The War in the Pacific: 1941 - 1945

Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of the Interior
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Briefing by Dr. Harry A. Butowsky,
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Overview of Today’s Talk

- Highlights of the events and people central to the War in the Pacific.
- Discuss the related NPS historic sites.
- Identify the NPS resources available for research and study.
Dear Mother, Dec. 7, 1943

Two years ago, on a sunny and yet snappy Sunday afternoon, I was returning to Conway [Hall] after a good roast beef dinner and an hour of rearranging the fraternity furniture from the pledge formal of the night before. As I came up the walk Professor Fink rushed from his house next door and shouted, “The Japanese have bombed Pearl Harbor.” That moment changed the whole course of my life.

--Air Cadet Ralph Lee Minker

from An American Family in World War II edited by Minker, O’Connell and Butowsky
The Pacific Theatre of War
U.S. Military Leaders - 1941

Admiral Husband Kimmel

General Walter Short
Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941

First attack wave
- 183 aircraft
- 7:55 a.m.

Second attack wave
- 168 aircraft
- 8:54 a.m.

Kāne‘ohe

Number of aircraft used is indicated next to plane
The *USS Arizona* Burns and Sinks, December 7, 1941
The Defense of Wake (1941)
Japanese invasion of Guam – December 1941
Doolittle Raid on Japan, April 1942
The Battle of Midway
Aleutian Islands – June 1942

Aleutian WWII National Historic Area
The Sinking of the Akagi
June 4, 1942

One of the aircraft carriers that attacked Pearl Harbor
Pacific Battles (1941-1945)
Pacific Campaigns

- Island Hopping – Tarawa, Saipan, Guam, Iwo Jima, Okinawa
- Guadalcanal, New Guinea
- Philippines
- Blockade of Japan
- Hiroshima and Nakasaki
- Japanese surrender, August 14, 1945

Deck of the USS Missouri
17 World War II National Parks
NPS Resources for Research

- NPS history website
  [www.nps.gov/history/history/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/history/index.htm)
- Landmarks 100+ (national significance)
- Landmark Studies (100+)
- Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corp campaign studies
- Special history studies
- Submerged cultural resource studies
100+ National Historic Landmarks

Trinity Site
- Site of the first atomic bomb explosion, July 16, 1945.
- White Sands, New Mexico

Opana Radar Site
Oahu, Hawaii
100+ National Park Service
WWII in the Pacific Studies

- Warships Associated with World War II in the Pacific
- World War II in the Pacific National Historic Landmark Theme Study
- Confinement and Ethnicity
- Multiple Studies for all of our World War II Parks
Additional Resources on NPS web
America Remembers . . . For the Veterans
And Future Generations