

Island Hopping Campaign Notes

Battle	Date	Casualties	Important Facts
Guadalcanal	1942	US Marines: 1,600 killed Japanese: 14,000 killed	First offensive by US land forces in the Pacific theater.
Tarawa	1943	US Marines: 1,000 killed Japanese: 4,836 killed	US Marines take the island despite "kamikaze" attacks.
Saipan	1944	US Marines: 3,426 killed Japanese: 24,000 killed	Japanese civilians hide in caves and jump off cliffs after hearing rumors of American atrocities.
Philippines	1944	Japanese: 300,000 killed or wounded Americans: 47,000 killed or wounded	US Army takes Manila; MacArthur returns
Iwo Jima	1945	Japanese: 21,800 killed 200 POW's Americans: 7,000 dead, 19,000 wounded	US Marines raise the US flag over Mt. Suribachi. Over 25% of the Medals of Honor awarded to US Marines in WW II were given for conduct on Iwo Jima. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz says of the Marines: " <i>uncommon valor was a common virtue</i> " The US was now in fuel range to successfully bomb the mainland of Japan.
Okinawa	1945	Japanese: 109,000 killed Americans: 49,000 killed or wounded	500 Japanese surrender (matched the total for the whole war). "Kamikazes" sink 36 US ships and damage 200 more. Island was to a staging area for a possible invasion of Japan.