

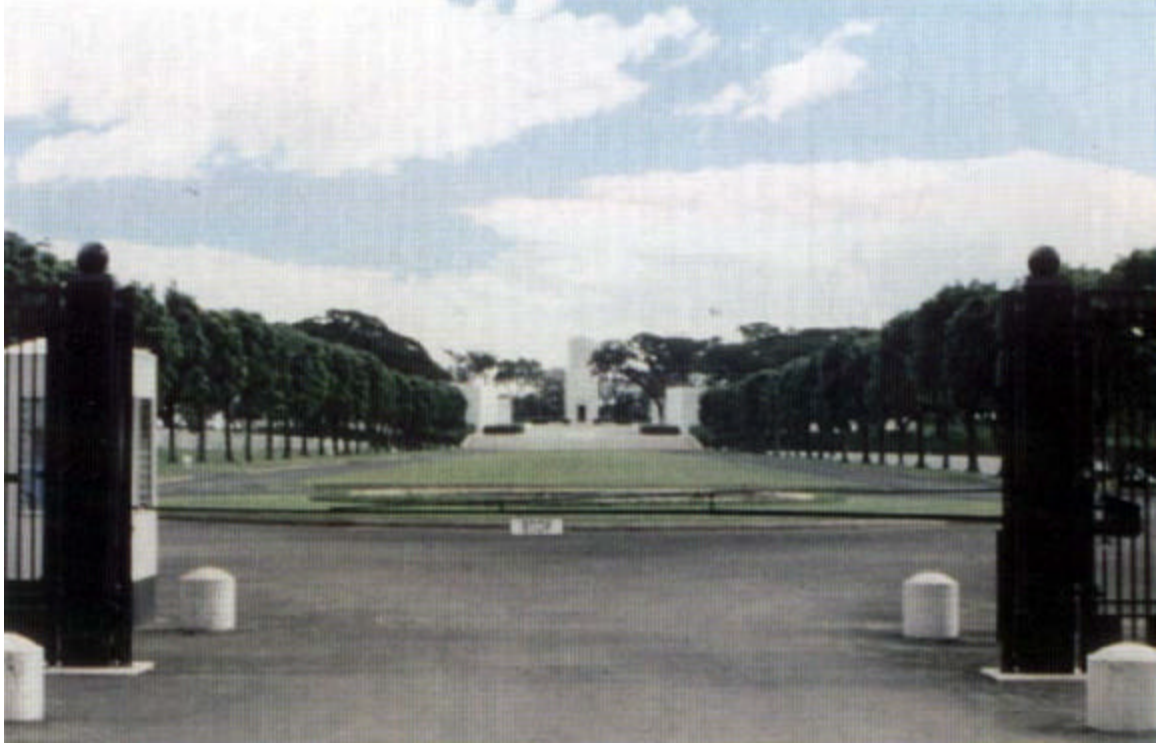
Manila American Cemetery and Memorial



American Battle Monuments Commission



Altar in the Chapel

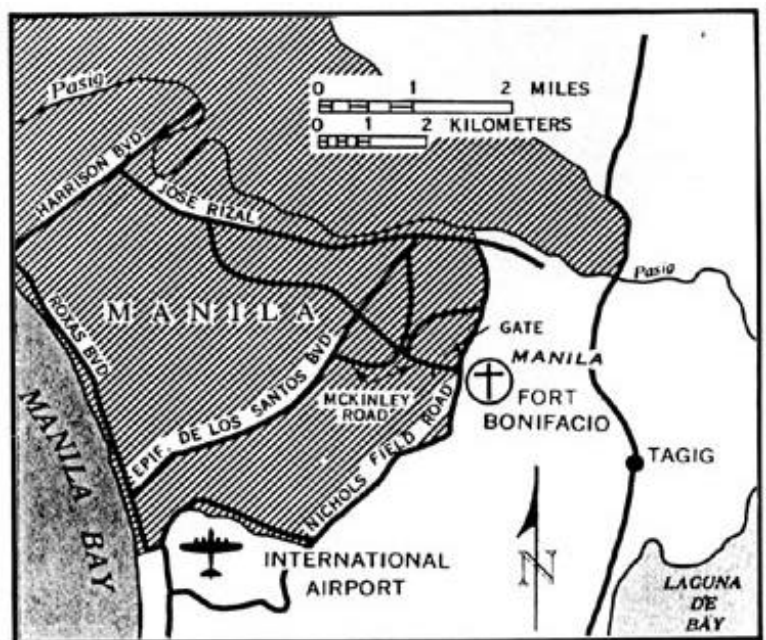


Entrance to Cemetery

Manila American Cemetery and Memorial

LOCATION

The Manila American Cemetery is located about six miles southeast of the center of the city of Manila, Republic of the Philippines, within the limits of the former U.S. Army reservation of Fort William McKinley, now Fort Bonifacio. It can be reached most easily from the city by taxicab or other automobile via Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (Highway 54) and McKinley Road. The Nichols Field Road connects the Manila International Airport with the cemetery.



HOURS

The cemetery is open daily to the public from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm except December 25 and January 1. It is open on host country holidays. When the cemetery is open to the public, a staff member is on duty in the Visitors' Building to answer questions and escort relatives to grave and memorial sites.

HISTORY

Several months before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, a strategic policy was adopted with respect to the United States priority of effort, should it be forced into war against the Axis powers (Germany and Italy) and simultaneously find itself at war with Japan. The policy was that the stronger European enemy would be defeated first.

With the surprise Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941 and the bombing attacks on 8 December on Wake Island, Guam, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippine Islands, the United States found itself thrust into a global war. (History records the other attacks as occurring on 8 December because of the International Date Line. Actually they all occurred during the same daylight period.) The day after the Pearl Harbor attack, the United States declared war against Japan. Within the short span of two days, Japanese troops had landed on the Malay Peninsula and Tarawa and Makin in the Gilbert Islands, forced Guam to surrender, and made their principal landing on the island of Luzon in the Philippines. On 11 December, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States.

Despite the fact that Japan had dealt a grievous blow to the strength of the United States Navy in the Pacific and was advancing on all fronts in the southwest Pacific, the basic decision of "Europe First" was reaffirmed promptly by President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

At the same meeting, in concert with their military advisors, formation of the Combined Chiefs of Staff was approved to coordinate the operations of all Allied Forces; however, actual control of operations in the Pacific remained with the U.S. Joint Chief of Staff. For all practical purposes, the war against Japan was relegated to second place, except for the early months of the war when it was essential to reinforce our Pacific forces which now were so much smaller than those of the Japanese. There was little hope of saving the Philippines but it was decided that the line of communications to Australia must be kept open as it was considered essential to the defense of that continent. At first, it seemed there was nothing that could stop the Japanese advance. Hong Kong fell on Christmas Day, shortly thereafter, U.S. and Philippines troops evacuated Manila and withdrew to the Bataan Peninsula. In January, the Japanese landed in the Netherlands East Indies, and simultaneously crossed over into Burma. Singapore capitulated in mid-February. The only bright spot at this time was the magnificent resistance by the American and Filipino forces on Bataan. But even that bright spot became a fading light as there was no way for us to bring help to those gallant defenders, whereas the enemy was pouring reinforcements into Bataan. On 9 April 1942, Bataan surrendered; it was followed by Corregidor on 6 May. The superb defense of Bataan and Corregidor, however, threw the enemy off its timetable for the conquest of the Philippines as many Japanese reinforcements that had been scheduled for deployment to other areas had to be diverted to Bataan. This delayed the Japanese advance in New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

At the end of March 1942, the Joint Chiefs of Staff divided the Pacific into two commands – the Pacific Ocean Area and the Southwest Pacific Area. The latter command included New Guinea and the Solomon Islands which were the major objectives of the Japanese in their advance toward Australia. Anxious to make up for lost time, the Japanese occupied Tulagi, just north of Guadalcanal, and dispatched a strong force to invade Port Moresby on the south coast of New Guinea, as that territory was

considered essential to the defense of northern Australia. This led to the battle of the Coral Sea on 4-8 May where U.S. and Allied naval forces won a major and strategic victory. The Port Moresby invasion force was forced to turn back and two large enemy aircraft carriers were put out of action for an extended period of time.

With their advance checked in the Coral Sea, the Japanese shifted their main offensive toward the Hawaiian Islands and the Aleutians. The decisive battle of Midway on 3-7 June 1942 restored to balance Allied and enemy sea power in the Pacific. Far to the north, the enemy bombed Dutch Harbor. Then, without opposition, occupied the islands of Attu and Kiska. It proved to be the last great enemy offensive against American territory.

Following their defeat at Midway, the Japanese launched a determined effort to capture Port Moresby in the southwest Pacific by attacking overland across the Owen Stanley Range. On 21 July the enemy seized Buna and Gona on the northeast coast, then crossed the Owen Stanley Range to within 30 miles of Port Moresby where they were stopped by Australian troops and driven back.

In order to bring more forces to bear against the enemy in the Solomons, the boundary of the Southwest Pacific Area was shifted westward to put the southern Solomons in the Pacific Ocean Area (whose command had more forces readily available). The northern Solomons continued to be a part of the Southwest Pacific Area.

U.S. forces undertook their first their offensive in the Pacific on 7 August 1942, when U.S. Marines landed on Guadalcanal. Subsequently, a succession of hard-fought naval battles and grim struggles by U.S. Marine, Army and Naval forces on land and in the air led to the turning point of the war in the Pacific. The bitter struggle for Guadalcanal and other islands in the southern Solomons lasted six months until February 1943 and was extremely costly to both sides. Simultaneously, in New Guinea, after defeating another Japanese force at Milne Bay, Australian and American troops eliminated the Buna-Gona beachhead on 22 January 1943.

From this point onward, the character of the war in the Pacific began to change. The enemy's next attack on Wau in the Markham Valley was repulsed by Australian troops who were transported to the battle area by American aircraft. A Japanese attempt to reinforce garrisons on New Guinea ended in disaster at the battle of the Bismarck Sea, 2-4 March 1943, when the U.S. Fifth Air Force and Royal Australian Air Force together with U.S. Navy small craft sank eight transports and four destroyers.

At two conferences, one in May 1943 and the other in August, the Combined Chiefs of Staff agreed to accelerate the pace of the war against Japan and selected the specific routes of advance. The Joint Chiefs of Staff directed the commander of the Pacific Ocean Area to begin a series of amphibious operations across the Central Pacific. In the Southwest Pacific Area, initially there were two axes of operations. Under the strategic direction of the Southwest Pacific Commander, advances along both axes had already begun.

Late in June 1943, the U.S. Third Fleet's Amphibious Force landed Army troops and Marines on Rendova Island and then on New Georgia in the northern Solomons. The Army completed the capture of New Georgia in August. Bypassing the strongly held island of Kolombangara, Vella Lavella was attacked and captured by U.S. Army and New Zealand troops. The Treasury Islands were then occupied by New Zealand troops. Preceded by diversionary landings on Choiseul, a large force of U.S. Marines landed at Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville, on 1 November 1943. This attack, reinforced by Army troops, permitted the establishment of a naval base and airfields from which the U.S. Thirteenth Air Force, together with the aircraft of the U.S. Third Fleet, could neutralize the strong Japanese base at Rabaul, New Britain Island.

On the other axis of advance, the U.S. Sixth Army seized the islands of Kiriwina and Woodlark in June as bases from which air support could be provided for future operations. Then three attacks were

launched by U.S. Army and Australian troops in rapid succession on the northeastern coast of New Guinea; an overland advance and an amphibious assault against Salamaua that was completed on 11 September; a combined parachute drop and an airborne assault which resulted in the occupation of Lae on 16 September; and an advance on Finschhafen which was occupied completely by 2 October.

The next objective was the western end of the island of New Britain. On 15 December, three Army landings were made in the Arawe area followed on 26 December by a larger landing of U.S. Marines which capture the important air base at Cape Gloucester. Then on 2 January 1944, U.S. Sixth Army troops landed at Saidor on the northern New Guinea coast to cut the enemy escape route along the coastal road. Throughout these operations and those that followed, continuing air attacks against the enemy's supply lines and airfields by Army and Naval forces contributed materially to the success of ground operations.

Although fighting still continued on Bougainville and on western New Britain, a decision was made to by pass the enemy bases at Rabaul and at Kavieng, New Ireland, as they were being systematically neutralized by intensive bombardment. It was the plan of the Southwest Pacific Area Commander to land troops where the Japanese were weakest and confine the stronger Japanese forces to pockets from which, because of incredibly difficult terrain and Allied air and sea superiority, they could not break out. The next nine months of 1944 were devoted to a continuation of this strategy on an increasing scale.

The operation against the Admiralty Islands, strategically important because of its airfields and harbors, was scheduled initially for April 1944. But on 29 February, as a result of a reconnaissance by the Southwest Pacific Area Commander, U.S. Sixth Army troops landed on Los Negros from ships of the U.S. Seventh Fleet. During March and April, the larger island of Manus was occupied.

The next advance was along the New Guinea coast. It came so swiftly and was so far forward that the enemy was completely taken by surprise. The strongly-held Japanese base at Wewak was bypassed in favor of the Hollandia-Humboldt Bay area which would provide us with excellent airfields and a good staging base.

At the 350-mile distance was beyond the effective range of many of our land-based aircraft, the fast carrier task force of the U.S. Fifth Fleet was used to provide additional fire support on the target areas and bomb other targets to the westward. On 22 April, three landings were made by the U.S. Sixth Army, two in the Hollandia area and one to the east at Aitape.

These landings were so successful that in May two more landings were made farther to the west at Arare and on Wakde Island. At the end of May, another leap of over 300 miles was made to seize airfields on the island of Biak where fierce enemy resistance was encountered. Because of this holdup, the U.S. Sixth Army seized Noemfoor in early July and the advance continued to Sansapor on 30 July, and to the island of Morotai on 15 September 1944.

On the same day, 15 September 1944, Pacific Ocean Area forces, having completed their long series of advances across the Central Pacific via the Gilbert and Marshall Islands to seize Saipan, Tinian and Guam, invaded the Palau Islands. Simultaneously, as the result of successful fast carrier strikes on the Philippine Islands, the commander of the Third Fleet recommended that several intermediate operations be cancelled and that U.S. forces land in the Philippines as soon as possible.

The Pacific Ocean Area Commander concurred and offered to place additional forces at the disposal of the Southwest Pacific Area Commander, whose Headquarters promptly replied that he would be prepared to land on Leyte on 20 October instead of on 20 December as previously planned. Immediate approval by the Joint Chiefs of Staff advanced the long-awaited return to the Philippines by two months.

On 20 October 1944, the date agreed on so quickly over a month before, the U.S. Sixth Army, under cover of naval gunfire and air bombardment by the U.S. Seventh Fleet, with aircraft of the U.S. Third Fleet furnishing long-range support, landed on the eastern shores of Leyte. In a desperate effort to destroy the landing forces and prevent the United States from returning to the Philippines, the Japanese decided to risk a major sea battle. The resultant Battle of Leyte Gulf, fought on 23-26 October, was one of the most decisive naval battles in history and almost eliminated Japan as a major sea power.

The U.S. Sixth Army continued its advance, as the Japanese rushed reinforcements to Leyte, mostly in the Ormoc Bay area on the western side of the island, where they were repeatedly attacked by the U.S. Fifth Air Force. In turn the U.S. Sixth Army was reinforced. Despite torrential rains and difficult terrain, the advance continued and spread to the neighboring island of Samar to the north. In December, Army units supported by Army, Navy and Marine Corps aircraft, landed at Ormoc Bay to cut the last major Japanese line of communications to the island of Leyte. By the end of the month, command of operations on Leyte was turned over to the U.S. Eighth Army. Severe fighting on Leyte continued in isolated areas for several more months.

Meanwhile, in December, landings also were made on southern Mindoro to provide support for the major landings scheduled on Luzon. On 9 January 1945, the U.S. Seventh Fleet landed units of the U.S. Sixth Army on the south shore of Lingayen Gulf. Support by the U.S. Fifth Airforce, and by Marine Corps and Navy aircraft, the U.S. Sixth Army drove inland. By the end of the month, Clark Field was recapture, a large number of enemy troops were driven into the mountains, an additional landing was made to cut off the Bataan Peninsula, and a third landing, that included a parachute drop, was made south of Manila.

