

Battles of El Alamein & Operation Torch

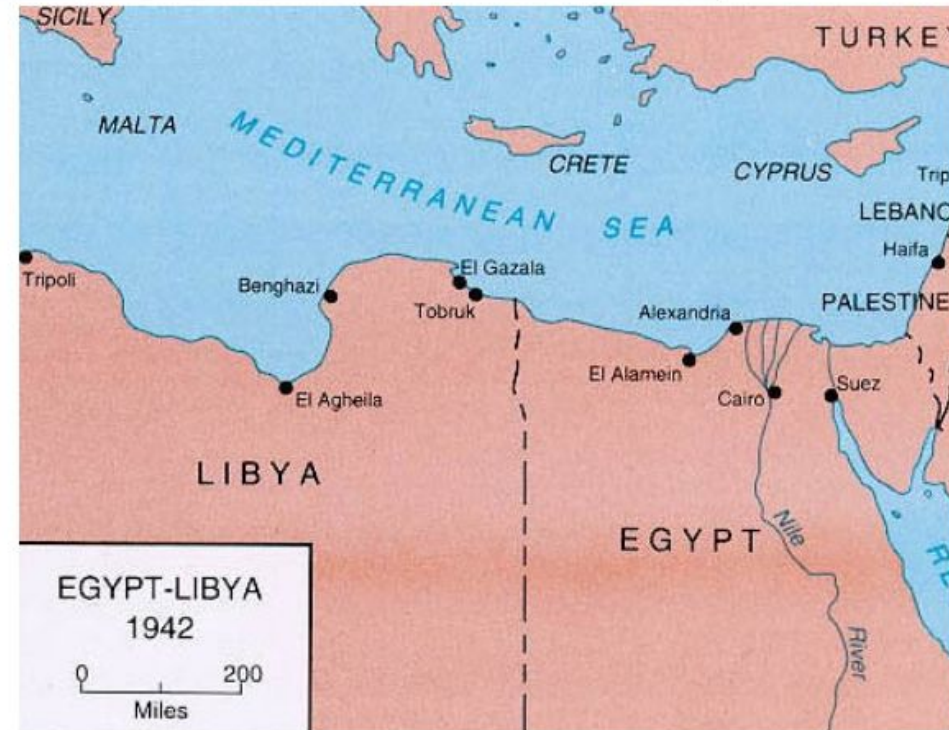
Varun Ananth, Abhinav Gopinath, Arjun Nathan

Thesis

The battles of El-Alamein prevented the Axis forces from taking the **Suez Canal** in the *African front* of WWII, which allowed for the implementation of Operation Torch, ultimately solidifying the Allied hold in Africa and marking the **end of Italo-German military operations** in that area.

El Alamein Background

- The British Army Retreats after a loss at Battle of Gazala.
- Rommel ("desert fox") chased them into Egypt
- Wanted Suez Canal & Oil in the Middle East



1st Battle of El Alamein (Start: July 1, 1942: End: July 27, 1942)



- Eighth Army (Allies) v. Panzer Army Africa (Axis)
- Series of tank & artillery barrages
- July 26/27: Allies send Operation Manhood
- Result: **Stalemate**

1st Battle Impacts & 2nd Battle Background

- Both sides weakened but Axis especially exhausted.
- Bernard Montgomery takes over the Allied Eighth Army.
- Becomes Defensive --> Rommel places minefields



Bernard Montgomery

2nd Battle of El Alamein (Start: Oct 23, 1942: End: Nov 11, 1942)



- Montgomery Plans his attack: 2 Phases
 - Operation Lightfoot
 - Operation Supercharge
 - Hitler commands Rommel to withdraw
 - Result: **Allies Win**
-

Churchill's Statement on El Alamein



“

Now this is not the end; it is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning

” (“Famous Quotes and Stories”)

El Alamein Impacts

- Weakened Axis aspirations in North Africa
- Crippled Panzer Africa Army & Italians
- Led to Operation Torch



Thesis

The battles of El-Alamein prevented the Axis forces from taking the Suez Canal in the African front of WWII, which allowed for the implementation of Operation Torch, ultimately solidifying the Allied hold in Africa and marking the end of Italo-German military operations in that area.



