

The War in the Pacific: 1941 - 1945

Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of the Interior
September 17, 2007

Briefing by Dr. Harry A. Butowsky,
Historian and Park History Web Manager
National Park Service



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.



The War Begins for America

Dear Mother, Dec. 7, 1943

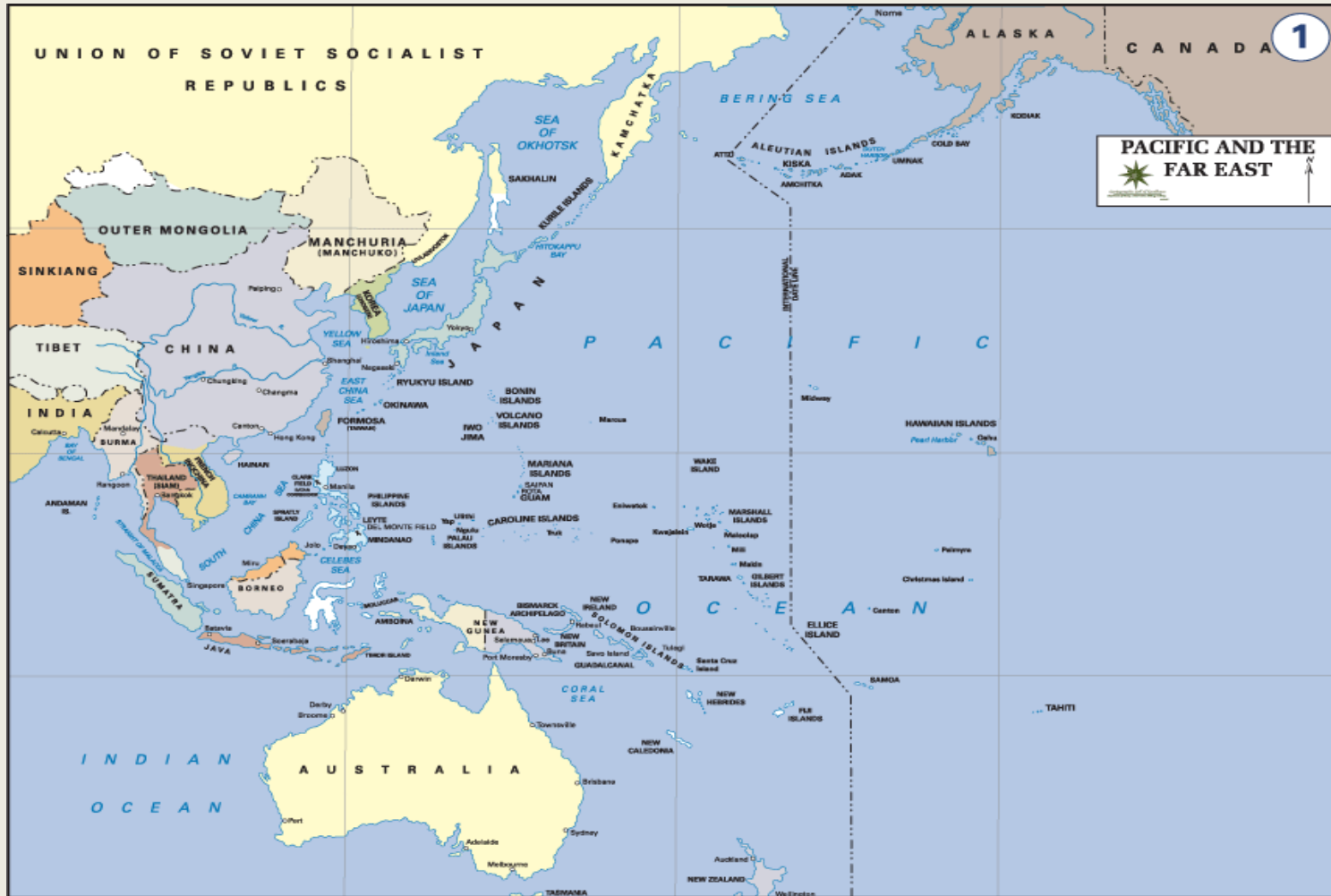
Two years ago, on a sunny and yet snappy Sunday afternoon, I was returning to Conway [Hall] after a good roast beef dinner and an hour of rearranging the fraternity furniture from the pledge formal of the night before. As I came up the walk Professor Fink rushed from his house next door and shouted, "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