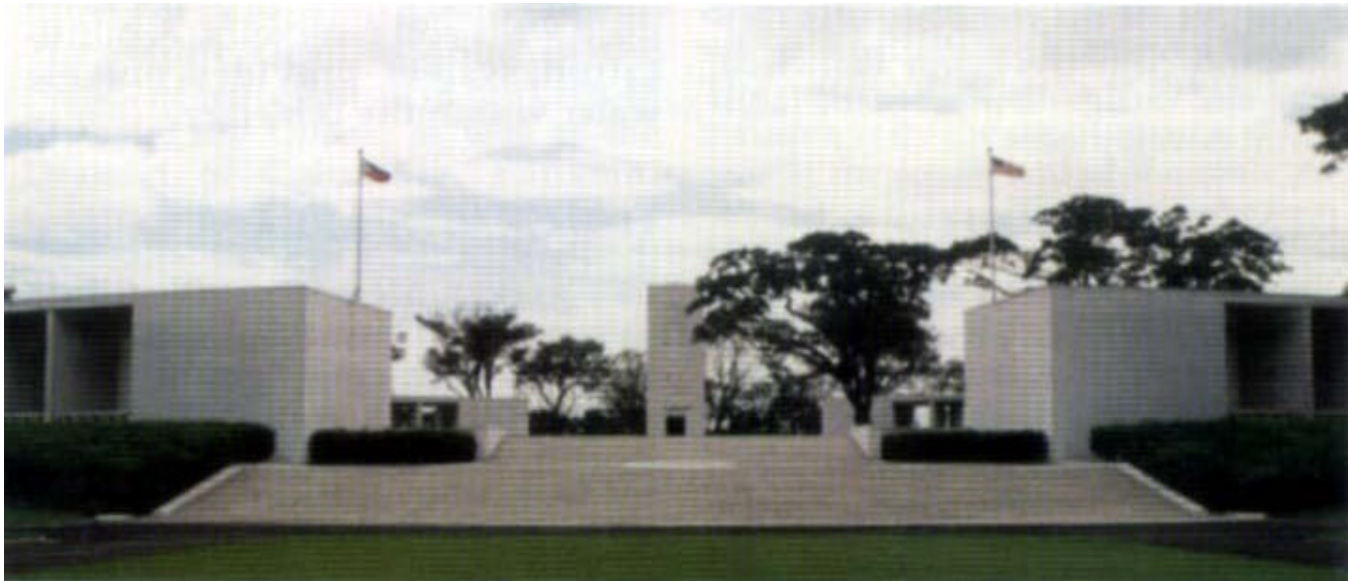
As the advance on Manila continued from the north and the south, the Bataan Peninsula was rapidly secured. On 16 February, airborne and amphibious units assaulted Corregidor, resistance ended there on 27 February. On 3 March, the city of Manila was finally cleared of all Japanese troops. With the exception of Fort Drum, which held out until April, U.S. forces accomplished in less than two months what took the Japanese six months to accomplish.

While the U.S. Sixth Army continued its campaign against the remainder of the Japanese on Luzon, the U.S. Eighth Army and the U.S. Seventh Fleet were already embarked on a series of more than fifty amphibious assaults to free the other islands. On 19 February, forces of the Pacific Ocean Area landed U.S. Marines on the island of Iwo Jima to begin a fierce 26-day struggle to capture that island fortress. The assault on Okinawa commenced on 26 March and lasted almost until the end of June 1945.

During this same period, after securing Palawan Island, the U.S. Eighth Army made its first landing on Mindanao, and then occupied Panay, Cebu, Negros and several islands in the Sulu Archipelago. This provided bases for the U.S. Fifth and Thirteenth Air Forces from which to attack targets throughout the Philippines and the South China Sea. Following additional landings on Mindanao, U.S. Eighth Army troops continued their steady advance against stubborn resistance. By the end of June, the enemy pockets were compressed into isolated pockets on Mindanao and Luzon where fighting continued until the end of the war. During these months, Australian troops also seized important strategic installations on the island of Borneo. By this time, a complete reorganization of U.S. Forces had been made in preparation for the projected invasion of Japan. The two Area Commands were replaced by Army, Navy and Air Force commands, the latter was increased greatly in size by the transfer of the U.S. Eighth Air Force from Europe and creation of the U.S. Twentieth Air Force. During the last two months of the war, the aerial and naval bombardment of the Japanese home islands intensified. Hostilities ceased on 15 August 1945. The Japanese formally surrendered on 2 September 1945.

THE SITE

The cemetery site covers 152 acres of gently rising ground which culminates at the memorial. It is the largest in area of the cemeteries built and administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission, and the largest in point of the number of graves and of those Missing who are recorded upon the walls of the memorial. Major objections were found to all of the sites of temporary cemeteries which had been established during World War II. The Government of the Philippines on 1 April 1948 granted permission to the United States to establish a memorial cemetery on part of the former U.S. reservation of Fort William McKinley. A tremendous amount of grading, draining and landscaping was required in order to convert the rough terrain to the beautiful and regular forms of the present cemetery. Visitors may note that some areas among the burial plots are merely grassed, without headstones; generally this is because in these areas the underlying rock is so close to the surface as to make them unsuitable for burials. In this cemetery are buried 17,206 of our military Dead, representing 40 percent of the burials which were originally made in temporary cemeteries in New Guinea, the Philippines and other islands of the Southwest Pacific Area, and also in the Palau Islands of the Central Pacific Area. Most of these lost their lives in the epic defense of the Philippines and the East Indies in 1941 and 1942 or in the long but victorious return of the American forces through the vast island chain. The cemetery and memorial was completed in 1960. The cemetery was dedicated on 8 December 1960.



Memorial Chapel with Hemicycles

THE GRAVES AREA

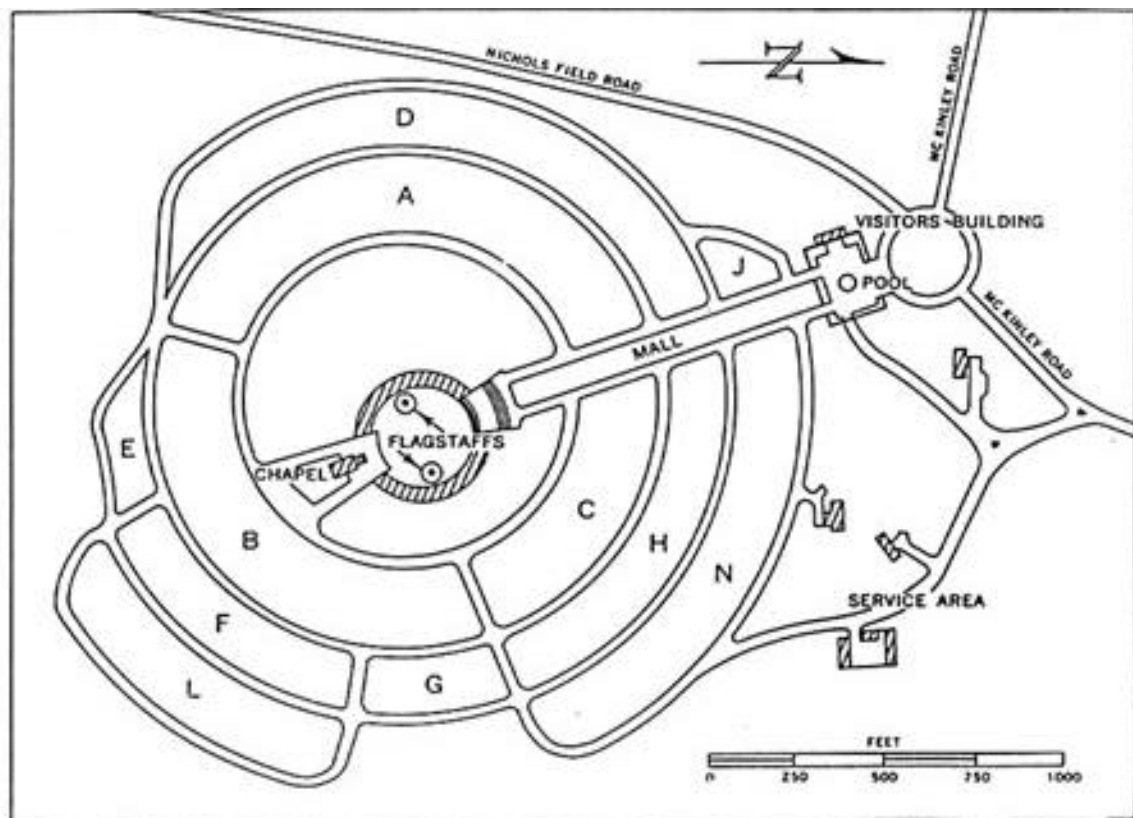
The graves area is divided into eleven curved lettered plots of varying sizes forming concentric bands around the high ground on which the memorial stands. The 17,100 headstones within the plots form segments of concentric circles and mark the graves of 16,636 U.S. military and 570 Philippine Nationals who were serving with U.S. Forces in the Southwest Pacific. Of these headstones, 13,434 mark the graves of single identified remains; six mark the graves of 28 identified remains which could not be separated individually; 3,644 mark the graves of single unidentified remains (Unknowns); and 16 mark

the graves of 100 unidentified remains which could not be separated individually. The heroic Dead interred in the cemetery represent all of the then 48 States of the Union, as well as the District of Columbia, Panama, Guam, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Australia, Canada, China, England, Mexico, Costa Rica, Honduras, Finland, Jamaica, Burma and Peru. In 20 instances, two brothers lie side by side.

Most of the white marble headstones were quarried in Lasa or Carrara, Italy; however, more than 100 were quarried and fabricated on the Island of Romblon in the Philippines.

ARCHITECT

Architect for the cemetery was Gardener A. Dailey of San Francisco, who also designed most of the landscape development.



Layout of Cemetery

GENERAL LAYOUT

The entrance to the cemetery is at the far (north) side of the large grassed circle just beyond the military sentinel's post which is at the junction of the McKinley and Nichols Field Roads. Immediately beyond the gate is the plaza with its circular fountain; at the right is the Visitors' Building.

Stretching from the plaza to the memorial is the central mall, which is lined with mahogany tress (*Swietenia Macrophylla*). Circular roads leading eastward and westward through the graves area join the straight roads along the edges of the mall.

To the east of, and lower than, the graves area are the service area, deep wells and reservoirs. A purification system provides potable water within the cemetery.

THE MEMORIAL

The memorial is faced with Travertine limestone quarried near Tivoli, a few miles east of Rome, Italy. It consists of the tower containing the small devotional chapel, and the two extensive hemicycles to its front which embrace the Memorial court. The principal entrance to the memorial area is by the monumental staircase at the south end of the mall. At the top of these steps the Great Seal of the Commonwealth of the Philippines has been carved into the paving; this is the seal which was authorized for use during World War II and until the Republic had been established. To the right and left stretch the hemicycles; on the end facade of each is the dedicatory inscription:

IN PROUD REMEMBRANCE OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
HER SONS AND IN HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO THEIR SACRIFICES
THIS MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
? 1941-1945 ?

Each hemicycle contains 24 pairs of fin walls upon the four faces on which are inscribed the names and particulars of 36,285 of our Missing:

United States Army and Army Air Forces *	16,915
United States Navy	17,587
United States Marine Corps	1,727
United States Coast Guard	58

* It will be recalled the during World War II the Air Forces still formed part of the United States Army.

These gave their lives in the service of their Country in the regions from Australia northward to Japan, eastward to the Palau Islands and westward to China, Burma and India but their remains have not been identified, or they were lost or buried at sea. Their names include men from every State in the Union, also from the District of Columbia, Panama, Guam, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. At each end of each hemicycle is a map room. The memorial area offers many magnificent prospects over Manila toward Mount Arayat to the north, and over the Laguna de Bay toward Mount Makiling to the southeast and Tagaytay Ridge to the south.

Without confirmed information to the contrary, a War Department Administrative Review Board established the official date of death of those commemorated on the Tablets of the Missing as one year and a day from the date on which the individuals was placed in Missing in action status.

THE WEST HEMICYCLE

The west hemicycle is entered from the Memorial Court. At the extreme north end is a map room, which is described in detail later.

On the partition wall of each map room facing the lists of the Missing are these inscriptions:

HERE ARE RECORDED THE NAMES OF AMERICANS
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY
AND WHO SLEEP IN UNKNOWN GRAVES

? 1941-1945 ?

INCLUDED ON THESE ROLLS ARE THE NAMES OF
PHILIPPINE SCOUTS WHO SHARED WITH THEIR AMERICAN COMRADES
IN THE DEFENSE AND LIBERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

? 1941-1945 ?

The lists of the Missing are arranged according to the four Armed Services, and alphabetically beginning at the far (south) end. In the west hemicycle are the Missing of the United States Navy, and part of the Missing of the United States Marine Corps. The names are engraved in Trani, a marble quarried near Bari on the East Coast of Italy.

In the Travertine floor of each section of the hemicycles and the map rooms are carved the Great Seal of the United States, obverse or reverse, the Seal of one of the States of the Union, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico; the 48 states (as of 1945) are in alphabetical order.

Along the frieze of this hemicycle, facing the Memorial Court, are engraved the names of World War II battles of particular significance in the Navy's and Marine Corps' proud record: MAKASSAR STRAIT; JAVA SEA; CORAL SEA; EASTERN SOLOMONS; CAFE ESPERANCE; SANTA CRUZ; TASSAFARONGA; KULA GULF; VELLA GULF; EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY; LEYTE GULF; GUADALCANAL; PELELIU. The facade of the hemicycle nearest to the chapel bears these inscriptions:

SOME THERE BE WHICH HAVE NO SEPULCHRE

?

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE.

?

GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD ETERNAL REST

WHO SLEEP IN UNKNOWN GRAVES Much of the paving at the Memorial is of Travertine; there are also many panels of bluish pebbles (from Luna, La Union, in the Philippines) set in mortar



View from Inside Chapel Entrance

THE CHAPEL

The chapel stands between the south ends of the hemicycles. In front of the steps leading to the door is the obverse of the Great Seal of the United States, carved in the Travertine paving. The facade of the tower which rises 60 feet above its podium is decorated with sculpture in high relief designed by Boris Lovet Lorski of New York City and executed by Filipino Cecchetti of Tivoli, Italy, who furnished all of the stone for the Memorial. The sculpture consists of a series of superimposed groups, representing, from bottom to top, the young American warrior symbolized by St. George, fighting his enemy, the dragon, in the jungle. Above them are the ideals for which he fought – Liberty, Justice, Country. Columbia, with the child symbolizing the future, stands at the zenith.

On the rear (south) facade of the tower is this inscription:

TAKE UNTO THYSELF OF LORD
THE SOULS OF THE VALIANT

Beyond the bronze grille doors of the chapel the entrance is lined with blue glass mosaic; on the left this prayer, abridged from that in the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer, is inset in gold tesserae:

O GOD WHO ART THE AUTHOR OF PEACE
AND LOVER OF CONCORD
DEFEND US THY HUMBLE SERVANTS

IN ALL ASSAULTS OF OUR ENEMIES
THAT WE SURELY TRUSTING IN THY DEFENSE
MAY NOT FEAR THE POWER OF ANY ADVERSARIES
Opposite, on the right side, is this prayer abridged from that ascribed of Cardinal Newman:
O LORD SUPPORT US ALL THE DAY LONG
UNTIL THE SHADOWS LENGTHEN
AND OUR WORK IS DONE
THEN IN THY MERCY GRANT US A SAFE LODGING
AND A HOLY REST AND PEACE AT THE LAST

The altar, against the rear wall, is of Perlato di Sicilia marble from the West Coast of that island. The entire wall behind the altar is decorated with mosaic; on a predominantly blue background a tall, graceful female figure scatters flowers – an inscription proclaiming:

TO THEIR MEMORY
THEIR COUNTRY BRINGS ITS GRATITUDE
AS FLOWERS FOREVER LIVING

The chapel mosaics were designed by Boris Lovet-Lorski of New York City and fabricated and installed by Fabrizio Cassio of Rome, Italy. The chapel is lighted through tall stone unglazed grilleworks. The priedieu and benches are of Philippine Narra wood, the altar ornaments of bronze.

Located at the chapel is a carillon which on 3 February 1985 was presented and dedicated by the American Veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam (AMVETS) as a memorial to the Americans and Filipinos who fought and died together for the cause of freedom. Between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily the carillon tolls the hour and half-hour. This is followed by two patriotic gongs. At 5:00 p.m., the carillon plays the national anthems of the Republic of the Philippines and the United States, followed by a rifle volley and then taps “AS THESE BELLS RING... HONORED DEAD REST... FREEDOM LIVES”.

