

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN 1939–1945

AUGUST 1939

23 – Soviet Union and Germany sign a non-aggression pact containing a secret clause.

SEPTEMBER 1939

1 – Germany invades Poland.

3 – Great Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand declare war on Germany.

5 – United States proclaims neutrality; German troops cross the Vistula River in Poland.

10 – Canada declares war on Germany; Battle of the Atlantic begins.

17 – Red Army invades Poland.

27 – Reinhard Heydrich becomes the leader of new State Security Main Office (RSHA).

29 – Germany and Soviet Union divide up Poland.

1 – Estonia proclaims neutrality.

8 – Estonia's government extends the state of emergency by one year.

18 – Polish submarine "Orzel" escapes from Tallinn harbour, where it had been sheltering for repairs and which Estonia, as a neutral state, had interned; Soviet Union accuses Estonia of turning a blind eye to hostile naval forces.

19 – Soviet Union takes control of Gulf of Finland.

24 – Soviet Union declares that, since Estonia cannot maintain its neutrality, a mutual assistance pact between Estonia and the Soviet Union must be signed and that Soviet military bases need to be established in Estonia.

27 – Soviet Union reports the sinking of the Soviet steamer "Metallist" near Narva and announces security measures will be tightened and their intention to send 35,000 troops to defend the bases in Estonia.

28 – Under pressure from the Soviet Union Estonia signs a mutual assistance pact with Soviet Union in Moscow; 25,000 Soviet military personnel are to be brought to the military bases in Estonia.

OCTOBER 1939

5 – Under pressure from the Soviet Union Latvia signs a mutual assistance pact with the Soviet Union.

6 – In a speech to the *Reichstag*, Adolf Hitler calls all ethnic Germans back to Germany.

10 – Under pressure from the Soviet Union Lithuania signs a mutual assistance pact with the Soviet Union in Moscow.

2 – Warships of the Soviet Baltic Fleet, with the battleship "Oktyabrskaya Revolutsiya" in the fore, arrive in Tallinn under the command of Vladimir Tributs

11 Estonian and Soviet military delegations sign seven protocols about the location of Soviet military bases in Estonia.

OCTOBER 1939

12 – A new government led by Jüri Uluots steps into office.

17–22 – Red Army units enter the territory of Estonia from two directions.

18 – First German re-settlers (*Umsiedler*) leave Tallinn.

NOVEMBER 1939

25 – The USSR People's Commissariat of Defence compiles a directive for starting the war against Finland.

26 – Border clash on Soviet-Finnish border at Mainila staged by the Soviet Union.

30 – Soviet Union launches offensive against Finland.

21 – Decision by the Estonian government to rent out land to the Soviet Union to establish airfields in Harju and Lääne counties and Saaremaa.

22 – Decision by the Estonian government to evacuate areas in Harju and Lääne counties given to the Soviet military bases.

30 – Leaving from airfields in Estonia, Soviet planes bomb targets in Finland.

DECEMBER 1939

14 – Soviet Union expelled from the League of Nations.

11 – Soviet submarine sinks the Estonian steamer "Kassari".

25 – Finnish note to Estonia protesting against the Soviet navy stopping in Tallinn harbour; Finland retains right to retaliation.

31 – The German Cultural Self-Administration in Estonia ceases its activities.

JANUARY 1940

16 Soviet planes taking part in operations against Finland make emergency landings in Estonia in January; a Soviet squadron mistakenly bombs a manorial estate in Lääne County, destroying one dwelling.

FEBRUARY 1940

2 – Soviet warships at anchor in Tallinn Harbour fire on Estonian planes.

7 – August Rei, the Estonian envoy in Moscow, presents the People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs with a protest about the bombing in the territory of Estonia.

9 – Soviet planes bomb the vicinity of a schoolhouse in the rural municipality of Noarootsi.

15 – A Soviet plane bombs fishermen as they fish on the ice of Lake Peipus.

MARCH 1940

12 – Finland signs a peace treaty with Soviet Union.

16 – Germans bomb Scapa Flow naval base near Scotland.

March – Estonian government grants permission for 10,000 Red Army construction battalion troops to enter Estonia and build Red Army bases.

APRIL 1940

9 – Germany invades Denmark and Norway

MAY 1940

10 – Germany invades France, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands; Winston Churchill becomes British Prime Minister.

15 – Netherlands surrenders to Germany.

26 – Evacuation of Allied troops from Dunkirk begins.

28 – Belgium surrenders to Germany.

15 – Soviet Union demands an agreement be signed between Estonia and the Soviet Union to increase the territory of Soviet bases.

18 – The last ship with Baltic German re-settlers leaves Tallinn.

31 – The last German newspaper in Estonia, “Revalsche Zeitung”, closes down.

JUNE 1940

3 – Germans bomb Paris; evacuation of Dunkirk ends.

10 – Norway surrenders to Germany; Italy declares war on Great Britain and France.

14 – German forces enter Paris; Soviet Union presents Lithuania an ultimatum demanding the formation of a Soviet-friendly government and consent for more Red Army personnel to enter the country.

15 – Soviet Union occupies Lithuania.

16 – Marshal Henri-Philippe Pétain becomes French Prime Minister.

17 – Under pressure from the Soviet Union a puppet government is established in Lithuania.

18 – Hitler and Mussolini meet in Munich; via the BBC General Charles de Gaulle appeals to the people of France and announces the founding of the “Free French” movement.

19 – Hitler makes a speech to the *Reichstag*: regarding relations with the Soviet Union he announces that the Baltic States are not part of Germany’s sphere of influence.

14 – Soviet troops in bases in Estonia prepare for war; Estonian harbours are blockaded; the Tallinn-Helsinki passenger aircraft “Kaleva” is shot down by Soviet fighters.

16 – Soviet Union presents an ultimatum demanding the formation of a Soviet-friendly government and permission for more Red Army troops to enter Estonia; the government submits notice of resignation.

17 – Red Army occupies Estonia; members of the Defence League hand over their weapons.

18 – The Prime Minister, Jüri Uluots hands in his resignation to the President of Estonia.

18 – The Commander-in-Chief of the Estonian Armed Forces Johan Laidoner issues an regulation forbidding the holding of meetings, mass gatherings and the discussion and passing of resolutions.

19 – Stalin’s special representative Andrei Zhdanov arrives in Tallinn.

20 – War Council of the Soviet Baltic Sea Fleet becomes located in Tallinn.

JUNE 1940

20 – Under pressure from the Soviet Union a puppet government is established in Latvia.

21 – Polish government in exile is established in London.

22 – France signs an armistice with Germany.

23 – Hitler tours Paris.

24 – France sign an armistice with Italy.

28 – Britain recognises General Charles de Gaulle as the French leader.

21 – Under pressure from Zhdanov President Konstantin Päts appoints a puppet government led by Johannes Vares.

21 – Red Army 8th Army headquarters set up in Tartu.

21 – Demonstrations in Tallinn organised by the Soviet legation; the blue, black and white flag is taken down from Pikk Herman tower and replaced with a red flag; so-called “political prisoners” are released from Tallinn Central Prison; police stations and military buildings are attacked; during the night order is restored in the city; demonstrations organised in other towns are more subdued.

22 – Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces General Johan Laidoner released from office; Major General Gustav Jonson appointed as Commander of the Armed Forces.

25 – Zhdanov returns to Moscow.

29 – Vladimir Botshkarev appointed as Soviet envoy to Estonia.

29 – Harald Haberman is appointed Chief of Internal Security.

30 – all Estonian diplomats abroad called home – most do not come.

JULY 1940

1 – German U-boats attack merchant ships in the Atlantic; the Vichy government, led by Marshal Pétain, is formed in Vichy.

3 – British fleet destroy French fleet near Algerian coast; its commander had orders to either go to Britain or sink the ships so they would not fall into German hands; 1300 French seamen perish.

5 – Vichy government breaks off relations with Great Britain.

10 – Battle of Britain begins.

15 – As of 10 July 1940, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt freezes all assets belonging to the Baltic States in the US (Estonia has 2.56 tonnes of gold and 2.48 million dollars in cash in US banks) and to intern all Baltic ships in US ports.

2 – Zhdanov returns once again to Tallinn and remains until end of July.

3 – The Declaration of Unity and Co-operation between Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania is made void.

4 – By order of the Chief of Internal Security the Communist Party is legalised in Estonia.

5 – decree issued for formation of People's Home Guard; positions for political leaders established in the Estonian armed forces.

11 – In Lithuania, Latvia and Kalinin (Tver) Oblast the formation of the Baltic Military District begins. Estonia is made part of the Leningrad Military District.

12 – expropriation of fallow land begins.

JULY 1940

23 – Lithuanian and Latvian envoys and the Estonian Consul General in the US present a note to the Secretary of State of the United States requesting that USA not recognise the annexation of the Baltic States by the Soviet Union, and requesting permission for Baltic diplomats to continue their responsibilities in the US; Sumner Welles, the Under Secretary of State makes a declaration on behalf of the government, in which he condemns the action of the Soviet Union in the Baltic States, and declares that USA will continue to recognise their independence.

26 – British Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax announces that Britain will freeze all Baltic assets in Great Britain, because British citizens have lost all their investments in the Baltic States.

14–15 – extraordinary parliamentary elections held in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania at the instigation of Soviet representatives; by breaking electoral laws, falsifying results and terrorising the electorate, parliamentary bodies are formed which are obedient to the Soviet Union.

17 – Act to close the Estonian Academy of Sciences is issued.

19 – General Johan Laidoner is deported with his wife to Penza in Russia.

21–23 – the puppet parliaments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania at their first sittings declare their countries to be Soviet Socialist Republics and present an application to join the Soviet Union; President Päts signs a directive which hands over presidential powers to the prime minister, Johannes Vares.

22 – ESSR *Riigivolikogu* passes the declaration “The Estonian SSR joins the Soviet Union”.

21 and 23 – President Päts is dismissed from office and the prime minister, Johannes Vares, assumes presidential responsibilities; the puppet parliament passes the land declaration and the declaration to nationalise industries and banks.

24 – Germany promises asylum to envoys from the Baltic States.

25 – Vares’ puppet government issues an act to stop the work of the county, town and rural municipality councils; the minister for internal affairs of the puppet government, Maksim Unt, forbids the use of the titles Mr., Mrs. and Miss, to be replaced by the title “citizen”; a similar order is issued in Latvia and Lithuania.

26 – Confiscation of private property (so-called nationalisation) begins in Estonia; within a month banks and 90% of industry is confiscated.

27 – Estonian ships are ordered back to their home-ports; ships on oceans are ordered to head for Soviet ports. Captains who refuse to do so are pronounced to be traitors; Led by Ernst Jaakson the Action Committee is formed in New York and on 1 December 1940 is named the World Association of Estonians.

29 – Decision by the Chief of Internal Security to confiscate and destroy all fiction literature.

JULY 1940

30 – Konstantin Päts, his son, daughter-in-law and two grandsons are deported to Ufa in Russia; by order of Vares' puppet government the Head Committee for Providing Land to Landless Peasants and those with Little Land is formed.

30 – The responsibility of being a vital statistics officer is taken away from Church ministers.

31 – By order of the Vares' puppet government all student fraternities, sororities and societies are closed down.

AUGUST 1940

1 – Hitler decides to intensify the war with Great Britain, planning a landing (operation "Seelöwe").

3 – At a session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Latvia is incorporated into Soviet Union.

3–19 – Italians occupy British Somaliland.

5 – At a session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Lithuania is incorporated into Soviet Union.

11 – Soviet Union informs the world that the diplomatic missions of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania abroad are closed, and that the USSR People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs now represents these countries.

13 – German bombing offensive against airfields and factories in England.

15 – Air battles and daylight raids in Britain.

17 – Hitler declares a blockade of the British Isles; directive issued by the USSR People's Commissar of Defence about the re-formation of the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian armed forces into three Red Army Territorial Rifle Corps respectively.

23–24 – First German air raids on Central London.

25–26 – First British air raid on Berlin.

2 – Sailing on the sea at night is forbidden.

3 – The Bank of Estonia stops selling foreign currency.

5 – Vares' puppet government issues an act according to which Estonian diplomats who do not return home are pronounced traitors.

5 – Moscow time is instated in the territory of Estonia.

6 – USSR Supreme Soviet accepts Estonia into the Soviet Union; in a memorandum to the State Department, Johannes Kaiv, the Estonian Consul General in the USA, asks the United States not to recognise Estonia's incorporation into the Soviet Union.

8 – Vares' puppet government issues an Act to end trading of securities (shares, bonds etc.).

14 – A CPSU CC Politburo regulation on the organisation of the state and the economy in the Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian SSRs provides guidelines for sovietisation.

14 – The CPSU CC Politburo passes a decision to maintain the existing system of counties in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

19 – By a regulation issued by the Minister for Internal Affairs in Vares' puppet government the sending of messages and any other kind of cooperation with newspapers and magazines outside the Soviet Union is forbidden.

22 – The CPSU CC Politburo approves the proposed constitutions for the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian SSRs.

AUGUST 1940

24–25 – The puppet parliament passes the ESSR constitution and renames itself the ESSR Provisional Supreme Soviet.

26 – The ESSR Council of People’s Commissars (CPC, the government) holds its first sitting chaired by the communist, Johannes Lauristin.

28 – The People’s Commissar for Education endorses the list of books to be removed from public and school libraries.

31 – Faculty of Theology at Tartu University is closed down.

SEPTEMBER 1940

5 – USA closes its legations in the Baltic states; Winston Churchill explains in Parliament that the government of Great Britain does not recognise territorial changes which have taken place during the war “unless these changes take place with the goodwill and approval of all parties to the treaty”.

13 – Italy invades Egypt.

15 – Massive German air raids on London, Southampton, Bristol, Cardiff, Liverpool and Manchester.

16 – United States military conscription bill passed.

27 – Tripartite (Axis) Pact signed by Germany, Italy and Japan.

4 – ESSR CPC order for the reorganisation of ESSR archives states that all archival material of “state importance” in the territory of Estonia belongs to the state.

7 – Citizens of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are given “Soviet citizenship”.

12 – a new 12-member ECP Central Committee and its 7-member bureau, led by Karl Säre are formed.

16 – The Soviet envoy, Vladimir Bochkarev, is appointed CPSU CC and USSR CPC representative in ESSR.

23 – The memorial in Tallinn to teachers and students who died in the War of Independence is taken down.

29 – A foreign mission of the Republic of Estonia, led by the former Estonian envoy to Sweden, Heinrich Laretei, is established in Stockholm.

OCTOBER 1940

7 – At the instigation of Estonians living in the USA, Baltic Days are organised at the World’s Fair in New York. USA shows pronounced interest towards representatives of the Baltic States.

7 – German troops enter Romania.

12 – Germans postpone Operation “Seelöwe” until Spring of 1941.

