

## Unit VI: Island Hopping to the Land of the Rising Sun

Mr. Meetze

WWII

### 'Island Hopping' in the Pacific

April 1943



The US Navy wanted to drive through...

The US Army wanted to drive through...

So... A Two-Prong Strategy is adopted by the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff where

Chester A. Nimitz

Douglas A. Macarthur

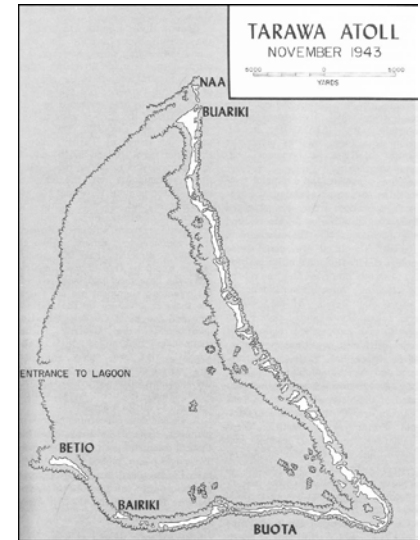
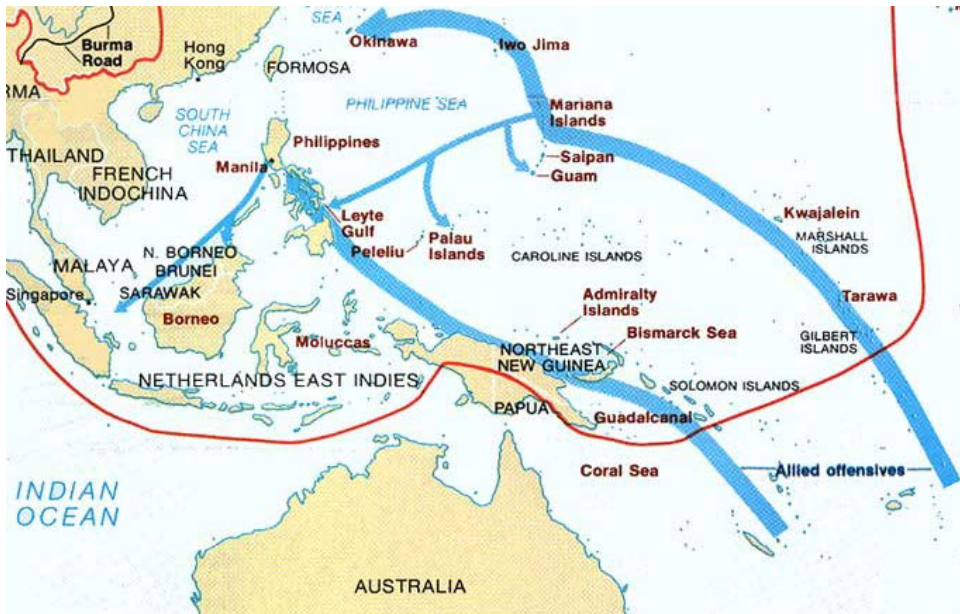
## Unit VI: Island Hoping to the Land of the Rising Sun

Mr. Meetze

WWII

### U.S. Navy Operations in the Central Pacific

Under the Command of **Chester A. Nimitz**



#### Step 1: The Gilbert Island Campaign: November 1943



(Read)The U.S. Navy will begin 'Island Hoping' through the **Marshall's Island's** with the goal of reaching the Japanese homeland within 1 year. The invasion force would be the largest yet in the Pacific consisting of **18 Air Craft Carriers** and over **80** other **Naval Vessels**. According to the original U.S. Naval Plan we would bypass selective Islands that would not be necessary for an eventual invasion of Japan while taking over Islands that would be valuable especially ones with Airfields. However the **Japanese Military** knowing what the **American's** will need begin to fortify the numerous **Atolls** especially the one located at **Tarawa**. Explain what the **Japanese Defenses** at '**Bloody Tarawa**' would include...

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1943 an Unprepared **U.S. Invasion** force which would only consist of a total of \_\_\_\_\_ **Amtrak's** and \_\_\_\_\_ **Men**. Due to the low tide numerous **Higgins Boats** were caught up in the reef leading to \_\_\_\_ % of the 1<sup>st</sup> wave dead even before they hit the beach. Unable to overcome the coral reef the

**U.S. Navy** was forced to stop the shelling allowing the Japanese to once again go onto the attack. By Mid-day the Marines are barely holding 20ft of beach and by Nightfall despite 1,500 dead over 5,000 men made it ashore dragging in sunken artillery and preparing defensive positions for the coming battle including flamethrowers. By November 25<sup>th</sup>, 1943 the Marines take **Bloody Tarawa** while the U.S. Government refuses to release footage of the battle due to its horrific nature.



