



French Resistance Timeline

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- June 18 1940 De Gaulle gives speech from London asking French to resist the Germans.
- June 22, 1940 France surrenders to Germany. Those who resented German occupation and the Vichy government formed cells that collectively were named the French Resistance.
- May 1941 British Special Operations Executive (SOE) began infiltrating into France to aid the resistance groups.
- Aug, 24 1941 Vichy government passes law, punishable with death sentences, to deal with the resistance movement.
- May 27 1943 The first unified meeting of French resistance groups names *Conseil National de la Resistance* (CNR), took place, chaired by Jean Moulin; it recognized de Gaulle as the leader of the movement. Moulin would be betrayed to the Gestapo a month later, dying en route to a concentration camp.
- 1943 Vichy instituted an obligatory labor service that sent French workers to factories in Germany, thousands of new recruits took refuge with resistance camps in remote forests and mountains.
- 1943 The prospect of a cross-Channel invasion on France became closer to reality, the United States also began aiding the French Resistance. The Office of Strategic Services (OSS) began sending its own agents into France in cooperation with the SOE to rally French support against German occupation.
- May 10 1944 The French Resistance claimed a membership of over 100,000 and requested more military aid from the Allies.
- June 5 1944 First of 93 three-man special forces 'Jedburgh' teams made up of British, American and French personnel in uniform were dropped into France to align French resistance activities with Allied strategy. They also helped to undermine German defenses in Normandy by disabling rail, communication and power networks in the invasion area.
- June 6 1944 Normandy Landing
- Aug. 16 1944 French resistance fighters captured three German posts along the Swiss border.
- Aug. 20 1944 French resistance fighters liberated Toulouse, France.
- Aug 22 1944 1,500 resistance fighters and civilians lost their lives.
- Aug 25, 1944 Paris was liberated.
- Three days later, de Gaulle called for the disbanding of all resistance groups and encouraged them to join the new French Army under his direct control.