

# Chapter 14 – Section 3

The War in the Pacific

# Philippines

- American forces fighting under **General Douglas MacArthur** in the Philippines were attacked by the Japanese – FDR realized situation was hopeless so ordered MacArthur to escape to Australia - he promised his soldiers he'd be back
- The holdouts hid out in rock tunnels
- Finally, running low on ammo and food 11,000 soldiers surrendered





# Bataan Death March

- Japanese considered it **dishonorable to surrender**
- Code of the samurai said it was better to kill yourself (bushido)
- Marched 60 miles to prison camps
- Many executed by guards when they couldn't keep up - at least 10,000 died during the 6-12 day march due to abuse and starvation



# Battle of the Coral Sea

- Important because the American navy prevented the Japanese from attacking and invading Australia, though they suffered many losses





# Battle of Midway



- Midway Island **near Hawaii**
- Fought entirely from the air
- Sank 4 Japanese aircraft carriers
- Important because **Japan was unable to launch anymore offensive attacks after this**

# Island Hopping Strategy

- We selectively attacked or bypassed specific enemy-held islands in the Pacific
- Suffered heavy casualties, but captured islands near Japan which allowed planes to reach its cities with tons of explosives





# Kamikazes

- Suicide planes used by the Japanese
- Purposely crashed into targets strapped with massive bombs



# Japanese soldiers



- Very few surrendered
- To be killed was an honor – to be taken prisoner a disgrace
- Therefore treated their prisoners of war as dishonored men
- Of 5,000 defending one island only 17 were taken prisoner



# Battle of Iwo Jima



- A heavily armed rocky volcanic island
- Only 14 sq. miles, but took months to capture
- Lost 25,000 soldiers – 27 medals of honor awarded for bravery – more than any other single battle

# Battle of Okinawa



- Fought on island near Japan
- Important because was **last obstacle to allied invasion of Japan**
- Massive invasion – 2<sup>nd</sup> only to D-Day in Normandy
- **50,000 Americans killed – costliest battle of the war in the Pacific**
- After this victory it opened the way for the invasion of Japan



# Albert Einstein

- Wrote a letter to FDR in August of 1939 telling him that an **incredibly powerful new type of bomb could be built** and that the Germans were probably already working on such a weapon



# The Manhattan Project

- The top secret plan to build this bomb before the Germans could first





# Robert Oppenheimer

- Headed the building of the bomb
- Tested it out in the desert of New Mexico
- Atomic bomb blew a huge crater in the Earth and shattered windows 125 miles away



# How do you build an atomic bomb?

- By first splitting the nucleus of the uranium atom then creating a chain reaction in which the splitting of one atom would cause another atom to break apart
- The energy released would cause a massive explosion





# H-Bomb

- Hydrogen bomb uses fusion (combining of atoms) rather than fission (splitting of atoms) to release energy
- About 1,000 X more powerful



# 5 other options to dropping “the bomb” on Japan

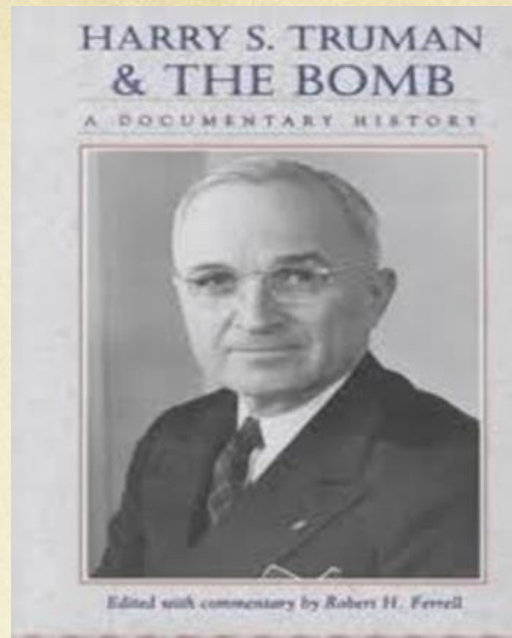
- Massive land invasion
- Naval blockade
- Demonstration on a deserted island to show its awesome power
- Continued conventional bombing
- Don't insist on unconditional surrender



# Final Decision

- Even though many scientists who worked on it didn't think the A-bomb should be used, **President Truman** (who had only taken over for FDR 3 months earlier after he suddenly died in April 1945) **made the decision to use it**





- After heavy American casualties at Iwo Jima and Okinawa he did not want to see thousands more likely killed during an invasion of Japan
- “You should do your weeping at Pearl Harbor” Truman quoted as saying in 1963



