

HITLER

(Continued from page 1) was smashed by the IAF Bomber Command before it could leave port.

Battle of Africa

The battle of Africa really started in the tragic event of July 3, 1940, when the British attacked the French fleet at Mers-el-Kehir to prevent warships of their former allies from falling into enemy hands.

Six times the battle swept back and forth across the rim of North Africa, but in the end the Germans could not win because they did not control the Mediterranean. The Italian fleet soon was driven into hiding.

Marshal Rodolfo Graziani began an attack on Egypt on August 6, 1940, simultaneously with an invasion of British Somaliland. He got no farther than Sidi Barrani, where the British under Wavell started a lightning comeback in December which reached beyond Benghazi. But the British fell back even faster in the spring when they were forced to send troops to Greece. Again in November, 1941, the British launched an offensive which relieved Tobruk shortly before the last Italian stronghold in Ethiopia surrendered.

Not long thereafter came Pearl Harbor, and Hitler declared war on the United States. His ultimate extermination began to loom on the horizon then, for he had turned the spigot which was to produce a flood of Allied war materiel and men.

Loss of Tobruk Big Blow But there still were black days in store for the allies, and Sunday, June 21, 1942, ranks with blackest of them all.

On that day Marshal Erwin Rommel's Africa Corps took Tobruk in a surprise thrust which carried them to within 60 miles of Alexandria, a junction of German and Japanese forces on the shores of the Indian Ocean was threatened. The Germans were preparing the summer offensive which might break the Soviet Union and which was to take them from Kharlov to Stalingrad. The Allies had lost Singapore, the Philippines, Burma, the Dutch East Indies and parts of the Aleutians. Australia still was menaced, despite two Japanese air-sea defeats in the Coral Sea and at Midway in May and June.

Air, Tank Forces Turn Tide Almost the brightest spot in the Allied picture was that only three weeks before the British had carried out their first 1,000-bomber raid against Cologne.

Air and tank forces rushed to Africa eventually turned the tide, permitting Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's Eighth Army to score its great victory at El Alamein in Egypt on Oct. 23, 1942, and begin its march to meet the American and British forces of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower which landed in Morocco and Algeria on Nov. 7.

Trapped on Cap Bon in Tunisia, the Germans and Italians finally surrendered on May 12, 1943, ending the Battle of Africa, and the stage was set for the invasion of Italy. Axis casualties in Tunisia were placed at 341,000.

Italy The Allies' invasion of Europe really began with the attack on Sicily by Gen. Eisenhower's British and American forces on July 10, 1943. Fifteen days later Mussolini was ousted in Rome—the first serious break in the Axis structure.

Striking swiftly on Sept. 3, after completion of a 38-day campaign in Sicily, Gen. Montgomery's troops invaded the toe of Italy. The Fifth Army of Gen. Mark W. Clark landed at Salerno below Naples and after a blood battle with the Germans, established a beachhead six days later, almost simultaneously with announcement of the surrender of the government of Marshal Pietro Badoglio which had succeeded Mussolini. The first of the big three in the Axis had been knocked out of the war.

Through a bitter winter campaign, the Americans and their Allies made but slow progress from Naples, fought the bloody battle of Cassino, established the beachhead at Anzio below Rome and finally on May 11 launched the offensive which carried them to Rome on June 4. The Palazzo Venezia where Mussolini's balcony stands was turned into a museum.

Invasion Two days after the first fall of an Axis capital, the greatest amphibious force of all time landed in Normandy. The D-Day for which American factories had been turning out weapons since Dec. 7, 1941, had dawned.

Untried American divisions quickly proved they could beat Hitler's best veterans. Despite the strength of the Germans' Atlantic Wall, the invasion stuck. The results were not long showing in Berlin.

COMMENTS

(Continued from page 4) reverent thanksgiving for divine help, with added thankfulness for the high leadership, which with the heroism of our sons, made victory possible. We must be just and firm—just to a people pitifully misguided and tragically tempted, firm with its criminal leaders. World War II came not because of the Versailles Peace Treaty, which was of the essence of forbearance, but because of the un wisdom of imagining that we could keep peace within and without our frontiers by refraining from contact with the nations. We have learned the lesson: our children must not again pay the price.

FEAST WITH A PURPOSE The American Indian of the northwest gave potlaches, or huge feasts, to make a name for himself, to pay his debts, to out-rank a marriage rival, or to announce that he felt near death, and so to divide his property.

FDR, Winnie, Joe, Outbattled Adolf and Duce In Battle of Personalities in World's Worst War

By WILLIAM GLOVER AP Features Writer

This has been a personalized war in Europe. Through the long years leading to the struggle and the bloody months of battle, the destiny of all creation has rested in the hands of a half dozen leaders of nations.

The dominant figures—Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin, Hitler and Mussolini—are "men of the hour," untouched by royal blood.

And while World War II has been a struggle of entire peoples, historians probably will ponder the impact of the leaders' personalities upon events. Each leader, too, has displayed to marked degree the national characteristics of his state or its form of government.

The sinister and the rosy First of the dictators was strident, pompous, braggart Mussolini. His stature shrank as that of his pupil, sinister Adolf Hitler, increased. Thwarted, overweening in ambition, fanatical, brutal, the Fuehrer played upon the ingrained militarism of his people, still stinging from defeat.

United Nations leadership for the European conflict was in the hands of a trio of different stamp. Churchill, "the rosy little man," a master of rhetoric, looks like John Bull and clinched fame by carrying the torch for the British Empire through the dark days of 1940-41. Russia's fate was entrusted to Joseph Stalin, inscrutable master player in the international poker game of diplomacy, who gained time by siding with the Nazis at first, who let the world think Russia could not fight victoriously, and who drew Hitler onto a battlefield of death.

The United States was led by Roosevelt, a phrasemaker himself, a master of timing and a leader so popular he could ask and get for the first time in history a third Presidential term. He not only helped a peace-loving, com-

The Leaders Who Won



WINSTON CHURCHILL



FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT



JOSEF STALIN

placent country reach war tempo, but insisted on being in fact the military head of the Nation, as well as the political.

The Might Have Been What has been the effect of these personalities on events?

At Munich Hitler pulled a gun on the Allied Leaders of 1938, Chamberlain and Daladier. They quailed, and Mussolini who had been called in to play the role of interlocutor, decided history by putting his chips with Hitler, whom he had bluffed in similar fashion on the matter of Austria's freedom in 1934. Churchill would scarcely have been bluffed that way.

Stalin, ignored at Munich, showed his disappointment. No one trusted the U.S.S.R., he must have thought, and the deed must have played a part in the later Russian policy, shifting and enig-

matic as it seemed to the outside world.

Il Duce, when the showdown came in September, 1939, showed his inherent weakness by pulling aside as a non-belligerent, then found outlet for his braggadocio in May, 1940, by jumping on France when he thought the battle was over. His action resulted in Roosevelt's tide-changing "stab in the back" speech one day later.


The Atlantic Charter Personalities were transcendent when in 1941 the Anglo-American leaders held the first of their get-

together and drew up the Atlantic Charter. With it, generalized as it was, the two astute leaders silenced many skeptics of Allied war motives.

The later meetings of the leaders prove how their dominating beliefs and characteristics belittled the minor currents in the stream of conflict.


In the later days of the war, as the psyches of Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin came into permanent dominance over the fluttering personalities of Mussolini and Hitler, individual differences (See LEADERS page 6)

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