THE EAST HEMICYCLE

On the facade of the hemicycle nearest to the chapel are these inscriptions:

COMRADES IN ARMS WHOSE EARTHLY RESTING PLACE
IS KNOWN ONLY TO GOD
LET US HERE HIGHLY RESOLVE THAT
THE CAUSE FOR WHICH THEY DIED SHALL LIVE

Beyond the map room are the lists of the Missing of the United States Army and Army Air Forces, the United States Coast Guard, and part of the Missing of the United States Marine Corps. Along the frieze facing the Memorial Court are these names of battles which are particularly significant in the achievements of the United States Army and Army Air Forces and the United States Marines: BATAAN; CORREGIDOR; PAPULA; BISMARCK SEA; HUON GULF; ADMIRALTIES; AITAPE; HOLLANDIA; WAKDE; BIAK; NOEMFOOR; BURMA; ANGAUR; LEYTE; MANILA; NEW BRITAIN; BOUGAINVILLE; NEW GEORGIA.

THE MAPS

The maps were designed by Margaret Bruton of Carmel, California, from data supplied by the American Battle Monuments Commission, and fabricated by the P. Grassi American Terrazzo Company of South San Francisco. They are of tinted concretes with brilliantly colored fine aggregates. Military data are

expressed by mosaic or ceramic inserts; the borders and compasses recall the art patterns of the Pacific Islands. The descriptive texts which amplify the maps and which were cast with them are of plastic.



Memorial Hemicycle from the Rear

SOUTHWEST ROOM

This room has seven maps; the descriptive texts thereon are printed printed after the title of each:

1. DEFENSE OF LUZON – 8 DECEMBER 1941-6 MAY 1942

ON 7 DECEMBER 1941 (HAIWAI TIME) THE JAPANESE LAUNCHED A SURPRISE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR, THEN SEVERAL HOURS LATER BOMBED FROM THE AIR U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES. TWO DAYS LATER THE ENEMY LANDED ON LUZON ANTICIPATING AN EASY CONQUEST, BUT STUBBORN RESISTANCE BY U.S. AND PHILIPPINE FORCES SLOWED THE ADVANCE, MANNING SUCCESSIVE DEFENSIVE POSITIONS OUR TROOPS DELAYED THE ONCOMING ENEMY, THEN EVACUATED MANILA AND WITHDREW TO THE BATAAN PENINSULA, ON 2 JANUARY 1942 THE JAPANESE OCCUPIED THE CAPITAL.

UNITED STATES FORCES INCLUDING PHILIPPINE SCOUTS AS WELL AS THE PHILIPPINE ARMY STEMMED THE JAPANESE OFFENSIVE DURING JANUARY 1942 AND DEFEATED AN ATTEMPTED AMPHIBIOUS ENVELOPMENT ON THE SOUTHWESTERN SHORE OF THE PENINSULA. THE ENEMY THEN POURED REINFORCEMENTS INTO

BATAAN, WITHHOLDING THEM FROM OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS AGAINST NEW GUINEA AND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.

UNTIL APRIL THE JAPANESE CONTINUED TO BUILD UP THEIR STRENGTH WHILE THE BELEAGUERED AMERICANS AND FILIPINOS ON BATAAN WASTED AWAY FOR WANT OF ADEQUATE FOOD AND MEDICINE. CIVILIAN NEEDS AGGRAVATED THESE SHORTAGES.

ON 3 APRIL, FOLLOWING A DEVASTATING AIR BOMBARDMENT AND A THREE-DAY ARTILLERY BARRAGE, THE ENEMY LAUNCHED AN ASSAULT UTILIZING EVERY ELEMENT OF HIS OVERWHELMING FORCES. RELENTLESS PRESSURE CONTINUED DAY BY DAY, AND COUNTERATTACKS FAILED TO HALT THE JAPANESE ONSLAUGHT. NO LONGER ABLE TO INFLECT DAMAGE UPON THE ENEMY, THE BATAAN FORCES SURRENDERED ON 9 APRIL.

ON CORREGIDOR AND AT OTHER FORTS IN MANILA BAY A COMPOSITE FORCE OF U.S. MARINES, ARMY AND NAVY PERSONNEL, TOGETHER WITH THE COAST ARTILLERY GARRISONS, CONTINUED TO RESIST. SUBMARINES DELIVERED AMMUNITION AND FOOD AND MAINTAINED TENUOUS COMMUNICATIONS. BUT, PROGRESSIVELY, THE BATTERIES AND BEACH DEFENSES OF CORREGIDOR WERE DEMOLISHED BY CONTINUOUS BOMBING AND SHELLING. ON 5 MAY THE JAPANESE LAUNCHED THEIR FINAL ASSAULT. THE FOLLOWING DAY U.S. AND PHILIPPINE FORCES SURRENDERED THE ISLAND FORTRESS.

OF ALMOST 30,000 AMERICAN MILITARY PRISONERS OF WAR, SOME 11,000 DIED BEFORE THE WAR ENDED. MANY THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN CIVILIANS OF ALL AGES WERE ALSO HELD IN HARSH CAPTIVITY AS WERE UNTOLD NUMBERS OF FILIPINO CITIZENS.

FOR OVER THREE YEARS THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS SUFFERED UNDER ENEMY OCCUPATION WHILE THE UNITED STATES FORCES FOUGHT THEIR WAY BACK. DURING THESE LONG YEARS THE COURAGEOUS GUERRILLAS FOUGHT UNCEASINGLY TO KEEP ALIVE THE FLAME OF HOPE IN THE OPPRESSED BUT LOYAL CIVILIAN POPULATION.

2. DEFENSE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA – DECEMBER 1941-MAY 1942.

IN DECEMBER 1941, THE NAVAL, GROUND AND AIR FORCES OF THE JAPANESE EMPIRE ATTACKED AMERICAN, BRITISH, DUTCH AND AUSTRALIAN UNITS AND INSTALLATIONS IN THE PACIFIC. IN JANUARY 1942 THE U.S. ASIATIC FLEET AND THE U.S. FAR EAST AIR FORCE UNITED WITH THE LAND, SEA AND AIR FORCES OF THESE ALLIES TO FORM THE ABDA COMMAND IN JAVA.

PITTING THEIR LIMITED DEFENSIVE MEANS AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODDS, THE ALLIES RESISTED THE SUCCESSIVE JAPANESE ASSAULTS. BUT AS RESOURCES DIMINISHED THIS DEFENSE WAS CONDUCTED WITH INCREASING DEFFICULTY. UNDER PROGRESSIVELY MOUNTING ODDS THE ALLIES SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES OF GALLANT DEFENDERS AND VALUABLE NAVAL AND AIR CRAFT.

AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL IN CHINA, BURMA AND INDIA HELPED ORGANIZE AND CONSOLIDATE LOCAL RESISTANCE TO THE JAPANESE ONSLAUGHT. BY 1 MAY 1942 THE ALLIED FORCES IN BURMA HAD WITHDRAWN TO THE MANADALAY-LASHIO LINE. LATER THEY WITHDREW TO CHINA AND INDIA WHERE CHINESE TROOPS WERE TRAINED AND REARMED UNDER U.S. GUIDANCE.

DEFENSE OF LUZON

8 DECEMBER 1941
6 MAY 1942

ON 7 DECEMBER 1941 (THANKS TO THE JAPANESE LAUNCHED A SURPRISE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR, THEN SEVERAL MONTHS LATER BOMBED FROM THE AIR U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES. TWO DAYS LATER THE ENEMY LANDED ON LUZON ANTICIPATING AN EASY CONQUEST BUT STUBBORN RESISTANCE BY U.S. AND PHILIPPINE FORCES SLOWED THE ADVANCE. MAINTAINING AGGRESSIVE DEFENSIVE POSITIONS AND TROOPS DELAYED THE JAPANESE ENEMY THRU UNOCCUPIED MOUNTAINS AND WITHIN THE BATAAN PENINSULA. ON 9 JANUARY 1942 THE JAPANESE OCCUPIED THE CAPITAL. UNITED STATES FORCES INCLUDING PHILIPPINE SCOUTS AS WELL AS THE PHILIPPINE ARMY STOPPED THE JAPANESE OFFENSIVE DURING JANUARY 1942 AND DEFEATED AN ATTEMPT TO AMPHIBIOUS INVOLVEMENT ON THE SOUTHWESTERN SHORE OF THE PENINSULA. THE ENEMY THEN POUCHED REINFORCEMENTS TO BATAAN, WITHDRAWING THEM FROM OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS AGAINST NEW GUINEA AND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.

UNTIL APRIL THE JAPANESE CONTINUED TO BUILD UP THEIR STRENGTH WHILE THE BELLEAGUERED AMERICANS AND FILIPINOS ON BATAAN WASTED AWAY FOR WANT OF A COURSE, FOOD AND MEDICINE. CIVILIAN MENING AGGRAVATED THEIR SITUATION.

ON 5 APRIL FOLLOWING A DEVASTATING AIR BOMBARDMENT AND A THREE-DAY ARTILLERY BARRAGE THE ENEMY LAUNCHED AN ASSAULT UTILIZING EVERY ELEMENT OF HIS OVERWHELMING FORCES. RELENTLESS PRESSURE CONTINUED DAY BY DAY AND COUNTER ATTACKS FAILED TO HALT THE JAPANESE ONWARD MARCH. NO LONGER ABLE TO INFLECT DAMAGE UPON THE ENEMY, THE BATAAN FORCES SURRENDERED ON 9 APRIL.

ON CORREJIDOS AND AT OTHER FORTS IN MANILA BAY A COMPOSITE FORCE OF U.S. MARINE ARMY AND NAVY PERSONNEL TOGETHER WITH THE COAST ARTILLERY BARRING CONTINUED TO RESIST. SUBMARINES DELIVERED AMMUNITION AND FOOD AND MAINTAINED TENUOUS COMMUNICATIONS BUT PROGRESSIVELY THE BATTERED AND BEACH DEFENSES OF CORREJIDOS WERE DE MOLISHED BY CONTINUOUS BOMBING AND SHELLING. ON 5 MAY THE JAPANESE LAUNCHED THEIR FINAL ASSAULT. THE FOLLOWING DAY U.S. AND PHILIPPINE FORCES SURRENDERED THE ISLAND FORTRESS.

OF ALMOST 30,000 AMERICAN MILITARY PRISONERS OF WAR, SOME 11,000 DIED BEFORE THE WAR ENDED. MANY THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN CIVILIANS OF ALL AGES WERE ALSO HELD IN HARSH CAPTIVITY AS WERE UN TOLD NUMBERS OF FILIPINO CITIZENS.

FOR OVER THREE YEARS THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS SUFFERED UNDER ENEMY OCCUPATION WHILE THE UNITED STATES FORCES FOUGHT THEIR WAY BACK. DURING THESE LONG YEARS THE COMRADELY GUERRILLAS FOUGHT UNCEASINGLY TO KEEP ALIVE THE FLAME OF HOPE IN THE OVERPOWERED BUT LOYAL CIVILIAN POPULATION.

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VII

LEGEND

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16

3. BATTLE FOR LEYTE GULF –23-26 OCTOBER 1944.

ON 20 OCTOBER 1944, THE U.S. SEVENTH FLEET COMMENCED LANDING THE SIXTH ARMY ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF LEYTE. THEREUPON THE JAPANESE DECIDED TO RISK A MAJOR SEA BATTLE IN A DETERMINED EFFORT TO DESTROY THE AMERICAN FORCES.

THREE JAPANESE FLEETS WERE CONCENTRATED. THE LARGEST, THE CENTER FORCE, MOVED TOWARD LEYTE FROM ITS BASE NEAR SINGAPORE. THE FIRST SECTION OF THE SOUTHERN FORCE PROCEEDED SOUTH OF PALAWAN, THROUGH THE SULU SEA, TO JOIN THE SECOND SECTION IN ATTACKING THE AMERICAN FORCES AT LEYTE GULF. THE NORTHERN FORCE, WHICH INCLUDED THE ENEMY'S MAIN CARRIER STRENGTH, ADVANCED TOWARD THE PHILIPPINES FROM JAPANESE HOME WATERS.

ON 23 OCTOBER AMERICAN SUBMARINES ATTACKED THE ENEMY'S CENTER FORCE IN PALAWAN PASSAGE, SINKING TWO CRUISERS AND CRIPPLING A THIRD. ON 24 OCTOBER THE U.S. THIRD FLEET, ITS STRENGTH PREPONDERANT IN FAST CARRIERS, ATTACKED THIS CENTER FORCE IN THE SIBUYAN SEA; AIRCRAFT INFLICTED SUCH HEAVY LOSSES AS TO CAUSE THIS FORCE TO TURN BACK. JAPANESE AIRCRAFT BASED ON LUZON THEN COUNTERATTACKED, DESTROYING A U.S. CARRIER.

DURING THE NIGHT OF 24-25 OCTOBER, THE ENEMY'S SOUTHERN FORCE STEAMED INTO SURIGAO STRAIT DIRECTLY TOWARD THE WAITING U.S. SEVENTH FLEET. THE JAPANESE WERE DECISIVELY DEFEATED BY TORPEDO ATTACKS FROM PT BOATS AND DESTROYERS AND GUNFIRE FROM THE HEAVIER SHIPS WHICH SANK TWO BATTLESHIPS, A CRUISER AND THREE DESTROYERS.

MEANWHILE THE THIRD FLEET MOVED NORTHWARD TO INTERCEPT THE ENEMY'S NORTHERN FORCE, WHICH WAS APPROACHING THE TIP OF LUZON. IN THE ENSUING BATTLE OFF CAPE ENGANO ON 25-26 OCTOBER U.S. CARRIER BASED AIRCRAFT, GUNFIRE, AND SUBMARINES SANK FOUR JAPANESE CARRIERS, TWO CRUISERS AND THREE DESTROYERS.

EARLY ON THE MORNING OF 25 OCTOBER, THE JAPANESE CENTER FORCE, HAVING AGAIN REVERSED COURSE, PUSHED THROUGH SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT, TURNED SOUTH AND ATTACKED THE ESCORT CARRIERS OF THE SEVENTH FLEET OPERATING OFF SAMAR TO PROTECT THE AMERICAN FORCES IN LEYTE GULF. ALTHOUGH OUTNUMBERED AND OUTGUNNED, THE ESCORT CARRIERS AND THEIR SCREEN OF DESTROYERS FOUGHT COURAGEOUSLY AND SANK THREE JAPANESE CRUISERS. TWO AMERICAN ESCORT CARRIERS AND THREE DESTROYERS WERE LOST. THEREUPON THE SURVIVORS OF ALL THREE ENEMY FLEETS WITHDREW.

ELIMINATING THE JAPANESE EMPIRE AS A SEA POWER, LEYTE GULF BECAME ONE OF THE DECISIVE NAVAL BATTLES OF HISTORY.

4. RETURN TO THE PHILIPPINES – OCTOBER 1944.

ON 20 OCTOBER 1944, UNDER COVER OF NAVAL GUNFIRE AND AIR BOMBARDMENT OF THE SEVENTH FLEET, THE U.S. SIXTH ARMY LANDED ON THE EASTERN SHORES OF LEYTE; AIRCRAFT OF THE THIRD FLEET FURNISHED LONG-RANGE SUPPORT. THE 7TH DIVISION OF THE XXIV CORPS ON THE LEFT TOOK THE DULAG AIRFIELD THEN DROVE WEST AND SOUTH, WHILE THE 96TH DIVISION CAPTURED SAN

JOSE AND MOVED AGAINST THE ENEMY TO THE NORTHWEST. THE 24TH DIVISION OF THE X CORPS ON THE RIGHT, OVERCOMING STRONG RESISTANCE ON THE BEACHES, FOUGHT ITS WAY INLAND. THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION ON THE RIGHT FLANK SEIZED TACLOBAN AND ITS AIRFIELD, THEN ADVANCING NORTH IN COORDINATED AMPHIBIOUS AND LAND OPERATIONS SECURED SAN JUANICO STRAIT, THE WEST COAST OF SAMAR AND THE SHORE OF CARIGARA BAY ON THE NORTHERN COAST OF LEYTE.

THE JAPANESE RUSHED REINFORCEMENTS FROM THE NEIGHBORING ISLANDS AND FROM THE ASIATIC MAINLAND. MOST OF THESE LANDED AT ORMOC BAY WHERE THEY WERE REPEATEDLY ATTACKED BY THE U.S. FIFTH AIR FORCE. NEVERTHELESS, THE ENEMY WAS ABLE TO CONCENTRATE POWERFUL FORCES IN THE ORMOC VALLEY AND, BY 7 NOVEMBER, HAD ORGANIZED STRONG POSITIONS IN THE MOUNTAINS TO THE EAST. THE SIXTH ARMY IN TURN WAS REINFORCED BY THREE ADDITIONAL DIVISIONS BUT DESPERATE RESISTANCE, THE RUGGED TERRAIN AND TORRENTIAL RAINS SLOWED THE ADVANCE.

