

# Willow House Times

Issue 37

Cuyahoga Heights Historical Committee

October 2015



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### Cuyahoga Heights Historical Archives

Kennedy House  
 4651 E 71st Street  
 Home of  
 Historical Committee  
 &  
 Boy Scouts



## Our Village & Soldiers During WWII

Right clockwise:

Joe Crooks zip lining before it was “cool” - 1943;  
 Victor Trevisani with 2 canteen ladies & another soldier in Los Angeles, CA - 1944 [Delia said her mother was not happy to see the picture, but Yolanda put it in a scrapbook]  
 Sgt. Leo Billi goofing off by his barracks - 1945;  
 Day Care center the village put in village hall basement so women could go to work to replace soldiers;  
 Fire Department’s village blood drive November 21, 1942  
**This month ends our report on WW II. Page 2 & 3 show the war’s timeline.**



## WW II Timeline

**September 18, 1931** Japan invades Manchuria.

**October 2, 1935–May 1936** Fascist Italy invades & conquers Ethiopia.

**October 25, 1936** Nazi Germany & Fascist Italy sign a treaty on November 1, the Rome-Berlin Axis is announced.

**November 25, 1936** Nazi Germany & Imperial Japan sign the Anti-Comintern Pact, directed against the Soviet Union

**July 7, 1937** Japan invades China, initiating World War II in the Pacific.

**March 11–13, 1938** Germany incorporates Austria in the Anschluss.

**September 29, 1938** Germany, Italy, Great Britain & France sign the Munich agreement forcing the Czechoslovak Republic to cede the Sudetenland, including the key Czechoslovak military defense positions, to Nazi Germany.

**March 14–15, 1939** Under German pressure the Slovaks to declare their independence & form a Slovak Republic.

**March 31, 1939** France & Great Britain guarantee the integrity of the borders of the Polish state.

**April 7–15, 1939** Fascist Italy invades & annexes Albania.

**August 23, 1939** Germany & the Soviet Union sign a nonaggression agreement on Poland,

**September 1, 1939** Germany invades Poland, initiating World War II in Europe.

**September 3, 1939** Honoring their guarantee of Poland's borders, Great Britain & France declare war on Germany.

**September 17, 1939** The Soviet Union invades Poland from the east.

**September 27–29, 1939** Warsaw surrenders on September 27. Germany & the Soviet Union divide Poland between them. Poland became 1/3 German & 2/3 Soviet.

**November 30, 1939–March 12, 1940** The Soviet Union invades Finland. The Finns sue & have to cede the northern shores of Lake Lagoda & Finnish coastline on the Arctic Sea to the Soviet Union.

**April 9, 1940–June 9, 1940** Germany invades Denmark & Norway. Denmark surrenders upon attack; Norway holds out until June 9.

**May 10, 1940–June 22, 1940** Germany attacks France; Luxembourg is occupied on May 10; the Netherlands surrenders on May 14 & Belgium surrenders on May 28. On June 22, France signs an armistice agreement giving Germany the northern half of the country and the entire Atlantic coastline. In southern France, a collaborationist regime with its capital in Vichy is established.

**June 10, 1940** Italy enters the war. Italy invades southern France on June 21.

**June 28, 1940** Soviet Union forces Romania to cede the eastern province of Bessarabia & northern half of Bukovina to the Soviet Ukraine.

**June 14, 1940–August 6, 1940** Soviet Union occupies the Baltic States on June 14–18, causing Communist coup d'états in each of them on July 14–15, and then annexing them as Soviet Republics on August 3–6.

**July 10, 1940–October August 30, 1940** Germany and Italy decided on the division disputed province of Transylvania between Romania & Hungary.

**July 10–October 31, 1940** The air war known as the Battle of Britain ends in defeat for Nazi Germany.

**September 13, 1940** The Italians invade British-controlled Egypt from Italian-controlled Libya.

**September 27, 1940** Germany, Italy, & Japan sign the Tripartite Pact.

**October 28, 1940** Italy invades Greece from Albania.

**November 1940** Slovakia (November 23), Hungary (November 20), & Romania (November 22) join the Axis.

**February 1941** The Germans send the Afrika Korps to North Africa to reinforce the faltering Italians.

**March 1, 1941** Bulgaria joins the Axis.

**April 6, 1941–June 1941** Germany, Italy, Hungary & Bulgaria invade & dismember Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia surrenders on April 17. Germany & Bulgaria invade Greece in support of the Italians. Resistance in Greece ceases in early June 1941.

