

# WWII Day 2: Defeating the AXIS



# What was the Stalin-Hitler Pact?



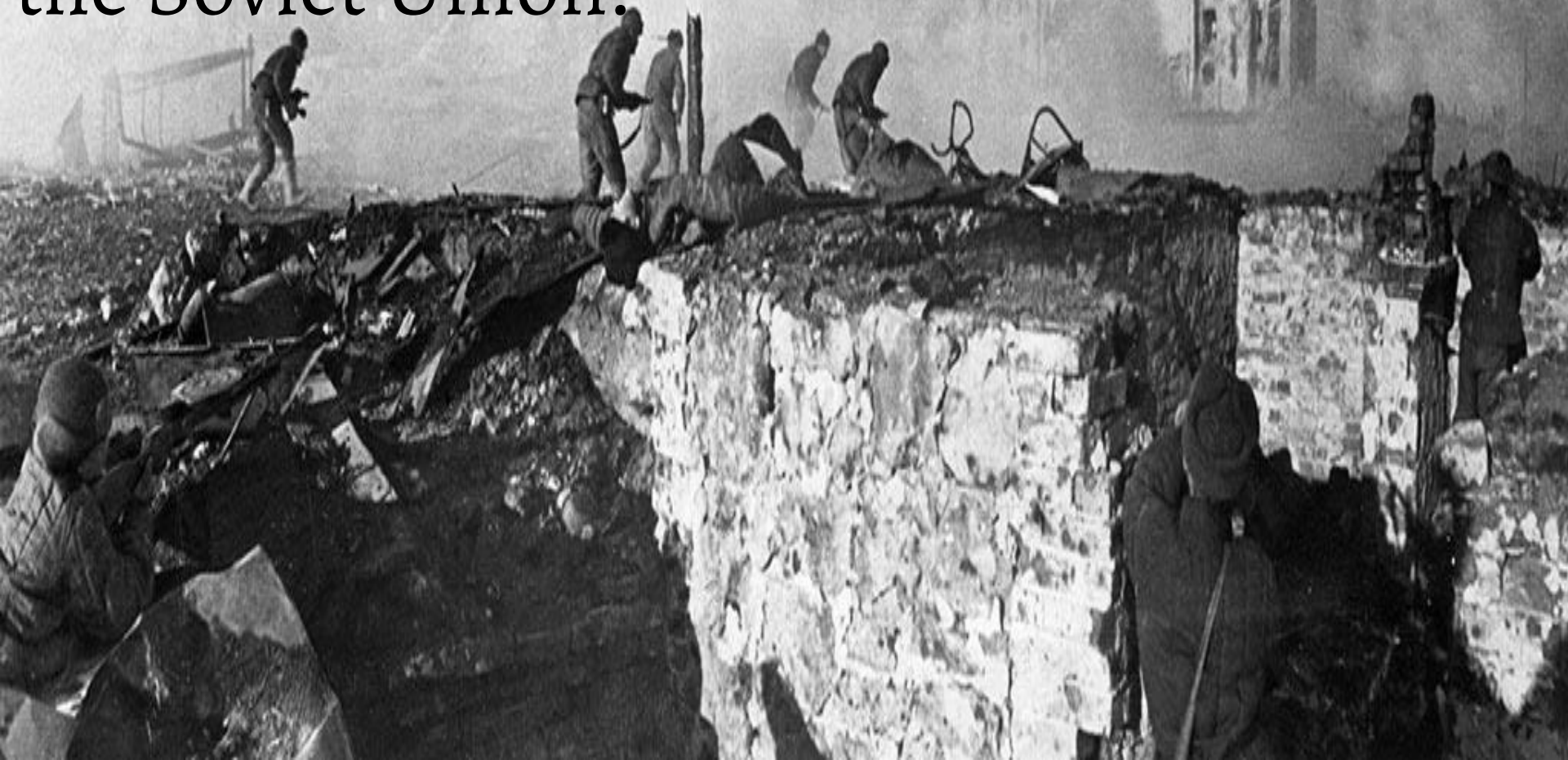


# What was the Stalin-Hitler Pact?



# Invasion of the USSR

In June 1941, in violation of the Nazi-Soviet Pact, Hitler began a massive invasion of the Soviet Union.





