CHAPTER 1

1933

30 January	Adolf Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany by President Paul von Hindenburg.
23 March	The Reichstag makes Adolf Hitler Dictator of Germany, and on 30 March construction begins at Dachau, Germany's first concentration camp.
14 July	The Nazi Party becomes the official party of Germany.
19 October	Germany leaves the League of Nations.

1934

26 January	Germany and Poland sign the ten-year Non-Aggression Pact.
30 June	Night of the Long Knives when potential Nazi Party rivals to Hitler are killed.
2 August	President Paul von Hindenburg dies, and on 31 August Adolf Hitler appoints himself Führer.
19 August	Hitler holds a referendum to see if the German People support his becoming the Führer, or dictator of Germany. 90% approve.
18 September	The Soviets join the League of Nations.

1935

7 January	The League of Nations approves a plebiscite allowing Germany to incorporate the Saarland.
7 March	In violation of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany remilitarizes the Rhineland.

16 March	Hitler announces rearmament in violation of the Treaty of Versailles.
21 May	The Wehrmacht (the German Army) excludes Jews from conscription.
18 June	Britain and Germany sign the Anglo-German Naval Agreement permitting Germany to build a navy equal to 35% of the British Royal Navy.
15 September	Germany enacts the Nuremberg Laws that define who is Jewish and strip Jews of citizenship.
24 November	Japan and Germany sign the Anti-Comintern Pact (joined later by Italy), an agreement to support each other if attacked by the Soviet Union.

1936

20 January	King George V dies. His eldest son, Edward, succeeds him as Edward VIII, but abdicates on 10 December.
10 February	The Reichstag declares the Gestapo a "Supreme Reich Agency".
7 March	Germany violates the treaty of Versailles and reoccupies the Rhineland.
18 July	Civil war breaks out in Spain.
1 August	Summer Olympics open in Berlin.

1937
5 October President Franklin Roosevelt gives a speech outlining a move aw
neutrality and towards "quarantining" aggressors.
6 November Italy joins the Anti-Comintern Pact.
12 December Italy leaves the League of Nations.

CHAPTER 2

1938	
12 March	Germany annexes Austria.
29 September	Neville Chamberlain and Adolph Hitler sign the Anglo-German Naval Agreement "as symbolic of the desire of our two peoples never to go to war with one another again."
30 September	Germany, France, The United Kingdom and Italy sign the Munich Agreement, which allows Germany to annex the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia in exchange for peace "for our time."
1939	
30 March	France and Great Britain guarantee the integrity of the Polish state. Prime Minister Chamberlain and his Foreign Minister, Lord Halifax, admit appeasement has forestalled the war, but begin preparations for war in secret.
10 July	Chamberlain reaffirms his government's support for Poland.
7 August	Tension between Germany and Poland increase over the free city of Danzig.
25 August	Parliament passes the Emergency Powers Act, giving the government almost total control over the citizens of Great Britain.
1 September	German armed forces attack Poland and the Free-City of Danzig, then move troops into Polish territory.
3 September	England, France and then Canada declare war on Germany. Members of the Air Raid Precautions (ARP) distribute over thirty-eight million gas masks during the month.
17 September	The Soviet Union invades Poland from the east, part of a secret agreement with Germany to share Polish territory.

CHAPTER 3

1939

3 September Parliament passes the National Service Forces Act, declaring that men between eighteen and forty-one could be forced to join the military.

3 October British forces move into Belgium in anticipation of German invasion.

10 October The last of Poland's military surrenders to Germany.

4 November The United States passes the Neutrality Act.

20 November German planes and U-boats begin laying mines in the Thames estuary.

1940

9 April German troops invade Denmark, and German ships attack Norway. Denmark surrenders. British troops land in Narvic, Norway, on April 19, supported by French and Polish mountain troops, but withdraw by early June.

10 May Germany invades France.

CHAPTER 4: Dunkirk

1940

10 May German forces begin Operation Sickle Cut, a surprise invasion of Holland. The Belgian government calls upon English and French forces to aid in its defense. Germany attacks France. Britain's Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resigns; King George VI asks Winston Churchill to form a new government.

