

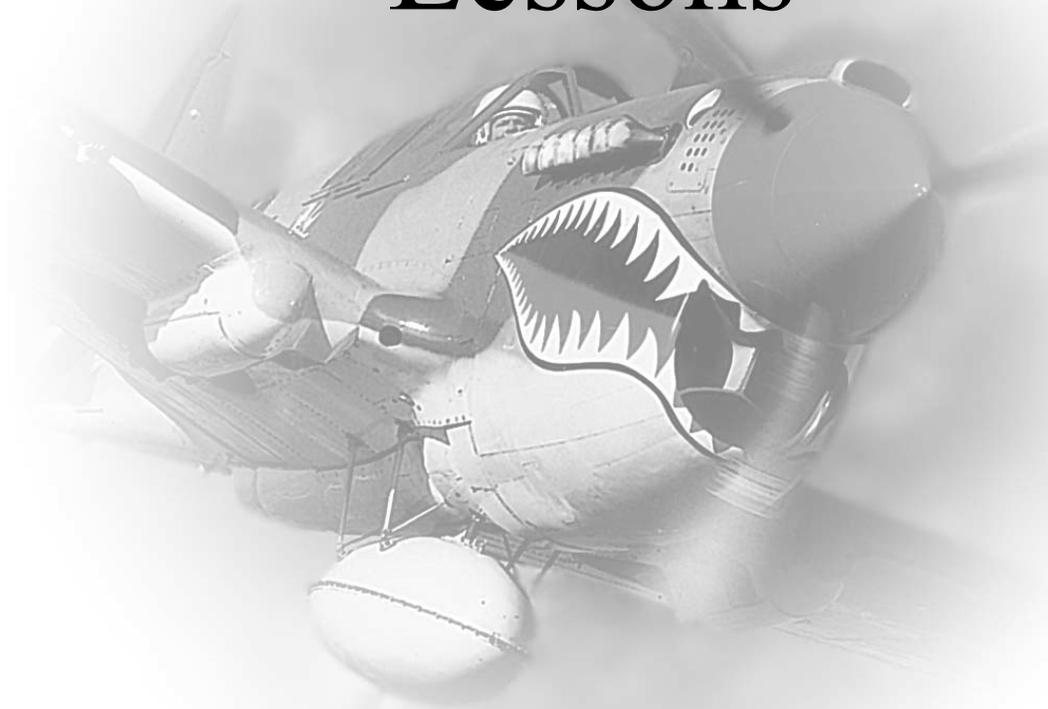








# Lessons





















# Inspiration One

Ronald M. Auen Learning Center First Flight Experience  
Palm Springs Air Museum

**Who** can participate? Local youth 12 to 17 years of age with a serious interest in becoming a pilot or to be in a program on a flight track.

**When** Five individuals will be selected in the active program months. There is a high demand to participate in the program and space is limited.

## The Experience

- Each aspiring pilot will receive an introduction to the Palm Springs Air Museum and receive a *First Flight* shirt and flight log.
- Next, participants will be introduced to the Cessna 182 Skylane, Inspiration One, and the pilot.
- Then they will board, taxi and take off for an approximately 30-minute flight next to the pilot.
- After landing, participants will receive a certificate commemorating their flight.



Cessna 180 Skyland































## Lesson 6: Life on the Home Front

In this lesson, students learn about the support and sacrifices of the American people on the home front. Beginning with President Roosevelt’s Fireside Chat and a discussion of rationed materials, students research the impact of World War II on American industry. They study the role of women in industry and the establishment of Japanese Relocation Centers. Using the “Rules of Conduct” for soldiers, students create their own “Rules of Conduct” for the home front. The lesson concludes with a discussion of life on the home front today.

### Learning Objectives:

- Analyze a historically significant speech to find the rhetorical devices and features that make it memorable (Roosevelt’s “Fireside Chat” of December 9, 1941).
- Demonstrate an understanding of the effects that World War II had on the home front.
- Conduct research to describe the war’s impact on American industry.
- Write an expository composition, and orally present the major ideas and supporting evidence.
- Analyze art elements and principles of design to assess and derive meaning from the poster art of World War II.

