1944

Jan 15 1944 —U.S. force in Great Britain numbers 750,000.
Jan 20 —U.S. 36th Infantry Div attacks across Rapido River.
Jan 22 —Allied landings on Anzio attempts to outflank Gustav Line.
Jan 27 —Convoy JW 56A under attack by U-boats in Arctic and U.S. freighter \textit{Andrew G. Curtain} goes to the bottom, but British destroyer HMS \textit{Inconstant} rescues 68 survivors.
Jan 31 —U.S. Marines and Army invade Kwajalein and Majuro.
Feb 8 —U.S. sub \textit{Snook} sinks troopship \textit{Lima Maru} e. of Goto Archipelago. \textit{Petrella} transporting Italian prisoners is sunk by HMS \textit{Sportsman}, and as she went down Germans refused to open the holds where the POWs were, 2670 died.
Feb 9 —The premiere of \textit{Lady in the Dark} in Hollywood.
Feb 10 —U.S. sub \textit{Pogy} sinks Japanese destroyer \textit{Minekaze} and freighter \textit{Malta Maru} off Taiwan.
Feb 11 —U.S. sub \textit{Gudgeon} sinks freighter \textit{Satsuma Maru} off Wenchow, China; had been attacked by Chinese B-25s initially.
Feb 17 —Huge airstrike on main Japanese base at Truk by carrier

**Feb 20** — *Big Week* commences: 880 U.S. 8th A.F. bombers (and 835 fighters) drop 2218 tons of bombs on industrial centers at Leipzig, Gotha, Brunswick, Tutow, Oschersleben, Rostok, and Bernberg, Germany; over 200 Americans missing in action.  

**Feb 23** — Southern Pacific direct train service to Los Angeles resumed after a big storm in Southern California. 100 war plants were closed by power outages caused by the storm that killed four. U.S. oil tanker *E.G. Seubert* is sunk by U-boat in Indian Ocean. U.S. sub *Pogy* sinks freighter *Horei Maru* off Okinawa. U.S. sub *Sunfish* and aircraft from carrier *Yorktown* sink *Shinyubari Maru* 40 miles w. of Saipan. U.S. sub *Plunger* sinks transport *Kimishima Maru*. U.S. sub *Balao* sinks army transport *Nikki Maru*.

**Feb 24** — Exactly 1746 tons hit aircraft production centers at Gotha, Schweinfurt, Rostock, and Eisenach by 746 B-17's and B-24's of the 8th A.F. protected by 767 "little friends" U.S. fighter pilots shoot down 39 interceptors; 49 U.S. heavies lost, 10 fighters lost (over 433 Americans missing in action.) British carrier HMS *Furious* makes raid on Norweigian coast. Chile crushes a vast Nazi spy ring.


**Feb 29** — Against low cloud overcast, U.S. 1st Cavalry Div. makes a surprise landing on Los Negros with only 3 B-24s and 9 B-25s able to see main enemy target; fierce Japanese counterattacks ensue.

**Mar 1** — Destroyer escort *Bronstein* sinks a U-boat in N. Atlantic and then with escorts *Thomas* and *Bostwick* send another U-boat
to the bottom of the sea. Well protected convoy transporting Japanese troops from Manchuria to Guam attacked by U.S. sub Trout damages a transport and sinks transport Sakito Maru 625 miles e. of Taiwan; but Trout was hunted and sunk; Sakito lost 2,475 men, Trout lost 60 men.

Mar 2 —The heaviest to date Mediterranean A.F. air support over entrapped U.S. GI's trapped on Anzio beachhead. The last German major counterattack is next day. Casablanca wins Academy Award for Best Picture; Best Actor: Paul Lukas, Watch on the Rhine; Best Actress: Jennifer Jones, The Song of Bernadette; Best Supporting Actor: Charles Coburn, The More the Merrier; Best Supporting Actress: Katina Paxinou, For Whom the Bell Tolls; Best Director: Michael Curtiz, Casablanca; Alfred Newman won Best Original Music score in The Song of Bernadette, a beautiful depiction of the Blessed Mother's apparition at Lourdes, France with Bernadette, which won 2 more Oscars, in Cinematography, and Art Direction, Interior Decoration, bw; in same 2 categories for color picture Phantom of the Opera won, nosing out For Whom the Bell Tolls, and Thousands Cheer; Best Documentary: Desert Victory; Best Documentary, short subj: December 7th, nosing out the shorty Youth in Crisis on teen delinquency and growing youth crime (doubling in the 1st 2 yrs of war) a March of Time episode; Best Film Editing: Air Force; Best Special Effects: Crash Dive; Best Music, Scoring of a Musical Picture: This Is The Army; Best Writing, Original Story: The Human Comedy; Best Writing, Screenplay: Casablanca; Best Short Subj, Cartoons: The Yankee Doodle Mouse; first time Academy Awards held at the Grauman's Chinese Theatre; free passes given to those in uniform.

Mar 4 —Six hundred B-17's and B-24's of U.S. 8th A.F. conduct first daylight raid on Berlin proclaims radio; only 30 U.S. B-17's actually bomb Berlin (also seen are refugees awaiting the day of peace.) U.S. sub Bluefish sinks oiler Ominesan Maru in So. China Sea.

Mar 6 —5th Marine Reg. of the U.S. 1st Marine Div lands on west coast of New Britain Island, a forgotten land mainly tropical rain forests and active volcanoes. Colossal air battle over Berlin takes place; 69 U.S. 8th A.F. B-17s and B-24s missing in action out of 600 plus. Rem: the 8th A.F. used only heavy bombers and each had a crew of 10. Major train center Trappes, France, devastated by R.A.F. night bombing. U.S. sub Nautilus sinks transport America Maru, a captured ex-hospital U.S. ship. Convoy UGS 33 from N.Y. strays into an Allied minefield near Tunis and freighter Daniel Chester French sinks, Virginia Dare hits a mine but survives.

Mar 8 —Exactly 539 heavily escorted bombers of U.S. 8th A.F. bomb Berlin; 1060 tons fall; 891 U.S. fighters flew mission. 382 Americans missing in action. 78 interceptors knocked off by U.S. fighters.


Mar 10 —U.S. 9th A.F. in England secretly granted more independence in operations and will divert to preinvasion tactics as opposed to aerial heavy bomber assistance.

Army pushes down Dneiper River and overruns Berislav.

**Mar 12** — Announcement is made of special trans-Atlantic aerial freight line inaugurated by 8th A.F. Service Command in England to supplement ATC (Air Transport Command) shipments, for top-secret Operation Overlord. U.S. sub *Gato* sinks freighter *No.3 Okinoyoyama Maru* off New Guinea

**Mar 13** — Main body of U.S. 3rd Army HQ sails in convoy from NY for England.

**Mar 15** — In greatest air effort in Mediterranean, Cassino is leveled. Indian 4th Div. attacks toward Monastery Hill making slow progress against stubborn Germans in the rubble. U.S. 85th Inf Div. arrives at the Italian Front.


**Mar 18** — Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, Italy. Steaming waves of lava bubble over Mt. Vesuvius in an opposite flow from a USAAF bombardment group base; lava buries several villages. New Zealand armor turned back with heavy losses at Cassino. Allied casualty list from January 16, 1944 to end of March 1944 in Italy: a horrible 52,130 (22,219 were American; 22,092 British and other Allies.)