

Battle of Guadalcanal to Surrender...

Event 7: February, 1943
• The Battle of Guadalcanal

The Allied Offensive Begins

- Douglas MacArthur, the US General in the South Pacific, introduces his "Island Hopping" strategy
- Rather than invade *every* island, it is more efficient to select strategic islands to take

Douglas MacArthur

- He was an American soldier in WWI and the US General of the South Pacific in WWII
- When Japan invaded the Philippines, MacArthur vowed to his soldiers "I shall return."
- Upon wading to the shore after retaking the Philippines, MacArthur boldly stated, "People of the Philippines, I have returned!"

The Battle of Guadalcanal
7 August 1942 – 9 February 1943
British Solomon Islands

Soldiers experienced brutal conditions fighting in dense jungles

AKA: Operation Watchtower

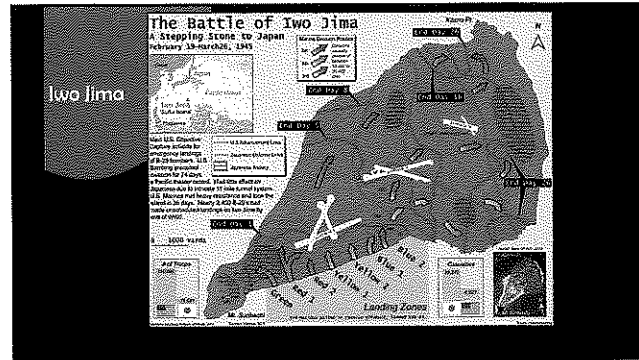
- The Guadalcanal Campaign, also known as the Battle of Guadalcanal and codenamed Operation Watchtower by American forces, was a military campaign fought between 7 August 1942 and 9 February 1943 on and around the island of Guadalcanal in the Pacific theater of World War II.
- This was the first major offensive and a decisive victory for the Allies in the Pacific theater. With Japanese troops stationed in this section of the Solomon Islands, U.S. marines launched a surprise attack in August 1942 and took control of an air base under construction.
- Reinforcements were funneled to the island as a series of land and sea clashes unfolded, and both sides endured heavy losses to their warship contingents. However, the Japanese suffered a far greater toll of casualties, forcing their withdrawal from Guadalcanal by February 1943.

Private Ralph G. Martin:

- "Hell was red furry spiders as big as your fist...enormous rats and bats everywhere, and rivers with waiting crocodiles. Hell was the sour, foul smell of the squishy jungle, humidity that rotted a body within hours...Hell was an enemy...so fanatic that it used its own dead as booby traps."

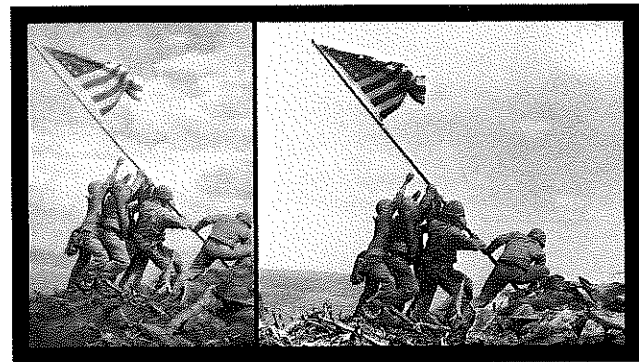
Battle of Iwo Jima, (19 February–26 March 1945)

Iwo Jima has been described as the most heavily fortified area in the history of warfare. Since the Japanese defenders were prepared to fight to the last man, the battle for Iwo Jima was ferocious. The hardest struggles were for the occupation of a height that U.S. forces labeled Meatgrinder Hill, in the north, and Mount Suribachi, an extinct volcano in the south. The U.S. attackers paid a high price for this World War II victory.



The Battle of Iwo Jima

- Although the island is very small, it is strategically significant for the US
- As the US neared the Japanese mainland, the Japanese hoped the *kamikaze*, or "divine wind," would be able to stop the American advance.



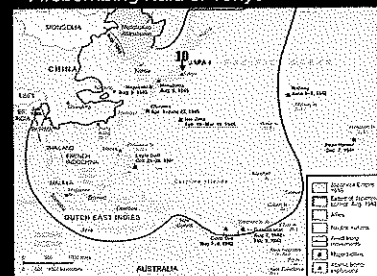
Event 9: Significance/Result Iwo Jima...

- Marines take the tiny island after ferocious fighting
- US bombers are now in range of the Japanese mainland...

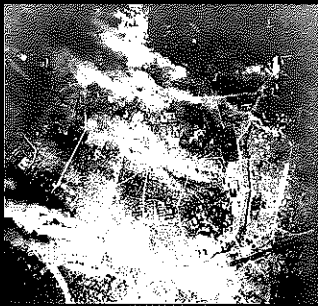


Event 10: March 10, 1945

- Firebombing Raid of Tokyo



Tokyo after raid...



