

DAY 23: HISTORY



Read pages 469 - 473 of the pages that follow this sheet.

1. What happened to the stock market in 1929? What was the result?
2. Who won the US Presidential election in 1932?
3. How was the New Deal unsuccessful?
4. How did the Depression affect Europe and Asia?
5. How did Hitler come to power in Germany?
6. What did Hitler do to the Jews?
7. How did Hitler and Mussolini help Spain?
8. What countries did Hitler conquer by the spring of 1939?
9. What was the Nazi-Soviet Pact?
10. Why did England and France declare war on Germany?

This video shows how World War 2 spread around the world.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=AUXIuYHFgBE>

Read pages 473 - 478 of the pages that follow this sheet.

11. What happened to Paris at the beginning of the war?
12. Who became Britain's prime minister in 1940?
13. What part did the RAF play in the Battle of Britain? What was the outcome?
14. Why did Hitler's invasion of Russia fail?
15. What was America doing during the early years of the war?
16. How did Germany respond to American aid in England?
17. What incident caused America to enter the war?
18. What mistakes had the Japanese made at Pearl Harbor?

Read pages 478- 486 of the pages that follow this sheet.

19. Why did American troops go to Africa?
20. Where did Churchill suggest that the Allies attack?
21. Which American general headed up the D-Day Invasion?
22. What happened on D-Day?
23. Where was Germany's last effective stand against the Allied advance?

24. How did Hitler's officers work against him?
25. When did Germany surrender?
26. What was the Bataan Death March?
27. What was "island hopping"?
28. The Japanese were losing the war. Why didn't they surrender?
29. Who became the US President in 1945 (at the end of the war)?
30. Why did the US decide to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki?
31. What is the Holocaust?

WRITING

Read the article about D-Day at the end of this document. Circle the **MOST IMPORTANT** facts in the article. You have to decide what is most important and what is just extra information. Write a summary of the article using the most important facts. Your summary should be 5 – 6 sentences long. Use proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Hand-write your summary, do not type it.

The Great Depression (1930–1940)

Hoover becomes President. When **Herbert Hoover** was elected to the American Presidency in 1928, it seemed that the Roaring Twenties would last forever. In his inaugural address, Hoover described America as “bright with hope.” But in less than a year, America was plunged into the worst economic depression the nation had ever experienced—the **Great Depression**. In 1929, the stock market crashed and investors lost \$30 billion in a matter of weeks. The stock market crash effectively shut off the supply of credit that had sustained the economic boom. Thousands of banks closed, and many factories cut down on production or shut down altogether. By 1932, one in every four workers—13 million people—was unemployed. Alarmed by socialist propaganda from the media and certain liberal politicians, many Americans *blamed President Hoover for the Depression and looked for a change in leadership.*

Roosevelt becomes President. In the Presidential election of 1932, the Republican party supported President Hoover’s program and nominated him to run for a second term. The Democrats nominated New York governor **Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR)**. Roosevelt criticized Hoover’s program and called for firm, aggressive action to cope with the economic woes of the day. In his nominating

speech, FDR declared, “*I pledge myself to a new deal for the American people.*” Convinced that something must be done, the American people elected Franklin Roosevelt by a landslide.

The New Deal. In spite of some successes, the New Deal had a devastating effect upon America’s political and economic well being. The New Deal introduced the U.S. to socialism, the economic system in which the government controls business and industry. In every nation that has incorporated socialism as a way of life, it has proved to be a self-defeating system that takes away individual productivity, responsibility, and ultimately individual freedom.

By 1939, after six years of government job programs, regulation, and extensive spending, over 9 million workers remained unemployed. The New Deal did little to help the economy and, in some cases, actually prolonged the Depression. FDR’s programs marked the beginning of government interference in many aspects of the economy and people’s everyday lives.

Recognizing Communist Russia. FDR helped strengthen Communism in the Soviet Union and ultimately around the world. Diplomatic relations had been severed between the U.S. and Russia since the Communist Bolshevik Revolution in 1917. But President Roosevelt wanted to trade with Russia, so in November 1933,



The Great Depression: Throughout the U.S., soup kitchens, bread lines, and shelters sprang up to meet the needs of the poor. Most were sponsored by churches and private charities.



U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt: addressing the American people by radio.

the U.S. recognized the Communist government of the Soviet Union. By recognizing the Soviet government, the Roosevelt administration made it possible for the U.S. and other Western nations to trade with Russia. It also enabled the Communists to gain loans and technology from the West.

Effects of the Depression around the world. The Great Depression soon spread to Asia, Europe, and other parts of the world, bringing great hardship to millions of people. Suffering from unemployment and other economic problems, many began to accept the socialistic propaganda that brought Mussolini and Hitler to power.

World War II (1939–1945)

Hitler and the Third Reich

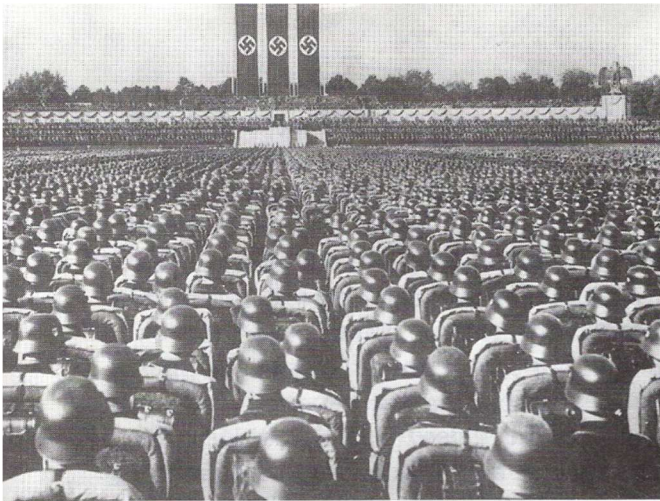
The Depression brought perhaps the greatest economic hardship to Germany, which by the mid-1920s was just beginning to recover from World War I. Desperate for economic recovery and fearing a Communist takeover, the German people were easily swayed by the promises of prosperity and protection coming from **Adolf Hitler**.

