No. 4188

The Battle of Midway
75th Anniversary Commemorative Chart

The Battle of Midway was fought June 3–7, 1942 at and near the island of Midway in the central Pacific Ocean. It is considered to be the decisive battle of the war in the Pacific. June 4–7, 2017 marks the 75th anniversary of the battle. The battle resulted in the loss of four Japanese aircraft carriers and their accompanying aircraft and crews, representing two-thirds of Japan's fleet carrier force. Despite sinking the American aircraft carrier *USS Yorktown* in the battle, the Imperial Japanese Navy's severe losses would never be fully replaced, forcing Japan to fight a strategic defense for the rest of the war.

While the *primary* carrier fleet engagement occurred well to the north of Midway Atoll, much of the *secondary* action occurred within or originated from the atoll. Midway is a tiny, remote atoll which was, 75 years ago, one of the most strategically important few square miles of land in the world.

1 Aerial photograph, looking west across the southern side of the atoll, 24 November 1941. Eastern Island, then the site of Midway's airfield, is in the foreground. Sand Island, location of most other base facilities, is across the entrance channel. *Official U.S. Navy photograph.*

2 Isoroku Yamamoto Japanese Marshal Admiral of the Navy and the Commander in Chief of the Combined Fleet during World War II. *Image source–Japanese book, Papers of Takagi Kiyohisa*

3 U.S. Army Air Force B-17E Flying Fortress bombers take off from the airfield on Eastern Island, Midway Atoll, on 3-4 June 1942. *U.S. Air Force photograph.*

4 Scene on board USS Yorktown (CV-5), shortly after being hit by three Japanese bombs on 4 June 1942. Dense smoke is from fires in her uptakes, caused by a bomb that punctured them and knocked out her boilers. *Official U.S. Navy photograph.*

5 The burning Japanese aircraft carrier Hiryu, photographed by a plane from the carrier Hosho shortly after sunrise on 5 June 1942; Hiryu sank a few hours later. *Naval History and Heritage Command Photograph, donated by Kazutoshi Hando (1970).*

6 On 4 June 1942, a Japanese Type 91 aerial torpedo hits USS Yorktown (CV-5) on the port side, during a mid-afternoon attack by planes from the carrier Hiryu. Yorktown is heeling to port indicating that this is the second of the two torpedo hits she received. *Official U.S. Navy Photograph.*

7 Damage on Sand Island, Midway, following the Japanese air attack on the morning of 4 June 1942. Building in the foreground is the laundry, badly damaged by a bomb. Oil tanks are burning in the distance. *Official U.S. Navy Photograph.*

8 SBD Dauntless dive-bombers from USS Hornet (CV-8) approaching the burning Japanese heavy cruiser Mikuma to make the third set of attacks on her, during the early afternoon of 6 June 1942. Mikuma had been hit earlier by strikes from Hornet and USS Enterprise (CV-6), leaving her dead in the water and fatally damaged. *Official U.S. Navy Photograph.*

9 Captain Joseph John Rochefort was a major figure in the U.S. Navy's cryptologic and intelligence developments from 1925 to 1947. He provided singularly superb cryptologic support to the U.S. fleet during World War II, leading to victory in the war in the Pacific. *Naval History and Heritage Command Photograph, courtesy of Captain R. Pineau, USNR.*

10 Crew of the Patrol Squadron 44 (VP-44) PBY-5A Catalina patrol bomber that found the approaching Japanese fleet's Midway Occupation Force on the morning of 3 June 1942. *Official U.S. Navy Photograph.*

