A chronology of World War Two: some key events

1 Sept 39

Germany invades Poland (Sept 1)

Britain declares war on Germany (Sept 3)

The Phoney War

Jan 1940

Germany overruns Low countries and France; British army forced to evacuate from Dunkirk (May/June)

Britain survives Battle of Britain and the Blitz

Jan 1941

Germany invades Russia (June)

Japan attacks Pearl Harbour. U.S. enters the war (December)

Jan 1942

British force in Singapore surrenders to Japanese (Feb.)

British win Battle of El Alamein in N.Africa (Oct.)

Jan 1943

Allies invade Italy (Sept.)

Jan 1944

D-Day: allies invade France (6 June)

Jan 1945

Soviet army occupies Berlin: Hitler commits suicide (April)

German forces surrender (May)

15 Aug 45

U.S. drops atom bomb on Hiroshima

Japan Surrenders