

Time Capsule Dates of the Second World War

—1944—



June 1—Glenn Miller's band makes smashing debut in U.K.

June 2—First Allied shuttle mission from Italy to the Ukraine is conducted; the three new American bases are at Poltava, Morgorod, and Piryatin.

June 3—OPA begins investigation of hotel over-pricing violations nationwide. A message at 4:39 p.m. slips out to U.S. and Latin American hemispheres on an AP teletype from London: Flash! Eisenhower' headquarters announces Allied landings in France (it is false news.) Over 1000 Allied bombers raid Calais, Boulogne, the Chartres airport and n.w. France by daylight.

June 4—Rome falls to the Allies, and is the first European war capital liberated by the Allies. On initiative action by Capt. Daniel Gallery on board the USS *Guadalcanal* U-505 is captured 150 miles west of Cape Blanco, French West Africa, U-505's codebooks and an enigma are captured; the U-boat is the only one captured by a U.S. vessel in WW II. The capture of the U-505 was one of the best kept secrets of WW II. General Eisenhower postpones D-Day by 24 hours. ETO press release publicly proclaims the oil offensive.

June 5—Gen. George C Marshall receives the Order of Suvorov, First Class, of the Soviet Union. B-29's fly from China.

June 6—Allied Armies storm the Normandy beaches on D-Day, a force of 185,000 troops, 18,000 paratroopers, 13,175 aircraft, 4,066 landing ships and 20,000 vehicles are involved initially. One thousand nine hundred and 66 fighters provide escort protection. The U.S. 82nd and 101st Airborne drop behind the beaches between Ste Mère-Eglise, Carentan, and St Martin de Varreville. New radar ground control is first used in Normandy (Microwave Early Warning, MEW). U.S. 8th A.F. in England

Note: A.F. is acronym for Air Force
J.A.F. is acronym for Japanese Air Force

reaches peak strength; over 200,000 men, 40 1/2 Heavy Bomb Groups, 15 Fighter Groups, and 2 Photo-Recon Groups. A sky train fifty miles long helps resupply Allied troops on Normandy; 2,876,000 are part of the entire D-Day Allied invasion. Blood donors stampede into Red Cross in New York City (Manhattan and Brooklyn) producing an increase of 300% in appointments over the normal. Oil refineries at Ploesti bombed by U.S. 15th A.F.

June 7—American troops expand toward Quineville and St Mère Eglise, in the ladder throw back major German counterattack.

June 8—American and British troops make contact at Port-en-Bessin. Two U.S. beaches link up at Isigny. Luftwaffe conducts small raid over Britain; the first since D-Day.

June 9—Allied air forces operate from France.

June 10—82nd Airborne captures Mentebourg rail station. U.S. reach St-Lô Bayeux highway. Soviet 21st Army attacks Finland. Oil refinery at Porto Marghera, Italy, bombed by U.S. 15th A.F.

June 11—U.S. 36th Inf Div advances 65 miles n. of Rome. U-boat U-490 is sunk in the South Atlantic by U.S. carrier *Croatan* and her group, entire German crew is captured.

June 12—First V-1 (rocket) fired. Senate passes a modified “GI Bill” costing an estimated \$3 to 6.5 billion. The third wave of U.S. Army divisions are largely ashore on Normandy. U.S. soldiers secure Carentan, France. U.S. naval aircraft sink 16 ships off the Marianas.

June 13—A V-2 Rocket prematurely is launched by Germans, hitting countryside n. of Kalmar, Sweden. British government purchases wreckage. Part of U.S. 1st Army drives to Cherbourg. 101st and 2nd Armor Divisions heroically defend Carentz and Carentan-Périers highway. Liberty ships operate from the port of Rome. Vilno is liberated, becoming the second European capital to be free.

June 15—Invasion on the Marianas develops as 162,000 American troops and a quarter of a million sailors invade Saipan. B-29’s strike Yawatta Imperial Works. German V-1 terror campaign begins; in first 24-hours 244 are launched. Jeep carrier *Solomons* sinks U-860 in South Atlantic.

June 16—Oil refineries around Vienna are bombed by 658 U.S. Liberators; 14 lost.

June 17—Hitler refuses demand by Gen. Rommel to evacuate the peninsula of Cherbourg. Free French troops land on Elba.

