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The Triumphs and Failures of Operation Husky

The Allied Invasion of Sicily or code named, Operation Husky, was an amphibious assault on Sicily during World War II. The operation was planned by the Allies at the Casablanca Conference in North Africa in January of 1943. Operation Husky took place from July 9 to August 17, 1943. Operation Husky was the first assault on German-occupied Europe. The invasion included the Allied powers of the United States Seventh Army and the British Eighth Army as well as the German and Italian Axis powers defending Sicily. After the Allies won Tunisia back, which was the first time that U.S. forces and British forces fought together, amphibious assaults became possible through the Mediterranean Sea. There were twelve units defending Sicily, ten of which were Italian and two German. The beach defenses protecting Sicily were pillboxes and barbed wire. Operation Husky was one of the most important battles during World War II because it helped lead to an Allied victory. There are many things to be learned from Operation Husky. If Operation Husky never transpired many lives would be different.

In preparation for Operation Husky, the Allies initiated another operation known as Operation Mincemeat. This was a distraction used to divert Italian and German forces from Sicily. Operation Mincemeat was an exhibition of a Welsh tramp corpse from the London morgue displayed as a distraction. The plan was the corpse would have a case chained to his wrist with forged identification documents identifying him as Major William Martin of the British Royal Marines. Also included was a document detailing an Allied attack against Axis-occupied Greece and Sardina. The body and the case were dropped off the shores of Spain

where Spain would recover the body. Even though Spain was neutral in the war, most of the military was pro-German. When the British heard that Spain had recovered the body, they were persistent in asking for the case and remains back. This rouse led the Axis Powers to believe that the plans and the identification papers were real. After some deliberation, the Axis Powers moved most of their armies from Sicily to Greece and Sardina, leaving Sicily somewhat defenseless.

The invasion plan was to land paratroopers on the island, but a storm stopped that plan. The new plan was to have an amphibious assault on the island's southern shores. Since there was a storm, the soldiers patrolling the island didn't think that anyone would attack them. This gave the Allies the element of surprise. The revised plan was to come before sunrise and attack amphibiously on the southern portion of the island. Over the next three days over 3,000 ships, 150,000 ground troops, and 4,000 aircrafts were involved in the assault. The Germans and Italians trying to defend the island were still in disbelief that they were being attacked. They still thought that the invasion was going to be targeted at Greece and Sardina. The commanders of the Allies' army were Lieutenant General George S. Patton from America and General Bernard Montgomery from the United Kingdom. Even though they were fighting together Patton and Montgomery were very competitive with each other, but luckily that didn't alter Operation Husky too much.

The goal after the invasion was to move the troops toward Messina. While the Allied troops were moving, Benito Mussolini and fascist Italy were so shaken by the invasion that the regime fell rapidly and lost its reputation. On July 24, 1943, Benito Mussolini was arrested and a new government under Marshal Pietro Badoglio was formed. Badoglio didn't support Nazi

Germany, so he started to secretly discuss an armistice with the Allies. The next day, Italian troops started to leave Sicily, but the Germans stayed. Hitler advised his army to still fight back against the Allies as they advanced. Patton and Montgomery continued forward and chased the German troops until they were cornered in the northeast part of Sicily. As Patton and Montgomery got closer, the German and Italian troops evacuated the island with most of their supplies and artillery. When Patton reached northeast Sicily, he was surprised to see that all the troops were gone. He was expecting a final battle and to capture some of the German troops. Operation Husky was over even though German and Italian losses weren't a lot. Despite the Allies capturing Sicily, they didn't capture the Axis troops, so some didn't count that as a victory.

The soldiers who fought in World War II lived in a time different than today. Many of the lessons that they learned could and will be beneficial to the latest generation of Americans. An example would be when Patton and Montgomery were commanding the Allied armies. What we could learn from this is that even though you don't like the person you work with or are put in a group with, you still need to work well and be productive together. Although Montgomery and Patton had the world, their countries, and their soldiers depending on them, they still put their differences aside and worked together. Another lesson would be to think outside the box. Today we have Google, Amazon, Grubhub, and other platforms that at the touch of a button can mail, send, or answer whatever we need. These technological advancements are helpful, but they limit the ability to think out of the box. When the Allies had to change their plans because of a storm, they had to think differently to achieve their goal. A piece of wisdom would be when you are heading in the right direction, keep going. In other words, if you are doing something right keep doing it. This is illustrated when Marshal Pietro Badoglio formed an alliance with the Allies and

put Italy on the right track. Life lessons are an important and essential part of life that can be learned at any point in history.

The Americans entering and playing a part in an Allied victory majorly impacted my life by impacting the world I live in and what I want to make it. Even though about 9,700 Americans died or went missing in action, they helped to further the cause of beating Hitler and giving me a great life and the potential to accomplish my goals. If America did not fight in Operation Husky, then it probably would not have been successful. If it was unsuccessful, then Benito Mussolini wouldn't have surrendered, and fascist Italy would still exist today. This operation caused the downfall of fascist Italy and helped to destroy Nazi Germany. Assuming that Nazi Germany still existed today than, it would be unsafe for most Americans to travel to Germany and most of Europe. That would be very unfortuate because I really want to go to Europe someday. My life and everyone else's would be totally different if Nazi Germany was still around. Those 9,700 Americans made the most selfless choice they could, knowing that they could die to save others. I hope that one day I will be able to try and make a mark on the world as they did.

Operation Husky helped the Allies beat the Axis power, and in turn, we can learn many things from the soldiers. If they didn't fight in World War II our lives would be completely different. Operation Husky was a well-thought-out and executed plan, even though some things didn't go the way they expected. In spite of that, some people didn't count Operation Husky as a win. It helped the Axis Powers lose in the long run. The lessons to be learned from the soldiers are to work productively in a group, think outside of the box, and keep doing the right things. Operation Husky can bring light to what all of the American soldiers that died and fought did for

us. I hope that the new generation of Americans can take the achievements and failures of the ones before and learn from them.

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