

WAR IN THE DESERT



German troops of the *Afrika Korps* are shown moving through the desert, 1942.

WEBQUEST Directions: Using the internet, as well as the textbook and information from class discussions, fill in the blanks correctly.

WORD BANK

M4 Sherman

Erwin Rommel

Bernard Montgomery

Suez Canal

air power

Afrika Korps

surrendered

Dwight Eisenhower

Kasserine Pass

Desert Rats

El Alamein

oil fields

supply

Operation Torch

Libya

tanks



Erwin Rommel, the “Desert Fox,” commanded the *Afrika Corps*.

- 1. To save Mussolini’s faltering army in Africa, Hitler sent specially trained forces to fight in the desert known as the _____.**
- 2. German forces in Africa were led by the renown German panzer commander _____, who became known as the “Desert Fox” for his ability to outmaneuver and outfight the British time and time again.**
- 3. In North Africa, Axis forces aimed to deprive the Allies of access to Middle Eastern oil supplies and cut Britain off from the resources of its vast empire in Asia by capturing the _____.**
- 4. British forces in Africa were under command of General Sir _____.**
- 5. Throughout 1942, British and German forces fought inconclusive back-and-forth battles across _____ and Egypt trying to gain the upper hand.**

6. The British 7th Armoured Division was given the nickname the “_____” for its fierce and tenacious reputation fighting against Axis forces in Africa.



7. Adapting blitzkrieg tactics to the desert, German forces had pushed the British back into Egypt and were poised to strike at the _____ of the Middle East by July of 1942.
8. As the Axis forces advanced, however, their _____ lines grew longer and longer.
9. Bolstered by the arrival of American _____ and supplies, Montgomery struck at Rommel's army, which was positioned in a strong defensive line in the desert.
10. For weeks, beginning in October of 1942, the Battle of _____ raged as the armies attacked, and counter attacked again and again.
11. As the battle continued, day after day, Allied _____ gained control of the skies and thwarted any chance of Rommel's army being resupplied. Running low on fuel and ammunition, the defensive lines of Rommel's *Afrika Korps* crumbled.

- 12. In November of 1942, American general _____ took command of Allied forces in Africa.**
- 13. To take pressure of the British fighting in Egypt, the Allies launch a three-pronged attack from the west on Axis forces in Casablanca, Oran, and Algiers known as _____.**
- 14. Facing battle-hardened Axis forces for the first time, American troops were routed at the Battle of _____ in February of 1943.**
- 15. American M3 Lee and Grant and _____ tanks helped turn the tide of battle Africa in favor of the Allies.**
- 16. Advancing on Tunisia from the west, and through Libya from the east, the Allies trapped Rommel's exhausted army, which _____ in May of 1943.**



British General Sir Bernard Montgomery played a key role in the British victory at the Battle of El Alamein in 1942.