

# Japanese Fighting Mentality & The Bushido Code



## **Unit 2 Essay Options (100 pts.)**

- 1. Describe the major military and religious beliefs associated with the Japanese Bushido Code and discuss its impact on the fighting in the Pacific.**
- 2. Discuss some of the key mistakes General Douglas MacArthur made in defending the Philippines and explain the results of those mistakes.**

# Samurai horseman



# From 1639 – 1858 Japan Closed Itself Off from the Rest of the World

1. **Why?** Catholic missionaries from Europe began to convert many Japanese to Christianity. This threatened the Emperor's control over Japan. Christians would listen to the Pope (in Vatican City / Rome) instead of the Emperor.
2. **Exception** = 2 Dutch ships per year were allowed into Nagasaki harbor (Great Ships).
3. **Results?** Japan fell behind in technology and military capability and was in danger of being conquered. Between 1750 – 1850, many European nations industrialized. This resulted in rapid modernization and great technological improvement in the military.





# 1100s – 1800s = Japanese Feudal Era

During this time, there was **no central government**.

**Shoguns** ruled very large areas of land.

**Daimyo** were the lords that controlled landed estates and each had an army of many **samurai**.

The samurai were the soldiers who spent their lives training for war, mostly to defend the daimyo's land.

If the Emperor needed soldiers to defend Japan, he had to ask the daimyo or shoguns to send samurai to fight. If they did not like the Emperor, they could refuse to send soldiers.

This was a very dangerous system for Japan.

# Meiji Restoration of 1868

Emperor Meiji, Age 27



Skyline of Modern Tokyo



# The Bushido Code

## 1. Death before dishonor!

Surrender is not an option for a samurai. It dishonors you, your family, the emperor, and Japan.

Good samurai warriors could die on the battlefield or commit ritual suicide. Either would result in going to NIRVANA (Buddhist heaven).

Japanese often gave their POWs an opportunity to commit suicide. This was **NOT** acceptable for Christians.



# “The Way to Nirvana”



# The Bushido Code

## 2. No concern for pain or physical discomfort!

Samurai prided himself on supremacy of mind over body.

The samurai had the option of committing ritual suicide, known as **seppuku** or **hara kiri**. This was suicide by disembowelment.

# Bushido Sword Series

(tanto seppuku  
knife on the right)





**This is a **katana seppuku knife**. A samurai took very good care of his swords to keep them ready for war. Careless treatment of a samurai's sword was a serious offense which could bring a fight to death. **Katana** knives were tested by piling dead bodies on top of one another and seeing how many bodies you could cut through in one thrust. The result was engraved on the knife - - "3 body knife."**





**Step 1 was to kneel and place both hands on the hilt of the katana or tanto sword. Place the blade on the abdomen and then shove it straight in.**





**Step 2, slide the blade from side to side making sure to cut major organs and intestines. This was a slow and painful way to die. A samurai should be able to put mind over body!**

# \*\*Seppuku or Hara Kiri



## Tanto Seppuku Knife





The samurai arranged for another person to finish him off through decapitation. It took too long to die otherwise.

The **Kaishaku** (assistant) stands behind a warrior who prepares for seppuku (ritual suicide).







# The Bushido Code

## 3. Loyalty!

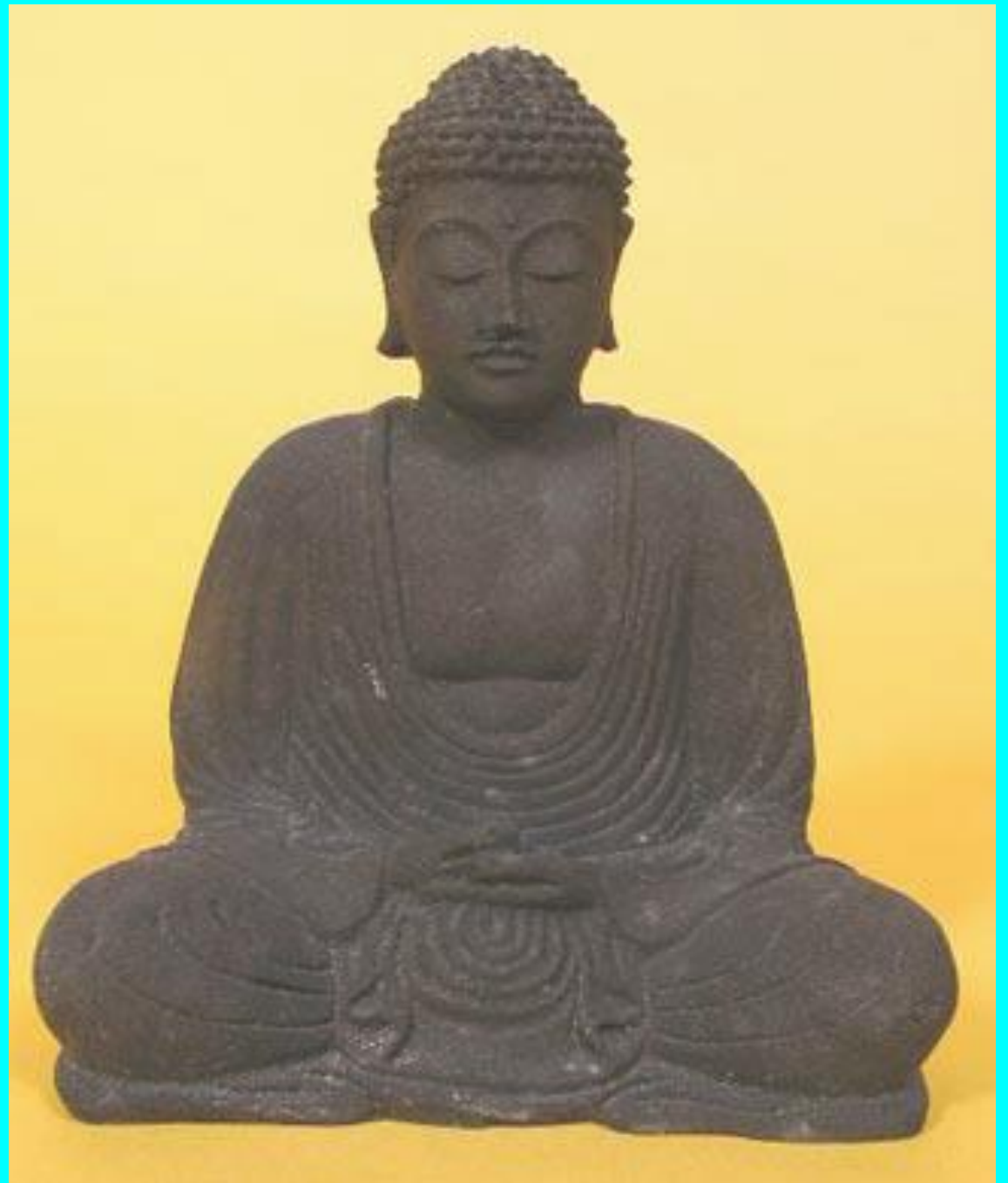
The samurai was to be totally loyal to the emperor, who was a god on earth. The emperor was a direct descendant of the Japanese sun goddess, **AMATERASU!**

