

US History World War II

Learning Target:

I can analyze the Nazi's last offensive at Bastogne, The Battle of the Bulge and the eventual defeat of Adolf Hitler and the Nazis.

7. The Defeat of Germany

- Following Normandy the German situation was extremely poor in WWII
- Hitler refused to give up and began launching his first V-2 rockets towards Britain & Belgium illustrating Hitler still had a lot of fight left in him

The Battle of the Bulge –

Allies Cross The German Border –

- September 1944 the allies finally entered Germany
- Allies paused to bring in supplies and regroup
- During this pause the Germans launched their final attack

Attack at the Ardennes Region of Belgium –

- In heavy snow the Germans attacked the Allies
- They pushed deep westward creating a dangerous bulge in the Allied lines
- 200,000 Germans attacked 80,000 US troops until reinforcements could be sent

Bastogne –

- Germans completely surrounded the Americans at Bastogne in Belgium
- The Nazis called for US surrender,
 - General McAuliff famously said “NUTS” and refused
- The allies rushed in reinforcements and pushed the Germans back
- By January 1945 the German offensive had failed

The Yalta Conference –

Location –

- Yalta on the Crimean Peninsula in the Ukraine

The Big 3 -

- The main participants at the conference
 - Franklin D. Roosevelt – U.S.A.
 - Winston Churchill – Great Britain
 - Joseph Stalin – Soviet Union

Purpose –

- To plan for postwar peace following the defeat of Hitler

Agreements Reached –

- Stalin pledged to declare war on Japan three months after Germany's surrender
- Agreed to divide and occupy Germany & Berlin following the war
- Outlined plans for a new international peace organization (United Nations)

Roosevelt Win's Fourth Term –

- Urgency of the war convinced Roosevelt to run for his fourth term
- Won easily with Harry Truman as his running mate
- April 12, 1945 – FDR will suddenly die of a massive cerebral hemorrhage

The Allies Reach Berlin –

Continued Bombings –

- During the early months of 1945 the Allies continued to bomb key German cities
- Leipzig & Berlin were two key targets
- Thousands of German soldiers & civilians died in these bombings

The Race To Berlin –

March 1945 –

- The Allies crossed the Rhine River into the heart of Germany
- The Soviets occupied most of Eastern Europe

Churchill vs. Eisenhower –

- Churchill wanted Gen. Eisenhower to hurry to Berlin before the Soviets
- Was worried that the Soviets would lay claim to all territories they seized
- Eisenhower was unwilling to allow politics influence his strategy
- Stopped at the Elbe River outside Berlin in April

Berlin Falls –

April 30, 1945 –

- Hitler commits suicide in his bunker deep under the ruins of Berlin

May 7, 1945 –

- The unconditional surrender of Germany

May 8, 1945 –

- V-E Day (Victory in Europe)
- Marked the formal end of the European side of WWII