

There's More Online!

- ✓ BIOGRAPHY Omar Bradley
- ✓ BIOGRAPHY George C. Marshall
- ✓ BIOGRAPHY George Patton
- ✓ MAP The Battle of Stalingrad
- ✓ VIDEO The War in Europe
- ✓ INTERACTIVE SELF-CHECK QUIZ



Reading HELPDESK



Academic Vocabulary

- target
- intense
- briefly

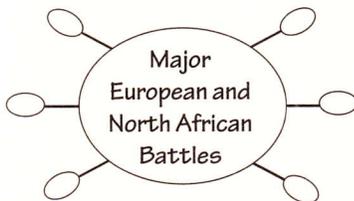
Content Vocabulary

- periphery
- convoy system

TAKING NOTES:

Key Ideas and Details

Organizing Use the following graphic organizer to record the major battles discussed and when each was fought.



LESSON 3

The War in Europe

ESSENTIAL QUESTION • What kinds of sacrifices does war require?

IT MATTERS BECAUSE

British and American troops won victories over the Axis powers in North Africa and Italy. Next, Allied leaders made plans for an invasion of Europe.

Halting the Germans

GUIDING QUESTION Why did Churchill and Roosevelt want to attack German-controlled areas in North Africa before areas in Europe?

Since 1940, U.S. military strategists had discussed with President Roosevelt the pressures of a two-front war. He wanted to get U.S. troops into battle in Europe, but Prime Minister Churchill did not believe the United States and Britain were ready to invade Europe. Instead, the prime minister wanted to attack the **periphery**, or edges, of the German empire. Roosevelt eventually agreed, and in July 1942, he ordered the invasion of Morocco and Algeria—two French territories indirectly under German control.

The Battle for North Africa

Roosevelt decided to invade for two reasons. The invasion would give the army some experience without requiring a lot of troops. It would also help the British troops fight the Germans in Egypt. Most of Britain's empire, including India, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaya, and Australia, sent supplies to Britain through Egypt's Suez Canal.

German general Erwin Rommel, whose success earned him the nickname "Desert Fox," commanded the "Afrika Korps." After a 12-day battle at the Egyptian coastal city of El Alamein, the British secured the Suez Canal and forced Rommel to retreat in November 1942. Despite this defeat, German forces remained a serious threat in North Africa.

Later that month, American troops commanded by General Dwight D. Eisenhower invaded North Africa. When the Americans advanced into the mountains of western Tunisia, they fought the German army for the first time. At the Battle of Kasserine Pass,

the Americans were outmaneuvered and outfought. They suffered roughly 7,000 casualties and lost nearly 200 tanks. Eisenhower fired the general who led the attack and put General George Patton in command. The American and British forces finally pushed the Germans back. On May 13, 1943, the last German troops in North Africa surrendered.

The Battle of the Atlantic

After Germany declared war on the United States, German submarines entered American coastal waters. American cargo ships were easy **targets**, especially at night when the glow from the cities in the night sky silhouetted the vessels. To protect the ships, citizens on the East Coast dimmed their lights every evening and put up special “blackout curtains.” If they had to drive at night, they did so with their headlights off.

By August 1942, German submarines had sunk about 360 American ships along the East Coast, including many oil tankers. The loss of so many ships convinced the U.S. Navy to set up a **convoy system** in which cargo ships traveled in groups escorted by warships. The convoy system improved the situation dramatically, making it much more difficult for a submarine to torpedo a cargo ship and escape without being attacked.

The spring of 1942 marked the high point of the German submarine campaign. In May and June alone, more than 1.2 million tons of shipping were sunk. Yet in those same two months, American and British shipyards built more than 1.1 million tons of new shipping. At the same time, American airplanes and warships began to use new technology, including radar, sonar, and depth charges, to locate and attack submarines. As the new technology began to take its toll on German submarines, the Battle of the Atlantic turned in favor of the Allies.

