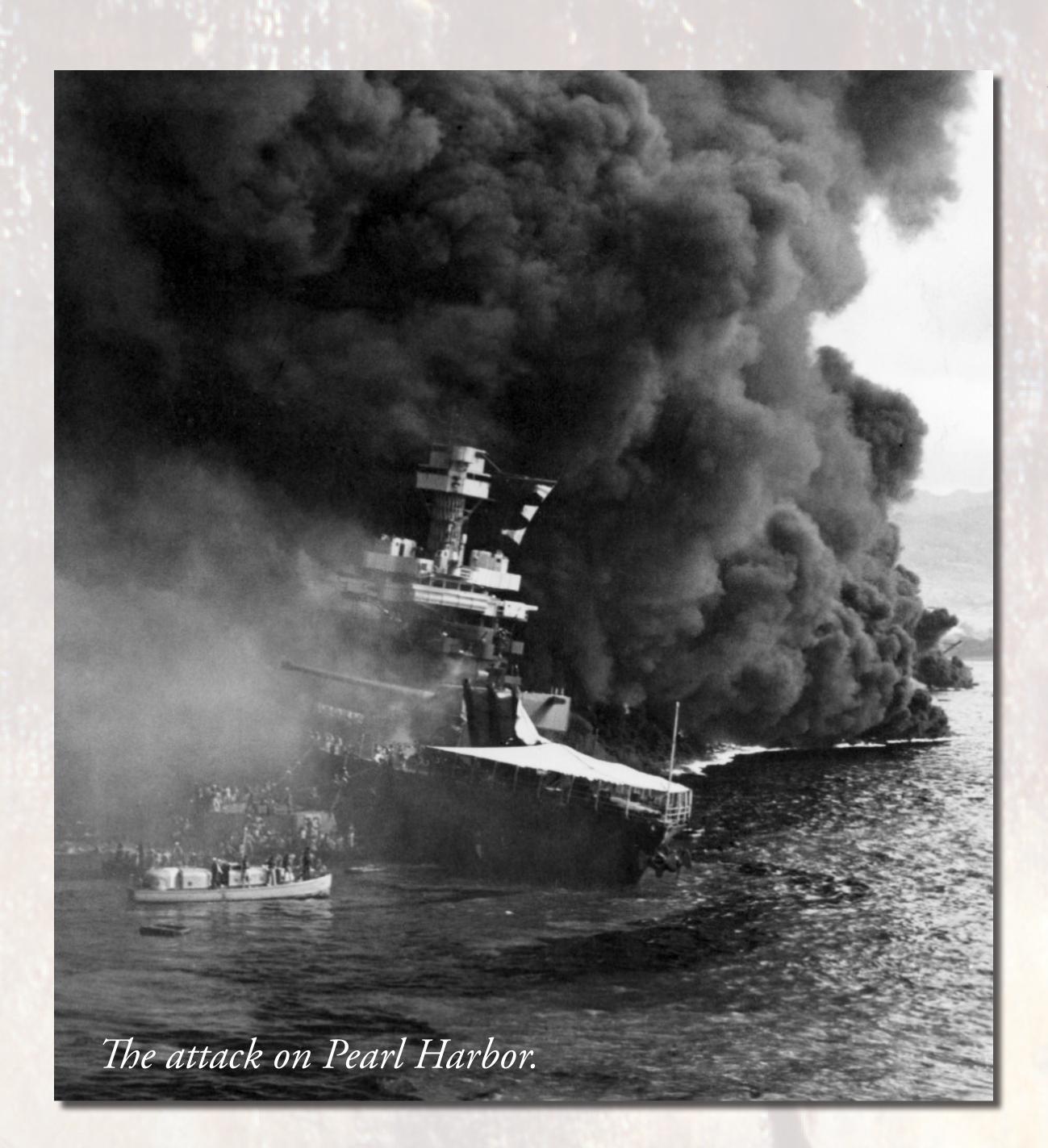


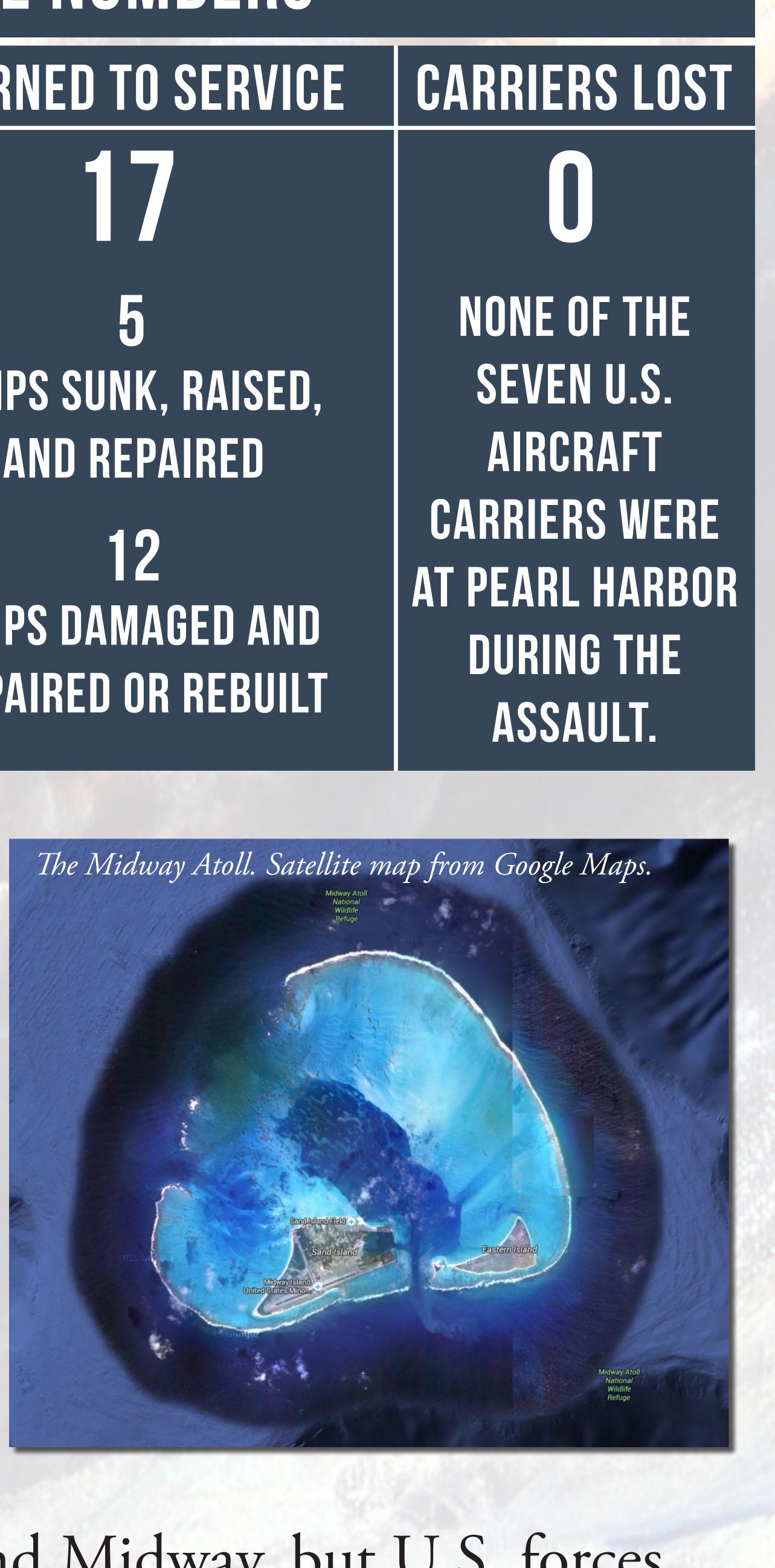
## U.S. Involvement in World War II



War between Japan and China began in 1937, though the U.S. remained nominally neutral until December 7, 1941, when Japan 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 **RETURNED TO SERVICE** TOTAL LOSS SHIPS KILLED IN ACTION 2,008 U.S. NAVY USS ARIZONA (BB 39) 218 SHIPS SUNK, RAISED, U.S. ARMY USS OKLAHOMA (BB 37) AND REPAIRED 109 **U.S. MARINES** USS UTAH (AG 16) SHIPS DAMAGED AND 68 **REPAIRED OR REBUILT** CIVILIANS

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."

