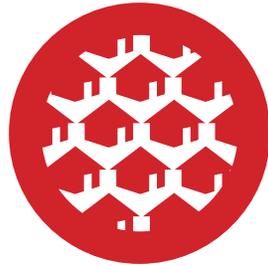


JAPANESE AMERICAN  
INTERNMENT UNIT FOR  
UNITED STATES HISTORY  
( 2 0 0 8 )

**Lesson Overview**

**Day One**

Related to the First Effect: Japan's Rapid Expansion in Asia



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**LESSON  
OVERVIEW**

# JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERNMENT UNIT

## UNITED STATES HISTORY



### BIG IDEA(S) / MAJOR UNDERSTANDING(S):

*America's initial reaction to the aggressive moves of Germany, Italy, and Japan during the late 1930s was one of isolationism; however, the day after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, the U.S. entered World War II. Once again the United States geared up for war, but this time those of Japanese ancestry were deemed dangerous to the nation and sent to internment camps. Others were relocated, too, including people of German and Italian ethnicity. America's wartime production and military might have turned the tide of the war in the Pacific and in Europe, leading to an Allied victory.*

**HCPS III Benchmark 10.3.17** | Taxonomic level: THREE

*Analyze the effects of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, including the internment of Japanese Americans.*

### CONTENT

### SKILLS

- Shift in U.S. public opinion regarding WWII (from isolationism to support of the war effort)
- Damage to U.S. Military and Japan's subsequent successful expansion in the Pacific Region
- Pre-war sentiment towards Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJAs) and subsequent wartime discrimination/prejudice against AJAs
- 1924 Senate Committee on Immigration
- Famous Mori phone call
- FBI files being kept on AJAs
- Executive Order 9066 and key players involved (including FDR, AG Biddle, Secretary of War Stimson, FBI Director Hoover, General DeWitt, Robert Shivers and Fred Korematsu)
- Personal experiences of internees, through the format of tanka poetry and journal entries
- Formation of 442nd Battalion and 100th Division
- Location of internment camps, including Tule Lake Internment Camp and camps in Hawai'i, such as Honouliuli
- Definition of "PATRIOTISM"
- Terms related to AJA populations: Issei, Nisei, Kibei
- Red Cross report on the conditions of internment camp at Sand Island
- Case of the Shooting of Internees Kobata and Isomura

- Ability to distinguish information that is essential versus information that is incidental to research
- Ability to examine primary sources and determine their reliability based on the criteria of accuracy and bias
- Ability to use their knowledge of historical periods to assess contemporary issues and decisions
- Ability to write a 5-paragraph essay (with each paragraph containing an engaging introduction, three supporting details, and a summarizing conclusion)
- Analyze reports of war crimes committed against Japanese internees
- Analyze and fully explain the multitude of stated and unstated reasons for internment
- Read and design historically-accurate maps
- Compose a short story of historical fiction
- Write journal entries reflecting on the historical narratives as recorded in primary source documents

### SAMPLE ASSESSMENT TASKS

1. **FORMATIVE:** Students will draw a map that shows the greatest territorial extent of the Japanese Empire, or roughly the status of territory under their control by August, 1942.
2. **FORMATIVE:** Students will create a short story of historical fiction based on a timeline of anti-Asian prejudice and the policies towards AJAs before, during, and after WWII.

3. **FORMATIVE** (Optional): Students will write an essay on the prompt “What does PATRIOTISM mean during times of war?”
4. **FORMATIVE**: Students will write journal entries reflecting on the common theme of the AJAs who experienced racism and internment, with particular analysis of how hearing about any of these people’s stories might have impacted them on a personal level.
5. **SUMMATIVE**: *Student will be assigned a 5-paragraph essay to write to demonstrate their individual mastery of the SS10.3.17 benchmark. Namely, they are to analyze the effects of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, including the internment of Japanese Americans.*

## BENCHMARK RUBRIC FOR SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

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### Advanced

Analyze, with clear and precise detail, the effects of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, including the initial expansion of the Japanese Empire resulting from the damaged U.S. military, the change in U.S. public opinion regarding WWII neutrality, and the internment of Japanese Americans.

### Proficient

Analyze, with detail, the effects of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, including the initial expansion of the Japanese Empire resulting from the damaged U.S. military, the change in U.S. public opinion regarding WWII neutrality, and the internment of Japanese Americans.

### Partially Proficient

Analyze, with minimal detail, the effects of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, including the initial expansion of the Japanese Empire resulting from the damaged U.S. military, the change in U.S. public opinion regarding WWII neutrality, and the internment of Japanese Americans.

### Novice

Ineffectively analyze the effects of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

## INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES (LESSON/UNIT PLAN)

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### PRE-CLASS Instructions

Have students prepare for class by assigning the relevant portion of the U.S. History textbook that deals with the effects of Pearl Harbor, including:

1. The U.S. Military (especially the Navy) was severely damaged—with losses of 19 ships, 240 planes and over 2,500 people—leading to Japan’s swift occupation of Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Burma and the Philippines.
2. U.S. public opinion drastically shifted overnight from one of isolationism (or neutrality) to one of overwhelming support for going to war against Japan and Germany.
3. Americans of Japanese ancestry (AJAs) were arrested and interned because of widespread fear of disloyalty to the United States which might result in acts of espionage or sabotage; note the role of racism here.

