

Ch 25 Section 2 The War for Europe and North Africa

The United States and Britain Join Forces

War Plans

- Churchill convinces FDR to strike first against Hitler

The Battle of the Atlantic

- Germany's goal was to keep food and war supplies from reaching Great Britain and Soviet Union
- Hitler orders submarine attacks against supply ships to Britain
- Allies organize convoys of cargo ships with escort:
 - destroyers with sonar; planes with radar

The Eastern Front and the Mediterranean

The Battle of Stalingrad

- Hitler wants to capture Caucasus oil fields and destroy Stalingrad
- Soviets defeat Germans in bitter winter campaign, massive Soviet counterattack, Hitler refuses to order a German retreat
 - Over 230,000 Germans, 1,100,000 Soviets die
- Battle a turning point: Soviet army begins to move towards Germany

The North African Front

- General **Dwight D. Eisenhower**, Supreme Commander of U.S. forces in Europe, commands invasion of North Africa
- Afrika Korps, led by General Erwin Rommel, surrenders May 1943

The Italian Campaign

- Allies decide will accept only unconditional surrender from Axis
- Summer 1943, capture Sicily; Mussolini forced to resign
- 1944 Allies win "Bloody Anzio"; Germans continue strong resistance

Heroes in Combat

- African Americans —Tuskegee Airmen, Buffaloes—highly decorated
- Mexican-American soldiers win many awards
- Japanese-American unit most decorated unit in U.S. history

The Allies Liberate Europe

D-Day

- Allies set up phantom army, send fake radio messages to fool Germans
- Eisenhower directs Allied invasion of Normandy on **D-Day** June 6, 1944

The Allies Gain Ground

- General **Omar Bradley** bombs to create gap in enemy defense line
- General **George Patton** leads Third Army, reach Paris in August
- FDR reelected for 4th term with running mate Harry S. Truman

The Battle of the Bulge

- October 1944, Allies capture first German town, Aachen
- December German tank divisions drive 60 miles into Allied area
- **Battle of the Bulge**—Germans push back but have irreplaceable losses, last German offensive

Liberation of the Death Camps

- Allies in Germany, Soviets in Poland liberate concentration camps
 - find starving prisoners, corpses, evidence of killing

Unconditional Surrender

- April 1945, Soviet army storms Berlin; Hitler commits suicide
- Eisenhower accepts unconditional surrender of German Reich
- May 8, 1945, **V-E Day**: Victory in Europe Day

Roosevelt's Death

- FDR dies April 12; Vice President **Harry S. Truman** becomes president