

The Battle of Stalingrad

An introduction of how Germany and Russia created collateral damage in one of
the

Bloodiest Wars in History

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04 November 2007

Outline

Thesis: The Battle of Stalingrad created collateral damage caused millions of lives to be lost in one the bloodiest battle of history.

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The Battle of Stalingrad

An introduction of the war between Germany and Russia in the City of Stalingrad

The Battle of Stalingrad was a battle between Germany and its allies and the Russian for the Soviet city of Stalingrad that took place between 21 August 1942 and 2 February 1943, as part of World War II. It is often considered the turning point of World War II in the European Theater and was arguably the bloodiest battle in human history, with combined casualties estimated above 1.5 million. The battle was marked by brutality and disregard for military and civilian casualties on both sides.

The Battle of Stalingrad is by far the most important battle in World War II and is

considered the bloodiest battle in human history, with more combined casualties than any recorded battle before or after. The battle was also the marker of the major turning point of the war, since its outcome was one of the major reasons why the German invasion of Russia was unsuccessful. The battle started with the German invasion and siege of the city of Stalingrad in the south of Russia. Soon, however, the Germans gained entry to the city and confronted the waiting Soviet counter-offensive. When you tally the figures for the German 6th Army and its allied auxiliaries which supported the march to Stalingrad, the numbers are both impressive and distressing. The Germans lost about 350,000 men, the Italians, Hungarians and Romanians about 100,000 men a piece.

The Soviets managed to eventually trap and destroy the German Sixth Army and the other Axis forces in the city. The Soviets destroyed one-fourth of German power on the Eastern

Front as well as huge sums of German supplies and equipment. The Axis forces were therefore never able to recover from this major loss and were eventually forced to retreat out of Eastern Europe. Also, the victory marked the beginning of the increasing Soviet glory, leading to the eventual victory over Nazi Germany in 1945, marking the end of the war. Stalingrad was an extremely decisive target for Germany for multiple reasons. Firstly, and most importantly, it was

a major industrial city on the banks of the river Volga, which was a vital transport route between

the Caspian Sea and Northern Russia. Therefore, capturing Stalingrad would slowly deprive the Russian mainland of all supplies from the south, which would be devastating to the Russian Army and civilians. Less importantly, the fact that the city bore the name of Josef Stalin, the leader of the Soviet Union, would make a German capture of the city an ideological and propaganda coup. Therefore, the Soviet Red Army was ordered to defend Stalingrad from the Germans at all costs. There were at least 500,000 in the Red Army that were killed in Stalingrad

and the surrounding areas which were adjunct to the battle.

On August 23, 1942, precisely at 18:00, one thousand airplanes from the German's Air

Force began to drop incendiary bombs causing many casualties. Stalin prevented the civilians from leaving the city in hope that their presence would increase the morale of the city's defenders. All civilians, even including women and children, were put to work building trenches and protective fortifications. The massive German air bombardment caused a massive firestorm, killing thousands and completely destroying the city. As the Germans advanced through the city, they were met with fierce opposition by city defenders as well as ordinary civilians. Bitter fighting raged everywhere, killing thousands of civilians. With no end in sight, the Germans started transferring heavy artillery to the city, including a gigantic 800 mm mortar in the city of Stalingrad. In that city of 600,000 people, there were many wooden buildings, gas tanks and fuel tanks for industries. Stalingrad was heavily hit by air attack and mortars that killed 40,000 civilians. Leadership on the Russian and German side had no respect and didn't care when it came to civilian casualties.

On February 2, 1943, the last German resistance ended. German's leadership was furious, accusing the Soviet leadership for the tremendous losses, instead of accusing it's own leadership. The German and it's allied force, the Russians and civilians from the war lost combined lost a estimated 1.5 million lives labeling this the Bloodiest War in History.

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