**April 10, 1941** The leaders of the terrorist Ustasa movement proclaim the so-called Independent State of Croatia. Recognized immediately by Germany and Italy, the new state includes the province of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Croatia joins the Axis powers on June 15, 1941

**June 22, 1941–November 1941** Axis partners (except Bulgaria) invade the Soviet Union. Finland, seeking redress for the territorial losses in the armistice concluding the Winter War, joins the Axis just before the invasion. The Germans quickly overrun the Baltic States & joined by the Finns, siege Leningrad by September, Moscow by October & controlled most of Russia in November.

**December 6, 1941** A Soviet counteroffensive drives the Germans from the Moscow suburbs in chaotic retreat.

**December 7, 1941** Japan bombs Pearl Harbor.

**December 8, 1941** United States declares war on Japan, joining the allies in World War II. Japanese troops land in the Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia & Singapore. By April 1942, all were under Japanese occupation.

**December 11–13, 1941** Nazi Germany & its Axis partners declare war on the United States.

**May 30, 1942–May 1945** The British bomb Köln (Cologne), bringing the war home to Germany for the first time. Over the next three years Anglo-American bombing reduces urban Germany to rubble.

**August–November 1942** US troops halt the Japanese advance towards Australia at Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.

**October 23–24, 1942** British troops defeat the Germans & Italians at El Alamein in Egypt, sending the Axis forces in chaotic retreat across Libya to the eastern border of Tunisia.

**November 8, 1942** US & British troops land at several points on the beaches of Algeria & Morocco in French North Africa. The failure of the Vichy French troops to defend against the invasion enables the Allies to move swiftly to the western border of Tunisia & triggers the German occupation of southern France on November 11.

**November 23, 1942–February 2, 1943** Soviet troops counterattack, breaking through the Hungarian & Romanian lines northwest & southwest of Stalingrad & trapping the German Sixth Army in the city. Forbidden by Hitler to retreat or break out of the Soviet ring, survivors of the 6th Army surrendered on January 30 and February 2, 1943.

**May 13, 1943** Axis forces in Tunisia surrender to the Allies, ending the North African campaign.

**July 10, 1943** US & British troops land on Sicily. By mid-August, the Allies control Sicily.

**July 5, 1943** The Germans launch a massive tank offensive near Kursk in the Soviet Union. The Soviets blunt the attack within a week and begin an offensive initiative of their own.

**July 25, 1943** The Fascist Grand Council deposes Mussolini. The Italian Marshall Badoglio form a new government.

**September 8, 1943** The Badoglio government surrenders unconditionally to the Allies. The Germans immediately seize control of Rome & northern Italy, establishing a puppet Fascist regime under Mussolini, freed from imprisonment by German commandos on September 12.

**September 9, 1943** Allied troops land on the beaches of Salerno near Naples.

**November 6, 1943** Soviet troops liberate Kiev.

**January 22, 1944** Allied troops land successfully near Anzio, just south of Rome.

**March 19, 1944** Fearing Hungary's intention to desert the Axis partnership, the Germans occupy Hungary.

**June 4, 1944** Allied troops liberate Rome. Within six weeks, their bombers could hit Germany for the first time.

**June 6, 1944** British & US troops land on Normandy beaches of France, opening an other front against the Germans.

**June 22, 1944** The Soviets launch a massive offensive in eastern Byelorussia (Belarus), destroying the German Army's Group Center and driving westward to the Vistula River across from Warsaw in central Poland by August 1.

**July 25, 1944** Anglo-American forces break out of the Normandy beachhead and race eastward towards Paris.

**August 1, 1944–October 5, 1944** The non-communist underground Home Army rises up against the Germans in an effort to liberate Warsaw before the arrival of Soviet troops. The Soviet advance halts on the east bank of the Vistula. On October 5, the Germans surrender the remnants of the Home Army forces fighting in Warsaw.

**August 15, 1944** Allied forces land in France near Nice & advanced rapidly towards the Rhine River

**August 20–25, 1944** Allied troops reach Paris. On August 25, Free French forces, supported by Allied troops, enter the French capital. By September, the Allies reach the German border; by December, virtually all of France, most of Belgium & part of the southern Netherlands are liberated.

**August 23, 1944** The appearance of Soviet troops causes Romanian opposition to overthrow their regime. The new government immediately switches sides in the war. The Romanian turnaround compels Bulgaria to surrender on September 8 & the Germans to evacuate Greece, Albania & southern Yugoslavia in October.

**September 12, 1944** Finland concludes an armistice with the Soviet Union, leaving the Axis.

**October 20, 1944** US troops land in the Philippines.

**October 15, 1944** The Hungarian fascist Arrow Cross movement carries out a coup d'état with German support to prevent the Hungarian government from pursuing negotiations for surrender to the Soviets.