**Prime Minister
Hideki Tojo**



**Fleet Admiral
Isoroku Yamamoto**

U.S. Military Leaders - 1941

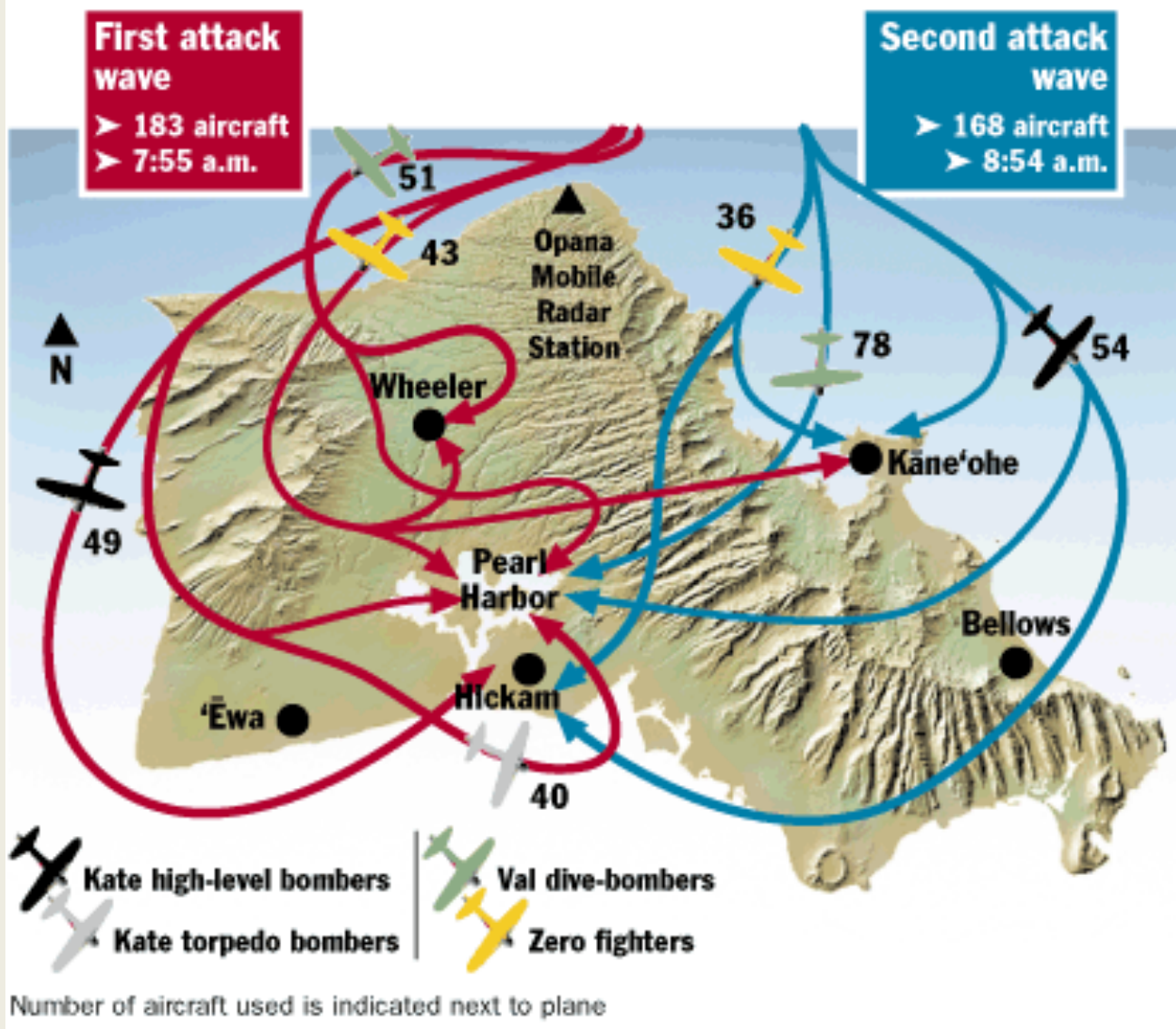


Admiral Husband Kimmel



