

Nazis Overrun Europe

1939 – Poland is defeated by the German blitzkrieg.



Polish Garrison of Warsaw Marching out of City After the Surrender

• The Soviet Union seized eastern Poland, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

• 1940 – Germany conquers Denmark, Belgium, Holland, Norway and France.

Europe
El 35 del 1990

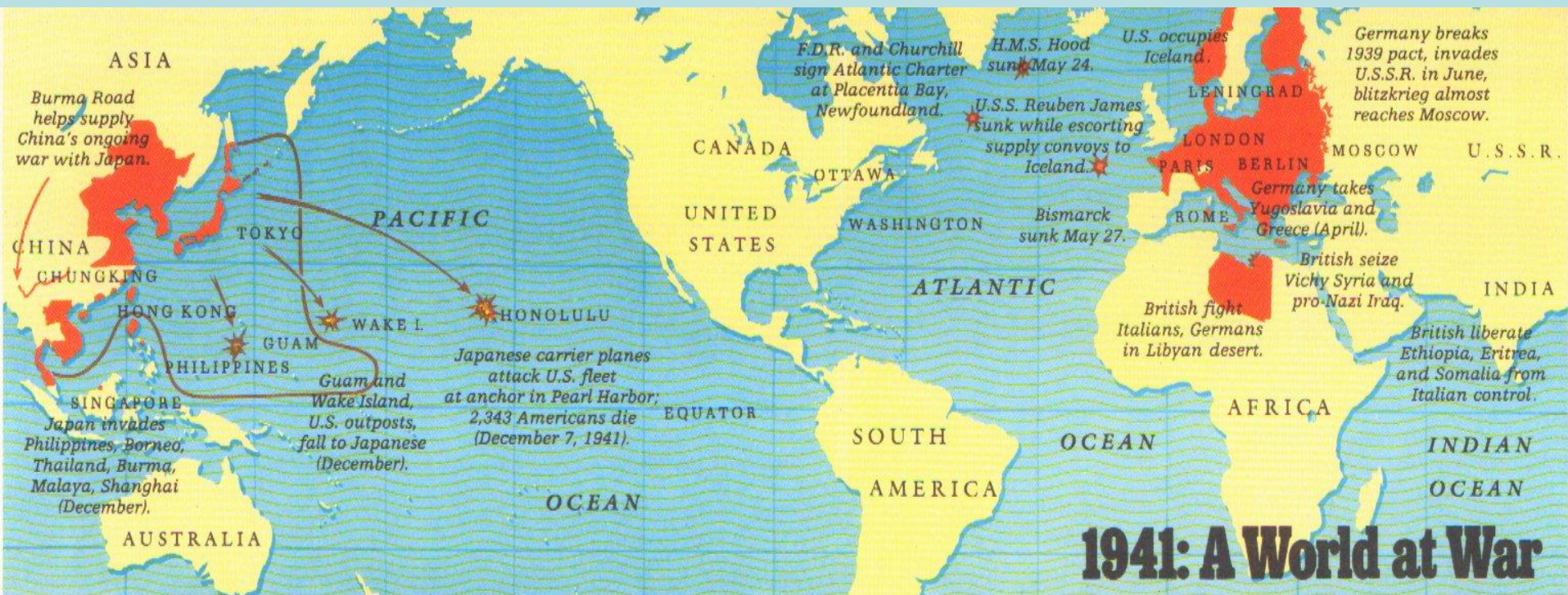


A Global Battleground

- The main combatants were known as the **Axis** powers and the **Allies**.

Main Allied powers: Great Britain, France, China, Soviet Union, United States

Main Axis powers: Germany, Italy, Japan





William (Welek) Luksenburg Describes the first night of the German invasion of Poland [1990 interview]

Shortly after the German invasion of Poland in September 1939, William's family was ordered into a ghetto and his brother went to a work camp. William bribed officials to discharge his brother from a hospital destined for evacuation to Auschwitz. Later, after escaping from a prison camp to tend to his brother, William was jailed. He was sent to Blechhammer, Gleiwitz (where he met his future wife), and other camps. William collapsed during a death march near the Austrian border, but was then liberated. His parents and brother perished.

