

# Module 5: Leader of the Free World

Talk	Title	Time Period	Date of Talk
30	Isolationism interrupted	1939-1941	January 20th 
31	The European War	1941-1945	February 3rd
32	The Pacific War	1941-1945	February 17th
33	America and the Post War World	1945-1948	March 3rd
34	The Age of Consensus	1948-1960	March 17th
35	The Cold War	1948-1960	March 31st
36	Camelot	1961-1963	April 7th

# Talk 31 The European War



- War strategy 1941-43 and Battle of Atlantic

- Attacking the “soft underbelly” 1941-1944

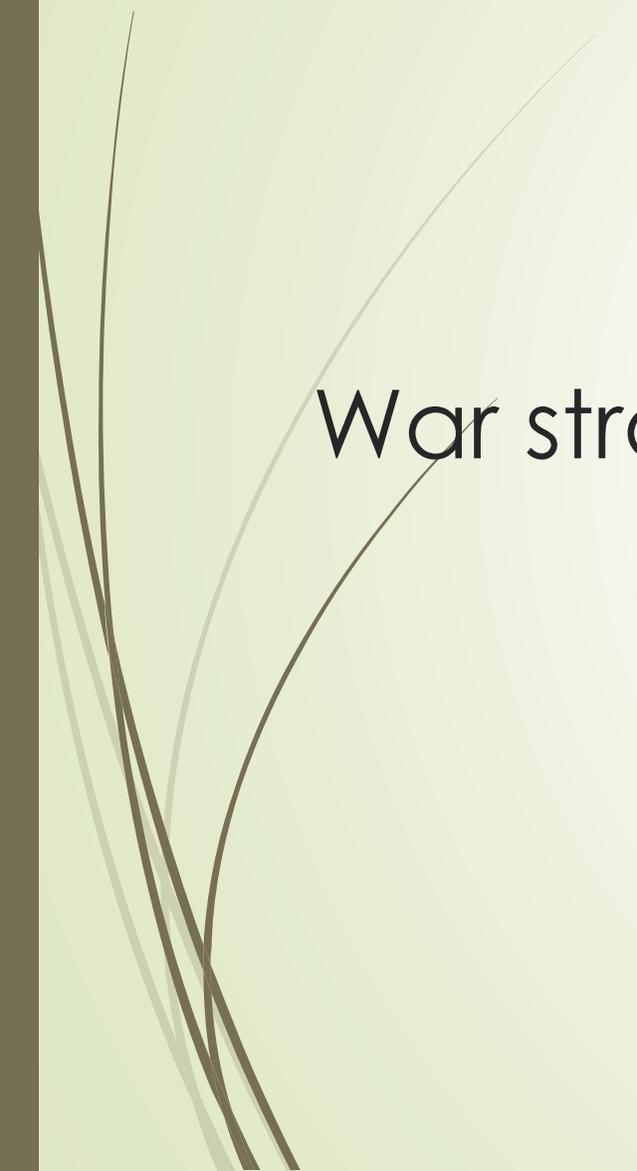
- US “occupation” of Britain

.....Intermission

- Strategic Bombing campaign

- Invasion of France

- Endgame



# War strategy and Battle of the Atlantic

# Joint Chiefs of Staff



Joint British American  
Committee Washington  
Based.. European War

Separate committees  
US/UK Europe  
US...Pacific  
UK...Middle East

Excludes USSR  
Via governments only

US becomes increasing  
Dominant over time

# Conflicts of Interest

- Churchill and Britain
  - Minimise casualties....memories of WW1
  - Protect Empire/ minimise power of USSR
  - Reduce risk by attacking "Soft Underbelly" first
- FDR and USA
  - End war fast/ accept higher casualties
  - Create post imperial world based on rules
  - Wants direct attack on Germany in 1943

# Decisions

European war given priority

- Nazi Germany global threat
- USSR at risk of destruction/ must be avoided
- Japan a regional threat to be “held”
  
- Peripheral or “Soft underbelly” strategy approved....for now
  - Nazi Germany too powerful/ allies too weak to attack directly
  - War in Atlantic must be won before large scale invasion

Troop ships too vulnerable to modern submarines & aircraft  
....win Battle of Atlantic first

# Troops ships U Boat menace



RMS Lancatria requisitioned  
as troop Ship 1940 West France

Used to evacuate support staff  
And civilians from France  
...packed 7,000 -10,000 support  
Troops and passengers



Hit by 3 bombs  
....4,000- 7,000 drown  
....largest British naval disaster  
....news suppressed during war

# Battle of Atlantic first phase 1939-1941 : U boats ascendant

- German intelligence > British
  - German decipher British code...know convoy plans
  - British unaware till end 1942
- Superior German technology
  - medium range submarines plus resupply subs extend range
  - British ASDIC ..low range, steep learning curve
- U boat operations range across Atlantic
  - U boats operate from West Coast of France,
  - Long distance aircraft support ...reconnaissance

# Battle of Atlantic 1939- 1941

- Stalemate 1939- June 1940
  - 60 submarines deployed
  - Failed technology ...German torpedoes, British ASDIC sonar detectionGerman advantages > British
- “First Happy Time” June 1940 ---February 1941
  - Submarines increased to 150..technology overcome
  - Germans decipher British codes.. British don't know
  - Wolf pack strategy overwhelm escorts
- Return to Stalemate March 1941-December 1941
  - Improved ASDIC detection, new weapons systems
  - Use of long range aircraft to find submarines
  - Increased escorts/ US WW1 Destroyers + Corvettes

# Battle of Atlantic: US Entry to war

## ➤ German prepared

- Intercept allied code systems
- Develop long range submarines...milk cow supply ship
- Despatch squadron to US coast

## ➤ US unprepared

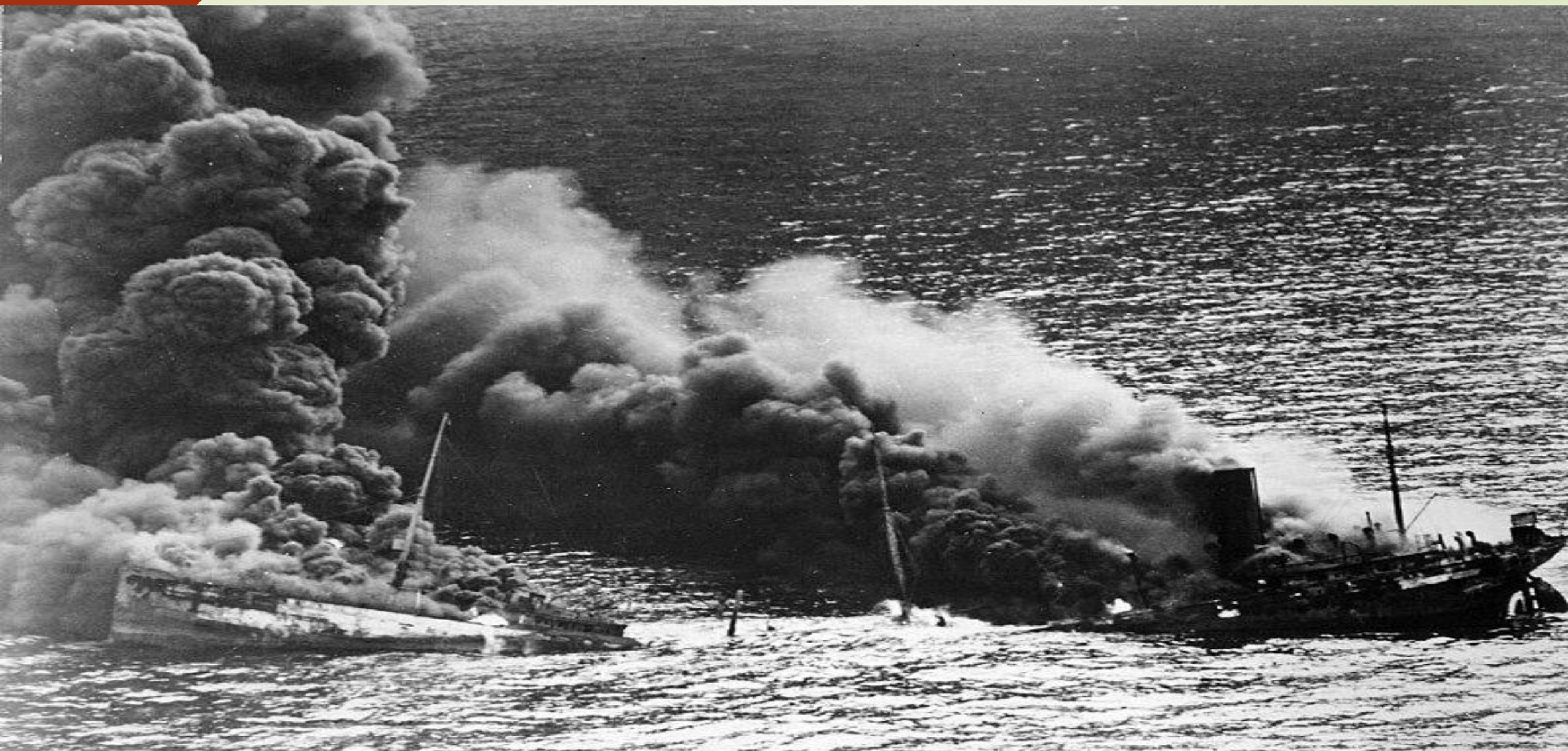
- No black out mandated. ....cities lit up...."illuminated sh
- No convoys...escorts to British

➤ "Second "Happy Time" January – June 1942

Use of “wolf packs” to enter & destroy convoys....30%-50% during 1941/42



# Slaughter of US merchant ships



Jan- June 1942: 640 ships sunk, 3 million tons  
.. loss of 22 u boats, 300 operational simultaneously



# The balance shifts July 1942- 1943

- Allies secure technology & Intelligence advantage
  - British complete decoding of Enigma....intercept U boat signals
  - Offset German intercepts
  - Improved detection and depth charge systems
- Air support for convoys throughout entire voyage
  - Catapult aircraft
  - Long distance bombers
  - Mass production Escort carriers (100 US,
- Increase in escorts, submarine hunters...corvettes
- Mass production of "Liberty Ships"....2,700 completed by 1945

# Battle of Atlantic 1943-1945

- Germans abandon Wolf Packs end 1943
  - Loss rate unsustainable...air craft
  - Unable to prevent rising number of merchant ships
- Germans lose access to French West coast 1944
- U boats remain lethal...but no longer existential threat
  - 80% U Boats deployed sunk by war's end

# Mass production Corvettes/ Liberty Ships 1942-45

"BETWEEN SUNSET AND DARKNESS"—A CONVOY AT SEA AS SEEN FROM AN ESCORT VESSEL OF THE CORVETTE CLASS.