# Germany on the Offensive

- Hitler wanted to defeat the “inferior” Soviets
- The Germans tried to capture Stalingrad, but the Soviets held their ground.
- The Germans were surrounded and surrendered.
- The Battle of Stalingrad was a turning point in the war because it put the Germans on the defensive.





Not prepared  
for the cold

Could not  
restock  
supplies

German air  
attack reduced  
city to rubble-  
close quarter  
combat

Why did  
Germany lose  
the Battle of  
Stalingrad?

Were drawn  
too far into the  
USSR

Germans were  
outnumbered

Scorched Earth  
Policy



"My hands are done for, and have been ever since the beginning of December. The little finger of my left hand is missing and - what's even worse - the three middle fingers of my right one are frozen. I can only hold my mug with my thumb and little finger. I'm pretty helpless; only when a man has lost any fingers does he see how much he needs then for the smallest jobs. The best thing I can do with the little finger is to shoot with it. My hands are finished."

Anonymous German soldier

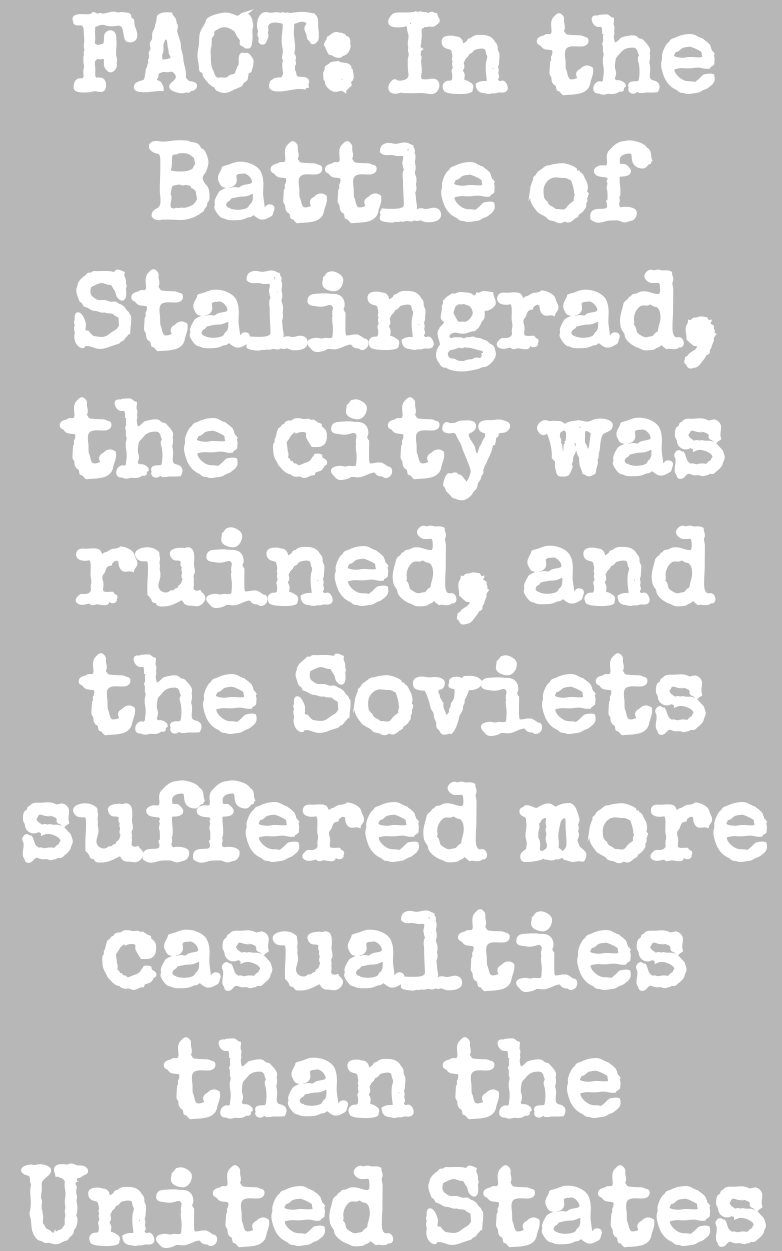


# Significance

- The Battle of Stalingrad claimed over two million casualties, more than any other battle in human history, and was also one of the longest: it raged for 199 days.
- Killed, wounded or captured at Stalingrad:
  - Soviets: 1,290,000
  - Germans and allies: 850,000

## WHY was this battle so important?

- 91,000 Germans were taken prisoner.
- With such a massive loss of manpower and equipment, the Germans simply did not have enough manpower to cope with the Russian advance to Germany when it came.



