

## 1943 Highlights of war 75th Anniversary Special

**February 14**---Saint Valentine's Day Massacre over Kahili, Bougainville, as 8 U.S. fighter aircraft and 2 heavy bombers with 10 men each are bounced by 50 Japanese Zeroes and shot down; Japanese loose only 3 Zeroes. American lines are ruptured by German Stuka dive-bombers and troops at Kasserine Pass, Tunisia; 10,000 U.S. casualties inflicted plus 183 tanks and 500 Jeeps lost overall. The 108,000 German troops captured at Stalingrad are marching eastward. (Only 6000 prisoners survive to war's end. Germany lost 75,000 vehicles and enough tanks to equip 80 divisions; 24 generals captured.) Ordering his sub to take her down, Commander Howard Gilmore saves the lives of the men of his submarine the *Growler*, Gilmore was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. RAF bombers bomb Milan, Italy.

**15**--U.S. 1st Armored Div counterattacks near Gafsa; Gafsa falls to the Afrika Korps. German troops evacuate Kharkov, gateway to Ukraine's factories.

**16**--First U.S. aircraft lands on Amchitka Is, Aleutians; one P-38 and one P-40. Japanese Air Force bombards U.S. forces at Amchitka.

**17**--Submarine *Sawfish* accidentally sinks 2 Russian freighters leaving the Sea of Japan; thereafter the Soviets furnished better ship information-recognition tactics to the U.S.

**18**--First air mission against Kiska flown from Amchitka, western Aleutians. U.S. Navy bombards Japanese on Attu Is, western Aleutians.

**19**--In an airfield at Zaporozh'ye, Russian Front, Hitler barely escapes and flies out; Russian tanks had reached the field before he took off, but the tanks had run out of gas and they paused, not knowing Hitler was there.

**20**--Heroic anti-Nazi demonstrations break out in Munich by university students; demonstrators promptly guillotined.

**22**--Rommel forced to break off attacks on Sbiba and Thala when British reinforcements arrive. Field Marshal von Manstein catches Russians by surprise in a counter-offensive north of Nikopol.

**23**--Germany first time uses an acoustic torpedo, sinks oil tanker from convoy UC-1.

**24-25**---U.S. and British troops re-occupy Kasserine Pass; Rommel lost 2000 men.

**25**---Japanese prisoners attempt large prison escape in New Zealand; 48 die; 1 guard killed. Round-the-clock bombing campaign starts with the bombing of Nuremberg.

**28**---Just south of the equator, the *Gato* commanded by Robert J Foley rescues 27 children, 9 mothers, 3 nuns and a dozen commandos from Bougainville. Daring commando raid by British-trained Norwegians, raid knocks out Norsk Hydro power plant in Telemark, which is utilized in atomic research. Army Airways Communications System is completed from Brisbane, Australia, to Kuming, China. Before month ends, *Tarpon* torpedoes the huge 16,975 ton troopship *Tatsuta Maru*. One of the war's best secret treaties is signed in Madrid: if any Allied troops invade Spain or Portugal, Franco would commit troops on the side of Germany. Hitler masses troops in France along the Spanish border.

END OF FEB 1943: over 400,000 tons of Allied shipping is sunk by German U-boats.

## March highlights

1---The Burma Road, the land route from India to China, is completed; one year after the fall of Burma. Hundreds of British night bombers bomb Berlin. The Atlantic Convoy Conference between U.S. and British convenes in Washington D.C. to combat exorbitant losses at sea.

1-4---Decisive naval victory in Battle of Bismarck Sea: Allies lost 13 personnel and 6 aircraft, Japanese lost almost 3000 personnel; 8 transports and 4 escort destroyers.

2---Dictator Mussolini withdraws troops from the Russian Front. A heavy raid on Berlin by RAF; 191 killed. Strange disaster in London, 400 people are crushed or suffocated to death while descending down an underground tube tunnel in East London during an air raid. Some 200 patients and hospital staff are massacred in a hospital in Kharkov, which was later set on fire.

5---Powered by 2 turbojet engines, Britain's Gloster Meteor makes secret debut.

6---First RAF raid in the Battle of the Ruhr, some 160 acres of factory grounds were burned. Rommel launches a new attack at Medenine with about 160 tanks, against 400 British Eighth Army tanks; after losing 40 tanks, Rommel orders a withdrawal. Lt. Gen. George Patton is appointed commander of U.S. II Corps. Japanese aircraft raid Russell Islands. U.S. naval task force advances to Munda and Vila and bombard Japanese airfields.

