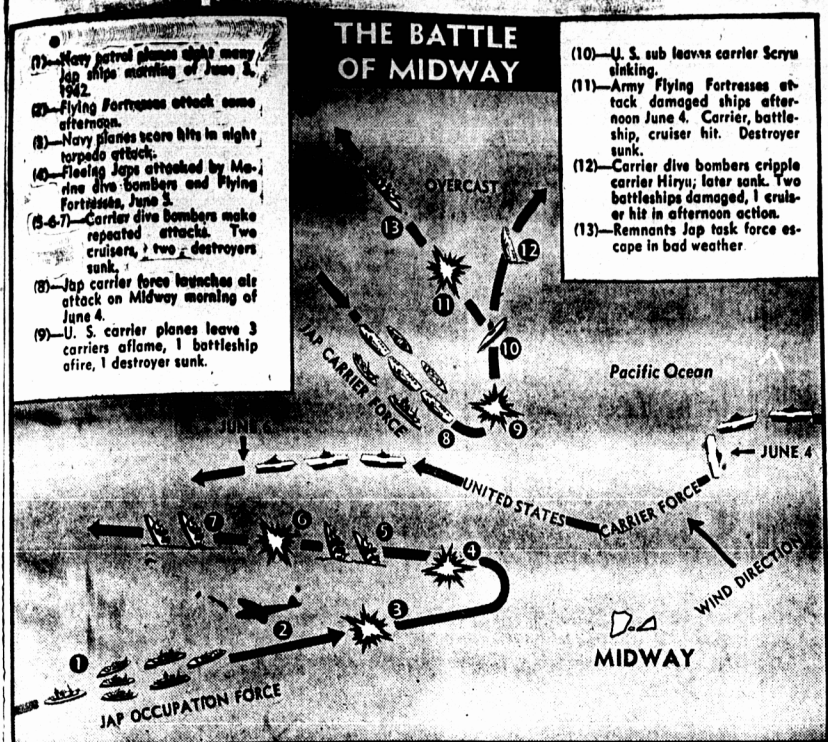
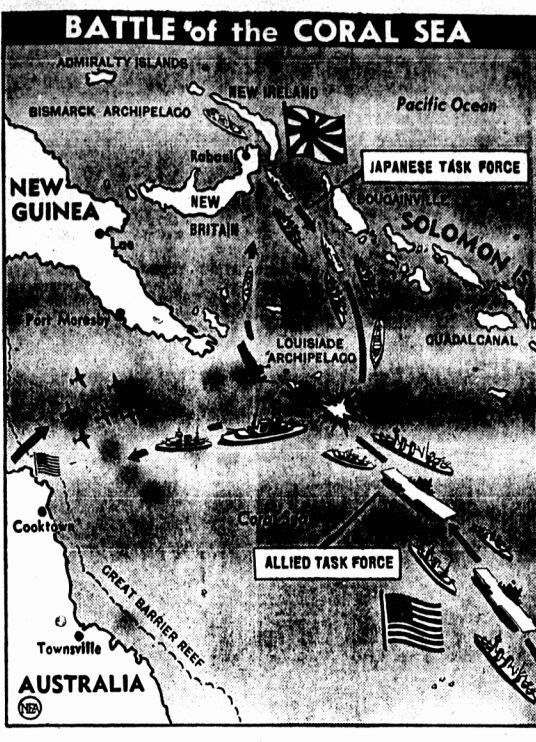


