

# Winning the War—Europe

## Commander:

Under the command of General Dwight D. Eisenhower the Allied forces had a very complex plan to defeat the Axis powers led by Hitler and the Nazi Germany.



## Strategy:

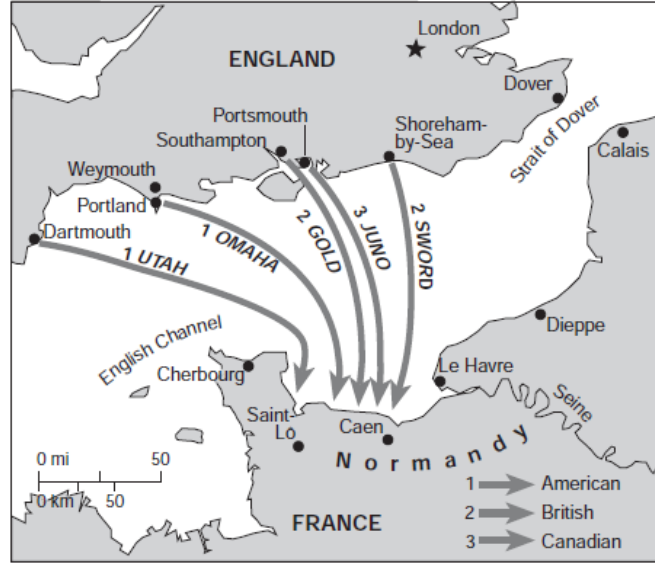
Believing Germany posed a greater threat than Japan, the Allies adopted a “Europe First” strategy – the Allies would concentrate the majority of their resources to defeat Germany in Europe. It was decided that to defeat the powerful German army, a second front (area of fighting) must be opened. The logic was that if we make Hitler fight in more than one place he will be forced to split his powerful army and be significantly weakened.



# Winning the War—Europe

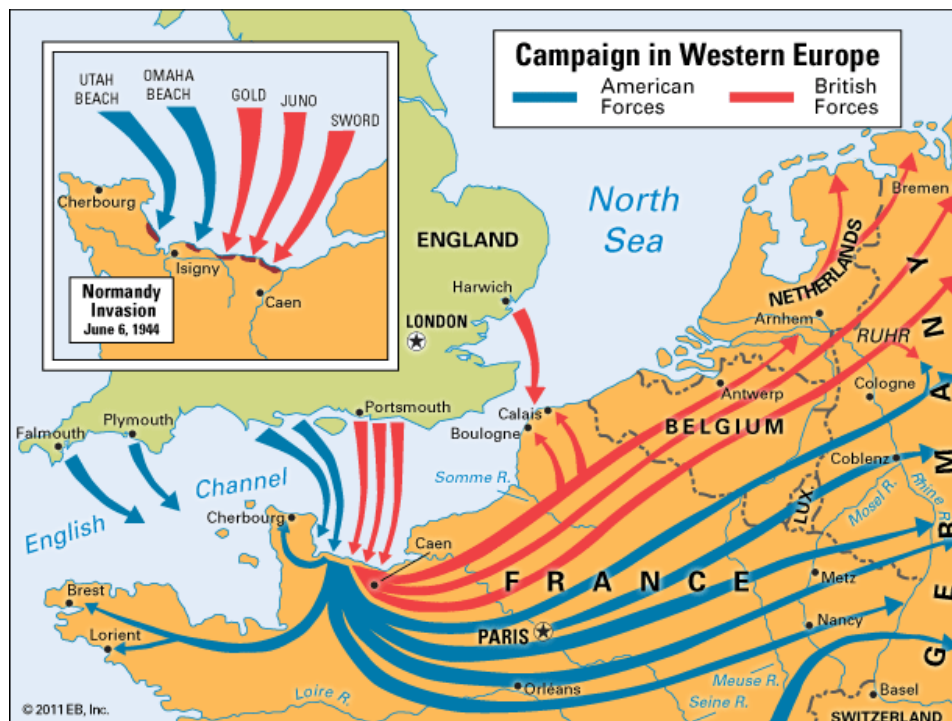
## Turning Point:

After almost a year of planning, on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1944, known as D-Day, a fleet of over 4,000 ships carried the Allied soldiers across the English Channel to France. Despite the high casualties (many units had 90% killed or wounded) the Allied forces were able to “hold the beach” and now Hitler faced advancing armies from the East (the Soviets) and the West (the other Allies led by the United States).



