

AN ABC OF WWII: PACIFIC THEATER

A IS FOR ASIA

A continent ready to explode!

Since the 17th. Century, **European colonial powers** such as **Britain, France, Portugal, Holland, and Russia**, had been in contact and had established their colonial rule over many parts of the Asian continent. The **Americans** were latecomers but did hold colony in the Philippines.

After **Japan** defeated the **Russians** in the **Russo-Japanese War of 1905**, the power of the West no longer considered being invincible.

Japan also felt that it needed an empire in order to become a major power and equal to other imperial powers. It **saw mainland Asia**, China and the resource rich European colonies as ripe for inclusion into the **Japanese sphere of influence**. The desire of Japan was also reflected in desires for self-rule in India, Burma, and Indonesia. The weak and civil war torn China refused Japan's offer of ties. **With the war in Europe going badly for the European powers**, it was a region ready for dramatic political and economic redesign.



The Southern and eastern regions of the Asian Continent.

Research Topics

Choose One Topic:

- **Research and report on the origins of the Russo-Japanese War and its outcome.**
- **Research and report on the European powers holdings in China in 1930.**
- **Research and report on the Chinese civil war between the Communists and the Nationalists.**
- **Research and report on nationalism desires in the British colonies of India and Burma.**
- **Research and report on the Japanese rationale for Empire.**
- **Research and report on the general state of South Asia 65 years after WWII. Choose one country on which to make a specific report, e.g. Japan, China, India, Burma, Indonesia, Malaysia.**

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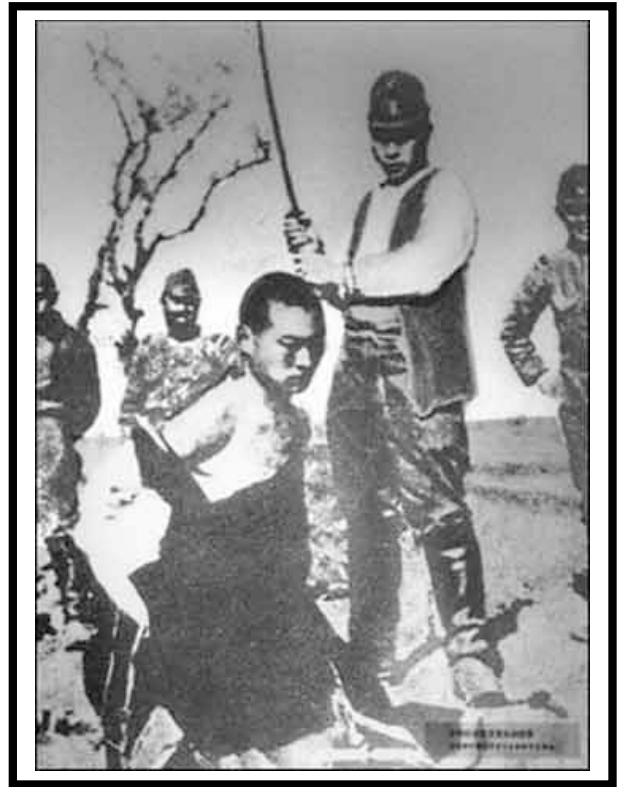
B FOR BUSHIDO

Japan's Samurai warrior code.

Bushido was the Japanese Warrior code established in the middle ages. It was a code of behaviour intended as a guide to a way of life, similar to that of the Code of Chivalry undertaken by the European Knights of the European Middle Ages.

The **Code of Bushido** became more a vehicle through which the Japanese soldiers were taught to consider only defeat of the enemy and to show no concern or pity for others. The thought of surrender was an anathema to the Japanese soldier.

Such action would bring dishonor to his family. This way of thinking, along, with the common brutality of soldiers within the Japanese Armed forces, was manifest in the brutal and often horrific treatment of captured allied soldiers.



Chinese soldier about to be beheaded by Japanese soldier.

Research Topics

Choose One Topics:

- Research and report on the origins of the Japanese Code of Bushido.
- Research and report on the role that this military code played in the treatment of captured allied military.
- Research and report on the Japanese treatment of Chinese civilians and military.
- Research and report on the number of Japanese casualties vs those captured in battle. For example: the Battle of Okinawa. To what degree do you think the Code of Bushido influenced?
- Research and report on the treatment and training of a Japanese soldier of the 1930 – 45 period.

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C IS FOR **C**ARRIERS,

Task forces at sea seeking dominance.

The Pacific Theatre was the **Theatre of the Carrier**. The **Japanese navy** was the first to introduce this capital ship and held the edge in the early stages of the war. **The US navy**, however, backed by an innovative and dynamic industrial base was to **become the definitive Carrier navy**. The **Carrier Task Force** became the naval battle group and the **Carrier displaced the Battleship** as the 'supreme' naval vessel. The British introduced the first aircraft carrier but did not have a significant Carrier force.



Research Topics

Choose One Topic

- **Research and report on the evolution of the Aircraft Carrier in the USN.**
- **Profile a famous USN or Japanese Carrier of the Pacific Theater.**
- **Research and report on the type of aircraft carried by the USN Carriers and their specific roles.**
- **Research and report on why the war in the Pacific was considered a Carrier war.**

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D FOR DOOLITTLE,

air raid on Japan gained him prominence.

On April 18, 1942, 16 Mitchell B-25 bombers took off from the carrier USS Hornet. Each carried a 1-ton bomb load and they took the Japanese air defenses by surprise. After a 700-mile flight, they released their load on Tokyo, Kobe, and Yokohama. It was more a political/symbolic strike but it had a tremendous psychological impact on the Japanese. It had a great morale boosting impact on the USA.



