

## The War comes to an end in Europe

- **Battle of the Bulge:**
  - Counter Attack to the D-Day invasion.
  - Germans used a blitzkrieg method to try and split the Allied lines and take Liege and Antwerp.
  - December 16, under the cover of fog, German soldiers hit an 80-mile front along the Belgium border of the Ardennes Forest.
  - The Allied troops that were hit were Americans and were inexperienced.
  - However, they put up a defense at Bastogne, an important transportation center in southeast Belgium.
  - At one point during the attack, the Germans broke through the lines creating a bulge.
  - The Germans were eventually driven back into a retreat.
  - This attack was Hitler's idea and it meant the end of Germany.
  - As Allied bombers continued to hammer major German cities, the Soviets pushed into Germany from the east while American forces crossed the Rhine river and drove in from the west.
- **The Yalta Conference:**
  - February 1945-- Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin met at a Soviet resort called Yalta.
  - They believed that the war in Europe was coming to an end.
  - The three leaders decided that when the end of the war came in Europe, they would divide Germany up temporarily.
  - Great Britain, France, America, and the Soviet Union would each control a zone of Germany.
  - It was agreed that Stalin would oversee the creation of new governments in Eastern Europe.
- **The End of Hitler and the Third Reich**
  - Hitler vows in 1939: "I shall stand or fall in this struggle. I shall never survive the defeat of my people."
  - April 30, 1945---Hitler commits suicide in a Berlin bunker and has his remains burned.
  - May 8, 1945--Germany's unconditional surrender a.k.a V-E Day
  - The big three meet at Potsdam, Germany, in mid 1945
  - The 3 heads of state warned the Japanese to surrender or face "prompt and utter destruction."