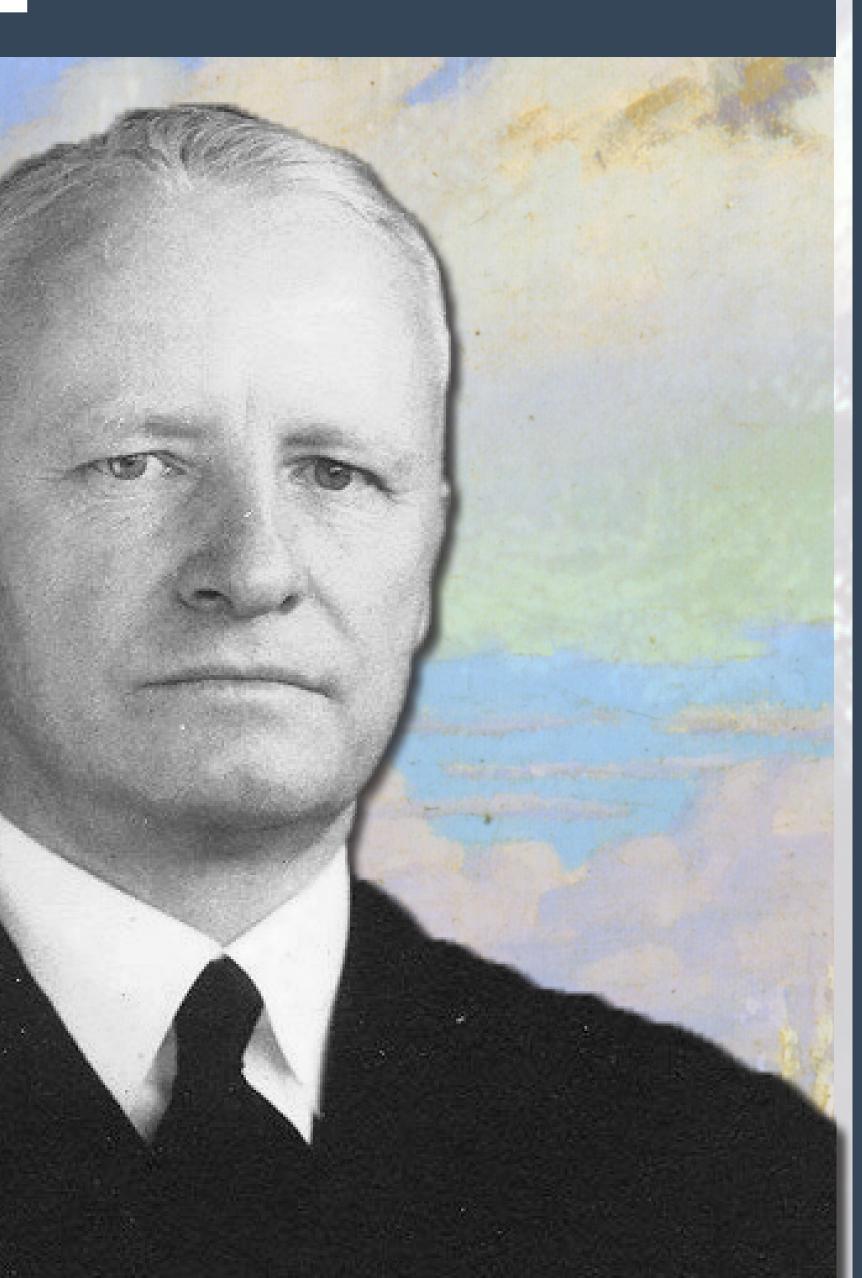
# THE IMPORTANCE OF INTEL

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.

CAPT. JOSEPH J. ROCHEFORT **U.S. CRYPTANALYST** 

## ADM. CHESTER W. NIMITZ PACIFIC FLEET COMMANDER

# BATTLE OF MIDWAY



# TIME LINE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS JUNE 4, 1942

# 0700

Enterprise and Hornet begin launching

## 0838

Yorktown launches

## 1020

Enterprise and Yorktown torpedo squadrons attack.

#### 1022-1026

Enterprise and Yorktown dive bombers attack and hit Akagi, Kaga, and Soryu.

## 1208

Japanese dive bombers attack Yorktown.

#### 1441

Torpedo planes attack Yorktown.

