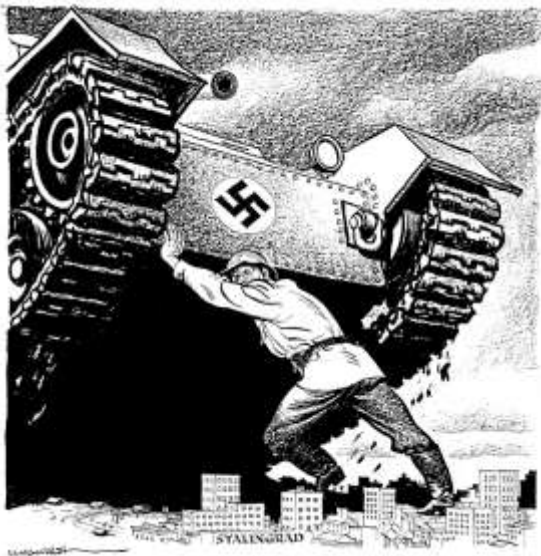


## The Turning Point and Normandy; To the End of the War

The early years of the war had been a disaster for the Allied nations, including Canada. The failures of Dieppe, Hong Kong, and Dunkirk had been very costly in terms; the Blitz had been psychologically draining for the people of England; the Battle of the Atlantic (which would rage throughout the entire course of war) was being won by the German U-Boat submarines through 1943; and Hitler had been able to successfully open up the \_\_\_\_\_ against the Soviet Union and was moving his way towards Moscow. It looked as if the war could be lost.



By the **winter of \_\_\_\_\_**, however, things began to look up for the Allied nation. Although Hitler had thus far been successful in the Soviet Union, **the battle of \_\_\_\_\_** dramatically stopped his path to Moscow. The fighting during this battle was vicious and deadly as the battle was waged in the houses and the streets for control of the city. The loss of life on both sides was staggering. The German commanders begged Hitler for permission to retreat to save the army to fight another day, but Hitler refused. In the end, **over \_\_\_\_\_ German and \_\_\_\_\_ million Soviet troops were captured, killed or injured in**

the fighting and this **would serve to be a very important turning point in the war**. After Stalingrad, the Soviet Union was able to slowly push the Nazis back and regain their lost territories.

1943 also saw the Americans and British engage in \_\_\_\_\_ of German cities. Carpet bombing is when hundreds (or thousands) of fighter planes fly over a city and simply drop bombs. There is no specific target that they are aiming for; the Allied nations simply dropped bombs all over German cities in an effort to completely destroy German war



manufacturing and armaments. The Allied nations were very successful in this mission, as cities such as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were incinerated. This was also retribution for what the Germans had done to London and Great Britain during the Blitz a few years earlier.



\_\_\_\_\_ would also be a place of success for the Allied armies. **By \_\_\_\_\_, Germany and Italy had been defeated in the deserts of North Africa, as over \_\_\_\_\_ German and Italian troops were forced to surrender to the Allies and become prisoners of war.** With control of Africa now in hand, the Allied nations were able to focus their efforts on a concerted plan to attack mainland Europe. The first target: \_\_\_\_\_.



**On \_\_\_\_\_, the invasion of Italy took place.** Marching through the Italian countryside, going city-by-city, the British, American, and Canadian troops fought and won battles, and by August they had captured \_\_\_\_\_. Fighting in Italy would continue for almost a year, but **by \_\_\_\_\_, just days before the largest invasion in the war, the Allied forces moved into \_\_\_\_\_ and liberated the city from the grips of Fascism.**

The next stop was \_\_\_\_\_.



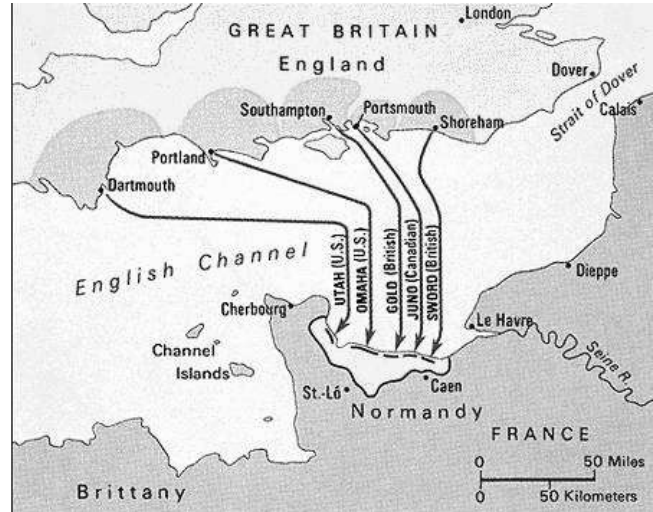
**D-Day and Normandy**

In the early morning hours of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Allied troops were sailing across the English Channel, destined for the port of \_\_\_\_\_, France, and \_\_\_\_\_ (Deliverance Day). This

