

Chronology of World War II

By H. V. KALTENBORN

1939

Jan. 14—Britain protests to Japan against violation of NINE POWER TREATY.
Feb. 10—Japan occupies Hainan Island, imperiling French and British Far East defense possessions.
Feb. 23—House of Representatives defeats bill to fortify Guam.
March 6—Japan announces six-year naval building program to give nation parity with U. S. and Great Britain.
March 16—Germany proclaims protectorate over Bohemia and Moravia and assumes protection of Slovakia; Hungary formally annexes Ruthenia.
March 22—Germany forces Lithuania to yield Memel.
March 29—Spanish civil war ends.
March 31—Great Britain and France pledge immediate military assistance to Poland in case of aggression.
March 31—Japan seizes French-owned Spratly Islands.
April 7—Italy invades Albania, which resists mildly; Spain announces adhesion to Anti-Comintern pact.
April 8—Secretary of State Hull denounces invasion of Albania as "threat to the peace of the world."
April 13—Great Britain and France pledge military assistance to Greece and Rumania.
April 28—Hitler rejects Pres. Roosevelt's plan for peace conference; denounces British-German naval treaty and non-aggression pact with Poland.
May 5—Poland refuses Hitler's demand for return of Danzig and for road across Polish corridor.
May 12—British-Turkish alliance announced.
May 22—Germany and Italy sign military alliance.
May 31—Denmark and Germany sign non-aggression pact.
July 26—U. S. denounces Japanese trade treaty of 1911.
Aug. 21—Germany and Russia announce signing of ten-year non-aggression pact.
Sept. 1—Germany invades Poland at 5:45 A.M.
Sept. 3—Great Britain and France declare war on Germany. Spain and Italy declare neutrality.
Sept. 5—U. S. proclaims neutrality.
Sept. 17—Soviet troops invade eastern Poland.
Sept. 22—Germany and Russia divide Poland.
Sept. 27—Warsaw surrenders; end Polish-German war.
Oct. 2—Twenty-one Western Hemisphere republics sign Declaration of Panama establishing a 300-mile safety zone around Panama, the Western Hemisphere except the Caribbean Sea, and the European possessions.
Oct. 13—Germany and Italy sign mutual assistance pact.
Nov. 30—Finland declares war on Germany.
Dec. 17—"Graf Spee" is scuttled by her crew.
March 12—Finland and Russia sign a treaty of peace.
March 30—Japanese-sponsored Wang Ching-Wei puppet government proclaimed at Nanking, China.
April 9—Germany invades Denmark and Norway.
May 10—German forces invade Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg without warning.
May 10—British troops occupy Iceland.
May 10—Chamberlain resigns as British prime minister, and is replaced by Winston Churchill.
May 14—The Netherlands army surrenders.
May 19—Weygand appointed Allied commander-in-chief to succeed Gamelin.
May 28—King Leopold surrenders the Belgian army over protests of his cabinet and the French command.
May 28—London announces evacuation of three-fourths of British expeditionary force from Dunkirk.
June 10—Italy declares war against Allies.
June 10—President Roosevelt denounces the Italian declaration of war as a "stab in the back" and pledges all possible material assistance to the Allies.
June 13—Japanese-controlled Chinese government demands withdrawal of all armed forces of European belligerents from China.
June 15—Soviet troops move into Lithuania.
June 16—Prime Minister Churchill proposes to France a Franco-British federation, which Pétain rejects.
June 17—France sues Germany for peace.
June 17—Russia seizes Latvia and Estonia.
June 22—Germany and France sign an armistice; France agrees to demobilize its land and sea forces.
June 24—France signs an armistice with Italy.
June 25—Fighting between France and Germany and Italy ceases. Germans occupy Atlantic coast of France.
June 27—Russian troops occupy Rumanian Bessarabia and northern Bukovina.
June 29—Japan announces a plan to unite all East Asia and the South Seas in a prosperity sphere under Japanese influence.
July 3—Britain seizes French ships in British ports, and destroy French naval units at Oran, Algeria, when their commander rejects a demand that he neutralize or surrender his ships.
July 19—In a "peace offer", Hitler tells Britain to quit war or lose empire.
July 25—Pres. Roosevelt, in a move against Japan, places an embargo on export of scrap metal, petroleum and petroleum products without a special license.
July 30—Pan-American conference at Havana adjourns after passing resolution that an attack on one American power is an attack on all.

