

US History

World War II – The Pacific

Learning Target:

I can examine the loss of the Philippines to the Japanese in the beginning of WWII.

2. Halting the Japanese Advance

The Japanese Pacific Assault –

- Pearl Harbor Attack
- Bombing of Clark Air Force in the Philippines
- Numerous islands throughout the Pacific

The Japanese Invasion of the Philippines –

American Presence of the Philippines –

- 30,000 US troops stationed in the Philippines
- 110,000 Filipino troops supported the Americans
- Commanded by General Douglas MacArthur
 - Would eventually command all US troops in the Pacific

The Japanese Attack –

- The attack on Clark Air Force Base destroyed all American planes in the Philippines
- The US Naval Fleet had to retreat out of the range of Japanese planes since they had no air power to defend it
- Japanese troops advanced towards Manila since there was no American air or naval opposition

American Retreat –

- MacArthur ordered the American troops in the Philippines to retreat to the Bataan Peninsula
- Rapid evacuation of Manila prevented US forces from stockpiling enough supplies & food
- Fighting settled into a war of attrition on the Bataan Peninsula
- US soldiers were outnumbered, outgunned, and inexperienced
- MacArthur was ordered to evacuate to Australia but vowed to return

American Surrender –

- After fighting against the odds the Americans on the Bataan Peninsula surrendered in April of 1942
- The Japanese forced 70,000 US soldiers to march through the jungle to prison camp
- Became known as the Bataan Death March because of the brutal treatment received by the prisoners

Halting the Japanese Advance –

The Battle of the Coral Sea –

- Stopped the Japanese advance towards Australia
- Important Allied victory, however the Allies lost a carrier in the battle

The Battle of the Midway –

- Japanese hoped to lure part of the American fleet towards Alaska then attack Midway, two islands near Hawaii
- US broke Japanese code and discovered their plans
- US won the battle due to this information

Guadalcanal –

- First major offensive for the US
- Landed at Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands in August of 1942
- After six hard months of fighting they took the island
- Tide of the war in the Pacific was changing