was known as **Operation Overlord**. Four years ago

the Nazi army had swept through France in but a matter of weeks, overtaking Paris and placing France under Nazi rule. This would be the day that marked the end of Nazi reign in France.

-  Allied area
-  Troop concentration for invasion
-  Axis-occupied area
-  Allied invasion force
-  Allied beach head
-  City or town

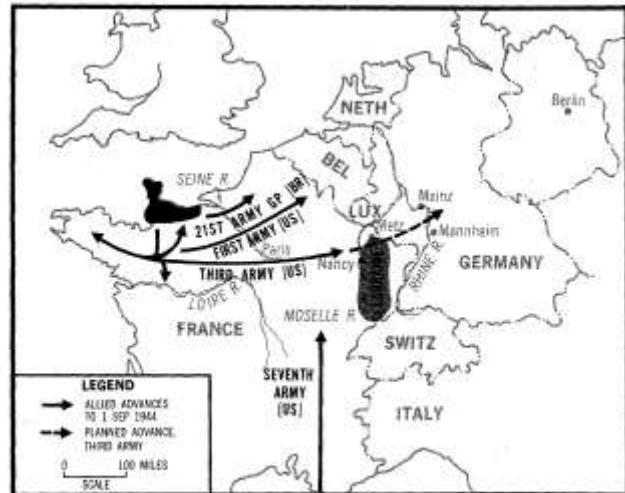


At dawn, the Allied force landed at Normandy. They faced incredibly fierce resistance from the German troops. Unlike Dieppe, the Germans did not know of the exact landing place of the Normandy invasion, and thus were not as prepared as they should have been. This time the surprise assault was well organized (it took almost two years of planning to fully execute) and there were no

mistakes. **The Canadian troops were responsible for taking \_\_\_\_\_, one of the five beaches that were to be stormed that day.** The invading troops had the massive support and protection of over 800 warships and 11 000 aircraft. **The landing was very successful and within one month there were more than \_\_\_\_\_ Allied troops steadily pushing the German armies out of France and other parts of Western Europe.** The Allied army would continue on their push to Berlin.



Between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, the Allied troops moved into Germany, and that February it crossed the \_\_\_\_\_ River and the invasion of Germany officially began. Up to early 1943, the Nazis had been able to march through Europe and take over almost the entire continent; since then, the Allied had pushed back and were now on their way to victory.



Map 1. European Theater

The Battle of Stalingrad (early 1943) would come back to haunt the Nazis. Since that victory, the Soviet Union had pushed Germany back to its borders. Over four million Soviet troops were fighting the Germans in Eastern Europe, which had made Hitler’s worst nightmare come true: he was now fighting a \_\_\_\_\_. **The two-front war was fought between the United States, Great Britain, and Canada against Germany in Western Europe, and the Soviet Union and Germany in Eastern Europe. The Nazi’s had their army \_\_\_\_\_.**

**The Allied demanded an \_\_\_\_\_ surrender from Germany** in order to end the fighting. They told the Nazi’s that the fighting would continue until the Nazi’s quit. At this point, mid-1944, Germany was in ruins: German cities were being bombed 24 hours a day and lay in ruins. In one night alone, \_\_\_\_\_ Allied bombers, including \_\_\_\_\_ Canadian aircraft, dropped 2300 tonnes of high-explosives and fire bombs on Dresden. Between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ civilians burned to death or died from choking. Similar bombings continued against Hamburg and Berlin.



