

The Historical First Pres

Volume 4

World War II Era

1940-1949

First Presbyterian Church of Santa Barbara - circa 1965



Keeping Our Heads An Opinion Piece by C. N. U. Harken

1942 - When normal societal life is turned upside down, and when it is hard to know whom to trust, how do we react? Do we welcome the new neighbor, or keep an eye on him in case he is a spy? Do we fall into the despair that accompanied the first World War? Or do we maintain normalcy for our families even though mothers must leave children to work, we cope with rationing, we face possible attacks, and we fight back the panic that black out drills bring?

A wise person once wrote that keeping “your head while those around you are losing theirs” was a sign of manhood. For the church and all her subsidiary groups, keeping our focus firmly on God even though others have become distracted with fear and anger is our gift of Salvation to this world. Most assuredly when times get tough, Christians must reach out even stronger.

It is rumored that a group of Christian leaders in Lompoc purchased the land of their excluded and relocated Japanese

Mortgage Burned

1944—Yes, the congregation has much to celebrate. In this, the year of their Diamond Jubilee, First Presbyterian is able to burn the mortgage on their facility. What a celebration is planned, too—special music and speakers, as well as a historical pageant written and directed by church member

Joe Watson. The congregation also celebrates the calling of its fifth Senior Pastor, the Rev. Joseph Ewing, DD.



neighbors, to hold in safekeeping until they could return. In 1941, our President Roosevelt asked for help with lifting the morale of our troops, and among those six groups who stepped forward was the *Salvation Army*, the *Young Men’s Christian Association*, and the *Young Women’s Christian Association*. Since that time many of our Christian brothers and sisters have participated in the resulting United Service Organization’s (USO). Others selflessly give hours of work to the Red Cross, men and women, some traveling far away from home and facing the dangers of war front. Locally, volunteers work at the Army Hospital at Hoff Heights.

Our choices are not easy in times like these. Here, and worldwide, some have acted in agreement with governmental wishes, others have not; it matters they have acted in accordance with conscience. This, then, and always is how Christians can stand fast against the evils of chaos that threaten to undo us, by being strong living examples of Christ.

Church Notices in Brief

1948—**Welcome, Back!** After travels aboard, including working as missionaries in Japan, Dr. Walter Buchanan (and wife, Edith) has returned as our Minister of Music. We can only hope he will be with us a long time.

Are you single? Dr. Ewing announces the Koko Club for young singles. Koko stands for “Keep On Keeping On,” most likely coming from Paul’s exhortation to the Philippians to remain steadfast to the ways of Christ. The group meets for Bible Study and social activities. Who knows, you might meet someone.

Ellwood Shelled!

February 23, 1942 - It has been confirmed. A Japanese submarine shelled the oil refinery at Ellwood. Minor damage was done to the pier and an oil derrick. It is reported that Japanese Commander Nishino Kozo was familiar with the area. As the skipper of an oil tanker, he had refueled at the Ellwood station. While little physical damage was done, nerves have been rattled up and down the entire West Coast as the very real danger of enemy attack has become apparent.

Santa Barbara Gets New Airline Terminal



1941 - Due to the tireless efforts of TM Storke, Santa Barbara has been selected for the US government cost-sharing airport program.

There are 250 such airports to be constructed as part of a defense program. United Airlines has been running passenger service from our area since 1936 and they have commissioned a Spanish-style terminal building to be designed by William Edwards and Joseph Plunkett, architects of the Arlington Theatre.

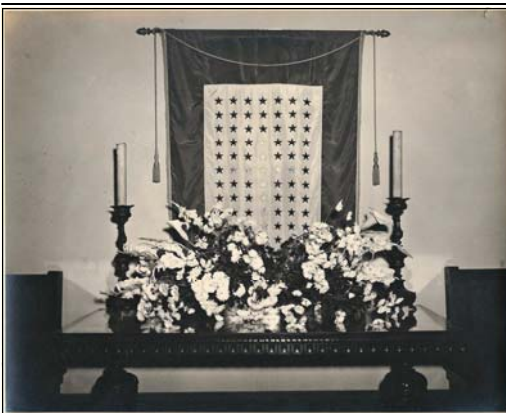
The Marines Have Landed!

