



The War in the Pacific: 1941 - 1945

Department of the Interior

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Park History Web Manager
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Overview of Today's Talk

1. Review the highlights of the events and people central to the War in the Pacific.
2. Discuss the related NPS historic sites.
3. Identify the NPS resources available for research and study.



The War Begins for America

Dec. 7, 1943
Dear Mother,

Two years ago, on a sunny and yet snappy Sunday afternoon, I was returning to Conway [Hall] after a good roast beef dinner and an hour of rearranging the fraternity furniture from the pledge formal of the night before. As I came up the walk Professor Fink rushed from his house next door and shouted, "The Japanese have bombed Pearl Harbor."

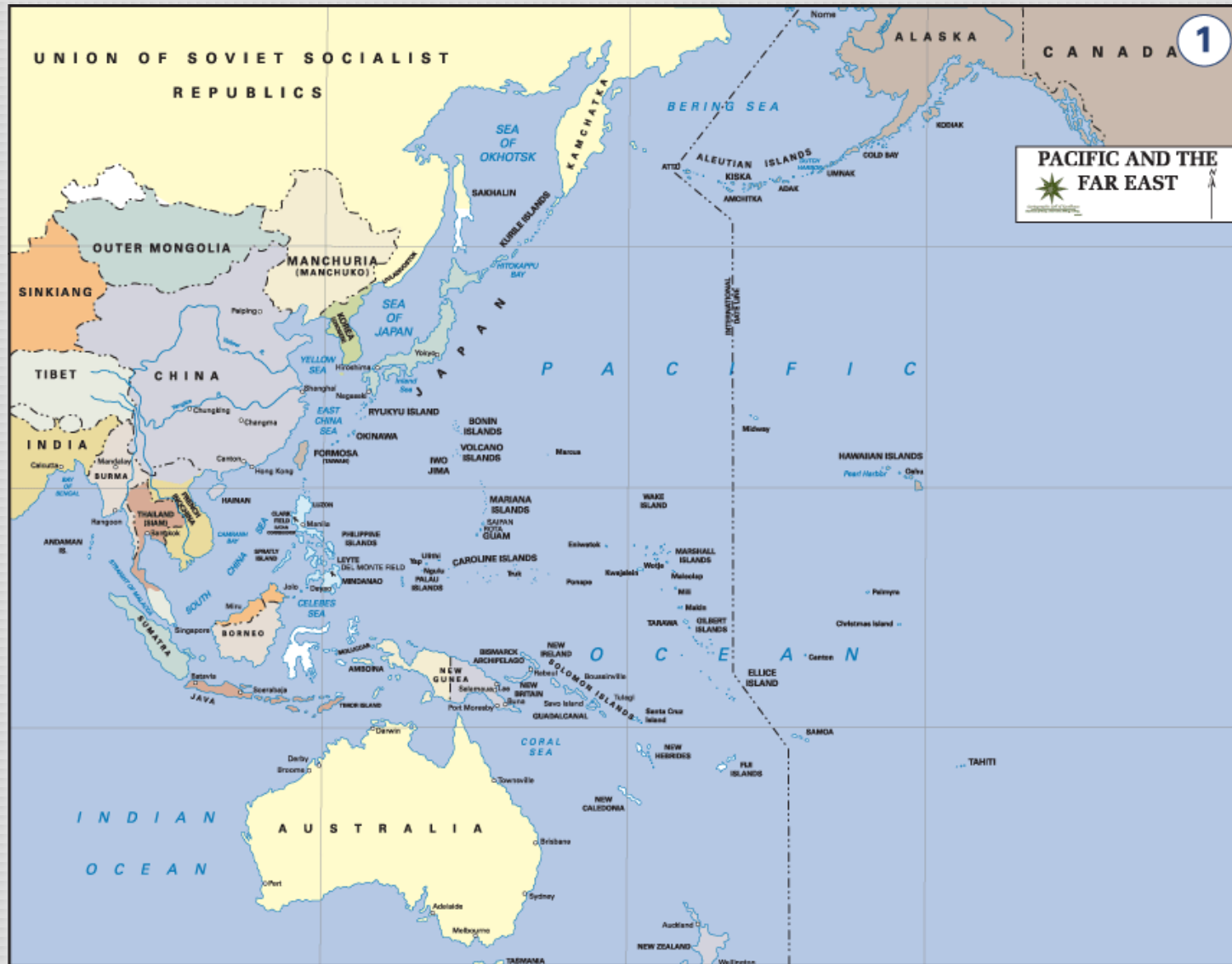
That moment changed the whole course of my life.