## 1 | DAY ONE — *Related to the first effect*

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*Japan’s rapid expansion in Asia* - Teacher should conduct a short review of the assigned reading to make sure all students start with at least a basic understanding of the three major effects (see above list) of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Teacher should particularly emphasize how damaging the surprise attack was for the U.S. Navy, and how it directly led to the expansion of Japanese-controlled territory in Asia. Students should be given time to re-read their textbook account of the string of military victories that Japan pulled off in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor and all students should be given the handout (titled “Japan’s Expansion After Pearl Harbor”) that details the key areas where Japan expanded. From these sources, students will be asked to draw a map that shows the greatest territorial extent of the Japanese Empire, or roughly the status of territory under their control by August, 1942. If students are unable to complete the map during class, they should be given the opportunity to take the assignment home and complete for homework to turn in the following class meeting.

## 2

### DAY TWO—*Related to the second effect*

#### *Shift of public opinion away from isolation -*

Students should each receive a copy of Dr. Mitch Yamasaki's lesson titled "Pearl Harbor and America's Entry into World War II: A Documentary History". Teacher should break the class into groups of three students each for reading of the lesson and answering of the one-page (eleven questions) sheet titled "Primary Source Analyses". That is, each group of three students will read the documents and answer the eleven questions that are based on the first five pages of the lesson. Teacher can then sum up the lesson when all groups are finished by going over the last two pages of the multiple choice quiz to make sure the entire class understood the main points of the shift from isolation to support of the war effort. For homework, students should be given the handout with the two timelines, two internment camp maps, and the glossary of terms...and using these resources (and whatever others are accessible) students will create a short story of historical fiction based on a timeline of anti-Asian prejudice and the policies towards AJAs before, during and after WWII. This story will incorporate multiple events listed on the two timelines (in correct sequence), should include references to Japanese internment camps with correct dates, and make use of multiple terms contained in the glossary.

#### **OPTIONAL EXTENSION FOR DAY TWO**

Teacher will arrange for a handful of students to take part in a fishbowl discussion with their classmates surrounding them...watching each of the students take on the role of a key historical figure in a "brought-to-life" discussion about whether or not to intern Americans of Japanese ancestry. Each student will be given a brief bio sketch, relevant quotes attributed to the person, etc. and s/he will assume the identity of a certain historical character—such as Attorney General Biddle, Secretary of War Stimson, FBI Director Hoover, or even President Roosevelt himself. Teacher will help guide the discussion if they get off track and "observing" students will help make sure all students remain true to their character by also being given copies of the bio-sketches and quotes. At the conclusion, students will be asked to write an essay on the prompt "What does PATRIOTISM mean during times of war?"

## 3

### DAY THREE—*Related to the third effect*

*Internment of AJAs* - Each student should receive his/her own copy of Dr. Yamasaki's lesson titled "Relocation and Internment of Japanese Americans: National Security or Racial Prejudice Worksheet". Instruct each student to work his/her own way through these questions, allowing them to leave blanks if they are unsure of an answer. After a reasonable amount of time (10-15 minutes) for this individual work, allow the students to pair up with one other student to check their answers and discuss any blanks that either student had. If there are still pairs of students who have any blanks OR if there are pairs of students who disagree about an answer, have each pair of students select another pair of students to team up with to get the "final" answers for this activity. Teacher should take a few minutes to go through the answers (in a choral response-format where all students say the correct answer at the same time or teacher can call on various students for their answer or students can simply volunteer to answer the questions they are confident they have the right answer.)

Teacher will then distribute to each student ONE primary source document related to the internment of AJAs. Each student will then be tasked with reading the document and familiarizing themselves with the author, the subject, the intended audience, etc. (Since there are only 16 primary source documents, classes with more than 16 students will have to double up so that two students will end up with the same document.) Instruct students they are to become the "experts" for the class on their respective primary source document, and that the class will be counting on them to be able to answer a related question about their document in a whole-class activity. The whole-class activity, then, will involve the teacher distributing the Student Questionnaire to ALL students and then working their way through the questions as an entire class. The point, of course, will be that each primary document was read by one (or maybe two) students, so when the teacher reads the question, there will be one student who should have the correct answer for the whole class. (This might work best if the activity is started on one day by distributing the primary source materials to each student, and then continued the next class meeting time to complete the whole class activity. Furthermore, teacher might want to record which student was assigned which document so that when

they are going through the questionnaire, teacher knows who the class “expert” is on that document, as some students may need extra prompting.) For homework, each student will write a journal entry reflecting on the common theme of the AJAs who experienced racism and internment, with particular analysis of how hearing about any of these people’s stories might have impacted them on a *personal* level.

### OPTIONAL EXTENSION FOR DAY THREE

Students can read and analyze the primary source document “Two Perspectives of the Shooting of Internees Kobata and Isomura” prior to a facilitated class discussion about the outcome of this event and possible mock prosecution. In addition, students can read personal accounts of experiences of AJAs interned both in Hawai‘i and the U.S. Mainland, with particular focus on analyzing poetry of Japanese internees—and composing their own tanka poetry. Students can research possible recourse for the families involved in the Kobata/Isomura story outside of class time and submit a simulated written journal entry as if they were living in an internment camp, displaying historical empathy. Finally, students could identify different classifications of various generations of Japanese internees and the reactions of each generation to internment.

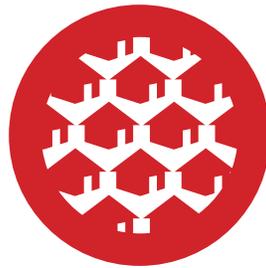
## 4 | DAY FOUR

**Culminating Final Performance Task** - Once these three days (or five days, depending on whether Teacher used optional activities) is over, Teacher will explain to the students that they are EACH required to write a 5-paragraph essay addressing the benchmark: Analyze the effects of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, including the internment of Japanese Americans. Share the above rubric, so they are keyed in to the part of the benchmark that implies there are multiple effects of the bombing; and feel comfortable in conducting a short review of information learned regarding these three effects. In addition, share with the students they are free to use any and all sources from class and/or other sources of information (library, online search engines, textbooks, classroom materials, etc.) they can reference for completion of the summative task, which should address the three major effects.

