

Year 1939

- **August 23: The Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact** (a non-aggression treaty between Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Soviet Union) is signed.
- **September 1:** Germany invades Poland, **starting WWII**.
- **November 30: The Winter War** between the Soviet Union and Finland begins. It lasts until *March 1940*.

Year 1940

- **March 5: The Katyn Massacre** occurs in the Katyn Forest (Russia), where Polish officers are executed by Stalin's order.
- **April–June: Operation Weserübung** (German invasion and occupation of Denmark and Norway) takes place.
- **May–June: Operations Fall Gelb** (German invasion of the Benelux countries) and **Fall Rot** (invasion of France) are carried out.
- **May–June: Operation Dynamo** evacuates over 330.000 British and French soldiers from the beaches of Dunkirk, France.
- **June:** German forces occupy Paris. The French front collapses, and France surrenders under **Henri Pétain**.
- **July–October: The Battle of Britain** takes place (air battles between the UK and Germany, during which the latter tries to pave the way for Operation Sea Lion, the planned invasion of the British Isles, which never happens).
- **September 27: The Tripartite Pact** is signed between the Third Reich, Italy, and Japan.
- **October 16: The Warsaw Ghetto** is established, where nearly half a million people are imprisoned during the war.

Year 1941

- **March 25:** Yugoslavia joins the **Tripartite Pact**.
- **March 27:** Due to the pact signing, the **Yugoslav coup** occurs with the slogan "Better war than the pact," and the government is overthrown.
- **April 5:** Yugoslavia and the USSR sign a **non-aggression pact**.
- **April 6 (Palm Sunday):** The April War (Operation 25) begins with the **bombing of Belgrade**. It ends on *17th April* with the unconditional capitulation of Yugoslavia. Belgrade falls on *12th April*.
- **April 10:** The **Independent State of Croatia** is proclaimed.
- **April 11:** German forces occupy **Celje**.
- **April 14:** A temporary **civil administration** is established in Lower Styria, led by dr. Siegfried Uiberreither. Despite plans, Lower Styria is never formally annexed to the Third Reich.
- **April 26:** Hitler visits **Maribor**.
- **April 27:** The Anti-Imperialist Front (the predecessor of **the Liberation Front**) is established in the Vidmar villa under Rožnik Hill in Ljubljana.
- **May 3:** **The Province of Ljubljana** is annexed to the Kingdom of Italy.
- **May 10: The Styrian Homeland Association**, a Nazi organization aimed at denationalizing and Germanizing Slovenians in Lower Styria, is founded. Its headquarters is in Maribor; Franz Steindl becomes its leader.
- **June–July: The first resistance actions** by the Liberation Front (OF) take place in Slovenia (the 1st Celje Company is established on *20th July 1941*).
- **June 22: Operation Barbarossa** (German invasion of the USSR) begins without a declaration of war.
- **August 14: The Atlantic Charter** is signed by Roosevelt and Churchill, formally initiating cooperation between anti-fascist countries.
- **December 7:** Japan attacks the U.S. naval base at **Pearl Harbor**; the U.S. enters the war.

Year 1942

- *January 20:* **The Wannsee Conference** is held to discuss the "Final Solution to the Jewish question."
- *February:* The Italian occupier begins placing **barbed wire** around Ljubljana.
- *March:* **Military conscription** is introduced in Slovenian Styria; in July, it expands to Upper Carniola and the Meža Valley.
- *October–November:* **The Second Battle of El Alamein** (Egypt) takes place, ending in the first major Allied victory over Nazi Germany.
- *August:* **The Battle of Stalingrad** begins – one of the largest battles in human history, and a turning point on the Eastern Front. It ends on *2nd February 1943*, with the Axis forces' capitulation.
- *November 26:* The Anti-Fascist Council for the National Liberation of Yugoslavia (**AVNOJ**) is established in Bihać (Bosnia).

Year 1943

- *January 8:* All 69 fighters of the **Pohorje Battalion** fall at Osankarica.
- *January–March:* **The Battle of the Neretva** (also known as the Battle for the Wounded) takes place.
- *March 1:* **The Dolomiti Declaration** is signed, through which the Communist Party of Slovenia formally assumes leadership of the Liberation Front.
- *March 26:* **The Battle of Jelenov Žleb**, the largest Slovenian partisan victory over the Italian occupier, takes place.
- *May–June:* **The Battle of the Sutjeska** occurs.
- *July 10:* **Operation Husky** (Allied invasion of Sicily) begins.
- *September 8:* Italian armed forces **surrender unconditionally**.
- *October 1–3:* **The Assembly of Slovenian Nation's Delegates** is held in Kočevje, the largest political gathering in wartime Slovenia.
- *November 28:* **The Tehran Conference** begins, where the "Big Three" agree on further military actions. Tito's partisan army is recognized as the only legitimate military force in Yugoslavia. The conference ends on *1st December*.
- *November 29:* At the **2nd session of AVNOJ** in Jajce (BiH), foundations are laid for the post-war organization of the Yugoslav republic.

