



BATTLE OF MIDWAY

U.S. Involvement in World War II

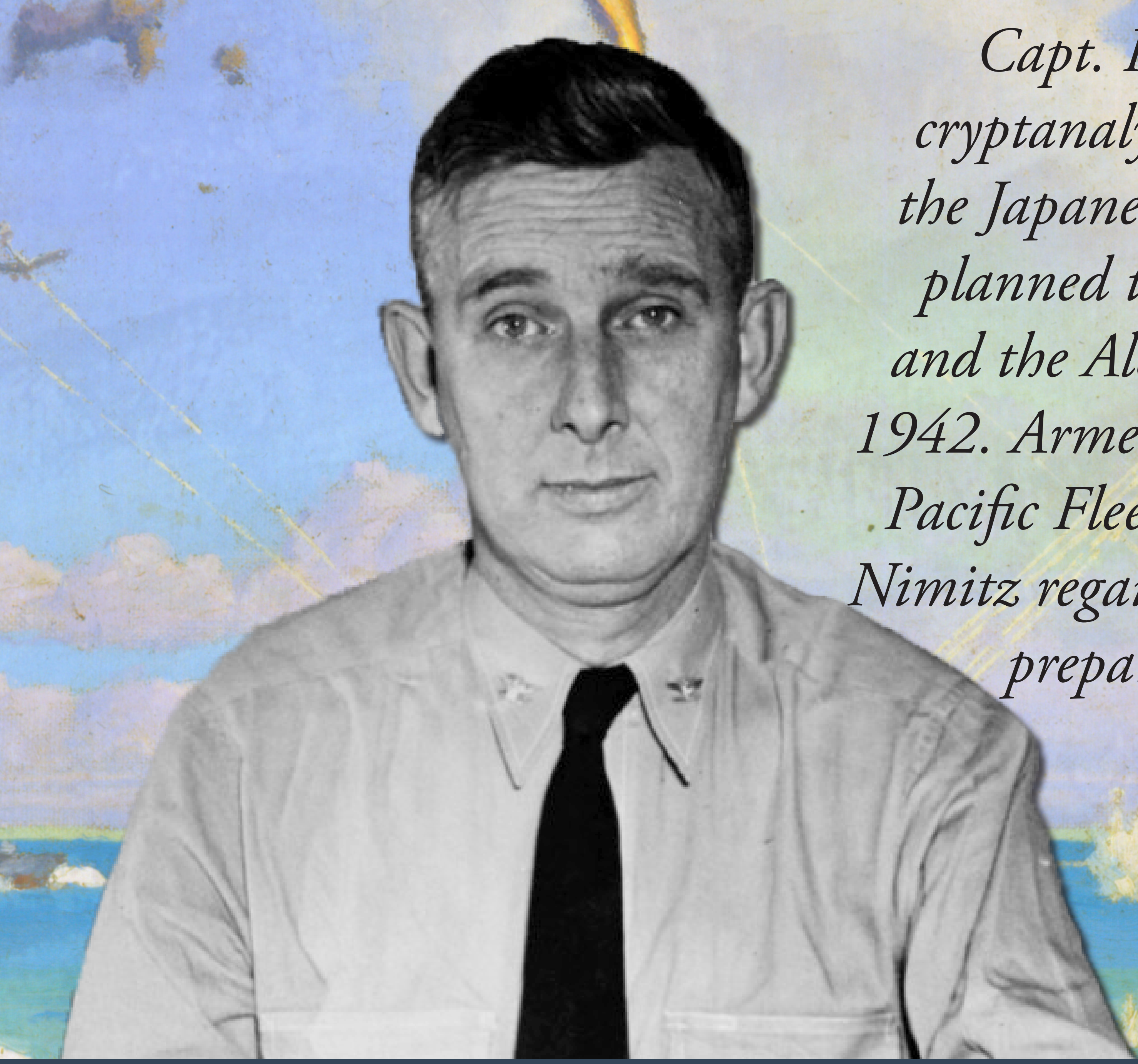


World War II began on September 1, 1939, when Nazi Germany invaded Poland. The U.S. remained neutral until December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. The Japanese employed six carriers to destroy the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor; however, none of the U.S. carriers were present at Pearl Harbor during the assault.

| PEARL HARBOR: BY THE NUMBERS | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| KILLED IN ACTION | TOTAL LOSS SHIPS | RETURNED TO SERVICE | CARRIERS LOST |
| 2,008 U.S. NAVY | 3 | 17 | 0 |
| 218 U.S. ARMY | USS ARIZONA (BB 39) | 5 SHIPS SUNK, RAISED, AND REPAIRED | NONE OF THE SEVEN U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS WERE AT PEARL HARBOR DURING THE ASSAULT. |
| 109 U.S. MARINES | USS OKLAHOMA (BB 37) | 12 SHIPS DAMAGED AND REPAIRED OR REBUILT | |
| 68 CIVILIANS | USS UTAH (AG 16) | | |