--Air Cadet Ralph Lee Minker

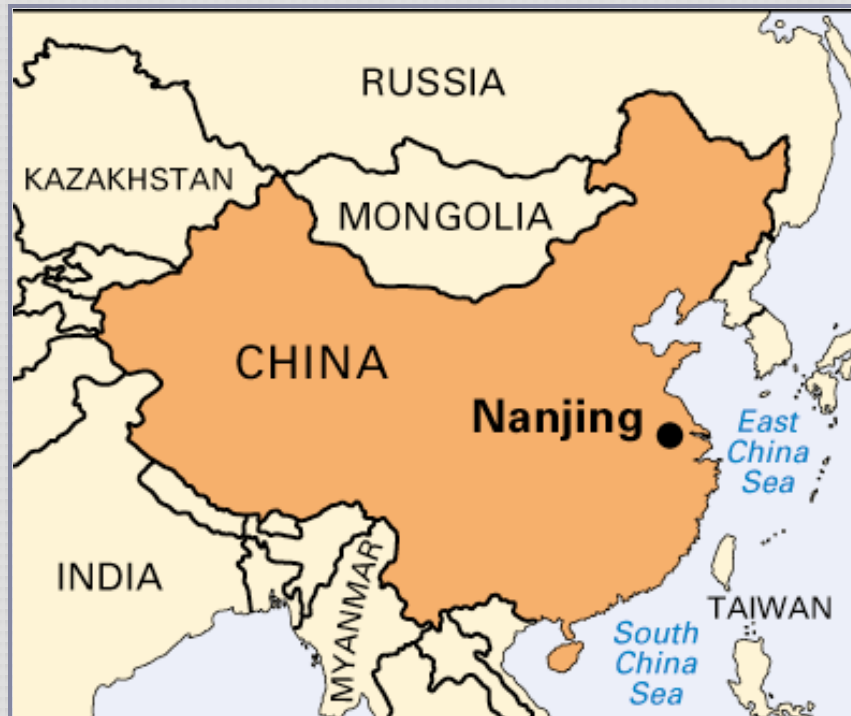


from An American Family in World War II
edited by Minker, O'Connell and Butowsky

The War in the Pacific



Rape of Nanking 1937



Tripartite Pact 1940



Japanese Military Leaders



**Prime Minister
Hideki Tojo**



**Fleet Admiral
Isoroku Yamamoto**

U.S. Military Leaders - 1941

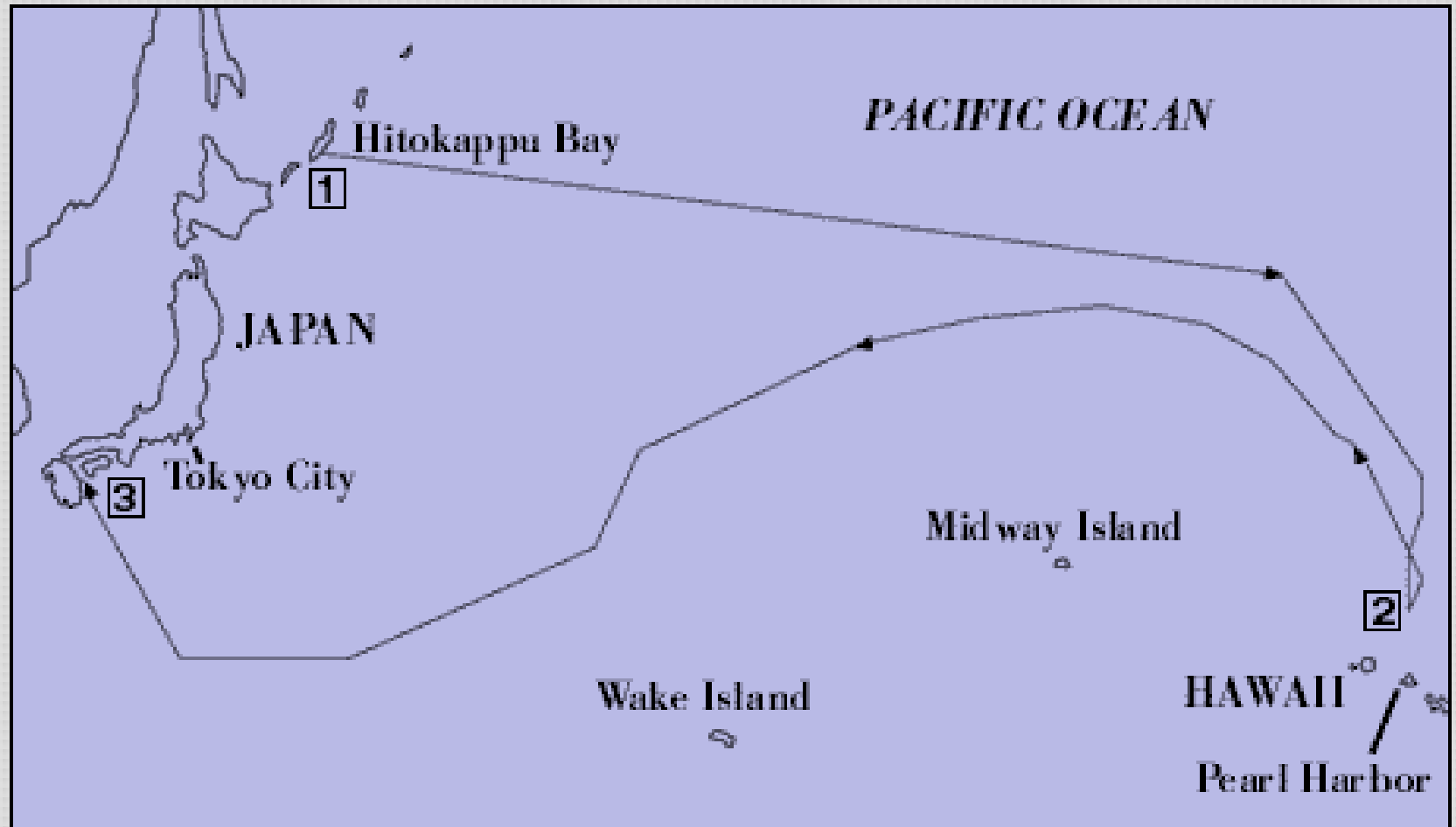


Admiral Husband Kimmel



General Walter Short

Japanese Fleet Approaches Pearl Harbor

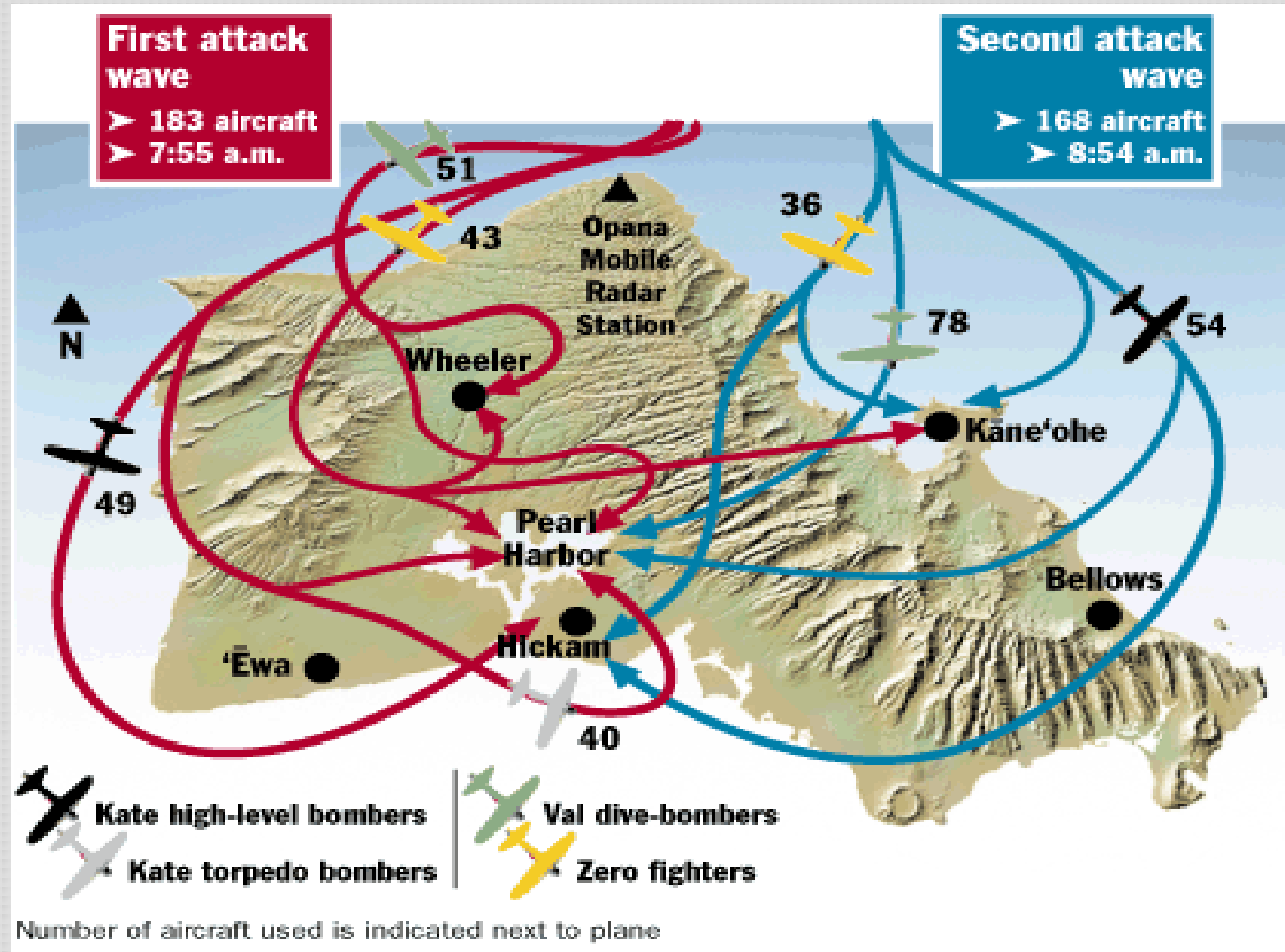


Opana Radar Site

December 7, 1941



Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941



The *USS Arizona* Burns and Sinks, December 7, 1941



Wake Island Defenses (1941)