June 18—U.S. reach Barneville. Free French troops liberate Radicofani, dominating Rome-Florence road. Oil refineries at Hamburg, Hanover, and Misburg bombed by U.S. 8th A.F.

June 19—U.S. soldiers secure Bricquebec. “Turkey Shoot” begins.

June 20—1,361 bombers and 729 escorts of the U.S. 8th A.F. attack oil targets in Hamburg-Harburg-Ostermoor-Misburg-Politz-Magdeburg, the missions are very successful; 48 heavies downed. All German Air Forces placed under control of Albert Speer. In the air Battle of the Philippine Sea, Japanese Navy loses 3 aircraft carriers and 480 aircraft; U.S. loses 23 aircraft. Cherbourg is besieged. British fly jet fighter (Meteor) to intercept German V-1’s over London. Valonges liberated.

June 21—U.S. 8th A.F. devastates Berlin and oil refinery at Ruhland.

June 22—Operation Zebra: B-17's make special drop of 2,077 containers of arms and supplies to FFI (French Resistance). Luftwaffe inflicts a surprise raid on First U.S. shuttle-bombing airbase, (Ukraine from U.K.) resulting in 47 aircraft destroyed and 29 damaged. Cherbourg is bombed by 1000 bombers. F.D.R. signs the "GI Bill" into law.

June 23—U.S. Hellcats and Helldivers bomb Iwo Jima; loose 5; 66 enemy destroyed. Oil refineries at Ploesti are bombed by 761 U.S. bombers of 15th A.F.

June 24—In the vicinity of the Azores, 2,564 ton Japanese sub *I-52* is sunk by carrier aircraft of *Bogue*. Soviet summer offensive begins.

June 26—U.S. 8th A.F. bombs oil refinery at Drohobycz, Poland from its base in the USSR and flies to Italy; the 8th remains in Italy long enough to fly a mission with the 15th A.F. over Italy.

June 27—As of date, 31 Allied air squadrons are operating from the Normandy-beach areas. Port of Cherbourg is captured. Oil refinery at Drohobycz struck by U.S. 15th A.F.

June 28—Thomas Dewey and John Bricker acquire the nominations for President and Vice-President at the Republican convention held in Chicago. Second White Russian troops take Mogilev, just outside Minsk.

June 29—American Red Cross announces development of a serum to prevent measles. Generals Rommel and von Rundstedt propose a secret withdrawal from Normandy, Hitler refuses.

June 30—Roosevelt signs the congressional resolution granting the Philippines independence as soon as the Japanese are ejected. A total of 452,450 Allied troops have come ashore at Normandy. A total of 570 ships and 180 troop transports have reached Normandy assault area in supply convoys by this date. 101st Airborne relieves 4th Inf at Cherbourg.

July 2—Budapest bombed by 712 U.S. heavies. Von Rundstedt resigns command of German forces in France. Ensign Frederick L. Moore from the carrier *Wake Island* sinks U-543 in S. Atlantic at night.

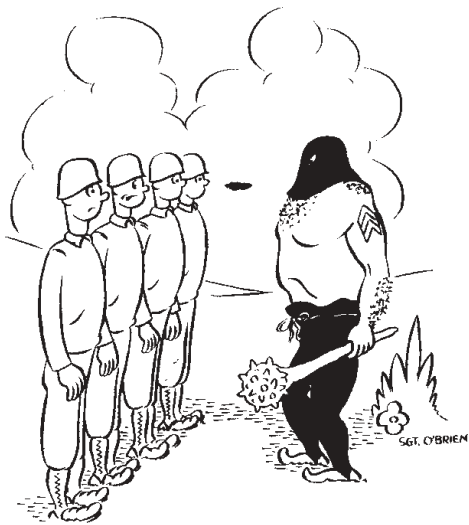
July 3—Russians capture Minsk. Bucharest bombarded by U.S. 15th A.F.

July 5—The millionth Allied soldier disembarks on French soil.

July 7—U.S. forces cross the River Vire, seven miles n.w. from St.Lô. Over 600,000 tons of supplies have been landed with 171,000 vehicles since D-Day; German opposition still formidable.

July 8—Hitler issues secret directive that Allies will try to invade the Pas-de-Calais area.

July 13—German resistance around Brody, Ukraine falls; 17,000 Germans are captured,



Who's the new drill sergeant?

25,000 killed. Vilna taken by Soviets.

July 14—Operation CADILLAC: B-17's drop 2,491 containers of arms and supplies to aid FFI in central and southern France.

