


World War II



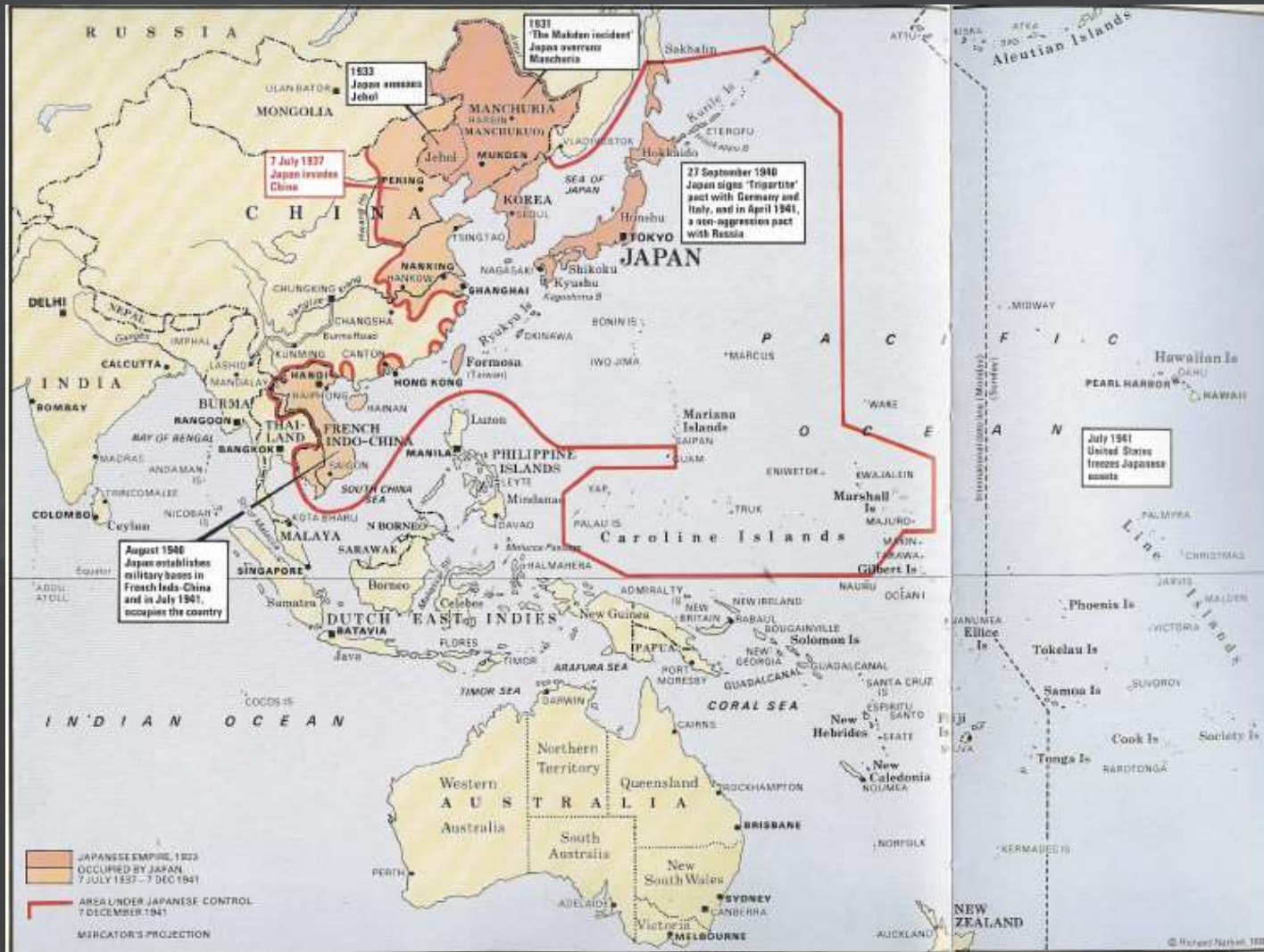
The Pacific Theater

Japan's Strategic Objectives

- 
- ★ Seize critical natural resource areas
 - ★ Establish defensive perimeter
 - ★ Sue for peace

Japanese Possessions

6 December 1941



Japanese Possessions

1 August 1942



Admiral Isoruko Yamamoto

Arguing against war:

"I will run wild for six months or a year, but I have no confidence in the outcome in the second and third years"

After Pearl Harbor:

"A military man can scarcely pride himself on having 'smitten a sleeping enemy; it is more a matter of shame, simply, for the one smitten. I would rather you made your appraisal after seeing what the enemy does, since it is certain that, angered and outraged, he will soon launch a determined counterattack."