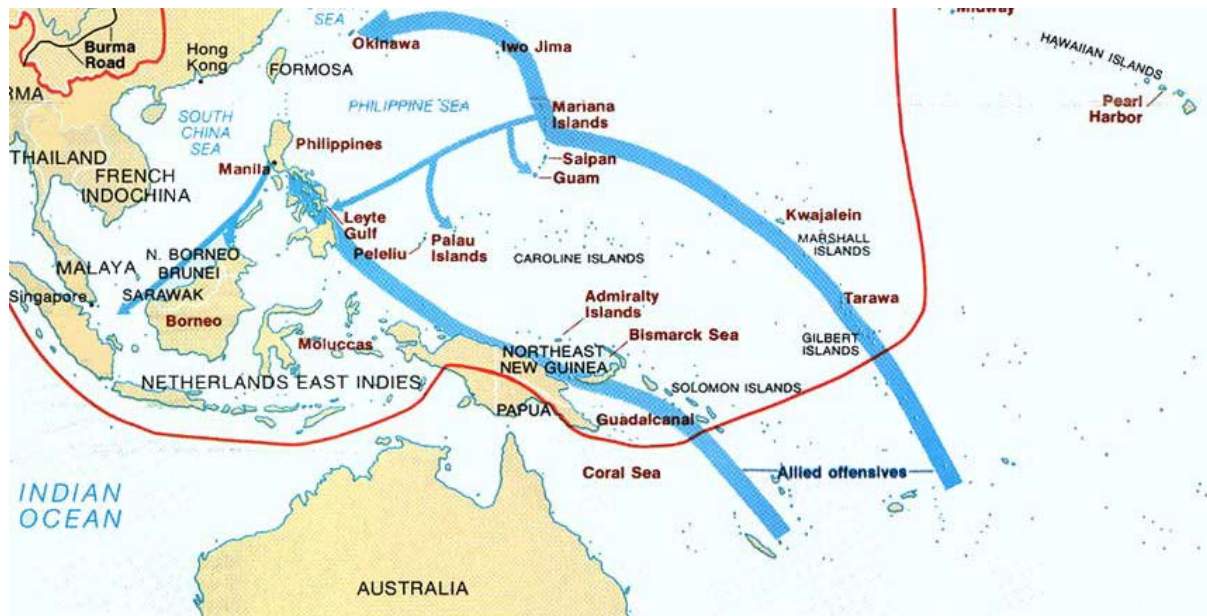
## Unit VI: Island Hoping to the Land of the Rising Sun

Mr. Meetze

WWII

### U.S. Navy Operations in the Central Pacific

Under the Command of **Chester A. Nimitz**



#### Step 2: The Marshall Island Campaign: February 1944

(Read) Why would **Admiral Nimitz** want to ‘leapfrog 400 miles into the center of the Marshall Islands’?

**Results:** The U.S. Airstrikes prove effective by destroying **200** Japanese Planes, **8** Warships, **24** Merchant Vessels and Damaged **1** Carrier while capturing the major Japanese Airbase at **Truk**.

#### Step 3: The Mariana Island Campaign: June- August 1944

(Read) Why would **Admiral Nimitz** once again ‘leapfrog 1000 miles into the center of the Mariana Islands’ by passing the Carolina Islands?

