

## **Lesson #88 U.S. History**

### Battle of Britain & Undeclared War

#### **Battle of Britain**

Hitler had no experience in air or naval warfare

S-Boats – fast boats made with quality and slowed productions limited the number built.

#### **16 July Operation Sea Lion** – invasion plan for Great Britain

Germans held the view that only 4 days of good weather needed to knock out Britain from the war. Goring convinced Hitler that the *Luftwaffe* could knock out the British.

- First German Targets:
1. Radar
  2. Air fields – only one airfield knock out for a period of days
  3. Harbors

#### **Planes:**

**Spitfire** – had machine guns with .33 mm rounds that had fired power for 14.7 seconds

- engine used carburetors that had floats that closed in a climb or diver shutting off gas causing a delay in speed.
- Air Command Established a rotating pilot system for rest

**Messerschmitt 109** – armed with machine guns that had fired for 55 seconds

- 20 mm cannons
- Armor piercing rounds
- heavy engine in plane that allowed it to dive faster
- no carburetor – direct injection that allowed dive and climb speed
- had 10 minutes in combat zone
- Had to protect Stuka Dive Bombers – slowed their ability
- Command move pilots into combat

Both sides had over and under estimated the other side based on what they understood.

German air unit had 12 planes

British air unit had 20 planes

Just as mission seem to be complete Hitler shifted targets to cities (London)

Hitler had given orders to not bomb cities. Then on 31 July there were bombs dropped on London by mistake. The British began to bomb German cities on 25<sup>th</sup> August.

Germans *Luftwaffe* was not ready for bombing missions:

No 4 engine bombers

No long-range fighter planes for cover bombers over the target area

No rescue program for down pilots

Royal Air Force (RAF) to protect beaches

Churchill speech on Dunkirk:

- Knights of the Round Table
- Ready to fight
- Escape of army
- Lost to enemy
- Invade – 1066, Napoleon “Bitter Weeds”
- Prove ourselves
- Years and alone
- Fight = France, sea, air, beaches, landing zones, fields, streets, hills... “until the New World comes to the rescue”

Common Wealth nations remembered the Great War and British how they use of their troops. Plus there was French Canada? France was out of the war.

Vichy France – Marshall Petain – collaborators / Communist & Fascist until 1941  
Gaullists Free French  
Communist (Marquis) - partisans – Sabotage only after Germany invaded Soviet Union

British secret service worked with John Waddington Limited, the maker of Monopoly In Great Britain to deliverer maps, compasses, shears, and cash for bribes for guards in POW camps. Added some 35,000 escapes 1/3 with Monopoly.

Italian Fleet sunk in port from British aircraft carrier attack.

### **Battle of the Atlantic**

U-boats – 39,000 men went out 27,491 did not come back  
Of 863 U-boats that went out 754 did not return  
Germans started war with only 56 U-boats  
U-boat speed under water 7 knots on surface 17 knots  
4 tubes with 14 torpedoes  
6-week voyage  
Under water and with electric motor less than 70 hours 7 hours to recharge  
1<sup>st</sup> passenger ship sunk *Athenea*

### **USA and Undeclared War**

Decoration Day slowly moving to becoming Memorial Day

Alien Registration Act 1940

	<u>Warrants issued</u>	<u>Warrants Executed</u>	<u>Arrested without Warrant</u>
Germans	1,757	374	500
Italians	223	41	628
Japanese	700	437	628

### **FDR and America**

Atlantic Conference

1. No territory added
2. No territory changed without choice
3. Choice of government
4. Victor and vanquished equal terms
5. Collaboration – economics – labor standards
6. Destruction of Nazi tyranny
7. Free seas
8. Abandon force

“Garden Hose” speech – (Lend-Lease)

11.9% of production in 1941 and 28.7% in 1944 to British  
escort convoys to limit 22-degree west longitude –Iceland cut patrol area of British by ½  
During war U.S. produced one plane every 5 minutes

## **Un-declared Atlantic War**

1940 Norfolk, Va. Sales jumped 28% - war coming?

April 1941 – U.S.S. Niblack attacked by U-boat

June 28, 1941 Donald Frances Mason “sighted sub, sank same”

July 1941 – U-203 tried to get close to the U.S.S. Texas

Sept. 4, 1941 U.S.S. Greer and U-652 exchanged shots America’s first shots in War

Sept.14,1941 U.S.S. Truxton engaged a U-boat

Oct. 16, 1941 American and British ships engaged U-boat “wolf pack” –  
U.S.S. Kearney hit 11 times and 24 wounded

Oct.31, 1941 U.S.S. Reuben James hit all but 45 survived of 115

Dec. 6, 1941 1<sup>st</sup> Liberty ship launched

Germans had a plan to invade America since 1899 (Winterarbeiten)

Hitler wanted to occupy Azores for long range bombers

### **January 1940**

HMS Exmouth sunk

### **February 1940**

Japan announced budget with ½ going to military

### **March 1940**

Japan place puppet in Nanking

### **May 1940**

British extent conscription age to 36

Operation Dynamo begins

### **June 1940**

Italy enter the war

### **September 1940**

Operation Sea Loin called off

Italy invaded Egypt

America First Committee (isolationism)

### **October 1940**

Italy invaded Greece

First Selective Service Numbers pulled in U.S.

### **November 1940**

British Navy surprise the Italians at Taranto with an air strike on their fleet

Election – FDR promise to keep American boys out of the war

### **December 1940**

Mussolini asked Hitler for help in Greece

### **January 9, 1941**

**Four Freedoms** “from Fear – from Want – of Worship – of Speech”

Class conflict and “appeasers” and “rich and influential American Isolationist”

### **February 1941**

Hitler sent Rommel and Afrika Korps to North Africa

### **March 1941**

Lead-Lease Bill sign as an insurance policy against war?

Soon America would be in the war Senator Taft

**April 1941**

U.S. took possession of Greenland (Denmark)  
Self-declared security zone – not to protect convoys  
FDR waited for Germans to fire first shot

**May 27, 1941**

Baseball game at New York Giants stadium stopped at 7<sup>th</sup> inning to hear Fireside Chat

**June 22, 1941**

Germany invaded Soviet Union and Churchill gave immediate support to Stalin

**June 24, 1941**

FDR offer support to Soviets

**August 1941 – Newfoundland**

*USS Augusta* and *HMS Prince of Wales*

FDR and Churchill signed Atlantic Charter – setting out goals for wars end

**September 4, 1941**

*USS Greer* fired on by German U-boat - while *Greer* helped British tract U-boat

**September 11, 1941**

Fireside Chat FDR called U-boats “rattlesnakes of the Atlantic” and U.S. would take on a “Active Defense” rather than wait for and attack.

U.S. Pacific Fleet moved from San Diego to Pearl Harbor

Japan in French Indochina and eyeing Dutch East Indies – British Malaysia , and U.S.

Interest plus the Philippines

U.S. froze Japanese assets to cut off oil, scrap metal and other resources.

Admiral Yamamoto plan to break with naval traditional strategy of a series of battles to draw U.S. into a climactic battle (Decisive Battle) to a strategy of first battle decisive. Plan first stated in March of 1940. Then with the British attack at Taranto plan took on meaning. Planning began in January 1941 with resistance from others. Then in October Yamamoto and his staff said they would resign in full if the plan was taken as planned. The plan called for the first wave of 189 planes to hit the base and then 171 planes in a second wave.

**October 1941**

USS *Rueben James* sunk

**November 26, 1941**

The invasion fleet set sail to attack Pearl Harbor from the North.

**December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor**