Normandy

§ Introduction

1.) Describe the setting for Normandy that will be disturbed during the war.

§ Second Front Now!

1.) What was the "Atlantic Wall"? (*Use the context to make an educated guess.*)

2.) What happened to prove that the west was not ready for a second front?

3.) What lessons did this teach the west?

4.) Explain how knowing geography is important for war, using the book as example.

5.) Why was the French railroad system destroyed?

§ How Peaceful the Land Looked

1.) What was the role of the paratroopers?

2.) The 82nd (paratroopers) Airborne Division is thought to be the first casualty of the Normandy invasion. What happened to them?

3.) How long did it take Staff Sgt. Summers to capture the German coastal artillery barracks?

§ Hitting the Beaches

1.) What are the DD tanks? Why do you think they are described as "miracles"?

2.) What happened to the DD tanks in high seas?

3.) *Context & Thinking* What does linking mean context of the military? What is its importance?

§ Bloody Omaha

1.) *Applied math.* How many men of the 116th company were killed in the first 10 minutes of the fight?

2.) How did the 2nd Ranger Battalion get to the top of the cliff?

3.) Why did the cargo tanks run right into the sand banks?

4.) What gets the men to fight their way off the beach finally?

§ The Skin of their Teeth

1.) What was the contraption known as "Mulberry"?

2.) How did they pump petrol to France?

3.) Describe the *bocage* and explain how this worked in the German's favour.

4.) Why wouldn't Hitler allow the removal of tanks from *Pas-de-Calais*?

§ The Tigers of the Villers–Bocage

1.) Why was Michael Wittmann considered a big, scary deal?

2.) What are "Fireflies", and how do they measure up against a Tiger?

§ Death in the Hedgerows

1.) In your opinion, was Hitler delusional about not regrouping further back or bringing the tanks from *Pas-de-Calais*?

2.) What impact did the air force have on fortifications?

3.) Why did veterans not like the new guys on the front?

§ The Devil's Children

1.) How did the 49th division earn the name "butcher bears"?

2.) How long did it take the British to reach the city of Caen, their original D-Day objective?

3.) What was wrong with Caen?

§ The Capital of Ruins

1.) How did the Americans make the "Hedgerow Cutter"?

2.) What condition was St. Lô when the Americans arrived to liberate it?

3.) Why could a single battalion not muster more than a single company of men?

§ Blood & Thunder

1.) Why do tank divisions need infantry to compliment them?

2.) What was the most effective way for Col. Von Luck to get his men to convert their defences from anti-air to anti-tank?

3.) Why were most of the top brass not happy with the way Caen was going?

§ The Cobra Strikes

1.) Many commanders felt that _____ was a débâcle that should have delayed the advance, Commander Gen. Lawton Collins forced them forwards.

2.) *Critical thinking.* Barkmann hid his tank under a tree to hide from bombers. What does this say about technology at the time?

3.) *Analytical thinking.* Why was Gen. Patton successful?

§ "Come and Get Us!"

1.) What was Project Ultra, and why was it considered *the most* important project of the entire war?

2.) *Strategy*. Omar's plan is described as cold-blooded and brilliant, and neither general that approved it slept well while things were laid in action for it. If you were a general in this position, would you have approved? Why or why not? What modifications would you have made?

§ Third Army Rampage

1.) Patton used which famous German tactic against them?

2.) *Analytical thinking.* "Hitler was too far away to witness the reality of the situation" is a statement indicating what major flaw in warfare?

3.) What was the point of the "unfrocked priests"?

§ The Killing Ground

1.) *Analytical thinking.* By the time Von Kluge was removed from his command, how would you describe Hitler's thinking and behaviour?

2.) What emotional mentality fuelled the Polish army on?

3.) How many Germans were killed during the push back in Falaise?

§ "Aux Barricades!"

1.) Why did violence erupt all over Paris?

2.) Why were the Allies not happy to see the Paris resistance leader?

3.) *Literature.* Why did Vansant leave off the story at Paris instead of elsewhere in the war?

Normandy

§ Introduction

1.) Describe the setting for Normandy that will be disturbed during the war.
Quiet, pastoral.

§ Second Front Now!

1.) What was the "Atlantic Wall". (Use context to make
The westernmost front of the German front.

2.) What happened to prove that the west was not ready for a second front?
6,000 British and Canadian troops landed on the beach. 1,000 were killed, 2,000 were captured. ½ were killed or captured.

3.) What lessons did this teach the west?
Must have enough men and weapons to overwhelm the defenders no matter what the situation. And, they learnt that they needed better logistics… which would take a lot of time.

4.) Explain how knowing geography is important for war, using the book as example.
It allows you to plan for the best strategies for moving men and equipment.

5.) Why was the French railroad system destroyed?
To keep the Germans from reinforcing the beachhead.

§ How Peaceful the Land Looked

1.) What was the role of the paratroopers?
To secure roads to prevent the Germans from attacking the beaches.

2.) The 82nd (paratroopers) Airborne Division is thought to be the first casualty of the Normandy invasion. What happened to them?
They got off track, landed in the wrong places, and several groups ended up getting killed.

3.) How long did it take Staff Sgt. Summers to capture the German coastal artillery barracks? 5 hours.

§ Hitting the Beaches

1.) What are the DD tanks? Why do you think they are described as "miracles"?
Tanks with propellers and skirts to help them stay afloat and turn them into semi-aquatic tanks.