8---A new form of Enigma cipher machine comes to use by Nazi Germany, and Allied intelligence can't crack it, yet. U.S. ambassador in Moscow stated that the Russian people are unaware that the Soviet government is suppressing news of U.S. aid.

9---Moscow press reveals for the first time to its people the aid the U.S. and British people are giving. Gen. Rommel secretly heads back to Germany with illness. Germans make careful retreat from Moscow front. A top secret British operation conducted by Calcutta Light Horse, Calcutta Scottish and SOE agents sink 3 German and 1 Italian freighters at Goa, a Portuguese island near India.

10--Lend-Lease extended by House of Rep. U.S. 14th A.F. is created to serve in CBI. Field Marshal Rommel begs Hitler to evacuate No. Africa before it is too late; refused. Palermo falls to air raid. RN submarine *Tigris* sunk by mine near Sicily. Bulgarian protests by church officials and King Boris saves 50,000 Jews. Unhindered, Japanese Navy Fifth Fleet begins escorting her reinforcement convoys to the Aleutians. SS Panzer Divisions gain great victories in Ukraine; surround Kharkov; over 12,000 dead.

13--Attempt to assassinate Hitler on his return flight from Russian Front does not work as bomb set by von Tresckow failed to detonate.

14--British submarine *Thunderbolt* is lost in Mediterranean Sea, believed sunk by Italian sub attack. Von Manstein with 3 SS divisions, *Das Reich*, *Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler* and *Totenkopf* recapture Kharkov.

15--Off Sierra Leone (Africa) Italian submarine *Leonardo da Vinci* sinks liner *Empress of Canada*. Deportation of Jews from Greece begins, over 60,000.

16--Convoy SC-122 (58 ships) and Convoy HX-229 (40 ships) from NY attacked by 37 U-boats; Allies lost 21; 1 U-boat lost.

18--Patton's II Corps captures Gafsa, Tunisia. All laws passed in France in 1940 as anti-Semitic become abolished in Vichy France.

19--U.S. troops capture El Guettar in central Tunisia.

21--U.S. sub *Herring* sinks U-163 in the Bay of Biscay. The war in the Atlantic wears a

heavy heart, the latest convoy attacks send 21 Allied merchant ships to the bottom.

22---Thaw stops all movement on Eastern Front. An SS unit composed mainly of German convicts murders villagers of Khatyn.

23---Heavy fighting in Tunisia rages along Mareth. U.S. 1st Arm Div captures El Guettar, destroys 32 German tanks. Hitler is on mini-vacation with Eva Braun. British troopship *Windsor Castle* is sunk by Luftwaffe off Algeria.

27---The Sea Battle of the Komandorski Islands: a U.S.-Japanese duel of ships minus any air cover about 180 miles w. of Attu, and which the inferior U.S. escaped complete destruction due to luck. Famed Afrika Korps pushed back to El Hamma, Tunisia.

28---Camera-equipped P-38 "Lightnings" (F-5A) initial 8th AF photographic mission: conducted by Maj. James G Hall over nw France.

29---OPA begins to ration meats, canned fish and edible fats and oils, including butter and most cheeses. British 8th Army captures Gabes.

30---Allied convoys to Murmansk temporarily suspended.

31---U.S. high command makes plans to land U.S. troops on Japanese-held Aleutian island of Attu. Allied forces in North Africa: 210,000. Germans: 140,000.

END OF MARCH 1943: 120 Allied vessels were sunk from the North Sea to off the coasts of South America and South Africa for an astounding, horrible loss of 627,400 tons of Allied shipping sunk by Nazi Germany. One bright spot is that approximately 8,300 Allied vessels were repaired in American Home Front ports by freedom-loving civilian workers in the first six months of 1943.

#### April highlights

Apr 1---New deployment of Allied Navy escorts becomes effective: U.S. Navy to concentrate on South Atlantic and the Caribbean Sea; the British Royal Navy and Royal Canadian Navy the North Atlantic, divided at 47 deg. W.

Apr 3---A serious example of how strong the German Luftwaffe still remains, FW-190 aircraft raid Eastbourne, England and strafe the streets full of shoppers.