July 31—The U. S., in a further move against Japan, places an embargo on aviation gasoline to all countries outside the western hemisphere.
Aug. 1—Japan announces intention to become a totalitarian state and to extend Japanese economic domination over China, French Indo-China and the Dutch East Indies.
Aug. 3—Japanese Ambassador to U. S. protests this country's embargo on aviation gasoline.
Aug. 6—Italian forces attack British Somaliland and begin invasion of Egypt from Libya.
Aug. 8—U. S. freezes funds of all countries invaded by Germany.
Aug. 17—Rumania agrees to cede all of southern Dobruja to Bulgaria.
Aug. 29—Gen. De Gaulle announces that the greater part of French Equatorial Africa has joined in fighting Italy and Germany.
Aug. 30—Rumania cedes one-half of Transylvania to Hungary.
Sept. 1—Pres. Roosevelt orders 60,000 members of the National Guard to report for one year's service.
Sept. 2—Pres. Roosevelt announces the exchange of 50 destroyers for 99-year leases on air and naval bases in British Western Hemisphere possessions.
Sept. 4—Secretary of State Hull informs Japan that any change in the status quo of Indo-China would have an "unfortunate effect" on American opinion.
Sept. 12—Italian forces invade Egypt.
Sept. 14—U. S. announces two-ocean navy policy.
Sept. 14—Congress passes the Selective Service Act.
Sept. 22—French Indo-China permits Japan to occupy and garrison strategic points.
Sept. 25—British attempt to land De Gaulle "Free French" troops at Dakar, West Africa, fails.
Sept. 26—Pres. Roosevelt, in counter-move against Japan, places a complete embargo on the shipping of steel and scrap iron to any points outside the Western Hemisphere except to Great Britain.
Sept. 27—Germany, Italy and Japan sign a treaty in which Japan recognizes German and Italian leadership in creating a "new order in Europe" and Germany and Italy recognize the leadership of Japan in creating a new order in "the greater East Asia". The three powers promise military assistance to each other if any one of these should be attacked by a power not then engaged in the European or the Sino-Japanese war.
Oct. 11—Japan announces that the military pact with Germany and Italy is not directed against the U. S.
Oct. 12—Pres. Roosevelt declares the intentions of the U. S. to defend its right to peaceful commerce in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.
Oct. 28—Italy invades Greece.
Oct. 30—Great Britain lands marines on Greek Islands.
Nov. 11-12—British torpedo-plane raid on naval base at Taranto sinks several important Italian fleet units.
Dec. 9—British forces begin Libyan offensive.
Dec. 9—Japan states it would not make war against the U. S. unless the latter was the aggressor.
Dec. 24—Japan and Thailand proclaim non-aggression treaty.

1941

March 1—Bulgaria joins Axis alliance.
March 11—Roosevelt signs seven-billion dollar Lend-Lease Bill authorizing war aid to Britain and China.
March 15—British forces land in Greece.
March 27—Yugoslav pro-Axis Government overthrown. Peter II becomes king.
March 27-28—British defeat Italian navy off Cape Matapan southwest of Crete.
March 30—U. S. seizes 65 German, Italian and Danish ships in U. S. waters.
April 5—Hitler invades Yugoslavia and Greece.
April 6—Russian-Yugoslav non-aggression treaty signed.
April 6-12—German-Italian troops recapture Bengasi, Bardia, Derna and Sallum.
April 10—Denmark agrees to U. S. establishing air bases on Greenland.
April 11—Hungarian troops invade Yugoslavia.
April 11—Pres. Roosevelt opens Red Sea to U. S. shipping.
April 13—Russian-Japanese neutrality pact signed.
April 17—Yugoslavia surrenders to Germany.
April 19—British open campaign in Iraq.
April 29—Greek campaign ends.

