



My Drift

Title: Pacific Strategy

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Date: 7 Dec 2025

Article Number: (515-2025-30)

This article is mostly about the United States' military strategy to win back control of the Pacific Region (ocean and primary islands) between Hawaii and Japan after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.







Attack on Pearl Harbor

The attack on Pearl Harbor was a surprise military strike by the Empire of Japan on the United States Pacific Fleet at its naval base at Pearl Harbor on Oahu, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. At the time, the U.S. was a neutral country in World War II. The air raid on Pearl Harbor, which was launched from aircraft carriers, resulted in the U.S. declaring war on Japan the next day. The Japanese military leadership referred to the attack as the Hawaii Operation and Operation AI and as Operation Z during its planning.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was preceded by months of negotiations between the U.S. and Japan over the future of the Pacific. Japanese demands included that the U.S. end its sanctions against Japan, cease aiding China in the Second Sino-Japanese War, and allow Japan to access the resources of the Dutch East Indies. Japan sent out its naval attack group on November 26, 1941, just prior to receiving the Hull note, which stated the U.S. desire that Japan withdraw from China and French Indochina.

Isoroku Yamamoto, commander of the Japanese Combined Fleet, planned the attack as a pre-emptive strike on the Pacific Fleet, based at Pearl Harbor since 1940 to prevent it from interfering with Japan's planned actions in Southeast Asia. Yamamoto hoped that the strike would enable Japan to make quick territorial gains and negotiate a peace. In addition to Pearl Harbor, over seven hours Japan launched coordinated attacks on the U.S. held Philippines, Guam, and Wake Island; and on the British Empire in Malaya, Singapore, and Hong Kong.



Isoroku Yamamoto

The attack force, commanded by Chūichi Nagumo, began its attacks at 7:48 a.m. Hawaiian time on December 7, 1941. The base was attacked by 353 fighters, level and dive bombers, and torpedo bombers in two waves launched from six aircraft carriers. Of the eight U.S. battleships present, all were damaged and four were sunk. All but the Arizona were later raised, and six were returned to service during the war. The Japanese also sank or damaged three cruisers, three destroyers, an anti-aircraft training ship and a minelayer. More than 180 U.S. aircraft were destroyed. A total of 2,403 Americans were killed, and 1,178 others were wounded, while the Japanese lost a total of 29 aircraft, five midget submarines, and 130 men. The three U.S. carriers stationed at Pearl Harbor were at sea at the time, and important base installations, including its oil storage and naval repair facilities, were not attacked.

Other sites on Oahu bombed on December 7, 1941

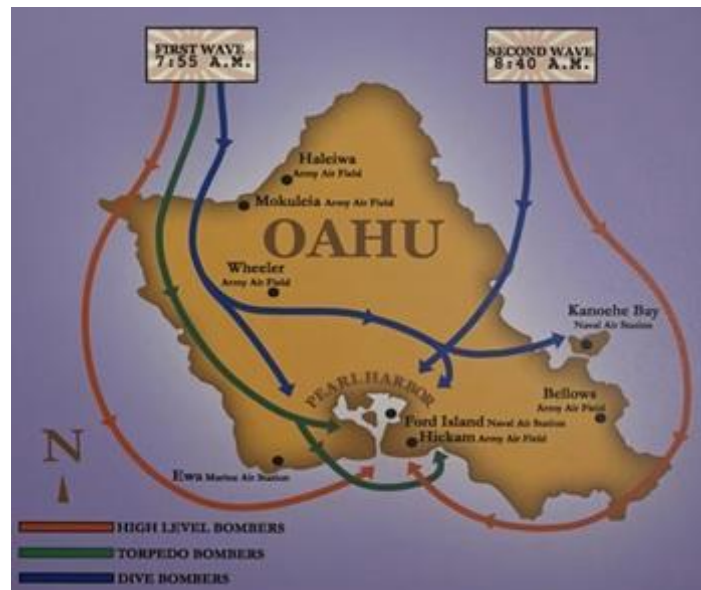
Wheeler Army Airfield: The first air installation to be attacked, Japanese forces heavily strafed and bombed the airfield, destroying or damaging many aircraft on the ground.

