment with shorter hours). These campaigns increase in 1945 when the General Election is announced and *The*

*Mirror* lambasts Beaverbrook (Churchill's "confident and henchman") for conducting his political campaign "at the lowest level". The paper is jubilant at Labour's landslide victory, reported on 27 July 1945.

Of all the newspapers represented in this project, *The Daily Mirror* was undeniably the most modern in its tabloid format, its strong use of photos, its strong use of headlines, and its general organisation and content.

### ***The News of the World***

*The News of the World* could easily lay claim to the title of Britain's dominant newspaper during the war. Packed with news – as well as with popular serial, sports and entertainment features – the people like what they saw and an estimated pre-war circulation of 3.75 million surged to an incredible 7.9 millions by 1948.

A Sunday broadsheet, it offered a more traditional style of entertainment. George Formby contributed a regular laughter section in the early years of the war when half a page was also devoted to popular sheet music of the day (as sung by Gracie Fields, Jeanette MacDonald, Shirley Temple and Falanigan & Allen amongst others).

It also featured strong film and theatre reviews, the latter accompanied by Arthur Ferrier's stylish sketches of stage-stars. A cartoon always dominated the front page, but serial cartoons were not a major element until 13 February 1944 when Ferrier was called upon to rival "Jane" in *The Daily Mirror*, with his own "Spotlight on Sally".

Sports were always well covered. *The News of the World*'s team included Alex James on football, Henry Cotton on golf, and Freddie Fox on racing. They conjured to life the era of Hutton, Compton, Drake and Wooderson. Outrage was expressed on 14 May 1939 when England, touring Italy, were forced to a 2-2 draw with the Italian national team as a result of a hand-fisted goal by Piola.

Serial features were equally prominent. Bert Aza, agent to Gracie Fields, offered his music hall reminiscences; Walt Disney's Autobiography was serialised; Somerset Maugham contributed an account of his visit to Strasbourg (4 February 1940); and romances, case histories of the police and tales of heroic enterprise were all offered to stir or amuse readers.

*The News of the World* anticipated the rise to power of Churchill. When he was eventually recalled to government on 10 September 1939 they noted: "Mr Churchill was born for government, and on rising to address the House for the first time in his new office he placed his elbows on the dispatch-box with such easy familiarity that one could not imagine that he had been a back-bencher for a decade." The paper realistically foresaw a conflict "of three years or more".

*The News of the World*'s coup in terms of news analysis was its signing of Leslie Hore-Belisha on 11 February 1940, shortly after his resignation as Secretary of State for War. He had been a Cabinet Member since 1931 and he offered weekly articles on a wide range of topics including: "War on three continents"; "What does Japan intend?" (21 July 1939); "Balme for Pearl Harbour"; "Meaning of Soviet Political Changes"; "American Post-War Responsibilities" (2 April 1944); and "How shall we Build the New Britain?" Hore-Belisha may have lost his position in government, but he continued to have influence, as it was estimated that his column was read by 16 million people each week.

Like most papers, the last issue of the year offered a retrospective analysis of the year and hopes for the future. The paper decided that 1945 was "Britain's greatest and best" year even if Churchill had been deposed, an event greeted with a re-drawing of the famous "Dropping the Pilot" cartoon (29 July 1945)

### ***The People***

*The People* had a pre-war circulation of about 3 million and thus reached into the homes of more people than any other paper except *The News of the World*. By 1948 its circulation had soared to 4.67 million. As its name suggests, *The People* took a particular interest in human interests stories and serialised many biographies.

At the start of the war it ran to 20 pages per issue, consisting of c7 pages of news, c4 pages of sport, c3 pages of serials, c2 pages of film and drama reviews, c2 pages for women, 1 page for readers letters (the famous "Let's Talk it Over" column); and 1 page of horoscopes and games. Due to paper restrictions

The People shrank to 16 pages in 1940 and then to 8 pages by the end of 1941, as it chose to preserve its circulation rather than continuing at its full size.

Harold Evans has said that "*newspapers have become manufacturers of popular mythology and slaves to it*" and *The People* certainly played its part in the respect. Its "Cavalcade of the Blitz" identified the courageous efforts of Wardens, Ambulancemen, and others in preserving a semblance of ordinary life in London, and it ran numerous series to exalt the "VC's of the air", "the heroes of the Desert War" and other heroes. It plundered history for further examples, discussed in series such as "Men who made Britain Great" (noting the connection between Marlborough and Churchill) and "Naval Dramas of the Great War".

Romantic and Adventure Fiction was also very popular. A flavour of this material can be gleaned from the titles of some of the stories. For instance; *The Flying Spy*; *Love Secrets of a Lost City*; *The Story of Gertrude Bell, Dessert's Woman Chieftan*; *White Queen of the Cannibals*; *Secrets of Nazi Espionage*; *Romance Tilts a Lance*; and *Sympathy in Blue*.

Photographs edged out line-drawings by the end of 1939 to give the paper a more modern look, and it always retained its emphasis on amusing its readers, rather than investigating hard news.

### ***The Sunday Express***

Like its stable-mate the *Daily Express*, the *Sunday Express* was a zestful, patriotic newspaper, distinguished by the high calibre of its many contributors.

Captain B H Liddell Hart contributed a whole sequence of articles from 1939 onwards concerning the conduct of the war which bear re-examination. These include; "Can war be averted?" (9 July 1939); "Can Britain be invaded?" (16 July 1939); "How great is the Air Raid Peril?" (23 July 1939); "Is there a new way to fight this strange war?" (10 December 1939); "Are the Bombers Coming?" (11 February 1940); "Can Either Side Risk a Mass Attack?" (18 February 1940); "Can Finland be Saved?" (25 February 1940); and "Where Both Sides Stand Now" (3 March 1940). An advocate of tank warfare, Liddell Hart nevertheless expected a slow, stalemated war in Europe due to "the modern superiority of defence over attack". His news that "the soldiers' dream of the 'lightning war' has a decreasing prospect of fulfilment" was undone by Germany's rapid gains, but proved sound when the Allied forces tried to drive the Axis forces back. He rightly praised Trenchard's rapid build up of the Air-force as a cornerstone of Britain's defence and thought that any invasion attempt was doomed. Lloyd George, a close friend of Beaverbrook's, also contributed an interesting series of articles. These included "The First Week of the War" (10 September 1939); "What is Stalin up to?" (24 September 1939) and "Is there still time?" (15 October 1939).

An American perspective was provided by Ramond Gram Swing, "America's most distinguished commentator", from January 1941 onwards. His weekly articles illuminated American foreign policy and enabled readers to understand American reluctance to enter the war.

Other notable contributors included: Dr Hermann Rausching, detailing his conversations with Hitler, 1933-1934 (26 November 1939); Leon Trotsky - "Stalin's Power is on the Decline" (17 March 1940) (Trotsky was assassinated later in the year); H G Wells on "The world of my heart's desire" (29 December 1940); J B Priestly, who had a weekly column from 15 September 1940; Guy Gibson VC on "The Device that made Germany's destruction certain" (7 January 1945 and following); George Bernard Shaw on "Stalin, Russia, Socialism and The Beveridge Report" (4 February 1945); Montgomery on "the German Surrender" (6 May 1945); and Winston Churchill on "My Policy for the New Britain" (10 June 1945). Lord Beaverbrook also contributed a number of items.

Regular staff writers included Godfrey Winn (who travelled to the front and to local villages to describe the way in which different people coped with the war); C B Fry (who headed a sports writing team that also included Patsy Hendren, George Allison, Bobby Locke and Stanley Matthews); Stephen Watts/Isolene Thompson (a noteworthy film page, occasionally written by stars such as Merle Oberon and Anna Neagle); and Giles, whose cartoons became a part of the fabric of British life.

Like *The Daily Express* photos were largely relegated to the back-page, but fine maps and line drawings contributed to the readers understanding of the war. Another attempt to make the war more intelligible to people at home was a revealing series of "this is what it is like" articles describing the experience of an allied bombing raid on Germany, a raid by the Charles in Burma, a prison camp escape attempt and so on.

