

PPT: Fighting in WWII

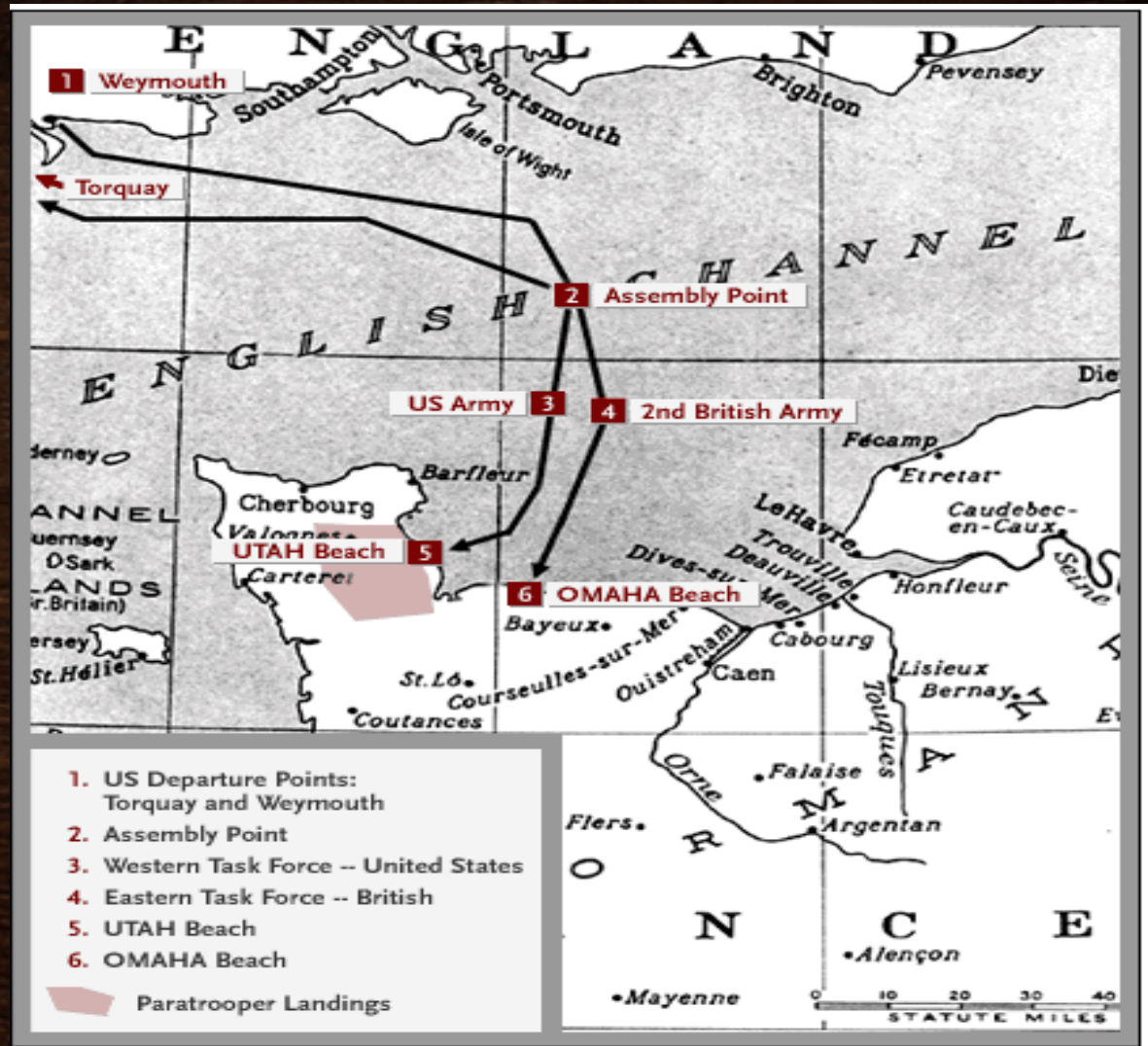
Soviets Joins the Allies

- Hitler wanted to overtake USSR and gain control of the rich oil fields.
- On June 22, 1941, Germany invaded the Soviet Union
- The Germans were starving, sick and had frostbite.
- German troops surrendered on January 31, 1943.
- Major turning point of war in Europe. Ended realistic plans of Hitler dominating Europe.



D-Day

- On June 6, 1944, 150,000 American troops landed the five beaches of Normandy and warships fought from offshore. By the end of the day, Americans held the entire Normandy coast.



**The 5000-vessel armada stretched as far as the eye could see,
transporting over 150,000 men and nearly 30,000 vehicles
across the channel to the French beaches.**







- Largest military invasion in world history to defeat Hitler.
- Six parachute regiments -- over 13,000 men -- were flown from nine British airfields in over 800 planes.
- More than 300 planes dropped 13,000 bombs over coastal Normandy immediately in advance of the invasion
- By nightfall on June 6, more than 9,000 Allied soldiers were dead or wounded, but more than 100,000 had made it ashore, securing French coastal villages.
- Within weeks, supplies were being unloaded at UTAH and OMAHA beachheads at the rate of over 20,000 tons per day.