Hitler comes to power. Hitler had already come to power as chancellor of Germany by 1933. At first, he was the

head of a *coalition* (combination of political parties) government; his Nazi party did not hold a majority in the **Reichstag** (the legislative assembly of Germany). In March 1933, just before a new election, the Nazis burned the Reichstag building and blamed it on the Communists. This *discredited the Communist party and gave the Nazis a majority* after the election. Next the Nazi majority in the Reichstag voted to give Hitler power to make laws by his own decree. In 1934, Hitler assumed the total power as “*Der Führer*” (the leader) of Germany. Hitler called his new government the **Third Reich** (Third Empire), claiming the First Reich had been organized by Otto the Great in 962 A.D. and the Second Reich had been organized by Otto von Bismarck in 1871. In 1938, the top German military leaders were defamed and forced to resign, and Hitler took direct control of the German army himself.

Nazi optimism for Germany. Hitler’s rise to absolute power was attained with the consent of the majority of the German people. Hitler was a genius as a leader of men. His domineering personality persuaded people to look to him for leadership. His moving speeches convinced the masses that he understood and sympathized with their economic and social needs; he was the man to deliver Germany from its economic and political woes. Unemployed men became faithful and enthusiastic **storm troopers** (members of the Nazi militia), and many young people joined the **Hitler Youth**. Hitler provided the Germans with jobs and a sense of patriotism. Almost before the world realized what was happening, Hitler had become the leader of a newly optimistic, enthusiastic, and thoroughly deluded German people.

German economy and expansion. The professed goal of the Nazis was to get people back to work and get the economy moving again. Hitler did much to rebuild the German economy, largely by rebuilding the German military machine. Many men



Hitler Speaks: Thousands of German troops listen as Adolf Hitler speaks at the Nuremberg Rally in 1936. Germans were dazzled by their country's military might:



Nazi Abuse of the Jews: Jews wearing the star of David are expelled from their homes

were employed in military service, and both men and women were employed in the munitions plants. Public works projects were undertaken to get other unemployed people back into the workforce. But foremost in Hitler's mind was always German expansion; he intended for Germany to conquer. His motto became: "Today, Germany; tomorrow, the world."

Nazi persecution of the Jews. Most notorious of Hitler's schemes was his attempted annihilation of the Jewish race. Hitler's personal, intense hatred of Jews made them the logical object of Nazi fury. While Hitler claimed that the Germans were the noblest race, he asserted that the Jews were the lowest and most despicable of the races. He accused the Jews of being pacifists, disloyal citizens, and selfish capitalists who controlled the German economy for their own benefit. He insisted that through intermarriage the Jews were corrupting the purity of the noble German race.

By 1933, German Jews were being severely persecuted. At first, Jewish shops were boycotted, and Jews were removed from positions of political and cultural leadership. In 1935, the Jews were stripped of their civil rights. By the time World War II broke out, many Jews had left the country. After 1939, law forbade Jews to emigrate from Germany. In the course of Hitler's regime, millions of Jews and other Europeans were put to death. The world

would not know the extent of Hitler's cruelty until after the war was over.

Hitler's hatred of Judaism was matched by his hatred of Christianity. "One is either a German or a Christian," he said. "You cannot be both." He exclaimed:

The religions are all alike, no matter what they call themselves. They have no future—certainly none for the Germans. Fascism, if it likes, may come to terms with the Church. So shall I. Why not? That will not prevent me from tearing up Christianity root and branch, and annihilating it in Germany.

from *Therefore, Stand*, by Wilbur M. Smith

Another World War in the Making

Turmoil in Europe. By the mid-1930s, Europe was in turmoil as depression stirred unrest and unscrupulous politicians took advantage of the situation. Benito Mussolini had already come to power in Italy before the Depression set in, but the Depression helped convince Italians of the need for strong government and thereby strengthened his dictatorship.

Italy invades Ethiopia. In October 1935, Mussolini invaded Ethiopia. The brave emperor of Ethiopia, **Haile Selassie** [hī'le sīl·lä'syē], appealed to the League of Nations for help, but it did nothing. By May 1936, the Italians had conquered Ethiopia.

Germany arms the Rhineland. No sooner had Hitler come to power in 1933 than he withdrew Germany from the League of Nations, making the League's proposals for extended peace virtually worthless. He also ended Germany's World War I reparation payments, renounced the Treaty of Versailles, and—against the treaty's provisions—began rearming Germany. In March 1936, in direct violation of the Versailles treaty, German troops marched into the Rhineland, Germany's western territory, which, according to the treaty, was to remain disarmed for the safety of all Europe. In the same year, Mussolini and Hitler formally joined forces by organizing the *Rome-Berlin Axis*. Germany and Italy would soon be known as the **Axis Powers**.

Spanish Civil War. Also in 1936, a long period of political unrest in Spain broke into the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939). Mussolini and Hitler, both eager to see a fascist state on the doorsteps of France, gave aid to the revolutionary forces led by General Francisco **Franco**. Mussolini provided troops, and Hitler provided weapons. The Communists, always ready to step in when a nation is experiencing unrest, also lent aid. Franco saved Spain from Communism by establishing his own dictatorship in 1939, which lasted until his death in 1975.

Hitler takes Austria. When Germany rearmed the Rhineland in 1936, Hitler declared, "We have no territorial demands to make in Europe." His actions soon proved otherwise. In March 1938, German troops marched into neighboring Austria. An independent Austria quickly and quietly ceased to exist.

The slicing of the Sudetenland. Next, Hitler turned his attention to the Sudetenland, an area of Czechoslovakia bordering on Germany. Hitler told the British Prime Minister **Neville Chamberlain**, a leading voice in Europe for peace and conciliation, that he wanted the Sudetenland out from under Czech control because its population was predominantly German. In September 1938, a conference was held at the Nazi headquarters in **Munich**. It was attended by Hitler, Chamberlain, Mussolini, and Édouard Daladier [dá'lá'dyā'] of France. No representative of Czechoslovakia was present. At this infamous meeting, it was decided that chopping up Czechoslovakia for the sake of European peace was legitimate. The surrender of the Sudetenland to Hitler was agreed upon, and Hitler insisted that he had no further demands in mind.

"Peace in our time." Prime Minister Chamberlain returned to England to proclaim that the Munich Conference had obtained "peace in our time." Most of Europe seemed satisfied with this assurance of peace, even though it was at the expense of little Czechoslovakia. The leading nations of Europe were content to sacrifice part of Czechoslovakia to save themselves from Hitler's wrath. But at least one Englishman saw the folly of appeasing the ambitious, ruthless, German tyrant. Winston Churchill issued a solemn warning:

And do not suppose that this is the end. This is only the beginning of the reckoning. This is only the first sip, the first foretaste of a bitter cup which will be proffered to us year by year unless, by a supreme recovery of moral health and martial vigor, we arise again and take our stand for freedom as in the olden time.