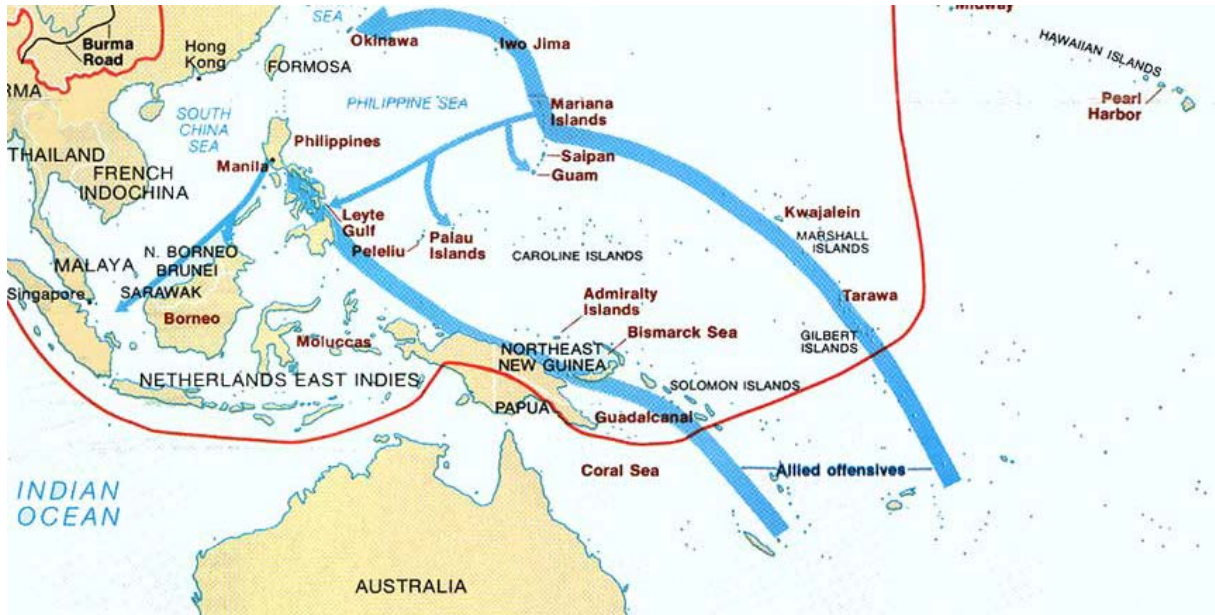
**Results:** Located in the Mariana Island Chain are 3 Islands with the largest garrison of Japanese troops **Guam**, **Saipan**, and **Tinian** which are only 1,200 miles from Japan. In order to ‘Inspire the troops’ on **Saipan** both **Admiral Nagumo** (remember him from P.H.) & **General Saito** commit suicide in front of the men on July 6<sup>th</sup> (which actually works!). While at sea the **2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of the Philippine Sea** will take place which is sometimes called the “**Great Mariana Turkey Shoot**” as the U.S. Navy will sink 3 more Japanese Aircraft Carriers, 6 large Battleships, and shoot down over 650 Planes while only losing 100 of their own and 1 Battleship. After the battle Japanese **Supreme Military Commander Tojo** will resign as he realizes the Japanese can ‘**No Longer Win the War**’

## Unit VI: Island Hopping to the Land of the Rising Sun

Mr. Meetze

WWII

### The Return of Mac Arthur to 'His People'



#### Step 1: Operation Cartwheel: February 1943-August 1944

(Read) Douglas A. Mac Arthur and the U.S. Army carried out the Southern Prong invasion of the Pacific which began with **Invasion of Guadalcanal** in the summer of 1942 through the rest of the **Solomon Islands** and **New Guinea**.

#### Step 2: The Battle of Leyte Gulf and the Drive Inland: October 1944

(Read) Known as the '**3<sup>rd</sup> Great Naval Battle of WWII**', the Battle of Leyte Gulf was the largest naval engagement of WWII coinciding with the Invasion of the Philippine Islands. The U.S. Force would consist of over **700** Vessels including **8** Fleet Carriers, **8** Light Carriers, **18** Escort Carriers, **12** Battleships of which **6** were 'sunk at Pearl Harbor', **1,500** Airplanes, and over **200,000** Troops. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, **General Mac Arthur** finally 'Returned' to his people as the U.S. invasion force landed on Leyte Gulf.

**Results:** By October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1944 Admiral Halsey sank **all 4 Japanese Carriers**, **3** Battleships, **10** Cruisers, **11** Destroyers, **500** Planes and Killed over **10,000** Japanese at a cost of **1** Carrier, **2** Destroyers, and **3** Cruisers. During the Battle the desperate Japanese called in the 'Divine Wind' for the first time which would....

For the Next 3 Months the U.S. army would begin its slow drive toward the capital.

#### Step 3: The Battle of Manila: February 3<sup>rd</sup> - March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1945

(Read) The First and only time the US and Japanese forces battle in a city! In order to 'Liberate' Manila Mac Arthur had to burn the entire city to the ground while the U.S. suffered over **18,000** casualties in addition to **100,000** Philippine citizens. What did the U.S. Military Command learn from the Battle of Manila?