May 11 German paratroops begin landing in the Netherlands and behind the French Maginot Line. French

May 15 Premier Paul Reynaud phones to tell Winston Churchill, “We have been defeated; we have lost the battle.” Commander in Chief of the Netherlands, General Henry Winkelman, signs formal capitulation of Netherlands’ armed forces.

May 21 Two infantry battalions of the British Expeditionary Forces attack German forces in the city of Arras and inflict serious damage on General Erwin Rommel’s troops.

May 24 Hitler orders all Panzers to halt for three days, allowing a massive British evacuation at Dunkirk.

May 26 Hitler lifts order to halt Panzers.

May 27 Evacuation of troops from Dunkirk begins.

June 4 Evacuation of Dunkirk ends.

CHAPTER 5: NETHERNE, CORNWALL, AND INVASION

1940

22 June 10 July 16 July 19 July

10 June Italy declares war on France and England.

June 22 France surrenders to Germany.

July 16. The Battle of Britain begins as German planes attack British airfields.

July 16. Hitler issues Führer Directive No. 16, authorizing preparation for Operation Sea Lion: the invasion of Great Britain.

July 19. In preparation for the expected invasion, BEF troops and Home Forces strengthen the coast and defend

localities inland. They hastily build anti-tank defenses in villages, including deep trenches and other fortifications, called “stop lines.”

CHAPTER 6: THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

1940

August 15 A massive formation of German planes heads across the Channel from Calais. Because radar stations are not functioning, observers cannot triangulate to determine vectors or estimate possible targets. By 14:30 the German planes are flying in over the Straits of Dover, but British Fighter Command has only a few squadrons to hurl against the armada. Luftwaffe unit Erprobungsgruppe 210 attacks RAF Croydon instead of its intended target, RAF Kenley.

September In Germany, Göring’s top commanders plan how to destroy the RAF in preparation for invading Britain, as ordered by the Führer. The invasion has to take place before the weather worsens in the autumn. The heavy and unexpected losses of German planes and pilots infuriates and embarrasses Göring.

September 15 Hitler admits that Germany must postpone the invasion indefinitely. The weather is turning foul in the Channel, making it too dangerous to launch thousands of men and their equipment. The RAF has won the Battle of Britain at great loss.

November 14+15. Germans destroy Coventry to show what they could do to other British towns, still determined to terrify civilians into surrendering.

July - December. 23,000 civilians in Britain, most of them residents of London, are killed.

CHAPTER 7: TIME TO GO

1940 - 1941

December 14. Lord Lothian, British Ambassador to the United States, dies unexpectedly.

December 24 Churchill wants to replace Lord Lothian with an ambassador of high rank to convince Roosevelt to join the war; so, against the wishes of his appointee, the Prime Minister selects his Foreign Secretary, Lord Halifax. Although Lord and Lady Halifax believe they are being dismissed to an intellectual and social wasteland, on 15 January they sail to the United States.

1941

January 2 The United States announces plans to build 200 utilitarian freighters, which come to be known as Liberty Ships.

January 9 Adolf Hitler issues orders to discontinue preparations for Operation Sea Lion, the invasion of England, and confers with his generals about attacking the Soviet Union. He states that German success in Russia would encourage Japan to attack the United States, thus keeping the Americans too occupied to get involved in the war in Europe.

January 15 Lord and Lady Halifax sail to the United States aboard HMS King George V from Scapa Flow.

January 25. Lord and Lady Halifax arrive in the United States and are welcomed to Washington by President Roosevelt.

CHAPTER 8: CROSSING THE POND

January 15. Germans call this period of the war “The Happy Time” because they hunt the seas almost undeterred. At least five U-boats (U-52, U-93, U-94, U-96, and U-124) pursue ships in the waters through which the *Warwick Castle* steams. German weather boats, Italian U-boats, mines, and Focke Wulf Kondors overhead increase the danger.

