

# 1942 in the United States

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Events from the year **1942 in the United States**.

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## Incumbents

### Federal Government



Infantryman kneeling in front of M3 Half-track, holds an M1 Garand rifle. Fort Knox, 1942.



President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1942

- President: Franklin D. Roosevelt (D-New York)
- Vice President: Henry A. Wallace (D-Iowa)
- Chief Justice: Harlan F. Stone (New York)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Sam Rayburn (D-Texas)
- Senate Majority Leader: Alben W. Barkley (D-Kentucky)
- Congress: 77th

## Governors and Lieutenant Governors

### Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Frank M. Dixon (Democratic)
- Governor of Arizona: Sidney Preston Osborn (Democratic)
- Governor of Arkansas: Homer Martin Adkins (Democratic)
- Governor of California: Culbert Olson (Democratic)
- Governor of Colorado: Ralph Lawrence Carr (Republican)
- Governor of Connecticut: Robert A. Hurley (Democratic)
- Governor of Delaware: Walter W. Bacon (Republican)
- Governor of Florida: Spessard Holland (Democratic)
- Governor of Georgia: Eugene Talmadge (Democratic)
- Governor of Idaho: Chase A. Clark (Democratic)
- Governor of Illinois: Dwight H. Green (Republican)
- Governor of Indiana: Henry F. Schricker (Democratic)
- Governor of Iowa: George A. Wilson (Republican)
- Governor of Kansas: Payne Ratner (Republican)
- Governor of Kentucky: Keen Johnson (Democratic)
- Governor of Louisiana: Sam H. Jones (Democratic)
- Governor of Maine: Sumner Sewall (Republican)
- Governor of Maryland: Herbert R. O'Connor (Democratic)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Leverett Saltonstall (Republican)
- Governor of Michigan: Murray Van Wagoner (Democratic)
- Governor of Minnesota: Harold Stassen (Republican)
- Governor of Mississippi: Paul B. Johnson, Sr. (Democratic)
- Governor of Missouri: Forrest C. Donnell (Republican)
- Governor of Montana: Sam C. Ford (Republican)
- Governor of Nebraska: Dwight Griswold (Republican)
- Governor of Nevada: Edward P. Carville (Democratic)
- Governor of New Hampshire: Robert O. Blood (Republican)
- Governor of New Jersey: Charles Edison (Democratic)
- Governor of New Mexico: John E. Miles (Democratic)
- Governor of New York:
  - until December 3: Herbert H. Lehman (Democratic)
  - December 3 - end of December 31: Charles Poletti (Democratic)
- Governor of North Carolina: J. Melville Broughton (Democratic)
- Governor of North Dakota: John Moses (Democratic)
- Governor of Ohio: John W. Bricker (Republican)
- Governor of Oklahoma: Leon C. Phillips (Democratic)
- Governor of Oregon: Charles A. Sprague (Republican)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: Arthur James (Republican)
- Governor of Rhode Island: J. Howard McGrath (Democratic)
- Governor of South Carolina: Joseph Emile Harley (Democratic) (until February 27), Richard Manning Jefferies (Democratic) (starting February 27)
- Governor of South Dakota: Harlan J. Bushfield (Republican)
- Governor of Tennessee: Prentice Cooper (Democratic)
- Governor of Texas: Coke R. Stevenson (Democratic)
- Governor of Utah: Herbert B. Maw (Democratic)
- Governor of Vermont: William H. Wills (Republican)
- Governor of Virginia: James H. Price (Democratic) (until January 21), Colgate Darden (Democratic) (starting January 21)
- Governor of Washington: Arthur B. Langlie (Republican)
- Governor of West Virginia: Matthew M. Neely (Democratic)
- Governor of Wisconsin: Julius P. Heil (Republican)
- Governor of Wyoming: Nels H. Smith (Republican)

### Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of Alabama: Albert A. Carmichael (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas: Robert L. Bailey (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: Ellis E. Patterson (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: John Charles Vivian (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: Odell Shepard (Democratic)