The Battle of Stalingrad

Adolf Hitler was convinced that defeating the Soviet Union depended on destroying the Soviet economy. In May 1942, he ordered his army to capture strategic oil fields, factories, and farmlands in southern Russia and Ukraine. The city of Stalingrad, which controlled the Volga River and was a major railroad junction, was the key to the attack. If the German army captured Stalingrad, they would cut off the Soviets from the resources they needed to stay in the war.

periphery the outer boundary of something

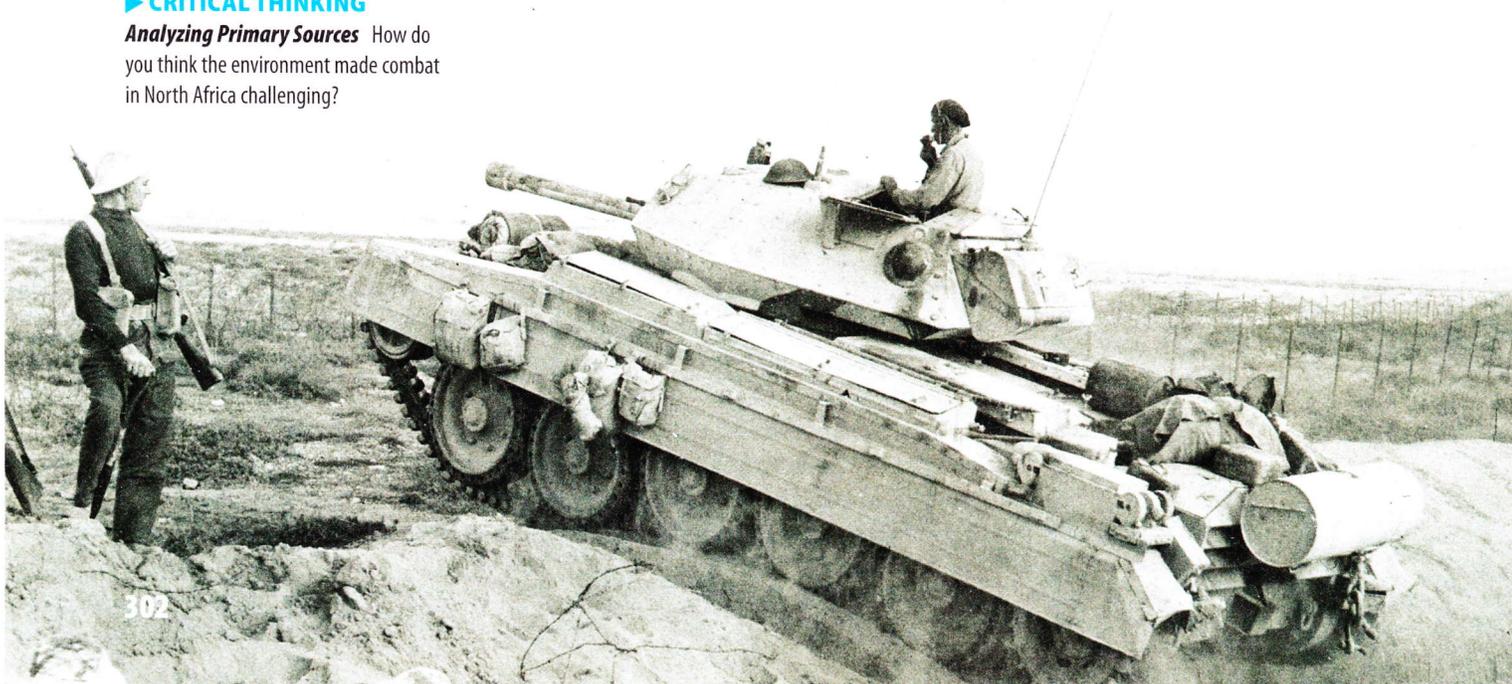
target something or someone fired on or marked for attack

convoy system a system in which merchant ships travel with naval vessels for protection

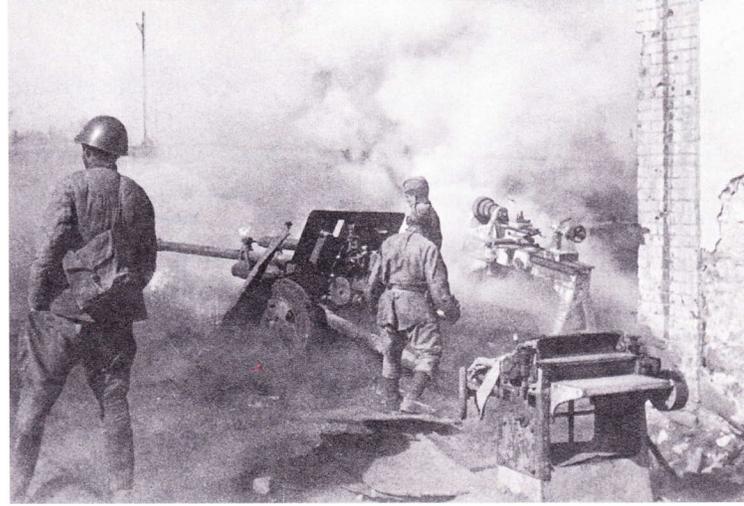
A British tank successfully navigates a wide ditch in the desert outside a town in North Africa.

