TIMELINE OF WORLD WAR II in the PACIFIC

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1941

December 7 - The Japanese bomb **Pearl Harbor** on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, contemporaneously launching air and amphibious attacks on the **Philippines, Wake Island, Guam, Malaya, Thailand, Midway Atoll** in the Hawaiian archipelago, and the European concession areas in **Shanghai.**
December 8 - **USA & UK declare war on Japan**. Japanese land near Singapore.
December 9 - China formally declares war on Japan.
December 10 - Japanese **invade the Philippines** and **seize Guam** [both U.S territories, since the Spanish-American War of 1898].
December 11 - Japanese **invade Burma**.
December 15 - The first Japanese merchant ship is sunk by a U.S. submarine.
December 16 - Japanese **invade British Borneo** (Sabah and Sarawak).
December 18 - Japanese **invade Hong Kong**.
December 22 - Japanese **invade the main island of Luzon** in the Philippines.
December 23 - **MacArthur begins withdrawal from Manila to Bataan**; Japanese **take Wake Island**.
December 25 - The British **surrender Hong Kong** ('Black Christmas').

1942

January 2 - **Manila falls** to the Japanese. US forces **retreat to the Bataan Peninsula**.
January 7- **Japanese attack Bataan,** beginning the **3-month Battle of Bataan.**
January 11 - **Japanese invade Dutch East Indies and Dutch Borneo**.
January 18 - The **'Tripartite Agreement'** German-Japanese-Italian alliance signed in Berlin.
January 19 - Japanese take control of British North Borneo (Sabah) and British Sarawak.
January 23 - Japanese take Rabaul on the island of New Britain [geographically part of the Bismarck Archipelago - politically part of Australian New Guinea at the time, and currently part of the country of Papua New Guinea]. **Rabaul soon becomes Japan's major airbase** in its southern defense zone known as 'the Bismarck Barrier' and also a key naval base. Japanese simultaneously occupied **Bougainville Island** [geographically the northenmost and largest island in the Solomon Islands, though politically Australian New Guinea at the time, and currently an autonomous region of Papua New Guinea].
January 27 - First Japanese warship sunk, by a U.S. submarine.
January 30-31 -British are driven down the Peninsula into Singapore - the **siege of Singapore begins.**
Feb 1 - **First U.S. aircraft carrier offensive of the war**: *USS YORKTOWN* and *ENTERPRIS*E conduct air raids on Japanese bases in the Gilbert Islands (part of the country of Kiribati today) & Marshall Islands.
February 2 - **Japanese invade Java** in the Dutch East Indies.
February 8 - Japanese invade Singapore.
February 14 - **Japanese invade Sumatra** in the Dutch East Indies.
February 15 - **British surrender Singapore.**
February 19 - Japanese **air raids against Darwin, Australia**; Japanese **invade Bali**.
February 20 - U.S. bombers from the carrier *USS LEXINGTON* **raid the new Japanese airfields in Rabaul**.
February 22 - FDR orders **MacArthur out of the Philippines**.