Research Topics

Choose One Topic

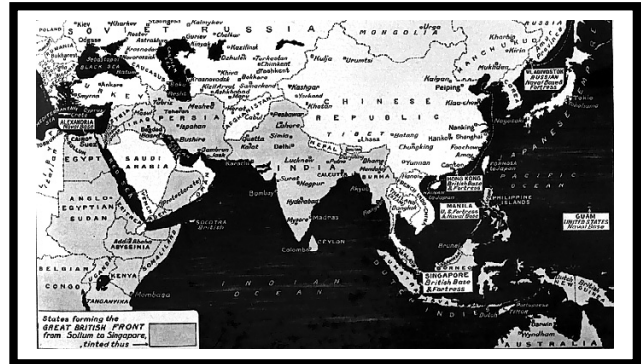
- Profile General Jimmy Doolittle.
- Research and report on the Doolittle raid.
- Research and report on the use of the Mitchell B-25 in the Pacific.
- Research and report on the challenge faced by the B-25 taking off from a carrier.
- Research and report on the impact of the raid on the Japanese.

AN ABC OF WWII: PACIFIC THEATER

E IS FOR EMPIRES,

a collision course could be read.

For centuries Asia had been the realm of **European Powers** such as **Britain, France and Holland**. The **Japanese** also wished to **evolve as a dominant Empire in Asia** and saw the European Empires as a challenge to their “Asian” right to dominate. The successes of Germany were viewed as an opportunity for Japan to ‘secure’ the Asian Empire remnants from the defeated French, Dutch, and potentially, the British. The role of the **USA in the Philippines** was also felt to be an obstacle to Japanese aims of Empire expansion.



Research Topics

Choose One Topic

- **Research and report on the number of Empires evident in Asia and the Western Pacific in the early 20th Century.**
- **Research and report on factors contributed to the start of their decline.**
- **Research and report on America’s “colonial empire” in the Western Pacific.**

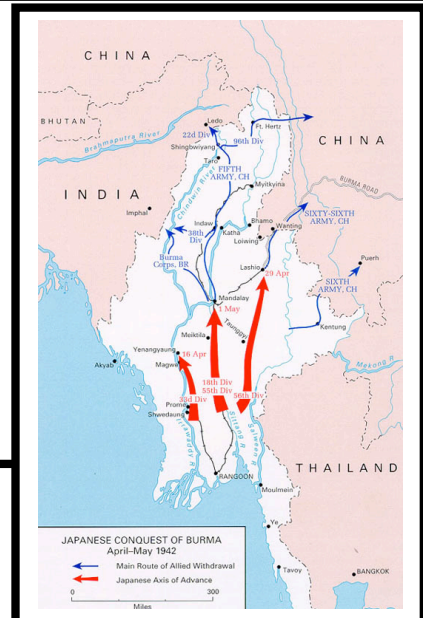
AN ABC OF WWII: PACIFIC THEATER

F FOR FORGOTTEN,

of Britain's Army of
Burma, it was said.



Because of the war with Germany, few professional troops could be spared to defend Malaya. The **14th Army was the largest World War II army of Commonwealth troops**, its ranks swelled by conscripts and soldiers from all over the British Empire. **The speed of the invasion took everyone by surprise.** By the end of 1942, the Japanese had captured the whole of Malaya. The conscript's initiation into war was sudden and often deadly. The **"Forgotten Army"** continued to fight in **appalling conditions until VJ day, mostly in Burma.**



Research Topics

Choose One Topic

- **Research and report on the challenge faced by the British 14th Army during WWII.**
- **Research and report on the role of British Commonwealth soldiers in Burma.**
- **Research and report on one major Battle between the British and Japanese in Burma.**
- **Research and report on the status of the Burma Front when Japan surrendered.**

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G IS FOR GUADALCANAL

US Marines tested and won.

As part of the **U.S. strategy** in the Pacific following the July 2 JCS decision, Nimitz planned attack on the Solomons, codenamed Operation Watchtower on July 3. When radio intelligence discovered Japan building an airfield on Guadalcanal, the island became the first target, codename "Cactus." It was here that the **Japanese Army suffers its first defeat** of the war. **American 'green' troops defeat some of the most battle hardened Japanese.** The battle started in August 1942 with the landing of the **U.S. 1st Marine Division.** Army units arrived in October 1942 to reinforce the Marines. The **battle officially ended in April 1943.** 1500 Americans and 25,000 Japanese died on the island.



Research Topics

Choose One Topic.

- **Research and report on the Battle of Alligator Creek.**
- **Research and report on the Battle of Bloody Ridge.**
- **Profile the Japanese commanders Ichiki and Kawaguchi.**
- **Profile US Marine commander Lt. Col. Merritt Edson.**
- **Research and report on the importance of securing Henderson Field.**
- **Research and report on the US Navy decision to 'abandon' the Marines after the Battle of Savo Island, after the initial landing on Guadalcanal.**
- **Research and report on the significance of Guadalcanal as a turning point in the Pacific War.**

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H FOR HONG KONG,

fell on Christmas Day, '41.

The Royal Rifles of Canada and The Winnipeg Grenadiers, commanded by Brigadier J. K. Lawson, sailed from Vancouver on October 27, 1941. The embarkation strength of the force was **96 officers and 1,877 other ranks**. The units had **not received all the required training** for front line troops, but war with Japan was not considered imminent. It was believed that there would be plenty of opportunity for further training. Within three weeks they were to become the **first Canadian soldiers to fight as a unit in the Second World War**, when in almost simultaneous attacks on Pearl Harbor, Northern Malaya, the Philippines, Guam, Wake Island and Hong Kong, **Japan brought war to the Pacific**.



