

The U.S. Commander of the African-based air force was General James H. Doolittle. Commander of U.S. land forces was General Dwight D. Eisenhower, then relatively unknown.

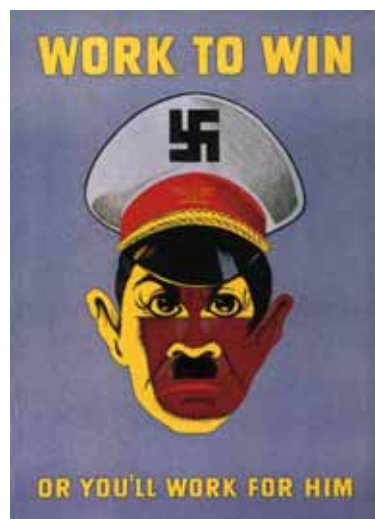
Eisenhower found out in December that supplies and armor could not be maintained overall and that the mental and moral strain of British forces were, according to Gen. Alexander, hurt badly by constant Luftwaffe dive-bombing. In mid-December, the Allied Front in western Tunisia had 20,000 British, 30,000 French, 11,000 U.S. troops; the Axis had 38,500.

The War Department got its vital long-distance radio communications opened on the fifteenth of November; receivers between Oran and Kano, Africa, were opened, followed by a major connection on the 28th from Casablanca, and on the 25th of the next month from Algiers to the outside world. USAACS units made the direct link from Algiers to London.

Opening a direct radio circuit was important; without it, one relied on carrier pigeon or underwater sea cable connecting Algiers-Gibraltar-London-Washington, that established a secret direct line between the principal Allied headquarters in London and Algiers.

There was, however, Radio Algiers and Radio Maroc. CBS and NBC, for example, utilized them, but had to buy time and via voicecast sent news to the world. The only problem: Radio Berlin friends could also pick up the transmissions.

Obtaining information from Radio Algiers and Radio Maroc was not always reliable. This was the world before satellites. By the end of the year, the North African campaign stalled and remained in low gear until January, 1943—the enemy and the terrain creating the chief resistance. From then on, it was a time of supply, and waiting.





Control of the mideast meant control of the Suez Canal, pictured. A fraction of U.S. troops traversed the Suez. It was in the British zone.

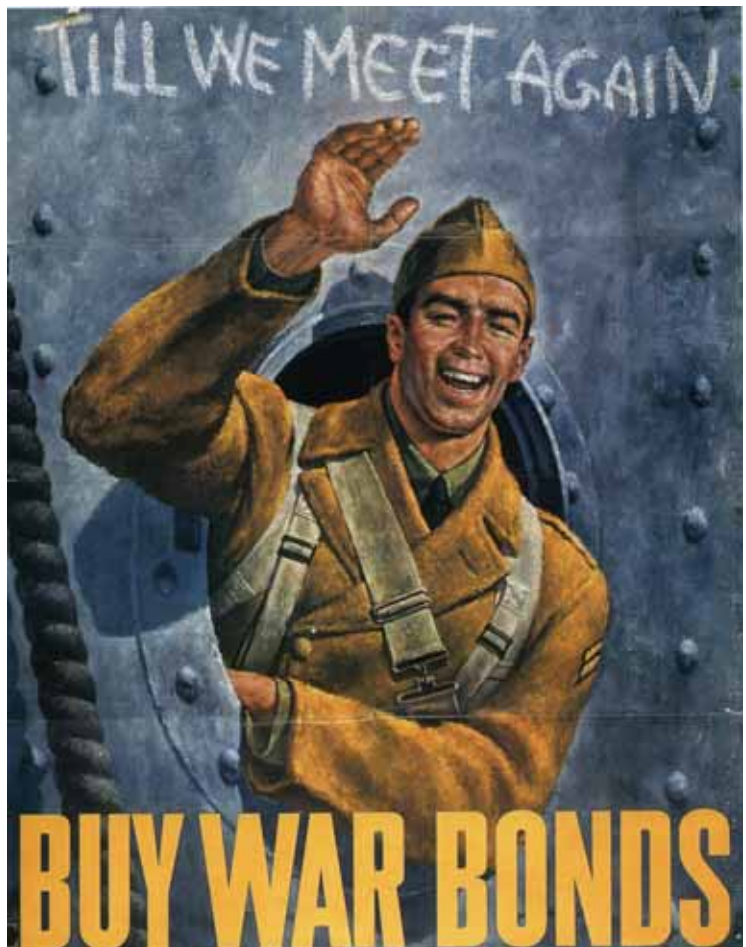
World War Two was in convulsive, international, myriad war zones. China, our Ally, was in its 6th year of war.