► CRITICAL THINKING

Analyzing Primary Sources How do you think the environment made combat in North Africa challenging?



When German troops entered Stalingrad in mid-September, Stalin ordered his troops to hold the city at all costs. The Germans were forced to fight from house to house, losing thousands of soldiers in the process. Unlike the Soviets, they were not equipped to fight in the bitter cold. On November 23, Soviet reinforcements arrived and surrounded Stalingrad, trapping almost 250,000 German troops. When the battle ended in February 1943, some 91,000 Germans had surrendered. Only 5,000 of them survived the Soviet prison camps. Each side lost nearly half a million soldiers. The Battle of Stalingrad put the Germans on the defensive.



READING PROGRESS CHECK

Explaining What was Roosevelt's purpose in invading North Africa?

Striking Germany and Italy

GUIDING QUESTION *What were the goals of strategic bombing in Germany and the invasion of Sicily?*

The Allied invasion of North Africa in November 1942 had shown that a large-scale invasion from the sea was possible. The success of the landings convinced Roosevelt to meet again with Churchill to plan the next stage of the war. In January 1943, Roosevelt headed to Casablanca, Morocco, to meet the prime minister.

At the Casablanca Conference, Roosevelt and Churchill agreed to step up the bombing of Germany. The goal of this new campaign was “the progressive destruction of the German military, industrial, and economic system, and the undermining of the morale of the German people.” The Allies also agreed to attack the Axis on the island of Sicily. Churchill called Italy the “soft underbelly” of Europe. He was convinced that the Italians would quit the war if the Allies invaded their homeland.

Strategic Bombing

The Allies had been bombing Germany even before the Casablanca Conference. Britain's Royal Air Force had dropped an average of 2,300 tons (2,093 t) of explosives on Germany every month for more than three years. The United States Eighth Army Air Force had dropped an additional 1,500 tons (1,365 t) of bombs during the last six months of 1942. These numbers were small, however, compared to the massive new campaign. Between January 1943 and May 1945, the Royal Air Force and the United States Eighth Army Air Force dropped approximately 53,000 tons (48,230 t) of explosives on Germany every month.

The bombing campaign did not destroy Germany's economy or undermine German morale, but it did cause a severe oil shortage and wrecked the railroad system. It also destroyed so many aircraft factories that Germany's air force could not replace its losses. By the time the Allies landed in France, they had control of the air, ensuring that their troops would not be bombed.

Striking the Soft Underbelly

As the bombing campaign against Germany intensified, plans to invade Sicily also moved ahead. General Dwight D. Eisenhower commanded the invasion, with General Patton and British general Bernard Montgomery

A Soviet gun crew fights against Nazi forces in Stalingrad. Only one day after the Nazis publicly boasted that the city would fall to them, the Red Army turned the tide of the battle.

CRITICAL THINKING

Analyzing Images How do you think the environment made combat in Stalingrad difficult?

attack such difficult terrain, the Allies landed at Anzio, behind German lines. Instead of retreating, however, as the Allies had hoped, the Germans surrounded the Allied troops near Anzio.

It took the Allies five months to break through the German lines at Cassino and Anzio. Finally, in late May 1944, the Germans retreated. Less than two weeks later, the Allies captured Rome. Fighting in Italy continued, however, for another year. The Italian campaign was one of the bloodiest in the war, with more than 300,000 Allied casualties.

The Tehran Conference

Roosevelt wanted to meet with Stalin before the Allies invaded France. In late 1943, Stalin agreed, proposing that Roosevelt and Churchill meet him in Tehran, Iran.