Summative task, then, is the writing of a 5-paragraph essay that analyzes the effects of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, including the internment of Japanese Americans. The first paragraph should be an engaging opening of five sentences; paragraphs 2–4 should also be at least five sentences each and contain full explanations with supporting details of the three major effects of the Pearl Harbor bombing; and the final paragraph (also a five-sentence minimum) should be a strong conclusion that summarizes the main points in paragraphs 2–4 but in a way that is not repetitive and ideally hearkens the reader back to the engaging introduction in a fresh/humorous/dramatic fashion.

**Additional Information**—listed in order to follow the recommended sequence of instructional strategies

1. U.S. History textbook
2. “Japan’s Expansion After Pearl Harbor” handout
3. “Pearl Harbor and America’s Entry into World War II: A Documentary History” by Dr. Mitch Yamasaki
4. “Chronology of World War II Hawai‘i Internees”
5. “A Short Chronology of Japanese American History”
6. Maps of Japanese Internment sites both on the Mainland and in Hawai‘i
7. “Glossary of Words and Terms Related to the U.S. Government’s Wartime Policy Toward Japanese Americans and Legal Resident Aliens of Japanese Ancestry”
8. Readers’ Theater titled “The Decision” and related biographical sketches
9. Biographies and pictures of key figures involved in the issuance of Executive Order 9066 (and quotes and primary source documents related to these historically significant people)
10. “Relocation and Internment of Japanese Americans: National Security or Racial Prejudice?” by Dr. Mitch Yamasaki
11. Packet of Primary Source Documents from the Hawai‘i Internees Resource Folder (JCCH)
12. Questionnaires (student and teacher versions)
13. “Two Perspectives of the Shooting of Internees Kobata and Isomura” primary source document
14. Samples of poetry written by Japanese American internees, as excerpted from “*Poets Behind Barbed Wire*”



# DAY ONE

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RELATED TO THE FIRST EFFECT:  
JAPAN'S RAPID EXPANSION IN ASIA

# JAPAN'S EXPANSION AFTER PEARL HARBOR

## DECEMBER 1941

MAP 1



### STARTING CONDITIONS - STRATEGIC & NAVAL BACKGROUND

#### ALLIED

**Britain and Dominions** - Responsible for defending India, Ceylon, Burma, Malaya, northern Borneo, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, the Papua New Guinea/Bismarck Archipelago/Solomon Islands chain, and numerous island groups throughout the Indian Ocean

and Central and South Pacific. Few forces could be spared from existing war zones to protect this vast spread of territory and its supply routes. Britain's main base was at Singapore with its two recently arrived big ships. Three old cruisers and some destroyers were in Malayan waters, and a few old destroyers at Hong Kong. By now the surviving seven cruisers and smaller ships of the Royal Australian and New Zealand Navies were back in the region.

**United States** - Apart from the defense of its Western seaboard, Panama Canal Zone, Alaska and the Aleutians, Hawaiian Islands and various islands in the Central Pacific, the U.S. had responsibility for the Philippines. In the event of attack, the defenders were expected to hold out until relieved by the U.S. Pacific Fleet fighting its way from the main base at Pearl Harbor, a distance of 4,500 miles. In the Philippines was the Asiatic Fleet with three cruisers, 13 destroyers and 29 submarines. The Pacific Fleet itself consisted of eight battleships, three fleet carriers, 21 cruisers, 67 destroyers and 27 submarines.

**Dutch** - Naval forces allocated to the defense of the many islands of the Dutch East Indies included three cruisers, seven destroyers and fifteen submarines.

## JAPAN

Already established in Korea, Manchuria, northeast China, its main ports and Hainan, Formosa, and the Mariana, Caroline and Marshall Island groups, Japan now had the whole of French Indochina. Japan's main aim was still the conquest of China, for which the oilfields of the Dutch East Indies (DEI) were indispensable. Also important was the closing of the Burma Road over which Allied supplies continue to roll. Both moves meant war with Britain and the U.S., and a vital part of the Japanese strategy was the establishment of a huge defense perimeter stretching from Burma right around to the Aleutian Islands of Alaska. Only in this way could it hope to hold off the United States once its manpower and industrial resources were mobilized.



## STRATEGICALLY

Japan was well placed to occupy the territory needed for the defense perimeter:

### UNDERSTANDING MAP 2

*In the West* - much of China was occupied and the Neutrality Pact with Russia, coupled with the German invasion, meant Japan had little to fear for now from this direction. Hong Kong could be taken easily from adjacent occupied China.

*To the East* - were the vast distances of the Pacific. By taking the U.S. islands of Guam and Wake, and some of the British Gilbert Islands, the Japanese mandated islands (Marshalls, Carolines, Marianas) were further protected. America was also kept at bay.

*To the Southwest* - Thailand and Malaya would soon fall to the invading forces from Hainan and Indochina. Thereafter the capture of Burma could proceed smoothly. The Burma Road would be cut, India threatened, and that perimeter was secured.

*In the South* - lay the oilfields of the Dutch East Indies and the protection offered by the island chain of Sumatra, Java and Bali through to Timor. The main island of Java was the target of two massive pincer movements.

*Southeast* - landings in north New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago and northern Solomon would protect the Japanese Carolines. From there, forces could strike Australia and its supply routes.

*Westwards* - from Indochina to northern Borneo, and later direct to Sumatra and Java.

*Eastwards* - from bases in Formosa and the Carolines to the Philippines. From there to southern Borneo, Celebes and Moluccas, and on to Timor and Bali. Then to eastern Java.

Only when Japan sought to extend the southeast and eastern perimeters - at Guadalcanal and Midway Island respectively - in mid-1942 did it suffer the first defeats. America's growing power would then make Allied victory inevitable.