IN DECEMBER THE 77TH DIVISION OF XXIV CORPS LANDED ALONG THE EAST COAST OF ORMOC BAY IN THE REAR OF THE JAPANESE. SUPPORTED BY ARMY, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS AIRCRAFT, IT ADVANCED NORTHWARD TO SEIZE ORMOC. AFTER FIERCE FIGHTING, THUS CUTTING THE LAST MAJOR LINE OF ENEMY COMMUNICATIONS.

IN THE CARIGARA BAY AREA TO THE NORTH, THE X CORPS FOUGHT THROUGH THE MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN NEAR LIMON AND DROVE SOUTHWARD TO UNITE WITH THE XXIV CORPS ADVANCING UP THE VALLEY. ON 21 DECEMBER THEY BROKE THROUGH THE OPPOSING LINES AND MET NEAR KANANGA, THUS ISOLATING THE JAPANESE TO THE EAST; FOUR DAYS LATER THE ISLAND WAS DECLARED SECURE. MANY OF THE ISOLATED JAPANESE HAD ESCAPED TO THE NORTH AND WEST TO JOIN OTHER ENEMY UNITS; SEVERE FIGHTING CONTINUED AGAINST THE EIGHTH ARMY, NOW IN CONTROL, UNTIL MAY 1945.

5. LUZON CAMPAIGN – 15 DECEMBER 1944-15 AUGUST 1945.

BY THE END OF 1944 PROGRESSIVELY LARGER PROPORTIONS OF AMERICA'S GREATLY AUGMENTED MILITARY RESOURCES HAD BEEN CONCENTRATED IN THE PACIFIC THEATERS OF WAR. WHILE THE LEYTE CAMPAIGN WAS STILL IN PROGRESS,



Tablets of the Missing with Graves Area in Background

POWERFUL U.S. FORCES STRUCK AT THE NEXT TARGET, LUZON. AIRCRAFT OF THE NAVY AND ARMY AIR FORCES CONDUCTED DEVASTATING ATTACKS AGAINST ENEMY AIRFIELDS, SUPPLY CENTERS AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS THERE AND IN SURROUNDING AREAS. THE INTENSITY AND ACCURACY OF THESE BOMBARDMENTS AND THE TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL FIRE POWER OF THE THIRD AND SEVENTH FLEETS INDUCED THE JAPANESE ON LUZON TO WITHDRAW THEIR MAIN FORCES FROM THE BEACHES AND CONCENTRATE THEM IN DEFENSIVE POSITIONS IN MOUNTAINOUS AREAS OF THE INTERIOR.

IN DECEMBER, THE U.S. SIXTH ARMY CONVOYED BY THE SEVENTH FLEET SEIZED MINDORO, ESTABLISHING BASES AND AIRFIELDS TO PROVIDE CLOSE SUPPORT FOR THE IMPENDING LUZON OPERATION. MEANWHILE THE JAPANESE MASSED OVER A QUARTER OF A MILLION MEN TO DEFEND LUZON AND UNLEASHED DAMAGING SUICIDAL AIR ATTACKS AGAINST ALLIED NAVAL FORCES.

ON 9 JANUARY 1945, THE SEVENTH FLEET LANDED TWO DIVISIONS FROM EACH OF THE I AND XIV CORPS ON THE SOUTH SHORE OF LINGAYEN GULF. SUPPORTED BY THE FIFTH AIR FORCE AND BY MARINE CORPS AND NAVAL AIRCRAFT, THE SIXTH ARMY PUSHED INLAND. INITIALLY RESISTANCE WAS ENCOUNTERED ALONG THE LEFT FLANK, WHERE THE MASS OF THE JAPANESE STRENGTH HAD BEEN CONCENTRATED IN THE MOUNTAINS NEAR BAGUIO. ON THE RIGHT THE AMERICAN FORCES CAPTURED

CLARK FIELD, DROVE THE ENEMY INTO THE ZAMBALES MOUNTAINS, THEN ADVANCED TOWARD MANILA, WHERE HEAVY FIGHTING ENSUED.

ON THE WEST COAST OF LUZON THE XI CORPS LANDED ON 29 JANUARY AND MOVED EASTWARD TO CUT OFF THE BATAAN PENINSULA; SOUTH OF MANILA OTHER UNITS OF THE EIGHTH ARMY LANDED ON 31 JANUARY AND SWUNG NORTHWARD. ALL PASSED TO THE CONTROL OF THE SIXTH ARMY. AFTER FIERCE AND PROLONGED FIGHTING, MANILA, BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR WERE CLEARED OF THE ENEMY, AND MANILA BAY WAS OPENED.

EAST OF MANILA THE FIGHTING WENT ON FOR MANY WEEKS, CONSTANT PRESSURE FORCED THE ENEMY DEEPER INTO THE MOUNTAINS WHERE HE WAS HELD ISOLATED UNTIL THE END OF HOSTILITIES. OTHER AMERICAN UNITS CLEARED THE AREA SOUTH OF LAGUNA DE BAY AND LIBERATED THE BICOL PENINSULA, ASSISTED BY AMPHIBIOUS FORCES LANDED AT LEGASPI.

IN CENTRAL AND NORTHERN LUZON U.S. TROOPS AND PHILIPPINE GUERRILLA FORCES CONTINUED THEIR PRESSURE NORTHWARD FROM THE CENTRAL PLAIN THROUGH DIFFICULT TERRAIN DEFENDED BY A DETERMINED ENEMY; CONSTANT ATTACKS BY AIR AND GROUND FORCES FINALLY BROKE JAPANESE RESISTANCE AT BALETE PASS IN MAY. ON 1 JULY THE EIGHTH ARMY ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR DESTROYING THE REMAINING ENEMY FORCES ON LUZON, RELIEVING THE SIXTH ARMY FOR THE PROJECTED INVASION OF JAPAN.

6. REOCCUPATION OF MANILA

BY 31 JANUARY 1945, THREE WEEKS AFTER THE INITIAL LANDINGS ON LUZON, THE U.S. SIXTH ARMY WAS READY TO LAUNCH ITS OFFENSIVE TO LIBERATE MANILA AND THE BATAAN PENINSULA. THE 1ST CAVALRY AND 37TH INFANTRY DIVISIONS ADVANCED ON THE CITY FROM THE NORTH, WHILE THE 40TH DIVISION FOUGHT WESTWARD INTO THE ZAMBALES MOUNTAINS TO SECURE THE RIGHT FLANK AND MEET THE 35TH DIVISION PUSHING EASTWARD TO CUT OFF BATAAN. SIMULTANEOUSLY THE 11TH AIRBORNE DIVISION ADVANCED ON MANILA FROM THE SOUTH.

WITHIN THE CITY THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, IN A NIGHT ATTACK, CAPTURED SANTO TOMAS UNIVERSITY AND LIBERATED 3,700 AMERICAN AND ALLIED PRISONERS INTERNED THERE. ON 4 FEBRUARY THE 37TH INFANTRY DIVISION FREED OVER A THOUSAND MORE FROM BILIBID PRISON. THESE TWO DIVISIONS THEN CROSSED THE PASIG RIVER AGAINST STIFFENING RESISTANCE WHILE THE 11TH AIRBORNE DIVISION OVERCAME SIMILAR RESISTANCE IN ITS ATTACK UPON NICHOLS FIELD. THE 1ST CAVALRY AND 37TH INFANTRY DIVISIONS FORCED THEIR WAY THROUGH THE CITY, EVENTUALLY REACHING THE STRONGHOLD AT INTRAMUROS WHERE THE FIGHTING WAS ESPECIALLY BITTER. ON 3 MARCH MANILA WAS FINALLY CLEARED OF JAPANESE TROOPS WHO, IN DEFENDING THE CITY, HAD CAUSED INCALCULABLE DEVASTATION.

MEANWHILE THE 38TH INFANTRY DIVISION, TOGETHER WITH ELEMENTS OF THE 6TH AND 24TH DIVISIONS, SUPPORTED BY AERIAL BOMBARDMENT AND NAVAL GUNFIRE, CLEARED THE BATAAN PENINSULA. ON 16 FEBRUARY AIRBORNE AND AMPHIBIOUS UNITS LAUNCHED ASSAULTS AGAINST CORREGIDOR; JAPANESE RESISTED DESPERATELY FROM CAVES, TUNNELS AND CONCRETE MORTAR PITS UNTIL 27 FEBRUARY. FORT DRUM HELD OUT UNTIL APRIL.

ON 28 FEBRUARY 1945, BEFORE THE JAPANESE HAD BEEN COMPLETELY ELIMINATED FROM MANILA AND ITS OUTLYING FORTS, THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES WAS CEREMONIALLY REINSTALLED AT MALACANAN PALACE.

7. LIBERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES – 20 OCTOBER 1944-15 AUGUST 1945.

DURING THE LONG ENEMY OCCUPATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, THE UNITED STATES PERSISTENTLY FOUGHT HER WAY BACK. BY THE FALL OF 1944 SUCCESS WAS IN SIGHT.

THE FIRST STEP IN LIBERATING THE ISLANDS WAS THE INVASION OF LEYTE IN OCTOBER 1944. THE DECISIVE DEFEAT OF THE JAPANESE FLEET AT THE BATTLE FOR LEYTE GULF RENDERED IT POWERLESS TO PREVENT FUTURE AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS. TWO MONTHS OF HARD FIGHTING FREED MOST OF LEYTE WHICH THEN BECAME THE CENTRAL BASE OF OPERATIONS FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE ARCHIPELAGO. THE NEXT STEP ESTABLISHED OUR FORCES ON MINDORO IN DECEMBER.

IN JANUARY 1945, UNDER COVER OF NAVAL AND AIR BOMBARDMENT, THE SIXTH ARMY LANDED ON LUZON AND ADVANCED DOWN THE CENTRAL PLAINS. OTHER UNITS LANDED ON THE WEST COAST OF THE ISLAND AND SEIZED BATAAN PENINSULA AND CORREGIDOR. MANILA BAY WAS OPENED IN EARLY MARCH. AFTER HEAVY FIGHTING THE SIXTH ARMY DROVE THE ENEMY INTO THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTH AND EAST LUZON.

THE EIGHTH ARMY AND UNITS OF THE SEVENTH FLEET HAD ALREADY EMBARKED ON A SERIES OF MORE THAN FIFTY AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULTS TO FREE THE OTHER ISLANDS. DURING FEBRUARY AND MARCH U.S. FORCES SECURED AIRFIELDS ON PALAWAN AND ZAMBOANGA, THEN EXTENDED THEIR CONTROL OVER THE SULUY ARCHIPELAGO, ENABLING THE FIFTH AND THIRTEENTH AIR FORCES TO PROJECT THEIR STRENGTH FAR OVER THE WATERS OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. U.S. SEA AND AIR POWER BLOCKED ENEMY TRAFFIC BETWEEN THE SOUTHERN ISLANDS AND THE JAPANESE HOMELAND, THUS ISOLATING THE JAPANESE REMAINING ON EACH OF THE ISLANDS.

SIMULTANEOUSLY THE EIGHTH ARMY OVERPOWERED THE ENEMY IN THE VISAYAN SEA AREA, THEREBY OPENING A SHORTER SUPPLY ROUTE FROM LEYTE TO LUZON. ON 17 APRIL SOME OF ITS UNITS LANDED ON THE COAST OF MINDANAO AND ADVANCED TOWARD DAVAO GULF; OTHERS FOLLOWED AND FOUGHT THEIR WAY NORTHWARD TOWARD MALAYBALAY TO MEET ADDITIONAL AMPHIBIOUS FORCES WHICH LANDED IN MAY. RESISTANCE WAS STUBBORN BUT THE TROOPS PUSHED STEADILY FORWARD INTO THE MOUNTAINS, PRECEDED BY MARINE CORPS AND ARMY AIR FORCES AIRCRAFT WHICH DEMORALIZED THE RETREATING ENEMY.

BY THE END OF JUNE, ON BOTH MINDANAO AND LUZON AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND FILIPINO GUERRILLAS HAD COMPRESSED THE ENEMY INTO ISOLATED MOUNTAINOUS AREAS. THERE HE WAS SUBJECTED TO INTENSIVE AERIAL BOMBARDMENT AND TO CONSTANT PRESSURE UNTIL 15 AUGUST 1945 WHEN HOSTILITIES CEASED. ON 1 JULY THE EIGHTH ARMY ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR

LAND OPERATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES; THE SIXTH ARMY REGROUPED FORCES IN PREPARATION FOR AN INVASION OF JAPAN.

SOUTHEAST ROOM

This room has seven maps:

1. BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA – 4-8 MAY 1942.

THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA WAS THE FIRST NAVAL BATTLE IN WHICH ALL LOSSES WERE INFLICTED BY CARRIER BASED AIRCRAFT, AND NO SHIP ON EITHER SIDE SIGHTED A SURFACE ENEMY.

BY MID-APRIL 1942 THE JAPANESE HAD ESTABLISHED BASES IN THE NEW GUINEA-SOLOMON ISLAND AREA, THUS MENACING AUSTRALIA ITSELF. ON 3 MAY THEY OCCUPIED TULAGI, A SMALL ISLAND IN THE SOLOMONS. PART OF A U.S. NAVAL TASK FORCE CONSISTING OF THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER YORKTOWN, FOUR CRUISERS AND SIX DESTROYERS MOVED NORTH TO CHECK THE INVASION. AIRCRAFT FROM THE USS YORKTOWN ATTACKED TULAGI ON 4 MAY SINKING AN ENEMY DESTROYER, SEVERAL MINESWEEPERS, SMALLER CRAFT AND SEAPLANES.

FOLLOWING THE TULAGI STRIKE, YORKTOWN AND HER ESCORTS TURNED SOUTH TO RENDEZVOUS WITH USS LEXINGTON EARLY ON THE MORNING OF 5 MAY. THE ALLIED TASK FORCE MOVED NORTHWEST TO INTERCEPT THE JAPANESE PORT MORESBY INVASION GROUP AND A POWERFUL CARRIER STRIKING FORCE. THEIR STRONG AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, INCLUDING 11 TROOP-LADEN TRANSPORTS PROTECTED BY A DESTROYED SCREEN, HAD LEFT RABAU AND WAS HEADING FOR A DASH THROUGH JOMARD PASS.

ON 7 MAY LEXINGTON AND YORKTOWN AIRCRAFT SANK THE ENEMY CARRIER SHOHO WHICH WAS CLOSELY SUPPORTING THE PORT MORESBY AMPHIBIOUS ATTACK FORCE. THE JAPANESE WITHDREW THIS INVASION FORCE THUS MAKING THEIR FIRST SIGNIFICANT RETREAT IN WORLD WAR II. THE SAME MORNING JAPANESE CARRIER AIRCRAFT SANK USS SIMS AND THE TANKER NEOSHO, WHICH HAD BEEN MISTAKEN FOR A CARRIER AND CRUISER.

ON 8 MAY OCCURRED THE CLIMACTIC CARRIER BATTLE. NAVAL CARRIER AIRCRAFT LOCATED TWO LARGE JAPANESE CARRIERS PROTECTED BY FOUR HEAVY CRUISERS AND SEVERAL DESTROYERS. THE AIRPLANES HEAVILY DAMAGED THE LARGE JAPANESE CARRIER SHOKAKU. THE ENEMY IN TURN DAMAGED YORKTOWN AND LEXINGTON, THE LATTER SO SERIOUSLY THAT SHE HAD TO BE ABANDONED AND SUNK.

THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA WAS A STRATEGIC VICTORY OF THE FIRST MAGNITUDE FOR THE U.S. NAVY. WHEN THE PORT MORESBY INVASION WAS THWARTED, THE HERETOFORE UNINTERRUPTED JAPANESE PUSH INTO THE SOUTH PACIFIC WAS HALTED FOR THE FIRST TIME. OCCURRING IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SURRENDER OF CORREGIDOR, ITS MORAL VALUE TO ALL ALLIED NATIONS WAS IMMEASURABLE. FURTHERMORE, DAMAGE TO SHOKAKU AND A LARGE LOSS OF AIRCRAFT BY ZUIKAKU PREVENTED THESE POWERFUL JAPANESE AIRCRAFT CARRIERS

FROM TAKING PART IN THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY WHERE THEIR PRESENCE MIGHT HAVE MADE A CRITICAL DIFFERENCE IN THE OUTCOME.