January 16. Northwest of Rockall, a tiny outcropping of mountain jutting up from the ocean floor on the route between Glasgow and Iceland, the unescorted British merchant *Zealandic,* weighing 10,578 tons and carrying iron, steel and grain to England, is torpedoed and sunk by U-boat 106, with a loss of all 73 passengers and crew. The steam passenger ship *Oropessa,* weighing 14,118 tons and carrying a cargo of copper and maize to England, suffers the same fate when it is torpedoed by U-96 southeast of Rockall.

January 17. U-96 torpedoes and sinks another unescorted steam passenger ship, the 14,936-ton *Alameda Star,* about thirty-five miles northeast of Rockall, with enormous loss of life.

January 18. The small ship *Gyda*, weighing only 1,591 tons and carrying salt, is scurrying to reach Bathurst, New Brunswick, when it too is torpedoed and sunk northwest of Ireland.

January 20. British merchant steam ship *Florian* en route to New York is torpedoed and sunk by U-94 southeast of Iceland in waters through which the *Warwick Castle* has just sailed. All hands are lost.

CHAPTER 9: BRAVING A NEW WORLD

<u>1941</u>
15 January February 1 March 11 March 25 March March – April 10 May 21 May 24 May 27 May 22 June

January 15 Thirty-five-year-old Natalie Wales Latham, a divorced and wealthy society matron, starts Bundles for Britain in a storefront in New York City.

February Germans launch Operation Sonnenblume by dispatching troops to North Africa.

Adolf Hitler writes Francisco Franco, urging Spain to enter the war as a German ally.

March 1 Himmler orders the expansion of Auschwitz under the direction of Commandant Rudolf Höss.

March 11 Franklin Delano Roosevelt signs the Lend-Lease Act to aid Great Britain and China.

March 25 Yugoslavia joins the Axis and permits transit through its territory for troops headed to Greece.

March - April. German and Italian forces under Field Marshal Rommel attack Libya and advance to the Egyptian border.

May 10 Before Germany attacks the Soviet Union, Rudolf Hess is captured in Scotland after bailing out of his plane on his expedition to make peace

The House of Commons is damaged by bombs.

May 21 The U.S. Merchant ship *SS Robin Moore* is sunk by a German submarine, which FDR calls an "unlimited national emergency."

May 24 The British battlecruiser *HMS Hood* is sunk by the German battleship *Bismarck*.

May 27 The German battleship *Bismarck* is sunk in the North Atlantic by the Royal Navy.

June 22 German forces invade the Soviet Union in Operation Barbarossa.

Chapter Ten: Making Their Way

1941

July In sixteen months Natalie Wales Latham takes her single storefront of a few women knitting hats, socks, and sweaters to a powerful organization with groups around the country that sent an impressive quantity and array of goods to the people of Great Britain. By the spring of 1941, following the specifications of the British Admiralty, Army and Air Force, 'Bundles' had 199 equipped the armed forces with some 40,000 sleeveless sweaters, 10,000 sleeved sweaters,30,000 scarves, 20,000 pairs of wristlets and mittens, 18,000 pairs of sea-boot stockings, 50,000pairs of socks, 3,000 jerseys. 98,000 caps, and 300 afghans. In addition, it shipped more than40,000 civilian garments, twenty-four ambulances, 186 hospital beds, 2,500 children's cots, 500 sleeping bags, sixty-four blood transfusion sets, twenty-one X-ray machines, twenty-four portable surgical kits, 200 cases of surgical instruments, and other needed materials, totaling in value over $1,500,000.

July 4 Mass murder of Polish scientists and writers by German troops.

July 19 The V-sign is unofficially adopted as an Allied signal.

July 31 Hitler directs Göring to order SS general Reinhard Heydrich to submit a plan for the “final solution to the Jewish question.

September 1 Jews under German rule are ordered to wear the yellow Star of David and not leave their towns Without written permission.

September 13 Buckingham Palace bombed.

October 2 Hitlers orders the battle of Moscow to begin.

October 25 U. S. Senate passes $5.98 billion supplemental Lend-Lease Act/

CHAPTER 11: BEGINNINGS and ENDINGS

<u>1941</u>

November 26 Japanese attack fleet sails to an assembly point north of Oahu.

December Soviet forces counterattack and push the Germans out of Moscow.