Victorious Japanese enter Hong Kong



Canadians en route to Hong Kong

Research Topics

Choose One Topic

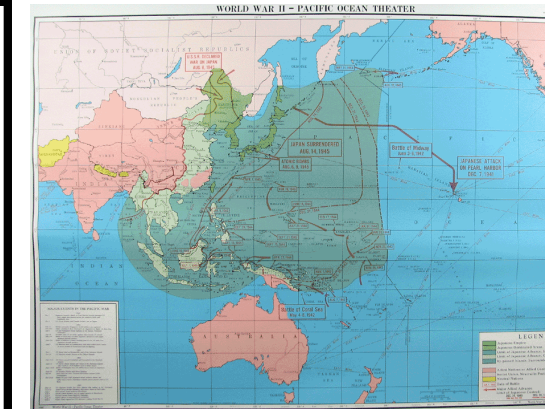
- Research and report on the fall of Hong Kong.
- Research and report on the impact of the loss so soon after Pearl Harbor.
- Profile the Commanders of the both the Japanese and Allied forces.
- Research and profile the behaviour of the Japanese towards the military prisoners and the Hong Kong civilian population.

AN ABC OF WWII: PACIFIC THEATER

I IS FOR ISLANDS,

Stepping-stones for US Marines.

The **geography** of the Pacific Theatre is dominated by **island groups spread over millions of square kilometres** of the world's greatest ocean. It was **geography then that dictated the nature of Pacific Theatre warfare**. It was the realm of the **greatest naval battles** in history and was the realm of a new type of warfare evolved by and improved upon by the US Marines with every new landing. **Amphibious Warfare** began with the landings on **Guadalcanal in August 1942** and ended with the landings on **Okinawa on April 1, 1945**.



Research Topics

Choose One Topic

- **Research and prepare a large map to show the routes followed by US forces in recapturing the Japanese held islands. Show the dates of operations.**
- **Choose a specific island battle and research the military resources that were used in order to undertake the operation.**
- **Profile a US Naval and a Marine commander from one specific island battle.**
- **Research and profile a Medal of Honor winner from any Island battle.**

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J FOR JAPAN

Co-prosperity sphere, one of her dreams.

After defeating Russia in the 1905 Russo-Japanese war, Japan was established as major power. As a result, Japan had aspirations equal to those of the other 'Great Powers' of Europe and of America. Japan viewed herself as the leading power of Asia and felt that it was destined to be the supreme economic and military power of the region. The European and American dominance of Asia, coupled with their reluctance to see Japan as an equal, intensified the Japanese desire to become dominant. Japan's lack of resources reinforced the need for them to establish an Asian colonial rule. Events in Europe at the start of 1940 provided an incentive to 'liberate' Asians from European domination.



Research Topics

Choose One Topic

- Research and report on the Japanese concept of the Co-prosperity Sphere.
- Research and report on the actions of the Japanese in each of the nations it invaded where the co-prosperity concept was to be implemented.
- Research and report on how the Japanese saw their role.
- Research and report on one of the countries "Liberated" by Japan.

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K IS FOR KAMIKAZE

‘Divine Wind’ a fearsome sight.

The word **kamikaze** means "divine wind". In 1281 the **Mongol’s armada**, led by Kublai Khan were **attempting to invade the Japanese islands**. Kublai Khan’s plan was practically assured, but a **typhoon pushed back and destroyed the Mongol fleet**. The typhoon was said to have been sent by God; the **Divine Wind**. The name kamikaze says a great deal about how the Japanese felt towards kamikaze missions and kamikaze pilots, as if the idea of the kamikaze was of divine origin. As **the approach to the Home Islands by US & Allied forces was viewed as a similar threat to that made by the Mongols in the 13th Century**. The kamikaze attacks took a toll on USN vessels and crew.



Research Topics

Choose One Topic

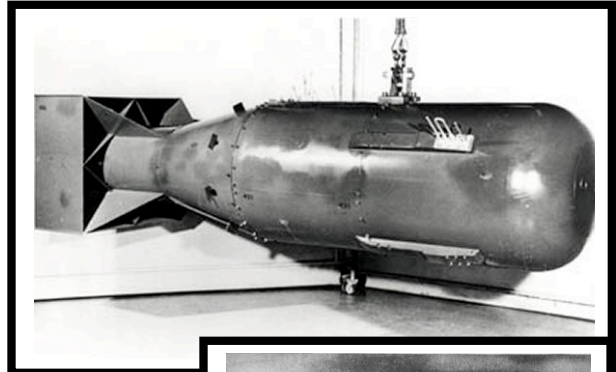
- **Research and report on the first incidence of Kamikaze attacks.**
- **Research and report on the total damage done to the USN by Kamikaze attacks.**
- **Research and report on the Kamikaze attack on USS Missouri.**

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L FOR LITTLE Boy,

dropped on Hiroshima to end
the fight.

On August 6, 1945, a B-29 bomber named *Enola Gay* took off from the island of Tinian and headed north by northwest toward Japan. The primary target was the city of Hiroshima, located on Honshu Island facing the Inland Sea. Hiroshima had a population of almost 300,000 and was an important military center. The bomber, piloted by Colonel Paul Tibbets, flew at low altitude before climbing to 31,000 feet as it neared the target area. At approximately 8:15 a.m. the *Enola Gay* released "Little Boy," its 9,700-pound uranium bomb. Tibbets immediately dove away to avoid the anticipated shock wave. Forty-three seconds later, a huge explosion lit the morning sky as Little Boy detonated 1,900 feet above the city. The explosion was later estimated at 15 kilotons (the equivalent of 15,000 tons of TNT).