Hitler conquers Czechoslovakia. In March 1939, only six months after the Munich Conference, German troops

marched into Czechoslovakia and took over the entire country. Churchill's prophecy was already beginning to be fulfilled.

Plans for Poland. Hitler's next target was Poland, but he feared incurring the wrath of **Joseph Stalin**, the Communist dictator of Russia. Thus, in August 1939, he signed a non-aggression pact with Stalin, the **Nazi-Soviet Pact**, which included a secret agreement to jointly invade Eastern Europe and divide the land between them. On *September 1, 1939*, Germany invaded Poland. Two days later, both England and France declared war on Germany. **World War II (1939–1945)** had begun.

CHECK UP

1. What happened to the stock market in 1929? What was the result?
2. Name the 1932 Presidential candidates and their parties. Who won the election?
3. How was the New Deal unsuccessful?
4. How did Roosevelt help strengthen Communism?
5. How did the Depression affect Europe and Asia?
6. What office did Adolf Hitler hold in Germany by 1933?
7. How did Hitler come to power as *Der Führer* of Germany?
8. What was Hitler's most notorious scheme? Explain his view of Jews. How were the German Jews persecuted?
9. How did Mussolini and Hitler take part in the Spanish Civil War? Why?
10. What countries had Hitler conquered by the spring of 1939?
11. What was the Nazi-Soviet Pact? With whom did Hitler sign it?
12. Why did England and France declare war on Germany?

Identify: Great Depression, Reichstag, *Der Führer*, Third Reich, storm troopers, Hitler Youth, Haile Selassie, Axis Powers, Neville Chamberlain, Munich

Early Years of the War (1939–1941)

Blitzkrieg. The invasion of Poland was the world's first experience of *blitzkrieg* (German word for lightning war). Like a flash of lightning, Nazi forces smashed all Polish resistance before it had a chance to organize. By September 17, Poland had fallen to the Germans and Russians.

Stalin takes the Baltics and Finland. During the winter of 1939–40, Stalin forced the Baltic states (**Estonia**, **Latvia**, and **Lithuania**) to allow Russian military bases and troops within their borders. **Finland** attempted to resist Russia but, after a valiant fight, was crushed.

Hitler sweeps across the continent. In April, the Nazis invaded **Denmark** and **Norway**. Denmark fell within hours, but Norway held out until May. **Holland** fell in 5 days, and **Belgium** in 18. Even before resistance had been crushed in Holland and Belgium, German troops began their assault on northern France. The German *blitzkrieg* was so swift and overwhelming that the British and French troops who had assembled in northern France to block the Nazi advance were soon pushed to the coast at the little port of **Dunkirk** on the English Channel. It seemed certain the entire allied army would be forced to surrender to the merciless Nazis. But in a daring and courageous effort never to be forgotten, the British **Royal Air Force (RAF)** held off the Germans long enough for hundreds of small British crafts of all kinds, both military and civilian, to ferry 300,000 troops across the Channel to safety in Britain.

The fall of Paris. Once Dunkirk had fallen, the surrender of France was only a matter of time. The city of Paris fell on June 14, 1940. A new conciliating government, headed by 84-year-old Marshal **Henri Petain**, came to power and immediately asked Hitler for an armistice. France was forced to bow to purposefully humiliating defeat. In the same railroad dining

car in which Germany had signed an armistice in 1918, the Germans forced France to accept an armistice on June 22, 1940.

Some patriotic Frenchmen escaped to Great Britain, where they organized a **Free French government** under the leadership of General **Charles de Gaulle**. The Free French government adopted as its symbol the red cross of Lorraine, used by Joan of Arc in her fight to liberate France centuries before. In the safety of England, de Gaulle trained French liberation troops and continued to assist the Allies throughout the war.

The Battle of Britain. With France under the Nazi boot, Hitler focused on Britain. Hitler and his air force commander, Marshal Hermann **Goring**, were confident they could destroy Britain's Royal Air Force and demoralize the British people by approximately one month of constant air attacks. Then, according to their plan, a German task force would cross the English Channel to force Britain into surrender. But the Nazis underestimated the resolve of the British people.



German Troops March Triumphantly into Paris

Shortly after the fall of Norway in May of 1940, Neville Chamberlain resigned, and **Winston Churchill** became prime minister of Great Britain. Prime Minister Churchill realized that the only hope for preserving freedom in Europe was to make a valiant stand against Germany. Hitler unleashed his bombers against England in *July 1940*, beginning the **London Blitz**, or the **Battle of Britain**. For three months, the Nazis bombed the city of London mercilessly (10,000 bombs fell on the city in September alone). But the Royal Air Force (RAF)





German Bombers: flying over the English Channel on their way to the British Isles.

destroyed so many German planes that Germany gave up daytime bombing raids on Britain and resorted to nighttime raids only, to take advantage of the cover of darkness. England lost 915 planes to Germany's 1,700. By destroying so many German bombers, the RAF gave Great Britain a chance to defend herself against her ruthless enemy. Churchill expressed the gratitude of the British people to their air force by saying, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

The courage of the British airmen was matched by that of the citizens of London. After evacuating their children to the relative safety of the countryside, the people of London prepared for the worst. Throughout the London Blitz, they remained steadfast, hiding in bomb shelters during air raids and going about their business when the bombers were gone. Churchill and his government also remained in London. The brave prime minister toured the ruins—sometimes with tears in his eyes, but often flashing his famous "V" for victory hand sign—encouraging the British people to carry on. Many lost their lives, but few ever lost the courage or determination to fight.

Conquests in Eastern Europe. By October 1940, Hitler had abandoned his plan for an invasion of England. For the next several months, through the spring of



Winston Churchill: In public appearances during the war, Churchill was frequently seen giving his famous V for "Victory," urging the British on to triumph.

1941, Hitler concentrated on **Yugoslavia** and **Greece**. In April, he succeeded, and both nations fell within a span of about three weeks. Later, in the winter of 1941–1942, Hitler took **Romania, Hungary, and Bulgaria**.

