



Toward Victory

Objectives

1. Learn how the Allies were finally able to defeat Germany.
2. Discover how a powerful new weapon brought the war in the Pacific to a close.
3. Explore the horrors of the Holocaust.
4. Understand the consequences faced by captured enemy leaders.

Prepare to Read

Reading Skill

Use Context to Determine Meaning Here are additional clues to determine meaning. Draw on your own experience or knowledge. Look for contrast clues, in which a familiar word contrasts with the unfamiliar word. Search for synonym clues, in which a familiar word has a similar meaning.

Vocabulary Builder

High-Use Words

dimension, p. 821

efficient, p. 826

Key Terms and People

Harry S Truman, p. 822

island hopping, p. 824

kamikaze, p. 824

genocide, p. 826

war crimes, p. 827

★ **Background Knowledge** In Section 2, you saw how the Allies turned back Axis advances in the Pacific and in North Africa. In this section, you will follow World War II to its conclusion.

Victory in Europe

In 1943, Russia was bearing the brunt of the Nazi assault. Stalin urged the Americans and British to open up a “second front” in Europe by invading France. However, Roosevelt and Churchill did not think their forces were ready for such a difficult task. Instead, they chose a more realistic goal—removing Italy from the war.

Italy Surrenders In July 1943, American and British troops crossed the Mediterranean from Tunisia. They swiftly took control of the Italian island of Sicily. By fall, they were fighting their way northward along the Italian Peninsula.

The king of Italy dismissed Mussolini from office. On September 8, 1943, the new government surrendered to the Allies. Even so, German troops in Italy continued to fight. The Allies would face a long struggle before they finally controlled Italy.

D-Day In 1944, Allied forces were ready to undertake the invasion of France. Under the command of General Eisenhower, the Allies carefully planned the landing. It would be an operation of massive dimensions, involving thousands of ships and aircraft.

On June 6, 1944—known as D-Day—more than 155,000 American, British, and Canadian troops crossed the English Channel. They landed on five beaches at Normandy, in western France. Troops at four of the beaches quickly overcame German opposition.

Main Idea

The invasion of Italy and the D-Day landing in France set the stage for the defeat of Germany.

Vocabulary Builder

dimension (dih MEHN shuhn) *n.*
size or extent; length, width, or height

On Omaha Beach, however, Americans met an especially fierce German defense. One American survivor of the assault later recalled being wounded by a shell as he tried to come ashore:

“The shrapnel hit my right shoulder and leg. The explosion and concussion seemed to push me into the ground and knocked the breath out of me. The force of the explosion blew my helmet off and cut the corner of my left eye. . . . The Germans were firing everything they could.”

—Roy Arnn, letter, November 10, 1990

By day's end, some 2,500 American soldiers lay dead on Omaha Beach. However, they had succeeded in their mission. Within a month, a million Allied troops had stormed ashore.

On August 25, 1944, the Allies entered Paris. After four years under Nazi rule, French men, women, and children greeted their liberators with joy.

Battle of the Bulge Allied forces pushed eastward. But on December 16, 1944, the Germans counterattacked in Belgium. Hitler poured his remaining reserves into the attack. Bad weather grounded Allied aircraft for the first week of the battle. This allowed German troops to create a “bulge” in the American lines.

The Germans came close to breaking through Allied lines. But, in the end, their attempt to fight off defeat proved futile. German troops were short of critical supplies, especially fuel. Also, though each side lost tens of thousands of men, the Allies had additional troops in reserve. Germany was running out of soldiers.


Fighting in Northern Europe's coldest winter in 40 years, American forces won the Battle of the Bulge. Germany now lay wide open from both east and west.

Germany Invaded In January 1945, a huge Soviet force entered Germany from the east. Soon, the Western Allies also entered in large numbers from the west. While the Allied armies advanced on the ground, their planes bombed German industries and cities.

On April 12, 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt died of a stroke. His death shattered Americans. Many could hardly remember anyone else as their leader. At a critical moment, Vice President Harry S. Truman was suddenly thrust into the highest office in the country. Truman had little experience dealing with important policy issues. Would he be a decisive leader?