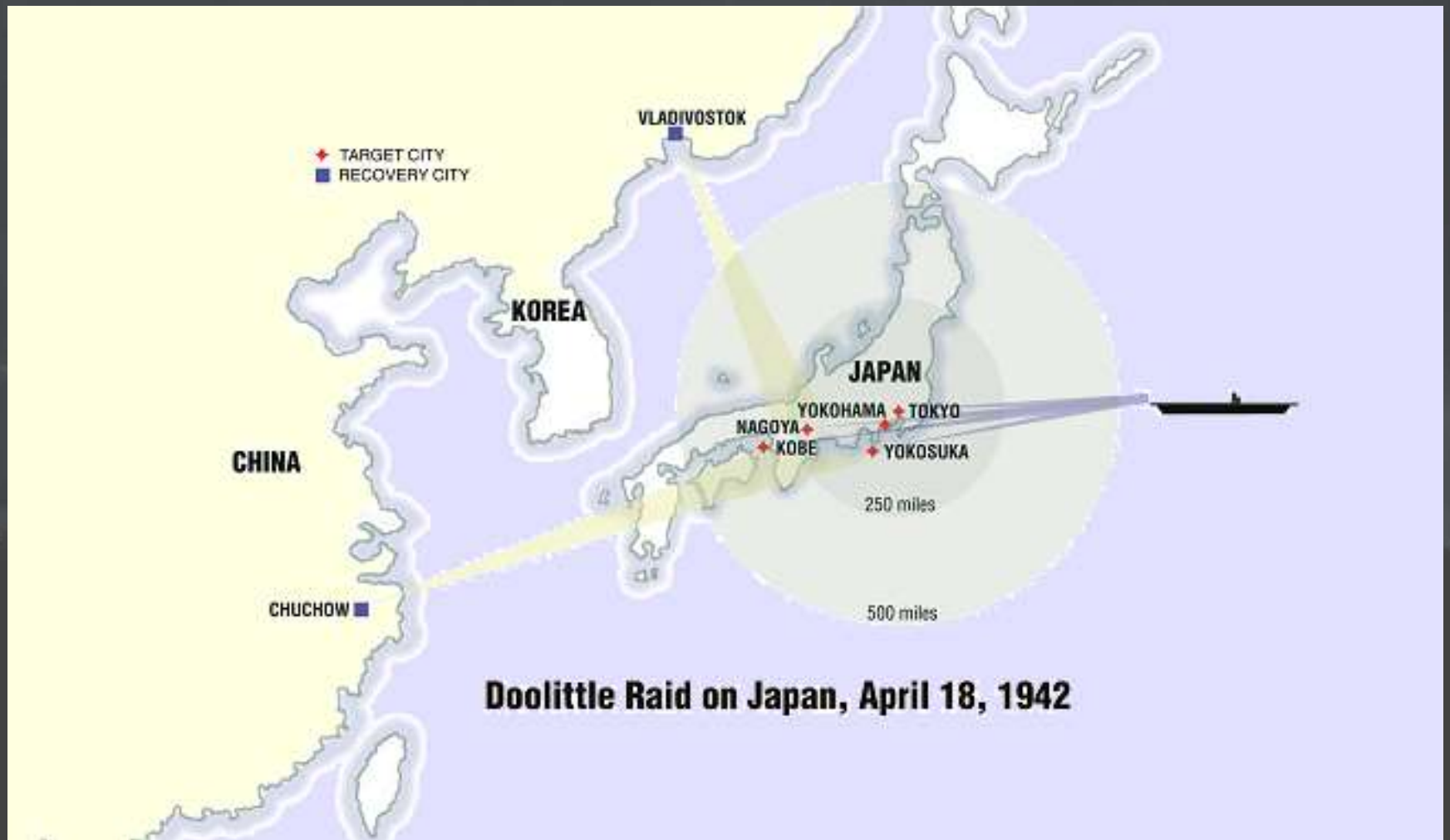
Concerning Success against the US:

"I can run wild for six months ... after that, I have no expectation of success."