## Winning the War:

After almost 6 years of fighting, Germany began to collapse. Trapped between the advancing Soviet and American armies, Hitler committed suicide on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1945. A week later Germany surrendered.



# Winning the War—Pacific

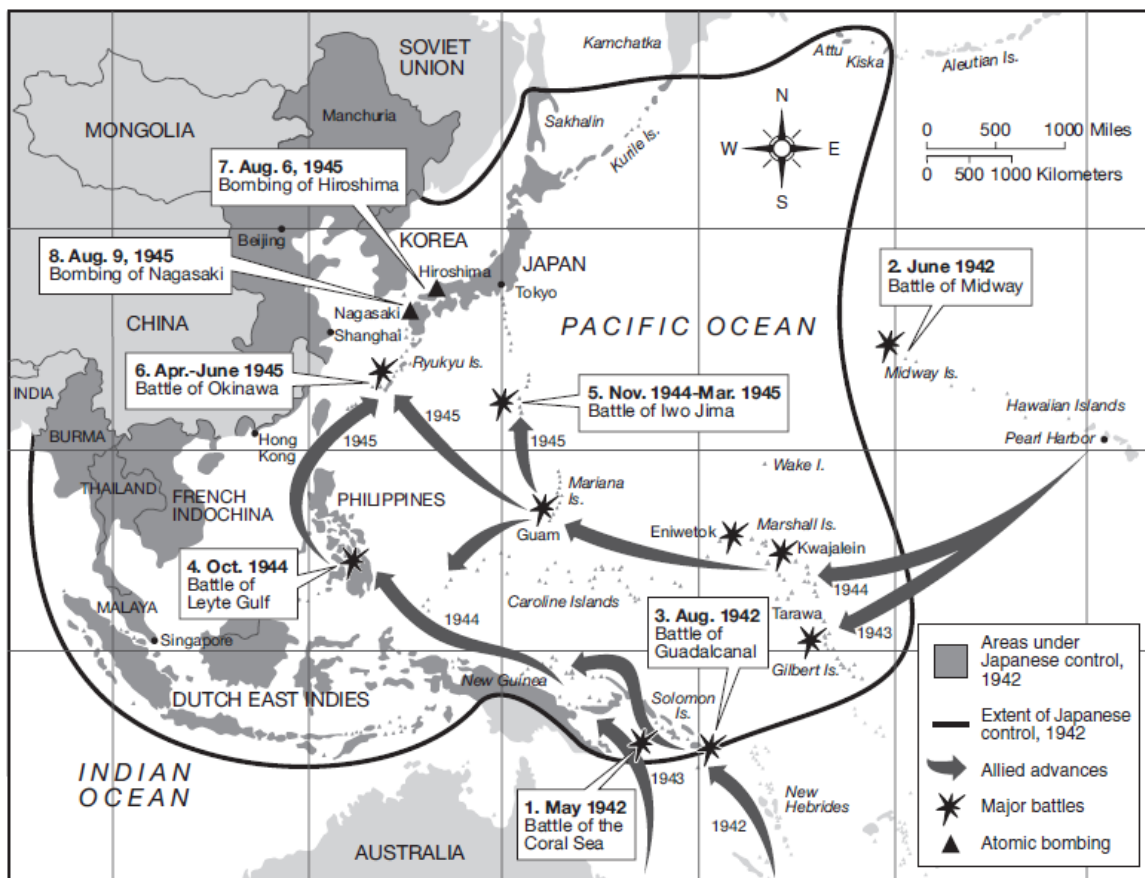
## Commander:

General Douglass MacArthur knew that defeat of the Japanese in the Pacific depended on controlling not only the tiny islands in this area but also the sea and air.