1942 - Santa Barbarans can sleep safer knowing that there is a Marine Corps Air Station in neighboring Goleta. Some have said "The Swamp" of Goleta is far from ideal: Though the tidal marsh has already been filled in to accommodate three air strips, drainage is poor and high tides flood a portion of the airfield; and pilots refer to the airport as landing in Santa Barbara Lake. In addition, Highway 101 goes right through the airport and must be moved. Until it is, the Marines will have to stop traffic every time they need to move aircraft or equipment across the Highway. Then there is the stench from the hog farm, and the mosquitoes. However, the barracks are high and dry on a southwest plateau near the ocean. Marines are also commenting on how warm and welcoming Santa Barbarans are, inviting them into their homes for meals. We must be friendly, the chaplain reports 15 weddings in one week. The base is a pilot training station.

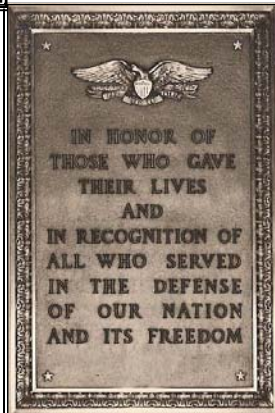


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1945 - More than 100 young people from our church served in the military and were honored by stars on the Church's Service Flag. Among the memorials that were donated to honor those that had died in the war, a unique one is the Lawrence Fowler family commemorating their son who was killed by decorating the sanctuary with truck loads of flowers from their ranches every Easter Sunday.





Tilly's Timely Tips

Those of you with apple trees, make up some large batches of applesauce, can it, and send any extra to your dearest relatives. Use honey and applesauce instead of oil and sugar in your cooking for delightful results. Make certain to send a batch to our boys over seas. Ladies, I know we all feel naked without our stockings, but a carefully drawn line up the back of the leg will give the illusion that you are wearing them. And keep those victory gardens growing. Remember, our efforts are just as important to win this war.

Rationing

1943 - Note: The following items are being rationed: anything made of rubber, especially tires. There is a limit of 5 tires per car. Typewriters, all petroleum products, sugar, footwear, bicycles, coffee, stoves, meat, lard, shortening, oils, cheese, butter, processed foods, canned, bottled and frozen, dried fruits, canned milk,

“Around Town” by Hetty Havmore

1945 - Normally, darlings, I would be gushing about all the *local* goings on. However, I feel I must share with you an endeavor in which so many of my glamorous friends are involved. It is called the USO, or United Service Organization. It had the most humble beginnings, little centers and clubs that opened up as a “Home Away From Home” for our boys in uniform. At these clubs there were dances, and movies, a quiet place to write a letter home, maybe a cup of “Joe.” Then, the USO started presenting performances to the troops and now, just anybody who is anybody is involved in it. My

dears, the list of entertainers who have performed on the USO tours reads like who’s who of Hollywood. Al Jolson was the first to volunteer. The Andrews Sisters, Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, James Cagney, Jimmy Stewart, Fred Astaire, Glenn Miller, Gary Cooper, Ann Sheridan, Lauren Bacall, Marlene Dietrich, Danny Kaye, Martha Raye, Mickey Rooney, Betty Hutton, Dinah Shore, and that dreamy Frank Sinatra. Kudoos to our brave entertainers and the brave USO volunteers who are bringing so much cheer to our brave soldiers.



firewood, coal, jams, jellies and fruit butter are also being rationed. Each person in your household is entitled to a ration book, including babies and small children. In order to qualify for gas, you must certify a need. An A sticker entitles you to 3-4 gallons of gas a week. B stickers, for military workers, are for 8 gallons; C stickers are for workers essential to the war effort, such as doctors. X stickers, for Ministers of Religion, police, firemen, and civil de-

fense workers allow unlimited gas.



1943 ad from a household appliance maker, reminding people of the sacrifices needed on the home front.



Church Adds CE Building

1949—The past few years have seen a great surge in the congregation of First Presbyterian Church. Now at 2,000 members, the congregation is seeing the effects of the Baby Boom that has hit our nation. Good thing they have finally been able to build that Christian Education Building facility. Three stories high with four classrooms and a gathering room on each floor, it certainly is capable of holding quite a number of children. However, rumor has it, they are already running out of space.

