

Chronology

1941

December

7—Jap naval and air forces attack Pearl Harbor naval base in Hawaii without declaration of war. Sink or severely damage five battleships, three destroyers, one mine layer, one target ship; damage three battleships, three cruisers, one sea-plane tender and one repair ship which were repaired quickly. Army, Navy and Marines lose 2,343 killed, 960 missing. Japs also attack Guam, and such strategic Philippine spots as the Cavite Naval Yard.

8—U. S. Congress declares war on Japan.

10—Japs land on Luzon in Philippines.

13—Japs capture Guam.

22—Japs capture Wake.

1942

January

2—Japs enter Manila.

23—Japs in Solomons and on New Britain; Australia appeals for immediate aid.

March

17—General MacArthur arrives in Australia; assumes command of Allied Armies in Southwest Pacific Area.

April

9—Bataan falls. Japs capture 36,000 American and Filipino troops.

18—Doolittle force raids Tokyo, Yokohama, Kobe and Nagoya in Japan.

May

4-8—Battle of Coral Sea. Fifteen Jap warships sunk, including one aircraft carrier and four cruisers. U. S. loses carrier Lexington, destroyer Sims and a tanker.

25—Stilwell admits Allies took "a hell of a beating" in Burma.

June

4-6—Battle of Midway. Four Jap carriers, three cruisers, three destroyers sunk; 275 Jap planes destroyed, 4,800 Japs killed or drowned. U. S. casualties, 307; carrier Yorktown and destroyer Hammann sunk.

12—Jap landings on Attu and Kiska in Aleutians announced.

August

7—Marines launch first counter-offensive of the war, landing on Jap-held Guadalcanal and Tulagi in Solomon Islands of South Pacific.

October

25-26—Naval battle of Santa Cruz Islands. Japs lose one battleship, three carriers, and two destroyers; five cruisers damaged. U. S. loses one carrier, one destroyer damaged.

November

8—U. S. airborne troops land near Buna in New Guinea.

13-15—Naval battle off Guadalcanal. Japs lose 28 ships including two battleships, eight cruisers, six destroyers, eight transports, four cargo ships; two battleships, one cruiser, seven destroyers damaged. U. S. loses two cruisers, seven destroyers.

December

15—Allies take Buna in New Guinea.

1943

May

7—U. S. occupation of Amchitka in Aleutians in January revealed.

July

5—U. S. forces invade New Georgia.

August

15—Allies invade Vella Lavella in Solomons, and, without opposition, Kiska in Aleutians.

September

12—Salamaua in New Guinea falls to Allies.

16—Lae taken in New Guinea.

October

- 2—Australians take Finschafen, New Guinea.
- 31—Marines invade Bougainville.

November

- 20—Marines invade Tarawa and Makin.

December

1—Roosevelt, Churchill and Chiang Kai-shek draw up Pacific Charter in Cairo, pledging to strip Japan of her Pacific islands, give China all territory, including Manchuria, taken from her, and expel Japan from all territory acquired "by violence and greed."

26—Marines land on Cape Gloucester, New Britain.

1944

January

- 2—U. S. troops land at Saidor, New Guinea.

February

1—Army and Marines land on Kwajalein and Roi in Marshalls.

17—Marines and Army land on Eniwetok in Marshalls.

29—Admiralty Islands invaded.

March

22—MacArthur's forces land along 150-mile front in New Guinea, from Aitape to Hollandia, trapping estimated 30,000 Japs.

23—Japs invade India, march to within 22 miles of Imphal.

May

11—Japs capture whole length of Hankow-Peiping railway.

18—MacArthur's troops capture Wakde.

27—Americans invade Biak.

June

7—Chinese troops cut Burma Road, capture Lameng.

15—Marines land on Saipan in Marianas.

July

19—Tojo cabinet resigns in Tokyo.

20—Americans return to Guam.

28—U. S. troops land on Tinian in Marianas.

August

1—Allies capture 10 miles of coast in Sansapor area of New Guinea.

8—Announcement made that Allied troops in northeast India and North Burma have liquidated nine Jap divisions, killing 42,000 Japs.

September

15—U. S. troops land at Morotai and Palau.

October

19—British recapture Tiddim in Burma.

20—MacArthur's forces land in Philippines at Leyte.

22-27—In Second Battle of Philippine Sea, Japs lose two battleships, four carriers, six heavy and three light cruisers, nine large destroyers or small cruisers.

November

13—Jap offensive in China forces U. S. Fourteenth Air Force to destroy its air base at Liuchow.

24—B-29s stage first of series of raids on Tokyo from new base in Saipan.

1945

January

9—U. S. troops return to Luzon.

12—U. S. Pacific Fleet and carrier planes sink 41 ships, damage 28, destroy 112 planes in French Indo-China area.

22—Chinese troops capture Mues in Burma, complete opening of Ledo-Burma road from India to China.

February

1—B-29's sink mammoth drydock at Singapore.

4—U. S. troops re-enter Manila.

15—U. S. task force raids Tokyo area.

19—Iwo Jima invaded.

April

1—Okinawa island invaded.

May

1—Aussies invade Tarakan, Borneo.

3—British retake Rangoon, capital of Burma.