Victory in Europe Meanwhile, Germany was collapsing. On April 16, Soviet troops began an assault on Berlin. Hitler took shelter in a bunker built beneath the city's streets. There, with his Nazi empire in ruins, he committed suicide on April 30, 1945.

A week later, representatives of Germany's armed forces unconditionally surrendered at Eisenhower's headquarters in France. On May 8, the Allies celebrated V-E Day, Victory in Europe.

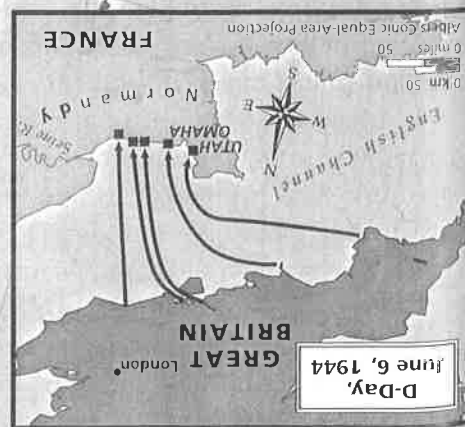
 **Use Context to Determine Meaning**
Use clues in these paragraphs to determine the meaning of the word *futile*. Explain all the clues you used.



Anxious American soldiers wait to go into battle.