- Lieutenant Governor of Delaware: Isaac J. MacCollum (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: Charles C. Gossett (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: Hugh W. Cross (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: Charles M. Dawson (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: Bourke B. Hickenlooper (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: Carl E. Friend (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: Rodes K. Myers (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: Marc M. Mouton (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: Horace T. Cahill (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: Frank Murphy (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: C. Elmer Anderson (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: Dennis Murphree (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: Frank Gaines Harris (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: Ernest T. Eaton (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: William E. Johnson (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: Maurice J. Sullivan (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico: Ceferino Quintana (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York:
  - until December 3: Charles Poletti (Democratic)
  - December 3 - end of December 31: vacant
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: Reginald L. Harris (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: Oscar W. Hagen (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: Paul M. Herbert (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma: James E. Berry (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: Samuel S. Lewis (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: Louis W. Cappelli (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: vacant
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: A. C. Miller (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: Blan R. Maxwell (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: vacant
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Mortimer R. Proctor (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: vacant (until January 21), William M. Tuck (Democratic) (starting January 21)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: Victor A. Meyers (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: Walter S. Goodland (Republican)

## Events

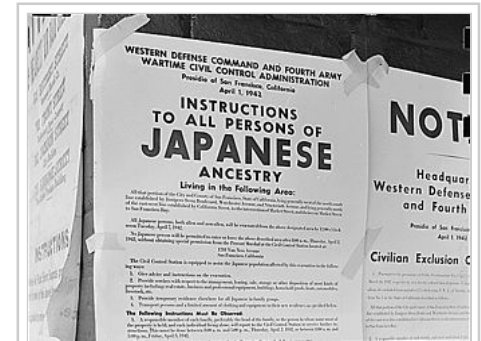
### January

- January 1
  - Sales of new cars are banned to save steel.
  - WWII: The United States and Philippines troops fight the Battle of Bataan.
- January 10 – WWII: The last German air-raid on Liverpool destroys the home of William Patrick Hitler, Adolf Hitler's nephew. After his house is destroyed, William Hitler goes to the USA and joins the navy to fight against his uncle.
- January 16 – Film actress Carole Lombard and her mother are among all 22 aboard TWA Flight 3 killed when the Douglas DC-3 plane crashes into Potosi Mountain near Las Vegas in Nevada while she is returning from a tour to promote the sale of war bonds.

- January 19 – WWII: Japanese forces invade Burma. The United States VIII Bomber Command, later to become the Eighth Air Force, is established in Savannah, Georgia.
- January 25 – WWII: Thailand declares war on the United States and United Kingdom.
- January 26 – WWII: The first American forces arrive in Europe, landing in Northern Ireland.

## February

- February 2 – WWII: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs an executive order directing the internment of Japanese Americans and the seizure of their property.
- February 8
  - WWII: Top United States military leaders hold their first formal meeting to discuss American military strategy in the war.
  - Daylight saving time goes into effect in the United States.
- February 9 – WWII: The ocean liner SS *Normandie* catches fire while being converted into the troopship USS *Lafayette* at pier 88 in New York City. In the early hours of February 10 she capsizes.
- February 18 – WWII: More than 200 American sailors die in Newfoundland when the USS *Truxtun* runs aground near Chambers Cove and the USS *Pollux* runs aground at Lawn Point.
- February 19 – President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs executive order 9066 allowing the United States military to define areas as exclusionary zones. These zones affect the Japanese on the West Coast, and Germans and Italians primarily on the East Coast.
- February 20 – Lieutenant Edward O'Hare becomes America's first World War II flying ace.
- February 22 – WWII: President Franklin D. Roosevelt orders General Douglas MacArthur out of the Philippines as American defense of the nation collapses.
- February 23 – WWII: The Japanese submarine *I-17* fires 17 high-explosive shells toward an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing little damage.
- February 24 – The Voice of America begins broadcasting.
- February 25 – Battle of Los Angeles: Over 1,400 AA shells are fired at an unidentified, slow-moving object in the skies over Los Angeles. The appearance of the object triggers an immediate wartime blackout over most of Southern California, with thousands of air raid wardens being deployed throughout the city. In total there are 6 deaths. Despite the several hour barrage no planes are downed.
- February 26 – The 14th Academy Awards ceremony is held in Los Angeles; *How Green Was My Valley* wins Best Picture.



