



◀ 53. George Hurrell, photographer, in his Warner Bros. Studio.

Timeline

1933

- January 30** Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany.
- March 4** Franklin Delano Roosevelt is inaugurated as president of the United States.
- March 12** First concentration camp opens outside Berlin.
- April** A Nazi edict declares that all American film studios operating in Germany must fire all German Jews.
- June 28** The Nazis limit the distribution of Hollywood films in Germany.
- September 18** Warner Bros. releases *Bosko's Picture Show*, a cartoon lampooning Hitler.
- December 22** Members of the Black Legion, a neo-fascist organization based in Detroit, assassinate George Marchuk, secretary of the United Auto Workers.

1934

- The Production Code Administration (PCA) under Joseph Breen institutes new self-policing restrictions on the film industry, banning films that do not represent national regimes or leaders fairly.
- July 15** Warner Bros. is the first Hollywood studio to pull all business operations out of Germany. MGM, Paramount and Twentieth Century Fox continue business in Germany until 1939.

1935

- May 23** *Black Fury* premieres at The Strand.
- August 31** The United States passes its first Neutrality Act, which allowed the president to place embargoes on arms shipments to warring nations.
- September 15** German Jews are stripped of rights by Nuremberg Race Laws.

1936

- Harry Warner begins filming patriotic short subjects, starting with *Give Me Liberty*.
- February 29** The U.S. passes a second Neutrality Act, which prohibits the extension of loans or credit to foreign nations at war.
- March 7** Nazi troops occupy the Rhineland.
- June 8** The Anti-Nazi League is organized in Hollywood.
- July 18** Civil war erupts in Spain.
- October 20** *Charge of the Light Brigade* is released.
- November 3** FDR wins a landslide election to a second term.

1937

- Errol Flynn makes a trip to Spain during the Civil War, embarrassing the Warner brothers, who believe he was supporting the Loyalists.
- January 16** *Black Legion* opens in New York.
- May 1** The U.S. passes its third Neutrality Act, which prohibits selling strategic materials to foreign belligerents.
- July 14** *They Won't Forget* premieres in New York.
- August 11** *The Life of Emile Zola* premieres in New York.

1938

- February 26** Harry Warner creates the Warner Club to evacuate children from Europe.
- April 25** J. Edgar Hoover announces that the FBI has uncovered a Nazi spy ring in the United States.
- November 9/10** *The Adventures of Robin Hood* is released.
- November 9/10** *Kristallnacht* – The Night of Broken Glass: Nazi gangs burn 100 synagogues and destroy over 7,500 Jewish businesses in Germany.

1939

- February 1** Warner Bros. begins filming *Confessions of a Nazi Spy*.
- March 15/16** The Nazis take Czechoslovakia.
- March 28** Spanish Civil War ends with victory of Franco.
- April 25** *Juarez* opens in New York.
- April 28** *Confessions of a Nazi Spy* opens in New York.
- August** *Confessions of a Nazi Spy* is banned in Germany, Italy, Japan, Holland, Norway and Sweden.
- August 23** The Nazis and the Soviets sign a nonaggression treaty.
- September 1** The Nazis invade Poland.
- September 3** Great Britain and France declare war on Germany.
- September 5** The United States proclaims neutrality.
- September 15** Led by Will Hays, the PCA bans the production of anti-Nazi films.
- November 4** The U.S. passes its fourth Neutrality Act, which allows belligerents to purchase American arms and strategic materials if they pay cash and transport the goods themselves (known as “cash and carry”).

1940

- April 9** The Nazis invade Denmark and Norway.
- May 10** The Nazis invade France, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands; Winston Churchill becomes British Prime Minister.
- May 20** Jack Warner calls an emergency meeting of all studio department heads regarding the war.
- June 17** France surrenders to the Nazis.
- August 9** *The Sea Hawk* is released.
- September** The Nazis prohibit the exhibition of Hollywood films in France and Belgium.
- September 4** The America First Committee is established.
- September 7** The Nazi Blitz against England begins.
- September 27** Japan joins the Axis powers of Germany and Italy.
- November** Hollywood studios sign a consent decree with the Justice Department, temporarily suspending an investigation of antitrust violations.
- November 5** Roosevelt is re-elected.

