

US History
World War II - Europe

Learning Target:

I can examine how the Axis advance was stopped and Stalingrad in Russia and El Alamein in Egypt.

3. Stalingrad & El Alamein

Background –

- By the time of Pearl Harbor the Axis controlled much of Europe and the Mediterranean Region
- Bulgaria, Hungary, & Romania joined the Axis
- Yugoslavia, France, & Greece had been occupied
- Throughout 1942 the Axis kept winning one victory after another

Stalingrad –

- German troops had penetrated deep into the Soviet Union capturing industry and farms
- By winter the Germans were closing in on Moscow
- Summer of 1942 the Germans turned south towards Stalingrad and fought to control the city

Soviets Trap the Germans –

- Soviets refused to surrender and surrounded the city trapping the Germans inside
- Hitler refused to allow his troops to surrender even though they were low on food
- January 1943 the Axis surrendered at Stalingrad with 200,000 casualties
- The Soviets suffered over 1 million casualties

El Alamein –

Axis Invasion –

- Axis forces had launched an invasion of North Africa through Italy
- German and Italian forces under Erwin Rommel advanced to El Alamein, Egypt
- Were trying to get to the Suez Canal and the oil fields of the Middle East

An Allied Victory –

- Rommel was a skilled commander but had a shortage of men and supplies
- British commander, Bernard Montgomery, rushed Rommel's troops at El Alamein
- British won and pushed the Germans out of Egypt into Libya

Conclusions –

- Victories at Stalingrad & El Alamein broke the momentum of the Axis
- “Before El Alamein we never had a victory. After Alamein we never had a defeat.”*
-Winston Churchill