

World War II**Lesson 3****MAIN IDEAS**

1. The Allies fought back against the Axis powers in North Africa and Europe.
2. Key Allied victories halted the German advance.
3. In the D-Day invasion, Allied forces attacked German-controlled France.

Key Terms and People

Battle of El Alamein battle in which Montgomery's British troops stopped Rommel's *Afrika Korps* in North Africa in November 1942

Dwight D. Eisenhower American general who commanded Allied forces in Europe; later elected U.S. president

Battle of Stalingrad key battle in which Soviets stopped German advance in winter of 1943

D-Day date of Allied sea invasion of occupied France—June 6, 1944

Lesson Summary**THE ALLIES FIGHT BACK**

When the United States entered the war, President Roosevelt met with British prime minister Winston Churchill. They decided to attack German forces in North Africa before an invasion of Europe. This angered the Soviet Union, which had been hoping for help on the eastern front.

New technology helped in the effort. Long-range planes dropped bombs on German factories, railroads, and cities. Sonar detected German U-boats.

What decision caused the Soviet Union to be angry with the Allies after the United States entered the war?

HALTING THE GERMAN ADVANCE

By 1942 the Germans and the British were fighting in North Africa. They were fighting for control of the Suez Canal. The British forces stopped the German attack at the **Battle of El Alamein**. American general **Dwight D. Eisenhower** led U.S. and British troops through

Why did the Germans and the British fight in North Africa?

Lesson 3, *continued*

Morocco and Algeria. Trapped, the Germans surrendered in May 1943.

After taking control of North Africa, the Allies moved into Europe. They attacked Italy in 1943. Italian leaders removed Mussolini from power and surrendered to the Allies. Germany sent troops to Italy to stop the Allies. German forces were not pushed out of Italy until 1945.

At the same time, German and Soviet troops were fighting on the eastern front in the Soviet Union. Hitler ordered the German troops not to retreat. However, Germany did not send enough supplies or fresh troops. The German forces surrendered due to supply shortages and the harsh winter. The Soviets blocked the German advance at the **Battle of Stalingrad**, a key turning point in the war. More than 1 million Soviet soldiers died and about 800,000 Axis soldiers were killed.

Where was the eastern front of World War II in 1943?

THE D-DAY INVASION

After succeeding in North Africa and Italy, the Allies made plans to move into France. At the time, the Germans controlled France. General Eisenhower was in charge of planning the largest sea-to-land invasion ever attempted. The invasion took place on **D-Day**, named for the “designated day” of the attack—June 6, 1944.

More than 156,000 Allied troops landed on five beaches in Normandy, France. The Germans had placed mines and soldiers along the coast to repel the invasion. Although they suffered heavy losses, the Allies took control of all five beaches by the end of D-Day. Then they could begin moving east through France toward Germany.

Underline the name of the general in charge of the D-Day landing in France.

Why did the Allies suffer heavy casualties during the D-Day landing?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Make Inferences Imagine that you are an American soldier on D-Day. Write a

Lesson 3, *continued*

short letter home to a friend or family member
telling them what you are thinking.

Battle of El Alamein

D-Day

Battle of Stalingrad

Dwight D. Eisenhower

DIRECTIONS Use the four vocabulary words from the word bank to write a summary of what you learned in the lesson.

DIRECTIONS Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the word in the word pair that best completes the sentence.

1. The German army was stopped in North Africa at the _____. (Battle of El Alamein/Battle of Stalingrad)
2. During _____, the Allies attacked German forces with one of the largest invasion forces ever assembled. (the Battle of Stalingrad/D-Day)
3. The German loss at the _____ was a turning point on the eastern front. (Battle of El Alamein/Battle of Stalingrad)