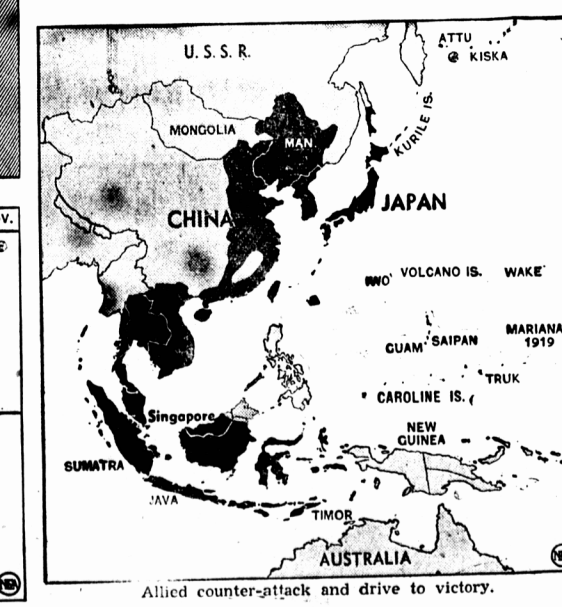
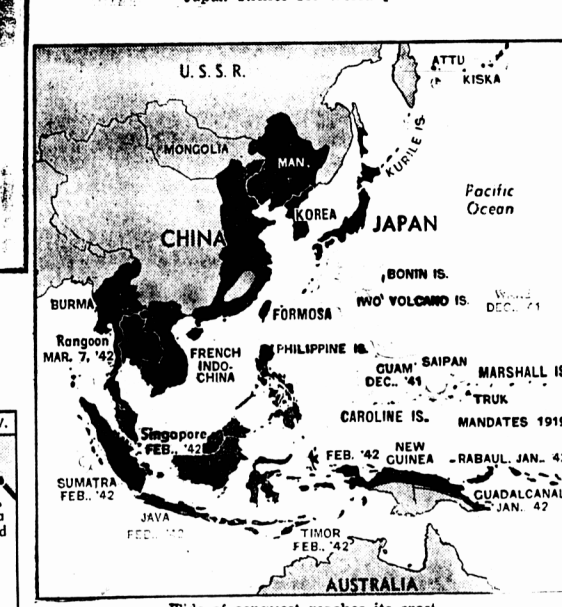
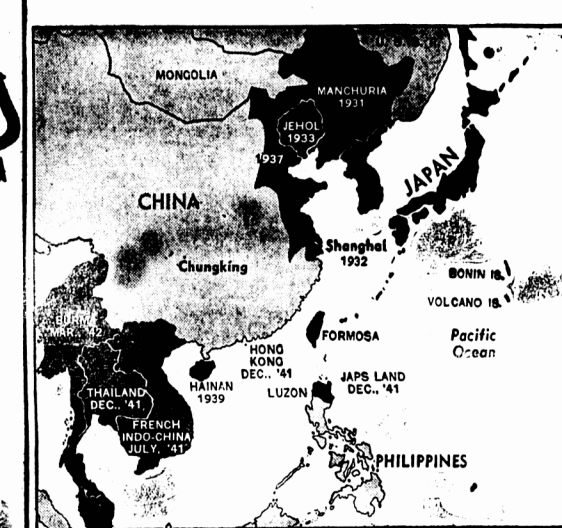
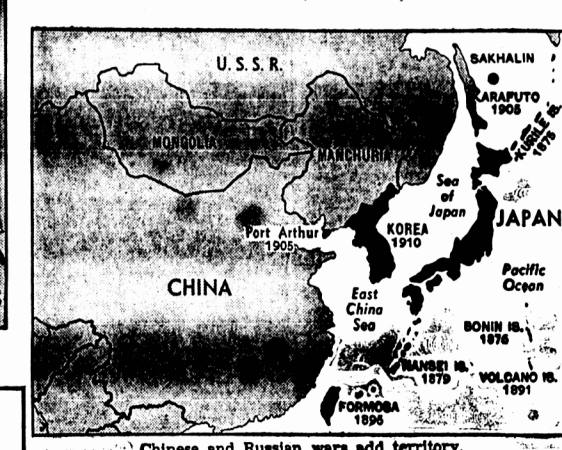
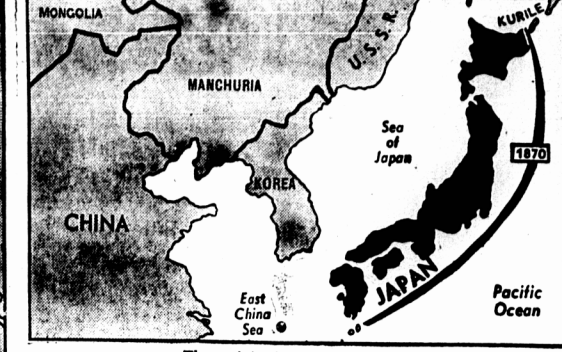
Map Story of Big U. S. Sea Victories