2. CHINA-BURMA-INDIA THEATER – 1942-1945.

AFTER THE LOSS OF BURMA IN 1942 THE PEOPLE OF CHINA, WHO FOR MORE THAN A DECADE HAD BEEN RESISTING JAPANESE ENCROACHMENT UPON THEIR TERRITORY, WERE ISOLATED FROM THEIR ALLIES. A UNITED STATES AIR ROUTE WAS ESTABLISHED OVER THE SOUTHEASTERN RANGES OF THE HIMALAYAS AND FOR MANY MONTHS WAS THE SOLE MEANS OF SENDING EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO THE CHINESE WAR EFFORT. THE U.S. TENTH AIR FORCE PROTECTED THIS ROUTE FROM ASSAM AND, WITH THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, ESTABLISHED AIR SUPREMACY OVER BURMA BY THE END OF 1943.

AT RAMGARH AN AMERICAN STAFF TRAINED CHINESE TROOPS AND PROVIDED THEM WITH MILITARY EQUIPMENT, LATER THESE TROOPS FOUGHT AGAINST THE JAPANESE IN BURMA AND WERE THEN AIRLIFTED TO CHINA TO CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE.

TO INCREASE THE FLOW OF SUPPLIES TO CHINA IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO REOPEN SURFACE COMMUNICATIONS ACROSS BURMA. BETWEEN DECEMBER 1943 AND MARCH 1945 ALLIED GROUND FORCES, WHO WERE TRANSPORTED, SUPPLIED AND SUPPORTED BY AIR, DROVE THE JAPANESE OUT OF NORTH AND CENTRAL BURMA. ON THE HEELS OF THE COMBAT FORCES U.S. ENGINEERS BUILT THE LEDO ROAD, AN OUTSTANDING FEAT OF MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND CONNECTED IT TO THE BURMA ROAD NEAR THE CHINESE BORDER.

OVER CHINA THE U.S. FOURTEENTH AIR FORCE PROTECTED THE AIRLIFT OF URGENTLY NEEDED SUPPLIES UPON WHICH THE AMERICAN AND CHINESE FORCES DEPENDED. IN SPITE OF ITS LIMITED RESOURCES IT EFFECTIVELY SUPPORTED CHINESE GROUND OPERATIONS, AND THROUGH ADVANCE BASES IN EAST CHINA STRUCK AT ENEMY SHIPPING IN ASIATIC WATERS. A WIDESPREAD NAVAL INTELLIGENCE NETWORK BASED AT CHUNGKING PLAYED ITS PART IN THESE ACTIVITIES.

BEHIND THE VICTORIES IN CHINA, THE RECONQUEST OF BURMA, AND THE TRIUMPH OF OUR AIR AND GROUND FORCES, LAY CONTROL OF THE SEA BY THE ALLIED NAVIES AND THE TREMENDOUS EFFORTS OF THE SERVICES OF SUPPLY WHICH MADE THE CONTINUOUS FLOW OF VITAL SUPPLIES POSSIBLE. AFTER BEING SHIPPED HALF-WAY AROUND THE WORLD ACROSS TWO OCEANS AND PAST THREE CONTINENTS, SUPPLIES WERE UNLOADED AT INDIAN PORTS, THEN TRANSPORTED BY ROAD, RAILROAD, FERRY, BARGE OR PIPELINE TO ASSAM AIRFIELDS BEFORE BEING AIRLIFTED IN HAZARDOUS FLIGHT OVER THE MOUNTAINS FOR ULTIMATE DISTRIBUTION WITHIN CHINA. BY FEBRUARY 1945, PIPELINES WERE BEING EXTENDED FROM ASSAM TO KUNMING, AND TRUCKS WERE ROLLING ALONG THE LEDO-BURMA ROAD. THESE EFFORTS ENABLED THE CHINESE TO MAKE MATERIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFEAT OF THE JAPANESE.

3. AMERICAN AIR FERRY ROUTES—SUPPLY TO THE U.S.S.R. – 1941-1945.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WHILE CONTRIBUTING ITS LAND, SEA AND AIR FORCES TO THE PROSECUTION OF WORLD WAR II, ALSO AIDED ITS MANY ALLIES BY FURNISHING MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES. ITEMS OF ALL KINDS WERE CARRIED BY VAST FLEETS OF STEAMSHIPS TO EVERY AVAILABLE PORT. ALSO IN THIS EFFORT THOUSANDS OF AIRCRAFT WERE FERRIED FROM THE UNITED STATES ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AND CENTRAL AFRICA TO CAIRO, BASRA AND KARACHI.

THROUGH THE PERSIAN GULF COMMAND AREA, THE UNITED STATES DELIVERED, FROM 1942 TO 1945, NEARLY 4 ½ MILLION TONS OF SUPPLIES TO THE U.S.S.R. THESE INCLUDED 4,874 AIRCRAFT OF WHICH 995 WERE FLOWN IN; OVER 160,000 TANKS, ARMORED CARS AND TRUCKS; 140,000 TONS OF GUNS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES; 550,000 TONS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS; 950,000 TONS OF FOOD; AND 1,000,000 TONS OF METAL AND METAL PRODUCTS. THE UNITED STATES ALSO FURNISHED TO THE U.S.S.R., THROUGH OTHER PORTS, MORE THAN 13 MILLION TONS OF ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES.

4. UNITED STATES SUBMARINE OPERATIONS IN THE PACIFIC.

UNITED STATES SUBMARINES CONTRIBUTED MATERIALLY TO THE ALLIED VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC. THEY DESTROYED NEARLY A THIRD OF THE JAPANESE COMBAT SHIPS AND FIFTY PERCENT OF THE JAPANESE MERCHANT MARINE. THE COST WAS THE LOSS OF FORTY-NINE SUBMARINES WITH THEIR GALLANT CREWS.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR THE SUBMARINES BEGAN THEIR CAMPAIGN AGAINST JAPANESE SHIPPING. OPERATING THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM THEIR BASES AND DEEP WITHIN ENEMY-CONTROLLED WATERS THEY STRUCK WITH DEVASTATING EFFECTIVENESS. DURING THE EARLY PART OF 1942, WHILE SURFACE FORCES WERE RECOVERING FROM JAPANESE SURPRISE ATTACKS, AMERICAN SUBMARINES CONTINUED TO PRESS THE WAR BY LONG-RANGE OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS.

AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE WAR THE U.S. HAD 39 FLEET SUBMARINES IN THE PACIFIC. THE NUMBER NEVER EXCEEDED 169, YET THEIR ATTACKS PRODUCED IMMEDIATE AND DAMAGING RESULTS. THEY MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE ENEMY TO HOLD HIS FORWARD POSITIONS, TO SUPPLY AND REINFORCE THREATENED AREAS, AND TO MAINTAIN IN JAPAN AN ADEQUATE RESERVE OF FUEL OIL, RUBBER, IRON AND OTHER ESSENTIAL MATERIALS. AS U.S. DOMINANCE EXTENDED ACROSS THE PACIFIC SUBMARINE ATTACKS BECAME INCREASINGLY EFFECTIVE.

SUBMARINES PERFORMED SPECIAL MISSIONS OF RECONNAISSANCE, SUPPLY AND RESCUE. THEY EVACUATED PERSONNEL FROM BELEAGUERED AREAS, NOTABLY FROM CORREGIDOR. THE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT DELIVERED BY SUBMARINES TO FRIENDLY GUERRILLA FORCES DID MUCH TO KEEP ALIVE THE SPIRIT OF RESISTANCE IN THE PHILIPPINES. IN ADDITION U.S. SUBMARINES RESCUED MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED ALLIED AIRMEN DURING THE COURSE OF THE WAR.

THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE PERIOD OF THE WAR AMERICAN SUBMARINES ALSO PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT PART IN THE ALLIED WAR EFFORT BY SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS IN THE ATLANTIC AND INDIAN OCEANS AND IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND CARIBBEAN SEAS.

5. THE MARIANAS – 15 JUNE-10 AUGUST 1944.

TO PENETRATE THE ENEMY'S DEFENSES AND GAIN BASES FROM WHICH AIRCRAFT COULD STRIKE AT THE JAPANESE HOME ISLANDS, THE UNITED STATES UNDERTOOK TO SEIZE THE MARIANA ISLANDS IN THE SUMMER OF 1944. FOR SEVERAL MONTHS PRIOR TO THE LANDINGS, FAST CARRIER TASK FORCES AND AIRCRAFT OF THE SEVENTH AIR FORCE CONDUCTED PRELIMINARY BOMBARDMENTS OF THE TARGET AREA.

ON 15 JUNE 1944, UNDER COVER OF NAVAL AND AIR BOMBARDMENT BY THE FIFTH FLEET, THE 2ND AND 4TH MARINE DIVISIONS OF THE V AMPHIBIOUS CORPS LANDED ON SAIPAN. THE JAPANESE REACTION WAS IMMEDIATE AND VIGOROUS; THEIR CARRIER TASK FORCE STEAMED TOWARD THE MARIANAS TO MEET THE AMERICAN AMPHIBIOUS EFFORT. IN THE ACTION THAT FOLLOWED, THE BATTLE OF THE PHILIPPINE SEA ON 19-20 JUNE, JAPANESE CARRIER AVIATION WAS SUBSTANTIALLY IMPAIRED AS A MAJOR FORCE IN THE WAR.

MEANWHILE THE MARINES AND THE ARMY'S 27TH INFANTRY DIVISION FOUGHT THEIR WAY ACROSS THE ISLAND AGAINST DETERMINED RESISTANCE. THEY THEN TURNED NORTHWARD AND SEIZED THE DOMINATING HEIGHTS OF MT. TAPOTCHAU ON 25 AND 26 JUNE. ON THE LATTER NIGHT AN ENEMY ATTEMPT TO BREAK OUT OF HIS ISOLATED POSITION ON NAFUTAN POINT WAS DECISIVELY DEFEATED. AMERICAN FORCES CONTINUED TO PRESS THE ATTACK AGAINST THE MASS OF THE ENEMY, SLOWLY FORCING HIM NORTHWARD. FINALLY, ON THE NIGHT OF 6-7 JULY, THE JAPANESE MADE A DESPERATE LAST EFFORT; THEIR FURIOUS ASSAULT WAS REPULSED AND TWO DAYS LATER THE ISLAND WAS DECLARED SECURE.

ON 24 JULY, AFTER A LENGTHY PREPARATORY BOMBARDMENT BY U.S. SHIPS, AIRCRAFT, AND ARTILLERY FIRING FROM SAIPAN, THE 4TH MARINE DIVISION FOLLOWED BY THE 2ND MARINE DIVISION LANDED ON NORTHERN TINIAN. AFTER NINE DAYS OF SEVERE FIGHTING, WITH CONTINUOUS SUPPORT BY SEVENTH AIR FORCE AND CARRIER AIRCRAFT AND BY NAVAL GUNFIRE, THE MARINES SECURED THE ISLAND.

PRECEDED BY ONE OF THE HEAVIEST SUSTAINED NAVAL AND AIR BOMBARDMENTS CONDUCTED IN THE PACIFIC, THE 3RD MARINE DIVISION AND THE 1ST MARINE BRIGADE OF THE III AMPHIBIOUS CORPS MADE TWO SEPARATE LANDINGS ON THE WESTERN SHORES OF GUAM ON 21 JULY. ON 24 JULY THE 77TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSUMED CONTROL OF THE SOUTHERN BEACHEAD. THE NEXT DAY, WHILE THE 3RD MARINE DIVISION CONTINUED ITS ASSAULT TO GAIN THE HIGH GROUND TO ITS FRONT, THE 1ST MARINE BRIGADE BEGAN CLEARING THE OROTE PENINSULA. THAT NIGHT THE CRISIS CAME ON BOTH FRONTS WHEN THE JAPANESE LAUNCHED SPIRITED BUT UNSUCCESSFUL COUNTERATTACKS AGAINST BOTH UNITS.

THE INDIVIDUAL BEACHHEADS WERE THEN LINKED TOGETHER AND AMERICAN LINES CONSOLIDATED. SUPPORTED BY ARMY, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS AIRCRAFT, THE 77TH INFANTRY DIVISION AND THE 3RD MARINE DIVISION LAUNCHED A COORDINATED ATTACK TOWARD THE NORTH END OF THE ISLAND WHERE THE JAPANESE HAD CONCENTRATED THEIR FORCES. BY 10 AUGUST ORGANIZED RESISTANCE HAD CEASED.

6. BATTLE OF MIDWAY—3-7 JUNE 1942.

AFTER THEIR ADVANCE TOWARD AUSTRALIA WAS CHECKED AT THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA IN MAY 1942, THE JAPANESE SHIFTED THEIR MAIN OFFENSIVE NORTHWARD TOWARD THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS AND THE ALEUTIANS.

IN JUNE, JAPANESE OCCUPATION FORCES, SUPPORTED BY THE JAPANESE COMBINED FLEET, MOVED AGAINST MIDWAY ISLAND, WEST OF HAWAII, AND KISKA AND ATTU IN THE WESTERN ALEUTIANS.

MEANWHILE, THE UNITED STATES REINFORCED THE MARINE GARRISON ON MIDWAY AND ALERTED THE PACIFIC FLEET FOR THE DEFENSE OF THAT ISLAND. ON 4 JUNE AIRCRAFT FROM FOUR JAPANESE FLEET CARRIERS ATTACKED MIDWAY. IN ITS DEFENSE U.S. MARINE ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTERIES, AND LANDBASED AIRCRAFT MANNED BY MARINE, NAVY AND ARMY AIR FORCES PILOTS, DESTROYED MORE THAN 40 JAPANESE AIRPLANES. THEREUPON NAVAL AIRCRAFT FROM THE U.S. CARRIERS ENTERPRISE, YORKTOWN AND HORNET ATTACKED THE JAPANESE CARRIERS AND SANK FOUR OF THEM. JAPANESE CARRIER-BASED AIRCRAFT AND A SUBMARINE ATTACKED OUR CARRIERS AND SANK YORKTOWN. DISCOMFITED BY THE AMERICAN AIR RESISTANCE THE JAPANESE MIDWAY OCCUPATION FORCE WITHDREW WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO LAND, LOSING A CRUISER IN THE OPERATION.



Operations Map – Southeast Room

FAR TO THE NORTH, JAPANESE AIRPLANES FROM TWO OTHER CARRIERS BOMBED DUTCH HARBOR ON 3 AND 4 JUNE, MEETING RESISTANCE FROM U.S. NAVY AND ARMY

AIR FORCES AIRCRAFT. UNDER COVER OF THIS DIVERSION THE JAPANESE, WITHOUT OPPOSITION, OCCUPIED THE ISLANDS OF ATTU AND KISKA ON 7 JUNE.

THE JAPANESE LOSS OF FOUR AIRCRAFT CARRIERS AND THEIR COMPLEMENT OF 250 AIRCRAFT WITH MANY FIRST-LINE PILOTS COMPLETELY REVERSED THE STRATEGIC SITUATION IN THE PACIFIC. THIS WAS THEIR LAST GREAT OFFENSIVE AGAINST AMERICAN TERRITORY. THEREAFTER THE UNITED STATES TOOK THE OFFENSIVE AND STARTED THE LONG ADVANCE TOWARD THE JAPANESE HOMELAND AND FINAL VICTORY,

7. BATTLE OF THE PHILIPPINE SEA – 15-20 JUNE 1944.

WHEN, ON 15 JUNE 1944, THE U.S. FIFTH FLEET LANDED THE 2ND AND 4TH MARINE DIVISIONS OF THE V AMPHIBIOUS CORPS ON SAIPAN, THE JAPANESE REACTION WAS IMMEDIATE AND VIGOROUS. BY THE VERY NEXT DAY THE JAPANESE MOBILE FLEET, WHICH INCLUDED NINE FAST CARRIERS, HAD SET UNITS IN MOTION FROM MANY WIDELY SEPARATED AREAS, EFFECTED A RENDEZVOUS IN THE PHILIPPINE SEA, AND MOVED TO THE ATTACK. THE COMBAT ELEMENTS OF THE FIFTH FLEET, INCLUDING FIFTEEN FAST CARRIERS, IMMEDIATELY MOVED INTO POSITION TO COVER THE SAIPAN AMPHIBIOUS OPERATION WHILE ITS CARRIER-BASED AIRCRAFT CONTINUED THEIR DESTRUCTIVE ATTACKS UPON THE JAPANESE AIR BASES IN THE MARIANAS.

THE JAPANESE, EARLY ON THE MORNING OF 19 JUNE, BEGAN LAUNCHING AIRCRAFT AT EXTREME RANGE, PLANNING THAT THESE SHOULD SUCCESSFULLY ATTACK THE AMERICAN SHIPS, THEN LAND AND REFUEL AT GUAM. FOUR SEPARATE ATTACKS WERE INTERCEPTED BY AIRCRAFT OF THE FIFTH FLEET; OVER 300 JAPANESE AIRCRAFT BEING SHOT DOWN BY AMERICAN INTERCEPTORS AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE, DESTROYED ON THE GROUND OR LOST AT SEA.

