

World War II Timeline

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1933	Hitler comes to power in Germany.
1936	Hitler and Mussolini sign pact.
November 9, 1938 <i>Reichskristallnacht</i> , Crystal Night	Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues are looted and burned by Nazis. Many Jews are killed, and thousands are taken to concentration camps.
September 3, 1939	France and Great Britain declare war on Germany.
September 10, 1939	Canada declares war on Germany.
October 1939	Poland surrenders to Germany.
December 1939	First Canadian troops arrive in Britain.
April 1940	Germany invades Denmark and Norway.
May 10, 1940	Germany invades Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg. Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister of Great Britain.
May 12, 1940	Germany invades France.
May 14, 1940	Dutch army surrenders to Germany.
May 20, 1940	German Army reaches the English Channel.
May 28, 1940	Belgium surrenders to Germany.
June 10, 1940	Italy declares war on Britain and France.
June 22, 1940	France surrenders to Germany. Canada expands war effort.
July 10, 1940 to October 31, 1940	Battle of Britain begins: Canada participates in air fights over the English Channel.
November 1940	Troops and equipment from Canada start moving in carriers across the Atlantic. Battle of the Atlantic is underway.
September 1940	Italy invades Egypt and Greece.
June 1941	Germany invades Russia. Russia (Soviet Union) joins Allied powers.
September 27, 1941	Japan joins the Axis powers.
October 1941	Canada agrees to send two divisions of the Canadian army to Hong Kong to defend the British colony against Japan.
November 1941	First Canadian Army is established in England under General McNaughton.
December 1941	Soviets stop the German advance into Russia.
December 7, 1941	Japan bombs Pearl Harbor in the U.S.
December 1941	Japan declares war on U.S. and Britain; Japan invades Philippines, Thailand, Hong Kong.
December 25, 1941	Hong Kong surrenders to Japan; Canadian soldiers are taken prisoner. Canada declares war on Japan.
December 1941	Japanese Canadians in B.C. are fingerprinted and given identity cards.
1942 - 1944	Hitler carries out massive gas chamber killings and forced labour of Jews in concentration camps throughout Europe.
1942	Canada votes on conscription: English Canada supports it, while Québec does not. King decides to enforce conscription for home defence only, but not for overseas duty.
February 1942	Japanese Canadians on the west coast are evacuated to camps.

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August 19, 1942	Canadian troops play an important role in the Dieppe raid in France. Many Allied lives are lost, and there are many prisoners of war.
June 1943	German U-boats withdraw from Atlantic. Battle of Atlantic won by Allies.
July 1943	Canadian troops participate in the invasion of Sicily. Mussolini is overthrown; Germans continue to fight Allies in Italy.
December 1943	Canadians involved in the Battle of Ortona in Italy.
March 1944	General Crerar becomes commander of Canadian Army.
June 6, 1944	D-Day: Allied landings on the coast of France begin at Normandy. Allies gain a foothold in Europe.
August 1944	Allied landings in Southern France continue to clear the Channel Coast. Canadians help liberate Falaise in northern France. On August 25, Paris is liberated.
November 22, 1944	Conscription is enacted in Canada for overseas service.
October - November 1944	Battle of the Scheldt in Holland. Canadian troops participate in the Allied advance into Germany along the Rhine.
Spring 1945	Holland is liberated from the Germans, with large Canadian participation.
May 8, 1945	V-E Day: Victory in Europe for the Allies Now Allied forces focus on defeating Japan, with the U.S. in the forefront of this attack.
June 1945	Canada joins the United Nations. Charter of the United Nations is signed in San Francisco.
July 1945	Canadian troops enter Germany as part of the occupying force. Germany is divided into four areas under the Allies.
August 6, 1945 and August 9, 1945	United States drops the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima; then, a second atomic bomb is dropped on Nagasaki.
August 14, 1945	Japan surrenders.
September 2, 1945	World War II is officially over. Formal surrender ceremonies take place onboard Battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

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