# The Japanese sun goddess, Amaterasu





# Buddha



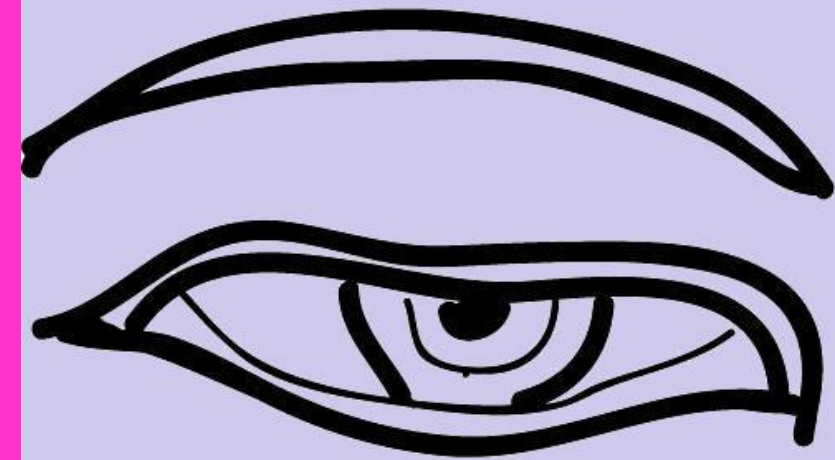


# Reincarnation





KARUNA



# \*\*Kamikaze group



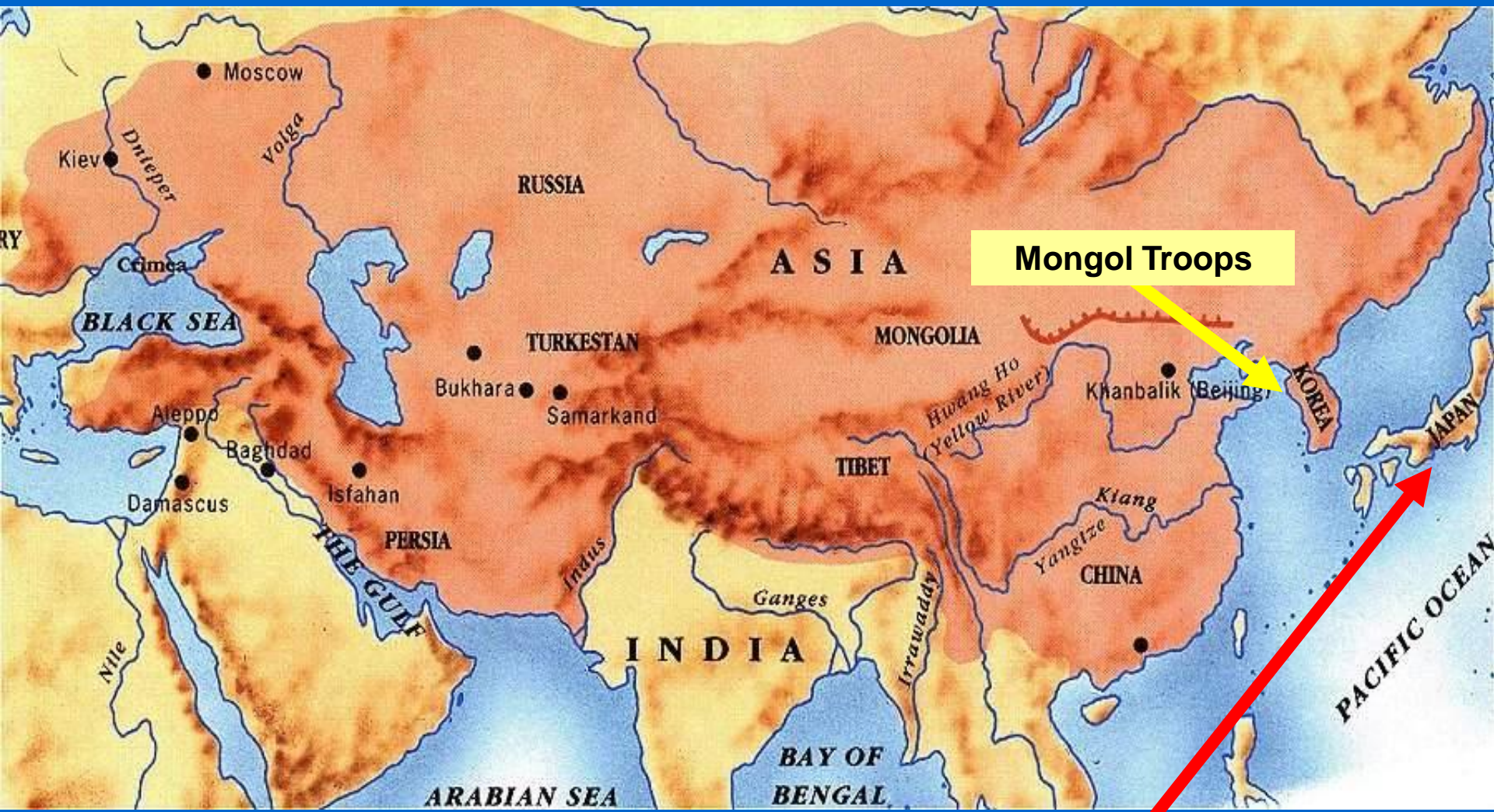
# Kamikaze attack

Photo # 80-G-273003 USS St. Louis is hit by a Kamikaze, off Leyte, 27 November 1944