**FACT:** In the Battle of Stalingrad, the city was ruined, and the Soviets suffered more casualties than the United States

Hundre



# War in Africa

- In July 1942, Roosevelt ordered the invasion of Morocco and Algeria—French territories indirectly under Germany control.
- Under the command of General Dwight D. Eisenhower. General **George Patton** led the American forces in Morocco - Americans faced the German army for the first time.
- American and British forces finally pushed the Germans back. On May 13, 1943, German forces in North Africa surrendered.



# Goal of Operation Torch

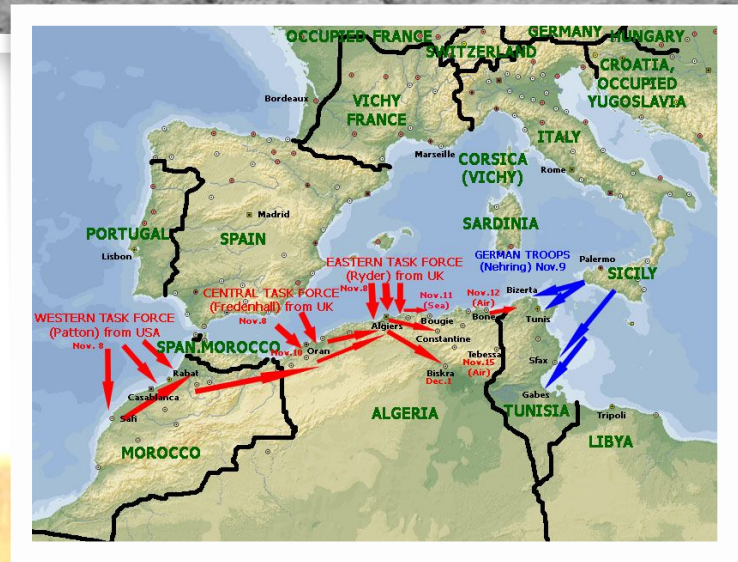


Started on November 8, 1942 and ended May, 1943

The battle for control of the Suez Canal and access to oil from the Middle East and raw materials from Asia.



**The Goal:** clear the Axis Powers from North Africa, improve naval control of the Mediterranean Sea, and prepare an invasion of Southern Europe.





# Casablanca Conference

- In early Jan. 1943, while the Allies hammered the Axis in North Africa and the Russians destroyed the Germans at Stalingrad- a momentous meeting was held by Roosevelt and Churchill in Casablanca, Morocco.
- They outlined the final plan for crushing the Axis.
  - Italy was NEXT



# The Invasion of Italy

- Also known as “The Italian Campaign”
- The plan was to invade Sicily and all Italian mainland until the surrender of Italy
- The Invasion began on September 3<sup>rd</sup> of 1943
  - 160,000 Allied troops





# Italy Is OUT

- July 10, 1943 - the allies begin their assault on the Axis
- By Aug of 1943, the Germans and Italians had evacuated.
- This was the beginning of the end for Mussolini
- Italy surrendered on September 8, 1943.