Invasion of Russia. When Hitler gave up on taking England, he turned his attention to Russia, just as Napoleon had done under similar circumstances over a century earlier. Despite the non-aggression pact Hitler had signed with Stalin, Nazi troops invaded Russia on June 22, 1941. This single event would be a determining factor in world history for the next 50 years. With Russia at war with Germany, Churchill and Roosevelt now considered Stalin their ally against Hitler. *The U.S. would send billions of dollars worth of weapons and other supplies to Stalin over the next few years, enabling the Communists to drive the Germans out of Russia.* Unfortunately, this aid would also help Stalin enslave Eastern Europe after the war.

For the first three months, the invasion of Russia went remarkably well. By October 1941, the Nazis had advanced as far as Leningrad in the north, and they had

conquered the Baltic states and the Ukraine. Then Hitler made the same blunder Napoleon had made; he decided to attack Moscow just as winter was setting in. Strained supply lines and the bitter cold of the Russian winter proved to be too much for the Germans. Stalin's forces, used to the cold, gained the upper hand, and Hitler was forced to abandon his invasion of Moscow. Meanwhile, on the other side of the globe, events were taking place in the Pacific that would bring the U.S. into the war and ultimately lead to the fall of Hitler's evil Third Reich.

American Interest in the War

American neutrality. The U.S. emerged from World War I confident, prosperous, and powerful. During the 1920s, most Americans did not want to get involved in world affairs. The American people regretted their active involvement in World War I; they had gained very little from the war and had lent huge sums to countries that were now unable to repay them. So America turned from Europe and enjoyed being separate during the 1920s. During the 1930s, *America was too concerned about the Great Depression to pay much attention to Europe.*

In 1939, Americans opened their newspapers to learn that Europe was once again at war. As the war progressed, American manufacturers began producing more and more weapons. But this time, war material was sold on a strictly cash basis—Europe had not paid its debt from the last war; why lend them any more? Most Americans wanted to see the Allies win the struggle with Germany, but they wanted to view the game from the sidelines and not get involved.

Many Americans hoped this war would be over before it really started. But then France fell, and Germany began the London Blitz. *Now only Britain stood between Germany and America.* Churchill

vowed that the British would never surrender, but Americans listened to Hitler's vows of world conquest and began to get worried. How long could England last?

"Arsenal of Democracy." President Roosevelt believed that America should help Great Britain in its fight for survival. In December 1940, he declared that America should be an "Arsenal of Democracy." He pleaded with Congress to help England:

Let us say to the democracies: We Americans are vitally concerned in your defense of freedom. We are putting forth our energies, our resources and our organizing powers to give you the strength to regain and maintain a free world. We shall send you in ever-increasing numbers, ships, planes, tanks, guns. That is our purpose and our pledge.

Congress responded in March 1941 by passing the *Lend-Lease Act*, which allowed war material to be given to England on credit. American factories were converted to wartime production and a great fleet of ships began taking much needed war supplies to England. True to his pledge, President Roosevelt sent "in ever-increasing numbers, ships, planes, tanks, guns."

Stabbed in the back. Germany was furious. How could America call itself neutral and supply England with weapons? As 1941 drew to a close, tempers flared. German submarines began firing upon American merchant ships, and these ships began firing back at the German subs. Everyone thought for sure that Germany would draw America into the war. But as it happened, America entered the war when it was stabbed in the back—stabbed by a knife held by Japan.

Attack on Pearl Harbor (1941)

It was no secret that Japan and the U.S. were enemies. Relations between the two

powers had been deteriorating for years. For centuries, Japan had been a land of mysteries; few Europeans or Americans had ever been there. In the 19th century, Japan had opened its doors to trade with the West and to Christian missions. But the Japanese, who greatly love their traditions and ancient customs, resented the foreigners and their strange ways. They dreamed of establishing an empire in the Orient and driving out all Western influences.

Militaristic Japan. In 1937, Japan invaded China and began waging an undeclared war on that vast land. Japan had become *militaristic*, relying upon military might to accomplish its goals. The official head of the Japanese government, **Emperor Hirohito**, had no real authority; instead, the reins of power were held by such men as **General Hideki Tojo** and a few others who called for Japanese conquest of China and the Pacific. Military leaders convinced the Japanese people that they were under divine protection and could not be defeated. On *September 27, 1940*, Japan signed the *Tripartite Treaty* with Germany and Italy, joining the Axis Powers.

"Moral embargo." The Japanese invasion of China disturbed the American people. For years, the U.S. and China had been close allies. Many Americans were alarmed by the increasingly hostile nature of Japan's leaders and by her powerful military. When Nationalist Chinese leader **Chiang Kai-shek** [jĕ·äng' kī'shĕk'] asked the U.S. for assistance, President Roosevelt declared a "moral embargo" on Japan, cutting off all oil exports to the nation. He also began to strengthen American defenses in the Pacific, fortifying the Philippines and other islands. The center of activity was the naval base at **Pearl Harbor, Hawaii**.

A knockout blow. Japan saw the embargo and the military buildup as a

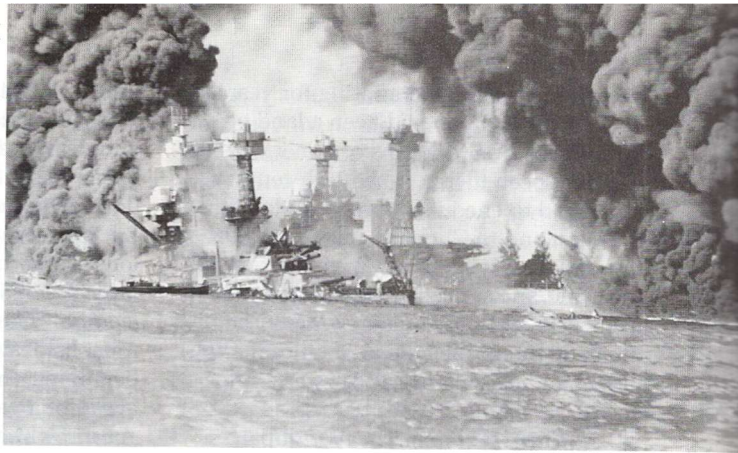
threat. Japan asked to be left alone; America refused, insisting that Japan withdraw from China. As the embargo began to hurt the Japanese economy, Japan decided to push America out of the Pacific. But Japanese military leaders warned that a long war with America would result in a Japanese defeat: *the war must be won quickly*. Believing that a knockout blow must be dealt to the Americans at the very beginning, they decided to launch a sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. *By destroying America's Pacific fleet, the Japanese would render the U.S. unable to fight back*. America would be forced to surrender! Even as Japan's diplomats were talking peace in Washington, Japanese aircraft carriers were heading for Hawaii.

