World War II – The Allied Offensive

The Pacific

- **Battle of Midway**
  - June 1942
  - Located Northwest of Hawaii
    - Could be used to strike Hawaii
  - Japanese offensive
    - Americans knew it was coming
    - Aerial offensive
      - Completely by carrier based torpedo planes and dive bombers
  - Heavy losses
    - All four Japanese carriers sank
    - Loss of all aircraft
    - One American carrier sank
      - Half of aircraft involved lost
  - America on the offensive
    - For the rest of the war
      - Japan never again goes on offensive
    - “Island hopping”
      - Americans push back Japanese island by island
        - Skipping some
          - Cutting off supplies
        - Marines work with Navy
          - Army mostly concerned with Europe
        - Desperation as war draws to an end
          - Kamikaze
            - Suicide planes
          - Bonzai attacks
            - Suicide charges
  - Guadalcanal 1942-1943
  - Gilbert and Marshall Islands
    - Aug 1943 – Feb 1944
  - Mariana and Palau Islands
    - Jun 1944 – Sept 1944
  - Philippines October 1944
  - Iwo Jima
    - Feb 1945
    - Heavily fortified
      - Americans need it to launch attack on Japan
      - Heavy casualties
        - 25,000 American casualties
        - 21,000 Japanese killed
          - 216 captured
  - **Battle of Okinawa**
    - Apr 1945
    - First attack on Japanese home Island
      - Japanese fought fiercely to defend
Africa
- Fall 1942
  - Operation Torch
    - Commander: Dwight D. Eisenhower
      - “Ike”
      - Best General: George S. Patton
        - Tank Commander
        - Read Rommel’s books
    - Americans land in Algeria and Morocco
      - Caught Germanys in the Middle
        - Rommel caught between Ike (west), and Monty (east)
      - Kasserine Pass
        - February 1943
        - America’s first major engagement
        - German Victory
        - Germans pressured to surrender
          - Most supplies being funneled to Russia
          - Surrender May 13, 1943

