

# World War II Personalities<sup>1</sup>

**Work in  
Progress**

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## **Alexander, Field Marshal Sir Harold**

British general during Dunkirk evacuation, commander in Burma and Middle East, Eisenhower's deputy in North Africa, Allied commander in chief in Italy campaign.

[More ...](#)

## **Aquino, Iva d' ("Tokyo Rose")**

Japanese American who broadcast from Tokyo to American troops in the Pacific; was convicted of treason and jailed after the war. [More ...](#)

## **Anderson, John**

British politician responsible for the Anderson Shelter, a small, cheap air-raid shelter for people's gardens. By the time of The Blitz, over 2.5 million shelters had been installed. [More ...](#)

## **Arnold, General of the Army Henry H. "Hap"**

Commanding General, US Army Air Forces during the war; helped formulate plans for strategic bombing of Germany; believed that formations of well-armed bombers could "get through" without fighter escort and, thus, delayed the development of a long range fighter escort. [More ...](#)

## **Attlee, Clement**

Head of Britain's Labour party, member of Churchill's War Cabinet, deputy Prime Minister, and Prime Minister (1945-1951); replaced Churchill at Potsdam Conference. [More ...](#)

## **Auchinleck, General Sir Claude**

British commander of futile Norwegian (Narvik) campaign in 1940; received North African command in 1941 but was replaced in 1942 after repeated defeats by Rommel; became command in chief in India (1943). [More ...](#)

## **Arnim, General Jurgen von**

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<sup>1</sup> Some material as per "WWII Chronology With Notes on The Leading Personalities", Heritage Publishing, 1966. Hyperlinks are primarily to Spartacus Educational site (UK) or Wikipedia

Commanded 5<sup>th</sup> Panzer Army sent Tunisia in support of Rommel; succeeded Rommel in March 1943; captured in May 1943 (second highest ranking German POW after Hess). [More ...](#)

### **Atkins, William Maxwell (“Max”) (Lord Beaverbrook)**

Recruited by Churchill into cabinet and served as Minister for Aircraft Production (1940-41) where he streamlined production of new aircraft and of repair of damaged aircraft, Minister of Supply (1941-2), Minister of War Production (1942), and Lord Privy Seal (1943-45); [More...](#)

“Axis Ally” (see [Gillars, Mildred](#))

### **Badoglio, Marshal Pietro**

Italian general, conquered Ethiopia (1935-36), commanded Italian forces in WW2, supplanted Mussolini as Premier of Italy in 1943; surrendered to Allies (9-Sep-1943) and then made war on Germany. [More ...](#)

### **Balbo, Italo**

Italian aviator and politician; led the fascist Blackshirts in the March on Rome (1922) and served under Benito Mussolini as general of militia (1923) and air minister (1929 – 33); developed Italian military and commercial aviation and became famous for promoting mass international flights to demonstrate Italy's air power (balbo is became a general term for a large formation of aircraft); was appointed governor of Libya in 1933 and died when his plane was accidentally shot down by Italian guns over Tobruk. [More...](#)

### **Baldwin, Stanley**

British conservative politician and Prime Minister (1923-24, 1924-29, 1935-37). Baldwin's 3<sup>rd</sup> and last term a PM was fraught with the problems of balancing a need for rearmament (against the increasingly aggressive Hitler) with a nation desiring peace and a Labour Party (opposition party) adamantly against rearmament. Baldwin sought peace – even appeasement – as an alternative to an arms race leading to war and has been charged with keeping much of parliament and the British public in the dark. An outspoken critic of Churchill; yet Baldwin acknowledged that if war came, Churchill was the right man to be a war time PM. [More ...](#)

### **Ba Maw**

Burmese premier (1937 – 9), head of state (1943 – 5) [More...](#)

### **Bao Dai**

Emperor of Vietnam [More...](#)

**Lord Beaverbrook** (see [Max Atkins](#))

**Baruch, Bernard**

Financier and Presidential advisor in both WW1 and WW2; advocated complete control of critical war industries including materials and labor; [More...](#)

**Beck, General Ludwig**

German Chief of General Staff (1935-38); early opponent of Hitler's policies, plotted to get England to intervene militarily if Germany invaded Czechoslovakia, replaced by Halder in 1938; intimately involved in 1944 plot to assassinate Hitler. [More ...](#)

**Bellinger, Vice Admiral Patrick**

As commander of Patrol Wing 2 based in Honolulu, he was the senior Naval Air Commander present during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor when the Japanese launched their "day of infamy" attack on December 7, 1941. and sent out the first radio alert: "Air raid. Pearl Harbor - this is no drill." [More...](#)

**Benes, Eduard**

President of Czechoslovakia, resigned when Germany occupied the Sudetenland in 1938; headed Czech government-in-exile during the war, became President again in 1946, and resigned after Communist coup in Prague in 1948. [More ...](#)

**Ben-Gurion, David**

Jewish/Israeli leader from 1930s through 1960s; encouraged Jewish support of British during WW2

**Beria, Lavrenti**

One of original Bolsheviks; involved in military purges of late 1930s; NKVD head (1940-??); deputy prime minister (1941-??) [More...](#)

**Bevan, Aneurin**

Member of British Parliament and editor of Tribune; vocal opponent of appeasement, critic of Neville Chamberlain, and early backer of Winston Churchill replacing Chamberlain. [More ...](#)

**Bevin, Ernest**

Minister of Labour under Churchill; successfully mobilized Britain's workforce and became one of the most significant members of Churchill's war cabinet. [More...](#)

### **Blamey, General Thomas**

Commanded Australian forces in North Africa and Greece until early 1942; commander of Australian army (1942+) [More...](#)

### **Bloch, Admiral Claude**

Commanded the Fourteenth Naval District at Pearl Harbor at the time of the attack. [More...](#)

### **Bloomberg, Field Marshal Werner**

Minister of war and commander in chief of the German Army (1935); originated idea for all German soldiers to pledge an oath of personal loyalty to Hitler; Hitler's first field marshal. Resigned in 1938 during (baseless) sex scandal originated by Goering [More ...](#)

### **Blum, Leon**

Left-leaning French politician; two time French premier( one month in 1936, one month in 1938); pro French and anti-Vichy, he was tried in February, 1942, for betraying his country. He was handed over to the Germans who held him prisoner until 1945. [More...](#)

### **Bock, Field Marshal Fedor von**

Commanded German forces in Poland and France; commanded Central Army Group in invasion of Russia where he was relieved for failure to take Moscow; was shifted to the south in 1942; relieved a second time, he retired; was killed in an air raid in 1945. [More ...](#)

### **Bong, Major Richard**

Highest scoring US air ace with at least 40 kills over a 3 year period; most of Bong's victories were in the earlier stages of the war against very experienced Japanese pilots. [More...](#)

### **King Boris III**

Tsar of Bulgaria (1918-1943); attempted to steer a neutral course as Germany expanded; under great pressure joined Axis in 1941; resisted German demands to extradite Bulgaria's 50,000 Jews; refused to declare war on Soviet Union; suffered fatal heart attack in Aug 1943 after intense meeting with and chewing out by Hitler. [More...](#)

### **Bormann, Martin**

Nazi leader who replaced Hess as deputy Fuhrer in 1941 (when Hess flew to England); disappeared during Battle of Berlin (1945); was reported dead but was tried in absentia and sentenced to death by Allied Tribunal in Nuremberg. [More ...](#)

### **Bradley, General Omar**

Commanded US II Corps in Tunisia and Sicily, commanded US First Army on D-Day and Twelfth Army Group across Europe; superior strategist and tactician and one of the most outstanding generals of the war. [More ...](#)

### **Brauchitsch, Field Marshal (Heinrich Alfred Hermann) Walther von**

Commander in chief of Germany Army; planned invasion of Poland, France, and Soviet Union; resigned and was succeeded by Hitler himself after failures in the Russian campaign; died in a British prison in 1948. [More ...](#)

### **Braun, Eva**

Hitler's mistress for 12 years; he married her just before both committed suicide in his bunker in 1945. [More ...](#)

### **Braun, Werner von**

German rocket expert who helped develop V-1 and V-2; was captured by Americans and became a top figure in the US space program. [More ...](#)

### **Brooke, Field Marshal Sir Alan Francis**

Served in France, took part in Dunkirk evacuation, became chief of the Imperial General Staff in 1941; was disappointed when not assigned Overlord command (which went to Eisenhower) . [More ...](#)

### **Broz, Josip (Tito)**

Communist leader of Yugoslav partisans who fought successful guerrilla war against Germany; became dictator of Yugoslavia after the war. [More ...](#)