General Walter Short

Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941



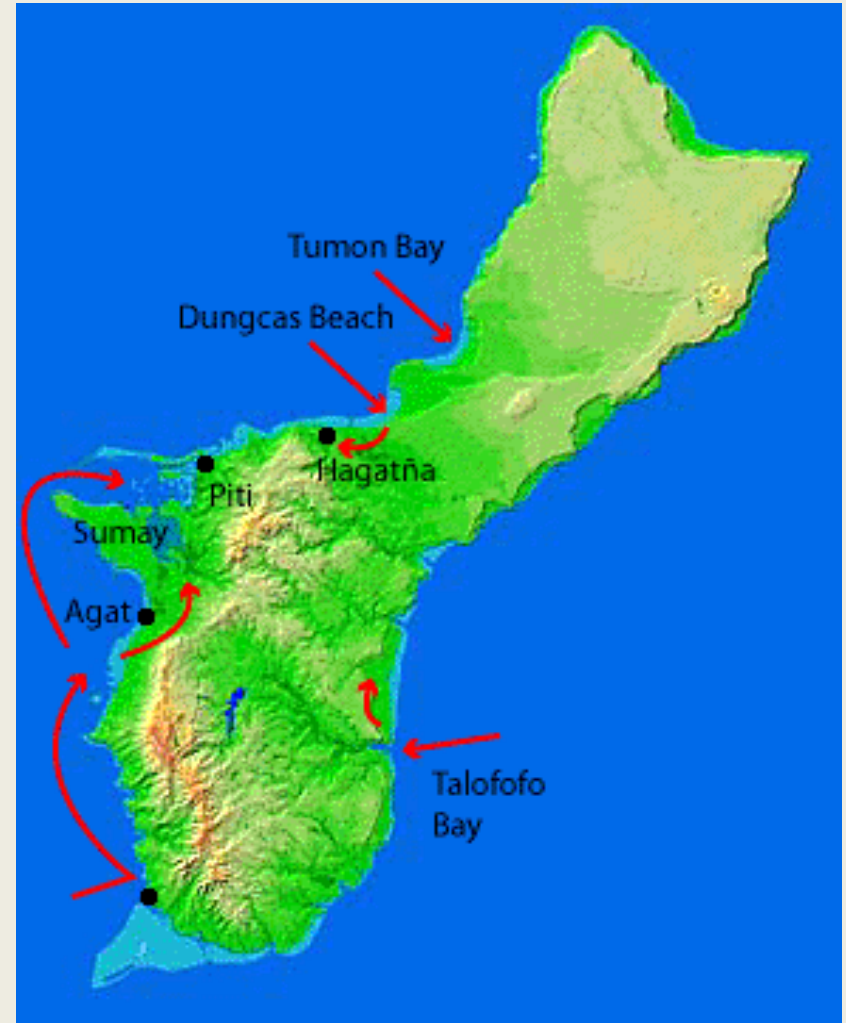
The *USS Arizona* Burns and Sinks, December 7, 1941