## LESSON ACTIVITIES

### Activity #1 Fireside Chat December 9, 1941

Materials needed: For each pair of students, a copy of Handout #29, page 81, an excerpt from the *Fireside Chat December 9, 1941*.

In his Fireside Chats throughout the war, Roosevelt called for action from those on the home front. To each pair of students, distribute a copy of Handout #29, *Fireside Chat December 9, 1941*. Have students read the excerpt on the handout and work together to identify:

- What actions did the President suggest to meet the demands of war?
- How did Roosevelt frame his appeal for sacrifice? How effective were his appeals?
- What items were rationed?
- What arguments did Roosevelt use to support rationing?
- What would you be willing to sacrifice for your country during a time of war?

Note: You can access the full text of the Fireside Chat December 9, 1941 at <https://millercenter.org/the-presidency/presidential-speeches/december-9-1941-fireside-chat-19-war-japan> or scan the above barcode.

Scroll to the section that begins: *On the road ahead there lies hard work—grueling work—day and night, every hour and every minute. I was about to add that ahead there lies sacrifice for all of us.*

Explain to students that as the war progressed, the list of rationed items grew. The war transformed the American economy; factories converted from the production of consumer goods to war machinery and ammunition; queues for food replaced the lines of unemployed workers; and, women were urged to enter the workforce in factories that had previously closed their doors to female employees.



*We Can Do It!* by J. Howard Miller

Of all the images of working women during World War II, the image of women in factories predominates. Rosie the Riveter—the strong, competent woman dressed in overalls and bandanna—was introduced as a symbol of patriotic womanhood. The accouterments of war work—uniforms, tools, and lunch pails—were incorporated into the revised image of the feminine ideal.



