



Fire in the East Site

Goals

My original intention for this site was as a means to advertise a fictional book called: **Fire in the East**. It was meant to compliment the book by providing a synopsis of its contents with photographs. Realizing I could accomplish the task of a brief but informative site without the book tie-in I decided to abandon the book idea and just create a site that provided information about its topic; the military aspect of war on the eastern front between Germany and the Soviet Union during World War II.

Target Audience

The target audience for this site is anyone with an interest in WWII history, in particular those with an interest in the war in the east.

Strategy

Since this is a complex topic and can easily overwhelm the viewer I decided to keep it simple by devoting one page to each year of the war. On that page I put a very brief description of the major events of the year centered on that year's most significant battle. I also wanted to give the viewer a better feel for the events than just the text, so I included images that are relevant to that year.

Design Treatment

Resolution: I made each page so that it would fit into an 800x600 screen horizontally.

Layout: One of the holdovers from my book idea was to make each page on the site resemble that of a page from a book, with a column of text in the middle flanked by a photograph on the left with its caption beneath it, and an image of a poster with awards from one of the combatants on the right. I kept the background white to keep with the page look.

Navigation: I tried something a little out of the ordinary by putting the navigation on the right side of the site. This helped to give it the look of a book's table of contents, however, if viewed in a 640x840 resolution you would have to scroll horizontally to view it. The navigation buttons consist of the names of the battles or events of the year and change color when

rolled-over to show they are active. At the top of each page is the name of the button related to it with the year.

Typography: I used a serif font for the main informational text to keep the book page look, and a small sharp sans serif font for the photograph's description. I also enabled you to choose the size of the font through the browser to make it easier to read. The font for the navigation and page titles were chosen for their martial feel.

Colors: I wanted to keep the colors low-key so I gave the photos a sepia tone and used the posters and medals as a color accent. I made the navigation a dark green with a roll-over in a lighter green.

Images: The choice of images was important to give the site a more personal feel than just a list of facts and dates. With this in mind I chose to use pictures of soldiers from both sides with their accompanying military paraphernalia.

Site Map

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