# The Mongol Empire in 1281 A.D.







**Kublai Khan** – Mongol  
Leader that Intended  
to Invade Japan



# **Japanese Invasion of the Philippines**

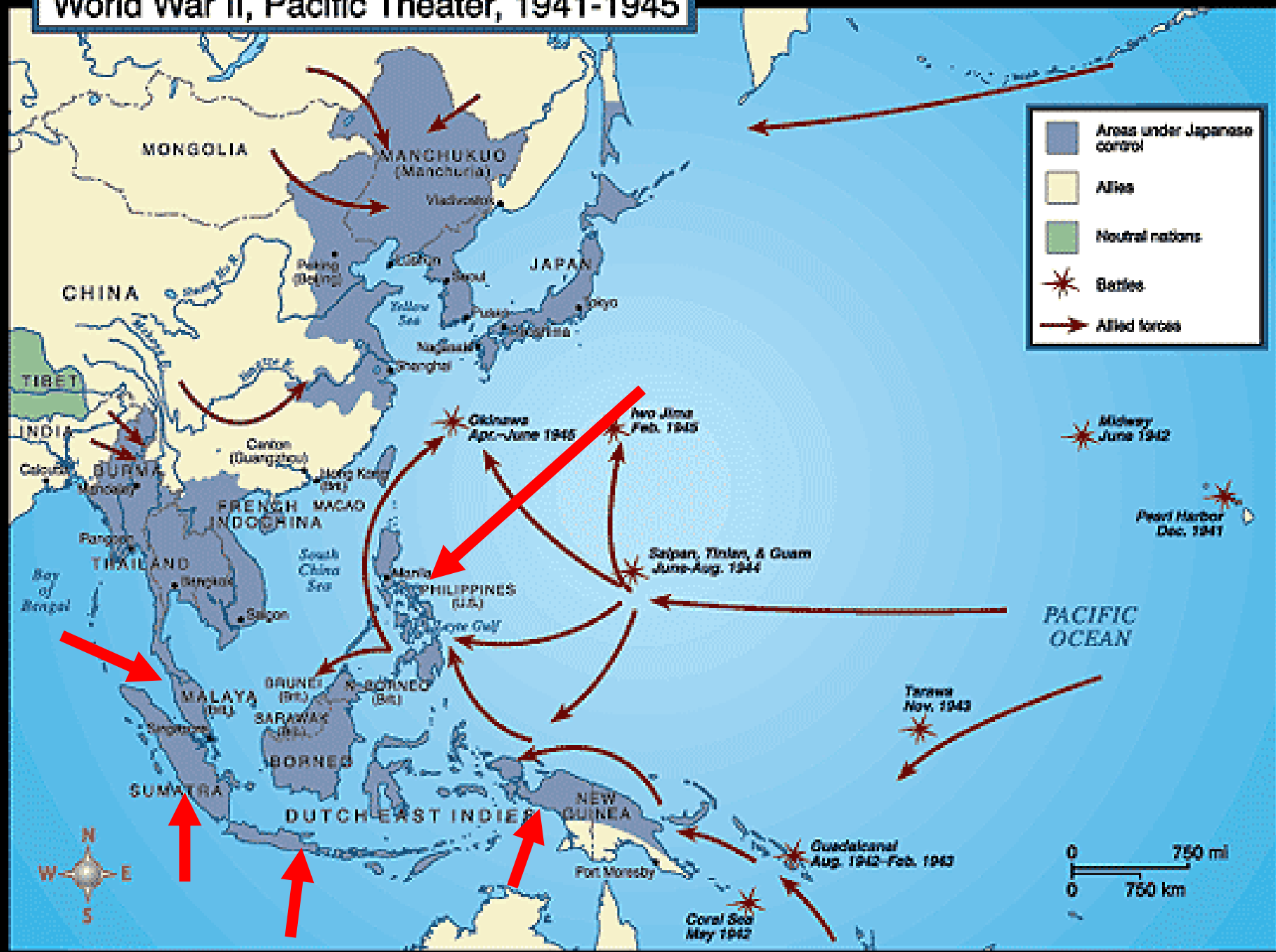
**1941 - 1942**

**Major Japanese Goal =**

**Rapid conquest of the  
Philippines and Malaya as a  
preparatory step to  
conquering the Dutch East  
Indies**

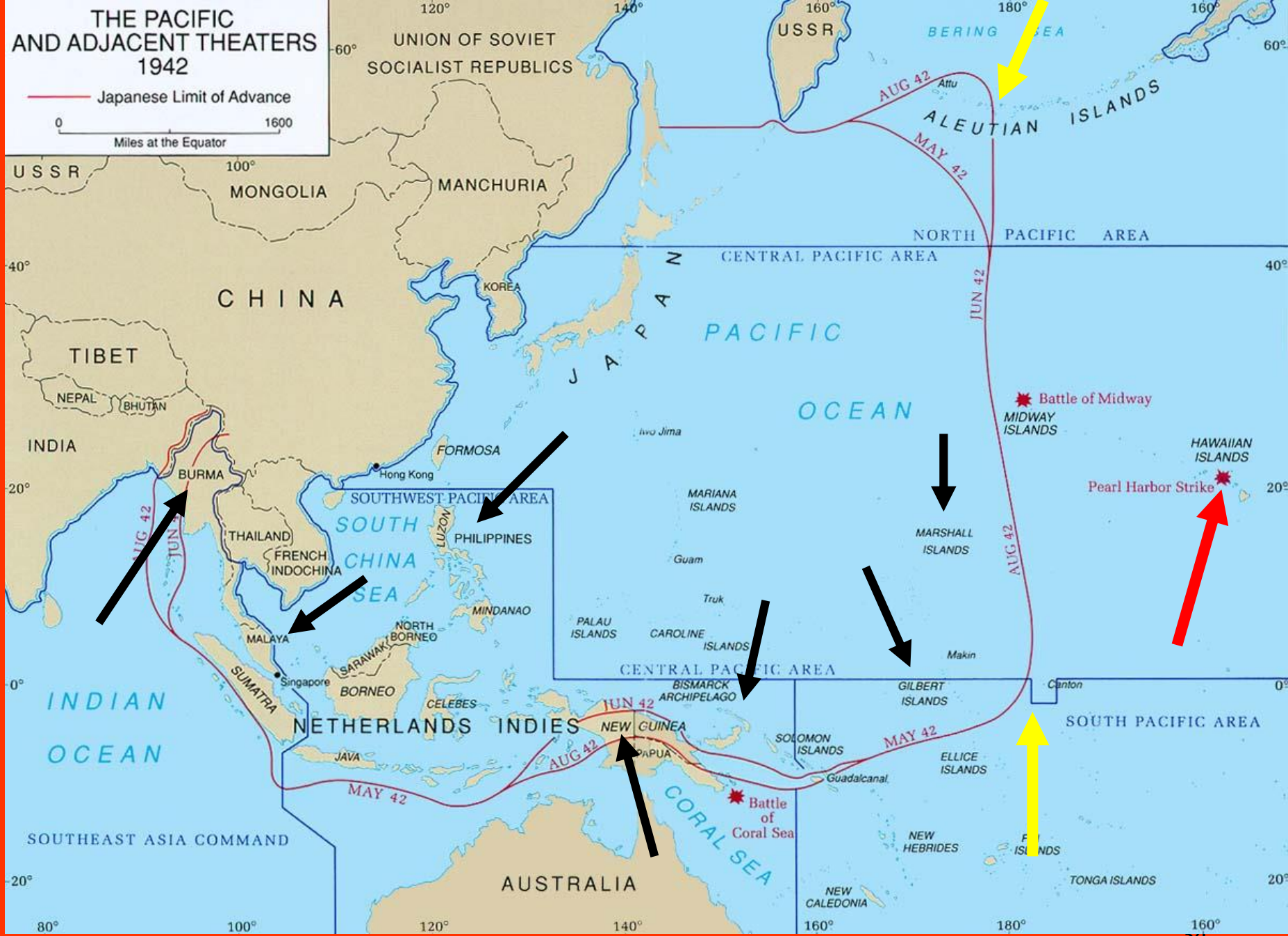
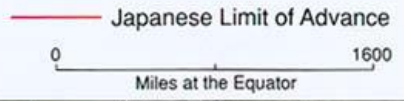


# World War II, Pacific Theater, 1941-1945



Japan hoped to conquer:  
Philippines, Malaya, Burma, New Guinea, Bismarck Archipelago, Marshall Islands, and the Gilbert Islands. This empire would guarantee Japan oil, tin, rubber, and a perimeter of bases from which to defend their empire.

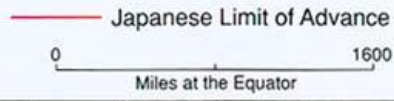
# THE PACIFIC AND ADJACENT THEATERS 1942



**\*\* Japan felt she could not bypass the Philippines in her move to the south because American forces on the Philippines jeopardized Japanese supply routes to the South Pacific.**



# THE PACIFIC AND ADJACENT THEATERS 1942



★ Battle of Midway  
MIDWAY ISLANDS

Pearl Harbor Strike  
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

★ Battle of Coral Sea

# The Philippines





**War Plan Orange**  
was the original  
defensive plan in  
which Americans  
& Filipinos  
planned to  
retreat to the  
**Bataan**  
**Peninsula** & wait  
for Navy  
reinforcements.



# General Douglas MacArthur





# MacArthur



# B-17 Flying Fortress



General MacArthur had supplies sent to the coast of **Lingayen Gulf** where he expected the Japanese to land.



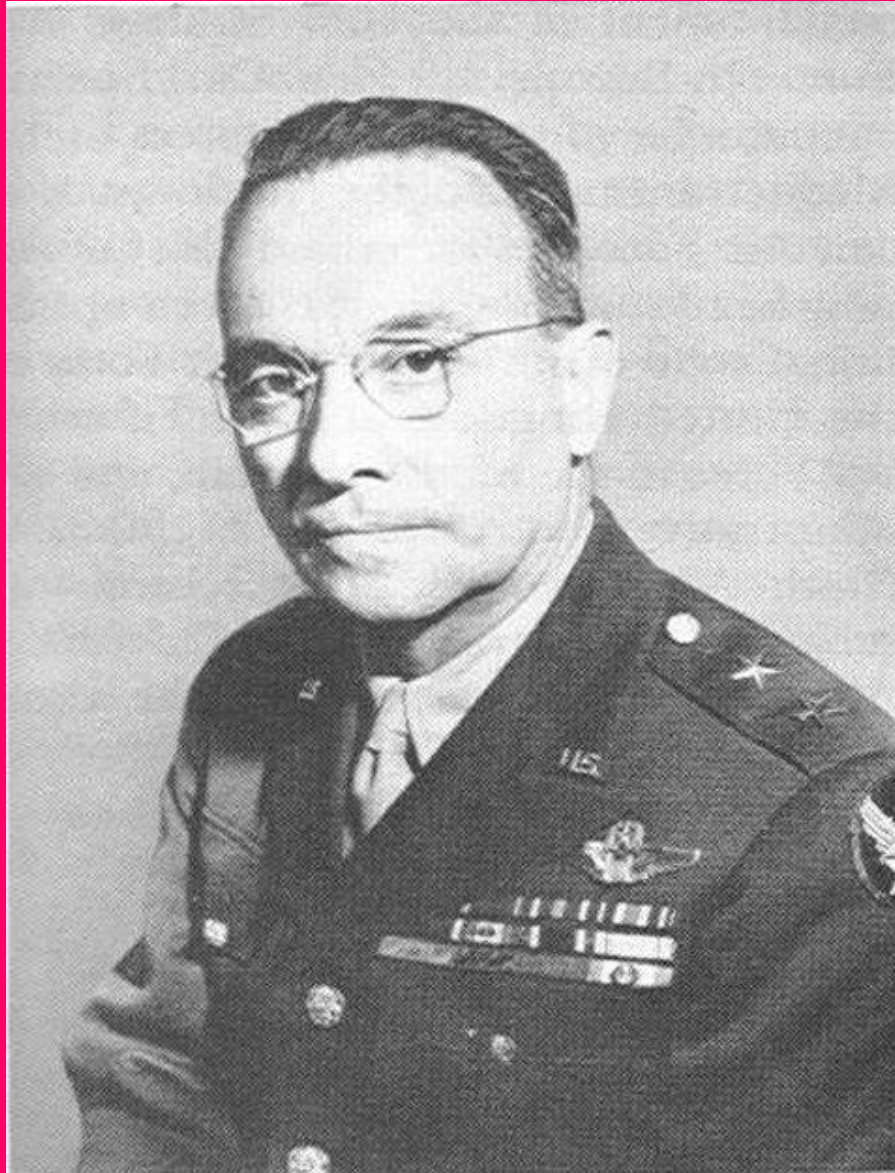


# General Richard Sutherland, MacArthur's Chief of Staff





# Air Commander, General Lewis Brereton



Movement of the **Far East Air Force** to the southern island of **Mindanao** would have put them outside of the range of Japanese planes.



