

Chronology

OF THE YEAR 1941

COMPILED BY
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DEBUT

The year began with these important events:

- 1-Hitler in a speech predicted "victory in 1941."
- 3-New congress convened, heard President ask "all out" aid for democracies.
- 15-CIO ordered by government to end defense strikes.
- 20-President Roosevelt inaugurated for third term.
- 21-Civil rioting broke out in Rumania signaling beginning of Nazi "putsch" in the Balkans.

THE WAR

- 1-Hitler predicts 1941 victory.
- 4-Italian defense in Albania reported broken.
- 7-Greeks push back crack Italian troops.
- 17-Russian, Rumanian clashes disturb Balkans.
- 21-Rumanian revolt breaks out in Rumania.
- 27-Romanian revolt leaders executed as civil rioting is ended.
- 30-British forces sweep on beyond Derna in Libya.
- Hitler declares all "aid-to-Britain" ships will be torpedoed.

- 7-British empire forces capture Bengasi, last important city in eastern Libya, after 100-mile drive in seven days against fleeing Italians.
- 9-Winston Churchill in world-wide radio broadcast asks U. S. for "tools, not men" to defeat Axis powers.
- Admiral Darlan named vice premier and foreign minister of France as Laval loses out.
- 10-Great Britain breaks diplomatic ties with Rumania.
- 11-Russia reported to have okayed Nazi troops into Bulgaria.
- Nazis fly army to Balkans.
- 16-Britain mines Singapore sea lanes.
- 17-Japan offers immediate European war.
- 21-Nazi troops enter Spain (small detachment).
- Nazi troops massed near Bulgaria.
- 22-Nazi army units reported 60 miles inside Bulgaria.
- 26-Antony Eden reaches Turkey for war talks.

- 7-Bulgaria joins Axis. German troops enter that nation.
- Turkey closes Dardanelles as Nazis push through Bulgaria to Greek and Turkish frontiers.
- 12-British rush aid to Greece.
- 13-British smash at Berlin for first time since December 20, 1940.
- 20-Crown council of Yugoslavia approves program of passive alliance with Axis; Serbia answers, three ministers quit in protest.
- 27-Boy King Peter takes Yugoslav throne as Axis rule is ended in bloodless coup d'etat.

- 3-Bengasi, eastern Libyan capital, taken from British by Nazis and Italians.
- Germany declares war on Yugoslavia and Greece. Invasion starts.
- Adolf Hitler signs Axis neutrality pact.
- 13-Japan and Russia sign neutrality pact.
- 14-Worst bombing of all time hits London.
- Jugoslav army collapses.
- 19-Greece announces suicide of Premier Koziris. King George heads new government.
- British troops land in Iraq to guard vital oil supplies.
- 23-Nazis crack both ends of Allied defense line in Greece and reach history-famed Thermopylae pass.
- 27-Nazi advance guard enters Athens.

- 1-Iraq protests landing of British forces to protect oil fields.
- 2-Iraq forces fight British, shell important airport.
- 3-British troops out of Greece enter African battle.
- 6-British regain control of Iraq oil pipeline.
- Stalin takes U.S.S.R. premiership.
- 12-Rudolf Hess flies Germany and lands in England.
- 13-Marshall Petain of France agrees to closer co-operation with Germany.
- 20-Duke of Austria and main Italian force in Ethiopia surrender to British.
- Largest warship afloat, Britain's 42,000-ton Hood, is sunk by new 35,000-ton German battleship Bismarck.
- British navy sinks battleship Bismarck after thrilling sea battle.

- 5-German forces reported in Syria.
- 8-British and Free French forces invade Syria.
- 10-U. S. freighter Robin Moor reported sunk by Nazi U-boat in mid-Atlantic.
- 12-Turkey and Germany sign friendship pact.
- 21-British and Free French in Syria take Damascus.
- 22-Germany attacks Russia.
- 23-Brest-Litovsk, Vilna, Kaunas, Dvinsk and Lwow fall to Nazis as Russians hold on north and south fronts.

