

# List of naval battles

## World War II (1939–1945)

**1939-45** Battle of the Atlantic (1939-1945)

**1939**

December 13 - River Plate

**1940**

May 10 and 13 May - First and Second Battles of Narvik

June 8 Operation Juno - German battleships Gneisenau and Scharnhorst sink the aircraft carrier HMS Glorious and two destroyers off Norway

July 3 Mers-el-Kebir - British fleet attacks French fleet in harbour in Algeria

July 9 Calabria (Punta Stilo) - British fleet attacks Italian fleet

July 19 Cape Spada - HMAS Sydney sinks Italian cruiser Bartolomeo Colleoni off Crete

September 23–35 Dakar - Vichy French fight off a British/Free French landing at Dakar

November 11 Taranto - British air attack on Italians anchored at Taranto, inspiring the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor

November 27 Cape Spartivento (Cape Teulada) - British fight back an Italian interception

**1941**

January 17 Ko Chang - French defeat Siamese

March 28 Cape Matapan - British fleet defeats Italian fleet in night action

April 16 - British ships attack Italian convoy Duisburg. Lampo, Tarigo and Baleno are sunk, as well as HMS Mohawk

May 21-June 1 - Battle of Crete - Royal Navy loses three cruisers and 6 destroyers to Axis air attacks

May 24 - Battle of the Denmark Strait - Bismarck and Prinz Eugen sink HMS Hood

May 24- May 27 - Hunt for the German battleship Bismarck ends in her sinking

August 27–31 – Soviet evacuation of Tallinn

September 9–11 Convoy SC 42 - 14 ships and 2 U-boats sunk in North Atlantic

December 7 Pearl Harbor

December 10 South China Sea - HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse sunk by Japanese air attack

December 13 Cape Bon - British destroyers sink Italian cruisers

December 17 First Sirte - Indecisive British-Italian fight off Libya

## 1942

February 27 Java Sea - Japanese invasion convoy escorts destroy ABDA fleet

March 22 Second Sirte - Italian fleet obstacles a British convoy to Malta, hit escorts, but failed to sink the cargo ships. Delay of the convoy led to the loss of four freighters by air attack

May 8 Coral Sea - Japanese invasion convoy turned back by US carrier aircraft

1942-44 German U-Boats campaign in Gulf of St. Lawrence

June 4–5 Midway - invasion convoy retreats after US sinks four Japanese carriers

June 12–15 Operation Vigorous - 6 ships sunk from convoy to Malta. The rest of the convoy is driven back

June 14–15 Operation Harpoon - 6 ships sunk from convoy to Malta

July 2–4 Convoy PQ 17 - 24 ships sunk from Arctic convoy to Soviet Union

August 5–10 Convoy SC 94 - 10 ships and 2 U-boats sunk in North Atlantic

August 8 Savo Island - Japanese sink 4 cruisers escorting Guadalcanal invasion convoy

August 11–15 Operation Pedestal - 13 ships sunk from convoy to Malta

August 24 Eastern Solomons - Japanese aircraft carrier Ryujo sunk while attacking Guadalcanal

September 10–14 Convoy ON 127 - 7 ships sunk in North Atlantic

October 12 Cape Esperance US cruisers intercept Japanese cruiser force approaching Guadalcanal

October 12–16 Convoy SC 104 - 8 ships and 2 U-boats sunk in North Atlantic

October 26 Santa Cruz Islands - USS Hornet sunk in aircraft carrier battle near Guadalcanal

October 27–31 Convoy SL 125 - 11 ships sunk decoying U-boats away from Operation Torch

November 1–4 Convoy SC 107 - 15 ships and 1 U-boat sunk in North Atlantic

November 8 Casablanca - French ships attempt to defend Moroccan neutrality

November 12–15 Guadalcanal - four days and nights of fighting

November 30 Tassafaronga US cruisers intercept Japanese destroyers resupplying Guadalcanal

December 26–30 Convoy ON 154 - 14 ships and 1 U-boat sunk in North Atlantic

December 31 Barents Sea - British escorts fight off German surface attack on convoy JW 51B

## 1943

January 29 Rennell Island - USS Chicago lost

February 4–7 Convoy SC 118 - 8 ships and 1 U-boat sunk in North Atlantic

February 21–25 Convoy ON 166 - 11 ships and 2 U-boats sunk in North Atlantic

March 2–4 Bismarck Sea - aircraft sink 12 ships from a Japanese troop convoy to New Guinea

March 6 Battle of Blackett Strait - an American task force intercepts 2 Japanese destroyers and sinks them both.

March 6–9 Convoy SC 121 - 7 ships sunk in North Atlantic

March 10–11 Convoy HX 228 - 5 ships and 2 U-boats sunk in North Atlantic

March 16–19 Convoys HX 229/SC 122 - 22 ships and 1 U-boat sunk in largest North Atlantic U-boat wolfpack attack

March 26 Komandorski Islands - US cruiser force intercepts a Japanese Aleutian Islands convoy

April 29-May 6 Convoy ONS 5 - 12 ships and 6 U-boats sunk in last major North Atlantic U-boat wolfpack attack

July 6 Kula Gulf

July 12–13 Battle of Kolombangara

August 6–7 Battle of Vella Gulf - American destroyers intercept the "Tokyo Express" and sink 3 Japanese destroyers.

October 6 - Naval Battle of Vella Lavella

October 23 - German light force defeats similar British force (details)

November 2 Empress Augusta Bay

November 26 Battle of Cape St. George - American destroyers intercept the "Tokyo Express" and sink 3 Japanese destroyers.

December 26 North Cape - convoy JW 55B escorts sink Scharnhorst off northern Norway

December 28 Operation Stonewall - Allied ships and aircraft sink three German destroyers in the Bay of Biscay

## **1944**

June 9 Battle of Ushant - Allied 10th destroyer flotilla (UK/Canadian/Polish ships) engage and defeat remnants of the German 8th destroyer flotilla off Brittany

June 19 Philippine Sea - US invasion of Saipan initiates the largest aircraft carrier battle in history including "The Great Marianas Turkey Shoot"

October 23–26 Leyte Gulf - US invasion of the Philippines produces a decisive battle with the Japanese fleet including four main actions - the Sibuyan Sea, Surigao Straits, off Samar and Cape Engano

## **1945**

April 1-May 25 Battle of Okinawa - Japanese aircraft sink 28 ships during the US invasion of Okinawa.

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