July 15—Six hundred and seven bombers of the U.S. 15th A.F. plaster Ploesti, with 1,526 tons.

July 17—Russians cross Bug River. U.S. 15th A.F. bombs rail targets in France. Gen. Rommel injured by Allied aircraft.

July 18—U.S. troops of the 29th capture Saint Lô.

July 19—U.S. forces secure port at Livorno, (Leghorn) Italy. *Variety* reports the most popular songs are: (1) "I'll be Seeing You" (2) "Long Ago and Far Away" (3) "Amor."

July 20—Attempt on Hitler's life fails. U.S. 15th A.F. destroys 950 jet aircraft in Friedrichshafen.

July 21—U.S. troops land on Guam.

July 22—Ploesti bombed by U.S. 15th A.F., of 495 aircraft 24 are lost. 76 Lightnings and 58 Mustangs of 15th A.F. succeed in shuttle mission to USSR, destroying 56 enemy aircraft in Rumania.

July 24—U.S. Marines land on Tinian.

July 25—American offensive operation "Cobra" takes troops out from the confining sector of Normandy. As of date, 12 U.S. 9th A.F. groups are on French soil.

July 26—U.S. 15th A.F. fighters leave Soviet Union destroying 20 enemy aircraft over Bucharest.

July 28—U.S. 8th A.F. conducts a highly successful pinpoint attack on oil target at Merseburg-Leuna. First objective in "Cobra" attained as Coutances, France liberated. First time U.S. pilots encounter German rockets.

July 30—Avranches, France, is liberated by U.S. 1st Army. U.S. troops take Sansapor Island.

July 31—Approximately 10,000 lend-lease (U.S. built) aircraft have been sent to USSR since October of 1941.

Aug 1—Patton's Third Army becomes operational and leads the Allied breakout into central France. Patriotic forces hoping to free Warsaw, the capital, start an uprising as Soviet troops begin approaching the city.

Aug 2—RAF begins night-supply help to Warsaw. Soviet A.F. daylight support over Warsaw mysteriously disappears. Radio Berlin admits Rommel is hurt. U-804 torpedoes U.S. destroyer escort *Fiske* in South Atlantic.

Aug 3-4—U.S. 3rd Army spearhead liberates Rennes. Intensive V-1 attack on southern England lasts a record 14 hours; ten hospitals are struck. Allies reach Florence.

Aug 4—Electrostatic Plant for manufacturing hydrogen peroxide in Peenemunde bombarded by 221 Flying Fortresses of 8th A.F. Heinkel Flugzeugwerke, Rostok, hit by 146 bombers of 8th A.F. More Lightnings (P-38s) land on "Mother Russia." British jet makes successful combat debut

against V-1, as it tips the rocket into the sea with wing. Army and Marines link up on Guam.

Aug 6—Patton's troops reach Saint Brieuç. Berlin and varying oil refineries in Hamburg and Harburg bombed by 999 bombers of U.S. 8th A.F. Harvard University disclose that Comdr. Howard Aiken in collaboration with IBM has developed an automatic calculator computer; "Super Brain:" weighed 35 tons.

Aug 7—Patton's troops rapidly advance to Brest; but garrison of 36,000 German hold out. Four German divisions are isolated on Brittany. German forces launch counterattack against U.S. 1st Army at Mortain in an attempt to halt the Allied breakout.

Aug 8—Le Mans, major city of 75,000, is liberated by Patton's 3rd Army.

Aug 9—U.S. 15th A.F. bombs Hungary oil refineries. Canadian 1st Army is bogged down 8 miles n. of Falaise.

Aug 10—Ploesti is bombed by 414 U.S. bombers. The U.S. 5th and Fr. 2nd Armored Divisions meet stiff resistance n.e. of Le Mans, loose some 40 tanks between them. Patriots in Warsaw able to control three-fifths of the city, plea for outside help indicating they face extinction unless assisted. Polish troops in Italy advance to the Cesano River. Standard Oil plant near Paris is bombed by 8th A.F. Organized enemy resistance ceases on the Marianas. Iwo Jima is bombed by U.S. 7th A.F. for the first time. Railwaymen of Paris go on strike. Superfortresses fly from secret base in Ceylon 4,000 miles to mine and bomb Palembang oil site in

"What are you standing up for, Bill? There's plenty of room now."



the Sumatran mtns; the longest nonstop mission of the war. Guam is secured.