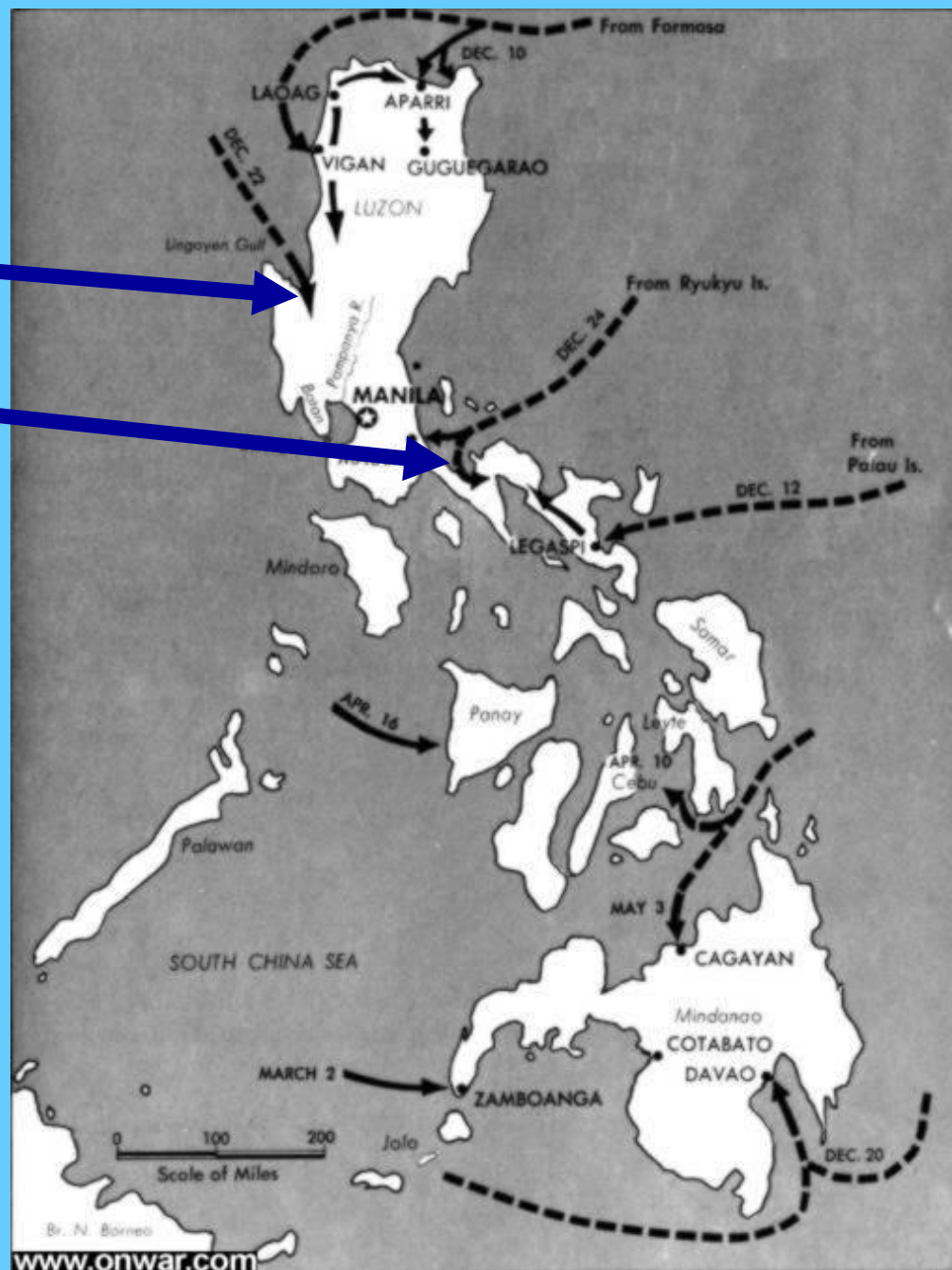
# Curtiss P-40 Warhawk of the type destroyed by initial Japanese attacks in the Philippines





Dec. 22, 1941, the main Japanese landing forces attacked the eastern shore of **Lingayen Gulf** and on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, attacked **Lamon Bay**.

The **Japanese 14<sup>th</sup> Army**, under **Lt. General Masaharu Homma**, had 50,000 men to attack an American & Filipino force that was twice as large, **but consisted mostly of newly inducted, untrained, and unequipped Filipinos**.





**Lt. General  
Masaharu  
Homma and staff  
meeting with the  
Mayor of Manila**

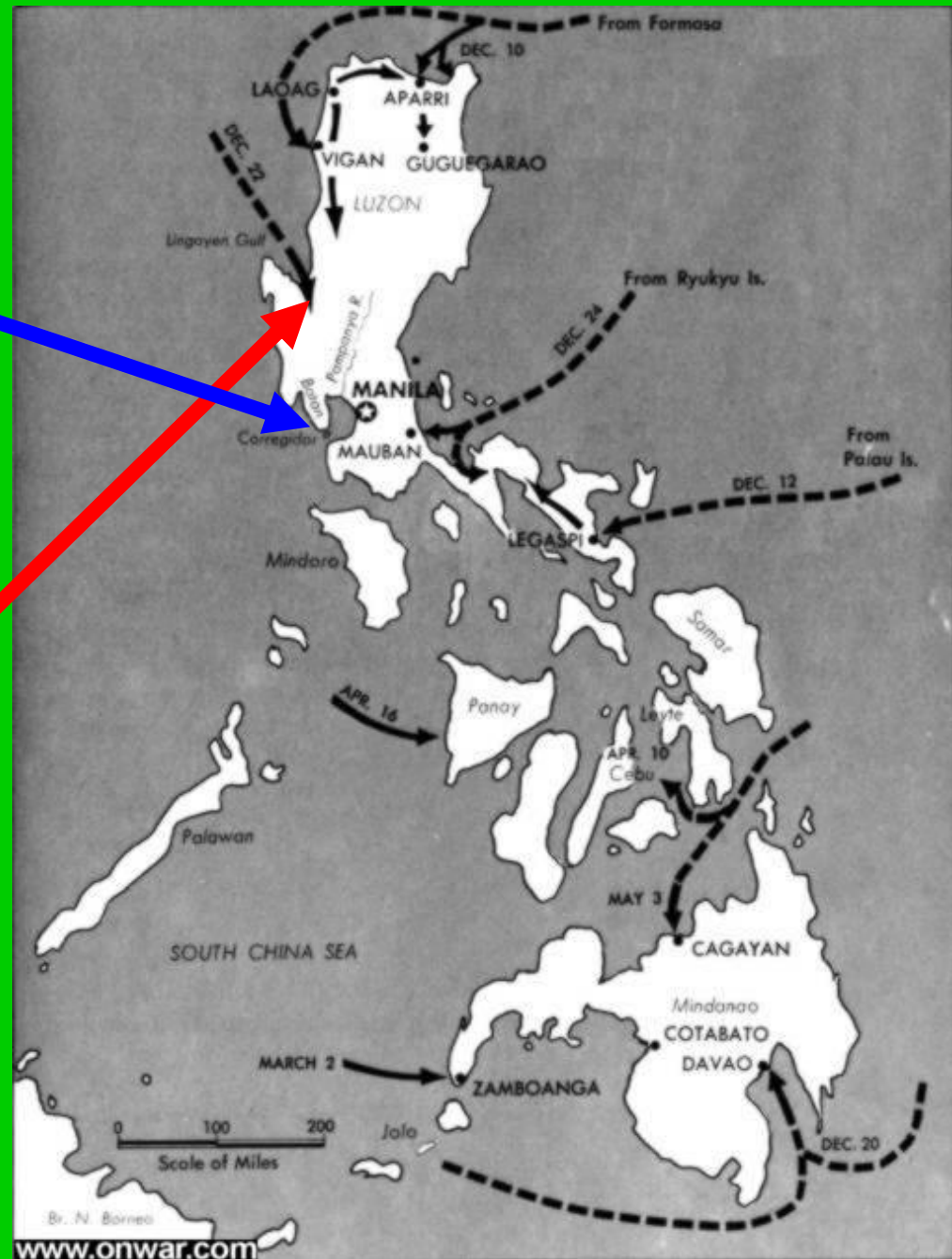


# General Masaharu Homma



MacArthur tried to defend Lingayen beaches for 2 days and then \*\* changed strategy back to **War Plan Orange** -- retreat into the Bataan Peninsula and hold there for 6 months until they could be reinforced. This would allow them to defend Manila harbor.

\*\* Now stockpiling of food, munitions, and medical supplies was impossible since they were left at Lingayen Gulf!!





