

American Minute with Bill Federer Battle of Okinawa-largest amphibious assault in WWII Pacific - "The Typhoon of Steel"

The Battle of Okinawa is considered the **largest land-sea-air battle in world history**, and the **last major battle of World War II**.



It began April 1, 1945, when 60,000 U.S. troops landed on the Island of **Okinawa**.

It was called "**The Typhoon of Steel**" because of the hundreds of **kamikaze attacks**, where suicide bombers flew planes filled with explosives into American ships.

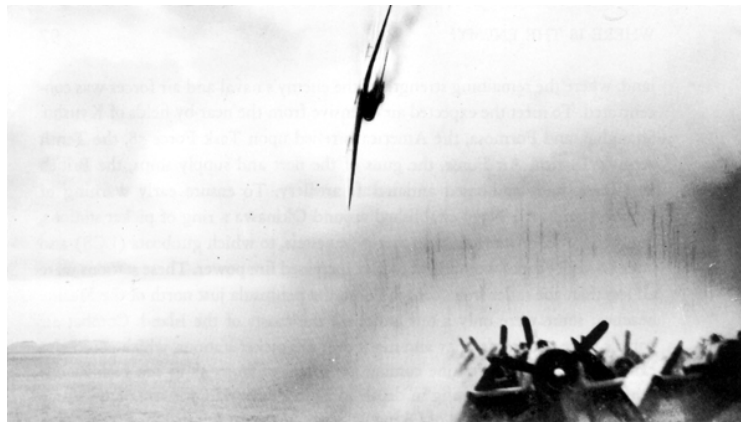


[America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations](#)

Fighting continued for 82 days.

Kamikaze pilots

sank 38 U.S. ships, and damaged 368 more, in what is considered the **greatest loss of American ships in U.S. naval history.**



There were over **72,000 American casualties.**

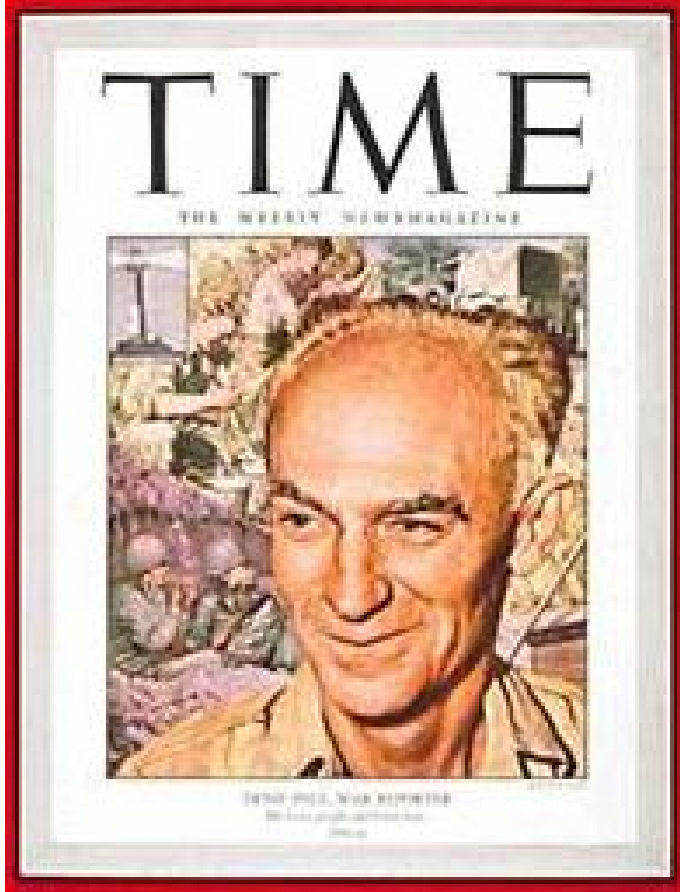
Imperial Japan lost over **110,000 soldiers**, in addition to nearly **150,000 Okinawan civilian casualties**, many of whom were



ordered by the retreating military to be human shields or **to commit suicide**, as the **Imperial honor code**, called "**seppuku**" or "**harakiri**," considered **surrender a shame worse than death.**

Pulitzer Prize winning war correspondent **Ernie Pyle** was killed in the battle, April 18, 1945, by Japanese machine-gun fire on an island northwest of **Okinawa Island.**

Ernie Pyle had been embedded with Army



infantry soldiers in Europe, North Africa and the Pacific.