ONLY A FEW JAPANESE AIRCRAFT WERE ABLE TO RETURN TO THEIR CARRIERS, WHICH IN THE MEANTIME BEGAN TO WITHDRAW TO THE NORTHWEST. THE FIFTH FLEET PURSUED BUT DID NOT LOCATE THE RETREATING ENEMY UNTIL THE AFTERNOON OF 20 JUNE WHEN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT WERE LAUNCHED AT SUCH LONG RANGE, SO LATE IN THE DAY, THAT A PERILOUS NIGHT RECOVERY WAS INEVITABLE. NEVERTHELESS, THE AMERICAN PILOTS BOLDLY PRESSED THEIR ATTACK AND SANK A CARRIER AND TWO TANKERS. MANY AIRCRAFT FAILED TO RETURN.

IN ADDITION TO THE DESTRUCTION INFLICTED BY U.S. NAVAL AIRCRAFT, SUBMARINES OF THE PACIFIC FLEET SANK TWO OTHER JAPANESE AIRCRAFT CARRIERS ON 19 JUNE.



Graves Area with West Hemicycle in Background

NORTHEAST ROOM

This room has six maps:

1. GENERAL STRATEGY IN THE PACIFIC 1942-1945.

EXPLOITING THEIR SUCCESSFUL ATTACK UPON PEARL HARBOR ON 7 DECEMBER 1941, THE JAPANESE STRUCK AT AMERICA, BRITISH, CHINESE AND DUTCH TERRITORIES. THE UNITED STATES, FORCED INITIALLY UPON THE DEFENSIVE, NEVERTHELESS DETERMINED TO HOLD OPEN THE LINE OF COMMUNICATIONS TO AUSTRALIA, TO AID IN THE DEFENSE OF THAT CONTINENT AND TO DO ITS UTMOST TO REINFORCE THE PHILIPPINES. IN MAY AND JUNE 1942 THE ENEMY OFFENSIVE WAS CHECKED AT THE BATTLES OF THE CORAL. SEA AND MIDWAY WHICH RESTORED THE BALANCE OF SEA POWER IN THE PACIFIC.

TO STOP THE JAPANESE ADVANCE IN THE SOLOMONS, WHICH THREATENED THE VITAL SUPPLY LINE TO AUSTRALIA, U.S. FORCES TOOK THE OFFENSIVE, LANDING ON GUADALCANAL ON 7 AUGUST 1942. THE SUCCESSION OF HARDFOUGHT NAVAL BATTLES AND GRIM STRUGGLES ON LAND AND IN THE AIR WHICH FOLLOWED MARKED THE TURNING POINT OF THE PACIFIC WAR. IN NEW GUINEA, U.S. AND AUSTRALIAN FORCES REPULSED THE JAPANESE THRUST TOWARD PORT MORESBY AND ADVANCED ON THE LONG ROAD BACK TO THE PHILIPPINES. THE CHINESE EFFORT WAS AIDED BY SUPPLIES FLOWN OVER THE HIMALAYAS FROM INDIA.

MEANWHILE SUBMARINES HAD BEEN CONTINUOUSLY ATTACKING JAPANESE SHIPS CARRYING OIL, RUBBER AND OTHER MATERIALS ESSENTIAL TO THE ENEMY'S INDUSTRY. THE RELENTLESS ASSAULT AGAINST HIS COMBAT AND MERCHANT SHIPS WAS TO CONTINUE, FROM THE SEA AND FROM THE AIR, WITH EVER-INCREASING ATTRITION THROUGHOUT THE WAR.

TO PENETRATE THE ENEMY'S DEFENSES AND GAIN BASES FROM WHICH AIRCRAFT COULD STRIKE AT THE JAPANESE HOME ISLANDS, THE UNITED STATES COMMITTED ITS MAJOR FORCES ALONG TWO MAIN AXES OF ADVANCE. ONE THRUST WAS TO CONTINUE THE ATTACK NORTHWESTWARD SIMULTANEOUSLY THROUGH THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AND ALONG THE COAST OF NEW GUINEA. THE OTHER WOULD CROSS THE TREMENDOUS REACHES OF THE CENTRAL PACIFIC VIA THE GILBERT AND MARSHALL ISLANDS AND THE STRONGLY DEFENDED MARIANA AND PALAU ISLANDS. BY MID-SEPTEMBER 1944 ALL THESE MISSIONS HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, WHILE, SIMULTANEOUSLY, CONTROL OF THE SEA AND AIR HAD BEEN WRESTED FROM THE ENEMY, THUS DENYING ESCAPE TO HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF JAPANESE TROOPS ON BY-PASSED BASES SUCH AS RABAU AND TRUK. MEANWHILE FAR TO THE NORTH OTHER AMERICAN FORCES HAD EXPELLED THE ENEMY FROM THE ALEUTIANS. IN BURMA ALLIED FORCES WERE DRIVING FORWARD TO REOPEN THE OVERLAND SUPPLY ROUTE TO CHINA AND STIMULATE HER EFFORTS TO EJECT THE JAPANESE INVADERS.

IN JUNE 1944 THE STRATEGIC AIR BOMBARDMENT OF JAPAN HAD BEGUN FROM AIRFIELDS IN CHINA. WITH THE CAPTURE OF THE MARIANAS, BOMBERS FROM THESE ISLANDS JOINED THE ASSAULT WHICH DEVELOPED BY WAR'S END INTO A PROLONGED AND VIOLENT BOMBARDMENT AIMED AT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE JAPANESE MILITARY AND INDUSTRIAL SYSTEMS.

TO LIBERATE THE PHILIPPINES AND TO OBTAIN FORWARD BASES CLOSER TO JAPAN, U.S. ARMY, NAVY, MARINE AND AIR FORCES CONTINUED THEIR SUCCESSIVE AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULTS. THE LANDING AT LEYTE IN OCTOBER 1944 BROUGHT ON THE DECISIVE NAVAL BATTLES FOR LEYTE GULF. AMPHIBIOUS LANDINGS ON LUZON, IWO JIMA AND OKINAWA FOLLOWED IN RAPID SUCCESSION. FAST CARRIER TASK FORCES JOINED IN THE STRATEGIC BOMBARDMENT OF JAPAN; U.S. WARSHIPS SHELLED THE COASTAL STATIONS DENYING TO THE REMNANTS OF THE JAPANESE FLEET THE SAFETY OF ITS HOME HARBORS.

AFTER THE DEVASTATION FROM THE AIR OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI, THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SUED FOR PEACE; THE SURRENDER TERMS WERE SIGNED IN TOKYO BAY ON 2 SEPTEMBER 1945.

2. GUADALCANAL – 7 AUGUST 1942-9 FEBRUARY 1943.

FOLLOWING THE NAVAL VICTORY IN THE CORAL SEA, THE UNITED STATES LAUNCHED AN OFFENSIVE IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS TO HALT THE JAPANESE ADVANCE ON LAND. SUPPORTED BY NAVAL AIRCRAFT, THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE OF THE U.S. PACIFIC FLEET LANDED THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION AT GUADALCANAL AND TULAGI ON 7 AUGUST 1942.

THE JAPANESE REACTION WAS PROMPT AND VIGOROUS, BOMBERS FROM RABAU attacked troops ashore and the supporting naval vessels. ON 9 AUGUST A STRONG JAPANESE FLEET CAME DOWN "THE SLOT" AND ENGAGED U.S. AND AUSTRALIAN NAVAL FORCES OFF SAVO ISLAND. ALLIED LOSSES WERE HEAVY. ASHORE THE MARINES FOUGHT HEROICALLY TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR BEACHHEAD AND COMPLETE THE AIR BASE AT HENDERSON FIELD.

FROM THEIR ADVANCE BASES BOTH OPPONENTS strove to build up their own strength on GUADALCANAL. ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED ON HENDERSON FIELD. AMERICAN EFFORTS TO DEVELOP AND KEEP IT OPERATING COULD NOT BE RELAXED NOTWITHSTANDING CONTINUOUS SURFACE AND AIR BOMBARDMENT. A SERIES OF HARDFOUGHT SEA BATTLES ENSUED WITH SEVERE LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES – THE BATTLE OF THE EASTERN SOLOMONS IN AUGUST, THE BATTLES OF CAPE ESPERANCE AND THE SANTA CRUZ ISLANDS IN OCTOBER, FOLLOWED BY GUADALCANAL AND TASSAFARONGA IN NOVEMBER AND RENNELL ISLAND IN JANUARY 1943. THE SEA BATTLE OF GUADALCANAL WHEN OUTNUMBERED U.S. CRUISERS AND DESTROYERS ENGAGED THE JAPANESE BATTLESHIP FORCE WAS ESPECIALLY FURIOUS.

ON LAND THE JAPANESE, SUPPORTED BY STRONG AIR COVER, ON THE NIGHTS OF 12 AND 13 SEPTEMBER ATTACKED BOTH FLANKS, AS WELL AS THE CENTER OF THE MARINE POSITION ON THE RIDGE SOUTH OF HENDERSON FIELD, BUT WERE DECISIVELY DEFEATED. IN TURN, THE AMERICANS, HAVING BEEN REINFORCED BY ADDITIONAL MARINE AND ARMY UNITS, ATTACKED THE JAPANESE POSITIONS TO THE WEST ALONG THE MATANIKAU RIVER FROM 23 TO 27 SEPTEMBER BUT WERE FORCED TO WITHDRAW; THEY RENEWED THE ATTACK ON 7 OCTOBER AND SECURED THE EAST BANK OF THE RIVER TWO DAYS LATER.

THE JAPANESE BROUGHT IN REINFORCEMENTS INCLUDING HEAVIER ARTILLERY. ON 23 OCTOBER STRONG JAPANESE INFANTRY FORCES SUPPORTED BY TANKS, ARTILLERY FIRE AND AIR AND NAVAL BOMBARDMENT, ATTACKED ACROSS THE MATANIKAU BUT WERE REPULSED BY THE 1ST AND 7TH MARINE REGIMENTS. ON 24-25 OCTOBER THE ENEMY LAUNCHED TWO POWERFUL ATTACKS AGAINST THE SOUTHERN PERIMETER. THE FIRST ATTACK AGAINST HENDERSON FIELD WAS REPULSED AFTER DESPERATE FIGHTING BY THE 7TH MARINE REGIMENT AND THE 164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT. THE OTHER ATTACK, NORTH OF MOUNT AUSTEN, AFTER A BRIEF INITIAL SUCCESS WAS ALSO REPULSED.

THE TENACIOUS OPPOSITION OF THE JAPANESE MADE IT NECESSARY TO REINFORCE OUR LAND, SEA AND AIR FORCES HEAVILY. THE ARMY'S 25TH AND AMERICAL DIVISIONS, AS WELL AS THE 2ND MARINE DIVISION, NOW RELIEVED THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION. ON 17 DECEMBER THESE DIVISIONS LAUNCHED A DETERMINED ATTACK AGAINST THE JAPANESE POSITION ON MOUNT AUSTEN WHICH THEY CAPTURED A WEEK LATER. ON 10 JANUARY THE ATTACK WAS RESUMED AND AFTER HARD FIGHTING THE STRONGLY DEFENDED JAPANESE POSITIONS FARTHER TO THE WEST WERE SEIZED.

RECOGNIZING THEIR PERIL, THE JAPANESE, BETWEEN THE 1ST AND 8TH OF FEBRUARY, EVACUATED ABOUT 13,000 MEN FROM GUADALCANAL UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS. BY 9 FEBRUARY 1943 THE AMERICAN TROOPS HAD OVERRUN THE LAST OF THE JAPANESE POSITIONS AND THE HARD-FOUGHT CAMPAIGN FOR GUADALCANAL WAS WON.



Interior of Chapel and Mosaic

3. FAST CARRIER STRIKES IN THE PACIFIC – 1942-1945.

BECAUSE THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR FORCED THE U.S. NAVAL FORCES TO THE DEFENSIVE THROUGHOUT THE PACIFIC. THEIR FIRST OFFENSIVE EFFORTS WERE LIMITED STRIKES AGAINST SUPERIOR ENEMY CONCENTRATIONS BY THE NAVAL AIR FORCES.

IN MAY AND JUNE 1942, U.S. FORCES FOUGHT THE SUCCESSFUL BATTLES OF THE CORAL SEA AND MIDWAY. THEN, AT GUADALCANAL, THERE FOLLOWED A SERIES OF HARD-FOUGHT NAVAL BATTLES AND GRIM STRUGGLES ON THE LAND AND IN THE AIR WHICH MARKED THE TURNING POINT OF THE PACIFIC WAR.

THE LONG ADVANCE TOWARD THE JAPANESE HOMELAND BEGAN IN 1943. THE VOLUME AND EFFECTIVENESS OF AIR STRIKES WAS INTENSIFIED; DURING THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF THE WAR THE NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT CARRIERS WAS INCREASED



Visitors' Building at Entrance Plaza

FROM NINE TO MORE THAN FIFTY. THESE FORMED THE SPEARHEAD OF THE TRIPHIBIOUS OFFENSIVES IN THE GILBERT ISLANDS, THEN IN EARLY 1944, THROUGH THE MARSHALL ISLANDS. IN JUNE THE AMERICAN ATTACK ON THE MARIANAS BROUGHT ON THE BATTLE OF THE PHILIPPINE SEA IN WHICH THE JAPANESE NAVAL AIR ARM WAS ELIMINATED AS A DECISIVE FACTOR IN THE WAR.

AIRCRAFT CARRIERS SUPPORTED THE LANDINGS IN THE PHILIPPINES IN 1944, AND ON IWO JIMA AND OKINAWA IN 1945. FAST CARRIER TASK FORCES JOINED IN THE STRATEGIC BOMBARDMENT OF JAPAN, RANGING AT WILL OFF THE COAST OF THE JAPANESE HOME ISLANDS, SINKING SHIPS AND RENDERING HARBORS UNTENABLE. THE ROLE OF THESE MOBILE CARRIERS WAS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE IN THE PROSECUTION OF THE WAR.

4. AIR ASSAULT ON JAPAN – 1942-1945.

ON 15 JUNE 1944 U.S. ARMY HEAVY BOMBERS FROM AIRFIELDS IN CHINA LAUNCHED THE FIRST STRATEGIC AIR ATTACKS AGAINST THE JAPANESE HOMELAND. ON THE SAME DAY U.S. AMPHIBIOUS FORCES ASSAULTED THE MARIANA ISLANDS SO

AS TO GAIN AIR BASES CLOSER TO JAPAN. IN JANUARY 1945 AIRCRAFT FROM CHINA WERE REDEPLOYED TO THESE NEW BASES.

EVEN BEFORE THE CAPTURE OF THE MARIANAS WAS COMPLETE, AIRFIELDS WERE BEING BUILT FROM WHICH THE U.S. TWENTIETH AIR FORCE WAS LATER TO CONDUCT ITS DEVASTATING BOMBARDMENT CAMPAIGN. FROM THE FIRST MAJOR STRIKE ON NOVEMBER 1944 UNTIL THE END OF HOSTILITIES IN AUGUST 1945 THE OFFENSIVE CONTINUED WITH EVER MOUNTING INTENSITY. THE OBJECTIVE WAS THE PROGRESSIVE DESTRUCTION OF THE ENEMY'S MILITARY, INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS. IN MARCH 1945 HEAVY BOMBERS ENGAGED ALSO IN AERIAL MINE LAYING TO INTENSIFY THE BLOCKADE OF JAPAN ALREADY ESTABLISHED BY U.S. SUBMARINES.

THE CAPTURE OF IWO JIMA IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1945 WAS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE AIR ASSAULTS ON JAPAN. THE AIRFIELDS THERE ESTABLISHED SERVED AS A BASE FOR FIGHTER ESCORTS AND A HAVEN FOR DAMAGED BOMBERS MAKING THE LONG OVERWATER RETURN TO THE MARIANAS.

IN JULY 1945 THE U.S. TWENTIETH AIR FORCE, IN THE MARIANAS, AND THE U.S. EIGHTH AIR FORCE, STATIONED ON OKINAWA, COMBINED TO OPERATE AS THE U.S. ARMY STRATEGIC AIR FORCES. DURING JULY AND AUGUST THE U.S. FAR EAST AIR FORCES AND MARINE CORPS AIRCRAFT BASED ON OKINAWA PARTICIPATED IN THE STRATEGIC ASSAULT. AFTER THE DEVASTATION FROM THE AIR OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI IN AUGUST 1945, THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SUED FOR PEACE.