Wake Island in August 1941



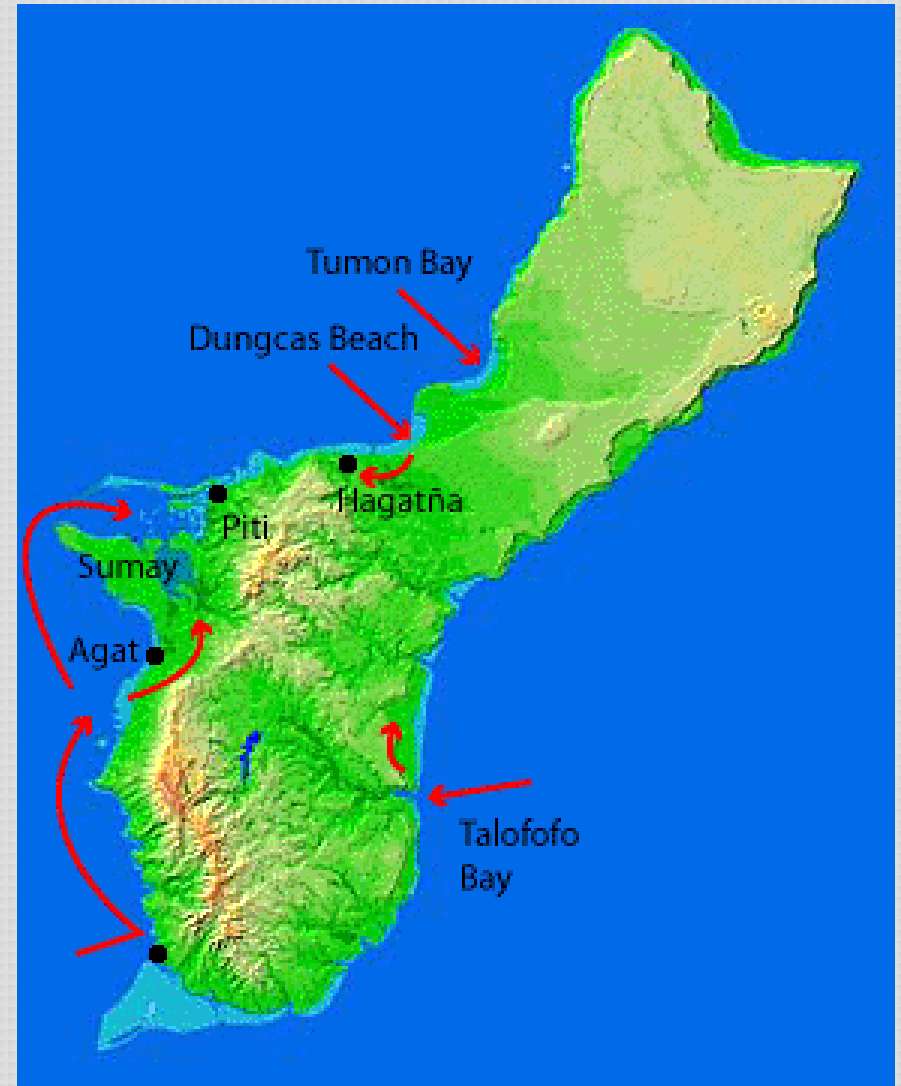
Japanese Pillbox



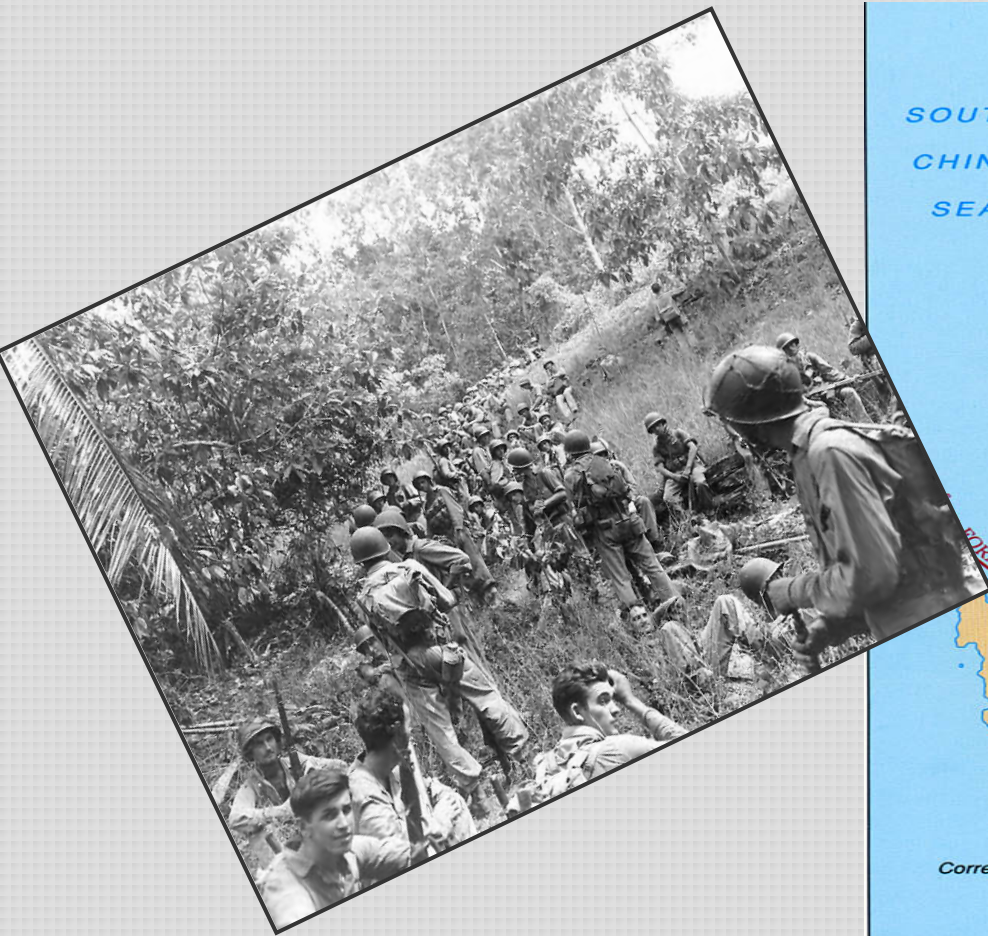
USMC Artwork



Japanese invasion of Guam – December 1941



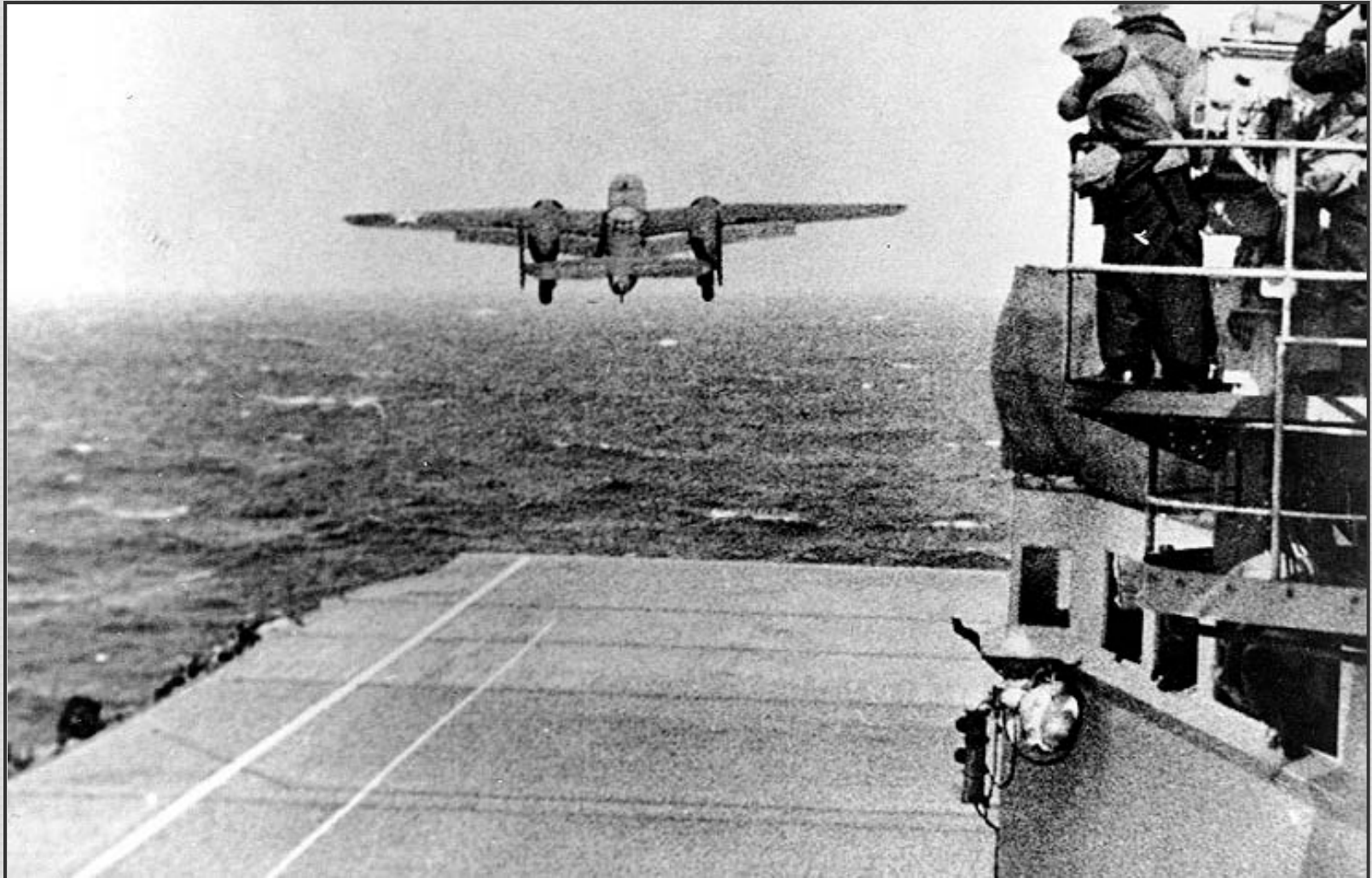
