

WORLD WAR II

Hitler's Dream Is Shattered By Allied Victory

European War Cost More Than Trillion Dollars, Six Million Lives

By CARL C. CRANMER
Associated Press Staff Writer
Germany's dream of world conquest has come to a shattering end with the collapse of the Reich which Adolf Hitler boasted was to endure a thousand years.

Ended is the European phase of the second great war of the century, a war which is estimated to have cost close to \$1,000,000,000,000 (one trillion) in money and the lives of more than 6,000,000 men.

The collapse of Germany was foreshadowed last July 20 when an attempt was made to kill Hitler and seize power by what the dictator said was a small clique of "foolish, criminally stupid" German officers.

Whole World Fooled
This revolt among Hitler's entourage, coming almost exactly a year after the sorry lurch Benito Mussolini had been broken in Italy, the rapid advances of Russian armies in the east, the drive of Allied armies in Italy, and the success of the most difficult amphibious invasion in history, the invasion of Normandy, all suggested that the German army was approaching a debacle.

At the start, the war looked to the world, grossly undervaluing preparations, like the throw of a mad adventurer.

It turned out that the Allies snatched victory only after hairbreadth escape from defeat.

Hitler opened it with a razzle-dazzle of propaganda, secret weapons, armored spearheads, bombing armadas, parachute troops, fifth columns and political sleight-of-hand which quickly established him as a sinister Eastman of war.

First, he attacked the war in the Pacific by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, it had been fought on all the oceans and continents.

"In this war there will be no victors and losers, but merely survivors and annihilated," Hitler threatened, and accordingly he set a pace for ruthlessness and cruelty unprecedented in modern war.

The conflict became a War of Secret Battles—long silent struggles to smash his invasion fleet off Britain, to master the submarine which imperiled the United States as never before, to crush robot bomb launching sites in France.

A War of Secret Weapons—in which the Allies with radar, a brand new conception of massed fleets of invasion barges, the technique of mass bombing through clouds, and a host of inventions, outdid Hitler.

War in the Air—in which whole armies of millions engaged. For the first time the capitals of great nations and scores of other cities were marked for methodical destruction.

A War of Cities—Stalingrad, Leningrad, Odessa, Sevastopol, Cassino—whose streets and houses were turned into trenches and forts. A new technique of battle in the rubble of cities developed. London was blitzed, and Berlin shattered.

A war underground between Quislings and armies of resistance, and a war of psychology in which the Four Freedoms and the Atlantic Charter were used to combat Nazi ideology.

A war fought in the extremes of weather and terrain, from Africa to the Arctic, in the world's worst bogs and jungles and most inaccessible mountains.

Flying Bomb Advent
The war saw the advent of the flying bomb and many different rocket weapons, the blockbuster, rapid firing guns which made artillery barrages more intense than ever, mass mobility of tanks and vehicles, the air-borne army, the flying battleship, amphibious invasion on a grander scale than ever.

All this was started about 3 o'clock on Friday morning, Sept. 1, 1939, when German armies invaded Poland.

Dismissing the Poles too much to declare war formally, Hitler announced only that he was answering "force with force."

With snuggles he declared, "I am putting on the uniform (the field gray of the German army) and I shall take it off only in victory or death."

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VICTORY EDITION

Saga of the Austrian House Painter Who Tried to Conquer the World



THE HOUSE PAINTER (1889-1924): The turbulent life of Adolf Hitler had its humble beginning at Braunau, Austria, where the "little man with big ideas" was born April 20, 1889, the son of a drunken petty official. Hitler's early life was an unhappy one, both at home and later in Vienna and Munich, where he went as a youth to work as a common laborer, house painter, and newspaper sketch artist.

Serving as a corporal in the Bavarian Army during World War I, Hitler was wounded, gassed, and later decorated. After the war he joined with a group of six men, the original National Socialist German Labor Party. In 1923 came the Munich "beer hall revolution," when Hitler led an uprising against the government and proclaimed himself dictator.