# Bataan Jungle





# Soldiers would eat anything from snakes to bananas to mangos

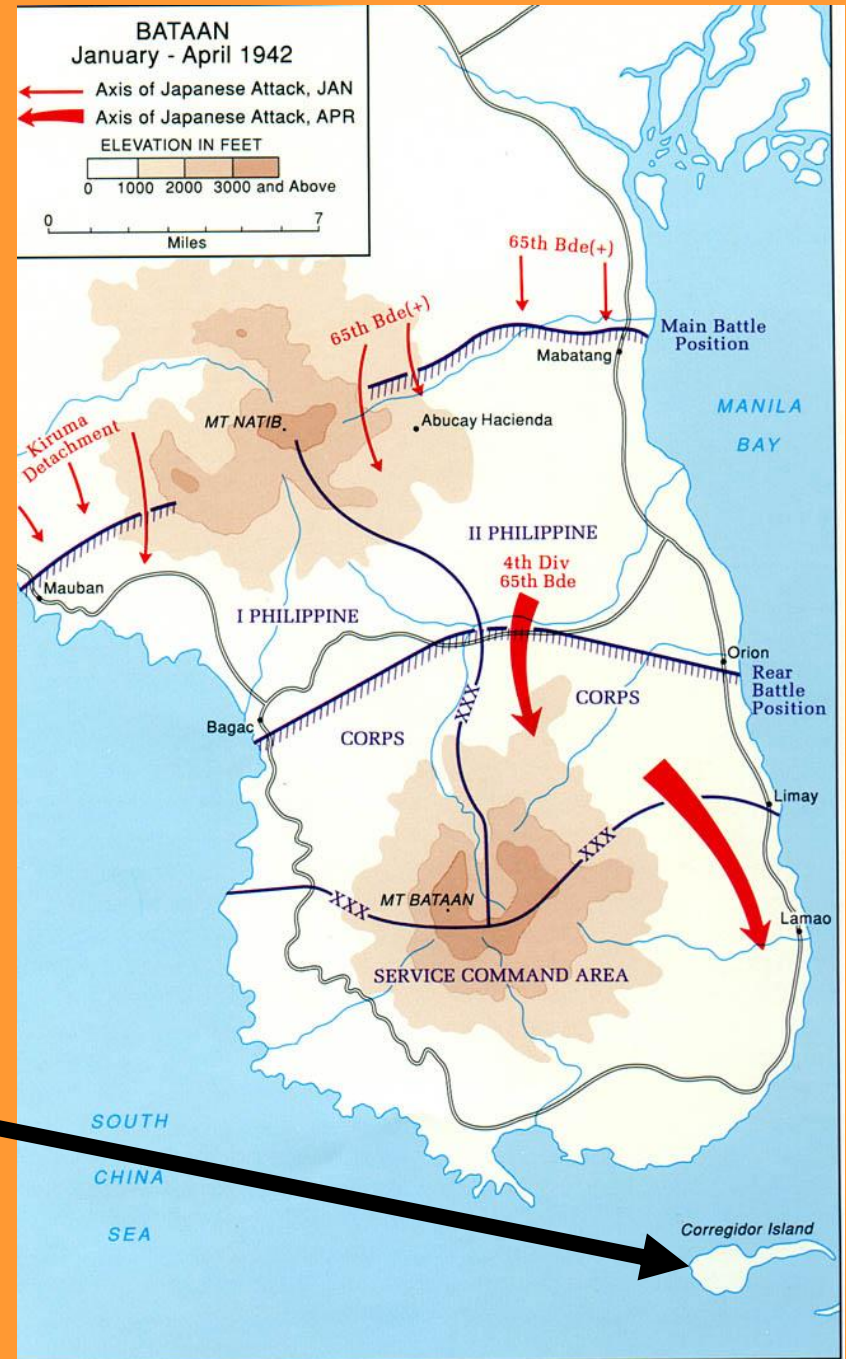






# The Bataan Peninsula

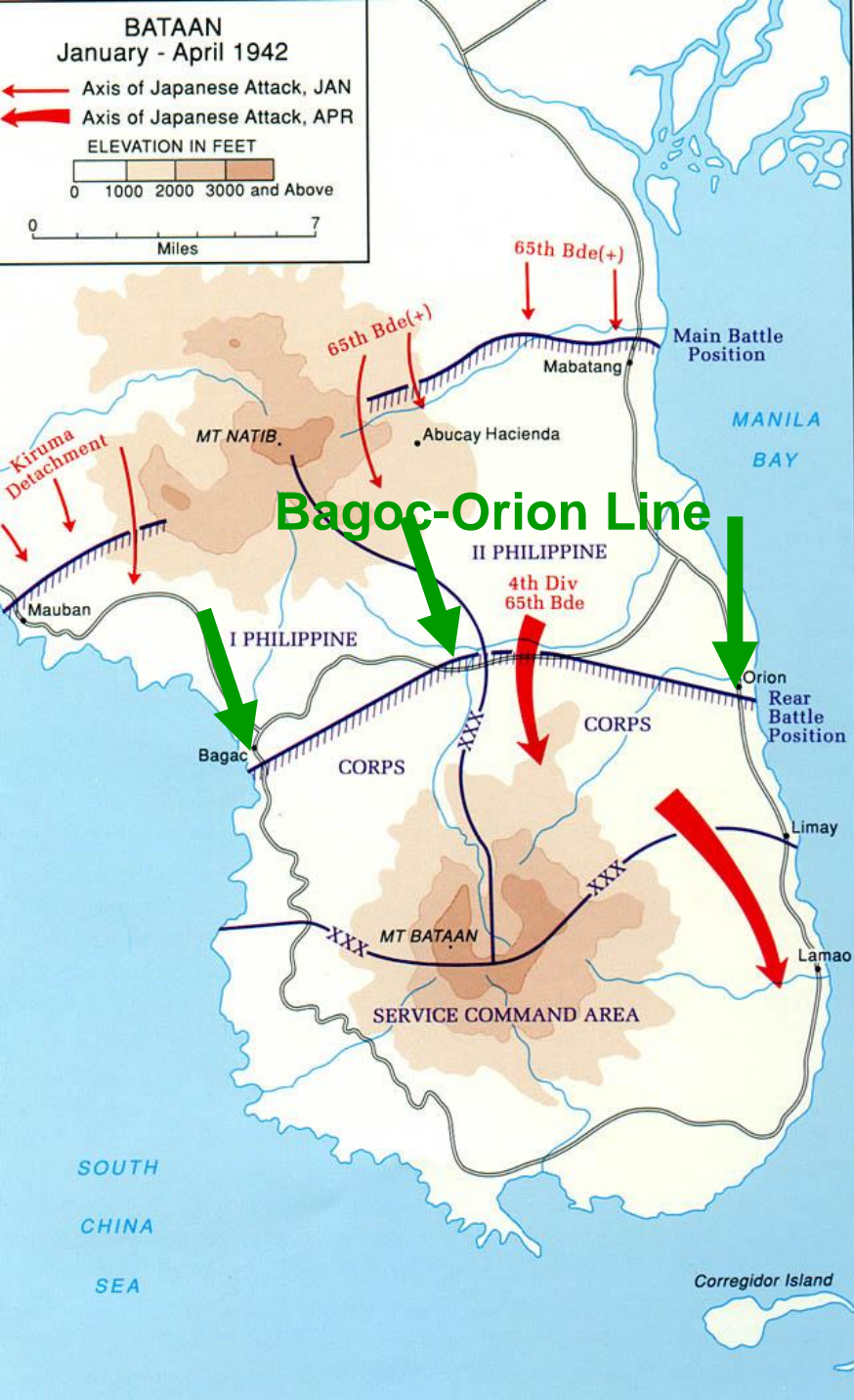
Island of  
**\*\*Corregidor,\*\***  
headquarters  
for the U.S.  
Military.





**\*\* American forces did NOT know that Pres. Franklin Roosevelt had already written off the Philippines by December of 1941!! Both Roosevelt & MacArthur lied to the troops, saying “Reinforcements are on their way!”**





Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, 1942 - - Allied forces retreated toward Bataan and General Homma DID NOT PURSUE AND DESTROY THEM!! Homma, instead, took time to resupply his troops and did not order the Japanese Air Force to attack them either.

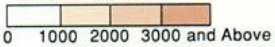
Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>, 1942 = 1<sup>st</sup> Major Japanese Attacks on Amer. & Filipino Forces - - resulted in retreat to the \*\* Bagoc-Orion Line. By late January, the Jap attack on this line failed & they suffered major casualties. MacArthur earned nickname, "Dugout Doug."

## BATAAN January - April 1942

Axis of Japanese Attack, JAN

Axis of Japanese Attack, APR

ELEVATION IN FEET



# February – March 1942 Stalemate

**Neither army was conquering land. The Japanese rebuilt their forces while American & Filipino soldiers suffered from hunger & disease.**

**American command tried to get supplies to them, but only a small quantity got through.**

**APRIL 9, 1942**



**We're the battling  
bastards of Bataan,  
No mama, no papa, no  
Uncle Sam,  
No aunts, no uncles, no  
Nephews, no nieces,  
No pills, no planes, no  
artillery pieces,  
. . . and nobody gives  
a damn.**