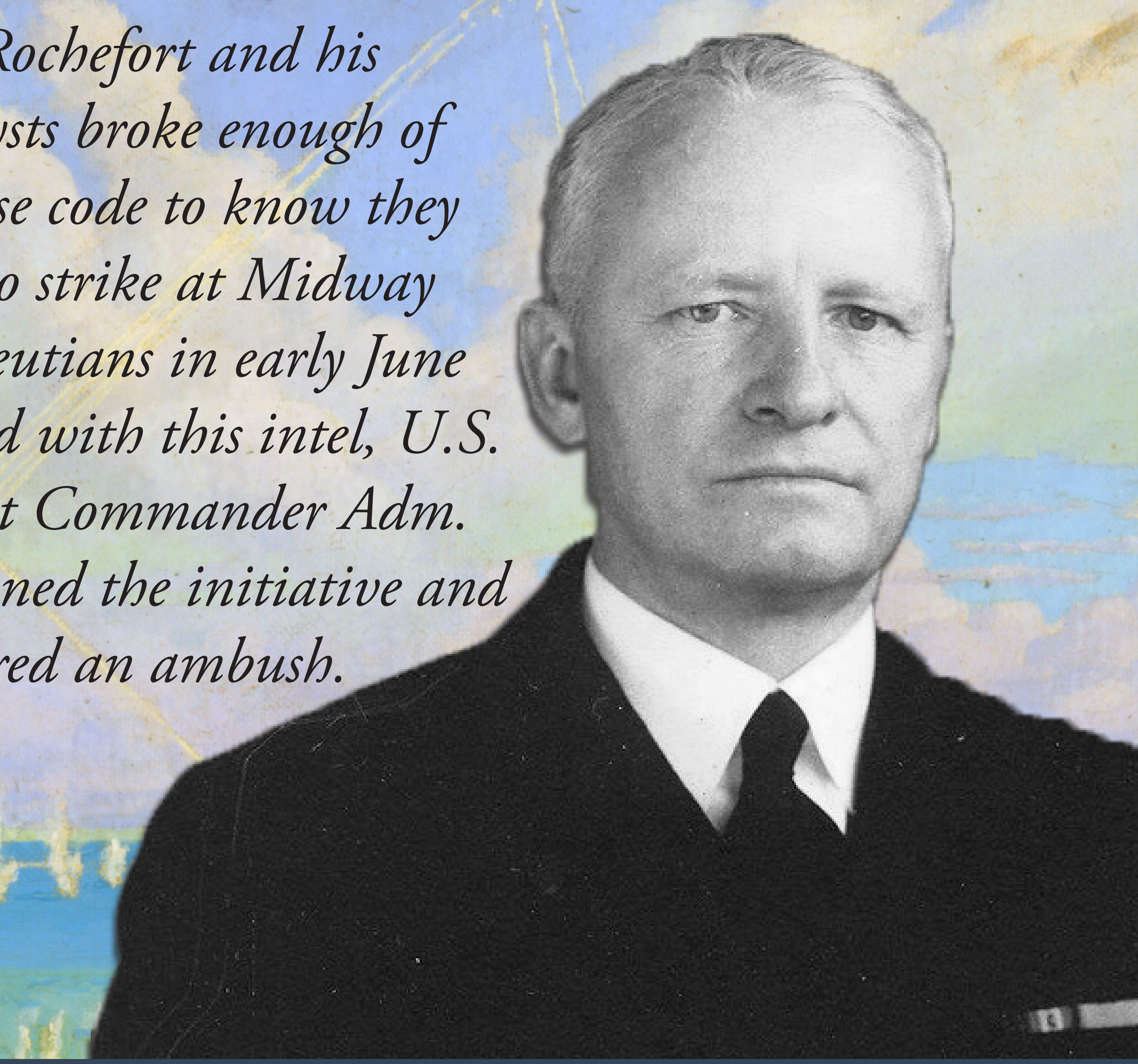
The U.S. declared war against Japan on December 8, 1941. After several months of expansion, the Japanese Combined Fleet turned its sights on Midway, a small Pacific-based atoll, which then served as a U.S. sentry to Hawaii, refueling station, and landing point. The Japanese plan assumed the Pacific Fleet would arrive too late to defend Midway, but U.S. forces were waiting for them at “Point Luck.”





CAPT. JOSEPH J. ROCHEFORT
U.S. CRYPTANALYST

Capt. Rochefort and his cryptanalysts broke enough of the Japanese code to know they planned to strike at Midway and the Aleutians in early June 1942. Armed with this intel, U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Nimitz regained the initiative and prepared an ambush.



ADM. CHESTER W. NIMITZ
PACIFIC FLEET COMMANDER