

MILITARY
HISTORY
STALINGRAD
23 AUG 42-2 FEB 43





Introduction

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- This took place between August 23, 1942 and February 2, 1943 and was a major turning point in the war.
- The Germans took Stalingrad at first and defeat for the USSR seemed imminent, but Stalin's perseverance eventually defeated the 22 Division German 6th Army.
- This was the first substantial German loss in the war.

Stalingrad

- Stalingrad was a large industrial city producing armaments, chemicals, ordnance, tanks and tractors.
- It had a population of 500,000.
- It stretched about 30 miles (50 km) along the banks of the 2,294 mile (3,692 km) long Volga River, Europe's longest and largest river.



Molotov-Ribbentrop Nonaggression Pact, 23 August 1939



Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics mutually agreed not to attack each other; not to support any third power that might attack the other party to the pact; to remain in consultation with each other upon questions touching their common interests; not to join any group of powers directly or indirectly threatening one of the two parties; to solve all differences between the two by negotiation or arbitration. The pact was to last for 10 years, with automatic extension for 5 years.

A secret protocol attached to the pact granted Stalin a free hand in Eastern Europe to steal back several areas lost to Russia at the end of World War I, including the countries of Latvia, Estonia and Finland, the province of Bessarabia in Romania, and most importantly, the entire eastern portion of Poland.

**TOP
SECRET**

Hitler's War Strategy

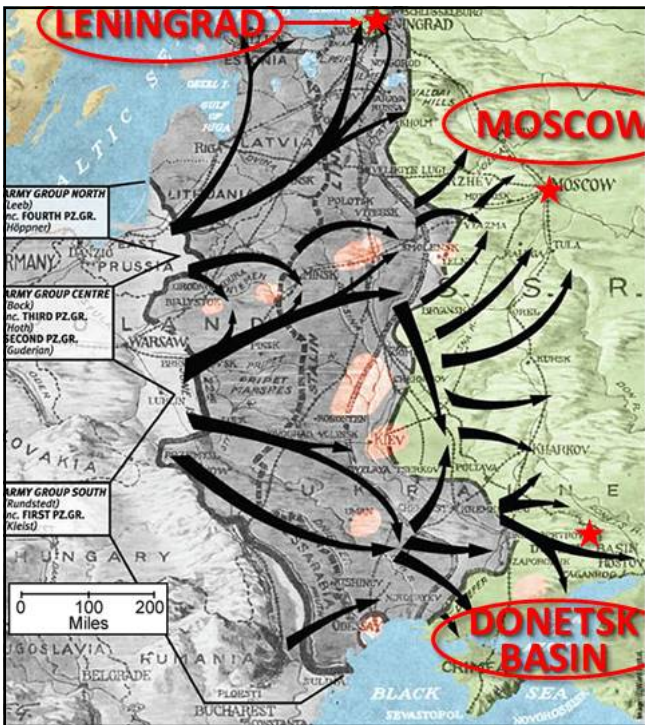
- Initiate a war to fix Germany's economy.
- Acquire *Lebensraum* to acquire fresh labour and materials. Make up labour shortages by forced labour.
- Crush Poland with lightning speed, then knock out France and Britain. Hitler expected Britain to sue for peace.
- Turn the army eastwards. Plunge deep into Russia to destroy the USSR as a political entity and seize agricultural and natural resources. Replace Slavic populations with Germanic peoples.
- "Close your hearts to pity! Act brutally! Eighty million people must obtain what is their right.... The stronger man is right.... Be steeled against all signs of compassion!"



While war went on in the West

- Stalin tried unsuccessfully to join the Tripartite Pact of Germany, Japan and Italy (signed 27 September 1940).
- A 1940 Commercial pact exchanged 650 million Rm of Soviet raw materials for 650 million Rm of German manufactured goods and technology.
- Germany and the USSR entered into the *Border and Commercial Agreement* on 10 January 1941, where the USSR made large economic offerings.
- President Roosevelt signed the Lend-Lease Act on 11 March 1941.
- Hitler was advised that raw materials on hand could only last until September 1941. Rubber was particularly dire.
- Stalin's spy in Tokyo, Richard Sorge, had full access to the war plans, and advised Stalin who didn't believe it.
- Barbarossa was delayed from 15 May to 22 June 1941 in order to rescue Mussolini's forces in Africa. There were also some logistical issues.





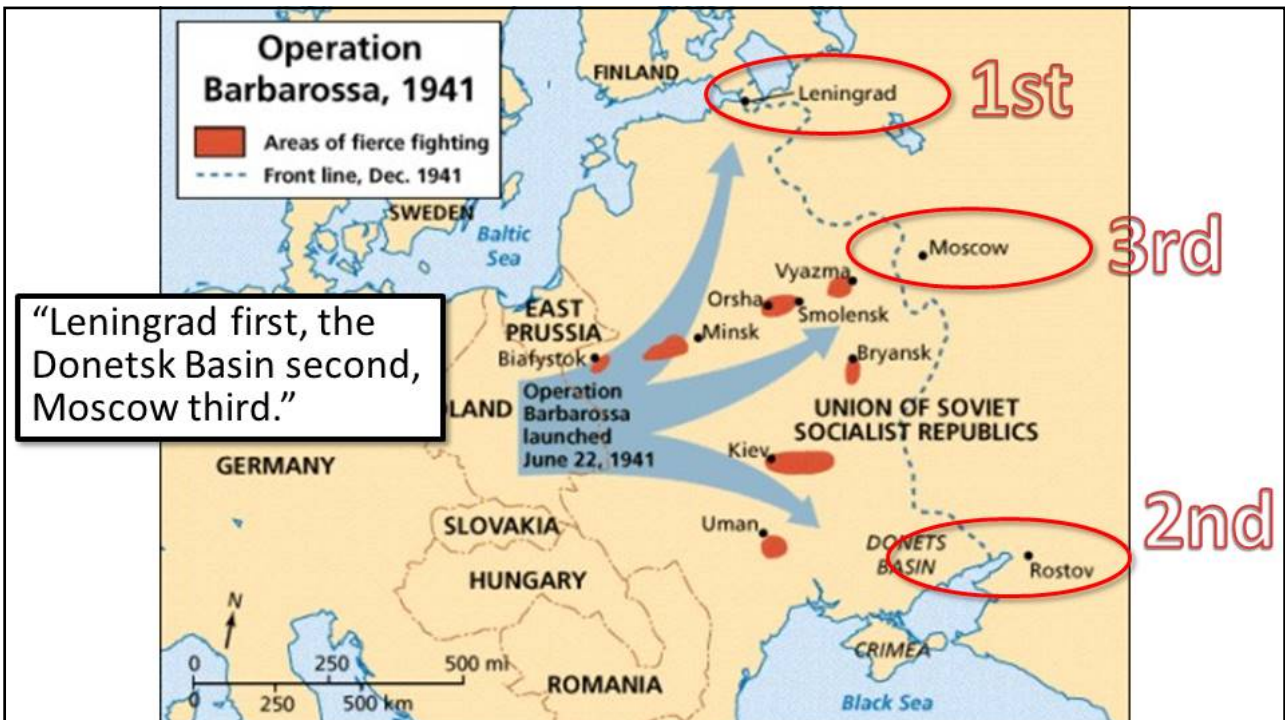
OPERATION BARBAROSSA

Planning began 18 Dec. 1940.

On 22 June 1941, over 4.5 Axis million troops invaded the USSR along an 1,800 mile front.

“Leningrad first, the Donetsk Basin second, Moscow third.”

Rapid success in the West and the Red Army’s ineptitude in Finland convinced Hitler of a quick victory before winter.



Development of USSR armed forces 1939 to 1941

	January 1, 1939	June 22, 1941	% increase
Divisions	132	317*	140.7
Personnel	2,485,000	5,774,000	132.4
Guns; mortars	55,800	117,600**	110.7
Tanks	21,100	25,700***	21.8
Aircraft	7,700	18,700****	142.8

Notes: * German intelligence estimate = 75.

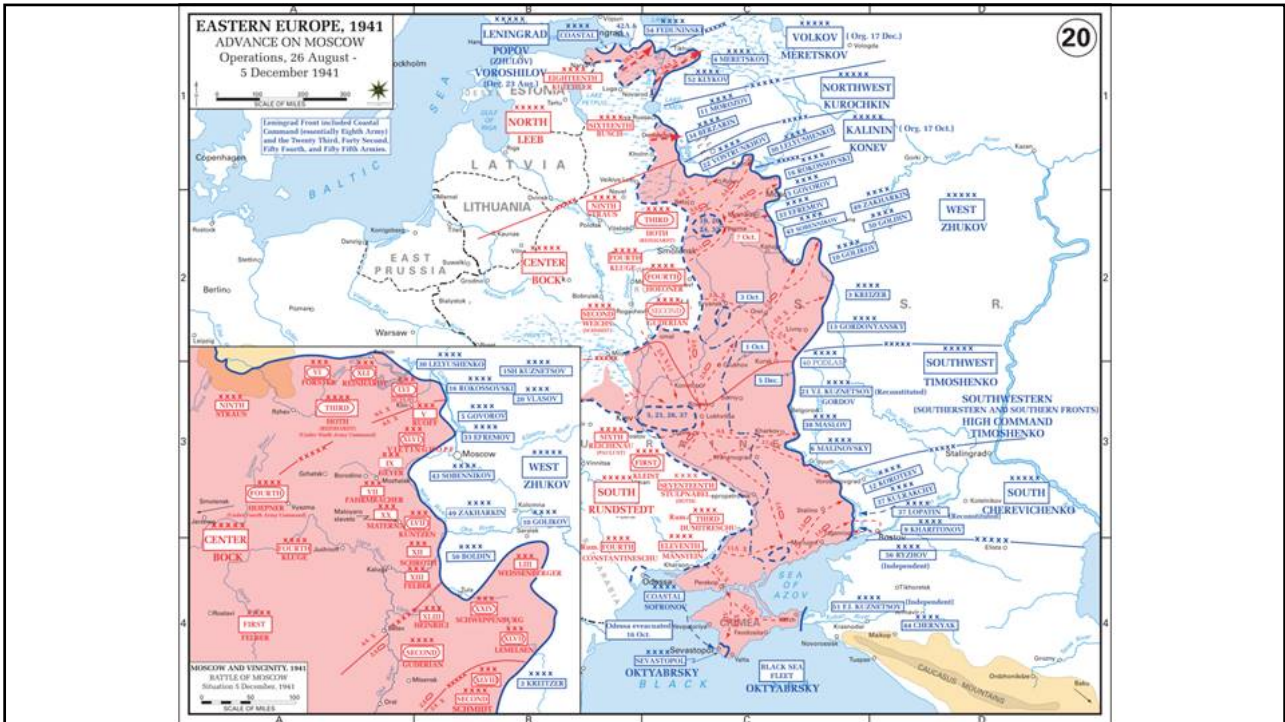
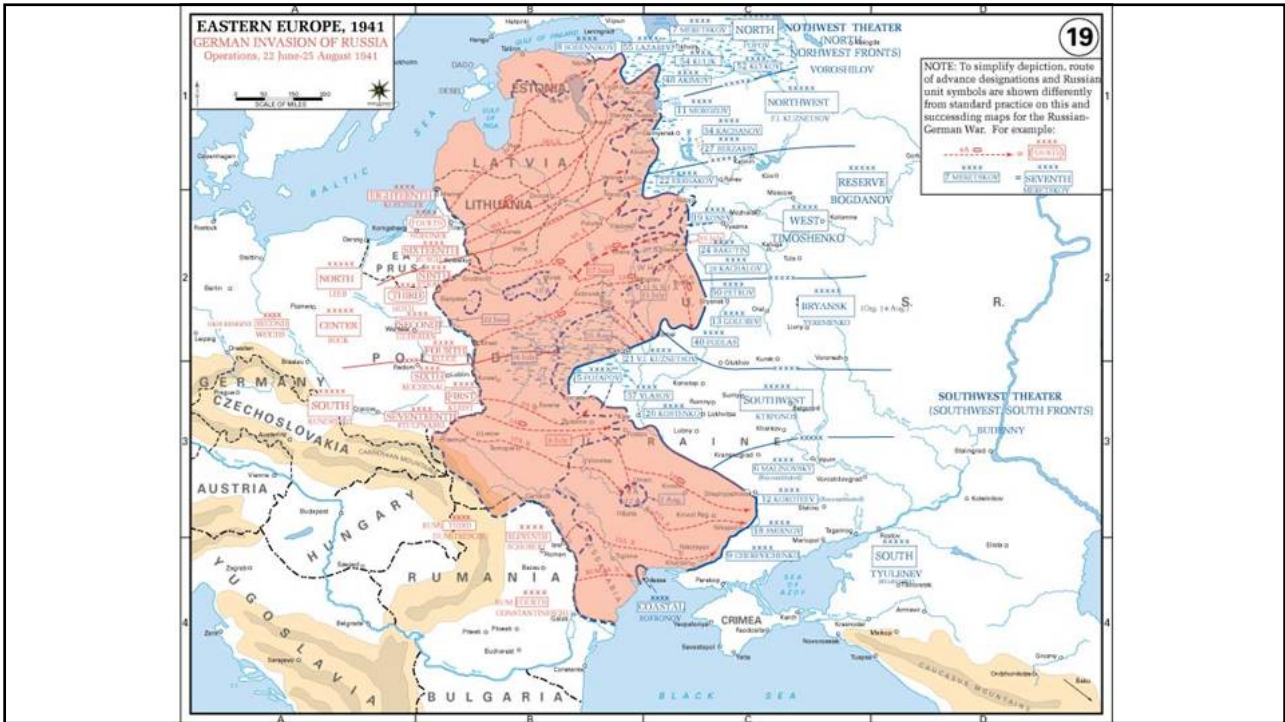
** Many guns had the wrong or no available ammunition; no means of transport.