Starting with a pre-war circulation of 1.48 million (less than its daily companion which had 2.5 million), *The Sunday Express* increased its circulation to 2.58 million by 1948 to rank 3rd amongst Sunday papers and 5th overall amongst all newspapers.

Any library supporting studies of World War II should consider adding this set to their collections. It shows how the news of the world's events were mirrored and expressed to the people, how opinions were formed, and how people lived and survived. This is a most important collection for all those interested in Media Studies, the History of Journalism, and Newspaper History. It is also a most valuable resource for those concerned with social and cultural history of the Second World War.

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### *Technical Note*

Our microfilm publication have been prepared and produced in accordance with recommended and established guide-lines for the production of microform of superior quality. These conform to the recommendations of the standard guides to good microforming and micropublishing practice.

Attention should be drawn to the nature of the original material. A small number of the issues of the newspapers in this collection contain sections that present a variety of problems for the filmer. For instance, sections of paper which has become severely discoloured or stained, or which is so thin that there is show through that renders the original document difficult to read. A few items are slightly damaged, creased or have a few torn pages. Some sheet-music sections, stolen from original copies of the News of the World have been replaced with photocopied replacements. Also, a number of volumes have been tightly bound and text has been partially obscured in the inner margin resulting in a small amount of text loss or distortion. Throughout the war years there was a shortage of newsprint and newspapers proprietors, like everyone else, had to contend with various restrictions and difficulties. Paper quality is often particularly poor and the original copies suffer from slight blurring and distortion. To help matters we have deliberately chosen a film stock which enhances the clarity of the typographical contents of the papers and the line drawings. An unavoidable side effect is that some photographic images appear darker and lose some of their clarity. In some instances the original characteristics of the material present difficulties of image and contrast with stringent tests and camera alterations cannot entirely overcome. However, every effort has been made to minimise these difficulties.

Technical targets have been inserted to cover any missing pages or issues, or any inconsistencies in pagination.

The Photographic Department of the British Library Newspaper Library , Colindale has exercised the most responsible care in the filming of this unique collection and this microfilm publication aims to meet the standards established by the Association for Information and Image Management (AIIM) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)



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**Parts 1 to 5:** 1939-1945 (The Daily Express, The Mirror, The News of The World, The People and The Sunday Express)

### *Contents of Reels - Part 1 (1939)*

#### **REEL 1**

Daily Express, January 1939

#### **REEL 2**

Daily Express, February 1939

#### **REEL 3**

Daily Express, March 1939

#### **REEL 4**

Daily Express, April 1939

#### **REEL 5**

Daily Express, May 1939

#### **REEL 6**

Daily Express, June 1939

#### **REEL 7**

Daily Express, July 1939

#### **REEL 8**

Daily Express, August 1939

#### **REEL 9**

Daily Express, September & October 1939

#### **REEL 10**

Daily Express, November & December 1939

#### **REEL 11**

Daily Mirror, January 1939

#### **REEL 12**

Daily Mirror, February 1939

#### **REEL 13**

Daily Mirror, March 1939

**REEL 14**

Daily Mirror, April 1939

**REEL 15**

Daily Mirror, May 1939

**REEL 16**

Daily Mirror, June 1939

**REEL 17**

Daily Mirror, July 1939

**REEL 18**

Daily Mirror, August 1939

**REEL 19**

Daily Mirror, September & October 1939

**REEL 20**

Daily Mirror, November & December 1939

**REEL 21**

News of the World, January – June 1939

**REEL 22**

News of the World, July – December 1939

**REEL 23**

The People, January – June 1939

**REEL 24**

The People, July – December 1939

**REEL 25**

Sunday Express, January – June 1939

**REEL 26**

Sunday Express, July – December 1939

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### *Contents of Reels - Part 2 (1940)*

#### **REEL 27**

Daily Express, January & February 1940

#### **REEL 28**

Daily Express, March & April 1940

#### **REEL 29**

Daily Express, May & June 1940

#### **REEL 30**

Daily Express, July – September 1940

#### **REEL 31**

Daily Express, October – December 1940

#### **REEL 32**

Daily Mirror January & February 1940

#### **REEL 33**

Daily Mirror, March & April 1940

#### **REEL 34**

Daily Mirror, May & June 1940

#### **REEL 35**

Daily Mirror, July & August 1940

#### **REEL 36**

Daily Mirror, September & October 1940

#### **REEL 37**

Daily Mirror, November – December 1940

#### **REEL 38**

News of the World, January – December 1940

#### **REEL 39**

The People, January – June 1940

**REEL 40**

The People, July – December 1940

**REEL 41**

Sunday Express, January – June 1940

**REEL 42**

Sunday Express, July – December 1940

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**Parts 1 to 5:** 1939-1945 (The Daily Express, The Mirror, The News of The World, The People and The Sunday Express)

### *Contents of Reels - Part 3 (1941)*

#### **REEL 43**

Daily Express, January – April 1941

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Daily Express, May – August 1941

#### **REEL 45**

Daily Express, September – December 1941

#### **REEL 46**

Daily Mirror, January – April 1941

#### **REEL 47**

Daily Mirror, May – August 1941

#### **REEL 48**

Daily Mirror, September – December 1941

#### **REEL 49**

News of the World, January – December 1941

#### **REEL 50**

The People, January – December 1941

#### **REEL 51**

Sunday Express, January – December 1941

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### *Contents of Reels - Part 4 (1942-1943)*

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Daily Express, May – August 1942

#### **REEL 54**

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#### **REEL 55**

Daily Mirror, January – June 1942

#### **REEL 56**

Daily Mirror, July – December 1942

#### **REEL 57**

News of the World, January – December 1942

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The People, January – December 1942

#### **REEL 59**

Sunday Express, January – December 1942

#### **REEL 60**

Daily Express, January – April 1943

#### **REEL 61**

Daily Express, May – August 1943

#### **REEL 62**

Daily Express, September – December 1943

#### **REEL 63**

Daily Mirror, January – June 1943

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News of the World, January – December 1943

**REEL 66**

The People, January – December 1943

**REEL 67**

Sunday Express, January – December 1943

## **POPULAR NEWSPAPERS DURING WORLD WAR II**

**Parts 1 to 5:** 1939-1945 (The Daily Express, The Mirror, The News of The World, The People and The Sunday Express)

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## A Chronology of World War Two

In many ways the most effective form of index to the newspaper covered in this project is a chronology of the period. After all, the newspapers all focused on the same basic news stories, responding as quickly as they could to the events happening around them. Of course, there were difficulties involved in communicating between London and the far flung frontiers of the war, or to imposed censorship. As a result, some stories are reported a day or more after the events themselves.

Despite the fact that the news reporters attended the same briefings and were in receipt of the same official bulletins from their own independent reporters active in the warzones (some actually active behind enemy lines), with their own unsyndicated pictures, and with special articles commissioned and copyrighted by the papers. As such, a brief chronology of events serves to direct the reader to the issues covered by all or most of the newspapers, if not to the style or substance of the coverage.

The chronology for each year begins with a brief summary of the major events of the year (in bold type), and a list of the books, films and records which appeared (in italic). There then follows a more detailed calendar of the events of the year.

With regard to films, the initial year of release has been given as Hollywood columns often give detail of new films released in the States. Please note, however, that many were not released in Britain for another six to twelve months.

This chronology does not attempt to be comprehensive but it is hoped that it will help researchers to track down stories of interest.