5. OKINAWA – 26 MARCH-22 JUNE 1945.

EARLY IN 1945 THE GREAT CONCENTRATION OF U.S. SEA, LAND AND AIR POWER IN THE PACIFIC ENABLED OUR FORCES TO CHALLENGE JAPAN IN HER OWN WATERS. FOR MONTHS AIRCRAFT FROM THE NAVY'S FAST CARRIERS AND ARMY AIR FORCE BOMBERS FROM THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA AND THE MARIANAS HAD BOMBED THE IMPORTANT BASES IN THE RYUKYUS. THE AMPHIBIOUS INVASION WAS INITIATED WHEN A DIVISION OF THE TENTH ARMY LANDED ON KERAMA RETTO WEST OF OKINAWA ON 26 MARCH. THERE FOLLOWED A DESPERATE THREE MONTHS STRUGGLE ON LAND, ON SEA, AND IN THE AIR.

ON 1 APRIL, UNDER COVER OF AN INTENSIVE NAVAL AND AIR BOMBARDMENT BY THE U.S. FIFTH FLEET, TWO DIVISIONS OF THE U.S. ARMY XXIV CORPS AND TWO DIVISIONS OF THE MARINE IN AMPHIBIOUS CORPS LANDED ON OKINAWA ITSELF. THE TWO CORPS, ATTACKING ABREAST, PUSHED RAPIDLY ACROSS THE ISLAND, THUS SPLITTING THE JAPANESE FORCES. THE III AMPHIBIOUS CORPS THEN TURNED NORTH, WHILE THE XXIV CORPS TURNED SOUTH TO ATTACK THE JAPANESE MAIN DEFENSIVE POSITIONS.

TO INSURE EARLY WARNING OF THE EXPECTED ENEMY AIR OFFENSIVE FROM AIRFIELDS IN JAPAN, CHINA AND FORMOSA, THE FIFTH FLEET ESTABLISHED A RING OF DESTROYERS AND ESCORT VESSELS AROUND OKINAWA. INITIALLY THE SUICIDAL ATTACKS OF THE JAPANESE LAND-BASED KAMIKAZE AIRPLANES WHICH CAUSED HEAVY LOSSES WERE FOUGHT OFF BY THE CARRIER-BASED AIRCRAFT AND ANTIAIRCRAFT FIRE OF THE SURFACE SHIPS. ON THE NIGHT OF 6-7 APRIL, THE

ENEMY SURFACE FLEET MADE ITS LAST SORTIE FROM ITS HOME WATERS. U.S. CARRIER AIRCRAFT ATTACKED THIS FORCE, SINKING A BATTLESHIP, A CRUISER AND FOUR DESTROYERS. COMMENCING ON 9 APRIL LAND-BASED AIRCRAFT OF THE U.S. MARINES AND THE ARMY AIR FORCES RAPIDLY AUGMENTED THE CARRIER-BASED AIRCRAFT AND ULTIMATELY CHECKED THE KAMIKAZES,

ASSISTED BY LAND-BASED AIRCRAFT OF THE MARINES AND THE ARMY AIR FORCES, AND BY NAVAL GUNFIRE, OUR MARINE AND ARMY DIVISIONS ADVANCED SOUTHWARD AGAINST FANATICAL RESISTANCE AND FURIOUS COUNTERATTACKS. EACH SUCCESSIVE ENEMY STRONGPOINT WAS CLEARED ONLY BY PERSISTENT AND HEROIC EFFORT. BY THE MIDDLE OF JUNE OUR GROUND FORCES HAD BATTERED THEIR WAY THROUGH THE FORTIFIED NAHA-SHURI LINE. BY 22 JUNE 1945 THE LAST ORGANIZED UNIT OF THE JAPANESE GARRISON HAD BEEN DESTROYED. OKINAWA THEN BECAME THE FIRST AMERICAN STRATEGIC BASE WITHIN EASY RANGE OF THE JAPANESE HOMELAND.

6. IWO JIMA –16 FEBRUARY-16 MARCH 1945.

BEFORE THE CAPTURE OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS HAD BEEN COMPLETED IN AUGUST 1944 AIRFIELDS WERE UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON SAIPAN AND GUAM. FROM THESE, IN NOVEMBER, THE U.S. ARMY AIR FORCES BEGAN INTENSIVE AIR ASSAULTS AGAINST THE JAPANESE HOMELAND. THE PROMPT SEIZURE OF THE ISLAND OF IWO JIMA BECAME OF VITAL IMPORTANCE BECAUSE IT COULD PROVIDE THE ONLY EMERGENCY LANDING FOR RETURNING AIRCRAFT IN DISTRESS AS WELL AS A BASE FOR FIGHTER ESCORTS.

SENSING THE PERIL TO THEIR EMPIRE THE JAPANESE CONCENTRATED ON MAKING IWO JIMA IMPREGNABLE, GARRISONING THIS FORTIFIED ISLAND OF ABOUT SEVEN SQUARE MILES WITH MORE THAN 20,000 TROOPS IN CAREFULLY PREPARED DEFENSIVE POSITIONS. AGAINST THESE, FOR SEVEN MONTHS PRIOR TO THE AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT, THE U.S. SEVENTH AIR FORCE AS WELL AS FAST CARRIER AIRCRAFT SQUADRONS AND NAVAL SURFACE SHIPS DIRECTED BOMBARDMENTS OF INCREASING FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY.

ON 16 FEBRUARY 1945 UNITS OF THE FIFTH FLEET BEGAN A CONCENTRATED GUNFIRE AND AERIAL BOMBARDMENT OF IWO JIMA WHILE THE FAST CARRIERS, IN A COVERING ACTION, STRUCK AT TARGETS IN JAPAN, THEN RETURNED THREE DAYS LATER TO JOIN IN THE ATTACK. ON THE MORNING OF 19 FEBRUARY, UNDER COVER OF A HEAVY BOMBARDMENT, THE FIFTH FLEET LANDED THE 4TH AND 5TH MARINE DIVISIONS ON THE SOUTHEAST COAST OF THE ISLAND. THE ENEMY REACTED VIOLENTLY, POURING CONCENTRATED FIRE FROM PREVIOUSLY UNDETECTED POSITIONS. AS THE MARINES ADVANCE ACROSS OPEN GROUND THEY WERE RAKED BY HEAVY FIRE FROM THE HIGH GROUND ON THE FLANKS. THE 4TH MARINE DIVISION ON THE RIGHT SUFFERED SEVERE CASUALTIES AND THE ESCORT CARRIER BISMARCK SEA WAS SUNK-OFF-SHORE BY ENEMY AIR ATTACK.

BY THE END OF THE DAY THE MARINES HAD FOUGHT THEIR WAY ACROSS THE ISLAND AND HAD ISOLATED THE JAPANESE ON MOUNT SURIBACHI FROM THE MAIN FORCES IN THE NORTH. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY OUR TROOPS CAPTURED AIRFIELD NO. 1. THE 3RD MARINE DIVISION LANDED ON THE THIRD DAY.

AIRFIELD NO. 2 WAS REACHED ON 23 FEBRUARY. SIMULTANEOUSLY THE 5TH DIVISION STORMED THE STEEP SLOPES OF MOUNT SURBACHI, CAPTURING THE SUMMIT. AN ASSAULT TO THE MOTOYAMA PLATEAU BROUGHT THE MARINES DIRECTLY INTO THE FACE OF THE HEAVIEST ENEMY DEFENSES. THEN AS THE 4TH DIVISION ATTACKED ON THE RIGHT AND THE 5TH DIVISION ON THE LEFT, THE 3RD DIVISION IN THE CENTER CRACKED THE MAIN LINE OF JAPANESE RESISTANCE.

FOR NEARLY TWO WEEKS MORE, WITH CONTINUOUS SUPPORT BY SEVENTH AIR FORCE AND CARRIER AIRCRAFT AND NAVAL GUNFIRE, THE MARINES PRESSED FORWARD AGAINST A DETERMINED RESISTANCE CONDUCTED BY A WELL TRAINED, WELL EQUIPPED ENEMY, FIGHTING FROM THOUSANDS OF DEFENSIVE INSTALLATIONS AND DEEP CAVES. DESPITE HEAVY AND CONTINUOUS LOSSES THE MARINES MAINTAINED THEIR DRIVE UNTIL FINALLY, AFTER 26 DAYS OF BITTER ASSAULT, THE ISLAND WAS SECURED.

NORTHWEST ROOM

This room has five maps:

1. THE WAR AGAINST GERMANY – 1941-1945.

THROUGHOUT THE WAR IN EUROPE WHICH BEGAN 1939 THE PROTECTION AND CONTROL OF THE SEA AND AIR ROUTES TO THE BRITISH ISLES WERE VITAL TO THE ALLIES' HOPES OF VICTORY. FOLLOWING THE JAPANESE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR, THE UNITED STATES NAVY ACTIVELY JOINED THE ALLIED FORCES ENGAGED IN THE BITTERLY CONTESTED BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC, FIGHTING TO KEEP THE SEA LANES OPEN.

IN AUGUST THE U.S. ARMY AIR FORCES JOINED THEIR BRITISH COMRADES IN THE STRATEGIC BOMBARDMENT OF GERMANY. FOR NEARLY THREE YEARS THIS AERIAL ASSAULT CONTINUED WITH EVER-INCREASING VIOLENCE, STRIKING DEEP INTO ENEMY TERRITORY TO DISLOCATE AND DESTROY HIS MILITARY AND INDUSTRIAL SYSTEMS.

IN NOVEMBER 1942 AMERICAN AND BRITISH FORCES LANDED ON THE SHORES OF NORTH AFRICA BUT WERE CHECKED JUST 16 MILES FROM TUNIS. A COUNTERATTACK NEAR KASSERINE WAS HALTED ON 22 FEBRUARY. THE FINAL CAMPAIGN IN NORTH AFRICA OPENED ON 22 APRIL 1943. BY 13 MAY ONE QUARTER OF A MILLION AXIS TROOPS REMAINING IN TUNISIA BECAME PRISONERS OF WAR.

ON 10 JULY 1943, UNDER COVER OF NAVAL AND AIR BOMBARDMENT, THE ALLIES LANDED ON THE SHORES OF SICILY. IN A SWIFT CAMPAIGN, LASTING ONLY 39 DAYS, THEY EXPELLED THE ENEMY FROM THE ISLAND.

IN SEPTEMBER U.S. AND BRITISH FORCES LANDED IN SOUTHERN ITALY, SEIZING THE AIRFIELDS NEAR FOGGIA. FROM THESE, U.S. ARMY AIR FORCES LAUNCHED STRATEGIC AIR ATTACKS, IN COORDINATION WITH THE ALLIED AIR FLEETS ALREADY OPERATING FROM ENGLAND, ON AUSTRIA, THE BALKANS AND GERMANY. TO ASSIST THE GROUND ADVANCE, A LANDING WAS MADE IN THE ANZIO REGION BUT THE ENEMY'S PROMPT REACTION PREVENTED EXPLOITATION OF THIS BEACHHEAD. ON 11

MAY THE ALLIES LAUNCHED A GENERAL ASSAULT, BROKE THROUGH THE ENEMY DEFENSES AND ON 4 JUNE 1944 AMERICAN TROOPS ENTERED ROME.

DRIVING NORTHWARD, THE ALLIES BREACHED THE ENEMY'S "GOTHIC" MOUNTAIN DEFENSE LINE BUT STIFFENING RESISTANCE HALTED THE ADVANCE. RESUMING THE OFFENSIVE IN THE SPRING OF 1945 OUR TROOPS CROSSED THE PO THEN SPREAD OUT TO CLOSE THE NORTHERN FRONTIERS. ON 2 MAY 1945 THE ENEMY IN ITALY SURRENDERED UNCONDITIONALLY.

ON 6 JUNE 1944 UNITED STATES AND BRITISH COMMONWEALTH FORCES LANDED ON THE NORTHERN COAST OF FRANCE. ON 25 JULY THEY BROKE OUT OF THEIR BEACHHEAD, REPULSED A POWERFUL COUNTERATTACK AND THEN DROVE EASTWARD ACROSS THE SEINE. BY MID-SEPTEMBER, JOINED BY THOSE WHO HAD LANDED IN SOUTHERN FRANCE, THEY WERE STANDING ON THE THRESHOLD OF GERMANY.

ON 16 DECEMBER THE ENEMY LAUNCHED HIS FINAL MAJOR COUNTER OFFENSIVE. THE SUPERB FIGHTING QUALITIES OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN HURLED BACK THIS ASSAULT AND CARRIED THEM TO THE RHINE. U.S. FORCES SEIZED A BRIDGE AT REMAGEN, CROSSED AT OPPENHEIM, THEN JOINED THE BRITISH IN THE MAJOR ASSAULT CROSSING NORTH OF THE RUHR. SWEEPING ACROSS GERMANY THE ALLIES MET THE TROOPS OF THE U.S.S.R., WHO HAD BEEN ADVANCING WESTWARD FOR TWO YEARS, AND FORCED THE COMPLETE SURRENDER OF THE ENEMY ON 8 MAY 1945.

2. SUPPLY ROUTES ACROSS THE PACIFIC OCEAN – 1941-1945.

THE VAST DISTANCES OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN IMPOSED ENORMOUS PROBLEMS UPON THE UNITED STATES NAVY AND THE SHIPPING WHICH IT PROTECTED. IN THIS HEMISPHERE, THE LOGISTIC SUPPORT OF OUR MILITARY, NAVAL AND AIR OPERATIONS INVOLVED THE BROADEST WATER-DISTANCES ON EARTH. THE AMERICAN ARMY AND NAVY WERE REQUIRED TO SUPPLY THEIR FORCES, NOT ONLY ACROSS THE CENTRAL PACIFIC, BUT ALSO TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW GUINEA BELOW THE EQUATOR. IN ADDITION, SHIPPING FROM THE UNITED STATES SAILED BOTH EASTWARD AND WESTWARD TO INDIAN OCEAN PORTS WITH CARGOES FOR THE CHINA-BURMA-INDIA THEATER.

NOTWITHSTANDING HER INTENSE PREOCCUPATION WITH THE CAMPAIGNS IN EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA THE UNITED STATES STEADILY BUILT UP HER SUPPLY RESOURCES IN THE PACIFIC. OVER THREE MILLION AMERICAN FIGHTING MEN AND MORE THAN SIXTY MILLION TONS OF CARGO WERE TRANSPORTED TO PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS FROM THE UNITED STATES. AT THE MOMENT OF THE GERMANY COLLAPSE AMERICAN SUPPLY BASES HAD BEEN PUSHED FORWARD TO THE RYUKYUS ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE JAPANESE HOMELAND. THE UNITED STATES NAVY BORE THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY OF SAFE-GUARDING THE CONTINUOUS FLOW OF TROOPS AND SUPPLIES OVER SEA LANES WHICH IT DENIED TO THE ENEMY, ATTACKING HIM WHENEVER AND WHEREVER HE COULD BE FOUND.

SUPPLEMENTING THE NAVY, THE ARMY AIR FORCES ESTABLISHED AIR ROUTES ACROSS THE PACIFIC. THE AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND EARLY ESTABLISHED BOTH PASSENGER AND AIR EXPRESS ROUTES FROM CALIFORNIA TO AUSTRALIA AND THE

FAR EAST. AS THE WAR ADVANCED, HEAVY BOMBERS WERE FLOWN FROM CALIFORNIA TO GUAM, SAIPAN AND OTHER PACIFIC BASES.

LOGISTIC SERVICES ASHORE AND AFLOAT REPLENISHED OUR FIGHTING SHIPS AND PROVIDED FOR THE SHELTER, SUPPLY, HOSPITALIZATION AND EVACUATION OF OUR SOLDIERS, SAILORS, MARINES AND AIRMEN. THEY PREPARED AIRFIELDS AND SUPPORTED THE STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL AIR ASSAULTS UPON THE ENEMY. ON THE HEELS OF AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULTS AGAINST HOSTILE BEACHES THEY LANDED AMMUNITION, ARTILLERY, COMBAT VEHICLES, FOOD, WATER, FUEL AND EQUIPMENT.

THE EFFORTS OF OUR MEDICAL PERSONNEL IN COMBAT AID STATIONS AND HOSPITALS, BOTH AFLOAT AND ASHORE, WERE OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE IN MAINTAINING THE MORAL AND COMBAT EFFICIENCY OF OUR ARMY, NAVAL AND AIR FORCES. THE DEVOTED EFFORTS OF ALL OF THE OTHER MULTI-SKILLED PERSONNEL OF SUPPLY AND TECHNICAL ORGANIZATIONS ASHORE AND AFLOAT WERE REQUIRED TO ENABLE OUR COMBAT FORCES TO FIGHT THEIR WAY TO VICTORY OVER IMPERIAL JAPAN.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WHILE CONTRIBUTING HER LAND, SEA AND AIR FORCES TO THE PROSECUTION OF WORLD WAR II, ALSO AIDED THE U.S.S.R. BY FURNISHING OVER SEVENTEEN AND A HALF MILLION TONS OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES. OF THESE MORE THAN EIGHT MILLION TONS WERE SHIPPED ACROSS THE PACIFIC TO SIBERIA OR FLOWN ACROSS VIA THE ALEUTIANS.