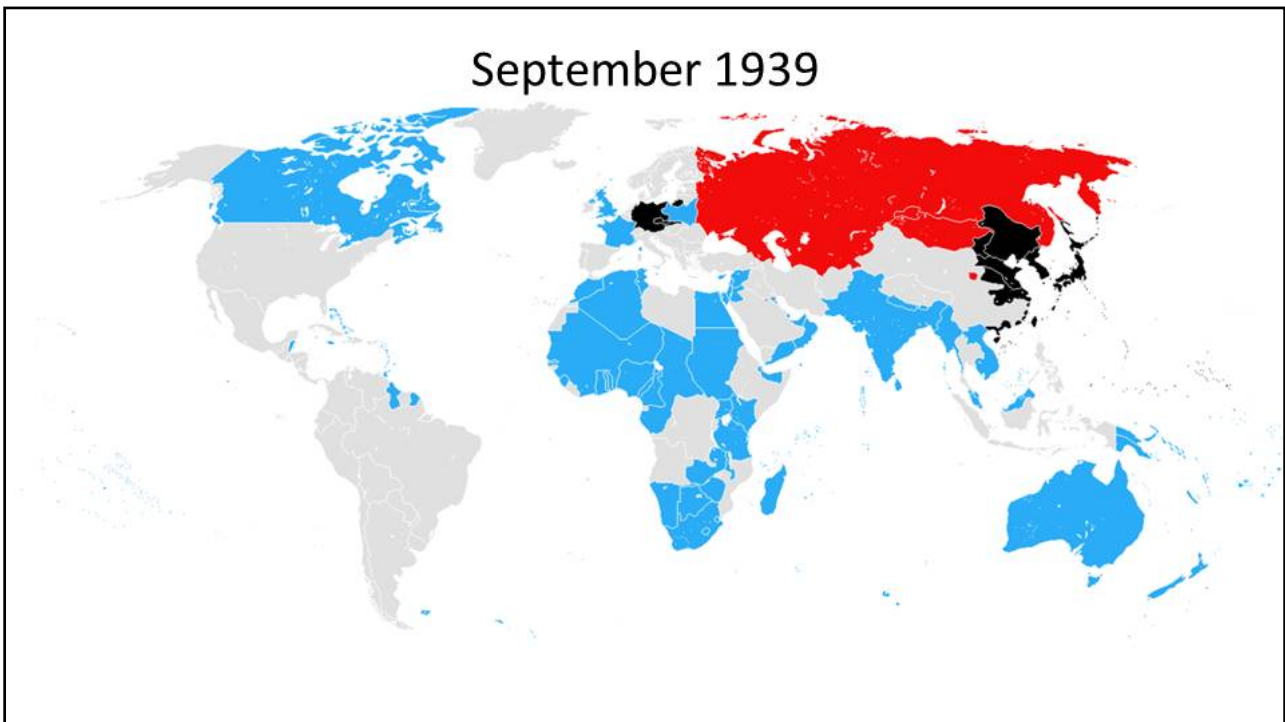
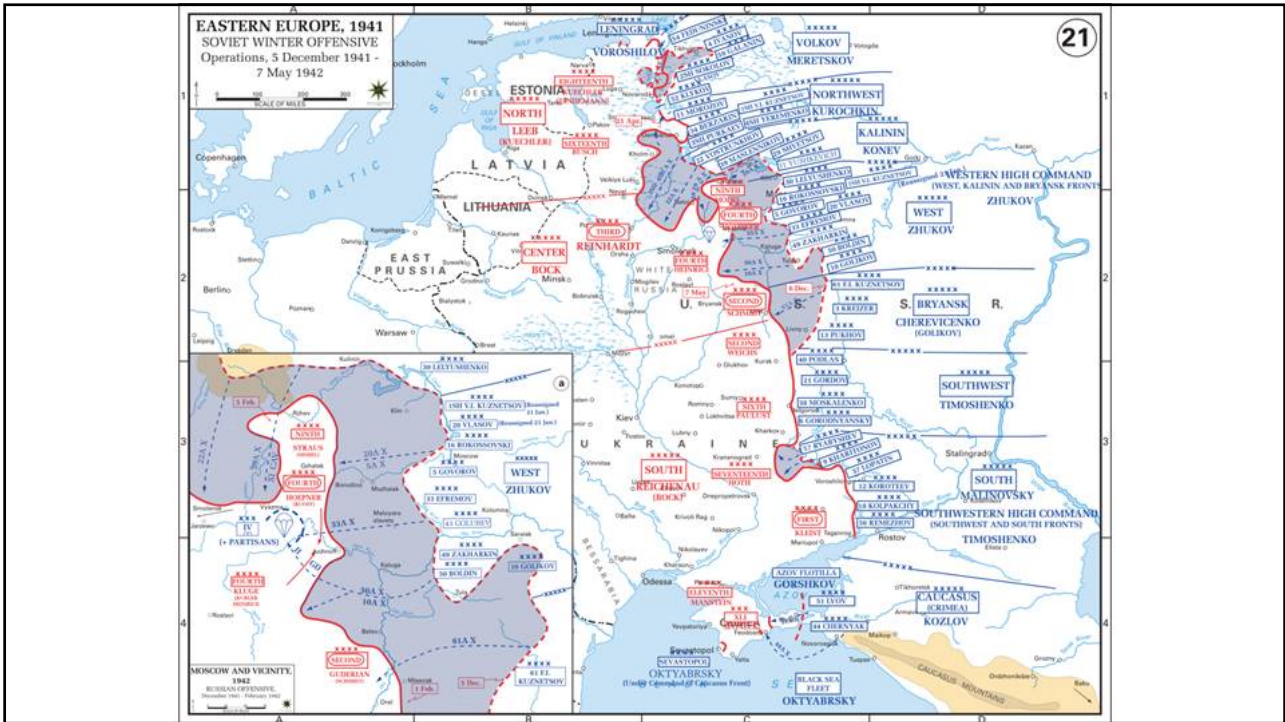
*** Poor tank supply and maintenance; army in midst of reorganising tank units.

**** USSR had 210 MiG-3s and 37 MiG-1s combat ready, but only 4 qualified pilots.

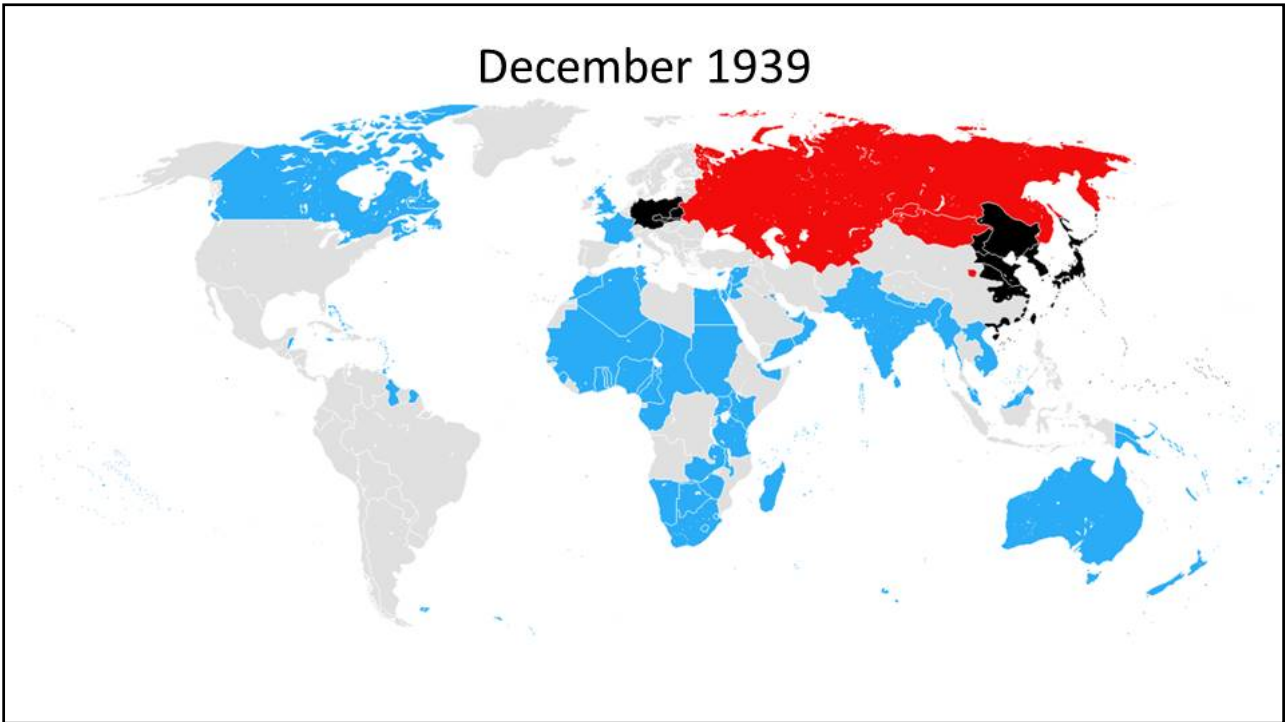
Development of USSR strategy (1940-1941)

- Soviet adopted static defense in 1938, with infantry supported by tanks in fortified zones.
- Soviets concluded Fall of France in six weeks was due to reliance on static linear defense and lack of armored reserves. They chose to:
 - Disavow linear defense (except around key cities)
 - Concentrate divisions in large formations
 - Trade space for time (they had heaps of space)
 - Rely heavily on railroad system for movement of troops, equipment (e.g., tanks) and supplies.