Order of Map Appearance in Atlas

Western Hemisphere Defense
Oceania—Netherlands East Indies, Australia, and the Islands of the Pacific
British Isles
South America
The World
Africa
Turkey—Syria and Iraq
Eastern Europe—Russia, Finland and the Baltic Countries
The Mediterranean and surrounding territory
Europe
The Philippines

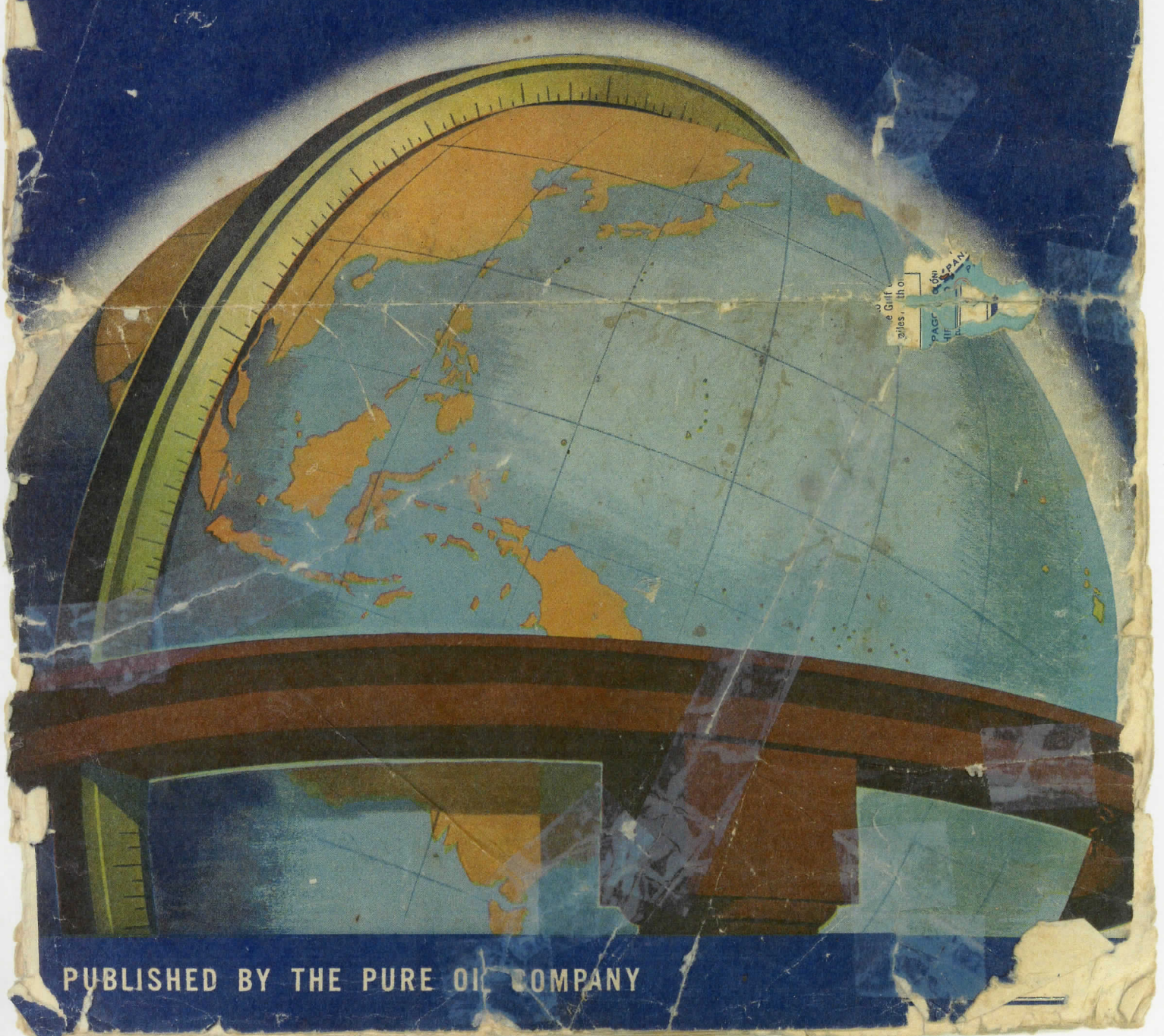
May 10—Rudolph Hess flies to Scotland with peace offer.
May 19—Main Italian forces in Ethiopia surrender to British. German parachute troops invade Crete.
May 21—U. S. freighter "Robin Moor" sunk by German submarine in South Atlantic.
May 24—German battleship "Bismarck" sinks British battle cruiser "Hood".
May 27—"Bismarck" destroyed by British fleet. Pres. Roosevelt declares an unlimited emergency.
June 1—British close Iraq campaign as pro-Axis government flees. British announce evacuation of Crete.
June 6—German technical forces reported in Syria.
June 8—British and Free French invade Syria.
June 14—U. S. freezes Axis funds.
June 16—U. S. closes German consulates.
June 19—Germany and Italy close U. S. consulates.
June 22—Germany invades Russia.
July 7—Pres. Roosevelt announces landing of U. S. forces in Iceland with consent of Iceland's government.
July 30—Japan occupies Saigon, French Indo-China.
Aug. 14—Pres. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill issue 8-point Atlantic Declaration framed during meetings aboard H.M.S. "Prince of Wales."
Aug. 25—Britain and Russia move into Iran.
Sept. 4—U. S. destroyer "Greer" attacked by an unidentified submarine.
Sept. 11—Pres. Roosevelt orders Navy to eliminate all U-boats found in U. S. defense waters.
Oct. 17—U. S. destroyer "Kearny" damaged by torpedo in North Atlantic, but reaches port.
Oct. 18—General Hideki Tojo forms new army cabinet in Japan, replacing Prince Konoye's cabinet.
Oct. 31—U. S. destroyer "Reuben James" sunk by German U-boat near Iceland.
Nov. 3—Secretary of State Hull warns Finland against further invasion of Russia.
Nov. 5—Japan announces sending of Saburo Kurosu to the U. S. in ostensible effort to maintain peace.
Nov. 17—Pres. Roosevelt signs Neutrality Bill Amendment permitting U. S. merchant ships to be armed and to enter war zones.
Nov. 18—Allies launch new offensive in Libya.
Nov. 20—General Weygand removed as commander of French North African forces under Nazi pressure.
Nov. 24—Pres. Roosevelt extends lend-lease aid to Free France, and orders occupation of Dutch Guiana by American troops.
