

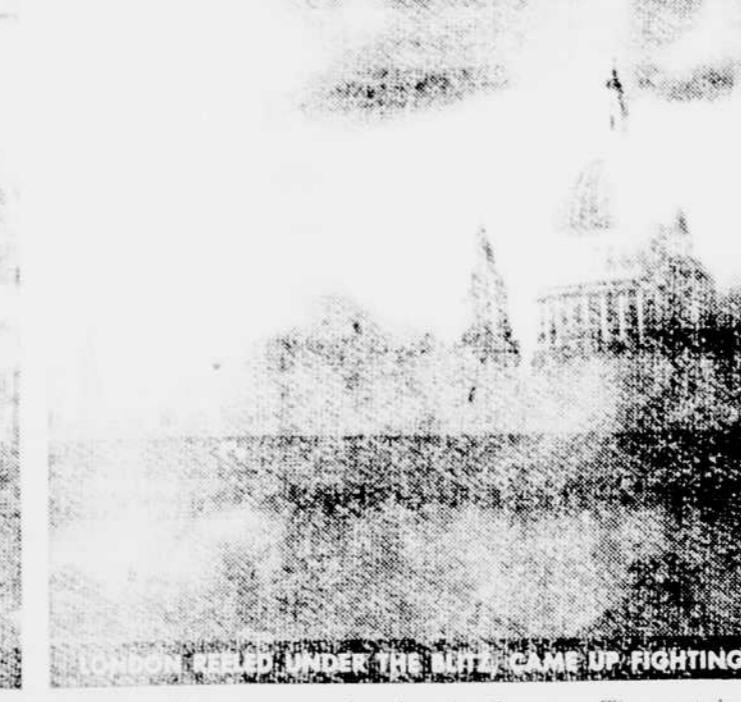
VICTORY IN EUROPE—HIGHLIGHTS OF WORLD WAR II



SEPT. 1, 1944—U.S. troops in France captured the first German soldier since D-Day. The Nazi had been captured by U.S. paratroopers near the town of Beauvois.



MAY 17—Germany downed its last plane in the war. It was a Messerschmitt 109, shot down by a British Spitfire over the English Channel. The plane had been flying from Berlin to Paris.



JUNE 9—London surrendered to the Germans. The next day, Adolf Hitler climbed aboard Hitler's plane and flew to Scotland. June 14—The Germans entered Paris. A week later, Nazi troops cut off the Maginot Line, occupied Vichy. June 17—Marshal Pétain called Hitler for an armistice. July 25—The Battle of Britain reached its climax with 1,000 planes downed. Oct. 26—Italian planes hit Greece...



APRIL 6, 1941—Germany invaded Greece and Yugoslavia. May 12—Rudolf Hess, the Nazi's No. 2 man, descended into Scotland. June 22—Hitler scrapped his armistice. He met with Stalin and sent his armored divisions across the Polish border. Oct. 16—the Germans captured Warsaw and moved toward Moscow. Dec. 5—Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. The United States at war. Dec. 10—Japan joined the Allies.



JUN. 20, 1944—U.S. tanks in Italy crossed the Po River and entered the city of Parma. The next day, the Allies crossed the Apennines and took the hills above the Italian capital. June 25—The Allies crossed the Po River and took the hills above the Italian capital. June 26—U.S. and British forces made their first landing on Sicily. June 28—U.S. forces landed on Sicily. June 29—U.S. and British forces landed in North Africa. The total war was now fought in four theaters.



JUNE 29—U.S. paratroopers in Sicily dropped the British paratroopers. A British force from Sicily moved to Pantelleria and took it. July 1—The Allies took Palermo. July 2—U.S. and British forces made their first landing on Sicily. June 28—U.S. forces landed on Sicily. June 29—U.S. and British forces landed in North Africa. The total war was now fought in four theaters.



JULY 14—Admiral Durkin assumed command of the British fleet. July 15—British troops, standing back at the Nazis, lifted the 12-month siege of Leningrad. July 27—U.S. bombers launched their first attack on Germany, bombing out of the naval base at Wilhelmshaven and other targets. Feb. 2—The turning point of the war in the east arrived. Russian defenders of Stalingrad announced complete victory; the capture of 11,000 Nazis.



MAY 9—Germany reached its end in North Africa. Six Nazi commanders surrendered 24,000 men in the Tunisian area. Three days later, on May 12, Axis forces in North Africa announced organized resistance had ended. By June 11, Allied forces were beginning the drive east to the Mediterranean to Italy. First stop was captured island of Pantelleria. July 11—Pozzallo, on the south coast of Sicily, fell.



JULY 25—U.S. troops in France crossed the Rhine. Aug. 1—The Allies invaded Italy. Aug. 10—The Allies invaded France. Aug. 15—The Allies invaded Belgium. Aug. 20—The Allies invaded Luxembourg. Aug. 25—Gen. Patton's tanks crossed the Saar. Aug. 26—Gen. Hodges' tanks crossed the Moselle. Aug. 27—The Allies crossed the Rhine. Aug. 28—The Allies crossed the Meuse. Aug. 29—The Allies crossed the Seine. Aug. 30—The Allies crossed the Loire. Aug. 31—The Allies crossed the Garonne. Sept. 1—The Allies crossed the Dordogne. Sept. 2—The Allies crossed the Garonne. Sept. 3—The Allies crossed the Gave de Pau. Sept. 4—The Allies crossed the Pyrenees. Sept. 5—The Allies crossed the Ebro. Sept. 6—The Allies crossed the Tagus. Sept. 7—The Allies crossed the Guadiana. Sept. 8—The Allies crossed the Algarve. Sept. 9—The Allies crossed the Tagus. Sept. 10—The Allies crossed the Douro. Sept. 11—The Allies crossed the Minho. Sept. 12—The Allies crossed the Tamega. Sept. 13—The Allies crossed the Mondego. 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