1941

- March 12** *Meet John Doe* opens in New York and Hollywood.
- April 6** The Nazis invade Yugoslavia and Greece.
- April 12** The Nazis seize U.S. film offices in Paris.
- June 21** *Underground* is released.
- June 22** The Nazis invade the Soviet Union.
- July 2** *Sergeant York* premieres in New York.
- July 23** Harry Warner urges FDR to send troops to Britain.
- August 1** Senators Gerald Nye (R, North Dakota), Bennett Champ Clark (R, Missouri) and Burton K. Wheeler (R, Montana) call for an investigation of the motion picture industry, accusing Hollywood of warmongering.
- August 15** *Dive Bomber* is released.
- September 1** The Nazis order Jews to wear yellow stars in Germany and occupied Poland.
- September 9** The Senate subcommittee investigation of motion pictures begins. The subcommittee accuses the industry of being a Jewish-controlled monopoly that violated the official neutrality policy of the U.S.

- September 11** Charles Lindbergh attacks the film industry and makes anti-Semitic remarks at an America First rally.
- September 30** Jack and Harry Warner donate two Spitfire war planes to the British Royal Air Force.
- October 17** Tojo becomes prime minister of Japan.
- December 7** The Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor.
- December 8** The United States and Britain declare war on Japan. The Senate investigation of the motion picture industry ends with the cancellation of its January hearings.
- December 11** The Axis powers declare war on the United States.

1942

- January** *All Through the Night* is released.
- January 1** *Across the Pacific* is released.
- January 20** The Nazis plan the “Final Solution” at Wannsee.
- April** Japanese-Americans are sent to relocation centers.
- May 12** First mass gassing of Jews at Auschwitz concentration camp.
- June 4** The Japanese Navy is defeated at the Battle of Midway.
- June 13** The Office of War Information is created. Part of its mission is to help shape the war content in motion pictures.
- July 2** Jack Warner receives orders to assume command of the First Motion Picture Unit, the Army’s film-making division.
- November 26** *Casablanca* premieres in New York and Allied Forces land in North Africa.

1943

- February 2** The Nazis surrender to the Soviets at Stalingrad.
- May** *Mission to Moscow* is released.
- May 13** Axis troops in North Africa surrender to the Allies.
- June 12** *Action in the North Atlantic* premieres in New York, where several hundred U.S. sailors present Jack Warner with the Merchant Marine Victory Flag.
- August 14** *This is the Army* premieres in Washington, D.C.; Warner Bros. donates proceeds from the film to the Army Emergency Relief Fund.
- November 28** Stalin, Churchill and FDR meet in Tehran.
- December 31** *Destination Tokyo* is released.

1944

- June 6** 150,000 Allied troops land on D-Day.
- June 13** The Nazis begin V-1 rocket attacks on London.
- July 20** Hitler survives an assassination attempt organized by German Army officers.
- August 25** Liberation of Paris.
- October 2** The Allies advance into Germany.
- October 30** Last use of gas chambers at Auschwitz.

1945

- January 26** The Soviets liberate Auschwitz.
- January 28** The Battle of the Bulge ends with an Allied victory.
- April 12** Allies liberate Buchenwald and Bergen-Belsen concentration camps; President Roosevelt dies and Harry Truman becomes president.
- April 21** The Soviets reach Berlin.
- April 28** Mussolini is captured and hanged by Italian partisans; Allied forces take Venice.
- April 30** Adolf Hitler commits suicide.
- May 8** V-E (Victory in Europe) Day.
- August** *Pride of the Marines* is released.
- August 6** First atomic bomb is dropped on Hiroshima and a second on Nagasaki two days later.
- September 2** Japanese sign the surrender agreement: V-J (Victory over Japan) Day.
- November 20** Nuremberg war crimes tribunal begins.