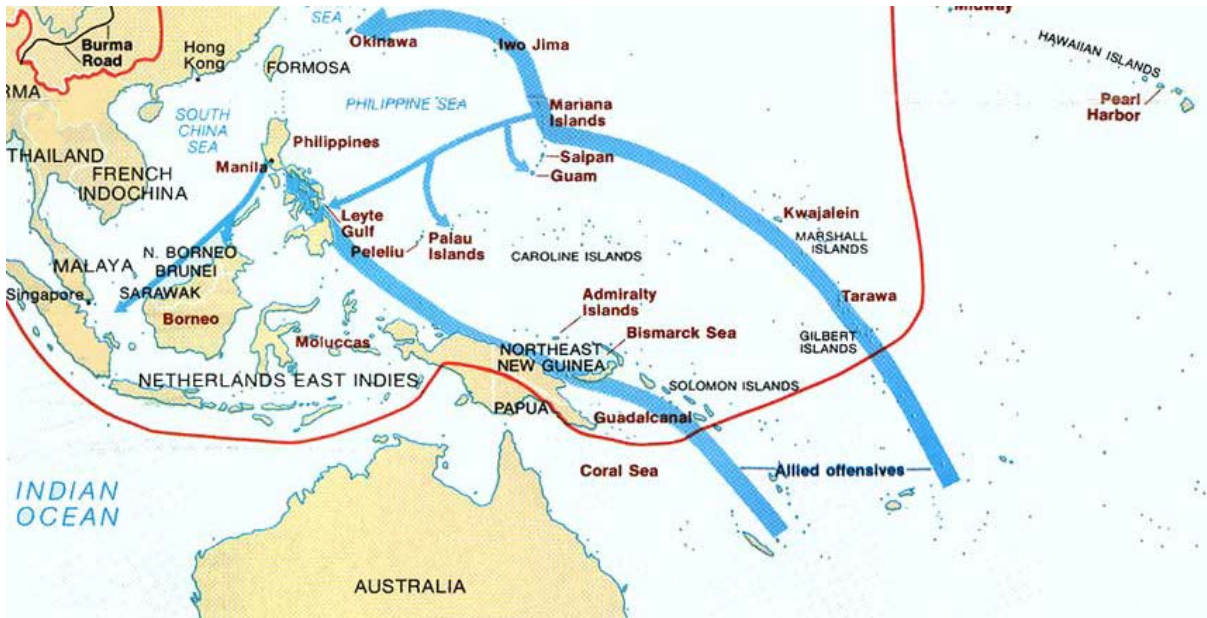
## Unit VI: Island Hoping to the Land of the Rising Sun

Mr. Meetze

WWII

### The Battle of Iwo Jima

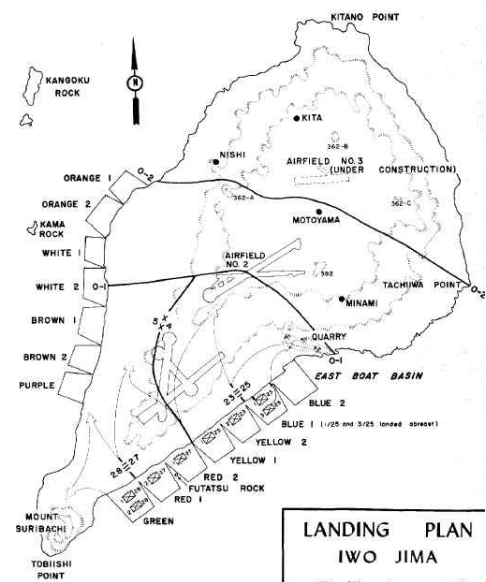
February 19-March 25, 1945



(Read) Admiral Nimitz wanted to take **Iwo Jima** in November 1943 but was overruled by the ‘2-Prong Pacific Strategy’ instead. **Nimitz** argued that **Iwo Jima** was vital for U.S. success in the Pacific due to...

Potential Problems with the Invasion of **Iwo Jima** include...