Pearl Harbor. On Sunday morning, *December 7, 1941*, the Japanese made a surprise attack on the U.S. naval fleet and airfield at Pearl Harbor. On that quiet Sunday morning, some people at Pearl Harbor were having breakfast; some were getting ready for church; some were away on shore leave; a few were at their positions, cleaning their anti-aircraft guns as a matter of routine. The guns were clean, but the ammunition for them was locked away below deck.

Just before 8:00, waves of planes swooped down out of the sky. One sailor thought they were just army planes showing off; but then the lead plane released its bombs and a loud alarm sounded—"AIR RAID! NO DRILL!"

America in the war. When the pilot of the lead plane, *Mitsuo Fuchida*, saw the battleships below him in neat, unprotected rows, he knew the attack was a complete surprise and he radioed his men to make the most of their advantage. The Americans sprang to action, but it was too late. For two hours Japanese bombs, torpedoes, and machine-gun fire rained down on Pearl Harbor. In those two hours, the U.S. lost more ships than it had lost during World War I. The Navy lost 18 ships, including 8 battle-

Devastation at Pearl Harbor:
The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, crippled the U.S. fleet and freed Japan for conquests in Asia and the South Pacific.



ships; 170 airplanes were destroyed on the ground. Over 3,500 servicemen had been killed or wounded. Japan lost only 29 of their 359 raiding planes. Confident of victory, Japan immediately declared war on the U.S. and Great Britain.

War declared. On December 8, President Roosevelt asked Congress for a declaration of war: "Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy, the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the empire of Japan." Congress responded with an overwhelming vote for war. Three days later, Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S., and the U.S. declared war on Germany and Italy.

Mistaken Japanese. Japan thought that their attack on Pearl Harbor would destroy America, but they soon found that they had failed to anticipate three important things: (1) The U.S. aircraft carriers were at sea during the raid on Pearl Harbor and thus escaped harm. (2) The raid failed to destroy the repair facilities and fuel reserves at Pearl Harbor. (3) Most important, the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor united the American people as nothing has before or since. The entire nation banded together to face their foes with but one goal—to defeat the Axis Powers. The Japanese had not crushed America at all; instead, they had—in the words of a

Japanese admiral—"awakened a sleeping giant, and filled him with a terrible resolve."

CHECK UP

1. What countries fell to the Nazis before the British troops arrived?
2. What happened to Paris? Where was the armistice with Germany signed?
3. Who became Britain's prime minister in 1940? What did he realize was the only hope for preserving freedom in Europe?
4. What part did the RAF play in the Battle of Britain? What was the outcome?
5. Why did Hitler's invasion of Russia fail? How did it benefit Stalin?
6. How was America an "Arsenal of Democracy" in the early years of the war?
7. Why were Americans particularly concerned when France fell?
8. How did Germany respond to American aid to England?
9. What incident caused America to enter the war?
10. Name the military leader who held the reins of power in Japan. What region did he want to conquer?

Identify: blitzkrieg, Dunkirk, Free French government, Charles de Gaulle, London Blitz, Emperor Hirohito, Tripartite Treaty, Chiang Kai-shek, Mitsuo Fuchida

The War in Africa and Europe (1941–1945)

The war in Africa. In May 1942, a team of Axis soldiers called the *Afrika Corps* swept across North Africa. Under the skilled leadership of **General Erwin Rommel** (1891–1944), the Afrika Corps marched across Libya and into Egypt. The Nazis were on the verge of seizing the Suez Canal, Britain's link to the oil reserves of the Middle East, when they began to run out of supplies, particularly fuel. The British staged a counteroffensive, and Rommel was forced to retreat. British troops led by **General Sir Bernard Montgomery** pushed all the way to **Tripoli**, in Libya. While the British were marching westward, American forces under **General Mark Clark** marched eastward from Morocco and Algeria. Rommel was caught in the middle. In May 1943, the *Afrika Corps* surrendered to the Allies, and North Africa was secure. Now the Axis powers were confined to the European continent; an important segment of the war had ended.

A third front. When the London Blitz failed in 1940, *Hitler had unleashed his fury on the Soviet Union*. The Russians called upon their allies to start a second front in Europe to divide Germany's forces. Plans were already being made for an Allied invasion of France, but Churchill suggested a third front—a strike at Germany through Italy, which Churchill called the "soft underbelly of the Axis." The Allies in North Africa, just across the Mediterranean Sea from Italy, took advantage of their position and launched an attack in July 1943. The *Italians*, sensing their coming defeat, *removed Mussolini from power*. The Allies captured Rome on June 4, 1944. A few months later, the Italian peninsula was freed from Nazi occupation.

The invasion of Hitler's Europe. Meanwhile, the best military minds of the Allies planned an assault against Hitler's



General
Sir Bernard
Montgomery

Europe. The invasion *had* to succeed: if not, the war might be lost. American **General Dwight D. Eisenhower** was chosen to head up the invasion. The Germans had heavily fortified the coast of France and were confident that any Allied attempt to invade Europe would fail.

D-Day. On June 6, 1944, the **D-Day invasion** began as thousands of Allied troops hit the heavily fortified beaches of **Normandy** in northern France, launching the largest amphibious assault (from ships and other seaborne transports) in history. While shiploads of men crossed the English Channel, planes and gliders carried troops deeper into France. Within a few weeks, about 1 million Allied troops were fighting in northern France. Despite fierce opposition from the Germans, the Allies continued to push eastward. Every step forward brought them that much closer to Berlin. Twenty days after D-Day, Cherbourg, France, fell, giving the Allies a harbor where ships could bring men and supplies.

The race to Berlin. The Allied invasion of France carried on with speed. With swift tanks, American armies under **General George S. Patton** and **General Omar Bradley** pushed the Germans back. By late August 1944, the Allies had *liberated Paris*. The tide of the war was turning. The British and Americans marched on Germany from the west, and the Russians marched on Germany from the east. From

WORLD WAR II: EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA, 1942–1945



December 1944 to January 1945, the Germans launched their *last great offensive in the West*, known as the **Battle of the Bulge**. But after fierce fighting, the German effort failed, and the Allies began the race to Berlin. Allied bombing raids became more frequent as the Allies approached Berlin. Bombers knocked out German war factories and railroads, further weakening Germany's defenses.