The Philippines



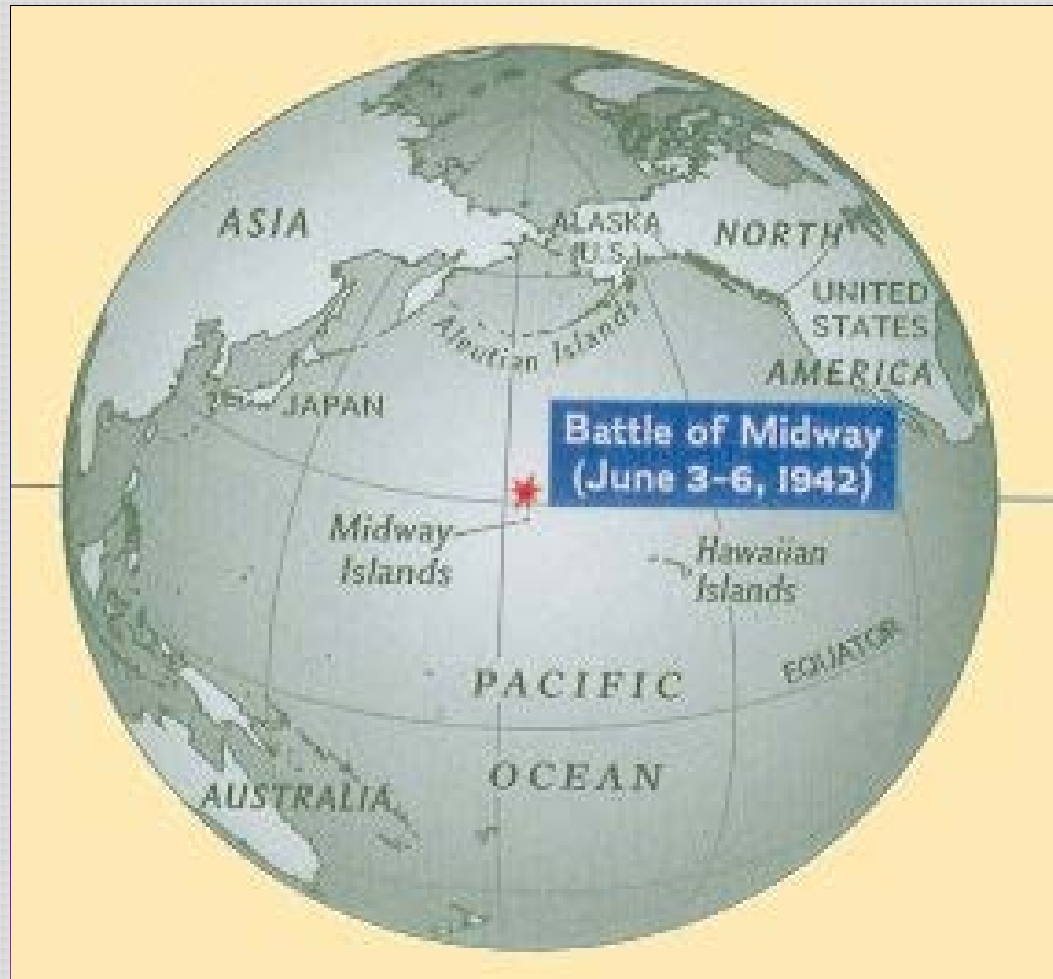
Bataan Death March (1942)



Doolittle Raid on Japan, April 1942



Battle of Midway



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Burning oil tanks on Midway Island 1942



