

FROMM INSTITUTE

The United States and the Second World War

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The Pacific till the end of 1942

Guadalcanal and Tulagi; First USMC Div. Maj. Gen. Alexander A. Vandegrift; ADM Richmond Kelly Turner, Amphibious Force; ADM Victor A.C. Crutchley, RN, gunfire support, cruisers USS *Astoria*, *Vincennes*, *Quincy*, *Chicago*, *San Juan*, HMAS *Canberra*, *Hobart*, *Australia*, 8 DD; TF 61, VADM Fletcher, *Saratoga* (CV 3), *Enterprise* (CV 6), *Wasp* (CV 7), *North Carolina* (BB 55), 6 cruisers, 18 DD; **Battle of Savo Island, 8-9 Aug.** (VADM Gunichi Mikawa, 7 cruisers, 1 DD); **Battle of the Eastern Solomons**, 24 August (Japanese Combined Fleet, ADM Yamamoto, CVs *Shokaku*, *Zuikaku* (VADM Nagumo), CVL *Ryujo*, 4 BB, 9 cruisers, 20 DD, vs TF 61; 31 Aug., *Saratoga* torpedoed, out 3 months; 16 Sept., loss of *Wasp*; **Battle of Cape Esperance**, 11-12 Oct.; ADM Norman Scott, 4 cruisers, 5 DD vs. ADM Goto, 3 cruisers, 8 DD, 2 seaplane carriers; 18 Oct. VADM **William F. Halsey** relieves Ghormley; **Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands**, 26-27 Oct. U.S. TF 16 ADM Thomas Kinkaid; *Enterprise* (CV 6), *South Dakota* (BB 57); 2 cruisers, 8 DD; TF 17, ADM George Murray, *Hornet* (CV 8, sunk), 4 cruisers, 6 DD; TF 64 (RADM Willis Lee, *Washington* (BB 56), 3 cruisers, 6 DD; Japanese Combined Fleet, ADM Yamamoto, Advance, VADM Kondo, 2 BB, CVL *Junyo*, 5 cruisers, 12 DD, Strike Force, VADM Nagumo, 2 CVs, 1 CVL *Zuiho*, 2 BB, 5 cruisers, 10 DD; **Naval Battle of Guadalcanal, 12-15 Nov.** U.S. Task Group 67.4 (ADM Daniel F. Callaghan), cruisers *San Francisco*, *Pensacola*, *Portland*, *Helena*, *Juneau*, 10 DD & TG 62.4 (ADM Norman Scott), CL *Atlanta*, 4 DD. Japanese Raiding Group, VADM Hiroaki Abe, BB *Kirishima*, *Hiei*, 1 light cruiser, 11 DD; TF 16, ADM Kinkaid, *Enterprise* (CV 6), 2 cruisers, 6 DD; Japanese Reinforcement Group: ADM Raizo Tanaka, 10 DD, 11 troop transports; TF 64 RADM Lee, BBs *Washington* and *South Dakota*, 2 DD; Reinforcements to Guadalcanal, Marine and Army; in December US Army XIV Corps took over.

Europe and the Atlantic: The End of the Beginning: October 1942-June 43

The Atlantic: Admiral Karl Dönitz; German U-Boats, December 1941: 36 Atlantic, 50 Mediterranean, 150 fitting out.

Britain's "Western Approaches" 70 DD, 95 DE, PG in 25 escort groups.

U.S. East Coast and Caribbean: CINCLANT ADM Royall Ingersoll: German U-Boats' "Happy Times;" 31 U-Boats sank 500 ships, Jan.-June '42.

Murmansk convoys to Russia.

German Surface Navy: "Channel Dash" 11-12 Feb. '42: CBs *Gneisenau*, *Scharnhorst*, CA *Prinz Eugen*; *Gneisenau* bombed at Kiel by RAF; others to Norway; also BB *Tirpitz* (8 15" guns), "Pocket" BB *Lützow* (6 11" guns) CAs *Hipper*, *Scheer*, 12 DDs

U-Boat Increases: 300 by Aug. '42, 150 Operational, most Atlantic "Wolf Pack" tactics; **Brazil declares war on Germany** after 5 Brazilian ships sunk. U-Boat tankers (milchkuh); U-Boats bigger, 600 foot dive. "Air Gap"

Code War: Enigma and German Naval Codes

Allies: Improved radar, High Frequency Direction Finder (HD/DF "Huff Duff") improved depth charges, "hedgehogs;" Escort Carriers (CVE)

U-Boats, July-Nov., 119 ships sunk; 212 operational of 393; 17 per month (war losses to date 87 German, 22 Italian); Winter Storms

German Surface New Year's Eve Murmansk Convoy attack by "Pocket" BB *Lützow*, CAs *Hipper*, 6 DDs repulsed; Grand Admiral Raeder retired, Dönitz CinC German Navy (Kriegsmarine)

U.S. Shipyards, "Liberty Ships" and Henry J. Kaiser, Richmond CA

Hollywood: *Action in the North Atlantic* (1943), with Humphrey Bogart

Russian Front to Stalingrad (November-January 1943)

December 1941-April 1942: Russian Winter Offensive

Hitler takes Charge: HQ "Wolf's Lair;" OKW (Ober Kommando -High Command - Wehrmacht); chief FM Wilhelm Keitel, CoS Gen. Alfred Jodel; Army High Command: CinC Walther von Brauchisch, dismissed Jan.1942; Gen.Franz Halder, dismissed Sept. '42, replaced by Kurt Zeidler; Army Group North, FM Georg von Küchler (replaced Leeb); Army Group Center, FM Hans Gunther von Kluge (replaced Bock); Army Group South, FM Walther von Reichenau.

