

Chapter 12 Lesson 2

The Pacific

- 1) Immediately after Pearl Harbor, there was little the US could do to stop Japan in the Pacific and Southeast Asia.
- 2) Within a few hours the Japanese attacked the Philippines. Under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, the troops retreated to the Bataan Peninsula where they held out against the Japanese for over 3 months. MacArthur was evacuated to maintain the morale of the American public. The troops then surrendered to the Japanese and were marched to a prison camp on what is now known as the Bataan Death March. About 10,000 of the 78,000 prisoners died on the march. In May of 1942, the last holdouts on Corregidor surrendered, the Philippines had fallen.
- 3) The Doolittle Raid occurred in April of 1942. The mission was not designed to do great damage to Japan but to raise American morale. The raid was an example of American ingenuity. Short range bombers on carriers could not reach Japan because of Japanese ships patrolling the North Pacific and long range bombers weren't made to fly from and land on carriers. The bombers were modified to make the flight and the landings were to be in China. On April 18, bombs fell on Japan for the first time. One crew landed in the USSR and was interred for a year, the others landed or crashed near or in China. Some were captured by the Japanese in China and three crew members were executed.
- 4) The Doolittle Raid caused the Japanese to alter their strategy and attack Midway Island, in order to draw out the American fleet and destroy it.
- 5) The Japanese divided their fleet and prepared to attack Midway and New Guinea at the same time. The Americans had broken the Japanese code and were prepared for the assault. Two carriers were sent to the Coral Sea to intercept the Japanese and protect New Guinea and the supply lines to Australia. (Battle of Coral Sea)
- 6) Code Talkers—Navajos were recruited by the marines to relay messages. The Navajos created code words in their own language so that messages could be relayed quickly without the use of code machines.
- 7) Battle of Midway Island—Admiral Nimitz set up an ambush of the Japanese fleet at Midway—in the initial attack, 38 planes were shot down and the American planes were able to attack and destroy four aircraft carriers—362 Americans died and 3,057 Japanese died.
- 8) Island hopping—after stopping Japanese advancement the new strategy was one of island hopping--to move across the Pacific by attacking some islands, skipping others, to reach all the way across to Japan

Throughout 1943 and 1944, the US and their Allies continued the island hopping strategy across the Pacific. The island hopping followed two paths.

- 1) **August, 1942- February 1943: Guadalcanal (in the Solomon Islands) was a hard fought battle for control of the island. The Allies were successful. Troops led by MacArthur.**
- 2) November, 1943: Tarawa, tremendously bloody battle for an atoll heavily defended by the Japanese, the Marines won the battle after about 76 hours of intense battle and approximately 6,000 dead. The amphibious played a vital role in delivering troops to the beaches. Many marines

died because they were not safely delivered to the beaches. Amphtracs became more common after this battle.

- 3) 1944: New Guinea, Gilbert Islands
- 4) June-July 1944: Saipan (Mariana Islands) The US wanted to use these islands as bases for the new B-29 Superfortress bomber
- 5) July-August 1944: Guam (Mariana Islands)
- 6) October, 1944: Battle of Leyte Gulf, largest naval battle of WWII, followed by battle for Leyte on land, US victory, opened the door to US recovery of the Philippines and cut Japan off from valuable resources, first battle with organized kamikaze attacks
- 7) Late 1944- 1945: battle for the Philippines continues, liberation occurs on July 5

Chapter 12 Lesson 4

- 8) February- March 1945: Iwo Jima, battle of strategic importance because of the island's proximity to Japan and because it had two airfields, only battle where the US Marines lost more soldiers than the Japanese
- 9) Fire-bombing of Japan—B-29's were used to drop bombs filled with napalm (jellied gasoline) on Tokyo in March of 1945—80,000 people died—later other major Japanese cities were firebombed
- 10) April-June 1945: Okinawa, major, decisive battle, about 300 miles from Japan, control of the island would be imperative to Allied attack on Japan, great loss of life for the Japanese over 80,000 troops (less than 15,000 for US), damaging also to civilians
- 11) After Okinawa, the Emperor urged Japan's government to end the war. But America demanded an unconditional surrender and many wanted the removal of the Emperor. The Japanese were unwilling to surrender in this fashion.
- 12) Before the use of the atomic bombs there was great debate about how they should be used. President Truman decided to use the bomb to prevent the massive loss of life expected from an invasion of Japan.
- 13) August 6, 1945: the bombing of Hiroshima, massive death, some instantly and others after months, between 90,000 and 166,000
- 14) August 9, 1945: the bombing of Nagasaki, 40,000 to 80,000 killed
- 15) August 14, 1945: Truman announces Japan's surrender
- 16) August 15, 1945: Emperor Hirohito accepts the demands for an unconditional surrender
- 17) September 2, 1945: official ceremony of surrender aboard the USS Missouri