

1941

- Jan. 17, R.A.F. bombed German air base at Catania, Sicily.
- Jan. 18-20, Germans lost 39 aeroplanes in 3-day attack on Malta. German air losses in Mediterranean announced as 87 in less than a month.
- Jan. 26, Turkish radio reported German staff officers being attached to Italian commands.
- Feb. 8, British fleet shelled electric works, power station, oil storages and harbour works at Genoa—Italian naval base and possible centre of Axis expedition to North Africa.
- Feb. 10, British parachute troops landed in Calabria and disrupted communications.
- Feb. 23, Britain declared a 36,000 sq. mile area of the central Mediterranean “dangerous to shipping”. Signor Mussolini, in a radio speech, announced that German air and armoured units had arrived in Sicily and Libya.
- Feb. 26, British seized Italian Dodecanese Island of Kastelorizo.
- Feb. 28, British forces withdrew from Kastelorizo.
- Mar. 12, Heavy air raids on Rhodes and Scarpanto.
- Mar. 28-30, Engagement in eastern Mediterranean resulted in Italian loss of 3 cruisers and 2 destroyers.
- Apr. 15, Convoy of 3 Italian destroyers and 5 cargo ships destroyed between Sicily and Tripoli by R.N. One British destroyer lost.
- May 5, Germany occupied Lesbos, Chios and 6 other Greek Aegean islands.
- May 28, British aeroplanes, attacking Libya-bound Italian convoy, followed ships into Tunisian port of Sfax and bombed them there, setting fire to a French ship.
- May 29, Vichy lodged strong protests against bombing at Sfax and alleged bombing of railway station at Homs, Syria.

**Egypt-Libya**

1940

- Sept. 12, Italian forces began invasion of Egypt.
- Sept. 12-17, Italians advanced to Sidi Barrani, occupying Salum (Sept. 14) and Buqbuq (Sept. 15).
- Sept. 21, Italian air raid on Alexandria.
- Sept. 23, Egypt placed under martial law and Italian nationals arrested.
- Oct. 1, R.A.F. raid on Tobruk.
- Oct. 8, R.A.F. bombed Bardia and Salum.

- Oct. 9, Italians made tentative advance from Sidi Barrani towards Egypt, but withdrew to their original positions.
- Oct. 20, First Italian air raid on Cairo.
- Nov. 1, Italian air raid on Mersa Matruh; 8 Italian machines shot down. R.A.F. bombed bases in Libya.
- Nov. 19, British mechanized patrols defeated Italian 50-tank column at Hilquit, 15 miles south of Sidi Barrani.
- Dec. 9, British forces in Egypt took offensive, attacked Italians near Sidi Barrani, and captured 1,000 prisoners.
- Dec. 10, British broke Italian line of communication behind Sidi Barrani.
- Dec. 11, Sidi Barrani captured.
- Dec. 12, Britain reported that combined Naval, Army and Air Force operations in Egypt had resulted in capture of 20,000 Italians.
- Dec. 16, British captured Salum, Egypt, and Fort Capuzzo, Libya, and penetrated into Libya.
- Dec. 17, British invested Bardia and captured 3 Italian frontier forts.
- Dec. 18, R.A.F. reported Italians retreating towards Derna, 150 miles within Libyan border. R.N. and R.A.F. attacked Bardia, while land forces advanced to within 5 miles of the town.
- Dec. 20, Bardia completely surrounded.

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- Jan. 5, Bardia captured by British and Australian troops. Free French forces cut Bardia-Tobruk road.
- Jan. 8, British forces invested Tobruk.
- Jan. 12, R.A.F. obtained command of the air on Libyan front.
- Jan. 22, Tobruk captured by British, Australian and Free French forces.
- Jan. 24, Italian headquarters at Cirene withdrawn under R.A.F. attacks.
- Jan. 28, Free French forces, operating from Chad, announced capture of oasis of Fezzan, in southwestern Libya.
- Jan. 29, Italian prisoners at Tobruk stated that 1,000 German airmen and technicians were stationed in Libya.
- Jan. 30, Derna captured by British and Australian forces.
- Feb. 2, Heavy air raids on Castel Benito and Zanzur, Tripoli.