Operation Torch Background

- Roosevelt promised Stalin a second front by 1942
- Churchill wanted to combat Axis (Italo-German) forces in “soft underbelly of Europe”
- Allies desired full control of Suez Canal
- Would relieve pressure on the British army in Egypt
- Battles of El Alamein

Operation Torch Objectives



Objective 1: Occupation of Tunisia

Prevent Axis reinforcement in North Africa

Objective 2: Buildup of Force in French Morocco

Protect Strait of Gibraltar from Axis

Operation Torch Landings

- Led by Eisenhower
 - Concept of unified command
- **Nov 8th**: Directed 3 landings: Oran, Casablanca, & Algiers
- Patton established striking force in Casablanca
 - **Nov 10**: Patton surrounded the city → forced ceasefire



Operation Torch Map





Operation Torch

Conclusion

- Rommel's forces linked up with the Tunisian defenders → temporary stalemate
- By Nov 16, Allies maintained control over conquered lands & battle ended



Operation Torch

Impacts

- Allies gained control of bases in North Africa & weakened Axis
- Allies maintained control over Suez Canal

- Relieved pressure of Allies in North Africa
- Gave way to rest of North Africa Campaign & 2nd Front

- Hitler occupied Vichy France



Overall Significance

- Eisenhower's Unified Command concept became the model for all the other Allied operations during WWII
- Subsequent Allied operations benefited heavily
- Eventually led to Axis surrender in North Africa

Completed Timeline

Discuss with your table group

Start of the first
battle of
El-Alamein:
July 1, 1942

Start of the second battle of
El-Alamein:
Oct 23, 1942

Forced ceasefire
in Casablanca:
Nov. 10, 1942

Allied hold on
conquered lands
solidified & end of
battle:
Nov 16, 1942

End of the first battle
of El-Alamein:
July 27, 1942

Operation Torch
Landings (3):
Nov 8, 1942

End of the second
battle of El-Alamein:
Nov 11, 1942

JULY

October

November

**Take the Mini Quiz
& Discuss with Your
Group**



Works Cited

- Axelrod, Alan. "Battles of El Alamein." Encyclopedia of World War II, Vol. 1, Facts On File, 2013. History Research Center, online.infobase.com/Auth/Index?aid=150531&itemid=WEHRC&articleId=264693. Accessed 1 May 2019.
- Axelrod, Alan. "Operation Torch." Encyclopedia of World War II, Vol. 2, Facts On File, 2013. History Research Center, online.infobase.com/Auth/Index?aid=150531&itemid=WEHRC&articleId=265040. Accessed 1 May 2019.
- Biesinger, Joseph A. "Battles of El Alamein." Germany, Facts On File, 2006. History Research Center, online.infobase.com/Auth/Index?aid=150531&itemid=WEHRC&articleId=267168. Accessed 1 May 2019.
- Cooke, Tim, and Sarah Halliwell. The new Grolier encyclopedia of World War II. Danbury, CT: Grolier Educational Corp, 1995. Print.
- "Famous Quotes and Stories." Churchill, The International Churchill Society, 1 Mar. 2009, winstonchurchill.org/resources/quotes/famous-quotations-and-stories/.
- Frame, Arthur T. "Operation Torch." Encyclopedia of American Military History, Vol. 3, Facts On File, 2003. History Research Center, online.infobase.com/Auth/Index?aid=150531&itemid=WEHRC&articleId=204189. Accessed 1 May 2019.

Works Cited

“Importance of El Alamein.” “The City That Kept a Secret”, 88496908.weebly.com/importance-of-el-alamein.html.

“Joint Statement on Libya by the Governments of Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and US -.” Morocco On The Move, 7 Aug. 2014, moroccoonthemove.com/2014/08/07/joint-statement-libya-governments-algeria-egypt-morocco-tunisia-us/.

“Operation Torch.” Kansas City Public Library, www.kclibrary.org/signature-events/operation-torch.

Schneider, Carl J., and Dorothy Schneider. World War II. New York: Facts On File, 2003. Print.

Stacy, Robert. “Battles of El Alamein.” Encyclopedia of the Early 20th Century (1900 to 1950), Facts On File, 2016. History Research Center, online.infobase.com/Auth/Index?aid=150531&itemid=WEHRC&articleId=246127. Accessed 1 May 2019.

Tucker, Spencer C. "Operation Torch: World War II." World at War: Understanding Conflict and Society, ABC-CLIO, 2019, worldatwar.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/759120. Accessed 1 May 2019.

“UK | How El Alamein Changed the War.” BBC News, BBC, 23 Oct. 2002, news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/2347801.stm.

van Hartesveldt, Fred R., and Tucker, Spencer C. "Battle of El Alamein: World War II." World at War: Understanding Conflict and Society, ABC-CLIO, 2019, worldatwar.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/757153. Accessed 1 May 2019.