

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



- 3 Month Battle
 - 50,000 America Casualties
 - 95,000+ Japanese killed
 - 10,000 prisoners
 - 40,000-100,000 civilians killed

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

o 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
 - o Thought he was the allies best General
 - o 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
 - o Dictator of Italy goes on the run
 - *Eventually captured and executed*
 - o 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



o Invasion of Italy

- September 1943
- Liberated Rome June 1944
- Again, create a second front to help the Russians
 - Italy is only successful in part
 - o 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

o Battle of Kursk

- July 1943
- Massive battle
 - Germans had close to a million men
 - o Russians had close to 1.35 million soldiers
 - Use of women in armed forces

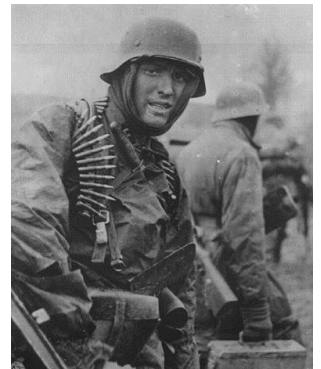
- Germans bring 2,700 tanks
 - Russians had 3,300
 - Including the T-34
 - Guns smaller than German Tiger
 - T-34 was faster with better Armor
- Russians dug in
 - Germans attempt Blitzkrieg
- *Russians win the day*
 - Russian artillery tears apart Germans
 - Losses difficult to calculate
 - Russians 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”



- He Rips through Europe unopposed
 - Paris is liberated Aug. 24th 1944
- 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 un-conditional 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)**

NATION	CASUALTIES
Soviet Union	9,750,000
Germany	5,533,000
China	3,500,000
Japan	2,120,000
Yugoslavia	446,000
United States	416,800
Great Britain	382,700
Italy	301,400
Rumania	300,000
Poland	240,000
France	217,600
Finland	95,000
India	87,000
Philippines	57,000
Canada	45,300
Australia	39,800
Bulgaria	22,000
Netherlands	21,000
Belgium	12,100
New Zealand	11,900
South Africa	11,900
Spain	4,500
Norway	3,000
Denmark	2,100
TOTAL:	23,620,100

**Civilian Deaths
(Approximate)**

COUNTRY	CASUALTIES
Soviet Union	13,204,000
China	11,500,000
Poland	2,400,000
Germany	2,035,000
India	2,000,000
Philippines	750,000
Japan	580,000
Yugoslavia	514,000
France	267,000
Netherlands	176,000
Italy	145,100
Great Britain	67,100
Rumania	64,000
Austria	58,700
Belgium	49,600
Spain	10,000
Norway	5,800
Bulgaria	3,000
Finland	2,000
United States	1,700
TOTAL:	33,833,000