Hickam Army Airfield: This was another major target for the air attacks. The Japanese strafed and bombed the base, damaging aircraft and facilities, including the mess hall and barracks.

Kaneohe Bay: The naval air station at Kaneohe Bay was also bombed.

Bellows Field: This airfield in eastern Oahu was also a target during the attack.

Ford Island: This naval air station, located in the center of Pearl Harbor, was attacked by dive bombers and strafing fighters.



The Japanese attacks on the airfields were a critical part of their strategy to prevent the U.S. from launching a counterattack against the Japanese fleet.

Operation K: In March 1942, the Japanese conducted a separate, less successful bombing raid on Oahu. A single plane dropped two bombs on Tantalus Peak near Honolulu but failed to find its target due to blackout conditions and the lights of the city.

War was declared

Japan declared war on the U.S. and the British Empire later that day (December 8 in Tokyo), but the declarations were not delivered until the next day. On December 8, both the United Kingdom and U.S. declared war on Japan. On December 11, though they had no formal obligation to do so under the Tripartite Pact with Japan, Germany and Italy each declared war on the United States, which responded with a declaration of war against Germany and Italy. While there were historical precedents for unannounced military action by Japan, the lack of a formal warning and perception that the attack had been unprovoked led U.S. president Franklin D. Roosevelt to famously label December 7, 1941, "a date which will live in infamy". The attack was the deadliest event ever in Hawaii, and the deadliest foreign attack on the U.S. until the September 11 attacks of 2001.

Fitchburg Sentinel

VOL. LXXIX. NO. 181 FITCHBURG, MASS., MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1941 — TWELVE PAGES THREE CENTS

U.S. DECLARES WAR

Reported Sunk By Japanese Action In Pacific



**3000 Casualties In Jap Attack;
2 U. S. Warships, Planes Lost**

**Believe 1500 Dead
In Hawaii Bombings;
Other Islands Hit**

**City Guards
12 Factories**

**Defense Unit Heads
Ordered To Confer
At Armory Tonight**

**House Votes 388-1,
Senate Result 82-0
In Show Of Unity**

Japanese Naval Strategy for World War II - Overview

The Decisive Battle Doctrine (艦隊決戦, Kantai Kessen) was a Japanese naval strategy for World War II based on winning a single decisive battle to force a favorable negotiated peace. The doctrine aimed to use superior firepower from heavily armed battleships, enhanced by advanced aircraft carriers and submarines, to wear down an enemy fleet before the main engagement. However, it was flawed because it over-relied on winning the single battle and did not account for America's superior industrial capacity or the vulnerability of carriers, a weakness exposed at Midway.

Core principles of the doctrine

Decisive battle: The central idea was to win a single, climactic naval battle, not a war of attrition.

Technological and qualitative edge: Japan sought to offset its smaller navy and industrial base by building superior ships and training highly skilled crews.

Battleship-centric: The doctrine's climax was intended to be a surface action between capital ships, like the Yamato class, which were armed with the largest naval guns ever mounted.

Attrition tactics: Before the main battle, Japan planned to wear down the enemy fleet through other means, such as submarine attacks, aircraft strikes, and night raids by cruisers and destroyers.

Strategic location: The plan involved luring an enemy fleet across the Pacific to a location selected by Japan, where it would be weakened before the decisive clash.

Flaws and ultimate failure

Industrial imbalance: The plan failed to account for the US's superior shipbuilding capacity, which could replace losses far faster than Japan could.

Carrier vulnerability: The doctrine's focus on battleships meant it was vulnerable to the success of American carrier aviation, which ultimately became the dominant naval weapon. This was tragically underscored at the Battle of Midway.

Logistical shortcomings: The plan's reliance on a single battle made it vulnerable to logistical failure. The goal of a quick victory was not a sustainable one in a protracted war.

The US World War II Strategy in the Pacific Theater - Overview

Pacific Theater Admirals Who Planned and Executed the Strategy



Adm Ernest King



Adm Chester N Nimitz



Adm William Halsey Jr.

The main US strategy in the Pacific Theater was island-hopping (also called leapfrogging), a plan to bypass heavily fortified islands and capture strategically important ones to move closer to Japan. This involved seizing islands to use as bases for airfields and to disrupt Japanese supply lines, eventually bringing US air power within range of Japan's home islands.

