**North Africa and Southern Europe Map Notes**

<http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/neh/interactives/wwii/lesson2/>

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| Box | Date(s) | Summary |
| 1 | Dec. 9, 1941 – May 24, 1943 | **Battle of the Atlantic**--Early in the war, German U-boats were sinking large numbers of American ships throughout the Atlantic. German U-boats were spotted by New York, Charleston, Miami and throughout the Gulf of Mexico. The U.S. developed a convoy system that made it safer to travel and when the U.S. unlocked the German naval code, it made it easier for the U.S. to locate German U-boats. By 1943 the war at sea had been won. |
| 2 | Oct. 23 – Nov. 4, 1942 | **The Battle of El Alamein** – Egypt was under the colonial rule of Great Britain and the Nazis had invaded North Africa in an attempt to drive out the British. The lead general for the Nazis in Africa was **Erwin Rommel** who was given the nickname **“The Desert Fox.”** The **Suez Canal** in Egypt was a vitally important waterway that was under British control. The canal greatly shortened the trip around Africa and was of vital importance to Great Britain for the importation of goods/resources. If Rommel and the Nazis were able to defeat the British in Egypt and take control of the canal, then Britain would be facing a severe loss of resources especially oil. **At the Battle of El Alamein, the British were victorious under the leadership of General Bernard Montgomery.** |
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| 4 | Nov. 1942 – Jan. 1943 | **British advance through Libya** – After the Battle of El Alamein, the British forces in Africa (lead by Montgomery) began driving the Germans back toward Tunisia which was where the main base of German operations in Africa was located. |
| 5 | Jan. – Feb. 1943 | **Axis Counterattacks in Tunisia** – The Germans were able to have a successful retreat to Tunisia and they managed to solidify their forces in that country. In Tunisia, combined British and American forces faced stiff resistance by Axis(German/Italian) forces. For many American troops, this was their first action against the enemy and their inexperience showed. At the **Battle of Kasserine Pass**, U.S. forces were defeated by the veteran German troops. It was after this battle that **General George Patton** was put in charge of all U.S. forces in Africa. Patton would go on to become one of the most successful U.S. generals in history. Patton was the general that Germans most feared and respected. |
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| 8-11 | Sept. 1943 – May 1944 | **Allied Landings in Italy**--Combined U.S. and British forces landed on mainland Italy in September of 1943. It would not take long for Italy to accept terms of surrender. The Italian dictator Benito Mussolini had been arrested in July of 1943 and the new Italian government no longer wished to continue the war along w/ Germany. The Germans anticipated this and rushed over 100,000 troops into Italy in order to prevent the U.S. and British from overrunning the country. Keeping the U.S./British forces out of Italy was important to the defense of Germany. The Germans put up stiff resistance and the Allied (U.S./British) forces had a difficult time defeating them. Finally, at the Battle of Monte Casino the Germans were forced to retreat and all of Italy would soon be liberated by the Allies. |
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