

## 1: Battle Of Wake Island | HistoryNet

*During World War II, a series of Japanese air attacks on the Mariana Islands took place between November and January. These raids targeted United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) bases and sought to disrupt the bombing of Japan by B Superfortress heavy bombers operating from the islands.*

Pausing to rest, DeLeon recalls how he and six other Kanaka Maoli Native Hawaiians swam ashore and occupied the isolated island of Kahoolawe in 1993, which was then being used by the US navy for live-fire training. That direct action eventually helped end half a century of bombing on Kahoolawe. The ruling compels DLNR to produce a plan for enhanced inspections and greater environmental oversight by the end of 2015. Failure to comply with the ruling could jeopardise renewal of the lease, which expires in 2025. Ching has spent decades walking across Hawaii Island, hiking through shrublands, over volcanoes, from coast to coast, living close to the land he considers sacred. Like many opponents of PTA, he is concerned about the environmental impact and is opposed to Hawaii being used as a staging ground for the US military. A second interpretation is "night of the long prayer". No matter how it is translated, there is a fundamental misunderstanding behind using the area for war training, says Lakea Trask, who identifies as a kiai mauna or mountain guardian. This is not just a remote, barren wasteland, he says. This is wao akua realm of the gods, and the volcanic rock is the vessel that carries and preserves fresh water. This use of DU and other weapons, Albertini says, has created a "toxic stew of materials". Secret sarin nerve agent tests by the military in Hawaii in the 1960s contribute to the mistrust many harbour today, he says. According to Hamilton, the public-affairs officer, the US army follows all safety requirements set by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Hamilton also calls charges of "bombing the aina" land "the biggest fallacies [that] arise from a real lack of understanding about what happens here and what did happen here. Everything from small-arms fire to artillery to rocketry - all of these are very carefully monitored by at least three different entities. Calling PTA a "zone of violence," Aloua says, "for me, as a Kanaka Maoli, it stands against everything that we are as a people and everything that our kingdom stands for. And as individuals, as aloha for our aina - on the most basic level of interactions with place. Do they even have a future? That should be the question. That is not known.

### 2: Japanese air attacks on the Mariana Islands - Wikipedia

*The Fifth could do everything from high-altitude bombing to air interception to low-level strafing and parafrag bombing. Above: The Fifth's target, Rabaul, was a tropical paradise, home to a multinational community until surrounding volcanoes erupted in , making front-page news and forcing evacuation.*

American troops on Corregidor ran low on supplies and had to surrender after FDR ordered their commander, Douglas MacArthur , to evacuate. Stragglers, like those who broke an ankle or collapsed from heat exhaustion, were clubbed, bayoneted, shot, or beheaded to set an example for the others. They taunted those dying of thirst by putting them near wells then shooting them when they dove for water. Since , veterans have held an annual Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico that now includes wounded veterans from other wars, family members, and any supporters on a mile hike through the desert. Rainier, American demolition teams blowing up the Golden Gate Bridge as they retreated, and firefights in California gas stations. There were only k U. As of early , neither Imperial Japan nor Nazi-led German forces had ever been defeated on the battlefield. They gambled they could secure most of Asia before the U. It was months before the U. Should America fight both at the same time? If not, which first? If there was any upside to this challenge, America could fight when and where they wanted since, LIFE magazine aside, the continental U. They started by mainly trying to defend American territory in the Pacific rather than going on the offensive. The American public put a higher priority on fighting Japan who, unlike Germany, had attacked them, but FDR emphasized keeping Britain afloat and opening up Atlantic shipping lanes. American planners saw Germany as a bigger long-term potential threat to the U. This makes one wonder how exactly the out-of-office Churchill was proposing to take a stand against Hitler in when he derided Neville Chamberlain for signing the Munich Pact. To the chagrin of some U. While the Western Allies figured out what to do, Germany unwisely focused on its eastern offensive in the Soviet Union. Their first two objectives were to secure the Burma Road â€” a makeshift supply route Chinese and Burmese built with hand-held tools above to connect them to British-held Burma â€” and defend the connection across the southern Pacific between the U. Pacific War Strategy Partly to pique public interest â€” it had been six months since Pearl Harbor â€” and partly to inflict damage, the U. FDR facetiously and discreetly told reporters they took off from Shangri-La, a mythological place of perpetual youth in the Himalayas. Island-hopping cleared shipping lanes for destroyers, cruisers, and aircraft carriers, which were even more valuable than islands as mobile runways. Moreover, they needed to clear Japanese forces from the oil and rubber-rich areas in the outer part of their conquered territory to undermine their war machine. The Army and Nimitz-led Navy to the north were both unhappy with this compromise arrangement and jealous of resources sent to the other, but their rivalry worked out for the best insofar as they raced each other toward Japan. Still, after the war the U. Contributors included more than just combat soldiers and sailors. The Merchant Marine and other military personnel formed a vast supply chain back across the Pacific for weapons, ammo, oil, food, mail, etc. Over a billion cigarettes made their way to the front. Armed Forces mechanics repaired equipment and disassembled destroyed aircraft for salvage parts. The Auxiliary Corps included medics doctors and nurses and chaplains. The Pacific War was a massive logistical challenge that succeeded with top-down organization. Planes could then take off from the new airstrip to help soften up the next island. There, Marines landed on the beach while the Navy bombed the island from offshore. Wearing hundreds of pounds of gear, seasick Marines waded up on the beach after the front of their Higgins boat dropped open into the maw of enemy fire, desperately trying to find cover before being shot. Survivors worked their way through the jungle trying to root the Japanese out of their bunkers or nests. The pillbox bunkers had holes just large enough for the man inside to point his gun out so Americans shot fire into the hole to burn the soldier to death. If he ran out in a banzai attack , they fought hand-to-hand with a bayonet unless he could be gunned down first. Guards kept their sources of information comfortable and well fed. Frederick Jones As they fought Japanese, Americans in the Pacific also fought humidity, snakes, jungle rot , and boredom. Snipers climbing trees in the Solomon Islands feared ant nests more than the Japanese. Railroad crews, likewise, allowed Allied forces to move around Europe after retreating armies destroyed existing

