

Major Events of May 1944

May 1944 was a pivotal month in World War II, as the Allies prepared for the D-Day invasion while significant battles and political developments shaped the course of the war. Here are some of the major events:

World War II Events:

1. Final Preparations for D-Day - The Allies were in the final stages of planning Operation Overlord, the invasion of Normandy, which was set for June 6, 1944. Troops, supplies, and equipment were being moved into position across southern England.
2. The Battle of Monte Cassino Ends (May 18) - After months of brutal fighting, the Allies finally captured Monte Cassino in Italy, breaking the German defensive line and opening the road to Rome.
3. Allies Capture Kohima and Imphal (May 31) - The British and Indian forces achieved a crucial victory over the Japanese in Burma, effectively stopping Japan's invasion of India.
4. Massive Allied Bombing Campaigns - Strategic bombing of German industrial and military targets continued, including attacks on oil refineries and rail networks in occupied Europe.
5. Japanese Retreat in the Pacific - The U.S. forces continued to push back Japanese troops, particularly in the Southwest Pacific.

Other Notable Events:

6. Charles de Gaulle Becomes Leader of Free France (May 3) - The French Committee of National Liberation, based in Algiers, was reorganized with de Gaulle as its head, solidifying his leadership.
7. Racial Segregation in the U.S. Military Challenged - On May 3, the Supreme Court ruled in *Smith v. Allwright* that Texas's all-white primary elections were unconstitutional, a step toward dismantling segregation.
8. Holocaust: Deportations to Auschwitz Continue - The Nazis intensified deportations of Hungarian

Jews to Auschwitz, with hundreds of thousands sent to their deaths in gas chambers.

9. Joe Louis Retains Heavyweight Title (May 24) - The boxing champion defeated Buddy Baer in a rematch.

10. First Jet Combat Mission (May 26) - The German Messerschmitt Me 262, the world's first operational jet fighter, was used in combat for the first time.

May 1944 was a month of intense global conflict, setting the stage for the dramatic events of the summer, particularly the D-Day landings in June.