1445 Yorktown hit.

1455 Yorktown abandons ship.

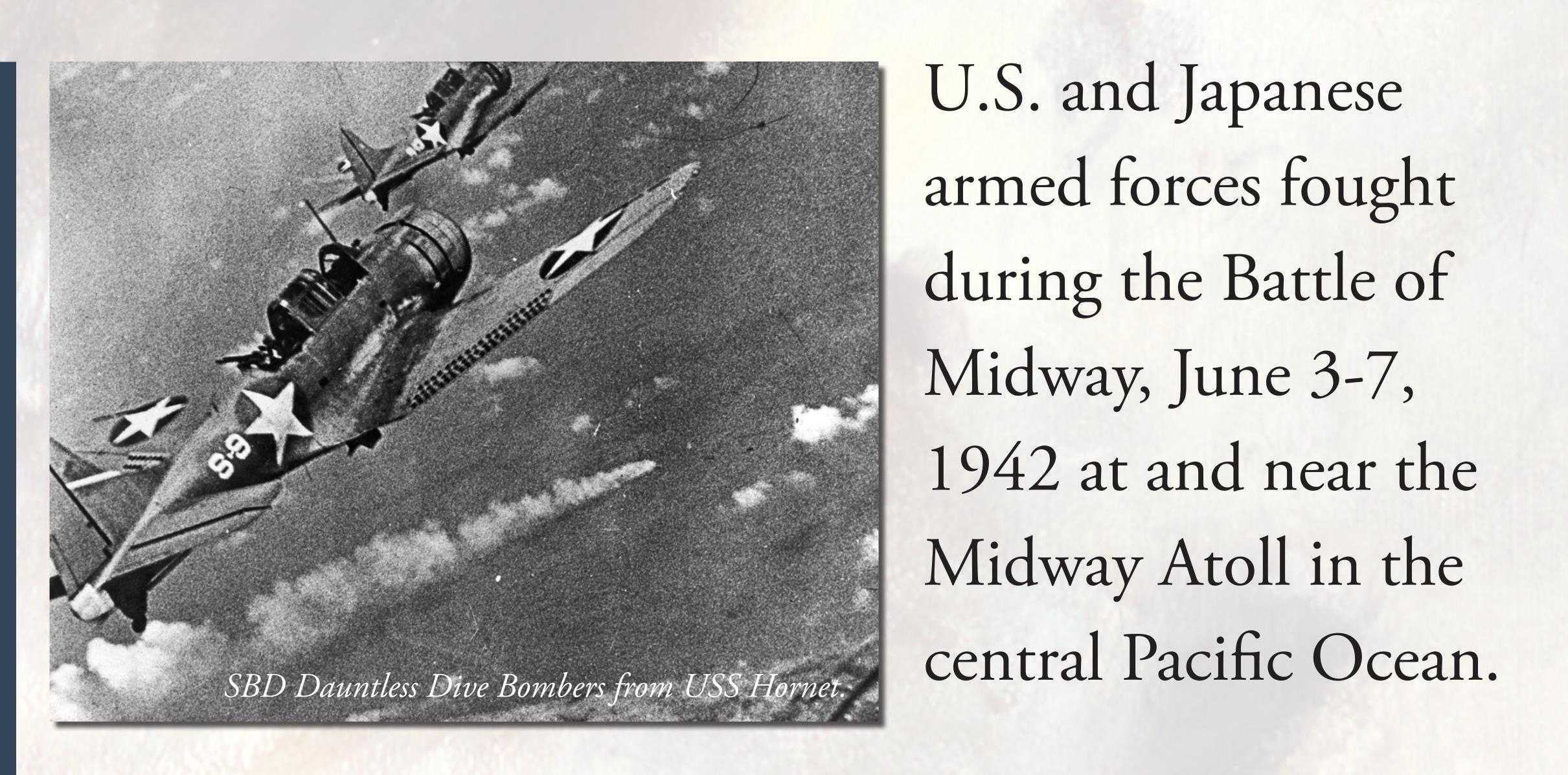
1500 B-17s take off from Midway.

## 1810

Two B-17s attack BB and damaged CV.

## 1830

Six B-17s attack damaged CV and DD.





The victory at Midway represents a strategic turning point for the U.S. in Japan's war in the Pacific. Before the battle, Japan possessed naval superiority over the U.S. Afterward, opposing fleets were balanced and the U.S. soon took the offensive.