### **Buckner, General Simon**

Directed defense of Alaska; commanded Okinawa invasion force (April 1945); killed in action, June 1945 (highest ranking field commander killed in action during WW2). [More...](#)

### **Budyonny, Marshal Semyon**

Old Bolshevik who commanded southwestern Russian front in 1941; was replaced after disastrous Germany breakthrough into the Ukraine. [More ...](#)

### **Bulganin, Nickolay**

Deputy Premier of Soviet Union (1938-41), member of Stalin's war cabinet and chairman of State Defense Committee [More...](#)

### **Burke, Admiral Arleigh**

Destroyer squadron commander notorious for pushing his ships to the limit ... He was aboard both USS *Bunker Hill* (CV-17) and USS *Enterprise* (CV-6) when they were hit by Japanese kamikaze aircraft during the Okinawa campaign. [More...](#)

### **Bush, Vannevar**

American physicist; name directory of Office of Scientific Research and Development in 1941 to mobilize American science for war. [More ...](#)

### **Byrnes, James**

American jurist and statesman who served on Economic Stabilization and War Mobilization Boards before becoming Secretary of State (1945-47); was a presidential consultant at Yalta and Potsdam and opposed letting Japanese set any conditions before surrendering. [More ...](#)

### **Camm, Sydney**

British aircraft designer who designed the Hawker Hurricane, Hawker Typhoon and Hawker Tempest; although the Spitfire is more famous, there were far more Hurricanes involved in The Battle of Britain and Hurricanes shoot down far more German planes; 14,100 Hurricanes were built. [More...](#)

### **Canaris, Admiral William**

Head of Abwehr (German Intelligence Agency) from 1931 to 1945; persuaded Hitler to support fascists in Spain; constantly at odds with Himmler and Heydrich; implicated in July '44 plot and executed in April 1945. [More...](#) [Even More ...](#)

### **Carlson, Brigadier General Evans**

Commanded (US Marine Corp) 2<sup>nd</sup> Raider Battalion (Carlson's Raiders). Credited with coining the phrase "Gung Ho". [More...](#)

### **Chamberlain, Neville**

British Prime Minister whose appeasement of Hitler at Munich in 1938 helped bring on war; resigned after vote of no confidence following military disaster in Norway but remained in Churchill Cabinet for several months before his death (November, 1940). [More ...](#)

### **Chennault, Major General Claire**

American airman who formed flying Tigers, volunteer air group, in 1941 to aid China commanded US Fourteenth Air Force in China (1942-45). [More ...](#)

### **Chiang Kai-shek**

President of Chinese Republic; fought Japanese (1937-41), became partner of the Allies in the war against Japan after Pearl Harbor; supreme commander of China war theater. [More ...](#)

### **Chiang, Madame**

Wife of Chiang Kai-shek; carried out diplomatic missions in the West; was a popular figure on U.S. visits during and after war. [More...](#)

### **Cho En Lai (Zhou Enlai)**

Early Chinese communist; with Mao and others, led the “Long March” in 1934/35; spent the Sino-Japanese War as CCP ambassador to Chiang's wartime government in Chongqing and took part in the failed negotiations following World War II. [More...](#)

### **Choltitz, General Dietrich von**

Commander of German forces in Paris after Allied invasion of France; disobeyed Hitler's order to devastate the city before surrendering. [More...](#)

### **Chuikov, Lt General Vasily**

Commander of 64<sup>th</sup> Russian Army at Stalingrad; devised tactics to offset superior German firepower and air support [More...](#)

### **Churchill, Winston**

Britain's wartime Prime Minister and possibly the century's greatest personality; became First Lord of the Admiralty in 1939; took over from Chamberlain in the midst of the 1940 disaster and conducted a lone struggle with Hitler until joined by Stalin and later Roosevelt as Axis aggression expanded; was loyal to his two colleagues, but became concerned about Soviet imperialism before the war ended; was replaced as Prime Minister when the British electorate voted Socialist in 1945. [More ...](#)

### **Chu Teh, General**

Early communist who together with Mao, Cho en Lai and other survivors of the 1925 purge managed to establish the Jiangxi Soviet. Zhu De played an important role in developing the military tactic of guerrilla warfare. During the Second World War Zhu De successfully led his soldiers to victory. [More...](#)

### **Ciano, Count Galeazzo**

Mussolini's son-in-law; Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, helped create Rome-Berlin Axis; in 1943, voted for the overthrow of Mussolini, who had him executed the following year. [More...](#)

### **Clark, General Mark**

Secret envoy who was landed by submarine at Algiers in 1942 to urge French leaders to join the Allies; commander of U.S. Fifth Army in North Africa and Italy, later of UP Fifteenth Army Group in Italy. [More...](#)

### **Clay, General Lucius**

Director of Material. Army Service Forces (1942-44); administrator of American zone of Germany (1945-49). [More...](#)

### **Collins, General J. Lawton**

[More...](#)

### **Crimps, Sir Richard Stafford**

British ambassador to Moscow (1940), leader of House of Commons (1942), special envoy to India (1942), Minister of Aircraft Production (1942-43); failed to persuade Gandhi to accept British plan for independence after the war. [More...](#)

### **Cunningham, Admiral Sir Andrew**

Commanded British Mediterranean forces, directed brilliant attack on Italian fleet at Taranto (1940); Chief of Allied Naval Operations in North African campaign (1942); became Eisenhower's Naval commander in chief in the Mediterranean and Great Britain's First Sea Lord in 1943. [More...](#)

### **Curtin, John**

Australian politician and the Prime Minister of Australia (1941-45), led Australia when the Australian mainland came under direct military threat during the Japanese advance in World War II. He is widely regarded as one of the country's greatest Prime Ministers [More...](#)

### **Daladier, Edouard**

Three-time Premier of France; signed the Munich Agreement in 1938, honored pact with Poland in 1939 and fell in 1940; was a prisoner of Vichy during the Occupation; returned to politics after the Liberation but never regained his former power. [More...](#)

### **Damaskinos, Archbishop**

Archbishop of Athens and all of Greece from (1941-49); frequently clashed with the German authorities and the quisling Greek government. [More...](#)

### **Darlan, Admiral Jean**

Vichy French Vice-Premier; arranged surrender of North Africa to Allies in 1942; became governor of North Africa, was assassinated shortly after. [More...](#)

### **DeGaulle, General Charles**

French soldier and statesman who foresaw mobile warfare in the thirties and won one of few French victories during Battle of France; flew to London in 1940 and

founded Free French movement (French Committee of National Liberation); supreme commander, Free French armed forces. [More...](#)

### **DeTassigny, Jean Delattre**

commanded the French 14th Infantry Division (1939-40); commanded Vichy French forces in Tunisia in 1941; organized anti-German efforts, arrested, jailed, escaped; commanded French Army B (later French 1<sup>st</sup> Army) in Operation Dragon and continued through France and into Germany; represented France at the German unconditional surrender in Berlin on May 8, 1945. [More...](#)

### **DeValera, Eamon**

Prime Minister of Ireland (1932–48, 1951–54, and 1957–58); encouraged policy of neutrality during WW2 which had overwhelming political and popular support; maintained diplomatic relations with all belligerents and steered a neutral Ireland through WW2 with a few bumps like formally offering his condolences to the German Minister in Dublin on the death of Hitler in 1945 (in accordance with diplomatic protocol.) which obviously did not please the US or Britain. [More...](#)

### **Dietrich, General Sepp**

Early member of SS and one of Hitler's personal bodyguards; commanded 1st SS Panzer Division in France and Russia; commanded 1st SS Panzer Corps (1944), and 6th SS Panzer Army (1944-45); accused of executing Russian prisoners and POWs in Belgium, sentenced to 25 years in prison at Nuremberg. [More...](#)

### **Doenitz, Grand Admiral Karl**

Commanded U-boat fleet and conceived devastating "wolf pack" tactics against convoys in the Atlantic; as Hitler's successor, surrendered German forces unconditionally; Nuremberg Tribunal sentenced him to ten years in prison. [More...](#)

### **Donovan, William C.**

Won Congressional Medal of Honor in WW1; conducted secret fact-finding missions for FDR in 1940/41; appointed Coordinator of Information in 1941 and head of OSS (which eventually evolved into the CIA) in 1942. [More...](#)

### **Doolittle, Lt. General James**

Led Tokyo bombing raid from carrier Hornet in 1942; commanded US Twelfth Air Force in North Africa during Operation Torch, Fifteenth Air Force in Mediterranean (1943, and Eighth Air Force in European theater from 1944 until end of war. [More...](#)