- A. *The Island Itself-*
- B. *The Beaches-*
- C. *The Terrain-*
- D. *Food & Water?*



A Quote from a US Marine returning from the battle of Iwo Jima:

***“After God got through making the world he must have took all the dirty rubble and ash to make Iwo Jima”***



## Unit VI: Island Hopping to the Land of the Rising Sun

Mr. Meetze

### Time to Play “Command Decisions”:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



**Review:** The Japanese Plan on Iwo Jima was to Not use ‘Banzi’ Charges but instead build a fortress not allowing counter attacks creating a war of attrition demoralizing the Americans People both on the Island and at home. Under the command of **Tadamichi Kuribayashi** a combined Japanese force of **26,000 army** and naval personal will dig into the Island constructing 100’s of Bunkers, creating a tunnel over 11 miles long with pill boxes capable of interlocking arcs of fire to any U.S. position. Over 361 75mm field guns will be located in the hollowed out ‘**Mt. Suribachi**’ allowing the Japanese to shell the overcrowded beaches without remorse. The 6 week battle would deeply affect both sides of the forces.



**Results:** In the end **Admiral Nimitz** would say, “*Uncommon Valor was a common virtue on Iwo Jima.*” For the United States military the Marines suffered over 6,000 dead, 17,000 or 30% Marine casualties while the Entire Japanese garrison would be killed. As the death toll continued to grow many Americans began to ask “**Was It Worth It?**” During the next 4 month over 2,100 American B-29 pilots landed on Iwo Jima where they couldn’t make it back to the Mariana Islands so....

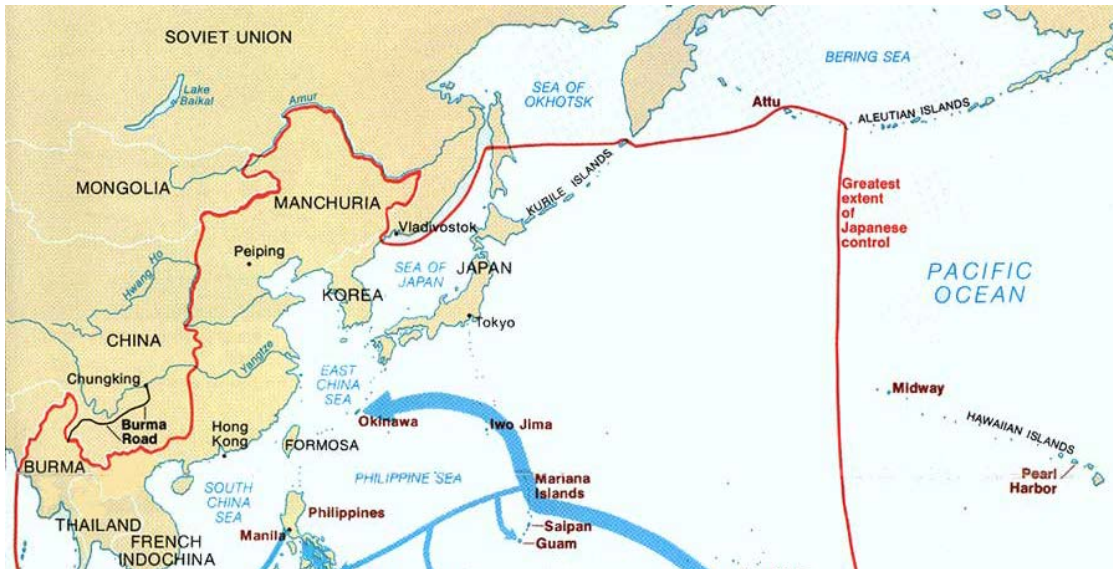
## Unit VI: Island Hopping to the Land of the Rising Sun

Mr. Meetze

WWII

### The Invasion of Okinawa

April 1- June 21, 1945



(Read) As a final stepping stone to the Japanese home land the United States will launch **'Operation Iceberg'** with the task of liberating the **Island of Okinawa** for an eventual staging ground for the **Invasion of Japan**. Over 180,000 men of the U.S. 10<sup>th</sup> Army, **Admiral Nimitz's** entire 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet of Carriers as well as 4 British carriers would need to land while shooting down 90% of the Kamikaze Fighters in order to gain Air Superiority without capturing the air strip. However the Japanese forces consisting of 130,000 men and 700 planes will provide defense attempting to create another Iwo Jima without the tunnels. The Japanese strategy will allow the U.S. Landings while banding 3/4<sup>th</sup> of island. Making a stand at the wide open **'Shuri Line'** the Japanese vowed to make the battle as bloody as possible for American's and civilians alike in an effort to deter the U.S. Government from a large attack on Japan and even accept a surrender under the conditions of the Japanese.