As a result of the battle on June 4th, the Japanese carriers Akagi, Kaga, and Soryu were hit and sank. The Japanese carrier Hiryu escaped the initial attack, but U.S. dive bombers found, bombed, and sank her.

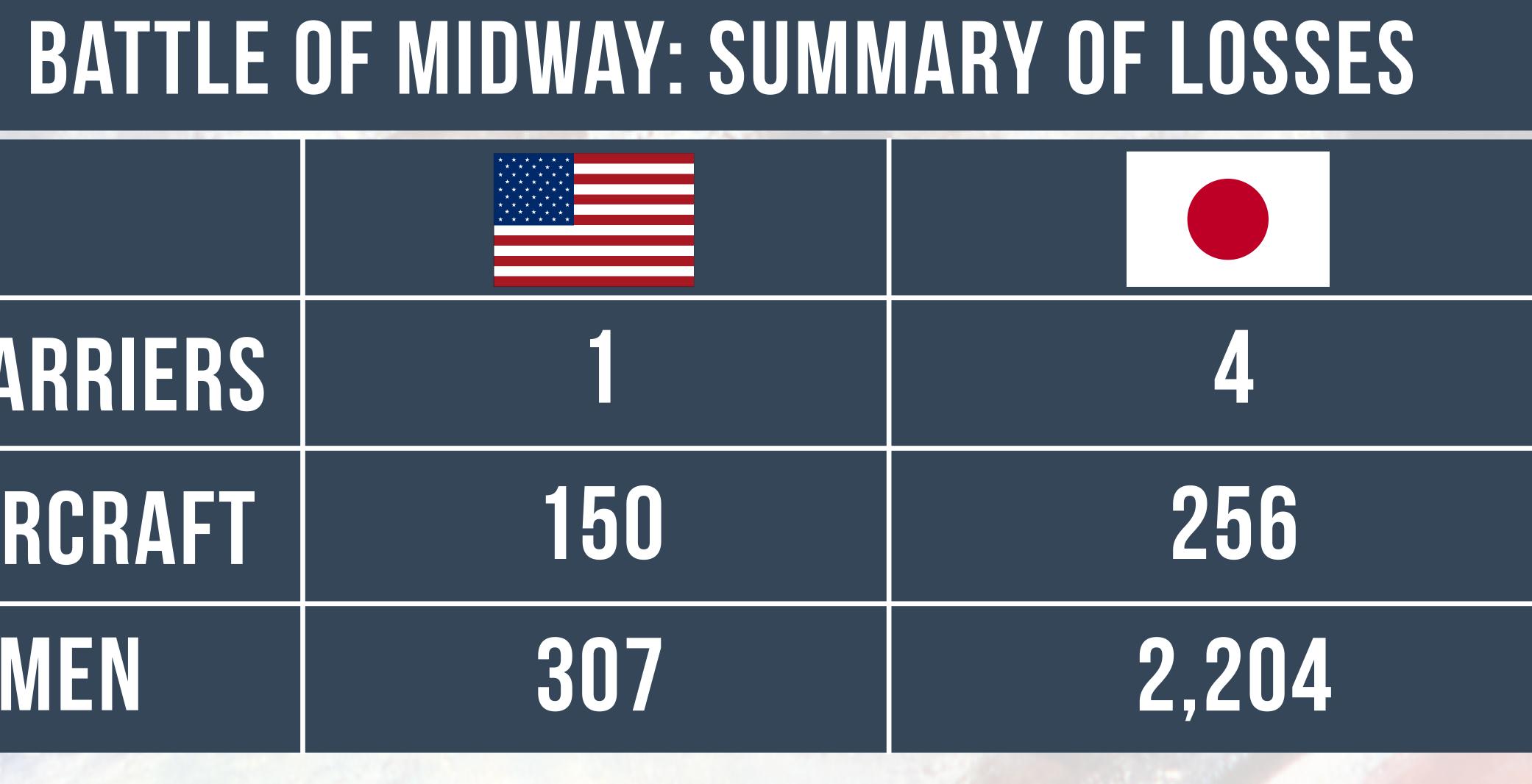


Midway was a great success in U.S. Navy history. The only strategic regret might have been failing to locate and attack Hiryu before its aircraft struck Yorktown.