Apr 4---Some 200 civilians killed in Naples, Italy, and 228 civilians killed in Paris due to U.S. bomb air raids. First F5A reconnaissance aircraft MIA near Antwerp, Belgium. RAF heavies drop 1,300 tons of bombs on Kiel. Goring issues decree that all factory workers be drafted into civil air raid duty along with all able-bodied Germans.

Apr 5---VIII Bomber Command based in England dispatch 104 B-17's and B-24's 199 miles to Antwerp, *Delta Rebel No 2* is the first Fortress to reach 25 missions. Over Western Desert, B-24 *Lady Be Good* ditches--not to be discovered until 1999. A record number 1000 sorties envelope North Africa. In Ponar, Lithuania, SS shoot 4,000 Jews dead.

Apr 6---Overnight on a starless night, 4th Indian Div penetrates the mtns of Wadi Akarit, capture 4,000 Italian Alpine troops, and open the way for British Eighth Army assault. Naples, Borizza, Boca de Felso, Milo fall to heavy air assault. Over 250 Axis aircraft destroyed all over the Mediterranean, including 14 JU 52 transports loaded with gasoline for Rommel.

Apr 7---Bolivia declares war on Nazi Germany, Italy and Japan. More than 200 Japanese aircraft take off from New Britain and attack allied shipping north of Guadalcanal, sink U.S. destroyer *Aaron Ward*, one oil tanker and Royal New Zealand minesweeper *Moa*, and destroy 7 U.S. aircraft; Japan loses 19 aircraft; entire attack formed a grand Navy tactic

implemented by Adm. Yamamoto.

**Apr 10**--U.S. Liberators sink Italian heavy cruiser *Trieste* at La Maddalena, Sardinia.

**Apr 13**--Roosevelt dedicates the Jefferson Memorial in Washington DC on occasion of Jefferson's 200th birthday. U.S. code breakers secretly intercept message of Yamamoto inspection route. In Imber, Wiltshire, England, 25 spectators are accidentally shot and killed in an airshow.

**Apr 13-14**--Norwegian destroyer *Eskdale* is sunk in English Channel by Nazi attack ships.

**Apr 14**--Imperial Japanese Navy attacks Milne Bay with carrier airplanes, part of Yamamoto's secret operation I.

**Apr 15**--Black Americans of the 99th Fighter Squadron embark ship for North Africa; Lt Col. Benjamin O. Davis is selected as executive officer of the troop ship, unprecedented in U.S. Army history.

**Apr 17**--A large wave of German aircraft intercept U.S. bombers over Bremen; 161 Americans missing or killed in action, 16 B-17's lost--double the total loss for a day of previous missions.

**Apr 18**--A large wave of Axis aircraft (59) from Sicily trying to resupply Tunisian campaign intercepted by Allied air forces and are decimated; allies lost 9 aircraft. Hitler agrees to send Italian II Corps from Russian Front to Mediterranean. Adm. Yamamoto is shot down by P-38's of the U.S. 13th A.F. over Bougainville; the U.S. govt publicly announces nothing, to avoid revealing we had broken Japanese code.

**Apr 19**--A large uprising in Warsaw Getto is squelched by the SS; 56,000 Jews killed.

**Apr 21**--Roosevelt issues condemnation on the torture and beheading of U.S. airmen captured during Doolittle Raid; this set the course for the postwar trial of war criminals. Adm. Mineichi Koga succeeds Adm. Yamamoto as C-in-C.

**Apr 22**--The *Grenadier* is sunk off Malay and all submariners captured, and later tortured in the hope of revealing secrets, 4 died but nobody talked. Europe-bound Convoy ONS-5 sails from Great Britain West.

**Apr 24**--A large U.S. invasion force sets sail from San Francisco for the Aleutians.

**Apr 25**--King-size traitor: Sun Tien-ying, commander of the Chinese Fifth Army, defects to the Japanese.

**Apr 26**--Stalin breaks-off talks between the USSR and the Polish Govt-in-exile.

**Apr 28**--A gigantic wolf pack of 51 U-boats in four groups begin attacking Convoy ONS-5, protected by eighteen escorts; this became the biggest U-boat wolf pack attack of the war.

**Apr 29**--Commander Bill Post of *Gudgeon* torpedoes the 17,500 *Kamakura Maru* former oceanliner, the largest ship sunk by a U.S. submarine up to this time.