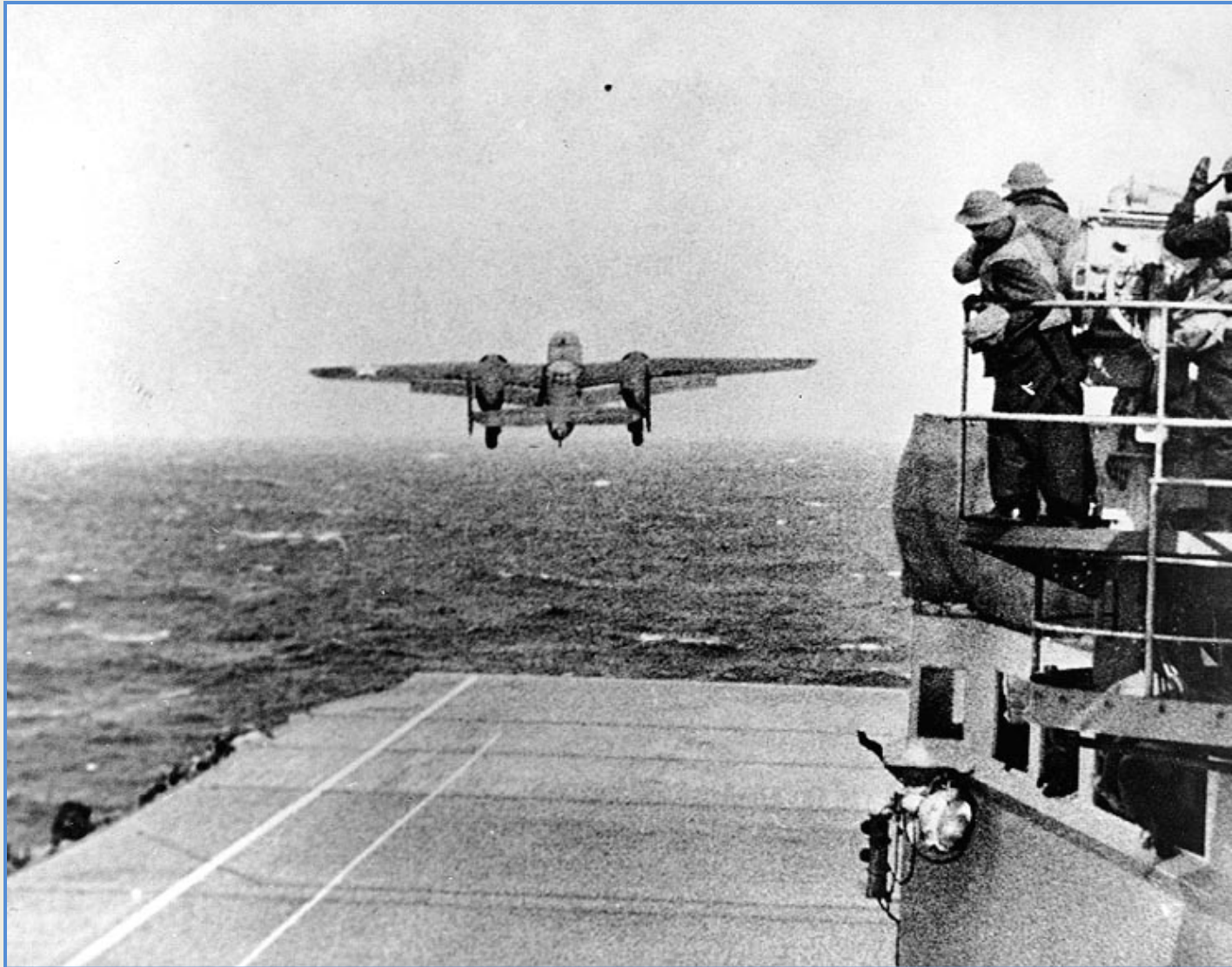
The Defense of Wake (1941)