## MILITARILY

Allied and Japanese naval forces were about balanced in numbers:

	Royal Navies	Dutch Navy	US Asiatic Fleet	US Pacific Fleet	Allied Totals	Japanese Navy
Battleships	2	-	-	8	10	10
Carriers	-	-	-	3	3	11
Cruisers	10	3	3	21	37	40
Destroyers	13	7	13	67	100	112
Submarines	-	15	29	27	71	63
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>236</b>

There the comparison ended .....

The Imperial Japanese Navy had far more carriers, its surface task forces were well trained, especially in night-fighting, and they had no command or language difficulties. They also introduced the Allies to a secret and powerful weapon in the 24 inches long lance torpedo. In contrast, the Allied ships were scattered and had no central command. Their main bases at Singapore and Pearl Harbor were 6,000 miles apart, and most of the strength was concentrated with the U.S. Pacific Fleet. For its conquests, the Japanese Army fielded only slightly more troops, but these were usually better trained and also experienced in amphibious operations. They had air superiority both overall and locally. Only the U.S. Pacific Fleet posed an immediate danger to Japanese plans. Hence the decision to attack it in Pearl Harbor rather than wait for it to try to fight through to the Philippines. The Japanese chose the time and place of their landings, all well escorted by cruiser and destroyer forces. Air cover was maintained by land-based aircraft or from carriers and seaplane carriers as necessary, and battleships and cruisers provided distant support. By this time the annihilation of the Allied capital ships made their presence unnecessary.

The few Allied maritime sorties - some surface, but mainly by aircraft and submarine - had few successes against the invasion fleets. And in return they suffered heavy losses.

**MAP 3**

**FRENCH INDOCHINA**

**Camranh Bay**  
Sailed 0530/4th

Air Strike Force  
departed 0600/10th

● **Saigon**

Assault  
Forces

0900/7th

Main Japanese  
Assault Force

*Gulf of Siam*

intended position  
0600/10TH

0230/10th

Japanese  
Cover Force

0700

2015

Japanese  
a/c sighted

*South China Sea*

0050/10th

1400/9th

**MALAYA**

0600

● **Kuantan**

Repulse sunk  
1235

POW Sunk 1320

● **Kuala Lumpur**

● **Singapore**

Prince of Wales, Repulse,  
4 dd sailed 1735/8th

**SUMATRA**

**BORNEO**

**DECLARATIONS AND  
OUTBREAK OF WAR**

Because of the International Dateline, events that took place on the 7th in Hawai'i as far as Washington and London were concerned, were already into the 8th in Hong Kong and Malaya. By the 8th: (1) Japan had declared war on Britain and the U.S.; (2) Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa,

Holland, the United States and a number of Central American and Caribbean states had declared against Japan; (3) China declared war against the Axis powers.

## UNDERSTANDING MAP 3

Using the compass directions outlining the Japanese strategy above, attacks in December 1941 proceeded as follows:

**West - Hong Kong** - The territory was invaded from mainland China on the 8th of December, and within five days the defenders had withdrawn to Hong Kong Island. Fighting carried on until Christmas Day when the British and Dominion troops surrendered.

**South West - Thailand, Malaya, Burma** - Japanese forces landed on the Kra Isthmus of Thailand and northeast Malaya on the 8th. From there they drove down the west coast of Malaya towards Singapore, outflanking the defenses by land and sea. Follow-up landings took place later in the month and in January 1942. By the 13th of December they had crossed from Thailand into the southern tip of Burma, but stayed there for the time being. 10th - Loss of "Repulse" and "Prince of Wales": the Sinking of Force Z (map 3) - By the 8th, the battle cruiser and battleship had assembled at Singapore as Force Z under the command of Adm. Sir Tom Phillips. That evening they sailed with four destroyers to attack the Japanese landing on the northeast Malay coast. Fighter cover was requested but not readily available. In the evening of the 9th, Force Z was well up into the South China Sea. Japanese aircraft were spotted and Adm. Phillips decided to return. Around midnight he received a false report of landings at Kuantan further down the Malay Peninsular and set course for there. The ships had by now been reported by a submarine and a naval aircraft strike force was dispatched from Indochina. Attacks started around 11:00 on the 10th of December, and in less than three hours "PRINCE OF WALES" and "REPULSE" had been hit by a number of torpedoes and sent to the bottom.

Following the Pearl Harbor attack, not one of the Allies' 10 battleships in the Pacific area remained in service.

**South - Northern Borneo and Philippines Islands** - The first landings in northern Borneo took place in Sarawak and Brunei on the 16th of December and continued through until late January 1942. In the Philippines, the island of Luzon was the main target. Between the 10th and 22nd, landings were made in the north of the island, in the south, and at Lingayen Gulf in the west. The Japanese forces made a combined drive on the capital of Manila, which was declared an open city. They entered on the 2nd of January 1942, by which time preparations were being made to attack Gen. MacArthur's U.S. and Filipino troops now withdrawn into the Bataan Peninsular just to the west of Manila. The southern island of Mindanao was invaded on the 20th of December 1941.

**East - Hawaiian Islands, Guam, Wake Island and British Gilbert Islands** - On the morning of December 7th local time (shortly after the Malay landings) the Japanese Strike Force aircraft hit Pearl Harbor on the Hawaiian island of O'ahu. In the Attack on Pearl Harbor, battleships "ARIZONA" and "OKLAHOMA" were total losses, three more sank but were later re-commissioned, and the remaining three damaged. Many were killed and a considerable number of aircraft destroyed. Although the Pacific battlefleet ceased to exist, the three priceless fleet carriers "Enterprise", "Lexington" and "Saratoga" were fortunately absent and the large oil stocks and important repair installations were left virtually untouched. By the 10th, Guam in the Mariana Islands was captured and Makin and Tarawa in the British Gilberts occupied. Tarawa was then abandoned until the following September 1942. Wake Island was attacked on the 11th of December, but the Japanese were driven off with the loss of two destroyers by the U.S. Marine defenders. A later attempt on the 23rd succeeded.