Aleutian Islands – June 1942



Aleutian WWII National Historic Area

Air Raid Dutch Harbor! – June 3-4, 1942



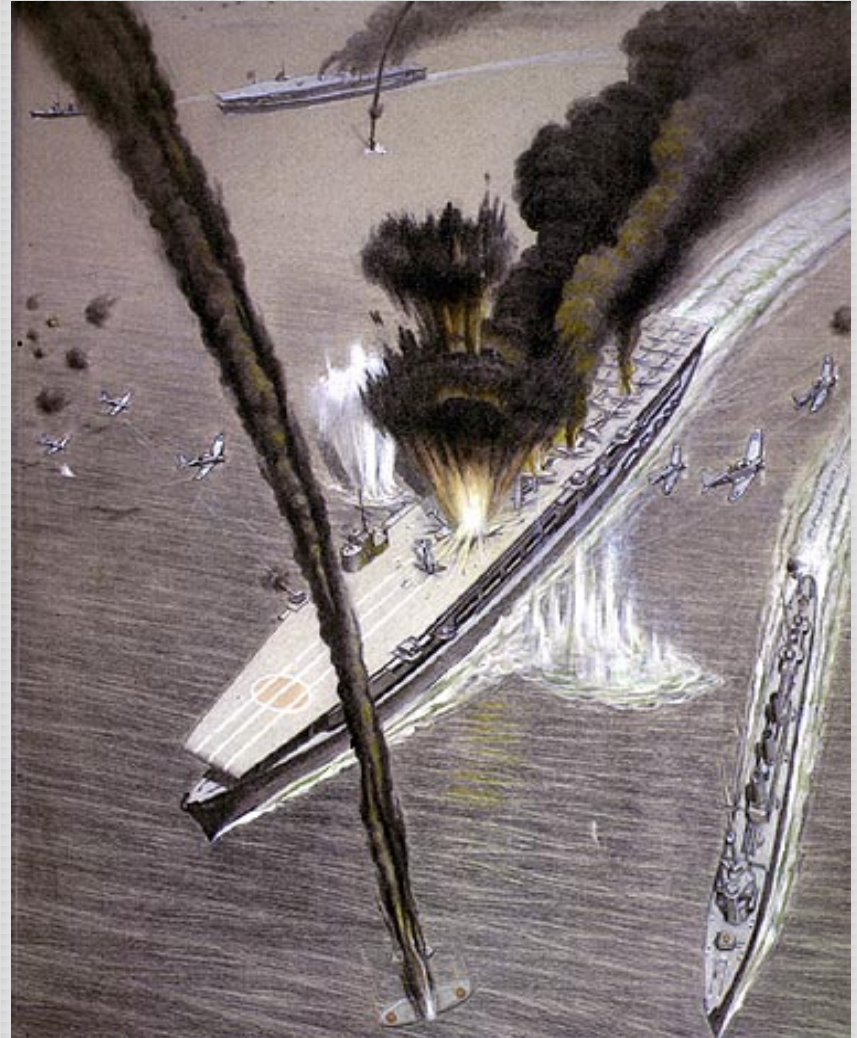
USS Enterprise June 4, 1942



