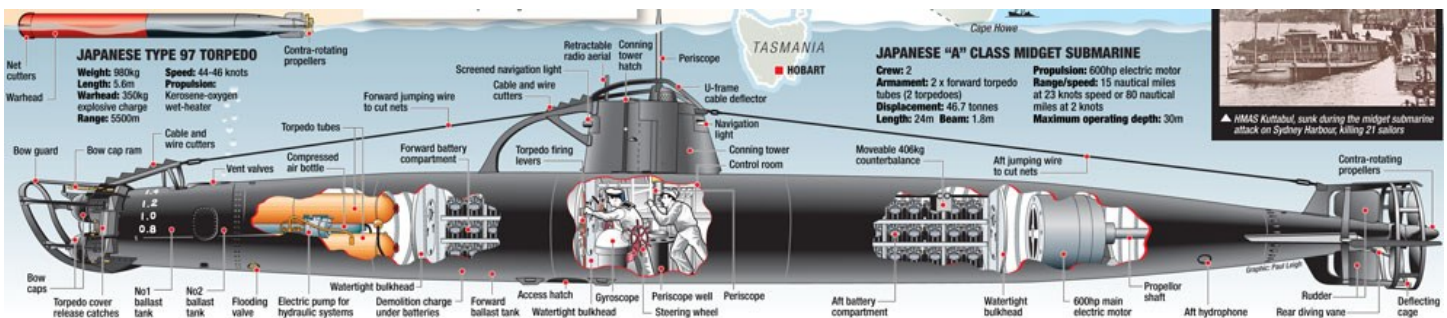


The Attack on Pearl Harbour



- To distract the United States government, Japan sends a special envoy (representatives of the Japanese government) to Washington. As the Japanese officials meet with their American counterparts, an attack on the American Pacific Naval base at Pearl Harbour is set in motion.