Research Topics

Choose One Topic;

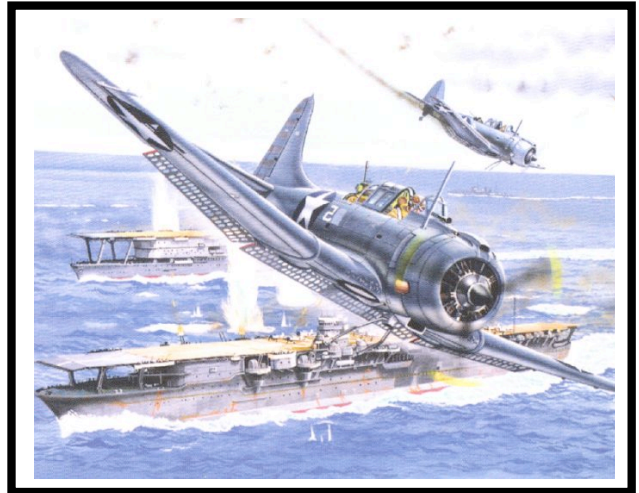
- Research and report on The Manhattan Project.
- Research and report on the crews and planes used to drop the bombs.
- Research and report on either of the two target cities.
- Research and report on the reaction of the Japanese government after the Atomic bomb attacks.

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M IS FOR MIDWAY,

US Navy destroys Japan's fleet.

June 4, 1942, the Battle of Midway was arguably the most decisive naval battle of World War II. The US had broken the Japanese naval code and US Admiral Nimitz knew of Yamamoto's plans. The tactical results of the battle were one-sided. The American Pacific Fleet lost only two ships, the carrier *Yorktown* and the destroyer *Hammann*. Losses included 130 aircraft and 300 killed in action. The Japanese Combined fleet losses were great: four carriers, one heavy cruiser, 275 aircraft and 3,500 killed in action. The Battle of Midway was the **Turning Point** of the Pacific War. America would be no longer on the defensive; Japan would no longer be on the offensive.



Research Topics

Choose One Topic

- Research and report on the importance of the Battle of Midway to the Americans.
- Research and report on the importance of the Battle of Midway to the Japanese.
- Profile the Commanders of both the American and Japanese fleets.
- Research the role that US code breakers played in the success of the Battle of Midway.

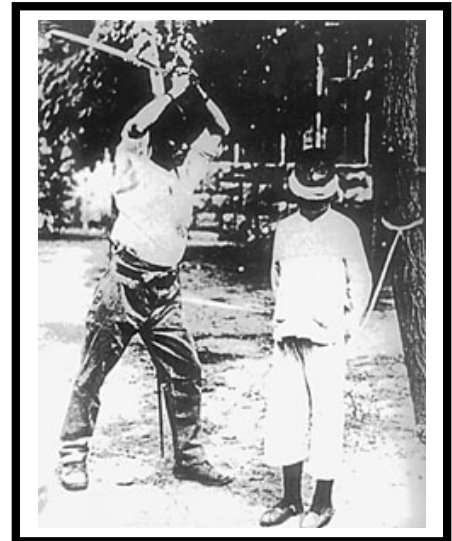
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N FOR NANKING,

**raped and pillaged after
defeat.**



A **controversial event**, Japan denies the event but eyewitness and documented reports establish the event as one of the most horrendous incidents of brutality in the Japanese war with China. **Between December 1937 and March 1938 at least 369,366 Chinese civilians and prisoners of war were slaughtered by the invading troops. An estimated 80,000 women and girls were raped; many of them were then mutilated or murdered.** The code of Bushido and the perceived fear of the more than 90,000 Chinese soldiers who had surrendered, led the Japanese to act. Surrender was an unthinkable act of cowardice and a violation of the code of military honor, Thus they looked upon Chinese POWs with utter contempt, viewing them as less than human, unworthy of life.



Research Topics

Choose One Topic

- **Research and report on why this event is still contested by the Japanese, almost 80 years on.**
- **Research and report on genocidal/mass murder of civilians in the Pacific Theatre of WWII.**
- **Research and report on the influence of Japan's military Code of Conduct during the Chinese invasion.**

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O IS FOR **O**KINAWA,

last bastion before mainland
Japan.

Okinawa, largest island in the **Ryukyu chain**, was the closest to the Japanese Home Islands. It was here that the **Japanese planned to use large numbers of kamikaze planes and suicide boats** to inflict massive casualties on the American forces. The island was ideal for the Japanese plan of fighting a **battle of attrition**. The American forces began the attack with a 7-day bombardment before the landing. An armada of **1300 ships including 40 carriers and 10 battleships** brought American military power to Japan's doorstep. Almost 70,000 military deaths were at a cost of 12,500 Allied casualties. Civilian deaths exceeded 100,000.



Research Topics

Choose One Topic

- **Research and report on this, the largest amphibious landing of the Pacific War.**
- **Research and prepare a statistical analysis of the Battle of Okinawa.**
- **Research and report on the role of the Kamikaze in the Battle of Okinawa.**
- **Profile one of the Allied or Japanese Commanders at the Battle of Okinawa.**

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P FOR PEARL HARBOR,

“Day of Infamy” where it began.

