

Janie Fullbright

Georgia

Operation Husky: Important Puzzle Piece

General George Patton once addressed his troops, “Your deeds in Sicily will fill the pages of history for a thousand years.” In this statement, Patton expresses that the hard obstacles the soldiers had overcome had pointed them in the right direction to help win the war. Operation Husky was fought two months after the Allied victory in Tunisia. During World War II, Operation Husky was an essential battle to help win this massive international war. There are lessons that we can learn from observing Operation Husky. We all benefit from the many soldiers that fought during this operation.

Operation Husky was a massive operation and was a very important step in weakening the Axis powers. Leading up to Operation Husky, the Allies were conducting secret missions to ensure Husky’s success. One mission destroyed 4/5s of German supply ships, which were lined up to bring supplies to the island of Sicily. Operation Mincemeat was designed to distract the Axis powers by making them think the Allies would attack Greece. Also, to make it even more confusing, the Allies were bombing both Sicily and the island of Sardinia. The stealthy battle, which was named Operation Husky, began when U.S 7th Army General, George Patton and British 8th Army General, Benard Montgomery invaded the island of Sicily. They were also accompanied by a small number of Canadians. On July 10th, 1943, the winds blew furiously as fearless paratroopers dove out of Allied aircraft. The pitch-black sky surrounded them as they

bolted towards Sicilian land. Some unfortunate paratroopers landed nowhere close to their objective and some even landed in the Sicilian sea. The Allied forces had gathered 160,000 courageous troops, ready for battle. While the troops were fighting on land, 3,000 ships were nearby in the Sicilian sea firing bombs toward the Axis tanks. They also gathered 600 tanks, 14,000 vehicles, and 1,800 loaded guns, which were ready to be unloaded from the waiting vessels. On the other side, the Axis powers, when combined with weary Italians, consisted of about 90,000 German soldiers and 315,000 Italian soldiers. On land, the war was in action. Fortunately, Italians were surrendering left and right. The tenacious Allies were now in mountainous territory. They needed to move supplies but didn't have anything that could conquer the harsh terrain. So, they asked for something unusual. Burros. Some Allied commanders didn't comprehend the necessity of this idea, but when the soldiers reassured them that they would be used like weapons, they readily agreed to send them. On August 17th, General Patton made it to the northern part of Sicily, Messina. Operation Husky was almost finished. In addition to his heroic leadership, two impulsive actions of General Patton will be remembered. Out of disgust, Patton slapped two soldiers, on two different occasions, for appearing weak. Actually, the two soldiers were sick and couldn't help but show it. General Patton was forced to make a public apology but almost lost his leadership. The quest to defeat the Axis powers in Sicily was accomplished. Considering the harsh weather conditions and grueling terrain, Operation Husky will be remembered as one of the most harsh and intense battles of World War II.

While there are an infinite number of mistakes found in battles, there are a myriad of lessons that we can learn from observing actions that happened during Operation Husky. We can

observe trickery massively affected Operation Husky in a positive way. One example was the bombing of both Sardinia and Sicily. Also, ships sailing to Greece made the Axis powers confused as to where the invasion would commence. Planning ahead helped another secret mission take place. This mission demolished 4/5's of German supply boats that were headed to Sicily from Italy. Since they planned ahead, they were successful in demolishing the supply boats. Unfortunately, some things are unplannable. Weather hurt the Allies badly while invading. They couldn't plan for a vigorous storm. They just had to work with what they had and not give up, which is one reason why they were victorious. One general in particular pops into mind when thinking about Operation Husky. Although General George Patton was a very effective general who won a lot of battles, we can learn a lesson from his mistake. Acting on impulse, Patton slapped two soldiers, because they looked weak and indolent. Patton, who was looking at their appearance, acted quickly and cussed at them, which was wrong. We all make mistakes and say and do things without thinking at times. We can learn from Patton that our actions have consequences. We can take responsibility for our mistakes, like Patton did. Operation Husky is just one of the battles that we can learn from.

Regarding the fact that countless soldiers sacrificed their lives in this brutal operation, I have benefited from them doing so. Because of their passion and love for their country, I have freedom. If they had lost this operation, I would be ruled by a dictator and have no freedom. Also, there's a good chance I would be speaking German. These brave soldiers paved the way for my great great uncle to fight in the Battle of the Bulge. My family honors his sacrifice and courage to fight. Without the fearless soldiers who fought in Operation Husky, he wouldn't have had the honor and privilege to engage in the Battle of the Bulge.

Operation Husky was a battle filled with intrepid, noble, and capable Allied soldiers that fought with endurance. The lessons that Operation Husky bestows to us are valuable. Our lives would definitely be changed if these Allied soldiers had not fought this treacherous operation. Operation Husky was an important piece to the puzzle, because if they hadn't been so brave, we could be still at war or worse, under German rule!

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