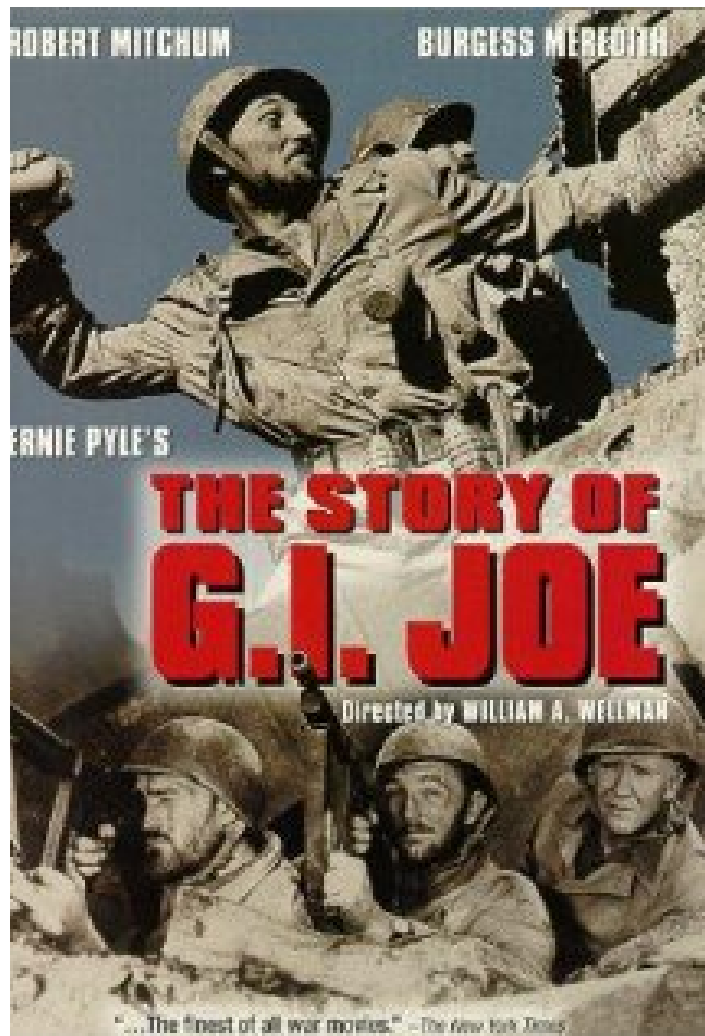
Infantry soldiers were given "**Government Issued**" supplies, resulting in the initials "**G.I.**"

Ernie Pyle's newspaper columns were turned into the 1945 movie, ***The Story of G.I. Joe.***

Ernie Pyle wrote in 1943:

"I love the infantry because they are the underdogs. They are the mud-rain-frost-and-wind boys.

They have no comforts, and they even learn to live without the necessities. And in the end they are the guys that wars can't be won without."





The fierceness of Japanese combat in the **Battle of Okinawa** convinced the U.S. Navy and Marines to expect over a million casualties if they attempted to invade the main Japanese islands.

This convinced Democrat President **Harry S Truman** to drop the atomic bomb on the industrial centers of **Hiroshima** and **Kyoto** in August of 1945.



Secretary of War **Henry Stimson** argued to spare **Kyoto** as a target.

The city **Kokura** was then chosen, but on the fateful day cloud cover blocked the crews' visual identification, so the bomb was

dropped on nearby **Nagasaki**.

Tragically, **Nagasaki** had been **the most**

**Christian city in
all of Japan.**



Nagasaki was first visited by Jesuit missionary **St. Francis Xavier** in 1549, through whose efforts the powerful **daimyo (lord) Ōmura Sumitada** had been baptized.

Over 300,000 Japanese became Christian by the end of the 16th century.

Suffering intense persecution, the **Kakure Kirishitan** "**Hidden Christians**" or **Mukashi Kirishitan** "**Ancient Christians**" passed their faith on to succeeding generations, century after century.



S. MADDALENA da Nagasaki, 1610-1634
19 novembre, terziaria e martire



Martin Scorsese's movie *SILENCE* (2016) gives the account of **missionaries to Japan** and the **persecutions** suffered by **Japanese Christians**.

Emperor Meiji finally allowed religious freedom during the **Meiji Restoration**, 1868-1912.



流行りのファッション 昭和10年 洋服

撮影場所が書いてありませんが街並が市電の塗装から東京だと思われ、装飾的なえり飾りの服、高めのヒール帽子とハンドバッグが必須アイテム。

写真はいずれも
アサヒグラフ 昭和10年6月19日号
—初夏の女— より



From 1912 to 1926, Japan experienced unprecedented freedom and prosperity during the "Taishō democracy."

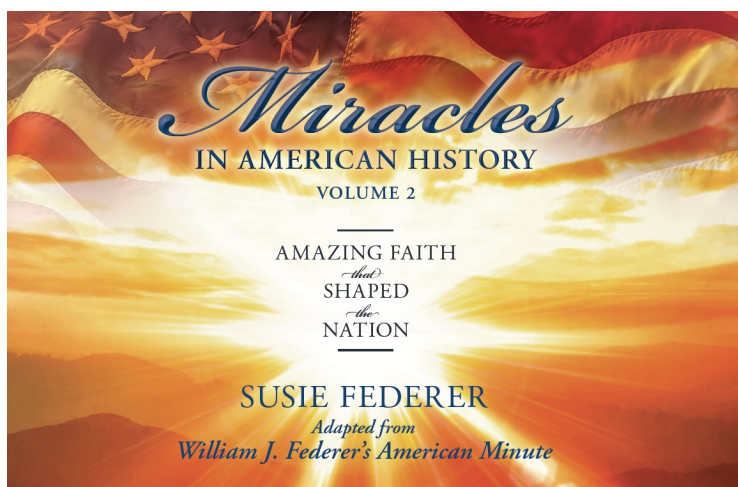
Beginning in 1926, Japan's Shōwa Emperor, Hirohito and his generals re-

concentrated
power politically
into a **totalitarian,
militaristic state.**



**Emperor Hirohito's
Imperial Japan**
entered into a
Tripartite Treaty with
**Benito Mussolini's
Fascist Italy** and
**Adolph Hitler's
National Socialist
Workers Party** on
September 27, 1940,
being referred to as
the "**Axis Powers.**"