Doolittle's Raid

18 April 1942



Takeoff – 18 April 1942



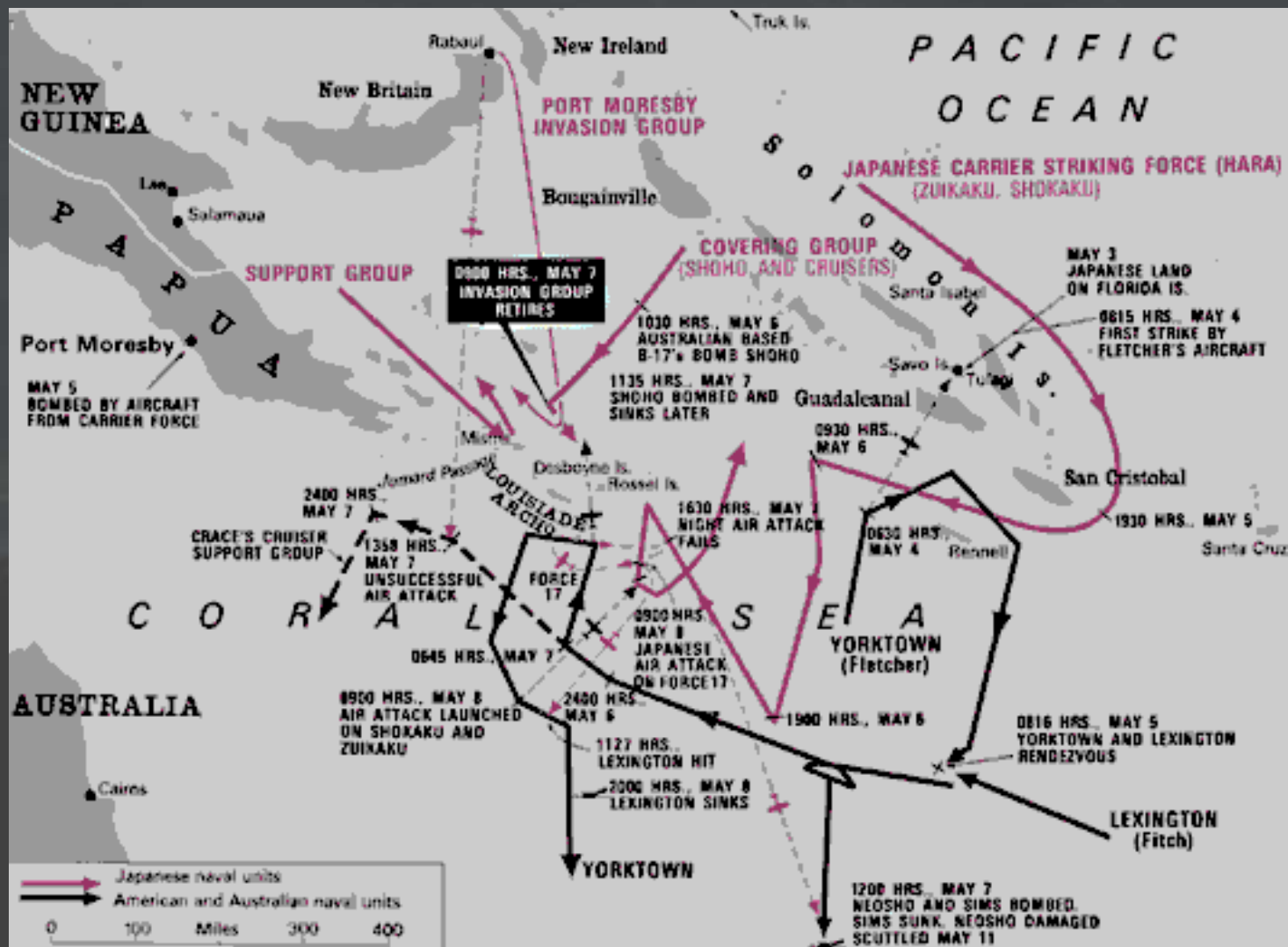
USS Hornet – 18 April 1942





Battle of the Coral Sea

4 – 8 May 1942



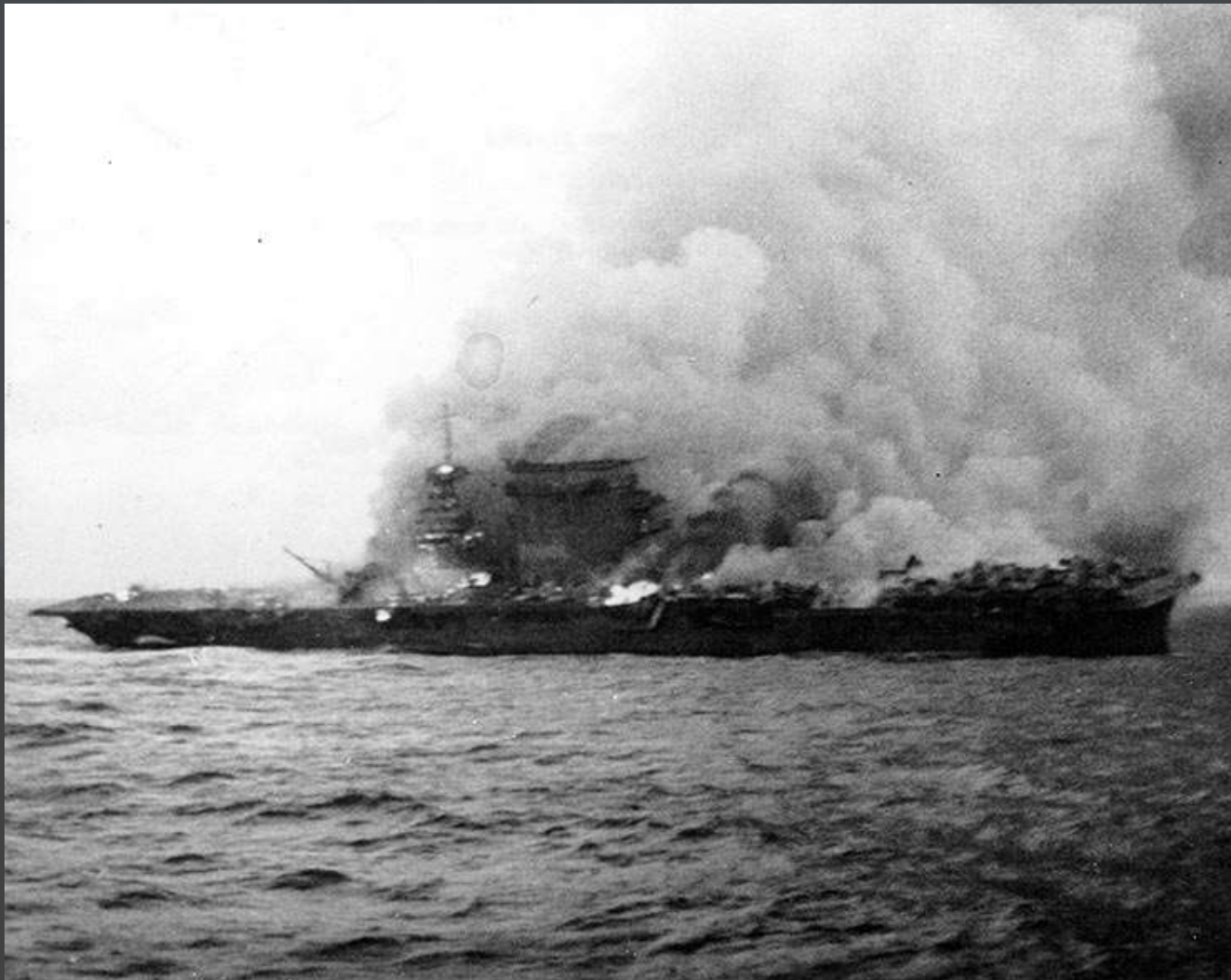
Battle of the Coral Sea

Japanese Objectives:

- ★ Extend defensive perimeter
 - ★ (in response to Doolittle raid)
- ★ Capture Port Moresby