From a tactical point of view, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor is considered **one of the most brilliant operations in naval history**. The US navy did not believe that an attack on Pearl Harbor was feasible. However, at **07:53 on Sunday morning December 7, 1941**, the first wave of 183 carrier-based aircraft attacked the home base of the US Pacific Fleet. Led by commander Mitsuo Fuchida, the code, **“Tora, Tora, Tora”** (I have attacked successfully) was telegraphed back to Japanese Naval headquarters. **The raids lasted 2 hours**. Eight battleships were damaged, five sunk. Three light cruisers, three destroyers and three smaller vessels are lost along with 188 aircraft. The Japanese lost 27 planes and five midget submarines. **The Pacific Fleet aircraft carriers were not in the port**. 2,335 servicemen and 68 civilians killed, with 1,178 wounded.



Research Topics

Choose One Topic

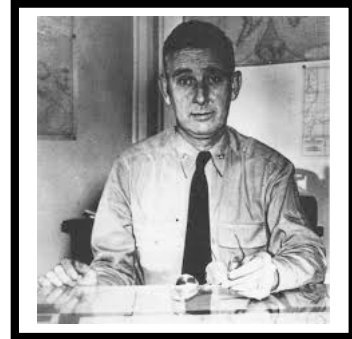
- **Research and prepare a map to show the attack routes taken by the Japanese.**
- **Research and prepare a report on the sinking of a Japanese midget Submarines off Oahu, before and after the attack on Pearl Harbor.**
- **Prepare a statistical analysis of the losses suffered by the US military at Pearl Harbor.**
- **Profile the US senior Military commanders on Oahu, Dec. 7, 1941**

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Q IS FOR QUESTIONS,

about secrets or plan.

WWII was a war of great technological breakthroughs. It was also a war that saw increasing clandestine operations. The Allies and the Axis forces placed a great deal of their intellectual resources into developing codes and into code breaking. British and American code breakers targeted the German Enigma Machine and the Japanese Purple Encryption Machine and it was critical that they be broken. Code breaking demanded special skills, intellect and creativity; as did developing codes.



**Capt. Joe Rochefort,
USN**

Research Topics

Choose One Topic

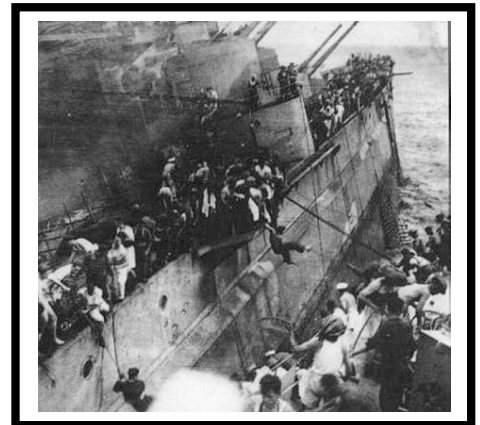
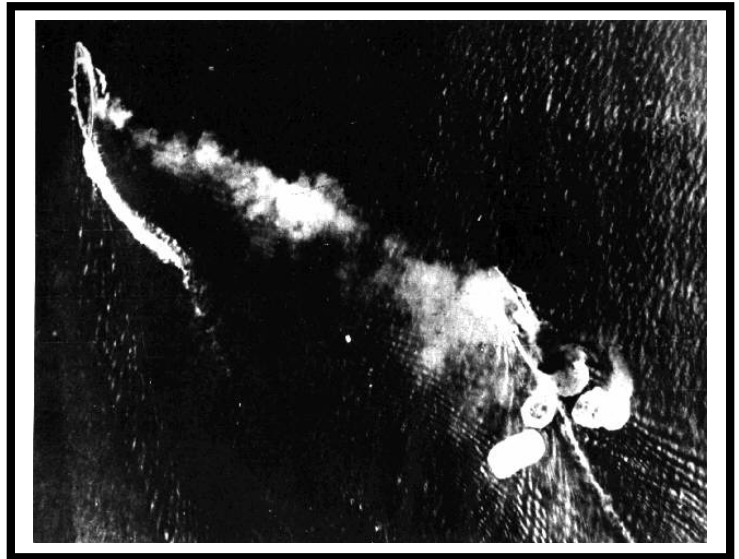
- **Profile Captain Joe Rochefort, USN and report on his role in breaking the Japanese code that enabled US forces to become aware of the Japanese plan to attack Midway.**
- **Research and report on how American Intelligence was able to eventually crack the Japanese Purple Machine.**
- **Research and report on why it was not always advantageous for the allies to use all of the information they were able to learn from their code breaking.**

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R FOR REPULSE,

**British Battleship sunk by
Japan.**

On December 10, three days after Pearl Harbor, HMS (His Majesty's Ship) Heavy Cruiser Repulse and Battleship HMS Prince of Wales, major warships of Britain's Royal Navy were sunk by Japanese bombers. The ships had been sent as a deterrent to the Japanese and help to defend the British base and colony of Singapore. There was no thought that aircraft could sink these two Capital Warships. **Propaganda insinuated that the eyesight of the Japanese pilots was bad and they had difficulty flying at night.**



Research Topics

Choose One Topic

- **Research and report on the sinking of HMS Repulse and HMS Prince of Wales by the Japanese.**
- **Research and report on the Japanese military successes against Britain and American bases in December 1941.**
- **Research and report on Billy Mitchell, the American military officer who predicted that airpower could defeat battleships.**

AN ABC OF WWII: PACIFIC THEATER

S IS FOR SPECIAL FORCES

**Chindits, Maruders, Tigers
flown.**

The war in S.E. Asia gave rise to highly mobile and specialized **British and American Special Forces and Commando units**. Their work was to infiltrate behind Japanese lines and cause havoc. The skills of these groups were to be eventually incorporated into the creation of the highly specialized units of modern American and British armed forces. These specialized forces are now included in most major military forces. A unique group was the American *Flying Tigers* who flew for China before the Japanese attacked the USA.



