



**The War  
Ends:  
Third Reich  
Collapses**

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USH Honors

Chapter 12 Section 4

# Learning Target:



- **Understand the causes and course of WWII.**
- **Explain the character of the war at home.**
- **Explain the character of the war abroad.**
- **Evaluate how WWII reshaped the United States and its role in the post-war world.**



# From Normandy to Paris





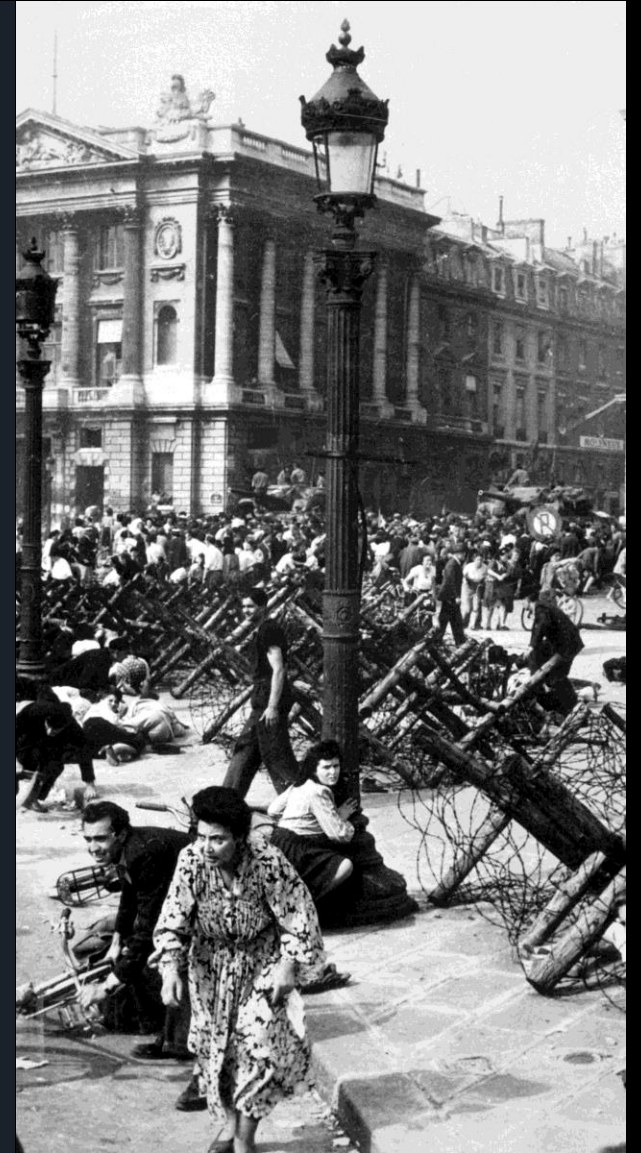
# The Battle of the Hedgerows

- **D-Day was a success...now what?**
  - Move through the hedgerows – dirt walls, several feet thick, covered in shrubbery.
  - These were old structures from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.
  - Germans used these as defensive positions.
- **From June 7, 1944, to July 25, 1944, Allied troops fought through these structures.**
- **While the Allies battled in the hedgerows, the French Resistance increased rebellion in Paris.**



## Liberation of Paris

- From July to August, fighting in France was fierce.
- **By August 19, 1944:** the Allies reached the Seine River.
- **Taking Paris would include:**
  - The Allies
  - The French Resistance
  - The People of Paris
- **Fighting was fierce within and around Paris.**
- **August 25, 1944:** Paris was liberated from Nazi control.
- **August 26, 1944:** American troops entered the city as victors.





**American troops on the Champs-Élysées, August 29, 1944**

# The Battle of the Bulge

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- Did the Germans give up easily? NO!
- Fighting would continue in Europe for almost 9 months!
- From Paris to Germany:
  - Hitler decided to stage a desperate offensive in December 1944.
- What was Hitler's goal?
  - Cut the Allied supply lines from Antwerp.
- Before dawn, December 16<sup>th</sup> the German forces attacked.



## BATAILLE DES ARDENNES – Dispositif du 16 décembre 1944

Au nord : 21<sup>e</sup> Groupe d'armées (Montgomery)

9<sup>ème</sup> Armée US

Maastricht

Aix-la-Chapelle

Liège

Eupen

Meuse

Namur

La Gleize

Elsenborn

Malmédy

1<sup>ère</sup> Armée US

Dinant

St-Vith

Celles

Hotton

Houffalize

St-Hubert

Bastogne

Clervaux

Diekirch

Arlon

Echternach

### LEGENDE



Div Inf US



Div BI US



Armée allemande

### • Was Germany successful?

- Germany surprised the Allied troops – it was bitterly cold and snowing.
- German forces moved rapidly – racing West creating a “bulge” in the Allied lines.

### • Who would “rescue” American troops?

- Eisenhower ordered Patton to the battle.
- Patton’s troops engaged Germany within 3 days – in a snowstorm!





# The War Ends in Europe

- American and British forces closed in on Germany in the West.
- **February 1945:** Soviet forces were 35 miles from Berlin.
- **March 7, 1945:** American troops crossed the Rhine River.
- **May 7, 1945:** Germany accepted the terms of surrender.

**Victory in Europe Day –  
May 8, 1945**

