

Pearl Harbor to Victory -- War With Japan Summarized

SNEAK ATTACK ON U. S. FLEET LEADS TO NIPS UNDOING

1941

Dec. 7—Japanese bombers attack Pearl Harbor and other U. S. possessions in Pacific. Japanese Imperial Headquarters announce a state of war existed with U. S. at 4 p. m. EST. Japanese troops land in Malaya, bombing Singapore.

Secretary of State Hull accuses Japan of making "treacherous and unprovoked attack" upon U. S.; said Japan had been "infamously false and fraudulent" in preparing attack while carrying on diplomatic conversations. Canada, Netherlands Indies and Costa Rica declare war on Japan.

Dec. 8—U. S. declares war on Japan after President Roosevelt's address to joint session of congress. Great Britain declares war on Japan.

Dec. 10—Great Britain announces sinking of battleship Prince of Wales and battle cruiser Repulse off Malaya.

Dec. 11—U. S. communicate reports sinking of Japanese battleship Haruna off Luzon and a Japanese cruiser and destroyer off Wake Island.

Dec. 15—Secretary of Navy Knox reveals American losses at Pearl Harbor as the battleship Arizona; destroyers Cassin, Shaw and Downes; minesweeper Oglala and the target ship Utah. Navy casualties given as 91 officers and 2,638 men killed; 20 officers and 636 men wounded.

President Roosevelt, in a message to congress, blames Emperor Hirohito of perfidy in U. S.-Japanese war.

Dec. 17—Rear Adm. Chester W. Nimitz replaces Adm. Husband E. Kimmel as commander-in-chief of Pacific fleet; Lt. Gen. Delos C. Emmons replaces Lt. Gen. Walter C. Short as commander of the Hawaiian department of U. S. army; Brig. Gen. Clarence L. Tinker replaces Maj. Gen. Frederick L. Martin as commander of the army air corps.

Dec. 23—U. S. navy announces Japanese landed on Wake Island.

Dec. 27—Japanese ignore American proclamation declaring Manila an open city.

1942

Jan. 2—Manila falls to Japanese along with Cavite naval base.

Jan. 8—Navy announces Japanese lost seven warships at Wake Island.

Jan. 11—Japanese invade Borneo and Celebes.

Jan. 23—Australia reports Japanese troop landings in New Britain and Solomon Islands.

Jan. 24—Pearl Harbor investigation board reports inexcusable negligence on part of trusted officers in Japanese attack on U. S. Pacific naval base.

Feb. 1—U. S. navy announces "surprise attack" by surface and air units of the Pacific fleet on Japanese naval and air bases in the Marshalls.

Feb. 18—Japanese bomb Port Darwin, Australian port.

Feb. 20—Ball invaded by Japanese.

March 9—Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita appointed chief of Japanese forces in Philippines, succeeding Gen. Masaharu Homma, who is reported to have committed suicide.

March 14—U. S.-Britain report 12 allied warships sunk and one damaged in battle of the Java sea between Feb. 27-Mar. 1; Japanese losses included one cruiser sunk, two others damaged, one destroyer sunk, three seriously damaged.

April 3—Navy announces loss of aircraft tender Langley, destroyer Peary and naval tanker Peconic—all in the Pacific.

April 4—U. S. submarines sink Japanese light cruiser and "probably sink" another near Java, and damage five other Japanese vessels.

April 9—Japanese capture Bataan and an exhausted defending army of 36,853 men.

April 10—American flag continues to fly on Corregidor; 3,500 sailors and marines escaped from Bataan.

April 18—American bombers attack Tokyo, Yokohama, Kobe and Nagoya.

May 6—Corregidor surrenders after 27-day battle.

May 7—U. S. naval forces sink seven Japanese warships and one supply vessel off Solomon Islands. Four other Japanese vessels badly damaged.

June 6—Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announces withdrawal of Japanese fleet in Midway Island area, after additional losses.