# Mussolini Killed

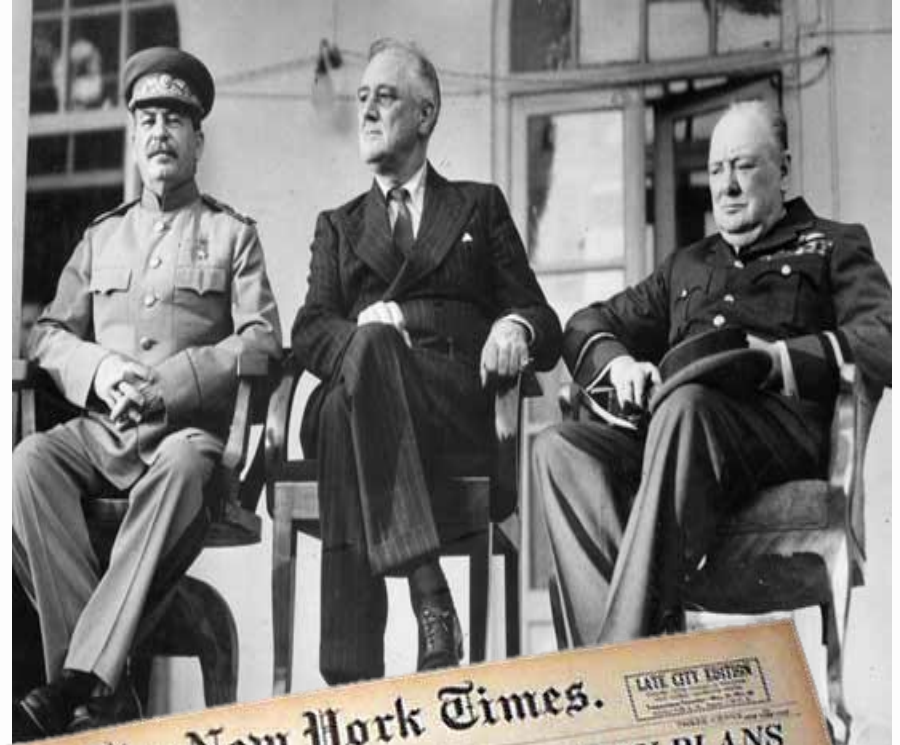


On April 29, 1945, the bodies of Mussolini and his mistress were taken to Milan and hung upside down on meat hooks from the roof of a gas station, then stoned by civilians from below.



# Tehran Conference

- FDR, Churchill, and Stalin met in Tehran, Iran to discuss the invasion of France.
- They agreed to break up (control) Germany after the war.
- Stalin also agreed to help the U.S. defeat Japan.





# Yalta Conference

February, 1945

## DECISIONS:

1. Divide Germany
2. United Nations

The  
“Big Three”