## Strategy:

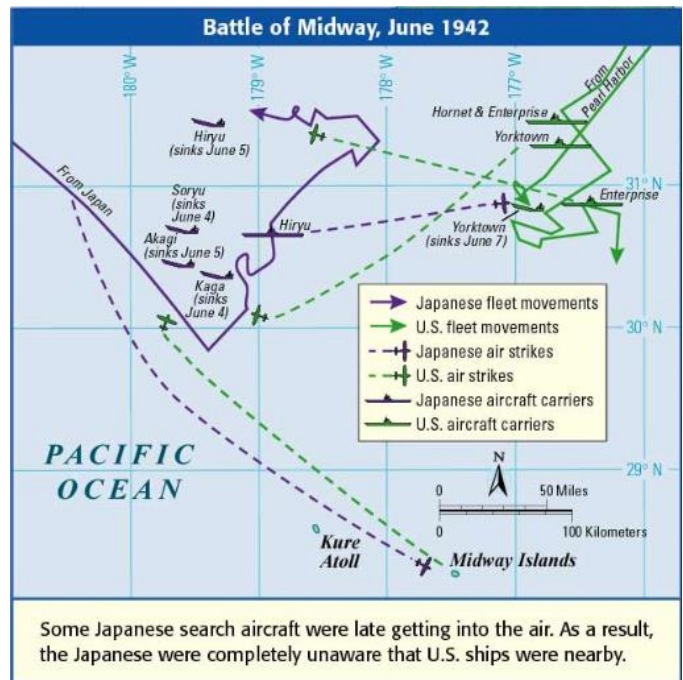
Now, American military planners decided on a strategy of “Island Hopping” to finally defeat Japan. Certain islands would be attacked and held while others would be “skipped” and left untouched. The islands we held could be used as bases from which we could bomb Japan. This strategy was effective but very costly. Japanese kamikaze planes crashed into our ships and American marines were forced to face an enemy that was willing to fight to the death.



# Winning the War—Pacific

## Turning Point:

The turning point came in June of 1942 at the Battle of Midway; American planes sunk 4 Japanese aircraft carriers and shot down hundreds of planes.

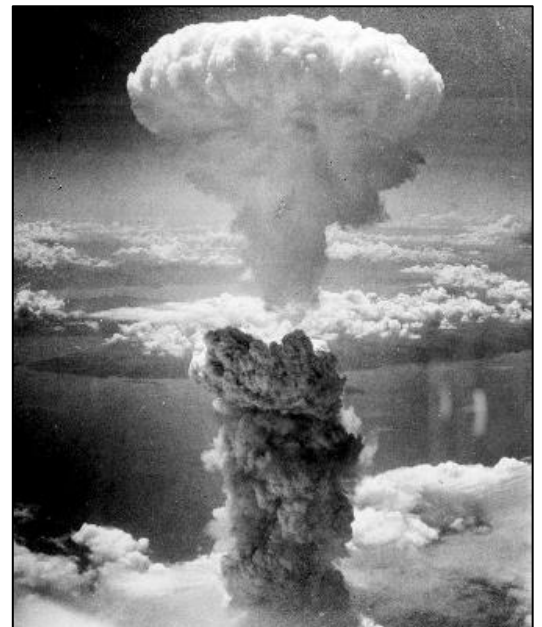


## Winning the War:

Because of the intense loss of life associated with "Island Hopping" it was decided by President Truman (he took over after the death of FDR) that we should drop the Atom Bomb on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The two atom bomb blasts killed over a hundred thousand people instantly and twice that in the coming years from radiation and sickness. Japan officially surrendered on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1945.



Hiroshima, Japan after the dropping of the 1<sup>st</sup> atomic bomb



Mushroom cloud from atomic bomb