— DRAWN BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST C. E. TURNER.



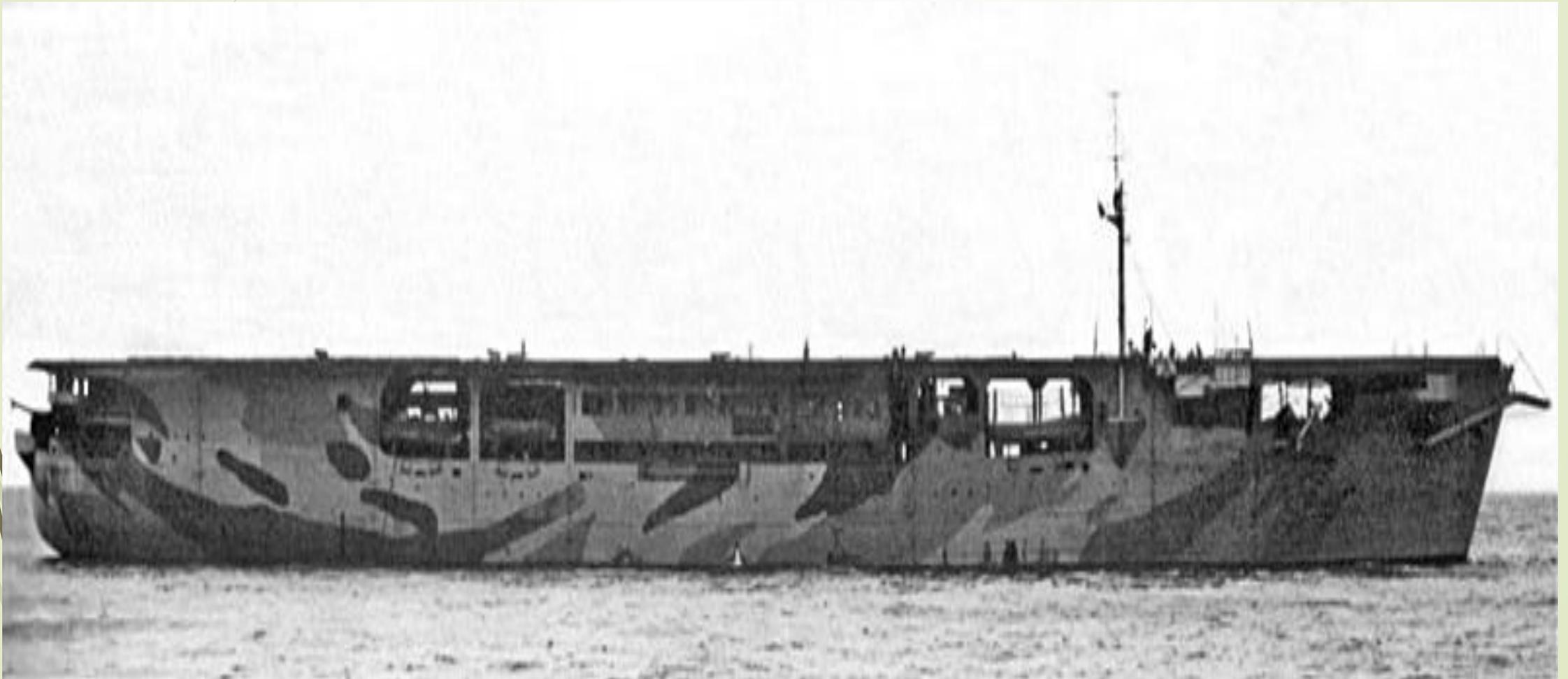
# Wolf Packs vs Convoys



# Catapult aircraft



Escort Carriers “mass produced” 175 US, 50 UK by 1945...each 5-10 aircraft round clock air support



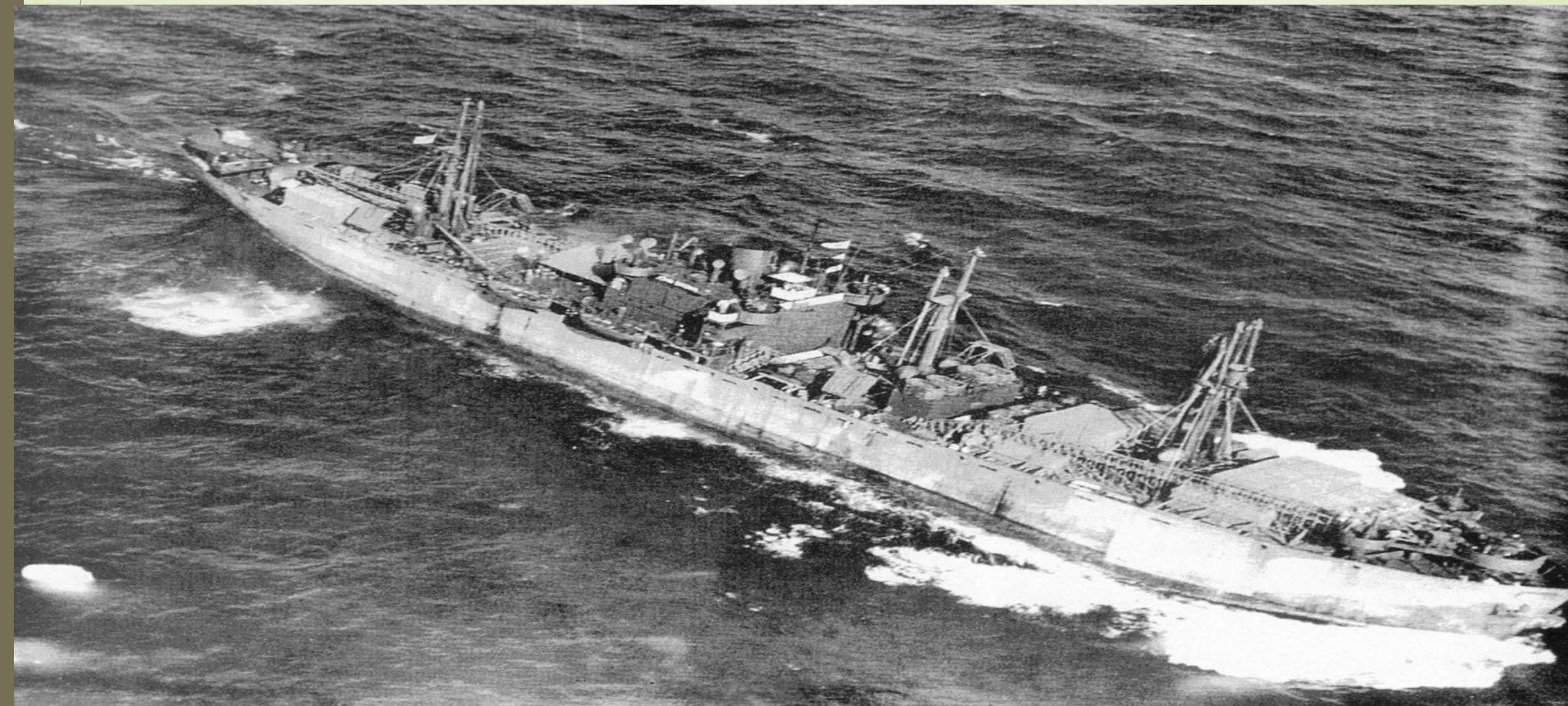
# Long distance shore based bombers ...Iceland... "Liberators"



Introduction long range bombers  
...submarines nowhere to hide  
...Wolf packs abandoned end 1943..



U boats overwhelmed also by volume: Liberty Ship  
...3 built every 2 days by 1943, 2,700 by 1945



# Battle of Atlantic 'won' by 1943

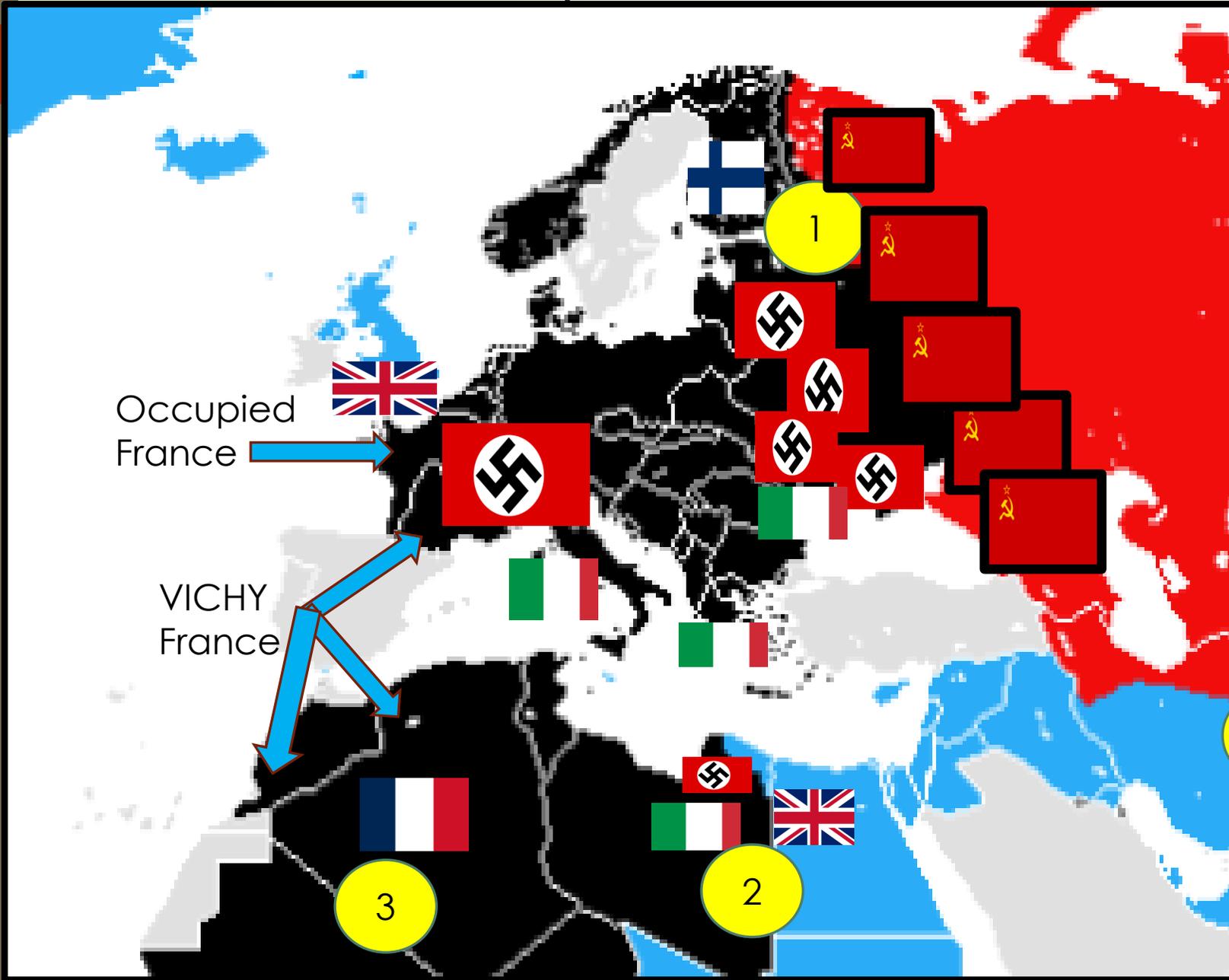
u boats cannot threaten mass troop shipments