June 15—Navy reveals Japanese made small landings in Aleutian Islands. Navy also reveals three American warships lost in Battle of the Coral Sea, including the aircraft carrier Lexington; said Japanese lost 15 ships, including aircraft carrier Ryukaku.

Aug. 10—Adm. Ernest J. King, commander-in-chief of U. S. fleet, announces landing by

American forces in the Tulagi area of the Solomon Islands in three-day-old battle; loss of one cruiser and damage to two destroyers, two cruisers and one transport acknowledged.

Aug. 21—U. S. marines raided Japanese-held Makin Island of the Gilbert group on Aug. 17.

Sept. 9—American bombers blast Japanese installations on Gizo Island, 215 miles northwest of Guadalcanal.

Sept. 14—Western defense command announces discovery on Sept. 9 of fragments of an apparently Japanese incendiary bomb near Brookings, Ore.

Sept. 16—Navy discloses loss of aircraft carrier Yorktown (19,900 tons), sunk June 7 by Japanese in battle of Midway.

Sept. 24—Navy announces loss of destroyer Jarvis and the auxiliary transport Little in action off the Solomons.

Sept. 30—U. S. transport George F. Elliott, and a small converted destroyer Gregory lost in action in the Solomons.

Oct. 5—Navy reveals Japanese landed limited reinforcements on Guadalcanal Island.

Oct. 7—Japanese evacuate Attu and Agattu in the Aleutians.

Oct. 12—Three heavy U. S. cruisers—the Quincy, Vincennes and the Astoria—revealed as lost in action in the Solomons morning of Aug. 9.

Oct. 14—Japanese troops land on north coast of Guadalcanal to the west of United States positions.

Oct. 15—American soldiers land to join forces with the Marines in fifth day of Battle of the Solomons.

Oct. 16—Japanese troops and artillery reinforcements land on Guadalcanal.

Oct. 21—Destroyers Meredith and O'Brien reported as lost in enemy action within past three days in the Solomons.

Oct. 25—U. S. bombers attack Hongkong in first allied raid on the colony since Japanese occupation last Christmas.

Oct. 26—Navy reveals sinking of the aircraft carrier Wasp on Sept. 15 by Japanese submarine or submarines in Solomons; also announce loss of American destroyer Porter, and damage to another aircraft carrier in the Solomons.

Oct. 27—Navy discloses a Japanese breakthrough in American lines on Guadalcanal.

Oct. 30—Secretary of Navy Knox announces that the Japanese fleet has withdrawn from the Solomons and that the American ground forces on Guadalcanal were still occupying "every inch of ground."

Nov. 1—U. S. naval communicate reports damage to two Japanese aircraft carriers, two battleships, three cruisers in a sea-air battle near the Stewart Island in the South Pacific on Oct. 26.

Nov. 5—Japanese make new landings on Guadalcanal night of Nov. 3.

Nov. 16—Reporting on the battle of the Solomons, Navy announced American forces had sunk 23 Japanese warships, including one Japanese battleship, five cruisers, eight transports and five cargo transports; U. S. losses included two light cruisers and six destroyers.

Nov. 22—Loss of an additional U. S. destroyer in the Solomons naval engagement.

Nov. 28—American bombers raid Japanese bases in the northwestern Solomons—striking at New Georgia and Bougainville.

Dec. 3—Japanese repulsed in attempt to land reinforcements on Guadalcanal; lose nine ships, including two destroyers or cruisers.

Dec. 5—Navy disclosed full facts of Pearl Harbor; reported sinking or serious crippling of 10 warships—including five battleships—and damage to three other battleships and five smaller warcraft; casualties included the killing of 2,343 army and navy enlisted men and the wounding of 1,272 others, while 960 sailors and marines still are reported as "missing."

Dec. 8—Premier Hideki Tojo warned the Japanese that their country had entered a critical period of the war.

Dec. 12—Navy disclosed sinking of the transport President Coolidge in the Pacific by a mine; only four of the 4,000 on board were lost.