- ★ Extend hold over Solomon Islands
- ★ Isolate Australia from the United States

Battle of the Coral Sea

USS Lexington



Results of Coral Sea:

Tactical Draw

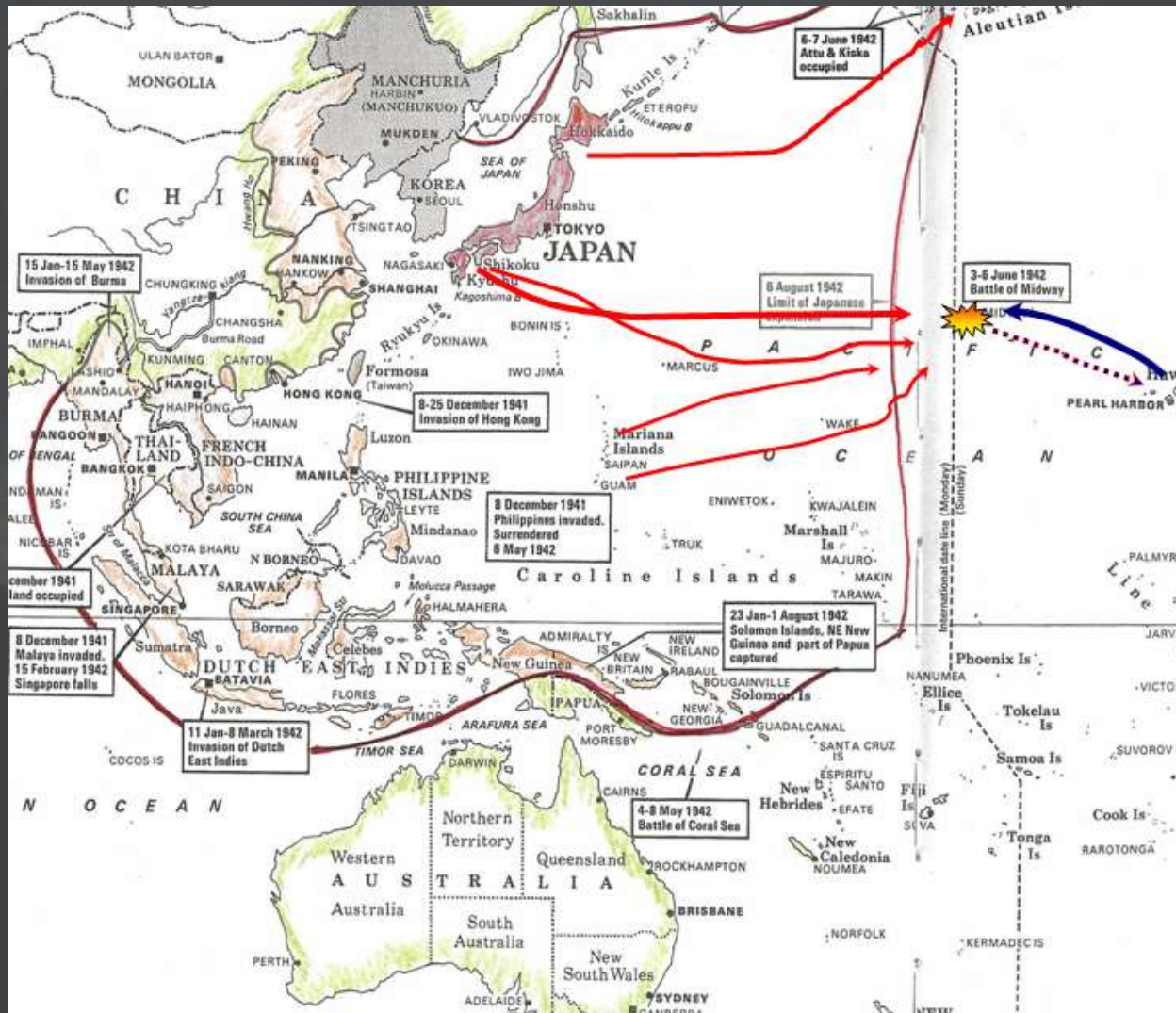
- ★ U.S. lost fleet carrier Lexington, destroyer Sims, oiler Neosho
- ★ Fleet carrier Yorktown damaged
- ★ Japanese light carrier Shoho sunk, very heavy aircraft losses