How island-hopping worked

Bypassing strongholds: Instead of capturing every island, US forces selectively seized lightly defended locations that could serve as staging points for the next advance, leaving Japanese garrisons behind to be neutralized by starvation and disease.

Strategic importance: The goal was to capture islands with airfields or those that would allow for the disruption of Japanese sea and air lanes.

Dual-pronged approach: The strategy was executed through two main campaigns:

- **General MacArthur's push:** A drive through the southwest Pacific, which included reclaiming the Philippines.
- **Admiral Nimitz's central Pacific campaign:** The more famous island-hopping campaign that focused on capturing islands to get within range of Japan.

Goals of the strategy

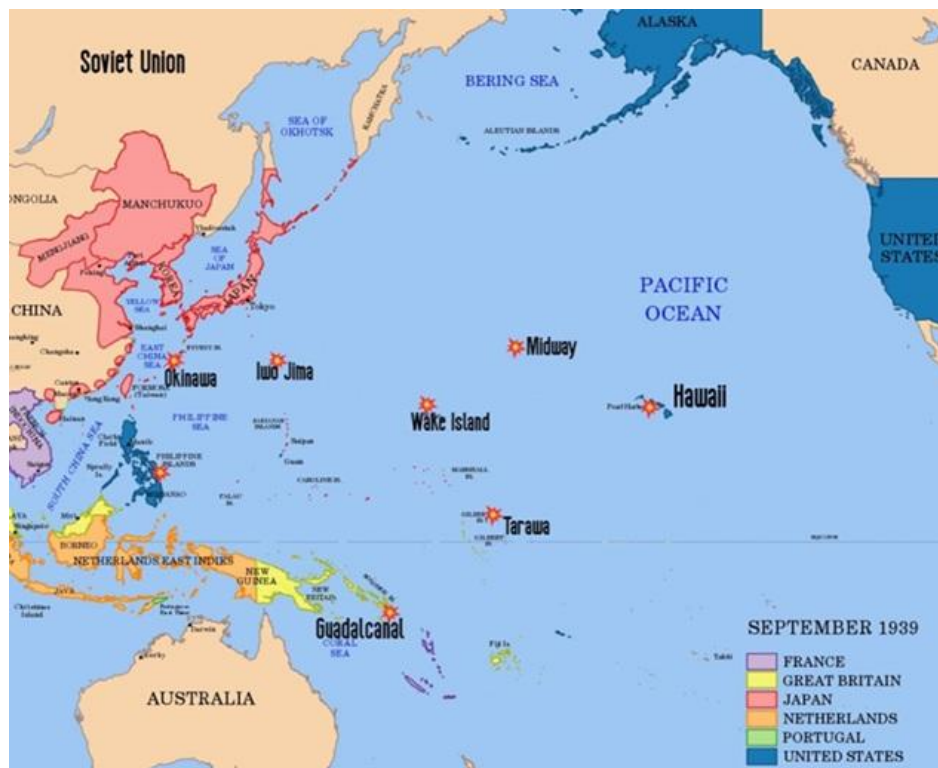
Establish air superiority: The ultimate aim was to gain air superiority over Japan by capturing islands that allowed for the operation of long-range bombers.

Block supply lines: Seizing control of key islands allowed the Allies to cut off Japanese supply routes from Southeast Asia.

Advance towards Japan: By methodically taking key islands, US forces gradually closed the distance to Japan, moving from one base to the next until Japan itself was within striking distance for bombing or a potential invasion.

Execution with high-level support

Despite the Allies' Europe First strategy, American forces took the resources that they could assemble and swung into action as quickly as they could to blunt the Japanese advance. Infuriated by stories of defeat at the hands of the allegedly racially inferior Japanese, many high-ranking American military leaders demanded that greater attention be paid to the Pacific campaign. Rather than simply wait for the invasion of France to begin, naval and army officers such as General Douglas MacArthur argued that American resources should be deployed in the Pacific to reclaim territory seized by Japan.