### **Douhet, General Giulio**

Served as commander of Italy's first aviation unit, the Aeronautical Battalion (1912 – 15). In World War I his criticism of the war's conduct led to his court-martial, imprisonment, and retirement. An investigation in 1917 justified his criticisms; his conviction was reversed, and he was appointed head of the aviation

service. In books such as *The Command of the Air* (1921) he advanced his ideas on strategic air power and the importance of strategic bombing. His influence during the period leading up to WW II was very significant. His premise that “the bomber will always get through” was taken as gospel and many otherwise rational people believed that wars would be won or lost in a matter of weeks. His premise was proved wrong more often than right during WW II. [More ...](#)

### **Dulles, Alan**

OSS Section Head in Switzerland; heavily involved in the controversial and secret Operation Sunrise (secret negotiations in March 1945 to arrange a local surrender of German forces in northern Italy); CIA Director (1951-61) during which CIA was involved in many secret and controversial operations, forced to resign in 1961; recent allegations that he was involved in secret financial network financial 3<sup>rd</sup> reich industry and channeling funds [More...](#)

### **Eaker, Lt. General Ira**

Commanded 8th Bomber Command (later 8<sup>th</sup> AF) (1942-43); strong advocate of daylight bombing, persuaded Churchill to adopt a day and night bombing attack on Germany (Eaker Plan); high bomber losses prompted his reassignment to Commander of Mediterranean Allied Air Forces (1944); deputy commander of the Army Air Forces and chief of the Air Staff. (1945) [More...](#)

### **Eden, Anthony**

British statesman; resigned from Chamberlain Cabinet in 1938 in protest against Munich Agreement; returned as Churchill's Foreign Minister (1940-45); played prominent part in Allied councils throughout the war. [More...](#)

### **Eichelberger, General Robert**

Superintendent of West Point (1940-42); commanded US 1<sup>st</sup> Corp in SW Asia; commanded US 8<sup>th</sup> Army (1944-48) which cleared the Philippines and included 3 years of occupation duty in Japan [More...](#)

### **Eichmann, Adolf**

Head of Jewish office of Gestapo; ordered the execution of millions of victims; was captured in South America by Israeli commandos after the war, tried in Israel, and executed. [More...](#)

### **Einstein, Albert**

German born physicist whose Specific and later General Theory of Relativity revolutionized physics in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; a pacifist during WW1, Einstein emigrated to the US after the Nazis took over and argued that democratic nations needed to rearm in order to defend against the aggressive foreign policy of the Nazis; co-authored (with Szilard and Wigner) the letter to FDR in 1939 that Germany was in a position to develop atomic weapons. [More...](#)

**Eisenhower, Gen. of the Army Dwight D.**

On MacArthur's staff in the Philippines (1935-39); head of War Plans Division (1942); received command of Operation Torch (1942) and was successful in North Africa, became Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, directed Allied campaign through France into Germany (1944-45). [More...](#)

**Fermi, Enrico**

Italian physicist worked in US during war; achieved first nuclear chain reaction at University of Chicago in 1942, first step to atomic bomb. [More...](#)

**Fletcher, Rear Admiral Frank**

Winner of two key naval battles of the war: in the Coral Sea, where he turned back a Japanese invasion convoy, and at Midway Island, turning point of the struggle for the Pacific. [More...](#)

**Forrestal, James**

Undersecretary of the Navy (1940-44), Secretary of the Navy (1944-47); advised that US permit Japanese to retain Emperor. [More...](#)

**Franco, Francisco**

Spanish general and dictator (1937-1947) and de facto regent (1947-1975); accepted Nazi support during Spanish Civil War; steered Spain through WW2 as a neutral with a significant Axis bias (until 1943 permitted volunteers to join the German Army (Spanish Blue Division) on the condition they would exclusively fight against Russia on Eastern Front, ); deflected several attempts by Hitler to pull Spain in the Axis and/or to allow German troops to move through Spain. [More...](#)

**Frank, Ann**

German-Jewish girl, of family that hid in Amsterdam with Dutch friends until found by Nazis in 1944; died at Belsen; her diary is among the war's most poignant documents. [More...](#)

**Frick, Wilhelm**

Nazi Minister of the Interior (1933-1943); responsible for operating the Enabling Act which gave Hitler dictatorial powers; drafted the Nuremberg Laws; lost ministerial position in 1943 due to struggle with Himmler and SS; Protector of Bohemia and Moravia (1943-45); found guilty of war crimes at Nuremberg and executed. [More...](#)

**Friedman, Colonel William**

US cryptanalyst and often called "The Godfather of Cryptology"; built Signals Intelligence Service (SIS) within War Department; instrumental in breaking Japanese PURPLE code; [More...](#)

### **Fuchida, Captain Misuo**

Coordinated entire aerial attack on Pearl Harbor and led first air wave (1941); led air attack on Darwin, Australia (1942); severely wounded at Midway, spent balance of war as a staff officer; was in Hiroshima when atomic bomb was dropped but suffered no effects. [More...](#)

### **Fuchs, Karl**

Germany born physicist and member of Manhattan Project; convicted of spying for Soviet Union (on Manhattan Project) in 1950 and served 10 years in prison. [More...](#)

### **Galland, Adolfe**

Luftwaffe fighter pilot and commander in Poland, France, Battle of Britain, and Sicily flying ME109s and (1945) ME262:General of Fighter Arm (1941-44); sacked by Hitler/Goring in late 1944 after numerous strategic disagreement; returned to front line in early 1945; finished war with 100+ kills; captured in May, 1945 and spent two years as POW [More...](#)

### **Gamelin, General Maurice G.**

Commander Allied armies at start of war; was replaced by Weygand when Germans cracked his northern line in 1940; remained a prisoner until 1945. [More...](#)

### **Gandhi, Mohandas ("Mahatma")**

Indian leader who used nonviolent methods to force British out of India; went to jail (1942-44) for demanding immediate Independence. [More...](#)

### **Genda, Captain Minoru**

Visionary Japanese naval aviator and planner; recongized the potential of massed aircraft carriers in 1930s and urged production of carriers and not traditional naval vessels like battleships; Pearl Harbor attack plan was essential his work; served with distinction throughtout WW2 logging over 3,000 flight hours; [More...](#)

### **George II, King of Greece**

### **Ghormley, Vice Admiral Robert E.**

Director of Naval War Plans and Asst CNO (1938-40); commanded South Pacific Area during early phase of Operation Watch Tower (Guadalcanal and Tulugi

campaigns); perceived as pessimistic by Nimitz, he was replaced by Halsey whose bold leadership achieved victory in less than a month. [More...](#)

### **Gillars, Mildred (“Axis Sally”)**

Woman from Maine, broadcast Nazi propaganda from Berlin during the war; imprisoned on charges of treason. [More...](#)

### **GIAP**

### **Giraud, General Henri**

French general, captured by the Germans in 1940; escaped and reached North Africa (1942). where he succeeded Darlan as high commissioner; commanded French forces and serve on Committee of National Liberation (Free French) until 1943; later lost out to DeGaulle in competition for leadership. [More ...](#)

### **Gisevius, Hans Bernd**

German diplomat and intelligence officer during World War II; strong (but covert) opponent of the Nazi regime (and member of Canaris inner circle), he served as a liaison in Zürich between Allen Dulles, station chief for the American OSS and the German Resistance forces in Germany. [More...](#)

### **Goebbels, Joseph**

Propaganda minister of Third Reich who developed technique of “the big lie”; committed suicide as Russians overran Berlin in 1945. [More...](#)

### **Goring, Reich Marshal Hermann**

WW1 air ace who founded the Gestapo and used it to solidify Nazi hold on Germany (1933-36); ran German economy (1937-43) according to slogan: “Guns instead of butter”; commander in chief of Luftwaffe; captured by American forces in 1945, escaped hanging at Nuremberg by poisoning himself. [More...](#)

### **Grew, Joseph C.**

American ambassador to Tokyo at time of Pearl Harbor; warned of possible Japanese aggression before attack; was consultant on Japanese affairs for rest of war; Undersecretary of State (1944-45). [More...](#)

### **Groves, Lt General Leslie**

Managed Manhattan Project hiring virtually all the scientists and coordinating facilities construction and production; violently disagreed with some of the project scientists who believed use of the bomb was immoral [More...](#)

### **Guderian, Col. General Heinz**

German Panzer expert and developer of many Blitzkrieg tactics; commander of armor in Polish, French and Russian campaigns; Army chief of staff, later commander in chief in East; fired by Hitler after altercations over strategy. [More ...](#)

