

## World War II

### Hitler's Early Victories

Winter April 9, 1940 Resumed attack blitzkrieg on Denmark & Norway, May 10<sup>th</sup>, a month later Netherlands, Belgium and France. Went through the Ardens forest and Luxembourg.

France anticipated, and had a defense system called the Maginot Line (a weak defense system, that was made of steel and concrete, armed with heavy weapons but was never complete). But Germany went around and came in behind the line,(attacked France through Belgium) through weak positions. Germany moved through and trapped the French and British on the beaches of Dunkirk and made them retreat 38,000 were evacuated, mostly British. Germany had control of all of France. France and Germany signed an armistice. USA was involved in a policy of isolationism and did not come to the aid of the British. USA supplied various Britain with supplements, food, equipment etc.

### Battle of Britain

Hitler needed air control to take Britain. August 1940, Bombed factories, air and naval bases, and harbors. Germans Bombing British in England would help his cause (Hitler). Britain had advanced radar as early warning system. The battle of British airspace was being won by British, through the use of anti-air guns. Britain bombed Berlin and Hitler bombed the cities instead of factories in retribution (at night), his objective was to break British morale. Allowed British to rebuild air force and rejoin war effort in big way. Mostly fought in the air. German air force (Luftwaffe) bombed factories and air bases. Hitler scrapped plans to invade Britain.

### Global War

Japanese leaders thought that destroying the US airforce would knock US out of war. Thought USA was weak. One of Japanese generals had been to USA before war. The Japanese went after Americans to control the Pacific. A lightning strike attack. The attack in Pearl Harbor pushed USA to join war in attack Japan. Opinion had been divided before. They joined to help defeat Japan. Hitler declared war on the USA 4 days after the attack on Pearl Harbour.

### First European Theatre 1942 –

Hitler didn't think he would lose in 1942, only gained ground until 1942. His allies fought against Britain and USSR. They thought they were winning. Once the Japanese forces advanced, Hitler advanced but could not get past Crimea in 1942. They aimed to make the British run out of oil, and then advance beyond the borders of India and then the British Empire would collapse. Germans broke through British defenses in Egypt. Planned to help out the rebels in Iraq and hold ground. It would make the British run out of oil.

By the end of 1942, British forces grew and the tide of battle turned their way. They began to advance.

## Invasion of Normandy

D-Day – June 5<sup>th</sup>... it actually took place on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Taking the beaches code named operation Neptune Juno- Canadians, Gold, Sword – British , Utah and Omaha – USA, Allies stormed 5 beaches. Preparations took place months before. Planned by Eisenhower who later became president. They took floating docks for after taking the beaches so they could establish bases in France. On Juno beach 1 in 18 soldiers died. Boats carried 130000 troops. Canada, US and UK set to occupy separate beaches. Sent false radar transmissions, false tanks etc to Calais to fake out Germans. US 82<sup>nd</sup> 101<sup>st</sup> airborne division assigned objectives west of Utah to take important territories.

Landing craft brought troops. Planes dropped bombs to support. Because of bombing in Calais, Germans caught off guard. Allies won and held all beaches.

## Japan's "New Community"

After Japan was triumphant, they took over the nations (a new community of nations) Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere. By 1942 almost all of Southeast Asia had fallen to their objectives. Becoming an Empire. Regions invaded: Part of China, Taiwan, part of Australia, Philippines and Korea. Japan tried to rule their colonies in their own way. They changed the names of the people to Japanese names.

## Attack on the USSR –

Hitler had no desire for 2 front war. He expected USSR to be weak. Scheduled attack for 1941, gained cooperation of Hungary, Bulgaria, and Romania. Musolini's failure in Greece exposed Hitler's southern flank. Hitler had to take Greece and Yugoslavia himself.

His attacks on USSR started in June 1941. Captured 2 million soldiers.

By November, 1941; 1 group went through Ukraine. 2nd went to Leningrad, 3<sup>rd</sup> went to Moscow (stall at Stalingrad) But they were attacking in winter and they had no winter uniforms because attacks were scheduled for spring. Soviet Union Counter attacked and held the Germans in position.

## Asian Theatre

American's established naval superiority in the south pacific. Policy was to capture Japanese held islands by island hopping toward Japan.