**Written by an American  
journalist**

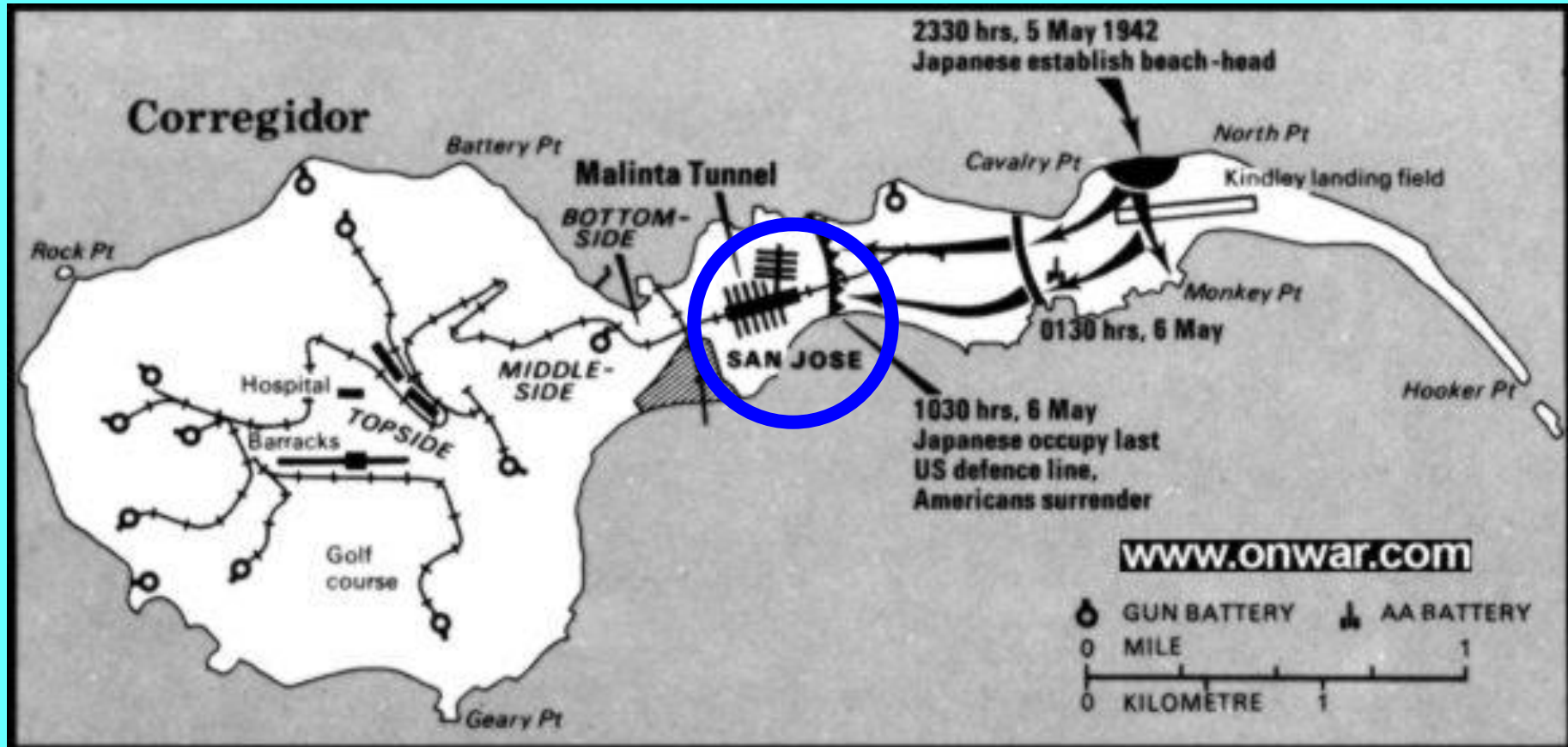
**OMNIA PRO PATRIA**





# “Dugout Doug”





**Corregidor Island, at the entrance to Manila Harbor, became American military command headquarters.**

**Bataan**

Mariveles

MANILA  
BAY

*North Channel*

**CORREGIDOR**  
(Ft Mills)

**CABALLO**  
(Ft Hughes)

**EL FRAILE**  
(Ft Drum)

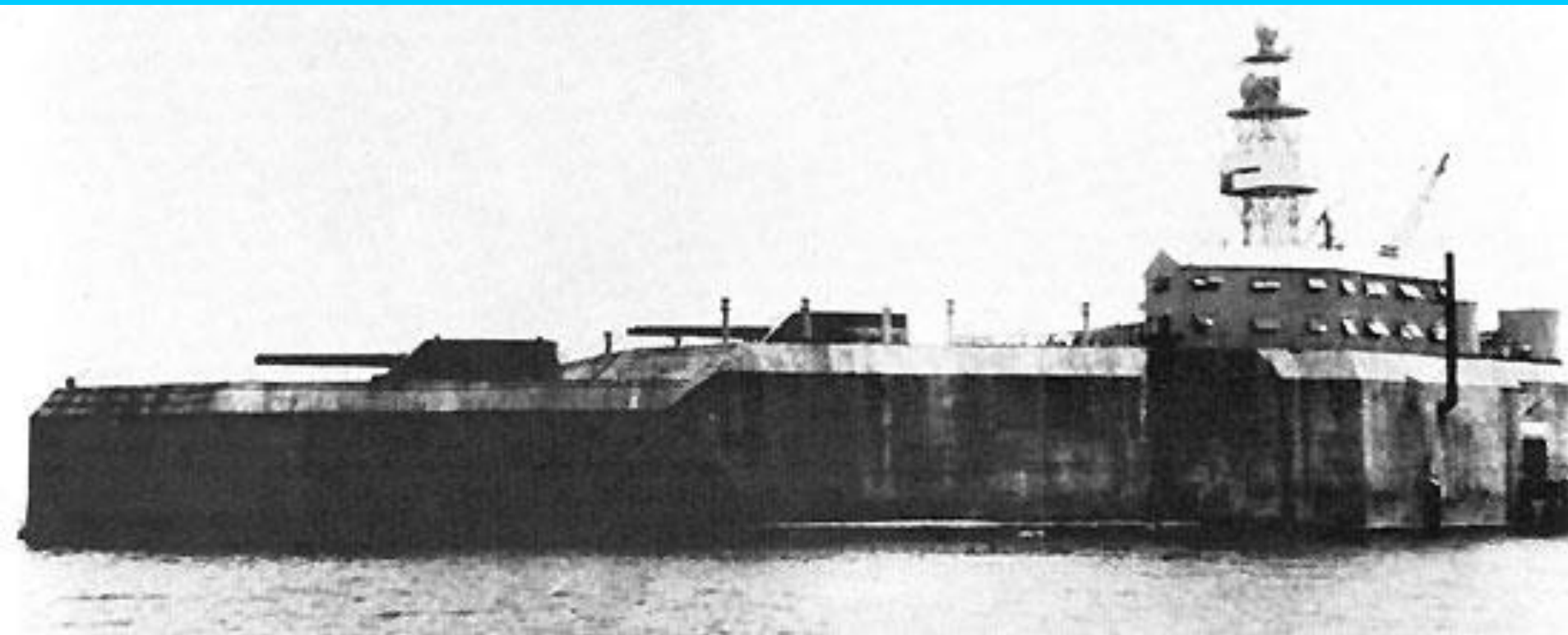
**CARABAO**  
(Ft Frank)

Catumpan

Ternate

0 Miles 8

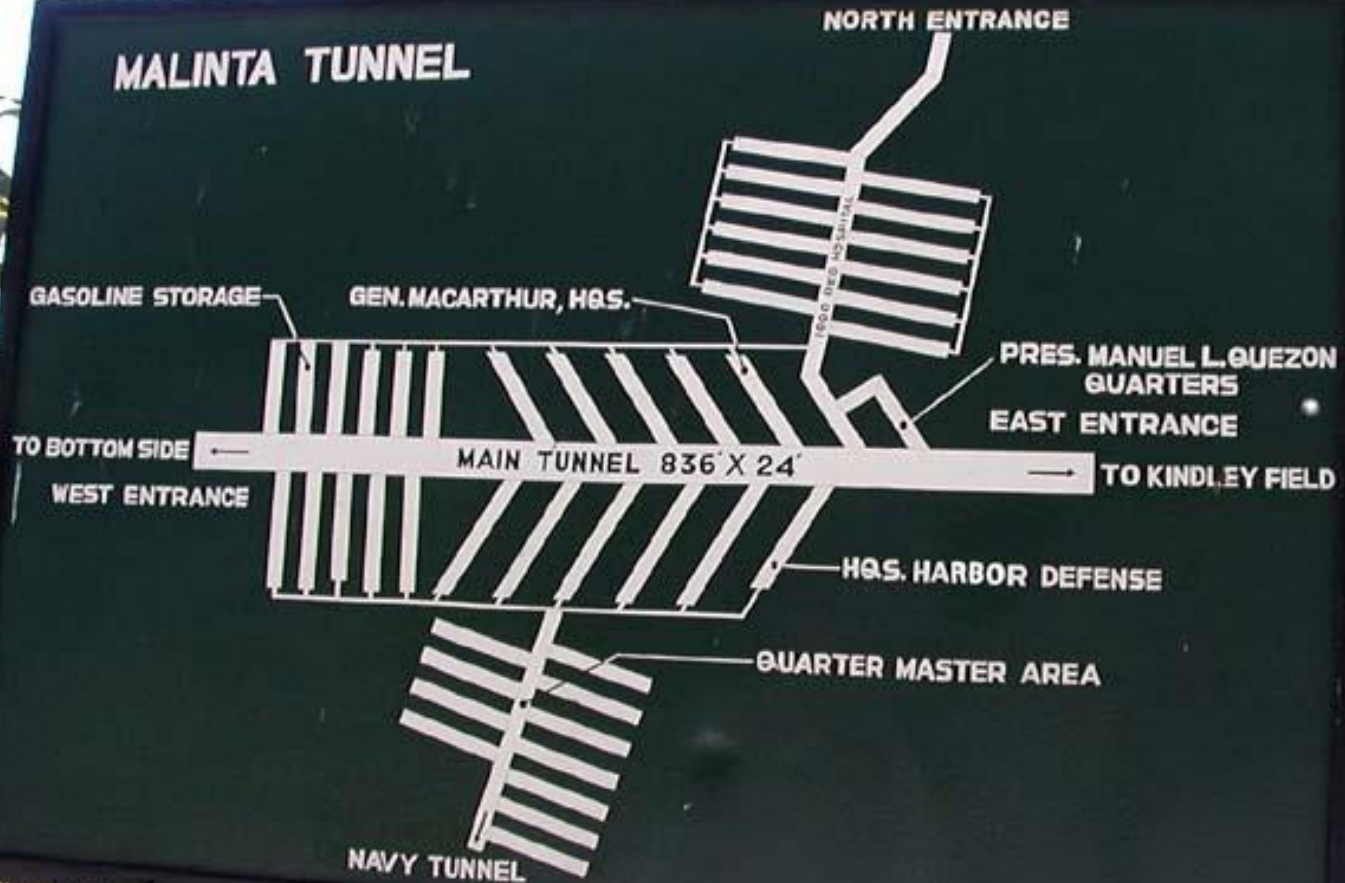
**Cavite**



**Fort Drum, the concrete battleship. To build it, El Fraile Island had to be shorn off, encased in concrete and armed with 14-inch guns.**



# MALINTA TUNNEL







# The Malinta Tunnel (in Corregidor)



# Office personnel in Malinta Tunnel

(Its main tunnel, connecting Bottomside with the tail end of the island, was 1,400 feet long and 30 feet wide. It had 25 laterals, each about 400 feet long, branching out at regular intervals. Malinta ran almost due east and west. A hospital was housed in its own set of laterals and had an entrance facing north.)