tracks. In the Pacific, the U. Working amidst snipers and the stench of rotting bodies, Seabees developed prefabricated techniques for quick construction that carried over into the post-war suburban housing boom. The islands they built much of this infrastructure on " mostly tiny specks on a map no Americans had heard of prior to " came at a high cost. Syncing Navy bombardment and Marine landings was difficult in the best of circumstances. After Tarawa, they checked water depth and tides beforehand, used improved precision bombing on the Japanese to soften defenses, and armed the Higgins Boats landing craft. Intelligence was key throughout the Pacific War. They used Japanese-Americans to help break Japanese codes while passing their own sensitive information among Navajo Indian Code Talkers. Navajo was an unwritten and difficult language, as testified by 19th-century missionaries. For even better security, bilingual Indians developed a code within Navajo. They had to execute the code quickly, often under fire. Unlike Osama bin Laden, in this case, the U. Australian Troops Marching Toward Ft. Americans, British, New Zealanders, and Australians fought the Japanese to a year-long muddled victory at Guadalcanal that won them a key airstrip, Henderson Field , and helped save Australia from a Japanese invasion. Navy got off to a rocky start at Guadalcanal and their initial defeat left Marines stranded and surrounded on the island for months without sufficient food or ammunition. Thousands of Americans were killed or suffered from malaria and hunger before reinforcements arrived. Yet 5x more American sailors and Navy pilots died in engagements around Guadalcanal than their more famous Marine counterparts on the mainland. In the Battle of the Coral Sea, the U. The naval battles in the southwest Pacific under Bull Halsey were battles of attrition, with America losing or damaging many of its carriers, but victory at Midway Island in June set the stage for the U. By mid, the Allies had secured the connection between America and Australia. In fact, the Japanese tried to bomb Pearl Harbor again in but were foiled by cloud cover and their bombs fell in the ocean and mountains. Dutch Harbor is north of Midway. They burned the unmarked cash and the marked bills stayed in circulation after the war. Defending Midway involved outsmarting the Japanese. They intercepted a Japanese message stating that AF was out of water, confirming the tiny island as the target. Though colleagues guessed the Japanese would attack the Marshall Islands next or Pearl Harbor a second time, Pacific Commander Chester Nimitz trusted this line of intelligence and set the trap. In the ensuing battle, fighter pilots passed each other in the sky without even bothering to engage in dogfights. That took precious time, as the Japanese planes had to retool on deck from bombs to torpedoes. In the meantime, wave after wave of American pilots attacked Japanese carriers with no success. But in a cloud break under him, McCluskey spotted the wake behind a Japanese destroyer that he figured was steaming toward the main carrier group. He was right and his gamble paid off. His squadron nose-dived and destroyed three Japanese carriers along with several smaller ships " five of the most productive minutes in U. They destroyed the fourth Japanese carrier at Midway shortly after. At the time, Americans were trying to fend off another Pearl Harbor-like attack. Oscar-winning director John Ford , most famous for his work with John Wayne, was in the service and Admiral Chester Nimitz ordered that he document the battle as best he could: Arsenal of Democracy Losing four carriers in one battle was a significant setback for Japan. Spearheaded by the War Production Board , the U. Stanford historian David Kennedy wrote that, after Pearl Harbor, it was if somebody raised the East Coast and dumped money from banks and the government out across the rest of the country. The population doubled in western states because of ship and plane manufacturing. Tempers flared between races and between urban and rural Americans as hoards crowded into factory boomtowns looking for work. There were housing shortages and some people even shared beds with two other tenants, each taking 8-hour turns. The fighting started when white sailors working at an armory walked through a Mexican-American neighborhood on the way home from downtown bars. Their specific complaint was that they were made of wool, which was being rationed during the war. The Tuskegee Airmen , for instance, flew fighter escort and bombing missions over Europe. The African-American symbol for the war was the Double V: After the war, the military was the first major institution in American society to integrate. Hispanic troops were integrated during the war because Latinos were categorized as white. The exception was Puerto Ricans from the island as opposed to the mainland , who were considered black. They regulated basic staples like flour and sugar. Non-essential drivers got four gallons of fuel a week, while drivers helping the war effort got eight Japanese expansion into SE Asia also lowered American oil supplies. Whiskey production

dropped as distillers made industrial alcohol. Car production virtually came to a halt as the military compelled contracts with Ford, GM, and Chrysler for tanks, guns, jeeps, and fuselages. There were only American cars built from Edsel Ford built a bomber factory before succumbing to stomach cancer at 49, when his son Hank Henry Ford, II returned from the front to take over. Chrysler also contributed parts to the atomic bomb that ended the Pacific War next chapter. The government was as involved in the economy as it had been during the Depression, except that this time Roosevelt was trying to curb inflation instead of deflation. With people making more money, but consumer goods scarce from rations, the concern was that prices would skyrocket, devaluing the dollar. FDR capped salaries, taxed the wealthy and corporations at high rates, set price ceilings on consumer goods, and encouraged people to stop installment buying and spend on war bonds instead. MGM even pitched in with a short propaganda film called *Inflation*, depicting Satan colluding with Hitler to devalue the dollar.

### 3: News :: Earth Island Journal

*Whereas Admiral Nimitz wanted to seize islands in the Central Pacific for an air and land assault on Japan, General MacArthur favored Retaking the Philippines from the Solomon Islands and New Guinea. If white Americans did not know what they were fighting the war for, they knew what they fighting against.*

