

WORLD WAR II MAJOR BATTLES

EUROPEAN THEATRE: 1939-1945

Battle of Britain	Battle of the Bulge	D-Day / Normandy Invasion	Battle of Stalingrad	Victory in Europe Day
1940-1942	Dec. 1944 – Jan. 1945	June 6, 1944 / NW France	July 1942 – February 1943	May 7-8, 1945
<p>-Air and bombing raids over Britain by the German Luftwaffe (Air Force) begin in 1940</p> <p>-British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain is STILL NOT actively attacking Germany</p> <p>-Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister and begins to fight back with vengeance against Germany</p> <p>The Battle of Britain is a long, continuous fight against German air bombings on Britain</p> <p>-Demonstrates that Britain will FIGHT BACK; Germany begins to see it will have to fight hard to win World War II</p>	<p>-Also known as the <i>Ardennes Offensive</i> on the Western Front of World War II.</p> <p>-Germany's planned goal for these operations was to split the British and American Allied line in half, capturing Antwerp, Belgium, and then proceeding to encircle and destroy four Allied armies, forcing the Western Allies to negotiate a peace treaty in the Axis Powers' favor.</p> <p>-Allied powers pushed forward despite setbacks and were victorious when Hitler agreed to remove troops from Belgium in 1945.</p> <p>-German losses in the battle were critical in several respects: the last of the German reserves were now gone; the German Air Force (<i>Luftwaffe</i>) had been broken; and the German Army in the West was being pushed back.</p>	<p>-The day on which the Invasion of Normandy began thus commencing the Western Allied effort to liberate mainland Europe from Nazi occupation during World War II.</p> <p>-Part of OPERATION OVERLORD</p> <p>-Over 1,000,000 personnel were involved, including 195,700 Allied naval and merchant navy personnel.</p> <p>-Along the Normandy coast 5 invasion beaches were assaulted: Gold, Juno, Omaha, Sword and Utah.</p> <p>-Opening assault was conducted in 2 phases, an air assault landing of American and British (including a Canadian airborne battalion) airborne divisions shortly after midnight, and an amphibious landing of Allied infantry and armored divisions on the coast of France.</p> <p>-TURNS TIDE OF WAR IN FAVOR OF THE ALLIED FORCES.</p>	<p>-The results of these operations are often cited as one of the turning points of the war in the European Theater and was one of the bloodiest battles in human history, with combined casualties estimated to be above 1.5 million.</p> <p>The battle was marked by brutality and disregard for military and civilian casualties by both sides. The German offensive to take Stalingrad was the second large-scale defeat of World War II.</p> <p>-The Soviet victory helped push back the Germans and significantly aided the Allies in the Eastern (Soviet) Front</p> <p>-The battle of Stalingrad was one of the largest battles in human history. It raged for 199 days. Its initial phases, the Germans inflicted heavy casualties on Soviet formations; but the Soviet encirclement by punching through the German flank, mainly held by Romanian troops, effectively besieged the remainder of German Sixth Army</p>	<p>-When the World War II Allies formally accepted the unconditional surrender of the armed forces of Nazi Germany and the end of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich. On April 30, Hitler committed suicide during the Battle for Berlin, and so the surrender of Germany was authorized by his replacement, President of Germany Karl Dönitz</p> <p>-By May 8, most of Germany had already been taken by Allied forces. Hence V-E day was not such a drastic change for most German civilians.</p> <p>-Shortly before midnight on May 8, a second unconditional surrender was signed in the outskirts of Berlin, Germany. The signing ceremony took place in a villa in an eastern suburb of Berlin called Karlshorst. Representatives of the USSR, Great Britain, France, and the United States and the German command representatives were invited into the room, where they signed the final German Instrument of Surrender</p>

PACIFIC THEATRE: 1941-1945

Japanese attack Pearl Harbor	Battle of the Coral Sea	Battle of Midway	Hiroshima = August 6, 1945 Nagasaki = August 9, 1945
December 7, 1941	May 4-8, 1942	June 4-7, 1942	
<p>-Japanese attack on the U.S. Naval port at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii</p> <p>-Brought on after a U.S. embargo against Japan following Japan's invasion of Manchuria</p> <p>-Japan hoped to destroy the remaining U.S. Naval fleet in Hawaii (the majority of U.S. forces had been loaned to Allied European nations)</p> <p>-Combination of aerial and submarine attack at the harbor.</p> <p>-The attack is the MAJOR CAUSE for the U.S. entrance into World War II</p> <p>-Once a declaration of war was made by a (almost) unanimous vote in Congress against Japan, the remaining Axis powers (Germany & Italy) declared war on the U.S., thus creating the true GLOBAL NATURE of World War II</p> <p>-U.S. experienced a series of defeats in the Pacific, but demonstrated its resolve to fight back with the U.S. Doolittle Raid over Tokyo on April 18, 1942.</p>	<p>Major naval battle in the Pacific Theater of World War II between the Imperial Japanese Navy and the United States and Australia. It was the first fleet action in which aircraft carriers engaged each other. It was also the first naval battle in history in which neither side's ships sighted or fired directly upon the other. It is considered a tactical victory for Japan since the United States lost fleet carrier USS <i>Lexington</i>, Japan only the light carrier <i>Shōhō</i>. At the same time, the battle was a strategic victory for the Allies because the Japanese abandoned their attempt to land troops to take Port Moresby, New Guinea. The engagement ended with no clear victor, but the damage suffered and experience gained by both sides set the stage for the Battle of Midway one month later.</p>	<p>Major naval battle in the Pacific Theater of World War II between the Imperial Japanese Navy and the United States and Australia. It was the first fleet action in which aircraft carriers engaged each other. It was also the first naval battle in history in which neither side's ships sighted or fired directly upon the other. It is considered a tactical victory for Japan since the United States lost fleet carrier USS <i>Lexington</i>, Japan only the light carrier <i>Shōhō</i>. At the same time, the battle was a strategic victory for the Allies because the Japanese abandoned their attempt to land troops to take Port Moresby, New Guinea. The engagement ended with no clear victor, but the damage suffered and experience gained by both sides set the stage for the Battle of Midway one month later.</p>	<p>-The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were nuclear attacks during World War II against the Empire of Japan by the United States at the order of U.S. President Harry S. Truman.</p> <p>-These are to date the only attacks with nuclear weapons in the history of warfare.</p> <p>-The bombs killed as many as 140,000 people in Hiroshima and 80,000 in Nagasaki by the end of 1945,^[2] roughly half on the days of the bombings. Since then, thousands more have died from injuries or illness attributed to exposure to radiation released by the bombs.^[1] In both cities, the overwhelming majority of the dead were civilians.</p> <p>-Six days after the detonation over Nagasaki, on August 15, Japan announced its surrender to the Allied Powers, signing the Instrument of Surrender on September 2, 1945 - thus officially ending the Pacific War and therefore World War II.</p>