	<b>U Boats deployed</b>	<b>U Boats Sunk</b>	<b><i>Merchant ships Sunk</i></b>
1939	57	9	114
1940	120	24	471
1941	200	35	432
1942	300	87	1,664
1943	400	237	588
1944	400	249	132
1945	375	155	50



Attacking the “soft” underbelly

# European War June 1942



1

3.5 million Germans  
Attacking 5 million Russians  
...target Stalingrad & oil

2

British driven out of Greece  
Defeat Italians, face Rommel  
150,000 German and Italian  
Attacking 175,000 British

3

200,000 Vichy French soldiers  
Algers, Morocco, Tunis  
....allegiance uncertain  
..waiting for orders?

# Dwight Eisenhower (1890-1969)

3<sup>rd</sup> of 7 sons, born Texas

Father mechanical engineer

“Ike” ....1942

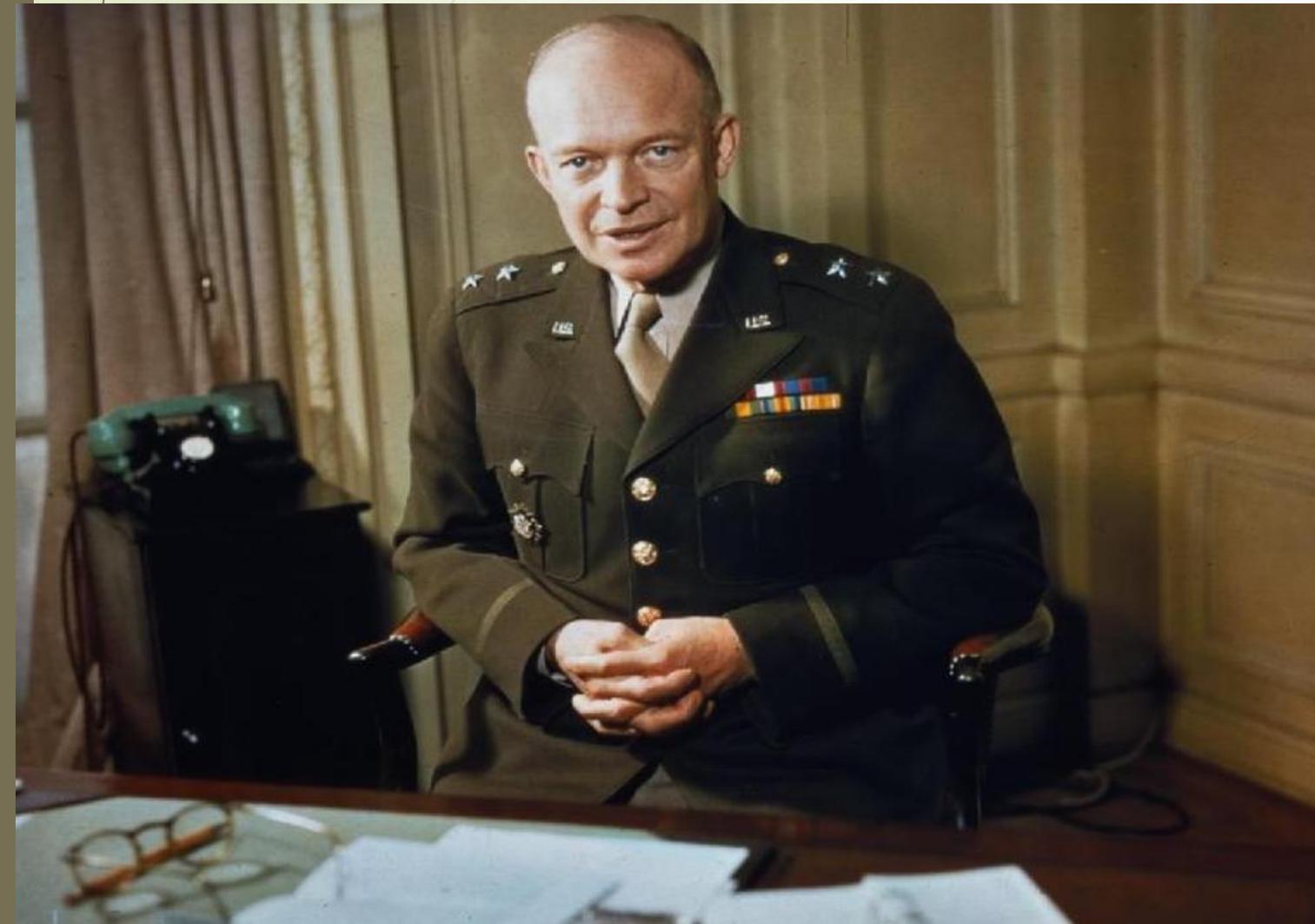
Deeply religious family..mother Jehovah Wtness. Ike..no denomination

Scholarship to West point...

Mediocre student..good at English....studies military history

Training instructor Tank Corps  
In USA..during WW1

Stays in army....trains Philippine Army 1936-1939....master at Bridge ...to Washington...Assistant Chief of Staff George Marshall



# Eisenhower...path to leadership

Commanding officer about Eisenhower:

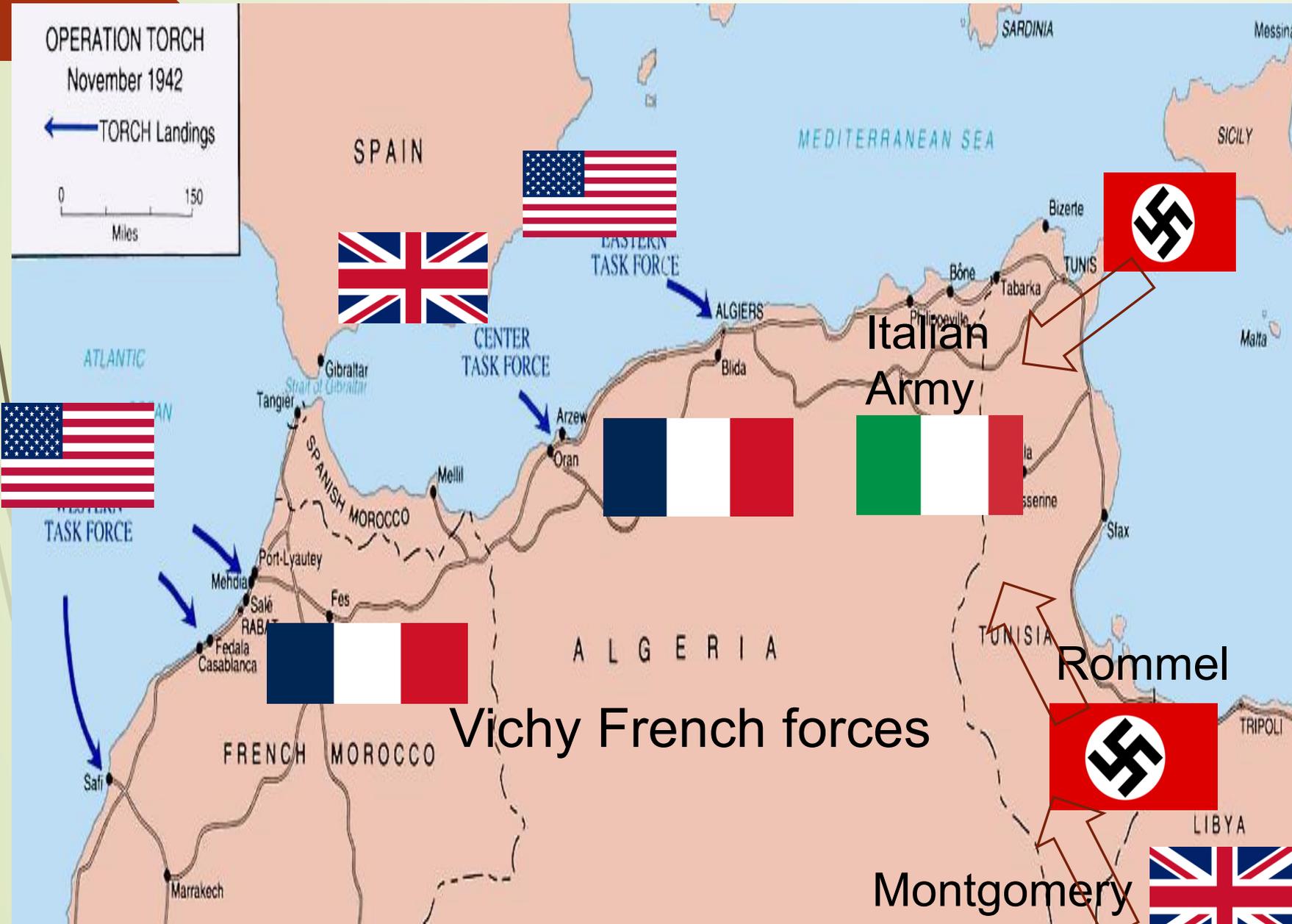
"you can always judge a man's character by the way he plays cards. Eisenhower is a calm and collected player and never whines at his losses. He is brilliant in victory but never commits the bridge player's worst crime of gloating when he wins."

