**Chapter 25, Section 2: The Early Battles**

**I. Holding the Line Against Japan** *(pages 742–745)*

**A.** After Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, the commander of the United States Navy in the Pacific, Admiral **Chester Nimitz,** could do little at first to stop the advancing Japanese into Southeast Asia. Japan attacked American airfields in the Philippines and landed their troops in the islands.

**B.** The commander of the Americans and Filipinos defending the Philippines, General **Douglas MacArthur,** decided to take his badly outnumbered troops and retreat to the Bataan Peninsula. Roosevelt ordered the general to evacuate to Australia.

**C.** The Allied defenders of Bataan finally surrendered, and thousands died on the **Bataan Death March** to a Japanese prison camp.

**D.** In early 1942, B-25 bombers replaced the aircraft carriers’ short-range bombers because they could attack from farther away. Lieutenant Colonel **James Doolittle** was put in command of the mission that bombed Japan on April 18.

**E.** Doolittle’s attack on Japan made Japanese leaders change their strategy. An attack on Midway Island—the last American base in the North Pacific west of Hawaii—was planned to lure the American fleet into battle to be destroyed by the Japanese. This would cut American supply lines to Australia. The plan failed because the United States had a team of code breakers based in Hawaii that broke the Japanese Navy’s secret code for conducting operations.

**F.** The turning point in the war came during the Battle of Midway when Americans shot down 38 Japanese planes and destroyed four Japanese carriers. This stopped the Japanese advance into the Pacific.

**Discussion Question**

Why did the Japanese decide to attack Midway Island? *(Midway Island was the last American base in the North Pacific. The Japanese believed that an attack on Midway Island would lure the American fleet into battle and enable the Japanese fleet to destroy it. The American fleet had to be destroyed in order to protect Tokyo from being bombed by American B-25s.)*

**II. Turning Back the German Army** *(pages 745–747)*

**A.** The leader of the Soviet Union, Joseph Stalin, urged Roosevelt to open a second front in Europe. Although Roosevelt wanted his troops to enter into battle in Europe, Prime Minister Churchill wanted to be more cautious and attack the **periphery,** or edges, of Germany. In July 1942, Roosevelt ordered the invasion of Morocco and Algeria— French territories indirectly under Germany control.

**B.** On November 8, 1942, the American invasion of North Africa began under the command of General **Dwight D. Eisenhower.** General **George Patton** led the American forces in Morocco and captured the city of Casablanca. At the **Battle of Kasserine** **Pass,** Americans faced the German army for the first time. Outmaneuvered and outfought, Americans suffered huge losses. The general in charge was fired and Patton was put in command. American and British forces finally pushed the Germans back. On May 13, 1943, German forces in North Africa surrendered.

**C.** After Germany declared war on the United States, German submarines began sinking American cargo ships along the American East Coast. The situation greatly improved when the U.S. Navy set up a **convoy system,** in which cargo ships traveled in groups and were escorted by navy warships. The German submarine campaign continued into the spring of 1942. From July on, American shipyards produced more ships than German submarines could sink.

**D.** Hitler wanted to defeat the Soviets by destroying their economy. So he ordered his army to capture oil fields, industries, and farmlands vital to the Soviet economy. The Germans tried to capture Stalingrad, but the Soviets held their ground. The Germans were surrounded and surrendered. The Battle of Stalingrad was a turning point in the war because it put the Germans on the defensive.

**Discussion Question**

Why was the Battle of Stalingrad an important battle for the Allies? *(The Germans tried to capture Stalingrad, but the Soviets held their ground. The Germans surrendered. The Battle of Stalingrad was a turning point in the war because it put the Germans on the defensive.)*