“Things began to change right the first night. The first night there were blackouts all over town. They would have a curfew. After dark, nobody's supposed to leave the house. The first memorable night is, was, when I...when some of our neighbors tried to...a young man tried to cross the street and he didn't realize just crossing the street, uh, would...would break, breach the curfew and a German soldier said, "Halt," and he kept on running. And he got machine-gunned all the way across, and he fell right in front of our house. So the Germans started yelling, all the men "Raus" [Get out], all the men out to help carry the body in and made me carry the body with four other persons. And because, the way he was machine-gunned, he was completely like cut in half. When I got home I was completely covered with blood, and I remember when I got into the house, my mother looked at me completely covered...

...There was something...such an awful thing to see first time. I was just absolutely covered with blood, and I always remember my mother's, uh, expression and my mother's fear and my mother's cry out when she saw me completely covered with blood and that was the first night, the first expression what was...We didn't know what's coming and it was a horrible thing, that first night.”

Swastika flag rises over Versailles and Paris - 1940

The German western campaign into the Low Countries and France shattered Allied lines. Within six weeks, Britain evacuated its forces from the Continent and France requested an armistice with Germany. Paris, the French capital, fell to the Germans on June 14, 1940. In this footage, triumphant German forces raise the swastika flag over Versailles and over the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Versailles, the traditional residence of French kings, was deeply symbolic for the Germans: it was the site of both the declaration of the German Empire in 1871 and the signing of the Treaty of Versailles of 1919. The Treaty of Versailles had imposed humiliating peace terms on Germany after its defeat in World War I. Germany would occupy Paris for the next four years, until 1944.



June, 1940
France
surrenders.

1940 - The Germans severely bombed Great Britain during the **Battle of Britain** but were unable to defeat the island nation. (video link)

German bomber over London



Battle of Britain - Summer, 1940



Battle of Britain - Summer, 1940



Battle of Britain - Summer, 1940



Battle of Britain - Summer, 1940



Battle of Britain - Summer, 1940





**Winston Churchill,
British Prime
Minister**

**'We shall fight on the beaches ...',
June 4, 1940**

'... We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender ...'

American Neutrality

- FDR changed the Neutrality Acts through a “cash and carry” plan, in which the U.S. sold arms to the Allies, but they had to carry them away on their own ships.
- Meanwhile, the U.S. prepared for war by setting up the first ever peacetime draft in U.S. history.

REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE
This is to certify that in accordance with the
Selective Service Proclamation of the President of the United States

John Grant Collier
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)

Albentown Wilkeson Pa
(No. and street or R. F. D. No.; city or town, county and State)

has been duly registered this *25* day of *April*, 19*47*

Troy Edwards
(Signature of registrar)

Registrar for _____
(Precinct) (Ward) (City or county) (State)

BE ALERT { Keep in touch with your Local Board.
Notify Local Board immediately of change of address.