Tokyo Before/After



Event 10: Significance/Result

- Worst death toll of any single event in World War II after the bombing starts a massive fire in Tokyo

- 100,000 Japanese die in the resulting blaze



Event 11: April-June, 1945

- The Battle of Okinawa



Americans Land on the Shore of Okinawa



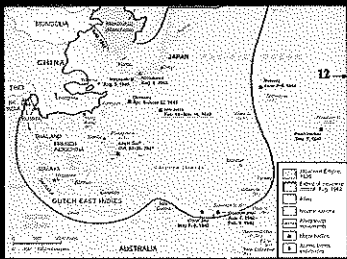
Event 11: Significance/Result

- US defeats Japan on Okinawa
- Japan loses 100,000 soldiers
- The only step left for the US is an invasion of the Japanese mainland



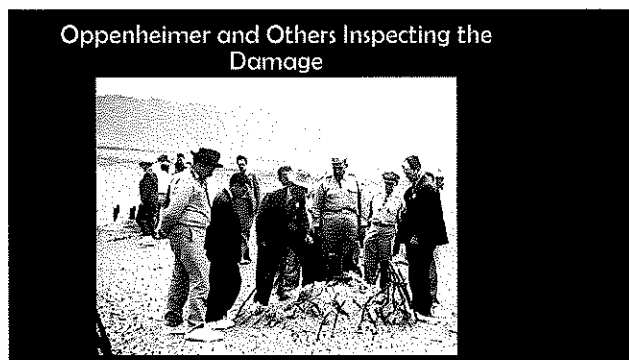
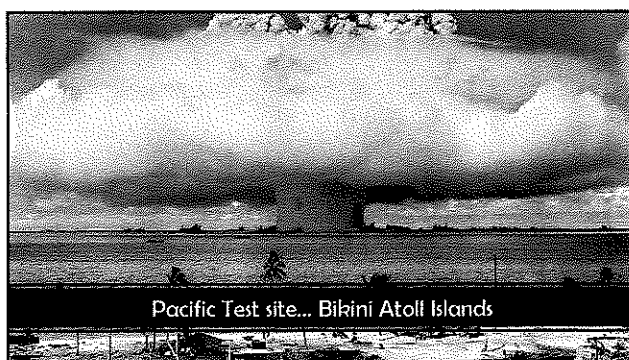
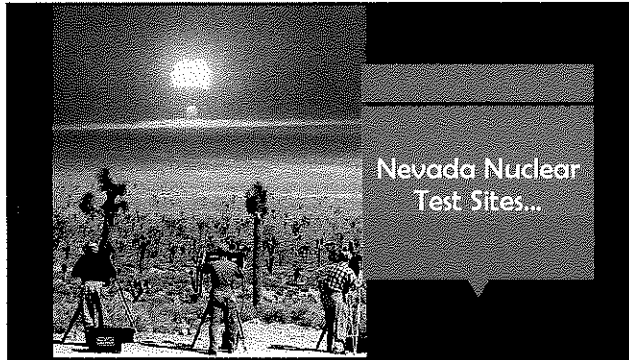
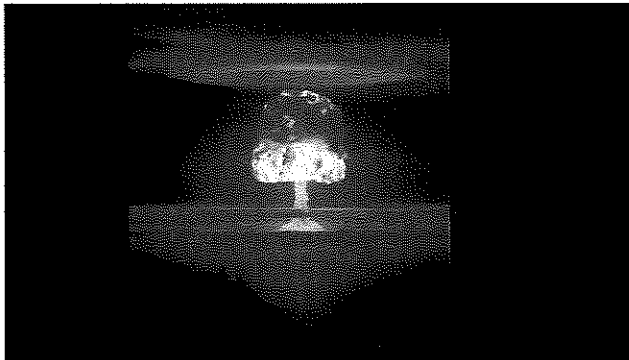
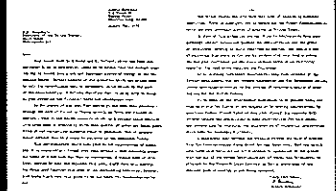
Event 12: July 16, 1945

- The first Atomic Bomb explodes in the New Mexico Desert



The Birth of the Atomic Bomb

- After receiving a letter from Albert Einstein on Germany's attempt to build an atomic bomb, Franklin Delano Roosevelt started the Manhattan Project to build the bomb first
- At the Manhattan Project's peak, over 130,000 people were employed



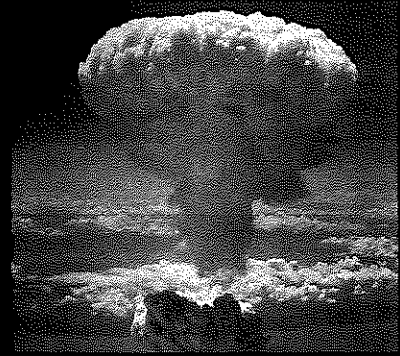
US President FDR Dies...Enter Harry Truman

- Following the death of FDR, Truman succeeded the Presidency on April 12, 1945
- Truman and his cabinet determined dropping the Atomic Bomb was the quickest way to end the war