The leaders reached several agreements. Stalin promised to launch a full-scale offensive against the Germans when the Allies invaded France in 1944. Roosevelt and Stalin then agreed to divide Germany after the war so that it would never again threaten world peace. Stalin promised that once Germany was defeated, the Soviet Union would help the United States against Japan. He also accepted Roosevelt's proposal of an international peacekeeping organization after the war. Part of the agreement proclaimed:

PRIMARY SOURCE

“The common understanding which we have here reached guarantees that victory will be ours. And as to peace—we are sure that our concord will win an enduring Peace. We recognize fully the supreme responsibility . . . to make a peace which will command the goodwill of the overwhelming mass of the peoples of the world and banish the scourge and terror of war for many generations.”

—from the Tehran Declaration, December 1, 1943

READING PROGRESS CHECK

Evaluating What did Roosevelt and other leaders hope to accomplish by attacking Germany and Italy?

The D-Day Invasion

GUIDING QUESTION *What if D-Day had failed and Germany had defeated the Allies in Europe?*

After the conference in Tehran, Roosevelt headed to Cairo, Egypt, where he and Churchill continued planning an invasion of France to force Germany to again fight the war on two fronts. One major decision still had to be made. The president had to choose the commander for Operation Overlord—the code name for the invasion. Roosevelt selected General Eisenhower.

Planning Operation Overlord

Hitler had fortified the French coast along the English Channel, but he did not know when or where the Allies would land. The Germans believed the landing would be in Pas-de-Calais—the area of France closest to Britain. The Allies encouraged this belief by placing dummy equipment along the coast across from Calais. The real target was farther south, a 60-mile stretch of five beaches along the Normandy coast.

The selection of a site for the largest amphibious landing in history was one of the biggest decisions of World War II. Allied planners considered coastlines from Denmark to Portugal in search of a sheltered location with firm flat beaches within range of friendly fighter planes in England. There also had to be enough roads and paths to move jeeps and trucks off the beaches



Vernon Baker (1919–2010) U.S. Army Company C, 370th Regiment, 92nd Infantry Division

On April 5, 1945, First Lieutenant Vernon Baker and his platoon advanced toward Castle Aghinolfi, a German stronghold in the mountains near Viareggio, Italy. Baker and about 25 others moved ahead of the group, and Baker successfully destroyed an observation post, a dugout, and three machine gun positions. In 1996 his actions earned him a Medal of Honor “for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty in action on 5 and 6 April 1945.” This made Baker one of seven African American World War II veterans to receive belated recognition for their service.

CRITICAL THINKING

Drawing Conclusions Why were Baker's actions so important to the assault on Castle Aghinolfi?

and to accommodate the hundreds of thousands of American, Canadian, and British troops set to stream ashore following the invasion. An airfield and a seaport that the Allies could use were also needed. Most important was a reasonable expectation of achieving the element of surprise.

Planners also discussed who should lead France after the invasion. General Eisenhower had informed Charles de Gaulle that the French Resistance forces would assist in the liberation of Paris, but President Roosevelt was not sure he trusted de Gaulle and refused to recognize him as the official French leader.

By the spring of 1944, more than 1.5 million American soldiers, 12,000 airplanes, and 5 million tons (4.6 million t) of equipment had been sent to England. Only setting the invasion date and giving the command to go remained. The invasion had to begin at night to hide the ships crossing the English Channel. The ships had to arrive at low tide so that they could see the beach obstacles. The low tide had to come at dawn so that gunners bombarding the coast could see their targets. Paratroopers, who would be dropped behind enemy lines, needed a moonlit night to see where to land. Perhaps most important of all was good weather. A storm would ground the airplanes, and high waves would swamp landing craft.

Given all these requirements, there were only a few days each month to begin the invasion. The first opportunity was from June 5 to 7, 1944. Eisenhower's planning staff referred to the day any operation began by the letter *D*. The invasion date, therefore, came to be known as D-Day. Heavy cloud cover, strong winds, and high waves made June 5 impossible. The weather was forecast to improve **briefly** a day later. The Channel would still be rough, but the landing ships

