The Pacific War

The Pacific theater was pushed to the limit, most globally extensive war in history when Japan attacked the tropical island of O’ahu in 1941. O’ahu’s central Pacific setting and its great natural harbor made it an excellent location for U.S. military installations. Most important was the naval station established at Pearl Harbor in 1863, the year after the United States annexed the Hawaiian Islands. By 1941 it was home to U.S. Pacific Fleet personnel, with army bases, airfields, and gun emplacements around the island.

After the attack O’ahu served as headquarters for U.S. Pacific operations and staging area for hundreds of thousands of military personnel on en route to the Pacific theater. In support of the Pearl Harbor attack, combat strikers on the Navy, Army, and Marine airfields around O’ahu destroyed hangars and aircraft. On the next day Japan attacked Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Malaya.

Battle for the Pacific

Japan had started a war that would encompass a third of the globe and affect millions of civilians and military personnel. The attack on O’ahu was for the most part successful, doing considerable damage to the virtually unprotected U.S. Pacific fleet, especially the battleships. As Pearl Harbor recovered, Japan won a string of victories in the war’s opening months, its forces occupied country after country, displacing European colonial powers and gaining access to the natural resources that would keep its war machine running. But the O’ahu attack bought Japan only a little time before Allied industrial might began to tip the balance as ships, tanks, and aircraft emerged from U.S. shipyards and assembly lines. By late 1942 Japan was on the defensive, and for three growing years Allied forces pushed across the Pacific towards the Japanese home islands. By the time of the Allied victory in Europe in May 1945, Japan’s defeat was inevitable.

War’s End

In September 1945 Japan signed the surrender document onboard the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. On the U.S. home front there were spontaneous celebrations over the defeat of Japan and a collective sigh of relief at the end of wartime losses and hardship. During the seven-year Allied occupation, the former Empire of Japan adopted a new constitution in 1946, stripping political power from the Emperor and democratizing Japanese institutions. The occupation came to an end when the San Francisco Peace Treaty between Japan and the Allied powers went into effect in 1952. World War II was officially over.

The Attack of December 7, 1941

Just before 8 am that Sunday morning, many of the sailors aboard naval vessels moored in Pearl Harbor were getting ready for leave and preparing for church services. In a few minutes the column would be raised on more than 185 naval vessels throughout the harbor. On Ford Island and around O’ahu, soldiers, Marines, and sailors at Army and Marine airfields and naval air stations were going through routine military routines.

The attack came with no warning as aircraft launched with red disks borne down on the mowed ships from all directions. Torpedo planes strafed the harbor, and launching towers toward Ford Island’saghan Field. The bombers concentrated on the water and launching torpedoed toward Ford Island’s hangar Feild. The enemy’s intent was to cripple the U.S. Pacific fleet long enough to allow Japan to occupy a broad reach of the Pacific Sea, and for bases in South-East Asia. In support of the Pearl Harbor attack, combat strikers on the

Battlesfield O’ahu

Wheeler Field

Attak destroyed 33 aircraft. 30 were burned and 3 were shot down. Wheeler Field was named in 1916 and was located near Camp Ford Island in 1941. It was the major air base in the Pacific. Wheeler Field was the site of the O’ahu attack. On December 7, 1941, a wave of Japanese aircraft struck Wheeler Field. The Japanese Navy lost 55 airmen and 29 planes. The first wave of Japanese aircraft struck Wheeler Field. The second wave of Japanese aircraft struck the airfield. The third wave of Japanese aircraft struck the airfield.

Kaneohe Bay Naval Air Station

The Marine air station at Kaneohe Bay, north of Pearl Harbor, was the U.S. Marine Nation’s only air station on the Pacific Island in the central Pacific. The Marine air station at Kaneohe Bay, north of Pearl Harbor, was the U.S. Marine Nation’s only air station on the Pacific Island in the central Pacific. The Marine air station at Kaneohe Bay, north of Pearl Harbor, was the U.S. Marine Nation’s only air station on the Pacific Island in the central Pacific. The Marine air station at Kaneohe Bay, north of Pearl Harbor, was the U.S. Marine Nation’s only air station on the Pacific Island in the central Pacific. The Marine air station at Kaneohe Bay, north of Pearl Harbor, was the U.S. Marine Nation’s only air station on the Pacific Island in the central Pacific.

Hickam Field

Attack destroyed 14 aircraft. Early in the battle, the Japanese had air superiority. The Japanese had air superiority. The Japanese had air superiority. The Japanese had air superiority. The Japanese had air superiority.

The Toll

The War’s End

The second wave arrived about a half-hour after the first. Five bombers launched against the southeast side of Ford Island and the dry docks, heavily damaging the battleship Pennsylvania. By late 1942 Japan was on the defensive, and for three growing years Allied forces pushed across the Pacific towards the Japanese home islands. By the time of the Allied victory in Europe in May 1945, Japan’s defeat was inevitable.

Pearl Harbor

In late 1944 Japan signed the surrender document onboard the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay on the U.S. home front there were spontaneous celebrations over the defeat of Japan and a collective sigh of relief at the end of wartime losses and hardships. The occupation came to an end when the San Francisco Peace Treaty between Japan and the Allied powers went into effect in 1952. World War II was officially over.

World War II Valor in the Pacific

USS Arizona