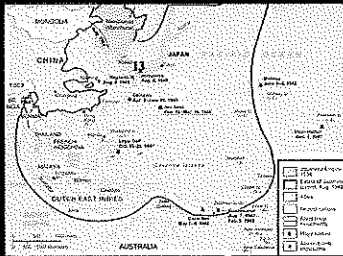
Event 12: Significance/Results

- Proves that the Atomic Bomb works
- President Truman quickly authorizes its use against Japan



Event 13: August 6, 1945

- The Atomic Bomb is dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima

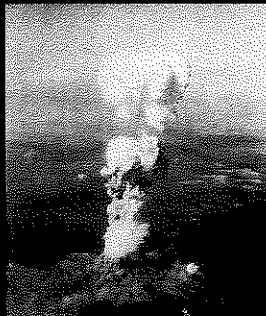


On the Morning of August 6, 1945...

- A plane named the *Enola Gay* took off from the island of Iwo Jima and changed the world forever



The Bomb Goes Off



- "Down below the thing [the mushroom cloud] reminded me more of a boiling pot of tar than any other description I can give it. It was black and boiling underneath with a steam haze on top of it..."

The Aftermath

- "...We had seen a city when we went in, and there was nothing to see when we came back. It was covered by this boiling, black looking mass." - The pilot, Col. Paul Tibbets, after dropping the bomb on Hiroshima



The Worst Was Yet to Come...Radiation



• Radiation caused far more suffering than the bomb itself



A Survivor's Firsthand Account:

• "The appearance of people was...well, they all had skin blackened by burns...They had no hair because their hair was burned, and at a glance you couldn't tell whether you were looking at them from in front or in back...They held their arms bent [forward]...and their skin – not only their hands, but on their faces and bodies too – hung down...If there had been only or two such people...perhaps I would not have had such a strong impression. But wherever I walked I met these people...Many of them died along the road – I can still picture them in my mind – like walking ghosts."

Event 13: Significance/Result

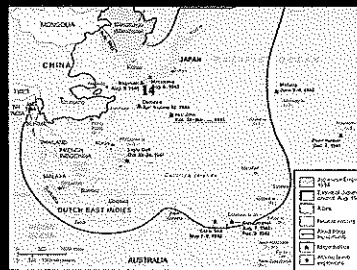
• 80,000 die immediately. Thousands more die later from the effects of radiation poisoning

• The Japanese refuse to surrender



Event 14: August 9, 1945

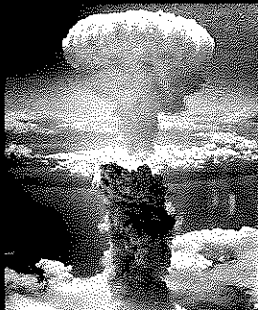
• The Atomic Bomb is dropped on the Japanese city of Nagasaki



Just Three Days Later...August 9th

• Kokura was the initial target, but clouds created poor visibility so the pilots bombed Nagasaki instead

• That was the last atom bomb the US had at the time, but Japan did not know that ...



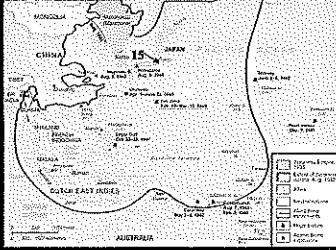
Event 14: Significance/Result

• 70,000 die immediately. Thousands more die later from the effects of radiation poisoning

• Japan agrees to surrender...

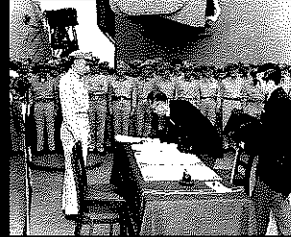
Event 15: September 2, 1945

- Japanese surrender to General MacArthur on the deck of the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay



The Surrender

- Fearing another atomic strike, Japan surrenders to General MacArthur on the USS Missouri despite the desire of some military officers to continue the war



Event 15: Significance/Results

- Japan Surrenders
- World War II ends
- The formal peace treaty is not signed until 1951



Conditions of the Surrender

- Emperor Hirohito had to declare to the Japanese people that he was not a divine presence on Earth
- Japan was forced to demilitarize; they could only go to war if they were attacked
- US drew up a new constitution for a constitutional monarchy in Japan
 - Land and Labor Reforms
 - Redistribution of land
 - Legalization of unions
 - Right to vote for all citizens over 20
- *** US remained in Japan and in 2019 still has bases there.*

Some Parts of the War Last Longer than Others...

- Although the war ended over 50 years ago, Japan and Russia never formally ended hostilities
 - The last formal attempt failed in 2000 because Japan wanted four offshore islands back from Russia
- In 1974, A Japanese soldier, Hiroo Onoda, came out of the jungle of the Pacific island of Lubang and gave himself up. He had been hiding for 29 years, unaware that Japan had surrendered to the US decades earlier

The War in Europe Ends- May 1945 VE (Victory in Europe) Day

- The War in the Pacific Ends- Sept 2nd 1945 with the Japanese surrender to the allied forces.

WWII IS OVER... Sept 2nd 1945...now on to the Peace Talks.