 **Checkpoint** Why was D-Day important?

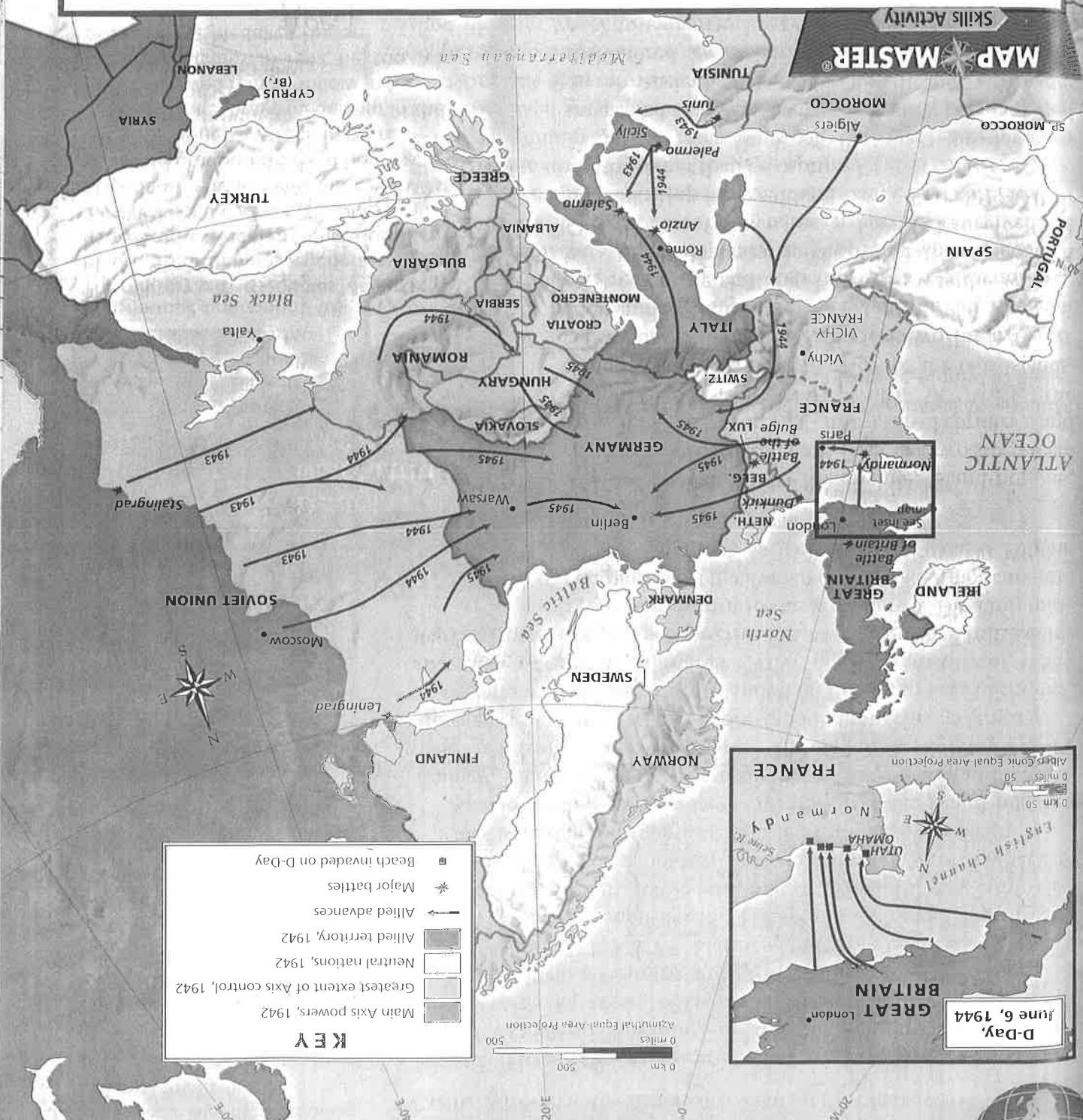
World War II in Europe



KEY

- Main Axis powers, 1942
- Greatest extent of Axis control, 1942
- Neutral nations, 1942
- Allied territory, 1942
- Allied advances
- Major battles
- Beach invaded on D-Day

0 km
0 miles
500
500
Azimuthal Equal-Area Projection



MAP MASTER Skills Activity

After the massive Allied landing on D-Day, American and British troops pushed steadily eastward toward Germany. At the same time, Soviet troops were already advancing westward.

- (a) **Interpret a Map** Describe the movement of Allied troops on D-Day. Where did they go next?
- (b) **Evaluate Information** Why were there no troop movements or fighting in Spain?

MapMaster online
For: Interactive map
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Main Idea

After a series of bloody battles on the Pacific Islands, the atomic bomb was finally used to defeat Japan.

Victory in the Pacific

The Battle of Midway in 1942 had halted Japan's advance in the Pacific. After that, the Americans went on the offensive.

Island Hopping American commanders adopted a strategy known as **island hopping**, in which American forces would capture some Japanese-held islands and go around others. Each island taken was a stepping stone toward Japan.

On August 7, 1942, U.S. Marines landed on Guadalcanal (gwah dal cah NAL) in the south Pacific. Hampered by hunger and disease, the Americans fought for six grueling months until they controlled the island. The fierce combat on Guadalcanal was typical of what U.S. Marines would face throughout the island-hopping campaign.

Navajo soldiers made a key contribution to the island-hopping strategy. Using their own language, these code-talkers radioed vital messages from island to island. The Japanese intercepted the messages but were unable to understand the rare Navajo language.

In January 1945, army units landed on Luzon, in the Philippines, and then advanced on Manila. After nearly a month of urban warfare, the Americans secured the city. MacArthur had fulfilled his

promise to return to the Philippines. The Philippine campaign cost the lives of over 14,000 Americans and 350,000 Japanese, as well as some 100,000 Filipino civilians.

Japan Holds Firm Meanwhile, island-hopping marines approached Japan. Their last two stops were Iwo Jima (EE woh JEE muh), in February, and Okinawa (oh kuh NAH wuh), in April. The Americans paid a terrible price for the two islands. Six thousand Americans died at Iwo Jima; twelve thousand at Okinawa.

Even more startling, however, was the willingness of the Japanese to die rather than surrender. Only 1 percent of Iwo Jima's defenders survived. On Okinawa, Japanese soldiers jumped off cliffs to their deaths rather than be captured.