Sentenced to jail for five years (he served only eight months), he spent his prison time writing "Mein Kampf," wherein a portent of things to come was set forth as "A state which, in an age of racial pollution, devotes itself to cultivation of its best racial elements, must some day become master of the earth."



BEGINNINGS OF CONQUEST (1936-39): The Nazi march toward European domination began in 1936 when German troops, breaking the Locarno Pact, occupied the Rhineland. Next came formation of the Rome-Berlin Axis, when Hitler joined with Mussolini in a partnership dedicated to war and aggression. In 1937, all Nazi male youths were ordered to work or military service, and with the entire German nation now behind him either by choice or domination, Hitler sent an ultimatum to Austria.

The bloodless occupation followed in 1938. Concentrating 200,000 troops on the Czech frontier, the Nazis refused all offers of concessions of the helpless nation. Chamberlain became the symbol of democratic appeasement when he signed the Munich pact, giving Hitler 11,000 square miles of Czech territory with a population of 3,500,000. In this same city—where the Nazi "beer hall gang" met each year to celebrate founding of the party—Hitler narrowly escaped death in 1939, when a bomb wrecked the shrine just after he left.

The occupation of Austria and Czechoslovakia came just six months after Hitler told the world, "There is no nation in the world which longs more for peace than Germany."

German territory only for a few thousand yards near Sarbrucken. Their "offensive" never developed. The British were dropping leaflets on Germany all winter long as Hitler alternately threatened "total war" and held out hopes of peace.

Norway and Denmark
On April 9, 1940, the war broke out with all its fury. Hitler's troops slipped into Denmark and invaded Norway by sea and air. A few goosestepping soldiers and a military band marched in and took Oslo. Soldiers hidden in the holds of previously-arrived ships seized Narvik, Bergen, Stavanger, Trondheim and other coastal points.

The British, caught napping, landed a few thousand Allied troops on both sides of Trondheim and later at Narvik, but were forced to withdraw. On April 30 Hitler proclaimed a complete victory, and within a short time Allied troops had withdrawn.



THE RISE TO POWER (1924-36): After his release from prison in 1924, Hitler began to form his party and gather his henchmen—Goering and Goebbels were among the first. By 1933 Hitler's terror began, with the burning of the Reichstag, arrest of 500 Communists, suppression of newspapers and other political parties. All civil liberties were banished, and with the creation of the Gestapo by Goering, the bloody persecution of the Jews began.

Hitler quit the League of Nations and disarmament conference, and in 1934 signed a non-aggression pact with jittery Poland. Hitler became President on Von Hindenburg's death that year and assumed the title of "Fuehrer."

During 1935 annexation of the Saar, creation of the Luftwaffe under Goering, and breaking of the Versailles treaty all presented sharp contradiction to the Fuehrer's 1933 Reichstag speech, when he shouted, "Germany wants nothing that she is not ready to give to others. The German people have no thought of invading any country."



WORLD WAR II (1939-44): After signing a non-aggression pact with Russia in 1939, Hitler's troops invaded Poland. England and France declared war on Germany, and Hitler answered them in 1940 with invasions of Denmark, Norway, the Low Countries and France. Significant were the 1940 meetings of Hitler and Japan's Kurusu, for a year later the Pearl Harbor attack came.

Hitler erred gravely in 1941 when, after swallowing the Balkans, he invaded vast Russia. Early successes were followed by increasing retreats here and in North Africa after U. S. entered the war. By the end of 1943 Germany had also lost Sicily and part of Italy.

Allied invasion of France in June of 1944 forced a three-front war on Germany, already reeling in Italy and Russia. Revolt of his army clique and attempted assassination brought on a "purge" of Nazi officers, as the Fuehrer dodged blame for military disasters.

Faced with humiliating army retreats and continual air bombardment, Hitler crouched in his ever-shrinking "Fuehrer" and desperately told his people that "Victory will one day compensate each and every one of us for the sorrows suffered and the sacrifices made."