Churchill

FDR

Stalin





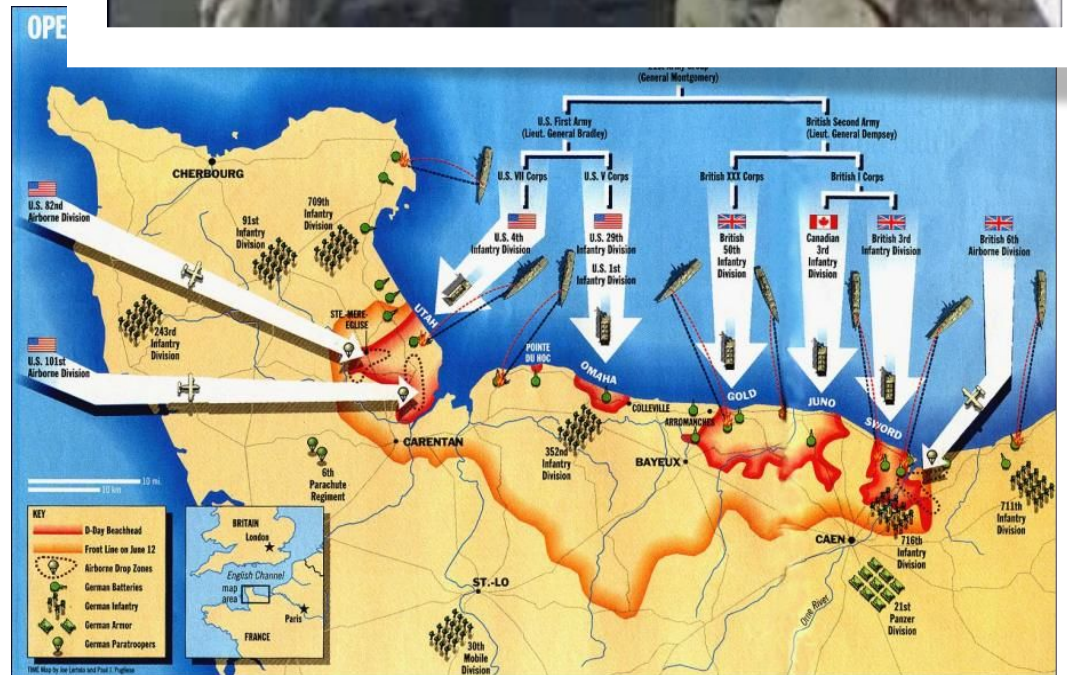
# Operation Overlord

- Operation Overlord was the codename for the landing in France and the start of the Liberation of Europe.
- The Allies planned the largest invasion in the history of war.
- It was a unified effort which planned to land on the beaches of Normandy, France.



# D-Day

- The Germans were in control of France
- The Allied Powers planned to invade the German controlled France through the northern beaches of Normandy
- After a long battle, the Allied Powers took the beaches, allowing them to bring in more vehicles and soldiers





The Allied Powers landed troops on the beach with boats.  
The soldiers were met with heavy machine gun fire from  
German forces.