Strategic bombing was used in World War I, though it was not understood in its present form. The first bombing of a city was on the night of 24<sup>th</sup> August , when eight bombs were dropped from a German airship onto the Belgian city of Antwerp. Led by Charles Rumney Samson the force of four aircraft inflicted minor damage on the sheds. The raid was repeated a month later with slightly more success. Within a year or so, specialized aircraft and dedicated bomber squadrons were in service on both sides. These were generally used for tactical bombing; the aim was that of directly harming enemy troops, strongpoints, or equipment, usually within a relatively small distance of the front line. Eventually, attention turned to the possibility of causing indirect harm to the enemy by systematically attacking vital rear-area resources. The most well known attacks were those done by Zeppelins over England through the course of the war. German airship bombing Calais on the night of 21<sup>st</sup> February In there were 19 more raids, in which 37 tons of bombs were dropped, killing people and injuring Raids continued in London was accidentally bombed in May, and in July the Kaiser allowed directed raids against urban centers. There were 23 airship raids in , in which tons of ordnance were dropped, killing people and injuring Gradually British air defenses improved. In and , there were only 11 Zeppelin raids against England, and the final raid occurred on August 5, , which resulted in the death of KK Peter Strasser , commander of the German Naval Airship Department. By the end of the war, 51 raids had been undertaken, in which 5, bombs were dropped, killing people and injuring 1, These raids caused only minor hampering of wartime production, by later standards. A much greater impact was the diversion of twelve aircraft squadrons, many guns, and over 10, men to air defenses. Initially the raids generated a wave of hysteria, partially caused by media. The late Zeppelin raids were complemented by the Gotha bomber, which was the first [19] [20] heavier-than-air bomber to be used for strategic bombing. The French army on June 15, , attacked the German town of Karlsruhe , killing 29 civilians and wounding Further raids followed until the Armistice in In a raid in the afternoon of June 22, , the pilots used outdated maps and bombed the location of the abandoned railway station, where a circus tent was placed, killing persons, most of them children. The British also stepped up their strategic bombing campaign. At first the RNAS attacked the German submarines in their moorings and then steelworks further in targeting the origin of the submarines themselves. The Independent Force , an expanded bombing group, and the first independent strategic bombing force, was created in April By the end of the war, the force had aircraft that could reach Berlin , but these were never used. Interbellum[ edit ] Following the war, the concept of strategic bombing developed. The calculations which were performed on the number of dead to the weight of bombs dropped would have a profound effect on the attitudes of the British authorities and population in the interwar years because as bombers became larger it was fully expected that deaths from aerial bombardment would approach those anticipated in the Cold War from the use of nuclear weapons. The fear of aerial attack on such a scale was one of the fundamental driving forces of British appeasement in the s. Tactical air warfare was developed as part of a combined-arms attack which would be developed to a significant degree by Germany , and which contributed much to the success of the Wehrmacht during the first four years <sup>1942</sup> of World War II. The Luftwaffe became a major element of the German blitzkrieg. Some leading theorists of strategic air warfare , namely strategic bombing during this period were the Italian Giulio Douhet , the Trenchard school in Great Britain, and General Billy Mitchell in the United States. Not only would such attacks weaken the enemy by destroying important military infrastructure, they would also break the morale of the civilian population, forcing their government to capitulate. Although area bombing theorists acknowledged that measures could be taken to defend against bombers <sup>1942</sup> using fighter planes and anti-aircraft artillery - the maxim of the times remained " the bomber will always get through ". These theorists for strategic bombing argued that it would be necessary to develop a fleet of strategic bombers during peacetime, both to deter any potential enemy, and also in the case of a war, to

be able to deliver devastating attacks on the enemy industries and cities while suffering from relatively few friendly casualties before victory was achieved. Domestic political considerations saw to it that the British worked harder on the concept than most. The British Royal Flying Corps and Royal Naval Air Service of the Great War had been merged in to create a separate air force, which spent much of the following two decades fighting for survival in an environment of severe government spending constraints. In Italy, the air power prophet General Giulio Douhet asserted the basic principle of strategic bombing was the offensive, and there was no defence against carpet bombing and poison gas attacks. He envisaged future wars as lasting a matter of a few weeks. Fighter aircraft would be relegated to spotting patrols, but would be essentially powerless to resist the mighty bombers. Paradoxically, he suggested that this would actually reduce total casualties, since "The time would soon come when, to put an end to horror and suffering, the people themselves, driven by the instinct of self-preservation, would rise up and demand an end to the war Royal Air Force leaders, in particular Air Chief Marshal Hugh Trenchard , believed the key to retaining their independence from the senior services was to lay stress on what they saw as the unique ability of a modern air force to win wars by unaided strategic bombing. As the speed and altitude of bombers increased in proportion to fighter aircraft, the prevailing strategic understanding became "the bomber will always get through". Although anti-aircraft guns and fighter aircraft had proved effective in the Great War, it was accepted there was little warring nations could do to prevent massive civilian casualties from strategic bombing. High civilian morale and retaliation in kind were seen as the only answers – a later generation would revisit this, as Mutual Assured Destruction. The Trenchard School theories were successfully put into action in Mesopotamia modern-day Iraq where RAF bombers used high-explosive bombs, gas bombs, and strafing against guerrilla forces. The techniques of so-called "Air Control" included also target marking and locating, as well as formation flying. Arthur Harris , a young RAF squadron commander later nicknamed "Bomber" , reported after a mission in , "The Arab and Kurd now know what real bombing means, in casualties and damage. They know that within 45 minutes a full-sized village can be practically wiped out and a third of its inhabitants killed or injured". In these attacks, endeavour should be made to spare the women and children as far as possible, and for this purpose a warning should be given, whenever practicable. It would be wrong even at this stage to think that air power was simply seen as a tool for rapid retribution. Their power to cover great distances at high speed, their instant readiness for action, their independence within the detachment radius of communications, their indifference to obstacles and the unlikelihood of casualties to air personnel combine to encourage their use offensively more often than the occasion warrants. By August , total losses in ground fighting and air attack, on the Yemeni side, were 65 killed or wounded one RAF pilot was killed and one airman wounded. Excluding operations against Yemeni forces – which had effectively ceased by – a total of twelve deaths were attributed to air attacks conducted between and Fewer men were required as compared to ground forces. Jingoistic national pride played a major role: This type of expectation might justify the appeasement of Hitler in the late s. Though this figure was relatively small, aerial bombers and their weaponry were continually improving – already suggesting the devastation what was to come in the near future. Yet, during the Spanish civil war , " the bomber will always get through " theory started to appear doubtful, as quoted by the U. The increased speeds of both the bombardment and pursuit plane have worked in favor of the pursuit – The flying fortress died in Spain. The campaigns conducted in Europe and Asia could involve thousands of aircraft dropping tens of thousands of tons of munitions over a single city. This, in high enough concentration was capable of producing a firestorm effect. Nowadays, a large bomber or missile can be used to create the same effect on a small area an airfield, for example by releasing a relatively large number of smaller bombs. Strategic bombing campaigns were conducted in Europe and Asia. By comparison, the British and Americans who started the war with predominantly similarly sized bombers developed their strategic force based upon much larger four-engined bombers for their strategic campaigns. The Luftwaffe had been attacking both civilian and military targets from the very first day of the war, when Germany invaded Poland on 1 September A strategic-bombing campaign was launched by the Germans as a precursor to the invasion of the United Kingdom to force the RAF to engage the Luftwaffe and so be destroyed either on the ground or in the air. Initially, the Luftwaffe raids took place in daylight, then changed to night bombing attacks when losses became unsustainable. The

