

World War II in Europe Name: _____ Prd: ____ Score: ____ /20

Directions: Highlight the answer in the text on the left before answering the questions on the right.

The time: a winter night in 1941

The place: **London, England.**

The scene: a man & woman wait out a **German air raid** in the cellar of a bombed-out building.

Elizabeth Reed: Here we go again. I'm really getting fed up with all this bombing. There I was just drinking a cup of tea when the lights went out & the sirens started up again.

John Hastings: It does interfere with one's life. I wonder where it will all end. The Royal Air Force seems to be doing its job. But **Hitler** seems to have an endless supply of airplanes.

Elizabeth Reed: It can't be endless. He's been at this almost every night since September. Our men have been getting better ever since they started using that new radar device.

John Hastings: You'd think by now Hitler would get the message. I hear he offered **Churchill** (British Minister Winston Churchill) a truce. But we're not like the French. *Britain will never give in!*

Elizabeth Reed: We simply waited too long to stop Hitler. Once he had Czechoslovakia & Poland, he thought all of Europe was his for the taking. It only took him 3 months to crush 6 countries. There's Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Luxembourg, France & the Netherlands.

John Hastings: The **Allies** are in trouble all right! It's just us & the Russians now in Europe. I hear they're falling by the millions. All their cities are under siege.

Elizabeth Reed: It must be terrible in the winter. But you remember what happened to Napoleon. We can only hope...

John Hastings: If the *Germans* hadn't ruined my foot in the last war, there'd be nothing anyone could do to stop my reenlisting. This time they've got to be stopped for good!

Elizabeth Reed: Well, we Brits are pretty tough. But we'd be in bad shape *if it weren't for* the Americans shipping us supplies.

There is an all-clear whistle, & the 2 prepare to leave the shelter.

Elizabeth Reed: Well, I guess that's all for tonight. My tea will be cold now, & my flat as well.

John Hastings: It's really depressing, but we're lucky to be alive. And my house is still standing. It is a miracle.



The bombing of London in WWII. ↑

Great Britain's Prime Minister during WWII was _____.

Hitler's "ultimate plan":

Before Europe really understood the full impact of **Hitler's plan**, he had already taken _____ & _____ & then **crushed** the countries of _____, _____, _____, Luxembourg, _____, & the Netherlands.

BONUS: Who were the **Allied** countries in WWII?

G _____ **B** _____, **F** _____, **R** _____ (USSR,) & **U** _____ **S** _____

BONUS: Therefore, who made up the ***Axis** countries in WWII? **G** _____,

I _____, & **J** _____



British children sitting *amidst* the bombing rubble.

The **Blitz**, as the bombings were called, went on until May. German planes continued to raid the city through 1944, but the Blitz was the **turning point** in the war. The British showed that the Germans *could be* turned back!

While the Russians lost ground for 2 years, they continued to resist. German troops reached the suburbs of Moscow. **Leningrad** was under siege for 30 months. **Stalingrad** was leveled, but the battle continued in basements & sewers. Stalin ordered the city *that was named for him* to be defended at all costs! Finally, on February 2, 1943, the 90,000 surviving German troops at Stalingrad surrendered.

No one knows how many Russians died. Estimates range from 12 to 20 million, *more than any other country*. Altogether, as many as 30 to 40 million people may have died before the war was over.

By 1943, the tide *had begun to turn*. American & British troops were moving slowly through Italy. (Together with Germany & Japan, Italy was an ***Axis** power.) Allied planes bombed German cities night & day. The Allies planned a massive invasion of France from Britain.

By the spring of 1944, Britain was like an armed camp. Fields were packed with tanks, trucks, jeeps & planes. Harbors were filled with warships, landing craft, & freighters. Nearly 3 million Allied soldiers were waiting for **D-Day** (**Debar**kation Day).

The **Nazis** knew an invasion was coming. But they did not know when or where. They had been busy for weeks turning France's beaches into death traps. The waters along the shore were filled with mines & iron barriers. The beaches were strewn with barbed wire & concrete machine-gun bunkers. Hitler *boasted* that "no power in the world can drive us out!"