Marshall sends "Ike" to UK to assess credibility of acting US commander of US  
...Makes balanced, constructive, negative assessment ...trusted by British  
...Returns to US, FDR needs Diplomat to win over Vichy French  
...Eisenhower promoted to Commander in Chief European Theatre of Operations

Meanwhile.....back in Africa...October 1942 British army under Montgo  
200,000 defeat Rommel's German/ Italian army of 100,000 at El Alama  
.....retreat across Libya to Tunis...TIME TO ACT

# Operation Torch November 1942

100,000 US \_ 30,000 British  
Land ...opposed by Vichy  
French 3 days fighting  
...5,000 casualties



Vichy emissary..  
ceasefire ...change  
sides...German armies  
occupy Vichy France  
Torch armies move east  
to Tunis...Italian army  
blocks advance

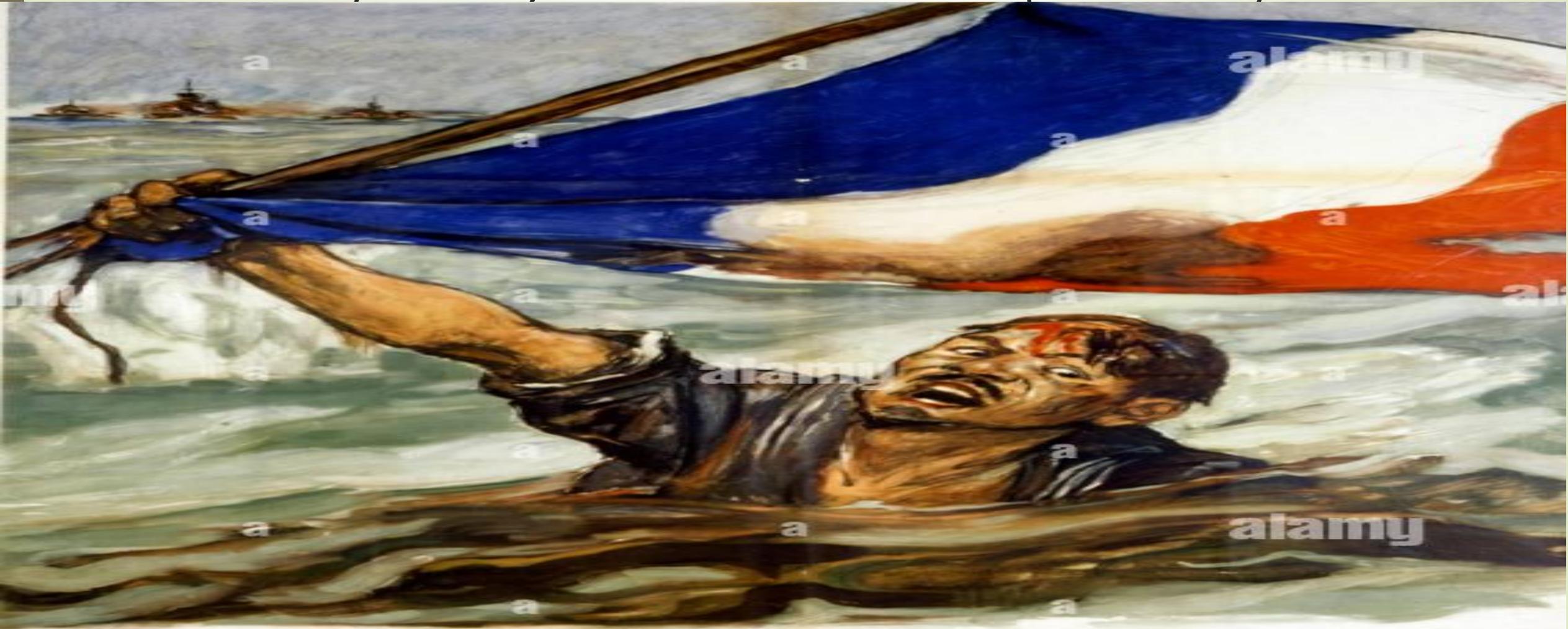
“Race to Tunis”  
.....Rommel wins  
...reinforced by 100,000  
Germans from Italy

Montgomery

# US troops landing in Morocco



Vichy anti British propaganda (attack on French fleet May 1940)...need for US diplomacy



*N'oubliez pas Oran!*

# Tunisian Campaign December 1942- May 1943



4 month Campaign  
500,000 US/ UK/ FR  
Vs 300,000 Axis

Rommel ..defeats US At  
Kasserine Pass, 10,000 US  
loss

Eisenhower replaces  
Generals..enter Patton  
Montgomery breaks  
“Mareth Line” ..April

Rommel seeks exit,  
Removed Hitler. “Die to last m

General offensive May  
...Axis surrender 300,000  
,,75,000 allied casualties

Rommel attacks approaching US army  
...creates havoc....5,000 casualties



# IKE reorganises...US advance to Tunis



# Some of 300,000 Axis Prisoners May 1943



# European War June 1943



German army of 1.5m  
Annihilated at Stalingrad  
By Jan 1943..2m Soviet  
losses

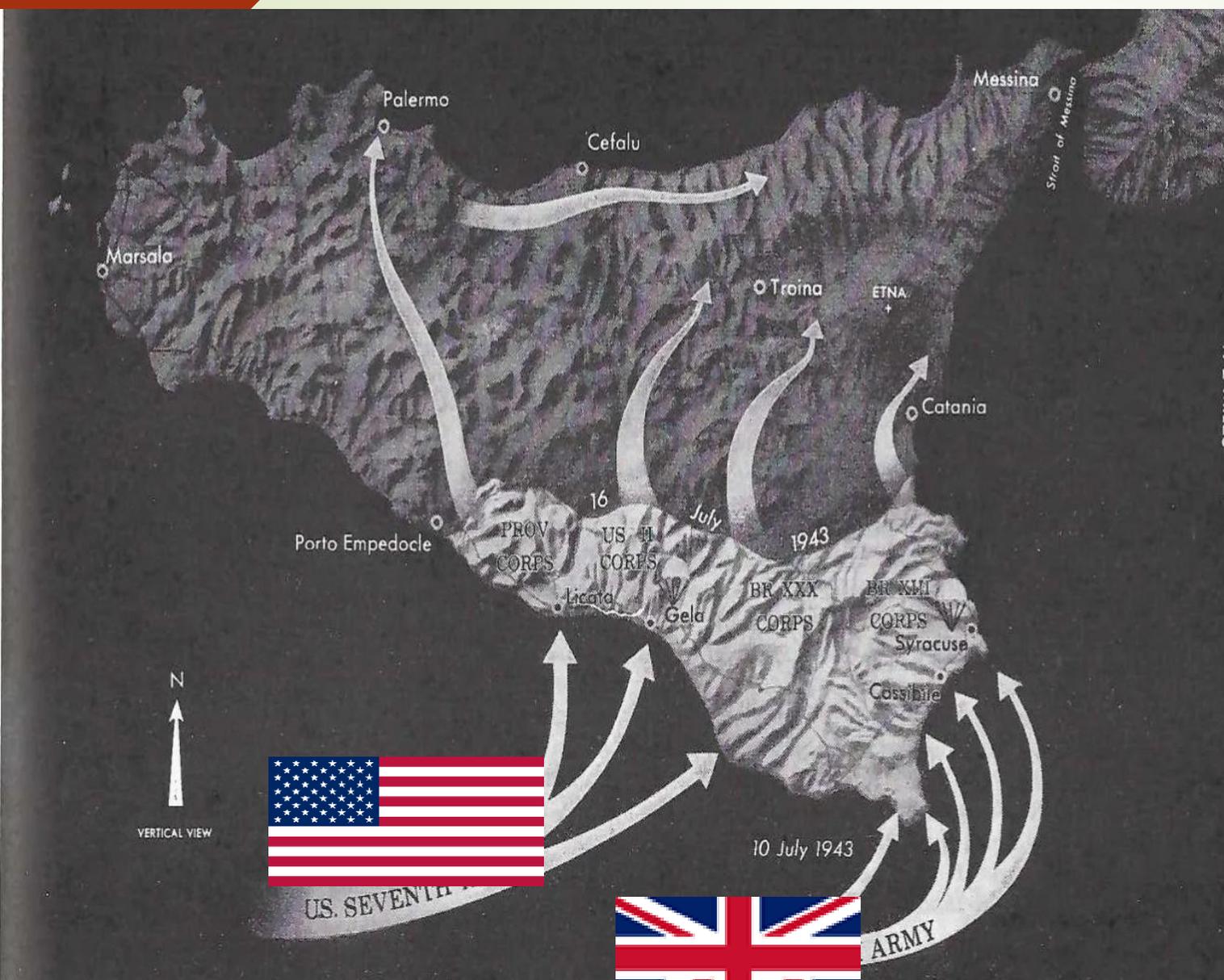
Germans retreat..  
Last major offensive  
At Kursk..2m Germans  
Vs 3m Soviets.

Attack fails 500K German  
750K Soviet losses

US/ UK ready to invade  
“Soft underbelly”

U boats overcome  
US builds up forces  
In UK

# Invasion of Sicily June 1943



Germans tricked into expecting Invasion of Sardinia  
..160,000 Allies land...builds up to 500,000 within 2 weeks vs 100,000 Germans + 200,000 Italians

Resistance breaks  
..US General Patton "race to Messina"  
...antipathy vs slow/risk Monty

Germans evacuate army to mainland  
100,000 Italians captured

30,000 Allied casualties

# George Patton (1885-1945)

## Patton 1945

“Warrior family” Army is Life...West Point ..led raid vs Pancho Villa (el Bandito)