December 7 Japan attacks the United States by bombing Pearl Harbor.

December 8 Japan declares war on the United States.

December 11 Germany declares war on the United States.

1942

January 5	German forces fall back to El Agheila in Libya. This is the first British victory against a German land force in the war.
January 7	Soviet forces launch counteroffensives along the entire Eastern Front.
January 26	First American soldiers to land in Europe arrive in Belfast, Northern Ireland.
April 8	The United States Army imposes a blackout of city lights on American east coast to help protect ships from being silhouetted and seen by enemy submarines.

1943

February 2	Battle of Stalingrad ends, and the German 6th Army surrenders.
February 11	General Dwight D. Eisenhower is selected to command Allied Forces in Europe.

CHAPTER 12: ENDINGS and BEGINNINGS

March 13	10,000 Jews from the Krakow Ghetto liquidated.
April 6	Axis forces in Tunisia begin withdrawal as British and American forces link up.
April 26	First Army offensive against Axis forces in Tunis begins.
May 13	The German Afrika Corps surrenders in Tunisia.
July 19	Allied armada of 500,000 troops begins landing on Sicily in Operation Husky.
August 17	Allied forces capture Sicily.
September 1	An advance group of RASC men and officers embark on the *HMS Aurora* for Taranto, Italy.

September 3	Italians surrender to Allies in secret.
September 8	General Dwight D. Eisenhower announces surrender of Italy to the Allies.
September 9	Allied troops land in Italy at Salerno in Operation Avalanche, Calabria in Operation Baytown, and Taranto in Operation Slapstick one day after the armistice between Italy and the Allies is signed.
December	General Dwight D. Eisenhower is appointed Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force.

CHAPTER 13: DECISIONS

1944

February	Planning for Operation Overlord, the invasion of Normandy, intensifies.
March.	Orde Wingate's Chindits make successful forays into Burma, but Wingate is killed in an airplane crash.
	RAF suffers heavy losses in raid on Nuremburg.
April	General Charles De Gaulle takes command of all French Forces.
	Vast preparations underway throughout southern England for D-Day.
May 6	Heavy allied bombing on the Continent in preparation for D-Day.
May 8	D-Day for Operation Overlord set for June 5.
May 13	Crimea under control of Soviets.

May 21	Increased Allied bombing of targets in France in preparation for D-Day.
June 5	Operation Overlord postponed 24 hours due to high seas.
June 6	Operation Overlord commences. Over 1,000 British bombers drop 5,000 tons of bombs on. German gun batteries on the Normandy Coast. Paratroopers conduct a successful coup de main on two bridges spanning the Orne River and Canal. D-Day begins with the landing of 155,000 Allied troops on the beaches of Normandy in France. The Allied soldiers quickly break through the Atlantic Wall and push inland in the largest amphibious military operation in history.

CHAPTER 14: IT'S OVER

1944

June 13	First V-1 missile hits Great Britain.
August 26	General de Gaulle enters liberated Paris.
September 2	British 2nd Army liberates Brussels, Belgium.
September 8	First V-2 rocket hits Great Britain.
September 17	During Operation Market Garden, 1st Airborne troops try to take "The Bridge Too Far" in Arnhem, the Netherlands.
December 16	A German force of twenty-two divisions strikes through the Ardennes in a surprise attack. Germany suffers huge losses in the Battle of the Bulge.

CHAPTER 15: IT'S OVER OVER THERE

1945

January 25.	The Allies win the Battle of the Bulge, forcing the Germans east.
January 27	The Soviet Red Army liberates the Auschwitz concentration camp.
February 14	Eleven Allied leaders meet at Yalta to plan the end of the war.
March 7	U.S. troops cross the Rhine River at Remagen. Allies capture 320,000 German soldiers surrounded in the Ruhr.
April 30	Adolph Hitler commits suicide in his underground bunker.
	Rear Admiral Karl Dönitz is sworn in as new president of Germany and begins moving to total surrender.
May 2	Soviets capture Berlin.
May 7	German forces surrender unconditionally to the Allies.
August 6 & 9.	Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
August 15	Emperor Hirohito announces unconditional surrender.