### 1939

In the wake of the Munich agreement of September 1938 ("peace in our time") Neville Chamberlain (Prime Minister) and Lord Halifax (Foreign Secretary) continue to pursue a policy of appeasement, hoping to avert a further ruinous war. Repeated diplomatic missions are made to Germany and Italy; Germany annexes Czechoslovakia and Memel. Hitler signs a ten year alliance with Italy and a nonaggression pact with the USSR; The IRA bombing campaign continues on mainland Britain; The Spanish Civil War ends and Britain recognises Franco's government; Japan takes Hainan and blockades the British concession at Tientsin; Italy invades Albania; King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visit America; Conscriptio and evacuation begins in Britain; Germany invades Poland, prompting Britain and France to declare war. Stalin invades Poland from the East; Russian forces invade Finland; In America, interventionist and isolationist advocates clash. The nonpayment of some warloans from the

First World War and the impact of the Depression lead to an introspective mood and America maintains a neutral stance. HMS Courageous and HMS Royal Oak are sunk in the Battle of the Atlantic. Many merchant ships are also lost; The Battle of the River Plate results in the sinking of the Graf Spee; Britain and France continue to build up their military strength, awaiting a German attack ("the phoney war")

Films: *Gone With The Wind*; *Stagecoach*; *Pinnocchio*; *Ninotchka*; *The Wizard of Oz*; *Goodbye Mr Chips*; *The Four Feathers*; *Wuthering Heights*; *Beau Geste*; *Confessions of a Nazi Spy*; *Intermezzo*; *Babes in Arms*; *The Proud Valley*; *The Hound of the Baskervilles*; *Shipyard Sally*; *The First Days*; *The Lion Has Wings* (one of the first war films).

Books: Full English translation of Hitler's *Mein Kampf*; Richard Llewellyn's *How Green Was My Valley*; John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*; T S Eliot's *The Family Reunion*; C S Forester's *Captain Horatio Hornblower*.

Music: Dame Myra Hess organises lunchtime concerts at the National Gallery; Popular songs include *Over the Rainbow*, *Rollout the Barrel*, *Lili Marlene* and *Hang out the Washing on the Siegfried Line*.

Other: The Sutton Hoo AngloSaxon treasure horde is discovered in Suffolk; Nylon stockings first appear; England draw 2-2 with Italy on their football tour.

10 Feb Japanese forces occupy Hainan Island, off the coast of mainland China.

15 March German forces invade Prague.

16 March Germany annexes Czechoslovakia.

31 March AngloFrench guarantee made to support Poland if attacked.

7 April Italy invades Albania

13 April British guarantee to support Romania and Greece if they are attacked.

26 April Conscription is announced in Britain, including boys aged 18-21;  
Sir John Simon's War Budget increases personal taxation and duties.

14 May England and Italy draw 2-2 during the English team's tour of Italy, but there are complaints the Piola fisted the ball into the net.

3 August Parliament closes for the Summer Recess and it is not proposed to be recalled before 3 October

23 August The MolotovRibbentrop NonAggression Pact is signed between Germany and the USSR.

24 August Parliament is recalled

31 August Hitler's Big Six Council is declared to include: Goering, Hess, Keitel (Chief of Supreme Command), Dr Funk (Minster of Economic Affairs), Dr Frick (Minister of the Interior) and Dr Lammers (Chief of the Reich Chancellry)

1 Sept Germany invades Poland

2 Sept Britain delivers Germany an ultimatum of war if it does not withdraw from Poland

3 Sept Neville Chamberlain announces that, from 11.00 o'clock that morning, Britain was at war with Germany; The British declaration is followed by those of Australia, New Zealand and then France – Canada pledges cooperation;  
A War Cabinet is established comprising of Neville Chamberlain (PM), Sir John Simon (Chancellor of the Exchequer), Lord Halifax (Foreign Secretary), Lord Chatfield (Minister for the coordination of Defence), Leslie HoreBelisha (War Minister), Sir Kingsley Wood (Air Minister), Sir Samuel Hoare (Lord Privy Seal), Lord Hankey (Minister without portfolio) and Winston Churchill (1st Lord of the Admiralty)Anthony Eden is made Secretary to the Dominions with special access to the Cabinet; A false air raid alarm unsettles Britain; the *Athenia*, an unarmed liner carrying many American passengers, is sunk with the loss of over 300 lives.

4 Sept British cinemas are closed and sporting events and other large gatherings are banned

5 Sept RAF planes bomb the German fleet at Wilhelmshaven and Brunsbuttel at the entrance at the Kiel canal.

6 Sept President Franklin D Roosevelt declares American neutrality, expressing American friendship with Britain, Germany, France, Poland, India, Australia and New Zealand.

9 Sept British cinemas are reopened to provide entertainment for the public and for troops on leave.

15 Sept Earl De La Warr, President of the Board of Education, reassures parents of the virtues of evacuation .

17 Sept Russian forces invade Eastern Poland.

26 Sept Warsaw is engulfed in flames.

27 Sept Sir John Simon's War Budget raises Income Tax to 7s 6d in the pound (37.5%) and increases duties on Beer, Spirits, Wines, Tobacco and Sugar. 29 September Russia invades Estonia.

2 Oct A National Register is completed in advance of rationing.

12 Oct It is announced that 158,000 BEF troops are now in France under the command of Viscount Gort, CinC, and Corps Commanders LtGen Sir John Dill and LtGen Alan Brooke;

Home Defence Battalions (Dad's Army) are formed.

18 Oct Reports of the sinking of *HMS Royal Oak* at Scapa Flow.

13 Nov The Shetland Isles suffer two airraids

30 Nov Soviet forces invade Finlandstarting the Finnish campaign

15 Dec The German pocket battleship, Graf Spee, is seriously damaged and takes refuge in Monte Video.

18 Dec The Graf Spee is scuttled in the River Plate.  
19 Dec The first contingent of the Canadian army arrives in Britain

## 1940

Rationing starts in Britain; Germany invades Norway and Denmark; Neville Chamberlain resigns and Winston Churchill is made Prime Minister of a coalition government; German forces outflank the Maginot line and storm through Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Belgium; The 'Deliverance' of Dunkirk – c340,000 British troops are evacuated by a myriad of small boats; Italy breaks neutrality and declares war on the Allies; Paris falls, France capitulates and Petain signs an Armistice with Hitler; The Royal Navy is forced to sink the French fleet at Oran; The airwar

begins – British bombers begin night raids on Germany and

German aircraft commence the Battle of Britain with raids on British industry and airfields; The British Government recognises and harbours the Polish, Czech and Free French governments in exile; Italian forces lay siege to Malta and advance from Abyssinia to Egypt; Japan joins the German and Italian Axis; Goering switches from air attacks on British airfields to allnight

bombing raids on London (the 'Blitz'); Roosevelt sells American destroyers to Britain as the War in the Atlantic continues; Italy invades Greece. Three Italian battleships are sunk by British torpedo planes in the Battle of Taranto; Hitler shelves his invasion plans for Britain; To give some respite, Churchill orders Wavell to open the North African campaign which had initial success; President Roosevelt is reelected

for a third term, changing the tide

of American opinion in favour of helping Britain's lone fight against Hitler; Stalin has Trotsky (1879-1940)

assassinated in Mexico; Neville Chamberlain (1869-1940)

dies a broken man.

Films: *Rebecca*; *The Great Dictator*; *Fantasia*; *Citizen Kane*; *The Grapes of Wrath*; *London Can Take It*; *The Sea Hawk*; *Night Train to Munich*; *Convoy*; *Strike Up the Band*; *Broadway Melody of 1940*; *The Road to Singapore*; *The Thief of Bagdad*; *W C Fields in My Little Chickadee*; *George Formby in Let George Do It and Spare a Copper*; *The Crazy Gang in Charley's BigHearted*

*Aunt and Gasbags*.

Books: Graham Greene's *The Power and the Glory*; Ernest Hemmingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls*; Arthur Koestler's *Darkness at Noon*; Raymond Chandler's *Farewell, My Lovely*.

Music: *The Last Time I Saw Paris*; *You are My Sunshine*; *When You Wish Upon a Star*; *Blueberry Hill*.

Other: Jack Dempsey retires from Boxing; Churchill makes his famous "Blood, toil, tears and sweat" and "This was their finest hour" speeches; Newsprint rationing reduces the size of British papers.

6 Jan HoreBelisha

resigns as Minister of War and is replaced by Oliver Stanley.

24 Feb Churchill organises a victory parade in London for the "heroes of the sinking of the Graf Spee".

12 March The Soviet-Finnish

War is ended.