Led tank brigade WW1..hero

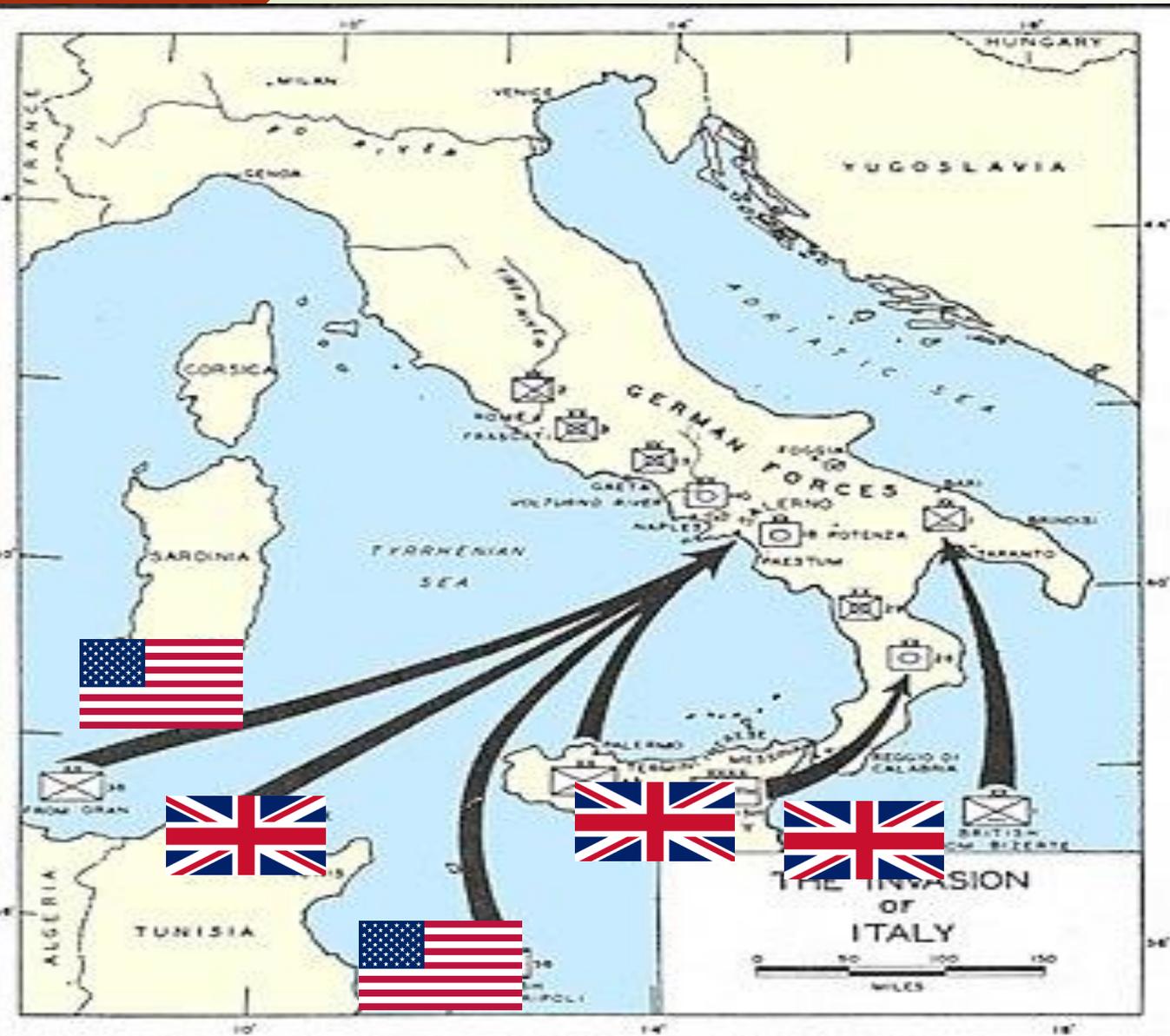
Takes over US operations Afer Kasserine Pass

Leads flanking attack Sicily ...hatred vs Monty..mutual

Slaps shell- shocked soldier ...press report ..sent to UK for Normandy



# Italian Campaign 1943-1944



190,000 allies land September 1943

Fascist Government collapses  
...Italian civil war vs Communists  
...Allies move north

German general Kessrling assumes  
Command..exploits mountains  
Builds line of defense

Attritional campaign 1944-45

1.2 million allied soldiers vs 600,000 Germans  
300,000 allied casualties, 200,000 German

Mussolini imprisoned, recaptured, heads up  
North Italy "German vassal"

"Soft underbelly---"tough nut"

# Amphibious landings...moments before dive bomber attack





# 18 months attritional trench warfare



# Stalemate till early 1945



# Tehran Conference December 1943



First joint meeting FDR  
Churchill , Stalin

...British influence waning  
...victory inevitable

Stalin...Italian, African  
Campaigns...minor  
events

FDR commits to 2nd  
Front in France

First discussion division of  
Europe between allies  
....East Europe to USSR  
...Italy/ Greece to West



# US “invasion” of Britain

# The American's Arrive

	US Military @mid year	Principle Roles
1942	150,000	Naval Support, Airfield development
1943	300,000	Airforce personnel
1944	1,500,000	Invasion of Normandy
1945	250,000	War wind-down/ Post war world

# Opportunities/ Challenges

## To British Public

➤ Resentment over pay ( US private earned \$50 a month...\$1,000 per month .....£800 per month (2025..British £145

➤ Upheaval

British army men overseas

Americans different, wealthy, fun, and here ( 60,000 British brides, 10,000 babies

Racial mixing....black soldiers welcomed (mostly) . 2,000 mix race children...marriage forbidden

## ➤ To Americans

Exposure to different culture..isolated

Welcomed.....creates generation interest in world

Black Americans (200,000) segregated, logistical jobs..exposure to non segregated world.

# Training manual for US troops to avoid friction ...don't be a show off, or underestimate

“funny money”, either. They sweat hard to get it (wages are much lower in Britain than America) and they won't think you smart or funny for mocking at it.

**DON'T BE A SHOW OFF.** The British dislike bragging and showing off. American wages and American soldier's pay are the highest in the world. When pay day comes it would be sound practice to learn to spend your money according to British standards. They consider you highly paid. They won't think any better of you for throwing money around; they are more likely to feel that you haven't learned the common-sense virtues of thrift. The British “Tommy” is apt to be specially touchy about the difference between his wages and yours. Keep this in mind. Use common sense and don't rub him the wrong way.

You will find many things in Britain physically different from similar things in America. But there are also important similarities—our common speech, our common law, and our ideals of religious freedom were all brought from Britain when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. Our ideas about political liberties are also British and parts of our own Bill of Rights were borrowed from the great chapters of British liberty.

Remember that in America you like people to conduct themselves as we do, and to respect the same things. Try to do the same for the British and respect the things they treasure.

**THE BRITISH ARE TOUGH.** Don't be misled by the British tendency to be soft-spoken and polite. If they need to be, they can be plenty tough. The English language didn't spread across the oceans and over the mountains and jungles and swamps of the world because these people were panty-waists.

Sixty thousand British civilians—men, women, and children—have died under bombs, and yet the morale of the British is unbreakable and high. A nation doesn't come through that, if it doesn't have plain, common guts. The British are tough, strong people, and good allies.

You won't be able to tell the British much about “taking it.” They are not particularly interested in taking it any more. They are far more interested in getting together in solid friendship with us, so that we can all start dishing it out to Hitler.

# The “Jim Crow”

- ▶ African Americans
  - ▶ 150,000 African Americans in UK...support roles, construction, logistics
  - ▶ US army imposes segregation on and off basis
- ▶ British attitude
  - ▶ Total non white population UK 1940's ....10,000....along coastal towns
  - ▶ Racial attitudes adopted in colonies not present in UK
  - ▶ African Americans more polite, different fun
- ▶ Consequences and impacts
  - ▶ 2,000 mixed race children... fathers not allowed to marry (mix race marriage illegal most US states)....1,000 fostered after war
  - ▶ British generally adjust to US imposed Jim Crow laws
  - ▶ African Americans profoundly influenced by kindness and acceptance...future civil rights leaders

# “Battle of Bamber Bridge” 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> June 1943

Ye Olde World Pub”



Pub used by black Logistical company...mix with locals

US white officers attempt to impose segregation  
...public posts “Black only served”

US MP’s (all white) attempt arrest black  
...gunfight. 1 killed, 7 wounded  
...threaten mutiny

US military arrest mutineers  
...light sentences  
...white mp’s discharged  
Integrated police force introduced

Bamber Ridge...exception.. Most  
Often US rules prevailed.

# The Saturday night dance...Norfolk 1944



# Greeting the troops



# Kate Summersby and Eisenhower



Irish born..moved to England  
Ambulance driver during blitz

Love affair British major

Chauffer Secretary Eisenhower 1942-1945  
...blames Ike when major killed in Tunisia  
.. ike takes her to Palestine  
.. rumour asks commander to  
marry..denied



Rumours of affair...but not substantiated  
....intimate “friends”  
...Ike infatuated...

Kate seeks US citizenship post  
War..married, divorced, writes  
Memoirs...coy

# Romance at a difficult time

...many will not survive and return in months to com





# White cliffs of Dover (Vera Lynn)

There'll be bluebirds over  
The white cliffs of Dover  
Tomorrow, just you wait and see

There'll be love and laughter  
And peace ever after  
Tomorrow, when the world is free

The shepherd will tend his sheep  
The valley will bloom again  
And Jimmy will go to sleep  
In his own little room again

There'll be bluebirds over  
The white cliffs of Dover  
When the world is free



# Intermission



# Strategic Bombing Campaign 1942- 1944

# Birth of Strategic bombing 1939-1940

## Strategic versus “Tactical” bombing

- Tactical ---bombing of military forces only “Just War Theory”.
- Strategic --- 1930 “industrial web” war shorten by destroying industry

## ➤ First wave

- Germans bomb civilian targets Poland
- Rotterdam May 14<sup>th</sup> 1940 ..1,000 killed...propaganda claimed 100,000
- British attack on Ruhr industrial ....inaccurate

## ➤ From Tactical to Strategic bombing

- German attack airfields June- July ...attempt to limit casualties....inaccurate
- British bomb Berlin August 1940---40 killed
- Hitler authorises Blitz on Britain September 1940 – May 1941
- British retaliate.....develop first heavy bomber Avro Lancaster

# Blitz July 1940 – May 1941

## Birmingham May 1941

Germans target  
“industrial” Areas....break  
military capacity & will to resist  
...50,000 killed by 194

Impact “improve morale”  
Limited military impact  
.....inaccurate  
....lack of heavy bombers

British adopt “de-housing”  
industrial workers strategy  
September 1941-1943

...



# Adoption of “strategic bombing”

- ▶ Study commissioned to assess bombing effectiveness
  - ▶ 1 in 3 bombs land within 5 miles of target
  - ▶ Loss of 10% bombers each raid due to German fighters...day raids abandoned
- ▶ Heavy bombing capability introduced ( Avro Lancaster 1942)
  - ▶ Heavy bomber, up to 10,000KG, crew 7, 4 machine guns
  - ▶ revert to night time raids..loss rate reduced to 5%by 1944
- ▶ Night raids only strategy by end 1942
  - ▶ Improved accuracy Gee Navigiaon and radar...40% bombs ½ mile radius
  - ▶ Focus on large industrial areas and cities
  - ▶ 2,000 bombers operational 1944

Avro Lancaster: British heavy bomber..1942  
...up to 10000 kg, crew 4, 4 machine guns





# B17 Heavy bomber...in formation



# USAAF 1942-1943

## ➤ Norden sight finder

- \$1Bn investment (2023\$) ..extensive training..30% cost plane
- Claimed Accuracy ..artificial “test conditions”
- ...20% bombs within 1,000 feet of target: 3 x accuracy of British (40% bombs within 1/4 mile target ...close enough for “strategic” bombing

## ➤ German fighters break “mass formations)...US 6

- Fighters from UK cannot reach target with bombers
- Second Schwienfurt raid October 1943---350 bombers...77 lost + 3 fighters (Germans lose 35 fighter)
- Day raids abandoned....