February 2: An executive order directs Japanese American internment

## March

- March – Construction begins on the Badger Army Ammunition Plant (the largest in the United States during WWII).
- March 9 – WWII: Executive order 9082 (February 28, 1942) reorganizes the United States Army into three major commands: Army Ground Forces, Army Air Forces, and Services of Supply, later redesignated Army Service Forces.

## April

- April 3 – WWII: Japanese forces begin an all-out assault on the United States and Filipino troops on the Bataan Peninsula.

## May

- May 6 – WWII: On Corregidor, the last American and Filipino forces in the Philippines surrender to the Japanese.
- May 14 – Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* is performed for the first time by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.
- May 15 – WWII: In the United States, a bill creating the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) is signed into law.
- May 20 – The first African-American seamen are taken into the United States Navy.

## June

- June 4–7 – World War II – Battle of Midway: The United States Navy defeats an Imperial Japanese Navy attack against Midway Atoll.
- June 7 – World War II – Aleutian Islands Campaign: Japanese forces invade the Aleutian Islands of Alaska.
- June 13 – The United States opens its Office of War Information, a propaganda center.
- June 21 – World War II – Bombardment of Fort Stevens: Fort Stevens, Oregon is fired upon by a Japanese submarine.

## July

- July 4 – WWII in the European Theater of Operations: US Eighth Air Force flies its first inauspicious mission in Europe using borrowed British planes; six aircraft went out, only three came back.<sup>[1]</sup>
- July 19 – WWII – Battle of the Atlantic: German Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz orders the last U-boats to withdraw from their United States Atlantic coast positions, in response to an effective American convoy system.

## August

- August 7 – WWII: Battle of Guadalcanal begins – USMC initiate the first American offensive of the war with a landing on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.
- August 8 – WWII: In Washington, DC, six German would-be saboteurs are executed (two others were cooperative and received life imprisonment instead).
- August 15 – WWII: The American tanker SS *Ohio* reaches Malta as part of the convoy of Operation Pedestal.
- August 16 – The U.S. Navy blimp *L-8* (Flight 101) comes ashore near San Francisco, eventually coming down in Daly City (the crew is missing).



August 7: Battle of Guadalcanal begins

## September

## October

- October 11 – WWII – Battle of Cape Esperance: On the northwest coast of Guadalcanal, United States Navy ships intercept and defeat a Japanese fleet on their way to reinforce troops on the island.

- October 23 – Award-winning composer and Hollywood songwriter Ralph Rainger ("Thanks for the Memory") is among 12 people killed in the mid-air collision between an American Airlines DC-3 airliner and a U.S. Army bomber near Palm Springs, California.
- October 26 – WWII – Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands: Two Japanese aircraft carriers are heavily damaged and one U.S. carrier is sunk.
- October 28 – The Alaska Highway is completed.

## November

- November 8 – Operation Torch – United States and United Kingdom forces land in French North Africa.
- November 9 – WWII: U.S serviceman Edward Leonski is hanged at Melbourne's Pentridge Prison for the "Brown-Out" murders of three women in May.
- November 12 – WWII – Battle of Guadalcanal: A naval battle near Guadalcanal starts between Japanese and American forces.
- November 13 – Battle of Guadalcanal: Aviators from the USS *Enterprise* sink the Japanese battleship *Hiei*.
- November 15 – The Battle of Guadalcanal ends: Although the United States Navy suffers heavy losses, it retains control of Guadalcanal.
- November 21 – The completion of the Alaska Highway (also known as the Alcan Highway) is celebrated (however, the "highway" is not usable by general vehicles until 1943).
- November 26 – The movie *Casablanca* premieres at the Hollywood Theater in New York City.
- November 28 – In Boston, Massachusetts, a fire in the Cocoanut Grove night club kills 491 people.