# Joint Effort

Coordinated by Allied Supreme Commander Dwight Eisenhower

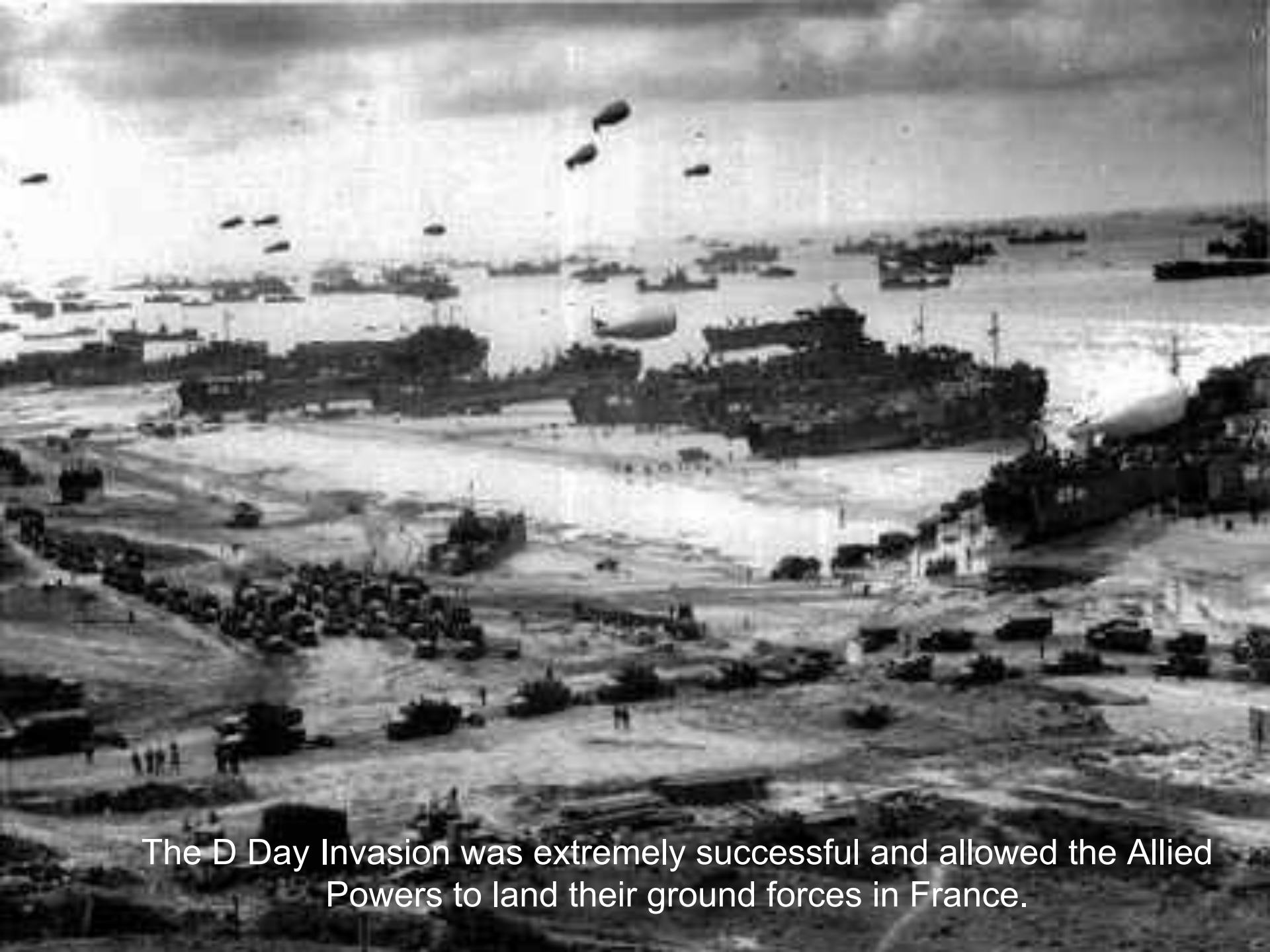
The Allies sent almost 7,000 ships, over 100,000 soldiers, and 23,000 paratroopers towards the coast of Normandy, France.







Paratroopers dropped from airplanes during the invasion.  
This was extremely dangerous!



The D Day Invasion was extremely successful and allowed the Allied Powers to land their ground forces in France.