All changes with introduction of long range Mustang..early 1944

# Mustangs 1944

.....loss rates decline to less than 2% ..air war won



# US bomber crew

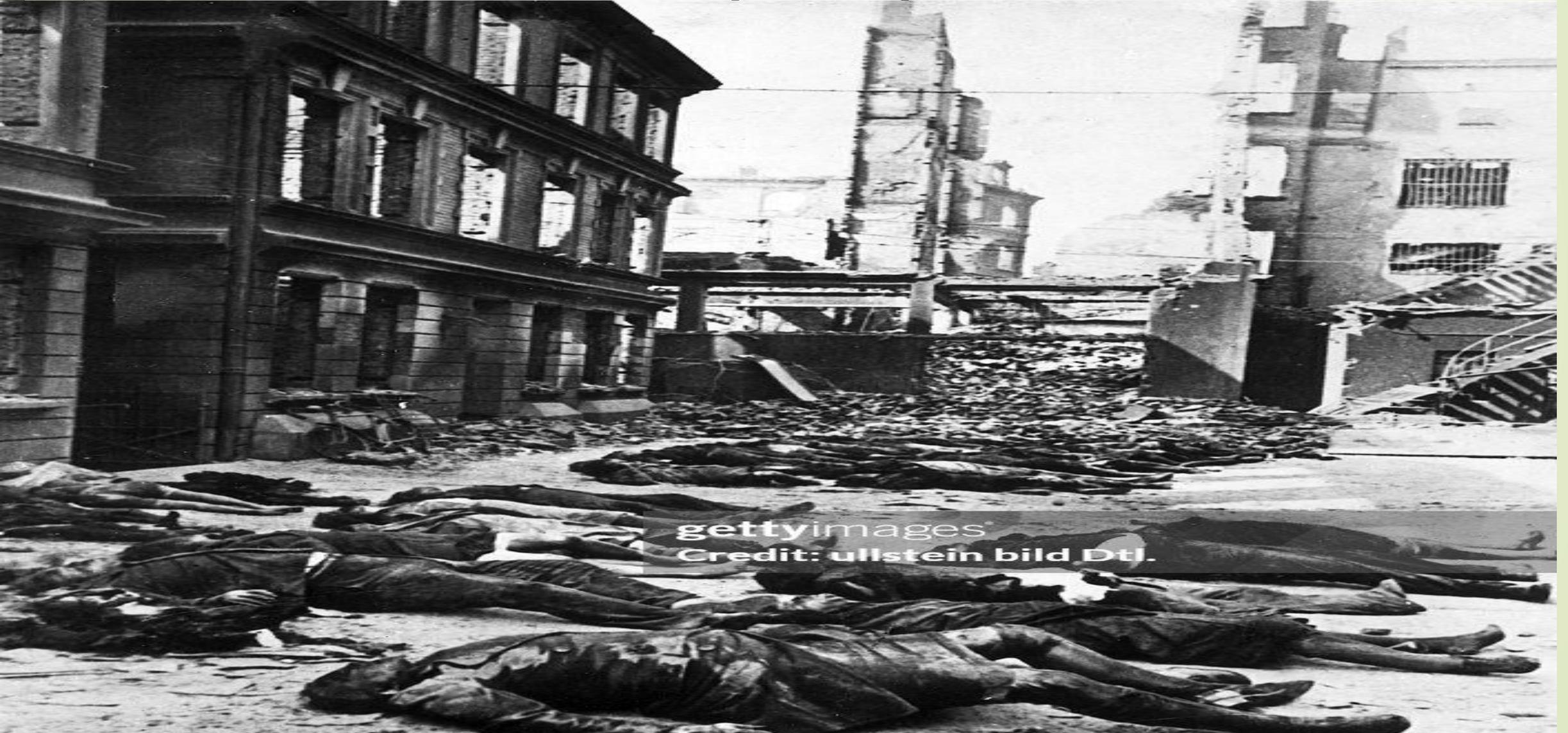






# Hamburg 1943

Military and shipping target  
75% city destroyed, 60,000 killed



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Credit: ullstein bild Dtl.

# Strategic bombing cost and impact

- ▶ German Industrial Capacity diminished...but not by much till 1944
  - ▶ Production prevented > destruction
  - ▶ Deprived army of fighter support
  - ▶ Population morale sustained till end of war
- ▶ German population
  - ▶ 600,000 civilians killed, 7,500,000 made homeless
  - ▶ Major Cities reduced to rubble: Cologne 60%, Hamburg 75%, Dresden 6% Berlin 33%
- ▶ High casualties
  - ▶ 26,000 US Airmen, 55,000 British (more raids, accidents, less protection)
  - ▶ 15% US, 50% UK bomber crews lose lives



# Invasion of France

February 1944... Planning begins in earnest  
...Eisenhower overall commander, Montgomery  
landing operations



# Preparations

- ▶ Decision to invade made after Tehran Conference...Italy campaign “stuck”
- ▶ Normandy chosen location: beaches, lack of canals, rivers, space
- ▶ Decoy army (1<sup>st</sup> Army Group”) established under Patton....
- ▶ South Devon evacuated
- ▶ Training intensified
- ▶ 6 week arial bombardment along total coast...26,000 French civilians killed

# Operation "Thunderbolt Slapton Sands Disaster"

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> 1944

D day "dry run"  
Test landing...live fire  
ahead of soldiers

April 17th test landing  
Timing changed.  
Bombardment not  
...450 soldiers killed

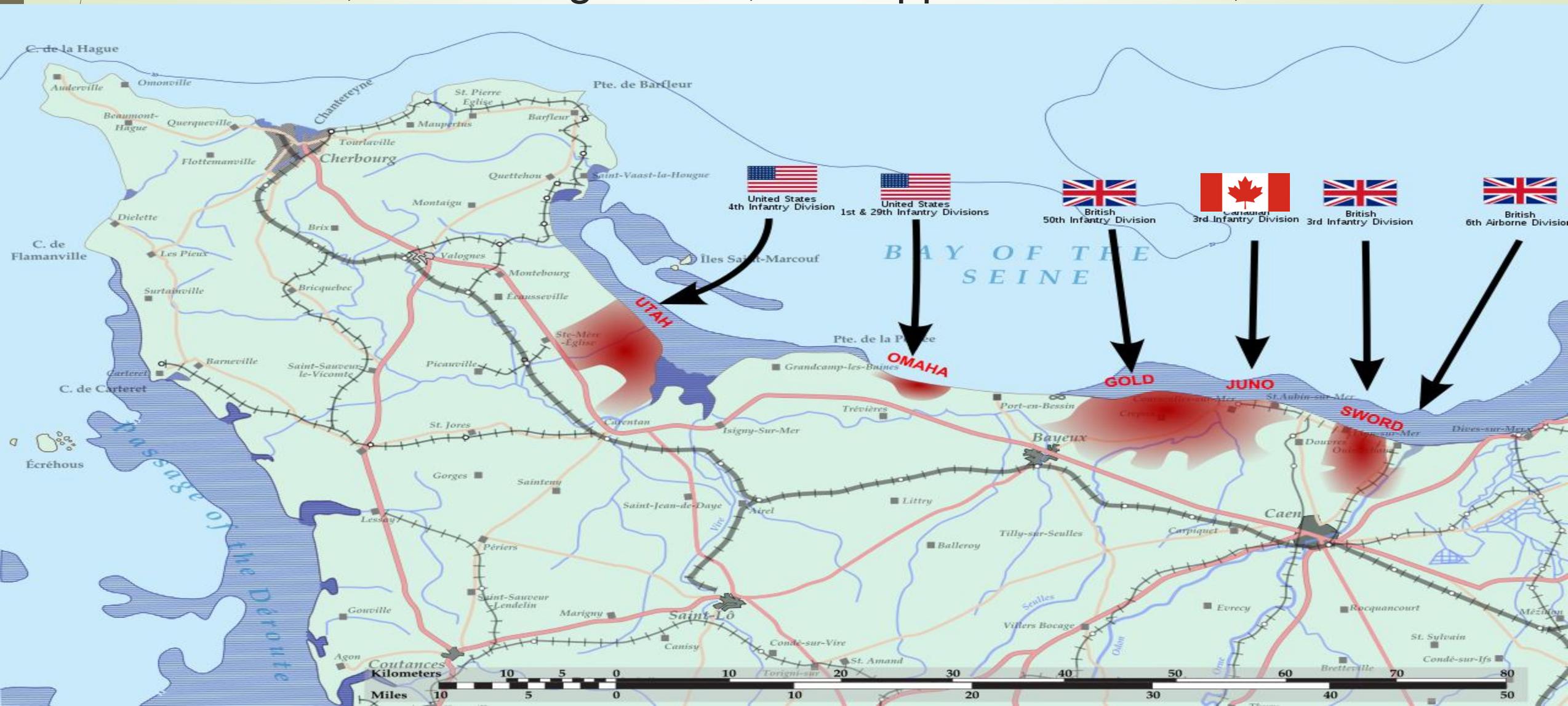
German e boats  
alerted...intercept  
landing craft..750 killed

10 missing officers,  
,,,D Day On hold  
...till bodies found



# D Day: June 6, 1944

160,000 soldiers, 5 battleships, 10 cruisers, 65 destroyers  
...4,000 landing craft. 1,500 support vessels+ 2,200 aircraft



Omaha Beach...6,000 killed, wounded or missing,  
65,000 soldiers landed (4,000 on other landings)



