

Time-Line 1940 - 1949

1940

- Soviet Union Invades Baltic Nations

http://www.historyorb.com/russia/baltic_independence.php

- German Blitzkrieg Conquers Most of Western Europe

During World War II, Germany overran much of Europe using a new tactic called the "Blitzkrieg" (lightning war). Blitzkrieg involved the massing of planes, tanks, and artillery. These forces would break through enemy defenses along a narrow front. Air power prevented the enemy from closing the breach. German forces encircled opposing troops, forcing them to surrender. Using the Blitzkrieg tactic, Germany defeated Poland (attacked in September 1939), Denmark (April 1940), Norway (April 1940), Belgium (May 1940), the Netherlands (May 1940), Luxembourg (May 1940), France (May 1940), Yugoslavia (April 1941), and Greece (April 1941). Yet Germany did not defeat Great Britain, which was protected from ground attack by the English Channel.

<http://www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007681>

- Germany, Italy, Japan Sign Tripartite Pact

On this day in 1940, the Axis powers are formed as Germany, Italy, and Japan become allies with the signing of the Tripartite Pact in Berlin. The Pact provided for mutual assistance should any of the signatories suffer attack by any nation not already involved in the war. This formalizing of the alliance was aimed directly at "neutral" America--designed to force the [United States](#) to think twice before venturing in on the side of the Allies.

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/the-tripartite-pact-is-signed-by-germany-italy-and-japan>

- United States Makes Destroyers-For-Bases Deal with Britain
- Federal Census Shows Alabama Population is 2,832,961
- Cartoon Characters, Bugs Bunny and Tom and Jerry, Debuted

1941

- Germany Invades Soviet Union
- US "Lend-Lease" Plan Provides Aid to Britain
- American Ships Confront German Submarines In North Atlantic
- Attack on Pearl Harbor Dec 7, 1941

<http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/pearl-harbor>

- United States Enters War II on December 8, 1941
Great Britain, France, USSR, US & China are known as the Allies fighting Germany, Italy and Japan known as the Axis
- Roosevelt and Churchill Draft Atlantic Charter
- Alabama Gets New or Expanded Military Bases
Bases are in Montgomery, Mobile, Selma and Anniston along with munitions plants in Huntsville and Childersburg.
- African-American military pilots, the “Tuskegee Airmen” Begin Training
<http://tuskegeeairmennationalmuseum.org/>
- Television Companies Begin Broadcasts
- Telephones Available for Home Use

1944

- GI Bill of Rights Enacted
- D-Day (June 6, 1944)
Allies attack Axis forces at Normandy (France). On June 6, 1944, more than 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline, to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy, France. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which, “we will accept nothing less than full victory.” More than 5,000 Ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D-Day invasion, and by day’s end, the Allies gained a foot-hold in Continental Europe. The cost in lives on D-Day was high. More than 9,000 Allied Soldiers were killed or wounded, but their sacrifice allowed more than 100,000 Soldiers to begin the slow, hard slog across Europe, to defeat Adolf Hitler’s crack troops.
<http://www.army.mil/d-day/>
- Hunt Oil Company is granted First Oil Well Permit in Alabama
The permit was to drill the A.R. Jackson Well No. 1 near Gilbertown, Choctaw County.

1945

- University of Alabama Medical School Moved from Tuscaloosa to Birmingham.
- Yalta Conference
The Yalta Conference took place in a Russian resort town in the Crimea from February 4–11, 1945, during World War Two. At Yalta, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin made important decisions regarding the future progress of the war and the postwar world.
- Roosevelt Dies; Harry S. Truman Sworn in as 33rd President (1945-1953)

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt passed away after four momentous terms in office, leaving Vice President Harry S. Truman in charge of a country still fighting the Second World War and in possession of a weapon of unprecedented and terrifying power.

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/fdr-dies>

- Potsdam Conference

The Big Three—Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (replaced on July 26 by Prime Minister Clement Attlee), and U.S. President Harry Truman—met in Potsdam, Germany, from July 17 to August 2, 1945, to negotiate terms for the end of World War II.

- United Nations Founded

The forerunner of the United Nations was the League of Nations, an organization conceived in similar circumstances during the first World War, and established in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles "to promote international cooperation and to achieve peace and security." The League of Nations ceased its activities after failing to prevent the Second World War. In 1945, representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization to draw up the United Nations Charter.

- Adolf Hitler and partner Eva Braun Commit Suicide on April 30th

The bunker in which Adolf Hitler and partner Eva Braun committed suicide was fifty feet below the Chancellery in Berlin.

- US Drops A-Bombs on Hiroshima & Nagasaki on August 6th and 9th.

- Japanese Surrender on September 2, 1945 - World War II is over.

1946

- United States Grants Philippines Independence

- Atomic Energy Commission Established

1947

- Georgiana, Alabama's Hank Williams Signs Recording Contract with MGM

He became a regular performer on The Louisiana Hayride radio program.

- Truman Doctrine Announced

- Marshall Plan Proposed

- National Security Act Passed

1948

- Communists Stage Coup in Czechoslovakia

- United Nations Votes to Partition Palestine and Create State of Israel

- "Dixiecrat Party" Organizes in Birmingham

Thirty-five Southern Democrats organize new party in opposition to President Truman's support of civil rights plank. <http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1751.html>

1949

- NATO Established

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was established by 12 Western nations: the United States, Great Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Iceland, Canada, and Portugal. The military alliance, which provided for a collective self-defense against Soviet aggression, greatly increased American influence in Europe.

- Soviet Union Explodes Atomic Bomb

At a remote test site at Semipalatinsk in Kazakhstan, the USSR successfully detonates its first atomic bomb, code name "First Lightning." In order to measure the effects of the blast, the Soviet scientists constructed buildings, bridges, and other civilian structures in the vicinity of the bomb. They also placed animals in cages nearby so that they could test the effects of nuclear radiation on human-like mammals. The atomic explosion, which at 20 kilotons was roughly equal to "Trinity," the first U.S. atomic explosion, destroyed those structures and incinerated the animals.

- Communists Seize Power In China