31 March Finland concludes an armistice with Russia.

4 April Chamberlain makes his famous "Hitler Missed the Bus" speech in London.

9 April German forces invade Denmark and Norway. British, French and Norwegian troops resist until early June.

10 April Anglo-German

naval engagements in the Skagerrak follow Germany's invasion of Denmark and Norway.

10 May Germany invades Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and France (through the Ardennes).

Neville Chamberlain resigns as Prime Minister and is replaced by Winston Churchill. A new Coalition War Cabinet is appointed comprising of Winston Churchill (Prime Minister and Minister for Defence/Conservative); Neville Chamberlain (Lord President of the Council/Conservative); Viscount Halifax (Foreign Secretary/Conservative) Clement Atlee (Lord Privy Seal/Labour); and Arthur Greenwood (Minister without portfolio/Labour). Non-cabinet posts include: Sir Kingsley Wood (Chancellor of the Exchequer/ Conservative);

Anthony Eden (War Secretary/ Conservative); Herbert Morrison (Minister of Supply/ Labour); Sir John Simon (Lord Chancellor/Conservative); Ernest Bevin (Minister of Labour/Labour); Lord Beaverbrook (Minister for Air Production/Conservative); Hugh Dalton (Minister of Economic Warfare/Labour); and Duff Cooper (Minister of Information).

13 May Churchill delivers his "Blood, toil, tears and sweat" speech to the Commons.

15 May Holland Capitulates in German Forces,

19 May The French Government place General Weygand in charge of the French forces, replacing Gamelin. AngloFrench forces engage with German blitzkrieg troops.

23 May Sir Oswald Mosley and other leading British fascists are arrested and incarcerated.

24 May Boulogne falls to German forces.

26 May Calais falls to German forces. Operation Dynamo, the British plan to evacuate forces at Dunkirk, is put into effect. Evacuation begins and continues for nine days under artillery fire and air bombardment.

28 May Belgium finally capitulates to German forces.

29 May An armada of little boats helps the larger troopships and liners to evacuate Dunkirk.

2 June The evacuation of Dunkirk is completed, rescuing 338,226 British and French soldiers.

5 June Churchill delivers "miracle of deliverance" and "we shall fight them on the beaches" speeches in the Commons.

8 June The final contingents of British troops in Narvik evacuated and Norway is occupied by German forces.

10 June Italy declares war on Britain and France.

14 June The German army enters Paris.

17 June French premier Reynaud resigns and is succeeded by Petain.

18 June Churchill delivers "This was their finest hour" speech in the Commons.

22 June France surrenders to German forces and Petain signs armistice.

23 June De Gaulle commences broadcasts from London to France and announces the inauguration of a French National Committee. British troops mount a surprise raid on Boulogne and Le Touquet causing minimal damage, but raising morale.

3 July The British Navy forces much of the French fleet to be scuttled at Oran rather than fall to Axis forces.

10 July Officially recognised starting date for the Battle of Britain.

3 August Lord Beaverbrook joins the National War Cabinet (now six members).

7 August The Battle for Africa commences as Italian forces invade Egypt.

12 August Grouse shooting commenced in Britain.

13 August The Battle of Britain commences in earnest with Goering's Adlertag (Eagle day) offensive.

18 August The German Luftwaffe launches the biggest raid of the Battle of Britain attacking RAF airbases in Southern England.

22 August Trotsky dies in Mexico City after being attacked with an ice pick.

26 August RAF Bombers carry out a mass bomber raid on Berlin.

7 Sept Goering responds to British bomber attacks by redirecting Luftwaffe attacks to London and other British cities, rather than airfields. The London Blitz commences.

12 Sept The King and Queen tour area of London devastated by the Blitz.

15 Sept The Luftwaffe mounts another massive attack, in preparation for Operatio Sealion (the invasion of Britain), but is repulsed. The war in North Africa begins.

22 Sept Japanese occupation of Indochina begins.

3 October A further cabinet reshuffle. The eight members include: Winston Churchill (PM); Sir John Anderson (President of the Council); Herbert Morrison (Home Secretary); Ernest Bevin (Minister of Labour); Sir Kingsley Wood (Chancellor of the Exchequer); Capt Oliver Lyttleton (President of the Board of Trade); and Andrew Duncan (Minister of Supply). Chamberlain stands down due to illness.

5 Oct The papers discuss the possibility of a Japanese attack on America.

31 Oct Official end date for the Battle of Britain. German plans to invade Britain are shelved. Roosevelt extends aid to Britain.

11 Nov Neville Chamberlain dies after a prolonged illness. Russians launch an attack against Finland.

13 Nov British torpedo planes sink three Italian battleships in Taranto.

15 Nov Coventry is bombed and the cathedral is gutted.  
2 Dec Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool and Southampton are blitzed.  
10 Dec Morale is cheered as Wavell launches offensive in North Africa.  
11 Dec British troops capture the port of Sidi Barrani.  
22 Dec Viscount Halifax is made British Ambassador to America and Anthony Eden replaces him as Foreign Secretary.

## 1941

Morale is increased in Britain successes in North Africa. Wavell takes Benghazi and invades Abyssinia; Roosevelt signs the Lendlease Bill, relieving British supply problems; The Luftwaffe continues to mount attacks on British cities; Germany invades Yugoslavia and Greece; German forces, under Rommel, turn back the tide in North Africa. Benghazi falls; Iraqi forces join the Axis; Rudolf Hess lands in Scotland and is imprisoned; Successful German airborne assault on Crete; The Battle of the Atlantic continues and HMS Hood is sunk. Morale is lifted by the sinking of the Bismark. Hitler surprises the world by launching the Eastern Offensive against Russia; Churchill and Roosevelt meet to sign the Atlantic Charter; British workers are encouraged to produce armaments and supplies for "our Russian allies", reversing previous antiStalinism; German forces take Minsk, Smolensk, Kiev, Odessa and Kharkov and approach Leningrad and Moscow; HMS Ark Royal is sunk; Counteroffensives by the British in North Africa and the Russians on the Eastern Front; Japanese forces bomb Pearl Harbour prompting American and British declarations of war against Japan. Germany and Italy declare war on America; Japanese forces sink HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse; Japan takes the Philippines and Hong Kong; Churchill visits Washington DC and Ottawa; The Manhattan Project is started as Allied and Axis scientists race to create an Atomic Bomb;  
Films: *How Green Was My Valley*; *49th Parallel*; *Dumbo*; *The Maltese Falcon*; *High Sierra*; *The Sea Wolf*; *Heart of Britain*; *One of Our Aircraft is Missing*; *A Yank in the RAF (with Betty Grable)*; *Sergeant York*; *Life Begins for Andy Hardy*; *Road to Zanzibar*; *Never Give a Sucker an Even Break*; *The Crazy Gaud in The Ghost Train*.  
Books: Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* (the play also opens in the West End); F Scott Fitzgerald's *Last Tycoon*; William L Shirer's *Berlin Diary*; John Masefield's *Nine Days Wonder* (of Dunkirk).  
Music: Michael Tippett's *A Child of Our Time*; William Walton's *Scapino*; Popular songs include: *Chattanooga Choochoo*, *Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered*; *I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire*; *I Got it Bad and That Ain't Good*.  
Other: Death of James Joyce (1882-1941)  
; Death of Virginia Woolf (1882-1941)  
; First  
Broadcast of BBC Radio's Brains Trust.  
5 Jan British forces capture Bardia in Libya.  
6 Jan Amy Johnson dies in an air crash.  
10 Jan RAF bombers make a daylight raid on Northern France.  
16 Jan German bombers raid Malta for the first time.  
23 Jan British forces capture Tobruk.  
12 March Roosevelt signs the Lend Lease Bill to support British war efforts.  
17 March De Valera declares that Ireland will not be a base of attack against Britain.  
24 March Rommel successfully mounts his first attack in Libya. British vessels engaged and destroyed three Italian cruisers and a number of destroyers in a Mediterranean battle.  
31 March By the end of March, Germany had achieved a monthly record of 350,000 tonnes of merchant shipping destroyed as the Battle of the Atlantic continued.  
6 April German forces invade Yugoslavia and Greece.  
2 May Lord Beaverbrook is made Minister of State without portfolio.  
11 May German bombers cause severe damage to the Houses of Parliament.  
12 May Rudolph Hess lands in Scotland, hoping to sue for peace between Britain and Germany.  
20 May German forces invade Greece (the invasion is completed by 31 May)