# Arial View



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Credit: Keystone

# On the Beach



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Credit: GeorgePeters

# D Day plus one: beaches transform to logistic hubs



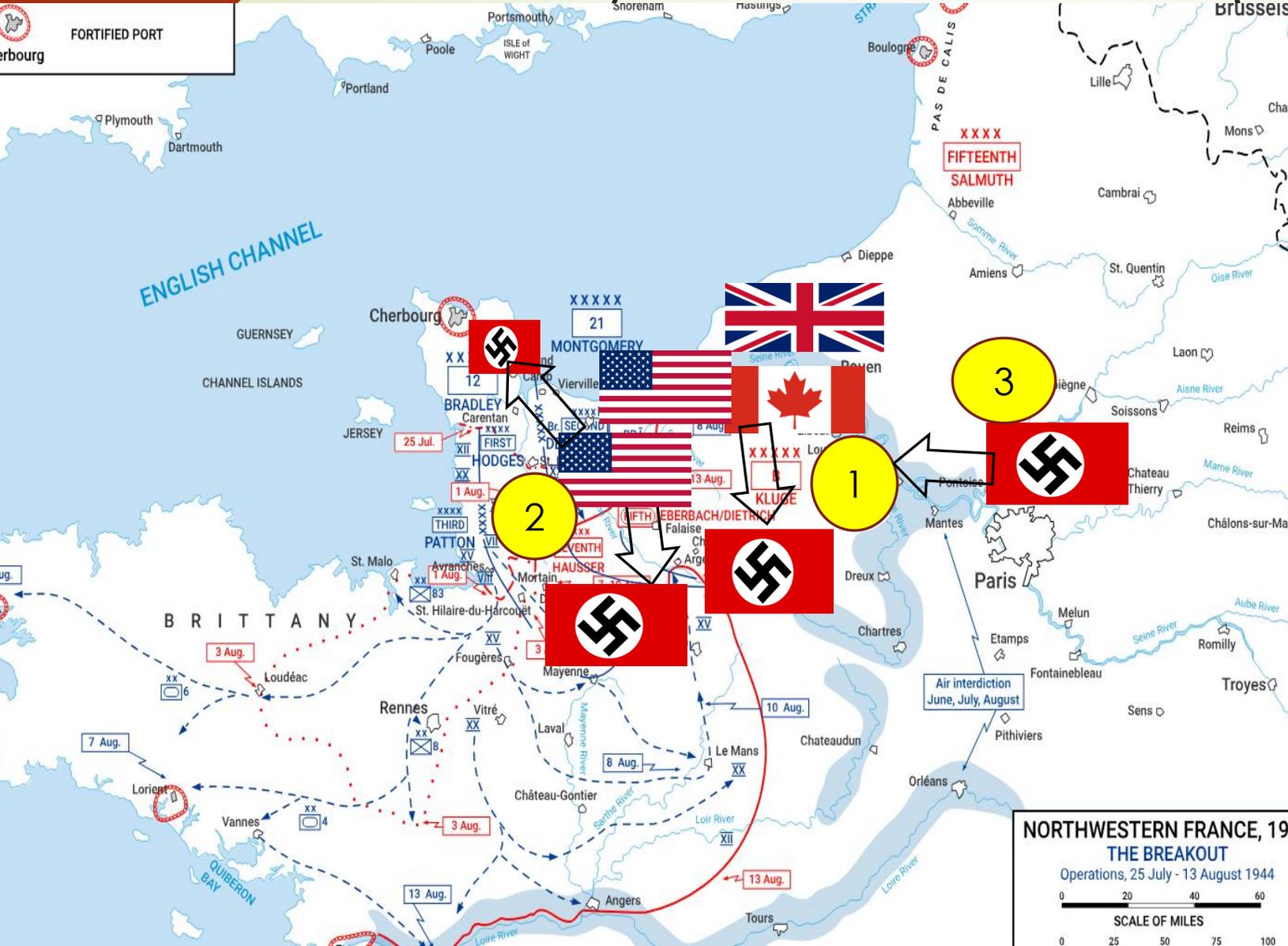
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Credit: Vernon Lewis Gallery/Stocktrek Images

# Normandy Campaign June - July 30<sup>th</sup>

Allied army rises to 1.5 million (Germans 400,000)

 FORTIFIED PORT  
Cherbourg



1  
June- July  
British/ Canadians  
...blocked  
...capture Caen July 9th

2  
US Break out to South and  
North...capture Cherbourg

3  
German panzer attack on  
British, Canadian  
...repulsed

# Route to Caen



# Tanks along the hedgerows

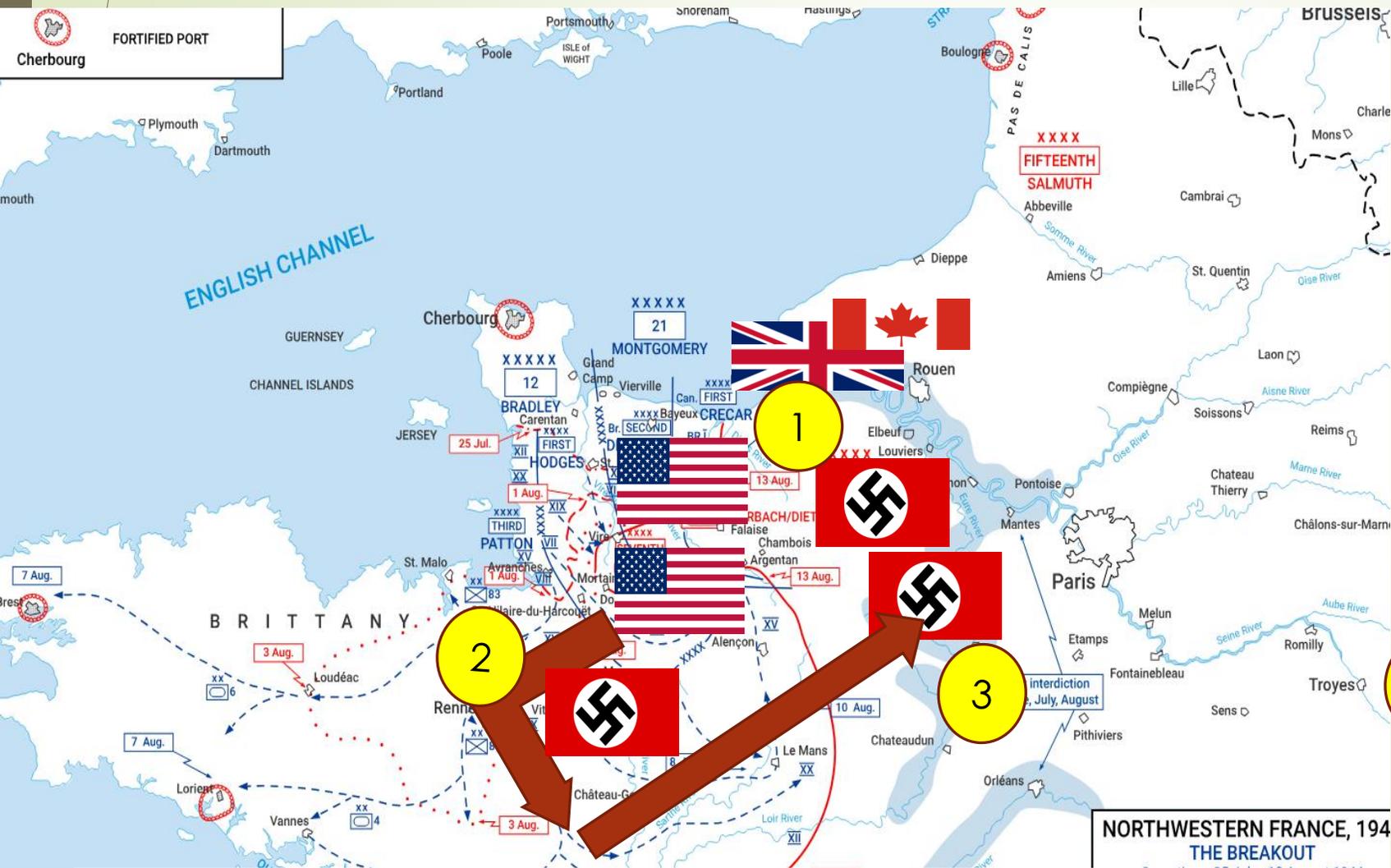


# Hedgerow fighting



# Normandy campaign August 1944

allies 2.4 million (1.4m US) vs 600,000 Germans



- 1 General assault  
...British to Caen  
...US East from St Lo
- 2 3rd US army formed  
..Patton command  
...attack Brittany  
...turn east to trap Germans
- 3 Germans either trapped or  
retreat

...Germans retreat to border Paris liberated August 25th

# Normandy Campaign

- Second Front started and secure
- Bloody campaign, not one day event
  - Allied Casualties 226,000 (10,000 first day)
    - British 65,000, Canadian 24,000, American 125,000 (11,000 killed)
    - 19,000 airmen lose lives.....as do 26,000 French civilian
  - Germans 200,000 captured, 80,000 killed

# Events August – December 1944

Russian “Bagration Offensive” rolling across Eastern Europe/ East Germany

- 3m Russians vs 1 million Germans, 700,000 Russian, 400,000 German
- US has become dominant ally and advancing rapidly to German border
  - German army in France disintegrates 100,000 captured
  - Advance 50 miles per day, incur 55,000 casualties (7,500 deaths)
  - US troops land South of France advancing north...resistance light
- British/ Canadians advance through Belgium, South Netherlands
  - Advance stalled at Arnhem....65,000 engaged, 15,000 casualties

Germany's hope centres on “Secret Weapons”

# V1 Rocket...introduced August 1944



10,000 launched  
400 mph, range 120 miles  
20% hit target

Inaccurate...terror only  
7,000 killed in London

Increasing ineffective  
..80% intercepted by 1945  
,,allies advance to launch site  
..allies detect and bomb sites

# V2 supersonic missile...October 1944



Unstoppable...3,800 mph  
Range 300 miles  
Accurate to 10 square mile  
Target London, Antwerp  
Expensive...33% German fuel,

Terror weapon only  
1,200 launched  
Kills 3,000 ...2,000 in  
London, 1,700 Antwerp (cinema  
560 killed) ....does cause  
terror/but not defeatism  
...allies occupy launch-sites

# Jet aircraft... ME 262



First operational Jet  
fighter 530 mph  
..double other fighters  
..appears 1944 vs US  
bombers

