



UNITED STATES ARMY
CMH
CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY



VICTORY STARTS HERE!



History and Heritage

Module D – The Normandy Landings

American in the Second World War
1917 - 1945



Lesson Introduction



Tasks:

- Acquire basic knowledge of the US Army's history
- Identify Army Values highlighted during the Second World War
- Develop a sense of pride and heritage as members of the US Army

Conditions

- **Timeframe:** 20-minute block of instruction
- **Location:** Classroom environment
- **Equipment:** Projectors, Speaker System, Slide Deck, and Videos
- **Student Resources:**
 - Note taking materials
 - Water source
 - Sensory Systems (Eyes and Ears)
 - Cognitive Functions (Brain)
 - Response Mechanism (Voice)





Terminal Learning Objective



Standards

Pre-Requisite Reading:

- Trainees read pages 1-15 of *“Army History and Heritage, CH-4”*
- Trainees read pages 1-21 of *“Army History and Heritage, CH-5”*

Key learning points:

- What national movements gained power following World War I
- What event caused World War II to start
- How America was involved before going to war
- What caused America to declare war against the Axis Powers
- The significance of the Normandy Beach landings
- How the highlighted individuals displayed Army Values

Lesson validation:

- Verify knowledge through checks on learning





The Army Values



Selfless Service

Definition: *Put the welfare of the Nation, the Army, and your subordinates before your own. This means putting the welfare of the Nation and accomplishment of the mission ahead of personal desires.*

Why is Selfless Service important?

Putting the welfare of the nation, the Army, and fellow Soldiers before your own is the foundation of team cohesion, trust, and success; accomplishing more without personal expectation

>> Remember: the Army Values transcend circumstance <<





The World after the Great War



The Treaty of Versailles set the stage for political change across the world

Four countries in particular underwent significant national changes:

- **Russia**, 1922: Vladimir Lenin forms the Soviet Union (*Communism*)
- **Italy**, 1925: Benito Mussolini becomes Dictator of Italy (*Fascism*)
- **Japan**, 1926: Hirohito becomes Emperor of Japan (*Militant Nationalism*)
- **Germany**, 1933: Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany (*Fascism*)





World War II Begins



In 1924, Lenin dies and Joseph Stalin takes control of the Soviet Union

- Proposes 10-year non-aggression pact with Germany in 1938
- Pact identifies spheres of influence; **secretly divides Poland**

On 1 September 1939, **Germany invades Poland, starting World War II**

- **France and Britain** declare **war on Germany**
- On 17 September 1939, Russia invades Poland



Division of East Europe between Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia





World War II – 1940



- In early 1940, German invasions commence using “**Blitzkrieg**” tactics
 - Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, and France
 - British expeditionary forces withdraw through Dunkirk (Northern France)
- Axis Powers maneuver to curb British power
 - The “Battle of Britain” aerial campaign
 - Italy invades British-controlled Egypt
- In September, Japan joins the Axis
 - Hungary, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Romania coerced into joining the Axis



British Aviators scramble during the Battle of Britain





World War II – 1941



- In March, the US passed the ***Lend Lease Act***
 - US provided equipment and supplies to Britain, China, and Russia
 - “Lend your neighbor a hose” was President’s Roosevelt’s metaphor
- In June, Germany invades Russia in *Operation Barbarossa*
- On 7 December 1941, ***Japan bombs Pearl Harbor*** to mitigate American power in the Pacific
 - The US declares war on Japan
 - Germany and Italy declare war on the US
 - The US aligns with Britain, France, and Russia to fight the Axis powers



The Attack on Pearl Harbor

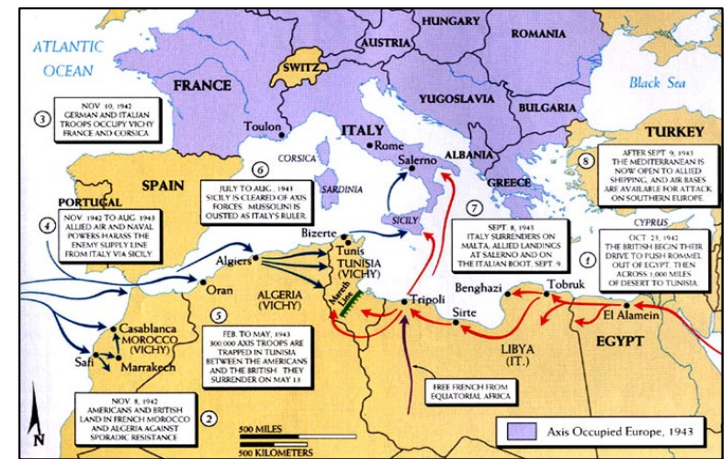




World War II – 1942



- From June to July:
 - The US wins the Battle of Midway; decisively turning the war in the Pacific
 - Germany attacks the Soviet city of Stalingrad
- From October to November:
 - Soviet forces surround the **German army at Stalingrad**
 - Soviets begin pushing German forces back across East Europe
- Britain repulses Axis forces in Egypt
- US forces land in North-West Africa
- Axis forces surrounded in Tunisia