The Pacific Strategy

General Douglas MacArthur and the above Admirals commanded U.S. forces in the Pacific. They devised a strategy of "island hopping" to defeat Japan. This plan bypassed certain island strongholds held by the Japanese that were of little strategic value. By seizing locations from which Japanese communications and transportation routes could be disrupted or destroyed, the Allies advanced toward Japan without engaging the thousands of Japanese stationed on garrisoned islands. The goal was to advance American air strength close enough to Japan proper to achieve air superiority over the home islands; the nation could then be bombed into submission or at least weakened in preparation for an amphibious assault.



General Douglas MacArthur

In the summer of 1942, American naval victories at the Battle of the Coral Sea and the aircraft carrier duel at the Battle of Midway crippled Japan's Pacific naval operations. The Japanese had tried to lure American aircraft carriers into a trap and occupy Midway as part of their plan to extend their defensive perimeter (in response to the Doolittle air raid on Tokyo—a U.S. 1942 air raid over Tokyo). The plan was undermined by faulty Japanese assumptions of the American reaction and poor initial dispositions. Most significantly, American cryptographers were able to determine the date and location of the planned attack, enabling the forewarned U.S. Navy to prepare its own ambush.

The Doolittle Raid

The Doolittle Raid, also known as the Tokyo Raid, was an air raid on 18 April 1942 by the United States on the Japanese capital Tokyo and other places on Honshu during World War II. It was the first American air operation to strike the Japanese archipelago. Although the raid caused comparatively minor damage, it demonstrated that the Japanese mainland was vulnerable to American



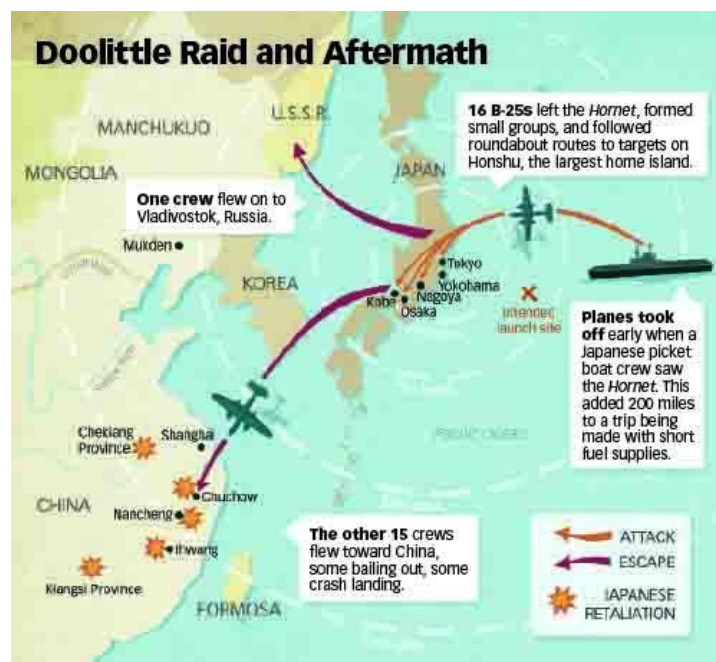
Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle

air attacks. It served as an initial retaliation for the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and provided an important boost to American morale. The raid was named after Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle, who planned and led the attack. It was one of six American carrier raids against Japan and Japanese-held territories conducted in the first half of 1942.

Under the final plan, 16 B-25B Mitchell medium bombers, each with a crew of five, were launched from the US Navy aircraft carrier USS Hornet, in the Pacific Ocean. There were no fighter escorts. After bombing the military and industrial targets, the crews were to continue westward to land in China.



US Navy aircraft carrier USS Hornet



On the ground, the raid killed around 50 people and injured 400. Damage to Japanese military and industrial targets was minimal, but the raid had major psychological effects. In the United States, it raised morale. In Japan, it raised fear and doubt about the ability of military leaders to defend the home islands, but the bombing and strafing of civilians created a desire for retribution—this was exploited for propaganda purposes. The raid also pushed forward Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto's plans to attack Midway Island in the Central Pacific—an attack that turned into a decisive defeat of the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) by the US Navy in the Battle of Midway. The consequences of the Doolittle Raid were most severely felt in China: in reprisal for the raid, the Japanese launched the Zhejiang-Jiangxi campaign, killing 250,000 civilians and 70,000 soldiers.

