



H.M. KING GEORGE VI.



WINSTON CHURCHILL



PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT



PRESIDENT TRUMAN

THE WAR AT A GLANCE:

1939

SEPTEMBER: Germany invaded Poland, and Great Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand declared war. South Africa entered the war. B.E.F. landed in France. Soviet troops invaded Poland. Warsaw surrendered.

OCTOBER: Hitler made a peace offer. H.M.S. Royal Oak was torpedoed at Scapa Flow. England and France signed a pact with Turkey.

NOVEMBER: A state of siege was declared in Holland. There was a bomb explosion in Munich beer hall. First German bombs were dropped on British territory. Magnetic mine menace began. Dispute arose between Russia and Finland. Russia invaded Finland.

DECEMBER: The Graf Spee was scuttled in the Battle of the River Plate. First Canadian division arrived in England. R.A.F. carried out leaflet raids over Germany.

1940

JANUARY: Rationing was introduced in Britain. Russians gave ground in Finland. There were severe winter conditions in Europe and Britain.

FEBRUARY: First division of Australian and New Zealand troops landed in Italy. A British ship stopped the German prison ship Altmark in Norwegian waters. Finnish resistance weakened.

MARCH: Finland surrendered to Russia. Germans raided the Shetlands and the first British civilian was killed. Hitler and Mussolini conferred at Brenner Pass. Daladier resigned from the French premiership and was succeeded by Reynaud.

APRIL: Britain laid mines in Norwegian waters. Germany invaded Denmark and Norway. Norway resisted stubbornly but vainly. Germany set up a puppet government in Oslo under Quisling. British troops went to Norway.

MAY: Germany invaded Luxembourg, Holland and Belgium, and British and French troops entered Belgium. Chamberlain resigned and was succeeded by Churchill. Dutch capitulated. Germans pierced Allied line at Sedan. General Gamelin was superseded by General Weygand. King Leopold capitulated and B.E.F. was isolated at the Channel coast.

JUNE: B.E.F. evacuated from Dunkirk. Germans drove behind the Maginot Line. Norway surrendered. Italy declared war on Britain and France. Paris fell. Reynaud resigned, and was succeeded by Petain, who asked for armistice. French Government accepted armistice terms. De Gaulle formed French National Committee in Britain.

AUGUST: Battle of Britain began. British withdrew from Somaliland. R.A.F. dropped bombs on Berlin. Rumania ceded part of Transylvania to Hungary.

SEPTEMBER: Laval became deputy-Premier in new French Government at Vichy. King Carol of Rumania

abdicated. Italian troops in Egypt advanced to Sidi Barrani. A pact was signed between Germany, Italy and Japan.

OCTOBER: Tension increased between U.S.A. and Japan. German troops entered Rumania. Burma Road was reopened and bombed by Japanese. Italy attacked Greece.

NOVEMBER: British forces landed in Crete. Molotov visited Berlin. Italians fell back in Albania. Coventry and Birmingham were bombed. Hungary and Rumania joined the Tripartite Pact.

DECEMBER: Germany seized Lorraine. British desert troops took Sidi Barrani, and moved into Libya. Laval resigned. Germans shelled Nauru Island.

1941

JANUARY: There was heavy fighting between Thailand and French Indo-China. Haile Selassie returned to Abyssinia, and Abyssinians rose in revolt against Italians. Italians lost Bardia, Derna and Tobruk. There was unrest in Rumania. Truce was made between Thailand and French Indo-China.

FEBRUARY: German troops entered Bulgaria. Free French Forces invaded Southern Libya. Turkey and Bulgaria signed non-aggression pact. British troops occupied capital of Italian Somaliland.

MARCH: Germans marched into Bulgaria, which then signed the Tripartite Pact. American Lend-Lease bill was passed. Thailand and Indo-China signed a peace treaty. Liberation of British Somaliland was completed. Yugoslav Government also signed Tripartite Pact, but was forced out of office and a new Government was appointed.