- 1-Stalin orders "scorched-earth" policy for Russia as Germans advance.
- 8-Britain halts U. S. occupation of Iceland.
- 10-Soviet claims sea victory over Nazis.
- 11-Russia-England sign mutual aid pact.
- Armistice signed in Syria.
- 16-Japanese form new cabinet under Prince Konoye.
- 23-Vichy France accepts Japan's demand for military control of French Indo-China.
- 25-Japan's assets frozen by U. S. and Britain.
- 26-Finnish government breaks relations with Britain.

- 1-First Russian air raids on Berlin.
- 1-Russia admits Nazi gains in Kiev and Leningrad sectors.
- 14-Winston Churchill and President Roosevelt meet at sea and issue eight-point declaration of peace aims.

EIGHT POINTS

- 16-Soviet agrees to conference of Russia, Britain and U. S.
- 24-Russo-British troops invade Iran.
- 29-Hitler and Mussolini end conference on "eastern front."

HIGH COURT CHANGES

- 1-President Roosevelt calls on U. S. to crush Axis power.
- 4-Nazis claim Russia thwarted on Black Sea.
- 7-American freighter Seafarer bombed and sunk in Red Sea.
- 19-Nazis report fall of Kiev.
- 24-Anglo-American peace aims and post-war food plan approved by 11 Allied governments in London.
- 27-Guerrilla fighting causes Nazis to send three divisions to Serbia.
- 29-British-U. S. commission for aid to Russia opens in Moscow.

SEPTEMBER

- 1-Executions reported curbing anti-Nazi uprisings throughout Europe.
- 10-Russians admit troops are falling back toward Moscow.
- 12-Women and children ordered to leave Moscow.
- 16-Japanese cabinet falls and is replaced by one of "warlike" members.
- 17-Part of government evacuates Moscow.
- 21-Russians hurl back attacks on Moscow front.
- Fifty Frenchmen ordered executed for slaying of Nazi army official in France.
- 25-Nazis report fall of important Russian city of Kharkov.

OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

- 3-U. S. warns Finland to cease fighting Reds.
- 8-Boats will fire on U. S. ships, says Hitler.
- British lose 52 planes in sweeping continent raids.
- 12-Finns reject U. S. plea to make peace with Russia.
- 13-British aircraft carrier Ark Royal sunk by torpedoes.
- 20-Nazis launch new surprise offensive in Libya.
- 26-Nazis break through to flank Moscow.
- Axis troops sink British Libyan drive.
- Russian recapture important city of Rostov.

DECEMBER

- 1-Petain meets Goering for collaboration talk.
- 1-Italy bares big revolt plan; attempt to kill Mussolini fails.
- Serbian guerrillas create "new front" in conquered Yugoslavia.
- Britain declares war on Finland, Hungary and Rumania.
- President Roosevelt announced he had personally dispatched peace plea to emperor of Japan.
- Japan launches devastating surprise attack on Hawaii and Philippines; follows this with declaration of war on U. S.
- U. S. declares war on Japan, as does Great Britain.
- Germany give up winter attempt to win Moscow.
- 9-Japanese planes reported over San Francisco bay; "Mitsubishi" alarms in Manila; Manila bombed; Japs claim capture of Guam.
- 10-British admit loss of warships Prince of Wales and Repulse off Malaya.
- 11-Germany, Italy declare war on U. S. and congress votes declaration against them within four hours after news is received.
- U. S. army bombers sink 20,000-ton Jap battleship Haruna.
- 13-Dutch announce sinking of four Japan transports; 1,000 lives lost.
- 15-Russ report Nazis smashed from Baltic to Black Sea.
- U. S. destroys 26 Jap planes in smashing Philippine landing attempt.
- Adm. Kimmel, commander of Pacific fleet, and two top ranking army officers in Hawaii removed as aftermath of Pearl Harbor losses.
- 19-Japanese effect landing at Hong Kong.

DOMESTIC

- 3-New congress opens, seventy-seventh.
- President asks "all out" aid to democracies in message to new congress.
- 15-U. S. orders C.I.O. to end strikes in defense plants.
- 20-President Roosevelt inaugurated for third term.
- Justice McReynolds resigns from U. S. Supreme court.
- President Roosevelt's British ambassador in precedent-breaking greeting off U. S. coast.

FEBRUARY

- 3-U. S. Supreme court upholds wage-hour law.
- House passes lease-lend bill, 260-165.
- Wendell Wilkie reaches U. S. after inspection trip to British island; U. S. aid to Britain.
- C.I.O. votes strike at four Bethlehem Steel plants.
- Bethlehem Steel strike ended.