28 – Italy invades Greece.

31 – British government requisitions Estonian and Latvian ships lying in British ports.

8 – The communist parties of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which have until now formally operated as sections of Comintern, are joined to the Communist (Bolshevist) Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU).

11 – CPSU CC Politburo decision to close the USSR legations in Tallinn, Riga and Kaunas.

15 – Soviet legations in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are closed; Moscow’s controlling function starts to be carried out by the plenipotentiaries of CC CPSU and USSR CPC.

21 – the Estonian SSR Provisional Supreme Soviet Presidium endorses the coat of arms of the ESSR; on 31 October it also endorses the ESSR flag.

OCTOBER 1940

NOVEMBER 1940

5 – Roosevelt re-elected as US president.

12–13 – The USSR People’s Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Molotov, meets in Berlin with Hitler and Ribbentrop. They discuss the terms for the Soviet Union joining the Tripartite (Axis) Pact between Germany, Italy, Japan.

14–15 – *Luftwaffe* bomb Coventry, England.

15 – 350,000 Jews concentrated in Warsaw ghetto.

16 – Royal Air Force bombs Hamburg as a reprisal for the destruction of Coventry.

20 – Hungary joins the Axis Powers.

22 – Greeks defeat the Italian 9th Army.

23 – Romania joins the Axis Powers.

DECEMBER 1940

5 – Great Britain and the Vichy government sign a secret pact to maintain a *status quo* in the colonies.

9 – British begin a western desert offensive in North Africa against the Italians; until March 1941 the Italian army retreats, when German forces intervene in the war in Libya.

18 – Hitler endorses “Fall Barbarossa”, a plan to attack the Soviet Union.

23 – The Soviet Union People’s Commissar for Internal Affairs, Lavrenti Beria, issues a directive “Use of archive material in operative and Cheka work”; archives in the ESSR start to compile a card catalogue of “enemies of the people”.

6 – USSR Presidium of the Supreme Soviet applies the Russian SFSR penal code in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

10 – ECP CC Bureau decision to form executive committees to replace the existing city and county governments.

16 – The Presidium of the ESSR Provisional Supreme Soviet formulates the decision to bring the Estonian court system in line with that of the Soviet Union.

19 – CPSU CC Politburo decision to form local organs of state power in Estonia and Latvia.

23 – Special instruction issued by the NKVD to take account of the counter revolutionary element in Ukraine, Belarus, Moldavia, Karelia, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

24 – Provision of free medical treatment in the ESSR and rent for accommodation is lowered.

25 – Soviet monetary system brought into use in Estonia.

9 – On a decision by the CPSU CC renewal of party membership cards begins in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania; the political control accompanying these renewals manages to expel politically untrustworthy members.

16 – The Russian SFSR Penal Code is enacted in the ESSR and is applied retrospectively so that it applies to activities carried out by individuals before 21 June 1940.

28 – CPSU CC Politburo decision to award the rank of General in the Red Army to some of the former Generals in the Estonian Army.

JANUARY 1941

8 – Molotov, the USSR People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, sends a letter to Sumner Welles, the US Under Secretary of State, in which he warns that the relations between the two superpowers will deteriorate if the Baltic question is not resolved.

10 – Soviet Union and Germany sign a secret pact in which the Soviet Union will buy from Germany, for 7.5 million gold dollars, the Lithuanian town and district of Marijampolė; the pact between the Soviet Union and Germany regarding trade, the resulting border and the resettlement of the population is signed in Moscow.

22 – Tobruk in North Africa falls to the British and Australians.

30 – Franz Halder, the Chief of the General Staff of the German Army, informs Erik Heinrichs, the Finnish Chief of the General Staff, that the German assault on Leningrad will take place through the Baltic States.

FEBRUARY 1941

11 – British forces advance into Italian Somaliland.

12 – Lieutenant General Erwin Rommel arrives in Tripoli, North Africa.

14 – First units of the German African Corps arrive in North Africa.

27 – At a meeting with Sumner Welles, the Under Secretary of State, the Soviet Ambassador in the USA, Konstantin Umanski, tries in vain to get recognition for the annexation of the Baltic States on the basis of existing treaties between the two countries.

MARCH 1941

2 – German forces invade Bulgaria via Romania.

7 – British forces arrive in Greece.

11 – President Roosevelt signs the Lend-Lease Act.

27 – A coup in Yugoslavia overthrows the pro-Axis government.

1 – The Russian SFSR Civil Code; the Marriage, Family and Guardianship Code; and the Codes of Civil and Penal Procedures are enacted in the Estonian SSR.

10 – The Soviet Union and Germany come to an agreement on the late resettlement (in German: *Nachumsiedlung*) of Baltic Germans from Estonia and Latvia.

12 – USSR Supreme Soviet elections.

15 – Private savings in Estonian banks are frozen.

17 – Presidium of the ESSR Provisional Supreme Soviet issues decree about the formation of Soviets of Working People's Deputies in counties, towns and rural municipalities – taking of local governments under state control.

3 – The NKGB is separated from the NKVD.

5–8 – The 4th ECP congress is held in Tallinn; the new CC formed at the congress mostly comprises communists who have come from the Soviet Union.

7 – The CPSU CC Politburo endorses Paldiski as a town in direct subordination to the ESSR Government.

25 – The CPSU CC Politburo endorses Boris Kumm as the ESSR People's Commissar for the State Security.

February – Hjalmar Mäe, who left Estonia to Germany as late resettler, and Peter Kleist, the head of the Eastern Department of the German Ministry for Foreign Affairs, formulate plans to restore Estonian independence at the outbreak of the coming war between Germany and the Soviet Union.

21 – CPSU CC decides to stop the circulation of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian currency.

25 – A directive issued by the ESSR CPC and the ECP CC orders the formation of 259 places for lending horse drawn vehicles with a total of 5,000 horses.

26 – Soviet passports are brought into effect in Estonia; issuing of passports begins on 15 May.

MARCH 1941

30 – A combined German Italian force begins an assault in Libya.

March 1941 – The ESSR NKGB is separated from the ESSR NKVD.

APRIL 1941

3 – Pro-Axis regime set up in Iraq.

6 – German forces invade Greece and Yugoslavia; British forces occupy Addis Ababa.

10 – Croatia declares independence; US forces land in Greenland.

14 – German Africa Corps attacks Tobruk.

17 – Yugoslavia surrenders to the Germany.

27 – Greece surrenders to Germany.

2 – Hitler informs Alfred Rosenberg, head of the foreign office of the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP) that Rosenberg will be the political leader of the Soviet Union's western territories after the planned war with the Soviet Union. In regard to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania the question arises whether they require special treatment and whether their racially suitable contingent can be assimilated.

20 – Hitler grants Rosenberg powers to prepare for governing the territories captured from the Soviet Union.

MAY 1941

1 – German attack on Tobruk is repulsed.

2 – British forces start military action in Iraq. In accordance with the US president's order, US navy has to escort British merchant ships even in war zones. Initially Hitler bans attacks on US ships, trying thus to avoid war with the USA.

6 – Stalin, the 1st Secretary of the CPSU CC dismisses Molotov as Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars and assumes the position himself.

10 – Rudolf Hess, Hitler's deputy in the NSDAP, flies to Scotland in order to "save mankind" by signing a peace treaty with England.

14 – the CPSU CC and the USSR CPC issue a secret joint decree regarding the deportation of the "socially alien element" from the Baltic States, Western Belarus, Ukraine and Moldavia.

15 – Operation "Brevity" (the British counter-attack in Egypt) begins; Marshal Timoshenko, the USSR People's Commissar of Defence, and General Zhukov, Chief of the General Staff present Stalin with a plan for a pre-emptive strike against Germany and Romania (plan "Groza").

20 – German air-borne landing on Crete. The island is occupied by 3rd June.

21 – German U-boat sinks first US merchant ship "Robin Moor" near South African coast.

22 – In Estonia, tax laws previously applying to agriculture are made void and a progressive agriculture tax is imposed.

31 – In cooperation with Alexander Cellarius, the head of the German *Abwehr* office in Helsinki, Hjalmar Mäe forms the five-member Estonian Liberation Committee. Its aim is to free Estonia and restore independence with the aid of friendly nations.

May 1941 – By order of the NKVD/NKGB 37,794 "enemies of the people" have been taken to account in ESSR archives, since the beginning of the year.

MAY 1941

24 – Sinking of the British battle cruiser “Hood” by the German battleship “Bismarck” in Denmark Strait.

27 – Sinking of the “Bismarck” by the British Navy.

JUNE 1941

4 – Pro-Allied government installed in Iraq.

8 – Allies invade Syria and Lebanon.

14 – USA freezes German and Italian assets in United States.

17 – Treaty of Friendship between Germany and Turkey.

22 – Germany attacks Soviet Union; State of war declared in European part of Soviet Union and mobilisation proclaimed.

24 – President Roosevelt announces that USA will assist the Soviet Union, but Britain has first priority; German forces occupy Kaunas and Vilnius; Hungary declares war on the Soviet Union.

25 – Johan Wilhelm Rangell, the Finnish Prime Minister announces that Finland is at war with the Soviet Union; on 30 June Marshal Carl Gustaf Emil Mannerheim gives the order to the Karelian Army to commence its offensive on 10 July.

26 – German forces capture Daugavpils.

28 – Germans capture Minsk.

30 – USSR State Defence Committee, so-called “Stavka”, led by Stalin, is formed in Moscow.

7 – Russians are appointed as commanders of the 22nd Estonian Territorial Corps Divisions of the Red Army, the former commanders are sent to Moscow.

12–13 – The commanding officers of the 22nd Estonian Territorial Corps of the Red Army are sent to military academies in the Soviet Union, where they are arrested at the end of June.

13–14 – Mass deportations in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania.

15 – The Governor of New York State, Herbert H. Lehman, declares 15 June to be Baltic States Day.

23 – A reconnaissance group called “Erna” is formed near Helsinki from Estonian volunteers. The group is prepared with the cooperation of Finnish and German military intelligence.

23–28 – Mobilisation of horses and vehicles in Estonia.

24 – Vsevolod Merkulov, the USSR NKGB People’s Commissar issues a directive about the evacuation of prisons.

26 – Formation of NKVD destruction battalions begins in Estonia; Baltic leaders, incl. Konstantin Päts and Johan Laidoner, who have been deported to the Soviet Union, are arrested.

27 – Relocation of the Red Army 22nd Rifle Corps (former Estonian Army) from Estonia to the front in Porkhov region begins.

29 – General mobilisation is announced in the Soviet Union; mobilisation of party and *komsomol* members begins in Estonia; a joint directive by the CPSU CC and CPC provides NKVD destruction battalions with free reign to carry out “red terror”; radios are confiscated from citizens.

JULY 1941

2 – German forces capture Riga.

3 – Stalin's first public (radio) broadcast since the beginning of the war. He calls for a scorched earth policy.

10 – Germans cross the River Dnieper in the Ukraine. In the Finnish press, all reference to the situation in Estonia is banned for fear of provoking Germany. German forces destroy Red Army formation in Białystok–Minsk region and 324,000 Red Army troops are taken prisoner. On the Eastern front Germans have taken a total of 460,000 prisoners.

12 – Mutual Assistance Agreement between Great Britain and Soviet Union.

13 – German forces capture Vitsyebsk. East of Lake Peipus an assault begins towards Leningrad.

14 – British occupy Syria.

17 – State Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories, led by Alfred Rosenberg, is created in Berlin; German-Romanian forces occupy Chişinău and cross the Dniester on 19 July.

18 – Stalin sends Churchill a request to open a front in the west against Germany.

19 – Stalin assumes the position of USSR People's Commissar of Defence.

20 – NKGB merged with NKVD once again.

21 – Heinrich Himmler prohibits Baltic Germans from returning to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania; Stalin seeks *de jure* recognition from Churchill of the Soviet Union's new western borders. Churchill does not respond to the request; German *Luftwaffe* attacks the centre of Moscow for the first time.

26 – Roosevelt freezes Japanese assets in United States and suspends relations.

31– Göring instructs Heydrich to prepare for the Final Solution.

1–4 – Mass deportation from Estonian islands.

2 – Digging of trenches in central Estonia along the Pärnu-Lake Võrtsjärv-Viljandi-Emajõgi River line and in the Narva area begins; under the banner of mobilisation, professional and reserve military personnel are gathered together and sent to Russia.

3 – In south-western Estonia, Estonian partisans (forest brothers) take control of Kilingi-Nõmme.

4 – The Red Army 22nd Rifle Corps exchanges fire with Germans in the Pskov-Staraya Russa area; until 22 August 4,500, of the 5,500 Estonians in the corps, cross to the German side or are taken prisoner; all Red Army land forces in Estonia are subordinated to the 8th Army.

5 – Building of trenches and bunkers in the vicinity of Tallinn begins.

5 – Major General Ilya Lyubovtsev, the commander of the Red Army forces in Estonia, and Lieutenant General Trifon Shevaldin, the head of the Tartu town and county garrison, issue directives ordering that bandits and deserters are to be shot on sight and their family members are to be arrested.

6 – Volunteers from among the later resettlers from Estonia and Latvia were sent to Stansdorf training camp, where they form the Police Reserve Battalion "Ostland".

7 – German forces reach South Estonia.

8 – German forces take control of Pärnu.

8–9 – Soviet powers leave Tartu; 199 political prisoners are executed before leaving the Tartu.

9 – German forces take control of Võru, Antsla, Suure-Jaani and Elva; on the same day Pskov and Ostrov are conquered; the first part of the reconnaissance group "Erna" is sent to northern Estonia.

10 – In the southern part of Tartu there is general resistance to Soviet power; German advance units reach Otepää and the southern bank of the Emajõgi River in Tartu.

10–24 – Battles along the Pärnu-Viljandi-Emajõgi River line.

10 – Directive issued by Lev Mekhlis, head of the Main Political Administration of the Red Army, ordering that professional and reserve personnel

JULY 1941

from Estonia, who had been taken into the Red Army, be sent to labour battalions.

10 – POW camp Dulag 154 for approx. 5,000 Soviet POWs is established in Viljandi.

17 – State Commissariat *Ostland*, centred in Riga, is formed to administer the conquered territories of Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia; Hinrich Lohse is appointed State Commissar.

22 – German forces take control of Põltsamaa.

22–27 – Under the banner of general mobilisation all men born 1907–1918 are sent to NKVD labour battalions in Russia.

23 – German forces take control of Jõgeva and bomb Saaremaa.

24 – German forces resume their assault in Estonia, which had faltered for a time, and take control of Türi and Laiuse.

25 – German forces capture Jõgeva, Kallaste and Mustvee.

25 – German forces control the left bank of the Emajõgi River, from where the Red Army has retreated.