RAF, initially espousing a precision-bombing doctrine, also switched to night bombing, also due to excessive losses. The day after the Rotterdam Blitz a new directive was issued to the RAF to attack targets in the Ruhr , including oil plants and other civilian industrial targets which aided the German war effort, such as blast furnaces that at night were self-illuminating. That doctrine, based on the erroneous supposition that bombers could adequately defend themselves against air attack, entailed much higher American losses until long-range fighter escorts e. Conditions in the European theatre made it very difficult to achieve the accuracy that had been possible using the exceptional and top-secret Norden optical bombsight in the clear skies over the desert bombing ranges of Nevada and California. Raids over Europe commonly took place in conditions of very poor visibility, with targets partly or wholly obscured by thick cloud, smokescreens or smoke from fires started by previous raids. As a result, bomb loads were regularly dropped "blind" using dead-reckoning methods little different from those used by the RAF night bombers. Since even a very tight bomber formation could cover a vast area, the scatter of bombs was likely to be considerable. Add to these difficulties the disruptive effects of increasingly accurate anti-aircraft fire and head-on attacks by fighter aircraft and the theoretical accuracy of daylight bombing was often hard to achieve. Between them, Allied air forces claimed to be able to bomb "around the clock". In fact, few targets were ever hit by British and American forces the same day, the strategic isolation of Normandy on D-Day and the bombing of Dresden in February, , being exceptions rather than the rule. There were generally no coordinated plans for around-the-clock bombing of any target. In some cases, single missions have been considered to constitute strategic bombing. The destruction of German infrastructure became apparent, but the Allied campaign against Germany only really succeeded when the Allies began targeting oil refineries and transportation in the last year of the war. At the same time, strategic bombing of Germany was used as a morale booster for the Allies in the period before the land war resumed in Western Europe in June Child amid ruins following German aerial bombing of London , In the Pacific theatre , if the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service and the Imperial Japanese Army Air Service frequently used strategic bombing over large Chinese cities such as Shanghai , Guangzhou , Nanjing , and Chongqing , organized strategic bombing on a large scale by the Japanese seldom occurred. The Japanese military in most places advanced quickly enough that a strategic bombing campaign was unnecessary, and the Japanese aircraft industry was incapable of producing truly strategic bombers in any event. In those places where it was required, the smaller Japanese bombers in comparison to British and American types did not carry a bombload sufficient to inflict the sort of damage regularly occurring at that point in the war in Europe, or later in Japan. The development of the B gave the United States a bomber with sufficient range to reach the Japanese Home Islands from the safety of American bases in the Pacific or western China. The capture of the Japanese island of Iwo Jima further enhanced the capabilities that the Americans possessed in their strategic bombing campaign. Bomb loads included very high proportions of incendiaries, with the intention of igniting the highly combustible wooden houses common in Japanese cities and thereby generating firestorms. Both cities were destroyed with enormous loss of life and psychological shock. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan and invaded Manchuria , swiftly driving the Japanese forces back into Korea. On August 15, Emperor Hirohito announced the surrender of Japan , stating: Should We continue to fight, it would not only result in an ultimate collapse and obliteration of the Japanese nation, but also it would lead to the total extinction of human civilization. Such being the case, how are We to save the millions of Our subjects; or to atone Ourselves before the hallowed spirits of Our Imperial Ancestors? This is the reason why We have ordered the acceptance of the provisions of the Joint Declaration of the Powers. Air Force FC practices a nuclear bombing run. Nuclear weapons defined strategic bombing during the Cold War. The age of the massive strategic bombing campaign had come to an end. It was replaced by more devastating attacks using improved sighting and weapons technology. Strategic bombing by the Great Powers also became politically indefensible.

### 4: BBC - History - World Wars: The Siege of Malta in World War Two

*Tinian Island was the launching point for the atomic bomb attacks against Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. One of three islands in the Northern Marianas, Tinian is less than forty square miles in size and located approximately 1, miles south of Tokyo.*

Shigeyoshi Inoue, Sadamichi Kajioka Outcome: Japanese Victory Soldiers Engaged: The surrender was of American troops to those of Japan. The battle was for a small island in Central Pacific with the Marines and civilians of the island defending against invaders from Japan. It was a site for a submarine and air base for the U. Just a few hours before the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, Japan hit the island with 36 bombers. A few days later, on December 11th a naval task force from Japan complete with destroyers and cruisers attempted an attack but was forced back by a strong defense on the coast from aircraft and guns. The Japanese Overrun Wake Island Though it sounded like the island would pull through, the Japanese kept the island under a near constant air attack and even U. The Japanese came back December 23 with more force and power and within a mere five hours the island had to surrender. Commander from the U. Navy Winfield Scott Cunningham was in charge of the forces and their eventual surrender. The result was 1, Americans being captured and in turn being evacuated then to Japan and even China. Though the Japanese heavily fortified the island and attempted to hold it, American aircrafts repeatedly attacked it throughout the war creating major devastation. It was again surrendered on September 4, back to America. An interesting and sad historical note is that on October 5, when the Japanese saw imminent invasion an execution was ordered of 98 American civilians. They were taken to one side of the island and shot with machine guns. This prisoner was caught and also executed shortly after. Wensyel Early on the morning of December 8, , Wake Island hummed with activity. For months, the wishbone-shaped Pacific atoll of three small islandsâ€”Wake, Wilkes and Pealeâ€”less than 10 miles long and barely above sea level, had been the site of construction work. Working feverishly to complete an airstrip and defensive fortifications were U. War with Japan was imminent, and an airstrip on Wake, about 2, miles west of Hawaii, would allow American heavy bombers to strike the Japanese-controlled Marshall Islands. And, if Guam were lost to the Japanese, Wake would be one of the closest American outposts to the Japanese mainland. Each day work began early and finished late. There were no other diversions on the tiny, barren atoll, and the defenders all realized that war could begin at any time. This is the real thing. Soon their fragmentation bombs, accompanied by a steady drumming of machine-gun fire, tore the island to pieces. Japanese land-based aircraft from Roi in the Marshalls, later joined by aircraft from approaching Japanese carriers, pounded the atoll day after day. Before each attack, a dwindling number of American Wildcat fighters rose to meet them. Marine gunners let them close to 4, yards before their 5-inch naval guns opened fire. Their patience was rewarded with the sinking of one Japanese destroyer and damaging of the cruiser and three additional destroyers. Kajioka retreated, now knowing that Wake would not be taken without a fight. By the 21st, the last of the Wildcats had been destroyed in dogfights over the atoll. Japanese airplanes now roamed over the island at will, pounding American positions in preparation for a renewed attempt to seize the atoll. Soon a desperate battle was being fought across the atoll between groups of men fighting with rifles, bayonets, grenades and fists. At dawn, Devereux and Cunningham, separated but talking over the single phone line between the islands, took stock of the situation. The American flag still flew from a battered water tower, the highest point on Wake, but Japanese flags fluttered everywhere else. Reports from the three islands were discouraging; there were simply too many Japanese and too few Americans. Cunningham radioed Pearl Harbor: Devereux, unable to contact his remaining strongpoints, had no idea what was happening a few yards beyond his own command post. Later he would reflect: We could keep on expending lives, but we could not buy anything with them. The naval commander phoned Devereux to tell him the depressing news. Malleck, who carried a white cloth tied to a mop handle, then walked across the island, ordering surviving Americans to lay down their weapons. Stunned defenders threw away rifle bolts, destroyed delicate range-finding instruments, drained hydraulic fluid from recoil cylinders and then surrendered. Eighty-one Marines, eight sailors and 82 civilian construction workers had been killed or