The course of the North African Campaign

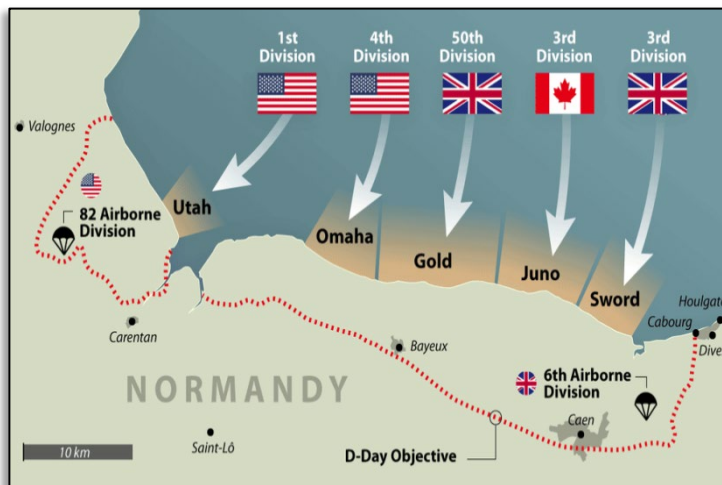




“Operation Overlord”



- On 06 June 1944, British, Canadian, and American Armies seized the **Normandy** Coast to create a foothold on continental Europe
 - Preceded by the largest airborne operation to that point (over 17,000 men)
 - Attack involved over 5,000 watercraft and 156,000 troops



Normandy Landing Zones



Mass-offloading after the beaches are taken





VIDEO CLIP



- 1c. Module D – Normandy Beach, Saving Private Ryan

(3:10 length)





Battle of the Bulge



- The winter of 1944 saw intense fighting and worsening conditions
- Hitler launched a counterattack in Belgium
 - Aimed to **split** Allied Armies in the Ardennes
 - American 101st Airborne besieged at Bastogne
- On 26 December 1944, General Patton broke through the German blockade
- On 25 January 1945, the Allies resumed the drive to Berlin



German Winter Offensive of 1944





Victory in Europe (V-E) Day



- By April 1945, the Soviet Army under General Zhukov reached Berlin
- On 30 April 1945, Adolf Hitler commits suicide
- On 1 May 1945, the Soviet Army takes the Reichstag Building
- On 2 May 1945, German leaders surrender to the Russians
- On **8 May 1945**, the Allies declare Victory in Europe



Nazi leadership of Germany surrenders





Victory in Japan (V-J) Day



- Tremendous loss of life predicted for a land campaign toward Tokyo
- The decision was made to use **Atomic weapons** instead
 - 06 August 1945: “Little Boy” was dropped on Hiroshima
 - 09 August 1945: “Fat Man” was dropped on Nagasaki
 - 10 August 1945: the Japanese announce intent to surrender
- 14 August 1945: the Allies declare **Victory in Japan**



Japanese surrender on the USS Missouri on 14 August 1945



Army Values – Selfless Service



Elsie S. Ott

- Enlisted into the Army Nurse Corps in 1941
- Pioneered air medical evacuation
- First female to receive the Air Medal

Elsie was posted to Karachi, India. In January 1943, she prepared for a trip to Walter Reed. With no prior flying experience and as the only caregiver on the flight, she made the most of available linens and a first aid kit.



Of her five patients, two were paralyzed waist down, one had Tuberculosis, one Glaucoma, and one suffered from manic-depressive psychosis.

The trip took less than a week to complete, compared to three months by ship. However, it could have been much better.

Elsie made several notes for future mission requirements, including oxygen tanks, as well as extra dressing material, coffee, and blankets. She also made it clear that her current uniform was impractical; the skirt had to be replaced with pants.

- Selfless Service



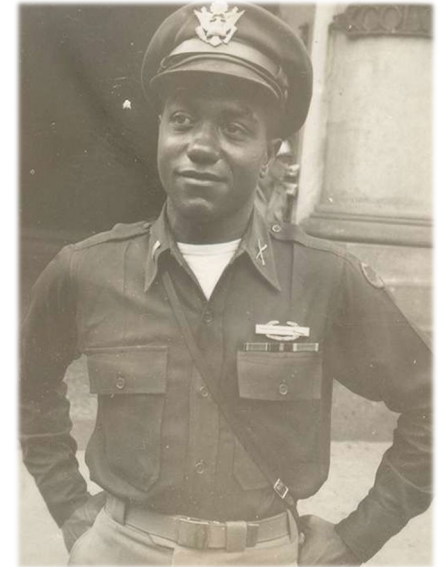


Army Values – Selfless Service



Vernon J. Baker

- Experienced a rough life growing up
- Joined the Army because it was his best opportunity
- One of seven Black American Medal of Honor recipients for service in World War 2



Vernon accepted assignment as Quartermaster Sergeant because at least he got in. However, it wasn't long before he was selected to become a Lieutenant, graduating OCS in 1943 and sent to lead a weapons platoon.