Battle of Britain
Most popular song in Germany was "we're sailing against England." Britain seemed helpless. She had lost all but a few score guns and tanks. The R.A.F. was outnumbered. She fell back on hastily organized home guards to fight from haystacks and hedgerows.

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Impact of War In Europe Felt Lightly In America

Except for Materials and Lives Expended Abroad Conflict Hardly Felt

By DAVID TAYLOR MARKE
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It was September 4, 1939, just one day after England declared war on Germany, that the physical impact of the European conflict hit the United States—with the sinking of the British liner Athenia. Three hundred Americans were aboard, and 30 died.

The United States invoked the neutrality act, curtailing business activities with the belligerents. Travel to Europe was banned except for "imperative reasons." Thousands came home.

Harbors from Halifax to Rio de Janeiro were filled with idle ships and stranded men. Despite armed guards aboard, 27 Italian ships interned from New York to Florida were effectively sabotaged. Similar Axis action followed in ports throughout the Americas.

America Not Immune
Prosecutions for sabotage label suits for millions of dollars against Axis vessels and their cargoes, plus the sinking of the U. S. S. Reuben James in American waters; the torpedoing of Latin American vessels off the shores of the U. S., Central and South America and the islands of the Caribbean, all punctuated the fact that no shore of the Americas was immune to war.

The battle and subsequent scuttling of the German pocket battleship Graf Spee were witnessed by thousands at Montevideo. Shipyard workers could see the physical damage wrought by war, as they were kept busy repairing Allied merchantmen and warships.

Then came the actual attack on the United States and most of the Americas were at war.

More than 283 American vessels were sunk, often within sight of American shores, as Axis submarine warfare reached a new fury. Thousands of spectators watched flames sweep merchantmen from Canada to South America. Survivors of torpedoed ships began pouring ashore, more than 3,000 at Miami alone during 1942.

Shattered bodies, wreckage and oil slicks strewn stretches of beach for thousands of miles.

West Coast Felt Attack
Submarines crept close inshore to the Netherlands West Indies in February, 1942, to shell Aruba's huge Standard Oil refinery and to sink tankers in the harbor there. Then sank 20 vessels after creeping right into the St. Lawrence River. The west coast, too, felt the Axis attack, and shells once fell in California.

The supply of oil for civilian cars and homes was sharply cut and sugar and coffee stocks sank to new lows, necessitating rationing. Fishing boats were sunk.

So serious were the off-shore attacks became that general direct restrictions were ordered to reduce the glow against which ships were silhouetted from the sea.

The United States established air bases in South America and transferred warships to Latin American flags to combat the submarine menace.

Two days after Pearl Harbor the heavily industrialized eastern seaboard from New York to Boston experienced an air raid alarm. "Unknown planes approaching" flashed through defense offices.

Navy patrols soared along the coast and more than 300 planes from Mitchell Field took to the air. Five and a half hours screamed. Civilian Defense volunteers and plane spotters manned their posts. Millions of children were dismissed from classes. Thousands of employes were rushed out of vital defense factories and Army and Navy centers. It was a false alarm.

Saboteurs Brought Problem
Even before Pearl Harbor the Americas, sheltering half a million refugees from Europe, felt their internal security threatened by the infiltration of dangerous aliens. Saboteurs tried to slip in as refugees.

This Country alone held nearly 1,000,000 German, Italian and Japanese aliens, to be augmented later by prisoners of war as Allied arms swept triumphantly through Africa, Italy and France.

Escaping prisoners kept the Americas on the alert. Citizens of Axis origin aiding and abetting these internees to escape, when swept up by the FBI and local law enforcement agencies, tried and sent to prison.

Six saboteurs sneaking in by submarine through Long Island and Florida were caught and executed and two others were sent to prison. So were 33 members of the dangerous Dusquesne Spy Ring, and 16 others of high degree. These obtained information of the greatest military value which, through counter-espionage, was rendered valueless before it could be transmitted to Germany. Scores of high Nazi leaders were (See IMPACT page 6)