wounded. The Japanese, however, paid a heavy price for their victory. The fight for Wake Island had cost them two destroyers and one submarine sunk, seven additional ships damaged, 21 aircraft shot down and almost 1,000 men killed. Enraged by their losses, the Japanese treated their prisoners—military and civilian—brutally. Some were stripped naked, others to their underwear. Most had their hands tied behind their backs with telephone wire, with a second wire looped tightly from their necks to their wrists so that if they lowered their arms they would strangle themselves. Personal valuables were taken and wounds ignored. The prisoners were then jammed into two suffocating concrete ammunition bunkers. Later they were herded to the airstrip and made to sit, naked, on the blistering hot concrete. When the Japanese set up machine guns nearby, most of the prisoners expected to be executed. That night, bone-chilling winds replaced the heat. The prisoners sat there, still waiting for food, water or medical treatment. The unfortunate prisoners remained sitting on the airstrip for two days. Finally, they were given food, much of it spoiled by the heat, and water, contaminated from being placed in unclean gasoline drums. Piles of assorted clothing seized earlier were placed before them; an individual had little chance of finding his original clothing. Marines found themselves in civilian dress, civilian workers in Marine khaki. Lieutenant John Manning would begin his captivity in a pair of Marine trousers and two oversized, hip-length rubber work boots. They cared for their own wounded with whatever supplies they could obtain. On January 11, 1942, Kajioka informed the prisoners that they would soon be transferred. This was alarming news because although they had been poorly treated by their captors, both sides had come to some accommodation with one another. Now all that would change. The next day most of the prisoners were taken to the merchant ship Nitta Maru. Before boarding, however, they were forced to run a gantlet of cursing and spitting Japanese sailors who struck them with clubs, fists and heavy belts. Those unfortunates would slave away until October 1945, when, in retaliation for the strikes on the island by a U. S. Navy task force and fearful of an Allied invasion, the Japanese garrison murdered them all. It took Nitta Maru six days to reach Yokohama, Japan. In one instance a Japanese guard thought he saw Pfc Herman Todd talking without permission. The private was ordered to jump up and grab an overhanging beam. As Todd hung suspended above the deck, a Japanese bayonet was thrust at his stomach while a Japanese petty officer beat him with a pick handle. Once they had reached Yokohama, eight American officers and 12 enlisted men were sent to a prison camp in Japan while the remainder of the men continued on to Shanghai, China. On the voyage to China, Lieutenant Toshio Sato, commander of the Japanese guard detachment, selected five Americans, three seamen and two Marines, at random, blindfolded and bound them, and took them on deck. There, surrounded by Japanese sailors, the Americans were made to kneel. Sato then read to the Americans in Japanese: For what you have done you are now going to be killed—as representatives of American soldiers. Perhaps it was just as well, for when Sato finished speaking the five unfortunates were beheaded. Their bodies were then used for bayonet practice before being thrown overboard. After landing at Woosung the prisoners were forced to march five miles to what the Japanese called the Shanghai War Prisoners Camp—seven gray, ramshackle single-story buildings with no fresh water or plumbing and limited electricity. To deter escape, the camp was surrounded by barbed wire, electric fences and four constantly manned guard towers. The prisoners were housed in large, open rooms called sections. Within each section 36 men slept shoulder to shoulder on wooden pallets. Although the temperature seldom exceeded 20 degrees, most of the men wore ragged garments and many had no shoes. There was no heat. In the cold, crowded rooms disease spread quickly. Enforcement of prison rules was simple—if any man in a section misbehaved, all were punished. At Woosung the Japanese commissary routinely issued food for only prisoners. Rations provided only about 1,000 calories per man per day. Each of the Wake prisoners would lose at least 60 pounds during his captivity at the prison. The Americans would never forget Woosung. The bleak loneliness, bitter cold winds whistling through their flimsy huts, wormy stone-studded rice and dawn-to-dusk work made a lasting impression. The excesses of the Japanese guards only added to their misery. Although a few of them adopted a live-and-let-live attitude toward the Americans, most of the guards were brutal. The worst of the Japanese at Woosung was Isamu Isihara, a civilian interpreter who enjoyed beating the helpless Americans. Although he was a civilian who had once driven a taxi in Honolulu, Isihara wore a samurai sword and insisted that the prisoners treat him as an officer. He struck me four times—with a saber. Later the sentry held a bayonet against my abdomen

[while] they beat me with their fistsâ€™.

### 5: Video News - CNN

*Operation Hailstone was a massive naval air and surface raid launched on February 18, 1945, during World War 2 by the United States Navy against the Japanese naval and air base at Truk in the.*