February 23 - First **Japanese attack on the U.S. mainland**: a **submarine shells an oil refinery** near **Santa Barbara, California.**
February 24 - ***USS ENTERPRISE* raids Japanese-occupied Wake Island** in the Marianas.
February 26 - First U.S. carrier, the *USS LANGLEY*, sunk by Japanese bombers.
February 27 - **Japanese victory** against **combined American-British-Dutch-Australian command force (ABDACOM)** in **Battle of the Java Sea** - *USS HOUSTON* is sunk. [Note: The ABDACOM joint command model was judged a failure and was abandoned soon thereafter.]
March 1- Japanese invade Lae and Salamua in eastern New Guinea, with the ultimate goal of capturing Port Moresby and all of New Guinea in order to isolate - and possibly invade- Australia.
March 4 - USS ***ENTERPRISE* attacks Minami-tori (aka Marcus Island**), Japan's easternmost island, in the remote northwest Pacific - just 1000 mi from Tokyo.
March 7 - **British evacuate Rangoon** in Burma. **Japanese invade Lae** and **Salamaua** on the northeast end of **New Guinea**.
March 8 - The **Dutch on Java surrender** to Japanese.
March 11 - **MacArthur leaves Corregidor and is flown to Australia**. Gen. Jonathan **Wainwright becomes the new U.S. commander** in the Philippines.
March 18 - MacArthur appointed commander of the Southwest Pacific Theater by FDR. The War Relocation Authority is established in the U.S. and will result in the **incarceration of >120,000 Japanese-Americans in 'relocation centers'**. Despite the Japanese internment program, over 17,000 Japanese-Americans sign up and fight for the U.S. in Europe, including the decorated 442nd Regiment..
March 23 - Japanese invade the Andaman Islands in the Bay of Bengal
March 24 - Admiral Chester Nimitz appointed as Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Theater.
April 3 - Japanese attack U.S. and Filipino troops at Bataan.
April 6 - First U.S. troops arrive in Australia.
April 9 - **Fall of Bataan** - U.S. forces on Bataan surrender unconditionally to the Japanese.
April 10-17 - The infamous **Bataan Death March**: >75,000 Allied POWs are forced to walk over 65 miles to a POW camp in the scorching heat without food or water. >15,000 deaths, the vast majority Filipinos
April 18 - The daring **U.S. 'Doolittle' B-25 air raid of Tokyo** from *USS HORNET* boosts Allied morale.
April 29 - **Japanese take central Burma.** May 1, 1942 - **Japanese occupy Mandalay** in Burma.
May 3 - Japanese take **Tulagi** in the Solomon Islands and **set up another key air base**.
May 4-8 - **Japan suffers its first strategic defeat** in the **Battle of the Coral Sea** off New Guinea, foiling Japanese plans to take Port Moresby on New Guinea as a stepping stone to Australia. This 'game-changer' naval battle marks the first time in history that two opposing forces fought without the opposing ships ever sighting each other. Japanese carrier losses and debilitating hits will compromise their naval strength at Midway a month later. Some (including me) consider this the key inflection point or 'turning point' of the war in the Pacific, as it set the stage for Allied victory at Midway a month later
May 6 - **Fall of Corregidor** - After retreating to the Malinta Cave, British Gen. Wainwright ignominiously and unconditionally surrenders all U.S. and Filipino forces..
May 12 - The last U.S. Troops holding out in the Philippines surrender on Mindanao.
May 20 - Japanese **complete the capture of Burma and reach India**.
June 4-5 - The **classic 'turning point' in the Pacific war** occurs with a **decisive victory for the U.S. in the Battle of Midway**, led by Coral Sea survivors *USS ENTERPRISE* and *YORKTOWN.* Four Japanese carriers are destroyed. U.S. loses *USS YORKTOWN*.

June 7 - **Japanese invade the Aleutian Islands**, in an attempt to distract from their planned attack on Midway Atoll (a U.S. territory)..
July 21 - Japanese land troops at **Buna-Gona on the northeast end of New Guinea, with a new plan to march overland to take the capital, Port Moresby**. This begins the arduous **Kokoda Track Campaign** with Australian forces battling the advancing Japanese in the jungles of the New Guinea highlands, one of the world's harshest terrains - sweltering heat, pelting rain, rampant disease, exposure, and starvation will take a grim toll.
August 7 - The **first U.S. amphibious landing** of the Pacific War occurs as the USMC 1st Division **invades Tulagi and Guadalcanal** in the (then-British) **Solomon Islands**.
August 8 - **U.S. Marines capture the unfinished airfield on Guadalcanal and name it Henderson Field** after Maj. Lofton Henderson, a hero of Midway. This **begins the 7-month Guadalcanal Campaign.**
August 8-9 - **US Navy suffers heavy losses as Japanese warships lead a nighttime attack on U.S. fleet off Savo Island,** north of Guadalcanal in the Solomons. Over 1,500 Allied crewmen are lost.
August 17 - 2 U.S. Marines, transported by submarine, invade the Japanese base on **Makin Atoll in the Gilbert Islands** (present-day Kiribati). The US force withdraws after delivering a stunning blow.
August 21 - U.S. Marines repulse **first Japanese ground attack on Guadalcanal**.
August 24 - **U.S. victorious** in the (carrier) **Battle of the Eastern Solomons**
August 28 - Japanese invade Milne Bay at the eastern end of New Guinea. Australian forces with American air support prevail after a ferocious 2-week **Battle of Milne Bay** which marks the **first defeat of the Japanese army on land - a decisive psychological turning point in the War.**
August 29 - Japan refuses to allow safe passage of ships containing supplies for U.S. POWs.
August 30 - **U.S. troops invade Adak Island in the Aleutian Islands.**
September 9-10 - Japanese floatplane **drop incendiary bombs on U.S. forests in Oregon - the only bombing of the continental U.S.** during WWII. The attack is not publicized by the U.S. press.
September 12-14 - **Battle of the Bloody Ridge** (aka Edson's Ridge) on **Guadalcanal** ends in **Allied victory**.
September 15 - Japanese **submarine torpedo attacks near the Solomon Islands** result in the sinking of the carrier *USS WASP* and heavy damage to the battleship *NORTH CAROLINA*.
September 27 - British offensive to take back Burma begins.
October 11-12 - U.S. victorious in the naval **Battle of Cape Esperance** off **Guadalcanal.**
October 13 - U.S. Army troops of the **164th Infantry Regiment land on Guadalcanal.**
October 14-15 - **Japanese bomb Henderson Field at night and send troops ashore** in the morning
October 15-17 - Japanese continue bombardment of Henderson Field at night from warships.
October 18 - Vice Admiral William F. Halsey named Commander of the South Pacific Area, putting him in charge of the ongoing Solomons-New Guinea campaign.
October 22-27 - **Allies invade and capture Goodenough Island** in the D'Entrecasteaux Islands off the southeast coast of New Guinea.
October 26 - The **Japanese emerge victorious** in the **Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands** off **Guadalcanal** in the Solomons. The carrier *USS HORNET* is sunk.
November 23-24 - The **Japanese launch another major air raid on Darwin**, **Australia.**
November 30 - **Japanese are victorious** in the naval **Battle of Tasafaronga** off **Guadalcanal**.
December 2 - **Enrico Fermi** conducts **world's first nuclear chain reaction** at the University of Chicago.
December 20-24 - Japanese air raids on Calcutta, India.
December 31 - Japanese begin withdrawal from Guadalcanal after five blood-soaked months of a war of attrition in