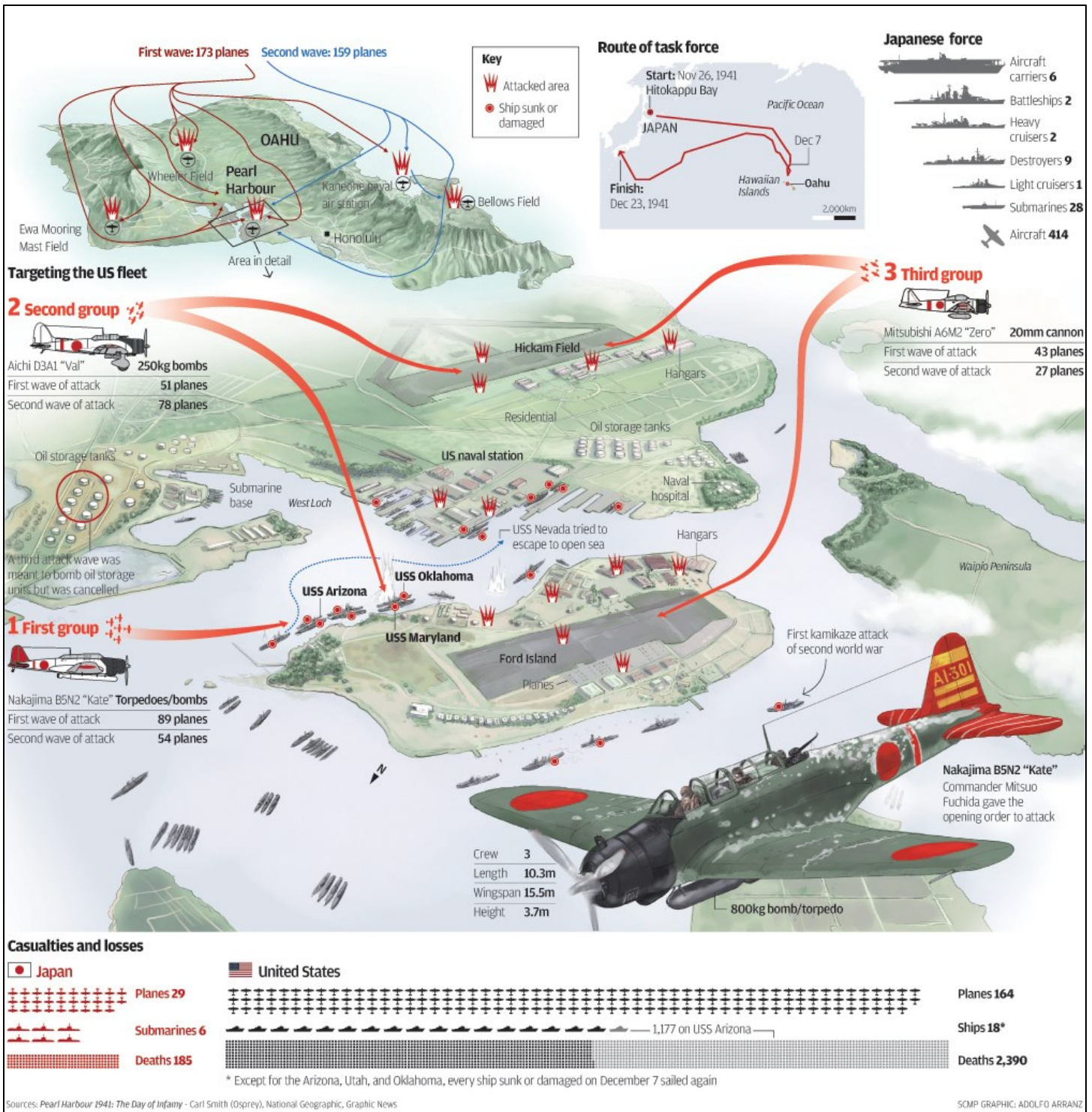
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| 3:42 am | The morning of the attack, a periscope from a Japanese Type A Kohyoteki (tiny, two-person submarines) is spotted at the entrance to the Naval base. The sighting is reported, but nothing else is done. |
|---------|---|