Research Topics

Choose One Topic

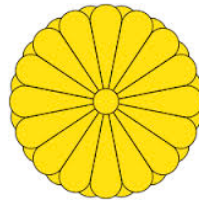
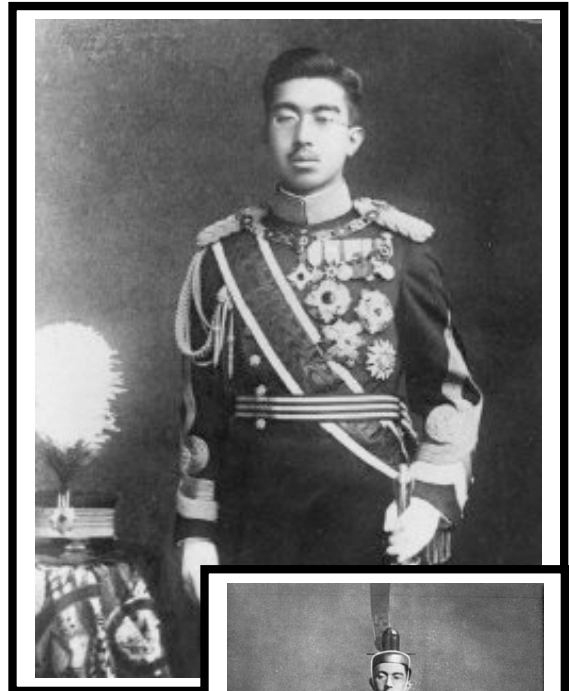
- **Research and report on the 'Flying Tigers'.**
- **Profile General Claire Chennault.**
- **Research and report on the significance of the Quadrant Conference held in Quebec, August 1943.**
- **Profile General Frank Merrill**
- **Research and report on Merrill's Marauders**
- **Profile General Orde Wingate**
- **Research and report on The Chindits**

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T FOR TOKYO

Hirohito on the Chrysanthemum throne.

The Japanese Monarchy is the oldest in the world Hirohito became Emperor of Japan in 1926. The Emperor in Japan was considered almost as a God, rarely seen or heard by the Japanese masses. His life was ritualized, as was the language of his court. As Japan became more militarized, Hirohito made no objections and he did accept the behaviour of Japanese troops viz a viz China. Upon surrender, a condition accepted was that of maintaining the Japanese throne. It was argued that it would assist in the occupation of the country. After the war many called for Hirohito to be tried for War Crimes. MacArthur was seen as the one who saw the Japanese Emperor as vital to maintaining a peaceful transition.



Research Topics

Choose One Topic

- Research and report on the history of the Japanese Monarchy.
- Research and report on the charges that Hirohito should have been charged as a war Criminal.
- Research and report on the role played by American Supreme Commander MacArthur in maintaining the Japanese Emperor.
- Research and report on the role of the Japanese Emperor today.

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U IS FOR USA,

aroused and in fury.

The United States of America was an economic colossus. Emerging from the Great Depression, and increasing its enormous industrial capacity to address the potential of war, the nation responded immediately to the Japanese attack. In a short period of time the country was on a full war footing and its industry was focused on the production of war materiel that would support its own forces and those of its allies. In the first year of the Pacific war, American military fought with pre-war weapons and fleet. By late 1943, weaponry was superior and was the product of the most efficient and effective industrial power in the world. The United States not only produced the bulk of the Allied war materiel, it also raised an armed force of 16



Research Topics

Choose One Topic

- Research and report on the role played by the USA in WWII.

Choose a sub-topic:

Arsenal of Democracy – Industrial Might harnessed
Arsenal of Democracy – Armed its Allies (Britain and Russia)
The Home Front – Role of Women

Military Action in Pacific
Military Action in Africa & Italy
Military Action in Europe

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V FOR THE VICTORY,

Surrender on the Battleship Missouri.

The **surrender of Imperial Japan and its forces was formalized on September 2, 1945** in Tokyo Bay. The surrender ceremony was on board the **USS Missouri**, a Battleship that had seen extensive combat and had also been hit by a Kamikaze suicide plane. General Douglas MacArthur was appointed to accept the surrender. The surrender of Japan brought World War II to an end. It was the most devastating conflict in human history.



Research Topics

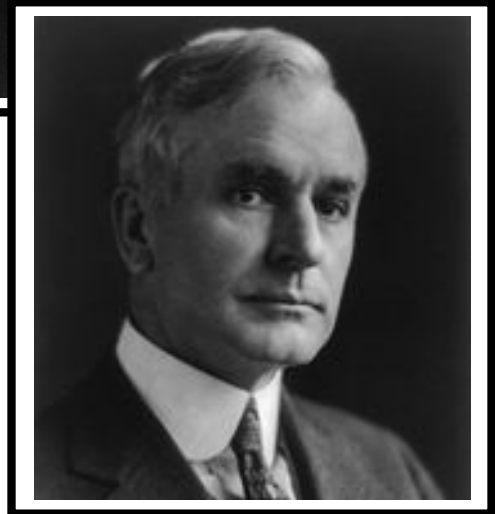
Choose One Topic

- **Research and report on the signing of the Japanese surrender.**
- **Profile Supreme Commander Douglas MacArthur's role in Japan after the surrender.**
- **Research and report the Deployment of American Naval and Air power at the surrender. Why was it made?**
- **Prepare a list of Allied co-signers and identify their nationalities.**
- **Research and report on why a representative of the Soviet Union (Russia) was a signatory to the surrender.**

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W IS FOR WASHINGTON,
negotiations and hope still remain.

