



World War II in the Pacific: Pearl Harbor to Midway

“Get out to Pearl Harbor and don’t come back until the war is won.”

It is late December 1941. The remains of the United States Navy Pacific Fleet still smolder in Pearl Harbor as the Armed Forces of Imperial Japan move out across the Pacific. From Wake Island to the Philippines; from Hong Kong to Singapore; and from the Dutch East Indies to Australia, hundreds of thousands of miles of land and ocean – and millions of people – fall under, or risk falling under, Japanese control.

On the Santa Fe railroad’s Super Chief, an unassuming man with grey hair and blue eyes, traveling under the name of Mr. Freeman, makes his way to San Diego. It is only when the train pulls out of Chicago that the man’s assistant hands him a file showing him for the first time the full scope of the job he is about to assume. The man is not Mr. Freeman, but rather Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, the newly appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet. His job is daunting – he must rebuild the Pacific Fleet, defend the Hawaiian Islands, protect the sea lanes between the United States and Australia, and, ultimately, free the Pacific from Japanese occupation.

In this historical role playing simulation, campers will play the role of the senior officers of the United States and Japanese Navies as they prosecute the opening months of the Pacific War, including the Doolittle Raid, and the Battles of the Coral Sea and Midway. Using maps, model ships, and historical documents, campers will be confronted with the same decisions that these leaders had to make and will have to respond to the results of those decisions in real time.

This camp will deepen your child’s knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Pacific Theater of World War II and the decisions the leaders of that conflict had to make. Along the way, campers will develop their creative problem solving, geography, organizational, cooperation, negotiation, and presentation skills; all while learning the difference between strategy and tactics, obtaining a basic understand of aircraft carrier operations and aerial combat, learning how naval operations are planned and executed, and what it takes to keep a navy fed, clothed, healthy, and able to complete its mission.

No advance knowledge of World War II is required or expected. Campers will be given a brief background information packet approximately two weeks before the start of the camp with all the necessary background information.

Your mission: launch offensive operations against the Imperial Japanese Navy and avenge Pearl Harbor!