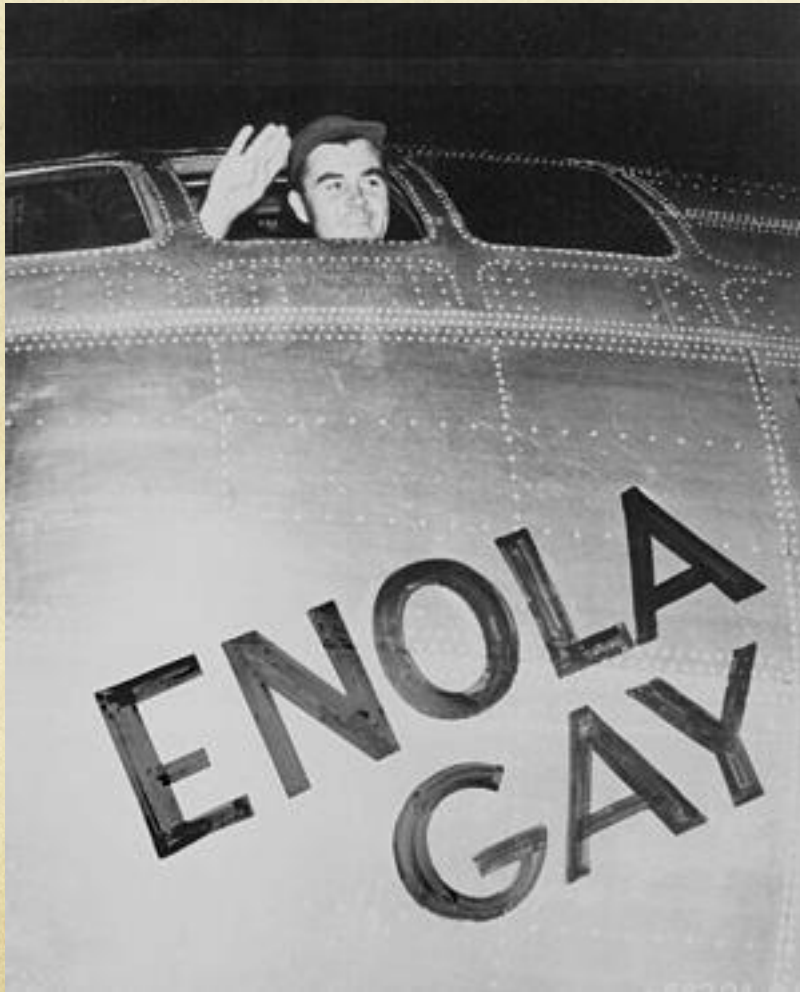
# Hiroshima

- U.S. dropped an atomic bomb – code named “Little Boy” on Hiroshima, Japan on Aug.6 1945
- A single B29 bomber dropped it
- 3/5 of a second the city was gone



# Enola Gay

- Plane that dropped the atomic bomb



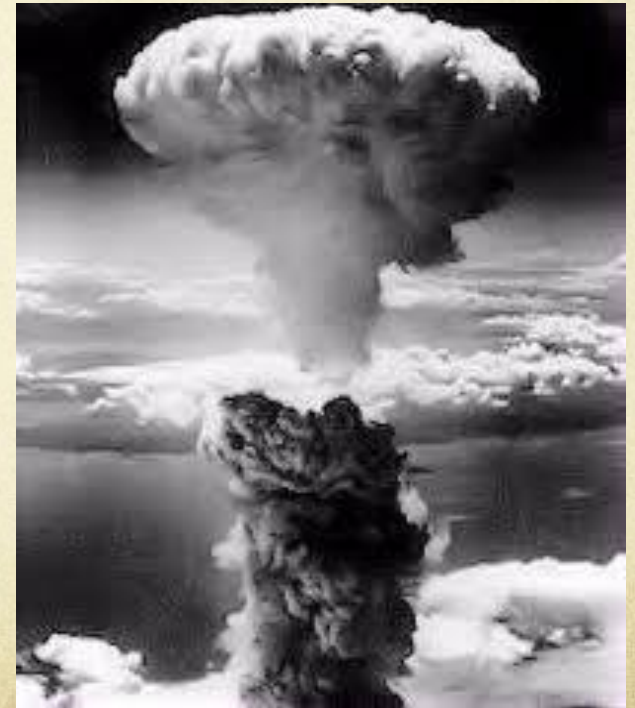


- Killed 140,000 on the spot or a few months later from the horrible burns or radiation
- 10,000 were never found
- 70,000 injured or disfigured
- 90% of buildings were flattened



# 3 Days Later

- Dropped a 2<sup>nd</sup> bomb called “Fat Man” on city of Nagasaki producing similar devastation & death
- Skin burned right off people’s bodies
- Was it justified?





# V-J Day



- Japanese people are stunned by what has happened and surrender the next day
- V-J Day – Victory in Japan Day is celebrated in America
- Official surrender signed aboard the U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2
- War is finally over

# Pacific Area WWII Map

- Using the map on page 446 in your textbook label all of the countries on your WWII in the Pacific Map
- Shade in the areas that were under Japanese Control
- Lastly, label the following places/battles on your map
  - Pearl Harbor
  - Battle of Midway
  - Battle of the Coral Sea
  - Battle of Iwo Jima
  - Battle of Okinawa
  - Hiroshima
  - Nagasaki



# A-Bomb Essay

- Was the use of the Atomic bomb to end WWII justified? Write a ½ - 1 page argument either for or against using this powerful bomb.