Japanese invasion of Guam – December 1941



Doolittle Raid on Japan, April 1942



The Battle of Midway



Aleutian Islands – June 1942

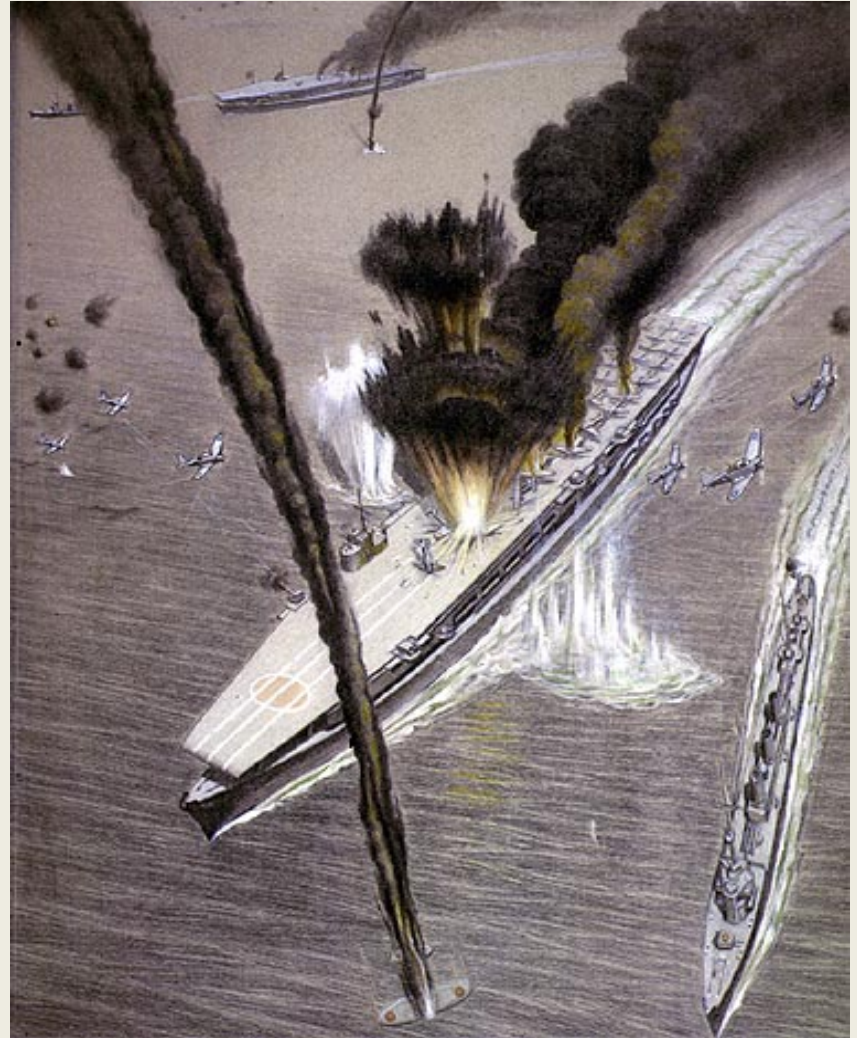


Aleutian WWII National Historic Area

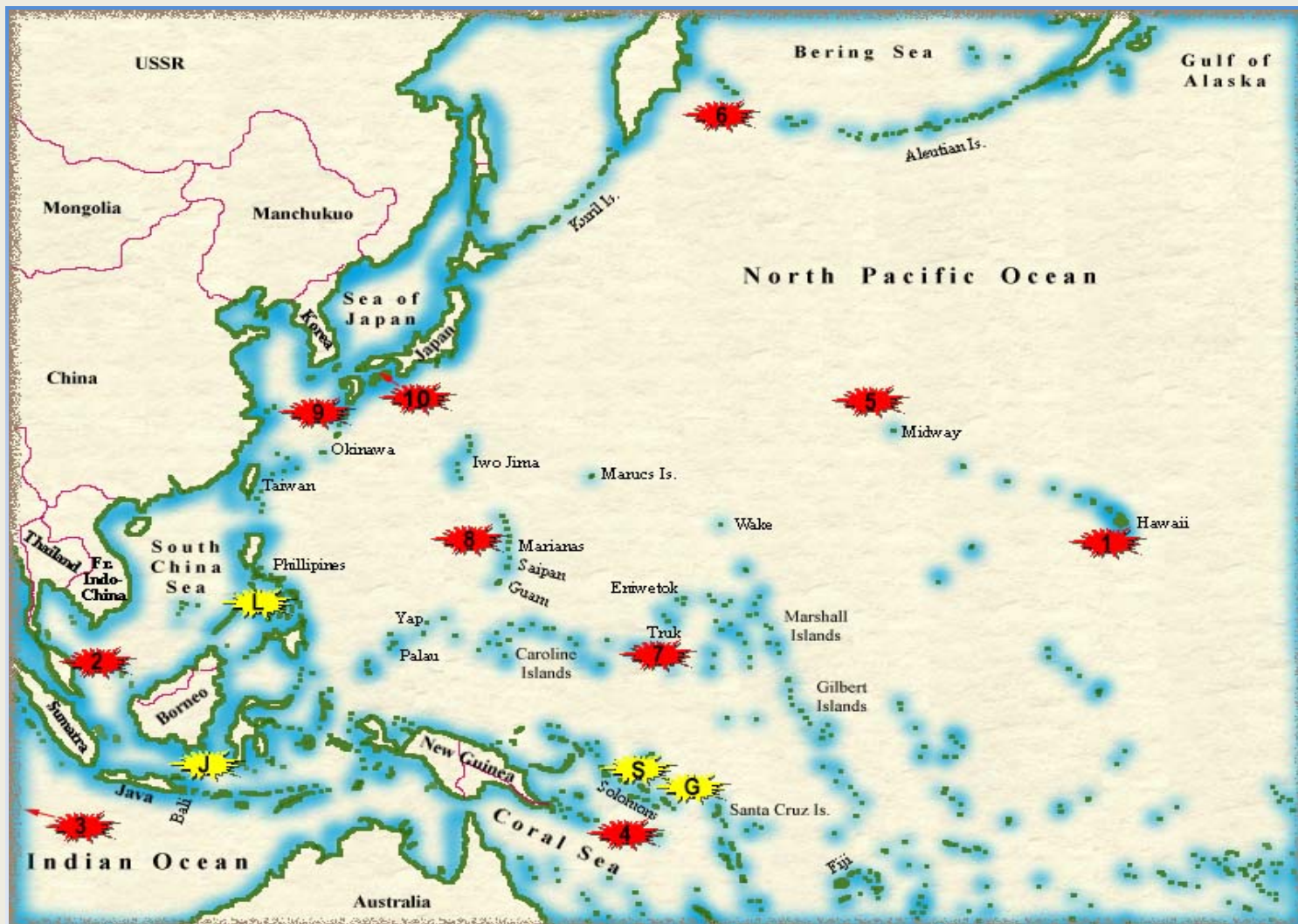
The Sinking of the Akagi

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 Nagasaki
- Japanese surrender, August 14, 1945



Deck of the USS Missouri

17 World War II National Parks



ROSIE THE RIVETER

World War II / Home Front National Historical Park



RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA



THE ROSIE THE RIVETER TRUST

“HONORING THOSE WHO TOILED IN THE ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY”

