

# Timeline of Major World War II Events in the Netherlands

<b>1914-1919</b>	The Netherlands remains neutral throughout World War I.
<b>September 1939</b>	The Dutch declare neutrality at the start of World War II.
<b>May 1940</b>	Around 140,000 Jews live in the Netherlands.
<b>May 10, 1940</b>	Germans attack the Netherlands.
<b>May 13, 1940</b>	Dutch cabinet and royal family flee to London.
<b>May 14, 1940</b>	Central Rotterdam is destroyed by German bombing.
<b>May 15, 1940</b>	<b>Occupied Netherlands:</b> The Dutch surrender to Germany. After five days of fighting, there are 2,220 dead Dutch soldiers, 2,700 wounded Dutch soldiers, and 2,000 civilian casualties.
<b>1940-1945</b>	Hitler views non-Jewish Dutch citizens as Aryan or members of the “master race.” His intention is to make the Netherlands part of the Greater Germanic Reich.
<b>May 1940</b>	The Nazis set up a new government headed by the Austrian Nazi Arthur Seyss-Inquart. The former Dutch government continues to try to communicate with Dutch citizens from Britain.
<b>1940</b>	<b>Bases for the Luftwaffe:</b> Germany begins to construct air force bases throughout the Netherlands to stage <i>Luftwaffe</i> attacks on Britain. Many Allied and German planes are shot down over Dutch land (approx. 6,000 planes or three aircraft per day).
<b>1940-1944</b>	<b>The Arbeitseinsatz:</b> All Dutch men between the ages of 18 and 45 are required to work for Germany. By the end of the war, 387,000 Dutch citizens are forced to relocate to Germany in order to labor in factories that are often the focus of fierce bombing by the Allies. Those Dutch citizens who refuse to work must go into hiding.
<b>1941</b>	<b>Atlantic Wall:</b> Germany begins building defenses along the Atlantic coastline from France to Denmark. Many Dutch homes are destroyed and thousands of Dutch citizens are forced to relocate in the process.
<b>1941</b>	German Jews in the Netherlands are declared stateless; deportations of Jews “to work” in the East begin.
<b>February 25 and 26, 1941</b>	Thousands of Dutch workers strike to protest the deportations of Jews.
<b>1941</b>	<b>Gleichschaltung (“enforced conformity”):</b> The Netherlands Nazi Party is the only political party allowed in the country. All non-Nazi organizations are outlawed.
<b>May 1942</b>	Jews are required to wear the yellow six-pointed star on an outer garment.
<b>May 1942</b>	<b>Dutch Nazis:</b> 3% of the adult male population (over 100,000 members) belong to the Netherlands Nazi Party and 16,000 young people make up its youth branch. 20,000 to 25,000 Dutch men volunteer for the <i>Waffen-SS</i> (special German military force).
<b>Summer 1942</b>	<b>Persecution of Dutch Jews:</b> Many more deportations of Jewish men and women take place to camps like Auschwitz and Sobibor where they are often murdered. Nazis carry out these deportations with the help of Dutch police and civil service workers.
<b>July 6, 1942</b>	Anne Frank and her family go into hiding in Amsterdam.

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<b>January 10, 1942</b>	<b>Germany's Ally:</b> Japan declares war against the Netherlands; Japan invades the Dutch East Indies (which later became Indonesia). 42,000 Dutch soldiers are taken prisoner, 100,000 Dutch civilians are arrested, and millions of colonial subjects are put into forced labor.
<b>1940-1945</b>	<b>Dutch Resistance:</b> Some Dutch citizens actively resist their occupation by forging money or ration cards, raiding distribution centers and handing out stolen ration cards, hiding fellow citizens, spying for the Allies, sabotaging German work projects, creating underground newspapers, maintaining contact with London, and even assassinating Nazi leaders.
<b>August 9, 1945</b>	Anne Frank and her family are arrested; the only member of the family to survive the camps is Anne's father, Otto Frank.
<b>1944-1945</b>	<b>Violent Retaliation:</b> the Nazis respond to different Dutch acts of resistance with extreme violence. They raid universities, execute hundreds of Dutch hostages, bombard neighborhoods, and, in the case of the town of Putten, deport the entire male population to labor camps.
<b>September 5, 1944</b>	<b>Mad Tuesday:</b> Many Dutch people begin to celebrate thinking they are on the eve of liberation. 65,000 Dutch collaborators move to Germany.
<b>late 1944 to May 1945</b>	<b>Hunger Winter:</b> In response to a railroad strike ordered by the Dutch government in exile, Germany cuts off all food and fuel supplies to the western provinces of the Netherlands. 4.5 million people are left without supplies: approximately 18,000 Dutch citizens starve, while thousands of others suffer from malnutrition, disease, and exposure.
<b>September 14, 1944</b>	<b>Beginning of the End:</b> First Dutch cities are liberated by the Allies (Maastricht, Gulpen, Meerssen). Much of the southern Netherlands is liberated by the end of 1944, though many sections of the northern Netherlands remain occupied until the very end of the war.
<b>1944-1945</b>	Some groups of American soldiers live in and around Dutch communities for weeks at a time. They often interact with locals.
<b>1944-1945</b>	As the Allies enter the Netherlands, a lot of violent fighting takes place in Dutch towns and throughout the countryside. The population experiences bombardment from both the Allies and Germans.
<b>May 5, 1945</b>	All of the Netherlands is liberated from German occupation.
<b>May 7, 1945</b>	Germany surrenders.
<b>1945</b>	Dutch Nazi leaders and collaborators are executed (sometimes without a trial) or jailed. Women who had relationships with German men or <i>Moffenmeidens</i> are publicly humiliated often by having their heads shaved.
<b>1945</b>	<b>Holocaust:</b> 75% of original Dutch Jewish population is killed during World War II. This percentage is much higher than in comparable countries like Belgium or France.
<b>1945</b>	The Netherlands becomes a charter member of the United Nations.