Persian Theater



Fourth Air Force
U.S. Far West





U.S. 27nd
Inf Div
Hawaii



U.S. 40th
Inf Div
Hawaii



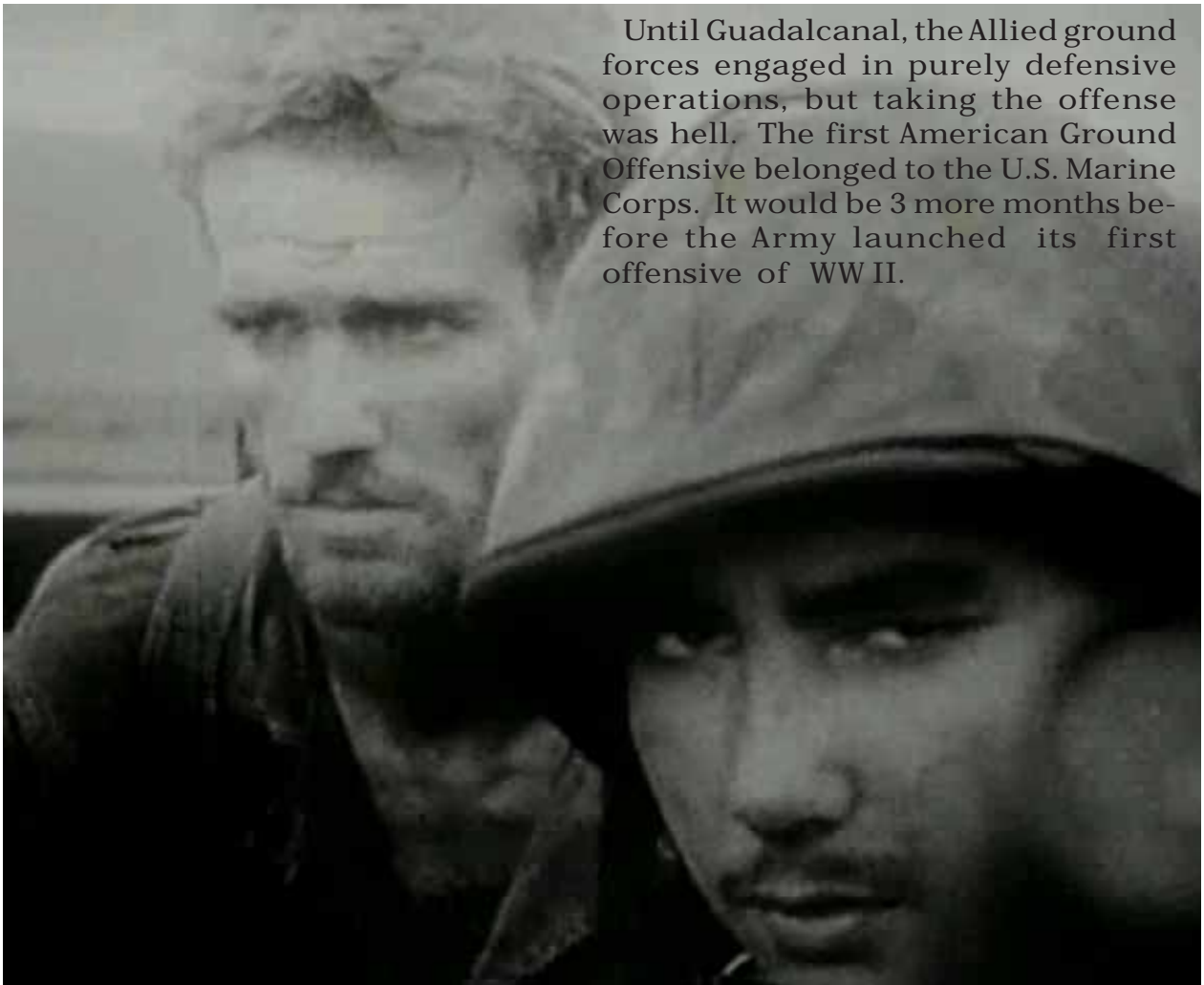
U.S. 1st
Marine Div
Guadalcanal

Two pictures from the war zone, one in Africa, one in Guadalcanal; one in color, one in b/w. A long way from home, the troops in North Africa, plus 15,000 Marines and 15,000 Army that rounded-out Guadalcanal initially, plus another 80,000, represent only a fraction of the 6.4 million in U.S. uniform on Dec. 31, 1942.* The United States was still not at full zenith. But, the American people were beginning to flex their muscle. Both Allies and Axis would meet a dire loss of gruelling battles and a cost of people. In the color picture, troops fire at enemy aircraft. We learned no great victory is possible without air superiority.

*WAACS included



Americal Div
Guadalcanal



Until Guadalcanal, the Allied ground forces engaged in purely defensive operations, but taking the offense was hell. The first American Ground Offensive belonged to the U.S. Marine Corps. It would be 3 more months before the Army launched its first offensive of WW II.