**December 16, 1944** The Germany's final offensive in the west, the **Battle of the Bulge**, attempted to re-conquer Belgium and split the Allied forces along the German border. By January 1, 1945, the Germans were in retreat.

**January 12, 1945** Soviets' new Hungary offensive drive the Germans and their Hungarian collaborators out of Hungary in early April, forcing the surrender of Slovakia & capturing Vienna on April 13.

**March 7, 1945** US troops cross the Rhine River at Remagen.

**April 16, 1945** The Soviets launch their final offensive, encircling Berlin.

**April 1945** Partisan units, led by Yugoslav Communist topple the Ustasa regime.

**April 30, 1945** Hitler reportedly commits suicide. [With dental records German court declared him dead in 1956.]

**May 7, 1945** Germany surrenders to the western Allies.

**May 9, 1945** Germany surrenders to the Soviets.

**May 1945** Allied troops conquer Okinawa, the last island stop before the Japanese islands.

**August 6, 1945** The United States drops an atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

**August 8, 1945** The Soviet Union declares war on Japan and invades Manchuria.

**August 9, 1945** The United States drops an atomic bomb on Nagasaki.

**September 2, 1945** Having agreed in principle to unconditional surrender on August 14, 1945, Japan formally surrenders, ending World War II.

# Cuyahoga Heights Historical Committee

Barb Bartczak

Mark Chase

Laura Hine

Irma Schab

Sandy Waldemarson

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## 2015 Meetings

10 AM - Noon

April 4th

May 2nd

May Memorial Day

Open House 9 AM - 1PM

August 1st

October 3rd

at

Kennedy House

4561 E. 71st Street

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Willow Times News

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Website

[sites.google.com/site/cuyahogahtshistorical](http://sites.google.com/site/cuyahogahtshistorical)

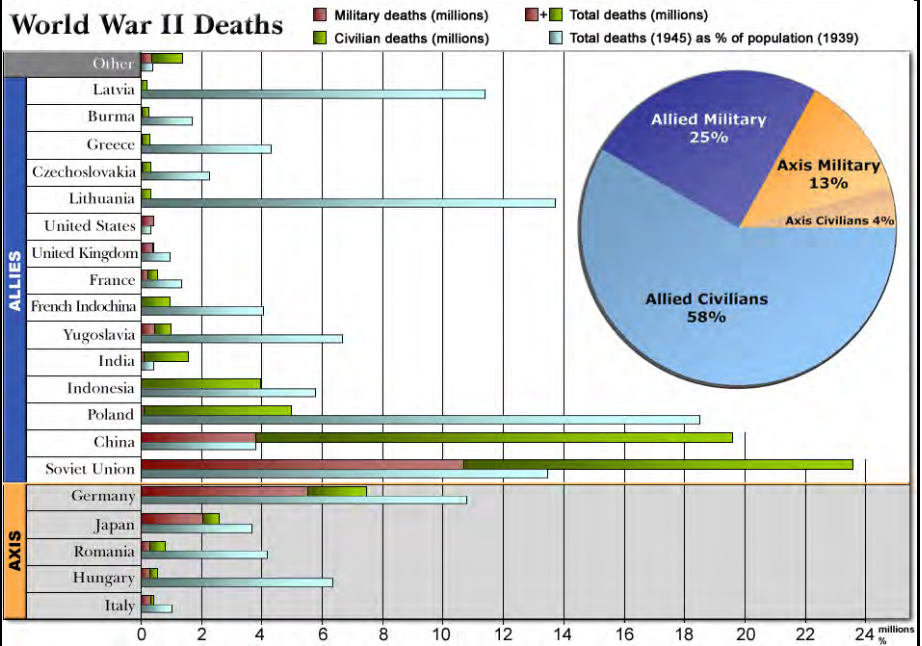
Webmaster-Laura Hine

Facebook

[www.facebook.com/groups/132447953512779/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/132447953512779/)

## Do You Know?

Top: Our atomic bomb at Nagasaki;  
Hiroshima after bombing;  
Bottom: Line chart showing WW II Deaths



October's Sources: Barb Bartczak; Cheryl Harris; Irma Schab; Delia Trevisani; Village Fire Dept; www.wikipedia.org; www.ushmm.org; www.britannia.com; www.dailymail.co.uk

## Committee News

The Historical Committee's last meeting of 2015 was October 3rd. You can schedule a time to visit by contacting any committee member or calling the village hall. We will e-mail or call you to set up a time. We always want more pictures or items from the village for the archives. You can send pictures to [kblkwoods@aol.com](mailto:kblkwoods@aol.com) or post them on our facebook page shown at the left. Call the village hall or Sandy Waldemarson about giving items.