Europe
- Bombing campaign
  - Strategic Daylight Bombing vs. Night-time area bombing
    - US and British both bombing Axis positions
      - In Germany, France, Italy
      - British at night
        - Area bombing
      - Americans during the day
        - Strategic bombing
        - Starting 1942
        - Much more dangerous
          - Heavy losses
  - Arsenal of Democracy at work
    - USA makes close to 300,000 planes during World War II
      - 40,000 sent to British
      - 15,000 sent to Soviet Union
    - Heavy bombers
      - Reliance on four engine bombers with heavy payloads and protection
        - Germans used two engine “terror bombers”
  - Hamburg
    - Hamburg was Germany’s second largest city in WWII
    - 800 Bombers bombed the city in 45’
      - 9,000 tons of bombs dropped on city
      - Created a “firestorm” of over 1000 degrees
        - 66,000 Baked alive
        - 750,000 people homeless
- **Italian Campaign**
  - **Operation Husky**
    - July 10, 1943
    - **Sicily**
    - Three main Goals:
      - Give the soviets some breathing space and take the pressure off of them
      - Keep the pressure on the Axis powers
      - Control the Mediterranean
    - The Race to Messina
      - Patton Vs Montgomery
      - The main objective was to capture the largest city on Sicily - Messina
      - For both Generals, they were GLORY HOUNDS
      - Germans feared Patton
        - Thought he was the allies best General
        - Patton Makes one mistake, he slaps a soldier who was being yellow and sends him to the front.
      - Nonetheless, Patton wins!
  - **Impacts of Sicilian Campaign**
    - **Italy overthrows Benito Mussolini**
      - Dictator of Italy goes on the run
        - Eventually captured and executed
      - Pietro Bagdogilo takes over and immediately negotiates a peace with the allies
        - Italy drops out of World War II
        - September 8th, 1943
        - Allies now decide to invade the **Soft Underbelly of Europe**
        - Italy
        - The Germans are invading with force!
          - Filling in the spaces left from where the Italians were
    - **Invasion of Italy**
      - September 1943
      - Liberated Rome June 1944
      - Again, create a second front to help the Russians
        - Italy is only successful in part
          - Allies get bogged down immediately
          - Monte Casino Monastery catastrophe
          - It did slow down the Germans and required them to use resources.
        - Germans remain in control of Mainland till spring of 1945
  - **Russian Front**
    - **Battle of Kursk**
      - July 1943
      - Massive battle
        - Germans had close to a million men
          - Russians had close to 1.35 million soldiers
            - Use of women in armed forces
- Germans bring 2,700 tanks
  - Russians had 3,300
    - Including the T-34
      - Guns smaller than German Tiger
      - T-34 was faster with better Armor
- Russians dug in
  - Germans attempt Blitzkrieg
- Russians win the day
  - Russian artillery tears apart Germans
  - Losses difficult to calculate
    - Russians lost between 200,000-800,000
    - Germans lost between 50,000-500,000
      - German prisoners sent to Gulags in Siberia
        - Most never return
- Russia drives to re-capture Poland
  - Warsaw Uprising
    - Poland rebels against Germany
      - Trying to reestablish their government before USSR gets to them
      - USSR conquers it first
        - Poland annexed by USSR
- France
  - “Operation Overlord”
    - Invasion of “Fortress Europe”
      - Dwight D. Eisenhower given overall command of Invasion
        - Coordinated British and American invasion
      - June 6th, 1944
        - 3000 landing craft
        - 3000 other ships (battleships, destroyers, transports, etc)
        - 822 Aircraft
        - 13,000 Paratroopers
      - Goal was to create a second front
        - Used Patton to decoy landing
      - Rommel had redeployed Maginot line as the “Atlantic Wall”
        - Wanted to stop the Allies on the beaches
        - 4 million mines
        - Fortified pill boxes
        - 250,000 men in reserve
      - The Toughest fighting took place
        - It took 6 days before all the beaches linked up
        - Rommel was not allowed to send in the reserves
          - Hitler was convinced Patton was still going to invade in the North
          - Hitler believes Rommel in on July 20th assassination attempt
            - Rommel forced to commit suicide
              - “Noble Nazi”
  - The Breakout
    - Patton is finally given command again of 3rd army
      - He takes out his frustrations on the Germans
      - “old blood and guts”
- Netherlands
  - “Operation Market Garden”
    - Plan by Montgomery
      - Invade Germany through Netherlands
      - Hopefully end the war by Christmas
    - Intelligence reported minimal resistance
    - Use Airborne to secure bridges for tank corps
      - American 101st Airborne
      - American 82nd Airborne
      - British 1st Airborne
      - Along with Free Polish
      - 30 Corps (Tank Division)
    - Problems with Market Garden
      - Ran into elite German units resting from Western Front
      - One single road
      - Plan gets bogged down
        - “A bridge too far”
- Belgium
  - The Battle of the Bulge
    - Surprise attack in Ardennes Forest
      - Again!
    - Goal is to force allies to sign a truce by repelling them out of Europe
    - Germans outnumbered the allies
      - 101st airborne gets its name and Patton lives up to his name
        - “Battered Bastards of Bastogne”
    - Hitler and the Germans came real close to winning
      - Operation Grief also helps
        - Disguised Germans working behind enemy lines
      - Patton able to mobilize quickly and move North to relieve 101st
        - No member of 101st will ever say they needed help
- Germany
  - Remagen
    - March 1945
    - Germans blew up bridges over Rhine into Germany
      - Forgot one
        - German officers executed for failure
    - Allies secured bridge and were over into Germany
  - Battle for Berlin
    - Very costly battle for both sides
      - Street to street fighting
        - German’s forced to use “home guard”
          - Young kids, and older men
        - Russians lose 70k Soldiers
    - Hitler’s 56th Birthday Apr 20th, 1945
      - Celebrated to the sound of Soviet approach
- Hitler commits suicide as end draws near
  - April 30th, 1945
  - Ordered his troops to continue fight
  - Commanders begin negotiating peace
    - Trying to surrender to Western Allies not Soviets
- May 2nd, 1945
  - Fall of the Reichstag

- VE Day
  - May 8th, 1945
  - Victory in Europe
    - Allies accept Germany’s unconditional surrender
    - Many ardent Nazi’s run to South America to escape Allies
      - Adolf Eichman captured 1960 in Bueno Aires, Argentina
    - Just in time
      - Germany developing new super weapons
        - ME-262
        - V2
        - STG44

- Japan
  - Tokyo
    - March 9-10, 1945
    - Americans deployed new B-29
    - 1,700 tons of bombs
      - On a mostly wooden city
        - Created a firestorm
      - 100,000+ killed
      - 1,000,000 left homeless
  - Manhattan Project
    - Developing Atomic Bombs in Secret
      - Not even Vice President Truman knew about it
  - Hiroshima
    - August 6th, 1945
    - Enola Gay and “Little Boy”
    - 80,000 killed 150,000 injured
  - Nagasaki
    - August 9th, 1945
    - Bockscar and “Fat Man”
    - 80,000 killed
  - VJ Day
    - Russians invading
    - Americans pushing towards mainland
    - Japanese Surrender August 15th, 1945
### Military Deaths (Approximate)

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<th>Nation</th>
<th>Casualties</th>
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<td>Germany</td>
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**Total:** 23,620,100

### Civilian Deaths (Approximate)

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**Total:** 33,833,000