**US Enters WWII:**

**Election of 1940**

* First President to Serve more than 2 terms! Breaks the tradition set by Washington
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Germany Invades the USSR:**

* June 1941
* breaks Nazi-Soviet Pact
* Operation Barbarossa
* US gives USSR Lend-Lease
* USSR joins Allies

**Churchill’s Reaction:**

* Calling Hitler a "bloodthirsty guttersnipe", he said his own outspoken opposition to communism had "faded away" in the light of today's events, and pledged Britain's help for the Soviet Union in any way possible.
* "The Russian danger is... our danger," he said, "and the danger of the United States, just as the cause of any Russian fighting for his hearth and home is the cause of free men and free peoples in every quarter of the globe."

**Submarine Warfare:**

* Begins Sept. 1941
* German U-boat sinks American Destroyer Greer
* Roosevelt orders “Shoot on sight”
* 2 more sunk
* US arms merchant vessels

**Atlantic Charter:**

* US and GB
* announcement of common principles for better future
* actually preparation for US entry

**US v. Japan:**

* US disapproves of aggression
* places embargo on supplies such as oil
* Hideki Tojo takes over
* Need supplies!
* Decision for war to avoid US interference

**Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor**

**Sunday Dec. 7, 1941**

**Japanese Plan:**

* If the War lasts more than a year

*-”I have no expectation of success”*

* The attack must be a surprise!
* Planned for months before
* Japanese Strike Force

- 6 carriers

- 2 Battleships

- 3 Cruisers

- 9 Destroyers

- 8 Oilers- for refueling

- Submarines w/ midget subs to slip in before attack

**Countdown to attack:**

* Saturday, December 6 - Washington D.C. - U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt makes a final appeal to the Emperor of Japan for peace. There is no reply. Late this same day, the U.S. code-breaking service begins intercepting a 14-part Japanese message and deciphers the first 13 parts, passing them on to the President and Secretary of State. The Americans believe a Japanese attack is imminent, most likely somewhere in Southeast Asia.

**Countdown to attack:**

* Sunday, December 7 - Washington D.C.
* 9:00am - Message decoded diplomatic relations with the U.S. are to be broken off
* 10:00am message decoded instructing Japanese embassy to deliver the message to the Americans at 1 p.m.
* Time corresponds with early morning time in Pearl Harbor
* The U.S. War Department then sends out an alert but uses a commercial telegraph because radio contact with Hawaii is temporarily broken. Delays prevent the alert from arriving at headquarters in Oahu until noontime (Hawaii time) four hours after the attack has already begun.
* At 6 a.m., the first attack wave of 183 Japanese planes takes off from the carriers located 230 miles north of Oahu and heads for the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor.
* At 7:15 a.m., a second attack wave of 167 planes takes off from the Japanese carriers and heads for Pearl Harbor.
* The US ship Ward sinks a Japanese Submarine off the coast at 6:40 am

**Pearl Harbor - At 7:02 a.m.**

* Two Army operators at Oahu's northern shore radar station detect the Japanese air attack approaching and contact a junior officer who disregards their reports, thinking they are American B-17 planes which are expected in from the U.S. west coast.

**First Wave**

* 183 planes: 40 torpedo bombers, and 49 high altitude bombers
* USS California- hit
* USS Oklahoma- hit
* USS W. Virginia- hit and captain is killed
* USS Tennessee- hit
* USS Arizona- hit and goes down in less than 9 minutes: 1,177 men lose their lives
* USS Nevada- hit, tries to leave harbor, hit again, runs aground
* USS Utah- on other side of the island hit against orders, it is only used as a training ship
* USS Pennsylvania- in dry dock is hit

**Second Wave**

* 167 Japanese planes
* 8:55 am
* target cruisers and destroyers
* oil tanks and ship repair facilities are ignored!
* By 10:00am the attack is over

**Airfields Targeted**

* Hickam and Wheeler
* planes parked wing tip to wing tip are easy targets!
* Hickam- 550lb bomb hits a 3200 man barrack exploding in the dining hall killing 35 men at breakfast
* Wheeler- Lt. Kenneth Taylor and George Welch drive to a small field 10 miles away and take off. They are credited for shooting down 6 Japanese planes

**American Losses**

* US

- 2403 dead

- 1000+ wounded

- 18 ships sunk or damaged

- only ¼ aircraft are airworthy

**In the End**

* of 400 aircraft only ¼ were airworthy
* much of the fleet, including 3 aircraft carriers, had not been at Pearl Harbor
* USS AZ, Utah, and Oklahoma permanently damaged
* all other ships returned to sea, some within weeks
* In the next 44 months
  + US Navy sank every one of the Japanese aircraft carriers, battleships, and cruisers of the Japanese strike force
  + Nagasaki, the city where the special torpedoes were made, was destroyed by an atom bomb
  + when Japan signed surrender on September 2, 1945 the West Virginia was there in Tokyo Bay