Dec. 6—Great Britain declares a state of war exists with Finland, Hungary, and Rumania.
Dec. 7—As Envoys Nomura and Kurosu visit the State Department to continue peace talks, Japan attacks U. S. Pacific possessions, doing serious damage to the U. S. Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor and follows the surprise move with a declaration of war on Great Britain and the U. S. Canada, Netherlands Indies, Costa Rica, and the Netherlands government in exile declare war on Japan. Union of South Africa declares war on Finland, Hungary, and Rumania.
Dec. 8—The U. S., Great Britain, Free France, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Salvador and Haiti declare war on Japan. Manchukuo declares war on the U. S.
Dec. 9—Panama, Dominican Republic, New Zealand, Union of South Africa and Australia declare war on Japan.
Dec. 10—British battleship "Prince of Wales" and battle cruiser "Repulse" sunk by Japanese. Cuba and the Greek and Polish governments in exile declare war on Japan; China declares war on Germany, Italy and Japan.
Dec. 11—Japanese battleship "Haruna", cruiser and destroyer sunk by army fliers. Germany and Italy declare war on the U. S.; the United States, Nicaragua, Cuba and Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, and Guatemala declare war on Germany and Italy.
Dec. 12—The Vichy government declares neutrality. Slovakia and Rumania declare war on U. S. Netherlands government in exile declares war on Italy, Panama, Honduras, Haiti, and Salvador declare war on Germany and Italy.
Dec. 13—Bulgaria and Hungary declare war on the U. S. Great Britain and New Zealand declare war on Bulgaria.
Dec. 16—Czechoslovakia government in exile declares war on all those at war with the U. S. and Great Britain.
Dec. 17—Albania declares war on the U. S.
Dec. 19—Nicaragua declares war on Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria. Congress passes bill extending draft to include men ages 20-44.
Dec. 20—Belgium government in exile declares war on Japan.
Dec. 22—Churchill begins war talks with Roosevelt.
Dec. 23—Free French forces seize Vichy North American islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon.
Dec. 24—Wake Island falls to Japs.
Dec. 25—Hong Kong falls to Japs.
Dec. 27—Manila, declared an open city, bombed heavily by Japs.

1942

Jan. 2—Japan takes Manila.
Jan. 15-21 American republics open conference at Rio de Janeiro to discuss war problems.

WAR ATLAS

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