



# Top News Stories from 1942

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## World Events

- [Nazi](#) leaders attend the Wannsee Conference to coordinate the "final solution to the Jewish question," the systematic genocide of Jews known as [the Holocaust](#).
- Declaration of [United Nations](#) is signed in Washington.

### World Statistics

Population: 4.378 billion

[population by decade](#)[More World Statistics...](#)

## U.S. Events

- More than 120,000 Japanese and persons of Japanese ancestry living in western U.S. moved to "[relocation centers](#)," some for the duration of the war (Executive Order 9066).
- Coconut Grove nightclub fire in [Boston](#) kills 491. Background: [Fires and Explosions](#)
- Women's military services established. Background: [Female Military Personnel on Active Duty by Grade, September 1998](#). See Also: [Women's History](#)
- [Kaiser](#) Foundation Health Plan, first health maintenance organization (HMO), begins in Oakland, Calif.

### U.S. Statistics

President: [Franklin D Roosevelt](#)Vice President: [Henry A. Wallace](#)

Population: 134,859,553

[More U.S. Statistics...](#)

## Economics

Federal spending: \$35.14 billion

Federal debt \$79.2 billion

Consumer Price Index: \$16.3

Unemployment: 4.7%

Cost of a first-class stamp: \$0.03

[More Economics...](#)

## Sports

### World Series

St. Louis Cardinals d. NY Yankees (4-1)

### Stanley Cup

Toronto d. Detroit

### Kentucky Derby Champion

Shut Out

### NCAA Basketball Championship

Stanford d. Dartmouth

### NCAA Football Champions

Ohio St. (9-1-0)

## Entertainment

### Events

- [Casablanca](#) premieres in theaters.
- [Bing Crosby](#) releases "White Christmas," from the film *Holiday Inn*. The song goes on to be the all-time, top-selling song from a film.
- RCA Victor sprays gold over Glenn Miller's million-copy-seller *Chattanooga Choo Choo*, creating the first "gold record."

## Science

- The first safe self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction is accomplished by [Enrico Fermi](#), [Edward Teller](#) and [Leo Szilard](#) at the University of Chicago.
- Harvard University chemist Louis F. Fieser invents [napalm](#), a jelly-like mixture of gasoline and palm oils that sticks to its target until it burns out.
- [Radar](#) comes into operational use.
- The U.S. government establishes the [Manhattan Project](#), led by [Robert Oppenheimer](#), to coordinate ongoing American efforts to design and build the atomic bomb.

### Sports Links

[Pro Football Summary](#)

[Pro Basketball Summary](#)

[Pro Baseball Summary](#)

### Nobel Prizes in Science

**Chemistry:** None awarded

[More Nobel Prizes in 1998...](#)

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