**Did the US Know?**

* January 24, 1940: Navy Secretary Frank Knox
  + “Hostilities would be initiated by a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor”
* April 1941: Commander of Army and Navy air force defending Pearl Harbor
  + Japan “can probably employ a maximum of six carriers which would probably approach inside of 300 miles. A dawn attack might be a complete surprise.”
* Pacific Fleet Commander Kimmel
  + “Declaration of war might be preceded by a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.”
* December 5, 1941 the FBI in Hawaii
  + Warned Pearl that the Japanese consulate was burning it’s confidential papers
* December 5, 1941 Navy Secretary Frank Knox
  + “Well we have very secret information that musn’t go outside of this room that the Japanese fleet is out. They’re out of the harbor. They’re out at sea… every indication is that they are going south, Mr. President, that’s the obvious direction.”

**OTHER BATTLES OF WORLD WAR II**

**LONDON BLITZKRIEG:**

* In June 1940, Germany unleashed its Luftwaffe (Air force) on Britain. The London “Blitzkrieg” was a nightly air raid for 57 nights in a row. The city would take refuge in underground bunkers as the bombs could be heard falling through the air and the explosions afterwards. By October, Germany gave up its hopes of overtaking Britain.

**BATTLE OF MIDWAY:**

* The Japanese planned to attack the Island of Midway, expanding their hold on the Central Pacific. American intelligence intercepted Japanese plans and knew of the impending Japanese attack. The Americans sent their entire carrier force, including the recently damaged "Yorktown," to intercept the Japanese force. The Americans succeeded in sinking four Japanese carriers, losing only the "Yorktown." This was the turning point in the Pacific War.

**D-DAY**

* On June 6th, 1944, 45 Allied divisions with almost 3 million men, led by General Eisenhower, began landing on Normandy Beach, in France. Within three weeks, Allied troops had captured all of the Normandy peninsula and port of Cherbourg. By the end of August, Paris was liberated, and Allied forces continued toward Germany.

**BATTLE OF THE BULGE**

* Dec. 16th 1944, the German forces made a surprise attack against US forces in Belgium. The Germans made rapid progress, but were unable to capture the city of Bastogne, where Ameircan forces were encircled. The US and the British were able to counterattack, and the Germans were forced to withdraw, but not before US forces lost 35,000 men.

**IWO JIMA**

* US forces landed on Iwo Jima, Feb 16, 1945, 750 miles south of Tokyo. The landings were heavily opposed by the Japanese, who fought to the death. Nevertheless, the US Marines overwhelmed the defenders in numbers bringing 110,000 soldiers and 880 ships. Casualties: US- 6,000 dead, 18,000 wounded; Japan – 20,000 dead, 1,000 captured.

**BATTLE OF BERLIN**

* The final battle of the Eastern front began on April 16th, 1945, as Soviet troops attempted to capture Berlin. German troops fought to the last man, but the Soviet victory was inevitable.

**LIBERATION OF AUSHWITZ**

* Soviet forces liberated the largest German concentration/death camp Auschwitz. The Germans had killed 2,500,000 at Auschwitz, the great majority of which were Jews. By April, the full horror of the Holocaust had become clear when US forces liberated the concentration camps of Bergen Belson and Dachau.

**GERMAN SURRENDER**

* On May 8th, German forces officially surrendered. Signing for the Germans was Chief of Staff General Jodl. The surrender ceremony took place at Eisenhower's headquarters at Reims.

**HIROSHIMA**

* On August 6th, 1945 the US Air Force dropped an Atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The city was destroyed and over 70,000 were killed immediately from the effects of the blast. Three days later a second bomb destroyed Nagasaki.

**JAPANESE SURRENDER**

* On September 2nd, the Japanese formally surrendered aboard the Battleship Missouri in Tokyo Harbor. Two attacks by atomic bombs finally convinced the Japanese government that further resistance was useless.

**MAJOR BATTLE TIMELINE**

1940

* June - LUFTWAFFE – German “Blitzkrieg” Battle of London – 57 straight nights of bombing

1941

* Dec 7 – PEARL HARBOR – Japanese attack of US Pacific Fleet in Hawaii

1942

* Apr 18 – “Doolittle Raid” – bombing of Tokyo by US Air Corps
* Jun 4 – Battle of MIDWAY – Turning point of Pacific war, US wins first sea battle with Japan

1943

* Jan 31 – German troops surrender at STALINGRAD, Russia

1944

* Jun 6 – D-DAY – 3 million soldiers storm Normandy, France and overtake Germans

1944

* Dec 16 – Battle of THE BULGE – US looses 35,000 soldiers defending Belgium city

1945

* Feb 19 – IWO JIMA – US Marines overtake Island just 750 miles from Tokyo
* Apr 16 – Battle of BERLIN – Soviets capture Berlin as Nazi’s fight to the death
* Aug 5 – Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan: 70,000 people die
* Aug 8 – Atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan: 30,000 people die