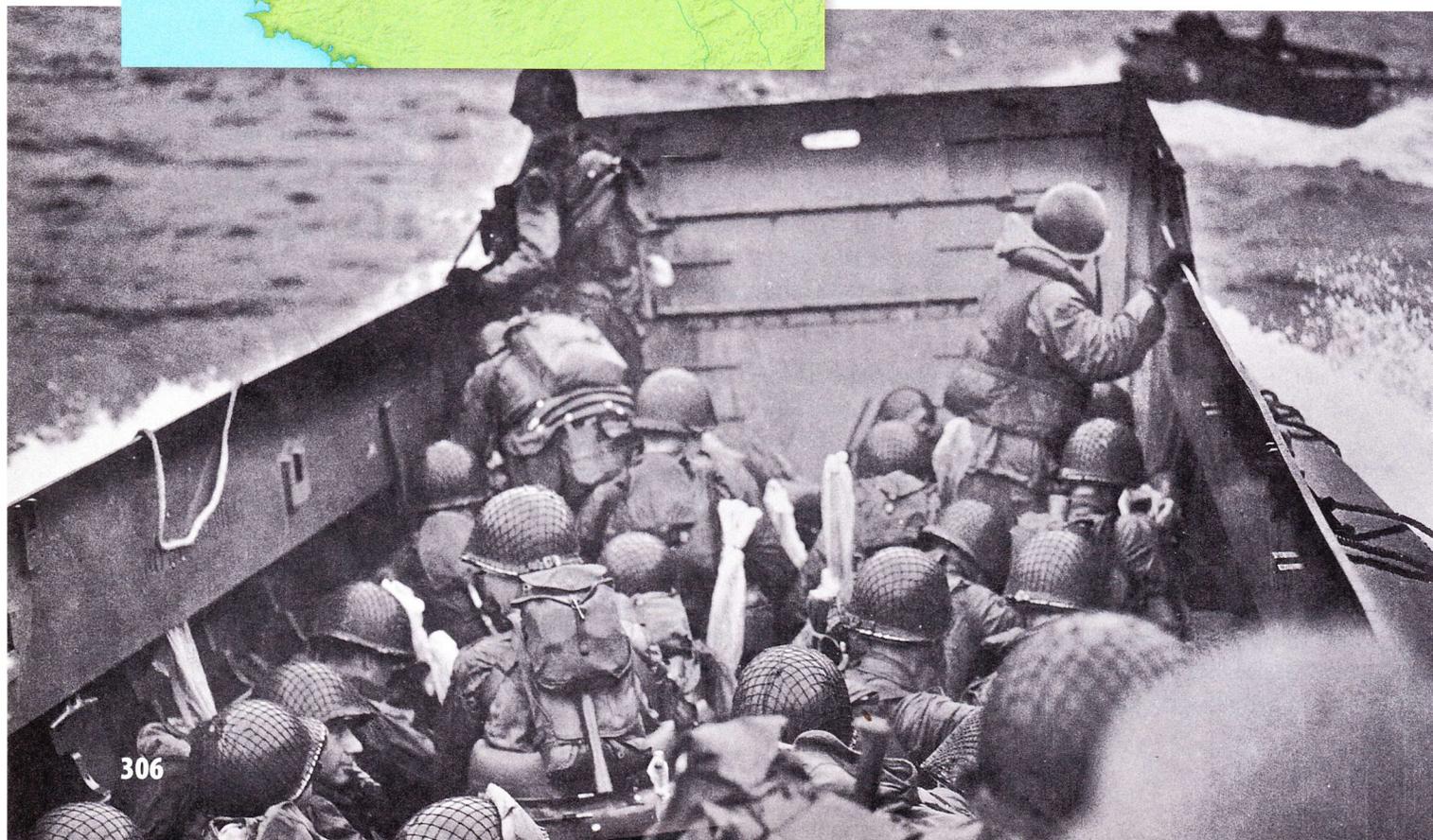
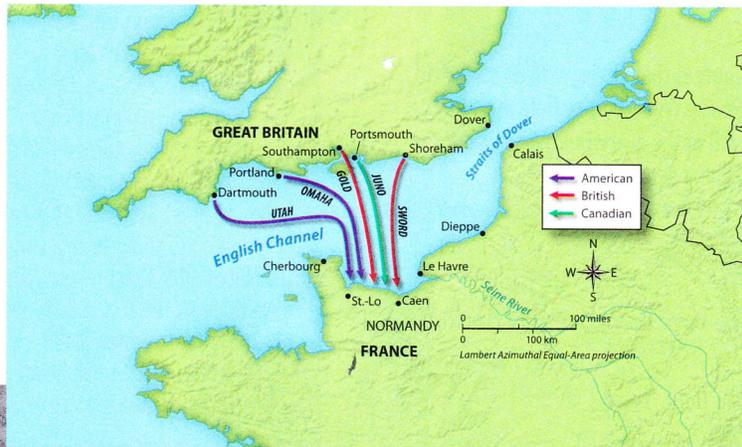
briefly for a short time

Allied troops from various parts of the British coast headed for Normandy beaches for the D-Day invasion.