Of the 16 crews involved, 14 returned to the United States or reached the safety of American forces, though one man was killed while bailing out. Eight men were captured by Japanese forces in eastern China (the other two crew members having drowned in the sea), and three of them were later executed. All but one of the 16 B-25s were destroyed in crashes, while one of the planes landed at Vladivostok in the Soviet Union.

Because the Soviet Union was not officially at war with Japan, it was required, under international law, to intern the crew for the duration of the war. The crew's B-25 was also confiscated. However, within a year, the crew was secretly allowed to leave the Soviet Union, under the guise of an escape—they returned to the United States or to American units elsewhere by way of Allied-occupied Iran and North Africa.

Doolittle initially believed that he would be court-martialed for missing his primary targets - instead he received the Medal of Honor and was promoted two ranks to brigadier general.

Battle of the Coral Sea

The Battle of the Coral Sea, from 4 to 8 May 1942, was a major naval battle between the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) and naval and air forces of the United States and Australia. Taking place in the Pacific Theatre of World War II, the battle was the first naval action in which the opposing fleets neither sighted nor fired upon one another, attacking over the horizon from aircraft carriers instead. It was also the first military battle between aircraft carriers.

To strengthen their defensive position in the South Pacific, the Japanese decided to invade and occupy Port Moresby (in New Guinea) and Tulagi (in the

southeastern Solomon Islands). The plan, Operation Mo, involved several major units of Japan's Combined Fleet. Two fleet carriers and a light carrier were assigned to provide air cover for the invasion forces, under the overall command of Admiral Shigeyoshi Inoue. The U.S. learned of the Japanese plan through signals intelligence and sent two U.S. Navy carrier task forces and a joint Australian-American cruiser force to oppose the offensive, under the overall command of U.S. Admiral Frank J. Fletcher.

On 3–4 May, Japanese forces invaded and occupied Tulagi, although several supporting warships were sunk or damaged in a surprise attack by the US carrier Yorktown. Alerted to the presence of enemy aircraft carriers, the Japanese fleet carriers advanced towards the Coral Sea to locate and destroy the Allied naval forces. On the evening of 6 May, the two carrier fleets closed to within 61 miles but did not detect each other in the darkness. The next day, both fleets launched airstrikes against what they thought were the enemy fleet carriers, but both sides actually attacked other targets. The US sank the Japanese light carrier Shōhō, and the Japanese sank the destroyer Sims, and damaged the fleet oiler Neosho. On 8 May, both sides finally located and attacked the other's fleet carriers, leaving the Japanese fleet carrier Shōkaku damaged, the US fleet carrier Yorktown damaged, and the Lexington so critically damaged it was later scuttled.



The aircraft carrier USS Lexington explodes on 8 May 1942, several hours after being damaged by a Japanese carrier air attack.

Both sides having suffered heavy aircraft losses and carriers sunk or damaged, the two forces disengaged and retired from the area. Because of the loss of carrier air cover, Inoue also recalled the Port Moresby invasion fleet. Although the battle was a tactical victory for the Japanese in terms of ships sunk, it has

been described as a strategic victory for the Allies. The battle marked the first time since the start of the war that a major Japanese advance had been turned back. More important, the damage to Shōkaku and the aircraft losses of Zuikaku prevented both ships from participating in the Battle of Midway the following month.

Battle of Midway

The Battle of Midway was a major naval battle that took place on 4–7 June 1942, six months after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and one month after the Battle of the Coral Sea. The Japanese Combined Fleet under the command of Isoroku Yamamoto suffered a decisive defeat by the U.S. Pacific Fleet near Midway Atoll, about 1,300 miles northwest of Oahu. Yamamoto had intended to capture Midway and lure out and destroy the U.S. Pacific Fleet, especially the aircraft carriers which had escaped damage at Pearl Harbor.

