

## World War II in the Pacific Theater

### U.S. Timeline

<b>1937</b>	
JUL	Marco Polo Bridge incident ignites war between Japan and China.
<b>1940</b>	
JUL	Japanese forces occupy Indochina. U.S. cuts off oil exports to Japan.
<b>1941</b>	
NOV	U.S. tells Japan to leave China and Indochina. Japan prepares for war with U.S. Imperial Japanese fleet leaves home waters for Hawaii.
DEC	Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. Japan invades Malaya, Wake Island, and The Philippines. Hong Kong surrenders. Japanese naval aircraft sink HMS Price of Wales and Repulse, ending British sea power in far east. U.S. declares war on Japan. Germany and Italy declare war on U.S.
<b>1942</b>	
JAN	Manilla, The Philippines, fall to Japanese.
FEB	Japanese carrier planes bomb Darwin, Australia. Japanese navy defeats Allied navies in Java Sea. Singapore falls to Japanese.
MAR	MacArthur evacuated from Corregidor off Bataan. Vows, "I shall return."
APR	Bataan falls to Japanese. Bataan death march. James Doolittle leads bombing raid on Tokyo.
MAY	U.S. Navy turns back Japanese forces headed to New Guinea in battle of the Coral Sea. Tactical victory for Japanese but strategic victory for Allies.
JUN	U.S. Navy wins decisive battle of Midway. Turning point of Pacific war. Japanese forces land on Aleutian Islands Attu and Kiska.
AUG	U.S. Marines land on Guadalcanal, beginning the Solomons campaign. Japanese launch attack across Kokoda Trail in attempt to take Port Moresby, New Guinea.
NOV	U.S. and Australian forces attack Buna-Goa-Sanananda on New Guinea. Decisive naval battle of Guadalcanal (3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> battle of Savo Island).
<b>1943</b>	
JAN	Australian and U.S. forces turn back Japanese landing forces at Milne Bay, New Guinea.
APR	Admiral Yamamoto's plane shot down.
APR	U.S. Army begins Salamau-Lae campaign, New Guinea.
MAY	U.S. forces retake Attu and Kiska.
JUN	U.S. begins New Guinea campaign Operation Cartwheel with landings on Woodlark Island and Kiriwina east of New Guinea.
SEP	U.S. Marines land on Peleliu.

SEP	U.S. Army begins Huon Peninsula campaign, New Guinea.
NOV	U.S. Marines land on Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands.
<b>1944</b>	
FEB	U.S. Army begins Admiralty Islands campaign, New Guinea.
APR	In Operations Persecution and Reckless, U.S. Army takes Aitape and Hollandia, New Guinea.
JUN	U.S. Marines land on Saipan. Japan loses over 220 carrier planes in battle of the Philippine Sea. U.S. Sixth Infantry relieves 158 <sup>th</sup> RCT in battle of Wakde-Sarmi (Lone Tree Hill).
JUL	U.S. forces liberate Guam. U.S. Sixth Infantry secures Sansapor, New Guinea.
AUG	U.S. forces take Tinian Island.
OCT	U.S. Army lands on Leyte beginning liberation of The Philippines. U.S. Navy defeats Japanese in battle of Leyte Gulf, largest naval battle in history.
<b>1945</b>	
JAN	U.S. Army lands on Luzon at Lingayen Gulf. Sixth Infantry moves inland.
FEB	U.S. Marines land on Iwo Jima.
MAR	Fire bombing of Tokyo. U.S. forces land on Okinawa. U.S. Army liberates Manila.
APR	Gen. Yamashita begins holding action on Luzon hoping for conditional peace settlement.
AUG	Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan Surrenders.
SEP	Japan signs articles of surrender in Tokyo Bay aboard USS Missouri.

## Suggested Reading

*Righteous Might: One Man's Journey Through War in the Pacific*, Craig Siegel, Rochelle Publications.

*War at the End of the World: Douglas MacArthur and the Forgotten Fight for New Guinea, 1942-1945*, James P. Duffy, NAL.

*Helmet for My Pillow: From Parris Island to the Pacific*, Robert Leckie, Bantam Books.

*Eagle Against the Sun*, Ronald Spector, Vintage.

*MacArthur's Jungle War: The 1944 New Guinea Campaign*, Stephen R. Taffee, University Press of Kansas.

*The Ghost Mountain Boys: Their Epic March and the Terrifying Battle for New Guinea--The Forgotten War of the South Pacific*, James Campbell, Broadway Books.

*Bloody Buna: The Grueling Campaign in New Guinea That Thwarted the Japanese Invasion of Australia*, Lida Mayo, Doubleday & Co.

*Touched with Fire: The Land War in the South Pacific*, Eric M. Bergerud, Penguin Books.

*The Pacific*, Hugh Ambrose, New American Library.

*Goodbye, Darkness: A Memoir of the Pacific War*, William Manchester, Back Bay Books.

*With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa*, E.B. Sledge, Presidio Press.

*Guadalcanal Diary*, Richard Tregaskis, Modern Library.