**Results:** By the end of the **Liberation of Okinawa** led to over 107,500 dead and 20,000 Japanese soldiers purposely buried alive as the Japanese wasted over 4000 WWI and WWII aircraft during the **Divine Wind** raids. Despite the victory the **U.S. Army** sustained huge casualties leading to 7,734 dead and 32,000 wounded while the Navy lost 5,000 dead and 4,600 wounded as the **Japanese Kamikaze** damaged over 350 ships and sunk 34 ships.

**\* Now the Japanese have no Air force or Navy left in the Japanese Military \***

## Unit VI: Island Hopping to the Land of the Rising Sun

Mr. Meetze

WWII

### The Eventual U.S. Invasion of Japan 1945

(Read) The original U.S. plan for Japan **Code-Named “Downfall”** was to invade the archipelago nation in **2 separate phases**. First, in November 1945, the **U.S. Army** and **U.S. Marines** would make amphibious landing on the 3 smallest mainland Islands of Japan in order to ‘Break In’ to fortress Japan. An additional Amphibious landing would occur on the Island of Honshu, the largest of the four main islands. Over the next four months the U.S. military would then drive to the outskirts of **Tokyo** and prepare for **Phase Two**, the actual invasion of the capital of **Tokyo** in March 1946.



*\* However: Remember what Mac Arthur had to do to the city of Manila\**

### So... A ‘Terror Campaign’ Against the Japanese was Enacted

#### **1.) The U.S Government Authorizes the Use of Unrestricted Submarine Warfare on the Population of Japan**

-U.S Submarines used “\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_” Tactics against Japanese fishing boats and their merchant marine. Much like the Americans and British in 1941 these attacks were successful since the Japanese failed to...

1.

2.

-From 1943-1945 only \_\_\_\_\_ million tons of an original \_\_\_\_\_ million tons of the **Japanese Merchant Marine** remain or \_\_\_\_\_% is sunk leading to...

#### **2.) The U.S Government Authorizes the Use of a Terror, um ‘Area’ Bombing Campaign on the Population of Japan**

- Remember that by January 1945 the U.S. Air force determines that **Precision Bombing** of Japanese industry has become ineffective due to...

1.

2.

-So...**General Curtis Le May** is promoted to head of the 21<sup>st</sup> Bomber Command Stationed in the Mariana’s. **Le May** changes tactics and introduces a new deadly Weapon called \_\_\_\_\_ which will....



## Unit VI: Island Hopping to the Land of the Rising Sun

Mr. Meetze

WWII

### Curtis Le May's 1<sup>st</sup> Raid on the City of Tokyo

March 9, 1945

(Read) Using **330** modified **B-29's** launched from bomber command, the city of **Tokyo** is attacked using the new \_\_\_\_\_ bomb at a low level altitude of **4,900 feet** dropped in a \_\_\_\_\_ pattern. The Results are devastating leading to...



### Discussion Questions on the Pacific

- *The Allies stopped these types of Bombing Attacks in Europe, so why did they continue in Japan?*
- *What were some of the Japanese Problems by the spring of 1945?*
- *What were some of the American Problems by the spring of 1945?*
- *Why didn't the U.S reverse the policy of Unconditional Surrender?*
- *What were the Japanese Army & Navy's conditions for surrender?*



### "The Allied Race To Japan"

(Review) What was the impact of the **Yalta Agreement** on Japan?

(Read) Senior U.S. Military Advisors Estimated that a potential U.S. invasion of Japan would lead to over \_\_\_\_\_ dead. **What???** Quickly revised studies showed that the number was a bit lower. Fearing another Okinawa **President Truman** signed off and approved the following protocols for the U.S. invasion including...

A.

B.

C.

## Unit VI: Island Hoping to the Land of the Rising Sun

Mr. Meetze

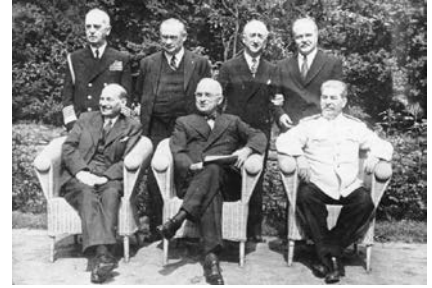
WWII

### The Potsdam Conference

July 16-August 2, 1945

(Recap) Who's actually left of the 'Big Three'?