### Monthly Loss Summary

Indian Ocean - 5 merchant ships of 800 tons

Pacific Ocean - 241 merchant ships of 432,000 tons

## JANUARY 1942

**Allied Command** - Early in the month, British Gen. Wavell was appointed to command ABDA (American, British, Dutch, Australian) forces responsible for holding Malaya and the Dutch East Indies.

**West - Malaya and Burma** - In their drive on Singapore, the Japanese captured Kuala Lumpur on the 11th. To the north they crossed into southern Burma from the Kra Isthmus on the 15th, and on the 20th started the invasion of Burma from central Thailand. Thailand shortly declared war on Britain and the United States. On the last day of January, the retreating British, Australian and Indian troops withdrew into Singapore Island, after being driven down the length of the Malay Peninsula. By then carrier "Indomitable" had flown off 48 Hurricanes for Singapore via Java.

**South - Philippines and Dutch East Indies** - As the U.S. and Philippines were slowly pushed into Bataan, the Japanese began the invasion of the Dutch East Indies from southern Philippines. First landings took place on the 11th at Tarakan in Borneo and in the Celebes. More followed later in the month, by which time they had reached the Moluccas in the drive south towards Java. 17th - Japanese submarine "I-60" tried to pass through the Sunda Strait for the Indian Ocean. She was located and sunk by destroyer "Jupiter" escorting a convoy to Singapore. 20th - Submarine "I-124" mine-laying off Darwin, northern Australia, was sunk by Australian minesweepers "Deloraine", "Katoomba", "Lithgow," and U.S. destroyer "Edsall".

**Southeast - Bismark Archipelago** - The first Japanese move towards the southeast took place on the 23rd with landings at Kavieng, New Ireland and Rabaul, New Britain. Rabaul became the major Japanese base in the South West Pacific and helped dictate the whole strategy of Allied moves in the next two years.

### Monthly Loss Summary

Indian Ocean - 13 merchant ships of 46,000 tons  
Pacific Ocean - 30 merchant ships of 71,000 tons

## FEBRUARY 1942

**West - Malaya, Singapore and Burma** - On the 8th, Japanese forces started crossing over to Singapore Island. Heavy fighting took place, but by the 15th Singapore surrendered and over 80,000 mainly Australian, British and Indian troops were doomed to captivity. Many did not survive as POW's. The Allies had lost the key to South East Asia and the South West Pacific. In Burma the Japanese pushed on towards Rangoon.

**South - Dutch East Indies** - The two-pronged advance on Java continued with airborne landings on Palembang in southern Sumatra on the 14th, followed by landings from the sea one day later by forces carried from Indochina. A few days later the islands of Bali and Timor were invaded from the Celebes and Moluccas respectively. The scene was set for the conquest of Java.

**27th February-1st March** - ABDA's main naval force was commanded by the Dutch Adm. Doorman and consisted of a mixed squadron of cruisers and destroyers for the defense of Java: heavy cruisers "Exeter" and the U.S. "Houston", light cruisers "Perth" (Australian), "De Ruyter" and "Java" (both Dutch), destroyers "Electra", "Encounter", "Jupiter", plus two Dutch and four American. They put to sea on the 26th on the news that invasion convoys were approaching. Failing to find them they headed back to Surabaya the next day, but before getting in, more reports arrived and the Allied force went out again towards a position to the northwest. The main battle started on the 27th at around 16:00 against the two heavy, two light cruisers and 14 destroyers covering the Japanese transports. Both Allied heavies opened fire at long range, but "Exeter" was soon hit and her speed reduced. In the resulting confusion one of the Dutch destroyers was torpedoed and sunk. As "Exeter" returned to Surabaya with the second Dutch destroyer, the Royal Navy destroyers went in to attack and "ELECTRA" was sunk by gunfire. Adm. Doorman headed back south towards the Java coast and sent off the U.S. destroyers to refuel. He then turned to the north with his remaining four cruisers and two British destroyers. By now it was late evening and "JUPITER"

was lost probably on a Dutch mine. "Encounter" picked up survivors from the first Dutch destroyer and shortly followed the Americans to Surabaya. The four cruisers, now without any destroyers, were in action sometime before midnight and both "DE RUYTER" and "JAVA" were blasted apart by the big Japanese torpedoes. "Perth" and "Houston" made for Batavia, further west along the north coast of Java. The next evening, on the 28th, "Perth" and "Houston" left Batavia and sailed west for the Sunda Strait to break through to the Indian Ocean. From Surabaya three of the U.S. destroyers went east and eventually reached safety through the shallow Bali Strait. "Exeter's" draught was too great for this route and the damaged cruiser had to make for the Sunda Strait accompanied by destroyer "Encounter" and U.S. destroyer "Pope."

**28th/ 1st March - Battle of the Sunda Strait** - Late that evening, "PERTH" and "HOUSTON" ran into the Japanese invasion fleet in the Strait and attacked the transports. They were soon overwhelmed by the

gunfire and torpedoes of the covering cruisers and destroyers and sank in the opening minutes of the 1st of March. A Dutch destroyer following astern suffered the same fate.