21 May The Battle of Crete.

24 May HMS Hood is sunk in pursuit of the Bismark.

27 May The German battleship Bismark is sunk after eight days of pursuit by British forces.

28 May Roosevelt's Fireside Chat to the American people announces support for the allied convoys in the Atlantic.

1 June Clothes rationing is introduced in Britain.

2 June German forces capture Crete, forcing the evacuation of 15,000 Allied troops.

8 June British forces invade Syria.

22 June Hitler launches Operation Barbarossa, the invasion of Russia, with fighting along a 1,000 mile front. Advances are made throughout June and July at an astonishing pace

30 June Lord Beaverbrook is made Minister of Supply, in charge of tank production.

13 July An AngloSoviet mutual assistance agreement is signed by Stalin and Sir Stafford Cripps in Moscow.

19 July German Army Group Centre reaches Smolensk, 200 miles from Moscow.

20 July Britain broadcasts the Victory V symbol and the opening of Beethoven's 3rd symphony as a signal of defiance and resistance.

24 July Japanese forces take IndoChina (granted by Petain).

25 July Conscription in Britain is extended to all men aged between 18 and 46 and all women aged up to 31.

12 August Churchill and Roosevelt meet at sea and sign the Atlantic Charter, pledging to preserve world freedom and to treat victor and vanquished alike after the war.

19 August German forces capture c650,000 Russian soldiers outside Kiev.

21 August On the Russian front Hitler directs his troops to attack Leningrad and then South rather than Moscow.

23 August The Battle of Leningrad commences with battles in the suburbs.

25 August British, Indian and Russian troops invade Iran.

1 Sept German troops mount the first artillery bombardment of Leningrad.

6 Sept Hitler redirects his forces in Russian to attack Moscow.

20 Sept German forces occupy Kiev.

28 Sept First Arctic convoys leaves from Iceland to Russia.

12 Oct Stalin transfers the Russian government to Kuibyshev.

14 Oct German forces seize Kalinin, just north west of Moscow.

30 Oct Pikes are issued to British home guard units.

3 Nov Hard frosts in Russia slow the advance of German forces.

15 Nov HMS Ark Royal, an aircraft carrier, is sunk in the Mediterranean

18 Nov The British 8th Army launched its second campaign in North Africa.

20 Nov British forces invade Libya under the command of Sir Claude Auchinleck.

2 Dec A handful of German patrols enter the suburbs of Moscow—the furthest point reached by German forces in Russia. Newspapers warn of impending Japanese offensive.

4 Dec German bombers commence a five month systematic bombing campaign against Malta—Britain's Mediterranean base for attacking Axis convoys.

5 Dec The Russian counteroffensive begins, driving German forces back from Moscow.

7 Dec Japanese forces attack Pearl Harbour, take Shanghai and occupy Wake Island, prompting America to enter the war.

8 Dec The Allied forces (excepting Russia) declare war on Japan. America declares war on Germany and Italy. Japanese forces capture Wake Island.

10 Dec HMS Prince of Wales, a battleship, and HMS Repulse, a cruiser, are sunk by Japanese forces.

11 Dec German and Italy declare war on the United States of America.

18 Dec Hitler assumes command of German forces in Russia.

22 Dec Churchill meets with Roosevelt in Washington.

25 Dec Hong Kong surrenders to Japanese forces after 17 days of resistance.

27 Dec Churchill addresses the U S Congress.

## 1942

Japanese forces take the Dutch east Indies, Kuala Lumpur, Burma, Singapore, Java and

Rangoon; British commandos raid St Nazaire and the RAF mounts the first 1,000 bombers raid on Cologne; American GI's begin to arrive in Britain; Rommel sweeps back the British counteroffensive in North Africa and captures Tobruk; The battles of the Coral Sea and Midway effectively cripple the Japanese Navy and turn the tide in the Pacific War—Tokyo is bombed; German forces retake Kharkov and advance all along the Eastern Front. The Battle of Stalingrad commences; HMS Manchester and HMS Eagle are both sunk; Montgomery is appointed Commander of the Eighth Army in North Africa and defeats Rommel at El Alamein. With American support he drives Rommel out of Tobruk and Benghazi; The remains of the French Navy are scuttled at Toulon; British and Commonwealth forces advance on Burma; Albert Speer is made German Armaments Minister; Millions of Jews are murdered in German gas chambers.

Films: *The Magnificent Ambersons*; *Bambi*; *Mrs Miniver*; *In Which We Serve*; *Coastal Command*; *Listen to Britain*; *The Young Mr Pitt*; *Across the Pacific*; *Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon*; *Yankee Doodle Dandy*; *Road to Morocco*; *The Goose Steps out with Will Hay*.

Books: Terence Rattigan's *Flare Path*; Elliot Paul's *The Last Time I Saw Paris*; T S Eliot's *Four Quartets*; Trevelyan's *English Social History*.

Music: Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*; Popular songs include: *The White Cliffs of Dover*; *Paper Doll*; *That Old Black Magic*; *Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition*; *Sleepy Lagoon*; *Be Careful, It's My Heart*.

Other: Malta is awarded the George Cross for bravery; William Beveridge issues his Report on Social Security; ITMA becomes BBC Radio's most popular show.

1 Jan "United Nations" resolve not to make a separate peace with Axis forces. The first train sets out from Tikhvin to Voibokala, to relieve the siege of Leningrad.

2 Jan Introduction of the Avro Lancaster to British bombers squadrons, together with

increasing numbers of American Flying Fortresses.

19 Jan Carole Lombard, Hollywood actress, dies in a plane crash.

20 Jan The Wannsee Conference proposes extermination as the Final Solution to the "Jewish Problem".

24 Jan Japanese forces land in New Guinea.

26 Jan Large quantities of American troops begin to arrive in Northern Ireland.

31 Jan The siege of Singapore begins.

8 Feb Japanese forces take Rangoon, capital of Burma.

12 Feb German battleships *Gneisau* and *Scharnhorst* and cruiser *Prinz Eugen* run the gauntlet from Brest to Germany and come under heavy fire.

15 Feb The Fall of Singapore to Japanese forces.

19 Feb Japanese aircraft bomb Darwin in northern Australia.

27 Feb The battle of the Java sea—Japanese forces defeat an allied fleet enabling the conquest of Java by 9 March.

18 March General MacArthur appointed head of Allied forces in the Pacific.

5 April Japanese forces attack Colombo.

15 April George VI awards the George Cross to the Island Malta.

18 April US B25

bombers bomb Tokyo (the "Doolittle raid").

23 April German bombers commence 'Baedeker' raids on English cathedral cities.

3 May Japanese forces take Mandalay.

4 May The Battle of the Coral Sea commences, lasting five days, and thwarts Japanese attempts to invade Australia.

31 May The RAF launches a 1000 bomber raid on Cologne, in reprisal for the Baedeker raids: Essen, Lubeck and Rostock follow

4 June The Battle of Midway turns the tide of the war in the Pacific three Japanese carriers are sunk greatly reducing the possibility of air cover for Japanese land and sea forces.

