

A CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

WORLD WAR II

Pacific Theatre

1941

Dec. 7 - Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, and Wake Island the next day. During the following weeks, and months, Japan invaded and conquered Borneo, Hong Kong, Bangkok, the Philippines, Indonesia and New Guinea.
 Dec. 10 - Japanese take Guam and land on the Philippine island of Luzon.
 Dec. 17 - Admiral Chester Nimitz placed in command of the Pacific Fleet.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

1942

January - American forces surrender at Corregidor.
 Feb. 15 - Singapore surrendered to the Japanese.
 Feb. 22 - Pres. Roosevelt ordered MacArthur to leave the Philippines.
 Feb. 27 - Allied navies lost the Battle of Java Sea.
 Mar. 10 - Gen. Joseph Stilwell made Chief of Staff of Allied Armies in China and Indo-China.
 Mar. 13 - Japanese landed in the Solomons.
 Mar. 17 - Gen. Douglas MacArthur assumed command of Allied forces in Southwest Pacific.
 May 20 - Japanese complete the conquest of Burma.
 Apr. 9 - Bataan, one of two American garrisons in the Philippines, surrendered to Japanese.
 Apr. 18 - The American bombing raid, led by Maj. James Doolittle, took off from the U.S.S. Hornet and dropped bombs on Tokyo, Kobe, Nagoya and Yokohama.
 May 4-8 - Battle of Coral Sea. American victory in spite of the loss of the U.S.S. Lexington.
 May 6 - Corregidor surrendered.
 June 3-6 - The Battle of Midway stopped any further advances of the Japanese into the eastern Pacific.
 June 7 - Japanese occupy Attu and Kiska in the Aleutian Islands.
 June 9 - Japanese conquest of the Philippines is completed.
 Aug. 7 - U.S. Marines, 1st Division, landed on Guadalcanal.
 Aug. 17 - Marines made a successful raid on Makin Island in the Gilberts.
 Aug. 24-25 - Battle of the Eastern Solomons.
 Oct. 24 - Vice Adm. William Halsey made Allied Commander in the South Pacific.
 Oct. 26 - The Battle of Santa Cruz Island. Japanese suffered heavy losses, and the U.S. lost the carrier U.S.S. Hornet.

Nov. 13-15 - Adm. Halsey's fleet fought the second major battle of the Solomons near Guadalcanal-Tulagi area. Japanese lost 28 ships.
 Nov. 30 - The third naval battle of the Solomons resulted in another American victory.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

1943

Jan. 2 - Buna, in New Guinea, fell to the Allies after a 2-week battle.
 Jan. 22 - Sanananda, on the southeast tip of New Guinea, captured by Australian and American forces.
 Feb. 8 - Japanese resistance on Guadalcanal ended.
 Mar. 2-4 - Battle of Bismarck Sea. Twenty-one Japanese transports with over 15,000 troops aboard are sunk.
 Apr. 18 - U.S. planes shot down the plane carrying Admiral Yamamoto.
 May 11 - U.S. troops landed on Attu, and by May 31, all Japanese resistance had ended.
 July 6 - Naval battle in Kula Gulf resulted in heavy Japanese losses.
 Aug. 5 - Munda, a Japanese air base on New Georgia in the Solomons, is taken by U.S. forces.
 Aug. 15 - Allies retook Kiska in the Aleutians.
 Aug. 17 - Wewak airfields in New Guinea were bombed, and over 300 Japanese planes were destroyed.
 Autumn - Ledo road was constructed through the jungle between Assam and Burma.
 Sep. 11 - Salamaua, on New Guinea, fell to Allied forces.
 Oct. 12-Nov. 2 - A constant series of air raids on the Japanese naval base at Rabaul, New Britain.
 Nov. 1 - U.S. Marines, 3rd Division, landed on Bougainville, in the Solomons.
 Nov. 20-24 - U.S. Marines, 2nd Division, landed on Tarawa and Makin Islands in the Gilberts. Marines take the islands after suffering 3,772 casualties.
 Nov. 24 - Battle of Cape St. George resulted in the loss of three Japanese destroyers with no American casualties.
 Dec. 26 - Allied forces landed on Cape Gloucester, New Britain.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

1944

Jan. 31 - U.S. Marines attacked Marshall Islands and captured Kwajalein Island by February 6.
 Feb. 3 - Paramushiru, on Kuriles Island, was shelled

by U.S. warships - first attack on Japanese home territory.