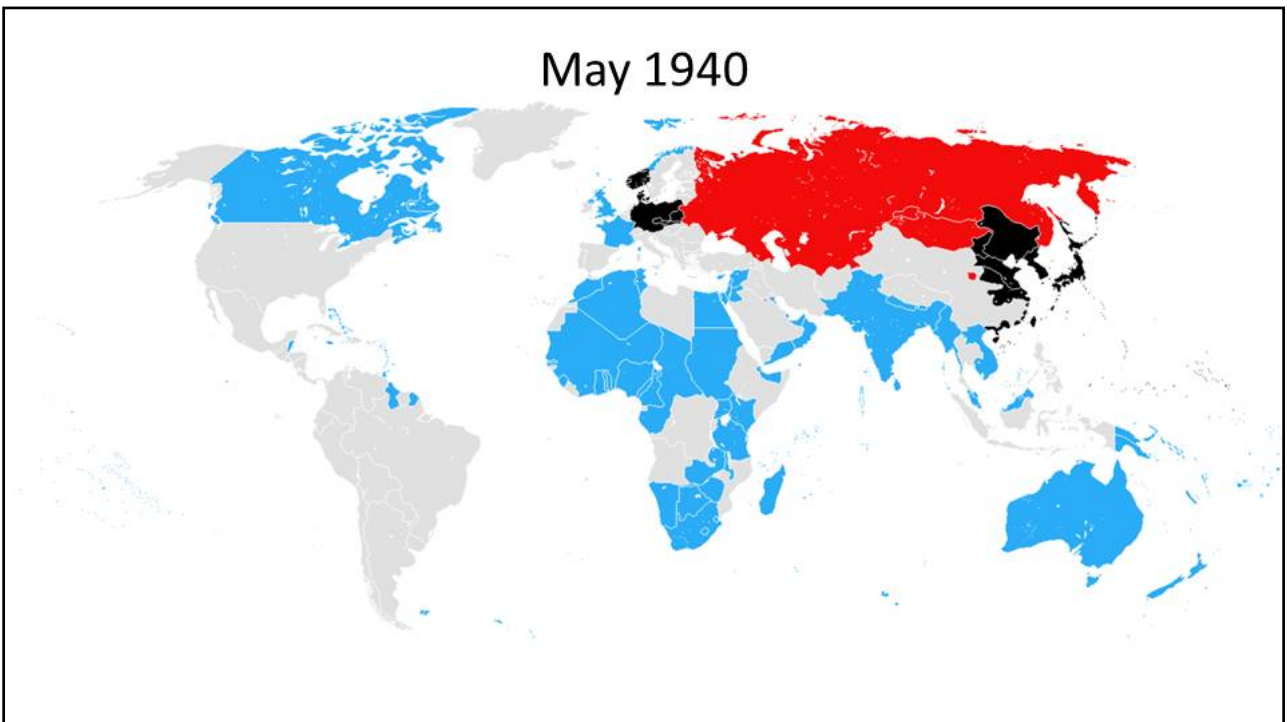




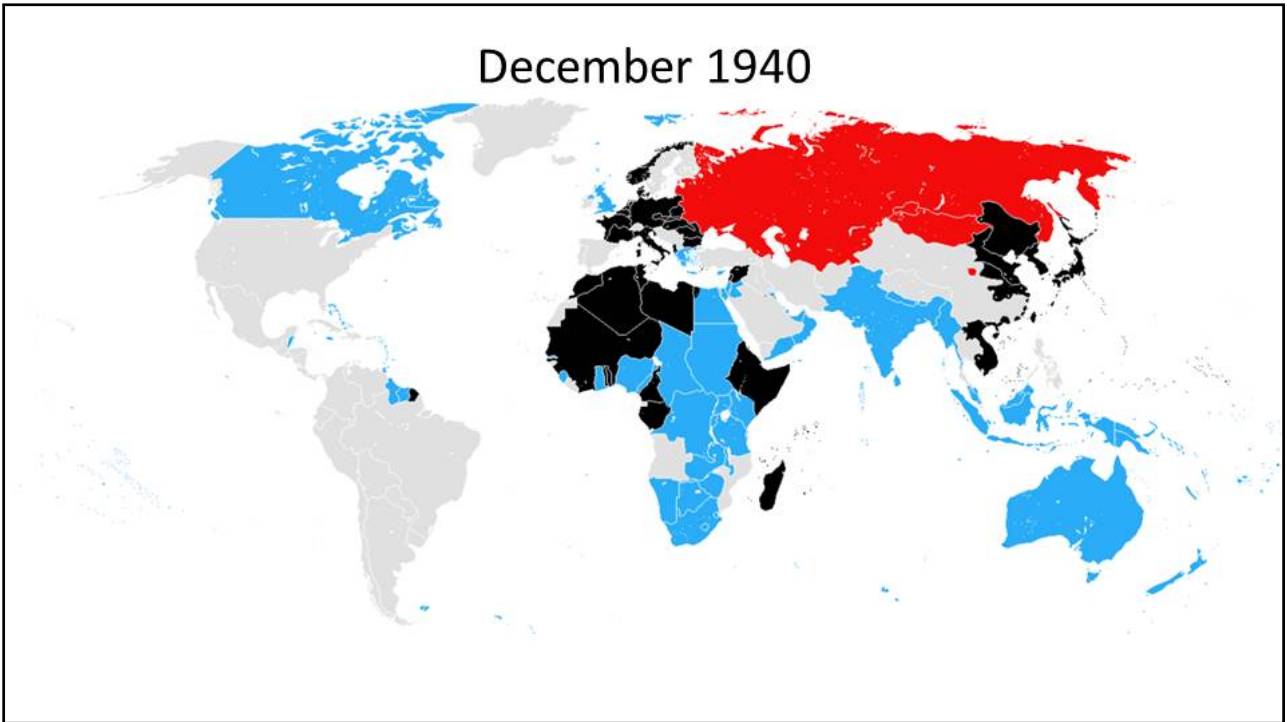
December 1939



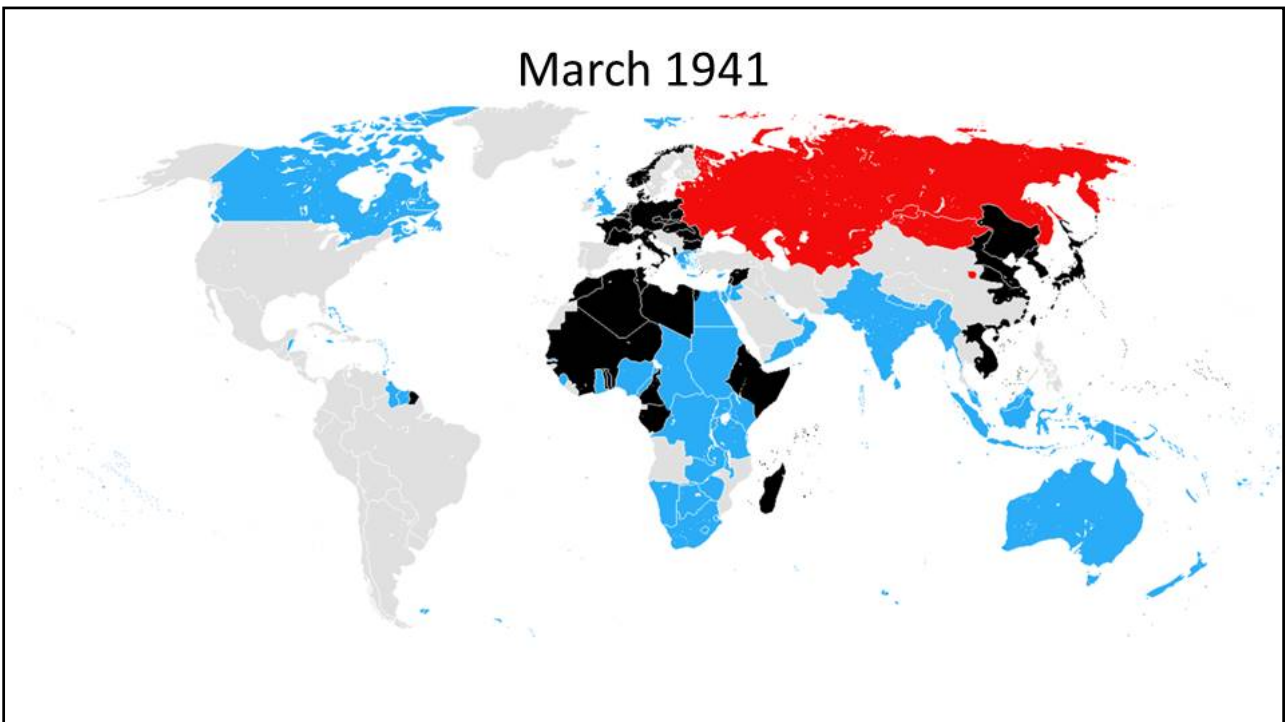
May 1940

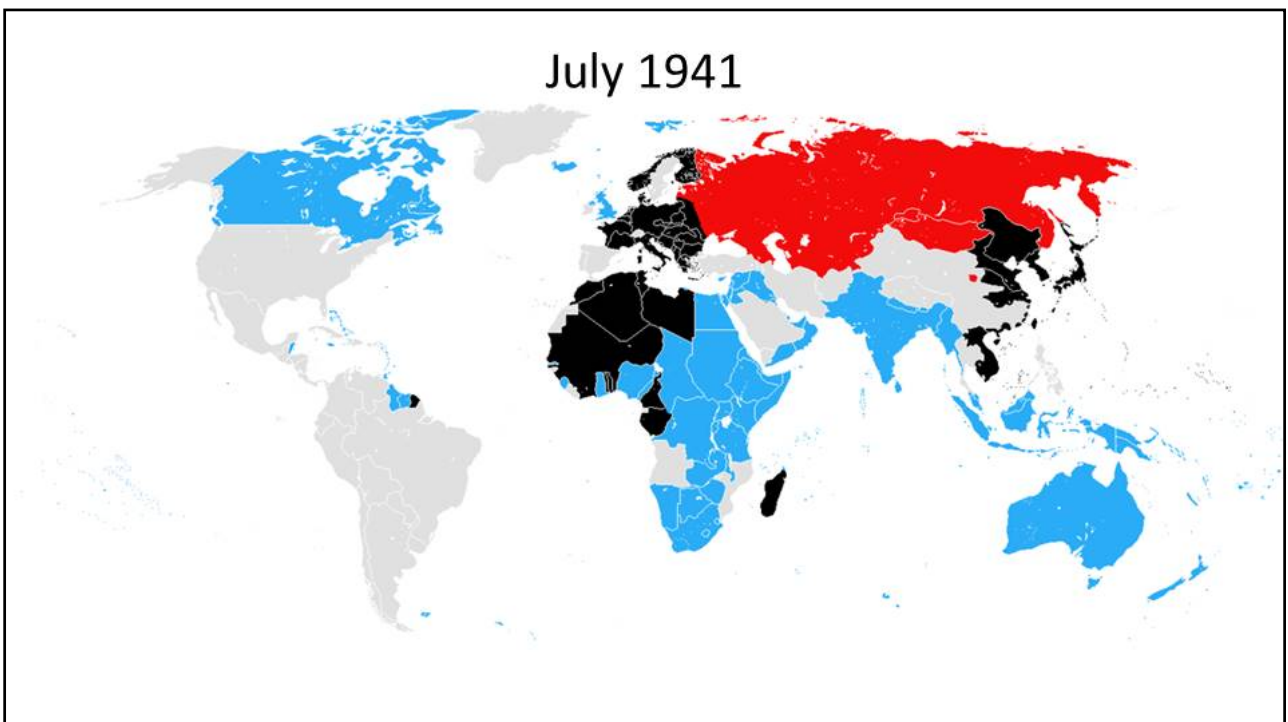
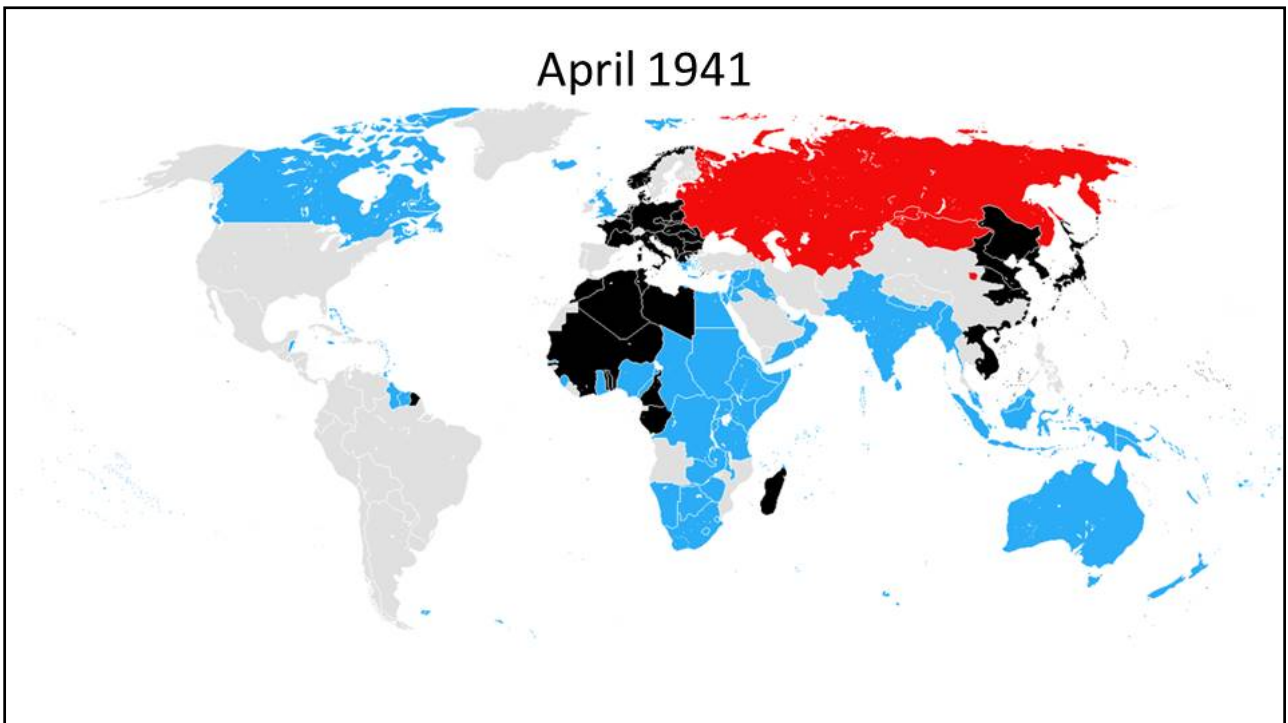


