

THE WAR FOR EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA

Chapter 12 Section 3 Part I

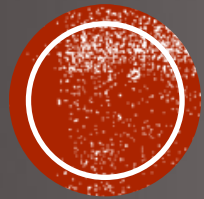
USH Honors





MAP OF WORLD WAR II IN EUROPE





THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN JOIN FORCES



MISSION OF OPERATION TORCH:

- **Britain and the USSR had been fighting Hitler alone since 1941.**
- **Britain had 2 threats:**
 - **Battle of Britain**
 - **The Battle of the Atlantic**
- **Stalin wanted the Allies to open a 2nd front in France.**
- **Roosevelt wanted American troops to fight in Europe...where?**
- **France was well protected and we would fail.**



ATTACKING THE EDGES OF HITLER'S EUROPE:

OPERATION TORCH
November 1942

← TORCH Landings

0 150
Miles



- **Roosevelt and Churchill chose to attack Germany in weakest area: North Africa**
- **July 1942 = Roosevelt ordered the invasion of Morocco and Algeria**
- **This would accomplish 2 tasks:**
 - **Remove pressure from the Soviet Union**
 - **Force Hitler to face the United States (a third force)**



CODE NAME: OPERATION TORCH

- **American general Dwight Eisenhower was appointed to lead the Allied troops.**
 - **General Patton = leads troops in Morocco and captured Casablanca**
- **November 7th = meeting with French general Henri Giraud.**
 - **Promised a leading position to Giraud after the invasion.**
- **November 8th = Allied forces land in Casablanca, Oran and Algiers.**
- **If French troops fail, Hitler would take over Vichy France.**
 - **Hitler planned to take all of France anyway...trick!**
 - **Vichy troops surrendered**
 - **Hitler invaded southern France**
- **By May 1943, Allied troops control North Africa.**



THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC:

- **The first major battle of the Atlantic or European Theater.**
- **This will be a series of battles.**
 - **Running from 1939-1945 (the worst fighting will take place from 1940-1943)**
 - **American ships needed to get to EUROPE**
- **German wolf packs were ordered to raid US ships on the American coast.**
 - **From January to April 1942, 87 ships were sunk off the US coast.**
- **By July 1942, wolf packs had destroyed 681 allied ships in the Atlantic.**
- **If we don't stop the wolf packs, the war is a lost cause.**



REVIVING THE CONVOY SYSTEM:

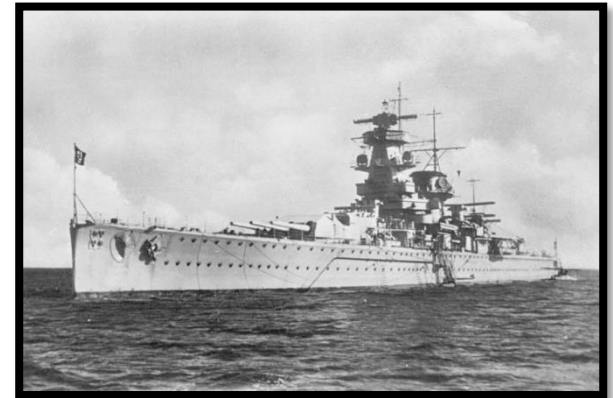


- **During World War I, America had learned a hard lesson about saving ships.**
- **World War II would be different.**
- **The US started using Admiral Sims Convoy system again.**
 - **Convoys used sonar to detect submarines.**
 - **Planes assigned to the convoys used radar to spot surface submarines.**
 - **sonar and radar helped the allies destroy German U-boats faster than Germany could build them.**
- **Ship building was also a top priority again.**
 - **By 1943, America was producing 140 ships each month.**



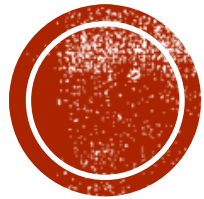
GERMAN THREAT:

- **The greatest threat was not the wolfpacks – but the surface ships!**
- **Hitler built a series of surface vessels that were feared:**
 - **Admiral Ships: Graf Spee, Scheer & Hipper**
 - Sank 5 ships in one convoy
 - Damaged other ships in this convoy
 - Convoy escaped because Britain “sacrificed” a ship
 - **Bismarck**
 - Sunk the HMS Hood in a quick attack
 - Only 3 men survived from the Hood
 - Allies have one goal at this moment...Sink the Bismarck



FIGHT TO THE FINISH: THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC (HISTORY CHANNEL)





THE BATTLE OF STALINGRAD



WHY STALINGRAD?