Aug 11—Angers liberated by U.S. 3rd Army.

Aug 12—U.S. 3rd Army liberates Nantes. U.S. 1st Army, British 2nd Army, Canadian 1st Army and U.S. 3rd Army helps penn up Nazis around Chamois-Argentan-Lisieux, France. Pluto oil line semi-completed from Britain to France. The last Nazis are driven from Florence, Italy. Churchill asks Stalin to send aid to help Polish war-fighters in Warsaw; and is refused.

Aug 15—Allied invasion of southern France, 300,000 invade between Toulon and Cannes, France.

Aug 16—Dreux, Châteaudun and Orleans are liberated by U.S. 3rd Army. St. Malo is secured. General Bradley instructs Patton to go no further. First Nazi jet fighter is destroyed by a U.S. fighter pilot. 1,069 B-17's hit oil and aircraft targets in central Germany. Washington D.C. orders Eisenhower to undertake supply-mission for Warsaw relief. Soviet spearhead forces halt seven miles n.e. of Warsaw. Le Muy, S. France, captured by U.S. paratroop forces.

Aug 17—St. Tropez is liberated by U.S. 7th Army. Bradley releases Patton. Over 86,500 Allies have been landed over French Mediterranean beaches since D-Day.

Aug 18—Patton's spearhead division reach Seine River at Mantes-Gassicourt, France, meeting no resistance by the German. Cathedral city of Chartres liberated by another of Patton's Third Army columns. Three hundred and 77 U.S. bombers hit Ploesti; 7 planes lost.

Aug 19—Third Army's 79th Div crosses the Seine in a rain downpour; the vital river is denied the German. U.S. Navy Hellcats first-time down Luftwaffe aircraft over France, near Toulouse. Sixty-five bombers strike Ploesti; 0 losses.

Aug 20—U.S. 8th and 15th A.F.'s strike I.G. Farben and Auswitz. Six Avengers from U.S. carrier *Bogue* sink U-1229 in N. Atlantic; U-1229 was proceeding to Long Island, N.T., U.S.A., to drop off saboteurs. A new summer offensive by Soviet Army commences in the Jassy area of Rumania.

Aug 20-21—Area around Falaise and Argentan surrounded, escape pocket for Germans is closed, trap nets 100,000 prisoners; over 130,000 manage to escape. B-29's meet enemy opposition for first time over Yawatta; 13 losses. U.S. 15th A.F. bombs oil refineries in Poland and Czechoslovakia in great depth, and becomes the least costliest day mission in 15th A.F. history; 4 losses out of 500. Churchill and Roosevelt address a joint appeal to Stalin to help the people of Warsaw. People of Paris rise to oust the Germans.

Aug 22—Canadian Army crosses Touques River. Imperial Japan initiates compulsory labor draft for women and girls from 12 to 40. Polish troops clear all resistances of the Metauro River in Italy.

Aug 23—Grenoble at the foot of the Alps is secured by 36th Inf Div. Marseille secured by Free French and Resistance forces. Third Army spearhead liberates the city of Fontainebleau, about 33 miles south of Paris.

Aug 24—American troops enter Cannes. Spearhead of U.S. Third Army streams to Montargis. Weimar

Armament Works is attacked by 129 8th A.F. bombers. 2000 U.S. bombers strike oil plants in central, western Germany and Czechoslovakia; missions are highly successful. All students in Nazi Germany mobilized for war work.

Aug 25—Paris is liberated, becoming the third European capital to be liberated. U.S. 9th A.F. challenges Luftwaffe over Beauvais and Reims in fierce combat air duels, destroy 127 German aircraft, damage 33; the back of the Luftwaffe breaks over France. Third Army secures Troyes, 65 miles from Montargis. 1,191 heavies of the U.S. 8th A.F. bomb factories in Germany including huge synthetic oil plant at Politz. Rumania declares war on Germany.

Aug 25-26— British motorized infantry troops begin to cross the Seine. U.S. 2nd Armor captures Elbeuf. Soviets reach Danube River.

Aug 26—Gen. C deGaulle leads a ceremonial parade in newly-freed Paris.

Aug 27—U.S. First Army cross the Marne River. 1,207 B-17's turned back from Berlin due to weather. Operation Reunion starts. The first 1944 daylight heavy bomber raid on Germany by RAF.