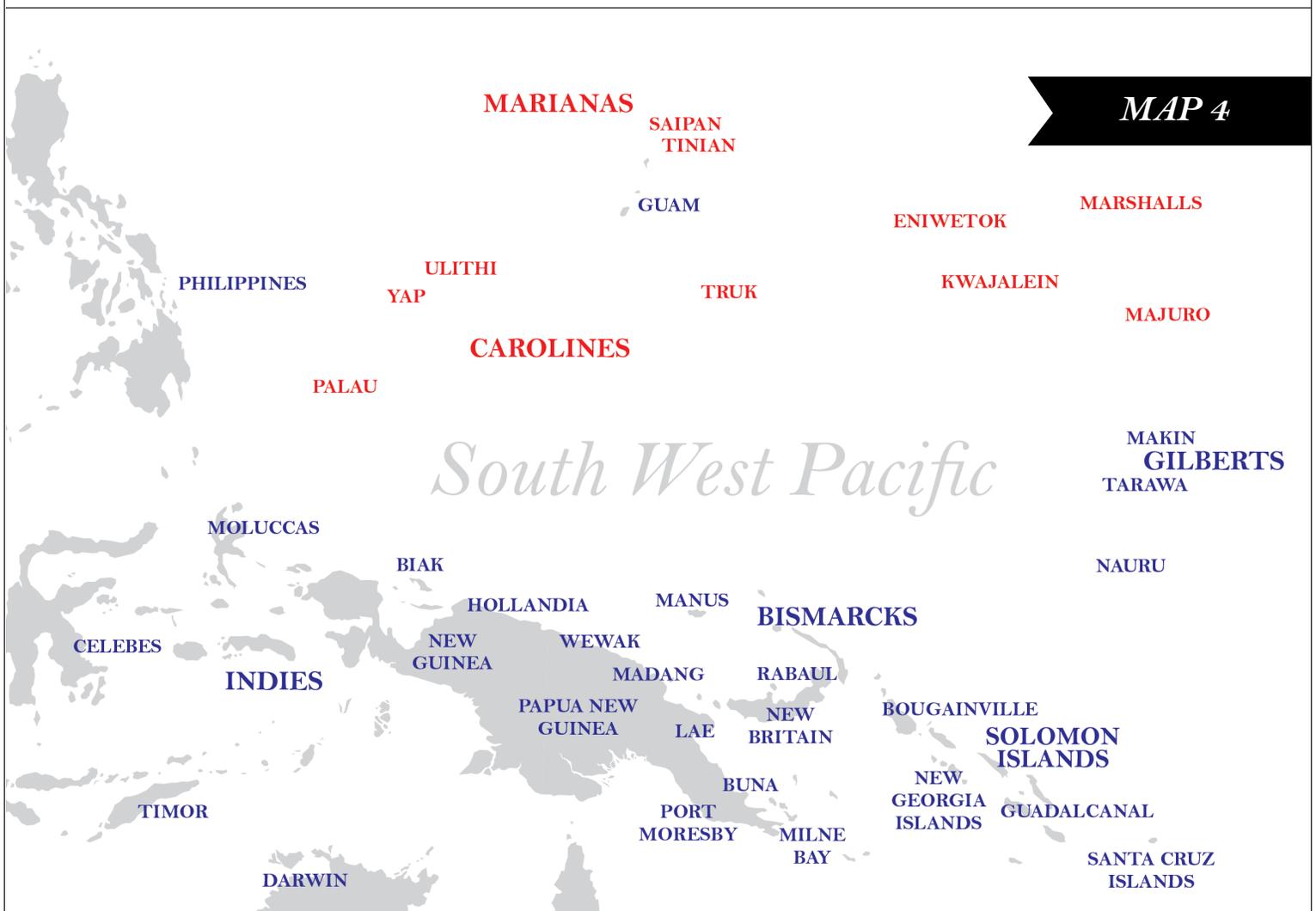
Later in the morning of the 1st of March, "EXETER", "ENCOUNTER" and "POPE" fought a lengthy action with a cruiser force to the northwest of Surabaya before they too succumbed. Of the entire Allied force in the Java Sea, only three old U.S. destroyers managed to get away.

**Australia** - Aircraft from four of the Pearl Harbor Strike carriers raided Darwin, Northern Territories on the 19th. One American destroyer and a number of valuable transports were lost.

### Monthly Loss Summary

Indian Ocean - 18 merchant ships of 38,000 tons

Pacific Ocean - 54 merchant ships of 181,000 tons



## MARCH 1942 (VIEW MAP 4)

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**West - Burma** - Rangoon, the entry port for the Burma Road, fell on the 8th. Towards the end of the month, the Andaman Island group in the Indian Ocean flanking the south of Burma was occupied.

**South - Philippines and Dutch East Indies** - As the U.S. and Philippines struggled to hold on to Bataan, Gen. MacArthur was ordered to leave for Australia. There he assumed the post of Supreme Commander, South West Pacific. U.S. Adm. Nimitz was to command the rest of the Pacific. The Java landings went ahead on the 1st and Batavia, the capital of all the DEI, fell. The Allied surrender was agreed on the 9th. On the 12th, northern Sumatra was occupied and the rest of March was spent consolidating the Japanese hold throughout the many islands. Japan's southern perimeter had been secured in less than four months. Strong Japanese naval forces patrolled the Indian Ocean south of Java to stop the escape of Allied shipping.

**South East - Bismarck Archipelago, New Guinea, British Solomons Islands** - The Bismarck Sea was secured with two series of landings. To the north the Japanese took Manus and other parts of the Admiralty Islands. In northern New Guinea, they landed in the Huon Peninsula at Lae, Salamaua and Finschhafen. When they occupied the northern island of Bougainville, the scene was set for the fierce Solomons Islands battles to come.