Feb. 16-17 - Naval forces attacked Truk Island in the Carolines - main Japanese base in the central Pacific.

Feb. 17 - U.S. troops landed on Eniwetok.

Feb. 20 - After five months of intensive bombing, the major air and naval base of Rabaul was abandoned by the Japanese.

The fall of Rabaul made it possible for MacArthur to push toward the Philippines and Nimitz to devote himself to the Central Pacific campaign.

Feb. 29 - U.S. troops seized the airfield at Los Negros, in the Admiralty Islands.

Mar. 6 - The Japanese 15th Army opened its offensive against India.

Apr. 22 - Allies landed at Hollandia in New Guinea.

May 27 - U.S. Forces began the long, costly conquest of the island of Biak in Dutch New Guinea.

June 15 - B29s bomb Yawata, on the Japanese island of Kyushu.

June 19 - Naval Battle of Philippine Sea saw the loss of 402 Japanese planes and 27 American planes.

June 22 - The Japanese offensive into India met defeat at Imphal.

July 21 - U.S. Marines, 3rd Division, landed on Guam, in the Marianas, after 17 days of aerial attacks. The island was captured after 20 days of hard and bloody fighting.

July 24 - U.S. Marines, 4th Division, supported by the 2nd Division, invaded the island of Tinian. Japanese resistance ended on August 1.

Aug. 25 - After four months of fighting, Aitape, on the north coast of New Guinea is in Allied hands.

Sep. 15 - U.S. Marines, 1st Division, landed on Peleieu Island, in the Palaus, last Japanese base in the open Pacific. Many Japanese soldiers surrendered or committed suicide on Oct. 13, with final resistance ending on Nov. 7.

Oct. 12 - U.S. began a 3-day carrier raid on Formosa (Taiwan). Over 300 Japanese planes were destroyed on the first day, alone.

Oct. 20 - Gen. MacArthur began the invasion of the Philippines, landing on Leyte.

Oct. 23-26 - Battle of Leyte Gulf resulted in an overwhelming U.S. victory. Japanese resistance on Leyte ended on Dec. 25.

Nov. 24 - First superfortress raid on Tokyo made from the air base on Saipan.

Dec. 15 - MacArthur's forces landed on Mindoro, 150 miles from Manila.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

1945 Jan. 9 - American forces landed on Luzon, in the Philippines.

Jan. 28 - First U.S. trucks reached China over the newly-opened Ledo-Burma road.

Feb. 1 - U.S. Rangers liberated over 500 soldiers from the Japanese prison camp in Bataan.

Feb. 4 - U.S. troops entered Manila.

Feb. 19-Mar. 26 - Battle of Iwo Jima. Although the flag was raised on the summit of Mt. Suribachi on Feb. 23, it took another month of bitter fighting to erase all Japanese resistance. American casualties included 5,885 killed, 17,272 wounded and 46 missing.

Mar. 9 - U.S. B-29s began incendiary bombing campaigns against major Japanese cities.

Mar. 10 - Allied troops landed on Mindanao, in the Philippines.

Apr. 1-June 21 - The last major amphibious invasion of the war took place during the Battle of Okinawa, in the Ryukyu Islands. The 3-month battle cost 49,500 American casualties and 120,000 Japanese casualties.

Apr. 12 - Roosevelt died and Harry Truman succeeded him as United States President.

July 5 - MacArthur announced total re-conquest of the Philippines, at a cost of 60,628 American casualties.

July 10 - A thousand carrier-based planes and bombers from the Marianas and Okinawa, raided Kyushu and Honshu, beginning the full-fledged air war against Japan.

July 17 - British carrier forces joined the U.S. 3rd Fleet in air attacks on Tokyo.

July 26 - Japan was officially warned to surrender, or suffer complete destruction from bombing raids.

Aug. 6 - Hiroshima blasted by first atomic bomb, resulting in 180,000 casualties.

Aug. 9 - Nagasaki hit by the second atomic bomb, with 80,000 casualties.

Aug. 10 - Japan sued for peace.

Aug. 14 - Japan's surrender announced by President Harry Truman. V-J Day.

Sep. 2 - Japan formally surrendered aboard the U.S.S. Missouri, in Tokyo Bay.

Sep. 8 - MacArthur entered Tokyo.

Sep. 9 - All Japanese troops in Korea surrendered.

September-October - Japanese troops in China, Manchuria, Indo-China and Mongolia surrendered.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★