2.) What happened to the DD tanks in high seas? They sank.

3.) *Context & Thinking* What does linking mean context of the military? What is it's importance? Means they joined up, and it helped each group become stronger.

§ Bloody Omaha

1.) *Applied math.* How many men of the 116th company were killed in the first 10 minutes of the fight?
?/197 = 97/100 = 91 men

2.) How did the 2nd Ranger Battalion get to the top of the cliff?
Heavy cover fire from the destroyers in the bay, luck, and grappling hooks.

3.) Why did the cargo tanks run right into the sand banks?
So they didn't get knocked out as quickly before they could do anything. So, they landed where they could have an impact.

4.) What gets the men to fight their way off the beach finally?
Regular men started to become leaders and kicking each other to get up.

§ The Skin of their Teeth

1.) What was the contraption known as "Mulberry"?
A port facility, which helped units obtain the supplies they need.

2.) How did they pump petrol to France?
Through a 3" pipe that went under water from England to France.

3.) Describe the *bocage* and explain how this worked in the German's favour.
Thick, leafy hedges with deep roots that divided squares of the countryside. Accessible only by a single, easily defended gate. Most of the German's were already well entrenched in these and had lots of cover.

4.) Why wouldn't Hitler allow the removal of tanks from *Pas-de-Calais*?
He was convinced that the main attack would come from that beach, not at Normandy.

§ The Tigers of the Villers–Bocage

1.) Why was Michael Wittmann considered a big, scary deal?
He and his team took out 117 Russian tanks on the Soviet front.

2.) What are "Fireflies", and how do they measure up against a Tiger?
American Shermans, and they can take out a Tiger.

§ Death in the Hedgerows

1.) In your opinion, was Hitler delusional about not regrouping further back or bringing the tanks from *Pas-de-Calais*?
Answers may vary.

2.) What impact did the air force have on fortifications?
Shake the moral of the men inside.

3.) Why did veterans not like the new guys on the front?
Because they may not last, and they were trying to stay emotionally distant rather than getting attached to their new friends.

§ The Devil's Children

1.) How did the 49th division earn the name "butcher bears"?
By outnumbering the Germans at least 3-to-1 and firing on the Germans relentlessly.

2.) How long did it take the British to reach the city of Caen, their original D-Day objective?
1 month, 3 days.

3.) What was wrong with Caen?
Many of the civilians were dead and survivors were traumatised.

§ The Capital of Ruins

1.) How did the Americans make the "Hedgerow Cutter"?
They welded bits from the German steel beach obstacles onto the front of a tank.

2.) What condition was St. Lô when the Americans arrived to liberate it?
Demolished.

3.) Why could a single battalion not muster more than a single company of men?
Many men returned to get some rest and rebuild away from the war front.

§ Blood & Thunder

1.) Why do tank divisions need infantry to compliment them?
They clean out pockets of resistance and carry the anti-tank weapons.

2.) What was the most effective way for Col. Von Luck to get his men to convert their defences from anti-air to anti-tank?
Holding them at gun point.

3.) Why were most of the top brass not happy with the way Caen was going?
Air Marshal Tedder wanted Montgomery out, Eisenhower was furious that the advance was only 7 miles and told Montgomery that the Air Force could not drop 1,000 of bombs for every mile.

§ The Cobra Strikes

1.) Many commanders felt that bombers bombing both American and German lines was a débâcle that should have delayed the advance, Commander Gen. Lawton Collins forced them forwards.

2.) *Critical thinking.* Barkmann hid his tank under a tree to hide from bombers. What does this say about technology at the time?
Bombers did not have radar and operated by line of sight.

3.) *Analytical thinking.* Why was Gen. Patton successful?
Answers will vary, but should indicate something about speed cutting the defensive line into tiny pockets.

§ "Come and Get Us!"

1.) What was Project Ultra, and why was it considered *the most* important project of the entire war?
Code breaking of Enigma, it allowed for the Allies to know all of the German plans without the Germans knowing that they knew.

2.) 2.) *Strategy.* Omar's plan is described as cold-blooded and brilliant, and neither general that approved it slept well while things were laid in action for it. If you were a general in this position, would you have approved? Why or why not? What modifications would you have made?
Answers will vary.

§ Third Army Rampage

1.) Patton used which famous German tactic against them?
Blitzkrieg.

2.) *Analytical thinking.* "Hitler was too far away to witness the reality of the situation" is a statement indicating what major flaw in warfare?
When the commanders aren't there, the best decisions aren't made. Trust the men on the ground.

3.) What was the point of the "unfrocked priests"?
Gave the ground troops armoured transport.

§ The Killing Ground

1.) *Analytical thinking.* By this stage in the war, how would you describe Hitler's thinking and behaviour?
Answers will vary, but look for "delusional", "suspicious", and other such remarks.

2.) What emotional mentality fuelled the Polish army on?
Tough, vengeful, and fully aware that they would never go home.

3.) How many Germans were killed during the push back in Falaise?
10,000

§ "Aux Barricades!"

1.) Why did violence erupt all over Paris?
Both officials and the communist resistance started to revolt against the Germans, then everyone else joined in.

2.) Why were the Allies not happy to see the Paris resistance leader?
They didn't want to save Paris at the time due to complications in feeding the populace.

3.) *Literature.* Why did Vansant leave off the story at Paris instead of elsewhere in the war?
Because happy endings are a great place to stop.