### **Hácha, Emil**

President of Czechoslovakia from Nov 1938 to 1945; installed after Munich Pact gave Sudetenland to Germany; initially resisted Hitler's subsequent pressure to occupy the rest of Czechoslovakia but succumbed in Mar 1939; ill most of his presidency, he had little real power particularly when Heydrich was appointed Assistant Protector of Bohemia and Moravia in 1942; died under suspicious circumstances while in the hands of the Red Army in May 1945. [More...](#)

### **Haile Selassie**

Emperor of Ethiopia, driven into exile by Italian conquest (1936); appealed in vain to the League of Nations; lived in England until Italian collapse in Africa allowed him to return in 1941. [More ...](#)

### **Halder, Col. General Franz**

Head of German General Staff when war began; was fired for disputing Hitler on strategy in Russia; suspected of conspiring against Hitler, he was sent to a concentration camp but was saved by American arrival in 1945. [More...](#)

### **Lord Halifax (Edward Wood)**

War Secretary under Baldwin; visited Germany in 1936 and was pleased with what he saw; initially War Secy and late Foreign Secy under Chamberlain; supported appeasement policy; retained as Foreign Secy under Churchill (May-Nov 1940) to give impression of unity; replaced as Foreign Secy by Anthony Eden in late 1941, Halifax became Ambassador to the US (1940 – 46) and British representative at UN Conference (1945) [More...](#)

### **Halsey, Admiral William**

Commanded US task forces in Marshalls and Gilberts; commander, Allied South Pacific naval forces (1942-44), US Third Fleet (1944-45). [More...](#)

### **Harmon, General Millard**

Commanded the 2nd Air Force prior to WW2; commanded US Air Army forces in the South Pacific Area. (1942-44); commanded all USAAF in the Pacific area (1944-45); Harmon plane disappeared while on a routine training flight to Hawaii in early 1945, he was officially declared dead in February 1946. [More...](#)

### **Harriman, William Averell**

American businessman who became a wartime US trouble shooter; administered Lend-Lease and was ambassador to Moscow (1943-46). [More..](#)

### **Harris, Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur**

Chief of RAF Bomber Command; developed and defended night saturation bombing of German cities. [More...](#)

### **Hart, Admiral Thomas**

A veteran of the Spanish-American War and WWI, Hart was the CINC of the US Asiatic Fleet and in Manila when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and then attacked the Philippines. He was briefly Allied Naval Commander of the American-British-Dutch-Australian Forces (ABDA) in the Far East. Hart retired in July 1942, returned to active duty a few months later and remained stateside until his final retirement in 1945 [More ...](#)

### **Hess, Rudolf**

Hitler's most faithful henchman who flew to Britain in 1941 on a personal quest for an Anglo-German agreement (unauthorized and probably influenced Stalin's perception that Britain was plotting an armistice with Germany); was held prison for the duration and sentenced to life imprisonment by Nuremberg Tribunal in 1946. [More...](#)

### **Hewitt, Admiral Kent**

### **Heydrich, Reinhard**

One of the most ruthless and evil of all Nazis; head of SS-SD (Reich Security) and Gauleiter of Czechoslovakia where his barbarity -- "Germanizing the Czech vermin." -- caused him to be assassinated in 1942; Nazis destroyed village of Lidice in retaliation. [More ...](#)

### **Himmler, Heinrich**

Head of SS (SS-SD, Gestapo Waffen-SS where part of SS); responsible for mass murder in concentration camps; in 1945 tried unsuccessfully to surrender to western Allies only; was captured by British troops and poisoned himself during interrogation. [More...](#)

### **Hirohito**

Emperor of Japan; decided for capitulation in 1945 and retained his throne by American agreement. [More...](#)

### **Hitchcock, Tommy**

Well known WWI aviator and 1930s polo player who, along with John Winant, played a very significant role in convincing the USAAF that a long range escort

fighter (in particular the P-51 Mustang) was necessary to successfully pursue daylight strategic bombing in Europe; died testing P51 in 1944. [More...](#)

### **Hitler, Adolf**

Führer of Third Reich; founded Nazi party with ideology of anti-Semitism, Nordic supremacy and German expansion; Chancellor in 1933, he destroyed German democracy and became dictator; appeasement by Chamberlain and Daladier encouraged him to continue aggression in Europe until attack on Poland triggered WW2; conquered Western Europe but lost Battle of Britain (1940-41); overran Balkans, Greece and Crete (1941) and Russia as far as Volga and Caucasus (1941-42), when Stalingrad disaster, together with North Africa defeat (1943), turned tide; Allied landing in France (1944) led to two-front war he feared; with his “Thousand Year Reich” falling apart, he committed suicide in his Berlin bunker (1945). [More...](#)

### **Ho Chi Minh**

### **Hoess, Rudolf**

German commandant at Auschwitz who boasted of killing sixteen thousand prisoners a day; after the war, the Poles hanged him – at Auschwitz. [More...](#)

### **Homma, General Masharu**

Commander of Japanese forces in invasion of Philippines; was held responsible for Bataan Death March and executed as war criminal in 1946. [More...](#)

### **Honda, Masaki**

### **Hopkins, Harry**

Onetime social worker and New Deal official who, as special assistant to FDR, carried out wartime missions to Britain and Russian and influenced Presidential decisions. [More...](#)

### **Horthy, Miklos**

### **Hoxha, Enver**

### **Hull, Cordell**

Secretary of State (1933-44); negotiated with Japanese before Pearl Harbor, receiving last Tokyo note during attack. [More...](#)

### **Hurley, Patrick**

## **Ibn Said**

## **Ickles, Harold**

## **Jodl, Col. General Alfred**

German chief of staff; supported Hitler's policies; signed unconditional surrender at Eisenhower's headquarters in 1945; was hanged as a war criminal at Nuremberg in 1946. [More...](#)

## **Jones, Dr. R.V.**

British physicist and scientific military intelligence expert who played an important role in the defence of Britain in World War II. Among his many contributions: Jones deciphered the German radio beam control technologies (Knickebein, X-beam, Y-beam, Wotan I, Wotan II, etc); studied German air defense system and came up with the radar clutter concept known as Window in the UK and chaff in the US; and, was one of the WWII scientists that fundamentally changed the relationship between science and the military [More ...](#)

## **Joyce, William (“Lord Haw Haw”)**

American born propagandist and Irish sympathizer who broadcast from Berlin to Great Britain during war; was condemned for treason by the British and executed in 1946. [More...](#)

## **Keitel, Field Marshal Wilhelm**

Chief of high command of German Armed Forces; Hitler's military yes-man; read surrender terms to French in 1940, and signed unconditional surrender at Zhukov's headquarters in 1945; was condemned and executed at Nuremberg in 1946. [More...](#)

## **Kennedy, Joseph**

US ambassador to Britain (1937-40); an isolationist who disapproved of Roosevelt's growing involvement in the war, and a defeatist who did not believe that Britain would survive, he resigned from office in 1940 (much to FDR's relief) and was replaced by John Winant.. [More...](#)

## **Kennan, George**

## **Kenney, George**

## **Kesselring, Field Marshal Albert**

German general who held commands in Poland, France, and Russia; directed defense of Italy (1942-1944); last Nazi commander in the west (1945); sentenced to life imprisonment in 1947; charged with atrocities in Italy. [More...](#)

## **Khrushchev, Nikita**

## **Kido, Koicho**

## **Kimmel, Admiral Husband E.**

Commander in chief US Pacific Fleet (1941); relieved of his command after Pearl Harbor for “errors in judgment”; he laid the blame on Washington, and the justice of the case against him is still debated. [More...](#)

## **King, Fleet Admiral Ernest J.**

Commanded US Atlantic Fleet (1940-41) and became Navy commander in chief after Pearl Harbor; raised US naval power from wreckage left by Japanese to supremacy throughout Pacific. [More...](#)

## **Kinkaid, Admiral Thomas C**

Task force commander in Battles of Coral Sea, Midway, Solomons (1942); commander in chief in North Pacific in Aleutian campaign; command of US Seventh Fleet (“MacArthur’s Navy”). [More...](#)

## **Kluge, Field Marshal Gunther von**

Fought in France and Russia (1940-42), took over central Russian front (1943), replaced Rundstedt in France in 1944; was relieved after Allied breakthrough; committed suicide after implication in anti-Hitler plot. [More...](#)

## **Knox, Frank**

## **Koch, Ilse**

Wife of famous concentration camp commandant and one of the worst Nazi sadists; she used skin of victims for lamp shades; was given life imprisonment at “Buchenwald Trial” after war, but served only a brief time before being set free. [More...](#)

## **Koga, Admiral Mineichi**

## **Koiso, General Kuniaki**

Replaced Premier Tojo after American conquest of Saipan (1944); struggled with deterioration of war until his fall in 1945

## **Kolbe, Fritz**

German diplomat (and mole) who was argueably America's most important spy against the Nazis in WW2; relatively unknown until publication of CIA records in 2000 and [biography](#) in 2005 [More...](#)

### **Kondo, Admiral Nobutake**

### **Konev, Marshal Ivan**

### **Konoye, Price Fumumaro**

Japanese President (1937-39), (1940-41), major architect of Japanese policy in Sino-Japanese War; tried to work out some means of keeping peace in the Pacific; his fall led to rise of Tokyo militarists who started the war; committed suicide in 1945. More...