MARCH

- 1-C.I.O. strike shuts Chicago plant of International Harvester.
- Soft coal miners under John L. Lewis open wage parley in New York with operators.
- President Roosevelt signs lease-lend bill and flow of arms abroad begins.
- North Carolina, 35,000-ton battleship, joins U. S. fleet. First dreadnaught completed for navy in 18 years.
- F. D. I. orders large increase in production of heavy bombers.
- Allis-Chalmers strike definitely settled by mediation.
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APRIL

- 1-United Mine Workers of America begin soft coal strike.
- C.I.O. calls strike in huge Ford Motor company River Rouge plant; 85,000 affected. Plant closed.
- Scores hurt in bloody skirmishes at strike-closed Ford plant in Detroit.
- Ford closes 44 assembly plants and factories.
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MAY

- 1-Treasury opens defense bond selling drive.
- President calls for 24-hour, seven-day week in defense industries.
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TEN BIGGEST EVENTS OF 1941

- 1-Adoption of the lease-lend law. The Roosevelt-Churchill meeting at sea.
- 2-The President's shoot-on-sight order.
- 3-The inauguration of a President for a third term.
- 4-German invasion of Russia.
- 5-Failure by Germany to achieve its objective: destruction of the Red army.
- 6-Revision of the neutrality law.
- 7-Sending of American troops to Iceland.
- 8-U. S. war with Japan, Germany, Italy.
- 9-Defeat of rigid price control by farm-labor coalition.

JUNE

- 1-Market quota restrictions on wheat approved by over 80 per cent of farmers in nation.
- 2-Grant of army plane production tied up as C.I.O. workers strike at the North American Aviation company in California.
- 9-Army takes over strike-bound North American aviation plant at Ingleside on orders of F. D. I.
- 12-Justice Harlan Fiske Stone made chief justice of Supreme court as Robert Jackson and Sen. James Byrnes get high court posts.
- 14-President Roosevelt "freezes" all Nazi and Italian assets.
- 16-U. S. orders Nazi consulates to close.
- 20-Thirty-three die in sinking of U. S. Army transport.
- 22-U. S. state department condemns Nazi attack on Russia.
- 28-Giant B-19 successfully completes first test hop.

JULY

- 1-Men who reached the age of 21 since October 16, 1940, register for the draft.
- 7-President Roosevelt informs congress that U. S. armed forces have occupied Iceland.
- 15-Grand jury names German reich in indicting 33 as spies.
- 17-President's second extended draft lottery.
- 21-Nation's second peacetime draft lottery.
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AUGUST

- 1-Oil shipments to Japan banned.
- C.I.O. calls strike at huge Kearny, N. J., shipyards.
- 7-Senate passes act extending draft term by 18 months.
- OPM puts steel under full priority control.
- Installation buying curbed to check inflation trend.
- House passed draft extension bill.
- Gas rationing ordered for eastern states.
- President returns to U. S. after historic state meeting with Winston Churchill.
- Strike at Kearny, N. J., shipyards ends as navy takes over.

SEPTEMBER

- 1-Senate passes largest tax bill in U. S. history.
- 11-President orders U. S. navy to shoot at Axis ships sighted in "defensive" waters.
- 18-Congress gets new request for \$6,000,000 in new ships.
- 20-President signs 3 1/2-billion-dollar record defense bill.
- Duke and duchess of Windsor visit Washington, D. C.

OCTOBER

- 1-Increased taxes on many commodities become effective.
- George Hopkins, parachutist, rescued from top of Devils Tower, Wyo., after six days.
- Navy reports seizing Nazi radio stations in Cuba and Greenland.
- U. S. destroyer Kearny torpedoed with loss of 11 lives while on patrol duty off Greenland.
- Government announces sinking of two U. S. ships: Lehigh, flying U. S. flag off Africa; and Bold Venture, Panamanian flag off Iceland. All hands saved.
- Paralyzing sales ban in eastern states lifted.
- "We're at battle stations" and "the show has started" keynote President's Navy day address.
- Strike of 53,000 miners in "captive" coal fields broken by 14-day truce agreement after five days.
- President signs order permitting arming of U. S. merchant ships.
- Lewis calls off captive coal mine strike agreeing to mediation.
- House votes 5-man price control board after defeating plan for one-man rigid control.
- C.I.O. strike against Ford Motor company is settled.
- Price of steel is frozen at current 1941 level.
- Charles A. Lindbergh resigns commission as colonel in U. S. air corps to reserve. Aftermath of dispute with F. D. I. Soft coal strike settled.