► **CRITICAL THINKING**

Determining Cause and Effect

How did the D-Day invasion turn the tide of World War II?



and aircraft could operate. After looking at forecasts one last time, shortly after midnight on June 6, 1944, Eisenhower gave the final order: “OK, we’ll go.”

The Longest Day

Nearly 7,000 ships carrying more than 100,000 soldiers headed for Normandy’s coast. At the same time, 23,000 paratroopers were dropped inland, east and west of the beaches. Allied fighter-bombers raced up and down the coast, hitting bridges, bunkers, and radar sites. At dawn, Allied warships began a tremendous barrage. Thousands of shells rained down on the beaches, code-named “Utah,” “Omaha,” “Gold,” “Sword,” and “Juno.”

The American landing at Utah Beach went well. The German defenses were weak, and in less than three hours, the troops had captured the beach and moved inland, suffering fewer than 200 casualties. On the eastern flank, the British and Canadian landings also went well. By the end of the day, British and Canadian forces were several miles inland.

Omaha Beach, however, was a different story. Surrounded at both ends by cliffs that rose wall-like from the sea, Omaha Beach was only four miles long. The entire beach overlooked a 150-foot high bluff, and there were only five ravines leading from the beach to the top of the bluff. The Germans had made full use of the geographic advantage the high bluff gave them. They dug trenches and built concrete bunkers for machine guns at the top of the cliffs and positioned them to guard the ravines leading to the beach. Under **intense** German fire, the American assault almost disintegrated.

General Omar Bradley, commander of the American forces landing at Omaha and Utah, began making plans to evacuate. Slowly, however, the American troops began to knock out the German defenses. More landing craft arrived, ramming their way through the obstacles to get to the beach. Nearly 2,500 Americans were either killed or wounded on Omaha, but by early afternoon, Bradley received this message: “Troops formerly pinned down on beaches . . . [are] advancing up heights behind beaches.” By the end of the day, nearly 35,000 American troops had landed at Omaha, and another 23,000 had landed at Utah. More than 75,000 British and Canadian troops were on shore as well. The invasion had succeeded.

READING PROGRESS CHECK

Summarizing Why was it so important that all of the conditions be met before Eisenhower could order D-Day to begin? What would have happened if the invasion had failed?

LESSON 3 REVIEW



Reviewing Vocabulary

1. Explaining Explain how using the convoy system helped the United States begin winning the Battle of the Atlantic.

Using Your Notes

2. Sequencing Review the notes you completed during the lesson and use them to sequence the major Allied victories.

Answering the Guiding Questions

3. Analyzing Why did Churchill and Roosevelt want to attack German-controlled areas in North Africa before areas in Europe?

4. Determining Cause and Effect What were the goals of strategic bombing in Germany and the invasion of Sicily?

5. Speculating What if D-Day had failed and Germany had defeated the Allies in Europe?

Writing Activity

6. NARRATIVE American soldiers invading Normandy on D-Day showed extreme bravery in the face of enormous difficulties. Imagine that you are one of the first soldiers approaching Omaha Beach by water. Write a description of the beach and the atmosphere of the moment. Be sure to include sensory words.

Fighting at Omaha Beach

“Two hundred yards out, we took a direct hit. . . . Somehow or other, the ramp door opened up . . . and the men in front were being struck by machine gun fire. Everyone started to jump off into the water. . . . The tide was moving us so rapidly. . . . We would grab out at some of those underwater obstructions and mines built on telephone poles and girders, and hang on. We’d take cover, then make a dash through the surf to the next one, fifty feet beyond.”

—Lieutenant John Bentz Carroll,
from *D-Day: Piercing the Atlantic Wall*, 1994

DBQ MAKING INFERENCES

Based on this description, what can you infer about the manner of the landing on Omaha Beach?

intense existing in an extreme degree