

### Times in England and Denmark 1940-1945

<http://forum.12oclockhigh.net/archive/index.php?t-5836.html> found by Frank Weber.

On 01 JAN 2019 he sent excerpts followed by DANSK SOMMERTID 1940-45:

Documents compiled in England for distribution overseas usually standardized all times on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

Documents written in-theatre (e.g. Squadron Record Books of units in Italy) used local time.

Germany used Central European Time (CET) which they called MEZ (Mitteleuropäische Zeit) and was GMT plus 1 hour. Both sides changed their clocks to take advantage of daylight in summer.

There were some posts about this a few years ago here, which I kept (can't remember who originated the first one):

This article was published in Bulletin Airwar 1939-1945 Nr. 99 page 26/27.

Time calculation 1940-1945. By Rob de Bruin/Great Bookham, England.

I have checked two sources; first my own Whitaker Almanac and I have contacted the Royal Observatory at Greenwich. The situation is as follows:

In Great Britain (from now on called England) there is since 1916 summertime. In the winter they have GMT and in the summer GMT+1. Middle European Time (MET), that was the time in the Netherlands during the German occupation, was equal to GMT+1 and during the summer Middle European Time is equal to GMT+2.

The English introduced at February 25th, 1940 their summertime GMT+1. In the Netherlands we had Dutch Time. This means that from February 25th, 1940 it was 40 min. later in England than in Holland. From May 16th, 1940 the Germans introduced MET and the Dutch were one hour ahead of the English.

In England it was summertime during the war from February 25th, 1940 till October 7th, 1945.

To get more daylight, they went over to Double British Summertime (DBST). This was during:

- a. 1941 May 4th till August 10th.
- b. 1942 April 5th till August 9th
- c. 1943 April 4th till August 15th
- d. 1944 April 2nd till September 17th
- e. 1945 April 2nd till July 15<sup>th</sup>

During these periods the time in England was GMT+2 and that's the same as MET (Summertime)

To make things more clear some examples:

Date Time in Holland/Germany Time in England (DK UK)

30-05-1940 12.28 11.28  
22-06-1941 06.05 06.05  
03-11-1942 14.18 14.18  
01-04-1943 23.25 22.25  
01-05-1943 20.08 20.08  
06-06-1944 05.30 05.30  
05-05-1945 08.00 08.00

The change of time was done in the early Sunday morning hours at 2.00 O'clock.

Here a list of dates where the German time was equal to British time.

- a. 1941 May 4th till August 10th.
- b. 1942 April 5th till August 9th and November 2nd till December 31.
- c. 1943 January 1st till March 29th and April 4th till August 15th and from October 4th till December 31st.
- d. 1944 January 1st till April 2nd and April 4th till September 17th and October 2nd till December 31st.
- e. 1945 January 1st till April 2nd.

This is a translation of the essence of an article published in Bulletin Airwar 1939-1945 Nr.99. With many thanks to Mr. Robert de Bruin, Great Bookham, England. The translation has been made by Jaap Woortman.

Steve Coates: PRO Readers' Guide No. 8 - RAF Records

During the war, local time in the UK varied from GMT (Greenwich mean Time) to BST (British Summer Time) to BDST (British Double Summer Time).

**BST = GMT + 1 hour**  
**BDST = GMT + 2 hours**

**UK time** varied as follows from –

16/4/39 - BST  
19/11/39 - GMT  
25/2/40 - BST  
4/5/41 - BDST  
10/8/41 - BST  
5/4/42 - BDST  
9/8/42 - BST  
4/4/43 - BDST  
15/8/43 - BST  
2/4/44 - BDST  
17/9/44 - BST  
2/4/45 - BDST  
15/7/45 - BST  
7/10/45 – GMT

The Germans used CET (Central European Time) and GST (German Summer Time)

**CET = GMT + 1 hour**  
**GST = GMT + 2 hours**

**German time** varied as follows –

To  
1/4/40 - CET  
From  
1/4/40 - GST  
2/11/42 - CET  
29/3/43 - GST  
4/10/43 - CET  
3/4/44 - GST  
2/10/44 - CET  
2/4/45 - GST  
18/11/45 - CET

DANSK SOMMERTID 1940-1945  
I 1940, under besættelsen, indførtes sommertid, for at få **dansk tid** i overensstemmelse med **tysk tid**. 1940 havde man sommertid fra 5. maj resten af året. 1941 havde man sommertid hele året. 1942 havde man sommertid fra 1. januar frem til 2. november. 1943 fra 29. marts til 4. oktober. 1944 fra 3. april til 2. oktober. 1945 fra 2. april til 15. august.

Tilføjelse fra Anders Straarup:  
Se eksemplerne i spalte 2.  
Bemærk tiderne i Holland-Tyskland-Danmark/England.  
**German times / UK times**

Omregning i 2 trin:  
1. Regn fra det aktuelle land til GMT.  
2. Regn fra GMT til tid i andet land.  
Prøv at udskrive dette ark og dæk den ene kolonne med eksempler. Omregn og kontroller dit resultat. ([Bauers kalender](#) kan være nyttig.)  
Opsætning af dette ark 11 JAN 2019  
Anders Straarup.  
Se også [Tabel fra Frank Weber](#).