NOVEMBER

- 1-U. S. coast guard transferred to navy control.
- House completes congressional action on neutrality act allowing merchant (armed) ships to sail through war zones.
- Captive coal miners again out on strike.
- President signs order permitting arming of U. S. merchant ships.
- Lewis calls off captive coal mine strike agreeing to mediation.
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DECEMBER

- 1-Rail strike averted by wage boost.
- Dies committee identifies 34 Reds as C.I.O. officials; 20 with crime records.
- Price workers win union shop in captive coal mines.
- President calls for seven-day week and all-out effort in defense industry "Victory drive."
- America's first Committee disbands.
- Fourteen convicted in New York as Nazi spies.
- Navy Secretary Knox issues report on losses at Pearl Harbor.
- President names Justice Roberts head of Pearl Harbor inquiry board.
- Laura Ingalls famous woman fier, seized by U. S. as German agent.

FOREIGN

- 1-Two U. S.-Canadian reciprocal air lines approved.
- Ecuador rounds up leftists after riot.
- Thailand and Indo-China seek peace terms.
- Economic conference proposes "free trade" for Latin-American nations.

FEBRUARY

- 4-President Batista of Cuba assumes command of army to nip "plot."
- 6-U. S. and Mexico reach comprehensive "good neighbor" agreement.
- 17-Wives and children of American army officers leave Philippines.
- 23-Chiang regime calls on Chinese Reds to renew support.
- 24-Russia and U. S. renew trade discussions.

MARCH

- 5-U. S. and Mexico finish negotiation on mutual assistance pact.
- King Carol of Rumania flees Spain for Portugal.
- 6-Japs invade South China along 250-mile coast.
- Italian diplomats in U. S. are restricted in movements and Detroit and Newark Italian consulates closed by state department.
- 23-Turkish diplomatic sources reveal that Russia has promised aid to Turkey if forced to fight Germany.

APRIL

- 1-Mexico and U. S. sign treaty to share air bases.
- 2-Request by Axis powers to surrender agreed for unified utilization of 100 idle foreign flag ships in American ports.
- 3-Ex-King Carol and Magda sail for Cuba from London.
- 17-British parliament votes to dissolve union with Denmark; becomes republic.
- 18-Egyptian steamer Zamzam sunk in south Atlantic with 120 Americans aboard.
- 21-Brazil refuses France's request to resume air service to Dakar.
- 20-Germany, Italy, permit France to build continental air force.

JUNE

- 1-Pope Pius XII defends the rights of man against extensive state interference in a radio address.
- 4-Four thousand Chinese suffocate in chugging air raid shelter.
- 16-Breitan cabinet resigns.
- 15-Six Danish ships taken over by U. S.
- 16-Latin-American nations asked to ban Axis consuls ousted from U. S.

JULY

- 1-China breaks diplomatic ties with Germany and Italy.
- 7-Outbreak of military clash between Peru and Ecuador is reported.
- 12-Peru claims fresh attacks by Ecuador.
- 17-U. S. "blacklists" 1,800 Latin Americans against Axis affiliations. Embargo placed on their goods.
- 19-Bolivia squelches Nazi putsch. Ousts German cabinet resigns.
- 24-Argentine government asks Peru and Ecuador to end dispute.

AUGUST

- 6-Costa Rica suspends all Nazi business in country.
- 9-Argentina jails Nazi suspects and nips alleged plot to overthrow government.
- 28-American republics agree to use all foreign owned ships seized in ports.

SEPTEMBER

- 1-Mexico's President Camacho pledges co-operation for hemisphere defense.
- 18-Washington announces Peru, Chile, Bolivia and Argentina end new agreements in economic war on Axis.
- 23-Four slain as Mexicans riot at president's home.
- 24-Argentina moves quickly to nip plotted coup.
- 25-Three hundred more firms in Latin America go on U. S. blacklist against Axis.

