

## World War II – History 12

Key difference between WWI and WWII?

### **Invasion of Poland.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

“Blitzkrieg” = “\_\_\_\_\_”

Major steps/techniques of Blitzkrieg:

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

German Army vs. Polish Army

On September 17, the \_\_\_\_\_ army attacked from the east, and by September 29, Poland ceased to exist.

### *The Phony War:*

During the ‘Phony War’ Hitler invaded \_\_\_\_\_ (8 April) and \_\_\_\_\_ (9 April).

# The War in Western Europe

## France

On May 10, 1940, Hitler invaded the countries of \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

The French Maginot Line was useless as a defense. The Nazis simply went through Belgium or over the Maginot Line.

France was overrun very quickly.

Why?

- Maginot Line:
- French tank tactics:
- Luftwaffe:
- Internal trouble:

German operation:

Importance of Dunkirk:

June 10: \_\_\_\_\_ declares war on France

June 14: Nazis enter \_\_\_\_\_.

By 22 June 1940, the French surrendered.

**Important terms:**

Vichy France:

Charles De Gaulle:

collaboration:

# The Battle of Britain 10 July – 30 September 1940

## Germany's Luftwaffe vs. Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF)

The head of the Luftwaffe, \_\_\_\_\_, promised Hitler that he could eliminate the RAF in four days. The Luftwaffe enjoyed a \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_ advantage in aircraft.

Removing the RAF was the first step in 'Operation \_\_\_\_\_'.

At this time Britain stood alone against the Nazis. ( The USA was still practicing \_\_\_\_\_, France was \_\_\_\_\_, and the USSR and Germany were still abiding by the \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Aggression Pact)

### Germany's initial strategy:

1. Attack British naval convoys in the English Channel (July)
2. Attack British airfields (August)
3. Hit British radar stations (August-September)

Results of this strategy:

MISTAKE! (24 August 1940): \_\_\_\_\_

Churchill's reaction: \_\_\_\_\_

Hitler's reaction: (The "\_\_\_\_\_") \_\_\_\_\_

Significance of Hitler's reaction: \_\_\_\_\_

Three major technological advantages for Britain:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

By 30 September 1940, Hitler 'postponed' Operation Sealion.

Significance of the Battle of Britain:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

# The Eastern Front 1939-1945

## Background Events:

- The USSR attacked \_\_\_\_\_ "Winter War" - 30 November 1939
- USSR occupied the Baltic States (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia) – June 1940
- Germany occupied Romania – October 1940
- Italy invades Greece, but \_\_\_\_\_
  - significance! \_\_\_\_\_

## Operation Barbarossa

- Goals:
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Statistics:

- ✓ Length of Front: \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ German divisions initially attacked the USSR
- ✓ a total of \_\_\_\_\_ German soldiers would fight in the east
- ✓ German motorized divisions advanced \_\_\_\_\_ miles on the first day ( \_\_\_\_\_ miles in the first week)
- ✓ in the first 6 months, the USSR lost 3 million soldiers

## German successes in the first 6 months:

Leningrad:

Kiev/Kharkov/Smolensk:

USSR's economic base:

## Autumn rains & 'General Winter':

Stalin's 'scorched earth' policy:

### Russian counter-attack:

Moscow:

technology:

Soviet reserves:

German dead:

### Spring of 1942 – A new German plan:

### Battle of Stalingrad 1 September 1942 – 2 February 1943

- size of the city:
- symbolic importance:
- strategic importance:
- Hitler's mistake:
- German losses:

### Significance of the Battle of Stalingrad:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### Primary documents:

As Guderian summarized the campaign to his wife on December 10, 1941, **"the enemy, the size of the country, and the foulness of the weather were all grossly underestimated."**

Hitler to General Guderian: **"had I known Russian tank strength...I would not have started this war."**

## North Africa

Both the Axis and Allied powers knew that North Africa would be important for three main reasons: \_\_\_\_\_

### Important developments:

- 13 September 1940 – Italy attacks Egypt
- Dec. 1940 – \_\_\_\_\_ counter-attacks against Italy in N. Africa
- Feb. 1942 – \_\_\_\_\_ takes command of German forces in N. Africa  
( \_\_\_\_\_ )
- Aug. 1942 – \_\_\_\_\_ takes command of British forces in N. Africa

### El Alamein Oct. 1942

The small town of El Alamein is located 100 km west of the \_\_\_\_\_

The British, nick-named the “\_\_\_\_\_” defeated Rommel’s forces. As the German and Italian forces retreated over a 1000 miles across N. Africa, the \_\_\_\_\_ joined the war.

American forces under \_\_\_\_\_ landed in Morocco and advanced from the west (Operation \_\_\_\_\_).

As the British advanced from the east, Rommel was trapped, but he escaped to \_\_\_\_\_.