Full text of  
Roosevelt's  
Fireside Chat  
December 9, 1941



































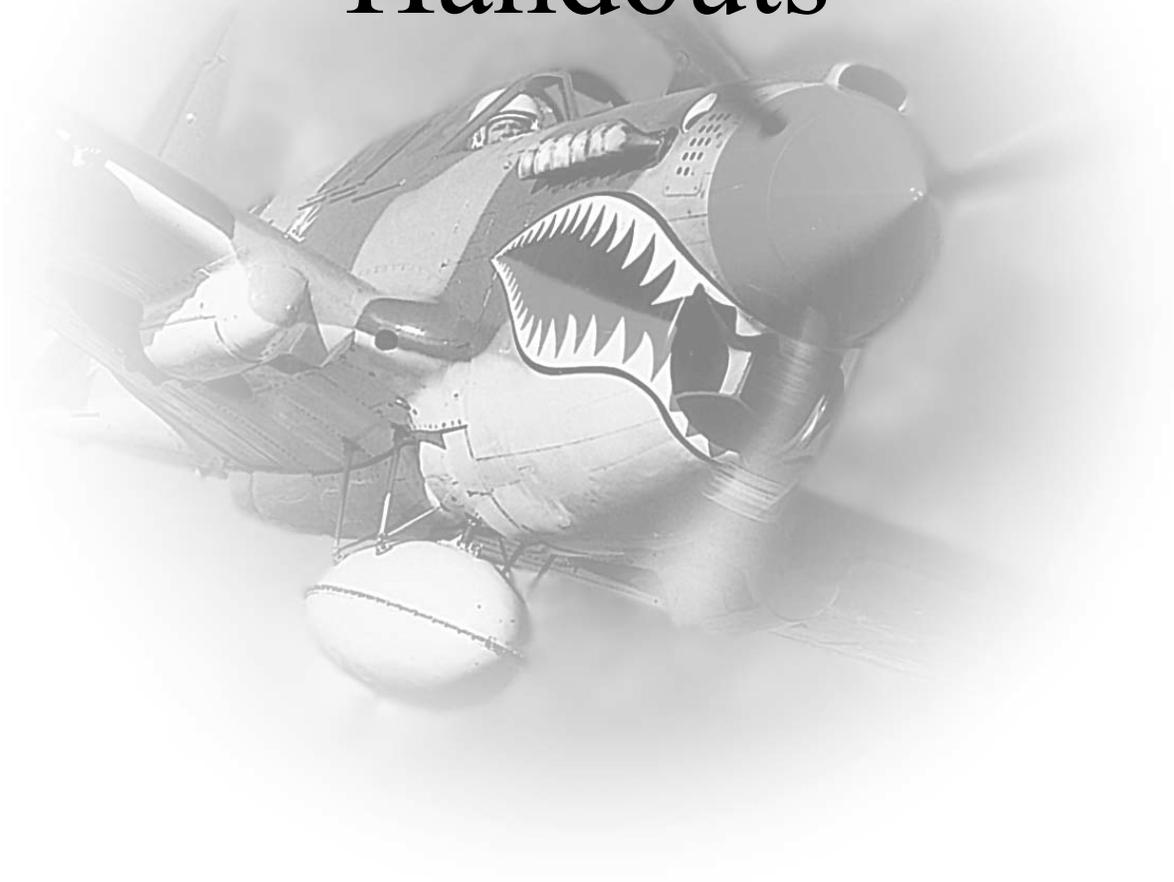








# Handouts















The attack ~~on the Hawaiian Islands~~ <sup>the Hawaiian Islands</sup> yesterday on ~~the Hawaiian Islands~~ <sup>the Hawaiian Islands</sup> has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ~~ships~~ ships have been torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

~~Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive~~ <sup>Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending</sup> ~~throughout the Pacific area.~~ <sup>throughout the Pacific area.</sup> The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications ~~of these attacks~~ <sup>of these attacks</sup> ~~on the safety of our nation.~~ <sup>on the safety of our nation.</sup>

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy I have ~~directed~~ directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Long will we remember the character of the onslaught against us.

(A) No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people will in their righteous might win through to absolute victory.

Page 3 of the speech included the following edits:

I speak the will of the Congress and of the people of this country when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will see to it that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again. [<sup>new paragraph</sup>] Hostilities exist. There is no mincing the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.

I, therefore, ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December seventh, a state of war ~~exists~~ [<sup>has existed</sup>] between the United States and the Japanese Empire.







## Handout #8

# Armed Forces Personnel on Duty Today

(In 2021, by Service Branch and Reserve Component)

Army Active Duty	482,416
Navy Active Duty	343,223
Army National Guard	337,525
Air Force Active Duty	328,888
Army Reserve	184,358
Marine Corp Active Duty	179,378
Air National Guard	108,483
Air Force Reserve	70,570
Navy Reserve	57,632
Marine Corp Reserve	35,240
Space Force Active Duty	1,643

The U.S. Army had the highest number of active-duty personnel in 2021, with 482,416 troops. In the same year, the Space Force had the fewest number of active-duty members, with 1,643.

### Largest armies in the world ranked by active military personnel in 2022

The United States military is the third largest army in the world, behind China and India.

In 2022, China had the largest armed forces in the world by active-duty military personnel, with about 2 million active soldiers. The others include India (1,450,000), the United States (1,390,000), North Korea 1,200,000, and Russia (830,000) rounded out the top five largest armies.









# Handout #13

## Jacqueline Lee Cochran

Pioneer American aviator and celebrated race pilot who contributed to the formation of the wartime Women's Auxiliary Army Corps and the Women Airforce Service Pilots during WW II

*(11 May 1906 – 9 August 1980)*



In the early 1930s Jackie Cochran learned to fly after only three weeks of lessons. Within two years she had a commercial pilot's license and flew in her first of many major races. She worked with famed pilot Amelia Earhart to win respect and break down barriers thrown in the way of women pilots.

By 1938 Jackie Cochran was considered to be the best female pilot in the United States.

Recognizing that the United States would be drawn into war, Jackie Cochran began lobbying to have the military recruit women pilots. In 1939, after Germany invaded Poland, she wrote to First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt urging her to intercede on behalf of forming a women's

division of the Army Air Force. Mrs. Roosevelt urged adoption saying that women pilots were a "weapon waiting to be used." When nothing came of her recommendation, Cochran and several other American women joined the British Air Transportation Auxiliary to assist the Royal Air Force during the Battle of Britain.