1943

January 2 - **Allies extirpate the Japanese from Buna-Gona** on the northeast coast of **New Guinea**.
January 22 - Allies meet and defeat Japanese troops at **Wau** and **Sanananda** on New Guinea.
February 1 - **Japanese accelerate their withdrawal into a mass rapid evacuation of Guadalcanal**.
February 8 - British-Indian forces begin guerrilla operations against Japanese in Burma.
February 9 - **Japanese resistance on Guadalcanal ends with a decisive Allied victory.**
March 2-4 - **U.S. air strikes devastate a Japanese convoy** in the **Battle of Bismarck Sea**.
April 7 - The Allies begin the **Lae-Salamua Campaign** to extirpate the Japanese from the Huon Bay area of eastern New Guinea. Australian troops with American support will fight dogged Japanese opponents for over 6 months in the harsh New Guinea jungle terrain.
April 10-16 - Japan launches **Operation I-Go** bombing raids of Allied bases in New Guinea & the Solomons, under the leadership of Admiral Isoroku Yamamato, the architect of the Pearl Harbor raid.
April 18 - **Admiral Yamamoto is killed** in 'Operation Vengeance' after U.S. code breakers **locate his plane and P-38 bombers shoot it down over the southern coastal jungle of Bougainville Island**.
April 21 - FDR announces the Japanese executions of several of the Doolittle Raid airmen.
April 22 - Japan announces that captured Allied pilots will be given "one way tickets to hell."
May 10 -- **U.S. Troops invade Attu** in the Aleutian Islands.
May 14 - A Japanese submarine sinks the Australian hospital ship CENTAUR resulting in 299 dead.
May 31 - **Japanese end their occupation of the Aleutians.**
June 1 - U.S. begins submarine warfare against Japanese shipping.
June 21 - **Allies advance to New Georgia** island in the **Solomon Islands** and to **Woodlark and Kiriwina islands in the D'Entrecasteaux islands,** all as part of the larger **Operation Cartwheel** aiming to neutralize Rabaul on New Britain in the Bismarcks.
July 8 - U.S. B-24 Liberators flying out of Midway **bomb Japanese-occupied Wake Island**.
August 1-2 - A convoy of 15 U.S. PT-boats attempts to block Japanese convoys south of Kolombangra Island in the **Solomons**. **PT-109, commanded by Lt. John F. Kennedy, is rammed and sunk** by the Japanese Cruiser *AMAGIRI*, killing two and badly injuring others. The crew survives as Kennedy famously aids one badly injured man by swimming/towing him to a nearby atoll.
August 6-7 - **U.S. victory** in the **Battle of Vella Gulf** in the **Solomon Islands.**
August 25 - Allies complete the occupation of New Georgia and neighboring islands in the **Solomons.**
September 4 - **Japanese retreat north after Allies re-capture Lae and Salamaua** on eastern New Guinea.
October 7 - Japanese execute 100 American POWs on Wake Island in response to American bombings.
October 26 - **Emperor Hirohito states his country's situation is now "truly grave."**
November 1 - **U.S.and New Zealand troops invade Japanese-occupied Bougainville Island.**
November 2 - **U.S. victory in Battle of Empress Augusta Bay** off Bougainville Island.
November 20-23 - **U.S. troops invade and capture Makin and Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands** (present-day Kiribati). The tactical victories comes at great cost in resources and human lives.
December 15 - U.S. troops land on the **Arawe Peninsula** of **New Britain** [in the Bismarck Archipelago, politically part of Australian New Guinea at the time, part of the nation of Papua New Guinea today].
December 26 - **Full Allied assault of New Britain** by 1st Division Marines at Cape Gloucester. This begins the 8-month **New Britain Campaign** to expel the Japanese. This and other campaigns in eastern New Guinea, the Bismarck Islands and the Admiralty islands are part of **Operation Cartwheel**, the Allied campaign to capture and neutralize the Japanese air base at Rabual. The Australian 5th Division would eventually take over and compose 80% of the fighting force in New Guinea, earning a reputation for their toughness and valor in the face of shockingly harsh conditions and a brutal, fanatical enemy.

