

## The African Desert War

TURNING POINT

### What prompted the war?

Britain was fighting the Italians who were trying to expand their Empire invading Egypt in 1940's. They defeated the Italians and pushed them back to Libya. In a reply to these attacks, Hitler offered to help Mussolini and sent Rommel with his Afrika Korps (German soldiers) to fight back British.

Alamein where the Qattara Depression blocked any further movement. This prompted General Montgomery to lead the 8th Army launching a devastating attack on Rommel forcing him to move back. Montgomery continued the attack and failed every attempt of Rommel to reform his army or counter attack.

### What were the after-effects of the war?

The Americans landed in Vichy-French controlled Algeria in West Africa. They drove Rommel out of Africa from Montgomery in the East and Patton in the West. The combined British-American forces invaded Sicily and Italy. This eventually defeated the German troops in Southern Europe bringing the end of the Nazi regime.

### How was the war staged?

Hitler's intervention shocked the British. The British army were

thrown all the way back to a small rail-way halt called El



North Africa was a major area of operations in World War II, especially the Cyrenaica region.

### Why was the desert war in North Africa important?

Lacking any immediate support, Britain desperately needed to safeguard the Suez Canal which was her short-cut to the East. France had already fallen and Britain had narrowly avoided invasion from the Germans. Britain was not strong enough to fight back Europe even though it still had the most powerful navy in the world and a foothold in North Africa.



## The Phoenicians

GREAT CIVILISATIONS

### Who were the Phoenicians?

They were the descendent races of the existing Babylonian and Semitic civilisations. They inherited the intellectual and adventurous side of Babylonian life and through them the use of the alphabet, or written language, was spread all over the world.

### What were they primarily known to be?

The Phoenicians were first-known sailors and explorers. They coasted the entire Mediterranean Sea and ventured to the shores of the Atlantic using tiny barks as rafts for navigation. They travelled not as ordinary traders, but as bold adventurers, eager to explore and conquer new territories fearlessly. They dominated sea trade for nearly 3,000 years.

### How significantly did they contribute to human civilisation?

They were known to be pirates who also turned miners or at times Herders raising flocks in the fertile valleys of Spain. They opened up trade and commerce. They were innovative in their concepts and brought in the Golden Age.

The Phoenician civilization began the maritime trading culture that spread across the Mediterranean during the first millennium B. C. E.

### Where was Phoenicia located?

Phoenicia was located in the north of ancient Canaan along the coastal plains of the present day Lebanon. The Phoenicians lived along the eastern shores of the Mediterranean. Here they built great cities of Tyre, Sidon and Byblos which were supposedly the most celebrated, richest and strongly guarded towns of the era.

## MAGNIFICENT MONUMENTS



## The Colosseum

- The Colosseum which was basically a Flavian Amphitheatre is one of Rome's most famous architecture describing ancient Roman culture.
- Emperor Vespasian began its construction around 72 AD and about 8 years later his son Titus completed it in 80 AD.
- It was built near the site of Nero's "Domus Aurea" (Golden House) to erase the memory of Nero's long reign from the minds of Romans.
- It was named Colosseum in reply to Nero's colossus, a 120 ft. high statue of Nero.
- The Colosseum originally consisted of four floors with a total spectator capacity of 45,000 - 55,000.
- The Colosseum was the Empire's primary stage for gladiatorial combat for nearly four centuries.
- To showcase the wealth and extravagance of Rome, 100 days of games were held in 80 AD.