**Apr 30**--Battle for Hill 609 Tunisia. It is disclosed in Blenheim by Leslie Hore-Belisha, former minister of transport, 147,500 road casualties in 1942, is a number greater than the total number of casualties of the UK in the first 2 years of world war. Polish Govt-in-exile withdraws investigation of Katyn massacre. Briefcase attached to the body of a British officer Maj. Martin washed up on a Spanish beach. Briefcase handed over to British consul, after the Germans examined it. Operation Mincemeat was a highly successful Allied deception plan against Axis Forces when planning the invasion of Sicily. [The operation involved releasing a dead man in a life jacket off Spain. A briefcase attached to the body contained fake documents identifying the man as a Major William Martin with copies of fake Allied war plans which stated that the Allies were planning an invasion other than Sicily. Local fishermen pulled out the corpse with intelligence materials. "The Man Who Never Was" fooled the Germans into thinking Greece was next for invasion. Axis commanders were fooled by them. **This information reached Hitler who, on 12 May, demanded that "measures regarding Sardinia and the Peloponnese take precedence over everything else".** ]

April Near the South China Sea, the Japanese destroyer *Amagiri* which had earlier rammed and sank PT boat 109, commanded by John F Kennedy, was sunk when it hit a mine off Balikpapan, in Makassar Strait.

END OF APR 1943: Nazis loose 14 U-boats.

### May highlights

**May 2**---Japanese bombers raid Darwin, Australia.

**May 3**---U.S. and French troops capture Mateur, Tunisia.

**May 4**---U.S. air raid over Antwerp is mounted against Ford and General Motors factory targets; Hollywood star Clark Gable manned a gun in the B-17 *Eight Ball II*. (He would fly 4 more missions.) 693 are killed in Dortmund, Germany, due to a British RAF night raid, the highest number of deaths in a single raid, up to this date.

**May 5**---Radio Berlin accuses British of dropping explosive pens and pencils to kill German children (strictly a propaganda ploy). Japanese troops go on the offensive and land on the shores of Tungting Lake, about 50 miles (80 Km) of Changsha, the war torn capital of Hunan province.

**May 6**---Air cover is awesome decimating the 15th Panzer Div as Americans advance on Bizerte in the north.

**May 7**---Allies capture Bizerte and Tunis, the former by troops under General Omar Bradley. Convoy ONS-5 reaches Halifax, minus 13 merchant ships (sunk) however, Allies succeed in sinking 7 U-boats, severely damage 5, (2 others lost in a collision). This result is achieved without the normal level of air support. In Paris, the first television broadcast is conducted by Germany in the old Magic City theater.

**May 8**---German Luftwaffe abandons all North African airfields. All women in Great Britain under a new law, at government discretion they can be ordered to work part-time for the war effort; mothers with children under 14 are exempt.

**May 9**---Martial law proclaimed in Holland; a curfew imposed 8 pm-8 am. A German night fighter JU-88, based in Norway, flies over to England and its crew just turns itself in along with a prized FUG 202 Lichtenstein air interceptor radar set, intact.

**May 10**--Fleetboat *Gudgeon* sinks the freighter *Sumatra Maru* at 5,800 tons. British 6th Arm Div cuts off Cape Bon peninsula to escaping Germans.

**May 11**--A strong U.S. naval force invades Attu, Aleutian Island. Ahead of the invasion, two U.S. subs sneakily land 215 army scouts on the island in dense fog. Fanatical defense: a major counterattack employing most of the Japanese Navy assembles in Tokyo Bay, Japan. However, before they sailed, Attu fell to the Allies. Churchill meets with FDR for "Trident" talks--Allied strategy after North Africa.

**May 12**--Field-Marshal Erwin Rommel flees to Germany. Trident Conference commences in Washington DC. Roosevelt and Churchill meet to discuss the cross-Channel invasion of France. British views differ from U.S. on timeframe, and also on the strategic grounds for the invasion of Sicily. Differences threaten the agreement on Normandy because it feels that the U.S. is more committed to the Pacific. Compromises are eventually reached on all issues. Target date for the invasion of Normandy (Operation Overlord) is set for May 1, 1944, and British General Sir Frederick Morgan is appointed as chief planner, given the title Chief of Staff to the Supreme Allied Commander (COS-SACK). In Solomons, USN shells Japanese positions on Munda and Vila.