The US had no specific, carrier based horizontal bombers, torpedo bombers could and did act in the role over land targets as well as to carry anti-submarine bombs and depth charges. The Japanese first wave at Pearl Harbor used 40 "Kates" as torpedo bombers and 49 Kates as horizontal bombers. The second wave had 54 "Kates", all as horizontal bombers. The Japanese Navy also had a shore based air component, that had access to all of the carrier plane types as well twin-engine bombers. Two to four float planes were carried by cruisers and battleships to search for enemy fleets and submarines, to provide gunnery spotting, rescue and other services. These were launched from catapults atop gun mounts or from cranes amidships of WWI era ships and from the fantail of WW2 build ships. Curtiss SOC Seagull in service from 1918 to 1931. As a long range reconnaissance plane, it could range 2,000 miles and patrol for over 20 hours. It dropped bombs on shipping, depth charges on submarines. It carried out the only successful torpedo attack at Midway, damaging an oiler, 11 June 1942. PBY Catalinas, operating from the seaplane tender Gillis in Nazan Bay, Atka Island, hit ships and enemy positions on Kiska in an intense hour attack which exhausted the gasoline and bomb supply aboard the Gillis but was not successful in driving the Japanese from the Island. As effective as it was in reconnaissance and attack, it sometimes carried two lifeboats under its wings; rescue was an important part of the job. Reconnaissance Bombers - Land Based. Long Range Bombers resulted in an Army-Navy controversy over coast protection. Traditionally the Navy provided coastal protection beyond the range of Army shore based artillery. The Army Air Corp, BGen Billy Mitchell, made dramatic displays that it could fly long ranges, could find ships far at sea, and could destroy armored warships from the air. The Navy considered all coast defense that was beyond the range of artillery to be their domain. Air power aficionados considered the Navy outdated and motivated by self-preservation. European air attacks early in the war showed that massed land based air power could destroy ships at sea. However the American experience was far from convincing, primarily because there were not have enough aircraft to make massive attacks. A single B bomber could carry a lethal bomb load, but had to attack from high altitude to escape shipborn antiaircraft fire. At high altitudes, a strategic bomber could not hit a maneuvering target. A bomber had to fly straight and level to the target to align the bombsight with where the bombardier thought the target would be after the bombs made a long fall. During that period, as the bomber was committed, a ship could maneuver for several minutes to confuse the airplane and to avoid the falling bombs. The army B was sold for coast defense before the war. The press was primed for B success and reported splashes as hits. In fact, in all of 1942, one Japanese destroyer was sunk, and it was stopped to pick up survivors from a ship sunk by carrier planes. See Naval aircraft lists - all types in This is before the period of American dominance with the: The year saw Japan lose 6, planes 4, airmen 3, three times more than had to start the war and, strangely, Japan did not have an adequate replacement training program.

### 6: Siege of Malta (World War II) - Wikipedia

*Airplanes took off from either an airfield on an island base or from an aircraft carrier, and the battle was waged almost entirely in the air over the ocean. In the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands, U.S. and Japanese pilots were very closely matched, but the Allies were victorious because of better intelligence gathering.*

At Saipan, the island nearest to Japan, U. Visit Website American commanders decided to make the first Mariana landing on Saipan, the largest of the Mariana Islands. Saipan, which had been under Japanese rule since 1914, had a garrison of approximately 30,000 Japanese troops, according to some accounts, and an important airfield at Aslito. Marine General Holland M. Smith. After the invasion of Saipan, according to the plan, U. However, American intelligence services had greatly underestimated Japanese troop strength on Saipan. Battleships, destroyers and planes had pounded key targets in pre-assault bombardments, but they had missed many gun emplacements along the beach cliffs. Subsequently, Marines headed straight into exploding bombs and streaming gunfire. By the end of the day, some 20,000 troops had established a beachhead on Saipan; however, the U. The next morning, the troops were joined by U. Army reinforcements and began pushing inland toward Aslito Airfield and Japanese forces in the southern and central parts of the island. On June 18, American troops continued to spread out across the island even as their offshore naval protection departed to head off the Japanese Imperial Fleet that had been sent to aid in the defense of Saipan. Death Valley and Purple Heart Ridge After having failed to stop the American landing on Saipan, the Japanese army retreated to Mount Tapotchau, the mountain peak that dominates the island. In intensive fighting, U. S forces gradually drove the Japanese defense from their nearly impregnable position in the heights. As the battle raged, Smith ordered a contingent of troops to assault Japanese positions by moving across a large, much exposed valley. Fighting their way through rugged jungle terrain, Marines finally won control of Mount Tapotchau by the end of June. The Japanese were forced to retreat further north, marking the turning point in the Battle of Saipan. July 6 By early July, the forces of Lieutenant General Yoshitsugu Saito, the Japanese commander on Saipan, had retreated to the northern part of the island, where they were trapped by American land, sea and air power. Saito had expected the Japanese navy to help him drive the Americans from the island, but the Imperial Fleet had suffered a devastating defeat in the Battle of the Philippine Sea June 6, and never arrived at Saipan. Realizing he could no longer hold out against the American onslaught, Saito apologized to Tokyo for failing to defend Saipan and committed ritual suicide. Before his death, however, Saito ordered his remaining troops to launch an all-out, surprise attack for the honor of the emperor. In wave after wave, the Japanese overran parts of several U. It was the largest banzai charge of the Pacific war, and, as was the nature of such an attack, most Japanese troops fought to their death. However, the suicidal maneuver failed to turn the tide of the battle, and on July 9, U. For their part, the Japanese lost at least 27,000 soldiers, by some estimates. The loss of Saipan stunned the political establishment in Tokyo, the capital city of Japan. Political leaders came to understand the devastating power of the long-range U. He was forced to resign a week after the U.

## 7: Iwo Jima - HISTORY

*Strategic bombing is a military strategy used in a total war with the goal of defeating the enemy by destroying its morale or its economic ability to produce and transport materiel to the theatres of military operations, or both.*

To the north the Japanese had air bases in the Nampo Shoto chain of islands and Bonin Islands , which included three airstrips on Iwo Jima. Several of the minor islands in the Mariana chain also remained in Japanese hands, and there were airfields on Rota and Pagan. The Thunderbolts were also responsible for suppressing the Japanese-held Mariana Islands, though it proved difficult to stop the 3,man garrison from repairing the airfield on Pagan. Small numbers of Japanese aircraft flying from Guam, Peleliu , Iwo Jima and Truk made occasional raids on the American forces on Saipan during the fighting there, but caused little damage. The raiders arrived over Saipan shortly after 1: Only five bombs struck Isley Field, and these caused little damage. The attackers flew just above sea level to avoid US radar, and one of the A6Ms was forced to divert to Pagan after its propeller struck a wave; this aircraft was shot down by a USAAF Thunderbolt while attempting to land. These aircraft strafed Isley Field destroying three or four Bs and damaging up to two others. One of the Japanese pilots landed his fighter on Isley Field and fired on airfield personnel with his pistol until he was killed by rifle fire; this incident was witnessed by Brigadier General Haywood S. These ships detected some of the later Japanese raiders, but others managed to arrive undetected. Nimitz , the commander of the Pacific Ocean Areas , ordered that the highest priority be given to installing the radar. Despite this, it still was not ready until after the conclusion of the Japanese air campaign. This was the first use of airborne warning and control aircraft by the United States, but they were not used in combat. The Japanese destroyed 11 Bs, caused major damage to eight and minor damage to another American casualties were 45 dead and over wounded. Particular attention was given to Iwo Jima, as it was correctly assumed that the Japanese aircraft which attacked the Marianas were flying from Japan and staging through the island en route to their targets. The attack began at 9: The B raid took place at Due to cloud cover over Iwo Jima the heavy bombers were forced to use radar rather than visual bombing, which limited the effectiveness of these attacks. The operation concluded with a minute bombardment by the three cruisers which began at 1: Overall, the USAAF dropped tons of bombs and the cruisers fired 1, rounds of 8-inch and 5, rounds of 5-inch shells. US aircraft also mounted small-scale night attacks to disrupt Japanese repair efforts. A man force designated the Giretsu Airborne Unit was formed for this suicide mission, which called for the destruction with explosive charges of Bs by troops carried by Mitsubishi Ki "Sally" bombers. These aircraft lacked the range to reach Saipan directly from Japan, and it was planned that they would refuel at Iwo Jima. The Giretsu Airborne Unit instead attacked a U. The commandos would then destroy as many Bs as possible before fighting to the death. The commandos and G4Ms selected to land in the Marianas conducted intensive training at bases in northern Honshu and the operation was scheduled for late July. It was planned that 20 G4Ms would carry naval commandos to Guam, another 20 would carry army commandos to Saipan and the remaining 20 would transport a joint Armyâ€”Navy force to Tinian. The revised plan also called for a B to be captured and flown back to Japan. They did, however, force the United States to allocate forces to defend the islands in order to prevent further losses of expensive Bs. Moreover, due to the high cost of the heavy bombers, the ratio of losses was in favor of the Japanese. Sakaida and Takaki , p. They do not state that the other two bombers were shot down. Tillman , p.