### **Krueger, General Walter**

German-born American soldier, rose from private in Spanish-American War; commanded US Sixth Army in southwest Pacific and in reconquest of the Philippines Islands. More...

### **Krupp, Alfred**

German industrialist of powerful family of munitions makers; helped build and supply Hitler's war machine for which he paid by serving three years in jail after the war. More...

### **Kuibayashi, General Tadamichi**

Japanese general who developed "island fortress" tactics for Pacific defense; best example was Iwo Jima where he was presumably killed in action. More....

### **Kurita, Vice Admiral Takeo**

Commanded cruiser division at Battles of Java Sea and Midway (1942); commanded carrier division at Battle of Philippine Sea ("Great Marianas Turkey Shoot", 1944); commanded powerful Central Force at Leyte where he was turned back in the critical Battle of Samar. More...

### **Kurusu, Saburo**

Japanese diplomat sent to Washington as special envoy in 1941; knew nothing of Pearl Harbor attack until it began. More...

### **Laval, Pierre**

French leader, twice Premier (1931-32, 1935-36); defeatist in 1940, he became Petain's right-hand man and collaborated with the Nazis during the Occupation; was condemned for treason after the war and executed in 1945. [More...](#)

### **Leahy, Admiral William**

Chief of Naval Operations (1936-39); ambassador to Vichy (France) (1941); personal military advisor to FDR (1942-45) and chief of staff to the commander in chief of the United States (1942-49). [More...](#)

### **Leclerc, Maj. General Jacques**

Rebelle against Vichy after Fall of France (1940); made epic 1,500 mile trek with Free French forces from Lake Chad to Tripoli in 1942 to join British Eighth Army battling Afrika Corps; commanded French 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division in liberation of France, received German surrender of Paris. [More...](#)

### **Leeb, Field Marshal Wilhelm von**

Opposed violation of Belgian neutrality in 1940; in command on southern flank in invasion of France (1940); commanded Army Group North during invasion of Russia; besieged Leningrad but failed to take the city (1941-42) and was relieved of his command. [More...](#)

### **Leigh-Mallory, Air Marshal Trafford**

Commanded RAF 12<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group (1937-41); significant differences re fighter deployment strategy with Park and Dowding led to their dismissal; commanded RAF 11<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group (1942); Head of Fighter Command (1942); commander of Allied Air Forces for Overlord but differences with Harris and Spaatz led to his dismissal; Commander in Chief of Southeast Asia.(1943/44). [More...](#)

### **LeMay, General Curtis**

Commander of the 305th Bomb Group (one of first B17 groups in England); pioneered daylight bombing and developed special defensive tactics including tight formations for mutual support.; commanded 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group in SE Asia and pioneered massive incendiary raids on Japan; commanded USAF in Europe (1945-48) and directed Berlin Airlift; headed SAC and was key to the transformation of USAF into a modern air force; ultimately was Chief of Staff USAF. [More...](#)

### **Leopold III, King**

### **Liddell-Hart, Basil**

Pioneer in the use of tanks in modern warfare; via articles and books (1920s & 1930s) Liddell Hart became the world's leading exponent of using tanks as an independent striking force to make deep penetrations into enemy territory, cutting off enemy troops from their supplies and high command -- German soldiers such as Erwin Rommel and Heinz Guderian read his books and developed what later became known as Blitzkrieg; his ideas were largely ignored in Britain. [More...](#)

### **Lindemann, Frederick A.**

British physicist, Churchill's scientific adviser; developed "window" defense for RAF bombers -- clouds of tinfoil strips that confused German radar. [More...](#)

### **List, Field Marshal Wilhelm**

### **Litvinov, Maxim**

### **Lloyd George, David**

British Liberal politician and statesman, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom at the head of a wartime coalition government between the years 1916-1922; represented Britain at the Versailles Peace Conference, clashing with French Premier Clemenceau, U.S. President Wilson and Italian Prime Minister Orlando. Lloyd George wanted to punish Germany politically and economically for devastating Europe during the war, but did not want to utterly destroy the German economy and political system—as Clemenceau of France wanted—with massive reparations; Leader of the Liberal Party from 1926-1931; met with Hitler in 1936 and was very impressed (and said so publically) but quickly recognized the true nature of Hitler and subsequently joined Winston Churchill, among others, in fighting the government's policy of appeasement. [More ...](#)

### **Lord Haw Haw (see [Joyce, William](#))**

### **MacArthur, General of the Army Douglas**

Commander in chief, US and Filipino forces; ordered to leave Philippines during Japanese conquest and assume supreme command of Allied forces in SW Pacific; after presiding over Japanese surrender on Missouri in Tokyo Bay (1945), he administered Japan for six years (1945-51). [More ...](#)

### **McAuliffe, General Anthony C.**

Second in command of US 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division on D-Day and in campaigns through France, Low Countries, and Germany (1944-45); surrounded in Bastogne during Battle of the Bulge, he answered German surrender demand with a single word: "Nuts"; held Bastogne until Patton's tanks broke through. [More...](#)

### **Mannerheim, Field Marshal Baron Carl**

Finnish commander in chief; established Mannerheim Line against Russian invasion of 1939-40; cooperated with Germans during their attack on Russia (1941), but saved most of his country from being seized after Soviet victory (1945) compelled Finland to drop out of the war. [More...](#)

### **Malenkov, Greg**

### **Manstein, Field Marshal Erich von**

Drew up plan to strike at France through Ardennes in 1940; one of the most capable German field commanders; given special army in vain attempt to rescue Sixth Army trapped in Stalingrad; fought brilliant delaying tactics as Russians advanced, but was dismissed from his command in 1944 after numerous arguments with Hitler about overall strategy. [More...](#)

## **Mao**

### **Marshall, General of the Army George C.**

Promoted by FDR above senior officers to chief of staff (1939); built and ran military establishment that fought the war from Germany to Okinawa; selected both MacArthur and Eisenhower for top commands; as ambassador to China (1945-47) saw anarchy that permitted Communist victory of 1950; as Secretary of State (1947-49), proposed Marshall Plan to use American aid to speed revival of Europe; Secy of Defense (1950-51); won Noble Peace Prize in 1953. [More...](#)

## **Masaryk, Jan**

## **Matsuoka, Yosuke**

## **McIndoe, Arch**

## **McNair, General Les**

### **Merrill, Brig General Frank**

Commander of colorful Merrill's Marauders in Burma; his capture of Myitkyina airfield (1944) was vital to Allied reconquest of Burma. [More...](#)

## **Metaxas, Jonnis**

### **Michael of Romania**

King of Rumania; assumed throne in 1940 when Germans forced his father, Carol II, to abdicate; sided with Nazis against Russians in 1941, but in 1944 overthrew pro-Nazi dictator Antonescu and made peace with Russians; communist regime imposed by Stalin forced him into exile in 1947. [More...](#)

## **Mihailovic, Draza**

## **Mikoyan, Artem**

### **Mitchell, Reginald J.**

British aircraft designer who designed the Supermarine Spitfire – one of the more significant aircraft of WW2 (20,440 were built) and argueable the best looking plane every built. [More...](#)

## **Mitchell, Maj Gen William**

US Army officer who advocated the use of aircraft (of all types) for both offensive and defensive operations during the 1920s; an outspoken critic of both the Army and Navy policies, and an advocate for a separate Air Force, he was eventually court marshaled for insubordination. [More ...](#)

### **Mitscher, Admiral Marc A**

Captain of carrier Hornet from which Doolittle raiders bombed Tokyo in 1942; later was task force commander in the Solomons; after March 1944, commanded task Force 58 – the fast carrier force – of the Fifth Fleet. [More...](#)

### **Model, Field Marshal Walther**

### **Molotov, Vyacheslov**

Russian diplomat; signed Nazi-Soviet pact that enabled Hitler to safely invade Poland (and start WW2) in 1939; proved a tough bargainer with Hitler until German attack in 1941, and then became Stalin's spokesman in Russia's dealings with western Allies. [More...](#)