3. NEW GUINEA – 21 JULY 1942-11 MAY 1945.

DURING 1942 NEW GUINEA WAS A MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF THE JAPANESE. A U.S. NAVAL TASK FORCE BLOCKED THEIR FIRST THREAT TO PORT MORESBY, KEY TO AUSTRALIA, ON 4-8 MAY IN THE DECISIVE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA. ON 21 JULY JAPANESE FORCES SEIZED BUNA AND GONA, THEN CROSSED THE OWEN STANLEY RANGE TO WITHIN 30 MILES OF PORT MORESBY, TO BE DRIVEN BACK TO THEIR BEACHHEAD BY AUSTRALIAN TROOPS. ANOTHER JAPANESE FORCE, DEFEATED AT MILNE BAY, WITHDREW ON 5 SEPTEMBER. ON 16 NOVEMBER ALLIED FORCES OPENED THEIR ATTACKS AGAINST THE BUNA-GONA BEACHHEAD AND EXPELLED THE JAPANESE ON 22 JANUARY 1943.

THE ENEMY NEXT ATTACKED WAU BUT AUSTRALIAN TROOPS TRANSPORTER BY AMERICAN AIRCRAFT REPULSED HIM. ON 2-4 MARCH, IN THE BATTLE OF THE BISMARCK SEA, THE U.S. FIFTH, AND ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCES TOGETHER WITH U.S. NAVY SMALL CRAFT STOPPED HIS ATTEMPT TO REINFORCE HIS HUON PENINSULA GARRISONS. THE ALLIED FORCES CONTINUED THEIR OFFENSIVE ALONG THE NORTHERN COAST; AMERICAN AND AUSTRALIAN TROOPS CAPTURED SALAMAUA ON 11 SEPTEMBER AND ON 16 SEPTEMBER THE AUSTRALIANS, ASSISTED BY BOMBARDMENTS BY THE U.S. VII AMPHIBIOUS FORCE AND THE FIFTH AIR FORCE, AND AN AIRDROP BY THE 503RD PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT UPON THE NADZAB AIRFIELD, CAPTURED LAE.

THE AUSTRALIANS EXTENDED THE ADVANCE BY A DOUBLE ENVELOPMENT OF THE HUON PENINSULA. ADDED IMPETUS WAS GIVEN TO THEIR ATTACK BY A U.S. REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM WHICH LANDED AT SAIDOR AND CUT THE JAPANESE LINE OF RETREAT ALONG THE COAST.

MEANWHILE ELEMENTS OF THE U.S. SIXTH ARMY SUPPORTED BY THE U.S. SEVENTH FLEET LAUNCHED AN OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE JAPANESE STRONGHOLD OF RABAU ON NEW BRITAIN. THEY FIRST OCCUPIED WOODLARK AND KIRIWINA ISLANDS; THEREUPON, SUPPORTED BY AIR AND NAVY BOMBARDMENT, THEY CAPTURED ARAWE AND THE CAPE GLOUCESTER AREA.

THE DECISION WAS THEN MADE TO BY-PASS BOTH RABAU AND KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. THESE STRONG BASES WERE FIRST NEUTRALIZED BY INTENSIVE BOMBARDMENTS FROM THE SEA AND AIR; THEN THE ADMIRALTY ISLANDS AND EMIRAU WERE OCCUPIED IN RAPID SUCCESSION.

IN ORDER TO SPEED THE GENERAL ADVANCE IT WAS NOW DECIDED TO BY-PASS THE STRONG JAPANESE BASE AT WEWAK BY LEAP FROGGING SOME 350 MILES TO HOLLANDIA, WITH A SECONDARY LANDING AT ATTAPU TO THE EAST. AS HOLLANDIA WAS BEYOND THE EFFECTIVE RANGE OF MANY OF OUR LAND-BASED AIRCRAFT, THE FAST CARRIER TASK FORCE FROM THE U.S. FIFTH FLEET HELPED THE U.S. FIFTH AIR FORCE TO DESTROY ITS AIR INSTALLATIONS, ALSO THOSE TO THE WESTWARD. THEN, IN RAPID SUCCESSION, THE U.S. SIXTH ARMY SEIZED WAKDE, BIAK, NOEMFOOR, SANSAPOR AND MOROTAI. BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER 1944 THE FORCES OF THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA WERE POISED FOR THE ADVANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES.

THROUGHOUT THE NEW GUINEA CAMPAIGN U.S. NAVAL FORCES RENDERED CONTINUOUS SUPPORT.

4. NORTHERN SOLOMONS – 6 MARCH 1943-27 MARCH 1944.

IN FEBRUARY 1942 THE AIR FORCES OF THE SOUTHWEST AND SOUTH PACIFIC COMMANDS BEGAN THEIR ATTACKS ON THE JAPANESE AIR AND NAVAL INSTALLATIONS IN THE NORTHERN SOLOMONS AND THE IMPORTANT BASE OF RABAU TO THE WEST. IN JANUARY 1943 ALLIED SURFACE SHIPS JOINED IN THE NEUTRALIZATION OF SHORE TARGETS. MINES PLANTED BY MARINE CORPS AND NAVAL AIRCRAFT AND MINELAYERS IN HARBORS OF KOLOMBANGARA AND BOUGAINVILLE CAUSED HEAVY LOSSES OF JAPANESE SHIPS.

LATE IN JUNE 1943 THE 43RD DIVISION AND THE 1ST MARINE RAIDER REGIMENT, PROTECTED BY ALLIED FIGHTERS, LANDED ON RENDOVA AND NEW GEORGIA WITH THE MUNDA AIRFIELD AS A PRIME OBJECTIVE. THE ENEMY'S EFFORTS TO REINFORCE HIS GROUND TROOPS BROUGHT ON THE NAVAL ENGAGEMENTS OF KULA GULF AND KOLOMBANGARA. THE REST OF THE U.S. XIV CORPS (37TH AND 25TH DIVISIONS) THEN MOVED INTO NEW GEORGIA, AND AFTER FIERCE FIGHTING CAPTURED MUNDA AIRFIELD ON 5 AUGUST. JAPANESE ATTEMPTS TO REINFORCE THEIR GARRISONS RESULTED IN THEIR DEFEAT IN THE BATTLE OF VELLA GULF.

BY-PASSING STRONGLY DEFENDED KOLOMBANGARA, THE U.S. 25TH DIVISION AND 3RD NEW ZEALAND DIVISION CAPTURED LEVALLA. EFFORTS TO PREVENT THE JAPANESE WITHDRAWAL OF MORE THAN 10,000 MEN FROM THESE TWO ISLANDS LED TO THE NAVAL BATTLE OF VELLA LAVALLA.

THE STRENGTH OF ALLIED AIR, GROUND AND NAVAL FORCES HAD NOW SO INCREASED AS TO PROMISE SUCCESS IN THE ASSAULT ON BOUGAINVILLE ALTHOUGH IT WAS WITHIN CLOSE FIGHTER SUPPORT DISTANCE OF RABAU. IN PREPARATION FOR, AND IN SUPPORT OF, THIS ASSAULT THE FIFTH AIR FORCE FROM THE SOUTHWEST

PACIFIC COMMAND MADE SEVERAL LARGE-SCALE ATTACKS ON THAT BASE, WHILE THE AIR SOLOMONS COMMAND, OPERATING FROM BASES ON NEW GEORGIA AND GUADALCANA BOMBED THE JAPANESE AIRFIELDS ON BOUGAINVILLE – ANOTHER NOTEWORTHY EXAMPLE OF SKILLFUL COORDINATION OF THE EFFORTS OF TWO WIDELY SEPARATED COMMANDS.

PROCEEDED BY DIVERSIONARY LANDINGS ON THE TREASURY ISLANDS AND CHOISEUL, THE 3RD MARINE DIVISION, UNDER COVER OF AIR BOMBARDMENT AND NAVAL GUNFIRE, LANDED AT BOUGAINVILLE ON 1 NOVEMBER 1943. IN THE BATTLE OF EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY THAT NIGHT A JAPANESE CRUISER AND A DESTROYER WERE SUNK. U.S. ARMY AIR FORCES, MARINE CORPS, AND NAVAL CARRIER-BASED AIRCRAFT CONTINUED TO FIGHT A SERIES OF BATTLES WITH THE JAPANESE WHICH EVENTUALLY RESULTED IN THE ELIMINATION OF RABAU AS AN IMPORTANT AIR AND NAVAL BASE.

ON 25 NOVEMBER FIVE U.S. DESTROYERS ENGAGED AN EQUAL NUMBER OF JAPANESE DESTROYERS REINFORCING BUKA AND, IN THE BATTLE OF CAPE ST. GEORGE, SANK THREE. IN FEBRUARY 1944 THE 37TH AND THE AMERICAL DIVISIONS COMPLETED RELIEF OF THE 3RD MARINE DIVISION. ON 9 MARCH TWO JAPANESE DIVISIONS UNSUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED MAJOR COUNTERATTACKS AGAINST THESE TWO DIVISIONS. HOWEVER THE ENEMY CONTINUED TO HARASS THE PERIMETER FOR SEVERAL MONTHS THEREAFTER.

ON 15 FEBRUARY 1944 THE 3RD NEW ZEALAND DIVISION OCCUPIED THE GREEN ISLANDS, ONLY 140 MILES FROM RABAU. THIS COMPLETED THE LONG NORTHWESTWARD ADVANCE IN THE SOLOMONS.

5. INVASION OF THE PALAU ISLANDS

COINCIDING WITH THE FINAL OPERATIONS IN NEW GUINEA TO THE SOUTH AND FOLLOWING CLOSELY THE CAPTURE OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS TO THE NORTH, UNITED STATES FORCES INVADED THE PALAU ISLANDS. DURING THE WEEKS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THIS INVASION, AIRCRAFT OF THE FIFTH AND THIRTEENTH AIR FORCES BASED ON NEW GUINEA HEAVILY BOMBED THE PALAUS; CARRIER-BASED AIRCRAFT OF THE THIRD FLEET AND LAND-BASED AIRPLANES OF THE SEVENTH AIR FORCE STRUCK WITH DEVASTATING EFFECT AT FARFLUNG TARGETS TO THE NORTH, EAST AND WEST. THEN THE AIRPLANES OF THE THIRD FLEET PROVIDED DIRECT AIR SUPPORT FOR THE ATTACKING TROOPS ITS WARSHIPS SUPPORT THE ASSAULT WITH GUNFIRE.

ON 15 SEPTEMBER 1944 THE THIRD AMPHIBIOUS FORCE LANDED THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION ON PELELIU. AS IT ADVANCED FROM THE BEACHHEAD STRONG OPPOSITION DEVELOPED; THE ENEMY LAUNCHED ESPECIALLY FIERCE COUNTERATTACKS ACROSS THE AIRFIELD AGAINST POSITIONS REACHED BY THE 1ST AND 5TH MARINE REGIMENTS. REPULSING THESE ASSALTS THE MARINES PUSHED INLAND AND CAPTURED THE AIRFIELD ON THE FOLLOWING DAY. THEIR PROGRESS WAS COSTLY BUT THEY CONTINUED THE ATTACK NORTHWARD AND WITHIN A WEEK DROVE THE JAPANESE INTO THE ROUGH TERRAIN TO THE NORTH AT THE SAME TIME, THE 7TH MARINE REGIMENT OVERCAME STRONG OPPOSITION AND SECURED THE SOUTHERN SECTOR OF THE ISLAND.

ON 17 SEPTEMBER THE 321ST AND 322ND REGIMENTS OF THE U.S. ARMY'S 81ST INFANTRY DIVISION LANDED ON ANGAUR, SIX MILES TO THE SOUTHWEST. AFTER SUFFERING HEAVY CASUALTIES FROM NUMEROUS PILLBOXES AND DUGOUTS, THE TROOPS OVERRAN ORGANIZED OPPOSITION. WHILE ISOLATED POCKETS OF THE ENEMY WERE STILL HOLDING OUT, U.S. ARMY ENGINEERS BEGAN TO DEVELOP A HEAVY BOMBER BASE.

THE 321ST REGIMENT MOVED TO PELELIU, WHERE IT RELIEVED THE 1ST MARINE REGIMENT. AIDED BY MARINE AIRCRAFT FLOWN FROM THE CAPTURED AIRSTRIP ON PELELIU, INFANTRYMEN AND MARINES PUSHED NORTHWARD ALONG THE COAST AND FORCE THE ENEMY INTO A SMALL POCKET ON MT. UMURBROGOL. THERE HE STUBBORNLY DEFENDED CAVE FORTIFICATIONS FOR ANOTHER TWO MONTHS,

IN THE MEANTIME THE 323RD INFANTRY HAD OCCUPIED ULITHI, 300 MILES TO THE NORTH, AND RETURNED TO FIGHT ON PELELIU. THESE ISLANDS WERE THEN DEVELOPED INTO NAVAL AND AIR BASES WHICH WERE TO PROVE THEIR VALUE AS SUPPORT AND STAGING POINTS DURING THE LIBERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES.

VISITORS' BUILDING

The Visitors' Building is located just inside the main gate at the right of the plaza. It contains the Superintendent's office, toilet facilities and a comfortably furnished room where visitors may obtain information, sign the register and pause to refresh themselves. During visiting hours a member of the cemetery staff is available in the building to answer questions and provide information on burials and memorializations in the Commission's cemeteries, accommodations in the vicinity, travel, local history and other items of interest.

There is parking space in the Visitors' Building plaza and also immediately in rear of the memorial. In the interest of visitors, of whom many take photographs, parking is not permitted in front of the memorial.

PLANTINGS

In his design for the layout of the cemetery the landscape architect visualized a park-like background for the memorial and graves plots which would assure a rotation of bloom to embellish perpetually this resting place of the honored Dead. In so doing he achieved in effect the creation of a large botanical garden with stately stretches of broad lawns and magnificent vistas, using genera and species which are representative of the great wealth of flowering trees, shrubs, palms and foliage plants of the Philippines, the East Indies, and the warmer climates of southern Asia, Africa and Tropical America.

It is impracticable to include in this booklet the entire plant-list of the cemetery, but visitors are invited to refer to a copy of the plant-list, which is available at the Visitors' Building.

The grass covering most of the cemetery is *Zoysia Matrella*. All of it has been propagated from two square yards sod shipped in 1951 from the United States Department of Agriculture Experimental station at Beltsille, Maryland.

Saipan Memorial

The Saipan Monument is situated near the beach overlooking Tanapag Harbor on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It is part of an American memorial park commemorating the American and Marianas Dead in the Marianas Campaign of World War II. The monument honors specifically the 24,000 American marines and soldiers who died recapturing the volcanic islands of Saipan, Tinian and Guam during the period of 15 June 1944 – 11 August 1944.



It is a twelve-foot rectangular obelisk of rose granite in a landscaped area of local flora. Inscribed upon the monument are these words:

THIS MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
IN HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO THE SONS
WHO PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE
FOR LIBERATION OF THE MARIANAS
? 1941-1945 ?

Guadalcanal American Memorial

The Guadalcanal American Memorial is located on Skyline Drive overlooking the town of Honiara, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. It honors those American and Allied servicemen who lost their lives during the Guadalcanal Campaign of World War II (7 August 1942-9 February 1943). The Memorial consists of a suitably inscribed central pylon four feet square rising 24 feet above its base. Four radiating directional walls point toward major battle sites. Descriptions of the Battles are inscribed on the walls. Both the walls and the pylon are constructed of Red Calca granite.



Cabanatuan Memorial

The Cabanatuan Memorial is located 85 miles north of Manila, within the city of Cabanatuan, Luzon, and Republic of the Philippines. It marks the site of the Japanese Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp where approximately 75,000 American and Philippine servicemen and civilians were held captive from 1942 to 1945, after the fall of the Philippine Island during World War II.



The memorial consists of a 90-foot concrete base in the center of which rests a marble altar. It is surrounded on three sides by a fence of steel rods and on the fourth by a Wall of Honor upon which are inscribed the names of the approximately 3,000 Americans who lost their lives while being held captive.

Co-located on the site are the West Point Monument, which pays homage to the 170 American and 6 Filipino graduates of the U.S. Military Academy who lost their lives during the defense of the Philippines or while prisoner of war at Cabanatuan and the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor (a Filipino veterans organization) memorial which salutes their American fallen comrades.