The *USS Yorktown* is crippled and sunk two days later

17 June Churchill and Roosevelt meet in Washington.

21 June Rommel leads the Axis forces into Tobruk.

24 June The British Government announces a ban on icecream after 30 September.

25 June Major General

Dwight D Eisenhower is appointed Commander in Chief



of US forces  
in Europe and establishes a base in London.  
28 June Hitler directs a German counteroffensive  
against Russia.  
2 July Rommel leads Axis forces to victory in the First Battle of El Alamein.  
23 July German forces capture Rostov.  
2 August Operation Pedestal is mounted by the British Navy to get supplies to Malta.  
7 August American marines land at Guadalcanal aiming to destroy a newly built Japanese  
longrange  
bombing base. The battle lasts six months.  
8 August US Naval support is forced to abandon the marines at Guadalcanal.  
18 August Alexander replaces Auchinleck at the head of the British forces in the MiddleEast  
and Montgomery is given command of the Eighth Army.  
19 August Canadian and British forces lead an Allied raid on Dieppe, but are repulsed with  
heavy losses.  
24 August Sea battles near Guadalcanal result in the loss of a Japanese aircraftcarrier  
and  
destroyer.  
25 August The German counteroffensive  
on the Eastern front brings them close to  
Stalingrad. The Siege of Stalingrad, lasting 3 months, commences.  
12 Sept 3000 fresh Japanese troops make repeated attempts to remove the 700 American  
marines stranded on Guadalcanal, but suffer heavy casualties and fail (the Battle of Bloody  
Ridge).  
13 Sept The First Battle of Stalingrad commences.  
18 Sept Supply convoys reinforce the American marines on Guadalcanal.  
21 Sept The allied offensive in Burma begins.  
23 Oct Gen Montgomery leads the British Eighth Army against the German Afrika Korps in  
the 2nd Battle of El Alamein The battle lasts for twelve days and brings the allies decisive  
victory in North Africa.  
24 Oct Japanese repeat attacks on US forces at Guadalacanal, but are now outnumbered  
and suffer severe losses.  
25 Oct Rommel is sent back to El Alamein from hospital in Germany.  
4 Nov The Battle of El Alamein is effectively over and is an emphatic allied victory.  
8 Nov AngloAmerican  
landings in Morocco begin (Operation Torch)  
10 Nov Churchill delivers "the end of the beginning" speech at Mansion House.  
19 Nov The Siege of Stalingrad is partially lifted by a new Russian offensive.  
27 Nov The French fleet is scuttled at Toulon to prevent it falling into Nazi hands.  
30 Nov The Siege of Malta is lifted.  
1 Dec The Beveridge Report is issued, recommending the provision of social services in postwar  
Britain.  
12 Dec Manstein attempts to relieve the German Sixth Army, stranded in Stalingrad.  
21 Dec Manstein's forces are driven back.

## 1943

German forces withdraw from the Caucasus; Churchill and Roosevelt meet at Casablanca;  
American forces win Battle of Guadalcanal; Montgomery and the Eighth Army capture Tripoli;  
FieldMarshal  
Paulus surrenders as Russian forces eventually win the Battle of Stalingrad.  
Germans withdraw along the Eastern Front; RAF bombers mount increasingly heavy raids on  
Germany; Eisenhower assumes overall command of Allied Forces in North Africa and  
presides over the German capitulation in Tunisia; RAF "Dambusters" raid on the Ruhr dams;  
The RAF Pathfinder force destroys the rocket research station at Peenemunde on the Baltic;  
American forces win the Battle of the Bismark Sea and recapture the Aleutian Islands; The  
Allied invasion of Italy commences with the invasion of Sicily. Palermo, Messina and Naples  
soon fall, Mussolini is dismissed, and Italy accepts unconditional surrender. American  
bombers set light to the Rumanian oil fields; Allied summits are held at Quebec, Cairo (with  
Chiang KaiShek)  
and Tehran; Orde Wingate leads Chindit raiders behind Japanese lines;  
ViceAdmiral

Lord Louis Mountbatten placed in charge of Allied SouthEast Asia command;

Allied saturation bombing of Germany commences.

Films: *Casablanca*; *Jane Eyre*; *Desert Victory*; *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp*; *Millions Like Us*; *The Gentle Sex*; *This is the Army*; *Action in the North Atlantic*; *Star Spangled Rhythm*; *Bataan*; *For Whom the Bell Tolls*; *San Demetrio, London*; *The Outlaw (with Jane Russell)*; *Girl Crazy*; *A Canterbury Tale*; *Stage Door Canteen*.

Books: Nowel Coward's *This Happy Breed*; Ernie Pyle's *Here Is Your War*; James Thurber's *Men, Women and Dogs*; Upton Sinclair's *Dragon's Teeth*

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Symphony No 5 in D*; Popular Songs included: *Mairzy Doats*; *Oh, What a Beautiful Morning*; *Comin' in on a Wing and a Prayer*; *People Will Say We're in Love*.

Other: Penicillin introduced; Jitterbugging craze starts.

12 Jan Roosevelt and Churchill meet in Casablanca, North Africa.

26 Jan British and New Zealand forces capture Tripoli.

31 Jan The German Sixth Army under Field Marshall Paulus surrenders to the Russians at Stalingrad. Over 150,000 German troops had been lost and nearly 1,000,000 captured.

2 Feb Russian forces overrun the final German pockets of resistance in Stalingrad.

8 Feb Japanese troops evacuate Guadalcanal. Orde Wingate's Chindit Raiders begin infiltrating Burma.

20 March Rommel's Afrika Korps are confronted in the Battle of the Mareth Line in Tunisia.

28 March Berlin is bombed heavily.

20 April Churchill relieves the restraining order preventing the ringing of Church Bells.

7 May Tunis and Bizerta fall to Allied forces.

11 May Roosevelt and Churchill meet in Washington.

13 May Axis forces in North Africa capitulate.

17 May A team of specially adapted RAF Lancaster bombers breach the Möhne and Eder dams, flooding the Ruhr valley, disrupting electric power stations and depriving factories of water supplies.

21 May Reports emerge concerning the guerilla tactics of Orde Wingate's Chindit Raiders in Burma.

18 June Field Marshall

Wavell is appointed Viceroy of India.

5 July Hitler launches operation Citadel, attempting to encircle the Russian forces around Kursk. General Sikorski, Polish Prime Minister and Commander in Charge is killed in an air crash near Gibraltar.

10 July The Allied invasion of Sicily begins.

12 July Marshal Zhukov commences the Russian counterattack at Kursk; 600 German and

850 Russian command vehicles engage at Prokhorovka and 600 are destroyed.

19 July The first daylight bombing raid of Rome is completed.

23 July Allied forces capture the port of Palermo in Sicily.

25 July Mussolini resigns and King Victor Emmanuel assumes command of the Italian Armed Forces with Marshal Badoglio as his Prime Minister. Hitler abandons Operation Citadel and the Kursk offensive.

11 August Roosevelt and Churchill meet in Quebec.

17 August The Allied invasion of Sicily is completed after 39 days.

23 August Russian forces take Kharkov.

3 Sep Allied forces invade the Italian mainland.

8 Sep Italy surrenders and German forces occupy Rome. Italian forces pledge to oppose German forces.

13 Sep Allied and Axis armoured forces clash at Salerno.

25 Sep Russian forces recapture Smolensk.

11 Oct British midget submarines damage the German battleship *Tirpitz* at its mooring in Norway

18 Oct The Foreign Ministers of Russia, the United States of America and Britain (Molotov, Hull and Eden) meet in Moscow.

1 Nov American Marines capture Bougainville in the South Pacific.

6 Nov Russian forces recapture Kiev.

23 Nov Berlin is subjected to its heaviest bombing raid.

27 Nov Churchill, Roosevelt and Jiang Jieshi (Chiang KaiShek)

meet at Cairo and issue the Pacific Charter stating that Japan will be stripped of all islands taken or occupied since 1914 and pledging the independence of Korea.

28 Nov Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin meet in Tehran.

27 Dec The German battleship *Scharnhorst* is sunk whilst attacking a Russiabound convoy.

Air Chief Marshal Tedder is appointed Deputy Supreme Commander under General Eisenhower for the British and American expeditionary force.