December 1940

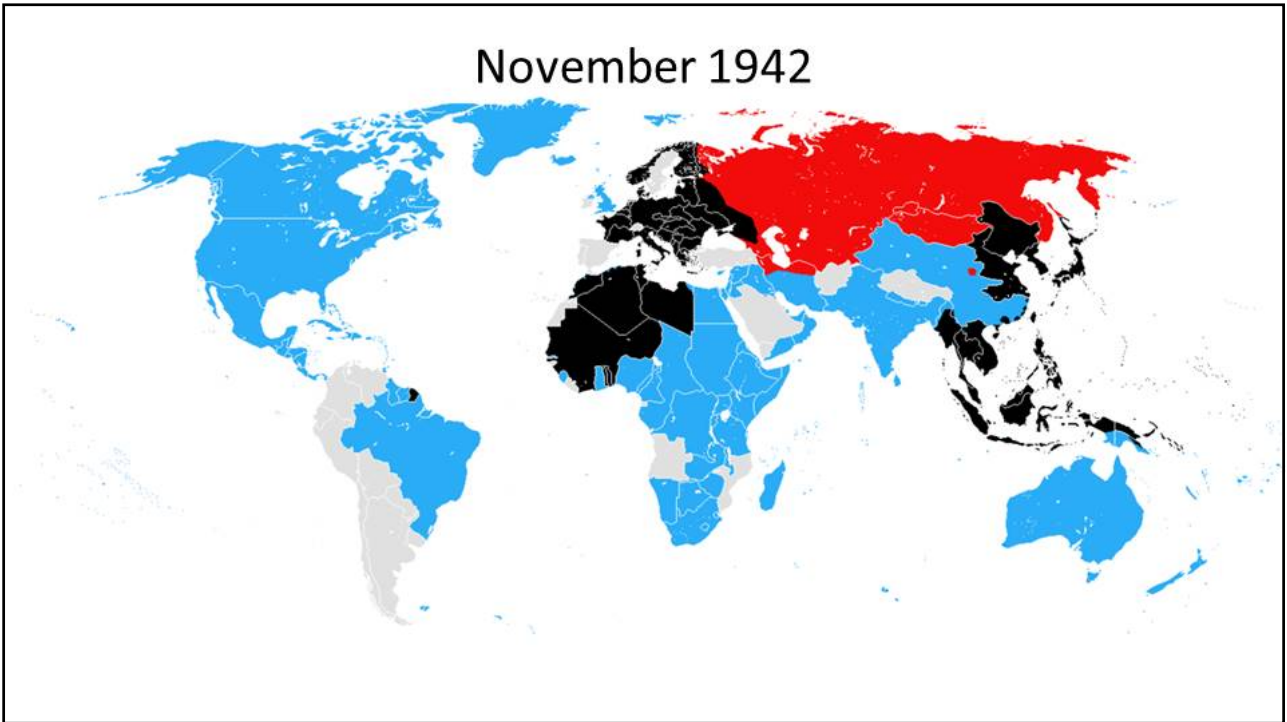


March 1941

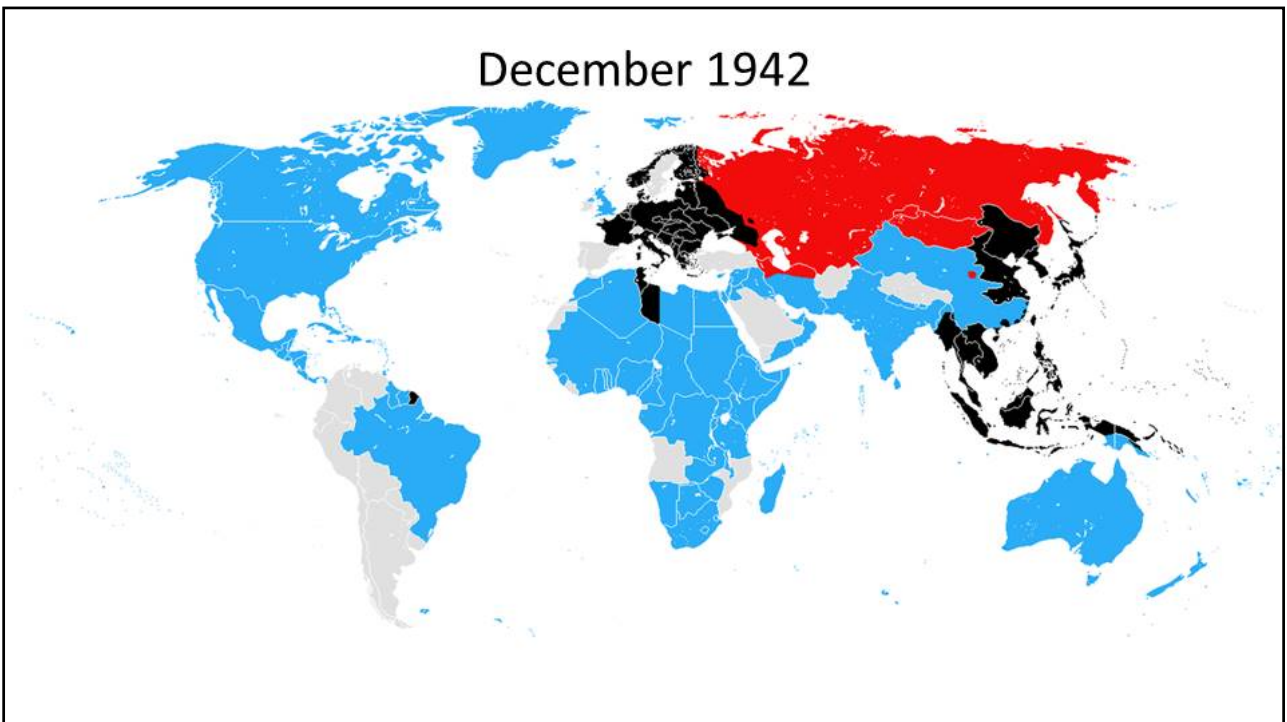


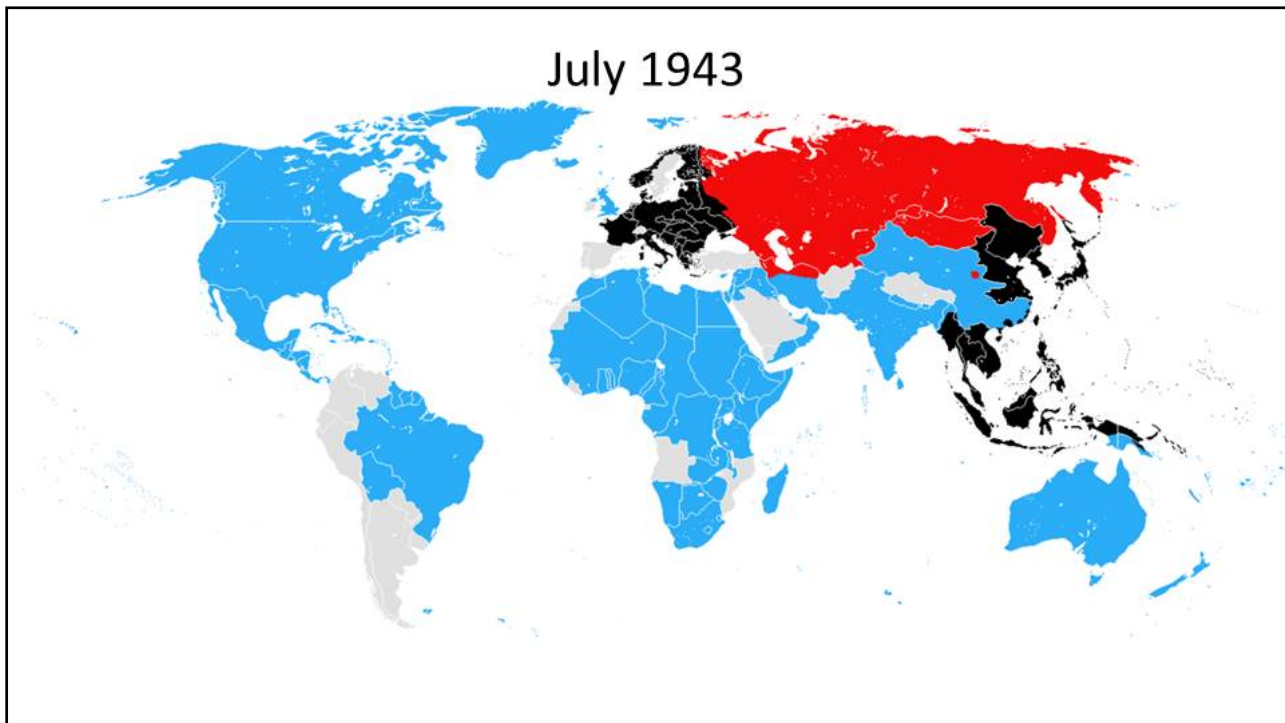


November 1942



December 1942





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Early concerns

- German losses began to mount. 863 tanks (~25% of committed) were destroyed and 213,000 became casualties (15% of force).
- None of the three objectives (Leningrad, Rostov and Moscow) had fallen. Defense of Moscow was solidifying 25-30 miles east of Smolensk.
- Hitler was only vaguely interested in Moscow. Instead he coveted the strategic location of Leningrad and the oil and grain of the Ukraine. So Hitler bled forces away from Moscow and shipped them north to Leningrad or south to the Ukraine.
- But Moscow was not only the cradle of Bolshevism, it was an important armaments centre and the hub of the Russian communications and transportation network.
- Whilst setting up an alternate capital at Kuybyshev 430 miles east, Stalin himself was determined to stay in the city until the end.

Guys, Moscow is merely a geographic expression. We really need the oil fields down south more. Send Panzer Group 3 from Moscow to help attack Leningrad.

Oh, so Guderian wants to push tanks through the Smolensk blockade and attack Moscow? Ha, ha. Those tankers kill me! Tell him I don't care about the tank books he wrote. PzGp2 must eliminate the Smolensk Pocket and then go south to join von Rundstedt at Kiev.*

* 23 July 1941



Kiev fell in mid-September 1941.



Germans captured 655,000 POWs, 884 tanks and 3,718 guns.



Army Group South continues per the plan

- After Kiev, Army Group South captured Kharkov, Voroshilovgrad, and all of the Crimea except Sevastopol (which held out until July 1942).
- Von Kleist's 1st Panzer Army attacked from Kiev, surrounded Melitopol, then attacked toward Rostov, the "Gateway to the Caucasus" (one of Hitler's three original objectives for Barbarossa).
- Soviets fiercely counter-attacked, but the main enemy was the infamous Rasputitsa (Autumn rains).

Rostov, objective of Army Group South (von Rundstedt), fell 21 October 1941.



Indefensible, it was regained by the Soviets on 27 October.

Postscript on Operation Barbarossa

- Guderian raced his Panzer Group 2 north to Moscow, but it was too late. Operation Typhoon got within sight of the Kremlin spires, but General Frost (aka Gen. Winter) won. The operation was called off 5 December 1941.
- The German army was not winterized. Batteries iced over, engines would not start bolts froze in rifles.
- Moscow never fell to Nazi Germany.

“It is not by conquering the enemy provinces... but by seeking out the heart of the enemy power...that we can strike him to the ground.”

Carl von Clausewitz

1941 was the coldest Russian winter in 40 years.



Counting the cost

- Withstanding Soviet counterattacks throughout the winter, and OKH report of 30 March 1942 noted of 162 German divisions in Russia, only 8 were fit for action, of which only 3 were fit for operations given time to reequip and rest.
 - 47 were capable of limited offensive action
 - 73 were only fit for defense
 - 29 were good only for limited defense
 - 2 were so bad they needed to be withdrawn from the field.
- The 16 Panzer divisions had just 140 operational tanks in all.
- The German army had lost 397,000 KIA and 50,000 missing since the start of Barbarossa. 2.8 million soldiers were present.
- The USSR was worse off, but could replenish losses.

I was thinking over the winter, and I have an idea!





- Over the winter, Hitler reinforced Army Group South with about half of German troop strength in Russia: 9 of 19 Panzer divisions, 4 of 10 motorized divisions and 93 of 189 Infantry divisions.
- Hitler split Army Group South into two task forces, Army Group A and Army Group B. Both answered to Army Group South, commanded by von Bock who had replaced von Rundstedt.
 - Army Group A under Field Marshall List advanced in the south to the oil.
 - Army Group B under General von Weichs was to hold the northern flank against Soviet counterattacks.
- Per Directive 41, "The purpose is ...to occupy the Caucasus front by decisively attacking and destroying Russian forces stationed in the Voronezh area to the south, west, or north of the *Don*."



1. Army Group South to attack from Kursk to destroy Russian forces stationed in the Voronezh area to the south, west, or north of the *Don*. The stronger northern pincer will capture Voronezh.
2. With the Don River protecting the left flank, continue to attack south and link up with a second breakthrough coming from Army Group B.
3. Continue to attack south along the Don River, linking up with elements of Army Group A, who will make the final drive into the Caucasus.
4. Regarding Stalingrad, Every effort should be made to reach it or at least bring it under fire to neutralize it as an industrial or communications centre.

Order of Battle






Axis Forces

Army Group B (Erich von Manstein):

-  6th Army (Frederich Paulus)
-  4th Panzer Army (W.F. von Richthofen)
-  3rd Romanian Army (Petre Dumitrescu)
-  4th Romanian Army (C. Constantinescu)
-  8th Italian Army (Italo Gariboldi)
-  2nd Hungarian Army (Gusztáv Jány)
-  Czechoslovakian (Viktor Pavičić)

Soviet Forces

Stalingrad Front (Yeremenko)

-  28th Army (Gerasimenko)
-  51st Army (Trufanov)
-  57th Army (Tolbukhin)
-  62nd Army (Chuikov)
-  64th Army (Shumilov)

Don Front (Rokossovski)

South West Front (Timoshenko)

Strength: Initial

Mid-Nov 1942

270,000 personnel	1,040,000 personnel
3,000 artillery pieces	10,250 artillery pieces
500 tanks	500 tanks
1,600 aircraft	732 (402 operational)

Initial (Aug 42)

Mid-Nov 1942

187,000 personnel	1,143,000 personnel
2,200 artillery pieces	13,451 artillery pieces
400 tanks	894 tanks
300 aircraft	1,115 aircraft

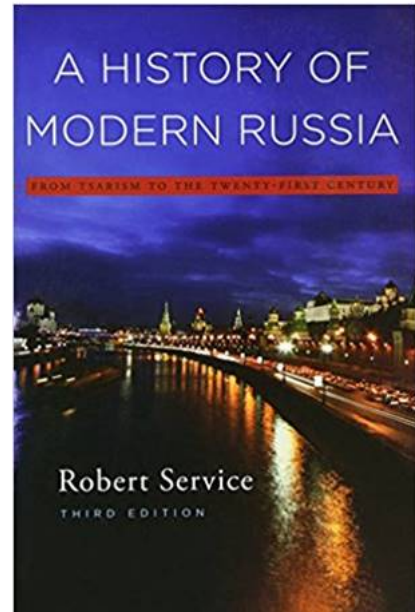
And after that....

- With limitless Caucasus oil, perhaps German tanks could even link up with Rommel's *Afrika Korps* in the Middle East.
- Maybe the "Little Corporal" was better that given credit for.
- Alas, though, it wasn't just about military nous and prowess. A key part of Barbarossa was political – even more, it was racial. It was a plan for the destruction of not only Jews but the Slavic race and other *untermenschen* ("sub-humans").
- Slavs were to be made subservient with numbers reduced by extermination and birth control to provide the lebensraum for new generations of Germanic settlers. Closely behind the combat troops came the *Einsatzgruppen* (German SS special extermination groups).