1944

January 9 - British and Indian troops recapture Maungdaw in Burma.
January 31 - **U.S. troops invade Kwajalein atoll** - the largest atoll in the world - in the **Marshall Islands**.
February 1-7 - U.S. troops **capture Kwajalein** and **Majuro** atolls in the **Marshall Islands**.
February 17-18 - **U.S. carrier-based planes destroy Japanese naval base at Truk Lagoon** in the **Caroline Islands** (part of present-day Federated States of Micronesia) in **Operation Hailstone** - 'when Japan got Pearl Harbored'. The Japanese lose 32 ships and over 250 aircraft.
February 20 - U.S. carrier-based and land-based **planes bomb the Japanese air base at Rabaul** while also blockading access by sea.
February 23 - U.S. carrier-based planes **attack Japanese-held Mariana Islands - Guam, Tinian & Saipan.**
February 24 - 'Merrill's Marauders' begin a **ground campaign in northern Burma**.
Feb 29 - The Allies launch The **Admiralty Islands Campaign** which ends with victory and **occupation of Manus and Los Negros** in the Bismarck Sea - **another step in Operation Cartwheel to isolate Rabaul.**
March 5 - British troops under Gen. Wingate begin deep penetrations into Japanese-occupied Burma.
March 15 - **Japanese begin a new offensive toward Imphal** and **Kohima** in northeast British **India**.
April 17 - The **last Japanese offensive in China** begins, with an attack on U.S. air bases in eastern China.
April 22 - Allies **invade Aitape** and **Hollandia** (then the capital of Dutch New Guinea, now Indonesian Papua) on **New Guinea's north coast**. This begins the 4-month **Western New Guinea Campaign**.
May 27 - Allies invade and capture **Biak Island,** in Dutch **New Guinea**.
June 5 - The first mission by **B-29 Superfortress bombers** occurs with 77 planes **bombing Japanese railway facilities in Bangkok, Thailand.**
June 15 - U.S. Marines invade Japanese **Saipan** north of Guam in the Mariana Islands. (Note: along with Tinian and the rest of the Northern Marianas islands, Saipan was Japanese as part of Japan's 'South Seas Mandate' from the League of Nations after WWI which included the former German colonial possessions of the Marshall Islands and the Caroline Islands as well. Guam in the southern Marianas was American since the Spanish-American War, Spanish before that.) It would take 24 days of brutal warfare to overcome fierce Japanese resistance on Saipan.
June 16 - 47 B-29s (based in Bengal, India) **attack the Yawata Steel Works** in Kyoto Prefecture - the first bombing raid on Japan since the Doolittle raid of April 1942 - with many, many more to follow.
June 19 - **The Battle of the Philippine Sea** aka **"The Great Marianas Turkey Shoot"** was the naval and aerial component of the Battle of Saipan. U.S. carrier-based fighters shoot down over 300 Japanese planes, with only 20 American planes lost.
July 8 - The Japanese withdraw from Imphal, British India.
July 9 - **U.S conquest of Saipan completed - Japan's home islands now in range of U.S. B-29 bombers.**
July 18 - Japanese Prime Minister/Military Dictator **Hideki Tojo deposed** after loss of Saipan.
July 19 - **U.S. Marines invade Japanese-occupied Guam** in the Marianas.
July 24 - **U.S. Marines invade Japanese Tinian** in the Marianas north of Guam, next to Saipan. Napalm is used for the first time in military history.
August 1 - U.S. troops **complete the capture of Tinian** after 8 days. [Notes: Both A-bombs will ultimately be assembled on Tinian and both *Enola Gay* and Bockscar will take off from Tinian with their A-bombs.]
August 3 - **U.S. and Chinese troops take Myitkyina in Burma** following a two-month siege.
September 15 - U.S. troops invade Morotai in the Dutch Moluccas (Spice Islands of Indonesia), and the **Palau islands** (**Operation Stalemate** against Pelelieu and Angaur in Micronesia) to use as forward bases for the Philippines Campaign.