Year 1944

- *February 19:* **The first session of the SNOS** (Slovenian National Liberation Council) takes place in Črnomelj.
- *May 25:* **The airborne raid on Drvar** (Operation Rösselsprung) takes place, ending in complete failure for the Germans.
- *June 6:* **Operation Overlord** begins – the Allied landing on the beaches of Normandy and the start of the second European front, known as the Western Front.
- *June 16:* **The Tito–Šubašić Agreement** is signed on the island of Vis (an agreement between the partisans and the Yugoslav government-in-exile).
- *July 20:* A group of German officers and politicians carries out **Operation Valkyrie**, an unsuccessful assassination attempt on Hitler.
- *October 20:* After six days of fierce fighting, Yugoslav and Soviet forces **liberate Belgrade**.

Year 1945

- *January 27:* Units of the Soviet Red Army liberate the **Auschwitz-Birkenau** concentration camp in Poland.
- *February 4:* **The Yalta Conference** begins on the Crimean Peninsula, where the "Big Three" (Stalin, Churchill, and Roosevelt) shape the post-war image of Europe. It ends on *11th February*.
- *February 13:* The Allies begin **bombing Dresden**, dropping more than 3.900 tons of bombs in three days, killing around 25.000 people.

- *March 30*: Red Army forces march into **Prekmurje** and liberate it within a few days. The front halts at the Mura River for nearly a month and a half.
- *April 13*: The Red Army marches into **Vienna**.
- *April 28*: Italian fascist leader **Benito Mussolini** (1883–1945) is killed.
- *April 29*: The U.S. Army liberates the **Dachau** concentration camp.
- *April 30*: **Adolf Hitler** (1889–1945) commits suicide in his underground bunker in Berlin.
- *May 1*: Slovenian partisans (9th Corps) enter **Trieste**. They are soon followed by the 4th Yugoslav Army and, the next day, by the British. Trieste is liberated on 2nd May.
- *May 2*: After more than two weeks of fighting, **Berlin falls** and is taken by Red Army soldiers.
- *May 5*: **The first Slovenian government after WWII** (the "Ajdovščina government") is established and sworn in at a session of the Slovenian National Liberation Council (SNOS) in Ajdovščina. Boris Kidrič becomes its president.
- *May 8*: Slovenian partisans march into **Carinthia and Klagenfurt**.
- *May 9*: **WWII officially ends**. After the unconditional German surrender, signed on 7th May 1945, in Reims by Alfred Jodl, and again on 8th May in Karlshorst near Berlin by Wilhelm Keitel, Alexander Löhr (commander of Army Group E) signs the surrender of his armed forces (around 300.000 soldiers) in Topolšica, marking the formal end of WWII in Yugoslavia and Europe.
- *May 9*: **Ljubljana** is liberated.
- *May 15*: **The last WWII battles on Slovenian territory** take place at Poljana near Prevalje.
- *June 26*: Representatives of 50 countries sign the **Charter of the United Nations** in San Francisco.
- *July 17*: **The Potsdam Conference** begins in Germany. It symbolizes both the end of WWII and the start of the Cold War. The "Big Three" (Stalin, Churchill, and Truman) determine the post-war order of Germany and its division into occupation zones. The conference ends on 2nd August.
- *August 6*: An American bomber drops the first atomic bomb, named *Little Boy*, on **Hiroshima**. Total death toll: approximately 140.000.
- *August 9*: An American bomber drops the atomic bomb *Fat Man* on **Nagasaki**. Total death toll: approximately 70.000.
- *August 10*: At the 3rd AVNOJ session in Belgrade, Yugoslavia is officially named the **Democratic Federal Yugoslavia** (DFY).
- *August 11*: Women gain the **right to vote** in Yugoslavia.
- *September 2*: Representatives of the Japanese High Command sign the **unconditional surrender** on the American battleship *Missouri*, ending WWII on all fronts.
- *November 11*: **First post-war elections** are held in Yugoslavia for the Constitutional Assembly.
- *November 14*: **The Nuremberg Trials** begin in the city of Nuremberg, Germany. Leading political, military, and economic officials of the Third Reich are tried. The trials last until 1949.