

WW2 Pacific Theater: pg. 217-222

Kevin A, Cara H, Heliqiong S, Matt B

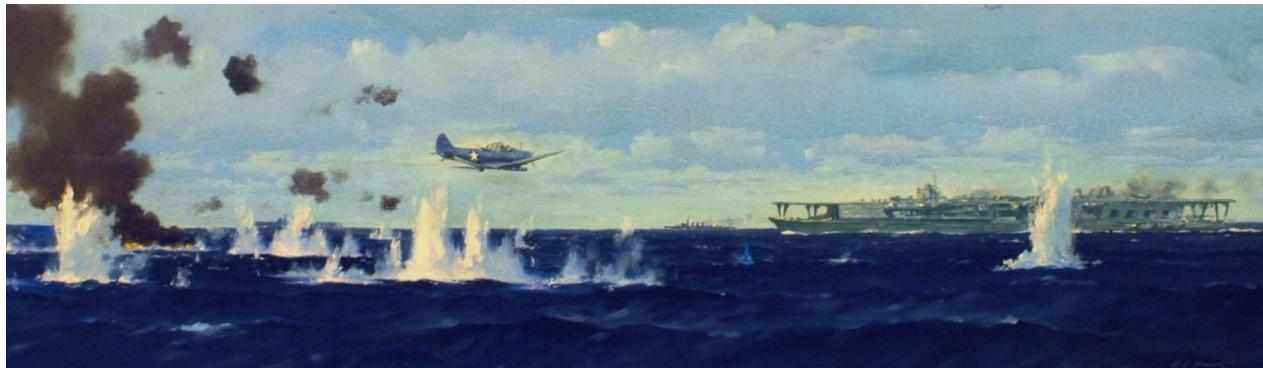


Coral Sea

- April 1942
- Japan tried to invade New Guinea
- US Magic program decoded Japanese messages and found out about the planned invasion
- USS Lexington and USS Yorktown were sent to intercept the invasion
- First naval battle in history where surface fleets never saw each other
- US loses:
 - USS Lexington lost
 - USS Yorktown damaged
 - 70 aircraft lost
- Japanese loses:
 - One light carrier lost
 - One heavy carrier damaged
 - 90 aircraft lost
- Numerically this battle was a draw, but strategically it was a victory for the US, as it prevented the Japanese from landing in New Guinea



Midway

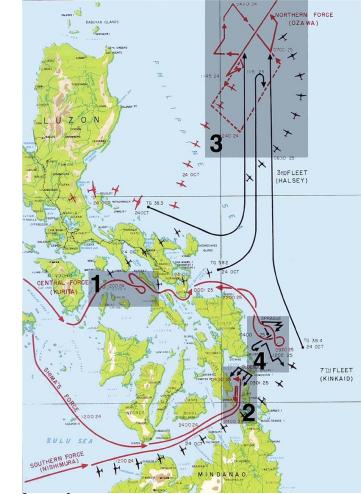


- Through the Magic Programme, the U.S. decoded that another major Japanese offensive was imminent
- Originally thought the attack would take place at San Francisco, but deciphering tricks confirmed that the attack would take place on Midway Island
 - Japanese wanted to lure the U.S. aircraft carriers into a battle where they could finish what they had started at Pearl Harbor
- Nimitz (U.S. Fleet Admiral) positioned U.S. carriers northeast of Midway
 - Surprised the Japanese as they believed the carriers were still in Hawaii
- 4 Japanese carriers were torpedo bombed by the U.S.
 - The Japanese offensive only claimed one U.S. carrier, USS Yorktown
- SIGNIFICANCE: Battle at Midway evened the odds in the Pacific Theater
 - Turning point of the Pacific Theater





Leyte Gulf



- The largest naval battle of WWII
- US and Australian forces invaded Leyte and multiple other islands in order to isolate Japan from the countries they occupied in the South-Pacific
- A small Japanese fleet distracted the US from the north, while a larger battle group fought their way into the main invasion force
- Although the Allies were outgunned, they held the line until the battle lead to a standstill, which prompted the Japanese to withdraw
- The US turned towards the Navajo Native American tribe to create a secret code language that the Japanese could never decipher, as no one knew the language except for the actual Navajos



Manhattan Project Pt. 1

- The United States was interested in pursuing other ways of forcing a Japanese surrender than a direct invasion of the home islands after sustaining heavy casualties in the island hopping campaign
- Albert Einstein informed the President that creation of a nuclear bomb was possible with the help of scientists from Germany
- Scientists from the UK, USA, Canada, Germany, and other countries joined to help create the first bomb
- Over 120,000 people were employed in the effort across the world





Manhattan Project Pt. 2

- The US tested the first bomb in the New Mexican desert during the summer of 1945
- Truman made the decision to drop the bomb without warning the Japanese to cause maximum damage, against the will of the scientists that created it and the project head, Robert Oppenheimer
- After two bombs were dropped on Japan, the Emperor issued a general surrender

