



- massive size of Soviet Union made a quick victory impossible
  - prepared Soviet troops stopped Germany outside of Moscow
- Importance
- ended the **Nazi-Soviet Pact** (peace between Germany and the U.S.S.R.)
  - locked Germany into **a long, hard, bloody battle** (Soviets had a huge army)
  - gave Britain time to **recover and plan attacks.**
  - fighting in Russia proved that Germany **could be slowed down, possibly defeated**

### Japan Attacks Pearl Harbour (December 7, 1941)

- Description
- Japan set on a war against the U.S. because of its presence in the Pacific
  - Japan launched a surprise attack on December 7, 1941
  - destroyed half of the U.S. fleet
  - President Roosevelt called it "a day that will live in infamy"

- Importance
- U.S. had a reason to **join WWII** against Japan, Germany and Italy
  - gave Britain and Russia **a valuable ally, with enormous amounts of money, military arms, and personnel**

### Japan Attacks Hong Kong (Dec. 7/8, 1941)

- Description
- a few hours after Pearl Harbour was bombed, 50 000 Japanese soldiers were ready to invade
  - 2 battalions (1975 men) of Canadian troops (with very little training) went to Hong Kong to help the British defend it, but were outnumbered 10 to 1
  - surrendered December 25, 1941

- Importance
- Japan sunk **two great British warships** (Prince of Wales, Repulse)
  - every Canadian soldier either died or **became a prisoner of war in a Japanese POW camp** (death rate **6x higher** than German POW camps)

### Battle of Dieppe (August 19, 1942)

- Description
- 6000 British, Canadian, and American troops participated (most of force was Canadian)
  - an experiment to discover what was needed to make a full-scale Allied invasion a success
  - also, Russia pressuring Britain to take German pressure off of the Eastern Front
  - German forces were prepared for them, and Dieppe was a disaster; August 19, 1942

- Importance
- controversial: valuable **experience** or a **bloody shambles** ?
  - helped Allies learn lessons for **a successful sea invasion, which happened at Sicily (Italy, 1943) and on D-Day (June 6, 1944)**

### Battle of Ortona (December, 1943)

- Description
- 1943 Allied forces landed in Sicily, Italy, then attacked the rest of Italy
  - Italian people overthrew Mussolini (their fascist leader) and surrendered to the Allies, but Germany rushed into Italy to take on the Allies
  - Canadian forces were ordered to take Ortona, which required fierce house-to-house fighting against the Germans
  - Canadian losses were high, but they defeated the Germans and captured Ortona

- Importance
- one of the most **significant battles for Canadians**
  - opened the road to **Rome** and continued to **push Germans out of Italy** (captured June 1944)

## D-Day: Invasion of Normandy

- Description
- June 6, 1944; called "Operation Overlord"
  - used lessons gained from Dieppe, e.g. massive air and naval firepower, better communications
  - 30 000 Canadians landed at Juno Beach; U.S. at Omaha and Utah; Britain at Sword and Gold
  - very well planned and rehearsed
- Importance
- knocked out the *Luftwaffe* and Panzer divisions
  - 155 000 Allied soldiers, 600 vehicles, and 3600 tons of supplies land in *France, which was ready to finally push Germany out*
  - Germany now fighting on three fronts (France, <sup>W</sup>Russia, <sup>E</sup>Italy)
  - 11 month Allied campaign through *France and Belgium towards Berlin, Germany*
  - Canadian troops headed for *the Netherlands (the Sweetest Spring)*
  - March, 1945 the main Allied force *invaded Germany*

## V-E Day

*May 7, 1945*

- Description
- the last desperate German attempts failed and German troops were forced to retreat
  - Allies invaded Germany from the west, Russia invaded from the east and closed in on Berlin
  - Germany surrendered May 7, 1945
- Importance
- gave Russia *land in Europe and they would not leave (leads to the Cold War)*
  - Hitler *committed suicide (escaping any punishment)*

## Hiroshima and Nagasaki, V-J Day

*(August 10, 1945)*

- Description
- American plane "Enola Gay" dropped bomb "Little Boy" on Hiroshima, August 6, 1945; over 70 000 dead and over 61 000 injured
  - August 9 the bomb "Fat Man" was dropped on Nagasaki; over 40 000 dead
- Importance
- first *atomic bombs ever used in war*
  - forced Japan *to surrender on August 10*
  - World War Two *was over*