31 – NKVD units attack the “Erna” group and the partisans who have joined them, near Kautla, the attackers are pushed back.

AUGUST 1941

1 – United States announces an oil embargo against aggressor states.

5–6 – Battle of Smolensk. Germans win the battle, taking prisoner 300,000 Red Army troops and capturing (or destroying) 3,205 armoured personnel carriers and 1,098 planes.

7–8 – Soviet war planes leaving from Saaremaa bomb Berlin for the first time.

9 – Near Uman in Ukraine, 103,000 Red Army troops are captured by Germans, and an equal number perish.

12 – The “Blue Division” of Spanish volunteers arrives at the eastern front. Volunteer units are being formed in other countries allied to or occupied by Germany.

14 – Roosevelt and Churchill announce the Atlantic Charter.

1 – The *Omakaitse*, formed by its own volition in July and then dispersed by German military powers at the end of July, is reformed by order of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army Group “Nord” and given the status of auxiliary police.

1–3 – Forced mobilisation of men born 1907–1922 to the Red Army is announced in Saaremaa.

2 – German forces take control of Paide.

3 – Major Hans Hirvelaan’s Estonian Volunteer Battalion is formed from the partisans in Järva County.

4 – German forces take control of Tapa.

7 – German forces take control of Rakvere and Kunda; by reaching the Gulf of Finland Red Army forces in Estonia are cut in two parts.

AUGUST 1941

19 – Rosenberg, Minister for Occupied Eastern Territories, declares all assets in the occupied Soviet Union to be German property.

20 – German forces begin attack on Leningrad.

21 – German forces capture Yamburg (Kingisepp) and Novgorod. In two months German forces have advanced 600–800 km. Hitler amends war plans: the main targets of assault are Leningrad and Kiev, not Moscow. *Wehrmacht* leadership protests in vain.

23 – Red Army Northern Front is divided into Leningrad and Karelian Fronts.

29 – NKVD commences the deportation from Leningrad of 96,000 individuals of German and Finnish descent.

30 – Finnish forces liberate Viipuri (Vyborg). On 4 September they reach the Soviet-Finnish border.

8–16 – Estonian reserve officers and military officials are mobilised in Tallinn and the rural municipalities in the Harju and Lääne counties still held by the Red Army.

13 – German forces take control of Jõhvi.

15 – The Commander-in-Chief for the North-Western Theatre Marshal Kliment Voroshilov assigns the War Council of the Baltic Sea Fleet to command all land and sea forces defending Tallinn.

17 – German forces take control of Narva.

18 – Himmler appoints *SS-Oberführer* Hinrich Möller as Chief of SS and Police in Estonia.

18 – Ukrainian POWs are released and sent to work as farm labourers.

20 – German forces commence attack on Tallinn, the Germans are supported by approx. 24,000 Estonian members of the *Omakaitse*, and the Red Army is supported by 4,000–5,000 destruction battalion members.

20–21 – Men born 1896–1906 and 1920–1922 are forcibly mobilised and sent to the Soviet Union from Tallinn, and Harju and Lääne counties.

21 – Colonel General Georg von Küchler, Commander-in-Chief of the 18th Army, orders the formation of three Estonian security battalions.

26 August 1941 – POW camp Dulag 101 is established in Narva.

28 – German forces take control of Tallinn and Paldiski; the chairman of the ESSR CPC, Johannes Lauristin dies aboard the destroyer “Yakov Sverdlov”.

29 – Hjalmar Mäe arrives in Tallinn where he forms the “Bureau of Dr. Mäe” and proceeds to take control of the former ESSR People’s Commissariats.

29 – Rear Commander-in-Chief of Army Group “Nord” orders the Higher Chief of SS and Police to begin formation of four Estonian defence battalions.

30 – The Estonian envoy in London, August Torma, sends a note to the British Foreign Office informing of Estonian resistance to the German powers. The British Foreign Office does not respond to this note or any other notes from Torma during the war.

31 – German forces defeat Haapsalu; mainland Estonia is now under control of German forces.

SEPTEMBER 1941

1 – Nazis order Jews to wear yellow stars.

8 – German forces capture Schlüsselburg; Finns reach the Syväri (Svir) River east of Lake Ladoga. Leningrad is surrounded.

19 – German forces take Kiev; 1.8 million Soviet troops have been taken prisoner, and an equal number have fallen; German losses are 84,354 dead, 292,670 wounded, and 18,921 missing in action.

21– German forces reach Azov Sea.

24 – Soviet Union joins the Atlantic Charter.

26 – In Ukraine, east of Kiev, 445,000 Red Army troops taken prisoner.

28 – On Stalin's orders all soldiers from Poland and the Baltics and Volga Germans are removed from the front: they were considered to be untrustworthy.

3 –The 1st secretary of the ECP CC, Karl Säre is captured in Tallinn by the German police; he divulges the underground network of communist agents.

4 – *SS-Sturmbannführer* Martin Sandberger commander of *Einsatzkommando 1a* gives permission to form the Departement for Finding and Returning Deported Estonians (*Zentralstelle zur Erfassung der verschleppten und mobilisierten Esten, ZEV*).

10 – *SS-Sturmbannführer* Martin Sandberger commander of *Einsatzkommando 1a* issues the order to arrest all male Jews under 16 years; the arrest and execution of Jews begins in Estonia.

11 – the Estonian National Relief is founded.

13 – POW camp Dulag 102 is established in Rakvere.

14 – By taking control of Muhu, German forces begin operation “Beowulf II”, a campaign to defeat the islands of West Estonia.

15 – Infantry General Franz von Roques, Rear Commander-in-Chief of the Army Group “Nord” issues “The power of attorney to the leaders of the Estonian Self-Administration”; the Estonian Self-Administration (ESA) is institutionalised.

19–20 – Heinrich Himmler visits Estonia.

21 – German forces take control of Kuressaare.

22 – The ESA Police and *Omakaitse* Administration is formed.

23 – Martin Sandberger is appointed Chief of the Security Police and the SD in Estonia.

28 – Lev Mekhlis, Head of the Main Political Administration of the Red Army, sends a cipher message ordering Estonians, Latvians, Lithuanians and other nationalities at the front to be sent to labour battalions.

OCTOBER 1941

2 – Operation “Typhoon” (German advance on Moscow) begins.

16 – Germans take Odessa.

16–18 – Soviet government and foreign missions move from Moscow to Kuybyshev (Samara).

19 – State of siege declared in Moscow.

5 – German forces complete the capture of Saaremaa by taking control of Sõrve peninsula.

10 – The 33rd Police Reserve Battalion (Police Battalion “Ostland”) is sent to the Ukraine.

21 – German forces take control of Island Hiiumaa; this day is declared a holiday celebrating “Estonia’s freedom from the oppression of communism”.

OCTOBER 1941

28 – German forces break through the defences of Perekop Isthmus and invade Crimea.

30 – Germans reach Sevastopol.

30 – POW camp Stalag XXI B is established in Tapa and provides Tallinn, as well as the Harju, Järva, Viru and Lääne counties and Saaremaa with a POW workforce.

NOVEMBER 1941

15 – Second assault on Moscow by the Germans. They get to within 30km of the city, but by 30 December the offensive is already waning.

16 – German forces capture Kerch.

25 – Finland, Denmark, Bulgaria, Romania and Japan's puppet state Manchuria sign the Anti-Comintern Pact.

6 – By order of Himmler, units made up of inhabitants of the occupied territories, are now referred to as *Schutzmannschaften*.

18 – The Estonian Consul General in the USA, Johannes Kaiv, sends the US Secretary of State a letter protesting at Stalin's radio broadcast on 7 November where, as the leader of the Soviet Union, he speaks about the Baltic States as if they were part of Russia.

25 – In response to Kaiv's protest, Sumner Welles, the US deputy Secretary of State, announces that the United States has not changed its policy, which was made public by the USA on 23 July 1940 and was contained in the Atlantic Charter, regarding non-recognition of the annexation.

DECEMBER 1941

4 – Finnish forces liberate Hanko; Stalin and Władysław Sikorski, the prime minister of the Polish government in exile, sign the Soviet-Polish Declaration of Friendship and Mutual Assistance.

5 – German attack on Moscow is abandoned.

6 – Red Army launches a major counter-offensive around Moscow; Great Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and India declare war on Finland, Hungary and Romania.

7 – Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor; Hitler issues the Night and Fog decree.

8 – United States and Britain declare war on Japan.

9 – Japanese forces land in Malaysia.

11 – Germany declares war on the United States.

16 – Rommel begins a retreat to El Agheila in North Africa.

19 – Hitler takes complete command of the German Army.

1 – Estonian post offices are subordinated to the Tallinn Post Commissar in the *Ostland* State Commissariat; the German Eastern Territory Post is established (*Deutsche Dienstpost Ostland*).

5 – Estonia, which has until now been administered by the Rear of the Army Group "Nord", is handed over to German civilian powers; the Estonian General Commissariat is joined to the *Ostland* State Commissariat; *SA-Obergruppenführer* Karl-Siegmund Litzmann becomes the General Commissariat of Estonia but Estonia also remains an area of military operations (*Operationsgebiet*) under the subordination of the Rear Commander-in-Chief of Army Group "Nord"; Germans and members of the *Omakaitse* from Lääne county take control of Osmussaar, which has been abandoned by the Soviet forces.

18 – Stalin issues a directive about the formation of Estonian units within the Red Army.

19 – Formation of the 7th Estonian Rifle Division begins in the Soviet Union's rear; this is formed from Estonian men in the NKVD labour battalions.

19 – Alfred Rosenberg, the State Minister for the Occupied Eastern Territories, enacts the civil labour obligation, for for all 18 to 45-year-old inhabitants of the occupied territories, and German criminal justice.

DECEMBER 1941

JANUARY 1942

1 – United Nations declaration signed by 26 allied nations.

7 – Soviet winter counteroffensive begins on all fronts.

13 – Germans begin a U-boat offensive along east coast of USA. Rosenberg, the State Minister for the Occupied Eastern Territories places a ban on listening to foreign radio stations and the broadcasting of news, which could jeopardise “the resistance of the German people or endanger public peace, security and order in the Eastern Territories.”

18 – A convention regarding the co-ordination of military operations is signed in Berlin by Germany, Italy and Japan.

20 – Chief of the RSHA Heydrich holds the Wannsee Conference to coordinate the “Final Solution of the Jewish Question.” Estonia declared to be “Judenfrei”.

21 – Rommel begins his counter-offensive from El Agheila.

26 – First American forces arrive in Great Britain.

FEBRUARY 1942

1 – Vidkun Quisling named prime minister of Norway.

4 – US Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, presents the President with a memorandum of Stalin’s plans and the Baltic issue. Hull advises the President not to give in to Stalin regarding the issue of Finland, the Baltic States and Poland.

8 – The Yugoslav partisan leader Josip (Broz) Tito declares the Durmitor partisan region to be a Soviet republic.

December 1941 – Within six months the German occupation forces have imprisoned approx. 10,000 people, incl. approx. 1,000 Estonian Jews; all the captured Jews have either been executed or sent out of Estonia.

1 – Ration cards are brought into use in Estonia.

8 – The daily newspaper “Revaler Zeitung” commences circulation in Tallinn.

9 – The Estonian *Omakaitse* is subordinated to the German Chief of Order Police in Estonia.

12 – The State Minister for the Eastern Territories issues a regulation about courts in the occupied eastern territories.

21 – The control of the sale of everyday items to the civilian population in Estonia, on the basis of permits to purchase, is established by a regulation issued by the Commissar General.

25 – Soviet air force bombs Narva.

26 – Lectures re-commence at Tallinn Technical University.

29 – Lectures re-commence in the Faculties of Medicine, Veterinary Science and Agriculture at Tartu University.

31 – With a decision by the ESA Director of Internal Affairs, the county police chief (Prefect) could, in the interests of public order and security, prohibit specific individuals from residing or remaining in certain towns or rural municipalities; To ensure that inhabitants are equally provided with meat, and to satisfy reserve quotas, the killing of livestock at home is prohibited.

January-February – Regional commissars, appointed on 6 December 1941 by the Commissar General, commence work.

1 – Operation “City donates literature to the country” ends: 17,650 books are donated to village schools and libraries; Operation “Country donates wood to the city” continues.

10 – An operation to stockpile firewood begins; As part of the mobilisation 70,000 people and 30,000 horses are employed for two months in forestry work; The USSR People’s Commissar for Defence issues a directive for the formation of the 249th Estonian Rifle Division.

FEBRUARY 1942

15 – More than 70,000 British troops surrender to the Japanese in Singapore,

24 – Estonians celebrating Estonia's national day in New York send a message to President Roosevelt expressing the hope that the rights as established in the Atlantic Charter will be implemented in Estonia.

25 – German law comes into force in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, but affects the ethnic Germans living in these countries, not the local inhabitants.

MARCH 1942

7 – Winston Churchill writes to President Roosevelt and recommends that the Baltic States and part of Finland be recognised as having joined the Soviet Union. Roosevelt advises against any official recognition in this regard, but concedes that neither USA nor Britain is going to drive the Soviet Union out with military force. In return for recognition, Roosevelt proposes to allow all, who wish to do so, to emigrate.

8 – Dutch forces on Java surrender. The whole of Indonesia is in Japanese possession.

9 – Japanese land in New Guinea.

17 – In a public appearance, Maksim Litvinov, the Soviet ambassador in Washington, demands that USA and Great Britain open another front in Europe.

24 – Japanese land in Solomon Islands.

28 – Finnish troops capture Suursaari (Hogland), which belonged to Finland until the Winter War.

30 – Heinrich Himmler puts forward his plan for Germanising the Eastern Territories. The aim of the first five-year plan for resettlement after the war is to “supplement the population by providing an upper class of Germans”.

APRIL 1942

April Japanese-Americans sent to relocation centres.

10 – In the Philippines, US forces are defeated by the Japanese. Close to 60,000 men are taken prisoner.

14 – German civilian powers assume control over broadcasting in Estonia, and under the name *Landessender Reval* (official name *Reichs-Rundfunk GmbH Landessender Reval*) it is made part of the German broadcasting network.

14 – Formation of the Red Army 1st Estonian Single Reserve Regiment begins in the Urals Military District.

24 – The anniversary of the Republic of Estonia is celebrated, with the participation of German representatives, as “Liberty Day”; The Estonian hope, that on this day the restoration of independence would be proclaimed, is not realised.

7 – Alfred Rosenberg, the State Minister, issues Organisation Regulation No. 3. This is to become the basis for the government of the territory of Estonia during the current war.

8 – A campaign to collect grain seeds begins, and 836 tonnes of grain is collected. This is distributed for the spring sowing to farms that have suffered damage as a result of the war; A campaign to collect non-ferrous metal for the front begins.

11 – The first echelon leaves Tallinn with 150 young Estonian men headed for State Labour Service (*Reichsarbeitsdienst, RAD*) in Germany.

