

Start of WWII

September 1, 1939....Hitler invades Poland

- Hitler's invasion is the official start of WWII
- Great Britain and France declare war on Germany 2 days later



NAZI-Soviet Non Aggression Pact =

- signed 1 month before attack on Poland
- Hitler does not have to worry about fighting a two front war

Hitler uses new war technique...."Blitzkrieg" = lightning war

- Bomb other army with tanks and planes
- Follow with large amounts of infantry (foot soldiers)

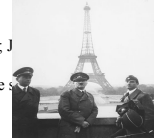
Fall of France

-- After Poland invasion, Hitler waits 7 months before he invades and captures Denmark and Norway = "Phoney War"



May 1940 -- Hitler begins his attack on France

- German troops squeeze through the Maginot Line at Ardennes
- German troops forced French and British troops to retreat to Dunkirk
 - At Dunkirk, 338,000 Br. and Fr. troops evacuated across the English Channel to Great Britain
- Italy declares war on France and Great Britain; J
- June 14, 1940 = Paris falls to Germans; France s



Battle of Britain

After France surrendered....Great Britain is the only country left fighting Germany



Winston Churchill = New British Prime Minister
"We shall never surrender"

Operation Sea Lion = Hitler's plan to defeat Great Britain

- 1) Take out the Royal Air Force (RAF)
- 2) Launch an invasion of Great Britain

- Germany bombs cities/civilian targets = try to make Britain surrender

- **London Blitz** = 100 straight days/nights of bombing on the capital, London



Reasons why England did not lose Battle of Britain

- 1) **Radar** = could detect when and where German Luftwaffe was attacking
- 2) **ENIGMA** machine = German code machine that was stolen by Britain
 - England was able to decode secret German messages



Enigma



Radar

Battle of Britain: lasted 1 year....Britain did not surrender

Hitler invades the Soviet Union

Operation Barbarossa = Hitler's plan to invade USSR

June 22, 1941 = Hitler breaks NAZI-Soviet Nonaggression pact and invades the USSR



Russian Army not prepared for "Blitzkrieg" attack....forced to retreat
- While retreating, Stalin uses the **"scorched-earth policy"**

Same strategy used against _____ !!!

Hitler tries to capture Moscow (USSR Capital)
- Harsh winter and German's lack of winter supplies allows USSR to hold on and not surrender

War in the Pacific "Theater"

Japan continues to follow aggressive policy of "expansion".....WHY??

USA stops trade with Japan....sets up an "embargo" (oil)

Japan sees the US as a threat, decide to take action.....December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor is attacked

"a date which will live in infamy"



US declares war on Japan.....Germany and Italy declare war on US....US becomes involved in WWII

USS Arizona Memorial -- Oahu, Hawaii



Bataan Death March

Japanese forced American and Phillipino prisoners of war into prison camps (1942)



Forced to walk 90 miles in extreme heat without food or water (75,000 started march, 54,000 survived)

When in camps, prisoners were:

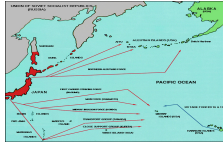
- Executed (shot)
- Be-headed
- Buried alive
- Starved to death



2 Major Battles in the Pacific

1) Battle of Midway Island

- US destroys most of Japanese fleet...force Japan to retreat



2) Battle of Iwo Jima

- "Island Hopping" -- US goes island by island to get closer to Japan

- Iwo Jima is close enough to the mainland of Japan that the U.S. could start bombing the 4 main islands



Kamikaze -- "Divine Wind"

Suicide fighter pilots who would fly their planes into American ships to cause more damage

Banzai -- Suicide charge of infantry (rather die than surrender)

