**FIGHTING IN THE WEST AND AFRICA**

Directions: *Use the article provided to the answer the following questions*

**The Mediterranean and the Eastern Front**

1. What was Germany’s first objective in the Mediterranean region?

*North Africa, mainly because of Hitler’s partner, Mussolini*

1. What was Italy’s position at the beginning of the war? (What side were they on?)

*Italy had remained neutral at the beginning of the war*

1. Where did Mussolini attack first? Where was his next step?

*Mussolini moved into France. He took his next step in North Africa in September 1940.*

1. Who controlled Egypt?

*Egypt was controlled by Great Britain*

1. Why was the Suez Canal so important? What was the result of the fighting there?

*Egypt’s Suez Canal was the key to reaching the oil fields of the Middle East*

**Britain Strikes Back**

1. How much of North Africa did Britain take over and how many POWs (Prisoners of War)?

*By February 1941, the British had swept 500 miles across North Africa and had taken 130,000 Italian prisoners.*

1. How did Hitler respond to help Mussolini and the Italians?

*To reinforce the Italians, Hitler sent a crack German tank force, the Afrika Korps, under the command of Gen. Erwin Rommel.*

1. What group was victorious in North Africa?

*Rommel regrouped, pushed the British back across the desert, and seized Tobruk---a shattering loss for the Allies. (Axis Powers victorious)*

1. What nickname did Rommel earn as a result?

*Rommel’s successes in North Africa earned him the nickname “Desert Fox.”*

**The War in the Balkans**

1. Why did Hitler want to build bases in southeastern Europe?

*Hitler wanted to build bases in southeastern Europe for the attack on the Soviet Union. He also wanted to make sure that the British did not interfere.*

1. What countries joined the Axis Powers by early 1941?

*By early 1941, Hitler persuaded Bulgaria, Romania, and Hungary to join the Axis Powers.*

1. What countries resisted the Axis Powers?

*Yugoslavia and Greece, which had pro-British governments, resisted.*

1. What was the result of their resistance to the Axis Powers?

*In early April 1941, Hitler invaded both countries. Yugoslavia fell in 11 days and Greece fell in 17 days.*

1. How did the Nazis celebrate their victory in Greece?

*In Athens, the Nazis celebrated their victory by raising swastikas on the Acropolis.*