APRIL: British troops received setback in Libya. Germany and Italy attacked Yugoslavia and Germany attacked Greece. Russia and Yugoslavia signed non-aggression pact. Hungary attacked Yugoslavia. Germans entered Belgrade. Russia and Japan signed neutrality pact. Greek Epirus Army surrendered.

MAY: Raschid Ali attacked British in Iraq. Hess made a solo flight to Scotland. German troops landed in Crete. Iraq rebels and British signed an armistice. British forces evacuated Crete.

JUNE: Allied and Free French troops entered Syria. Germany and Turkey signed a friendship pact. Germany, Hungary and Rumania attacked Russia. Finland entered the war against Russia.

JULY: British gained all Southern Syria. American forces occupied Iceland. Allied and Vichy forces in Syria signed armistice. Japanese Cabinet resigned. Germans advanced towards Leningrad. Vichy yielded bases in Indo-China to Japan. British troops moved up through Malaya. Russia and Poland signed a pact of friendship.

AUGUST: Churchill and Roosevelt met on warship and drew up the Atlantic Charter. Riots were started in the Balkans. British and Russian forces

entered Iran. Iran Cabinet resigned and opposition ceased. Russians blew up the Dnieper Dam.

SEPTEMBER: Fierce fighting continued for Leningrad. Kiev fell. Guerrillas were active in Yugoslavia.

OCTOBER: Germans moved into the Ukraine. Japanese were defeated by Chinese at Changsha. Portugal allowed Japan to establish bases on Portuguese Timor. Germans launched new drive on Crimea, and advanced on Moscow.

NOVEMBER: U.S. Congress revised Neutrality Act to allow greater assistance to Britain. Imperial forces made new drive in Libya. Vichy dismissed Weygand. Siege of Tobruk was raised. Japanese negotiations with U.S. deteriorated. Japanese troops in Indo-China moved towards Thailand frontiers.

DECEMBER: Britain declared war on Finland, Hungary and Rumania. Japan entered the war against U.S. and Britain by bombing Pearl Harbour. Japan invaded Thailand, which capitulated. Japanese made rapid advances against British in Malaya. Winter conditions forced Germans back in Russia. U.S. entered war against Axis Powers. Japanese took Guam, Penang, Wake Island and Hongkong, and landed in Philippines and Sarawak.

1942

JANUARY: Japanese forces invaded Dutch East Indies, Burma, New Guinea, New Britain, New Ireland and the Solomons. Thailand declared war on Britain. Twenty-one Central and South American Republics broke off diplomatic relations with Germany. Imperial troops, forced out of Malaya, made a stand on Singapore Island.

FEBRUARY: Germans advanced in Libya. Singapore fell to the Japanese. Japanese bombed Darwin, and invaded Bali, Dutch and Portuguese Timor and Java. Allied forces withdrew in Burma. Heavy fighting continued in Russia and China.

MARCH: Rangoon fell and Japan made rapid advances in Burma. Frequent raids on Malta continued. Germans withdrew in Russia. Japanese advanced in New Guinea.

APRIL: Japanese bombed Ceylon, and towns on the Indian mainland, and occupied Admiralty Islands. Laval returned to Cabinet and announced complete collaboration with Axis. American planes bombed Japanese cities.

MAY: British forces landed on Madagascar. Corregidor surrendered to Japanese. Germans launched offensive in Crimea. Japanese advanced along Burma Road. Mexico declared war on Axis Powers. Severe fighting continued in Libya.

JUNE: Japanese submarines raided Sydney harbour. Japanese suffered defeat at Midway Island. Britain and Russia signed 20-year friendship pact. U.S. forces arrived in New Zealand. British forces withdrew into Egypt, and Tobruk surrendered to Germans. New War Administration was formed in New Zealand.

JULY: Russian forces continued to withdraw. Japanese forces landed in