<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>1918</td>
<td>Armistice 11 November 1918: As the German economy collapses, troops mutiny in Germany and the Allies advance on all fronts, a new German government agrees to the end of hostilities with the Allies.</td>
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<td>1919</td>
<td>Versailles Treaty 28 June 1919: End of World War 1. Peace terms imposed on Germany include loss of territory, restricted army, payment of large reparations, and admission of “War Guilt”.</td>
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<td>1918</td>
<td>“This is not peace. It is an armistice for 20 years.” Ferdinand Foch, Marshall of France</td>
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<td>1939</td>
<td>Germany Invades Poland 1 September 1939: France and the British Empire declare war on Germany two days later. Two weeks later Soviet troops invade the eastern half of Poland. Poland is defeated in just over four weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Soviet Union Invades Finland 30 November 1940: After 4 months of conflict, Finland cedes territory to USSR. The poor performance of the Soviet forces confirms to Hitler that the USSR could not withstand an invasion.</td>
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<td>1940</td>
<td>Germany Invades Denmark and Norway 9 April 1940: German troops overrun Denmark and land in Norway. Despite Allied plans to invade Norway themselves, their forces are unable to defend it.</td>
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<td>1940</td>
<td>Germany Invades France and the Low Countries 10 May 1940: German troops sweep through Belgium and Northern France. 6 weeks later France surrenders. British forces are evacuated from Dunkirk in early June.</td>
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<td>1940</td>
<td>Battle of Britain July - September 1940: The German air force fails in its attempt to destroy the Royal Air Force. The planned invasion of Britain is cancelled. Attacks on Britain continue in the form of night time bombing of cities.</td>
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<td>1940</td>
<td>Italy invades Egypt 13 September 1940: Despite overwhelming numbers, the Italian army is defeated by more mobile British Empire forces, which then invade Libya.</td>
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<td>1940</td>
<td>“Never has so much been surrendered by so many to so few.” Anthony Eden</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Lend Lease Act  
11 March 1941
This act gives President Roosevelt the authority to provide war materiel to the UK and its allies. This allows the Allies to obtain supplies without having to spend its dwindling supply of gold.

Axis Offensive in Libya  
31 March 1941
To prevent the loss of Libya, German troops are sent to Libya under Rommel, who rapidly restores Axis dominance in North Africa.

Liberation of Ethiopia  
January - June 1941
British Empire forces invade Italian occupied Ethiopia. This removes a major threat to Egypt.

Axis Invade Yugoslavia and Greece  
6 April 1941
Yugoslav forces collapse in just 12 days. Mainland Greece is occupied by the end of the month and Crete falls in May. Germany secures south east Europe from Allied interference.

First Thousand Bomber Raid  
30/31 May 1941
1,047 bombers attack Cologne causing severe damage to the city. The raid demonstrated the effectiveness of large scale area bombing, which would be repeated across many other German cities.

Axis Invade USSR  
22 June 1941
German forces together with Italy, Romania, Hungary and Finland invade the USSR. Determined resistance and the size of the USSR prevent the Axis forces from achieving a decisive victory.

Soviet Winter Offensive  
December 1941
With the help of forces recently transferred from Soviet Asia, Soviet troops strike back at the Axis armies. The severe cold also hampers Axis weapons, leading to heavy losses.

Volunteers from occupied countries also form their own contingents to fight against communism.

Allied Occupation of Iran  
August 1940
After Britain suppresses a pro-Axis revolt in Iraq and defeats Vichy France forces in Syria, British and Soviet forces occupy Iran to secure supply routes and oil supplies.
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<td>Germany Declares War on USA</td>
<td>11 December 1941</td>
<td>Following Japan’s attack on the USA and Allied forces in the Pacific, Germany and Italy declare war on the USA. Although not bound by treaty with Japan, Hitler sees war with the USA as inevitable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battle of El Alamein</td>
<td>23 October 1942</td>
<td>British Empire forces attack Axis forces in Egypt. After a 10 day battle the axis forces are decisively defeated and forced to retreat westwards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.&quot;</td>
<td>Winston Churchill</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Operation Torch</td>
<td>8 November 1942</td>
<td>British and American troops land in Morocco and Algeria. German and Italian troops occupy Tunisia in response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation Bagration</td>
<td>22 June 1944</td>
<td>Soviet forces launch a major attack which finally drives the Axis armies out of Soviet territory.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Battles of Kursk</td>
<td>5 July 1943</td>
<td>German tank forces attempt to cut off Soviet forces around Kursk. In the largest tank battle in history German forces are defeated and Soviet forces launch their own offensive. Kursk is the last major German offensive in the east.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allies Invade Italy</td>
<td>3 September 1943</td>
<td>Allied forces cross from Sicily into Italy, followed by further landings in southern Italy. Italy surrenders and later joins the Allies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation Overlord</td>
<td>6 June 1944</td>
<td>Allied forces land in Normandy. After two months of heavy fighting, German forces retreat eastwards out of France.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stalingrad</td>
<td>23 November 1942</td>
<td>265,000 Axis soldiers are cut off in Stalingrad by a Soviet counter attack. Attempts to relieve them fail and the planned supply by air is inadequate. Stalingrad finally surrenders after a 5 month siege.</td>
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**Soviet Armies Invade Romania**
August 1944
Soviet forces launch an attack into the Balkans. As the Soviets rapidly advance, Romania and Bulgaria both declare war on Germany (their former ally).

**Battle of the Bulge**
16 December 1945
German forces attack in Belgium, trying to repeat the success of 1940. Poor weather helps the initial attacks but they are soon defeated. This is the last major German attack of the war.

**Yalta Conference**
4 February 1945
Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin meet in Yalta on the Black Sea to discuss the end of the war. Germany is to be divided into zones of occupation, with Poland also gaining territory.

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**Assassination Attempt on Hitler**
10 July 1944
Hitler survives an explosion from a bomb planted in his conference room, and the planned coup to overthrow the Nazi government by German commanders fails.

**Hitler Commits Suicide**
30 April 1945
As Soviet troops close in on Hitler’s bunker in Berlin, and two days after Mussolini is killed, Hitler kills himself. Hitler’s body is burnt. Admiral Donitz becomes head of state.

**Unconditional Surrender of Germany**
7 May 1945
General Albert Jodl signs the document accepting German unconditional surrender, at Rhiems, to become effective the next day.

**VE Day**
8 May 1945
8 May is proclaimed “Victory in Europe Day”. A public holiday is declared in the UK.

**Allies Cross the Rhine**
March 1945
Allied forces cross the last major obstacle as they invade Germany. Much of the German army is destroyed west of the Rhine due to Hitler’s desire to hold on to German territory.

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**VE-Day—IT'S ALL OVER**

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