## 8: A Bio. of America: The Fifties - Transcript

*The Attack at Pearl Harbor and the Philippines. That Americans intercepted and deciphered Japanese messages that signaled the impending attack on Pearl Harbor is a claim that has been discredited - recently by the eminent historian of Pearl Harbor, Gordon Prange, in his detailed, page work, At Dawn We Slept.*

Background[ edit ] Map of Malta Malta was a military and naval fortress, being the only Allied base between Gibraltar and Alexandria , Egypt. When the route was closed Malta remained a forward base for offensive action against Axis shipping and land targets in the central Mediterranean. Owing to its exposed position close to Italy, the British had moved the headquarters of the Royal Navy Mediterranean Fleet from Valletta , Malta in the mids to Alexandria in October Amongst the most congested spots was Valletta, the capital and political, military and commercial centre, where 23, people lived in an area of around 0. Across Grand Harbour, in the Three Cities, where the dockyards and the Admiralty headquarters were located, 28, people were packed into 1. It was these small areas that suffered the heaviest, most sustained and concentrated aerial bombing in history. The Italian and British surface fleets were evenly matched in the region but the Italians had far more submarines and aircraft. When the Maltese government questioned British reasoning, they were told that the island could be defended just as adequately from Alexandria as from Grand Harbour, which was untrue. This led the Maltese to doubt the British commitment to defend the island. After some discussion, Winston Churchill convinced the British War Cabinet that no concessions should be made. Only six obsolete Gloster Sea Gladiator biplanes were stationed on the island, with another six in crates when, on 10 June , Mussolini declared war on the United Kingdom and France. The 10th Army was crushed in Operation Compass , a British counter-stroke, and Adolf Hitler decided to come to the aid of his ally. The reluctance of the Italians to act directly against Malta throughout was strengthened by the Battle of Taranto , in which much of the Italian surface fleet was put out of action by Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm torpedo bombers. To the Italians and later the Germans , air power was the key weapon against Malta. The Regia Aeronautica began the aerial bombardment of the island from airbases in Sicily. On the first day, 55 Italian bombers and 21 fighters flew over Malta and dropped bombs on the three airfields at Luqa, Hal Far and Ta Qali. The pilots were flying-boat and other fliers with no experience of fighter operations. One Gladiator was shot down but the rest managed to shoot down several Italian aircraft. In the afternoon, another 38 bombers escorted by 12 fighters raided the capital. The raids were designed to affect the morale of the population rather than inflict damage to dockyards and installations. A total of eight raids were flown on that first day. The bombing did not cause much damage and most of the casualties suffered were civilian. No interception of the raiders was made because there was no RAF force ready to meet them. It surprised the Italians, but the defences, almost non-existent on the ground and in the air, failed to impede the Italian force. They flew to the French colony of Tunisia , but insecurity compelled them to seek friendlier surroundings. The FAA aircraft were to form the nucleus of what was to become Naval Air Squadron , providing Malta with its first offensive strike aircraft. Before June was out, they raided Sicily and sank one Italian destroyer, damaged a cruiser and destroyed oil storage tanks in the port of Augusta. A further attempt to fly 12 Hurricanes into Malta on 17 November, led by a FAA Blackburn Skua , Operation White ended in disaster with the loss of eight Hurricanes; they took off too far west of the island due to the presence of the Italian fleet and ran out of fuel, and several pilots were lost. After eight weeks, the original force of Hurricane units was grounded owing to a lack of spare parts. The Italians admitted the loss of 23 bombers and 12 fighters, with a further bombers and seven fighters having suffered damage, mainly to anti-aircraft artillery. Nearly all 80 purpose-built sea craft that would land the Italian Army ashore were expected to be lost but landings would be made in the north, with an attack upon the Victoria Lines , across the centre of the island. A secondary landing would be made on Gozo , north-west of Malta and the islet of Comino , between the two. All of the Italian navy and aircraft would be involved, but the lack of supplies led the planners to believe that the operation could not be carried out. With the German success in the Battle of France from Mayâ€”June , the plan was reduced to 20, men with the addition of tanks. The Allied defeat in France gave the Italians an opportunity to seize Malta but Italian intelligence overestimated the Maltese