## 1944

The Fall of Germanoccupied

Italy is complete as Allied forces land at Nettuno and Anzio,

Monte Cassino falls and Rome is taken; American forces continue their irresistible advance across the Pacific. The Solomon and Marshall Islands fall, but fierce defence by Japanese forces causes heavy casualties; German V1 and V2 attacks on London supplement heavy bombing raids; Russian forces relieve Leningrad and Sebastopol; Saturation bombing of Germany continues; DDay

landings secure an Allied foothold in Normandy; Japanese troops

launch an offensive into India and British forces at Kohima and Imphal are besieged;

American troops recapture

Saigon; Failed assassination attempt against Hitler; The fall of

Saipan precipitates the downfall of the Tojo cabinet in Japan; The Russians take BrestLitovsk

and there is a popular uprising in Warsaw; American forces take Guam; Further major

Allied conferences are held at Dumbarton Oaks, Quebec and Moscow; The Allied forces push

through France enabling de Gaulle to enter Paris. American forces cross the German frontier

near Trier. British parachute troops land at Eindhoven and Arnhem; Blackout

restrictions are

loosened in London; American troops regain the Phillipines. The Battle of Leyte Gulf further

weakens the Japanese forces; Russian troops join Yugoslav irregulars in taking Belgrade.

Russian forces capture Hungary; Roosevelt is elected for a fourth Term as President; Erwin

Rommel (18971944)

dies; The German counteroffensive

in the Ardennes ("the Battle of the

Bulge") commences.

Films: *Henry V*; *Going My Way*; *To Have and to Have Not*; *This Happy Breed*; *Hollywood*

*Canteen*; *Road to Utopia*; *Cover Girl (with Rita Hayworth)*; *Up in Arms (with Danny Kaye)*;

*Meet Me in St Lois*; *Follow the Boys*.

Books: H E Bates' *Fair Stood the Wind for France*; W Somerset Maugham's *The Razor Edge*;

Terence Rattigan's *Love in Idleness*; Mazo de la Roche's *Jalna*.

Music: Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring*; Leonard Bernstein's *On the Town*; Popular

Song included: *Swinging on a Star*; *Accentuate the Positive*; *Sentimental Journey*.

Other: Death of Henry Wood (18691944),

Proms conductor.

4 Jan General Montgomery bids an emotional farewell to the Eighth Army in Italy as he leaves for London to become Commander in Charge of the British armies under General Eisenhower.

6 Jan Russian forces reinvade

Poland, driving back the German army.

7 Jan The RAF announces the development of the Gloster Whittle the first jet propelled plane, named after it's inventor Frank Whittle.

12 Jan Count Ciano and other leading fascists are executed in German occupied Rome.

22 Jan Allied forces land south of Anzio.

25 Jan Allied forces make a headon

assault on the German fortifications at Monte Cassino,

but meet fierce resistance.

28 Jan AngloAmerican

declarations further deprecate Japanese brutality to prisoners of war.

11 Feb After fifteen days of fighting, Allied troops are beaten back from Monte Cassino, and receive hostile criticism.

15 Feb Allied bombers drop c450 tons of explosive on the monastery at Monte Cassino, and receive hostile criticism.

16 Feb A fresh allied assault on Monte Cassino, is lead by Indian and New Zealander troops, but meets stiff opposition and halts in poor weather.

17 Feb It was announced in the House of Commons that a free National Health Service would be established in Britain after the war.

18 Feb American forces destroy the Japanese base at Truk.

4 March The RAF launches a massive bombing raid on Hamburg, utilising new 12,000 lb bombs.

6 March Japanese forces launch Operation UGO, attempting to capture the British airbase at supply point at Imphal in Burma.

15 March Monte Cassino is heavily bombed again.

23 March Allied assaults on Monte Cassino are repelled again.

24 March Major General Order Wingate is killed in an air crash.

5 April Japanese forces launch an assault on Kohima, whilst nearby Imphal is still under seige.

16 April Russian forces enter the Crimea.

17 April Japanese forces mount a final attack on the Allied forces in Kohima who are left defending an area 350 yards square.

18 April Allied forces in Kohima are relieved by the British 2nd Division.

21 April Princess Elizabeth celebrates her 18th birthday.

22 April American troops make unopposed landings in Dutch New Guinea.

2 May The first prefabricated house (the "prefab") is unveiled in London.

4 May Allied troops recapture Arakan in Southern Burma.

5 May Allied Forces lead a counteroffensive at Kohima.

9 May Russian forces recapture Sebastopol.

11 May General Alexander, Commander in Charge of Allied forces in Italy, launches a final, massive attack on Monte Cassino.

18 May Polish troops finally capture the Monastery at Monte Cassion

31 May The Japanese withdraw from Kohima after sustaining heavy losses.

3 June The Battle of Kohima is finally ended as resisting troops are captured and killed.

4 June Allied troops enter Rome which the German troops withdraw from to avoid its' destruction (and became it is an untenable defensive position).

5 June DDay is postponed due to poor weather.

6 June DDay. Allied forces land in Normandy after a disinformation campaign suggesting an invasion at Calais. Over 150,000 troops are landed in a day.

13 June Germany launches the first V1 rocket against London, repeating earlier attacks on civilian targets. Over 2,000 are launched before the end of the war.

18 June Allied forces surround the port of Cherbourg.

22 June The Siege of Imphal is relieved, marking the turning point of the land war in Asia.

3 July Russian forces recapture Minsk.

4 July Japanese forces are driven back from Imphal.

9 July Allied forces capture Caen.

17 July Rommel is seriously injured when his staff car is strafed.

18 July General Montgomery launches an offensive to Falaise, but has limited success and loses over 400 tanks.

20 July Hitler survives an assassination attempt by Colonel Count von Stauffenberg and other disillusioned German military commanders.

21 July US marines land of Guam.

1 August Patriots in Warsaw begin an uprising against the German occupation forces.

15 August Allied forces land in the South of France from Nice to Marseilles.

22 August 50,000 German troops are captured as Patton's 3rd Army encircles units defending in Normandy. French resistance units take Versailles.

23 August Paris is liberated and General de Gaulle establishes a provisional government.

Marseilles is liberated in the South.  
 25 August De Gaulle enters Paris.  
 31 August Russian forces capture Bucharest in Rumania.  
 3 Sept Allied forces retract Brussels as the German forces continue to retreat rapidly  
 10 Sept Churchill and Roosevelt meet in Quebec.  
 11 Sept Allied troops enter German soil at the Luxembourg border, but soon meet with stiff resistance at the Rhine.  
 17 Sept Operation Market Garden is launched with airborne troops landing near Arnhem, Nijmegen and Eindhoven, and the British 2nd Army pushing up "Hell's Highway" in an attempt to link up with them and thus secure a Rhine crossing.  
 19 Sept LtCol John Frost's paratroops are finally overrun at the Bridge at Arnhem, but their defence enables allied forces to capture the Bridge at Nijmegen.  
 25 Sept The remaining allied paratroops are forced to withdraw from their positions to the North of the Rhine.  
 3 Oct The liberation of Greece begins.  
 15 Oct Rommel is announced to be dead by the German News Agency.  
 17 Oct The Battle of Leyte Gulf commences, which effectively destroys the remainder of the Japanese fleet.  
 20 Oct American forces recapture the Philippines.  
 11 Nov Churchill admits in Parliament that German V2 terror weapons have been falling on British soil for several weeks.  
 13 Nov The German battleship *Tirpitz* is sunk by RAF bombing raids, using the 12,000 lb Earthquake bomb designed by BarnesWallis.  
 20 Nov Blackout restrictions are lifted in London: Piccadilly, the Strand and Fleet Street are relit.  
 4 Dec The HomeGuard (or "Dad's Army) is disbanded.  
 16 Dec Von Runstedt mount a surprise counteroffensive in the Ardennes commencing the Battle of the Bulge. Bad weather prevents allied airsupport.  
 17 Dec Over 100 American troops are massacred at Malmedy by German troops after having been captured  
 20 Dec German forces encircle Bastogne, headquarters of the US 8th Army. The Allied counter –attack begins.  
 26 Dec Bastogne is relieved after fierce fighting: 450 German tanks are destroyed.  
 27 Dec Hitler consents to a withdrawal of German forces from the offensive.