### **Montgomery, Field Marshal Sir Bernard**

As divisional commander, left France with Dunkirk evacuation (1940); too command of British 8<sup>th</sup> Army in Egypt (1942), defeated Rommel at El Alamein, pursued Afrika Korps to Tunisia to link up with Eisenhower's forces; commanded 8<sup>th</sup> Army in Sicily and Italy; commander in chief of Allied ground forces under Eisenhower for Overlord and in northern France; planned and executed ill-fated Operation Market Garden (1944); almost sacked for derogatory comments made about Eisenhower's strategy (Jan 1945); accepted surrender of enemy forces in northwest Germany, Denmark and Holland; commander of British Zone of Germany (1945-46). [More...](#)

### **Morgenthau, Henry**

American financier, Secretary of the Treasury (1934-35); proposed controversial Morgenthau Plan for pastoralization of postwar Germany; FDR rejected it after much criticism. [More...](#)

### **Morison, Samuel Eliot**

American historian, Harvard professor, and author of scholarly works; was commissioned in the Navy in 1942 and assigned to write the history of naval operations during the war; since he saw much of the action, his history is dramatic as well as authoritative. [More...](#)

### **Morton, Major Sir Desmond**

British military officer and government official who played an important role in the anti-appeasement (of Hitler's Germany) efforts during the period prior to World War II. Desmond (and [Ralph Wigram](#)) provided intelligence information about German re-armament to Winston Churchill who was an MP but had no significant

position in the British government. In 1940 Morton was Churchill's personal assistant when he became prime minister. [More ...](#)

### **Moulin, Jean**

### **Mountbatten, Admiral Lord Lewis**

Directed commando attacks on German-occupied Norway and France (1942-42); became Supreme Allied Commander in SW Asia (1943-46), where he waged successful campaign against the Japanese; served as last British Viceroy in India (1947) [More...](#)

### **Murphy, Lieutenant Audie**

Too small to join the Marines and too young to join the Navy, Murphy enlisted in the Army; as member of the 3rd Infantry Division he took part in the campaigns in North Africa, Italy, France, Belgium, and Germany; received battlefield commission and 33 citations for bravery in action including the Medal of Honor and the Legion d'Honneur making him the most decorated Allied soldier of WW2. [More...](#)

### **Murrow, Edward R.**

American journalist whose wartime broadcasts from British capital ("This is London") were heard by millions of Americans; a London resident from 1937 to 1945, he was extremely well-known and well-liked in Britain; pioneered radio broadcasting; with a half dozen others (The Murrow Boys) formed what became the preeminent news service in Europe during WW2 and went on to dominate CBS news for decades. [More...](#)

### **Mussolini, Benito**

Italian statesman, founded Fascist party after World War I, led March on Rome (1922), seized power, and made himself dictator (*Duce*); conquered Ethiopia (1935-36), resigned from League of Nations (1937), and joined Hitler in Axis partnership (1939); conquered Albania (1939), and entered World War II in 1940 by attacking France as she was collapsing under Nazi onslaught; during war, he became increasingly dependent on Hitler because of Italian defeats in Africa and Greece; Allied invasion of Sicily caused his fall (1943); German commandos rescued him, and he set up Ligurian Republic; after German defeat in Italy, he tried to escape to Switzerland but was caught and shot by Italian partisans (1945). [More...](#)

### **Nagumo, Vice-Admiral Chuichi**

Commanded one task force in attack on Pearl Harbor (1941), and another that was shattered in Battle of Midway (1942); demoted to small craft, he committed suicide on Saipan after U.S. victory (1944). [More...](#)

### **Nimitz, Fleet Admiral Chester**

Appointed commander in chief of U.S. Pacific Fleet after Pearl Harbor disaster (1941); was the architect of American naval advance across Pacific to Japan, his masterpiece being the disposition of forces that won Battle of Midway (1942).

[More...](#)

### **Nishimura, Vice-Admiral Shoji**

One of commanders of victorious Japanese forces in Battle of the Java Sea (1942), leading to invasion of Dutch East Indies; his defeat in Battle of Surigao Strait (1944) helped ensure American reconquest of Philippines. [More...](#)

### **Nomura, Kichisaburo**

Served in Japanese Navy from 1898 to 1937 including 4 years a naval attache in Washington, retired as a full admiral; Japanese ambassador to Washington in 1941; knew nothing of Pearl Harbor attack until it began. In his memoirs, Secy of State Hull credited Nomura with having sincerely tried to prevent war between Japan and the USA. [More...](#)

### **Oldendorf, Rear Admiral Jesse B.**

Commander of U.S. Seventh Fleet in victory at the Battle of Surigao Strait (1944), and during shelling and bombing of the invasion beaches at Lingayen Gulf, Luzon (1945). [More...](#)

### **Oppenheimer, J. Robert**

American scientist, directed Los Alamos research that produced first atomic bomb (1942-45). [More...](#)

### **Ozawa, Vice-Adm. Jisaburo**

Commanded an attack group during the Japanese victory in the Battle of the Java Sea (1942); was disastrously defeated in Battle of the Philippine Sea ("Great Marianas Turkey Shoot," 1944); in Battle for Leyte Gulf (1944), was assigned mission of luring Halsey's Third Fleet away from landing beaches on Leyte, which he accomplished while losing four of his carriers in battle off Cape Engano. [More...](#)

### **Papen, Franz von.**

Became Chancellor of Germany (1932), and on leaving office, backed Hitler, whom he served in diplomatic posts during World War II; was tried as a war criminal in 1946 but acquitted by Nuremberg Tribunal.

### **Patch, Lt. Gen.. Alexander M.**

Commander, U.S. forces in South Pacific (1942); received command of U.S. Seventh Army in Europe (1944); directed invasion of southern France (1944), and linked up with Patton's men in the north to carry out a common drive into Hitler's Reich (1945).

### **Patton, Gen. George S.**

Commanded U.S. II Corps in Tunisia (1943), U.S. Seventh Army in Sicily (1943), Third Army in France and Germany (1943-44); noted as a-tank commander; was killed in a car accident after the war (1945).

### **Paulus, Field Marshal Friedrich**

Helped plan invasion of Russia and commanded Sixth Army in the field; fought his way to the Volga, was trapped at Stalingrad, and had to surrender because Hitler forbade retreat (1943); taken to Moscow, he delivered anti-Nazi broadcasts to Germany and testified at Nuremberg trials in 1946.

### **Peron, Colonel Juan**

### **Petain, Marshal Henri Philippe**

Onetime "hero of Verdun" who then turned defeatist, advised an end to resistance as Germans stormed through France, became Premier, and surrendered to Hitler (1940); headed Vichy regime in Unoccupied France, broke relations with Allies, and sentenced DeGaulle to death in absentia; was arrested after the Liberation, condemned for treason, and sentenced to death; DeGaulle commuted his sentence to life imprisonment.

### **Phillips, Admiral Sir Tom**

Stationed at Singapore when the Pacific war began, he sailed up Malayan coast without air cover, in command of squadron comprised of battleship *Prince of Wales*, battle cruiser *Repulse*, four destroyers; lost his life when Japanese air attack sank both *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse*.

### **Portal, Sir Charles**

### **Popov, Dustin**

### **Pyle, Ernie**

American reporter familiar as "the GI's war correspondent"; covered human side of the war in Europe before transferring to Pacific; was killed on Ie Shima, an island near Okinawa (1945).

### **Quezon, Manuel**

### **Quisling, Vidkun**

Norwegian traitor; admired Hitler, assisted Nazi conquest of Norway (1940), was made puppet dictator of Norway (1943-45); was found guilty of treason after Allied victory and executed in 1945; his name is a synonym for treason.

### **Raeder, Grand Adm. Erich**

Commander in chief of German Navy (1935-43); suggested invasion of Norway (1940), but found problems of invasion of Britain (1941) insurmountable; resigned in 1943 when Hitler criticized his ability; Nuremberg Tribunal sentenced him to life imprisonment in 1946.

### **Ramsey, Sir Bertram**

### **Reynaud, Paul**

French statesman who replaced Daladier as Premier in 1940 and had to face the Nazi blitz; refused DeGaulle's plan to go to North Africa and continue the fight, rejected Churchill's offer of common Anglo-French citizenship, and resigned in favor of Petain; was held prisoner in Germany until 1945.

### **Ribbentrop, Joachim von**

German champagne salesman who became Nazi Minister of Foreign Affairs (1938-45) as a reward for his faithful service to Hitler; negotiated Nazi-Soviet pact (1939) and handled Hitler's diplomatic aggressions during the war; was hanged at Nuremberg in 1946.