**May 13**--German and Italian troops surrender unconditionally to Allied troops in North Africa. Axis losses in Tunisia totaled 40,000 dead/wounded and 240,000 prisoners. The



U.S. suffered 18,558 casualties and the British suffered 33,000 casualties. For the entire North African campaign, the British had 220,000 casualties.

**May 14**--U.S. destroyer picks up 63 survivors from a torpedoed *Centaur*, an Australian hospital ship sunk off Brisbane, 268 dead did not make it including 11 army nurses. Allied Air Command orders a sea and air blockade of Pantelleria Is.

**May 16**--R.A.F. conducts special Dambusters Raid. Jewish Warsaw uprising is no more; 14,000 wiped out in Warsaw.

**May 19**--British Prime Minister Winston Churchill addresses a joint session of the U.S. Congress, and states a famous line "while the defeat of Japan would not mean the defeat of Germany, the defeat of Germany would infallibly mean the defeat of Japan." A wolfpack of 33 U-boats attack Convoy SC-130, not one ship is sunk. Peter Doenitz, the son of Grand Admiral Doenitz, goes down in U-boat 954. Allies began systematic full-scale air attack on airfields in Italy; in first 48 hours some 180 Axis aircraft met their demise.

**May 21**--Over 100,000 Americans made homeless in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma as a result of vicious floods. Japan publicly announces Yamamoto met death.

**May 22**--Mitsubishi Betty bombers from Paramushiru attack land forces on Attu. German pilot Adolf Galland secretly flies the world's first operational jet aircraft, Me-262, at a whopping 520 mph. Convoy ON-184 falls under attack from the first of a 42 German Wolfpack, but this was the first allied convoy escorted by a U.S. flattop with the new HF/DF radar set; that plus other anti-sub measures like deciphering German codes, airborne radar and aircraft attacks using giant beams of searchlights at sea robbed the U-boats of their invisibility.

**May 23**--P-38's from 54th Fighter Sq intercept and shoot down 5 Japanese Mitsubishi bombers enroute to Attu. Two P-38's are lost; 1 pilot missing. Karl Doenitz orders that all U-boats be equipped with anti-aircraft guns.

**May 24**--U.S. Army assigns 100,000 soldiers to assist in flood relief work. U-boat Adm. Doenitz issues order to halt attacks on convoys in the Atlantic Ocean after heavy losses.-- will be replaced by Adm. Raeder as Commander in Chief of the German Navy.

**May 25**--After attaining 40.5 feet, a 100 year record, the Mississippi River bursts.

**May 28**--Mississippi R. rises to 42.4 ft. at Cape Girardeau, MO. U.S. troops occupy Shemya Is, western Aleutians, and begin building an air base.

**May 30**--Last Japanese troops on Attu surrender.

**May 31**--U.S. air forces aid China by bombing Ichang Yochow.

END OF MAY 1943: some 212,000 tons of Allied shipping is sunk by German U-boats.

## June highlights

**June 1-7**---Half a million miners go on strike in support of a wage claim.

**June 2**---OPA rations milk.

**June 3**---U.S. reports 17,083 American soldiers are held prisoners of war by the Axis. Chinese forces recapture Nansien (Hunan province.) The Panamanian merchant *Halma* sank due to mines off Halifax, Nova Scotia. Zoot Suit riots explode in Los Angeles.

**June 4**--Gen. Giraud appointed by French Committee of National Liberation as C-in-C of all French Army.

**June 5**---U.S. bombers damage Italian fleet at Spezia.

**June 7**---Japanese aircraft attack Guadalcanal and destroy 9 U.S. planes, but loose 23. First C-47 lands on Attu. Striking coal miners temporarily return to work.

**June 10**---F.D.R. signs the pay-as-you-go tax plan whereby employers deduct income tax from salaries and wages. U.S. losses announced since Dec 7: 14,594 killed, 20,490 wounded, 33,490 MIA, 19,873 captured; British losses to date: 514, 993; Canadian losses to date: 10,422. DeGaulle threatens to resign over Giraud's appointment.

**June 11**---Pantallereia Island of 11,000 Axis troops surrenders; occupied without ground troops firing a shot.

**June 11-12**---Nearly 800 RAF aircraft attack Dusseldorf.

**June 15**--World's first operational jet bomber conducts a test flight inside Germany (Arado Ar234).

**June 16**---Largest air battle of the Solomons; 107 Japanese Zeroes and Aichi 99's from Munda and Kahill were shot down over Guadalcanal.

