

WORLD WAR TWO

In 1933 Hitler took over the power and became the leader of Germany. In his book **Mein Kampf** [My struggle] he wrote that Germany would rule over Europe. He wanted to found a Third empire that ruled for thousand year and he wanted to defeat Soviet Union because he needed **lebensraum**. There was one problem and that was the **Treaty of Versailles**.

Dismantling of Versailles

- Large scale re-armament.
- Building up a fleet and an air force.
- In 1936 he sent troop to the Ruhr area

All these things were against the Treaty of Versailles, but no country stopped it. **France** wasn't able to act on their own and **Great Britain** was too busy with their colonies.

Germany started to gather **allies**, first **Italy** and later **Japan**. Hitler said that he wanted to **reunite all Germans** in Europa. First he persuaded Austria to unite with Germany. The next step was to unite **Sudentenland** in Czechoslovakia, this time France and Great Britain wanted to talk to Hitler. In September 1938 they met in **Munich**. The allies wanted to prevent a war so they wanted to give in to Hitler. The allies approved that Sudentenland got united with Germany. This policy of giving in to maintain peace was called **Appeasement politics**. A few months later Hitler took over the rest of Czechoslovakia.

In august 1939 Germany and the Soviet Union made an **Non-Aggression pact**. Germany or Soviet Union wouldn't attack each other and they divided Poland between them. This shocked Poland and the rest of the World.

On the first of September German troops invaded Poland. France and Great Britain declared war. **World War Two started**. The Germans overtook Europa in a couple of months with a blitzkrieg [lighting war].

In 1941 Germany broke the Non-aggression pact and attack the Soviet Union, this operation was called **Barbarossa**. At first this went very good but in winter everything went wrong. Many soldiers died of hyperthermia and diseases.

Turning points:

There are a couple a turning points in the course of World War Two.

- **Battle of Stalingrad.**
The Germans couldn't coop with the winter in Russia and their defeat started in Stalingrad. The Germans weren't able to take this city and it became one of the bloodiest battles in World War Two.
- **Battle of El Alemein.**
The Brits defeated the Germans in Egypt. From here they advanced and entered Italy. This was the end of Mussolini.
- **Operation Overlord.**
On July 6th, the Allies attacked the coast of Normandy. From here the liberation of France and Europe started.

On May 7th the Germans surrendered and World War Two came to an end.

Occupation of the Netherlands

10 May 1940 the Netherlands were attacked by Germany. Our small army wasn't capable to stop the German attack and after the bombing of Rotterdam the Netherlands surrendered. Before this the Queen and her family and some ministers fled to Great Britain to continue the war. Maybe the Netherlands were lost but they could continue from Great Britain.

Adaptation and collaboration

When the Nazi's conquered the Netherlands they named **Seyss-Inquart** as Reich commissioner. He ruled for the Germans. The Germans thought that they could win Dutch people for National Socialism. So German soldiers were nice and helpful.

A lot of Dutch people **adapted** to the new situation and went on with their lives. This is called **adaption**. There were also Dutch people who worked together with the Germans, for example the NSB members. This is called **collaboration**.

Equalization and liberation

In 1941 we see conflicts occur in the Netherlands, people were angry with all the **anti-Jewish measures** of Germany and they protested. After this German patience with the Dutch was over and they started to **equalize society**. Every organization and newspaper had to **propagate** the **national-socialist ideology**.

Dutch men had to go and work in Germany. Many men didn't want this and they went into **hiding**. Jewish people were also prosecuted and also they went into hiding. In this time **resistance** was increasing, more and more people worked against the Germans. They printed illegal newspapers or even attacked Germans and NSB members.

Hunger winter

In September 1944 South Netherlands was liberated with **Operation Market Garden**. When this operation started, people from the resistance destroyed trains, railways and bridges. This was good for the operation but not so good for the time after that. Because the North wasn't liberated and infrastructure was damaged they couldn't be supplied. So there was an enormous **shortage of food**. Dutch people in the North had a difficult time in the winter of 44-45.

On 5 May 1945 the Germans in the Netherlands surrendered and we were liberated.

Holocaust

In the 19th century there was hatred against Jews. They were bullied before the rise of Hitler. When Hitler took power he started to isolate Jewish people. Hitler saw them as a race and not as a religion. Through propaganda Germans got the wrong ideas about Jews.

Hitler made some rules to isolate Jews even more. Germans couldn't employ Jews, Germans couldn't buy any product from Jews and they weren't allowed to be a doctor or journalist. In 1935 there came new racial laws and the discrimination got worse. You could recognize Jews because they had to wear a Jewish star.