In the last days of the war, the Japanese unleashed a deadly new form of combat. It was based on an ancient code which taught that surrender dishonored a warrior. In kamikaze (kah muh KAH zee) missions, suicide pilots crashed their planes into American ships. These events convinced American war planners that only a full-scale invasion of Japan's home islands would force a surrender.

After Hitler's defeat in Europe, the Allies were able to turn their full attention to the Pacific. By the spring of 1945, American bombers were pounding the Japanese home islands. American ships bombarded the coast and destroyed shipping.

Biography Quest



Douglas MacArthur
1880–1964

The military was in Douglas MacArthur's blood. His father was a general who had won the Medal of Honor during the Civil War. As a young man, MacArthur attended the Military Academy at West Point. He graduated first in his class, with the highest average in years.

MacArthur's brave leadership in the Pacific allowed him to follow in his father's footsteps. In 1942, he, too, was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Biography Quest

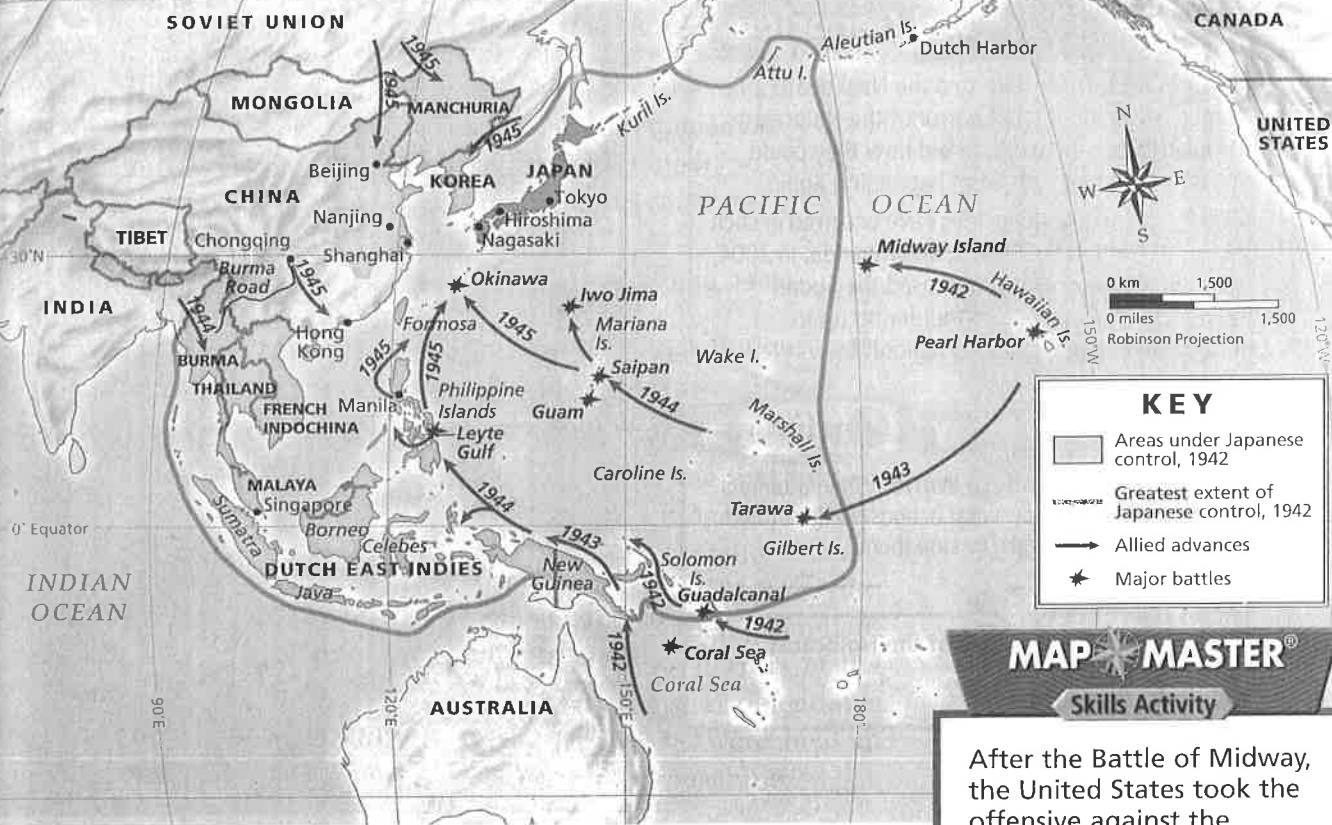
How did MacArthur contribute to Japan after World War II ended?