defenses and Mussolini thought that an invasion would be unnecessary once Britain made peace. Mussolini also expected Francoist Spain to join the Axis and capture Gibraltar, which would close the Mediterranean to the British from the west. The Germans took most of the oil from Romania and left few resources for Italy to pursue large-scale operations in the Mediterranean. Not only did this preclude any large-scale naval operations, it also left the Italians without adequate fuel for combat training at sea. By the start of , a limited petroleum stockpile meant only seven months of fuel could be guaranteed. On 9 July , the Battle of Calabria was the only time the main Italian and British with supporting Royal Australian Navy vessels fleets engaged each other. Both sides claimed victory, but in fact the battle was inconclusive, and everyone returned to their bases as soon as possible. It confirmed to the Maltese people that the British still controlled the seas, if not from the Grand Harbour. The Italians had been heading to intercept the British convoys transporting reinforcements to aid Greece in the Greco-Italian War. The potential of the base was realised and Whitehall ordered further aircraft into the island; including Hurricane fighters, Martin Marylands , Sunderlands, Vickers Wellingtons , more Swordfish and submarines. It provided an increasingly potent offensive arm. The diversion of the North African Campaign drew away significant Italian air units which were rushed from Italy and Sicily to deal with the disasters and support the Italian ground forces embattled in Egypt and Libya. The relief on Malta was significant as the British could now concentrate their forces for offensive, rather than defensive operations. In November , after months of poorly coordinated Italian air strikes, the FAA and Royal Navy struck at Italian naval forces in the Battle of Taranto , a victory for sea-air power and definite proof that aircraft could wreak havoc on naval vessels without air cover. Fairey Swordfish torpedo bombers disabled a number of Italian heavy units during the battle. The withdrawal of the Italian fleet to Naples , out of reach of British aircraft, was a strategic victory which handed naval supremacy to the British for the time being. British U-class submarines began operations as early as June. Unfortunately no bomb-proof pens were available as the building project had been scrapped before the war, owing to cost-cutting policies. Simpson to command the unit. In reality, Cunningham gave Simpson and his unit a free hand. Until U-class vessels could be made available in numbers, British T-class submarines were used. They had some successes, but suffered heavy losses when they began operations on 20 September Owing to a shortage of torpedoes , enemy ships could not be attacked unless the target in question was a warship, tanker or other "significant vessel". It accounted for one Italian submarine, nine merchant vessels and one motor torpedo boat MTB. The loss of nine submarines and their trained crews and commanders was serious. Most of the losses were due to mines. Hitler had little choice other than to rescue his Italian ally or lose the chance of taking the Middle Eastern oilfields in Arabia. Operation Colossus signalled a dramatic turn around. They then began a counter-offensive and drove the British back into Egypt. But operating overseas in Africa meant most of the supplies to Axis forces would come via the sea. This made Malta a dangerous threat to Axis logistical concerns. The damaging of the 7,ton German ship Duisburg was the only noteworthy attack. On 9 February , three submarines missed the same convoy bringing supplies to Tripoli , the principal Italian port in Libya. The Italians deployed 54, mines around Malta to prevent it being supplied. By the start of the first German operation, Geisler had 95 aircraft and 14, men in Sicily. Geisler persuaded the OKL to give him four more dive-bomber gruppen Groups. On 10 January, he could muster serviceable aircraft including dive and medium bombers. The first was I. This led to a notable increase in the bombing of Malta. A Stabsstaffel of Sturzkampfgeschwader 3 StG 3 arrived. One particular target was aircraft carriers. An opportunity to attack the vessel came on 6 January. The British Operation Excess was launched, which included a series of convoy operations by the British across the Mediterranean Sea. Some 10 Ju 87s attacked the carrier unopposed. One destroyed a gun, another hit near her bow, a third demolished another gun, while two hit the lift, wrecking the aircraft below deck, causing explosions of fuel and ammunition. Another went through the armoured deck and exploded deep inside the ship. Two further attacks were made without result. Badly damaged, but with her main engines still intact, she steered for the now dubious haven of Malta. The carrier is to the right of the large crane The British operation should not have been launched: Hits were scored on both; Southampton was so badly damaged her navy escorts scuttled her. Over the next 12 days, the workers at the shipyard in the Grand Harbour repaired the carrier under determined air attack so that she might make Alexandria. On 18 January, the Germans switched

to attacking the airfields at Hal Far and Luqa in an attempt to win air superiority before returning to *Illustrious*. On 20 January, two near misses breached the hull below the water line and hurled her hull against the wharf. Nevertheless, the engineers won the battle. On 23 January, she slipped out of Grand Harbour, and arrived in Alexandria two days later. The carrier later sailed to America where she was kept out of action for a year. Both the British and Italian navies digested their experiences over Taranto and Malta. Five Hurricanes arrived at Malta in early March, another six on the 18 March but five Hurricanes were lost along with five pilots. Royal Navy warships and Sunderland flying boats could not use the island for offensive operations and the main fighter squadrons, Nos. This formation was to interdict Axis convoys. The strike force had considerable success, which justified basing it at Malta despite the danger from air attack. On 21 May, the force was sent to join the Battle of Crete. It was several months before the depleted strike force returned.

### 9: Battle of Saipan - HISTORY

*The Siege of Malta in the Second World War was a military campaign in the Mediterranean [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com), the fight for the control of the strategically important island of Malta, then a British colony, pitted the air forces and navies of Italy and Germany against the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy.*

These places are sometimes called theaters of war. Japanese Battleships - Japan had a powerful navy Photo by Unknown Leading up to the War Japan wanted to become a strong country and a world leader. However, because Japan was a small island country, they had to import many natural resources. Some Japanese leaders felt they needed to gain more land by conquering other countries. In Japan invaded China. They wanted to dominate all of Southeast Asia. He had been a strong supporter of Japan joining the Axis Powers. They surprised the US and sunk many ships. However, this attack did not have the effect the Japanese had hoped. The attack at Pearl Harbor united the Americans with the goal of defeating the Axis powers, and especially Japan. The War The Japanese quickly took over much of Southeast Asia and were well on their way to dominance by Badly outnumbered, the US Navy sunk four Japanese aircraft carriers and forced the Japanese to retreat. Winning this battle gave the Americans cause for hope and was a turning point in the war in the Pacific. Marines rest in the field on Guadalcanal Photo by John L. They fought to take over strategic islands in the Pacific. One of the first major battles was over the island of Guadalcanal. After fierce fighting the US was able to take the island, but they learned that fighting the Japanese was not going to be easy. Iwo Jima took 36 days of fighting to take the island. However, the Japanese would not surrender. American leaders felt that the only way to get Japan to surrender would be to invade the main island of Japan. However, they feared this would cost the lives of up to 1 million US soldiers. Instead of invading, President Harry S. Truman decided to use a new weapon called the atomic bomb. The first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, It completely destroyed the city and killed thousands and thousands of people. Japan did not surrender. Another atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan. This time the Japanese decided to surrender. Doolittle demonstrated that large B bomber planes could take off from air craft carriers. Japanese fighter pilots would purposely crash their planes into US ships in what were called Kamikaze attacks. They agreed to attack Japanese forces in Manchuria on August 8, This also helped in forcing Japan to surrender. This includes the killing of up to 20 million Chinese people. They used biological weapons and tortured prisoners of war. Activities Take a ten question quiz about this page.

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