Before the battle, Japan desired to extend its Pacific defense perimeter, especially after the Doolittle air raid of Tokyo in April 1942, and to clear the seas for attacks on Midway, Fiji, Samoa, and Hawaii. A related Japanese attack on the Aleutian Islands began one day earlier, on 3 June. The Japanese strike force at Midway, known as the Kidō Butai, was commanded by Chuichi Nagumo. Yamamoto's plan for the operation, which depended on precise timing and coordination, was undermined by its wide dispersal of forces, which left the rest of the fleet unable to support the Kidō Butai effectively.

On 4 June, the Japanese began bombing Midway and prepared to wait for the Pacific Fleet to arrive from Pearl Harbor to defend the island. Unknown to Yamamoto, U.S. code breakers had determined the date and location of his planned attack, enabling the Americans to prepare their own ambush; Chester Nimitz, commander of the Pacific Fleet, had sent a large force under Frank Jack Fletcher to the Midway area before the Japanese had arrived. Land-based planes from Midway and carrier-based planes from the U.S. fleet surprised and attacked Nagumo's force. All four Japanese fleet carriers—Akagi, Kaga, Sōryū, and Hiryū—present at the battle were sunk, as was the heavy cruiser Mikuma. Japan also lost 3,000 men, including many well-trained and difficult-to-replace pilots. The U.S. lost the carrier Yorktown and the destroyer Hammann, while the carriers Enterprise and Hornet (under the command of Raymond Spruance during the battle) survived the fighting without damage.



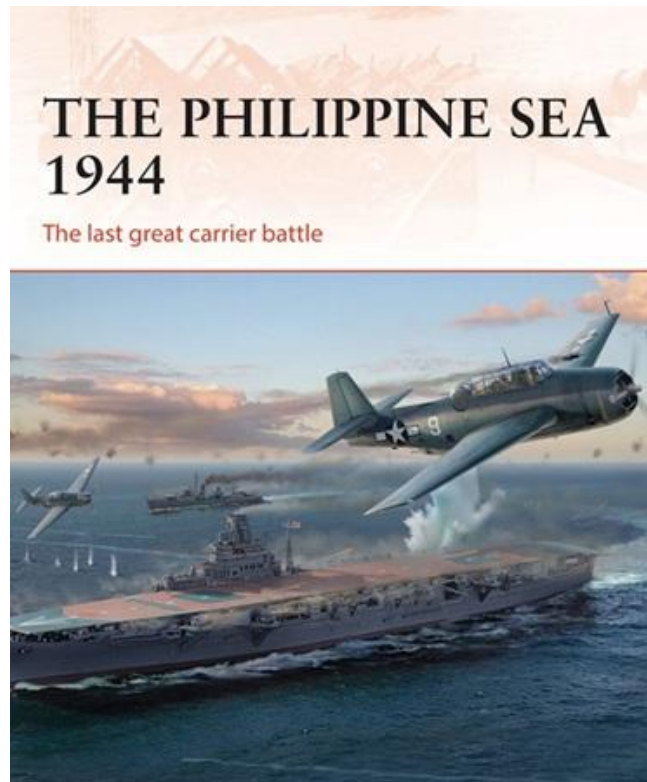
All four Japanese fleet carriers present at the battle were sunk

The Battle of Midway, along with the Guadalcanal campaign, is widely considered a turning point in the Pacific War. After Midway and the attrition of the Solomon Islands campaign, Japan's ability to replace its losses in materiel and trained men became rapidly insufficient, while the U.S.'s massive industrial and training capabilities increased over time. Historians called the battle "the most stunning and decisive blow in the history of naval warfare".

After Midway and the exhausting attrition of the Solomon Islands campaign, Japan's capacity to replace its losses in materiel (particularly aircraft carriers) and men (especially well-trained pilots and maintenance crewmen) rapidly became insufficient to cope with mounting casualties, while the United States' massive industrial and training capabilities made losses far easier to replace.

To dislodge Japan's hold over the Pacific, the U.S. military continued island hopping: attacking island after island, bypassing the strongest but seizing those capable of holding airfields to continue pushing Japan out of the region. Combat was vicious. At Guadalcanal, American soldiers saw Japanese soldiers launch suicidal charges rather than surrender. Many Japanese soldiers refused to be taken prisoner or to take prisoners themselves. Such tactics, coupled with American racial prejudice, turned the Pacific Theater into a more brutal and barbarous conflict than the European Theater.