October 28: The Alaska Highway is completed.

## December

- December 1 – Gasoline rationing begins in the United States.
- December 2 – Manhattan Project: Below the bleachers of Stagg Field at the University of Chicago, a team led by Enrico Fermi initiates the first self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction (a coded message, "The Italian navigator has landed in the new world" is then sent to U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt).
- December 22 – In Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, an avalanche kills 26, including Vulcan Crucible Steel Co heir-apparent Samuel A. Stafford Sr., when two 100 ton boulders fall on a bus filled with wartime steel workers on their way home.

## Ongoing

- World War II, U.S. involvement (1941–1945)

## Unknown

- The Bernard Family Hall of North American Mammals open in the American Museum of Natural History, with 10 dioramas

## Births

- January 17 – Muhammad Ali, born Cassius Clay, African American heavyweight boxer (d. 2016) The G.O.A.T.
- February 20 – Mitch McConnell, U.S. Senator from Kentucky from 1985
- February 24 – Joe Lieberman, U.S. Senator from Connecticut from 1989 to 2013
- March 13 – Scatman John, singer and songwriter (d. 1999)
- March 29 – Larry Pressler, U.S. Senator from South Dakota from 1979 to 1997
- April 2 – Leon Russell, singer-songwriter, keyboard player and guitarist (d. 2016)
- April 25 – Jon Kyl, U.S. Senator from Arizona from 1995 to 2013
- May 9
  - John Ashcroft, 50th Governor of Missouri from 1985 to 1993, U.S. Senator from Missouri from 1995 to 2001, and 79th United States Attorney General from 2001 to 2005 under President George W. Bush
  - Jerry Buchek, baseball player
- May 14 – Byron Dorgan, U.S. Senator from North Dakota from 1992 to 2011
- May 22 – Ted Kaczynski, mathematician, professor and murderer
- June 7 – Charles R. Boutin, lawyer and politician
- June 15 – Ken Allen, Catholic Knight of Columbus, businessman and big time Notre Dame fan
- June 18 – Roger Ebert, film critic (d. 2013)
- June 19 – Bob Kasten, U.S. Senator from Wisconsin from 1981 to 1993
- July 4
  - Floyd Little, American football player and coach
  - Peter Rowan, singer-songwriter and guitarist (Earth Opera and Old and in the Way)
- July 8 – Phil Gramm, U.S. Senator from Texas from 1985 to 2003
- July 13 – Harrison Ford, actor and film producer
- July 16 – John Purdin, baseball player (d. 2010)
- July 18 – Bobby Susser, songwriter and producer
- August 16 – Barbara George, singer-songwriter (d. 2006)
- August 19 – Fred Thompson, U.S. Senator from Tennessee from 1994 to 2003 (d. 2015)
- August 24 – Max Cleland, U.S. Senator from Georgia from 1997 to 2003
- September 29 – Bill Nelson, U.S. Senator from Florida from 2001
- October 20 – Earl Hindman, actor (d. 2003)
- October 29 – Bob Ross, painter, art instructor and television host (d. 1995)
- November 20 – Joe Biden, 47th Vice President of the United States from 2009 to 2017 and U.S. Senator from Delaware from 1973 to 2009
- November 27 – Jimi Hendrix, rock musician, singer and songwriter (d. 1970)
- December 29 – Gifford Pinchot III, management consultant

## Deaths

- February 18 – Albert Payson Terhune, journalist and author (b. 1872)

## See also

- List of American films of 1942
- Timeline of World War II

## References



1. [1] (<http://www.taphilo.com/history/8thaf/index.shtml>)

## External links

-  Media related to 1942 in the United States at Wikimedia Commons

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