

Patriot Project



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A Teaching American History Grant

The following is information synthesized from the World War II information boards created by Patriot Project Participants on September 11, 2010. Additional information/sources may be added in some cases.

Operation Husky

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Operation Husky refers to the Allied landings on Sicily in July of 1943.

The Battle of Sicily, code named Operation Husky, was part of the Allies Italian campaign of World War II. It was the largest amphibious military operation ever up to that date. The operation had many facets including the planning of the fighting and the aftermath. Although many believe that the operation could have been more successful, it did have a large role in the later eradication of the Axis forces.

Operation Husky was put into effect after the Allies decided that it would not be feasible to conduct an amphibious landing in France during 1943. After deciding against an invasion in France, the invasion of Sicily was planned as a way to rid the island of Axis powers, open up the Mediterranean shipping lanes and encourage the fall of the current Italian government. America was reluctant at first to commit to the operation, as American leaders did not want to delay the invasion of Normandy.

The Battle of Sicily was successful in the taking of the island but did not achieve all of the goals set by Allied planners. The Allied forces had not completed a post invasion battle plan when they entered Sicily. American and British Armies were left to each fight their own campaigns without much coordination. This led to cases of fratricide (Killing ones or her brother, sibling, ally in battle). Because of this early lack of coordination and the large egos of the generals involved, the Axis soldiers were able to escape to Italy. This led to a long and bloody Italian

campaign. The fighting was very heated when it involved the Allies and German troops, however Italian troops were defeated much more easily because of their lack of training and equipment.

Reasons for Operation Husky

- Force the Germans to disperse their forces
- Possibly knock Italy out of the war (Topple Mussolini from power)
- Open up the Mediterranean shipping lanes

Key Figures

Allies

General Dwight D. Eisenhower	American Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces North Africa
General Harold Alexander	British officer who acted as Eisenhower's second in command and as the Land Forces/Army Group Commander
Sea Forces Commander	Admiral Cunningham
Air Forces Commander	Air Marshall Tedder
Major General Walter Bedell Smith	American Chief of Staff
Admiral Bernard Montgomery	British Naval Force Commander
Lieutenant General George S. Patton	American Commander of Western Task Force

Axis

General Alfredo Guzzoini	Commander of the Italian 6 th Army
Albert Kesselring	German Commander-In-Chief, Army Command South

Quote

Quote from document entitled: "Personal Message from the Army Commander" signed by B.L. Montgomery, General, 8th Army

“I want to tell all of you, soldiers of the Eighth Army , that this has been a very fine performance. On your behalf, I have expressed to the Commander of the Seventh American Army on our left the congratulations of the Eighth Army for the way the American troops have captured and cleaned up more than half the island in record time. We are proud to fight beside our American Allies. The beginning has been very good, thanks to your splendid fighting qualities and to the hard work and devotion to duty of all those who work in the ports, on the roads and in rear areas. We must not forget to give thanks to THE LORD MIGHTY IN BATTLE for giving us such a good beginning towards the attainment of our object.”

Sources

<http://www.worldwar2history.info/sicily>

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<http://www.paradata.org.uk/media/848?mediaSection=Highlights>

<http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Operation+Husky&FORM=VDRE&qv=Operation+Husky#>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Husky_order_of_battle

<http://www.combinedops.com/husky.htm>