Once the Allies entered Germany, there was little the Nazi’s could do. They could no longer recruit troops and were losing battles. **On April \_\_\_\_, 1945, Italian leader Benito Mussolini attempted to escape and was caught, shot and killed.** His body was hoisted up on a meat hook in Rome for all to see. Days later, the Soviet troops entered Berlin. **On \_\_\_\_\_, Hitler and his wife, Eva Braun, escaped to his secret underground bunker; as fighting took place above his bunker, he and Braun killed themselves. On \_\_\_\_\_, Germany finally unconditionally surrendered to the Allied army, and the war in Europe was finally over as \_\_\_\_\_ (Victory-in-Europe) was celebrated the world over.**

Japan and the End of World War II



Even though Germany had been defeated and the war in Europe was over, \_\_\_\_\_ was still alive and continuing their fight in the Pacific. Japanese troops and their commanders were determined that they would die fighting for the honour of their emperor and country. Very few Japanese soldiers ever surrendered; when cornered they fought to the death. American casualties were extremely heavy as they attacked Japanese-occupied islands in the Pacific. **The capture of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in February and June, respectively, of 1945 resulted in \_\_\_\_\_ American dead, wounded or captured – while the Japanese army lost \_\_\_\_\_ troops.** With the War in the Pacific continuing and being exceptionally fierce and brutal, American generals were wondering what could happen next. **There were estimates that upwards of \_\_\_\_\_ American casualties if Japan were to be invaded.**



While the Allied powers were conquering Europe and fighting through the Pacific, back in the United States, President Franklin Roosevelt died, and Vice-President \_\_\_\_\_ became President. Truman decided that it was required to “shorten the war” and decided to use a brand new secret weapon that had been developed by American and British scientists working in the United States – \_\_\_\_\_. Developed under the \_\_\_\_\_,

and commissioned by President Roosevelt, the bomb had been tested on July 16, 1945 in the Nevada desert – and worked. Truman issued a threat to the Japanese government to either surrender or be destroyed, and the Japanese government ignored this threat.

On August 6, 1945, the \_\_\_\_\_ took off from an American aircraft carrier with “Little Boy” in its bomb





**cavity.** Hours later, as it cruised over the Japanese city of **Hiroshima**, the *Enola Gay* dropped the atomic bomb, which exploded just above the city. **The enormous explosion destroyed over half the city.**

**Over \_\_\_\_\_ men, women and children were killed immediately and an additional 20 000 eventually died of their burns and exposure to radiation.** Japan still refused to surrender. **Three days later, a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki with similar results. On \_\_\_\_\_, Japan finally surrendered – this day was called V-J ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) Day – and World War II was officially over.** The Allied Powers had defeated the Axis.

### Results of War

World War II was the most destructive war in human history. **Over \_\_\_\_\_ people were killed,** compared to 10 million in WWI. Technology had made war that much more devastating. The war was fought on several fronts: Britain, Africa, Italy, Europe, and the Pacific. **Over the course of the war, over \_\_\_\_\_ million Canadians served in the military. More than \_\_\_\_\_ men and women lost their lives, while more than 54 000 were**



**wounded.** Canada entered the post-war world as fourth largest air force and third largest navy.

**Following the war, Germany was divided into \_\_\_\_\_: Britain, France, and the United States combined their areas into West Germany, while the Soviet Union controlled East Germany. Berlin was split between into East and West Berlin as well. The United States controlled \_\_\_\_\_.**

After the war, in an effort to bring back Wilson's Fourteen Points and to create a stronger League of Nations, **the \_\_\_\_\_,** with the United States as a founding member – which helped to give the organization legitimacy and strength in the international community. The United Nations would be **divided into two bodies – the \_\_\_\_\_,** which consisted of the five largest powers in the world: United States, France, Great Britain, China, and the Soviet Union.

Although allies in the war, the United States and the Soviet Union saw their relationship end in the post-war world. They became increasingly suspicious of one another, because of broken promises and actions from both sides, and became enemies. **While World War II ended in 1945, that year would witness the beginning of the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Questions**

- 1) What were the events that occurred between 1943 and 1944 that led up to the Normandy invasion?
- 2) What beach was Canada responsible for during the D-Day invasion?
- 3) Why was the Battle of Stalingrad such an important battle during the war?
- 4) What were some of the reasons why Normandy was so successful?
- 5) Why was an unconditional surrender from Germany so important to the Allies?
- 6) How important was the atomic bomb to bringing about the end of the war?
- 7) Do you think that it was necessary to use the atomic bomb?