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DISCIPLINA STORIA: THE SECOND WORLD WAR

"Battle of Dunkirk"



Battle of Dunkirk took place between 26 May and 4 June 1940 in Dunkirk (France).

In April 1940, Hitler wanted to attack France from the north and bypass the fortified line that protected the border with Germany (Maginot Line).

The entry of Germany into France takes place with the battle of Dunkirk. With the consequent victory of the Fuhrer, the Britain Prime Minister, Winston Churchill ordered the Admiralty to bring together all available means in order to carry out the evacuation of 340,000 soldiers from Dunkirk (this operation is called Operation Dynamo).



Charles de Gaulle

After the fall of France in the summer of 1940, the local government was forced to surrender. The peace terms were harsh: the north was directly occupied by the Germans, while the south was administrated by a puppet collaborationist government led by a former WW1 hero, Philippe Petain.

But lots of civilians and soldiers didn't accept the peace. One of these patriots was Charles de Gaulle, another general who also fought in the Great War. He fled to London, where he started to cooperate with the British prime minister, Winston Churchill.
His appeal to compatriots inspired many partisan groups to fight the invaders.
The new de Gaulle-led government in exile (called «Free France» «or France Libre») and the partisans forces helped the Allies during and after the D-Day, contributing to the final liberation of France.







Winston Churchill

Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill was born on November the 30th 1874 in Woodstock in an aristocratic family.
His father was Lord Randolph Churchill, an important conservative statesman
a politic, historic, journalist and a british military.
He died in London on January the 24th 1965 due to an ictus.



Pearl Harbor Attack

Pearl Harbor attack on Pearl Harbor occurred at the crack of dawn on December 7, 1941, conducted by a fleet of aircraft carriers of the Imperial Japanese Navy against the United States. The attack caused the United States to enter World War II, where a strong feeling of hatred towards Japan spread.

Did Roosevelt already guess that Japan would launch an attack?


THE Atlantic Charter

Aircraft carriers were a major new element in WWII



The Armistice of Cassibile

After the conquest of North Africa, **Allied forces landed in Sicily**, in order to weaken Hitler's most vulnerable ally: Italy.

Axis forces opposed a brief resistance, failing to defeat the Allies.

So, on 3 September 1943, **the Italian army signed the Armistice of Cassibile** but it was made public on **8 September**.

Soon, without directives, **the Italian army collapsed**: some joined German troops, other followed the king to Brindisi and many just returned home or surrendered to one of the two contenders.





The Italian Resistance

Following the overthrow of Mussolini and the Armistice, **German soldiers invaded Italy**. While moving towards Rome, **they committed war crimes** at expenses of prisoners and civilians.

Mussolini was freed from his incarceration and became the leader of the new **Italian Social Republic**, no more than a German **puppet state**.



Soon a Resistance movement against Axis forces emerged in the north, led by the **National Liberation Committee** (**CLN**). During this civil war, partisans belonged to a wide range of political parties, from communists to monarchists and liberals.

Ultimately the partisans helped the Allies to get rid of Germans in the Peninsula. **Mussolini was captured and executed on 28 April 1945**, ending the Fascist era.



D-DAY

A trained officer, after a brilliant career in the General Staff of the United States Army he was sent in 1942 to Great Britain at the head of the US troops destined to participate in the Second World War.

Commander-in-chief of the Allied forces first in the Mediterranean theater in 1942-1943 and then from 1944 in Europe, he demonstrated military and political-diplomatic skills, playing a fundamental role in directing and coordinating the Allied armies engaged against the Third Reich.

He was promoted on December 20, 1944 to General of the Army. After the war, after being the first commander in chief of NATO, he embarked on a political career and was, from 1953 to 1961, the 34th president of the United States of America.

The Normandy landing was one of the largest amphibious invasions in history, carried out by the Allied forces during WWII heading towards Nazi Germany and at the same time relieving the Eastern Front, on which the Red Army had been supporting for three years a bitter conflict against the Germans. The invasion began in the early hours of Tuesday June 6, 1944 (known as D-Day).





The Manhattan Project

The Manhattan Project was a military research and development program that led to the creation of the first atomic bombs during World War II.It was conducted by the United States of America with the support of the United Kingdom and Canada and cost almost 2 billion dollars.

From 1942 to 1946, the program was directed by the General of the United States Army Corps of Engineers.



General of the United States Army Corps of Engineers' logo

The Atomic Bombs

The scientific direction was entrusted to the physicist Robert Oppenheimer.

The headquarters was allocated (undercover) in a building in Manhattan in New York, hence the code name of the Project.

Four atomic bombs were manufactured as part of the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos in the National Laboratory:

- The first bomb → *"The Gadget"*
- The Second Bomb → *"Little Boy"*
- The Third Bomb → *"Fat Man"*
- The Fourth Bomb → *"Thin Man"*





- "The Gadget"



- "Little Boy"



- "Fat Man"



- "Thin Man"

Gulags and Nazi Camps

Gulags are concentration camps created and managed by the Soviet regime from 1918 to 1987, to punish political opponents.

Number of prisoners: Overall there were 18 million prisoners in the Gulag.



CLASSIFICATION AND CATEGORIES OF DEPORTAGED PEOPLE:

RED TRIANGLE → political prisoners
GREEN TRIANGLE → common criminals
BLACK TRIANGLE → antisocials
BLUE TRIANGLE → immigrants
PURPLE TRIANGLE → scholars of the Holy Scriptures
PINK TRIANGLE → those accused of homosexuality
BROWN TRIANGLE → the population of Gypsy origin