| | |
|---------|---|
| 6:10 am | Japanese planes takeoff from a fleet of six carriers located north of Hawaii. |
| 7:02 am | A swarm of unidentified aircraft is spotted on the radar, heading for Pearl Harbour. The report is not taken seriously. |
| 7:30 am | Word from Washington arrives that a decoded message from Japan was intercepted ordering Japanese diplomats to break off talks with the American Government. |
| 7:40 am | Japanese airplanes reach Oahu, Hawaii. |
| 7:55 am | Attack on Pearl Harbour begins as 441 Japanese planes attack the Naval Base. |

Important Point:

The Japanese knew that they had to strike a powerful blow to the American Navy in the Pacific — and that meant they had to sink the American aircraft carriers. By not sinking the carriers, the Japanese ensured a swift American entry into the war effort. Japan's lighting war across the Pacific was doomed.

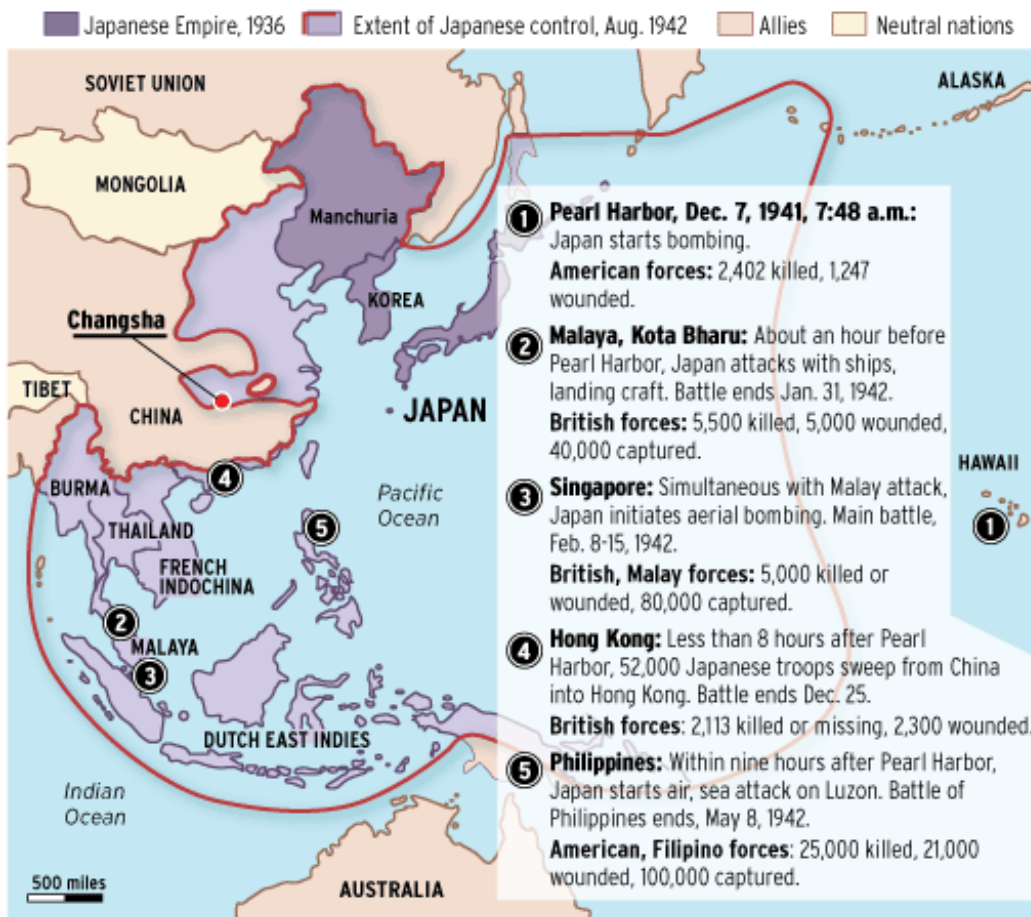


Effects of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour:

- 2,400 Americans lost their lives.
- 18 American ships were sunk in the attack - including the battleships USS Arizona, USS West Virginia, USS California, USS Oklahoma, USS Utah, and the destroyers USS Cassin and USS Downes.

- The Japanese failed to sink any aircraft carriers (their primary targets) as they were all out to sea when the attack happened. While the attack was a complete surprise and resulted in the destruction of many American military craft. **However, it did not achieve what the Japanese were hoping for — destruction of the American carrier fleet (ultimately forcing the Americans to stay out of the war.)**
- The United States and Britain declared war on the Empire of Japan December 8th, 1941.
- Japan invades Malay, the Kingdom Thailand, Hong Kong (defended by Canadians), and the Philippines on December 8th, 1941.
- Germany and Italy declared war on the United States December 11th, 1941.
- Japan invades and captures Singapore (the main British Naval base in Asia) 8 to 15 February 1942.