For: The answer to the question about MacArthur

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World War II in the Pacific



MAP MASTER®

Skills Activity

After the Battle of Midway, the United States took the offensive against the Japanese Empire in the Pacific.

- Interpret a Map** How close did the Allied island-hopping campaign get to Japan itself?
- Understand Sequence** Describe the troop movements and sequence of battles that led to the recapture of the Philippines.

MapMaster® online

For: Interactive map

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Millions of Japanese were short of food. Yet, Japanese leaders still talked of winning a glorious victory.

The Atomic Bomb President Truman made plans for invading Japan in the autumn. His military advisers warned him that the invasion might cost half a million American casualties. In July, however, Truman learned that a secret weapon—the atomic bomb—had been successfully tested in the New Mexico desert. The new weapon was so powerful that it could destroy an entire city.

On August 6, 1945, an American plane dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima. The destruction was like nothing the world had ever seen. Within minutes, the blast and searing heat had killed more than 130,000 people. Still, the Japanese refused to surrender.

On August 9, a second atomic bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki. Some 35,000 people died instantly. Many more in both cities would die slower deaths from radiation poisoning.

At last, on August 14, 1945, the emperor of Japan announced that the nation would surrender. That day became known as V-J Day. On September 2, 1945, MacArthur formally accepted Japan's surrender aboard the battleship USS *Missouri*, anchored in Tokyo Bay. World War II was over at last.

Checkpoint What was kamikaze warfare?

Links Across Time

1945 These survivors of a Nazi death camp can hardly believe they are free.

The Holocaust and Genocide

1945 Allied armies liberated the Nazi death camps, exposing the full horror of the Holocaust. People around the world asked how they could prevent such genocide from happening again.

2004 Since 1945, genocides have occurred in such places as Cambodia, Bosnia, and Rwanda. In 2004, the U.S. secretary of state accused the Sudan government of starving or murdering up to 50,000 people in the Darfur region.

Link to Today Online

Genocide in the Modern World When attempts at genocide occur today, what actions do the United States and the world take to stop them?

For: The continuing legacy of the Holocaust

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Main Idea

The world learned how the Nazis murdered 6 million Jews and millions of other people.

The Holocaust

World War II was the bloodiest conflict in human history. It took the lives of up to 60 million people, including about 400,000 Americans. Some two thirds of those killed were civilians. Still, some of the worst horrors were not fully revealed until after Germany's defeat. Only then did the world learn the full extent of Nazi brutality.

Victims of the Nazis As you have read, Nazism was built on racism and extreme anti-Semitism. During the war, Hitler moved beyond restrictions on Jews to what he termed the "final solution to the Jewish problem"—the attempt to annihilate all Jews in Europe.

Some 6 million Jews were murdered under the Nazis. Entire families, from grandparents to infants, were wiped out. This mass slaughter is today known as the Holocaust. As a result of the Holocaust, a new word entered the English language: **genocide**. **Genocide** is the deliberate attempt to wipe out an entire nation or group of people.

Other groups also became victims of the Nazis. The Nazis murdered millions of Poles, Slavs, Gypsies, communists, and people with physical or mental disabilities.

Death Camps The Nazis developed an **efficient** system of mass murder. They built six death camps in Poland. Millions of women, men, and children were transported to these camps in railway cattle cars. Hundreds at a time were killed in gas chambers. Others were subjected to torture or horrifying medical experiments.