August 10- US troops **complete the liberation of Guam**.
October 11 - **U.S. air raids against Okinawa begin.** [6 months before the actual invasion]
October 18 - B-29s based in the Marianas **attack the Japanese base at Truk Lagoon again** in light of continued Japanese use and presence despite the Operation Hailstone attack 8 months earlier.
October 20 - U.S. Sixth Army **invades Leyte in the Philippines**.
October 23-26 - **U.S. victorious in the Battle of Leyte Gulf** - the largest naval operation in world history.
October 25 - The **first kamikaze attacks** occur against U.S. warships **in Leyte Gulf**. By the end of the war, Japan will have sent an estimated 2,257 kamikaze pilots to their certain death. "The only weapon I feared in the war," Adm. Halsey will say later.
November 11 - **Iwo Jima** in Japan's Ogasawara Archipelago **is bombarded by the U.S. Navy**.
November 24 - Twenty four B-29s **bomb the Nakajima aircraft factory near Tokyo.**
November 27 - **Operation Stalemate concludes with Allied victories** in the Palau Islands.
December 15 - U.S. Troops invade Mindoro in the Philippines.
December 17 - The **U.S. Army Air Force begins preparations for dropping the atomic bom**b by establishing the 509th Composite Group to operate the B-29s that will deliver the bomb.

1945

January 3 - MacArthur is placed in command of all U.S. ground forces and Admiral Chester Nimitz in command of all naval forces.
January 4 - The British occupy Akyab in Burma.
January 9 - The U.S. Sixth Army invades Luzon in the Philippines.
January 11 - **Japanese bases in Indochina** are attacked by U.S. carrier-based planes.
January 28 - The **Burma Road is reopened** (to supply Chinese Nationalists fighting the Japanese)
February 3 - **U.S. Sixth Army attacks and begins the re-capture of Manila**.
February 16 - **U.S. Troops recapture Bataan.**.
February 19 - **U.S. Marines invade Iwo Jima.** A brutal 5-week battle will end with **American victory.**
March 1 - A U.S. submarine sinks a Japanese merchant ship loaded with supplies for Allied POWs, resulting in a court martial for the captain of the submarine.
March 2 - **U.S. airborne troops recapture Corregidor** in the Philippines.
March 3- **U.S. And Filipino troops take Manila.** 100,000 Filipino civilians die in the conflict.
March 9-10 - 279 B-29s torch **Tokyo** in a **massive incendiary bombing raids**, killing >100,000 civilians. By the end of the war, *over 500,000 civilians would die in the Tokyo firebombings - the largest bombing campaign in history, with death toll exceeding BOTH atomic bombs & the Dresden bombing COMBINED*.
March 10 - U.S. Eighth Army invades Mindanao in the Philippines.
March 20 - **British troops liberate Mandalay**, **Burma.**
March 27 - B-29s lay mines in Japan's Shimonoseki (aka Kanmon) Strait between Honshu and Kyushu.
April 1 - The **Battle of Okinawa** begins with **'The Typhoon of Steel'** U.S. amphibious landing**.** This final, fiercest, and bloodiest battle of the war will last almost 3 months and claim >50,000 U.S. lives, >100,000 Japanese lives, and >150,000 civilian lives.
April 7 - B-29s fly their first fighter-escorted mission against Japan with P-51 Mustangs based on Iwo Jima; U.S. carrier-based fighters **sink the world's largest battleship *YAMATO*** in the East China Sea (which was en route to attack U.S. forces at Okinawa).