Abbreviated World War II Timeline—1939-1945

1939—September through December Britain, South Africa, India, Australia, New Zealand and Canada declare war on Germany. Poland surrenders to Germany. The following countries initially declare their neutrality in the conflict: Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Switzerland, Italy, Ireland, USA, Denmark and Belgium. USSR begins its offensive against Lithuania, Poland and Scandinavia. Japan and China continue conflict in the Pacific.

1940

March—Finland signs peace treaty with USSR

May—Germany invades Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Auschwitz concentration camp founded.

June—Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands are occupied by Germany. Norway surrenders. Italy declares war on France and the United Kingdom. USSR occupies Baltic States. France surrenders to Germany and Italy. Italy invades North Africa.

August—Hitler sets forth plans to invade Britain.

September—Germany's Jews ordered to wear yellow stars.

Italy invades Egypt, Palestine and Libya but is held off by British forces. In spite of a major offensive by Chinese Communists, the Japanese occupy Vietnam. The Tripartite Pact between Germany, Italy and Japan is signed.

November—The USSR is invited to join the Tripartite Pact, but holds out for territorial gains.

December—The Greeks not only prevent Italy's invasion, but also liberate parts of Albania. Italy turns to Germany for help. The British/Indian "Western Desert Force" pushes Italian troops out of Egypt towards Libya.

1941

February—XII Corps or the "Western

Desert Force" defeats the Italian 10th Army. In Operation Compass, German General Erwin Rommel waits for them in Tripoli, Tunisia with his Afrika Korps. Deportation of Jews to Poland begins.

March—US begins a "Lend-Lease" program in which war materials are exchanged for military bases. German panzer tanks arrive in Italy and the British are pushed back. A Japanese spy reportedly arrives in Honolulu to observe US fleet.

April—A pro-Axis government is installed in Iraq. Germany and Italy invade Yugoslavia and Greece, by end of month, both have surrendered. Still maintaining neutrality, the US begins patrolling the Atlantic and occupies Greenland.

June—Germany invades the Soviet Union. Finland declares war on the USSR, as does Albania.

July—FDR freezes Japanese US assets in response to Japan's occupation of French Indochina.

August—FDR and Churchill sign the "Atlantic Charter" agreeing to Post-War terms that neither country would attempt to expand its territory and would ensure that the people of each country could determine their own form of government.

October—Gandhi urges followers to begin a passive against British rule in India. The *USS Kearney* and *Reuben James* are torpedoed near Iceland.

November—The temperature at -12°C , freezing German troops face the USSR's ski troops outside Moscow. When negotiations with Japan regarding US oil embargo and freezing of her assets fail, Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, sends the "Hull Note" demanding Japan's complete withdrawal from French Indochina and China.

December—Japanese attack Pearl Harbor. US enters both European and Pacific fronts of World War II.

1942

January—The United Nations is established by 26 Allied nations. Manila is captured by the Japanese forces. US and Filipino troops continue the retreat to Bataan. Nazis at the Wannsee conference in Berlin decide that the final solution to the Jewish problem is relocation, and later, extermination. US soldiers land in Samoa.

February—USSR defeats Germans at Kursk. The British retreat to last defense in Singapore. A Japanese submarine makes the first attack on the USA mainland by shelling an oil field at Ellwood. The USA Government begins the internment of Japanese-American citizens.

March—The RAF bombs targets in France and Germany. Jews in Berlin must now clearly identify their houses.

April—24,000 sick and starving troops are trapped on Bataan. Hitler assumes supreme authority over Germany.

May—Battle of the Coral Sea begins. The USS Lexington is lost, but USA claims an overall victory. An allied ship on the St. Lawrence River, Canada, is sunk by a U-boat. The Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) is created. The Japanese send a diversionary force to the Aleutians. Jews in France are ordered to wear the yellow Star of David.

June—First reports in the West that gas is being used to kill the Jews. The Battle of Midway begins. The USS Yorktown sinks, four Japanese carriers and one cruiser are sunk. The battle is viewed as

World War II Timeline—1939-1945 (continued)

the turning point in the Pacific war. Anne Frank receives a diary for her thirteenth birthday. The Manhattan Project is started, beginning the research to produce nuclear weapons.