NPS Resources for Research

- NPS history website
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

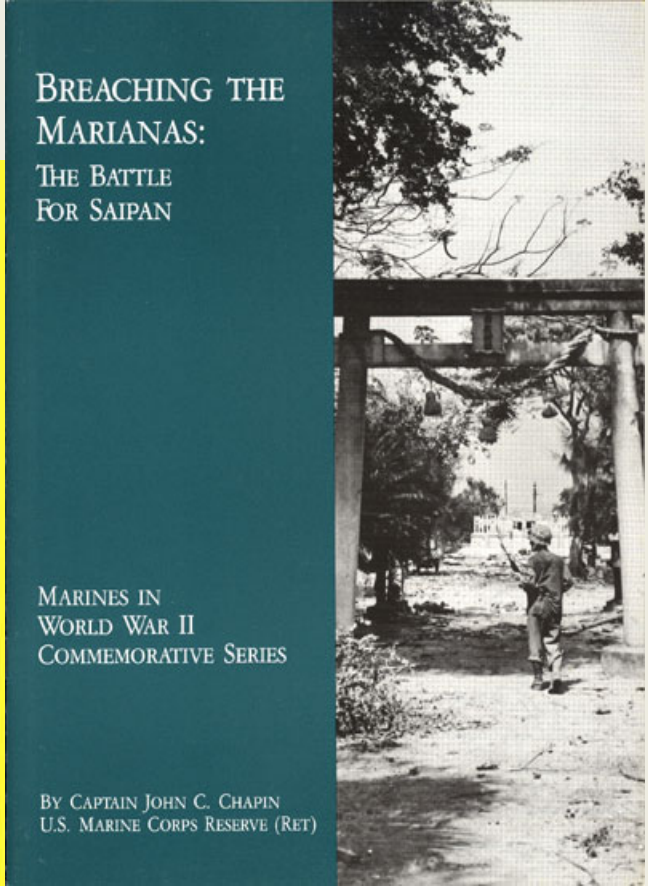
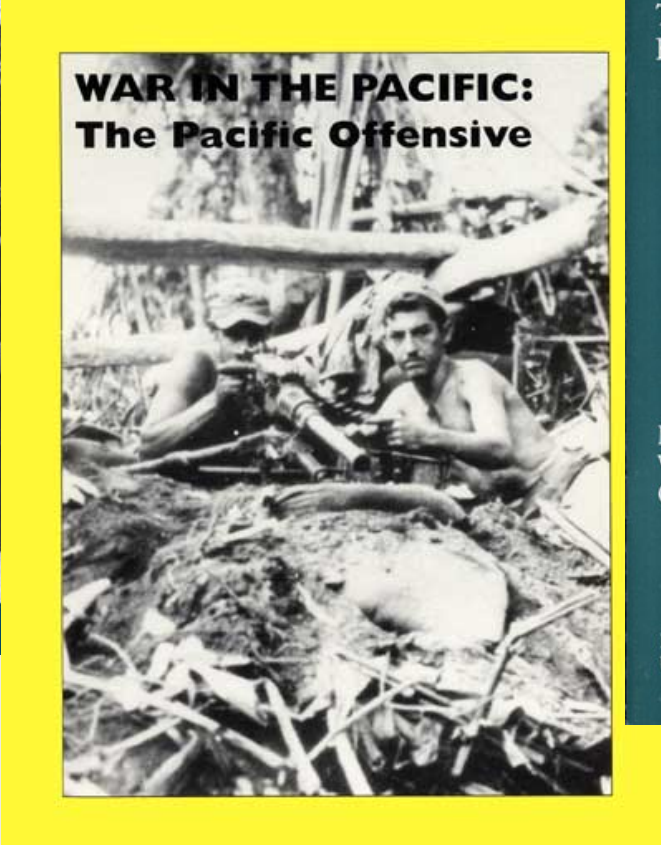
- *Warships Associated with World War II in the Pacific*
- *World War II in the Pacific National Historic Landmark Theme Study*
- *Confinement and Ethnicity*
- *Multiple Studies for all of our World War II Parks*