## 1945

Russian forces drive Germany out of Poland; Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin meet at Yalta; British bombing raid on Dresden; Russian forces take Hungary; American forces take Manila and Ikinawa, but still face fierce resistance; The British 2nd Army crosses the Rhine; Death of Franklin D Roosevelt (18821945)

Vice

President Harry Truman is made President; Russian and American troops meet at Torgau; German forces are defeated in Northern Italy. Mussolini is hanged by Italian partisans; Facing defeat on 3 fronts, Hitler commits suicide; The Russians take Berlin; V E Day marks the end of the war in Europe (8 May); The newly formed United Nations presides over the division of Germany into four zones. Conference at Potsdam; The British Labour Party is elected with a huge majority. Churchill is ousted as Prime Minister, to be replaced by Atlee; Japan reguses to accept unconditional surrender. America drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; V J Day marks the end of the war in the Pacific (15 August); Ho Chi Minh declares Vietnam to be an independent republic; The Arab League opposes the creation of a Jewish State; Tito declares Yugoslavia to be a Federal republic; Recriminations (exections of Laval, Quisling, etc.) and War Trials commence; The World Bank is created and Reconstruction begins.

Films: *Brief Encounter*; *Blithe Spirit*; *The Way to the Stars*; *Anchors' Aweigh*; *Burma Victory*; *The True Glory*; *The Story of G I Joe*.

Books: Britten's *Peter Grimes*; Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel*; Bebop becomes popular.

Other: Rationing continues in Britain; the Labour Party introduces Family Allowances and other Welfare State legislation.

1 Jan Hitler broadcasts a speech declaring that the war will not end before 1976.

10 Jan "The Bulge" in the Western front is steadily eliminated.

17 Jan Warsaw is captured by Russian forces.

19 Jan Tensions arise in Poland as many see the Russians as a new occupying force.

24 Jan Mandalay, the capital of Burma, is surrounded.

9 Feb British and Canadian forces reach the Rhine.

11 Feb Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin complete eight days of talks in Yalta, in which German surrender terms, the postwar

partition of Germany, and the democratic government of

Poland are agreed. The formation of the United Nations is also agreed.

13 Feb Russian forces capture Budapest.

14 Feb Allied bombers carry out a saturation bombing raid on the historic city of Dresden, which was perceived as a major supply centre fortifying German forces on the Eastern front, and a railway communication centre.

8 March American forces cross the Rhine at Remagen.

14 March The RAF drops new 22,000 lb bombs on railway lines in Bielefeld.

16 March American forces capture Iwo Jima after overcoming fanatical resistance.

18 March The Milk Ration is increased in Britain.

28 March Colonel Green,

Heinz Guderian, Chief of German General Staff, is dismissed for suggesting that peace negotiations should be entered into.

1 April American forces land at Okinawa, only 370 miles from the Japanese mainland, virtually unopposed.

3 April The 82 day Battle of Okinawa commences.

5 April British forces capture Osnabruck.

7 April The Japanese battleship *Yamamoto* and four destroyers are sunk in the last naval action of World War.

12 April President Franklin D Roosevelt dies of a cerebral haemorrhage. Vice President Harry S Truman assumes the presidency.

13 April Russian forces capture Vienna.

15 April American troops cross the Elbe, 50 miles West of Berlin but are halted by Eisenhower.

16 April Allied armies liberate Belsen and discover, as at Nordhausen and Buchenwald, evidence of a scale of atrocity scarcely imaginable. Russian forces mount a 10,000 gun barrage of German troops East of Seelow, as they prepared to race to Berlin.

20 April Russian Artillery begins to bombard Berlin.

25 April Russian and American forces meet at Torgau on the Elbe.

26 April Russian forces encircle Berlin.

28 April Mussolini is murdered and hanged by his feet in Milan.

29 April Only pockets of resistance remain to oppose the Russian troops in Berlin.

30 April Russian troops are twice repulsed from the Reichstag. Hitler commits suicide in his bunker. Goebbels is appointed his successor but also commits suicide. Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz is appointed in his stead.

1 May The Reichstag is finally captured by Russian troops.

4 May Field Marshal

Montgomery accepts the surrender of German forces in North West

Germany, Holland and Denmark at Luneburg Heath.

7 May General Jodl signs the declaration of unconditional surrender for the German forces at Eisenhower's HQ in Rheims.

8 May V E Day. The end of the war in Europe.

24 May Himmler commits suicide whilst in captivity.

29 May American bombers blitz Yokohama. "Lord Haw Haw" (alias William Joyce) is captured.

21 June Lieutenant General

Ushijima, Japanese commander on Okinawa, commits ritual suicide as Okinawa falls after 82 days of fierce resistance.

26 June The United Nations Charter is signed.

26 July The General Election in Britain results in a Labour landslide. The Labour Party receives 393 seats, a figure it has never bettered. The Conservatives hold 213 seats, the Liberals 12 and others 22. Clement Atlee replaces Churchill as Prime Minister, with Ernest Bevin (Foreign Secretary); Hugh Dalton (Chancellor of the Exchequer), Stafford Cripps (President of the Board of Trade), Aneurin Bevan (Minister of Health) and Herbert Morrison (leader of the House) is sup porting roles.

27 July Churchill's final act as wartime Prime Minister was to sign the ultimatum issued to the Japanese government on this day.

2 August Atlee, Truman, Stalin and De Gaulle meet at Potsdam where war trials and reparations are agreed. Japanese surrender terms are drawn up.

6 August The first atomic bomb is dropped by an American bomber on Hiroshima: 80,600 people are killed instantly, but no surrender is forthcoming.

9 August Russian declares war on Japan and races to seize the Kuril islands. A second atomic bomb is dropped on Nagasaki.

14 August Japan accepts unconditional surrender.

15 August V J Day. The war is ended.

3 Sept The Japanese formally surrender on board US battleship *Missouri* anchored off Tokyo, exactly seven years after the German invasion of Poland.

1 Nov The planned date for the invasion of mainland Japan.

## POPULAR NEWSPAPERS DURING WORLD WAR II

**Parts 1 to 5:** 1939-1945 (The Daily Express, The Mirror, The News of The World, The People and The Sunday Express)

### *ABC Net Sales 1939-1948*

The Audit Bureau of Circulations Ltd (ABC) prepared a summarised list of the net sales of all publications belonging to its membership. The last list prepared before the war was for Jan-June 1939 and the first list prepared after the war was for Jan-June 1948. We have taken details from both of these analyses to form the following comparative tables. Where details of a newspaper's circulation is not provided by ABC, we have taken the details from the newspapers' proprietors (these entries are marked \*).

#### National Dailies

Title	1939 circulation	1948 circulation
Daily Express	2,510,019	3,855,401
The Daily Mirror	2,500,000*	3,700,887
Daily Mail	1,532,683	2,076,659
Daily Herald		2,113,856
News Chronicle	1,298,757	1,619,557
Evening News (London)	837,638	1,652,646
Star	488,119	1,081,812
Evening Standard	384,419	780,820
The Times		238,682

#### National Sunday Papers

Title	1939 circulation	1948 circulation
News of The World	3,750,000	7,887,488
The People	3,000,000*	4,672,708
Sunday Pictorial		4,004,571
Sunday Express	1,485,141	2,578,862
Sunday Dispatch	823,692	2,061,290
The Observer		383,771

#### Provincial Dailies

Title	1939 circulation	1948 circulation
Liverpool Echo	236,986	382,169
Birmingham Mail		296,259
Glasgow Evening Times		295,515
Yorkshire Evening Post	185,519	250,877
Evening Express (Liverpool)	104,322	114,700
Leeds Mercury & Yorkshire	79,912	151,524



Post (Leeds)		
Bristol Evening Post	74,969	128,602
Evening News (Portsmouth) & Southern Daily Mail	61,492	104,880

### Magazines/Journals

<b>Title</b>	<b>1939 circulation</b>	<b>1948 circulation</b>
Radio Times	2,981,986	6,992,046
Picture Post	1,300,492	1,229,788
Woman		1,087,142
Everybody Weekly	798,878	1,045,393
John Bull		1,045,170
Sporting Record		318,776
Lilliput	216,562	
True Story Magazine	155,587	
The Universe	130,017	
Punch	116,264	175,950

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