**June 20-21**---Civilian rioting erupts in Detroit. Coal miners re-strike. U.S. troops land on New Georgia in the Solomons.

**June 21**---First C-47 lands on Shemya Is.

**June 24**---U.S. Air Force missions over Greece begin; 9th AF hits Salonka. U-572 succeeds in picking up radio signal thanks to an enemy agent in convoy UGS-10, a French oil tanker is torpedoed and sunk with 23 men. U.S. reports 90,860 Americans dead, wounded or missing due to war.

**June 25**---The 1,000th plane flown from Ladd Airfield, Alaska, for the Soviet Air Force. U.S. 8th AF sends over 350 aircraft to various targets; 175 Americans fail to return; pilot First Lt. George Riches, despite almost having his right arm shot off, heroically held the plane steady until six who were still alive safely made it out; he was on board the stricken *Yankee Powerhouse* B-17 when it blew up. British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and the Dutchess of Kent visit U.S. bases to help morale; the Dutchess presented the RAF Eagle Squadron crests to the 334th, 335th and 336th Fighter Squadrons. (Washington disapproved of it.)

**June 26**---U.S. 8th A.F. sends over 300 aircraft to targets over France; 56 Americans fail to return.

END OF JUNE 1943: German U-boats extend operations into the Indian Ocean, with use of a large Japanese sub base at Penang, Malaya.

## July highlights

**July 1**---The British government releases a compilation of Allied and Axis air losses from the start of the war to the end of June, exclusive of the Eastern Front; the Axis lost 18,031 aircraft; the Allies 9,906. Roosevelt commutes death sentence of M Stephen to "life", convicted for treason in aiding escaped Nazi pilot.

**July 2**---Lt. Charles B Hall of 99th Fighter Squadron is the first Black airman to shoot down a German plane, an FW-190 over western Sicily. Surprise Japanese air raid inflicts 200 U.S. casualties on Rendova.

**July 4**---While flying over enemy territory in the B-17 *Muggs*, pilot Maj. John Egan while trying to save an unconscious gunner, due to anoxia, who was hanging outside the B-17 narrowly averts being turned to ground meat when the reviving gunner accidentally

switched the turret to spin.

**July 8**---U.S. 11th A.F. conducts first land air attack on northern Kurile Is.

**July 10**--Allies under Generals Eisenhower, Patton, Alexander, and Montgomery invade Sicily (160,000 troops, 3000 ships). Army of occupation: some 230,000 Italians and 30,000 Germans. Allied shipping losses announced as lowest since the U.S. entered the war.

**July 11**--Herman Goering Division imposes fierce counterattack on U.S. forces at Gela, Sicily.

**July 12**--U.S. Navy imposes heavy defeat on Imperial Navy at Battle of Kolombangara. Syracuse, Sicily, is liberated.

**July 15**--Argentinian government suppresses pro-Allied newspaper "Accion Argentina."

**July 18**--U.S. Navy bombards Kiska. A dirigible mistaken as a Nazi airship is shot down off the Florida coast.

**July 22**--U.S. 7th Army under General Patton, after driving 30 to 35 miles, take Palermo. U.S. discloses 65,058 Axis prisoners are interned in the United States.

**July 23**--Americans capture Marsala and Trapani, Sicily. Thinking the allied attack on Sicily is a deception, the "Desert Fox" Rommel is sent to Greece. U-407 torpedoes British cruiser *Newfoundland* off Sicily.

**July 24**--First 8th A.F bombing in Norway: 84 B-17's dispatched to Norwegian targets; a crew interned in Sweden.

**July 24-28**-Fire bombing of Hamburg by day and night; U.S. loose 21 aircraft; British 87; 40,000 civilians were killed.

**July 25**--Benito Mussolini dismissed as Italian Premier and imprisoned by Italians.

**July 26**--Largest tire plant in Germany, at Hannover, damaged severely by U.S. 8th A.F.

**July 28**--The first known successful rockets launched by Nazi Germans occurred against 8th A.F. formations over Oschersleben; a total of 205 Americans failed to return; this time none killed, all went to the stalags. Fierce hurricane strikes Texas Gulf Coast. Coffee rationing ends. Japanese garrison of 5,000 men on Kiska begin secret evacuation.