Dec. 15—American bombers blast new Japanese air base at Honda, New Guinea.

Dec. 17—U. S. bombers raid Japanese base on Kiska Island.

Dec. 25—Tokyo announces raid on Wake Island.

Dec. 26—U. S. bombers, operating out of Guadalcanal, flew 360 miles to Rabaul, New Britain island, to carry out a successful raid.

Dec. 27—Premier Tojo warned Japanese that the war was just "beginning."

1943

Jan. 1—Adm. Nimitz disclosed the heaviest single bombing attack on Japanese-held Wake Island since Pearl Harbor on night of Dec. 23-25; some 75,000 pounds of bombs rained on objective.

Jan. 3—Navy revealed action in Pacific off Savo Island on Nov. 14 in which a U. S. battleship bagged 32 planes and later sank

four Japanese ships off Guadalcanal.

Jan. 5—American warships shelled the new Japanese base at Munda, in the New Georgia Islands.

Jan. 11—Navy announced the aircraft carrier Hornet (previously announced but unidentified) was lost in Battle of Santa Cruz Islands on Oct. 26, 1942; other vessels previously announced but unidentified were lost in Battle of Santa Cruz Islands on Oct. 26, 1942; other vessels previously announced but unidentified were lost in Battle of Santa Cruz Islands on Oct. 26, 1942.

Jan. 20—U. S. forces killed 1032 Japanese in Solomons in four days of fighting which ended night of Jan. 17.

Jan. 22—Gen. MacArthur announces all Japanese resistance in the Sanananda area of New Guinea ended.

Jan. 31—Secretary of Navy Knox disclosed that Pearl Harbor that he had been on a two-week trip to the Pacific war zone; declared that Japanese would be wiped out on Guadalcanal in 30 days.

Feb. 9—Japanese announce their forces on Guadalcanal have been evacuated to other points.

Feb. 11—Gen. MacArthur reported Japanese decisively beaten in the Wau region of New Guinea.

Feb. 16—Navy announced two Japanese destroyers had been sunk or badly damaged in drawn-out naval engagement in Solomons and also reported loss of U. S. cruiser Chicago and a destroyer, unnamed.

Feb. 27—Saburo Kurusu, special Japanese envoy to the U. S. prior to the war, warned his people to take the Anglo-American "unconditional surrender" statement seriously.

Mar. 3—Washington reported nine air attacks during February on Japanese base at Kiska Island in the Aleutians.

Mar. 4—Gen. MacArthur's headquarters announced completion of naval battle with the Japanese, called the Battle of the Bismarck Sea; communicate report of 10 warships and 12 transports sunk or left in sinking condition; 15,000 Japanese soldiers reported lost and 55 enemy planes downed; U. S. losses reported as one bomber and three fighter planes.

Mar. 6—Premier Tojo of Japan said that "1943 is the year in which the issue of the world war must be decided."

April 3—Allied headquarters in Australia reported sinking of two Japanese cruisers and a destroyer off New Ireland.

April 12—Japanese planes raid the Port Moresby, New Guinea; 37 planes lost.

April 17—Navy reported Kiska bombed 13 times more.

April 20—War department revealed full details of U. S. raid on Tokyo on April 18, 1942; "Shangri-La" was the aircraft carrier Hornet; 64 of 80 men returned—eight believed to be prisoners.

April 21—President Roosevelt announced that the Japanese had "barbarously" executed at least some of the eight captured U. S. fliers who bombed Japan in April, 1942. The president served notice in his statement and in a protest through the state department that the U. S. would punish the Japanese responsible.

April 22—Japanese issued a one-way "ticket to hell" to any American flier who attempted another raid on Japan.

April 23—Navy disclosed occupation of island of Funafuti, about 450 miles south of the Gilbert group.

April 23—Prime Minister Churchill pledged the British air force to join the U. S. in bombing Japan "until 'this cruel and greedy nation' has been stripped of its power 'to moles' the civilized world."