14 – The 7th Estonian Rifle Division of the Red Army give their oath.

16 – The German Minister for Propaganda, Joseph Goebbels, writes in his diary that the Baltic people are naïve to hope that the *Wehrmacht* shed its blood so that new national governments could be established there.

22 – Estonian SSR State Artists begin their work in Yaroslavl.

4 – German Security Police issue order “about the confiscation of property from people who have received special treatment”.

APRIL 1942

26 – In the German *Reichstag*, Hitler announces that the most difficult battles have been fought. In his speech, for the first time he mentions Estonian soldiers, who have bravely fought in the winter battles against the communists.

MAY 1942

8 – German summer offensive begins in the Crimea.

20–27 – Molotov, the Soviet People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, visits London. Great Britain refuses to discuss the question of Soviet borders in the Baltics as part of the pact of co-operation and mutual assistance. On 26 May, the pact is signed by the Soviet Union and Great Britain in London, but the Baltic issue is not mentioned. Great Britain acknowledges the *de facto* incorporation of the Baltic States into the Soviet Union.

26 – Trade agreement between the USA and the Soviet Union is signed without linking it to the Soviet territorial issues.

26 – Rommel begins an offensive against the Gazala Line.

27 – In Prague, Czech guerrillas attempt to assassinate Reinhard Heydrich, the head of State Security and State Protector for Bohemia and Moravia. He dies on 4 June 1942 from wounds received.

28 – German victory near Kharkov. Nearly 240,000 Red Army troops are captured.

JUNE 1942

3–7 – Midway sea battle between USA and Japan.

5 – Germans besiege Sevastopol.

10 – Germans liquidate Lidice as a reprisal for Heydrich's assassination.

11 – Meeting in Washington between Molotov and Roosevelt. According to Lend-Lease Act the USA starts supplying aid to the Soviet Union in the form of armaments and food.

10 – The German Customs Border Defence is given the responsibility for guarding the border and utilises much of the personnel of the Border Home Guard (*Omakaitse*).

11 – In a radio broadcast, Alfred Wendt, the ESA Director of Economic Affairs and Communication, demands that “in twenty years time the population of Estonia be two million and in fifty years three million. This goal must become the most sacred task of every Estonian”.

1 – Circuit courts and district courts begin work. Until now only the criminal courts, established in 1941, had been operating.

8 – The Commissar General authorises Hjalmar Mäe, the Head of the Estonian Self-Administration, to issue legal regulations and executive orders.

11 – The Estonian Criminal Police and Political Police are reorganised by the German powers to become the Estonian Security Police, which forms Group B of the German Security Police and SD in Estonia.

11 – Major General Lembit Pärn is appointed commander of the Red Army 249th Estonian Rifle Division.

18–19 – Alfred Rosenberg visits Estonia.

30 – Estonian newspapers announce that, “The big campaign to send city people to the country begins. Unemployed and under employed men and women aged 15–55 are sent from the cities to do farm work”.

30 – The Court Chamber (a court of appeal) is restored and headed by Jaak Reichmann.

1 – The Estonian Self-Administration Directorates of Agriculture, Economic Affairs and Communication are merged to form the Directorate of Economic Affairs and Finance; The Directorate for Internal Affairs and the Directorate of Social Affairs are merged to form the Directorate of Internal Affairs; The Building Administration at the Directorate of Internal Affairs is reorganised and named the Technical Directorate.

3 – Major General Lembit Pärn is appointed commander of the Red Army 7th Estonian Rifle Division.

JUNE 1942

12 – Himmler informs *SS-Brigadeführer* Greifeld, the Chief of Staff of the Committee for the Strengthening of the German Race, that the Germanisation of Estonia and Latvia has to be completed within 20 years.

21 – Rommel captures Tobruk.

24 – General Dwight Eisenhower appointed Commander-in-Chief of the US forces in Europe. The following day he arrives in London.

30 – Rommel reaches El Alamein near Cairo, Egypt.

6 – Commissar General Litzmann announces the “Regulation for establishing local government”, which was based on the Estonian County, Town and Rural Municipality Acts.

11 – The newspaper “Eesti Sõna” (Estonian Word) reports that 7,500 have returned to Estonia from Russia via the Narva quarantine office.

13 – In Tallinn, houses requisitioned during the Soviet occupation, are returned to 33 house owners to “manage and use”; As the propaganda subsidies so too does re-privatisation.

23 – With the consent of the occupation forces, Estonian “Victory Day” is celebrated, commemorating the victory over the Baltic German *Landeswehr* and the German “Iron Division” troops in the battle of Võnnu (Cēsis) in 1919.

June – Political leaders, who survived Soviet repression, led by Jüri Uluots, hold a secret meeting where they discuss the formation of an underground government and the options for preserving continuity of the state.

JULY 1942

1–30 – First Battle of El Alamein.

3 – German and Romanian forces take Sevastopol.

5 – Soviet resistance in the Crimea ends. German forces, having broken through the Red Army defences between Kharkov and Kursk, reach the Don River.

9 – Germans begin a drive toward Stalingrad.

22 – First deportations from the Warsaw Ghetto to concentration camps.

1 – According to a report by Martin Sandberger, the Chief of the Security Police and the SD in Estonia, during the year of occupation 18,193 people were arrested in Estonia. Of these 7,485 were released, 5,623 were sent to KZs and 5,634 were executed (this includes 921 Jews).

15 – The Estonian Self-Administration Directorate of Courts is formed.

20 – Headquarters for the organisation *Eesti Noored* (Estonian Youth, similar to *Hitlerjugend*) are established.

23 – All police places of detention and camps in the territory of Estonia, which had until now been called concentration camps, were renamed “work and education” camps.

30 – Heinrich Himmler visits Estonia.

AUGUST 1942

5 – Great Britain withdraws from the Munich pact, which established the annexation of Sudetenland to Germany.

7 – British General Bernard Montgomery takes command of the 8th Army in North Africa.

1 – The Police and *Omakaitse* Administration of the Directorate of Internal Affairs is reorganised and becomes the Estonian Police Administration led by the Police Director; the commanders of the county *Omakaitse* territorial regiments are subordinated to the local police prefects.

AUGUST 1942

12 – Stalin and Churchill meet in Moscow.

22 – Brazil declares war on Germany, Italy and Japan.

23 – Massive German air raid on Stalingrad.

6 – The Estonian Border Home Guard (*Omakaitse*) is disbanded.

15 – Heinrich Himmler consents to the formation of the Estonian SS-Legion.

20 – The number of Estonians serving in the German armed forces stands at 11,602.

28 – A year has passed since the German forces arrived in Tallinn and this is celebrated as “Tallinn Liberation Day”; Commissar General Litzmann publicly announces Himmler’s decision to establish the Estonian SS-Legion.

SEPTEMBER 1942

2 – Rommel driven back by Montgomery in the Battle of Alam Halfa.

6 – German forces capture Novorossiysk.

13 – Battle of Stalingrad begins.

20 – Latvian President Kārlis Ulmanis dies in Krasnovodsk prison in the Soviet Union.

25 – By order of the Red Army Supreme Command, the formation of the 8th Estonian Rifle Corps, commanded by Major General Lembit Pärn, commences on the basis of the 7th and 249th Estonian Rifle Divisions.

2 – By order of the Estonian Security Police, descriptions in the media about living conditions in the Soviet Union provided by people who have escaped from the Soviet Union are prohibited. The NKVD can easily get hold of these and this could provoke harassment of Estonians still living there.

5 – An echelon of Jews from Terezin in Czechoslovakia arrive at Raasiku railway station, most of them are executed soon after arrival at Kalevi-Liiva.

30 – An echelon of Jews from Germany arrive at Raasiku railway station, most of them are executed soon after arrival at Kalevi-Liiva.

OCTOBER 1942

2 – German forces capture the southern part of Stalingrad.

3 – German forces crush seven Red Army Divisions on the Leningrad front.

6 – The USA and Great Britain decide to increase aid to the Soviet Union.

6 – The institution of the political commissar is abolished in the Red Army.

12 – President Roosevelt announces that after the war the leaders of Germany, Italy and Japan will be imprisoned.

18 – Hitler orders the execution of all captured British commandos.

24 – British forces, under the command of General Montgomery start an assault on the El Alamein Front and drive the German forces out of Egypt by 9 November.

1 – Estonian *Omakaitse* volunteer territorial units are subordinated to the *Wehrmacht* and paid units in barracks to the German Order Police.

6 – The first group of Estonian SS-Legion volunteers are ceremoniously sent from Tallinn to Debica training camp in Poland.

21 – At the instigation of the German occupation forces, the anniversary of the “liberation of Estonia” is celebrated.

23 – 6 Estonian security groups of the German Army are reformed to become 3 eastern battalions.

27 – Ervin Viks, Head of Department B IV of the Security Police and SD in Estonia, issues an order to execute 243 Roma at Harku camp.

October-November – The Red Army 8th Estonian Rifle Corps are sent to the Kalinin Front.

NOVEMBER 1942

1 – Operation “Supercharge” (Allies break Axis lines at El Alamein).

8 – Operation “Torch” (US invasion of North Africa) begins.

11 – Germans and Italians invade Vichy France.

19 – Soviet counter-offensive at Stalingrad begins. By 22 November the German 6th Army is surrounded, but Hitler refuses them permission to break out.

1–30 – There is a campaign in Estonia to collect textile scraps.

3 – On the basis of USSR State Defence Committee order “On Partisan Movement in the Estonia SSR” the Estonian Partisan Movement Headquarters, led by Nikolai Karotamm, is established.

DECEMBER 1942

2 – Professor Enrico Fermi sets up an atomic reactor in Chicago.

11 – Major assault launched by the Red Army west of Rzhev, which soon falters.

13 – Rommel withdraws from El Agheila.

14 – Stalin offers Hitler peace.

16 – Red Army defeat Italian troops on the River Don.

18 – In the Ministry for Occupied Eastern Territories, the problems of the provinces are discussed with *Wehrmacht* representatives. There is a consensus that the people of the Eastern Territories should be given political autonomy. Hitler will not give his consent.

27 – In Berlin, former Red Army General Andrei Vlasov establishes a resistance committee called Smolensk.

31 – The *Wehrmacht* headquarters issue the results of the sea battles of 1942. During the year, the navy and air force were alleged to have sunk 1,450 merchant ships, with a combined tonnage of 8,940,000 tonnes.

1 – *Omakaitse* paid units in barracks are reorganised into 7 defence-guard battalions; the 1st Estonian SS-Volunteer Grenadier Regiment is formed as part of the Estonian SS-Legion.

9 – The 8th Estonian Rifle Corps is subordinated to the 3rd Shock Army and sent to the Velikiye Luki Front. The corps has 32,463 personnel.

16 – Commissar General Karl-Siegmund Litzmann sends a memorandum to the German leaders about the need to give autonomy to Estonia.

21–22 – Hundreds of soldiers in the 249th Estonian Rifle Division of the Red Army desert to the German side from the outer front at Velikiye Luki.

December – The 36th Estonian Defence Battalion of the German Armed Forces are involved in battles along the Surovikino front sector on the outer defence line of the Stalingrad Front.

JANUARY 1943

2–3 – Germans begin a withdrawal from the Caucasus.

10 – Soviets begin an offensive in Stalingrad.

14–24 – Churchill and Roosevelt meet in Casablanca. During the conference, Roosevelt announces the war can end only with an unconditional German surrender.

1 –The Main Administration of Agriculture is formed and made directly subordinate to the Head of the Estonian Self-Administration.

6 – At a meeting of the Estonian foreign delegation in Stockholm, it is decided that in order to preserve the legal continuation of the Republic of Estonia, that the last constitutional prime minister, Jüri Uluots, who is still in Estonia, must continue to fulfil his responsibilities as prime minister.

JANUARY 1943

15 – Risto Ryti re-elected president of Finland.

18 – The Red Army breaks through the Leningrad siege.

23 – Montgomery's 8th Army takes Tripoli.

27 – First bombing raid by Americans on Germany (at Wilhelmshaven); in Germany, the mobilisation of the entire workforce is proclaimed. All 16–65 year old men and 17–45 year old women can be employed in militarily significant jobs.

FEBRUARY 1943

2 – Germans surrender at Stalingrad. The first big defeat of Hitler's armies.

3 – Finnish leadership decides that there is no point in continuing the war and start looking for ways of getting out of it.

8 – Soviet troops take Kursk; Alfred Rosenberg, the Minister for the Eastern Territories presents Hitler with reform plans for the eastern policy, including autonomy for Baltic States. Hitler rejects these.

11 – The USSR State Defence Committee decides to start research into nuclear weapons.

18 – Arrest of the White Rose resistance movement leaders in Munich; Joseph Goebbels declares total war.

26 – All Jews employed in the German war industry are sent to concentration camps.

18 – The German Velikiye Luki Garrison surrenders. In the battle of Velikiye Luki, more than a quarter of the men in the 8th Estonian Rifle Corps at the front were either killed or missing in action. On 1 February there were still 12,356 men in the corps and this did not include the wounded in hospital.

1 – The Estonian *Omakaitse* units in barracks are removed from the subordination of territorial regiment commanders and subordinated only to the German Order Police.

3 – General Commissar Litzmann suggests to Rosenberg, the Minister for the Eastern Territories, that the governing of Estonia be changed. His suggestion is supported by Franz von Roques, the Commander-in-Chief of the Rear of the Army Group "Nord". They substantiate the need to establish widespread autonomy.

13 – The 1st Battalion of the Estonian SS-Legion give their oath at "Heidelager".

15 – At Tartu University, lectures commence at the Institute of Theology, which replaces the Faculty of Theology. Tartu University is now operating at full capacity.

18 – With a directive from Alfred Rosenberg, private ownership of land is restored in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

21 – The German occupation forces forbid the celebration of Estonian Independence Day on the 24th, because it is a workday. They permit observance of "Liberty Day" on the previous Sunday.

24 – A covert mobilisation of men born 1919–1924 begins, with the aim of forming the Estonian SS-Legion (and with the condition that the men are exempt from the civil labour obligation); The newspaper "Postimees" is strongly criticised by the Germans for its nationalistic Independence Day issue. The number of copies of newspapers permitted to be printed in the Estonian language is significantly reduced.

FEBRUARY 1943

MARCH 1943

1 – “Union of Polish Patriots” led by communists is organised in the Soviet Union.

2 – Germans begin a withdrawal from Tunisia.

5 – President Ryti of Finland appoints Edvin Linkomies as the new Prime Minister. The pro-German foreign minister, Witting, is replaced with the pro-West, Henrik Ramsay. The government’s priority is to extricate the country from the war.

13 – An unsuccessful attempt is made to assassinate Hitler while he visits the Eastern front. Another attempt, made in a week’s time in Berlin, is also unsuccessful.