July—Guadalcanal is firmly in the Japanese hands. The USA Air Force flies its first missions in Europe. Rommel's forces run out of ammunition during the battle of El Alamein. The systematic deportation of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto begins. Treblinka is opened in Poland.

August—Germans continue successful advance towards Stalingrad. The Battle of Guadalcanal begins.

September—The Battle of Stalingrad starts. Australian and USA forces defeat the Japanese at Milne Bay, Papua. This is the first defeat of Japanese ground forces of the war. A Japanese plane drops incendiaries on Oregon. The Battle of Bloody Ridge, Guadalcanal drives off Japanese forces. General Rommel leaves North Africa for medical treatment in Germany. Hitler boasts that Stalingrad will be taken.

October—The A4-rocket is successfully launched at Peenemunde, Germany. By mutual arrangement, the Allies agree on a strategy where the US Air Force will bomb in the daytime, and the RAF at night. The US Navy intercepts and defeats a Japanese fleet on their way to reinforce troops at Guadalcanal. Hitler issues order that all commandos are to be executed immediately upon capture. The British make a critical breakthrough with tanks west of El Alamein.

November—The Allied breakout at El Alamein begins. Rommel is forced to retreat during the night. A climactic naval battle near Guadalcanal starts. The US navy suffers heavy losses, but is still in control of the sea around Guadalcanal. The German 6th army is

surrounded at Stalingrad. The French navy scuttles its own ships at Toulon.

December—Gasoline rationing begins in the US. The first nuclear chain reaction is initiated at the University of Chicago. The US starts bombing mainland Italy. The USS New Jersey is launched on the anniversary of Pearl Harbor attack. Marines turn Guadalcanal over to the US army.

1943

January—The Soviet Union launches new attacks on Stalingrad, Leningrad and the Caucasus. Large parts of the German 6th army at Stalingrad surrender. The Japanese evacuate Guadalcanal.

February—Rommel retreats farther into Tunisia. Libya is under Allied control. Guadalcanal is finally secured, it is the first major achievement of USA offensive in the Pacific War. Dwight D. Eisenhower is selected to command the Allied armies in Europe. The Nazis arrest the members of the White Rose movement, an anti-Nazi youth group.

March—German forces liquidate the Jewish ghetto in Krakow. Stalin demands a Second Front, accusing his allies of treachery. The Bermuda Conference opens, the subject being the plight of the European Jews; the Allies come to no solid conclusion.

April—Hitler and Mussolini meet in Salzburg to bolster Mussolini's fading morale. The last of the Afrika Korps surrender in the northern corner of Tunisia.

May—The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising ends. The ghetto is destroyed and Goebbels announces that all Jews have left Berlin. USA B-17s bomb Naples.

June—Japanese abandon the Alueutians, their last foothold in the western hemisphere.

July—Hitler approves the V-2 rocket

project for top priority. The Allies invade Sicily to begin the liberation of Europe. Deportations of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto to the Treblinka extermination camp begins. Operation Gomorrah firestorm bombing of Hamburg begins.

August—John F Kennedy's PT-109 is rammed and sunk off the Solomon Islands. Peenemunde V-2 rocket facility is bombed.

September—Mainland Italy is invaded. An Italian Armistice is signed and Italy drops out of the war. Germany evacuates civilians from Berlin. German paratroopers rescue Mussolini from mountaintop captivity. Mussolini proclaims the Italian Social Republic. The battle of the Solomons comes to an end. It is reported that the Danes are secretly sending their Jewish countrymen to Sweden by means of a dangerous boat crossing.

October—Italy declares war on Germany. The German War Office contracts the Mittlewerk to produce 12000 V-2 rockets.

November—Heinrich Himmler orders that Gypsies (the Roma) and part-Gypsies are to be put on the same level as Jews and placed in concentration camps. Battle of Tarawa begins. The Japanese Government encourages families to grow their own food.

December—German soldiers carry out the Massacre of Kalavryta in southern Greece. US General Dwight D. Eisenhower is named Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

1944

January—The Soviet Union pushes into Poland. British forces take Maungdaw, Burma. The RAF drops 2300 tons of bombs on Berlin. The US invades the Marshall Islands.