Negotiations between America and Japan were ongoing, up to the time when the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred. **The chief negotiator for America was Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, for Japan it was Ambassador Nomura.** Japan and America had been attempting to negotiate and avert war for many months but events created almost impossible conditions. Japan was deeply involved in its invasion of China and Indo-China (Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia). America had imposed trade embargoes on strategic materials. **The Japanese initiated a surprise attack on the US if diplomacy failed.** The secret deadline was November 29th, 1941.



Cordell Hull

Research Topics

Choose One Topic

- **Profile Cordell Hull.**
- **Profile Japan's Ambassador Nomura.**
- **Research and report on the Japanese negotiations with America.**
- **Research and report on the impact that time zone difference made with regard to the last meeting of Nomura and Hull.**

AN ABC OF WWII: PACIFIC THEATER

X FOR XENOPHOBIA,

on both sides, for the other,
distain.

The “Japs” and the “Krauts” were the enemies of America and its Allies. “Rise Asia”, called for Asians to rise up (with help from Japan) and rid themselves of European domination. To the Germans, “Jewish Money” and “American Gangsters” were the enemies. All sides made great efforts to propagandize as a means of waging war. The Advertising industry, radio and film were seen as tools of war. In the US, Hollywood was a major participant. Even Dr. Seuss drew anti-Japanese cartoons! Films and Posters were widely used to keep populations focused and ready to make more effort to defeat the foe, as the alternative was unthinkable.



Research Topics

Choose One Topic

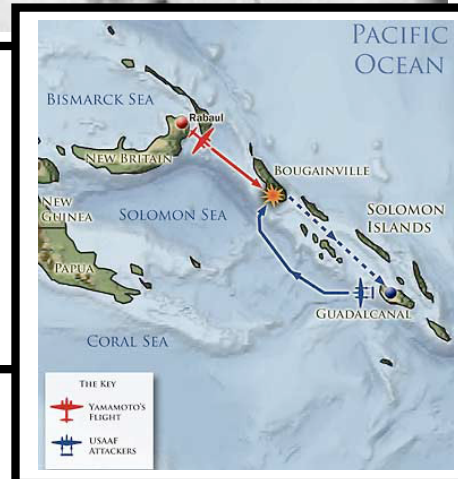
- Report and research on the use of racial stereotyping by Japan and America during WWII.
- Research and report on Hollywood’s contribution to propaganda during WWII.
- Research and report on the ‘value’ of racial stereotyping an enemy.

AN ABC OF WWII: PACIFIC THEATER

Y IS FOR YAMAMOTO,

the Pearl Harbor attack, he planned.

Isoroku Yamamoto was the **Japanese Naval Commander in Chief**. He was born on 4th April 1884. In the early months of 1941, Yamamoto, under instructions from his government, began planning the war with the United States. Yamamoto feared that he did not have the resources to win a long war and therefore advocated a surprise attack on the US Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor. Yamamoto's plan was accepted and the strike force under the command of Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo sailed for Hawaii on 26th November 1941. On 18th April 1943 Yamamoto was killed by US pilots when they shot his plane down over Bougainville.



Research Topics

Choose One Topic

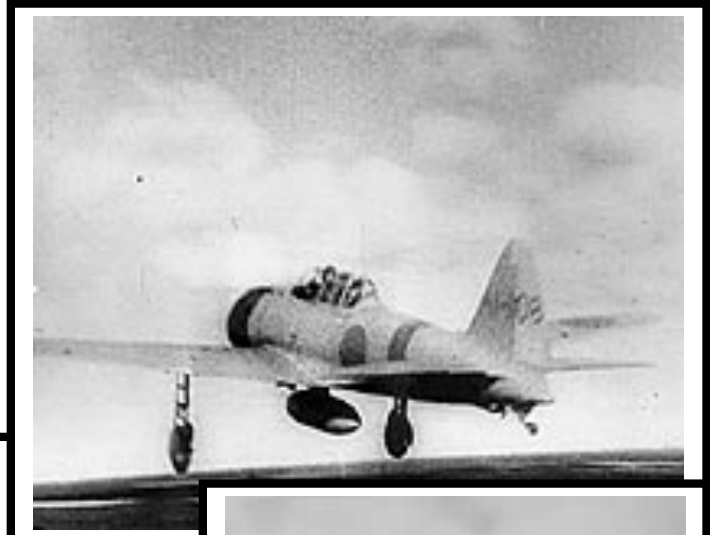
- Profile Isoroku Yamamoto.
- Research and report on Yamamoto's Pearl Harbor plan.
- Research and report on Yamamoto's "American Years."
- Research and report on the successful American "Ambush" of Yamamoto in 1943.

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Z FOR THE ZERO,

Japan's fighter took command.

The **Mitsubishi Rei-sen (Zero)** was Japan's most effective carrier based fighter of the war. Although called 'Zero', its Allied code name was 'Zeke.' In the hands of well-trained Japanese pilots, **the Zero gave the Imperial Japan Navy air superiority in its wave of conquests.** In reality, however, although the Zero had a number of advantages, it had significant limitations as well, and as Allied pilots took its measure it slowly declined from a master of the skies to a **Kamikaze** suicide craft.