OCTOBER

- 9-Arnulfo Arias arrives in Cuba after coup which ousted him as president of Panama. Replaced by regime more favorable to U. S.
- 11-Japan and U. S. agree on plan for bringing U. S. citizens home from Orient in Japanese ships.
- 14-Argentina and U. S. sign trade pact cutting various tariffs.
- 20-Panama approves arming of merchant ships carrying her flag. Many U. S. ships on Panama registry since war began.

NOVEMBER

- 6-U. S. makes billion dollars in lease-lend available to Russia.
- 10-Burchill pledges immediate aid if U. S. is forced to fight Japan.
- 14-U. S. marines withdrawn from China.
- 17-Saburo Kurusu, Japan's special envoy to U. S., begins "peace talks" in Washington.
- 24-U. S. troops ordered to Dutch Guiana. Brazil and Argentina back move.
- 27-U. S. S. Messersmith, career diplomat, named U. S. ambassador to Mexico.
- 28-U. S. gives Japan "peace" formula for Far East.

DECEMBER

- 2-President asks Japan for explanation of troop moves into Indo-China.
- 7-Cuba and Nicaragua declare war on Japan.
- 11-Cuba and Dominican Republic join in war on Axis.
- 12-U. S. seizes 11 French ships.
- 13-Five hundred persons killed in Peru landslide.
- 15-Turkey notifies U. S. it will remain neutral.
- 18-Martinez and United States reach naval accord.

NAZI-SOVIET WAR

- 8-Joe Louis stops Tony Musto in ninth round of heavyweight battle.
- Buddy Baer TKO over Tony Galento in seventh round of heavyweight battle.
- 12-Joe Platak wins national handball championship for seventh consecutive year.
- Boston Bruins win Stanley cup hockey championship, beating Detroit Red Wings.
- 14-Major league baseball season opens with Yankee-Senator game.
- New England syndicate, led by Bob Quinn, buys control of Boston National league baseball club.

MAY

- Whirlaway wins Kentucky Derby, setting new Derby and track record of 2:01 2/5.
- Hank Greenberg, star Detroit baseball player, inducted into army.
- Billy Sease wins world middleweight championship over Ken Overlin.
- Joe Louis beats Buddy Baer with TKO in seventh.
- Mauri Rose of Indianapolis wins 800-mile automobile speedway classic.

JUNE

- 2-Fred Perry, former English Davis cup star, wins national professional tennis singles title.
- Craig Wood wins National Open golf championship.
- 14-Patty Berg wins Women's Open golf championship.
- 18-Joe Louis knocks out Billy Conn in 13th round of heavyweight battle.
- 22-Frankie Parker and Pauline Betz win national clay court singles tennis title in seventh.
- 25-Washington university rowing crew wins Poughkeepsie championship.

JULY

- 2-Joe DiMaggio sets all time major league batting record by hitting safely in forty-five consecutive games.
- 6-American league wins All-Star game at Detroit 7-5.
- 13-Vic Ghezzi wins P.G.A. golfing championship.
- 17-Joe DiMaggio's hitting streak stopped by Ted Williams.
- 20-Fredrick Cochrane wins welterweight title from Fritz Zivic.

AUGUST

- 6-Bill Gallon wins Hambleton, trotting classic.
- 9-Bobby Sneed wins Canadian Open golf championship.
- 10-Hawaiian island swimming team wins A.A.U. national championships.
- 30-Marvin ("Bud") Ward wins U. S. amateur golfing crown.
- Leon Warren, Canada's veteran right hander, pitches no-hitter against Reds.

SEPTEMBER

- 4-Yankees clinch American league pennant.
- Bobby Riggs wins national tennis championship.
- 25-Brooklyn Dodgers clinch 1941 National league pennant.
- 26-Joe Louis defends title by TKO in sixth round with Lou Nova.

OCTOBER

- 6-Yankees win World Series over Brooklyn Dodgers, four games out of five.
- Afred Robertson, famous jockey, rides six winners out of seven races in single day \$2 parlay would have won over \$4,000.
- Ten million, two hundred fifty thousand fans saw major league baseball games in past season, officials announce.