Vocabulary Builder

efficient (ee FISH ehnt) *adj.* acting effectively, without wasted cost or effort

As Allied soldiers liberated the death camps, they were shocked by the sight and smell of piles of corpses. The survivors were living skeletons. One American radio reporter told his listeners:

“In another part of the camp they showed me the children, hundreds of them. Some were only 6 years old. One rolled up his sleeves, showed me his number. It was tattooed on his arm. B-6030, it was. The others showed me their numbers. They will carry them till they die. . . . I could see their ribs through their thin shirts.”

—Edward R. Murrow, *PM*, April 16, 1945

Murrow concluded, “I reported what I saw and heard, but only part of it. For most of it, I have no words.”

War Crimes Trials Shocked by the Holocaust and other Nazi actions, the Allies took an unprecedented step. For the first time in history, victors in a war prosecuted leaders of the losing side for war crimes. War crimes are wartime acts of cruelty and brutality that are judged to be beyond the accepted rules of war and human behavior.

In the German city of Nuremberg, Allied judges tried prominent Nazis for plunging the world into war and for the horrors of the death camps. In 1946, at the first Nuremberg Trials, 12 defendants were sentenced to death by hanging. Similar trials were held in Manila and Tokyo to try leaders of the Japanese war machine.

Checkpoint Which people were killed in Nazi death camps?

★ **Looking Back and Ahead** After World War I, the United States returned to isolationism. But after World War II, Americans accepted a new role in the world. In the next chapter, you will see how the nation took the lead in a long global conflict—the Cold War.

Section 4 | Check Your Progress

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Comprehension and Critical Thinking

- (a) Identify** What was D-Day? What did it accomplish?
(b) Draw Conclusions What do you think might have happened if the D-Day landing had failed?
- (a) Recall** Why did the United States decide to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima?
(b) Identify Alternatives What other courses might the Americans have followed? Do you think the decision to drop the bomb was justified?

Reading Skill

- Use Context to Determine Meaning** Reread the paragraph with the subheading “Victims of the Nazis.” Use different clues to determine the meaning of *annihilate*. Explain *all* the clues you used and where you found them.

Vocabulary Builder

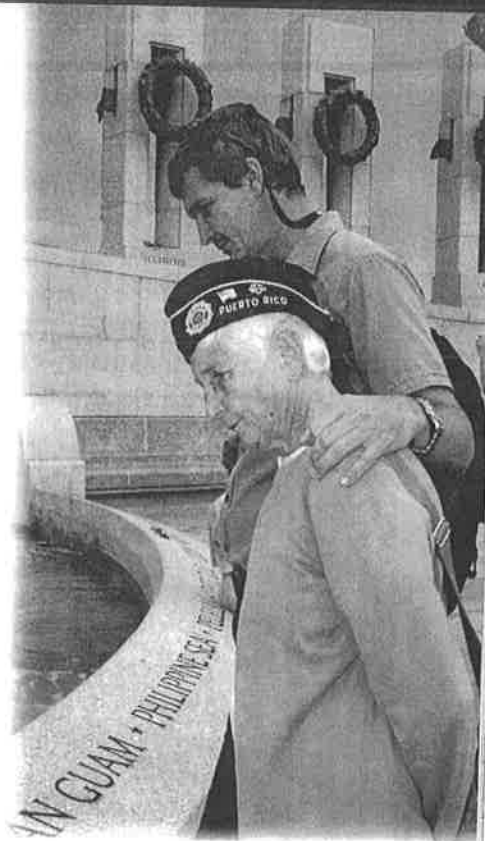
Fill in the blanks with the correct key terms from this chapter.

- The leaders who planned the Nazi death camps were executed for _____.

- Pilots who carried out _____ missions were certain to die.
- The _____ campaign allowed Allied forces to inch slowly toward Japan.
- The Nazi attempt to exterminate Jews was an example of _____.

Writing

- Create an outline that would develop the following thesis statement for a multimedia report: “The D-Day landing was the single most decisive battle in World War II.” Be sure to include ideas for media materials.



A veteran visits the National World War II Memorial.