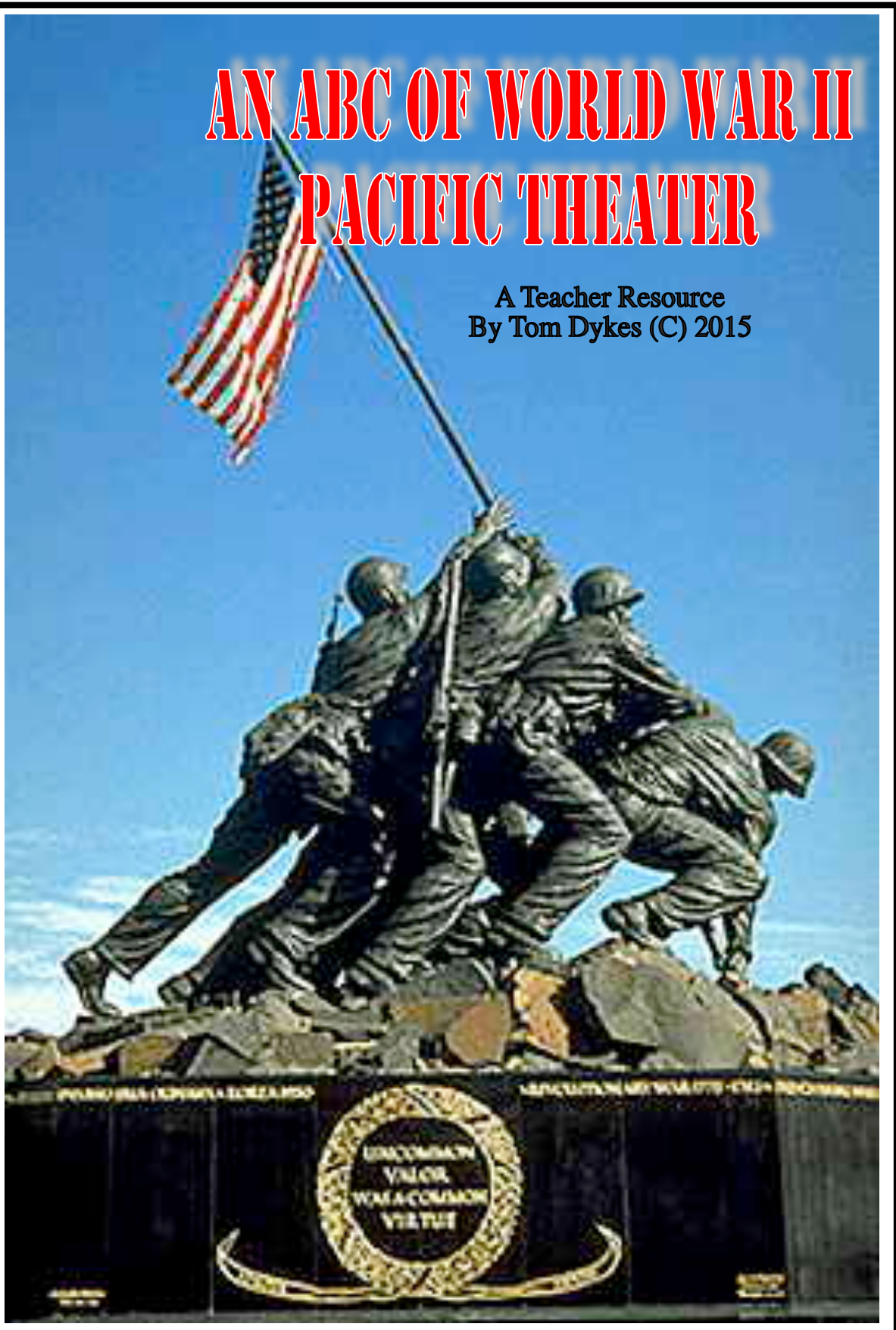
Research Topics

Choose One Topic

- Research and report on the evolution of the Japanese Zero fighter.
- Research and report on the early combat successes of the Zero.
- Research and report on the types of aircraft produced by the Japanese in WWII.
- Research and report on the US tactical and technological response to the Zero.

AN ABC OF WORLD WAR II PACIFIC THEATER

A Teacher Resource
By Tom Dykes (C) 2015



AN ABC OF WWII - PACIFIC THEATER

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A is for ASIA,

a continent ready to explode.

B for BUSHIDO,

Japan's Samurai warrior code.

C is for CARRIERS,

Task forces at sea seeking dominance.

D for DOOLITTLE,

air raid on Japan gained him prominence.

E is for EMPIRES,

a collision course could be read.

F for FORGOTTEN,

of Britain's Army of Burma, it was said.

G is for GUADALCANAL,

US Marines tested and won.

H for HONG KONG,

fell on Christmas Day, '41.

I is for ISLANDS,

Stepping-stones for US Marines.

J for JAPAN

Co-prosperity sphere, one of her dreams.

K is for KAMIKAZE

'Divine Wind' a fearsome sight.

L for LITTLE BOY,

dropped on Hiroshima to end the fight.

M is for MIDWAY,

US Navy destroys Japan's fleet.

N for NANKING,

raped and pillaged after defeat.

O is for OKINAWA,

last bastion before mainland Japan.

P for PEARL HARBOR,

"Day of Infamy" where it began.

Q is for QUESTIONS,

about secrets or plan.

R for REPULSE,

British Battleship sunk by Japan.

S is for SPECIAL FORCES,

Chindits, Maruders, Tigers flown.

T for TOKYO

Hirohito on the Chrysanthemum throne.

U is for USA,

aroused and in fury.

V for the VICTORY,

Surrender on the Battleship Missouri.

W is for WASHINGTON,

negotiations and hope still remain.

X for XENOPHOBIA,

on both sides, for the other, distain.

Y is for YAMAMOTO,

the Pearl Harbor attack, he planned.

Z for the ZERO,

Japan's fighter took command.