**July 29**--U.S. 8th A.F. bombs Kiel and Warnemunde; 103 Americans failed to return.

**July 31**--U.S. Thunderbird 45th Inf Division captures San Stefano.

## August highlights 75 years ago

**Aug 1**---U.S. Liberator aircraft B-24's drop 311 tons of bombs on the huge oil refineries at Ploesti, Rumania, (Operation Tidalwave.)

**Aug 2**---U.S. turns over 150 merchant ships to Britain for the duration.

**Aug 3**---U-572 is sunk off Trinidad by a B-24 Liberator.

**Aug 7**---Battle in Vella Gulf: 3 of 4 Japanese destroyers transporting 50 tons of supplies and reinforcements wind up under the sea; survivors refuse to be rescued, and the Tokyo Express to Kolombangara is stopped.

**Aug 9**---U.S. troops outflank German forces in northern Sicily by sea, landing troops under cover of darkness.

**Aug 10**---U.S. Headquarters Eleventh A.F. moves to Adak, Aleutians.

**Aug 11**---First Quebec Conference begins. U.S. 11th A.F raid Kurile Islands, Alaska.

**Aug 12**---8th A.F. bombs targets at Bochum, Bonn, Gelsenkirchen and Recklinghausen; 259 Americans failed to return; the very first use of pressurized belly fuel tanks by P-47 Thunderbolts.



**Aug 13**---B-24 Liberators of U.S. 9th A F bomb aircraft factory in Wiener Neustadt, Austria.

**Aug 15**---Second air raid on Rome, Italy. Over 600 U.S. aircraft dispatched to targets over France, 22 Americans failed to return. A combined U.S. + Canadian force lands on the fog-filled Aleutian isle of Kiska, and find the Japanese troops have vamoosed. The USS *Abner Read* sank after hitting a mine off Kiska.

**Aug 16**---U.S. troops enter capital of Sicily, Messina; 135,000 Axis prisoners announced on radio as taken through Aug 10. U.S. troops clear Baanga Island.

**Aug 17**---Allied troops enter Messina. Sicily is liberated. The first battle of Schweinfurt, over 200 B-17's dispatched without fighter escort, and over 140 dispatched to Regensburg, home of vital ball bearing factories, accompanied partially by 240 fighters; after bombing they crossed the Alps and headed for Switzerland; 362 Americans failed to return; a terrific number.

**Aug 19**---Heavy allied air bombardment on Salerno and Foggia.

**Aug 21**---End of 5-day aerial campaign by U.S. 5th A.F. on Wewak; 309 enemy aircraft destroyed.

**Aug 22**---Sixty-five B-26's bomb railway yards at Salerno. Japanese evacuate northern New Guinea.

**Aug 24**---Villacoublay airport near Paris severely damaged by U.S. 8th A.F. Enroute to England from North Africa, B-17's bomb targets near Bordeaux; 30 Americans failed to return. The R.A.F. makes its 74th attack upon Berlin; 59 losses.

**Aug 25**---Russians capture Khaarkov. Heinrich Himmler is appointed minister of the interior; in effect he has greater control over all civil service and court systems in Nazi Germany.

**Aug 27**---U.S. aircraft from the escort carrier *Card* sank U-boat U-847 with a new kind of torpedo, the "fido" ie Mk. 24 mine. R.A.F. devastates Nuremburg in record large-scale bombing. First 8th A.F. attack on a German V-weapon site, at Watten; 34 Americans failed to return.

**Aug 29**---Some 400 British commandos, Berlin claims, land on "on the toe" of the Italian boot with equipment to prepare a bridgehead, but are decimated. Allies land on Arundel Island in the Solomons.

## September highlights

**Sep 1**---U.S. troops land on Baker, establishing airfield.

**Sep 2**---U.S. airplanes bomb port of Kowloon, Hong Kong. U.S. announces that there have been 104,658 U.S. war casualties since December 7, 1941; 19,875 are dead.

**Sep 3**---Italy invaded by Allied forces who offer unconditional surrender.

**Sep 5**---The passenger streamliner Congressional Limited derails at Frankford, Penn, due to a burned out journal and 79 people are killed. U.S and Australian paratroops land on Nadrab nw of Lae (future site of a major air base in New Guinea).

**Sep 6**---Strait of Messina opens for allied shipping. U.S. 8th A.F. bombs various targets over Germany; 450 Americans failed to return; a disastrous number.