Operation BLUE: Caucasus Oil: Army Group South, Armies A (Siegmond Wilhelm von List), B (Maximilian von Weichs); Rostov, 23 July (distance to Baku, 750 mi.)

Soviets: Marshal Georgy Zhukov in charge, end Aug.; German 6th Army (Friedrich Paulus) and 4th Panzer Army

(Hermann Hoth) enter Stalingrad (Gen. Vasili Chuikov); German Army Group A stalls in Caucasus. Soviet Counterattack, 19 Nov. 1942: Zhukov, Don Front, his CoS Aleksandr Vasilevsky, Stalingrad Front. Soviets, 9 Armies, 71 divs., 13,500 artillery pieces, 900 tanks, 1,100 aircraft; German Army Group B, 700 mi. front (31 German divisions, 6 Italian, 13 Rumanian, 8 Hungarian, 400 tanks, 10,000 guns, 600 operational aircraft). Soviets cracked Rumanians; 20 Nov. hit 4th Panzer Army. 23 Nov., German 6th Army cut off in Stalingrad. Needed 700 tons of supplies daily, Luftwaffe averaged less than 100. Nov. 26, FM Erich von Manstein took charge of relief effort. Russian advance continues. 10 Jan. 1943 assault Stalingrad; 30 Jan., Paulus surrender, 91,000 men (24 generals; 6000 guns, 50,000 vehicles) German/Rumanian dead 147,000; Soviet 47,000)

North Africa and Middle East:

The Western Desert and El Alamein.

May 1942, Rommel defeated British (Gen. Neil Ritchie) at Gazala; advances; 20 June, Tobruk capitulates, 35,000 POWs

First Battle of El Alamein, July-Sep. 1942: Gen. Claude Auchinleck stops Rommel

British command change: Middle East, Gen. Sir Harold Alexander, 8th Army, Gen. Bernard Law Montgomery (Auchinleck, CinC India)

Second Battle of El Alamein, 23 Oct.-4 Nov. 1942: British: 195,000, 1029 tanks, 1400 anti-tank guns, 500 field artillery, 530 aircraft: Afrika Korps 50,000 German, 55,000 Italian; 490 tanks, 800 anti-tank guns, 900 artillery, 350 aircraft); Pushed Afrika Korps to Tunisia, Oct.-Feb. 1943

Operation Torch (8 November) Morocco and Algeria.

Debate on Second Front; Dieppe Raid, August

Operation Torch and U.S. CinC Lt.Gen Dwight D. Eisenhower; Deputy CinC Maj. Gen Mark Clark, CoS BGen Walter Bedell Smith; Air BGen James Doolittle; British Lt.Gen Kenneth Anderson, Air Marshall William Welsh; Naval CO ADM Sir Andrew Cunningham; US RADM Kent Hewitt

U.S. Atlantic Crossing, 20 Oct.-9 Nov. TF 34: RADM Hewitt, 1 CV *Ranger*, 2 CVE, 3 BB (new *Massachusetts* BB 59, *New York*, *Texas*), 3 CA, 4 CL, 50 DD, 10 SS, APs, AKs.; with British, 650 warships. Casablanca, MGen George Patton), 35,000, Oran, MGen Lloyd Fredendall, 39,000, Algiers, MGen C. W. Ryder, 60,000 US, 23,000 British. Vichy French Opposition; ADM Jean François Darlan.

End of Unoccupied Vichy France: 11-17 November; 27 Nov., Toulon, French Fleet scuttled. Charles DeGaulle and Free French

Casablanca Conference, January 1943: Roosevelt & Churchill, Aides

Tunisian Campaign (February-May): Afrika Korps div. seized Tunis; German Reinforcements (area commander FM Albert Kesselring; meddling by Hitler, Rome); Tunisia north, Gen. Jürgen von Arnim, 5th Panzer Army; south, Rommel, Afrika Corps. Mareth Line. Battle Kasserine Pass, 14-19 Feb., 20 Feb., US, French Forces hold; Patton replaces Fredendall. RAF Air Marshal Tedder unified Air Command; Alexander deputy to Eisenhower. March, Mareth Line turned. Rommel sick leave; British, revived US forces (Hill 609) take Bizerte, Tunis, 7 May. Cape Bon, 12 May, 238,000 Axis POWs.

The Air War, Europe, 1942: U.S. Eighth Air Force; MGen Ira Eaker; MGen Carl 'Tooyo' Spaatz

Recommended Readings (for Pacific, separate handout)

Samuel Eliot Morison, History of U.S. Naval Operations in World War II, vol. I, *The Battle of the Atlantic, 1939-1943*; vol. II, *Operations in North African Waters, October 1942-June 1943*

Clay Blair, *Hitler's U-Boat War: The Hunters, 1939-1942*

Rick Atkinson, *An Army at Dawn* (2002), The U.S. Army in North Africa and Tunisia

David Eisenhower, *Eisenhower at War, 1943-45* (1986)

Carlo D'Este, *Patton: A Genius for War* (1995)

John Erickson, *Stalin's War with Germany*, vol. 1, *The Road to Stalingrad* (1975)

Corelli Barnett, *The Desert Generals* (1961)

Novels: Theodor Plievier, *Stalingrad* (1945, trans. 1953), the grimmest of World War II novels by a German who defected to Russia; Nicholas Monsarrat, *The Cruel Sea* (1951); James Jones, *From Here to Eternity* (1952), Pearl Harbor; *The Thin Red Line* (1962), Guadalcanal