**MWH 3/8**

**BR: Two truths and a lie. Which is false?**A. The French-built Maginot Line successfully stopped the German army from invading France.

B. The evacuation at Dunkirk happened prior to France surrendering on June 22, 1940.

C. Vichy France was the part of France under German control after France surrendered.

**Hitler’s Early Victories**

Hitler used Blitzkrieg to overtake Poland and much of NW Europe.

German troops went around the Maginot Line to split the Allied forces in two. To escape, the British and French had to be evacuated at Dunkirk. HUGE EVACUATION: 338k troops.

France surrendered on June 22 and Germany set up the Vichy government over 3/5 of France.

USA (President: FDR) denounced Germany’s moves but was unwilling to get involved. Congress passed the Neutrality Acts to keep America out. FDR knew aid to Britain was vital and found ways to provide aid.

**Battle of Britain**

Germany could only beat Britain if Germany had control of the air. August 1940: Luftwaffe began bombing Britain. The British fought back admirably (“Keep Calm and Carry On”) and also began bombing Germany, mainly Berlin. To retaliate, Hitler ordered German planes to begin bombing cities and civilian populations to hurt British morale. The result: the British could actually keep rebuilding their air force since military targets weren’t being hit. By the end of September, Hitler halted actions against the British Isle.

**Attack on the USSR**

Hitler invaded the USSR on June 22, 1941 (a year after France surrendered). Hitler expected a quick victory: wasn’t the case. The German army was stuck in the USSR during the wintertime and suffered tremendously. Then, a year later, after the Soviets beat the Germans at the Battle of Stalingrad, Germany began retreating. Germany’s last great defeat was at the 1943 Battle of Kursk, the greatest tank battle of the war.

**Japan**

December 7, 1941: The day that will live in infamy. Japan hoped to destroy the American desire or ability to wage war in the Pacific (and thereby stop Japan from advancing and getting supplies for their war effort). The USA ain’t one to back down, though, and declared war on Japan. Germany thought America couldn’t do well in a two-front war and then declared war on America, before America declared war on Germany. It is now a global war.

**Africa and Italy**

Allied forces chased and battled the Germans and Italians in Northern Africa. Before fall of 1942, General Rommel (German) had experienced success; afterward, especially after the turning-point Battle of El Alamein, German luck turned sour. After success in Africa, Allied and American troops invaded Italy (“the soft underbelly of Europe”). Rome finally fell to the Allies on June 4, 1944.

**Normandy and Western Europe**

Allied forces under General Eisenhower (USA) invaded at Normandy on June 6, 1944—D-day. This was history’s greatest amphibious landing. Axis powers were slow to respond, and the Allies began making their way into the European interior from this beachhead. Paris was liberated in August of 1944; by spring of 1945, Allied troops were in Germany. Soviet troops were pushing back German territory as well.

Hitler committed suicide in his bunker on April 30 (a few weeks after FDR died of natural causes). May 7: Germany surrendered.

**Back to Japan**

Truman decided to drop the atomic bomb (he became Prez after FDR died in April 1945) in August of 1945. August 6 and 9: Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombed. Japan surrendered on August 14 (formal peace in Sept.).