- From Normandy, Allied troops began a rapid sweep across France and liberated Paris in 1944.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QE2f4pbjJv8>

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D-DAY - Landing On The Beaches Of Normandy On June 6th 1944 | Operation Neptune/Overlord



8:47 / 11:21



Allies Victory in Europe

- As Americans were invading France, Soviet troops were pushing Germans out of their country and back toward Poland. During this, the Soviets would uncover concentrations camps
- By April 1945, the Soviets had pushed Germany back towards Berlin.
- On April 30, 1945, Hitler knew the end was near and put a pistol in his mouth and pulled the trigger. His secretary carried Hitler's body outside and set it on fire.
- On May 7, 1945, Germany surrendered. The next day was declared V-E Day for "Victory in Europe."



- On Nov 24, 1944, America turned its focus back to Japan.
- Americans began to drop bombs filled with napalm –a kind of jelly gasoline. These bombs would explode and also start fires.
- These firebombs killed over 80,000 people and destroyed more than 250,000 buildings. By the end of the war, 67 Japanese cities had been firebombed.



Island Hopping Strategy

- strategy to gain military bases and secure the many small islands in the Pacific.
- constructed landing strips and small military bases.
- slowly the US army moved closer to Japan, taking control of many of the surrounding islands.
- allowed the US to get close enough to Japan to launch a mainland invasion.



Invasion of Okinawa

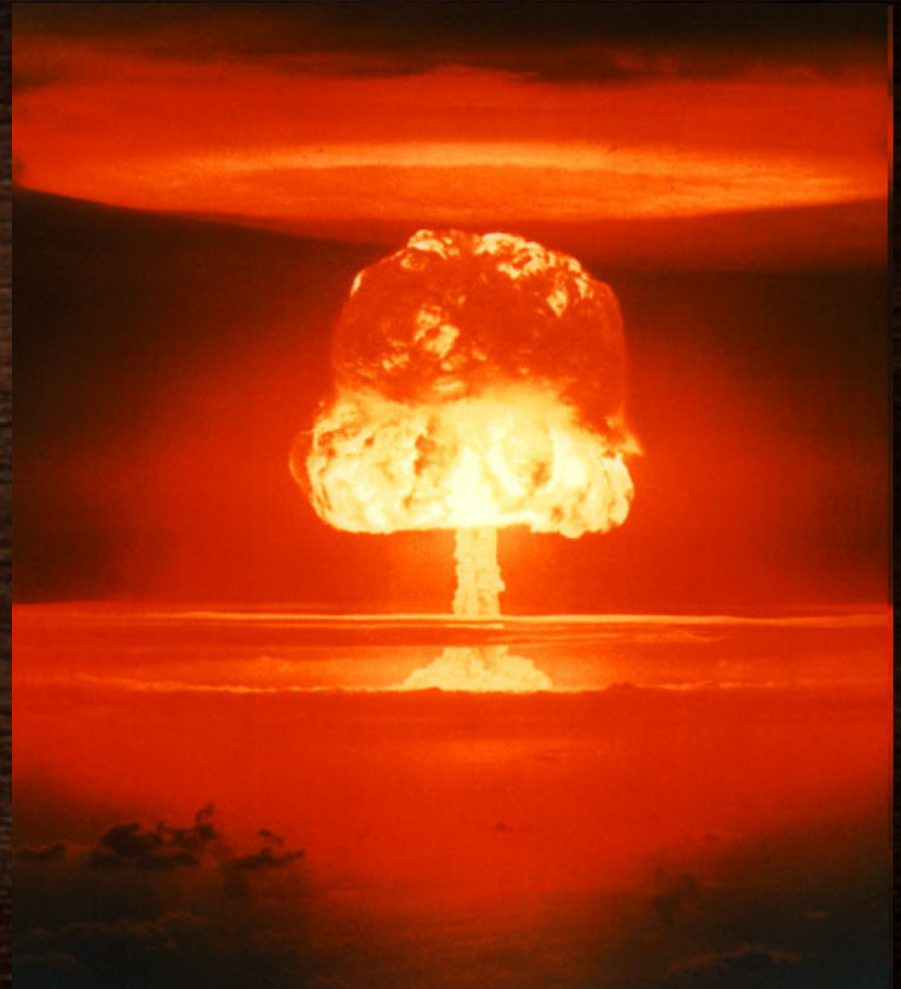


- American troops landed on Okinawa on April 1. By June 22, they had successfully captured the city but had lost 12,000 lives.
- Shortly after this, the Japanese emperor urged his government to end the war. His biggest challenge was that the US demanded an unconditional surrender. Many Japanese were willing to surrender but only if emperor remained in power.



The Manhattan Project

- In 1939, Leo Szilard learned that a German scientist had split the uranium atom, which would release an enormous amount of energy.
- Worried that the Germans were working on an atomic bomb, Roosevelt created a program to build its own atomic bomb
- On July 16, 1945, the first atomic bomb was detonated in New Mexico.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kFr5zTxsUM> - Stop @ 32:30

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World's First Atomic Bomb - Manhattan Project Documentary - Films



31:37 / 43:08