- Joseph **Stalin**?
- **F.D.R.**?
- Winston **Churchill**?



The **Goal of Potsdam** was to determine the fate of the world. However since the Yalta Agreement was signed 5 months before much has changed for all parties involved. Unknown to the delegates back in America on the day the conference began something happens...



*"If the Radiance of a thousand suns were burst at once into the sky that would be like the splendor of the mighty one... I am becoming death, shatterer of worlds."*

- Excerpt of the Hindu epic the **Bhagavata Gita** spoken by **Dr. J.R. Oppenheimer** upon witnessing the 1<sup>st</sup> live Atomic bomb test in Alamogordo, New Mexico on July 16, 1945

(Read) Halfway through the conference **Truman** mentioned an unspecified "powerful new weapon" to **Stalin** causing the dictator to change his tone. Japan was once again given an ultimatum to surrender (in the name of the United States, Great Britain and China) or meet "prompt and utter destruction", which did not mention the new bomb. After receiving prime minister **Kantarō Suzuki's** reply to maintain silence the U.S. felt it had no choice but to...



## Unit VI: Island Hopping to the Land of the Rising Sun

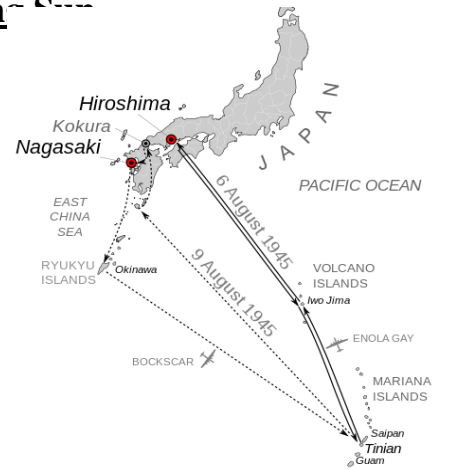
Mr. Meetze

**Target:** Hiroshima

**Population:** 340,000

### Why Hiroshima?

On August 6, 1945 **Colonel Paul Tibbets Jr.** took off on the \_\_\_\_\_ from the island of **Tinian**. At 8:15 the crew released **'Little Boy'** a 9,000 lb. bomb roughly Equivalent to 20,000 tons of TNT on the city. As Little Boy exploded a flash as bright as the sun exploded 660 yards from the ground causing a fireball and a 55,000 ft. halo cloud appear in the Sky. Within minutes over \_\_\_\_\_ died as \_\_\_\_\_ % of the city disappeared. Once again the Japanese were asked to Surrender unconditionally but the answer remained the same. On August 8<sup>th</sup>, **Stalin** kept his word from **Yalta** and...

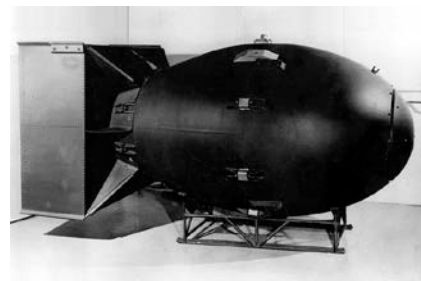


**Target:** Nagasaki?

**Population:** 250,000

### Why Nagasaki?

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1945 11:15 the 10,000 lb. bomb Code-named **'Fat Man'** exploded a few miles off target near a school with the force of over 22,000 tons of TNT. Immediately over \_\_\_\_\_ civilians were killed while the Japanese Government wondered if the Americans had any more?



### Should the U.S. Accept Only an Unconditional Surrender?

(Read) On August 10, 1945 the Japan's War board will finally surrender if the United States will not punish the Emperor and allow the people to keep their Shinto faith. Hmm? On August 11 **Emperor Hirohito** does the unthinkable getting on the radio asking the Japanese people to **"Bear the unbearable to Save Civilization"** and lay down their arms. Unfortunately (think Gejikko)...

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1945 V-J Day is declared however the peace treaty would not formally be signed until September 2, 1945 aboard the **USS Missouri** In Tokyo Bay in front of newly appointed Supreme Allied Commander Douglas A. Mac Arthur, while **2000** Warships, **400** B-29's and **1500** brand new Planes flew overhead. **Oh yeah what 2 U.S. flags are on board the USS Missouri?** 1. 2.



## **Unit VI: Island Hopping to the Land of the Rising Sun**