- **June 1941, Hitler orders his troops to invade the Soviet Union.**
- **Operation Barbarossa**
 - **German troops moved quickly into Soviet territory**
 - **Soviet troops suffered MANY defeats in the summer and autumn of 1941.**
 - **Soviet troops counter-attack in the winter (remember that the Soviets are very used to cold weather).**
 - **The Soviet counter-attack forced the German army away from Moscow.**
- **By the spring of 1942, the German army had accomplished:**
 - **Stabilizing their front lines**
 - **Controlled most of the Ukraine and the Crimean except for Sevastopol**



CONCERNS ABOUT US ENTRY IN WORLD WAR II

- **Hitler was very worried about the United States entering WWII:**
 - **While he declared war on the US following Pearl Harbor, America had stated that their chief goal was to defeat Hitler**
 - **Britain and America had formed a strong alliance very quickly.**
 - **Hitler wants to end or minimize the war in the USSR before American troops arrive in Europe.**
- **Hitler needs to take Moscow (the capital city) to end this war.**
 - **Moscow is heavily fortified**
- **Strategy behind total war:**
 - **Disrupt industrial output (and agricultural production)**
 - **Military force becomes unable to fight because of limited supplies**
 - **Defeat becomes certain**
- **Hitler's new goal: Starve the Russian peoples**



WHY IS STALINGRAD IMPORTANT?

- **Stalingrad is important for two reasons:**
 1. Major industrial city on the Volga River
 2. Capturing this city would provide protection for the German army as they advance onto the oil-rich Caucasus Region.
- **Taking this city would also cut the fuel supply to the Stalin's war machine.**
- **The city also is named after Joseph Stalin**
 - Taking the city would be a ideological and propaganda coup for Hitler (who hates Stalin).
- **We enter a battle of wills between two dictators.**
 - Stalin will order that the city of Stalingrad WILL NOT be taken by the German army.
 - Hitler will order the city of Stalingrad taken at all cost!



HITLER INVADES RUSSIA

- **Hitler orders a summer offensive at Stalingrad:**
 - All attention for the offensive in Russia is focused on Stalingrad
 - Hitler sends massive numbers of troops to this region
 - Two specific armies will divide and attack Stalingrad from the east and the south
 - The German army is to advance from the south
 - The German panzer (tank) divisions were to attack from the east
- **Romanian and German troops attacking Sevastopol and the Crimean Peninsula were delayed in joining the attack**
- **What was supposed to begin in May 1942 was delayed to the end of June 1942!**





- **By the end of July 1942, the Germans had pushed the Soviets across the Don River.**
- **The eastern border of Stalingrad is the Volga River.**
- **Hitler plans to use the same style of warfare: Blitzkrieg**
- **Stalin prevented any civilian from leaving the city**
 - The presence of civilians would encourage the soldiers to fight harder to protect his city.
 - A German bombardment in August killed thousands of these civilians. ☹️



THE FIGHTING CONTINUES...

- **Two great armies in a standoff:**
 - **The German army fired heavy artillery into the city when they realized the Soviets would not surrender**
 - **Soviet snipers used the ruins to inflict heavy casualties on the Germans.**
- **For both Stalin and Hitler, the battle of Stalingrad became two things:**
 1. **An issue of prestige**
 2. **A strategic victory necessary to defeat the other**
- **The Soviets were actually losing the battle**
 - **The soldiers were forced into a 1,000 yard strip of land on the banks of the Volga River**
 - **Germany had taken 90% of the city**
- **The German army was finally stopped by**
 1. **Stubborn Red Army resistance**
 2. **Local weather conditions**



AFTERMATH OF STALINGRAD



- **The Battle of Stalingrad was one of the largest battles in human history.**
 - **Fought for 199 days**
 - **Casualty count is difficult because:**
 1. **of the unknown numbers of civilians in the city**
 2. **of the vast scope of the battle**
 3. **of the fact that the Soviet government did not allow any estimates to be made at the end of the battle**
- **Stalingrad was a clear turning point in the Eastern Front (Western Front for the Soviets)**
 - **The German war machine could be stopped.**
 - **Germany knows the allies are determined to defeat their invasions**