Concentration, deportation and murder

After the occupation of Europe persecution of Jews intensified. Jews had to move and move to ghettos. In the Soviet Union and Baltic countries the SS organized **genocide**. Murder commandos were gathering all Jews and killed them.

This way was too complicated and Nazi top was thinking about a **final solution of the Jewish problem**. Their goal was to free Europe from all his Jews. In January 1942 the Nazi top had a meeting in a villa at the **Wannsee** to come up with a solution.

The solution was a systems of camps where Jews were deported to. From their homes they went to **transit camps**. From these camps they were transported to **work camps** or **extermination camps**. Upon arrival at the extermination camps, the deported were divided in two groups. Most of them, among parents, children and the ill, went directly to the **gas chambers**. Healthy men and women first had to perform forced labour. This largest genocide in history was called the Holocaust; the Jewish people prefer the word Shoah.

The Japanese advance

Japan was an **industrial state** and depended on foreign countries for their raw materials. The Emperor Hirohito wanted to reduce this independence and create new markets; Japan wanted to found a **colonial empire**. Japan invaded parts of China, Indochina and the Dutch Indies. In 1941 Japan attacked a US naval base in Hawaii. This is known as the battle of **Pearl Harbor**. After this attack the U.S.A. joined World War Two.

Turning points

The first turning point was the **Battle of Midway** where the U.S.A. crushed a Japanese fleet. Just before the battle the Japanese advances came to a halt. The second turning point was that the Americans built additional warships and fighters.

It was difficult for American soldiers to defeat Japanese soldiers because they didn't want to give up. So the U.S.A. hopped from island to island and liberated island after island. From August 1944 Japan used **kamikaze tactic**. Japanese pilots with planes loaded with explosives would voluntarily dive into American warships. A year later American planes dropped atomic bombs on **Hiroshima** and **Nagasaki**. After this Japan surrendered and World War Two ended.

Band of Brothers

The action begins just before D-Day, and finds the men of Easy Company on a harrowing night-jump over Normandy. Their first mission is to take out German artillery so the invasion force can land on the beach the next day. As the C-47 planes are bombarded from the ground, the paratroopers of Easy Company anxiously await the order to jump. Winters lands in the woods, and is quickly joined by John Hall (Andrew Scott), a baby-faced private from Able Company. As they look for more men from their respective units, Winters, despite the fact that he lost his rifle in the jump, is able to keep the nervous young soldier calm. "We're not lost, private," he reassures him, "we're in Normandy." Soon they meet up with some other men, including Guarnere who is angry over the recent news of his brother's death in Italy. The makeshift platoon, under Winters' direction, successfully ambushes a German supply cart. Eventually, they reach their rendezvous point, where the scattershot remains of several airborne companies have gathered. Meanwhile, with their commanding officer unaccounted for, Winters takes command of Easy Company, and leads a small team of men on a daring assault of a cluster of German artillery units.

The third episode Band of Brothers, is entitled "Carentan," and details Easy Company's involvement with wresting control of the eponymous French town from the Germans. The town is critical strategically, because it is where the forces from Utah Beach and Omaha Beach will link up before moving further inland. Blithe later hears some soldiers discussing rumors about Lieutenant Speirs who has joined Easy Company. Some have heard that he cold-bloodedly murdered some German POWs. There is also a rumor that Speirs shot one of his own men for drinking. When the troops reach Carentan, they find the Germans waiting. There is a bloody fight for the town, and Blithe panics and collapses. The Germans, outnumbered, begin to retreat. Blithe is examined by a medic, who finds nothing wrong with him, despite his claim that he can't see. Lieutenant Winters has a few compassionate words with him, and Blithe recovers. Winters knows the Germans will try to retake the town, so Easy Company waits in the trenches, to attack the similarly entrenched Germans at first light. That night, one soldier mistakenly bayonets another from the company, and the panicky Blithe, perhaps unwisely, tells Speirs of his inability to fight.

Easy Company's stay in England is far too short when they are ordered to participate in operation Market Garden. This major engagement is to thrust north into Holland seizing the bridges along the way with a view to giving the Allies a clear route into Germany. The men of Easy Company are told that they will be leaving for good and they parachute into near Eindhoven, where they get a huge welcome from the war-weary population. With significant losses in Normandy invasion, Easy also has to welcome new recruits who, in the eyes of the now veteran combat soldiers who have survived, as much a liability as a benefit. The battle is not easy with the Germans putting up fierce resistance.. The battle was not a success and did not shorten the war as had been hoped.