# Battery Hearn, 10" gun on Corregidor



The Japanese battered Corregidor with large guns like this one, which they took over from the Allies.

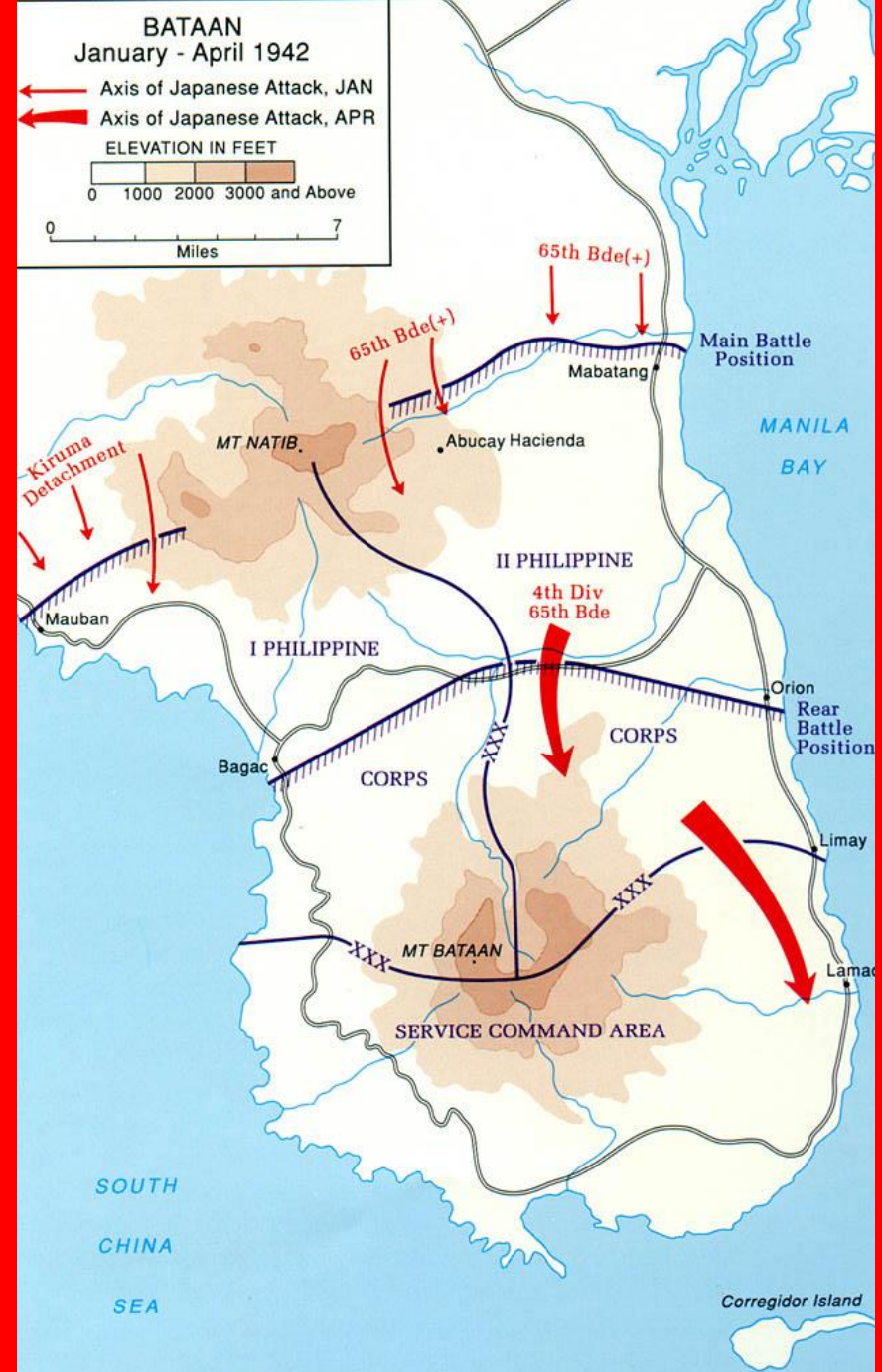
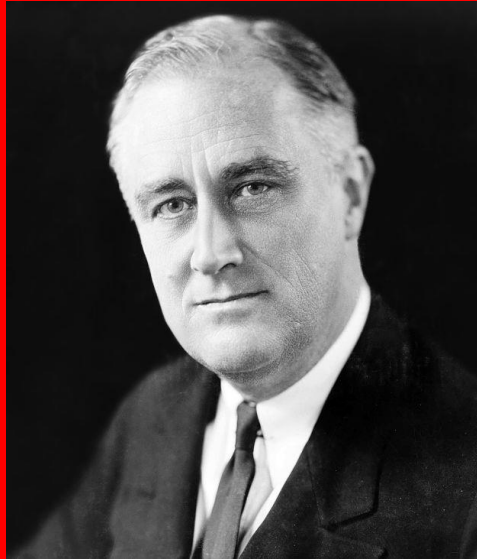






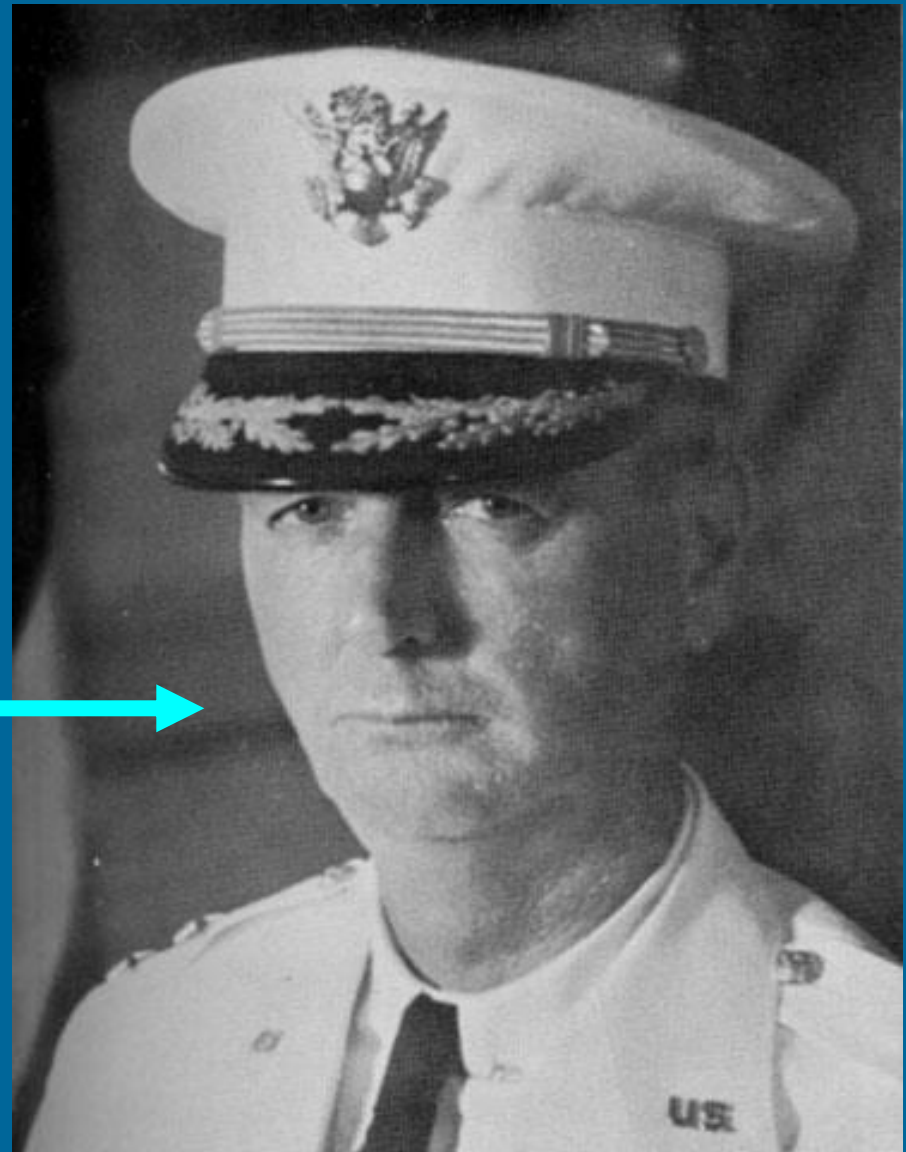
In March of 1942, President Roosevelt ordered General MacArthur to retreat to Australia where he would command forces in the SW Pacific Theatre.