**Warships Associated
With
World War II in the Pacific
Excerpts from a
National Historic
Landmark Theme Study**

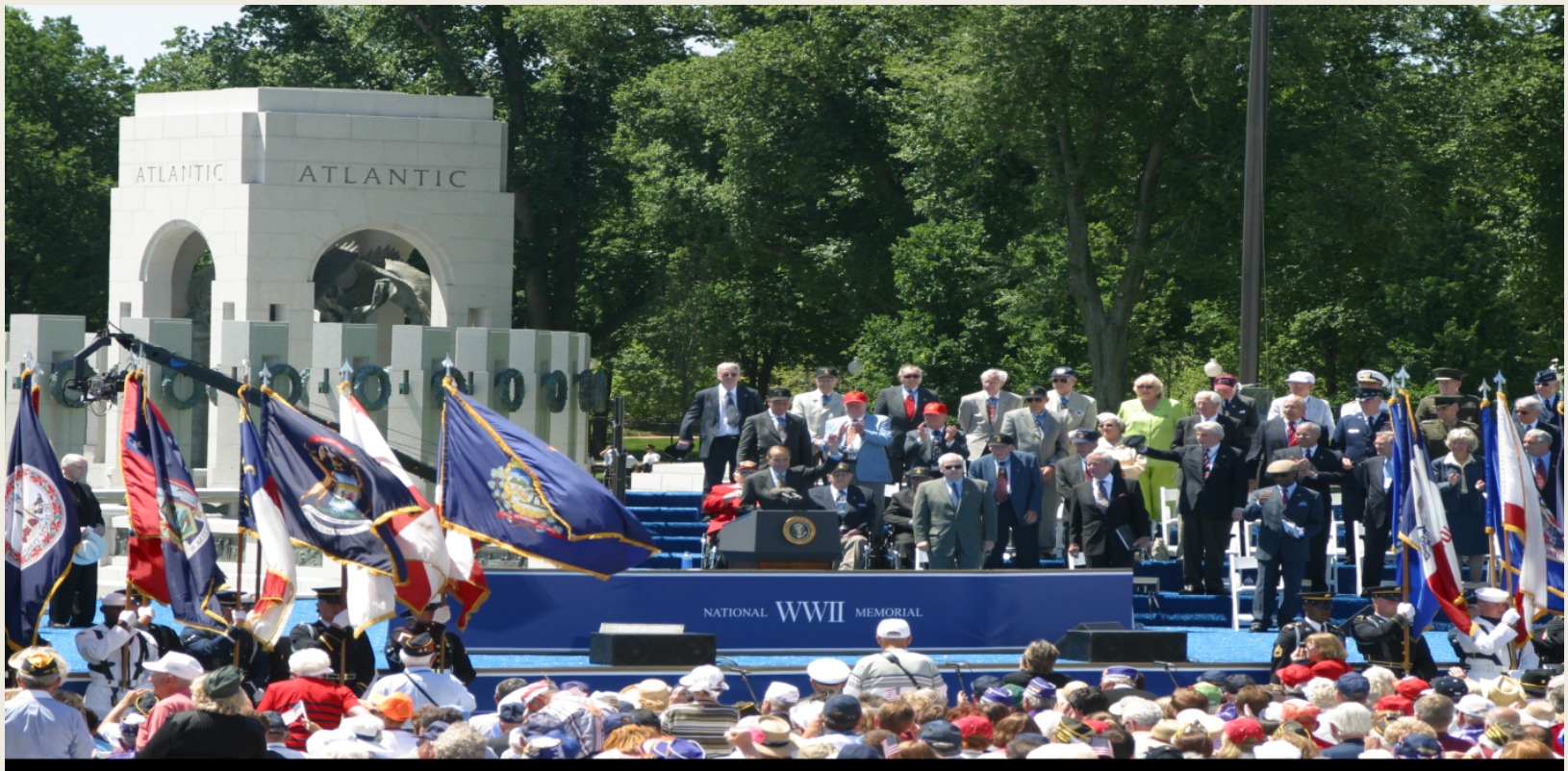


*USS Intrepid and USS Iowa
in 1944*

Additional Resources on NPS web



America Remembers . . . For the Veterans



And Future Generations