### **Ridgway, Lt. Gen. Matthew**

Led the first airborne division in U.S. Army; his 82nd Airborne jumped over Sicily (1942) and France (1944), each time landing behind the enemy and linking up with main Allied forces.

### **Roberts, Justice Owen J.**

Associate justice on the US Supreme Court; was appointed by Roosevelt on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1941 to head the commission investigating the attack on Pearl Harbor. The Commission presented their findings to Congress January 28, 1942 and was highly critical of the United States Military. The commission found the commanders of Pearl Harbor, [Adm. Husband Kimmel](#) and [Gen. Walter Short](#), guilty of 'dereliction of duty'. Members of the commission besides Justice Roberts were Adm. William H. Standley, Adm. Joseph M. Reeves, Gen. Frank R. McCoy, and Gen. Joseph T. McNarney. The commission was a fact-finding commission and not a court martial for [Gen. Short](#) or [Adm. Kimmel](#).

### **Rommel, Field Marshal Erwin**

Commanded Panzer division in invasion of France (1940); led Afrika Korps to brilliant victories in North Africa (1941-42), but was defeated by Montgomery at El Alamein (1942); was driven back to Tunisia but recalled before Gelman surrender (1943); commanded an army group in France (1944); committed suicide on Hitler's orders for his alleged part in plot to kill *Fuhrer*.

### **Roosevelt, Eleanor**

### **Roosevelt, Franklin D.**

President of the United States (1933-1945); favored Allies when World War II broke out, gave Britain aid "short of war" until Pearl Harbor, then became partner of Churchill and Stalin; at top-level conferences—including Yalta, which produced controversial agreements with Stalin—worked for Allied unity in the war and backed U.N. as hope for postwar unity; in 1940, became first President to win three terms; won a fourth in 1944; died in 1945.

### **Rosenberg, Alfred**

German intellectual; attached himself to Hitler between the wars and became official theoretician of Nazi ideology; was convicted of war crimes for his part in Nazification of Europe and hanged at Nuremberg in 1946.

### **Rundstedt, Field Marshal Gerd von**

Commanded German armies in campaigns against Poland, France, and Russia; in Russia, commanded southern wing that drove into Ukraine; was removed by Hitler for planning to shorten his lines for the winter (1941) but was brought back a few months later as commander in chief in west; again sacked (1944) for urging peace after Allied break-through, but soon recalled again; after Battle of the Bulge, of which he disapproved, he was relieved for good (1945) and held no further commands; although he disliked Nazism and sympathized with plots against Hitler, he refused to join plotters.

### **Salazar, Antonio**

### **Schellenberg, Walter**

### **Schindler, Oskar**

Czech-born German industrialist who employed thousands of Jews in his factories during WW2 and is credited with saving almost 1,200; subject of novel *Schindler's Ark*, and the film based on it, *Schindler's List*. [More...](#)

### **Schirach, Baldur von**

### **de Seversky, Alexander**

Russian-American aviation pioneer, inventor, and influential advocate of strategic air power; assistant to [Billy Mitchell](#); held 374 patents including air-air-refueling and first gyroscopically stabilized bombsight; founded what became Republic Aviation. [More ...](#)

### **Seyss-Inquart**

### **Short, Lt General Walter:**

U.S. military Commander responsible for the defense of U.S. military installations in Hawaii at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941; held responsible for "errors of judgment" in not preparing for enemy attack, and demoted to major general; justice of case against him is still a matter of dispute. [More...](#)

### **Simpson, Lt. Gen. William H.**

Commanded U.S. Ninth Army in France and Germany (1944-45); reached Elbe River and was poised for drive on Berlin when ordered to halt; his men made first contact with Russians at Torgau.

**Skorzeny, Otto**

Austrian daredevil S.S. member; in 1943, led daring airborne descent on Italian Abruzzi to rescue Mussolini from captivity; in 1944, rounded up suspects in plot to kill Hitler; in Battle of the Bulge, organized Operation Greif, which put English-speaking German soldiers in U.S. uniforms behind American lines to create confusion; after the war, was acquitted in war crimes trial.

**Slim, Field Marshal Sir William**

Commanded British Imperial forces that seized Iranian oil fields for Allies (1941); was transferred to Southeast Asia and led British Fourteenth Army in Burma; captured Mandalay and Rangoon and drove Japanese out of Burma (1944-45).

**Smith, Lt. General Holland M.**

Commanded V Amphibious Corps in Gilbert, Marshall, and Mariana islands; later commanded Pacific Fleet Marine Force; directed some of the bloodiest battles of the war: Tarawa (1943), Saipan (1944), Iwo Jima (1945).

**Smith, General Walter Bedell**

U.S. chief of staff at Allied headquarters in North Africa (1942), later at Supreme Headquarters in Europe (1943-45); worked on strategic problems from time of Operation Torch to final victory; signed official document at Eisenhower's headquarters when Germans surrendered unconditionally (1945); US Ambassador to Soviet Union (1945-48); CIA Director (1950-53); Under Secy of State (1953-54)  
[More...](#)

**Spaatz, General Carl**

Chief of U.S. Air Forces in Europe (1942), deputy Allied air commander in Mediterranean (1943), commander of U.S. Strategic Bomber Forces in Europe (1944-45); transferred to the Pacific in 1945; on direct Presidential instructions, ordered the dropping of atomic bombs in Japan.

**Sokolovsky, Marschal****Sommerville, Brehon****Sorge, Richard****Spaatz, General Tooev****Speer, Albert****Sprague, Rear Admiral Clifton**

Commander of escort aircraft carrier division in Battle of Samar, off Leyte (1944); though overwhelmingly outnumbered, repulsed powerful Japanese Central force, thereby ensuring security of U.S. forces on Leyte.

### **Spruance, Admiral Raymond A.**

Often called best naval tactician of the war; task force commander in battles of Midway (1942) and Philippine Sea (1944); in charge of conquest of Gilbert and Marshall Islands; commander of U.S. Fifth Fleet\_ (1944-45); his Fifth Fleet alternated with Halsey's Third Fleet in carrying out American strategy.

### **Stalin, Joseph**

Dictator of Soviet Union and generalissimo; approved Nazi-Soviet pact (1939), only to have Nazis invade Soviet Union in 1941; stayed in Moscow in critical months of 1941-42, rallied Russian people with speeches while army was rebuilt; his troops rolled invasion back through eastern Europe and invaded Germany (1944-45), where they took Berlin and linked up with Americans on Elbe; made many agreements with Churchill and Roosevelt, some of which he violated when he forced puppet Red regimes on satellites; became psychoneurotic despot, fawned upon by those who feared him most.

### **Stark, Admiral Harold**

Chief of Naval Operations (1939-41); argued that US Pacific Fleet should be better off based on the West Coast at Pearl Harbor lacked .adequate repair and overhaul facilities, ammunition stocks, fuel or rations, and feared an attack by the Japanese on the US Fleet in Hawaii; by late 1941 was convinced that the initial Japanese attack come in the Far East; relieved of post as CNO after Pearl Harbor. [More...](#)

### **Stauffenberg, Colonel**

### **Stettinius, Ed**

### **Stilwell, Gen. Joseph W.**

Commanded Chinese troops in Southeast Asia at time of Pearl Harbor; became commander, U.S. Army Forces in China-Burma-India theater, also Chiang Kai-shek's chief of staff until friction between them caused him to be called home in 1944.

### **Stimson, Henry L.**

Secretary of War (1940-45); headed committee of public officials and scientists who recommended using atomic bomb against Japan (1945).

### **Streicher, Jules**

### **Suzuki, Adm. Baron Kantaro**

Became Premier in 1945, determined to make peace; approached Moscow in search of mediator, but was rebuffed; ignored U.S. surrender demands for want of guarantee and retention of Emperor; after atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, advised immediate peace; surrender offer to Allies followed final conference at Emperor's palace.

### **Szilard, Leo**

Hungarian born physicist and significant contributor to Manhattan Project and atomic bombs; co-authored (with Einstein & Wigner) the 1939 letter to FDR warning of Germany progress and suggesting the feasibility of atomic weapons; that letter led to the Manhattan Project; one of the scientists opposed to the actual use of atomic weapons based on moral grounds. [More...](#)

### **Tedder, Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur**

Director of research at Air Ministry (1938-40), commander in chief in Middle East (1940-41); coordinated air offensive that drove Afrika Korps from Egypt and Libya; Allied commander in chief of air forces in Mediterranean (1943); promoted to deputy supreme commander of Allied Expeditionary Force in Europe (1943-45).