MacArthur's last order to his men was to fight to the very end.



**On March 11, 1942,  
General MacArthur was  
evacuated to Australia.**

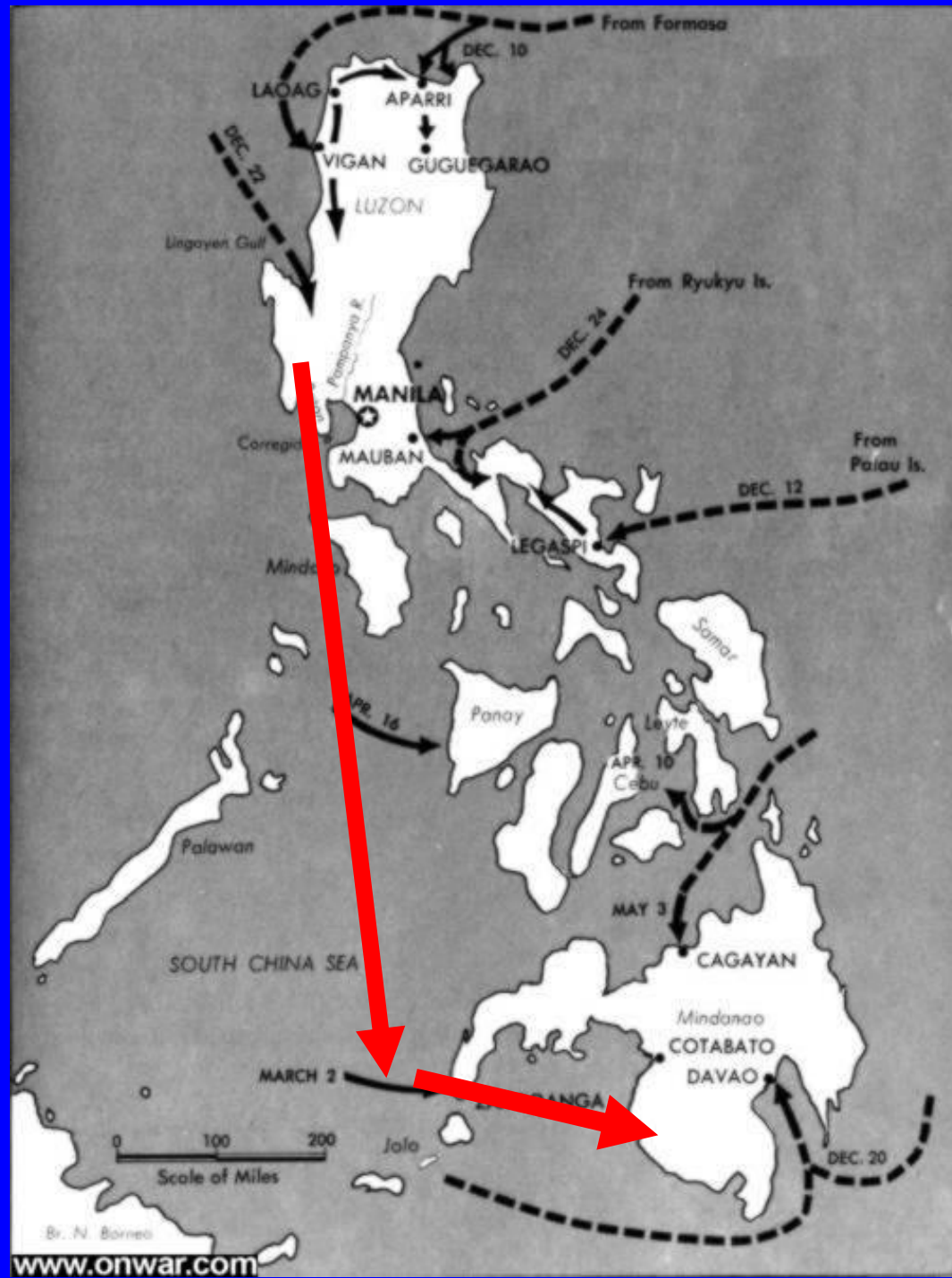
**American military  
command was  
transferred to General  
Jonathan Wainwright.**



**General MacArthur was evacuated by PT Boat, in the middle of the night.**

**He was taken from Luzon to Mindanao.**

**At Mindanao, MacArthur was put on a plane that took him to safety, in Australia.**





# PT Boats

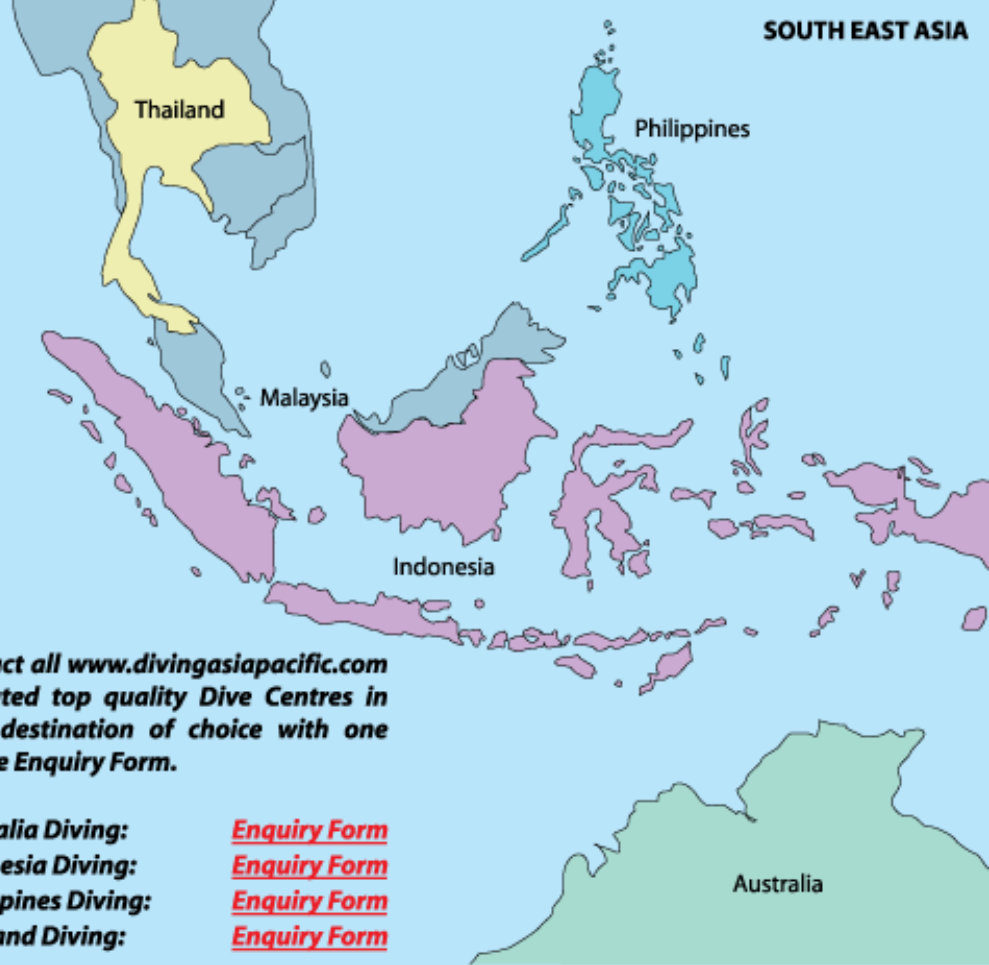




**General Edward King** became the new Bataan commander. He made the decision to surrender since his men were so sick and not able to defend themselves.

**All other commanders wanted the troops to keep fighting.**





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**Manuel Quezon,**  
President of the  
Philippines, gave  
large sums of  
money from the  
Philippine national  
bank to Gen.  
MacArthur.  
MacArthur was  
ordered to take the  
money back to the  
U.S. military.



**June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1942 - all Allied Forces on the Philippine Isles surrendered. 78,000 troops - - the largest surrender in American History!! (18,000 Amer. Troops and 60,000 Filipinos)**

# Victorious Japanese troops in the Philippines





Japanese matchbox covers - -  
circulated among the  
population of conquered areas  
to turn people against the  
Allies.





**Japanese matchbox covers used for war propaganda**







# JAPANESE PLAN AND TROOP DISPOSITION

November 1941

— Defensive Perimeter Plan  
0 1600  
Miles at the Equator





**Rabaul - - most imp. Japanese Air & Naval Base in the South Pacific**

# The Bataan Death March









This MRCP is the  
primary structure used  
in the company's  
Crest "Train" in 1912.

















## Hell Ships