Strategic victory for United States

- ★ Stopped planned Japanese advance towards Australia
- ★ Provided badly needed boost to U.S. morale

Battle of Midway

3 – 6 June 1942



Battle of Midway

Japanese Objectives:

- ★ Capture Midway
- ★ Use Midway to launch air strikes on Pearl Harbor
- ★ Eliminate the bombing threat to the home islands
- ★ Lure the remnants of the U.S. Pacific Fleet into battle and destroy it

Battle of Midway

HIJM Hiryū

At the battle of Midway



Results of Midway:

Tactical Victory for United States

- ★ U.S. lost fleet carrier Yorktown
- ★ Japanese lost fleet carriers Akagi, Kaga, Soryu, Hiryu and heavy cruiser Mikuma
- ★ Heavy cruiser Mogami seriously damaged

Strategic Victory for United States

- ★ Ended Japanese naval supremacy in the Pacific
- ★ Proved to be the turning point in the Pacific war
- ★ Gave the United States the strategic initiative

Strategic Options in the Pacific

The background of the slide is a dark, grayscale image of the Iwo Jima Memorial. It shows the iconic scene of soldiers raising the American flag on Mount Suribachi. The image is slightly faded and serves as a backdrop for the text.

Who should have primary responsibility?

★ Army

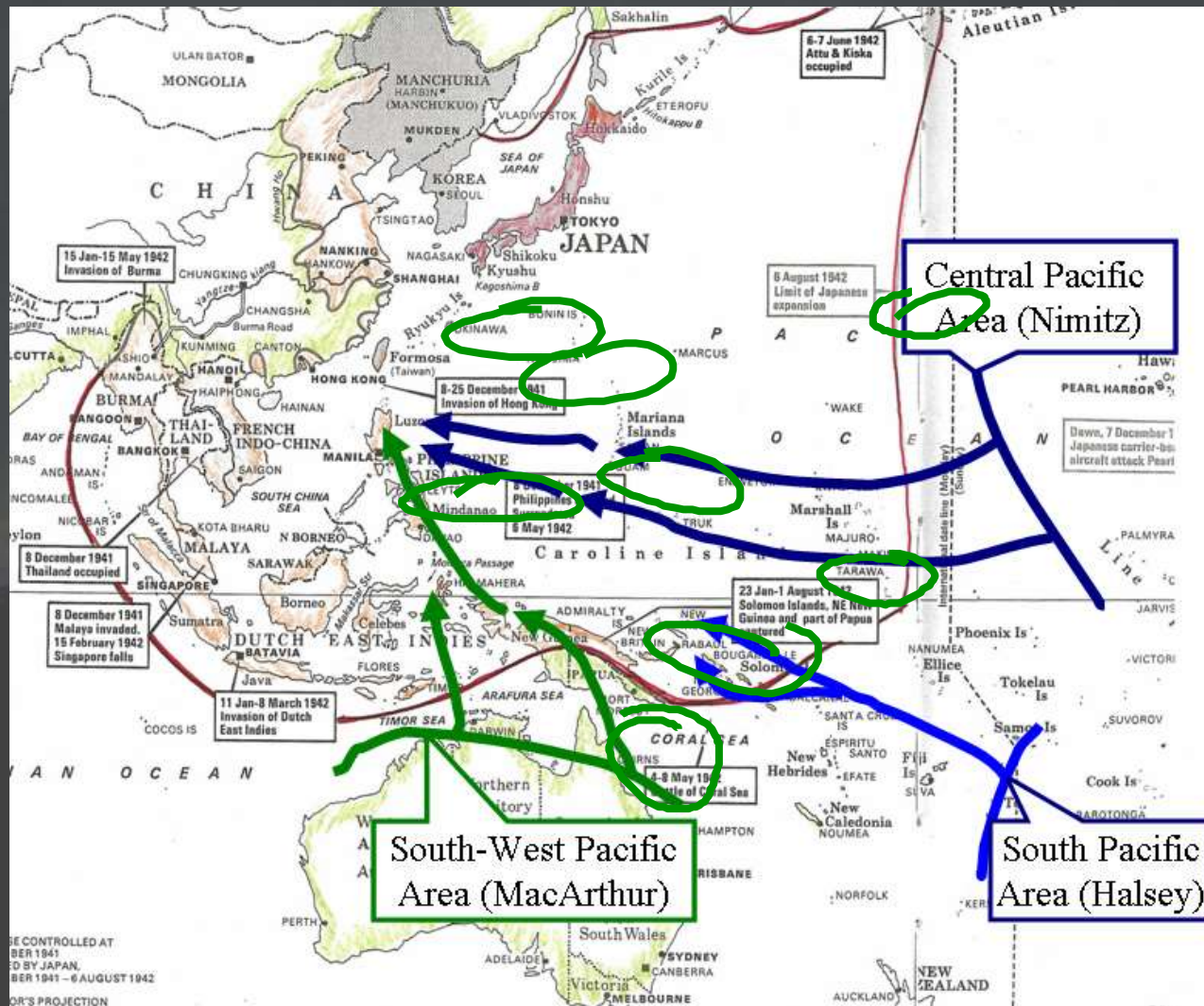
★ Navy & Marines

Where should campaign take place?