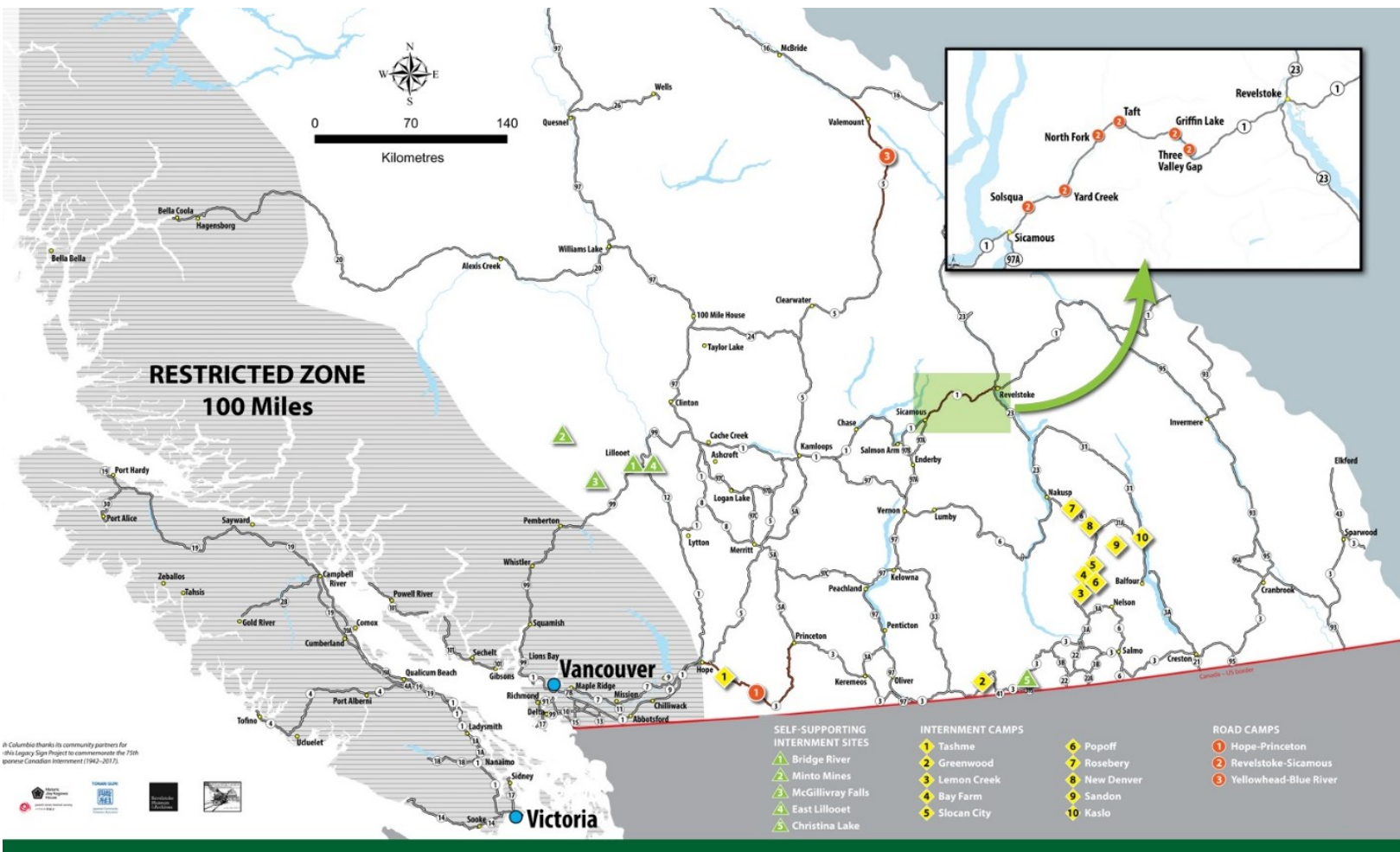
Japan's control in the Pacific



Source: "The Battle for Hong Kong 1941-1945"; "Seventy minutes before Pearl Harbor - The landing at Kota Bharu, Malaya"; "The Fall of the Philippines - U. S. Army in World War II."; University of Texas Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection

Molly Zisk / The Register

- Japanese interment camps are set up throughout the United States and Canada.



Historical Overview

Decades of discriminatory and racist policies against Japanese Canadians in British Columbia came to a head on December 7, 1941, when Pearl Harbor was bombed and Canada declared war on Imperial Japan. Citing an issue of national security and encouraged by many British Columbian politicians and racist groups who resented the hard-won economic success of Japanese Canadians, the federal Government forcibly removed nearly 22,000 persons of Japanese ancestry outside a 100-mile (approximately 160 kilometres) Restricted Zone along the West Coast of B.C. to internment locations in the Interior of B.C. and beyond the Rocky Mountains.

On February 27, 1942, the BC Security Commission (BCSC) was created to administer the forced removal of Japanese Canadians and the confiscation of all their property, which was given to the Custodian of Enemy Property. Men were the first to be removed, and were sent to road building camps in B.C., Alberta and Ontario. If they protested separation from their families, they were sent to Prisoner of War Camps in Ontario. Many women and children, left

to fend for themselves, were initially sent to Hastings Park in Vancouver and detained there for a few days to several months to await forced relocation to the Internment camps that were being constructed around the province. Although initially promised that their homes, businesses, and properties would be returned to them after the war, in 1943, the Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property sold everything in order to finance the internment.

Some groups who wished to remain together as families were forced to work in the sugar beet fields of Southern Alberta and Manitoba. Some families, who had financial means, were approved for relocation to self-supporting camps in the Lillooet or Boundary-Similkameen area. As the Internment camps were made ready, Japanese Canadians were moved to these camps through the summer and fall of 1942. Ten internment camps, as well as self-supporting sites, were established for Japanese Canadians who were forcibly uprooted, dispossessed and incarcerated during the Second World War.

Map and information created by the BC Ministry of Transport