Comprehensive Info #5
Second World War

1938
March: German annexation of Austria (*Anschluss*)
April: Start of systematic "Ayranization" of Jewish businesses
Sept: Munich Conference gives Sudentenland to Germany
Nov: Mass pogroms: "Night of Broken Glass" (*Kristallnacht*) against Jews

1939
March: Germany annexes Czech lands (Bohemia & Moravia), sets up rump Slovakia
Germany annexes the Memel region (Klaipeda) from Lithuania
April: Italian invasion and occupation of Albania
Aug: Nazi-Soviet non-aggression pact
Sept: German invasion of Poland precipitates World War II
Soviet occupation of eastern Poland (western Belorussia & Ukraine)
Oct: German decree subjects Poles to "compulsory public labor"
Nov: Soviet invasion of Finland initiates "Winter War"

1940
March: Finnish surrender to Soviets at Vyborg after formidable resistance
April: German invasion & occupation of Denmark & Norway
May: Germans launch attack against France, enter Paris in June
June: Italy enters the war on Germany's side
USSR annexes Baltic states, Bessarabia & Bukovina
Aug: Germans begin bombing Britain, initiating "Battle of Britain" (until Nov)
Oct: Unsuccessful Italian invasion of Greece
Dec: Hitler issues orders for preparation of Operation Barbarossa (against USSR)

1941
Jan: Romanian General Antonescu crushes fascist Iron Guard; later joins attack on USSR
March: US initiates Lend-Lease (supply of materials to friendly nations)
Creation of *Einsatzgruppen* for murder of communists, Jews, etc.
April: German invasion of the Balkans (Yugoslavia & Greece) to bail out Mussolini
June: German invasion of USSR
Aug: Atlantic Charter between Roosevelt & Churchill
Oct: Beginning of deportation of German Jews to ghettos further east
Nov: First Soviet counteroffensive recaptures Rostov-on-the-Don
Dec: Soviet General Zhukov counterattacks Germans just outside Moscow
Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor brings US into war
(End) Permanent killing centers established for Jews & other "subhumans"

1942
Jan: Wannsee conference articulates idea of mass extermination of European Jews
Military agreement signed between Germany, Italy & Japan
March: Slovakia begins deportation of vast majority of Jews
July: Beginning of the clearing of Polish ghettos (mostly completed by December)
Nov: Germans reach Stalingrad, initiating Battle of Stalingrad
Allied landing in North Africa, campaign against Rommel (Operation TORCH)

1943
Jan: Allies agree to policy of unconditional surrender at Casablanca
Feb: German forces, under Field Marshal Paulus, surrender at Stalingrad
April: Uprising in the Warsaw ghetto (about 50,000 Jews killed)
July: Allied invasion of Italy; Hitler rushes to reinforce Italians
1943
July    Massive tank battle–and Soviet victory–at Kursk (USSR)
Sept   Mussolini deposed and arrested; Italy signs armistice with Allies in Sept
Nov    Teheran Conference: Western allies agree to open 2nd front on 1 May 1944

Josip Broz Tito sets up provisional Yugoslav partisan government at Jajce (Bosnia)

1944
March  Nazis invade Hungary
June   Allies open second front in West with D-Day invasion of Normandy
July   Opening of Bretton Woods conference (leads to IMF & World Bank)

Attempted assassination of Hitler by conservative German generals
Aug    Beginning of Polish Warsaw uprising against Nazis; Warsaw leveled by Nazis (Oct)

Romania switches sides, arrests German forces in the country
Sept   Soviet troops begin advance into Yugoslavia & Hungary

Nazis replace Horthy with Hungarian fascist regime (Arrow Cross)
Dec    German counterattack in West leads to Battle of the Bulge

1945
Feb    Yalta conference, starring Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin
April  Soviet & American soldiers meet on the Elbe river

Mussolini captured by partisans and hung
May    Unconditional German surrender to Allied forces in West and East

US abruptly cuts off lend-lease aid to USSR
July   Potsdam conference, starring Truman, Attlee, & Stalin

European Regimes & Leaders Allied with Nazi Germany:
Benito Mussolini (Italy)          Marshal Philippe Pétain (Vichy France)
Vidkun Quisling (Norway)          General Antonescu (Romania)
Admiral Miklos Horthy (Hungary)   Father Joseph Tiso (Slovakia)
Ante Pavlevec, Ustasha movement (Croatia)

Approximate Numbers of Jews Murdered (by country)

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<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
<td>8,500</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
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<td>USSR</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
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Terms, People, Places Worth Knowing:
Blitzkrieg       "Phony War"                Operation Barbarossa
Vernichtungskrieg "Final Solution"         Vichy France
Generalgouvernement Einsatzgruppen         Siege of Leningrad
Ustasha (Croatia)