16–20 – The Battle of the Atlantic climaxes with 27 merchant ships sunk by German U-boats.

20–28 – Montgomery’s 8th Army breaks through the Mareth Line in Tunisia.

APRIL 1943

6–7 – Axis forces in Tunisia begin a withdrawal toward Enfidaville as American and British forces link.

7 – Benito Mussolini persuades Hitler to sign a peace treaty with the Soviet Union in order to resist US and British assaults.

13 – Berlin radio reports the mass murder of Polish officers carried out by the Soviet Union in Katyn. In

February – Articles are published in British and Swedish newspapers about the 25th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Estonia. It is emphasised that the principle of the Atlantic Charter should also extend to the people of the Baltic States. Estonian diplomats abroad celebrate the 25th anniversary of the independence of Estonia.

March – After mobilisation into the Estonian Legion is announced, the organised removal of young men to Finland to join the Finnish Army instead of the German Army begins.

4 – Hjalmar Mäe, the head of the Estonian Self-Administration, and Angelus, the Director for Internal Affairs, go to the Eastern Ministry with their plan for autonomy. Rosenberg rejects it.

7 – Hjalmar Mäe, Commissar General Litzmann, the Chief of SS and Police Hinrich Möller and the Chief of Security Police and SD in Estonia Martin Sandberger, visit the Estonian SS-Legion training camp at Debica.

9 – The *Omakaitse* is separated from the Police Administration and put under the administration of the Directorate for Internal Affairs where a separate *Omakaitse* Administration is formed.

15–16 – The Higher Chief of SS, Heinrich Himmler, visits Tallinn; State Marshal Hermann Göring decides to develop the shale oil industry in Estonia.

27 – The head of the Estonian Self-Administration Hjalmar Mäe issues an order for Estonian officers and NCO’s to voluntarily join the Estonian Legion.

28 – At the Viljandi POW camp, in the presence of Litzmann and Mäe, the Estonians, who at the Velikiye Luki crossed sides from the Red Army to the German Army, are ceremoniously released.

31 – The Estonian SS-Legion is renamed the Estonian SS-Volunteer Legion.

1 – By order of the German Minister for Foreign Affairs, Joachim von Ribbentrop, the Finnish government prohibits Estonian language broadcasts from Finland; the Rear Commander-in-Chief of the Army Group “Nord” Infantry General v. Roques is dismissed and in July is sent back into retirement.

4 –The Estonian SS-Legion 1st Battalion (Battalion “Narva”) is detached to the SS-Panzer Grenadier Division “Wiking” and sent to the Ukraine.

response to the request by the Polish Government in Exile to investigate the matter, the Soviet Union breaks off diplomatic relations.

14 – With a decree by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the NKGB is again separated from the NKVD. Vsevolod Merkulov is again appointed head of NKGB.

15 – Hitler orders counter offensive “Citadel” at Kursk Bulge.

19 – SS units attack Jewish resistance in the Warsaw ghetto.

MAY 1943

7 – Allies take Tunis.

8 – Under the aegis of the “Union of Polish Patriots” the formation of 1st Polish Division, named Tadeusz Kościuszko, begins in the Soviet Union. Division has an important role in the Stalinisation of post-war Poland.

12–25 – Washington conference. USA and Great Britain plan a landing in Sicily, and another in France the following May.

13 – German and Italian troops surrender in North Africa.

15 – At the request of President Roosevelt, Stalin dismisses the Comintern (Communist International).

16 – Jewish resistance in the Warsaw ghetto ends.

16–17 – British air raid on the Ruhr.

22 – Dönitz suspends U-boat operations in the North Atlantic.

JUNE 1943

10 – “Pointblank” directive to improve Allied bombing strategy issued.

11 – Himmler orders the liquidation of all Jewish ghettos in Poland.

27 – US forces land on the Solomon Islands.

19 – The commander of the Estonian SS-Legion, Franz Augsberger, forbids Estonian members of the Legion from wearing the SS insignia on their right collar.

23 – 600 years has lapsed since the St. George’s Night uprising against German knights in Estonia. In Estonia this is not publicly commemorated. The Soviet Union uses this event for propaganda purposes.

April – Estonian nationalist politicians support the creation of a so-called “third power” in Finland. Finland agrees to accept Estonian escapees into the Finnish Army and ceases handing over names of Estonian escapees to the German Security Police and SD.

April – POW camp Dulag 377 is established in the Estonian shale oil region at Kiviõli, and it supplies the building of the shale oil industry and mines with a work force.

1 – The number of Estonians serving in the German armed forces reaches 12,849.

5 – After the departure of the “Narva” Battalion, the Estonian SS-Legion unit remaining at Debica training camp is re-named the Estonian SS-Volunteer Brigade.

10 – The ESA Directorate for Education issues the instruction that tertiary institutions can accept students who have completed upper secondary school in 1942–43 only after they have served a year in the State Labour Service or in the *Waffen-SS*.

May – A representative of Germany tries to convince the nationalist opposition to collaborate, and under their leadership to make Estonia a part of Germany or an independent federal state (*Bundesstaat*). Estonian politicians refuse.

May – An order to form the 286th Defence Battalion from the Estonian field police and sent to Lithuania in the autumn and then later to Belarus.

3 – Men born in 1925 are required to present themselves at the State Labour Service recruitment centre. “Presenting oneself at the recruitment centre is obligatory. Recruitment will take place on a voluntary basis.”

JUNE 1943

23 – In order to satisfy the needs of the war industry, Himmler issues the order to establish concentration camps in Estonia and Riga for Jews from the *Ostland* ghettos; the Estonian foreign delegation in Sweden decides that political collaboration with the Germans is ill advised, but an offer of restored independence with certain conditions would be acceptable.

24 – In a letter to the US Secretary of State, the Consul General of the Republic of Estonia in New York, Johannes Kaiv, protests against Hjalmar Mäe's actions.

JULY 1943

5–12 – Operation “Citadel” is carried out at Kursk — it is the biggest tank battle of the Second World War.

9–10 – Allies land in Sicily.

19 – Allies bomb Rome.

22 – Americans capture Palermo, Sicily.

24 – British bombing raid on Hamburg.

25–26 – Mussolini arrested and the Italian Fascist government falls. Marshal Pietro Badoglio takes over and negotiates with the Allies.

27–28 – Allied air raid causes a firestorm in Hamburg. More than 20,000 people die in two days.

13–20 – At a propaganda event, “national health week”, organised by the German occupation forces, Estonians and Germans compete against each other in sporting events.

15 – The Main Administration of Agriculture is removed from the subordination of the Estonian Self-Administration and put under the subordination of the Commissar General.

17 – A regulation is issued from the head of the Estonian Self-Administration, in which all men aged 17–45 could be called into service in the *Omakaitse* for an unlimited period of time.

20 – In an agreement between the Security Police and SD, organisation “Todt” and “Baltische Öl” GmbH, 600 Jews are sent to Kohtla and 400 to Viivikonna to work in the mines – 800 are sent to Slantsy to do roadwork and 200 are employed in Kiviõli to dig trenches.

24 – Books from Tartu University, which were taken to Voronezh in Russia during World War I and which have now landed in German hands, are brought back to Tartu and ceremoniously given back to the university.

AUGUST 1943

5 – Sweden forbids the transportation of German troops through its territorial waters to Norway and Finland; German forces withdraw from Oryol.

12–17 – Germans leave Sicily.

17 – American daylight air raids on Regensburg and Schweinfurt in Germany; Allies reach Messina, Sicily; Syria becomes independent. Shukri al-Kuwatli, the leader of the National Bloc, becomes president.

21 – Stalin's favourite, Andrei Gromyko, is named Ambassador to USA, replacing Maksim Litvinov.

23 – The Red Army counter offensives against the unsuccessful “Citadel”, come to an end.

1 – Estonian eastern battalions subordinate to the 16th and 18th Armies are subordinated to the *Waffen-SS*.

11 – By order of the German Security Police, raids take place in Estonia to apprehend those avoiding military or military auxiliary service.

August – On the basis of Himmler's order issued in June, Vaivara concentration camp, subordinate to the SS Main Office of Economy and Administration (*SS Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt (WVHA), Amtsgruppe D*), is established, to which mostly Jews mostly from the ghettos in Lithuania are brought.

August – The office of the SS Welfare Officer is established in Estonia.

SEPTEMBER 1943

4 – Stalin summons Deputy Patriarch Sergius of the Russian Orthodox Church, Leningrad Metropolitan Alexius, and Ukraine Exarch Nikolai, and tells them that a pro church policy is going to be implemented in the Soviet Union.

8 – The Italian surrender is announced and with the support of the German forces a puppet government is put into place on 9 September.

11 – Germans occupy Rome.

12 – Germans rescue Mussolini.

17 – German forces withdraw from Bryansk and Novorossiysk.

20 – German forces withdraw from Sardinia.

23 – Mussolini re-establishes a Fascist government.

24 – Albania, which had been occupied by Italy in 1939, declares independence.

25 – The Norwegian State Commissar, Josef Terboven, announces that Hitler is determined to re-establish Norwegian independence after the victorious end of the war; the Red Army liberates Smolensk.

8 – The German Army is given the order to evacuate Ingria (historical province between Narva and Leningrad) of its civilian population. The people are taken to Estonia.

10 – The Chief of Security Police and SD in Estonia Dr. Martin Sandberger is transferred to Italy. He is replaced by *SS-Sturmbannführer* Bernhard Baatz.

24 – Heinrich Himmler makes another visit to Tallinn. Mobilisation of Estonians into the *Waffen-SS* is discussed. He mentions that the handing over of autonomy to Estonia is a matter of days away.

25 – Approximately 3,300 Jews have been brought to Vaivara concentration camp. They are employed in the shale oil industry.

26 – Operation “Roboter” begins: between the front line of the Army Group “Nord” and the Narva River – Lake Peipus line, the civilian population who are able to work are forcibly evacuated. The evacuated Ingrians and Votians are taken to Finland via Estonia. After the war they are handed to the Soviet Union.

September – A subsidiary camp of the Vaivara concentration camp is established at Klooga.

OCTOBER 1943

1 – Telegram to US representative in Helsinki from the foreign ministry: For “various political reasons” the USA does not approve of the formation of an Estonian government in exile. On 5 October the US president informs the Secretary of State of his intention to tell Stalin that neither the USA nor Great Britain are going to war with the Soviet Union over the Baltic States, however a referendum should be held in these countries; Allies enter Naples, Italy.

4 – *Reichsführer-SS* Himmler gives a speech at Posen and talks openly about the Final Solution.

5 – The German army withdraws from Corsica.

13 – Italy declares war on Germany. Second American air raid on Schweinfurt.

14 – The Philippines declare independence.

19–30 – A conference of the foreign ministers of the USA, Great Britain and the Soviet Union is held in Moscow. Because of Molotov’s opposition to it the Baltic question is not discussed.

8 – The Finnish Government decides to accept those Ingrians evacuated from Ingria and Estonia, who wish to come to Finland and who the State Police approves.

10 – Colonel Johannes Soodla is appointed Inspector General of the Estonian SS-Legion.

12 – The 8th Estonian Rifle Corps is assigned to the 2nd Baltic Front.

15 – Evacuation of Ingrians to Finland begins – 1,500 people gather in Paldiski and they are put onto boats.

18 – The SS Leadership Main Office (the *Waffen-SS* Headquarters) endorses the composition of the Estonian SS-Volunteer Brigade, which comprises two two-battalion grenadier regiments, an anti-aircraft battalion and an artillery battalion as well as a signals company.

OCTOBER 1943

21–26 – During the conference of Allied foreign ministers, German authorities contact politicians representing the nationalist opposition to try to get signatures to support a public appeal against bolshevism. To discuss the matter, Estonian public figures are given special permission to organise a conference, but the hoped for collaboration does not take place.

26 – On Himmler's orders and with permission from the Commissar General, Hjalmar Mäe announces the military service obligation, which requires those born in 1925 to join the German army.

October – Vaivara concentration camp starts establishing subsidiary camps near industries and mines. By the end of the month there are approx. 7,000 Jews in these camps.

NOVEMBER 1943

2 – The deportation of peoples from the Caucasus to the steppes of Central Asia begins — 40,000 people perish.

6 – Russians recapture Kiev in the Ukraine.

6 – The representatives of 44 countries sign the UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) statute in Washington.

13 – At a meeting with Rosenberg, the State Minister for the Eastern Territories, Hitler rejects the idea of Ukrainian autonomy.

16 – US aircraft bomb the Rjukan heavy water factory in Norway. It cannot be rebuilt and the German nuclear program comes to a stand still.

18 – Large British air raid on Berlin.

22 – Lebanon becomes independent.

22–23 – British and US air forces bomb Berlin causing major destruction.

28 November – 1 December – Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin meet at Tehran.

6–26 Artillery units of the Red Army 8th Estonian Rifle Corps take part in battles on the Nevel Front.

9 – The 3rd Estonian SS-Brigade is detached to Friedrich Jeckeln's battle group and sent to Belarus to fight against the partisans.

16 – At a meeting between Martin Bormann, Alfred Rosenberg, State Chancellor Hans Lammers, *Ostland* State Commissar Hinrich Lohse and Adolf Hitler, the issue of limited autonomy for Estonia and Latvia is discussed. Hitler is against it.

18 November – 31 January – The 8th Estonian Rifle Corps is assigned in the second echelon of the 22nd Army to defence positions to the west and south-west of Velikiye Luki.

22 November – 4 January – The artillery of the 8th Estonian Rifle Corps takes part in battles on the Novosokolniki Front under the subordination of the 22nd Army.

DECEMBER 1943

1 – On the last day of the Tehran conference, Roosevelt says to Stalin that after the war a referendum under international scrutiny regarding statehood should be held in the Baltic States.

24–26 – Soviets launch offensives on the Ukrainian front.

7 – The Soviet Union prints a propaganda flier entitled "Why we are fighting for a Soviet Estonia", with the signatures of 362 Estonian officers in the Red Army. A week later the German occupation forces organise a "protest by the entire Estonian workforce" against Stalin's promise to liberate Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

DECEMBER 1943

9 – “Malevlane”, a weekly newspaper for Estonians serving in the Finnish armed forces is issued in Finland, its distribution in Estonia is prohibited. Over 2,000 Estonian volunteers are now serving in the Finnish armed forces.

9 – The Estonian defence battalions of the German Armed Forces are renamed police battalions.

16 – The 3rd Estonian SS-Brigade is detached to the Staff of the *Wehrmacht* 132nd Infantry Division and sent to the Nevel sector of the front.

10 – Hjalmar Mäe announces military service obligation for men born in 1924. Men born in that year who have not yet joined the army are accepted into the armed forces in January.

