

The Battle of Britain
July 10-October 31, 1940 A.D. An Air battle between German and British air forces in which the Royal Air Force's successful destruction of several German aircraft caused Hitler to abandon his invasion plans, turning his attention to the bombing of London and other British cities.



WWII in North Africa
1940-1943 A.D.
A series of battles in North Africa over control of the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean Sea. Tanks and aircraft played a major role due to the level coastal terrain. Success shifted back and forth between the Axis and the Allied Powers, until the Allies forced the retreat of the Axis forces.

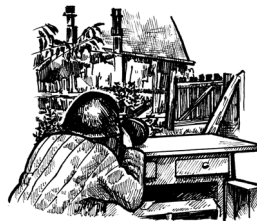


D-Day
June 6, 1944 A.D. During WWII, allied forces invaded German-occupied France with air, sea, and land forces. The campaign's invasion covered five beaches. With General Eisenhower as supreme commander, U.S. forces fought on the western beaches, while British and Canadian troops took the eastern ones. The Allies drove the Germans from France.

Battle of El Alamein
October 23-November 4, 1942 A.D. WWII battle in Egypt that ended with a decisive Allied victory at this strategic location that guarded the approaches to Alexandria. The British Eighth Army, under Montgomery, pushed the German Afrika Korps, a specially trained tank corps under Rommel, back along the African coast, ultimately leading to an Anglo-US victory in North Africa.



Lech Walesa
1943- A.D. Polish trade unionist, statesman, and first president of Poland (1990-95). He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983 for his leadership of the independent trade union Solidarity, enforcing the rights of unions among workers.



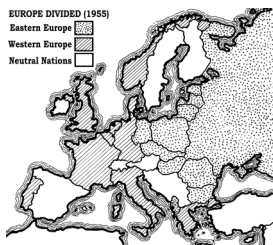
Battle of Stalingrad
1942-1943 A.D. WWII battle in which the Russian stand and counteroffensive, under Zhukov, led to the surrender of the German 6th Army, under Paulus. The Germans lost 200,000 men.



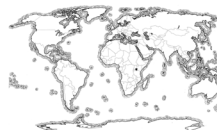
The War in the Pacific
1941-1945 A.D. Beginning with the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Japan invaded many countries throughout the Pacific but was halted by U.S. victories at the battles of the Coral Sea, Midway, and Guadalcanal. The U.S. victory at the Battle of Midway (June 4-7, 1942) allowed U.S. naval forces to begin offensive operations and the recapture of territories.



VE Day (Victory in Europe)
May 8, 1945 A.D.
The day celebrated in Europe marking Germany's surrender and the end of WWII in Europe.



Iron Curtain
1945-1990 A.D. The ideological, military, and political barrier preventing exchange of communication and information between the communistic bloc countries and western Europe after WWII.



United Nations
1945 A.D. An organization that replaced the League of Nations, its goal is to establish international security, peace, and economic growth.



The Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
August 6 & 9, 1945 A.D. The U.S. Air force, flying the *Enola Gay* during WWII, dropped the first atomic bomb ever to be used in war. It devastated the city of Hiroshima, Japan, and within three days, a second a-bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, bringing about their formal surrender on September 2, 1945.



The Cold War
1945-1991 A.D. A war fought politically, economically, and ideologically between the Soviet Union and the U.S. and its allies after WWII. With dangers of nuclear war preventing military involvement, the division from this "Iron Curtain" saw highs and lows of conflict, ending with a joint declaration in 1989 between Mikhail Gorbachov and President Bush. The fall of communism was manifested by the tearing down of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991.