

1941

- May 21, British consolidated position at Fallujah, Iraq, seized by airborne troops. German anti-aircraft batteries reported in action at Syrian air bases.
- May 22, Egyptian Government warned its subjects in Syria and Lebanon to return to Egypt. A French regiment in Syria went over to Free French forces.
- May 29, British force advancing on Baghdad captured Khanuqta, 20 miles from the capital.
- May 30, Premier Rashid Ali Al Gailani of Iraq fled to Iran. British troops arrived within 5 miles of Baghdad and a second column reached Ur.
- May 31, Armistice arranged between British and Iraq forces.

**Battle of the Atlantic**

1941

- Feb. 23, Shipping losses for week 60,868 tons, almost equal to losses in preceding fortnight.
- Mar. 2, Shipping losses for week, 150,700 tons.
- Mar. 5, The First Lord of the Admiralty stated that British, Allied and neutral shipping losses averaged 40,000 tons a week to May, 1940, 90,000 tons a week for the next 7 months and 51,000 tons for the 11 weeks ended Feb. 24.
- Mar. 9, Shipping losses for week, 98,832 tons.
- Mar. 14, Admiralty announced appointment of Commander-in-Chief of Western Approaches to Britain.
- Mar. 16, British and Allied shipping losses for week, 146,098 tons.
- Mar. 17, Shipping losses during first 18 months of war (to Mar. 2) announced as 1,245 British, Allied and neutral ships totaling 4,962,257 tons, or 600,000 tons more than in first 2½ years of the War of 1914-18.
- Mar. 18, Mr. Churchill stated that German battle-cruisers and submarines had sunk unconvoyed British ships within 1,500 miles of New York.
- Mar. 21, Radio messages picked up from a British freighter and tanker being shelled by a raider off the Grand Banks.
- Mar. 22, Germany claimed that surface raiders, submarines and aircraft destroyed 224,000 tons of shipping in an extensive raid in the North Atlantic.
- Mar. 23, Ship sinkings for week totalled 59,141 tons: 10 British, 24,940 tons; 6 Allied, 27,528 tons; 1 neutral, 6,672 tons.
- Mar. 25, Germany announced that her zone of warlike operations had been extended to within 3 miles of Greenland, including Iceland and surrounding waters.
- Mar. 30, R.A.F. bombed German battle-ships *Schärnhorst* and *Gneisenau* in Brest harbour. U.S. seized 28 Italian, 2 German and over 30 Danish ships in U.S. ports as a result of actual or anticipated sabotage. Ship sinkings for week, 77,575 tons: 13 British, 58,870 tons; 5 Allied, 14,975 tons; 2 neutral, 3,730 tons.
- Apr. 1, Nine Axis ships burned or scuttled in Latin-American ports and 15 others taken over by Mexico and Venezuela. German and Italian notes protested seizures by U.S.
- Apr. 2, Two German merchantmen set afire by their crews 200 miles south of Callao, Peru. Further and stronger protests by Germany and Italy regarding seizure of their ships in U.S. ports.
- Apr. 3, U.S. demanded recall of Italian naval attaché as result of sabotage of Italian ships in U.S. ports.
- Apr. 7, Mexico refused German and Italian requests for restoration of Axis ships seized in Mexican ports.
- Apr. 8, President Roosevelt announced U.S. intention to purchase 39 Danish vessels in protective custody.
- Apr. 23, Loss of H.M.S. *Rajputana*, armed merchant cruiser, announced.
- Apr. 25, President Roosevelt announced extension of U.S. patrol in Atlantic.
- Apr. 29, Sinking of S.S. *Nerissa* caused first Canadian military casualties at sea.
- Apr. 30, President Roosevelt asked U.S. Maritime Commission to requisition 2,000,000 tons of American merchant shipping to transport munitions to Britain.