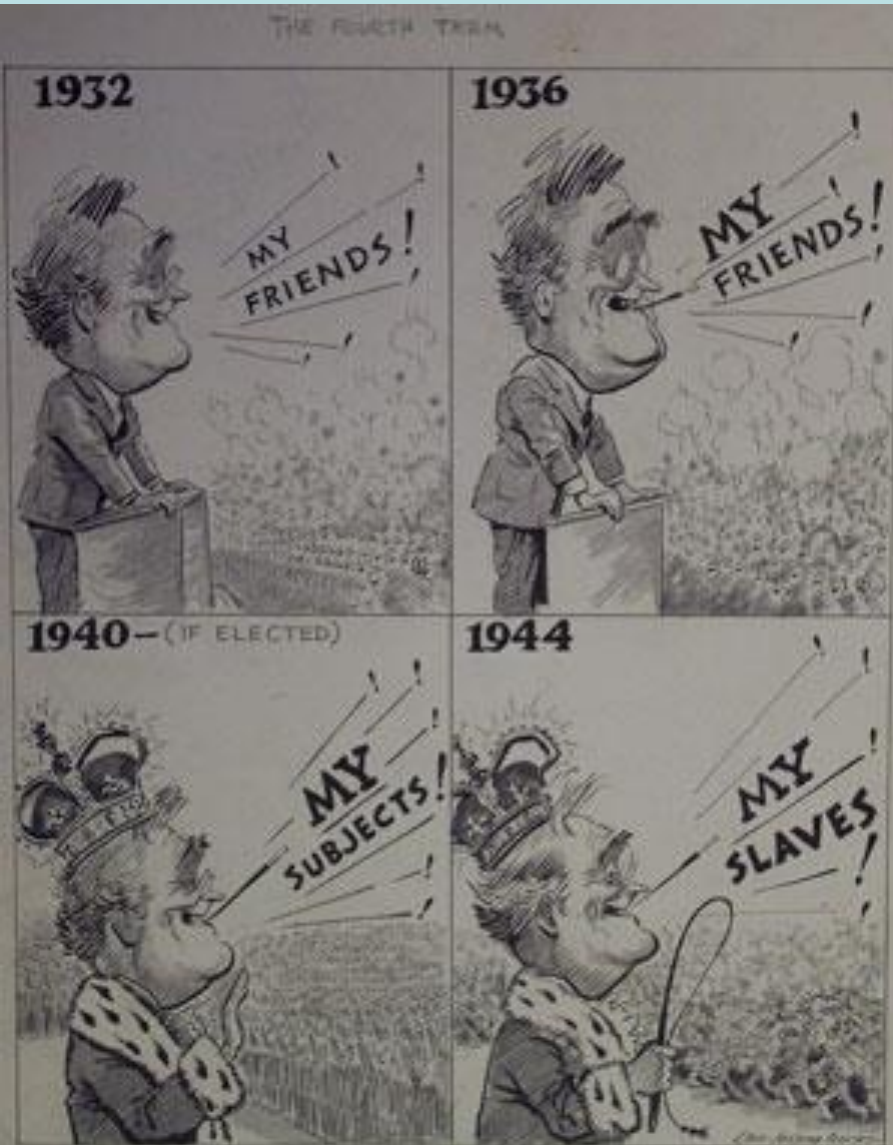
CARRY THIS CARD WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES

D. S. S. Form 2

J.G. Collier
(Registrar must sign here)

A Third Term for FDR

- Breaking tradition, FDR ran for, and won, a third term as President in 1940.



Arsenal of Democracy

- Lend-Lease Act (1941) – allowed sales or loans to “any country whose defense the President deems vital to the defense of the U.S.”

Warsaw 1945: Willys jeep used by Polish Army as part of US Lend-Lease program.



- FDR called on all Americans to defend the “Four Freedoms” (freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear)



* 1941 – Germany launched a surprise attack on the Soviet Union. The U.S. decided to extend Lend-Lease aid to the Soviets as well.