### Monthly Loss Summary

Indian Ocean - 65 merchant ships of 68,000 tons  
Pacific Ocean - 98 merchant ships of 184,000 tons

## APRIL 1942 (VIEW MAP 5)

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**5th-9th - Japanese Carrier Attacks on Ceylon** - A new British Eastern Fleet had been assembled under the command of Adm. Sir James Somerville, recently of Force H. The variety of ships was split into two groups. A fast group included battleship "Warspite", carriers "Indomitable" and "Formidable", heavy cruisers "Cornwall" and "Dorsetshire", two light cruisers plus destroyers. In the slower group were four 'R' class battleships, old carrier "Hermes" and some cruisers and destroyers. Two Australian destroyers accompanied each group. As the Ceylon bases of Colombo and Trincomalee were poorly defended and too far forward,

Adm. Somerville was operating out of the secret base of Addu Atoll in the Maldive Islands SW of Ceylon. Early in April, two Japanese forces headed into the Indian Ocean. One was under Adm. Ozawa with carrier "Ryujo" and six cruisers made for the Bay of Bengal and east coast of India. In a matter of days, 23 ships of 112,000 tons were sunk. Japanese submarines sank a further five off the Indian west coast. Bad as this threat was, the real one came from the carrier strike force of Adm. Nagumo with five Pearl Harbor carriers - "Akagi", "Hiryu", "Soryu", "Shokaku" and "Zuikaku" - plus four battleships and three cruisers.

The Japanese fleet was first sighted on the 4th south of Ceylon, and shipping cleared from the ports. In the morning of the 5th a heavy raid on Colombo sank destroyer "TENEDOS" and armed merchant cruiser "HECTOR". Heavy cruisers "CORNWALL" and "DORSETSHIRE" were to the southwest, sailing from Colombo to rejoin the Royal Navy's fast group. Found at noon, they soon went to the bottom under a series of aircraft attacks. But Adm. Nagumo had not yet finished. As Adm. Somerville's two groups searched for the Japanese from a position between Addu Atoll and Ceylon, they circled round to the east. From there, on the 9th, Japanese aircraft found the shipping cleared from Trincomalee and back on its way in. Carrier "HERMES", Australian destroyer "VAMPIRE," and corvette "HOLLYHOCK" were amongst those that soon went down. The Japanese ships left the Indian Ocean, never to return again in force. Not knowing this, the surviving ships of the Royal Navy withdrew - the slow group to Kilindini in East Africa and the other to the Bombay area.

**Philippines - Conclusion** - Japanese units made their final push on Bataan and on the 9th, the Americans and Filipinos surrendered. The island fortress of Corregidor held out until the 6th of May. Some resistance continued on other Philippine islands. The infamous "Bataan March" of American and Filipino POW's followed.

**The Doolittle Raid** - American B-25 bombers under the command of Col. Doolittle took off from U.S. carrier "Hornet" for the first ever raid on Japan on the 18th. Damage was slight, but the strategic implications were to prove fatal to the Japanese.

### Monthly Loss Summary

Indian Ocean - 31 merchant ships of 154,000 tons  
Pacific Ocean - 7 merchant ships of 14,000 tons



**MAP 5**

### STRATEGIC AND MARITIME SITUATION - INDIAN AND PACIFIC OCEANS

To the west and south the Japanese had secured their perimeter to plan. They would also do so in the southwest as the British, together with the Chinese, were steadily driven out of Burma. The debate was now whether or not to push out to the southeast towards Australia and New Zealand, and eastwards to the United States. Japanese gains had been at little cost, not least on the naval side as can be seen from the losses up to the end of April from all causes:

	British	Aus.	Dutch	US	Allied	Japanese
Battleships	2	-	-	2+6*	4	-
Carriers	1	-	-	-	1	-
Cruisers	3	1	2	1	7	-
Destroyers	7	1	7	5	20	5
Submarines	-	-	8	4	12	7
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>12</b>

\* 6 battleships sunk at their moorings or damaged.

Now it was the Allies' turn to establish a defense perimeter running from the Hawaiian Islands around to Australia and New Zealand. With most of the ANZAC forces in North Africa, it was left to the Americans to garrison many of the islands needed to protect the supply routes from the U.S. to the two Dominions. By now they were occupying the Line Islands south of Hawai'i as well as Samoa, Tonga, New Hebrides and New Caledonia. The Australians were reinforcing Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea and New Zealanders landing in Fiji. The "Doolittle Raid" made a decisive impact on Japanese strategy. The Allies had to be kept away from the homeland. Japanese conquests would be extended both to the southeast and east. Landings would be made at Port Moresby to bring Australia within bomber range, the southern Solomon and beyond would be taken to cut U.S.-Australia supply lines, and Midway Island and the Aleutians occupied to isolate Pearl Harbor. Each of these three moves led to three famous battles - (1) Coral Sea, (2) Guadalcanal, and (3) Midway, each one a step-too-far. Thereafter the Japanese would be on the defensive.

## MAY 1942

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### *8th - Landings at Diego Saurez, Madagascar -*

Concerned about the Japanese carrier sorties into the Indian Ocean and the vulnerability of the Cape of Good Hope/Middle East convoy routes, Britain decided to take Diego Saurez at the north end of Vichy French Madagascar. Under the command of Rear-Adm. E. N. Syfret (recently appointed to Force H), a large force of ships including battleship “Ramillies” and carriers “Indomitable” and “Illustrious” assembled at Durban, South Africa towards the end of April. The assault took place on the 5th of May in Courrier Bay to the west of Diego Saurez. By the 7th the fighting was over and the important anchorage was in British hands. On the night of the 30th, Japanese submarines “I-16” and “I-20” launched midget submarines for attacks on Diego Saurez. “Ramillies” was torpedoed and badly damaged and a tanker sunk. By September the complete occupation of Madagascar became necessary.