Waning German war effort. Earlier in the war, many German officers had decided that Hitler was a lunatic who was driving Germany toward ruin. Some of them felt that for Germany's sake Hitler should be removed from the scene. On July 20, 1944, a bomb exploded in Hitler's quarters, but the bomb failed to kill the

Führer. Hitler was enraged that his own generals had tried to kill him. Many executions followed; even the well-known Rommel was forced to commit suicide for his part in the plot. From that time on, the German war effort deteriorated. The generals disliked Hitler and wanted to find an honorable way to end the war. Hitler distrusted his generals and accused them of treachery, disloyalty, and incompetence.

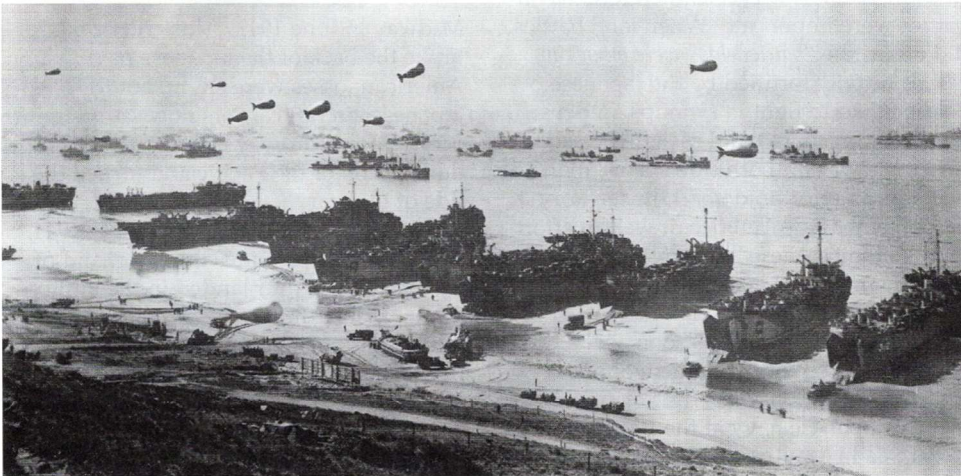
Mussolini's end. The end was coming. Italian patriots captured Mussolini and shot him. An angry crowd kicked and spat upon the once-powerful fascist dictator; then they hung his body upside-down in the public square for all to see.

V-E Day. Adolf Hitler lived like a mole 50 feet below Berlin in a bomb-proof



General Dwight D. Eisenhower: giving the order of the day to the first assault of paratroopers to invade continental Europe, June 1944.

D-Day, June 6, 1944: 50,000 men and 12,000 vehicles were put ashore on the coast of Normandy to begin the invasion of German-held territory.



bunker. He was a shattered man, his health and sanity failing fast. On April 30, 1945, Adolf Hitler committed suicide, even as Russian troops were fighting in the streets of Berlin. On May 7, 1945, Germany surrendered. The next day, May 8, was declared **V-E Day** (Victory in Europe Day); people everywhere celebrated. But the war was not quite over. Germany and Italy had been defeated, but Japan was still in the battle.

The War in the Pacific (1941–1945)

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese swept across the Pacific, attacking *Guam, Wake, Midway*, and other important American bases in the Pacific. After capturing Guam and Wake, the Japanese made an all-out assault on the *Philippines*. Despite a valiant effort by American troops

in the Philippines, the islands fell in early 1942. The fighting at *Bataan* (a Philippine peninsula) and *Corregidor* (a small Philippine island) was especially tragic.

Bataan Death March. When surrender became unavoidable, President Roosevelt ordered **General Douglas MacArthur** to leave the Philippines so that he would not be captured. MacArthur escaped at the last possible moment. When Bataan and Corregidor finally surrendered, over *60,000 Americans became prisoners of the Japanese*. These men were forced to walk 70 miles to prison camps. During the march, many died from hunger, disease, and brutal treatment from the Japanese. More than 10,000 American soldiers died in the **Bataan Death March**. The cruel march angered the Americans and made them even more determined to win a complete victory.

Among those who shared that determination, none was more determined than General MacArthur. He had wanted to stay in the Philippines with his men; now, as he returned to duty elsewhere, he *promised the Philippines: "I shall return."*

American hardship. The war in the Pacific was difficult, and America lost many battles in the beginning. The "territory" was an entire ocean—the Pacific; therefore, naval battles were important. When land battles did occur, the "battlefields" were often tiny islands heavily fortified by the Japanese. Soldiers had to fight in swamps, in dense jungle, or on sharp coral rocks. It was a miserable war for both sides. For Japan, the war was an effort to defend the territory it had obtained; for America, it was an effort to push the Japanese back to Japan and whip them soundly.

Important battles. Victories for America came slowly. As soon as the U.S. Navy could recover from the wounds inflicted at Pearl Harbor, the Pacific fleet met the Japanese navy at the **Battle of Coral Sea** in May 1942. This battle is remembered as the first naval battle in history in which the enemy ships never even saw each other—the battle was fought entirely by planes launched from aircraft carriers. The U.S. won the Battle of Coral Sea and followed it up with a victory at the **Battle of**



General Douglas MacArthur

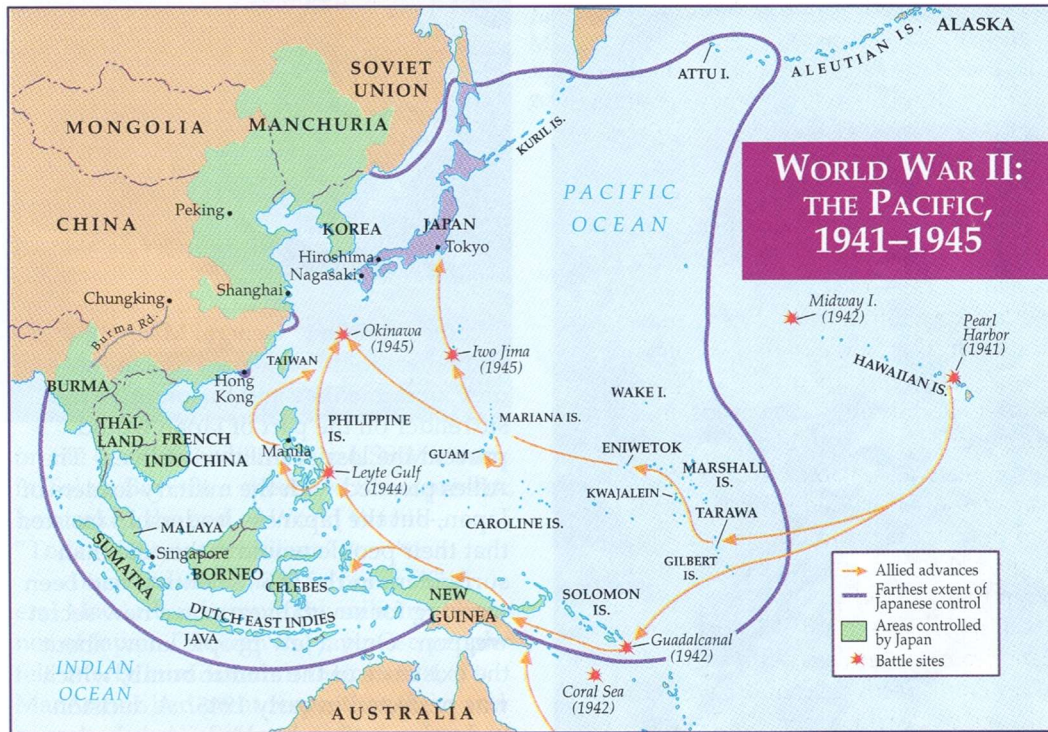
Midway in June 1942. This crucial battle broke the back of the Japanese navy. American losses were slight, but four Japanese aircraft carriers now sat on the ocean floor. **Midway** ended Japan's domination of the Pacific and turned the tide of the war.

