

Social Studies 11

Canada and World War II

The End of the War

Name: _____

A. The End of the War in Europe

- After D-day, Canadians are assigned to the liberation of the Netherlands, the first attempt failed in 1944
- German forces destroyed ports and flood control infrastructure to slow the invasion down
- starvation was common as the Dutch had been cutoff from supplies
- April 1945, Canadians begin the liberation, local people celebrated their arrival

- The Red Army (Soviets) take Berlin before others (Churchill wanted to beat the Russians there but the Americans wanted to live up to the agreement to allow the Soviets to reach Berlin first)
- the Concentration Camps of the Holocaust are discovered by advancing Allied armies
- Hitler kills himself in the Fuhrerbunker, May 7 1945, and Germany surrenders

B. The End of the War in the Pacific

- **turning point in Pacific war**, Battle of Midway, June 1942, Americans win. Japanese in retreat after. (The key to Pacific power is the superior American industrial capacity, strategic resource scarcity for Japan and the US aircraft carrier numerical superiority.

- June 1942 - Aug. 1945- Americans and British pushing Japanese back to the **"Home islands", using leap-frogging to bypass some of the more heavily defended islands in the Pacific, allowing them to "wither on the vine"**.

- by mid 1945, most of the Japanese air force and navy were destroyed

- British push back through Burma, Americans launch a two pronged attack, lead by **General MacArthur** from the south-east and General Nimitz from the east, to converge on the Philippines

- American strategy one of **Leap-frogging**... don't dislodge Japanese from every island, by-pass the more heavily defended islands but then by taking other islands, cut those first islands off

- **although the Japanese had more ships, the Americans had more aircraft carriers, this advantage proved to be the critical one.**

- **atomic bombs dropped** "Little Boy", Hiroshima (August 6, 1945), 70,000 dead , and "Fat Man," Nagasaki (August 9, 1945), 40,000 dead. 130 000 were wounded
 - uranium for the bombs came from the Eldorado mine at Great Bear Lake NWT
- Why did the US do this?
- Soviets enter war against Japan (as they had promised the western allies, three months after the defeat of Germany). Aug. 8, 1945, Soviets invade Manchuria.
- Japan surrenders August 14, 1945

C. Technology of World War II

land - improved tanks and sub-machine guns

sea - sonar - developed by British and Americans - uses sound waves to locate objects, works well underwater

- naval scientists from Bt. Fr. and USA experiment with the idea in WW I
- sonar developed between the wars, but British and Americans keep it a secret from the Germans- its use surprised the Germans during WW II

air - A- Bomb- developed by Americans, Germans also working on it

- American code named it the Manhattan project
- took 3 years and \$1 billion dollars to develop, "more expensive than all previous weapons put together"
- produced 3 bombs - one tested, one on Hiroshima and one on Nagasaki
- Hiroshima - killed 80,000 in an instant, fire and blast
- later a further 80,000 die of radiation poisoning
- gave the Americans a feeling of invincibility, until the Soviets detonated their bomb in Sept. 1949

radar- developed by British, at first hoped to use radio waves to shoot down enemy planes using heat. This was not possible but radio-waves could be used to detect incoming aircraft by 1935 - first Radio direction Finding System - Radar

rockets - Germans develop the V-1 and V-2 rockets to deliver bombs without pilots to enemy. Used in June 1944 (right after D-Day), no defence against them, too fast to hit .Hitler still trying to go on the offensive

jets - Germans also first to develop the jet engine. Hitler does not exploit its speed for defensive purposes, he wants to turn it into a bomber.

Other – first computers developed during the war, used to make bombing and artillery fire more accurate, as well as limited use in code-breaking

- Use of propaganda and censorship on a wide scale on both sides
- large scale employment of women (part of total war) in war factories, use of better a pay and daycare to attract workers