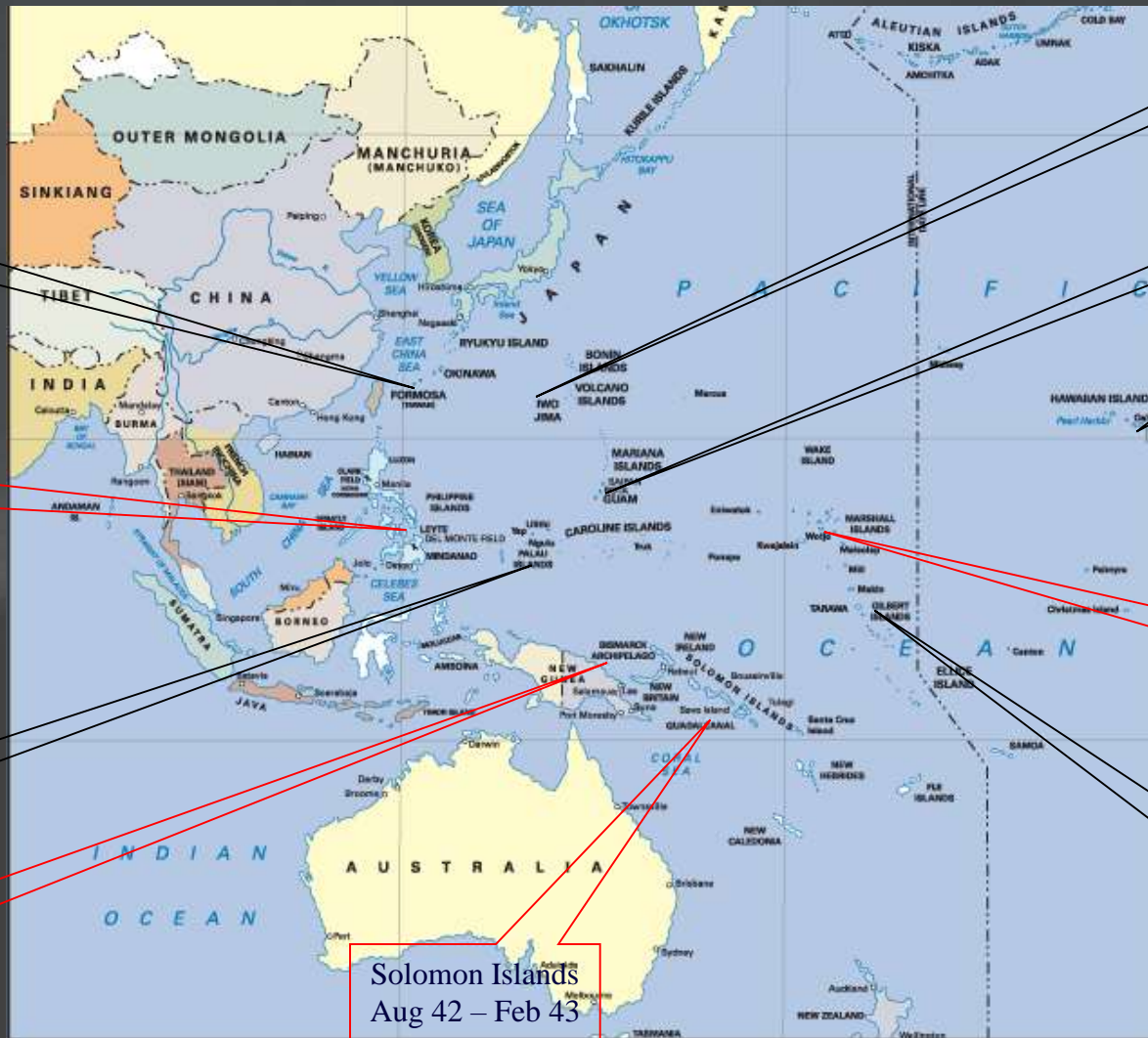
★ Central Pacific

★ Southwest Pacific

Allied plan to recapture the Pacific



Pacific Theater of Operations



Okinawa
Mar – June 45

Philippine Islands
Jan – Aug 45

Palau Islands
Sept 44

Admiralty Islands
Feb 44

Solomon Islands
Aug 42 – Feb 43

Bonin Islands
Feb 45

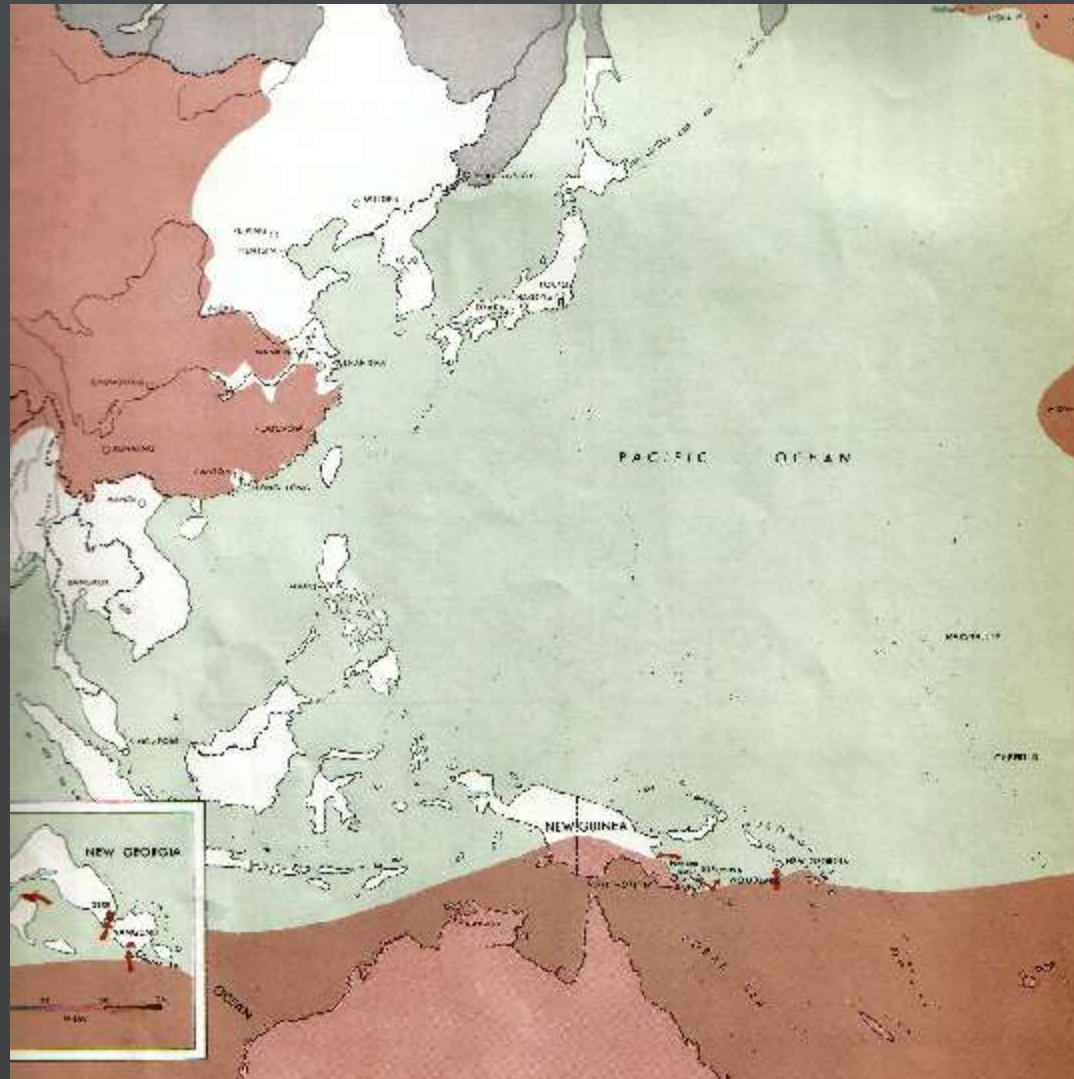
Mariana Islands
July – Aug 44

Hawaiian Islands

Marshall Islands
Feb 44

Gilbert Islands
Nov 43

August 1942



November 1943

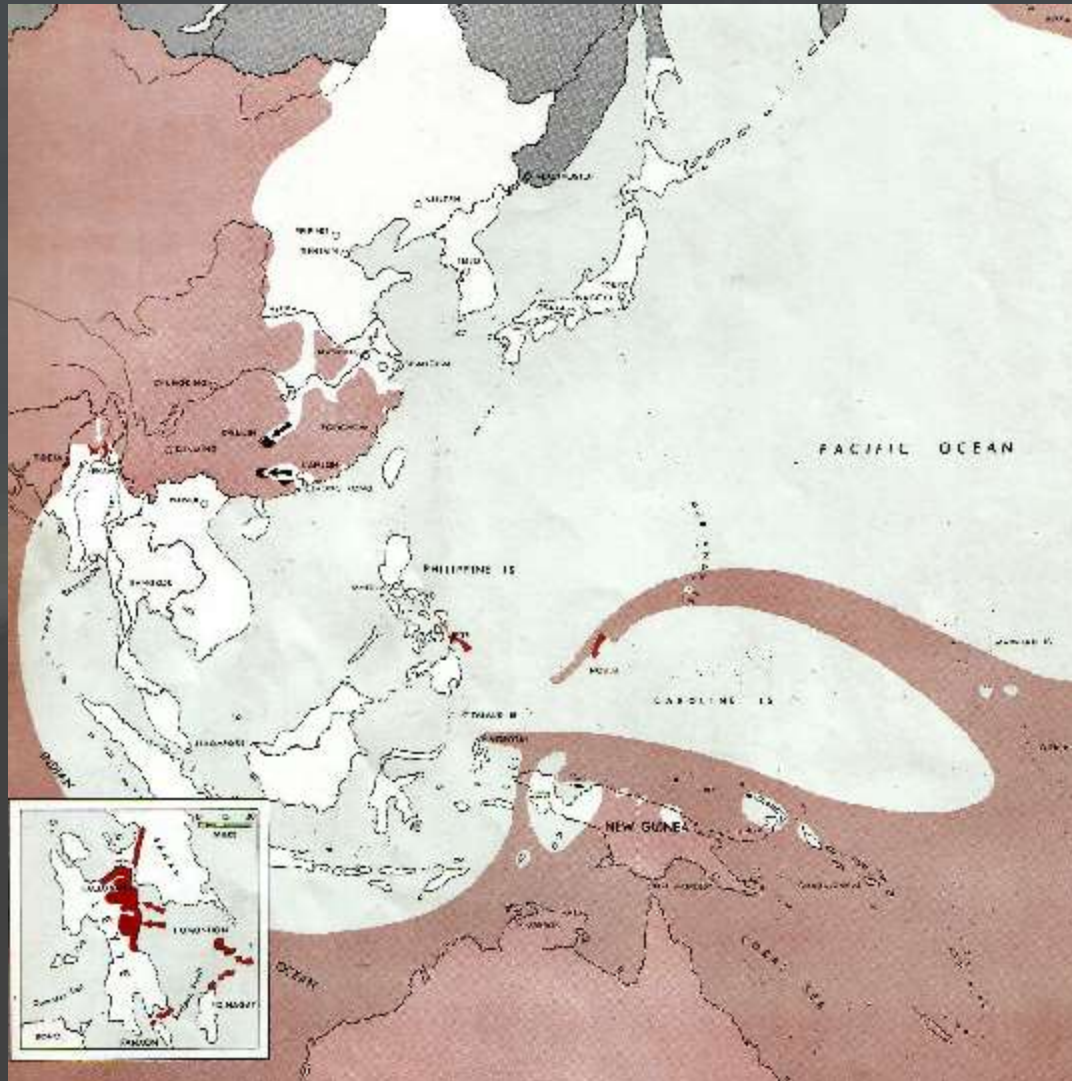


← Gilbert Islands

February 1944



August 1944



Mariana and Palau Islands

Saipan, Guam & Tinian



Peleliu
September & November
1944



Navajo codetalkers



Japanese on Saipan



Choosing to die rather than surrender, civilians on Saipan and Japanese soldiers first flung their children upon these jagged coastal rocks and then jumped themselves.