MacArthur returns. In October 1944, American troops under the command of General MacArthur landed in the Philippines. MacArthur had kept his promise to return and liberate the islands. In the **Battle of Leyte Gulf**, Japan lost almost all of its remaining ships and planes.

"Island hopping." With the Japanese navy and air force weakened, the American army began to wage land battles in the Pacific. The strategy they followed was known as "island hopping," which meant occupying an island, using it as a base to prepare for an assault on the next island, and moving steadily toward Japan. The

Return to the Philippines: General Douglas MacArthur wades ashore in the initial landings to take the Philippines from the Japanese. By doing so he kept the promise he made to the Filipinos when he was forced to flee: "I shall return."

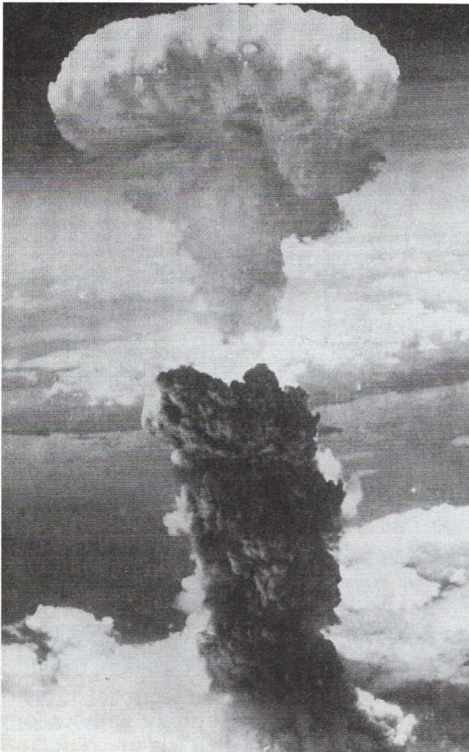




islands fell one by one, but not without long and hard fighting on such islands as Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.

No Japanese surrender. Island fighting was deadly, and casualties were heavy for both sides. One big problem that American soldiers faced was that the Japanese absolutely refused to surrender. They believed that it was their sacred duty to defend their homeland to the death. To surrender would bring dishonor. Therefore, they would keep fighting even when there was no hope for victory. Many of them would rather commit suicide than surrender. Under such circumstances, a battle would continue until *all* the Japanese troops had been wiped out. Very few prisoners were taken.

Iwo Jima Memorial: The Iwo Jima Memorial in Washington, D.C., honors Marines who have given their lives for their country. It is patterned after a photograph of Marines raising the American flag over Iwo Jima in February 1945.



Hiroshima: The atomic bomb destroying part of Hiroshima, Japan

Kamikazes. By April 1945, U.S. forces had come within striking distance of Japan. Bombers could take off from Saipan and bomb Japanese cities. Surely now the Japanese would surrender. After all, to continue fighting would mean major battles on Japanese soil. But the Japanese still believed that their homeland was under divine protection and that surrender was dishonorable. They were ready to fight until the last soldier fell. Soon *kamikazes*, suicide planes loaded with explosives, began to crash into American ships, killing hundreds of American sailors.

The atomic bomb. President Roosevelt was reelected to a fourth term as President in 1944, but on April 12, 1945, he died of a stroke. Vice President **Harry S Truman**



President Harry S Truman

became President. General MacArthur and others told President Truman that only an immediate and unconditional surrender on the part of Japan would prevent the loss of millions of lives. The Allies pleaded with the military leaders of Japan, but the Japanese leadership insisted that their people would rather die than surrender. In the U.S., scientists had been working for several years on a new secret weapon. Only a few people knew about the existence of the **atomic bomb**, which was perfected in early 1945. A decision had to be made: should this bomb, the most destructive weapon ever created by man, be used in the war against Japan? Its use could kill hundreds of thousands. But calculations showed that a full-scale invasion of Japan might cost over a million lives. Finally, in order to save the lives of thousands of American soldiers and countless Japanese, President Truman made the painful *decision to drop the atomic bomb*.

Surrender. The first atomic bomb was dropped on the city of **Hiroshima** [hē' rō·shē'mā] on August 6, 1945. Within minutes, the city was wiped out and 90,000 people were dead. When Japanese military leaders still refused to surrender, a *second bomb* was dropped on **Nagasaki** [nā'gā·sā'kē] three days later, killing 40,000 people. Finally, the Japanese government surrendered. On September 2, 1945, **V-J Day** (Victory in Japan Day), General Douglas MacArthur accepted the surrender of the Japanese military leaders



Japanese Surrender: Aboard the battleship USS Missouri, September 2, 1945, Mamoru Shigemitso signs the Japanese surrender document on behalf of his government and his emperor.

on the deck of the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. In a speech to those present, he marked the end of World War II—“Today the guns are silent.”

American assistance in Japan. General MacArthur became the military governor of Japan. Though the Japanese people felt utterly humiliated in their defeat, MacArthur had great respect for them and encouraged relief efforts and economic development. He also realized that Japan’s real need was moral and spiritual. He wrote: “The more missionaries we can bring out here [to Japan], and the more occupation troops we can send home, the better.” At MacArthur’s request, the Pocket Testament League distributed 10 million Japanese Bibles.