In 1942 the Air Force Chief of Staff invited Jackie to return to the U.S. and organize a Women's Flying Training Detachment which later became the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). WASP pilots had remarkable success. They flew every plane the Army had in their inventory including the B-29 Superfortress, a plane that male pilots were hesitant to fly because of mechanical difficulties during testing.

Under the direction of Jackie Cochran, women pilots began to tow targets for aerial gunnery practice, assumed the duties of flight instructors, and ran check flights on repaired aircraft before returning them to service. Jackie Cochran and the women of the WASP performed an important service for the nation.

In 1953 Cochran became the first woman to break the sound barrier. A long-time resident of the Coachella Valley, she regularly utilized Thermal Airport over the course of her long aviation career. It was renamed the "Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport" in her honor.



While visiting the Palm Springs Air Museum, look in the European Hangar for the display case featuring Jackie Cochran.









# Handout #18

## Women in the Armed Services

During World War I some 80,000 women served in non-combatant roles in the military but without benefit of official status. Thus, after their service, they were unable to claim benefits, including disability or pensions. Many had served at front-line medical stations and suffered as did combat soldiers from the shock of exploding shells and poison gas attacks.

Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers, in the late 1930s, was unsuccessful in introducing legislation to establish equal opportunities for women in the armed services largely because of public attitudes that a woman's place was in the home. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt encouraged Rogers to pursue her efforts despite opposition from the military and a number of Southern congressmen.



In May 1941, in an attempt to win support, Rogers proposed legislation that would establish a Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. Congressional and military opposition lessened since this would be an "auxiliary" corps implying that it would not grant full military status to the women who joined. Even so, the bill was stalled until the Army Chief of Staff, General George C. Marshall, urged passage. In July 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt signed into law authorization for women's units in all branches of the armed services.

The Navy bill, Public Law 689, established the Navy Women's Reserve (WAVES). The stated purpose of the law was "To expedite the war effort by releasing officers and men for duty at sea and their replacement by women in the shore establishment of the Navy, and for other purposes." The Navy specified that women would be restricted "to the performance of shore duty within the continental United States only and shall not be assigned to duty on board vessels of the Navy or in combat aircraft."

The same law authorized the Coast Guard and the Marine Corps to establish women's units. The Coast Guard set up a women's reserve called the SPARS, an acronym using letters of the Coast Guard motto, Semper Paratus-Always Ready.

The Leadership in the Marine Corps opposed setting up a women's reserve and held back for several months. With the high number of Marine casualties in the Pacific war, the Marine Commandant relented and the Marine Corps Women's Reserve (MCWR) was established.

The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) was also created in 1942. One of the first duties of WAAC was to serve at Aircraft Warning Service stations. Within a year of being formed, the WAAC became the Women's Army Corps (WAC). Almost half their volunteers served with the Army Air Force and worked as aircraft mechanics. Some WACs volunteered as flight nurses, a strenuous job that could take them into range of enemy fire. Over 150,000 women served as WAC offering vital assistance to the Army and Army Air Force.



































# Handout #31

## Rules of Conduct



Available online at <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/lslips.htm> or scan the barcode.

### WRITING HOME

THINK! Where does the enemy get his information – information that can out you, and has put your comrades, adrift on an open sea: information that has lost battles and can lose more, unless you personally, vigilantly, perform your duty in SAFEGUARDING MILITARY INFORMATION.

### THERE ARE TEN PROHIBITED SUBJECTS

1. Don't write military information of Army units—their location, strength, material or equipment.
2. Don't write of military installations.
3. Don't write of transportation facilities.
4. Don't write of convoys, their routes, ports, time en route, naval protection, or war incidents occurring en route.
5. Don't disclose movements of ships, naval or merchant, troops, or aircraft.
6. Don't mention plans and forecasts or orders for future operations, whether known or just your guess.
7. Don't write about the effects of enemy operations.
8. Don't tell of any casualty until released by proper authority (The Adjunct General) and then only using the full name of the casualty.
9. Don't attempt to formulate or use a code system, cipher, or shorthand, or any other means to conceal the true meaning of your letter. Violations of this regulation will result in severe punishment.
10. Don't give your location in any way except as authorized by proper authority. Be sure nothing you write discloses a more specific location than the authorized one.