May 3—Navy reported 13 bombing attacks on Kiska on May 1. (Kiska was raided 145 times in April and 34 times in March.)

May 7—Washington disclosed U. S. occupation of the Aleutian island of Amchitka on Jan. 12, 1943.

May 14—U. S. troops landed on island of Attu on May 11.

May 18—U. S. army bombers raid Wake Island.

May 22—Battle of Attu reported in its final stage, with the Japanese split into three parts.

May 30—Japanese Imperial Headquarters revealed that its garrison on Attu Island had "perished."

June 14—U. S. submarines sank 12 more Japanese vessels and damaged four others.

June 17—Seventy-seven Japanese planes shot out of the Guadalcanal skies by U. S. fliers in worst Japanese aerial defeat since Battle of Santa Cruz; U. S. lost six planes; brought down 32 bombers and 45 zeros.

June 30—Gen. MacArthur started a broad offensive against Japanese positions; made landings on Rendova and New Georgia Islands in the Central Solomons; occupied islands off New Guinea and made a landing at Nassau Bay in New Guinea.

July 1—Allied troops com-

pleted occupation of Rendova Island; shore guns and planes struck at Munda and Vila, on Kolombangara Island, northwest of New Georgia; Japanese lost 101 planes to 17 in trying to prevent allied occupation of Rendova.

July 6—Battle of Kula Gulf in South Pacific ended in victory for the U. S. navy; incomplete reports estimate Japanese probably lost six warships and suffered damage to four others; U. S. lost a cruiser.

July 7—U. S. troops land on both sides of Munda, New Georgia Island.

July 7—Later reports on Battle of Kula Gulf revealed Japanese lost nine warships while U. S. lost light cruiser Helena.

Aug. 6—U. S. soldiers and marines capture the Japanese airfield at Munda in the Solomons.

Aug. 16—American troops captured island of Vella Lavella, in the Solomons.

Aug. 20—In New Guinea, the Japanese were driven in full retreat to inner defenses at air base at Salamaua.

Aug. 21—U. S. and Canadian forces occupy island of Kiska without Japanese opposition on Aug. 15; Japanese withdrew under cover of fog; no allied life lost.

Aug. 21—Allied aircraft bomb Japanese air base at Wewak, New Guinea, for fourth time in a week; netted 33 Japanese planes.

Aug. 23—Navy announced occupation of Segula Island, 20 miles east of Kiska, by American and Canadian forces.

Sept. 1—U. S. naval vessels and planes blasted the Japanese Marcus Island.

Sept. 5—Japanese abandon Reikala Bay base in South Pacific.

Sept. 6—In a powerful assault led personally by Gen. MacArthur, allied forces landed on the Gulf of Huon, east of Lae and less than 25 miles from Salamaua.

Sept. 17—Gen. MacArthur announces capture of Japanese base of Lae, New Guinea.

Oct. 8—Gen. MacArthur's headquarters reports that the Japanese lost a cruiser and two destroyers and suffered damage to two other destroyers in a night battle with U. S. naval forces north of Vella Lavella.

Oct. 13—Biggest Pacific allied air fleet ever assembled dropped 350 tons of bombs in surprise raid at Rabaul, New Britain, on Oct. 12.

Oct. 19—U. S. submarines revealed as having sunk or damaged 480 Japanese merchantmen; of this number 319 were sunk and 36 probably sent to bottom.

Oct. 26—Emperor Hirohito and Premier Tojo told the Japanese diet (parliament) that the United States was "rising from its defeat at the start of the war and that the empire's situation was truly grave."

Oct. 29—Gen. MacArthur announced uncontested landing of paratroops on Choiseul Island, in northern Solomons.

Nov. 1—American ground forces made bold invasion in Solomons, resulting in capture of Empress Augusta bay, halfway up the Bougainville coast.

Nov. 2—U. S. marines land on Bougainville Island, cut off thousands of outflanked Japanese on southeast approaches to Rabaul.