US Bombers Reach Japan



Tokyo
City size: 110 square miles
Destroyed: 56 square miles

Kobe
City size: 16 square miles
Destroyed: 9 square miles

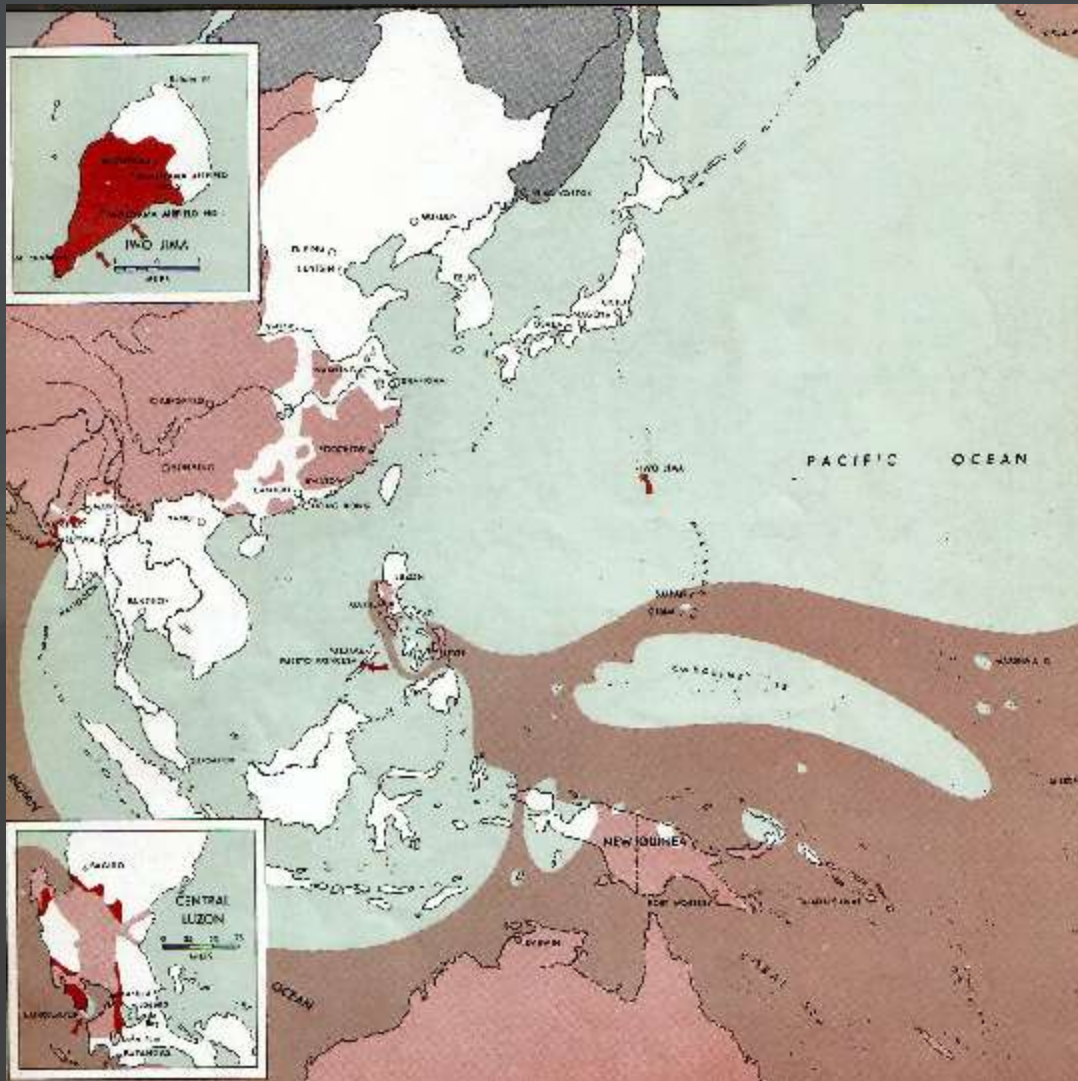
Yokohama
City size: 20 square miles
Destroyed: 9 square miles

Osaka
City size: 60 square miles
Destroyed: 16 square miles

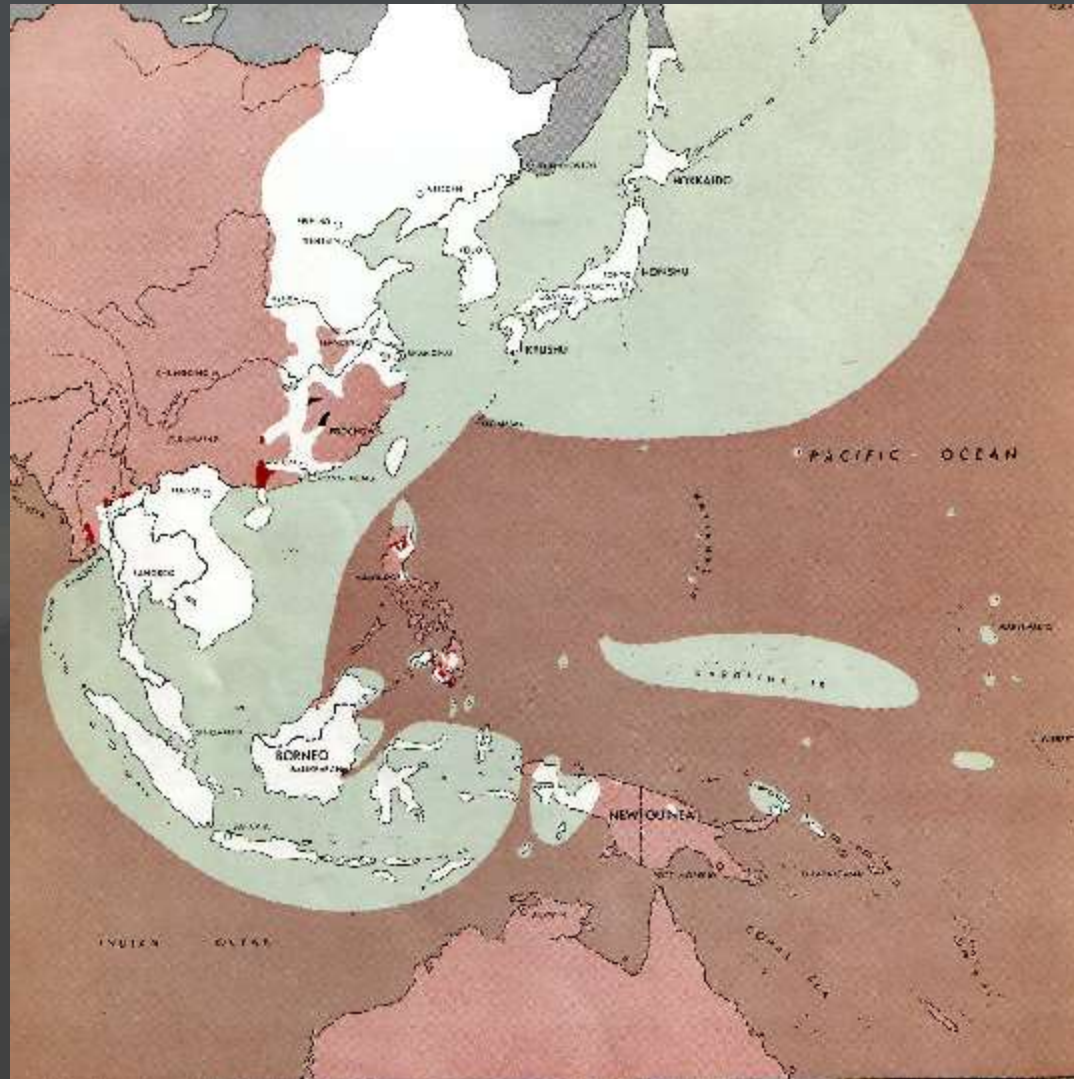
Nagoya
City size: 39 square miles
Destroyed: 16 square miles



