Pearl Harbor

- The major fleet base of the US navy in the Pacific
- It was home to all the major US warships in the Pacific
- Destruction of these ships would take out all the resistance to Japanese expansion to the East and South

A date which will live in infamy!
Pearl Harbor

- Unfortunately for the Japanese, they destroyed battleships, but no US aircraft carriers
- They also failed to either destroy or capture the harbor

President Roosevelt Signs the US Declaration of War

USS Arizona, Pearl Harbor

Pearl Harbor Memorial

2,887 Americans Dead!

Pacific Theater of Operations

Singapore Surrenders [February, 1942]

- General Percival comes out to surrender to the Japanese
- It was Britain’s greatest ever military defeat
U.S. Surrenders at Corregidor, the Philippines (March, 1942)

Bataan Death March: April, 1942

76,000 prisoners [12,000 Americans] Marched 60 miles in the blazing heat to POW camps in the Philippines.

Bataan: British Soldiers

The Burma Campaign

General Stilwell Leaving Burma, 1942

The "Burma Road"

The Burma Campaign

• The Japanese pushed out British forces by superior jungle fighting techniques
• The British reliance on motor vehicles was exploited as a weakness by simple tree-felled road blocks
• The Japanese prepared to attack India
• The British counter attacked in Arakan but were again beaten

The Burma Campaign

• The infamous Burma railway
• This is where the Japanese put civilian and military prisoners to work in the rain forest
• Huge numbers died
The Burma Campaign

• By 1944 the British had a new method of fighting in Burma.
• Instead of trying to hold territory generally they made sure of holding well-defended ‘boxes’ of strategically important land.
• The Japanese found themselves unable to defeat their enemy and unable to utilize the land to their advantage.
• They also now found themselves dependent on hugely long, and very vulnerable, supply routes.
• Battle of the ‘Admin Box’ was a British victory in 1944.
• The Japanese army had finally retreated.

The Burma Road

• Built at huge effort this road was a link between the allies in Burma and China.
• Vast amounts of supplies were trucked over the mountains to help the fight against the Japanese.

The Rape of Nanking

• The Japanese army was allowed to run riot.
• Up to 300,000 civilian Chinese deaths.
• 1,000 rapes a day.
• Hospital patients tortured.
• Soldiers bayonetted and shot people at will.

The Rape of Nanking

• Up until May of 1942 the Japanese had been unstoppable.
• They possess territory from the border of India to the Soviet Union, and from the Aleutian Islands to nearly Australia.
• They have not defeated their enemies’ forces however.

Allied Counter-Offensive:

• The British Army begins retraining in jungle warfare.
• The US and Britain join forces.
• The US navy is quick to realize the importance of carriers and sets up “naval task forces”.
• The US marines train to fight in jungles and attack islands.

Allied Counter-Offensive:

• Massive American industrial resources are brought against Japan.
• Modern business techniques produce huge amounts of warships, guns, planes and everything else.
• Modern design technology means that Japanese know-how was rapidly outstripped.
• Both Britain and the US send war material to help Chiang Kai-shek fight the Japanese in China.
Allied Counter-Offensive: “Island-Hopping”

“Island-Hopping”: US Troops on Kwajalien Island

Farthest Extent of Japanese Conquests

Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle: First U. S. Raids on Tokyo, 1942

Battle of the Coral Sea: May 7-8, 1942

Battle of Midway Island: June 4-6, 1942
**Battle of Midway Island:**
June 4-6, 1942

- US aircraft carriers outclass the Japanese carriers and catch them off guard
- The Japanese navy loses 4 of its precious aircraft carriers in this one battle
- Japan cannot replace the loss quickly, unlike the US
- This is the turning point of the war in the Pacific

**Japanese Soldier Moral**

- Despite the loss of battleships, the Japanese were masters of defense
- US marine casualties were horrendous at every island attacked
- Japanese defenders inevitably fought to the death