NOVEMBER

- 4-Dolph Camilli, Dodgers, named National league's most valuable player.
- 11-Joe DiMaggio, Yankees, named American league's most valuable player.
- 17-Bob Zuppke resigns as Illinois football coach after 29 years.
- 23-Lou Boudreau, 24 years old, named manager of Cleveland Indians.
- Tony Zale wins middleweight championship over George Abrams.

DECEMBER

- 2-Mel Ott signed as manager of New York Giants.
- Whirlaway voted "Horse of the Year."
- Cleveland pitcher, Bob Feller, enlists in navy.
- 5-Set of Rose Bowl football classics for January 1 shifted to Durham, N. C., for Duke-Oregon State game.

DEATHS

- 11-Radio and picture comedian Joe Penner.
- 20-Dame Margaret Lloyd George, wife of British statesman.
- 29-John Mexias, "strong man" statesman of Greece.

SPORTS

- 1-William Gibbs McAdoo, World war secretary of treasury.
- 12-Dr. Annie Jump Cannon, famous woman astronomer.
- 27-Maurice L. Rothschild, outstanding U. S. merchant.

WAR ON JAPAN GERMANY ITALY



SURPRISE ATTACK ON HAWAII



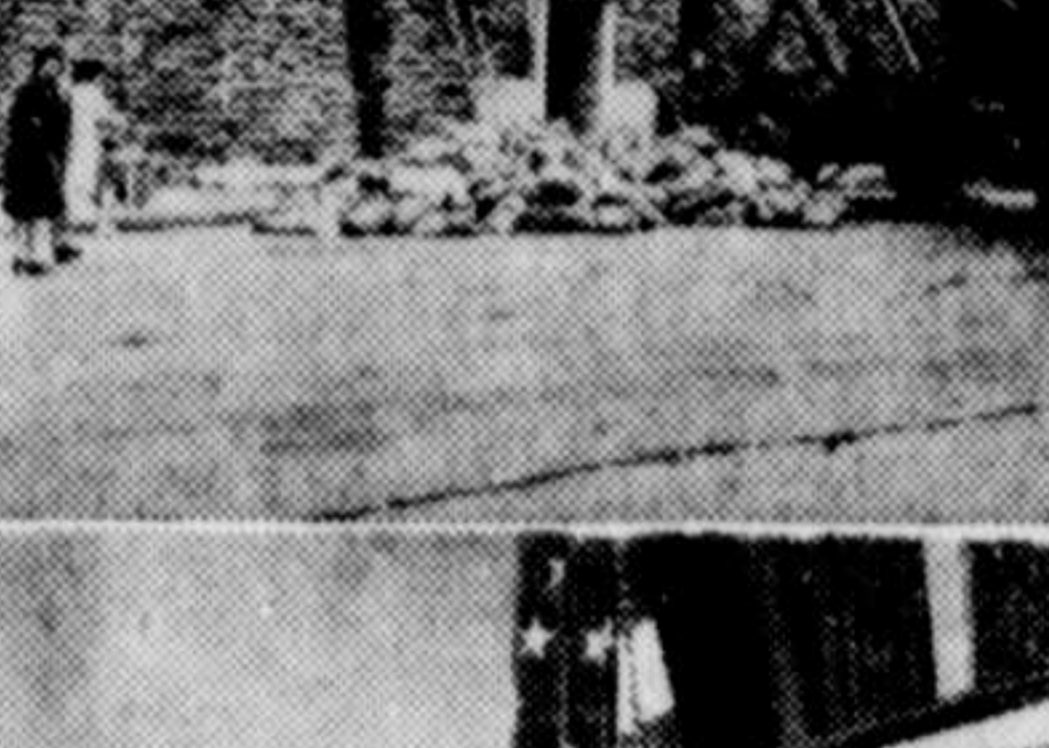
... AND MANILA



TO BOMB SHELTER



AIR RAID WARNINGS ON BOTH COASTS



BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS



NEUTRALITY ACT REVISED



FINIS

The year drew to a close with these important events:

December

- 7-Japanese attack on U. S. is followed by declaration of war.
- 8-U. S. and Great Britain declare war on Japan. Nazis give up winter attempt to take Moscow.
- 11-Germany, Italy declare war on U. S. . . . Congress answers this in four hours, recognizing state of war.
- 15-Germans smashed from Baltic to Black sea—Russian claim.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)