### Significance of El Alamein/North Africa:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# Battle of the Atlantic 1941-1945

Definition: The ongoing struggle of the \_\_\_\_\_ to keep open her shipping lanes to \_\_\_\_\_.

Most Allied ships were sunk by \_\_\_\_\_ hunting in groups called '\_\_\_\_\_'

Type of vessels lost	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945 (up until May)
Merchant ships (Allied)							
U-Boats (German)							

What changed in 1943 to 'turn the tide' against the U-boats?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Significance of the Battle of the Atlantic:**

## Italy July 1943 – May 1945

By the middle of 1943, the Germans had been defeated and removed from \_\_\_\_\_.

In the East, the Germans were engaged in a 'fighting retreat' back towards Berlin. Each day, thousands of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ troops were dying. Therefore, Stalin put pressure on the western Allies to \_\_\_\_\_!!!!

Western Allies response: \_\_\_\_\_

Instead, USA, Britain and Canada decided to invade \_\_\_\_\_ (9 July 1943). and use it as a launching point to invade \_\_\_\_\_

During the fighting on Sicily, Mussolini was overthrown, and on 8 September 1943, Italy announced its \_\_\_\_\_.

For the remainder of the Italian campaign, Germany would fight on its own.

Allied forces invaded Italy on 9 September 1943. The fight to oust the Germans from Italy would be some of the toughest fighting of the war.

Rome fell on \_\_\_\_\_. The Germans were finally defeated in Italy by \_\_\_\_\_.

Mussolini was displayed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Importance of the Italian campaign:**

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

### Strategic Bombing

Starting with the Battle of Britain, the war on the Western Front was mainly a battle in the air.

Britain, USA, and Canada brought in the concept of **Strategic Bombing**.

definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Three purposes: 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_



# Opening the Western Front/Germany's Defeat

6 June 1944: Three names for this event: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

By the spring of 1944, Hitler anticipated an Allied invasion on the shores of \_\_\_\_\_.

He placed the task of defending 'Fortress Europa' in the hands of \_\_\_\_\_.

The Germans did a number of things to make landing on the shores very difficult:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Allied commander: \_\_\_\_\_

size of the force: \_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_\_ first wave)

The allies divided the shores of Normandy in to five beaches.

On the day of the attack, the British, American and Canadian used three different methods:

By the end of the '\_\_\_\_\_' the Allies had secured the beaches.

By 25 August \_\_\_\_\_, the Allies and Charles De Gaulle marched into \_\_\_\_\_.

The Allies had mixed success in Western Europe. During \_\_\_\_\_ the Germans slaughtered three airborne divisions that were dropped above their positions.

During the \_\_\_\_\_, 200 000 German troops attacked a weak point in the Allied lines. The fighting took place in December of 1944, and despite some early advances, the Germans were halted on \_\_\_\_\_.

With little hope of winning the war, the Germans launched a new form of warfare against London.

V-1 (buzz-bombs): \_\_\_\_\_

V-2: \_\_\_\_\_

By late April 1945, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ forces met just south of Berlin. On 30 April \_\_\_\_\_ committed suicide. On 2 May, \_\_\_\_\_ fell to the Russians, and on \_\_\_\_\_ Germany surrendered.

# The Pacific War

US 'actions' prior to 7 December 1941:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ - 50 old destroyers were given to Britain in exchange for 99 year leases at 8 different sites around the world.
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ - Britain could pay cash for war materials made in the USA, and then had to transport them off American soil.
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ - The US Congress passed a law that allowed the USA to help supply any armies whose defense was considered vital to American interests.
- 4) US supplies were given to \_\_\_\_\_ in its fight against Japan
- 5) 26 July 1941 all Japanese assets in the USA were \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6) 4 October 1941, the USA cut off 90% of Japan's \_\_\_\_\_ supply.

Japan's actions prior to 7 December 1941:

- 1) Japan invaded Manchuria in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) In 1937, Japan invaded \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) **Greater East Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere** – an invitation to other countries to join Japan's empire. The Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) refused, so Japan realized it would have to use military force to get oil.
- 4) Japan received special privileges in French Indochina courtesy of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Japan's major obstacle in the Pacific region was the \_\_\_\_\_, so the attack on Pearl Harbour was launched.

Japan attacked the US naval base at Pearl Harbour, \_\_\_\_\_ on 7 December 1941.

Results:

\_\_\_\_\_ battleships were damaged, but only two were lost permanently  
\_\_\_\_\_ (and Britain) declared war on Japan.  
\_\_\_\_\_ declared war on the USA.

By mid-1942, Japan had conquered:

Major events/topics of the Pacific War:

1. Battle of the Coral Sea – May 1942

2. Battle of Midway – June 1942

3. Island-Hopping

4. Battle of Leyte Gulf – October 1944

5. Manhattan Project

Hiroshima: (date: \_\_\_\_\_)

Nagasaki: (date: \_\_\_\_\_)