Aug 28—U.S. Third Army liberates Epernay and Châlons-sur-Marne, some 80 miles from Paris. Naval base at Toulon secured.

Aug 29—British armor crosses Seine river at Vernon. Patton's 3rd Army spearhead liberates Reims. U.S. 7th Army liberates Valence. Western Allies recognize Polish Home Army as a legal military force. Western Allies end diplomatic meeting at Dumbarton Oaks, first step in formation of the United Nations.

Aug 30—U.S. 7th Army liberates Nice on the French Riviera. Start of 3-day strafing campaign by American P-51 pilots result in a record by 15th A.F. as over 200 enemy aircraft destroyed at Reghin, Debrecen, Kecskemet, and Grosswadein, the Eastern Front. First U.S. Army railway supply trains roll into Paris. Russian Army rolls into Ploesti.

Aug 31—Patton's spearheads reach the Meuse River, the last strategic river crossing before the German borders, and establish a bridgehead near the town of Verdun, famous site of WWI. Soviets sweep Bucharest, the fourth European capital to be liberated. British cross the Somme River.

Sep 1—Philippine Islands are bombed for the first time since 1942, by 57 "Apache" 5th A.F. bombers.

Sep 2—Allied armor units from the Mediterranean make 34-mile advance in the Rhône; as of date 190,565 troops, 41,534 vehicles and 219,205 tons of supplies have been put ashore



"I'm too tired to ride the bus.
Let's walk."

through the French Riviera beaches. U.S. 1st Army enters Belgium for the first time, as 82nd Reconnaissance Battalion crosses border at 9:30 a.m., liberates Tournai, almost 140 miles from Paris. U.S. 5th Army liberates Pisa, Italy. Some 600 miles south of Tokyo, future President Lt (jg) George Bush is shot down near Chichi Jima island; later rescued by submarine. French forces liberate Lyons.

Sep 3-4—U.S. First Army closes Mons pocket, 25,000 enemy netted. British 8th Army suffers tremendous losses in Gemmano-Croce, Italy. U.S. 15th A.F. begins “Rat Week” knocking out bridges all along the Eastern Front.

Sep 3—British Guards Armored Division liberates Brussels, capital of Belgium and the fifth European capital to be liberated. U.S. 8th A.F. Thunderbolt squadron led by Maj. Frederick Lefebre and Lt. E. Reinhart destroy a twenty-mile-long vehicle convoy, marking one of the largest in the war, retreating from east Belgium outside Louvain. U.S. 15th A.F. Communiqué reports destruction of 82 locos, 154 motor vehicles, 190 oil tankers, 110 box cars in Morava Valley, Yugoslavia.

Sep 4—Helsinki is liberated, becoming the sixth European capital. German troops evacuate Finland. Antwerp reached by British 2nd Army. The last torpedo boats stationed in France and Belgium of the German Navy evacuate bases to the Netherlands. Japanese troops capture U.S. air-base in Lingling, China. *Stars and Stripes* reveals the break up of a large Sicilian counterfeiting ring in Rome.

Sep 5—U.S. Third Army resupplied crosses the Meuse River.

Sep 7—Soviet spearheads do not move into Warsaw, as the city fighting enters seventh week. Through the Polish Red Cross a short cease fire is obtained in Warsaw, several thousand civilians allowed to leave. U.S. 1st Army fights its way into Liège, Belgium.

Sep 7-8—U.S. carrier planes destroy JAF planes at Yap and Palau.

Sep 8-9—U.S. 1st Army liberates Liège. Red Army enters Sofia, the seventh European capital to be liberated. The first V-2 Rockets blast London, England and Paris, France. Bulgaria declares war on Germany. Allies sink Italian liner *Rex* near Trieste, Italy. Approximately 20,000 German troops under guard of a dozen Americans march northeastward from the Biscayne Bay and surrender to the U.S. 83rd Inf Div near the Beaugency bridge on the Loire, s.w. of Orléans.

Sep 10—U.S. 1st Army secures small bridgehead across Moselle River and 3rd Army secures small bridgehead at Crévéchamps and Bayon. Churchill arrives in Canada secretly by the *Queen Mary*. Eisenhower makes a secret visit to Brussels.

Sep 11—As of date 2,168,307 troops and 460,745 vehicles have landed through the Normandy beaches. Seven synthetic oil plants and two other targets hit by 1,145 8th A.F. bombers, and