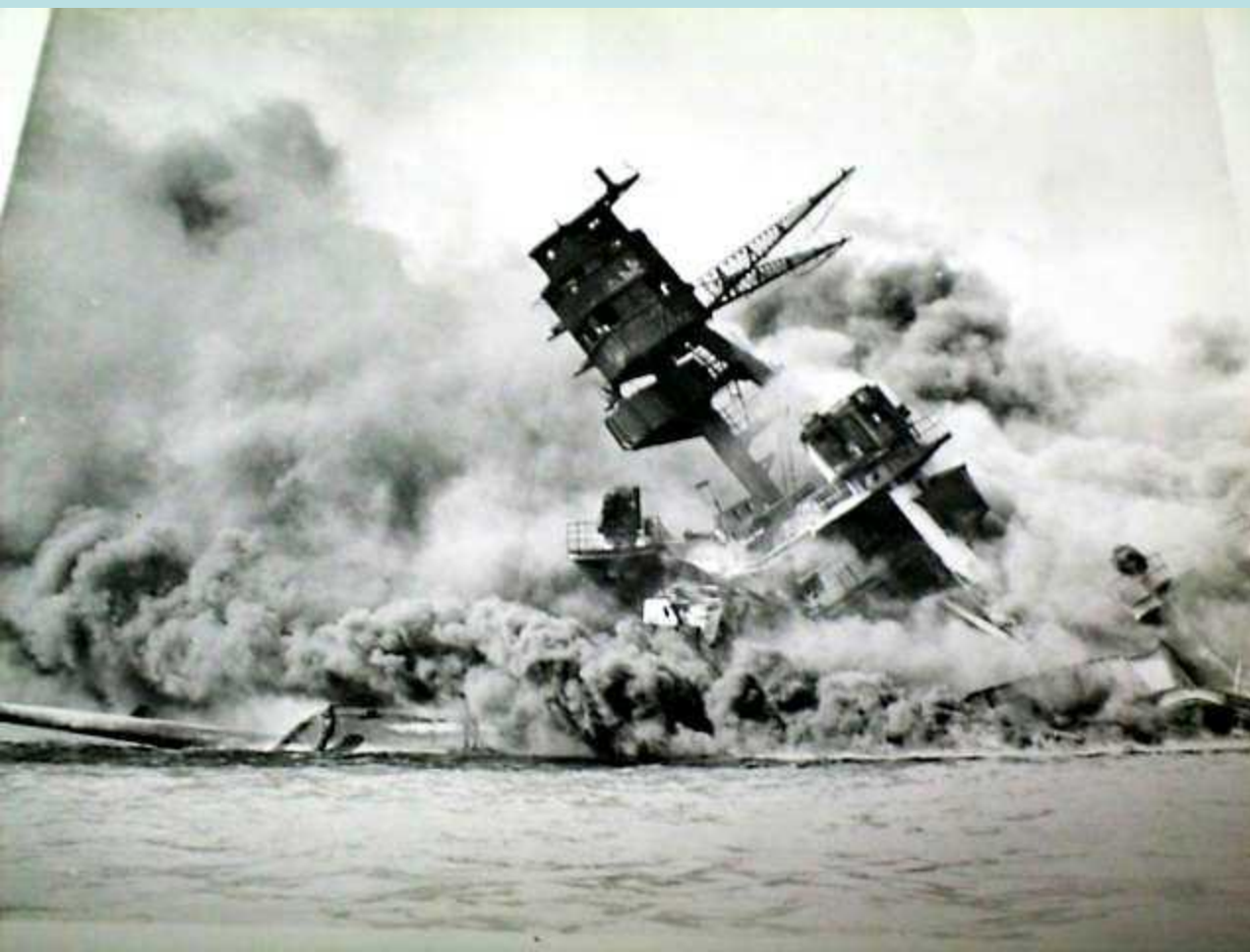
Atlantic Charter – set up by FDR and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in 1941, establishing the goals for the end of the war:

- to seek no territorial gain from the war
- to support all peoples to choose their own form of government
- called for a “permanent system of general security”, such as the League of Nations



Pearl Harbor

- On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- Approximately 2,400 Americans were killed and most the Pacific fleet was destroyed.



* The U.S. declared war on Japan the following day, officially entering World War II.

Address to Congress Requesting a Declaration of War with Japan - December 8, 1941

Mr. Vice President, and Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Yesterday, December 7, 1941 -- a date which will live in infamy -- the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that Nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American Island of Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to our Secretary of State a formal reply to a

recent American message. And while this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or of armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

Last night the Japanese attacked Wake Island. And this morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday and today speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our Nation.

As Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

But always will our whole Nation remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory. I believe that I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces- with the unbounding determination of our people- we will gain the inevitable triumph- so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

*... we here highly resolve that these dead
shall not have died in vain ...*



REMEMBER DEC. 7th!