### TALK

SILENCE MEANS SECURITY – If violation of protective measures is serious within written communication it is disastrous in conversations. Protect your conversation as you do your letters, and be even more careful. A harmful letter can be nullified by censorship; loose talk is direct delivery to the enemy.

If you come home during war your lips must remain sealed and your written hand must be guided by self-imposed censorship. This takes guts. Have you got them or do you want your buddies and your country to pay the price for your showing off. You've faced the battlefield; it's little enough as you to face this 'home front.'

### CAPTURE

Most enemy intelligence comes from prisoners. If captured, you are required to give only three facts: YOUR NAME, YOUR GRADE, YOUR ARMY SERIAL NUMBER. Don't talk, don't try to fake stories and use every effort to destroy all papers. Do not carry personal letters on your person; they tell much about you, and the envelope has on it your unit and organization.

















# Handout #40

## The Battle for Britain:

### An Island Saved by Air Power

July 1940 – May 1941

Britain and France declared war on Germany after the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939. Poland fell in less than a month and a period known as the “Phony War” followed with little activity other than skirmishes along the French border. Neither Britain nor France was involved in an all-out war. Nazi forces struck Norway and Denmark in April and by May had advanced into France. British and French troops were surrounded at Dunkirk leading toward the mass evacuation of Allied troops across the English Channel. When France fell in June, the Germans began to prepare for Operation Sea Lion, an invasion of Britain. Before launching an invasion, the British Royal Air Force (RAF) had to be destroyed. Herman Goering, head of the Luftwaffe, committed Messerschmitt fighter aircraft, Stuka dive bombers, Junka fast bombers, and Dornier light bombers to the battle which the British said began on July 10.

The RAF’s Hawker Hurricane and the Spitfire with a Rolls-Royce engine formed the backbone of British defense. The British had developed radar in the 1930s that served well during the Battle for Britain directing RAF fighters toward German aircraft crossing the Channel.

Nazis bases in France launched wave after wave of aircraft to strike at RAF bases. On August 13, 1940, 1500 missions flew across the English Channel targeting industrial centers and airfields. On August 24, German bombers raided central London. In retaliation, Prime Minister Churchill ordered a reprisal attack on Berlin. Angered by the bombing of Berlin, Goering changed strategy striking at urban centers and neglecting the original plan to destroy the RAF.

Some websites you may wish to check:



#### The Battle of Britain

The Royal Air Force site provides historic photographs, official reports, detailed information, statistics, and tactics. <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/16-amazing-photos-from-the-battle-of-britain>

#### Battle of Britain - Wikipedia

The Battle of Britain includes RAF and Luftwaffe strategy, statistics including the number of planes and losses during the campaign. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Britain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Britain)



#### The Battle of Britain

The early warning system known as radar was one of the most important contributory factors to the success of the air defenses during the Battle of Britain  
<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/how-radar-gave-britain-the-edge-in-the-battle-of-britain>

## Handout #41

# The Coral Sea: Naval Battle Fought in the Air

May 7 - 8, 1942

Admiral Yamamoto, the architect of the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, had warned that an attack on the U.S. would “awaken a sleeping giant.” Yamamoto believed that it would take U.S. industry only six months to begin to replenish lost ships and threaten Japanese power in the Pacific. Yamamoto was convinced that a decisive battle must be fought before the U.S. could become stronger. An attack on Port Moresby, New Guinea, could force a weakened American fleet into combat in the Coral Sea. U.S. intelligence had broken the Japanese naval code and had accurate information about a planned attack on Port Moresby.

The Japanese were certain that an assault of Port Moresby would bring American aircraft carriers into combat. Fleet Commander Yamamoto had planned to destroy American carriers with the attack on Pearl Harbor, but they had not been in port on December 7. Aircraft carriers were a threat to the Japanese and must be destroyed for Japan to maintain its superiority.

On May 7, Japanese and American carriers launched aircraft searching for one another’s fleet. Neither was successful. The next day planes located enemy ships. Carrier aircraft waged the battle rather than a duel between naval vessels. The Battle of the Coral Sea was the first naval battle in history in which warships of opposing fleets did not fire a single shot at one another. Admiral Chester Nimitz was the Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet and Rear Admiral Frank Fletcher was operational commander during the Battle of the Coral Sea.

