

# Summary of the World War II Campaign in North Africa –

November 8th, 1942 to May 13th, 1943

1942

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- 8 November: Operation Torch is launched under the command of General Eisenhower, Allied forces land in Morocco and Algeria.
- 9 November: Sidi Barrani captured by Eighth Army
- 13 November: Tobruk captured by Eighth Army
- 15 November: British forces capture Derna in Libya.
- 17 November: First Army (Operation Torch's Eastern Task Force) and Axis meet at Djebel Abiod in Tunisia
- 20 November: Benghazi captured by Eighth Army
- 27 November: First Army advance halted between Terbourba and Djedeida, 12 miles from Tunis, by Axis counterattack
- 10 December: First Army front line pushed back to defensive positions east of Medjez el Bab
- 12 December: Eighth Army starts an offensive towards Axis forces near El Agheila
- 22 December: First Army starts three-day offensive towards Tebourba which fails
- 25 December: Sirte captured by Eighth Army

1943

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- 23 January: Tripoli captured by British Eighth Army
- 30 January: Axis forces capture Faïd pass in central Tunisia
- 4 February: Axis forces in Libya retreat to Tunisian border south of the Mareth Line
- 14 February: Axis advance from Faïd to launch Battle of Sidi Bou Zid and enter Sbeitla two days later
- 19 February: Battle of Kasserine Pass launched by Axis forces
- 6 March: Axis launch Operation Capri against Eighth Army at Medenine but lose 55 tanks. Patton takes command of II Corps.
- 16 March: Battle of the Mareth Line begins<sup>[7]</sup>
- 19 March: Eighth Army launches Operation Pugilist
- 23 March: U.S. II Corps emerge from Kasserine to match the Axis at Battle of El Guettar. Battle of Mareth ends.<sup>[7]</sup>
- 26 March: Eighth Army launch *Operation Supercharge II* outflanking and making the Axis position at Mareth untenable. Battle of Tebaga Gap takes place.<sup>[8]</sup>
- 6 April: Right wing of First Army links with Eighth Army. Battle of Wadi Akarit takes place.
- 22 April: Allied forces launch Operation Vulcan
- 6 May: Allied forces launch Operation Strike<sup>[9]</sup>
- 7 May: British enter Tunis, Americans enter Bizerte
- 13 May: Axis Powers surrender in Tunisia.

## Duties of Flight Surgeon in World War II

- Assist in training the aircrew (mostly in the area of physiological adaptation).
- Conduct periodic medical reviews to assess and certify aircrew for flying and allied duties.
  - Combat fatigue
  - Flying fatigue
  - Post-traumatic stress syndrome
  - Reaction deficiencies
  - Vision problems
  - Ear pressure problems from flight
- Emergency surgery on pilots and flight crew members for wounds and injuries
  - Infection
  - Minor surgeries
  - Head injuries
- Retrieval of remains following a crash
- Sanitary control for water and food service
- Treating sick members of the squadron for illness and disease
  - Typhus
  - Malaria
  - Yellow fever
  - Heat stroke or exhaustion
  - Extreme sunburn
- Establishing location of field hospitals, mess facilities and latrines
- Prepare medical reports as to treatment for all squadron members
- Prepare reports for command personnel

*War in the 52nd Fighter Group* by Jim Kintner

A true story of a flight surgeon's service as a member of the 2nd Squadron of the 52nd Fighter Group during Operation Torch in World War II.

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/war-in-the-52nd-fighter-group-jim-kintner/1136702474>