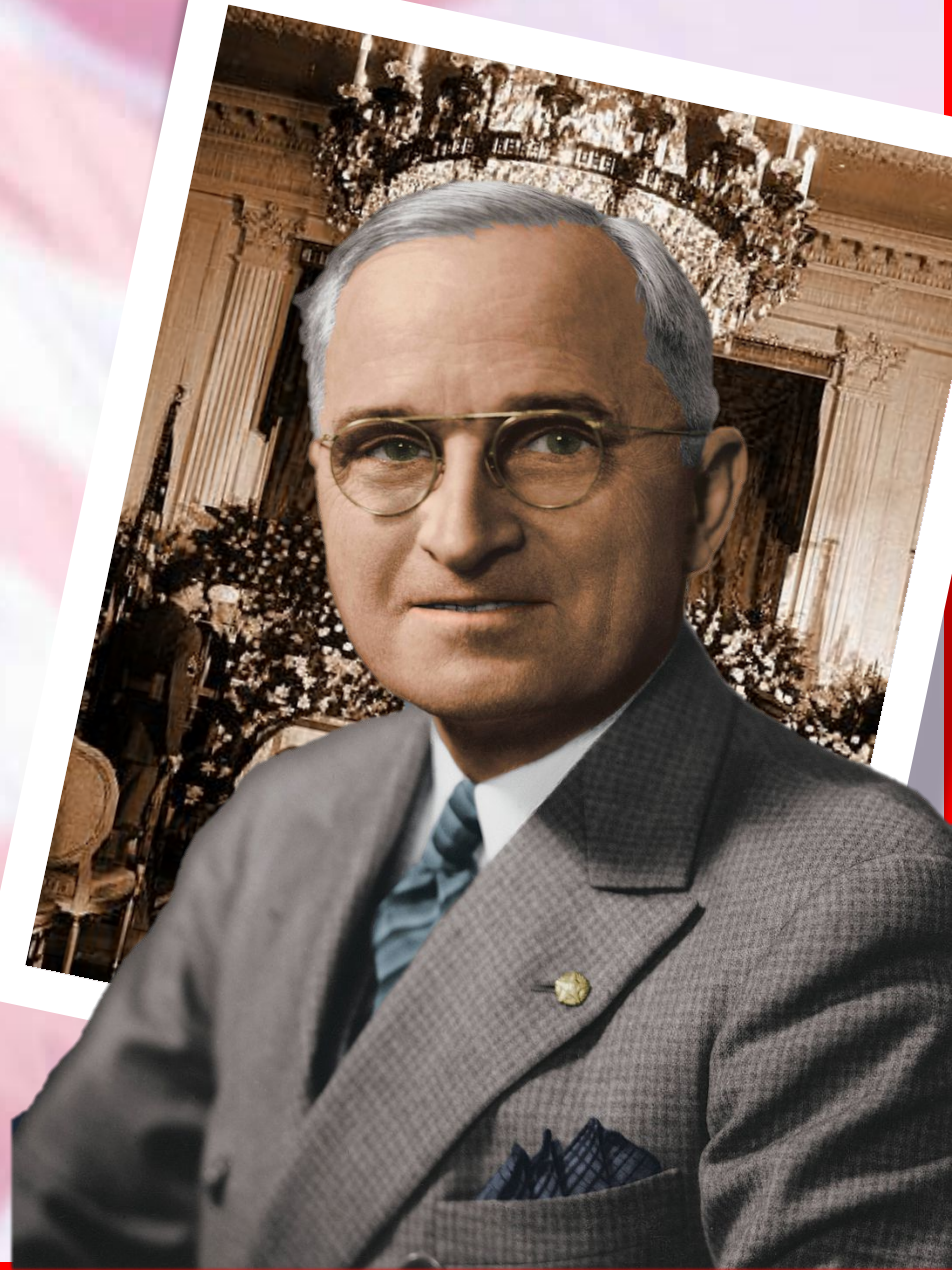
# Victory in France



- The Allied Powers now had a passage into Europe and could begin the fight against Germany
- The Soviet Union was now fighting the Germans in eastern Europe as well.
- Victory was still a long ways away, but now in sight!

# The President Dies

- FDR died on April 12, 1945.
- He did not live to see the end of the war though he knew the Allies were well on their way to victory.
- Harry S. Truman is the new president.





# Battle of the Bulge

Hitler attempted one last offensive to cut off Allied supplies coming through Belgium.

The **Battle of the Bulge** began on December 1944, catching American troops off guard.

As Germans raced west, their lines “bulged” outward, resulting in the battle’s name.

The United States won the battle and in January 8, Germans withdrew with little left to stop the Allies from entering Germany.



# Germans Surrender

In 1945 the Allied Powers had pushed the German forces back to Germany

The Americans & British were to the West of the German capital (Berlin) and the Soviets were to the East

The Battle for Berlin began

Hitler killed himself as he knew defeat was inevitable – The Germans surrendered a week later in 1945





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# Suicide

- *Eva Braun took a cyanide pill while Hitler took a pill and pulled the trigger of a pistol in his mouth.*





# VE- Day

On May 7, 1945,  
Germany gave  
its  
unconditional  
surrender.

The next day,  
May 8, 1945  
was proclaimed  
V-E Day for  
Victory in  
Europe.