Historian Robert Service wrote


“If it had not been for Hitler’s fanatical racism, the USSR would not have won the struggle on the Eastern Front. Stalin’s repressiveness towards his own citizens would have cost him the war against Nazi Germany, and the post-war history of the Soviet Union and the world would have been fundamentally different.”

(p. 290)



The stage is *almost* set for

STALINGRAD



28 July 1942, Stalin issues Prikaz 227.

ПОТ А СТЕЧ ВАСЖ!

ПРИКАЗ
НАРОДНОГО КОМИССАРА ОБОРОНЫ СОЮЗА

№ 227
«28» июля 1942 г.
г. Москва

Враг бросает на фронт все новые силы не считаясь с большими для него потерями, лезет вперед, рвется в глубь Советского Союза, захватывает новые районы, опустошает и разоряет наши города и села, насылает, грабит и убивает советское население. Бои идут в районе Воронежа, на Дону, на юге у югов Северного Кавказа. Немецкие оккупанты рвутся в Сталинград, к Волге, хотят любой ценой захватить Кубань, Северный Кавказ с их нефтяными и хлебными богатствами. Враг уже захватил Ворошиловград, Старобельск, Россошь, Купянск, Волукии, Новочеркасск, Ростов-на-Дону, волонеры Воронежа. После потери Украины, Белоруссии, Прибалтики, Донбасса и других областей у нас стало намного меньше территории. Мы потеряли более 70 миллионов населения, более 800 миллионов пудов хлеба и более 10 миллионов тонн металла в год. У нас нет уже теперь преобладания над немцами ни в людских ресурсах ни в запасах хлеба. Отступить дальше - значит загубить себя и загубить вместе с тем нашу Родину. Надо в корне пресекать разговоры о том, что мы имеем возможность без боя отступить, что у нас много территории, что страна наша велика и богата, населения много, хлеба всегда будет в избытке. Такие разговоры являются дикими и вредными, они ослабляют нас и усиливают врага, ибо, если не прекратим отступление останемся без хлеба, без топлива, без металла, без сырья, без фабрик и заводов, без железных дорог. Из этого следует, что пора кончить отступление. Ни шагу назад! Таким теперь должен быть наш главный призыв! Чего же у нас не хватает? Не хватает порядка и дисциплины в ротах, батальонах, полках, дивизиях, в танковых частях, в авиакадровых. В этом теперь наш главный недостаток. Мы должны установить в нашей армии строжайший порядок и железную дисциплину, если мы хотим спасти положение и отстоять нашу Родину. Пьянеры и грусы должны истребляться на месте. Отныне железным законом дисциплины для каждого командира, красноармейца, политработника должно явиться требование: «Ни шагу назад!» без приказа высшего командования. Единственной причиной ухода с позиций может быть только смерть!

Когда в немецких войсках расшаталась дисциплина, немцы приняли некоторые суровые меры, привели к неплохим результатам. Они сформировали более 100 рот из бойцов и около десятка штрафных батальонов из командиров, провинившихся в нарушении дисциплины. А наши войска, имеющие дело защиты своей поруганной Родины не имеют такой дисциплины и терпят поражение.

ПРИКАЗЫВАЮ: Сформировать в пределах фронта от одного до трех штрафных батальонов по восемьсот человек. Сформировать в пределах армий от пяти до десяти штрафных рот по двести человек в каждой, чтобы дать им возможность искупить кровью свои преступления перед Родиной.

КОМАНДИРАМ И КОМИССАРАМ ДОВЕСТИ ДО ВСЕХ ФРОНТОВ, АРМИЙ, СОЕДИНЕНИЙ, ФЛОТОВ, ДИВИЗИЙ, БАТАЛЬОНОВ, РОТ И ВЗВОДОВ!

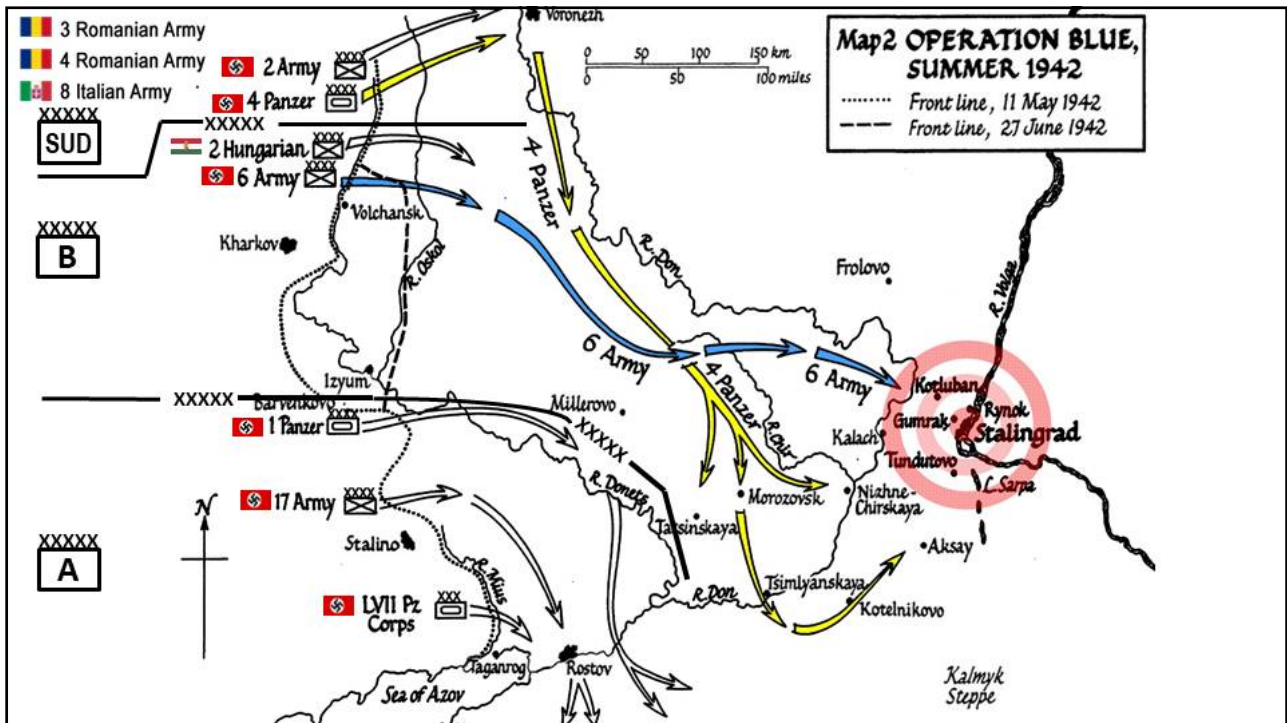
НАРКОМ ОБОРОНЫ СССР И. СТАЛИН

История СССР от 1917 до 1991 года. Политическая история

Stalin decrees the city must be held at all costs!

- *Stavka* established a new Stalingrad Front on 12 July, encompassing the 62nd, 63rd and 64th Armies with a total of 38 divisions. Stalin hand picked commanders.
- Order 227 (*Na shagu nazad!*) was issued 28 July. This later became the rallying cry. "There is no land beyond the Volga."
- Nikita Khrushchev's 10th NKVD Division was assigned to the Stalingrad Front.
- Stalingrad became a haven for retreating Red Army units, which had learned the folly of surrendering.



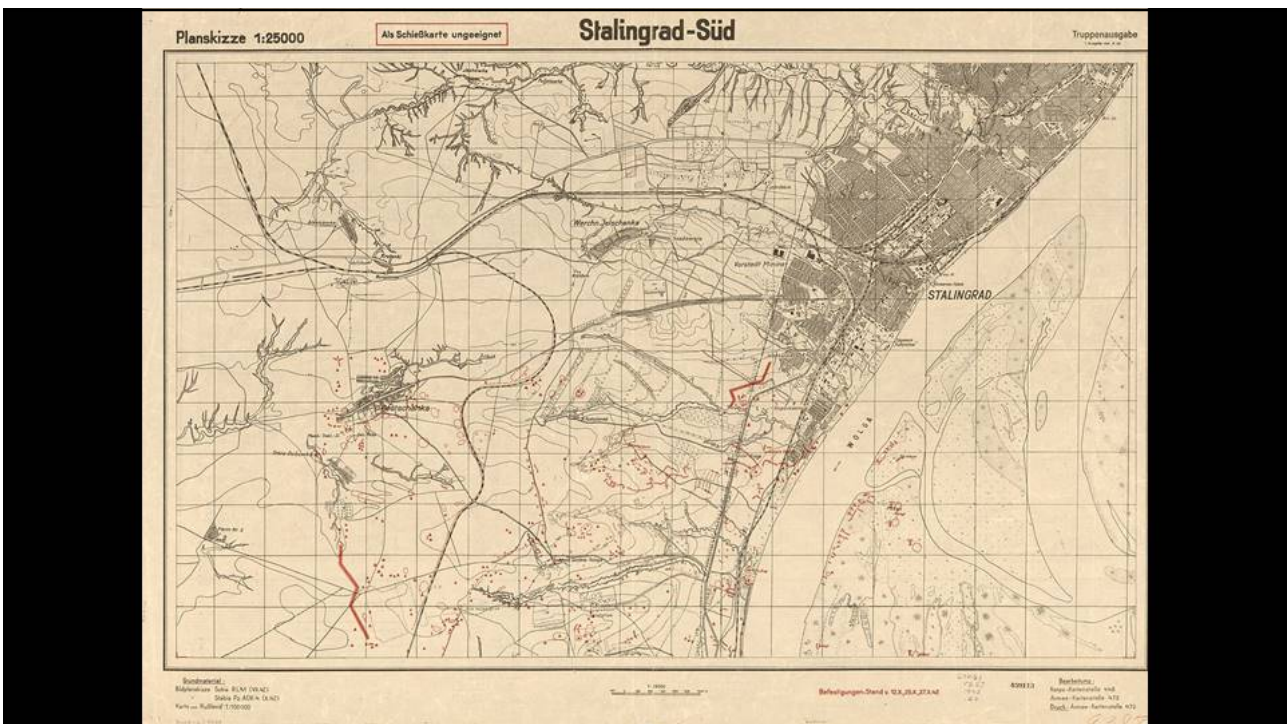




General Friedrich Paulus

- Planning the main attack on Stalingrad fell to careerist General Friedrich Paulus, an ardent Hitler supporter.
- As deputy chief of the German General Staff under Gen. Halder, he helped draft plans for the Soviet invasion.
- Not a dynamic leader, Paulus was a mediocre officer. He demonstrated his talents as a staff officer, but superiors questioned his suitability as a field commander. An officer assessment stated, "This officer lacks decisiveness."
- Appointed to head the 6th Army in January 1942, Paulus rescinded the Severity Order, but atrocities continued to occur.