**Burma** - On the 29th of April, Lashio was captured and the Burma Road cut in the north. Supplies for China now had to be flown over high mountains known as the ‘Hump’ for nearly three years until a new road was finally completed in early 1945. Mandalay fell on the 1st and by mid-month the retreating British Army was crossing the border into India. Chinese forces were also back in China as well as India. With the conquest of Burma, Japan’s western defense line was in place.

### *Papua New Guinea and British Solomon Islands -*

Sailing from Rabaul, a Japanese invasion force headed for Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea covered by light carrier “Shoho” and cruisers. Distant cover was given by a carrier strike force of two fleet carriers. From the Coral Sea, aircraft of U.S. carriers “Lexington” and “Yorktown” searched for them. First success in the Battle of the Coral Sea (step-too-far 1) went to the Americans on the 7th when their planes sank “SHOHO” off the eastern tip of New Guinea. Next day, on the 8th, more aircraft strikes put fleet carrier “Shokaku” out of action on one side and sank “LEXINGTON” and damaged “Yorktown” on the other. A draw in naval terms, the battle was a strategic defeat for the Japanese as the invasion ships turned back, leaving Port Moresby, so close to the north tip of Australia, safe for now. Throughout the battle, neither side’s ships sighted each other - the first time in naval history a major action had taken place in this way. Before the battle started, the Japanese took the

opportunity to occupy a small island called Tulagi in the southern Solomon, close to the larger unknown island of Guadalcanal.

### **Monthly Loss Summary**

Indian Ocean - 4 merchant ships of 22,000 tons

Pacific Ocean - 5 merchant ships of 17,000 tons

## JUNE 1942

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**Midway and the Aleutians** - Adm. Yamamoto, with over 130 ships in a number of separate groups, set out to seize Midway island, occupy the western Aleutians, attack the eastern end, and draw out the Pacific Fleet for destruction. At the heart of the armada was the First Carrier Fleet (Adm. Nagumo) with four of the Pearl Harbor attack carriers. The Americans had far fewer ships, but these included carriers “Enterprise”, “Hornet” and “Yorktown” barely repaired after the Battle of the Coral Sea.

**Battle of Midway (step-too-far 2)** - On the 3rd, Dutch Harbor, close to Alaska, was attacked from two light carriers. But the main battle was far to the south off Midway between the carrier aircrafts of both sides. On the 4th/5th in the close run battle, all four Japanese carriers - “AKAGI”, “HIRYU”, “KAGA” and “SORYU” went down. “YORKTOWN” was badly damaged and finished off by a Japanese submarine on the 7th. The Japanese forces retreated, Midway was spared, and the Allies had their first major strategic victory of World War II. However, the Japanese Navy remained strong, with more carriers in the Pacific than the Americans. The occupation at this time of Attu and Kiska in the Aleutians was of little consequence.

### **Monthly Loss Summary**

Indian Ocean - 18 merchant ships of 90,000 tons

Pacific Ocean - 6 merchant ships of 31,000 tons

## JULY 1942

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**Papua, New Guinea** - After failing to take Port Moresby by sea at the time of the Battle of the Coral Sea, the Japanese planned to land on the north coast at Buna and Gona and advance overland by way of the Kokoda Trail. They landed on the 21st and moved south, just as the Australians were preparing to defend Kokoda itself and push north on Buna. The Japanese captured Kokoda on the 29th, and throughout August slowly pushed the Australians back south towards Port Moresby.

## Monthly Loss Summary

Indian Ocean - 9 merchant ships of 47,000 tons

Pacific Ocean - 6 merchant ships of 32,000 tons

### AUGUST 1942

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***Guadalcanal (step-too-far 3), British Solomon Islands*** - The Japanese were now extending their hold in the southern Solomon and building an airfield on the island of Guadalcanal. From there they could move against the New Hebrides, New Caledonia and other islands along the supply routes to Australia and New Zealand. After the Japanese presence was discovered, the U.S. 1st Marine Division landed on the 7th, soon capturing the airstrip which was renamed Henderson Field. Close cover was provided by a force of American and Australian cruisers. 9th - Battle of Savo Island - In the early hours of the 9th, a Japanese force of seven cruisers and a destroyer headed for Savo Island to the north of Guadalcanal to get at the U.S. transports. Instead they stumbled on five patrolling cruisers. Taken completely by surprise, heavy cruisers "CANBERRA" and the American "ASTORIA", "QUINCY" and "VINCENNES" were hit by a torrent of gunfire and torpedoes and sank in an area soon known as Ironbottom Sound. The fifth cruiser "Chicago" escaped and Australian cruisers "Australia" and "Hobart" were close by but took no part

in the action. The transports were untouched. From now on, as both American and Japanese forces tried to bring in supplies and reinforcements, numerous naval battles were fought in and around the southern Solomon. Battle of the Eastern Solomon - On the 24th, Japanese and American carrier groups covering supply operations to Guadalcanal were in action to the east of the Solomon island chain. Japanese light carrier on "RYUJO" was sunk and the American "Enterprise" damaged. From now on the Japanese relied increasingly on 'Tokyo Express' destroyers to bring in supplies by night down 'The Slot' - the waters between the islands of the Solomon.

***Guadalcanal, British Solomon Islands*** - As the two sides struggled to build up their forces, more fighting took place for possession of Henderson Field. U.S. carrier "WASP" was torpedoed by submarine "I-19" on the 15th, yet another casualty of the attempts to reinforce the island. Only carrier "Hornet" remained operational in the South Pacific, but she was joined by the repaired "Enterprise" in October.

***British Gilbert Islands*** - After a brief stay in December 1941, Japanese forces reoccupied and started fortifying the atoll of Tarawa.

Excerpted from: Naval and Military Campaign Summaries of World War II by Gordon Smith at [www.naval-history.net](http://www.naval-history.net)