**Gen. MacArthur “Returns” to the Philippines! [1944]**

**Iwo Jima**

- Horrendous casualties on both sides
- The American invasion had the goal of capturing the entire island, including its three airfields to provide a staging area for attacks on the Japanese main islands
- This five-week battle comprised some of the fiercest and bloodiest fighting of the War in the Pacific of World War II
- Iwo Jima was the only battle by the US Marine Corps in which the overall American casualties exceeded those of the Japanese

- Of the 22,060 Japanese soldiers entrenched on the island, 18,844 died either from fighting or by ritual suicide
- Only 216 were captured during the course of battle
- After Iwo Jima, it was estimated there were no more than 300 Japanese left alive in the island's extensive caves and tunnels
- The Japanese bushido code of honor prevented surrender for many Japanese soldiers
- Those who could not bring themselves to commit suicide hid in the caves during the day and came out at night to prowl for provisions
US Marines on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima [Feb. 19, 1945]

Japanese Kamikaze Planes: The Scourge of the South Pacific

Japanese Kamikaze

- Kamikaze: “Divine Wind”
- It became obvious that the US possessed more and better war technology
- In desperation Japan ordered its young men to beat the enemy by flying bombs into the enemy (and dying in the process)
- These suicide bombers flew planes, or manned suicide torpedoes

Okinawa

- This island was within bomber range of Japan
- If it fell then Japan would, at last, be vulnerable
- Becomes the largest amphibious assault in the Pacific War of World War II
- Nicknamed “typhoon of steel” which referred to the ferocity of the fighting, the intensity of kamikaze attacks from the Japanese defenders, and to the sheer numbers of Allied ships and armored vehicles that assaulted the island

Okinawa

- Japan lost 77,166 soldiers, who were either killed or committed suicide
- The Allies suffered 14,009 deaths
- 149,193 Okinawan civilians were also killed during the 82 day long battle

The Manhattan Project: Los Alamos, NM

- Dr. Robert Oppenheimer
- Major General Lesley R. Groves
- I am become death, the shatterer of worlds!

I am become death, the shatterer of worlds!
The Atomic Bomb

• The first Atomic bomb to be used in war... ‘little boy’
• This bomb was shipped from the US a mere 4 hours after the ‘Trinity’ A-bomb test in the US
• The actual radioactive material inside was the size of an orange

Tinian Island, 1945

• USS Indianapolis
• Delivered the first atomic bomb to the US air force in Tinian.
• July 30 1945 sunk by Japanese submarine off the Philippines on the way home
• Because of her ‘special mission’ her journey was ‘secret’
• Of the 1,200 crewmembers, 900 survived the sinking only to find themselves at sea with no rescuers even looking for them
• Sharks were quickly attracted and after 4 days only 300 men were left, mostly terrified out of their minds
• It was the worst US Navy disaster in history

Tinian Island, 1945

Enola Gay Crew

Col. Paul Tibbets & the A-Bomb

Hiroshima – August 6, 1945

- 70,000 killed immediately
- 48,000 buildings destroyed
- 100,000s died of radiation poisoning & cancer later

The Beginning of the Atomic Age
Nagasaki - August 9, 1945
- 40,000 killed immediately.
- 60,000 injured.
- 100,000s died of radiation poisoning & cancer later.

Japanese A-Bomb Survivors

Hiroshima Memorials

Japan Surrenders
- The Japanese surrender onboard a US battleship in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945.
- The Emperor finally concedes that Japan cannot face US technology and survive.

V-J Day (September 2, 1945)

Japanese POWs, Guam
V-J Day in Times Square, NYC

Japan Surrenders

- Japan withdrew all forces from the Pacific and from the mainland
- So widely scattered were soldiers, and so dedicated were they to their cause, that old soldiers were still coming out of hiding in 1972!

Japan Surrenders

- Japan lost 2.5 million people in the war
- China lost 10 million people
- The US rebuilt Japan to enable it to recover as a source of American influence in Asia
- The Atom bomb was seen as the crucial symbol of political power

Japanese War Crimes Trials

General Hideki Tojo

Bio-Chemical Experiments