# World War II: European Theater Operations (ETO)

Japan has attacked Pearl Harbor and the US has declared war on Japan. Hitler declared war on the US, so the US is now in the thick of it.

US adopted a Europe-first strategy, priority #1 is defeated Germany in Europe. US’s military is small, takes almost a year after Pearl Harbor until the US can make an appearance.

US decides to unlock the Mediterranean and fight in North Africa, Operation Torch, 1942. US kicks the Germans and Italians out of North Africa.

**Operation Husky** - 1943 - Invasion of Sicily. The US is supposed to support the British and watch their back, but the US commander is Patton and he’s not having that. He goes northward instead and beats the British to Messina and Sicily falls.

**Operation Avalanche** - 1943 - Invasion of Italy. Lots of German resistance, but managed to liberate Rome. Had a tough time because Patton wasn’t there. Patton liked to go to field hospitals and support the troops, found a soldier with PTSD and thinks he’s a coward. Patton slaps him and yells and shit like Patton does but word gets out and he’s kinda up the Suwanee. The US also takes resources away from Italy and diverts them to France. US troops remain in Italy for the rest of the war.

Churchill wanted to go through the south of Europe through Italy and the Balkans to get to Germany, but the Russians needed them to open a second front to get the Germans off them. So the Allies go through France.

**Allied High Command**

General Dwight D. Eisenhower - Supreme Allied Commander in Europe

Generals Patton, Bradley, and Montgomery.

**Operation Overlord** - **D-Day** - June 6, 1944 - Invasion of Normandy

US has Utah and Omaha beaches

Canada has Juno beach

Britain has Gold and Sword beaches

Allied forces manage to fight through the beaches into France. Patton is restored to a leadership position. He’s going to slice through the Germans. Eisenhower had a “Broad Front” advance across France.

General Montgomery (UK) dreams up **Operation Market Garden** (September 17-25, 1944). Send tanks through the Netherlands and drive them along the highway and into Germany, along with paratroopers. Germans manage to stop the assault.

**Hitler’s Ardennes Offensive - The Battle of the Bulge** - Dec 16, 1944 - Jan 25, 1945

Hitler thinks he can still pull out a victory like Frederick did. Hitler decided to launch a counter attack in the dead of winter through the Ardennes Forest to drive a wedge through allied forces. Hitler hopes to call off the war in the western front then focus on the eastern front with Russia. 101st Airborne is in Bastogne, creating a roadblock from the Germans. Patton was ready and redirected the 3rd army to relieve the 101st at Bastogne.

**The Air War over Germany** - Strategic bombing, another way to cripple the 3rd Reich. Americans bomb during the day, British bomb at night.

**Fall of the Third Reich - V-E Day** - May 8, 1945

Hitler kills himself and Germany gets a new fuhrer. About a week later, Germany surrenders.