Operations in the Pacific, December 1941 – September 1945

Manila American Cemetery and Memorial
This cemetery site is the largest administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission in the number of graves and of those Missing whose names are recorded on the walls of the memorial. The government of the Philippines granted its free use as a permanent burial ground in perpetuity without charge or taxation.

American Battle Monuments Commission
This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 26 American cemeteries and 29 memorials, monuments and markers in 16 countries. The Commission works to fulfill the vision of its first chairman, General of the Armies John J. Pershing. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I, promised that “time will not dim the glory of their deeds.”

Manila American Cemetery & Memorial
McKinley Road
Global City, Taguig
Republic of Philippines
tel 011-632-844-0212
tel 011-632-813-2521
fax 011-632-812-4717

For more information on this site and other ABMC commemorative sites, please visit www.abmc.gov
1943
Throughout the year, many hard-fought campaigns along the north coast of New Guinea and up the Northern Solomons flank resulted in major advances towards Japan.

November 20: Landing by U.S. Marines on Tarawa began the U.S. Central Pacific thrust.

1944
Southwest Pacific forces under General MacArthur reached the west end of New Guinea by the end of August. Central Pacific forces under Admiral Nimitz fought through the fortified atolls of the Marshall, Marianas, and Palau Islands. The campaigns positioned U.S. forces to invade the Philippines.

October 20: U.S. forces returned to the Philippines, landing on Leyte.

October 24-26: The Battle of Leyte Gulf marked the end of Japanese naval power in the Pacific.

November 7-8: U.S. landings on Mindoro facilitated preparations to invade Luzon.

1945
January 9-13: U.S. Sixth Army landings at Leyte Gulf began the Luzon campaign.

January 30: U.S. Army Rangers, Alamo Scouts, and guerrillas abandoned Guadalcanal to start on Leyte.

February 3-7: Battle of Manila began. The city was declared liberated on Mar. 4. More than 1,000 U.S. military and 100,000 Filipino civilians were killed during the battle. Airborne and amphibious U.S. Army Rangers, Alamo Scouts, and guerrillas had started on Leyte.

February 26-28: Starting at Palawan, through the Visayan Islands to Mindanao, Eighth Army liberated the remaining islands of the Philippines.

March 23-26: The Battles of Leyte Gulf marked the end of Japanese naval power in the Pacific.

Okinawa
In April, Operation Rhineland commenced, followed by Okinawa. The Battle of Okinawa was fought for 82 days. U.S. landings began on the west end of the island.

May 31: Battle of Okinawa ended, but the Allies were set back in the Philippine Islands. Fierce defenses by U.S. forces along the north coast of the island cost the Americans 7,000 casualties, including 21 Medal of Honor recipients.

June 6: U.S. troops recaptured Corregidor Island on Feb. 16.

July 20: Liberation of Philippines declared. More than 14,000 Americans were killed in combat leading to liberation.

August 8, 1960
The memorial consists of the tower containing the small directional chapel, and two kiosks on First Avenue which enclose the Memorial Court. The structures are faced with travertine limestone.

The Memorial

The Plaza

The Buna-Gona campaign continued the Allied drive in the Solomons.

June 16: U.S. Marines landing on Guadalcanal began the U.S. offensive operations in the Pacific.

1942
May 8: U.S. Forces on Bataan surrendered. The Bataan Death March began the next day. 70,000 Prisoners of War, including 12,000 Americans, made a 16-mile march to the prison camp and thousands died on the march. The death rate of POWs was extremely high. Of the nearly 30,000 Americans captured in the Philippines, more than 11,000 died in captivity.

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