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This photo, taken by a member of the U.S. Army Signal Corps, depicts "Scenes of wreckage in the town of Garapan, Saipan, Island." National Archives Identifier number 292588. Click on the image to expand its view.

At 4:15 p.m. Saipan time, on July 9th, the island was officially declared "secured." Four months later, one hundred B-29s left Saipan for their first massive air raid over Tokyo.

The Saipan casualty toll was stunning:

Japanese known dead:	23, 811
Japanese dead in caves:	"Uncounted thousands"
Japanese Prisoners of war:	298
Korean Prisoners of war:	438
Americans wounded in action:	13,061
Americans killed in action:	3,225
Americans missing in action:	326

News that Saipan had been lost to the Allies shocked the Japanese government. The Premier, Hideki Tojo, resigned. So did his entire cabinet. (Tojo was hanged for war crimes in 1948.)

General Holland Smith declared that the victory on Saipan "opened the way to the home islands." The famous Japanese General Saito had observed (scroll down 95%) that "the fate of the Empire will be decided in this one action."

As key participants in the Allied effort, the Navajo code talkers played a fundamental role in causing another Japanese admiral to observe:

*Our war was lost with the loss of Saipan.*

Despite such sentiments, ferocious battles - like those at Peleliu (the horrors of which Eugene Sledge describes in his book, *With the Old Breed*), Iwo Jima and Okinawa - continued in the Pacific for another year.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/CASUALTIES-AT-Saipan-Wind-Talkers-Navajo-Code-Talkers-in-WWII>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/CASUALTIES-AT-Saipan-Wind-Talkers-Navajo-Code-Talkers-in-WWII>

## Media Stream



### Scenes of wreckage in the town of Garapan, Saipan, Island

U.S. Army Signal Corps photo; National Archives Identifier number 292588.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Scenes-of-wreckage-in-the-town-of-Garapan-Saipan-Island>



### Saipan Island - Map Locating Marine and Army Personnel

Map, described above, from *Western Pacific: The U.S. Army Campaigns of World War II*. Online, courtesy ibiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive - University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Saipan-Island-Map-Locating-Marine-and-Army-Personnel>



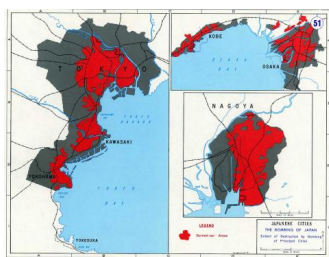
### Memorial - 50th Anniversary of Saipan Battle

Image online, courtesy Marine-Family.org.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Memorial-50th-Anniversary-of-Saipan-Battle>



### Bombed Cities and Burned-out Areas - Japan

Map image, described above, from the U.S. Military Academy's Map Collection. Online, courtesy US Military Academy.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Bombed-Cities-and-Burned-out-Areas-Japan>

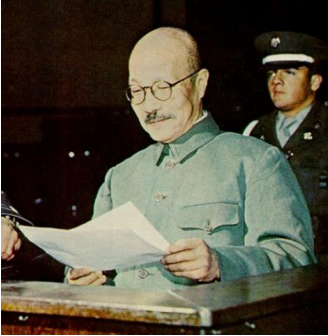


### Hideki Tojo

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Hideki-Tojo>

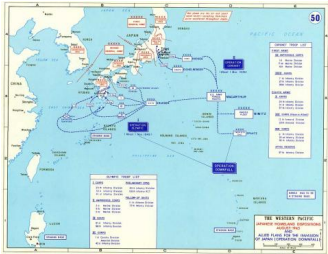


### Tojo During Trial for War Crimes

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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### Japanese Home Islands Invasion Map - Operation Downfall

Map, described above, from the U.S. Military Academy's Map Collection. Online, courtesy U.S. Military Academy.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Japanese-Home-Islands-Invasion-Map-Operation-Downfall>



### Eugene ("Sledgehammer") Sledge - Battle of Peleliu

Historic video footage from the U.S. National Archives, U.S. Marine Corps History Division, the National Park Service and the Marine Corps University Archives, narrated by Eugene B. Sledge. Clip online, courtesy Lou Reda Productions and National Museum of the Marine Corp.

Quoted passages from *With the Old Breed*, by E.B. Sledge.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Eugene-Sledgehammer-Sledge-Battle-of-Peleliu>



### Historic-Footage Scenes from the Battle of Peleliu

Historical footage, from the U.S. National Archives and Department of Defense, compiled in "The War," a 900-minutes documentary by Ken Burns. Copyright WETA, Washington, DC and American Lives II Film Project, LLC. All rights reserved. Clip used here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the 2007 production. [Clip online, via PBS.](#)

Quoted passage from *With the Old Breed*, by E.B. Sledge, pages 156-157.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Historic-Footage-Scenes-from-the-Battle-of-Peleliu>