Battle of the Philippine Sea



Japanese defenders fought tenaciously. Few battles were as one-sided as the Battle of the Philippine Sea, or what the Americans called the Japanese counterattack or the Great Marianas Turkey Shoot, because of the number of Japanese aircraft shot down by American pilots.

Battle of the Philippines

The "Battle of the Philippines" during WWII refers to two distinct campaigns: the initial Japanese invasion in December 1941, which led to the defeat of U.S. and Filipino forces in battles like Bataan, and the subsequent Allied recapture starting in October 1944. The recapture campaign was a prolonged effort to liberate the islands, culminating in the fierce and destructive Battle of Manila in early 1945 and the final expulsion of Japanese forces in August 1945.

Initial Invasion and Fall (1941 – 1942)

The Battle of the Philippines or the Fall of the Philippines was the invasion of the Philippines by the Empire of Japan during the Pacific Theater of World War II. The operation to capture the islands, which was defended by the U.S. and Philippine Armies, was intended to prevent interference with Japan's expansion in Southeast Asia.



Bataan Death March

On 8 December 1941, several hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese planes began bombing U.S. forces in the Philippines, including aircraft at Clark Field near the capital of Manila on the island of Luzon. Japanese landings on northern Luzon began two days later and were followed on 22 December by major landings at Lingayen Gulf and Lamon Bay by the Japanese Fourteenth Army under Masaharu Homma. The defense of the Philippines was led by Douglas MacArthur, who ordered his soldiers to evacuate Manila to the Bataan Peninsula ahead of the Japanese advance. Japanese troops captured Manila by 7 January 1942, and after their failure to penetrate the Bataan defensive perimeter in early February, began a 40-day siege, enabled by a naval blockade of the islands. The U.S. and Philippine troops on Bataan eventually surrendered on 9 April and were then subjected to the Bataan Death March, which was marked by Japanese atrocities and mistreatment.

The campaign to capture the Philippines took much longer than planned by the Japanese, who in early January 1942 had decided to advance their timetable of operations in Borneo and Indonesia and withdraw their best division and the bulk of their airpower. This, coupled with the decision of MacArthur to withdraw U.S. and Philippine forces to Bataan, enabled the defenders to hold out for three months. The harbor and port facilities of Manila Bay were denied to the Japanese until the capture of Corregidor Island on 6 May. While offensive operations in the Dutch East Indies were unaffected, this heavily hindered operations in New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, buying time for the U.S. Navy to plan to engage the Japanese at Guadalcanal rather than much further east.

Japan's conquest of the Philippines is often considered the worst military defeat in U.S. history. About 23,000 U.S. military personnel and about 100,000 Filipino soldiers were killed or captured.

Allied recapture (1944 – 1945)

The Battle of the Philippines, Second Philippines campaign, or the Liberation of the Philippines was the American, Filipino, Australian and Mexican campaign to defeat and expel the Imperial Japanese forces occupying the Philippines during World War II.

The Imperial Japanese Army overran all of the Philippines during the first half of 1942. Two years later, the liberation of the Philippines from Japan commenced with amphibious landings on the eastern Philippines island of Leyte on 20 October 1944. While Manila was liberated after intense urban combat in early 1945, fighting elsewhere in the Philippines continued until the end of the war. The United States and Philippine Commonwealth military forces, with naval and air support from Australia and the Mexican 201st Fighter Squadron, were still in the process of liberating the Philippines when the Japanese forces in the Philippines were ordered to surrender by Tokyo on 15 August 1945, after the dropping of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the Soviet-Japanese War.



General Douglas MacArthur vowed to return to the Philippines in 1942—and more than two years later, he delivered on his promise.

Battle of Iwo Jima



By February 1945, American forces had reached the island of Iwo Jima. Iwo Jima was originally meant to serve as a forward airbase for fighter planes, providing cover for long-distance bombing raids on Japan. Of the 21,000 Japanese soldiers on Iwo Jima at the beginning of the battle, only 216 were taken prisoner, some of whom were captured only because they had been knocked unconscious or otherwise disabled. Most of the remainder were killed in action, but it has been estimated that as many as 3,000 continued to resist within the various cave systems for many days afterward until they eventually succumbed to their injuries or surrendered weeks later.