But he was wrong. At 6:30 A.M. on June 6th, a fleet of 4,000 Allied ships & landing craft moved to the French **Normandy** beaches *under a protective cover of war planes*. It was the *largest* invasion in history...& the Germans were surprised! The Allies attacked a part of the coast without good harbors. At first, the Germans held back their best troops.

The commander-in-charge, **American General Dwight D. Eisenhower**, had wanted it that way. Allied ships & planes *smashed* German defenses.

Bombings in WWII were called the _____.

Applying the obvious: ☺

Leningrad was *named for* the Soviet leader _____, while _____ was *named for* **Stalin**.

Estimates vary, but _____ (who?) *lost between 12 & 20 million people* before the war concluded...

By 1943, a *turning point in the war* occurred because **troops belonging to** the countries of _____ & _____ *had slowly been making their way through* _____.

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| a. Britain | c. Italy |
| b. Japan | d. Germany |

Applying English skills to history: **Debar**kation Day comes from the word "**de**bark" which means _____.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| a. to extract bark | c. to unload as from a
from trees to construct plane or ship |
| b. from da tree ☺ | d. arrival of ships & planes |

How had Hitler & the Nazis prepared for D-Day?

- 1) _____

- 2) _____

How did D-Day's invasion compare to others in history?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| a. Germany was surprised! | c. Allied ships arrived under cover of war planes. |
| b. It was the biggest assault ever! | d. The Allies attacked the coast <i>first</i> . |

The **US troops commander** (later a US President) was **General** _____ **D.** _____

These planes/ships made way for Allied forces to come ashore. But in some places, the Germans had dug in well. They pinned down the Allies with withering machine gun fire. German artillery hit landing craft. Gradually, however, the Allies took control. By night, nearly 156,000 Allied troops had landed. Within a week they controlled an 8-mile strip of beach. *For the Germans, June 6th, 1944, was a disaster!!!*

German troops did not give ground easily. Not until July did the Allies break through their lines. In August, they freed Paris after 4 years of Nazi rule.

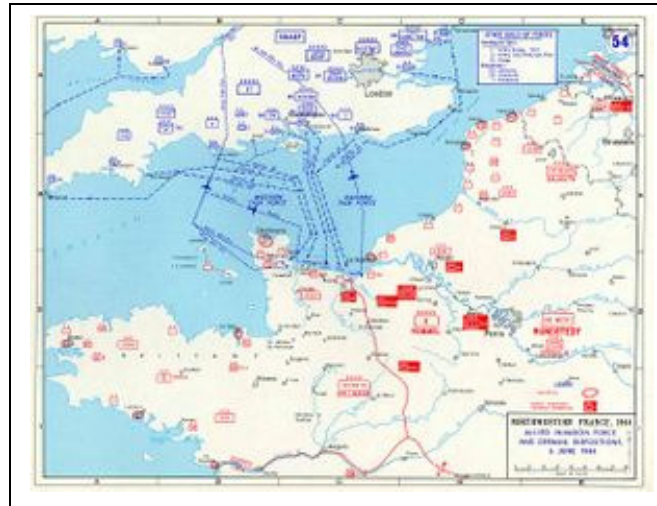
At the same time, Soviet armies were moving westward. By March 1945, both the Western Allies & Soviet armies were fighting Germany. German armies were on the verge of collapse.

Through all this Hitler lived underground in a bunker in Berlin. As the war turned against the Germans, he became more & more mentally unbalanced. He flew into rages over nothing. He had people executed for small matters. And he ordered armies that no longer existed into battle!

On April 30th, 1945, with Soviet armies closing in on the bunker, Hitler killed himself along with his newly wed wife Eva Braun. By May 7th, Germany surrendered.

