

WW2 the Pacific

After December 7th, the Japanese quickly took control of most of the Pacific rim countries. The Pacific South-West, Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean, and China came under Japanese control. One of the reasons given by Japan for the attack on Pearl Harbor was the U.S. sanctions pertaining to human rights aggression and war in China. The Japanese felt the United States was cutting them off from the resources they needed to keep their economy and military going. Japan was also highly militarized and had adopted the Samurai code of Bushido. When forced to abandon his command in the Philippines and Batann, General Douglas MacArthur's famous remark "I will return" set the stage of a long and bloody fight to retake what the Japanese had conquered.

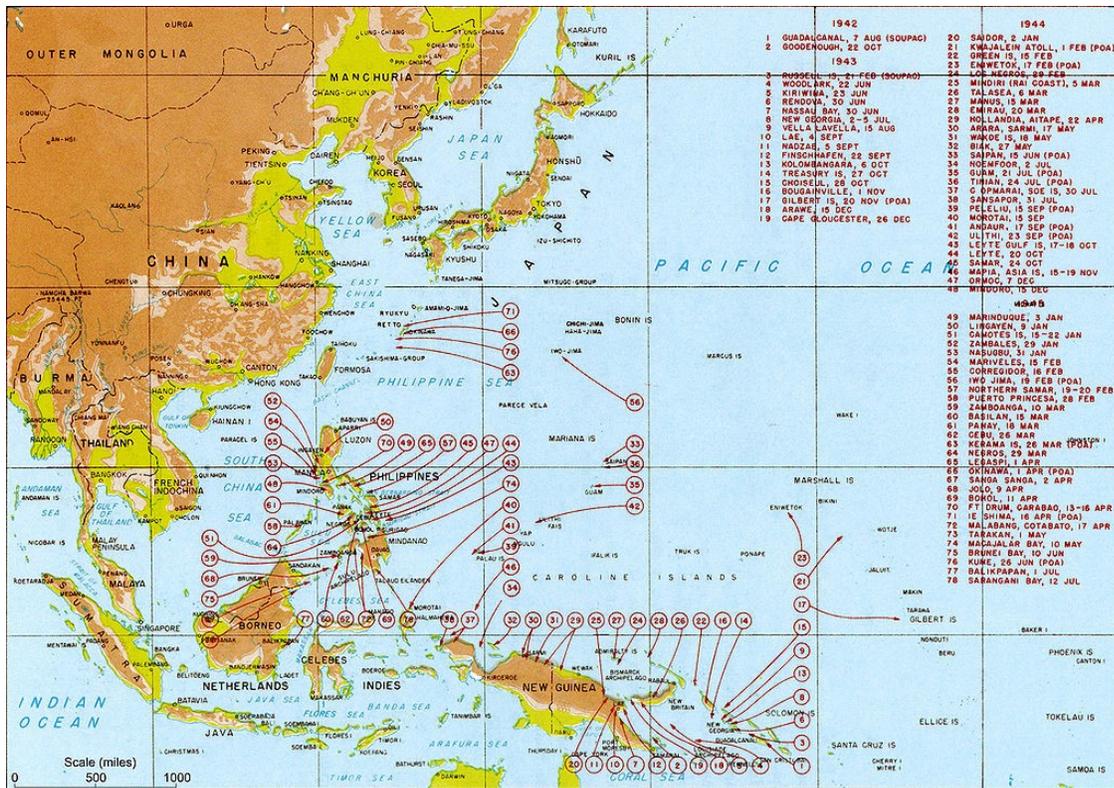
The Pacific Ocean was both a blessing and a curse for anyone trying to control such a region. It did provide the United States with a buffer (distance) from Japan (except for the Alaskan territory). The United States has the advantage of being able to increase its military industrial output without the worry of invasion. The flip side, the U.S. had to ship or fly all military resources across the Pacific Ocean. Germany had shown what submarine warfare could do to convoy shipments. Had the Japanese conducted the same submarine tactics Germany had inflicted in the Atlantic, the war may have been extended for a longer period.

The Pacific War would also demonstrate the obsolescence of the mighty battleship. Battleships could not be protected from aerial attack. Battleships would be relegated to bombardment and protecting the aircraft carriers. The aircraft carrier fleets would project more power and carry the war to the enemy. "General Douglas MacArthur, who had been appointed Supreme Allied Commander South West Pacific, had been withdrawn to Australia. The US Navy, under Admiral Chester Nimitz, had responsibility for the rest of the Pacific Ocean. This divided command had unfortunate consequences for the commerce war,^[89] and consequently, the war itself." (Wikipedia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_War)

The island hopping campaign by the Allies would result in the Japanese surrender August 15th, 1945 after two atomic devices were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Japanese Military wanted to fight to the bitter end hoping for a negotiated treaty on better terms. They felt if enough casualties were inflicted on the Allies if they invaded Japan, a better set of terms might have been arranged. Emperor Hirohito intervened and told the Supreme Council to accept the Potsdam Agreement (total surrender and end to all hostilities).

A guide to the War in the Pacific:

https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/npswapa/extContent/wapa/guides/offensive/sec5.htm



What this map doesn't show is the Aleutian Islands invasion by Japan and resultant US response during WW2. Japan invaded the Aleutian Islands as a distraction to other Pacific campaigns.

U.S. Army units in the Pacific Theater WW2: <https://www.armydivs.com/pacific-theater>

U.S Navy in the Pacific Theater WW2:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Navy_in_World_War_II

U.S. Marine Units in the Pacific WW2

- [1st Marine Division](#), full division active since 1 February 1941, deployed to the Pacific
- [2nd Marine Division](#), full division active since 1 February 1941, partly deployed to Iceland in 1941, then deployed in the Pacific
- [3rd Marine Division](#), formed on 16 September 1942, deployed to the Pacific
- [4th Marine Division](#)
- [5th Marine Division](#)
- [6th Marine Division](#)

Source: Wikipedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_divisions_during_World_War_II#United_States_Marine_Corps_Divisions

Shoulder Sleeve Insignia of Basic Elements, Army Groups and Armies, United States Army, Second World War: <http://www.angelfire.com/md2/patches/armies.html>

Marine Shoulder Patch Insignia (History): <https://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/your-marine-corps/2018/05/14/the-time-the-corps-wore-shoulder-unit-patches/>

WW2 Shoulder Patches: https://wardogmilitaria.com/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=34

WW2 Military Uniforms: <http://www.usww2uniforms.com/>

List of Military Equipment WW2:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists_of_World_War_II_military_equipment

World War 2 Cemeteries

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:World_War_II_cemeteries

American Battle Monuments Commission (filter by WW2 & Pacific): <https://www.abmc.gov/>

National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific: <https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/nmcp.asp?>

Article: Thousands of American military graves lie forgotten and lost abroad:

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/thousands-american-military-graves-lie-forgotten-lost-abroad>

Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency: <https://www.dpaa.mil/>

Miscellaneous

U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps Aircraft Squadron Designation

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Navy_and_U.S._Marine_Corps_Aircraft_Squadron_Designations

US Army Aircorp Squadron Designations:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army_Air_Forces

And <https://www.ww2research.com/locate-individual-by-air-corps-unit/>

And <https://www.army.mil/aviation/aircorps/>

List of Aviation Accidents:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_accidents_and_incidents_involving_military_aircraft

And <https://www.aviationarchaeology.com/src/AFrptsMO.htm>

TSgt Keith Baughman (AGS President Linda Koch's father): Served in the Pacific with VMB611 and MAG32 (see photos at presentation).