Nov. 4—Allied bombers wreck Japanese fleet assembling at Rabaul for attack on Americans in Solomons; destroy or damage 26 vessels, including five warships, and 108 planes.

Nov. 10—Adm. William F. Halsey reported landing of large force of U. S. army troops on Bougainville Island on Nov. 8, without loss of a man.

Nov. 18—U. S. Liberators bomb Marshall and Gilbert Islands for fourth and fifth successive days.

Nov. 20—American forces invade the Gilbert Islands in the Pacific; U. S. Marines and army forces land on Makin and Tarawa atolls.

Nov. 22—Marines land on Abemama atoll in the Gilberts.

Nov. 23—Americans capture Makin atoll in Gilberts; Adm. Nimitz said the islands were safely in U. S. hands.

Nov. 24—U. S. forces mop up in Gilberts after three-day conquest of the islands; Japanese killed estimated at 4,000.

Dec. 2—Loss of the U. S. S. Liscome Bay, an escort carrier, reported in the Gilbert Islands operation; also loss of the submarine Wahoo.

Dec. 8—Adm. Nimitz announced U. S. attack by our strongest naval task forces ever sent against Japan's island outposts on Kwajalein, Ebeve Roi and Wotje islands in the Marshalls on Dec. 4.

Dec. 9—Australian troops capture Wario, a Japanese base in New Guinea, on Dec. 8.

Dec. 15—U. S. forces invade New Britain.

Dec. 21—Allies capture Fortification Point, New Guinea.

Dec. 24—Navy bombers raid Japanese mid-Pacific island of Nauru.

Dec. 26—Marines land on western end of New Britain.

Dec. 29—Allies seize Blucher Point, New Guinea.

Dec. 30—Marines capture im-

portant airbase on Cape Gloucester, on New Britain.

1944

Jan. 31—Americans invade Marshall Islands after record naval and aerial bombardment.

Feb. 16—Pacific fleet carries out two-day attack on Truk, sinking 16 ships and destroying 201 planes.

Feb. 29—U. S. troops invade Admiralty Islands, overrunning Los Negros.

April 1—Pacific fleet blasts Palau Island, 530 miles from Philippines, destroying every ship at anchor there and at Wolai and Yap.

April 20—New allied East Asia fleet hammers northwestern tip of Sumatra.

April 22—U. S. troops land along 150-mile front on Dutch New Guinea, including Hollandia and Aitape.

May 27—Gen. MacArthur's troops invade Biak Island, north of New Guinea and only 900 miles below the Philippines.

June 14—American troops land on Saipan Island in the Marianas, 1,496 miles from Tokyo.

June 15—Giant B-29 Superfortresses bomb the steel center of Yawata on the Japanese home island of Kyushu.

June 19—U. S. carrier planes smash Japanese task force off Philippines, sinking four warships, damaging 10 and bagging 373 enemy planes.

July 8—American forces complete occupation of Saipan.

July 20—U. S. assault troops land on Guam, south of Saipan.

Aug. 10—Marines complete capture of Guam.

Sept. 11—U. S. troops land at Morotai in Halmahera, 300 miles south of the Philippines, and at Palau, 560 miles to their east.

Sept. 20-21—U. S. carrier planes attack Manila area for first time; 105 Japanese ships hit, 405 planes destroyed or damaged.

Sept. 20—U. S. army completes occupation of Angaur, in Palau Islands.

Sept. 26—Superfortresses attack Anshan, Manchukuo.

Sept. 26—Americans virtually end Japanese resistance on Peleliu Island.

Oct. 8—U. S. Third fleet bombards Marcus Island.

Oct. 9—Carrier planes of Adm. Halsey's Third fleet attack the Ryukyu Islands, innermost guardians of the Japanese homeland.

Oct. 11-12—U. S. carrier force attacks Formosa, sinks 27 ships and destroys 396 planes; 45 American planes lost.

Oct. 16—B-29s blast targets on Formosa.

Oct. 17—Japanese fleet turns tail after approaching U. S. navy forces off Formosa.