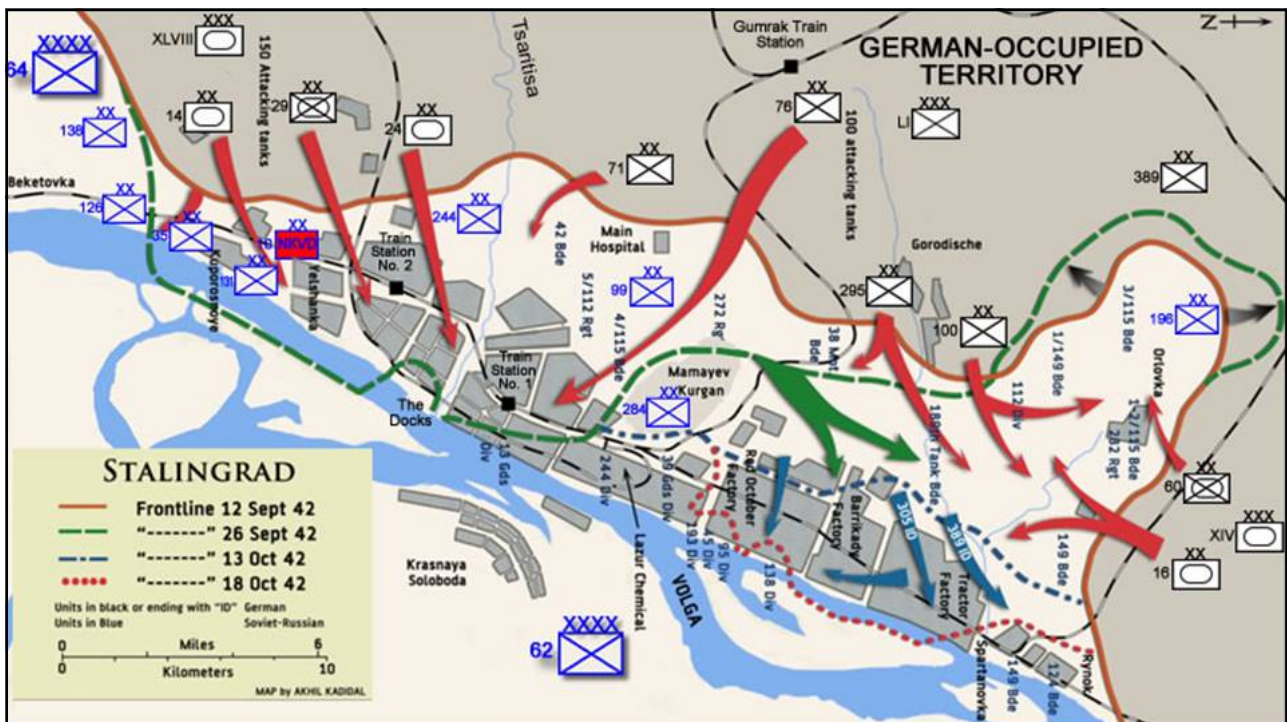
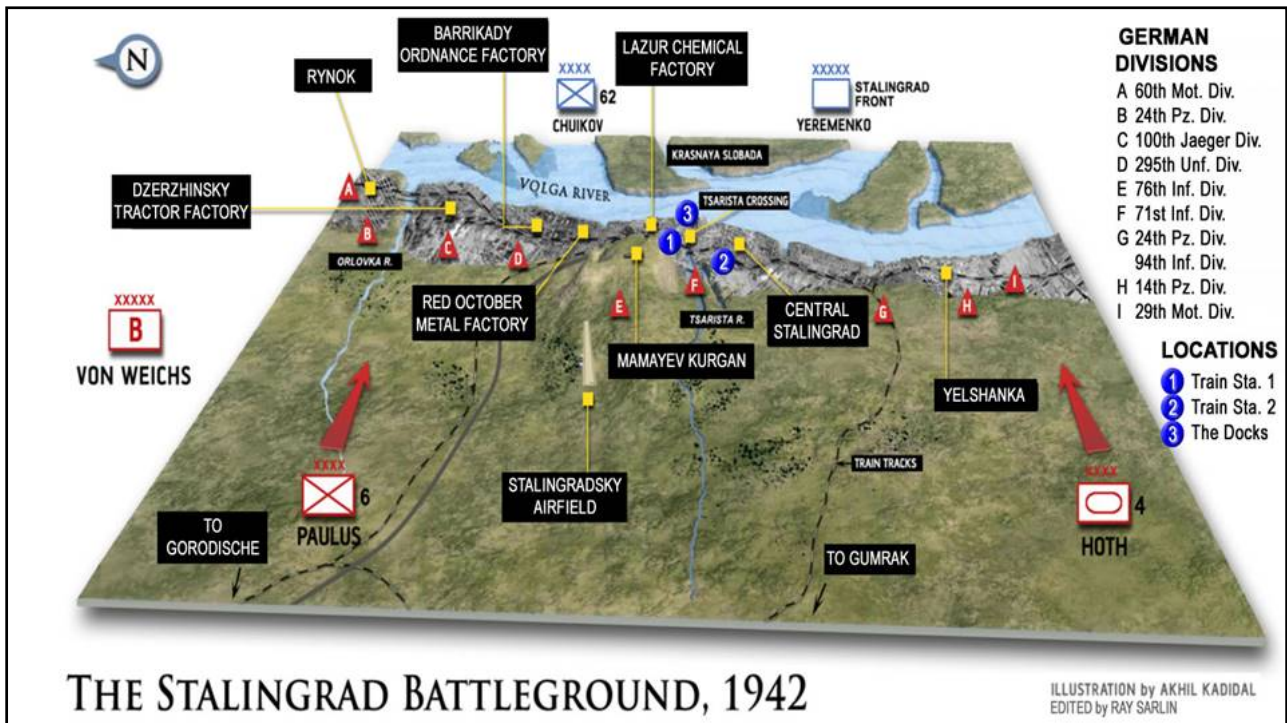












The Battle of Stalingrad

- By August 1942, the Germans advanced to the western part of Stalingrad.
- Soviet defenders west of the city had to fall back into the city.
- In the last weeks of August, the Germans pushed into the city itself and the main fighting was in the centre of the city.
- Wooden buildings and factories in the centre of the city that were destroyed in a matter of weeks by the fighting.
- Paulus had captured most of Stalingrad by mid-September and hoped to end the siege as soon as possible, but Stalin had a different plan.



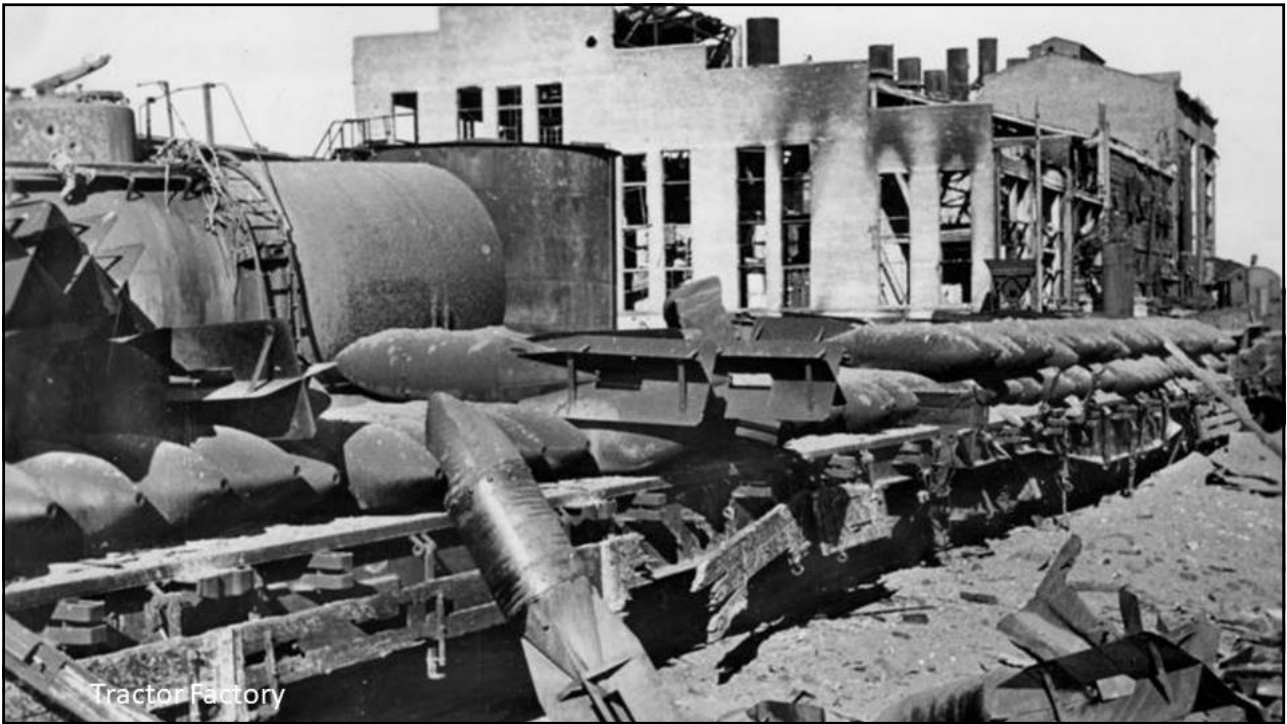


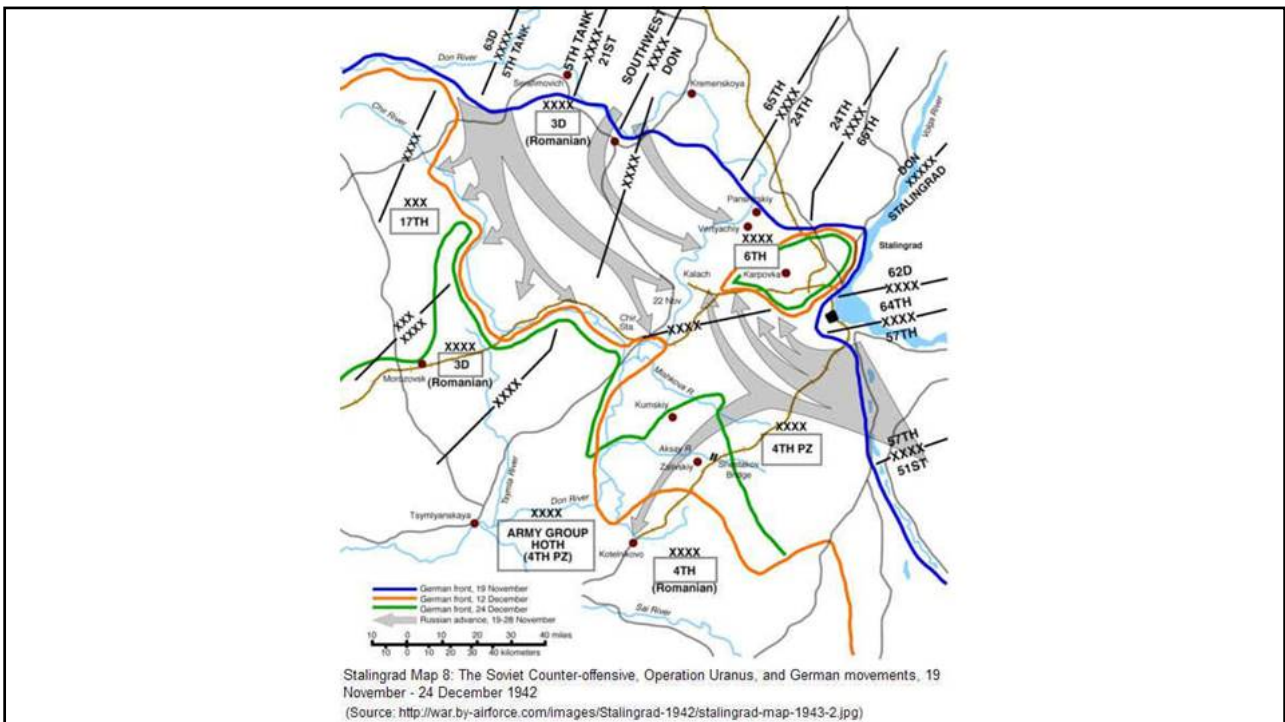
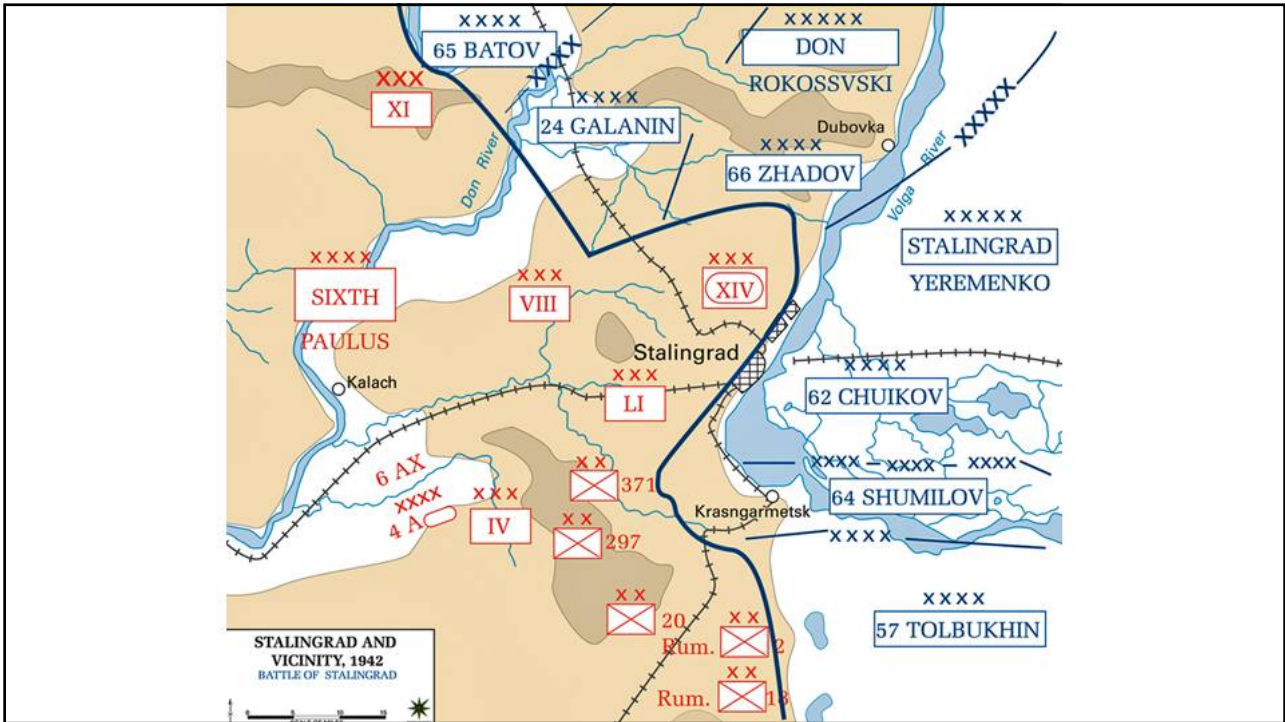
Red October Factory

