

WW2 HISTORY.COM

What was the most important reason for the German defeat at Stalingrad?

Activity One: Listen to the podcasts from Helmut Walz. As you listen write down the words and phrase that describe to you what fighting at Stalingrad might have been like.

Activity Two: Watch the film about the German defeat at Stalingrad. Whilst you are watching it focus on the reasons for the German defeat. Once you have finished watching the film look at the list of reasons given for the defeat (Resource One). Try to write the number of each one into the venn diagram (Resource Two). Write each number in the appropriate section of the diagram.

Activity Three: Listen to the podcasts from Zinaida Pytkina. Does this alter your conclusion as to why the Germans were defeated at Stalingrad?

Resource One: What was the most important reason for the German defeat at Stalingrad?

1. Hitler kept changing his mind about what his plans were.
2. Stalin realised that he had made mistakes in the past and let his generals take more control.
3. Hitler became obsessed with capturing the city named after his opponent.
4. The Hungarian, Romanian and the Italian Armies (countries that Hitler had made his allies) were totally ill equipped and untrained to resist serious Soviet attacks.
5. Stalin gave Chuikov the freedom to use any means that he thought necessary to beat the Germans.
6. Hitler completely underestimated the Red Army.
7. The great advantage of mechanisation and aerial power, which the Germans had, tended to be lost in city fighting.
8. Paulus followed everything that Hitler told him slavishly.
9. Paulus' biggest mistake was to follow Hitler's orders of throwing tank crews into the street fighting in Stalingrad in October.
10. Chuikov was certainly physically a brave man and he was also, I think, probably morally courageous.
11. Chuikov was utterly brutal in the way that he defended Stalingrad. He was famous for smashing his own officers in the face if he disagreed with them or he felt that they were in some ways not performing properly.
12. Paulus was in overall command of the German 6th Army and the Hungarian, Romanian and the Italian Armies in the area.
13. The weakness of the Romanians was obvious because they had virtually no anti-tank guns and their command structure was pretty corrupt.
14. Hitler refused any idea of Paulus being allowed to fight his way of the encirclement at Stalingrad.

Resource Two: What was the most important reason for the German defeat at Stalingrad?

