

WORLD WAR II TIMES

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“1940” by Laci Spurlock

- Outbreak of the war in Europe in 1939 and the defeat of France occurred in 1940, and Japanese started to admire Hitler
- Japan decided to make an alliance with Germany and Italy
- Japan formed this alliance because of economic sanctions from the Western powers
- This alliance is also known as the Tripartite Pact
- Fall 1941- the Japanese Army and Navy came to agree on a plan to attack British forces in Malaya and American forces in the Philippines
- Early 1941-Admiral Yamamoto Isoroku commissioned a report exploiting the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor
- October 1941-Yamamoto gained consent to continue the planning for the attack on Pearl Harbor
- December 4 -the Japanese imperial government went to war, with December 7- the target date for Pearl Harbor
- Morning of Sunday, December 7, 1941- six of eight Japanese Navy carriers reached Pearl Harbor undetected
- With two waves of torpedo bombers, dive-bombers, level bombers, and fighters would be in the attack
- The Japanese assault of Pearl Harbor galvanized the American public into support for American entry into war

“Pearl Harbor” by Dallin Silcox

- Japan launched attack on America on December 7, 1941
- Japan's main goal of this attack was to destroy American Pacific Fleet but failed and didn't destroy a single aircraft carrier
- All carriers were at sea patrolling
- Nearly 2400 men died at Pearl Harbor and 1200 wounded
- Pearl Harbor was not a victory for Japan ; they just damaged many ships but eventually were repaired and went out to battle
- Japan only lost 29 aircraft
- The only 2 battleships that were sunk were the USS Arizona and the USS Oklahoma
- Before Pearl Harbor attack, American people didn't want to go to war
- 6 out of 8 Japan aircraft carriers were 200 miles out of the coast of Hawaii (later in the war they were sunk)
- The person to suggest the idea of Pearl Harbor was Yamamoto Isoroku
- Isoroku was later named a battleship named, Yamato Class Battleship, that sunk many ships in the Pacific war
- Over 1200 sailors are still entombed in the hull of the USS Arizona

“Offensive in the Far East” by Zhulie Wahidi

- Japan launched attacks on American and British possessions
- Attacks aimed to provide the Japanese with a defensible line and were made in preparation for attack on the Dutch East Indies and its vast oil reserves
- Most smaller possessions of Allied powers, such as Guam and Hong Kong, fell to Japanese
- Tough resistance to Japanese in Wake Island, Thailand, Malaya, and Burma
- Roosevelt recalled General Douglas MacArthur from retirement to active service to take control of American and Filipino land forces
- Reinforced MacArthur's position with use of B-17 (Flying Fortress Bombers)
- In the end, the presence of the B-17 did nothing as they along with a large portion of American airpower in the Philippines were caught on the ground by the Japanese
- This struck MacArthur as defeatist so he ordered an end to the stockpiling of supplies in Bataan
- Dec. 22 - American and Filipino forces attempted MacArthur's plan to stop invasion on shore
- By Dec. 26 Americans were clearly outmatched
- MacArthur decided to follow through on plan to pull back to Bataan and fight from there
- MacArthur's force would do so but without adequate supplies of food, ammunition, or medicine as 1941 drew close

“The Fall of Singapore, 1942” by Sukhwinder Kaur

- It was considered one of the greatest defeats of the British army, very serious set back
- Illustrated the way Japan was to fight in the far East
- The Japanese army combined speed and savagery to take over: a military base that provided protection to Britain's commonwealth possession
- Japanese took everybody by surprise by coming through the jungle instead of the sea
- They attacked and destroyed nearly all of the British airplanes before the actual attack on December 9, 1941
- Then the very next day, they sank one of the most powerful of the British battleships, "THE PRINCE WALES" and "REPULSE"
- British troops surrender at gunpoint to Japanese
- The only army that could stop the Japanese was led by Lieutenant General Arthur Percival
- He had 90,000 men there including British, Indian, and Australian troops
- So the Japanese advanced with 65,000 men led by General Tomoyuki Yamashita
- During the battle of Jitra in Malaya (December 11th and 12th 1941) Percival was beaten and were in full retreat
- To speed advance on Singapore, the Japanese used bicycles for transportation
- Finally, the Japanese army was successfully in the capital of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, on January 11th 1942.