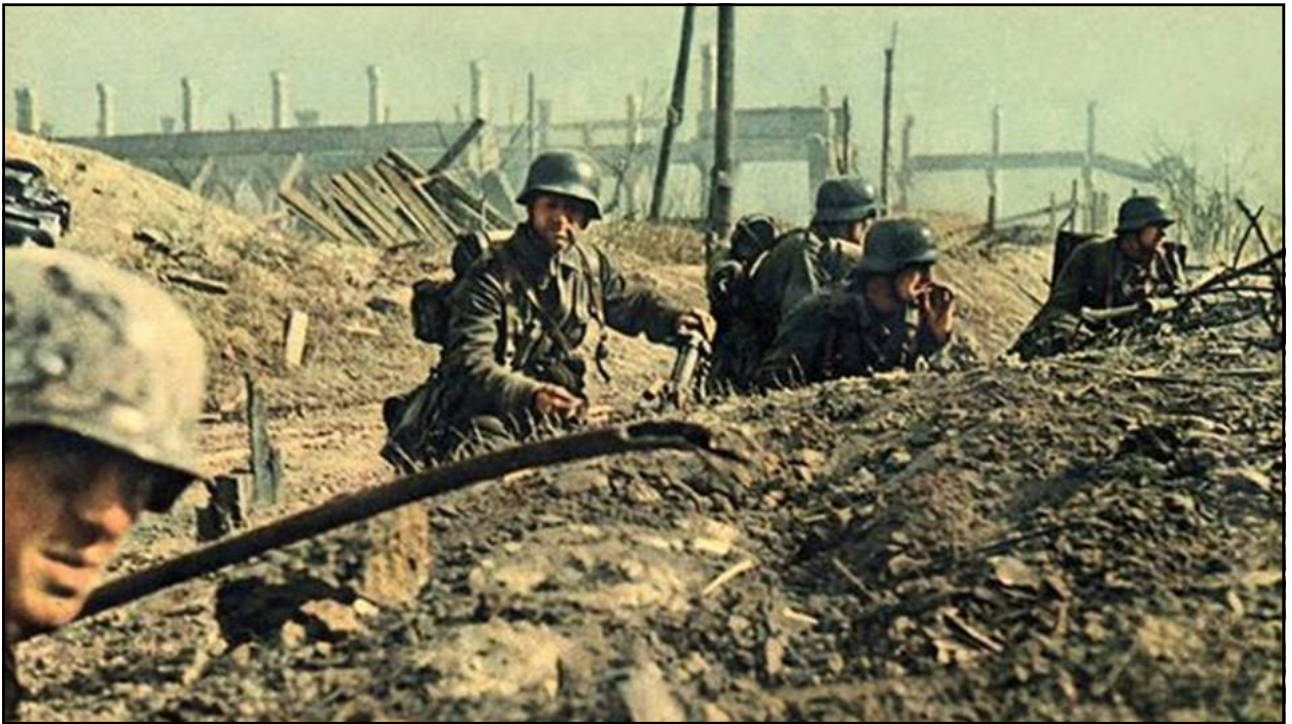


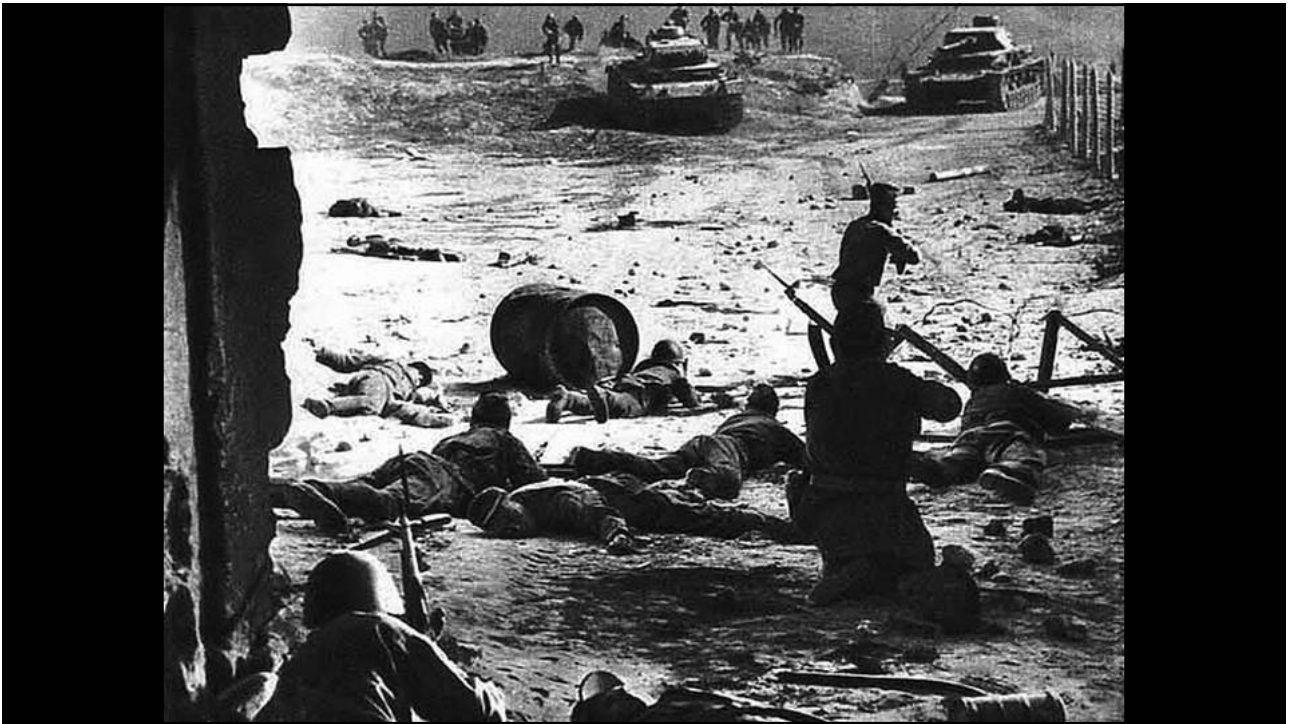
Red October Factory











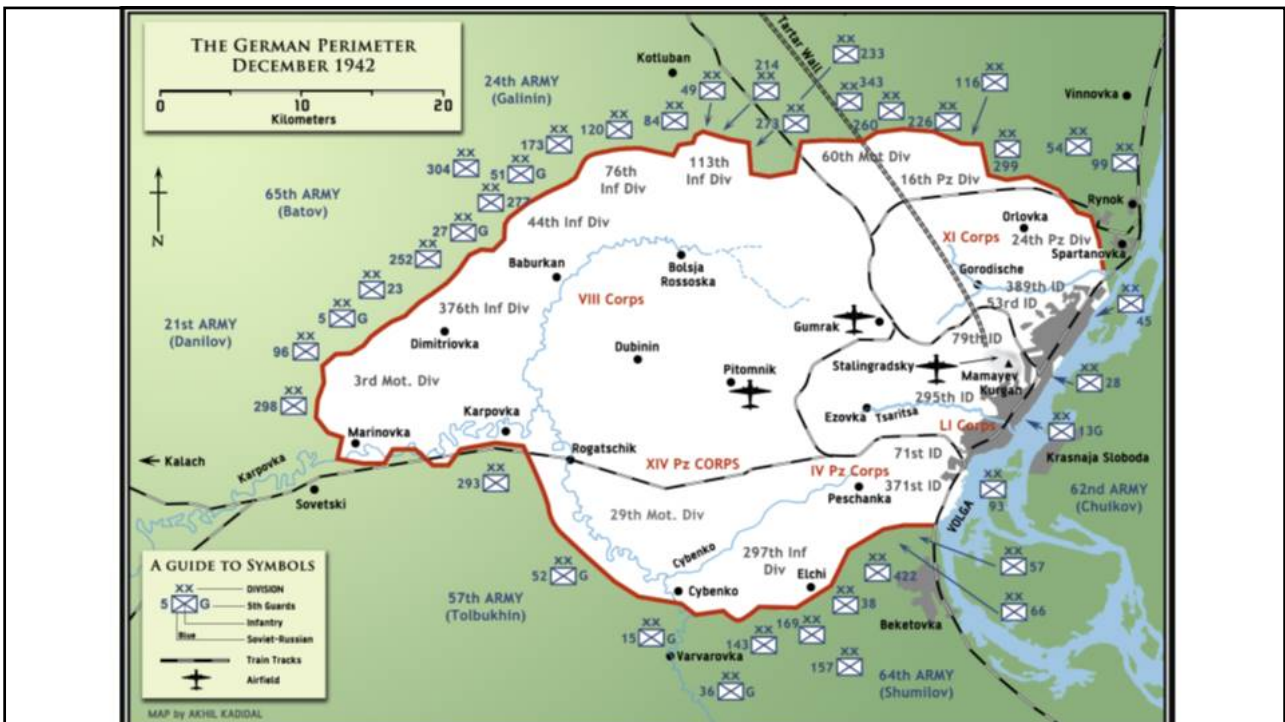
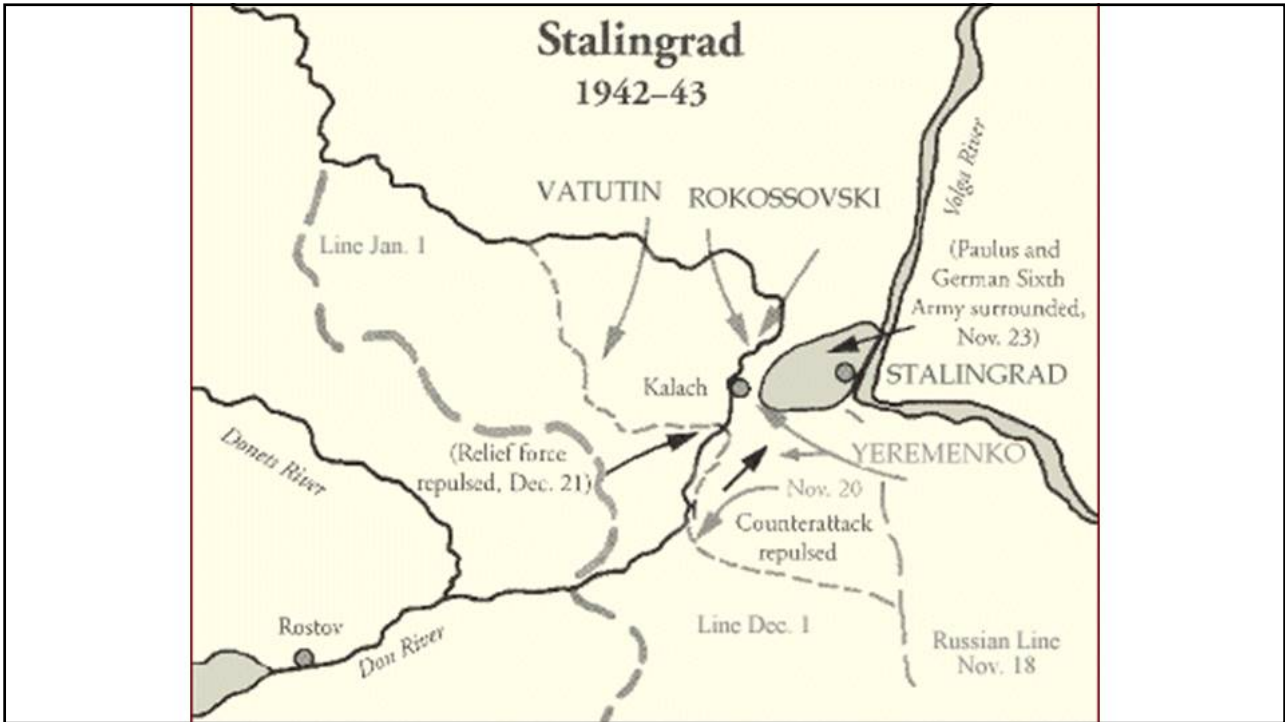
Soviet Counter-attack and Victory

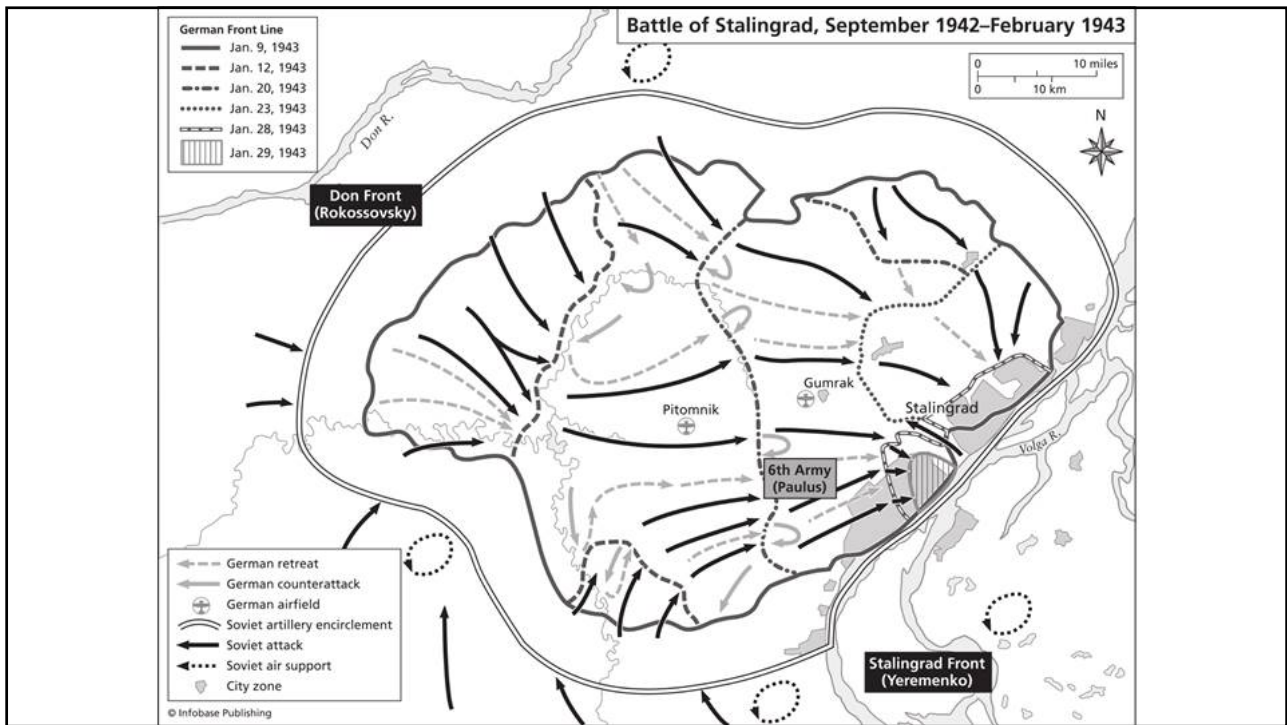
- Stalin wanted to attempt a bold counter-attack; he wanted the Soviet Sixty-second army to crush the Germans in the city while other Soviet troops marched around the city and surround the Germans. This plan need a lot of soldiers so Stalin called in reinforcements and was personally managing the defense plans.
- Stalin told his soldiers to take “not a step backward.” He closely monitored his troops for any loss of morale or plans of retreat. The Germans were close to capturing the city; most of the city was burned down in the fighting. On November 24, 1942, Stalin’s plan had paid off – Soviet forces had encircled Paulus and the 6th Army.