Douglas Dauntless dive-bombers, Douglas TBD Devastator torpedo planes and the Grumman F4F Wildcats made up the U.S. air strike force during the battle.



Some websites you may wish to check:

Battle of the Coral Sea

History of the battle with a few photographs and biographies.

[http://www.microworks.net/PACIFIC/battles/coral\\_sea.htm](http://www.microworks.net/PACIFIC/battles/coral_sea.htm)

The Battle of Coral Sea

History of the naval battle that saved New Guinea and Australia.

<https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/world-war-two/the-pacific-war-1941-to-1945/the-battle-of-coral-sea/>



Battle of the Coral Sea

A historical overview and special image selection on the Battle of the Coral Sea from the Naval History and Heritage Command <https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/nhhc/search.html?q=Coral+Sea+Battle>

The Battle of the Coral Sea 1942: The First Aircraft Carrier Battle in History - YouTube



## Handout #42

# Midway: Five Minutes that Changed the War

June 4-5, 1942

Just four months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States, on April 18, 1942, struck at the heart of the Japanese Empire with a daring air raid on Tokyo, Nagoya, and Yokohama. This was the first time bombers were launched from an aircraft carrier. The raid had little strategic impact other than inflicting a major psychological blow on Japan and raising American spirits from the doldrums that had set in after Pearl Harbor. The Japanese did not believe that the raid was launched from an aircraft carrier and suspected that they had departed from Midway. The Japanese general staff had planned to attack American Samoa and Fiji, but after the Doolittle Raid, they decided to change plans and invade Midway.

Fleet Commander Admiral Yamamoto, the architect on the attack on Pearl Harbor, devised a plan for a surprise attack at Midway. His plan included a diversionary assault at Dutch Harbor in the Aleutian Islands to draw American carriers away from Midway. The Japanese planned to strike Midway from four fleet carriers and three light carriers in preparation for landing troops. The plan assumed that planes from carriers and the battleships in the Japanese convoy would ambush U.S. ships lured out of Pearl Harbor to defend Midway.

The Japanese were unaware that their code had been broken and that the surprise attack they had planned was known. Yamamoto also mistakenly believed that the U.S. aircraft carrier Yorktown had been sunk or too badly damaged to be among the U.S. carriers at Midway. And he was certain that the carriers Hornet and Enterprise would be sent to defend the Aleutian Islands.

Some websites you may wish to check:



The Battle of Midway, 1942

Eyewitness account of the pivotal battle of World War II in the Pacific.

[www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/midway.htm](http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/midway.htm)

Battle of Midway

The Battle of Midway, fought in June 1942, must be considered one of the most decisive battles of World War Two. [www.historylearningsite.co.uk/battle\\_of\\_midway.htm](http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/battle_of_midway.htm)



The Battle of Midway 1942: Told from the Japanese Perspective

[https://youtu.be/Bd8\\_vO5zrjo](https://youtu.be/Bd8_vO5zrjo)

# Handout #43

## Stalingrad: Inferno on the Volga

July 17, 1942 – February 2, 1943

Germany, on June 22, 1941, launched an invasion of the Soviet Union known as “Operation Barbarossa” sending the Wehrmacht, the German army, across the border. The Germans planned a quick sweep through Russia in a three-pronged attack. Army Group North would invade along the Baltic into northern Russia toward Leningrad. Army Group Center was to advance toward Moscow. Army Group South was to strike through the Ukraine, take Kiev and the Soviet Union’s agricultural heartland. Armies were to move at rapid speed to capture Moscow before winter. Hitler was reported to have said of Communist Russia, “We have only to kick in the door and the whole rotten structure will come crashing down.”

German forces reached Leningrad in September but were unable to take the city which resisted a siege that lasted until January 1944. The Wehrmacht captured Kiev in late September and by early October, Army Group Center was at gates of Moscow but faced a series of Soviet counterattacks in defense of the capital. Stiff Soviet resistance and a brutal winter stopped the Nazi advance.