Oct. 18—U. S. submarines sink 32 more Japanese vessels, bringing their war-long bag to 804 ships sunk.

Oct. 20—In a joint army-navy operation, Gen. MacArthur lands his troops on Leyte Island in the Philippines.

Oct. 22—Tacloban, capital of Leyte Island, taken by Americans.

Oct. 25-27—Japanese navy is crippled and put to flight in three sea battles in Philippine area; 58 of 60 Japanese ships were hit, 24 sunk, including two battleships, four carriers, 12 cruisers and six destroyers; U. S. lost light aircraft carrier Princeton, two escort carriers, two destroyers and destroyer-escort.

Oct. 28—Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell revealed as recalled from Far East at request of Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek.

Nov. 5—Superforts bomb Singapore from India bases.

Nov. 10—Tokyo claims capture of Kweilin and Liuchow, in China.

Nov. 10—Superforts, from Saipan, bomb Tokyo in first attack on the Japanese capital by land-based planes.

Nov. 29—Superforts make their first night attack on Tokyo.

Nov. 30—American planes virtually annihilate Japanese convoy attempting to reinforce Leyte.

Dec. 7—B-29s raid Tokyo and Mukden.

Dec. 7—American troops land behind the Japanese at Ormoc bay, in Philippines.

Dec. 10—U. S. troops occupy Ormoc.

Dec. 12—Tokyo reported evacuating civilians as U. S. steps up Superfort raids.

Dec. 26—Gen. MacArthur announces closing of Leyte-Samar campaign with capture of Palompon, and calls it "perhaps the greatest defeat in the military annals of the Japanese army."

1945

Jan. 3—Carrier planes hit Formosa and Ryukyu islands off Japan; B-29s from Saipan blast aircraft carrier on Nagoya on Honshu, Japan's home island setting large fires at cost of one Superfortress.

Jan. 4—Americans make two landings, unopposed, on Mindoro; planes hit 25 Japanese ships in two-day attack off Luzon. Carrier-based attacks continued on Formosa, with enemy reporting 900 planes participating in two days; B-29s batter Bangkok, Thailand.

Jan. 5—Gen. MacArthur announces 35 more ships hit in plane attack in Subic bay and Lingayen gulf, including sea-plane carrier; Japanese planes raid our airfields and shipping at Mindoro.

Jan. 7—Carrier planes continue Luzon blitz, shooting down 41 Japanese aircraft; allied fliers bomb Miri airdrome on Borneo and others on Celebes and in Moluccas; warships shell Paramushiro.

Jan. 8—U. S. troops seize Paian in northwestern Mindoro; Tokyo radio asserts that Luzon landing attempt blocked and for third day says large U. S. invasion fleet maneuvering off island.

Jan. 10—Gen. MacArthur announces that invasion of Luzon began at 9:30 p. m., Jan. 9, covered by blistering bombardment from air and sea; desperate Japanese air assaults damage but fail to halt landing fleet.

Jan. 12—Luzon beachhead widened to 22 miles and maximum depth nine miles.

Jan. 13—Allied headquarters announces landing on west coast of Burma, 32 miles southeast of captured Akyab.

Jan. 14—Gen. MacArthur says U. S. troops have advanced 20 miles inland on Luzon.

Jan. 20—Series of Japanese counterattacks around Rosario repulsed; U. S. troops push to within 78 miles of Manila.

Jan. 21—Allies capture city of Wanting, Burma, allowing newly-completed Stilwell Road to be opened for convoys of supplies to China.

Jan. 22—Americans capture Tarlac, capital of Airac provinces, only 65 miles from Manila.

Jan. 23—MacArthur reports 11-mile advance from Tarlac with capture of Capas, placing U. S. troops eight miles from Clark field.

Jan. 24—Marianas-based B-29s pound Iwo in the Volcanic Islands.

Jan. 25—MacArthur's men on Luzon capture Clark field and Fort Stotsenburg.

Jan. 28—First convoy rolls over Leda