In 1941, **Turkey**
signed a
Friendship Treaty
with **Nazi
Germany.**



[Miracles in American History- Vol. TWO: Amazing Faith that Shaped the Nation](#)

After the Imperial planes had attacked Pearl Harbor, **President Franklin D. Roosevelt** recited the reason the **U.S.** entered into war in his address to Congress, December 8, 1941:



"The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage ... lives have been lost ...

... Ships have been reported torpedoed between **San**

Francisco and **Honolulu** ...

The **Japanese Government** also launched an attack against **Malaya** ... **Hong Kong** ... **Guam** ... **Philippine Islands** ... **Wake Island** ... and **Midway Island**."



FDR stated January 6, 1942:

"**Japan's** ... conquest goes back half a century ...

War against **China** in 1894 ...



Occupation of **Korea** (1910) ...

War against **Russia** in 1904 ...

Fortification of the mandated **Pacific islands** following 1920 ...

Seizure of **Manchuria** in 1931 ...

Invasion of **China** in 1937."

Invading **Imperial soldiers** massacred over 300,000 in

**Nanking, China,
1937-1938.**



FDR concluded his address:

"We are fighting today for security, for progress, and for peace, not only for ourselves but for all men, not only for one generation but for all generations.

We are fighting to cleanse the world of ancient evils, ancient ills. Our enemies are guided by brutal cynicism, by **unholy contempt for the human race.**

We are inspired by a faith that goes back through all the years to the first chapter of the **Book of Genesis: 'God created man in His own image.'**

We on our side are striving to be true to that **divine heritage ...**"

FDR continued:

"We are fighting, as our fathers have fought, to uphold the doctrine that **all men are equal in the sight of God.**

Those on the other side are striving to destroy this deep belief and to create a world in their own image -- a world of tyranny and cruelty and serfdom.



That is the conflict that day and night now pervades our lives.

No compromise can end that conflict. There never has been, **there never can be, successful compromise between good and evil.**

Only total victory can reward the champions of tolerance, and decency, and freedom, and **faith.**"

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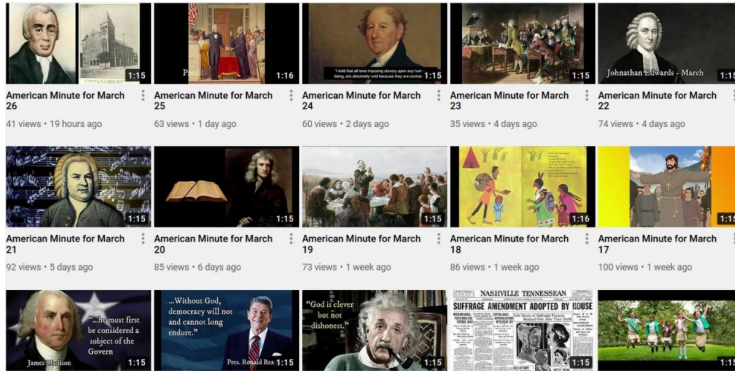
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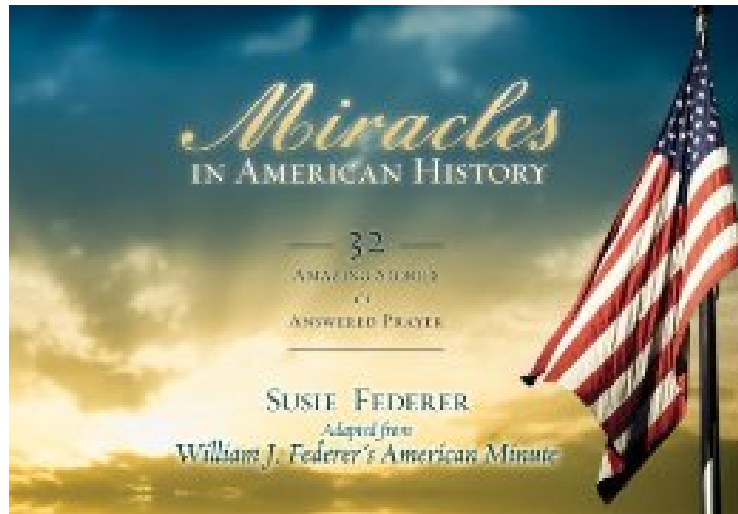
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