In the spring of 1942 the Wehrmacht shifted from Moscow to the south advancing to Stalingrad, a major industrial city on the Volga River, and to protect the left flank of Army Group South as it moved toward the Caspian Sea and the oil rich Caucasus. Hitler also desired to either knock the Soviet Union out of the war or minimize fighting on the Eastern Front before American armed forces could get too deeply involved in the European war.

Some websites you may wish to check:



Battle of Stalingrad - Wikipedia

Background on the battle of Stalingrad, statistical information about the battle, military leaders, and photographs of street fighting.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Stalingrad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Stalingrad)

Battle of Stalingrad – The History Channel

The Battle of Stalingrad was a brutal military campaign between Russian forces and those of Nazi Germany and the Axis powers <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/battle-of-stalingrad>



Battle of Stalingrad

The German objectives in the campaign and the stubborn Russian defense in one of the fiercest battles of the war. [www.sixthscalebattle.com/whats\\_new.html](http://www.sixthscalebattle.com/whats_new.html)

# Handout #44

## Normandy: The Longest Day

June 6, 1944

OPERATION OVERLORD, the invasion of France, had been in the planning stages since the summer of 1942. The Soviet Union had long urged the opening of a major front in Western Europe in order to force Germany to withdraw troops and material from the Russian front. By late 1943, American troops and materials were being gathered in Britain in preparation for the invasion. General Dwight David Eisenhower was placed in command of the operation.

Germany had long expected an attack in France and Field Marshal Erwin Rommel proposed the construction of the “Atlantic Wall,” placing infantry and artillery in a strong belt across the French coast. Barriers to prevent landing craft protected beachheads and mines seeded in the waters along the French coast.

During an Allied rehearsal of a landing off the English coast in April, German torpedo boats struck killing 638. The Allies feared attack plans were known and devised a deception plan to make the Germans believe the landings were planned across the Strait of Dover in northeastern France or Belgium.

The Allies planned to land forces on beaches along 50 miles between Cherbourg and La Havre in Normandy. The region was divided into five landing areas code named Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword. Utah and Omaha beaches were designated as American while the others were the responsibility of British and Canadian forces. Over 1,200 warships and 4,126 amphibious craft were assembled for the invasion. Success of the invasion depended on the element of surprise, heavy naval bombardment of German fortifications, and air supremacy over the English Channel and northern France.

Some websites you may wish to check:



D-Day June 6, 1944, PBS, American Experience

Participants describe the planning and execution of the Normandy invasion during World War II, and the battle for the French beaches.

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/dday/>

D-Day

The US Army remembers June 6, 1944: D-Day in Normandy, France. Video, audio, photos, posters, and maps tell the story. [www.army.mil/d-day/](http://www.army.mil/d-day/)



D-Day, the Normandy Invasion

Information about the invasion of Normandy, France, with links to oral histories and Department of the Navy photographs.

<https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/nhhc/search.html?q=DDay+Normandy+Invasion>

## Handout #45

# Battle of Leyte Gulf: Return to the Philippines

July 17, 1942 – February 2, 1943

The Battle of Leyte Gulf was the largest naval battle in recent history. It was fought during the Pacific War of World War II, in the seas surrounding the Philippine island of Leyte from 23 October to 26 October 1944 between the Allies and the Empire of Japan. The Battle of Leyte Gulf was a decisive air and sea battle of World War II that crippled the Japanese Combined Fleet, permitted U.S. invasion of the Philippines, and reinforced the Allies' control of the Pacific. The Battle of Leyte Gulf is remembered as the biggest naval battle ever fought. It spanned more than 100,000 square miles of sea and is ranked as one of the most decisive military engagements of all time.

The Empire of Japan launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, by local Hawaiian time; December 8 in the Philippines which is on the other side of the International Date Line. Within a week the Japanese army invaded the Philippines and advanced toward the American and Philippine positions on the Bataan Peninsula and the fortifications on Corregidor Island guarding the capital, Manila. U.S. forces held off the Japanese until May when forced to surrender. Before the fall of Corregidor, General Douglas MacArthur, commander of forces in the Philippines, had been ordered to leave by President Franklin Roosevelt and relocate to Australia. Upon reaching Australia, MacArthur said, "I came out of Bataan, and I shall return."