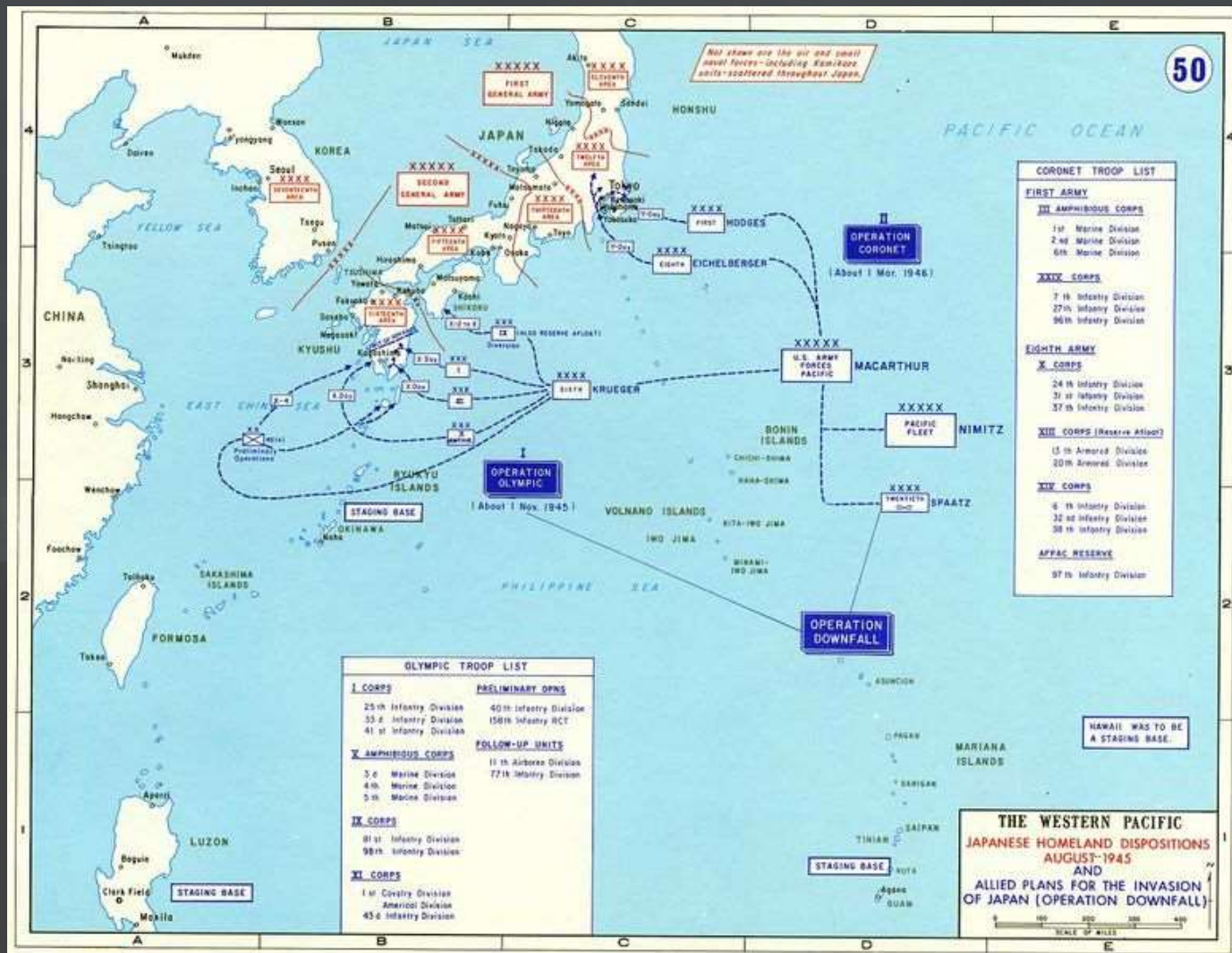
February 1945



August 1945



Operation Downfall



Operation Downfall

Estimated US Casualties:

★ Joint Chiefs of Staff

- ★ Olympic – 456,000 casualties, including 109,000 dead or missing after 90 days
- ★ Coronet – and combined total of 1,200,000 casualties, with 267,000 fatalities

★ Nimitz's Staff

- ★ 49,000 casualties in the first 30 days, including 5,000 at sea

★ MacArthur's Staff

- ★ 23,000 in the first 30 days and 125,000 after 120 days

Operation Downfall

Estimated Japanese Casualties:

- ★ five to ten million based on the assumption of large-scale participation by civilians in the defense of Japan
- ★ One mobilized high school girl, Yukiko Kasai, found herself issued an awl and told, "Even killing one American soldier will do. ... You must aim for the abdomen."

Operation Downfall

- ★ Nearly 500,000 Purple Heart medals were manufactured in anticipation of the casualties resulting from the invasion of Japan.
- ★ To the present date, all the American military casualties of the sixty years following the end of World War II — including the Korean and Vietnam Wars — have not exceeded that number.
- ★ In 2003, there were still 120,000 of these Purple Heart medals in stock.
- ★ There are so many in surplus that combat units in Iraq and Afghanistan are able to keep Purple Hearts on-hand for immediate award to wounded soldiers on the field.

Enola Gay



Bock's Car



The Decision



Fat Man – Nagasaki
6 August 1945



Little Boy – Hiroshima
9 August 1945



VJ Day

2 September 1945