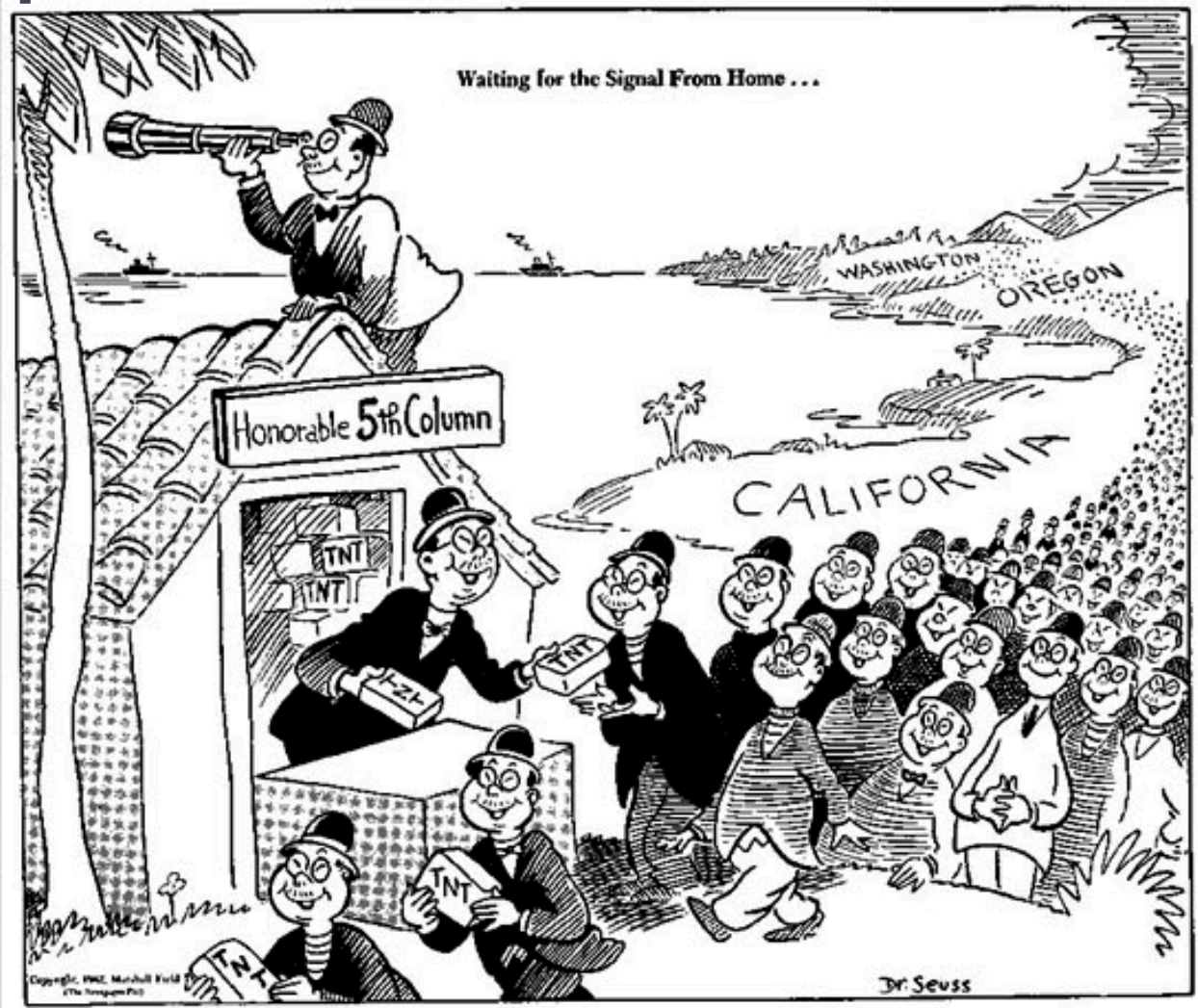
The Sinking of the Akagi

June 4, 1942

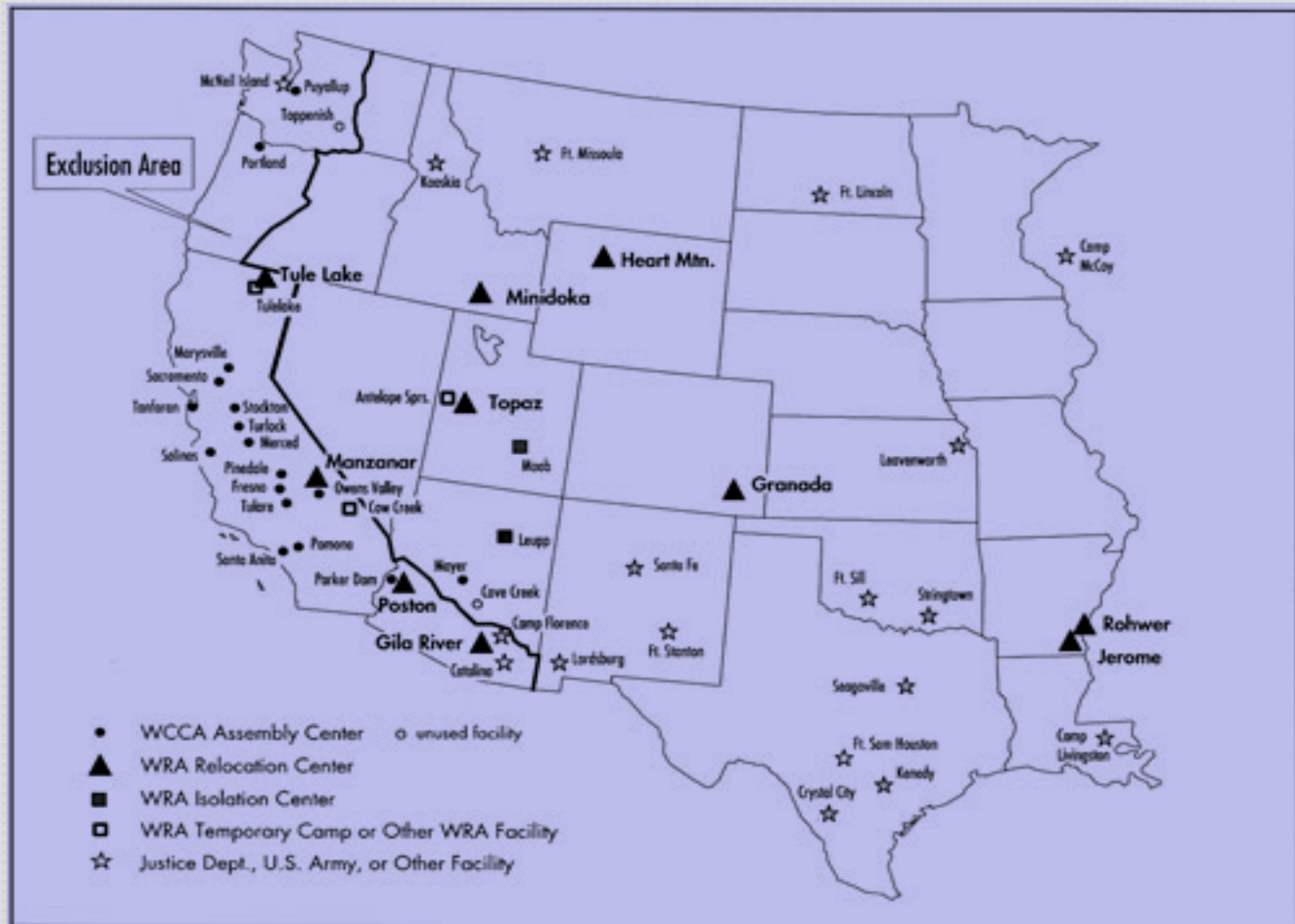
One of the aircraft carriers that
attacked Pearl Harbor