In 1944, President Roosevelt, General MacArthur, and Admiral Chester Nimitz met in Hawaii to decide on strategy. Nimitz and MacArthur disagreed on a plan of action. Nimitz wanted to strike the Japanese off the island of Formosa (Taiwan) bypassing the Philippines while MacArthur wanted to land on the island of Mindanao and drive north across the islands to Luzon and the capital. Roosevelt sided with MacArthur and plans were drawn up for an invasion on the southern island of Mindanao.

At the last minute, plans shifted when Fleet Admiral William "Bull" Halsey recommended sidestepping Mindanao and striking the Japanese at Leyte in the central Philippines. Vice Admiral Kindaid's Seventh Fleet with 738 vessels, including landing craft, was under the overall command of General MacArthur. Admiral Halsey, commander of the powerful Third Fleet, was under Admiral Nimitz. The Third Fleet had eight fleet carriers, five battleships, light carriers, destroyers, and cruisers. The American fleet was far greater than the Japanese, but the lack of an overall naval commander could cause confusion in the forthcoming battle.



The Battle of Leyte Gulf: Naval History and Heritage Command

<https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/wars-conflicts-and-operations/world-war-ii/1944/battle-of-leyte-gulf.html>

Glorious Death: The Battle of Leyte Gulf, October 23rd -- 25th, 1944

The four-day battle of Leyte Gulf in October 1944 marked the eclipse of Imperial Japanese naval power. [www.microworks.net/PACIFIC/battles/leyte\\_gulf.htm](http://www.microworks.net/PACIFIC/battles/leyte_gulf.htm)



Battle of Leyte Gulf - Wikipedia

The Battle of Leyte Gulf, also referred to as the "Second Battle for the Philippines," provides an overview of the battle with photographs, maps, and statistical information.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Leyte\\_Gulf](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Leyte_Gulf)

# Handout #46

## Bastogne: The Battle of the Bulge

December 16, 1944 – January 25, 1945

The Allies quickly advanced across France after the Normandy landing in June 1944. In August, the Allies launched another invasion in Southern France putting more pressure on the German forces in Western Europe. Soviet advances on the Eastern Front seemed to spell the end of the Nazi regime.

Successes since D-Day, however, caused problems for the Allies. At the time of the Normandy invasion, allied air power had been used effectively to destroy bridges, railroads, and highways in France to prevent a German offensive. This made it difficult to get supplies to the extended Allied front from the deepwater French port of Cherbourg. The port of Antwerp, Belgium, was the answer to the supply problem. British and Canadian forces finally drove the Germans from areas around Antwerp in November. But, it was not until December 14, 1944 that supplies began to flow through Antwerp to the front lines.

The Germans, desperately low on troops and supplies, devised a plan to launch a surprise offensive through the Ardennes Forest along the French, Luxembourg, and Belgian borders. In order to be successful, the attack must be a complete surprise. The offensive had to be planned for a time when weather conditions would prevent the Allies from using their superior air power for reconnaissance or in combat. The Nazis also wanted to take advantage of the long-running feud between British General Montgomery and American General George Patton whose forces were along the German border. If successful, Antwerp could be retaken and four complete British and American armies would be surrounded. The Germans believed that a decisive victory could end the war in Western Europe through a negotiated settlement. Once Britain and the U.S. agreed to peace terms, the German army could concentrate on Soviet forces on the Eastern Front.

Some websites you may wish to check:



**Battle of the Bulge – PBS, American Experience**

The biggest and bloodiest single battle American soldiers ever fought, one in which nearly 80,000 Americans were killed, maimed, or captured. The website includes the film synopsis and transcript, timeline, photographs, and much more.

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/bulge/>

**Battle of the Bulge – Wesley Johnson’s Battle of the Bulge**

A comprehensive website with maps, detailed information about the battle, and links to the 7th Armored Division website with personal accounts of combatants.

<http://www.7tharmdiv.org/bulge/>



**General Anthony McAuliffe – Wikipedia**

General McAuliffe of the 101st Airborne Division refused to surrender to German forces at Bastogne. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony\\_McAuliffe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_McAuliffe)

















# Appendices