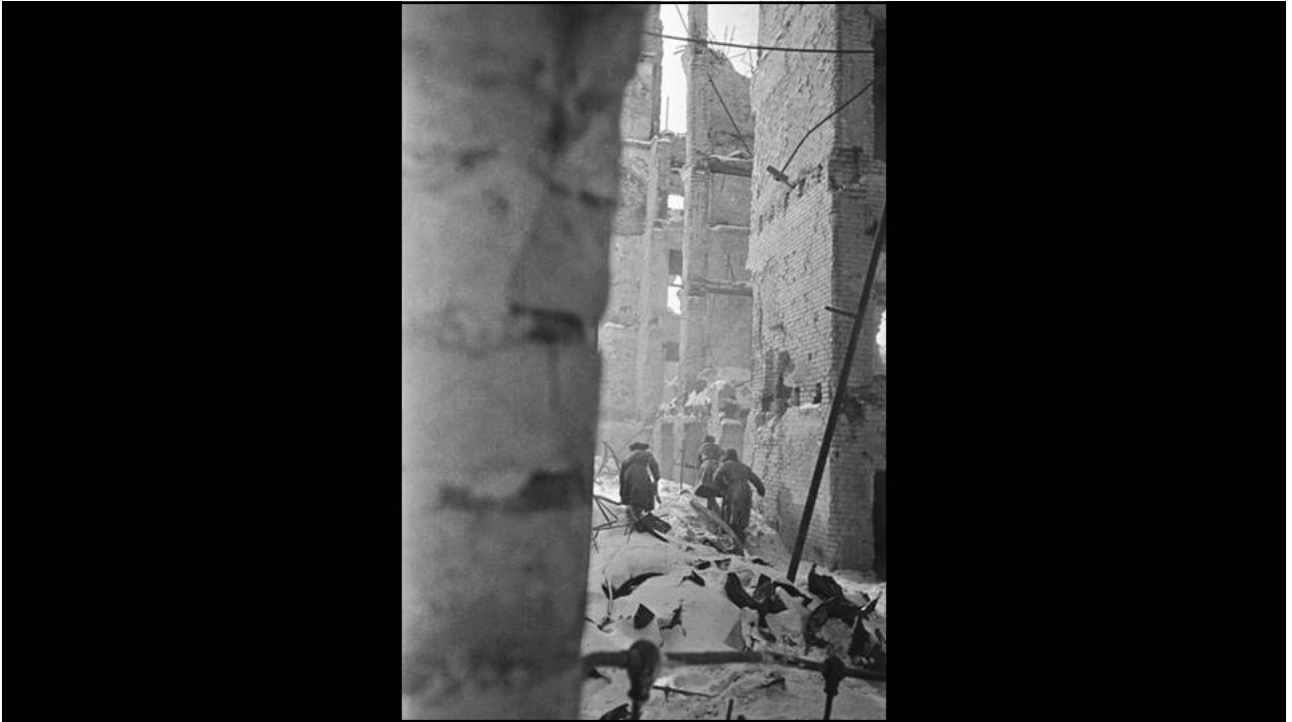














- Hitler, in spite of pleas from his generals, ordered Paulus to stand fast and not retreat.
- Hitler also sent the German Army Group Don as a relief force and ordered for supplies to be brought by the *Luftwaffe*, the German air force.
- It became apparent that the Luftwaffe couldn't bring any supplies to the 6th Army, so Field Marshal Erich von Mannstein, Commander of the German Army Group Don, asked Hitler to order Paulus to break free and join Mannstein. Hitler refused this request.
- By January 1943, Paulus' troops were hungry, tired, cold, and out of ammunition – they had no chance of breaking out. Paulus finally surrendered on February 2.

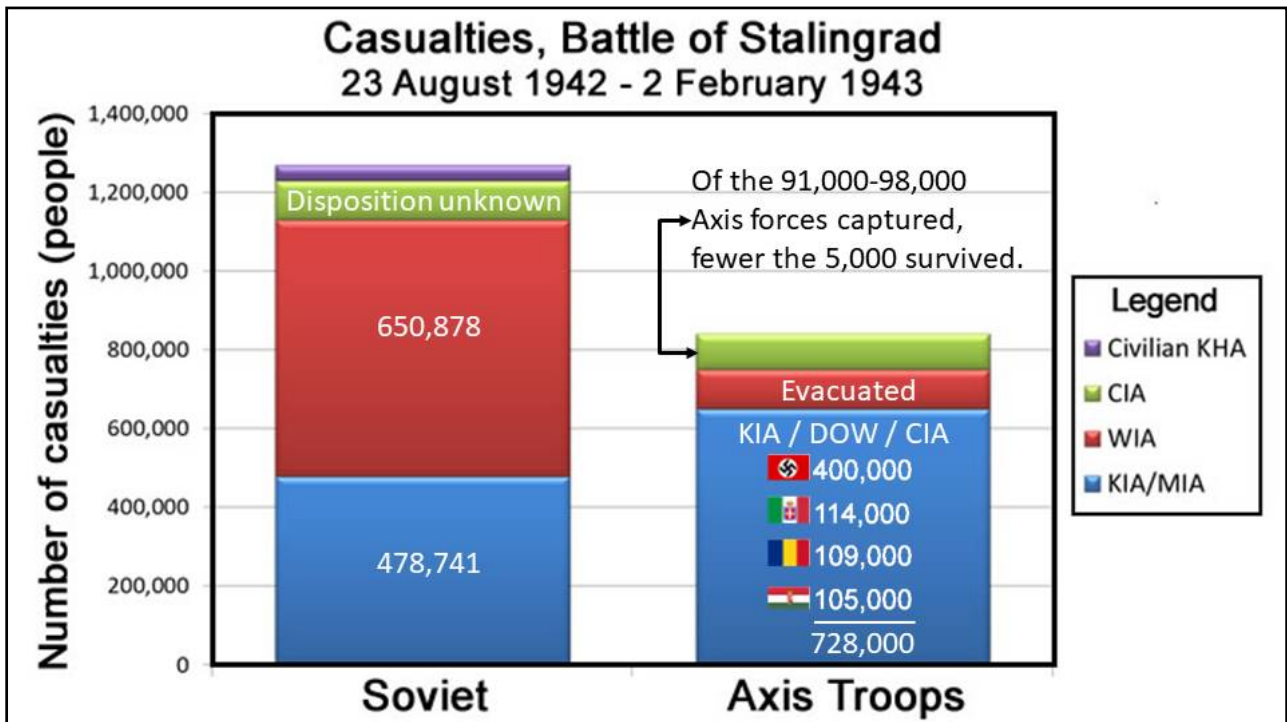






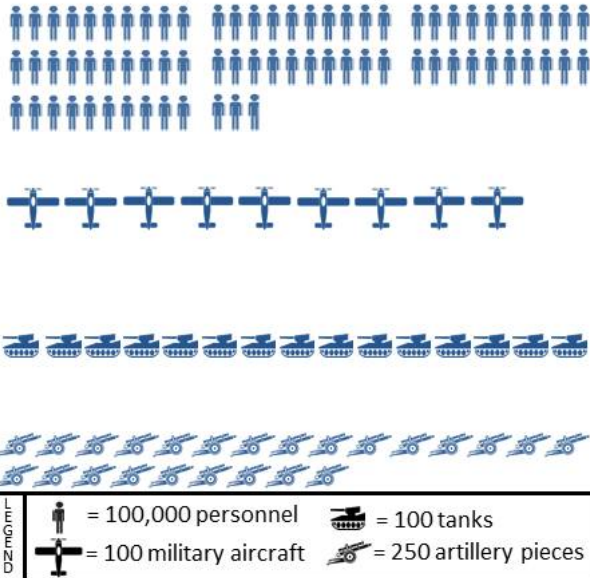




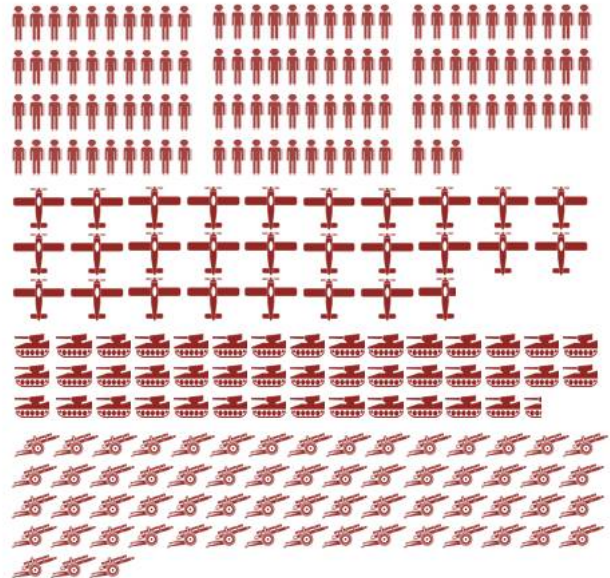


Summary Comparison of Losses

Axis Forces

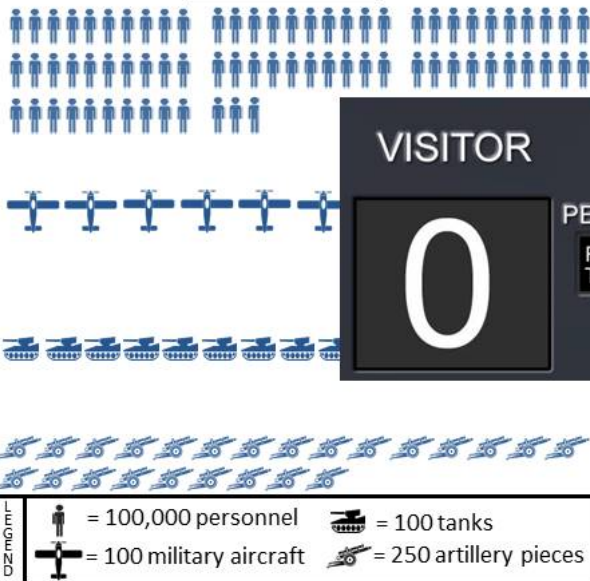


Soviet Forces

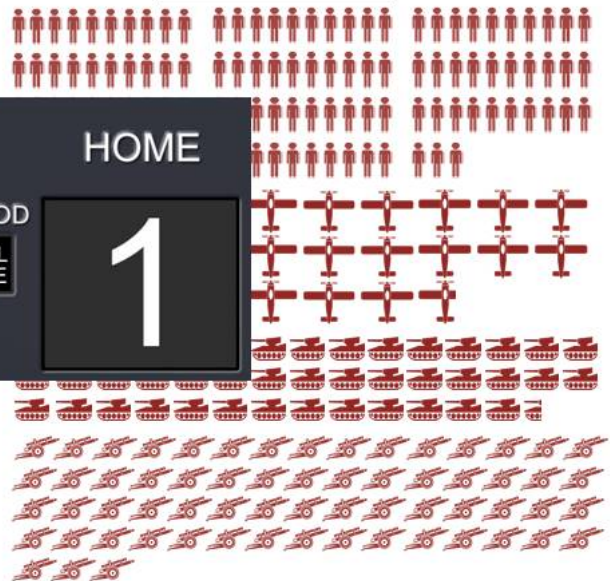


Summary Comparison of Losses

Axis Forces



Soviet Forces



VISITOR 0 PERIOD FULL TIME HOME 1



Hill 104 (*Mamayev Kurgan*)

- The height of the hill is 104 m.
- The main monument “Motherland calls” is situated on top of the hill. This woman with a sword in a hand calls her sons to defend their Motherland.
 - The sculpture is 85 m high (Motherland is 52 m high; her arm, 20 m; and the sword, 29 m).
 - The weight of the sculpture is 8 thousand tons.





"New Song to Stalingrad"

*Save me a fragment of violent foam
save me a rifle, save a plow for me
and let them place it at my grave
with a red ear of grain from your soil,
that it be known, if there be any doubt,
that I died loving you and you loved me,
and if I did not fight in your waist
I leave in your honor this dark grenade,
this song of love for Stalingrad.*



СТАЛИНГРАДСКАЯ БИТВА

Конец.

Это все, ребята.