He served with distinction in the Italy Campaign, becoming well appreciated for his skill leading night patrols. He would be severely wounded on one patrol, but recovered and rejoined his unit as its senior-most officer for a time.

In 1945, his company was tasked to take Castle Aghinolfi, west of Florence. Foremost in the fighting, he took lead on several occasions of intense chaos. For his actions he earned the Distinguished Service Cross; the highest award in his company at the time.

50 years later, he would receive the Army Medal of Honor.

- Selfless Service





Check on Learning



- What national movements gained power after World War I?
- What event(s) caused the start of World War II?
- How was America involved before it declared war?
- What event caused America to declare war?
- Where did the Allies land in France in 1944?
- What is the importance of Selfless Service?



TIMELINE

World War II (1939–1943)

1939

1 September: Germany invades Poland

1940

10 May–22 June: Fall of France

27 August: Congress approves mobilization of National Guard into federal service

3 September: President Roosevelt's destroyer deal with Great Britain

14 September: Congress approves the first peacetime draft in U.S. history

1941

11 March: Congress passes the Lend-Lease Act

22 June: Germany invades the Soviet Union

7 December: Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor

8 December: United States declares war on Japan

11 December: Germany and Italy declare war on the United States

1942

9 April: Surrender of Bataan

4–8 May: Battle of the Coral Sea

7 May: Surrender of Corregidor

3–6 June: Battle of Midway

7 August: Marines land on Guadalcanal

23 August–2 February 1943: Battle of Stalingrad

13 October–9 February 1943: Army troops join the battle for Guadalcanal

23 October–4 November: Battle of El Alamein

8 November: Operation TORCH, invasion of French Northwest Africa

19 November–2 January 1943: Battle of Buna

1943

14–22 February: Battle of Kasserine Pass

11–30 May: Recapture of Attu in the Aleutian Islands

13 May: Tunisian campaign ends in Allied victory

30 June–25 August: Battle of New Georgia, part of Solomon Islands drive on Rabaul

30 June–2 October: Battles of Lae and Finschhafen, New Guinea

9 July–17 August: Sicily campaign

9 September: Landing at Salerno, Italy, by Fifth U.S. Army

8–14 October: "The Critical Week," culminating in bombing of Schweinfurt

1 November–24 December: Battle of Bougainville in the Northern Solomon Islands

20–23 November: Battle of Makin in the Gilbert Islands

28–30 November: Tehran Conference of Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin

Period Covered

Period Covered

TIMELINE

Europe-Mediterranean 1944

- 20–22 January: Battle of the Rapido River, Italy
- 22 January: Allied forces assault Anzio, Italy
- 19–25 February: "The Big Week," Army Air Forces bomb Germany
- 11 May: U.S. Fifth and British Eighth Armies launch offensive against the Winter Line in Italy
- 4 June: Allied troops liberate Rome
- 6 June: D-Day: Allied forces invade Normandy (Operation OVERLORD)
- 25 July: First U.S. Army launches Operation COBRA
- 15 August: Operation ANVIL: Invasion of southern France
- 25 August: Allies liberate Paris
- 19 September–15 December: Battle of the Hürtgen Forest
- 16 December–25 January 1945: Battle of the Bulge

Asia-Pacific 1944

- 31 January: American forces assault Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands
- 17 February: American forces assault Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands
- 24 February: Merrill's Marauders join ground offensive in northern Burma
- 29 February: American forces assault Los Negros, Admiralty Islands
- 22 April: Allied forces assault Hollandia and Aitape, New Guinea
- 17 May: Allied forces assault Wakde-Sarmi, New Guinea
- 17 May–3 August: Battle of Myitkyina, Burma
- 27 May: American forces assault Biak Island, New Guinea
- 15 June: American forces assault Saipan, Mariana Islands
- 2 July: Allied forces assault Noemfoor Island, New Guinea
- 21 July: American forces assault Guam
- 30 July: American forces assault Vogelkop Peninsula, New Guinea
- 20 October: Sixth U.S. Army invades Leyte in the Philippines
- 23–26 October: Battle of Leyte Gulf

Europe-Mediterranean 1945:

- 7 March: First U.S. Army captures bridge over Rhine River at Remagen, Germany
- 2 May: Surrender of German forces in Italy
- 7 May: Germany signs unconditional surrender at Eisenhower's headquarters in Rheims, France

Asia-Pacific 1945:

- 9 January: Sixth U.S. Army invades Luzon in the Philippines
- 28 January: Allies reopen Burma Road
- 3 February–4 March: Battle of Manila
- 1 April: Allied forces assault Okinawa
- 28 June: MacArthur announces end of Japanese resistance in Philippines
- 6 August: A U.S. Army Air Forces B-29 drops first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan
- 9 August: Second atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan
- 14 August: Japan agrees to unconditional surrender
- 2 September: Japanese sign surrender terms aboard battleship USS *Missouri*

Period Covered

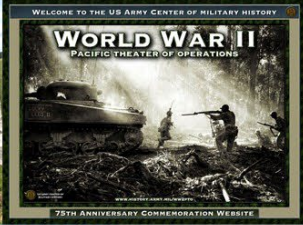
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