April 12 - **President Roosevelt dies**, succeeded by Harry S. Truman.
May 8 - **Germany surrenders** on **Victory in Europe (V-E) Day**. [Note: Stalin had promised at Yalta that he would join the war against Japan *3 months after Germany was defeated*.]
May 20 - The Japanese begin withdrawal from China.
May 25 - **Operation Olympic, the land invasion of Japan's home islands, is scheduled for November 1.**
June 9 - Japanese Prime Minister Suzuki announces "**Japan will fight to the very end and never accept unconditional surrender".**
June 22 - **U.S is victorious in the bloody Battle of Okinawa**. The carnage will have a great influence on Truman in deciding whether to pursue a land invasion of Japan or use the atomic bomb. ["I didn't want another Okinawa from one end of Japan to the other."]
July 5 - **Liberation of Philippines** formally declared.
July 10 - **1,000 Allied bomber raids begin against 38 cities in Japan, with mass civilian casualties.**
July 14 - The **first U.S. Naval bombardments of Japanese home islands begin .**
July 16 - The **world's first atomic bomb is detonated** at the Alamogordo Bombing Range, 210 miles south of Los Alamos, New Mexico, in **The Trinity Test**. J. Robert Oppenheimer quotes the Hindu *Bhagavad Gita*: "I am become death."
July 26 - In the **Potsdam Declaration**, just **10 days after Trinity**, Truman and Churchill do not mince words, issuing a stark ultimatum: "**Japan must surrender unconditionally, or face prompt and utter destruction"**. On that same day, components of the A-Bomb **'Little Boy'** are unloaded at U.S.-occupied **Tinian Island** in the Marianas.
July 29 - A Japanese submarine sinks the Cruiser I*NDIANAPOLIS* resulting in the loss of 881 crewmen. The ship sinks before a radio message can be sent out, leaving survivors adrift for two days.
August 6 - Just 3 weeks after the Trinity Test, and only 11 days after the Potsdam Declaration, the USA drops the **first Atomic Bomb, 'Little Boy', on Hiroshima** at 8:15AM from B-29 *Enola Gay* flown by Col. Paul Tibbets.
August 8 - **U.S.S.R. declares war on Japan** (exactly 3 months after German surrender as Stalin had promised) and then **invades Manchuria**.
August 9 - **Second Atomic Bomb 'Fat Man' is dropped on Nagasaki** at 11:02AM from B-29 *Bockscar* flown by Maj. Charles Sweeney -- Emperor Hirohito and Japanese Prime Minister Suzuki then decide to seek an immediate peace with the Allies.
August 15 - EMPEROR HIRHITO ANNOUNCES THAT THE JAPANESE ACCEPT UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER. Gen. MacArthur is appointed to head the occupation forces in Japan.
(Note: The U.K. celebrates this day as Victory Over Japan or **V-J Day**, while in the USA V-J Day is usually considered to be the day of the formal surrender ceremony on board *USS Missouri* - see below.)
August 16 - Gen. Wainwright is released from a POW camp in Manchuria.
August 27 - B-29s drop supplies to Allied POWs in China.
August 29 - U.S. Troops land near Tokyo to begin the occupation of Japan.
August 30 - The British reoccupy Hong Kong.
September 2 - **Formal Japanese surrender ceremony on board the *USS MISSOURI* in Tokyo Bay** as 1,000 carrier-based planes fly overhead; President Truman declares V-J Day. [Note: You can visit the *USS MISSOURI* at Pearl Harbor today along with the sunken *USS ARIZONA* - bookends of WWII in the Pacific.]
September 3 - The Japanese commander in the Philippines, Gen. Yamashita, surrenders to Gen. Wainwright at Baguio.

1945 continued

September 4 - Japanese troops on Wake Island surrender and the island returns to U.S. sovereignty.
September 5 - British land in Singapore.
September 9 - Japanese in Korea surrender.
September 13 - Japanese in Burma surrender.
September 29 - Japanese in New Guinea surrender.
October 24 - The **United Nations is established**.

POSTSCRIPT:

September 8, 1951 - The **Treaty of San Francisco formally ends World War II between Japan and the Allied Powers**, ending occupation of Japan's home islands, restoring Japan's sovereignty, and establishing the framework for compensation, all territorial returns, peace, and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

May 15, 1972 - Control of Okinawa is officially returned to Japan.

March 9, 1974 - Lt Hiroo Onoda, having held out on Lubang Island, Philippines, for nearly 30 years, surrenders after his former commanding officer travels to the island to formally relieve him of duty.
December 18, 1974 - Private Teruo Nakamura surrenders on Morotai Island in the Indonesian Spice Islands (Malukus) after having hidden in the jungle for almost 30 years and having been unaware that the war had concluded. Nakamura is the last Japanese soldier to surrender.

August 15, 2025 - The 80th Anniversary of the Japanese surrender will be marked this year.