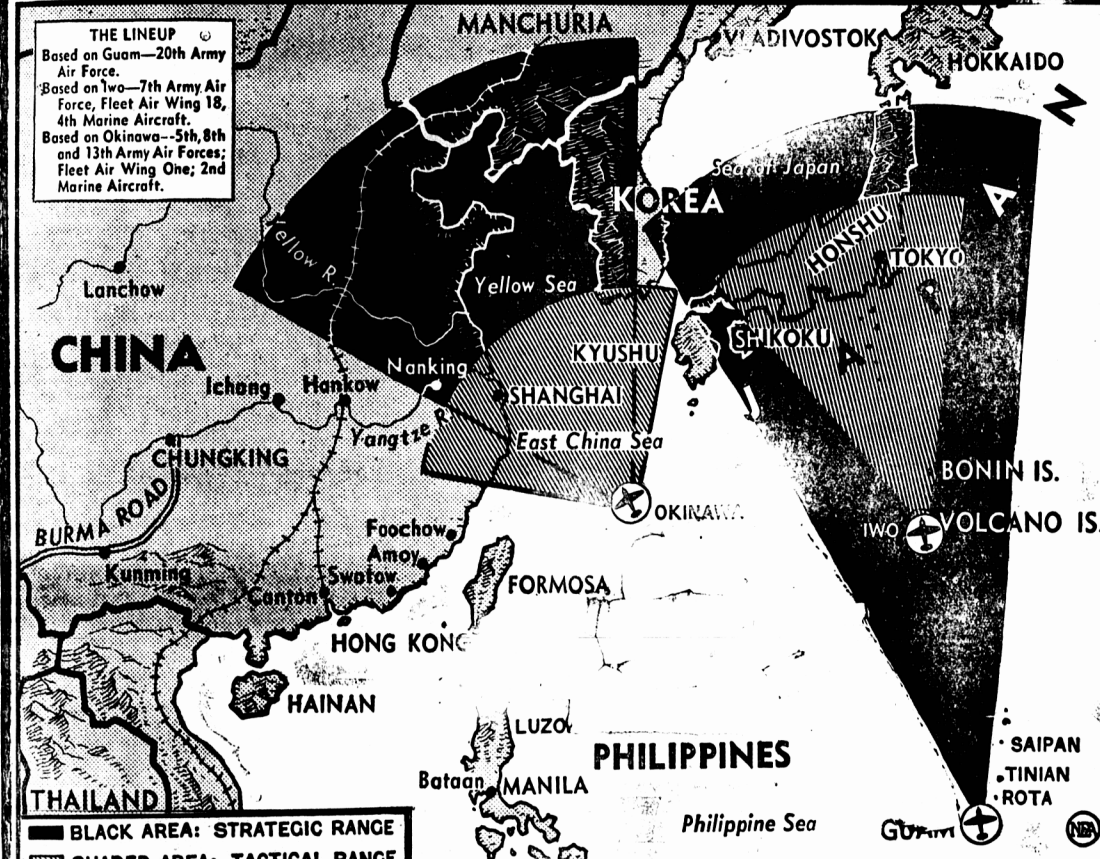
BASICALLY, a sea war, the U. S. Navy had one of the most vital roles of the armed forces in the war against Japan. The turning point in the war came in two great sea battles, at Midway and the Coral Sea, when the Navy halted Jap advances east and south. At Midway, June 3-6, 1942, Jap occupation and carrier forces heading for Wake were thoroughly beaten as described in map at left. In May, 1942, a U. S. task force had intercepted a Jap naval squadron moving from Rabaul into the Coral Sea with the intention of expanding southward. * * * Land bombers attacked, then surface forces closed in, as shown in map at right. The struggle ended with 17 Jap ships sunk or damaged, and remainder fleeing northward. From then on, the war rolled back against the Japs and, in October, 1944, U. S. troops invaded Leyte under cover of another great naval battle; map at lower right. It was like a three-ring circus, with U. S. planes and submarines in Ring One south of Leyte; Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher's planes in Ring Two off San Bernardino Strait; and Adm. William F. Halsey's Third Fleet in Ring Three to the north. The Japs lost 14 ships sunk or damaged, and 705 to 720 planes destroyed, according to official U. S. report. *