27 – Commissar General Litzmann issues a decision about the founding of a “Russian Trust Organisation” to represent the interests of Russian Estonians.

JANUARY 1944

6 – Soviet troops advance into Poland.

9 – Lithuanian President, Antanas Smetona, perishes in a fire at his home in Cleveland, USA. The cause of the fire is not clear.

11 – On Mussolini’s orders, Count Galeazzo Ciano, Italy’s foreign minister 1936–43, is assassinated in Verona.

14 – Red Army launches a major offensive against the German Front held by the Army Group “Nord”

17 – First attack toward Monte Cassino, Italy; Hitler reassures Finland that German forces will hold their position on the Narva River and will not let the Red Army onto the southern shores of the Gulf of Finland.

20 – British air force drops 2,300 tonnes of bombs on Berlin; the Red Army liberates Novgorod.

21 – At a meeting of the war cabinet, British foreign minister, Anthony Eden, proposes to support Soviet territorial claims in Eastern Europe.

22 – Allied forces launch an offensive behind German lines, 100 km south of Rome, and quickly move east in order to cut off the communication lines of a German army unit of 100,000 men.

27 – Leningrad relieved after a 900-day siege.

1 – In Tallinn Central Prison there are 3,095 prisoners, 2,095 of these are political prisoners; there are over 9,000 Lithuanian Jews in Vaivara concentration camp; in Estonia, there are 31,310 German officials and military personnel serving in the rear who hold a permanent ration card.

20–29 – The artillery of the Estonian Rifle Corps of the Red Army take part in the capture of Novosokolniki.

24 – The 3rd Estonian SS-Brigade is renamed the 20th Estonian SS-Volunteer Division.

25 – The evacuation of the civilian population of Narva begins.

26 – The commander of the 207th Security Division, Lieutenant General Erich Hofmann, orders the *Omakaitse* Main Administration to form three border defence regiments.

27 – The 54th Army Corps and the SS III Panzer Corps, under the command of the 54th Army Corps Headquarters, is named the “Sponheimer” Group and takes up defence positions on the Narva River.

30 – Regulations are issued by the Head of the Estonian Self-Administration for the mobilisation of the men born in 1904–1923 and reserve officers, reserve NCOs and specialists.

FEBRUARY 1944

1 – Soviet constitution is altered: Defence and foreign affairs people's commissariats are formed in the union republics; the Red Army liberates Kingisepp (Yamburg) and carries out an air raid on Narva.

4 – Johannes Kaiv, the Estonian Consul General in the USA, asks the Secretary of State to take steps so that US observers will accompany the Red Army on their entry into Estonia.

7 – Johannes Kaiv, the Estonian Consul General in the USA, informs the US press that the Red Army's invasion of Estonia is occupation, which does not alter the legal status of the Republic of Estonia.

8 – The Commander-in-Chief of the Finnish army, Marshal Mannerheim, signs a directive regarding the formation of the 200th (Estonian) Infantry Regiment (JR 200).

15–18 – Allies bomb the monastery at Monte Cassino.

16 – Germans counter-attack against the Anzio bridgehead.

26 – Soviet air force bombs Helsinki.

29 – Risto Ryti, the President of Finland, announces at a secret meeting of the Finnish parliament that he has started secret peace negotiations with Soviet Union.

2 – Upper secondary schools close, the schoolhouses are used as military hospitals or barracks; Inspector General of the Estonian SS-Legion Johannes Soodla orders the formation of border defence regiments.

2–15 – The Estonian Rifle Corps of the Red Army is brought to the Leningrad Front, into the rear of the Narva Front.

4 – "Sponheimer" Group is detached from the 18th Army and put under direct command of the High Command of the Army Group "Nord".

5 – The 8th Army of the Red Army advances south from Narva to the western bank of the Narva River and forms the Auvere bridgehead, which holds until September.

7 – In a radio interview, the last Estonian Prime Minister Jüri Uluots as acting president supports mobilisation.

8 – At the Nevel Front, the withdrawal of the 20th Estonian SS-Division begins. The division is sent to the Narva Front.

9 – The Head of the Estonian Self-Administration once again turns to Himmler with a request to restore Estonian independence.

11 – The Red Army attacks Narva. By the evening of 13 February, the Narva-Tallinn railway line near Auvere is cut through.

12 – The first three battalions of mobilised men are sent, as the "Reval" regiment, to the Narva Front.

14 – The landing of the Soviet Baltic Sea Fleet, in the rear of the Germans at the Narva Front at Mereküla, is resisted.

14 – The underground organisation, the National Committee of the Republic of Estonia, is formed in Tallinn.

14 – A landing by the Red Army takes control of Meerapalu and Pedaspää on the western shore of Lake Peipus, but by 17 February the landing has been destroyed.

15 – Lectures at Tartu University cease due to mobilisation.

16 – Lectures at Tallinn Technical Institute cease due to mobilisation; there are 28,500 mobilised men in barracks in Estonia.

FEBRUARY 1944

22 – The territory of Estonia is subordinated to Rear Commandant of the 18th Army. The SS, the police and SD units continue to be under the command of Friedrich Jeckeln, the *Ostland* Higher Chief of SS and Police. The offices of the Commissar General and the Estonian Self-Administration continue their work.

23 – The “Sponheimer” Group is renamed Army Detachment “Narwa” and subordinated to the Army Group “Nord”; the 660th Estonian Eastern Battalion is detached to the 20th Estonian SS-Division.

24 February – 7 March – The 20th Estonian SS-Division is involved in battles to resist the Red Army bridgeheads north of Narva.

MARCH 1944

4 – Soviet troops begin an offensive on the Belorussian front; first major daylight bombing raid on Berlin by the Allies.

6 – 800 US “Flying Fortresses” bomb Berlin.

15 – Second Allied attempt to capture Monte Cassino begins.

17 – US air force bombs Vienna for the first time.

18 – British drop 3,000 tonnes of bombs during an air raid on Hamburg, Germany.

19 – German army invades Hungary.

21 – Finland rejects Soviet peace terms.

28 – Georg Lindemann is appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Army Group “Nord”. Lindemann, who had been Commander-in-Chief of the 18th Army, is replaced by Artillery General, Herbert Loch.

29 – Soviet Union presents Finland with new peace terms.

2 March – 20 April – The artillery of the Estonian Rifle Corps of the Red Army takes part in battles on the Narva Front.

6–7 – The Soviet air force bombs Narva, the city is destroyed.

9–10 – The Soviet air force carries out air raids on Tallinn, approx. 800 people die.

19 – Commissar General Litzmann announces that Tartu University will either be evacuated to Königsberg or closed entirely, and that the removal of cultural treasures from Estonia to Germany has been decided.

22 – Admiral Johan Pitka returns from Finland to Tallinn to organise Estonian units to defend Estonia.

22 – The 2nd Border Defence Regiment formed from mobilised men is sent to the Narva Front.

23 – A second meeting of the National Committee of the Republic of Estonia (NCRE) is held in Tartu, where it is decided that the NCRE will be the centre for national resistance and will wield state power until the constitutional state organs of power resume office.

25–26 – Soviet air force bombs Tartu.

26 – To support the work of the NCRE, the Estonian Committee is founded in Sweden.

27 – The 3rd Border Defence Regiment, formed from mobilised men, is sent to the sector of the Narva Front on the northern shore of Lake Peipus.

APRIL 1944

2 – Red Army crosses the Romanian border.

8 – Soviet troops begin an offensive in the Crimea.

10 – Red Army liberates Odessa.

13 – Red Army liberates Simferopol.

24 – Japanese forces withdrawn from New Guinea.

30 – Josip Broz Tito demands that the allies recognise him as the leader of Yugoslavia.

1 – The Reserve Battalion of the Estonian Border Defence Regiments is renamed the 1st Estonian Reserve Regiment.

4 – The reformation of the Artillery Battalion of the 20th SS-Division begins to form the 20th SS-Artillery Regiment.

19–20 – Security Police and SD officials imprison 365 Estonian nationalists in Estonia.

20 – The elector's assembly of the Republic of Estonia gathers in secret in Tallinn and attests that Jüri Uluots is prime minister with responsibilities of the President of the Republic.

21 – Jüri Uluots appoints Otto Tief as deputy prime minister.

24 – The formation of the third regiment of the 20th Estonian SS-Division, the 47th SS-Grenadier Regiment, begins.

MAY 1944

7 – 2000 allied planes bomb Berlin, 1000 bomb Bucharest.

9 – Soviet troops recapture Sevastopol.

11 – Allies attack the Gustav Line south of Rome.

12 – Germans surrender in the Crimea.

15 – Germans withdraw to the Adolf Hitler Line.

18 – NKVD deportation operation in Crimea – 228,392 Tatars from Crimea deported to the Urals, Siberia and Central Asia.

21 – Metropolitan Alexius of Moscow and Leningrad becomes the new Patriarch for all of Russia.

25 – Germans retreat from Anzio.

4 – Security Police and SD officials once again arrest Estonian nationalists; the German Special Court in Estonia sentences a man to death for helping people escape to Finland in the autumn of 1943.

6 – Recruitment of volunteers born 1927–1928 into the air force auxiliary services begins in Estonia.

15 – Hitler forbids the withdrawal of the workforce from Estonia and demands that new shale oil plants be put into operation.

26 – The 20th Estonian SS-Volunteer Division is renamed the 20th Grenadier Division of the *Waffen-SS* (1st Estonian).

30 – With a decree issued by the ESSR Supreme Soviet (in the Soviet rear area), the responsibilities of the circuit courts are temporarily handed over to ESSR High Court.

JUNE 1944

5 – Allies enter Rome.

6 – D-Day: 156,115 allied troops land in Normandy.

9 – Soviet offensive against the Finnish front begins.

10 – SS-Division “Das Reich” liquidates the French town Oradour-sur-Glane.

13 – First German V-1 rocket attack on Britain.

June – The headquarters of the dispersed 13th *Luftwaffe* Field Division are renamed the 300th Special Purpose Divisional Headquarters as the commanding body for the Estonian border defence regiments.

15 – With the aid of the War Refugee Board, founded by US President Roosevelt and in the interests of the Office of Strategic Services, the evacuation of a num-

- 17 – Iceland declared independent.
- 20 – Finnish troops abandon Viipuri (Vyborg).
- 23 June –29 August – The Belorussian operation of the 1st Baltic Front and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Belarus Front of the Red Army.
- 27 – US troops liberate Cherbourg.

JULY 1944

- 3 – “Battle of the Hedgerows” in Normandy; Red Army captures Minsk.
- 9 – British and Canadian troops capture Caen.
- 13 – The Red Army captures Vilnius.
- 17 – Red Army crosses the so-called “Curzon line”.
- 20 – German assassination attempt on Hitler fails.
- 21–22 – To counter the Polish government in exile in London, the Soviet Union forms the Polish National Liberation Committee, a sort of “peoples government” controlled by Soviet Union.
- 23 – Red Army conquers Pskov.
- 28 – Red Army takes Brest-Litovsk.
- 31 – Finnish President, Risto Ryti, who has signed an assistance pact with Hitler withdraws from the agreement. This enables Finland to start serious preparations for withdrawing from the war.
- ber of individuals from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania by motorboat begins. By 30 September, 274 people have been evacuated from Estonia in this way.
- 23 – The National Committee of the Republic of Estonia makes a declaration “to the Estonian People”. The declaration was made public to the world press in Stockholm in July 1944 and in Tallinn on 1 August 1944.
- 3 – The 8th Estonian Rifle Corps of the Red Army is subordinated to the 2nd Shock Army.
- 3 – The Commander-in-Chief of the Army Detachment “Narwa” Johannes Friessner, is appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Army Group “Nord”. Infantry General Anton Grasser is appointed in his former place.
- 8 – The 20th Estonian SS-Division has 16,202 men on its roll.
- 12 – Hitler rejects General Field Marshal Walther Model’s proposal to withdraw the German forces from Estonia and northern Latvia and retreat to the Daugava River.
- 22 – Hitler gives permission to retreat from the Narva River to the Tannenberg defence line in the Vaivara Sinimäed hills approx. 20 km to the west from Narva.
- 22 – The 300th Special Purpose Divisional Headquarters with the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th Estonian Border Defence Regiments is subordinated to Army Detachment “Narwa”; the Divisional Headquarters and the 4th and 6th Border Defence Regiments are brought from south-east Estonia to the Narva Front.
- 24 – The Red Army commences their attack along the Narva River. The German forces begin retreating to the Tannenberg line.
- 25 – Hitler appoints Colonel General Ferdinand Schörner as Commander-in-Chief of the Army Group “Nord”.
- 26 – The Red Army captures Narva.
- 27 July – 10 August – Battles in the Sinimäed hills. At the start of the battles there are 25 Estonian and 24 Dutch, Danish and Flemish infantry battalions on the German side at the Narva Front. The artillery forces, and the tank, engineer and other special

JULY 1944

units are comprised mainly of Germans. The attack by the Red Army is stopped, thousands of men are killed in both sides.

28 – Prisoners in the camps of the Vaivara concentration camp network, at Ereda and Kohtla, are evacuated to Lagedi from where they will be sent, via Tallinn to the Stutthof concentration camp.

AUGUST 1944

1 – The *Armia Krajowa* uprising in Warsaw begins, Red Army halts offensive towards Warsaw and blocks Western aid; The Parliament of Finland elects Marshal Mannerheim as president.

10 – In Latvia, the 3rd Baltic Front of the Red Army breaks through the Marienburg defence line, which extends from south east Estonia to north east Latvia.

15 – Operation “Dragoon” (the Allied invasion of Southern France) begins.

19 – Resistance uprising in Paris.

19–20 – Soviet offensive in the Balkans begins with an attack on Romania.

20 – Allies encircle Germans at Falaise.

21 – In the USA, delegates from the USA, Soviet Union, Great Britain and China discuss the fate of the League of Nations, and the principles for the formation of the United Nations. They decide to accept France as the fifth permanent member of the Security Council.

25 – Liberation of Paris; Romania goes over to the Soviet side and declares war on Germany.

29 – Slovak uprising begins.

31 – Soviet troops take Bucharest.

1 – The declaration “To the People of Estonia” issued by the National Committee of the Republic of Estonia is distributed in Tallinn.

2 – Hjalmar Mäe, the Head of the Estonian Self-Administration, announces mobilisation for those born in 1926.

8 – Hjalmar Mäe issues a regulation about the mobilisation of those born in 1927 into the air force auxiliary services.

11 – The Red Army takes control of Petseri.

11 – The Red Army takes control of Võru. Not long after, the Presidium of the ESSR Supreme Soviet, the CPC and the ECP CC arrive.

11 – Hitler orders the evacuation of 4,500 Jews from Estonia.

13–14 – The defence of south-eastern Estonia is assigned from the 18th Army to the Army Detachment “Narwa”, which sends the “Wagner” Battle Group from Narva front to south-eastern Estonia.

