

HOW FUNGI HELPED WIN THE WAR

and why we need to stay as an ally!

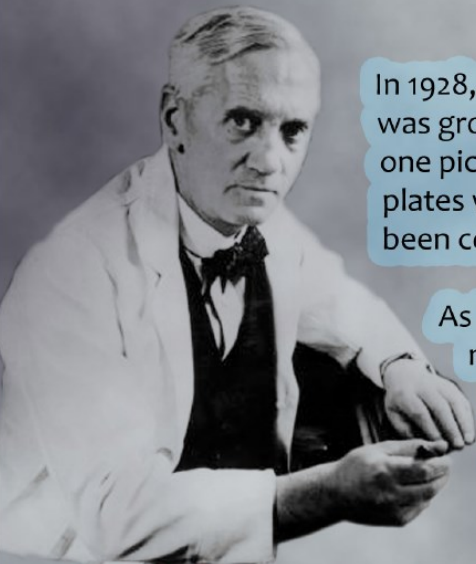
- The Allies focussed on a huge collaborative effort to mass-produce penicillin.
- By D-Day, 2.3 million doses were available to allied troops.
- During the Battle of Normandy the allies sustained 209,000 casualties, only 36,000 of these troops went on to die
- Penicillin saved an estimated 12-15% of lives, not to mention the amount of amputations it prevented.



- Germany focused their efforts on Sulfonamides, a German-born alternative to penicillin.
- During D-Day, Germans only had enough penicillin to “dust on open wounds”.
- Out of 400,000 German casualties, over 200,000 went on to die. 3 times more Germans than allies died from their wounds.
- Many Germans believed the miracle drug was allied propoganda after their own failed attempts to culture the mould.



PENICILLIN THE FUNGAL WONDER DRUG



In 1928, Alexander Fleming was researching ways to destroy common bacteria. He was growing a culture of bacteria known as *Staphylococci* on agar plates, like the one pictured above. By pure accident, Fleming left the lid undone on one of these plates whilst on holiday. When Fleming returned he found that the plate had been contaminated by a fungus from the lab below.

As he was about to throw away the thought-to-be ruined plates, Fleming noticed that the area around the fungal growth was devoid of any bacteria. He hypothesised that the fungus had actually destroyed the bacteria.

This hypothesis went on to save millions of lives.

Despite his apparent popularity in Germany, Adolf Hitler still had many assassination attempts upon his life. During one particularly close call, July 20th 1944, Hitler was nearly killed by a bomb which left him seriously wounded and almost totally deaf. His personal physician, Dr. Morell, had managed to obtain intercepted allied penicillin which he had retained for the Fuhrer.

Hitler himself was one of those millions who owed his life to penicillin.