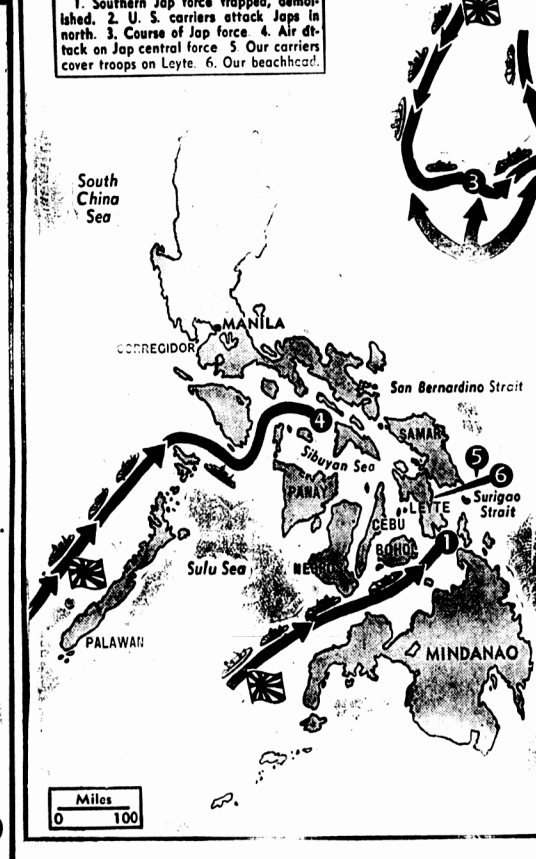
The Island Empire—Its Growth and Death



U. S. Air Coverage in Blackout of Japan

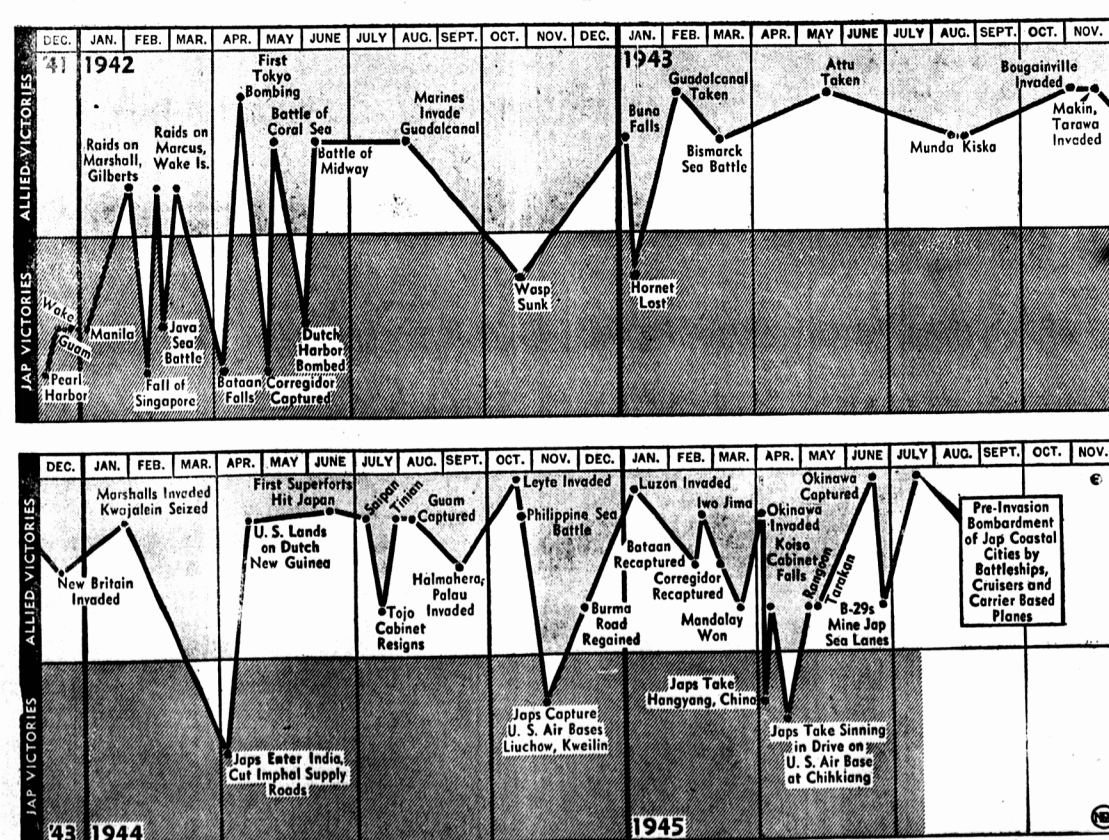


2nd BATTLE OF PHILIPPINES



CLOSING phase of the war—the last few thousand miles on the long road to Japan and victory—brought U. S. ground forces to the very doors of the Nip homeland, and gave U. S. air forces adequate bases for concentrated operations against Jap industrial centers and the Jap-occupied areas of southern China. Guam became the pivot of strategic bombing and Iwo the base for tactical bombing of Jap home islands and seas. Okinawa served as strategic and tactical base against southern China and Manchuria. These operations, combined with carrier plane raids from the enemy's own waters, blanketed the Japs with a greater concentration of air power than was employed in a like area of Germany during the final phases of the European war.

Gains and Losses in the Pacific Ledger



MORE ups than downs, in the balance of wins and losses in the Pacific War, is evident in the accompanying graphs. Major enemy victories occurred at the very outset, from the beginning of the war in December, 1941, until the middle of 1942, when a U. S. fleet stopped Jap invasion forces at Midway. In months that followed, the victories were largely American. High spots: Invasion and occupation of Guadalcanal, August, 1942, to February, 1943; occupation of Attu, May, 1943; U. S. invasion of Dutch New Guinea, April, 1944; first Superfort raid on Japan, June, 1944; Guam captured, August, 1944; Leyte invaded and the 2d Battle of the Philippines, October, 1944; Luzon invaded, Bataan and Corregidor recaptured, January, February and March, 1945; the beginning of the pre-invasion bombardment and knock-out of the Jap fleet, July, 1945.