As they moved through Germany & Poland, Allied soldiers made horrendous discoveries! In concentration camps like **Dachau**, **Auschwitz** & **Bergen-Belsen** they found the evidence of Hitler's "final solution" for Jews & other "undesirables." Some had been shot in large groups. Others had been forced into rooms & gassed. Still others had been starved & worked to death. And in some camps, the bodies were left where they fell & never buried.

Many of the freed prisoners were *too* weak to move or talk. But when they were able, they *told of years of terror*. Many were the *only* members of their families *to survive*.



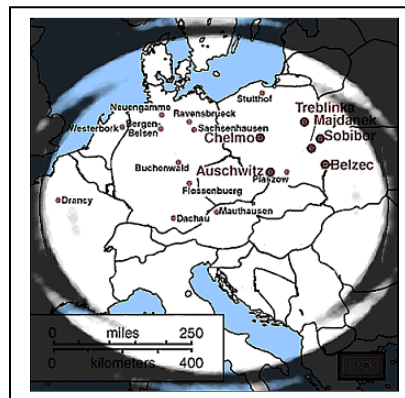
Allied Normandy (France) Invasion plan ↑

Summarizing the battle:

- I. (Allied/Axis ← circle 1) forces **come ashore** at the beaches of _____ (what country?).
- A. (Germans/Russians ← circle 1) pin down Allies
- B. _____ (#) Allied troops land & take control of the beach within a week
- C, by July, Allies free _____ of Nazi rule

As Allied troops invade further & further into Germany's domain, **explain** Hitler's state of mind.

T or F: Hitler died by his own hand.



List 3
notorious
concentration
camps:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Recalling the horrors: Survivors told of unprecedented horrors including ____ to death.

- a. people being gassed d. people being starved
- b. people being shot e. all the above
- c. people being worked f. only a, b & d

Of more than 8 million Jews in Europe in 1939, about 6 million were now dead. A new word, **genocide**, was invented to describe the *deliberate* killing of a whole group of people.

Perhaps another 5 million other civilians had been killed by the Nazis. Among them were Gypsies, Poles, Serbs, Czechs, & Russians. Anyone thought to be communist, mentally ill, or homosexual was also considered unworthy to live in Hitler's new order.

Most Germans who lived near the camps insisted they knew nothing of what had been going on. Others said they suspected terrible things, but were powerless to act...for they, too, were susceptible to the same terrible fate.

In the town of Gardelegen, 1,000 prisoners had been burned to death in a locked barn. At General Eisenhower's direction, 1,000 citizens were selected. Each was ordered to bury one prisoner in a special cemetery & to care for that grave in the future. As a reminder of that duty, the gravedigger's name was ordered inscribed on the headstone.

After the war, the 4 leading Allied powers ~ The United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, & France ~ set up a world court. At Nuremburg, Germany from 1945-49, they tried 22 Nazi leaders for their crimes in what was called the **Nuremburg Trials**. All protested that they were innocent. They had only followed orders from Hitler. The court disagreed & sentenced 12 to death! Three were imprisoned for life & 4 got shorter terms. Only 3 were acquitted.

The small, the helpless, the innocent: these were the victims of **Adolf Hitler's holocaust!** The ardent followers of Hitler's racial policies had culminated in the **genocide** of 11 million people, including about six million Jews. When the killing ended those who survived were released from the **concentration camps** & others came out of hiding. It is said that *in order to not repeat the ills of the past*, we must study it. Now, many Holocaust survivors have taken pains to tell their stories to the world.

The new term **genocide** means _____
_____.

Applying math to history: If 6 million of the 8 million European Jews were executed, what **percent of that total population were killed?**
(Show proportion & your math computation skills.)

$$\frac{\quad}{\quad} = \frac{\quad \times \quad}{100}$$

At the _____ Trials ↓, **Nazi henchmen pleading innocence were put on trial for "crimes against humanity."**



Appreciating the enormity of Hitler's Final Solution:
~ **genocide** of 11 _____ Europeans,
including 6 million _____!

Drawing conclusions: What were concentration camps? _____
