

World War 2 Timeline.

1 Sept 1939	Hitler invades Poland	Adolf Hitler invaded Poland.
3 Sept 1939	Britain and France declare war on	Britain and France declared war on Germany. Neville Chamberlain broadcast the announcement that the country was at war.
Sept 1939-May 1940	'Phoney War'	The months following Britain's declaration of war are referred to as the 'phoney war' because Britain saw no military action.
April/May 1940	Hitler invades Denmark and Norway	Hitler invaded and occupied Denmark and Norway to safeguard supply routes of Swedish ore and also to establish a Norwegian base from which to break the British naval blockade on Germany.
10 May 1940	Blitzkrieg	Hitler launched his blitzkrieg (lightning war) against Holland and Belgium. Rotterdam was bombed almost to extinction. Both countries were occupied.
26 May 1940	Dunkirk (Operation Dynamo)	The British commander-in-chief, General Gort, had been forced to retreat to the coast at Dunkirk. The troops waited, under merciless fire, to be taken off the beaches. A call went out to all owners of sea-worthy vessels to travel to Dunkirk to take the troops off the beaches of Dunkirk. More than 338,000 men were rescued, among them some 140,000 French who would form the nucleus of the Free French army under a little known general, Charles de Gaulle.
22 June 1940	France signs armistice with Germany	The French, Marshall Petain, signed an armistice with Germany taking France, which had been devastated, out of the war and into German occupation.
10 July - 31 October 1940	Battle of Britain	<p>The Battle of Britain comprised four phases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. During July Hitler sent his Luftwaffe bombers to attack British ports. His aim was also to assess the speed and quality of response by the RAF.2. During August the attacks on shipping continued but bombing raids were concentrated on RAF airfields.3. The Blitz - From September 7th the city of London was heavily bombed. Hitler hoped to destroy the morale of the British people.4. Night Bombing - With the failure of daylight bombing raids Hitler began a series of nightly bombing raids on London and other important industrial cities. <p>The RAF defended the skies and by October 31 the raids had ceased.</p>

early 1941	Italy and Germany attack Yugoslavia	German and Italian troops attacked Yugoslavia, Greece and the island of Crete. German field Marshall Erwin Rommel led the axis powers back to North Africa.
22 June 1941	Hitler attacks Russia - Operation Barbarossa	Hitler sent 3 million soldiers and 3,500 tanks into Russia. The Russians were taken by surprise as they had signed a treaty with Germany in 1939. Stalin immediately signed a mutual assistance treaty with Britain and launched an Eastern front battle that would claim 20 million casualties. The USA, which had been supplying arms to Britain under a 'Lend-Lease' agreement, offered similar aid to USSR.
7 Dec 1941	Pearl Harbor	The Japanese, who were already waging war against the Chinese, attacked the US pacific fleet at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, as a preliminary to taking British, French and Dutch colonies in South East Asia.
8 Dec 1941	Britain and US declare war on Japan	Britain and the United States declared war on Japan.
Feb 1942	Japanese take Singapore	The Japanese captured Singapore from the British, taking some 60,000 prisoners.
June 1942	Battle of Midway	The USA defeated the Japanese navy at the Battle of Midway. Following this victory, the US navy was able to push the Japanese back.
Nov 1942	Battle of Stalingrad	The Russians won their first victory against Germany at the Battle of Stalingrad.
3 Sept 1943	Italy surrenders	Mussolini had been thrown out of office and the new government of Italy surrendered to the British and the USA. They then agreed to join the allies. The Germans took control of the Italian army, freed Mussolini from imprisonment and set him up as head of a puppet government in Northern Italy. This blocked any further allied advance through Italy.
June 1944	Rome liberated	Although Italy had surrendered in September, it was only now that the allies were able to liberate Rome from the Germans.
6 June 1944	D-Day	The allies launched an attack on Germany's forces in Normandy, Western France. Thousands of transports carried an invasion army under the supreme command of general Eisenhower to the Normandy beaches. The Germans who had been fed false information about a landing near Calais, rushed troops to the area but were unable to prevent the allies from forming a solid bridgehead. For the allies it was essential to first capture a port.
25 Aug 1944	Paris liberated	The French capital of Paris was liberated from the Germans.

March 1945	Allies cross the Rhine	The Allies crossed the Rhine while Soviet forces were approaching Berlin from the East.
April 1945	Russians reach Berlin	The Russians reached Berlin shortly before the US forces.
28 April 1945	Mussolini captured and executed	Italian partisans captured Mussolini and executed him.
30 April 1945	Hitler commits suicide	The German leader, Adolf Hitler committed suicide in his bombproof shelter together with his mistress, Eva Braun, who he had, at the last minute, made his wife.
7 May 1945	Donitz offers unconditional surrender	Hitler's successor, Admiral Donitz, offered an unconditional surrender to the allies.
8 May 1945	V.E. day	Victory in Europe was celebrated.
6 Aug 1945	Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima	The Japanese generals refused to surrender. The US dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima.
8 Aug 1945	Russia declares war on Japan	Russia declared war on Japan and invaded Japanese-ruled Manchuria.
9 Aug 1945	Atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki	The US dropped an atomic bomb on the port of Nagasaki as the Japanese had not surrendered following Hiroshima.
14 Aug 1945	Japanese surrender	The Japanese unconditionally surrendered to the allies ending the second world war.
2 Sept 1945	MacArthur accepts Japan's surrender	US General, Douglas MacArthur, accepted Japan's surrender thus formally ending the second world war.

Adapted from: http://www.historyonthenet.com/WW2/WW2_timeline.htm