Anti-Japanese Sentiment



World War II Japanese American Internment Camps (1942-1945)

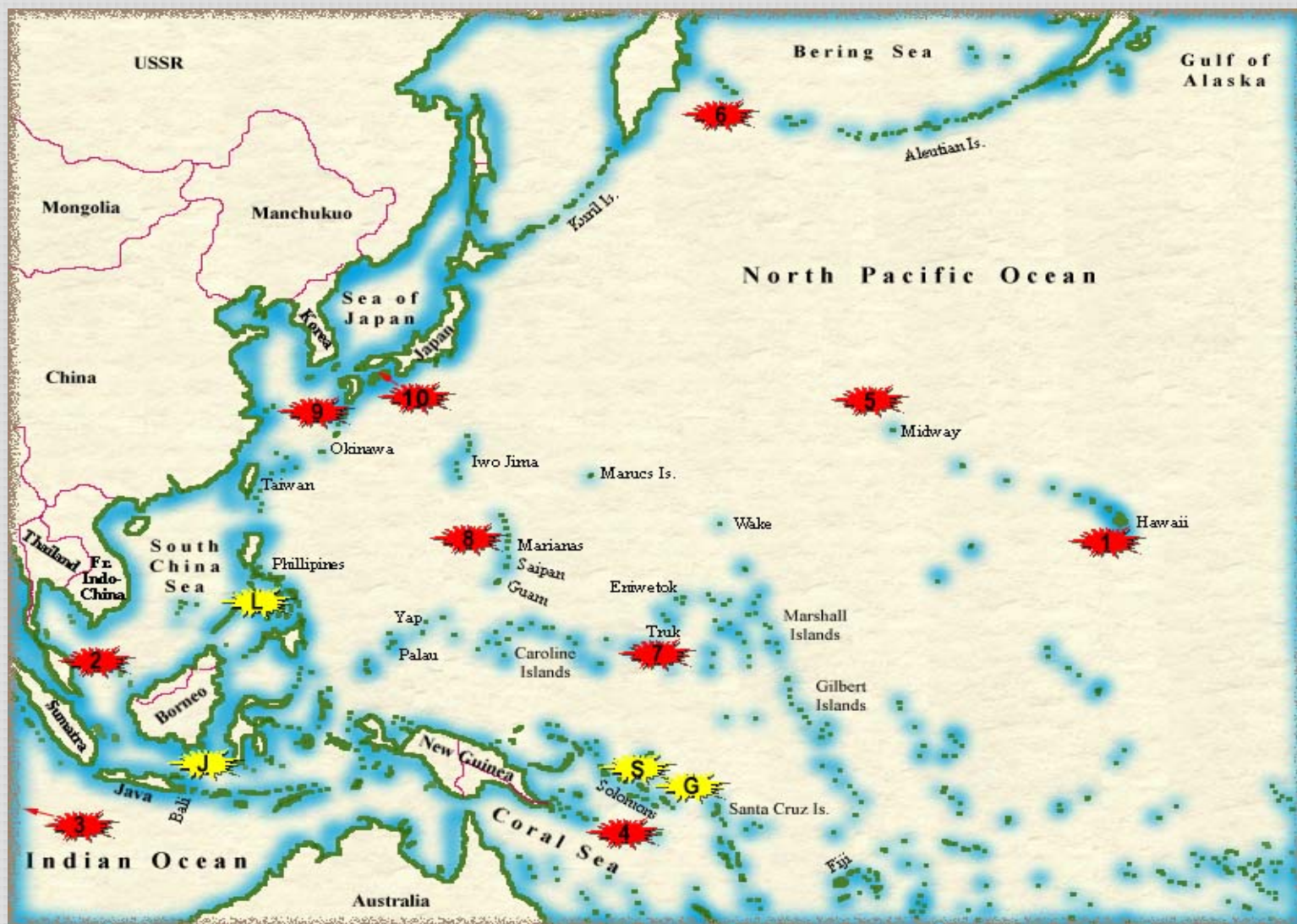


Manzanar Relocation Center



Manzanar National
Historic Site, CA

Pacific Battles (1941-1945)



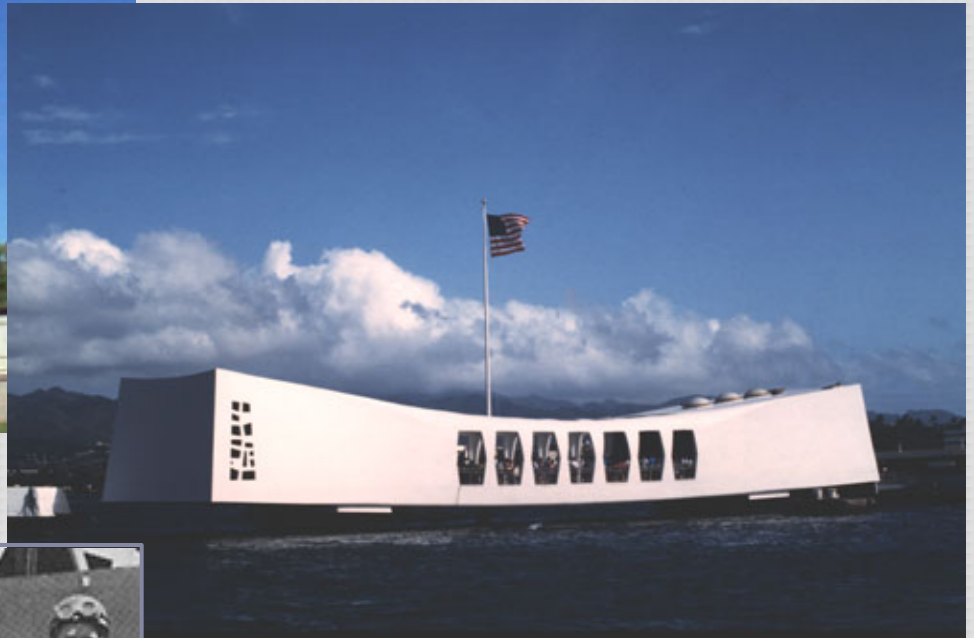
Pacific Campaigns

- Island Hopping – Tarawa, Saipan, Guam, Iwo Jima, Okinawa
- Guadalcanal, New Guinea
- Philippines
- Blockade of Japan
- Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- Japanese surrender, August 14, 1945



Deck of the USS Missouri

17 World War II National Parks



ROSIE THE RIVETER
World War II / Home Front National Historical Park
RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA
THE ROSIE THE RIVETER TRUST
"HONORING THOSE WHO TOILED IN THE ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY"