Battle of Okinawa



Two months later, an even larger engagement, the hardest fought and bloodiest battle of the Pacific theater, took place as American forces invaded Okinawa. The Battle of Okinawa raged on from April 1945 well into July 1945. After a long campaign of island hopping, the Allies were planning to use Kadena Air

Base on the large island of Okinawa as a base for Operation Downfall, the planned invasion of the Japanese home islands, 340 miles away. It was the largest amphibious (land and water) assault in the Pacific Theater of World War II. The island was finally secured at the cost of seventeen thousand American soldiers killed and thirty-six thousand wounded. Japanese forces lost over 100,000 troops. Perhaps as many as 150,000 civilians perished as well.



Battle of Okinawa

Atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

On 6 and 9 August 1945, the United States detonated two atomic bombs over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, respectively, during World War II. The aerial bombings killed 150,000 to 246,000 people, most of whom were civilians, and remain the only uses of nuclear weapons in an armed conflict. Japan announced its surrender to the Allies on 15 August, six days after the bombing of Nagasaki. The Japanese government signed an instrument of surrender on 2 September, ending the war.



Atomic bombings of Hiroshima



Atomic bombings of Nagasaki

In the final year of World War II, the Allies prepared for a costly invasion of the Japanese mainland. This undertaking was preceded by a conventional bombing and firebombing campaign that devastated 64 Japanese cities, including an operation on Tokyo. The war in Europe concluded when Germany surrendered on 8 May 1945, and the Allies turned their full attention to the Pacific War.

By July 1945, the Allies' Manhattan Project had produced two types of atomic bombs: "Little Boy", an enriched uranium gun-type fission weapon, and "Fat Man", a plutonium implosion-type nuclear weapon. The 509th Composite Group of the U.S. Army Air Forces was trained and equipped with the specialized Silverplate version of the Boeing B-29 Superfortress and deployed to Tinian in the Mariana Islands. The US and Allies called for the unconditional surrender of the Imperial Japanese Armed Forces in the Potsdam Declaration on 26 July 1945, the alternative being "prompt and utter destruction". The Japanese government ignored the ultimatum.

The consent of the United Kingdom was obtained for the bombing, as was required by the Quebec Agreement, and orders were issued on 25 July by General Thomas T. Handy, the acting chief of staff of the U.S. Army, for atomic bombs to be used on Hiroshima, Kokura, Niigata, and Nagasaki. These targets were chosen because they were large urban areas that also held significant military facilities. On 6 August, a Little Boy was dropped on Hiroshima. Three days later, a Fat Man was dropped on Nagasaki. Over the next two to four months, the effects of the atomic bombings killed 90,000 to 166,000 people in Hiroshima and 60,000 to 80,000 people in Nagasaki; roughly half the deaths occurred on the first day. For months afterward, many people continued to die from the effects of burns, radiation sickness, and other injuries, compounded

by illness and malnutrition. Despite Hiroshima's sizable military garrison, estimated at 24,000 troops, some 90% of the dead were civilians.

American Prisoners of War

During World War II, approximately 27,000 American soldiers were held in Japanese prison camps. Despite being out of combat, hardships and life-or-death struggles would continue for these men. The Japanese violated many international laws in combat and in their treatment of captives. Allied prisoners of war were routinely executed, tortured, and forced into labor as slaves. Although only 1 percent of American prisoners died in German prison camps during World War II, approximately 40 percent perished in Japanese camps.

Conclusions

Island hopping strategy: The U.S. military tactic called “Island Hopping” used by Allied forces in the Pacific Theater during World War II worked. The Japanese Naval Strategy called Kantai Kessen didn’t go as planned.

Turning point: The Battle of Midway was a crucial turning point that severely weakened the Japanese Navy. All four Japanese fleet carriers—Akagi, Kaga, Sōryū, and Hiryū—present at the battle were sunk.

Brutal fighting: The Japanese strategy of fighting to the last man resulted in incredibly high casualty rates for both sides in battles close to Japan.

End of the war: The conclusion of the war in the Pacific came after the U.S. used atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, making the planned invasion of Japan unnecessary.

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