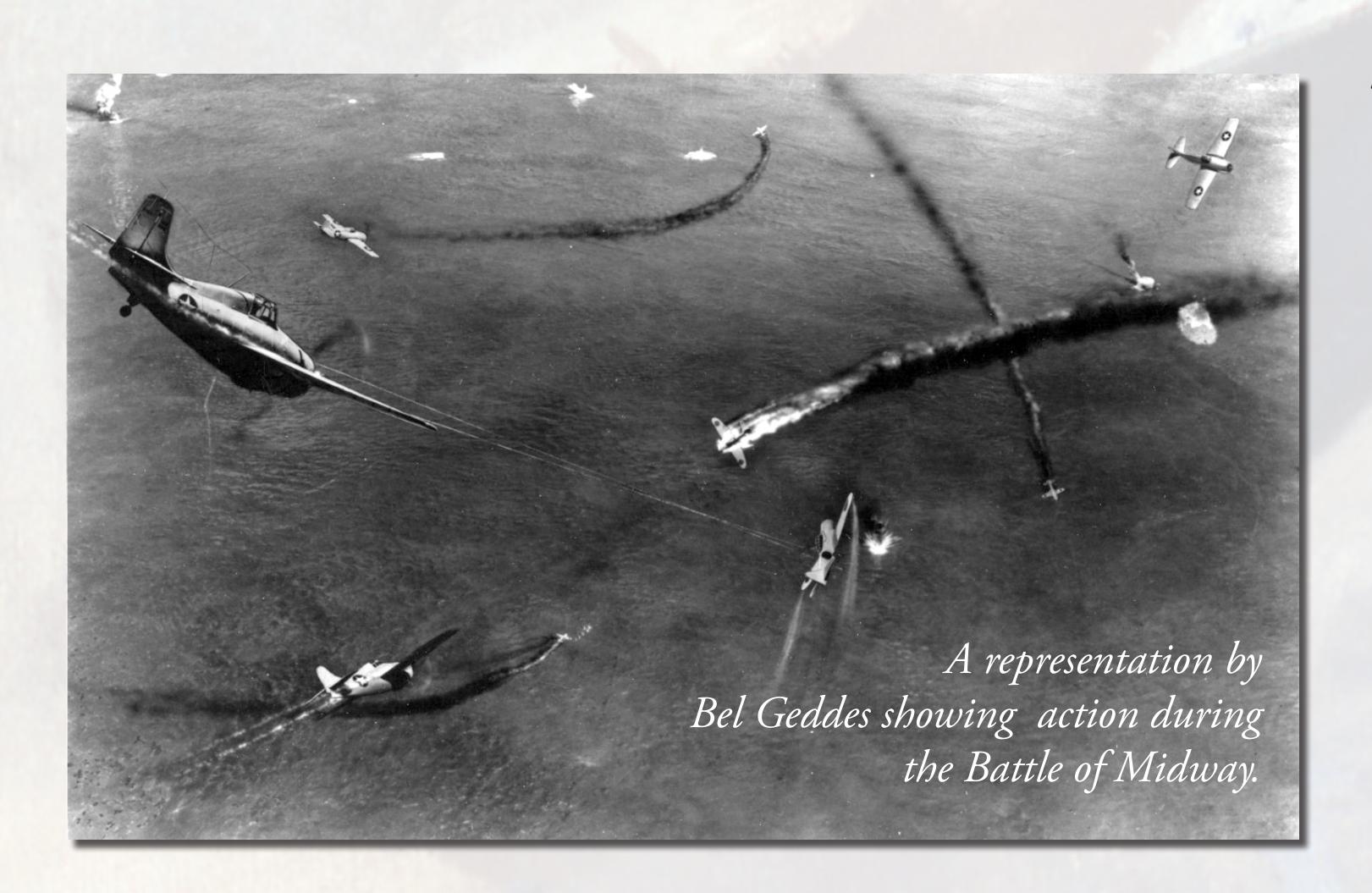
## Battle of Midway: The Turning Point

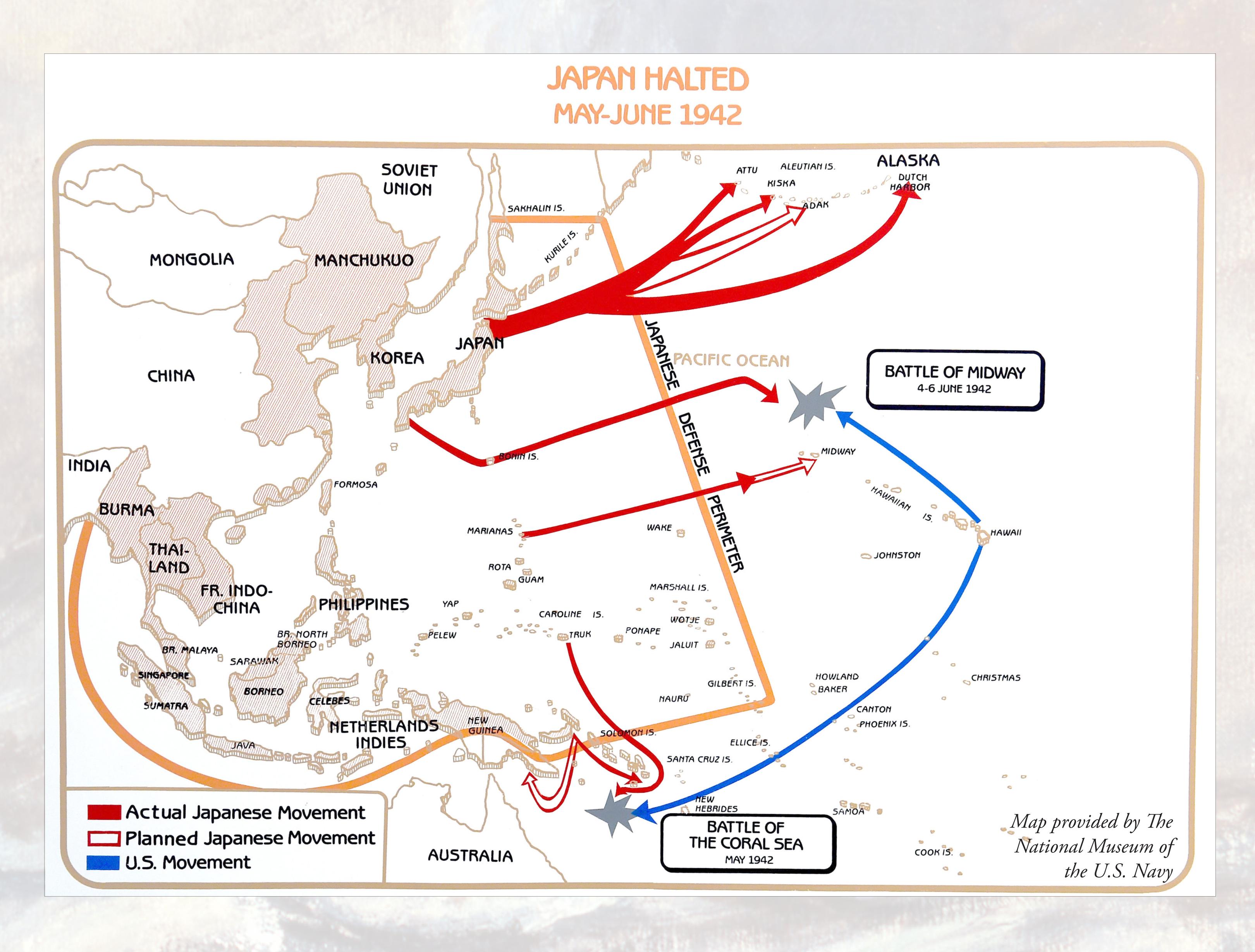
U.S. and Japanese armed forces fought during the Battle of Midway, June 3-7, 1942 at and near the Midway Atoll in the













Failure to take Midway, coupled with their carrier losses, meant that there was no base in the Central Pacific from which the Japanese could project its remaining power.



Naval Aviation proved to be a viable and necessary capability to win wars.



The strength and resilience of American Sailors at Midway illustrated the fighting spirit borne out of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.



## Victory at Midway: Impact on World War II

The Battle of Midway marked a technical revolution in displacing gunnery with naval carrier airpower as a primary means of delivering ordnance.

Prior to the Battle of Midway, the Japanese conquered several territories and expanded their resources in the Far East and South Pacific. By early May, the Japanese had an extensive defensive perimeter.

# SIGNIFICANCE OF MIDWAY