NPS Resources for Research

- NPS history website
www.nps.gov/history/index.htm
- Landmarks 100+ (national significance)
- Landmark Studies (100+)
- Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corp campaign studies
- Special history studies
- Submerged cultural resource studies

100+ National Historic Landmarks



Trinity Site

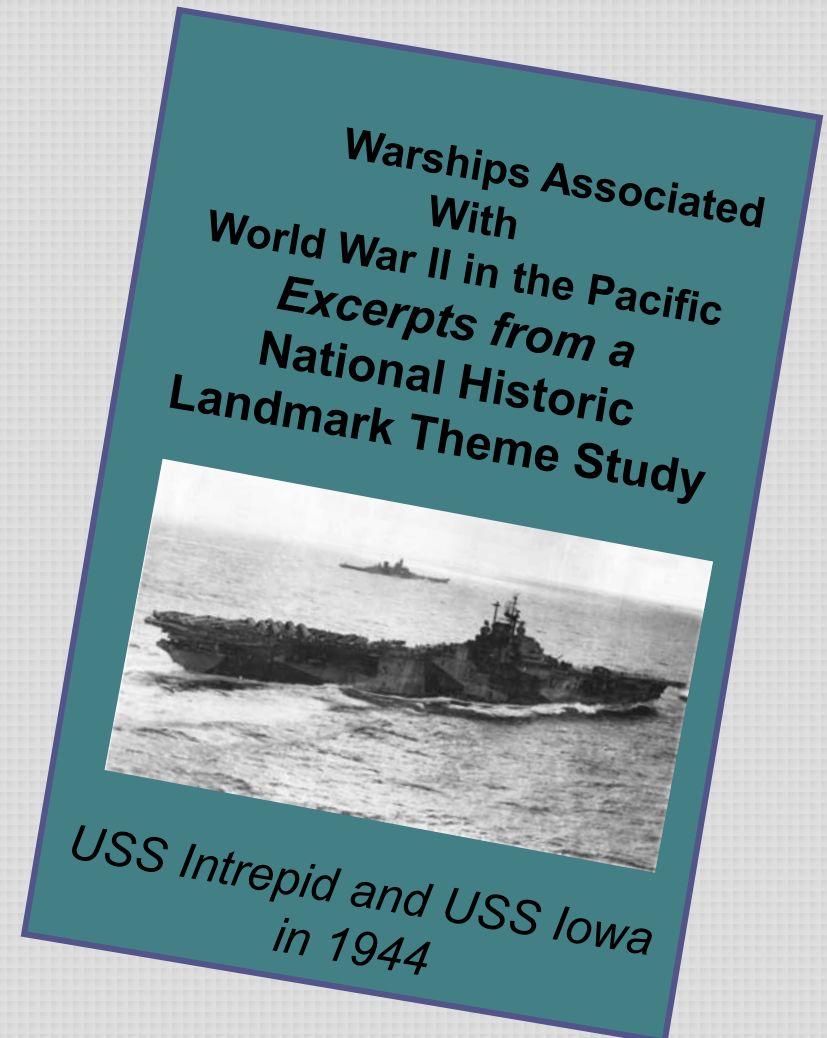
- Site of the first atomic bomb explosion, July 16, 1945.
- White Sands, New Mexico

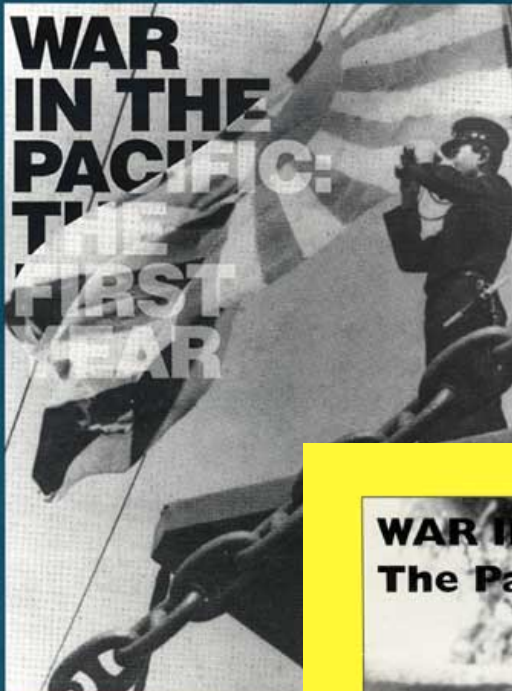


Opana Radar Site
Oahu, Hawaii

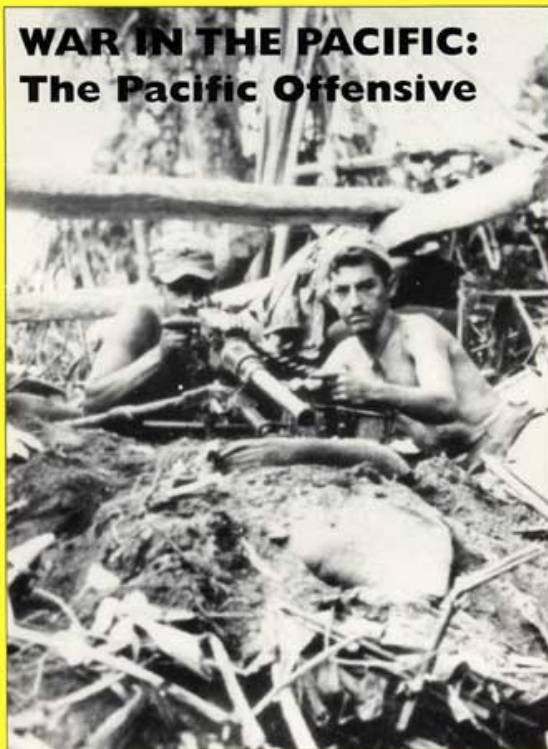
100+ National Park Service WWII in the Pacific Studies

- *Warships Associated with World War II in the Pacific*
- *World War II in the Pacific National Historic Landmark Theme Study*
- *Confinement and Ethnicity*
- Multiple Studies for all of our World War II Parks





**WAR IN THE PACIFIC:
The Pacific Offensive**



**BREACHING THE
MARIANAS:
THE BATTLE
FOR SAIPAN**

MARINES IN
WORLD WAR II
COMMEMORATIVE SERIES

BY CAPTAIN JOHN C. CHAPIN
U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE (RET)



Washington DC World War II Memorials

- World War II Memorial
- Iwo Jima (USMC) Memorial
- FDR Memorial
- National Mall
- President's Park (White House)

America Remembers . . . For the Veterans



And Future Generations