In this episode, "Crossroads," Under the command of Lieutenant "Moose" Heyliger rescues a large group of British soldiers who are in hiding after getting trapped behind enemy lines during Operation Market Garden, Winters sits behind a desk, typing out a report of the company's previous encounter with the Germans. Winters, at the insistence of his friend, intelligence officer Lieutenant Nixon takes leave and travels to Paris, but he's too distracted by his memories of combat -- in particular his shooting of one young German soldier -- to enjoy his trip. Upon his return to battalion headquarters, he has a brief encounter with the injured Sergeant "Buck" Compton who also seems haunted by his battle experience. Then, Winters joins the company as they race to the front, where they meet other Allied forces, retreating from a vicious German counterattack in the Ardennes Forest. Here, Easy Company, ill-equipped to deal with the cold weather and short on rations and ammo, is charged with helping defend the strategic crossroads of Bastogne from German attack.

Due to poor weather and heavy fog, the American forces are unable to drop supplies to the line protecting Bastogne, Belgium. With the company short on medical supplies, food, and warm clothing, Roe has his hands full. In addition to treating the wounded with limited resources, he has to keep everyone aware of the health dangers posed by the extreme weather conditions. He spends much of his time trying to find basic supplies like morphine, and reminding the men to move around and stay dry to avoid trench foot. A squad of soldiers on patrol, looking for Germans, runs into the enemy line, and Babe Heffron becomes distraught when a young soldier he was looking after is mortally wounded and has to be left behind as the squad retreats. When Roe leaves the woods where the company is stationed and goes into the town of Bastogne to try to scrounge up supplies, he meets a pretty young Belgian nurse, Renee, who is doing her best to treat wounded American soldiers in a makeshift triage station. Roe, being half-Cajun, speaks French, and during their brief interaction, the two develop a quiet rapport. But soon he returns to the line, and as the Germans advance and casualties mount, he becomes overwhelmed and seems on the verge of breaking down. Captain Winters notices Roe's shakiness, and sends him back into Bastogne for a hot meal, but when the young medic arrives in the town, he finds that it is being bombarded by the Germans.

The company suffers heavy casualties in their efforts to take the German-occupied town of Foy, Belgium. This episode, the most graphically violent of the series so far, is narrated by Carwood Lipton, the company's tough and resourceful first sergeant. Lipton is distressed, not only by the carnage he's seen, but by the incompetence of Easy's new CO, Lieutenant Dike, who always seems to disappear at the crucial moment. Heavy shelling in the woods outside Foy takes its toll, and Lieutenant Compton reaches "the breaking point" when he sees two of his men, exceptional soldiers, lying together in a heap, seriously wounded. Just after the company gets hit, taking heavy casualties, Dike disappears again. But Lipton, determined to keep morale up, continues to defend Dike to his men. After overhearing company mimic George Luz joking with some other men, Lipton tells him "First, great impression of Dike," then adds, "second, don't do it anymore." But on the eve of their assault on Foy, Lipton is so concerned about Dike's incompetence that he speaks privately to Captain Winters. Winters has his own reservations about Dike, but with the company short of qualified officers, he can't find a way to replace him. During the hazardous assault, Winters watches helplessly from the woods above the town as Dike freezes up and the casualties mount.

Webster returns to Easy Company after a relatively minor injury kept him inactive for four months. Although Webster fought at Normandy, and with Easy during Operation Market Garden, he missed the ordeal the others faced at Bastogne, and on his return, he quickly realizes that it's not the same company. Many were killed or wounded at Bastogne, and those that remain resent him for not being there. Liebgott (Ross McCall) is particularly hostile, and complains that while others who were injured found a way to get back to the front, Webster took his time recovering. The company is also joined by Lieutenant Jones (Colin Hanks, executive producer Tom Hanks' son), fresh out of West Point. The war appears to be drawing to a close. The company is still on the front line, in the French town of Haguenau, and the Germans are stationed across a small river. Both sides are encamped in relative comfort, and neither side seems eager to engage the other. On the orders of the regiment's commander, Winters (Damian Lewis) picks 15 men for a dangerous night patrol across the river to capture German prisoners for interrogation. The exhausted Malarkey (Scott Grimes) is picked to lead the patrol. Webster assesses the situation and convinces the gung-ho Jones to volunteer to take Malarkey's place, and also offers to replace Liebgott as the mission translator. Winters picks Martin (Dexter Fletcher) to replace Malarkey, and allows Jones to go along as an observer. The raid is considered successful, despite the loss of a man, and Winters is ordered to send his men out on another patrol the following night.