IV. Pushing the Axis Back

1. Striking back at the 3rd Reich

1.Strategic Bombing

Between January 1943 and May 1945 the R.A.F and U.S.A.F dropped 53,000 tons of

explosives on Germany every month.

Caused severe oil shortage and wrecked railroad system.

Destroyed so many aircrafts factories, Germany couldn’t replace combat losses.

2.Striking at the Soft Underbelly

General Dwight D. Eisenhower-overall command of operation.

General Patton and British General Bernard Montgomery in charge of forces on the

ground.

Invasion began July 10,1943 – western Sicily captured within 8 days. By August 18

Germans had evacuated island

King of Italy placed Mussolini under arrest and began to negotiate with Allies.

September 8,1943 Italy surrendered and American landed at Salerno.

German troops seize control of northern Italy, attack Americans and rescue

Mussolini.

Allies landed at Anzio behind German lines. Hoped to force Germany to retreat.

Germans surrounded Allies troops near Anzio

Took 5 months for Allies to break through Germany lines. Fighting cont. until May

1945. Italian campaign was one of the bloodiest in the war. 300,000 Allied

casualties.

3. Roosevelt Meets Stalin at Tehran

Stalin promised to launch a full-scale offensive against the Germans when the

Allies invaded France in 1944.

Agreed to break up Germany after the war

Stalin promised to help U.S. defeat Japan after Germany was beaten

1. Landing in France

1. Planning Operation Overlord

General Eisenhower to command invasion

The coast of France was fortified by Hitler.

The Allies advantage was the element of surprise.

Germans believed Allies would land near Dunkirk; area closest to Britain. Allies

placed empty tents, inflated rubber tanks-to convince Germany they were correct.

June 6, 1944 D-day, the invasion began

2. The Longest Day

7,000 ships; 100,000 soldiers set sail for coast of Normandy.

23,000 paratroopers dropped inland.

Fighter bombers hit bridges, bunkers, radar sites along the coast.

Landed at 5 beaches-code named Utah, Omaha, Gold, Sword, and Juno

Omaha Beach-General Omar Bradly commander of American forces. Intense

German fire, the assault almost failed, plans made to evacuate, then slowly the

Allies began taking out German defenses and advancing up and beyond

the beaches.

1. Driving the Japanese Back

1. Island Hopping in the Pacific

Admiral Chester Nimitz and the Pacific fleet would advance through central Pacific

by hopping from one island to the next, closer and close to Japan

General MacArthur’s troops would advance through the Solomon Islands, New

Guinea and then retake the Philippines.

Problem-many central Pacific islands were coral reef atolls. Water not deep

enough for landing craft to get ashore, wading in could cause high casualties.

LVT the “Alligator,” amphtrac could cross the reef and deliver troops onto the

beaches. Used to invade Kwajalein Atoll in Marshall Islands.

Mariana Islands- wanted as a base for new heavy bomber, B-29 Superfortress. All

were captured by August 1944. The B-29s began bombing Japan.

2. MacArthur returns to the Philippines

Southwest Pacific campaign began with the invasion of Guadalcanal in August

1942. MacArthur’s troops captured enough islands to surround Rabaul, the main

Japanese base in the region. Japan withdraw their ships and aircraft but left

100,000 troops behind to hold the island.

MacArthur’s forces leaped 600 miles to capture Japanese base at Hollandia, north

coast of New Guinea. Secured New Guinea, then the island of Morotai.

To take back the Philippines in October 1944, more than 700 ships, over 160,000

troops sailed for Leyte Gulf in the Philippines. Largest naval battle in history.

Japanese used Kamikaze attacks for the first time. Japanese retreated.

Battle for the Philippines lasted 5 months, over 80,000 Japanese killed. Less than

1,000 surrendered.

MacArthur’s troops captured Manila, March 1945. City was left in ruins and over

100,000 civilians died.

Remaining Japanese troops retreated North into rugged terrain and were still

fighting when Japan surrendered.