“The Loss of the Philippines, 1942” by Aidan Gresham

- Attack on Philippines started on 11/8/1941 (10 hours after Pearl Harbor attack)
- American Asiatic Fleet in Philippines withdrew to Java on 12/12/1941
- Japanese troops landed at Lingayen Gulf on 12/22/1941 and advanced across central Luzon towards Manila
- On advice of President Quezon, General MacArthur declared Manila an open city on 12/25/1941
 - And removed Commonwealth government to Corregidor
- Japanese occupied Manila on 1/2/1942
- MacArthur concentrated his troops on Bataan peninsula to await relief of reinforcements from U.S. (which could never come after Pearl Harbor attack)
- Japanese succeeded in penetrating Bataan's line of defense
- From Corregidor, MacArthur needed to organize slow and desperate retreat down peninsula
- President Quezon and vice president Osmena left Corregidor by submarine to form government in exile in U.S.
- General MacArthur escaped Corregidor the night of 3/11/1942
- Japanese led captives on cruel Death March where 7-10,000 people died or were murdered before arriving at internment camps
- 13,000 survivors surrendered on 5/6/1942
- Philippines suffered grievously under depredations of military occupation
- General MacArthur discharged his promise to return on 10/20/1944
- On 1/9/1945, Americans landed unopposed at Lingayen Gulf on Luzon and closed in on Manila
- Japanese fought desperately to hold the city
- From 2/3 to 2/23, its liberation took almost a month
- When fighting ended in old Spanish citadel of Intramuro, Manila was in ruin

“Internment of Japanese Americans” by Matt Summa

- Executive Order 9066 ordered all Japanese Americans to evacuate the West Coast
- Relocated approximately 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry, many in which were citizens
- Moved Japanese Americans to one of ten internment camps in California, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, and Arkansas
- This relocation was a violation of civil liberties in American History
- Many Japanese-Americans were forced to sell property at a loss before departure
- Over 5,500 Japanese immigrants renounced their American citizenship, but were void because they were already relocated
- Many Japanese-Americans entered the armed forces from camps
- Japanese-Americans were allowed to return to the West Coast in 1945
- Last camp was closed in 1946
- 1988-Congress issued payments of \$20,000 to 73,000 survivors of the camps for the violation of their liberties

“The War in the Pacific: The Allies Checks The Axis” by Matt Summa

- Allies reached their great turning point during the defeat of the Japanese at Guadalcanal in February 1943
- June 15, 1944: Invasion of Saipan: American forces invaded this island for the purpose to put the B-29 bombers within striking range of the main Japanese islands
- Went down as one of the biggest career battles of WWII
- Civilian casualties that stunned American troops
- At the end, a majority of the civilians committed suicide from terror of being captured
- Japanese government exploited the suicides to the public calling those who took there lives heroes while encouraging the rest of the population to do the same
- February 19, 1945-Invasion of Iwo Jima: American forces invaded this island to secure airstrips for the B-29 flyers
- The battle ended March 26, 1945 after well over a month of fighting entrenched Japanese soldiers
- The final land battle of World War II happened a mere 350 miles from the main Japanese islands on Okinawa
- During these 82 days of warfare in miserable conditions, U.S. Marines and Army troops fought the battle at places like Kakuzu Ridge, Sugar Loaf Hill, and Kunishi Ridge
- Also during this battle, the U.S. fought against the enemy concealed in intricate underground defense systems
- More than 12,000 U.S. soldiers were missing or dead, 36,000 wounded
- Okinawa was a major factor in Harry Truman's decision of the invasion of the Japanese home islands and the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945
- The dropping of the two atomic bombs brought the war to a close before another battle could occur

“The Potsdam Conference: 1945” by Nicole Friend

- July 17-August 2, 1945, was the last of the Big Three meetings (Joseph Stalin, Harry S. Truman, Winston Churchill)
- Military administration of Germany established
- Leaders arrived at various agreements on German economy
- Poland received large amounts of German territory
- Deported German residents to the territories
- British and Americans feared a mass exodus of Germans into the western occupation zones

“The Endgame” by Laci Spurlock

- The atomic bombs dropped on Japan were developed by an international body of scientists
- First atomic bomb testing in the desert of Alamogordo, New Mexico (The Trinity Test)
- The Manhattan Project was a three-year, 2 billion dollar program to create the atomic bomb
- July 27- Harry Truman gave his approval to drop the atomic bomb
- August 6 - three B-29s appeared in the sky above Hiroshima
- One, the Enola Gay carried the bomb
- Japan refused to surrender and vowed to fight on
- A second atomic bomb, codenamed Fat Man, dropped on Nagasaki on August 9
- Japan surrenders August 12
- This brought to end the War in the Pacific, Asia, and World War II