

Steps that led to D-Day on June 6, 1944

March-October 1938: Hitler initiates plan to create greater Germany, seizing Austria by force, then annexing Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia with agreement of Britain and France

September 1939: German armies invade Poland. Britain and France declare war on Germany

Winter 1939-40: "Phoney war". Most of Europe remains neutral, little fighting takes place

April 1940: Germany invades Norway and Denmark

May: Winston Churchill heads new coalition government in Britain. Germany occupies Belgium and Holland. France defeated within days. 224,000 British forces and 95,000 French forces evacuated from Dunkirk

June: France surrenders and signs armistice with Germany

July: Operation Sealion – Hitler prepares to invade Britain

July 10-October 31: Battle of

repulse attacks in what Churchill calls Britain's "finest hour"

October: Hitler abandons plans to invade Britain

Spring 1941:

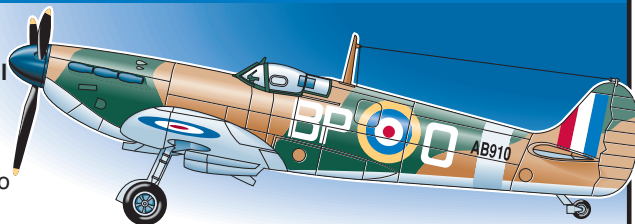
Germany overruns Yugoslavia and Greece, including Crete.

Italy and Germany threaten to take Suez Canal, cutting Britain's supply lines from her Empire.

President Roosevelt pushes **Lend-Lease** bill through U.S. Congress, appropriating over \$7 billion for military support – mostly to Britain – to be repaid after war ends

June: Germany invades Soviet Union. After fierce fighting advance is halted at Leningrad and Moscow

1941-43: Battle of



Atlantic escalates. U-boats attack convoys bound for Britain

December 1941: Japan attacks Pearl Harbour. America enters World War II



January 1942: Churchill and Roosevelt agree defeat of Germany is vital. Planning starts to produce enough ships, planes, tanks and guns to mount a direct assault on "Fortress Europe"

November 1942 to May 1943:

Operation Torch – North African campaign results in Allied victory, boosting morale

November 1943:

Stalin pressures Churchill and Roosevelt to mount second European front. They agree to invasion of France in May or June 1944

June 6, 1944:

Operation Overlord – 176,000 British, Canadian and U.S. troops take part in Normandy landings on D-Day **March-October**



Britain. Germany assembles over 2,300 aircraft. RAF has only 650 fighter aircraft available to defend nation

September 7: Hitler orders Blitz of London

September 15: More than 1,000 Nazi aircraft attack London to deliver Luftwaffe's final blow before planned invasion

RAF pilots successfully