13 – With an order from the *Omakaitse* Main Administration, 15 *Omakaitse* combat battalions are formed.

19 – In a radio broadcast, Jüri Uluots says that the Red Army must be held back until a peace treaty is signed.

19 – With the consent of the Germans, the “Finnish Boys” (JR 200) return to Estonia. Until now they had been treated as deserters or mobilisation evaders.

23 – The Soviet Union changes the Estonian-Russian border, joining the town of Petseri and the surrounding rural municipalities with the newly created Pskov Oblast.

23 August – 18 September – Battles on the Emajõgi River line, between Lake Peipus and Lake Võrtsjärv.

AUGUST 1944

24 – Tank battle at Tamsa, near Elva between the Red Army tank units and Colonel Hyazinth Count Strachwitz's tank unit.

25 – The 1st Shock Army of the Red Army captures Tartu; defence on the Emajõgi River Front is given under the command of the German 2nd Army Corps.

28 – The ESSR CPC, located in Võru, announces mobilisation into the Red Army for men under the military service obligation.

SEPTEMBER 1944

1 – Finnish President Marshal Mannerheim offers an armistice to the Soviet Union.

1–4 – Verdun, Dieppe, Artois, Rouen, Abbeville, Antwerp and Brussels liberated by Allies.

2 – Finnish parliament accepts terms for truce, breaks off relations with Germany and demands that German forces leave.

4 – Finland and the Soviet Union agree to a cease-fire.

8 – The Germans fire the first V-2 rockets towards London and Paris from Netherlands, with little accuracy.

11 – US units reach the German border north of Trieste.

12 – Petar II, King of Yugoslavia, who is in exile in London, calls all Yugoslavs to join Tito's guerrillas.

13 – The 47th Army of the Red Army occupies Praga, a suburb of Warsaw.

14 – Completion of the evacuation of German forces from South Finland. Some troops being brought to Estonia.

16–21 – General strike in Denmark, German occupation forces disarm Danish police.

17 – Operation "Market Garden" (Allied airborne assault on Netherlands) begins; US air force tries to help Warsaw insurrection, but 90% of the parachuted equipment falls into German hands.

19 – Finland signs an armistice with the Soviet Union and is obliged to surrender the region of Petsamo.

21 – Tito goes to Moscow without the knowledge of the allies, to negotiate with Stalin; German units are withdrawn from the Peloponnese peninsula.

1 – In the part of Estonia occupied by the Red Army, the regulation from 1940, that the territory of the ESSR is a restricted area, which can only be entered with special permission, is restored.

4 – The 8th Estonian Rifle Corps is assigned to the 2nd Shock Army and positioned at the Emajõgi Front.

7 – The ECP CC Bureau declares all legislation enacted by the German occupation forces to be invalid and re-enacts all ESSR legislation of 1940–1941.

14 – The Red Army launches a major attack against the Army Group "Nord" in Estonia and Latvia.

16 – Operation "Aster", the evacuation of German forces from Estonia, begins.

17 – The 2nd Shock Army of the Leningrad Front commences its attack at the Emajõgi River.

17 – The German civilian administration and the Estonian Self-Administration cease their activities and the evacuation of Tallinn begins; ESSR Supreme Soviet passes Acts about the creation of the ESSR People's Commissariats for State Defence and Foreign Affairs.

18 – Jüri Uluots forms a government led by the Deputy Prime Minister, Otto Tief.

19 – A special unit of the SD executes close to 2,000 Jews at the Klooga concentration camp; The Red Army captures Jõhvi and Valga.

20 – The Red Army captures Rakvere; The Estonian flag is hoisted on Pikk Hermann Tower in Tallinn.

20 and 21 – Battles in Avinurme and Porkuni, in eastern Estonia. Estonians are fighting on both sides.

SEPTEMBER 1944

23–24 – Hungary seeks an armistice with the allies and the Soviet Union.

24 – British navy commences an operation on the Aegean Sea.

25 – Hitler orders all able men aged 16–60 to join *Volkssturm* (order made public on 18 October).

27 – The last German coastal defence battery falls between Boulogne and Calais.

28 – The forces of the 3rd Ukrainian Front of the Red Army, together with Bulgarian, Romanian and Yugoslavian units begin an assault on Belgrade. Belgrade is liberated on 20 October.

21 – The Red Army takes control of Põltsamaa and Tapa; on Tief's orders a few hundred copies of the "State Gazette" are printed. The Government escapes from Tallinn to Lääne county, but the planned escape from there to Sweden fails.

22 – In the morning, the evacuation of German forces from Tallinn ends. The Red Army enters the city. The majority of the German forces retreat to Latvia across the area between Lake Võrtsjärv and Pärnu.

22 – Between Gotland and Ventspils, Soviet planes sink the German hospital ship "Moero", which had departed from Tallinn. There are minimum 1,155 refugees aboard, 637 of them perish.

23 – At the Kumna crossroads, 25 km west of Tallinn, an Estonian combat unit attempts to stop the advance of the Red Army. This is the last resistance to the Red Army on mainland Estonia. The Red Army takes control of Pärnu, Keila and Viljandi.

24 – The Red Army captures Paldiski and Haapsalu. In the morning the last German units leave from Rohuküla harbour, mainland Estonia in under the control of the Red Army.

25 – The ESSR government moves from Võru to Tallinn. The Red Army takes control of Mõisaküla.

17–25 – Germans are evacuated from mainland Estonia — 37,831 military personnel, 13,049 wounded, 20,418 civilians and 391 POWs are evacuated to Germany. In addition, 2,500 military personnel, 3,440 civilians and over 15,000 POWs are taken from mainland Estonia to the islands.

26 – Arnold Veimer is appointed chairman of the ESSR CPC.

29–30 – The 8th Estonian Rifle Corps of the Red Army captures the island of Muhu.

OCTOBER 1944

1 – The German garrison at Calais surrenders.

2 – Warsaw Uprising ends as the Polish Armia Krajowa surrenders to the Germans; more than 200,000 civilians die in the uprising.

3 – Hitler decides to withdraw his forces from Greece, Southern Albania and Southern Macedonia; President Roosevelt abandons Secretary of Finance Morgenthau's plan to completely destroy the German economy and bring it to an agrarian level.

1 – The NKVD starts to compile a register of refugees and released prisoners continuing to live in camps and prisons.

2–4 – Private individuals are required to hand over firearms in their possession to either militia stations or the nearest military base within three days; raids to find "anti-Soviet elements" begin in Tallinn.

OCTOBER 1944

4 – British forces land on mainland Greece.

5 – Tito signs a friendship pact with Bulgaria. This is the beginning of Tito's Balkan policies, which lead to misunderstandings with Stalin; Andrei Zhdanov and General Grigori Savonenkov arrive in Finland as the Soviet representatives of the Allied Supervisory Commission.

7 – Start of the Red Army operation on the Karelian Front against the German 20th Mountain Army in the Finnish Polar region.

9 – Representatives of the USA, the Soviet Union, Great Britain and China decide the establishment of the United Nations.

9–20 – Stalin and Churchill divide spheres of influence in South East Europe after the war. US ambassador takes part as an observer.

10 – The 2nd Guards Army of the Red Army reaches the Baltic Sea near Klaipeda and the Army Group "Nord" is cut off from East Prussia.

13 – The Red Army occupies Riga.

14 – The Allies liberate Athens; Suspected of conspiracy against Hitler, general Erwin Rommel commits suicide under duress.

15 – The Hungarian leader Miklos Horthy, who signed a secret truce with the Soviet Union, is interned in Germany. Ferenc Szálasi becomes the new leader of Hungary and continues the war on the German side.

18 – The order to form the *Volkssturm* is announced. No uniforms are issued, a white armband is the only insignia.

23 – The USA, Great Britain and the Soviet Union recognise the temporary government of France led by Charles de Gaulle.

28 – Bulgaria signs an armistice with the Soviet Union and the Allies, and thereafter takes part in the war against Germany.

29 – General de Gaulle disbands communist guerrilla units, and invites members of the resistance to join the French army.

5 – Bread rationing is enforced in Tallinn. By 15 October rationing of all foodstuffs and consumer goods is enforced.

5 October – 24 November – Battles take place in Saaremaa.

6 – Near Klaipeda, a Soviet submarine sinks the steamer "Nordstern", which had departed from Kuressaare – 624 people perish.

10 – Otto Tief is captured by the NKGB.

12 – Unsuccessful landing by the 300th Rifle Regiment of the Estonian Rifle Corps of the Red Army into the German rear on the Sõrve peninsula. Out of 745 men, 576 are killed or taken prisoner.

12 – The Red Army captures Hiiumaa.

20 – A regulation issued by the ESSR CPC requires all workers and civil servants to return to their last place of employment. The ECP CC Bureau appoints Hans Kruus as the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs.

22 – Boriss Kumm, the ESSR People's Commissar for State Security, informs the 1st Secretary of the ECP CC, Nikolai Karotamm, that within a month 8,000 "anti-Soviet persons" have been taken to account, and more than 200 have been arrested.

22 – The ESSR CPC issues a regulation about the re-opening of Tartu State University and the Tallinn Polytechnical Institute

25 – The Swedish Archbishop gives permission for Estonian clergy in refugee camps to carry out church services with the exception of marriage ceremonies.

27 – Evacuation of civilians from Sõrve peninsula begins – approx. 2,500 are taken to refugee camps in Germany.

28–29 – The newspapers "Teataja" and "Välis-Eesti" are published in Stockholm. These become the most influential publications for Estonians in Sweden.

30 – The Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Christian Günther, announces in parliament, that among the Estonian refugees in Sweden there are about 100 politically unsuitable individuals and 30 war criminals.

October – The 20th Estonian SS-Division is crossed off the list of combat-capable units and it is sent to the Neuhammer training camp to be reformed.

NOVEMBER 1944

1 – British forces conquer Salonica in Greece, and Walcheren Island in Belgium, which until now has hindered access to Antwerp harbour.

1 – Josip Broz Tito signs an agreement with the Yugoslavian government in exile to form a coalition government.

7 – Franklin Delano Roosevelt is elected president of the United States for a fourth term.

7 – Charles de Gaulle demands a French zone in occupied Germany.

10 – The USA, Great Britain and the Soviet Union recognise Enver Hoxha's communist regime in Albania.

14 – In Prague, at the conference of the liberation of Russian peoples, Andrei Vlasov is named Commander-in-Chief of the Russian army units fighting on the German side.

14 – In London, the second protocol of zones is reworded and future occupation zones in Germany under the control of the USA and Great Britain are determined. It is agreed that the Control Council be the highest occupation authority.

17 – President Roosevelt rejects a request from the Polish government in exile to guarantee Polish borders.

24 – French capture Strasbourg.

26 – Carpathian Ukraine, in Czechoslovakia, is incorporated into Soviet Ukraine.

DECEMBER 1944

1 – Communists leave Greek government.

4 – Civil War in Greece begins. Athens is placed under martial law.

5 – In Moscow, General Béla Miklós-Dálnok, is appointed the leader of the Hungarian government in exile, which has been formed by the Soviet Union. The formation of the temporary government is made public in Debrecen on 21 December.

8 – Start of Red Army offensive against Budapest.

1 – All Estonian military personnel in Germany are sent to Neuhammer to join the 20th Estonian SS-Division, which is being reformed.

1 – The ESSR Military Commissariat announces the registration of men under the military service obligation. Registration of those born 1895–1926 takes place in December.

17 – The ESSR CPC enacts the order for the return of those evacuated from Estonia to the Soviet Union's rear; The 1944/45 academic year begins at Tartu University.

23 – The former secretary of the CPSU Moscow City Committee, Sergei Sazonov, is appointed 2nd Secretary of the ECP CC. He is given responsibility for selecting staff, cooperation between the army and security organisations and communications with Moscow.

24 – The Supreme Soviet of the USSR joins the area of Estonia on the eastern bank of Narva River with the oblast of Leningrad.

24 – German forces leave Sõrve peninsula and the entire territory of Estonia is under the control of the Red Army.

30 – The Estonian SSR CPC announces that 885,414 inhabitants are registered in the territory of Estonia (excluding the 10 rural municipalities of Saaremaa, which at the time of counting were still under German occupation).

1 – The reformed 20th Estonian SS-Division gives it oath at Neuhammer.

1 – The Main Committee for the Nationalisation of Buildings is formed in the ESSR.

4 – The ESSR CPC requires all local executive committees to confiscate 1,500 horses from the population to supply the horse lending stations.

13 – The ESSR CPC reduces by 50% the obligatory quota of agricultural products that the state, cooperative and community farms are required to sell to the state.

DECEMBER 1944

10 – In Moscow, Charles de Gaulle signs an alliance between France and the Soviet Union against Germany. He does not recognise the “Lublin Committee” as the representative of Poland, Stalin does not agree to separate the Rhineland and the Ruhr from Germany.

11 – Italian government reorganised, the communist Palmiro Togliatti becomes deputy prime minister.

15 – British Prime Minister Churchill supports Soviet territorial claims in Poland, with compensation by moving the western border of Poland at the expense of Germany.

27 – Soviet troops besiege Budapest.

31 – Hungary’s alternative government led by Miklós-Dálnok declares war on Germany.

JANUARY 1945

1 – The Soviet Union recognises Poland’s temporary government, which has been formed on the basis of the “Lublin Committee”.

1–17 – The Germans withdraw from the Ardennes.

12 – The 1st Ukrainian Front of the Red Army launches a massive assault from the Baranov bridgehead on the Oder.

14 – The 1st Belorussian Front of the Red Army launches a massive assault near Warsaw. In East Prussia, the Army Group “Mitte” is in danger of being encircled.

16 – The US 1st and 3rd Armies link up after a month long separation during the Battle of the Bulge.

17 – Soviet troops capture Warsaw.

20 – The alternative government led by Miklós-Dálnok, which operates in that part of Hungary occupied by Soviet Union, signs a truce with the Soviet Union, the USA and Great Britain.

23 – Withdrawal from East Prussia begins. On 26 January its land link with Germany is severed. By the end of the war 2 million refugees have left.

26 – Soviet troops liberate Auschwitz.

30 – In Berlin last radio broadcast by Hitler, in which he claims that Germany will come out of its unfavourable situation.

22 – A special page, “Stockholms Tidningen Eestlastele” (for Estonians) is created in the Swedish newspaper, “Stockholms Tidningens”, and continues until 1959.

3 – An evening university for teaching Leninism and Marxism opens in Tallinn.

3 – Hjalmar Mäe signs a regulation, pre-prepared in Heinrich Himmler’s Staff, for the mobilisation of Estonian refugees in Germany into the 20th Estonian SS-Division.

4 – Alfred Rosenberg releases Hjalmar Mäe from his position as Head of the Estonian Self-Administration.