1,400 delivered  
..expensive, fuel usage  
...maintenance issues

Operationally lethal  
...900 bombers/100 fighter  
...300 shot down

Too few to impact war

# Germany and atomic bomb

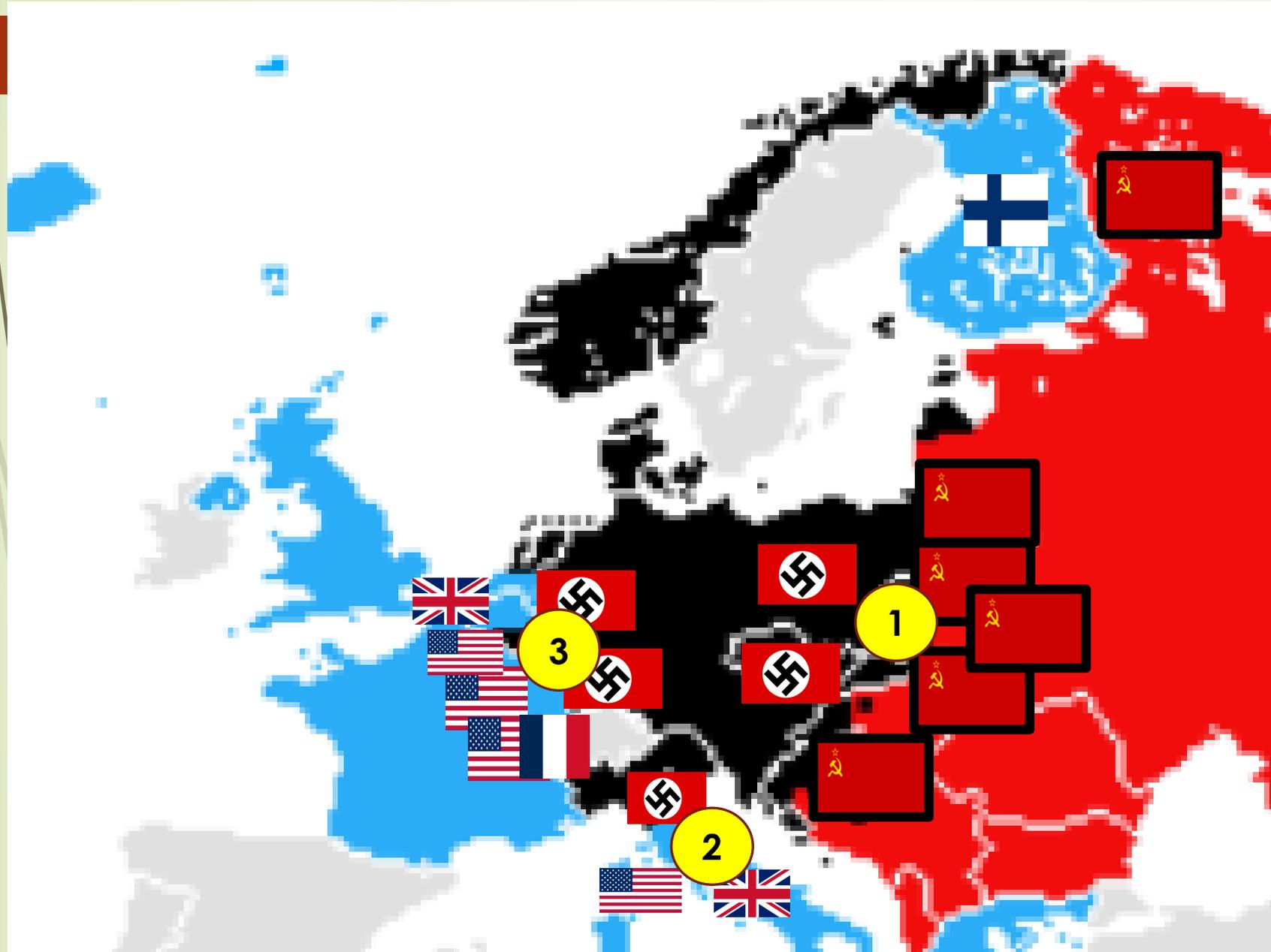
- Never close despite fusion pioneered Germany 1933
- Attempt sidelined 1943
  - Loss of expertise...Jewish scientists 33% staff...defect to USA/ UK
  - 100 scientists dedicated vs 100,000 USA
  - Readiness projected 1948...too late for Hitler
- Development delayed
  - Estimate completion 1948
  - Allies bomb research centre...kill 50% scientist

“Secret weapons no real threat to allies...too few, too late  
sets the technological foundation for future Cold War



End game

# European War December 1944



1

Russian offensive  
Has recaptured  
Ukraine , East Europe  
Approach East German

2

Allies advancing to  
N Italy, Mussolini  
“rescued” ..but will be  
Killed April

3

Allies at German border  
Free French army creat  
Have won Battle  
of Atlantic & “Masters  
of the Air”

Eisenhower, Patton, Montgomery  
...fragile and volatile but successful partnership



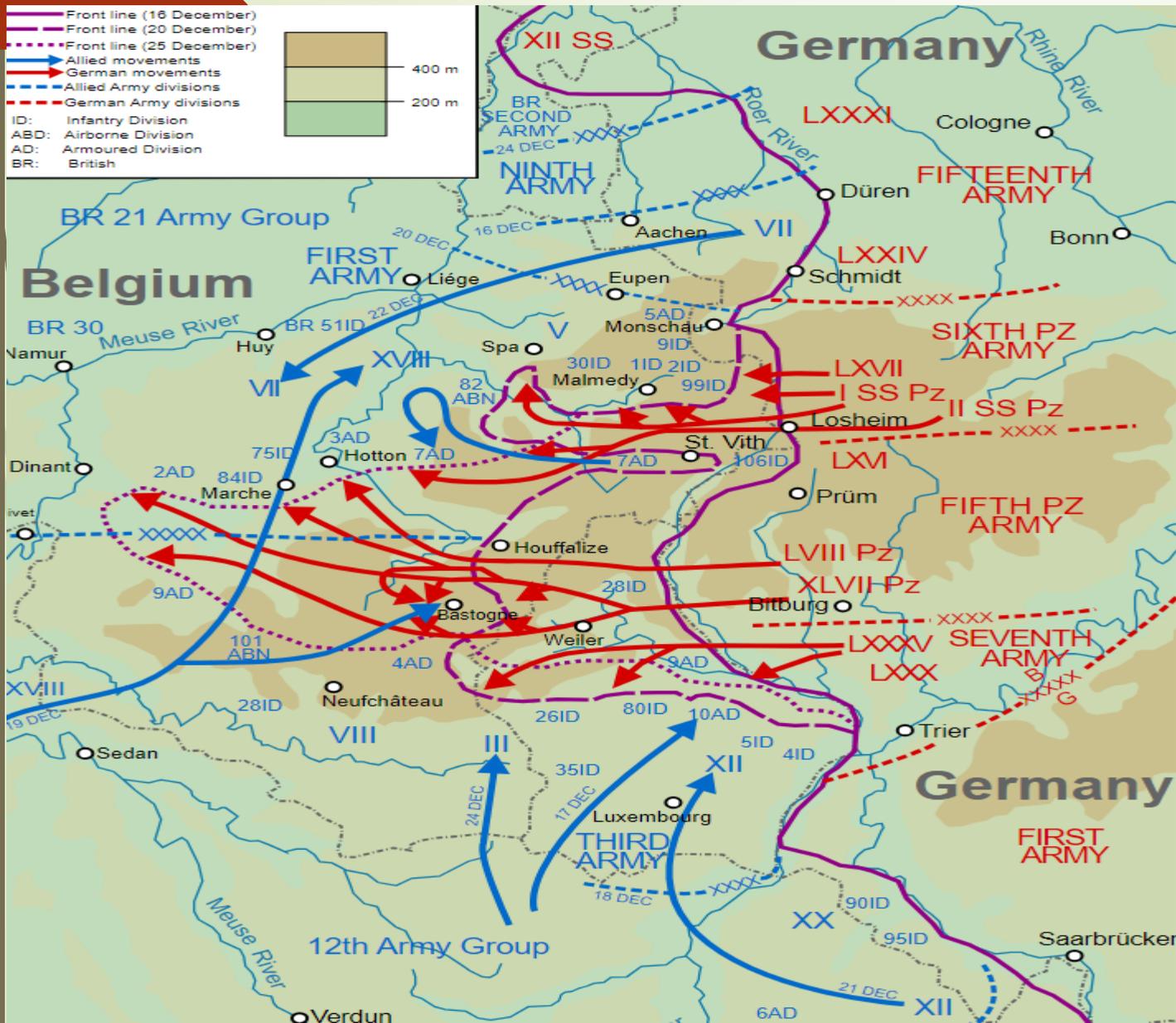
There would be one more surprise

# Battle of the “Bulge”

## German objectives

- Split American and British armies
- Occupy Antwerp
- Pivot and block Russians
  
- Allies over confident...focused on invasion plans
  
- Weather prevents allies from seeing troop build up
  
- Germans commit 410,000 men 500 tanks to attack  
....target US in Ardennes....temporary numerical advantage

# Battle of the Bulge December 16 – January 25, 1945



Attack initially successful  
 ....US 12 Army crushed  
 .....surrounded at Bastogne  
 ...panic among local commanders

Eisenhower puts Montgomery in Control....temporarily

Patton had anticipated attack  
 And advances north intercept

Americans recover, numbers increase  
 From 400,00 to 800,000 by January

Attack doomed from start...required miracle  
 and foolishness by allies to succeed

Convinces Allies Germany still strong...and  
 All precautions to be taken

# Initial German success



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Credit: Historical



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Credit: Bettmann

# German prisoners January 1945



# Yalta Conference February 1945



FDR reelected for 4<sup>th</sup> term  
...failing health  
...wants settlement agreement

Europe divided up between  
Soviet and West (and subject to  
“free and fair elections”

Unconditional surrender demanded

USSR to join war vs Japan within  
3 months German surrender

# Dresden bombing February 1945

- Dresden: untouched by war so far..considered cultural city
- Decision to bomb based on false intelligence
  - Allies believe Russian offensive stalling
  - Germans creating “Southern Redoubt”
  - Industrial capacity of city over estimated
- Mass raid destroys city February 14<sup>th</sup>/ 15<sup>th</sup>
  - 25,000 killed
  - No strategic importance, Germans retreating

One of the many WW2 tragedies...claims of “war crime” unjust, fuelled by false claims of 500,000 deaths by “revisionist historians”

Dresden...after bombing, 90% city  
destroyed...25,000 dead



# Dresden 1945





# The End

- ▶ Hitler hopes rise on death of FDR on April 12<sup>th</sup>
- ▶ Russians arrive April 15<sup>th</sup>....lose 300,000 men taking city by May 8<sup>th</sup>
- ▶ Hitlers commits suicide April 30<sup>th</sup>
- ▶ Successor Admiral Doenitz surrenders to Montgomery May 7<sup>th</sup> 1945
- ▶ Followed by surrender of all German forces

# US and Russian Troops meet up at the Elbe River May 1945







New York World-Telegram  
**NAZIS GIVE UP**  
SURRENDER TO ALLIES  
AND RUSSIA ANNOUNCED

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gettyimages®  
Credit: Bettmann



Next Talk: The war in the Pacific