Aftermath

Death and destruction. World War II was finally over. Worldwide, nearly **60 million** died, and millions more were wounded. Many soldiers came home to cities that had been reduced to rubble by bombs and artillery. Practically all of Europe was a smoldering ruin, and both Japan and Russia had sustained heavy damage as well. Only America came through the war unscathed.

The Holocaust. As Germany and Italy were liberated, the dreadful horrors of Nazi rule were exposed to the world. The



Europe in Ruins: Ruins of downtown Ulm, Germany. All the buildings except the cathedral were demolished by heavy bombing.

Allies were shocked by what they found in Germany. Hitler had huge **concentration camps** built for the express purpose of *exterminating the Jewish race as well as Germans and others who resisted him*. Some of these camps had **gas chambers** in which thousands of men, women, and children were killed with poison gas. Great **ovens** were used to cremate (burn) the corpses of dead prisoners. Yet those who died quickly were the fortunate ones; some prisoners were used in cruel **medical experiments** which led to a slow, painful death. Those prisoners who survived had suffered untold horrors at the hands of the Nazis; many of them were starving. For the first time, people saw how monstrous Hitler and his Nazi regime had been.

Some of the largest concentration camps were at **Treblinka**, **Dachau**, and **Auschwitz**. Two million people were gassed and cremated, and another 25,000 worked to death, at Auschwitz alone. When Jews arrived at Auschwitz, they were



Victims of Nazi Cruelty: On April 12, 1945, General Eisenhower, on a tour of the Third Army front, walks around a cluster of corpses representing the remains of many of the inmates of the German concentration camp at Gotha, Germany.

stripped of their belongings and given uniforms. Much of their clothing was shipped back to Germany for resale. During one 6-week period, German clothiers received 222,269 men's suits and underclothes, 192,652 sets of women's clothing, and 99,922 children's outfits. Such statistics reveal the great number of men, women, and children who suffered and died in the Nazi death camps. Altogether, more than **6 million Jews**, as well as many Germans and other Europeans, were systematically slaughtered by the Nazis between 1934 and 1945. This horrible slaughter is remembered today as the **Holocaust**.

Freedom preserved. Thanks to the Allies, such horrors were put to an end. The peoples of Germany, Italy, and Japan were freed from their dictators. The war showed that men everywhere would sacrifice everything—even their lives—to protect their homelands and preserve their freedoms.



Grim Reminder of the Holocaust: An oven used to destroy bodies of prisoners slain by Nazis.

CHECK UP

1. Name the generals who stopped German General Erwin Rommel and secured North Africa for the Allies.
2. What was the third front suggested by Churchill for the Allied attack on Germany?
3. What events led up to Mussolini's downfall?
4. Name the American general chosen to head up the D-Day Invasion. Where did the Allies stage their assault on Hitler's Europe?
5. What battle was Germany's last effective stand against the Allied advance?
6. Explain how German officers were involved in the deterioration of the German war effort.
7. When did Germany surrender? What was V-E Day? Was the war over?
8. What was unusual about the Battle of Coral Sea?
9. What super-secret weapon was perfected in 1945? Who made the decision to use this weapon? Why?
10. What had the Nazi death camps been used for? How many Jews were murdered by the Nazis?

Identify: Bataan Death March, Battle of Midway, Battle of Leyte Gulf, island-hopping, kamikazes, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, V-J Day, Holocaust

Writing Assignment: Summarizing



D-Day

D-Day was the name given to the first day of Operation Overlord—an action that took place during World War II. The operation was also called the Normandy Invasion. On June 6, 1944, British, Canadian, and U.S. troops invaded German-held France.

In 1940 the Germans had invaded and occupied Belgium, the Netherlands, and a large part of France. The Allies (those on Britain's side in the war) needed to find a way of relieving the occupied countries. As early as 1942 the three Allied leaders, Winston Churchill (Britain), Franklin D. Roosevelt (the United States), and Joseph Stalin (Russia), began meeting to discuss how this could be done.

In 1943 they came up with a complicated plan called Operation Overlord. This involved landing thousands of soldiers on five beaches in Normandy in northwestern France. From there they hoped that their forces could push into France and drive out the Germans.

The Germans knew that the Allies would plan an attack, but they believed it would concentrate on Calais, France. Calais was the closest French port to England.

On June 5 a fleet of 3,000 landing craft, 2,500 other ships, and 500 naval vessels began to leave ports in England headed for France. That night thousands of men were dropped by parachute into the landing zone. Their task was to capture important towns, roads, and bridges in Normandy so that the soldiers from the beaches could make their way inland.

Early on the morning of June 6 the fleet of ships arrived at the Normandy coast. The landing craft were boats that could carry soldiers and tanks. These ships could land on the beaches, drop off their soldiers and tanks, and then return to the larger ships to bring back more men.

The five beaches chosen as the sites of the landings were spread along a 30-mile (48-kilometer) stretch of coastline. British and Canadian soldiers landed on Sword, Juno, and Gold beaches. American soldiers landed on Omaha and Utah beaches.

Before the first soldiers landed on the beaches, Allied ships and planes fired at German forts. They hoped to destroy them, but some of the forts were so well built that the Germans were protected and were able to attack the Allies.

On the three British beaches the soldiers made good progress. They pushed inland. The Americans faced strong defenses on one of their beaches and took longer than they had planned to move off the beach. By the end of the day, though, all five beaches were in the hands of the Allies.

In the days that followed, more and more Germans reached Normandy to fight the invasion. Despite this, the Allies managed to link up all their beaches. After a week the battle in Normandy was still going on, and Allied troops continued to land. Finally, toward the end of June, the Americans broke through the German defenses.

By the time the Allies started a new attack, Operation Cobra, in July 1944, the German soldiers were exhausted and beginning to retreat. They were followed by the British and American soldiers. Some 200,000 Germans were surrounded and captured. By August 1944 the Allies had reached Paris, France, and had freed it from German occupation.

The D-Day landings came at a high cost. More than 200,000 Allied soldiers had been killed or wounded by the end of Operation Overlord. The Germans suffered a similar number of casualties. In addition to this, many French civilians were killed during bombing raids and battles as the fight moved inland and the Allies marched on Paris. Although the war would continue for another year, D-Day was the beginning of the end. It is considered one of the most successful operations in military history.

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