9 – Jüri Uluots, the acting president and the prime minister of Estonia in exile, dies of cancer in Stockholm. He is replaced by August Rei, the oldest member of the government.

10 – The broadcasting of programmes intended for Estonian refugees and organised by the ECP CC begin. The radio programmes “Kodumaatund” (Homeland Hour) and “Kodumaa kutsub” (Homeland Calls) are broadcast twice a week. “Kodumaatund” is directed at refugees in Sweden, and Estonian-language propaganda programmes to refugees in Germany are broadcast by the “Volga” radio station located in East Berlin.

20 – The 20th Estonian SS-Division is sent to the Front. The majority of the division is sent to the western bank of the Oder, in the region of Oppeln, where, suffering great losses, attacks by the Red Army are fended off until mid March.

JANUARY 1945

30 – The Czechoslovakian government in exile recognises the pro-Soviet temporary Polish government in Warsaw, and severs contacts with the Polish government in exile.

FEBRUARY 1945

2 – Poland announces that it now governs Silesia and East Prussia.

3 – The 1st Belorussian units of the Red Army cross the Oder River.

4–11 – Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin meet at Yalta.

13 – The Polish government in exile claims that the Yalta conference is “the fifth division of Poland”.

10 – Russian Liberation Army, comprised of almost 100,000 Russians and Cossacks fighting on the German side, given under the command of General Andrei Vlasov.

11 – Red Army conquers Budapest.

13–14 – Dresden is destroyed by a firestorm after Allied bombing raids.

19 – German forces re-establish contact with besieged Königsberg for almost two months. The mass murder of civilians by the Red Army at Metgethen is uncovered.

19 – Himmler proposes, through intermediaries, a separate peace with western allies.

27 – King Michael I of Romania, under pressure from the Soviet emissary, Andrei Vyshinski, disbands the government and a communist government is formed.

MARCH 1945

2 – US forces cross the Rhine and 5 March occupy Cologne.

3 – Finland declares war on Germany.

6 – Last German offensive of the war begins to defend oil fields in Hungary. In Romania a communist government comes into power.

7 – Allies take Cologne and establish a bridge across the Rhine at Remagen.

3 – A department for receiving and accommodating repatriated citizens of the ESSR is formed at the ESSR CPC.

5 – Under Himmler’s patronage the “The Estonian Freedom Association/SS-Relief Committee” is founded. Its aim is to organise support for Estonians serving in the *Waffen-SS*.

7 – The USSR People’s Commissariat for Internal Affairs issues a directive about the “resettlement of ethnic Germans” in the territory of Estonia.

11–12 – The Estonian Rifle Corps of the Red Army is taken to Latvia, subordinated to the 2nd Baltic Front, and on 17 March, sent to the Courland Front, where they stay until the end of the war.

24 – Estonians in Sweden and the USA commemorate Estonian Independence Day. The Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs forbids Heinrich Laretei from making a speech. This is done by a Swede. In New York a mourning service is held.

February – In Estonia, steps are made for the widespread teaching of the Russian language. In many offices work is carried out entirely in Russian; a group of young people in Võru county begin issuing an underground publication, “Vaba Eesti Tähistel”. In October the NKVD War Tribunal sentences them to forced labour.

9 – The Estonian Orthodox Church is closed down and its congregations are incorporated into the Russian Orthodox Church.

14 – Johannes Kivi, the representative of the ESSR CPC for Religious Cults, issues an order requiring all religious associations (except orthodox congregations, which are not his responsibility) to register themselves in the towns within two weeks and in the country, within a month.

8 – In accordance with Yalta conference Josip Broz Tito forms government in Yugoslavia.

11 – Polish government in exile in London protests at Poland having been left out of the UN founding conference.

14 – In Warsaw temporary government of Poland assumes control over parts of Germany (Upper and Lower Silesia, Pomerania and Masuria), which have been given to them by Soviet Union.

18–20 – Offensive by Red Army 1st Ukrainian Front near Oppeln (Opole) by the Oder River.

19–31 – In Moscow Czech and Slovak communists meet with representatives of the Czechoslovakian government in exile. They agree to form a people's democratic government.

23 March – 17 April – Offensive by British and US forces in the Ruhr.

27 – Soviet Union arrests 16 members of Polish resistance, and finds them guilty of anti Red Army activity.

30 – Soviet troops capture Danzig.

APRIL 1945

1 – US troops encircle Germans in the Ruhr; Allied offensive in North Italy.

4 – Last German units retreat from Hungary.

5 – Soviet Union breaks neutrality treaty with Japan.

11 – In Moscow, a friendship and mutual aid treaty is signed by the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

12 – Allies liberate Buchenwald and Bergen-Belsen concentration camps.

12 – President Roosevelt dies. Vice President Harry Truman becomes President.

13 – Red Army occupies Vienna.

16 – Soviet troops begin their final attack on Berlin; Americans enter Nuremberg.

18 – German forces in the Ruhr surrender.

21 – Red Army reaches Berlin.

14 – Himmler issues an order stating that Estonian and Latvian refugees can write that they are “Estonian” or “Latvian” as the case may be in their identity documents. Until now they were considered to be without citizenship.

17 – The Estonian Rifle Corps of the Red Army commences an attack in Courland but is soon forced into defence.

19 – The 20th Estonian SS-Division is caught in a siege in the region of Oppeln (Opole), near Neustadt, but breaks through the siege. The division's commander, *SS-Brigadeführer* and *Waffen-SS* Major General Franz Augsberger, is killed.

28 – The ESSR CPC and ECP CC issue a joint regulation guaranteeing that the land reform will be complete by 15 April.

30 – The Estonian Rifle Corps of the Red Army is subordinated to the command of the Leningrad Front and sent to the rear to rest and for numbers to be replenished.

10 – Johannes Kaiv, the acting Estonian Consul General in the USA, sends the Secretary of State a note, in which he asks for US protection of Estonians in Germany, he especially asks that according to their wishes they not be handed over to the Soviet Union.

15 – The 20th Estonian SS-Division is sent to the front near the Czechoslovakian border, near the foot of the Riesengebirge Range, where it remains until 8 May.

15 – The Estonian Rifle Corps of the Red Army takes up offensive positions in Courland. Germany capitulates before the corps is able to launch its attack.

16 – Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces issues the instruction: “Displaced Persons and Refugees in Germany”. Citizens of the Soviet Union are sent back to their homelands. Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian citizens are permitted to remain in Germany.

20 – The 20th Estonian SS-Division is subordinated to the 17th Army and sent to the Goldberg-Hirschberg region, on the Polish-Czech border.

APRIL 1945

21 – In Warsaw, the Soviet Union and the temporary Polish government sign a friendship and mutual aid treaty.

25 – Inaugural meeting of the UN in San Francisco, where 850 delegates from 47 states are present.

25 – US and Soviet units meet on the Elbe near Torgau.

28 – Mussolini is captured and the following day executed by Italian guerrillas. Allies take Venice.

29 – German forces in Northern Italy surrender.

30 – Adolf Hitler commits suicide.

MAY 1945

1 – Joseph Goebbels commits suicide some hours after Hitler.

2 – Red Army conquers the whole of Berlin.

4 – German forces surrender in Netherlands, Norway, Denmark and North West Germany.

7 – Unconditional surrender of all German forces to the Allies.

8 – General Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel signs the final surrender. All acts of war by Germans to cease 8th May at 11:01 p. m. Central European time.

9 – Hermann Göring is captured by members of the US 7th Army.

23 – Himmler commits suicide; German Supreme Command and Provisional Government imprisoned.

27 – German forces surrender in Netherlands, Norway, Denmark and North West Germany.

29 – Escorting of ships on the Atlantic between America and Europe ceases.

JUNE 1945

1 – Great Britain occupies Lebanon and Syria; Allied forces hand over 37 Russian generals, 2,605 officers and 29,000 Cossacks to the Red Army in Germany.

5 – Allies divide up Germany and Berlin and take over the government.

4 – With a regulation issued by the Estonian SSR Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, 637 village soviets are formed within the rural municipalities.

7–8 – The 20th Estonian SS-Division leaves the front and begins retreating to the west. Some of the men are captured by Czech partisans, many are killed. A small group of men reach the US forces and give themselves up as prisoners. The rest are captured by the Red Army.

8 – At the end of the war Johannes Kaiv, the acting Estonian Consul General in the USA, sends a greeting to the Secretary of State and expresses the hope that the victory by the big democratic nations will also liberate Estonians from their oppressors.

29 – The Estonian Rifle Corps of the Red Army begins its march from Courland back to Estonia.

May – A secret experimental uranium-producing factory is put into operation in Narva. The Soviet Union's first atomic bombs are produced from uranium mined and processed in Estonia.

10 – The USSR State Defence Committee takes a decision to resume the Estonian shale oil industry. Many German prisoners of war are employed in the mines.

14 – On the anniversary of the June 1941 deportations, Johannes Kaiv, the acting Estonian Consul

14 – The Czechoslovakian government presents territorial demands to Germany and commences the expulsion of Sudeten Germans.

21 – In Poland, a government representing the government in exile is formed. It is recognised by the Western allies as well as China.

22–23 – The USSR Supreme Soviet passes an Act for the demobilisation of older age groups.

24 – Victory parade on Moscow's Red Square.

26 – United Nations Charter is signed in San Francisco.

26 – The Polish government announces that it will start to expel Germans from Poland (incl. those areas that lay claim to).

28 – At the round table conference held in Moscow, the Polish Government of National Unity is formed – three quarters of the ministerial positions are taken by the “Lublin Committee”.

JULY 1945

1 – US and British forces leave the occupation zone given to the Soviet Union; US, British and French troops move into Berlin.

4 – The Western Allies recognise the Austrian government set up by the Soviet Union. The country is divided into four occupation zones.

7 – The agreement for a four-way rule of Berlin is signed.

7 – USA hands Saarland over to French rule.

13 – Japan asks Moscow to be a mediator in peace talks with the Allies. Moscow does not respond to the request.

16 – First US atomic bomb test.

17 – 2 August – Potsdam conference.

26 – Atlee succeeds Churchill as British Prime Minister.

26 – In the Soviet occupation zone of Germany, all banks are closed and people are required to hand over their cash savings to the authorities.

General in the USA, passes on to the US Secretary of State a memorandum from Estonian organisations in Sweden, in which, in accordance with the Atlantic Charter, they ask for assistance from the USA and Great Britain in restoring Estonian independence.

17 – In Stockholm, 14 Estonian organisations form the Association of Estonian Organisations. According to Swedish authorities there are 21,815 Estonians in Sweden and 6,554 Swedes who had been living in Estonia.

17 – The Estonian Rifle Corps of the Red Army ceremoniously marches into Tallinn.

28 – With a directive issued by the USSR People's Commissar for State Defence, the 8th Estonian Rifle Corps of the Red Army is renamed the 41st Guards Estonian Tallinn Rifle Corps.

June – The US State Department defines US Baltic policy: to avoid extremes. It is recommended that the issue be handled within the framework of the general post-war peace treaty.

1 – The Red Army 41st Guards Estonian Tallinn Rifle Corps is subordinated to the 10th Guards Army.

2 – A meeting of the Baltic United Committees is held in New York. They send a memorandum to the US President in which they ask for freedom from Soviet occupation for the Baltic States.

2–3 – The USSR High Court War Committee holds a sitting on the members of Otto Tief's government. The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Major General Jaan Maide, is sentenced to death. The others are sentenced to 5–10 years imprisonment.

5 – The ESSR CPC endorses “The temporary instructions for organising the activities of religious associations”, compiled by the representative for religious matters, as the official basis for conducting relations with religious associations. The instructions remain in force until 1977.

15 – Handling of refugees in Germany is taken over by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and in cooperation with military leaders, refugees are placed in DP camps.

16–19 – The older members of the Estonian Rifle Corps of the Red Army are demobilised.

JULY 1945

AUGUST 1945

6 – First atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan.

8 – Soviet Union declares war on Japan and invade Manchuria.

9 – Second atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan.

13 – World Congress of Zionists demands the foundation of an Israeli state from Great Britain.

14 – Japan capitulates unconditionally.

18 – The Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces, General Douglas MacArthur, gives the order to cease all war activities in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

SEPTEMBER 1945

2 – Japanese sign a surrender agreement.

11 – A conference of the foreign ministers of victorious countries is held in London. To “stabilise the situation”, the Soviet Union quickly endeavours to sign peace treaties with the countries under its influence — Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary.

OCTOBER 1945

27 – US President Harry Truman presents a foreign policy declaration, in which he says, “We shall refuse to recognise any government imposed upon any nation by the force of any foreign power.”

30 – Western Allies decide not to forcibly repatriate Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian citizens in Germany to the Soviet Union.

NOVEMBER 1945

21 – The Control Council of the allied nations agrees to the resettlement of 6.65 million Germans.

30 – The trial of German war criminals begins in Nuremberg.

19 – The ESSR Presidium of the Supreme Soviet appoints Lieutenant General Lembit Pärn, the Commander of the Red Army 41st Guards Estonian Tallinn Rifle Corps to the position of ESSR People’s Commissar for State Defence (the ESSR Ministry for State Defence is disbanded in 1951).

15 – About 400 Germans and their family members, still in Estonia, are deported to Siberia.

28 – The “troika” comprising Nikolai Karotamm, the 1st Secretary of the ECP CC, Boris Kumm, the ESSR People’s Commissar for State Security and Kaarel Paas, ESSR Prosecutor find members of the National Committee of the Republic of Estonia guilty of anti-Soviet activities, a number of them are sentenced to death.

4 – In the fight against the partisans (forest brothers), the ESSR CPC and the ECP CC pass a joint regulation according to which, ownership of farm property and buildings belonging to those people “where a family member is a bandit and is fighting against the Soviet powers” and whose family is assisting them, will pass completely over to the state.

17 – Johannes Kaiv, the acting Estonian Consul General in the USA, presents the US Secretary of State, James Byrnes, with a letter of explanation about Estonians mobilised into the German armed forces. He asks that they not be treated as SS. On 28 November he receives a reply saying that the contents of his letter have been noted.

23 – Speaking in the *Riksdag* (parliament), Bo Östen, the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, says that the new Russia and the political method by which the Baltic States have been amalgamated into the Soviet Union must be accepted. Two months later the Swedish government hands over to the Soviet Union 146 Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians, along with Germans, who had served in the German armed forces.

DECEMBER 1945

16–28 – Soviet, US and British foreign ministers meet in Moscow. They reach an agreement regarding issues connected with China, Korea, Romania and Bulgaria. US Secretary of State, Byrnes, does not agree with the *de jure* recognition of the Soviet annexation of the Baltic States.

December – There are thousands of forest brothers in Estonia. The people still maintain the hope that a war, which will restore Estonia's independence, will break out between the western nations and the Soviet Union.