### **Teller, Ed**

Hungarian born atomic physicist; major player in Manhattan Project and development of the atomic and hydrogen bombs; unlike many colleagues, Teller argued for the use of atomic weapons and did not believe that scientists should be constrained by "moral implications"; convinced Reagan that Star Wars system was feasible. [More...](#)

### **Tibbets, Colonel Paul**

### **Timoshenko, Marshal Semen**

Commanded central front when Germans attacked Russia (1941); replaced by Zhukov as Nazis menaced Moscow (1941); took over command on southern front (1941); after failure of his May, 1942, attack on Kharkov, was assigned to training commands for rest of war.

### **Tito, (see Brox, Josip)**

### **Tizo, Joseph**

### **Togo, Shigenori**

### **Tojo, Hideki**

Japanese Premier, supported aggression in China (1931), became chief of staff of Kwantung Army (1937-40), Minister of War (1940-41); led militarists who wanted expansion through war, opposed concessions to U.S., and became head of Government (1941); planned Pearl Harbor under cover of negotiations in Washington, and directed oceanic conquests during 1941-42; American reconquest cost him his prestige, and he resigned in 1944 after terming Saipan "a great disaster"; failing in suicide attempt, he was hanged by Allies as 'war criminal in 1946.

### **"Tokyo Rose" (see Aquino, Iva d')**

### **Toyada, Adm. Soemu**

Became commander in chief of Japanese Combined Fleet in 1944; made plans for showdown battle to wipe out U.S. fleet; implementing this strategy, sent powerful force into battle during invasion of Saipan, only to suffer major defeat in Battle of Philippine Sea; again, during American invasion of Leyte, sent fleet into Philippine waters, only to suffer critical defeats of Surigao Strait, Samar, and Engano; urged "one last battle" in Japan itself, but was overruled by Emperor and accepted surrender.

**Truman, Harry S.**

Senator from Missouri (1933-45); Vice-President on Roosevelt ticket (1944), succeeded F.D.R. in 1945, and was re-elected in 1948; attended Potsdam Conference (where he was disillusioned with Stalin); ordered atomic bomb dropped on Japan, and appointed MacArthur to command in Tokyo (1945); his Truman Doctrine (1947) produced Marshal Plan for European recovery.

**Tupolev, Audrey**

**Turner, Admiral Keely**

**Twining, General Nate**

**Udet, Lt. Gen. Ernst**

Luftwaffe officer, held commands in Poland, France, and Russia (1939-41); committed suicide in 1941 after being blamed for the stalling of the German offensive in Russia.

**Vandegrift, Lt. Gen. Alexander A.**

Commanded First Marine Division on Guadalcanal and Tulagi; helped plan invasion of Bougainville (1943); Marine commandant (1944-47),

**Vandenberg, Arthur**

**Vandenberg, General Hoyt**

**Vasilievsky, Marshal Alex**

**Victor Emmaneul II**

King of Italy; accepted Fascist dictatorship (1922); did not oppose Mussolini's war on Ethiopia, Albania, France, and Greece, but with Allies conquering Sicily, he demanded *Il Duce's* resignation in 1943 and appointed Badoglio to make peace; abdicated in 1946.

**Vlasov, Col. Gen. Andrei**

Successful Russian commander until captured by Germans in 1942; then became turncoat and headed army of Russian deserters that eventually amounted to two divisions; after war, Allies handed him over to Soviets, who summarily executed him (1946).

### **Voronov, General Nikolay**

### **Wainwright, Lt. Gen. Jonathan M.**

Commanded U.S. and Filipino forces in the Philippines after MacArthur's departure in 1942; conducted hopeless defense of Bataan and Corregidor before capitulating to Japanese; held prisoner of war until 1945. More ...

### **Watson-Watt, Sir Robert**

### **Wavell, Field Marshal Lord Archibald**

Commander in chief, British armies in India and Middle East; directed conquest of Italian African Empire (1940), but left Cairo in 1941 after Rommel's counteroffensive and became supreme commander of Allied forces in southwest Pacific (1942); as viceroy of India (1943-47), organized defense against Japanese attack. More ...

### **Wedemeyer, Gen. Albert**

Attended German War College (1936-38, only US officer to do so) and became the US expert in Wehrmacht strategy and tactics, helped organize U.S. Army in 1940; remained in planning until appointed deputy chief of staff in Southeast Asia (1943); became commander of China theater (1944), replaced Stilwell as Chiang Kai-shek's chief of staff in 1944; urged that Chiang, not the Communists, receive Japanese surrender in each area. More ...

### **Weygand, Gen. Maxime**

Replaced Gamelin in 1940 but failed to halt German blitz and urged surrender; served Vichy (1940-41), but was forced out by Nazis, who distrusted him; held prisoner for the duration; won exoneration when tried as collaborationist.

### **Wigram, Ralph**

British government official in the Foreign Office (1916 – 1936). Risking his career, he helped raise the alarm about German re-armament under Hitler during the period prior to World War II by providing (along with [Desmond Morton](#)) intelligence information about German re-armament to Winston Churchill. This was when Churchill was an MP but held no significant position in the government of Stanley Baldwin. Churchill used this information to attack the appeasement policies of Baldwin. [More ...](#)

### **Wilhelmina**

Queen of the Netherlands; approved Dutch neutrality in war; in 1940, fled to London rather than submit to Nazis; returned in • 1945; abdicated in 1948 in favor of daughter Juliana.

### **Wilson, Field Marshal Sir Henry M.**

Held commands in campaigns against Italians in North Africa (1939-41);

commander in Greece in 1941 to oppose Axis invasion; led British invasion of Syria (1942); commander in Persia-Iraq (1942-43), and in Middle East (1943-44); became supreme Allied commander in the Mediterranean (1944), at which time he drew up the strategy for Allied landings in southern France (Operation Dragoon). [More ...](#)

### **Wilkie, Wendel**

### **Winant, John Gilbert**

US Ambassador to UK who replaced pro-appeasement Joseph Kennedy in 1941; worked tirelessly to improve US-UK relations; developed close relationships with Churchill and Eisenhower [More...](#)

### **Wood, Edward (see [Lord Halifax](#))**

### **Yamamoto, Adm. Isoroku**

Commander in chief of Japanese First Fleet after 1939, and of Combined Fleet after 1941; devised strategy of attacking Pearl Harbor in coordination with drives into Pacific islands; accompanied fleet in thrust at Midway Island but called operation off after crushing defeat by U.S. forces (1942); killed in 1943 on flight to Solomons, when U.S. fighters shot his plane down.

### **Yamashita, General Tomoyuki**

Studied blitzkrieg tactics in Germany in 1940; held command in China (1939), conducted lightning conquest of Malaya and Singapore (1941-42); taking command in the Philippines, forced surrender of Bataan and Corregidor (1942); after American reconquest of Luzon in 1944, retreated to the mountains, and surrendered with some 50,000 men when Japan capitulated; Allies tried him as war criminal after the war and executed him in 1946.

### **Yardley, Herbert O.**

Established the first codebreaking agency in the US (The Black Chamber) which helped the US at the 1921 Washington Naval Conference. His agency was shut down in 1930 when the new Secy of State, Henry Stimson famously stated "Gentlemen do not read other gentlemen's mail". Yardley then wrote his notorious book, "The Black Chamber" which brought him fame and the wrath of several governments. After assisting the Chinese and the Canadians with code breaking work, he was forced into retirement in late 1941 by the US Government. [More ...](#)

### **Zacharias, Captain Ellis:**

Naval intelligence officer who spent much time with Japanese naval officers in the 1920s and 1930s and tried to convince his superiors in 1941 that Japan, by then on the march across the Pacific Rim, would launch a surprise attack on the United States in the Pacific—on a Sunday morning; conceived, got approved (Forrestal) and executed a plan (1945) to explain what unconditional surrender actually meant via radio broadcasts to Japan in the hope that Japanese moderates might bring pressure for surrender (and incurred the wrath of Navy brass). [More...](#)

**Zeitzler, Kurt**

Served on German general staff in planning Polish, French, and Balkan campaigns; was chief of staff of Kleist's First Panzer Army in Russia when Hitler made him chief of Army general staff in 1942; destruction of Sixth Army at Stalingrad appalled him, yet he remained with Hitler until strain of war forced his retirement in 1944.

**Zhukov, Marshal Georgi K.**

Red Army chief of staff in 1941; sent to key danger points of German invasion, saved Leningrad, pushed the enemy back before Moscow, worked out enveloping strategy that annihilated German Sixth Army at Stalingrad; commanded center of Red Army drive through eastern Europe and Germany to Berlin (1943-45), and accepted Keitel's unconditional surrender in 1945.