February—The plan for the invasion of

World War II Timeline—1939-1945 (continued)

France is confirmed.

March—Japanese begin an four-month invasion attempt on India. RAF suffers grievous losses in a huge air raid on Nuremberg.

April—General de Gaulle takes command of all Free French forces. German troops begin evacuation of the Crimea. USA troops return to the Philippines.

May—Allied troops prepare for D-Day with heavy bombings of the European continent. Japanese retreat from India with heavy losses.

June—The first Allied troops land in Normandy on June 5, D-Day begins on June 6th. Germany launches a V1 flying bomb attack on England.

July—Saipan is declared secure. The Japanese losses number over 30,000 troops, and, in the last stages, civilians commit suicide with the encouragement of the Japanese military. General Hideki Tojo resigns as chief minister as the defeats continue to mount. Soviet forces liberate Majdanek Concentration Camp.

August—Guam is liberated. Allies land in southern France. Patton's tanks cross the Marne. Romania surrenders to the USSR.

September—The first V-2 rocket hits London. Allied troops enter Germany. US troops reach the Siegfried line.

October—USSR enters Hungary. US Navy carriers attack Formosa. Rommel, under suspicion in an assassination attempt, voluntarily commits suicide to save his family. Hitler orders a call-up of all men from 16 to 60 for Home Guard duties. B-29's are now using Tinian Island as a base for the systematic bombing of Japan.

November—US planes bomb Singapore, under Japanese control since 1942. V-2 rockets continue to hit Britain, at the rate of 8 per day.

December—The battle for Iwo Jima begins. The Battle of the Bulge begins. Hungary, now led by a Soviet controlled government, declares war on Germany.

1945---The end is near.

January—The Germans counter attack along the Saar River in an attempt to split apart and weaken Allied forces. Though US casualties were great, the greatest loss was the destruction of the German Air Force. Warsaw is liberated by USSR troops and a government favorable to the Communists is installed. The Battle of the Bulge comes to an end. Hitler firmly ensconces himself in the bunker in Berlin with his companion Eva Braun. The Japanese increasingly use kamikaze tactics against the US naval forces. US B-29s bomb Tokyo again. FDR is sworn in for his fourth term as US President.

February—US Naval vessels bombard Tokyo and Yokohama. Marines invade Iwo Jima. The 6th Army captures Manila. Massive bombings of Germany by 9000 bombers.

March—Finland declares war on Germany, backdated to Sept 15, 1944. The US firebombs Tokyo, with heavy civilian losses. Iwo Jima is secured. V-2 rockets continue to hit England and Belgium. Germany is under attack from all sides. General Eisenhower broadcasts a demand for the Germans to surrender.

April—US invades Okinawa. It will be a leaping off base for the mainland invasion. Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer is

executed at Flossenburg prison. Franklin D Roosevelt dies suddenly. USSR advance towards the city of Berlin continues and soon reaches the suburbs. Reportedly Himmler makes a secret surrender offer to the allies, the offer is rejected and Hitler has Himmler shot for his betrayal. Mussolini is captured in northern Italy while trying to escape. Mussolini is shot and hanged in Milan. On April 29th, Hitler marries Eva Braun; on April 30th, they commit suicide.

May 7, 1945—

Germany surrenders.

June—Japanese are in general retreat in China. The defeat of the Japanese in Okinawa is completed. The United Nations Charter is signed in San Francisco.

July—US conducts the Trinity test at Alamogordo, New Mexico; the first nuclear weapon is detonated.

August—US drops the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. The Soviet Union declares war on Japan. US drops the second atomic bomb on Nagasaki.

August 15th, 1945—

Japan surrenders, thus ending WWII.

Adapted from the Wikipedia WWII Timeline by Noni & Jim Patchell

Local Buildings Change Classification



1941—The Naval Reserve Armoy has just been sold by the City to the Navy for \$1, so that the Sixth Division may have a Naval Reserve Center. And art devotees are rejoicing at the acquisition of the old Post Office on State Street for a new Art Museum. The museum is to be a venue for the many area artists to display their work.