

## US History World War II – Europe

### Learning Target:

*I can analyze how the Allies successfully invaded Normandy and liberated France.*

### 5. Europe – Operation Overlord (The Invasion of Normandy: D-Day)

#### *Background –*

- Allies had weakened Germany in three key areas
  - The battles in the Atlantic
  - The invasion of North Africa & Italy
  - The continued bombing of Germany
- Allied dominance in these three areas allowed them to start planning the invasion of German-occupied France

#### *Operation Overlord –*

- The Allied invasion of German-occupied France

#### George C. Marshall –

- Led the planning of Operation Overlord for the allied forces
- Remained in Washington during the invasion to advise FDR

#### General Eisenhower –

- Commanded the invasion instead of Marshall

#### Location –

- Allies landed in Normandy on June 6, 1944
- Known as D-Day
- Allies had issued false information leading the Germans to believe the main invasion would happen further north – Operation Fortitude

#### Troops & Supplies –

- 150,000 US, British, and Canadian soldiers went across the English Channel
- Used 5000 troop transports, landing crafts, and warships
- 23,000 troops also parachuted behind enemy lines

#### Landing Zones –

- The invasion planned for troops to land on five different beaches
- US troops would land at Utah & Omaha
- British troops would land at Gold & Juno
  
- Some of the fiercest fighting would happen at Omaha beach

## ***The Invasion Begins –***

### The Landing –

- Germans had fortified the beaches with concrete bunkers, tank traps, and land mines
- Allied troops met fierce opposition from the Germans and thousands died
- The allied campaign of false information worked and Hitler refused to send in reinforcements to Normandy
- Hitler was convinced the main invasion would happen elsewhere

### The March Inland –

- Allies managed to penetrate 20 miles into France by early July with the aid of French resistance
- August 25, 1944 the allies liberated Paris
- By September 2 million allied troops had landed in Western Europe

### Three Fronts Develop –

- Allied forces marched from Normandy east towards Germany
- Another allied force drove northward from the Mediterranean
- Soviet troops also marched west from Russia