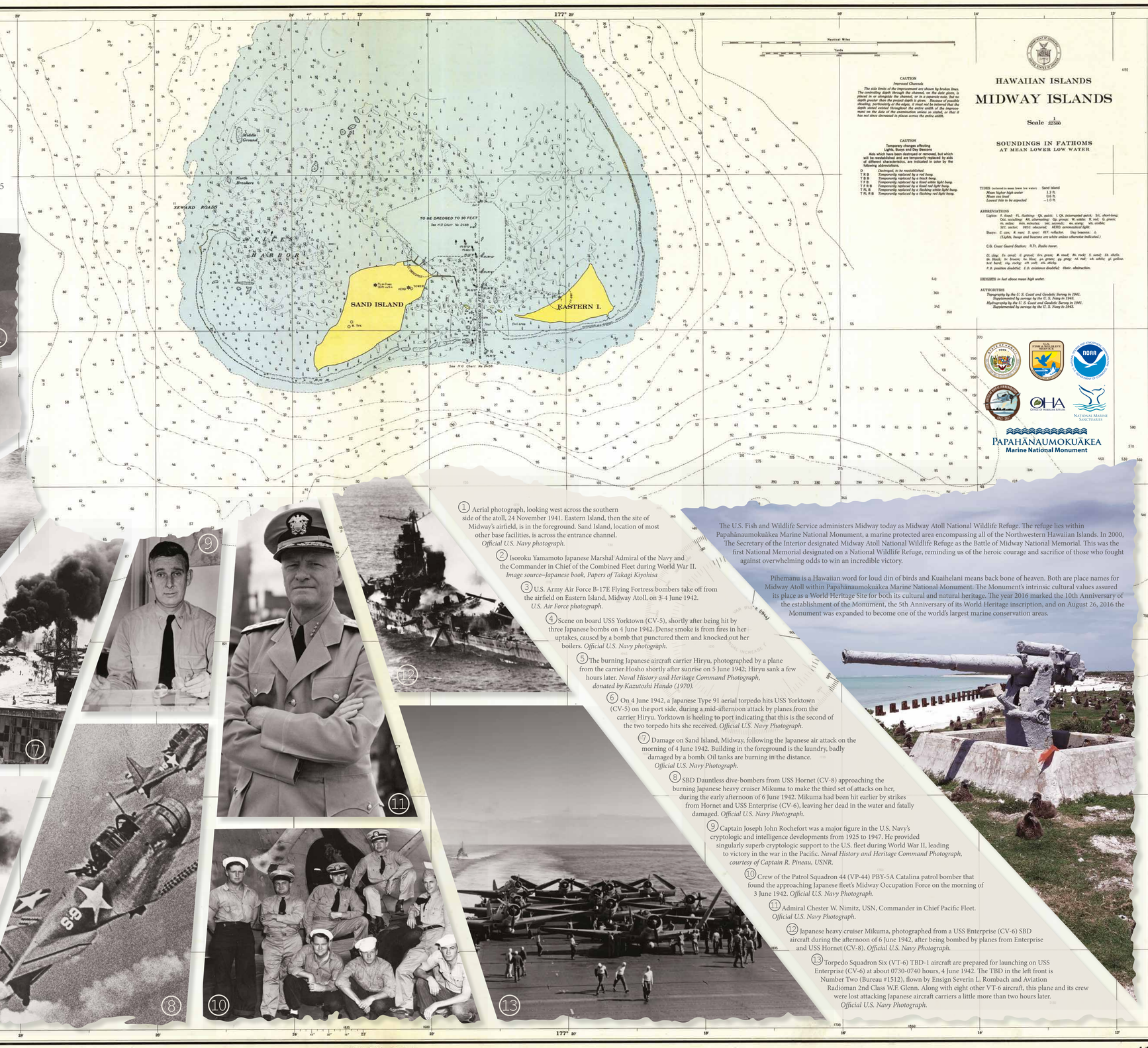
11 Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN, Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet. *Official U.S. Navy Photograph.*

12 Japanese heavy cruiser Mikuma, photographed from a USS Enterprise (CV-6) SBD aircraft during the afternoon of 6 June 1942, after being bombed by planes from Enterprise and USS Hornet (CV-8). *Official U.S. Navy Photograph.*

13 Torpedo Squadron Six (VT-6) TBD-1 aircraft are prepared for launching on USS Enterprise (CV-6) at about 0730-0740 hours, 4 June 1942. The TBD in the left front is Number Two (Bureau #1512), flown by Ensign Severin L. Rombach and Aviation Radioman 2nd Class W.F. Glenn. Along with eight other VT-6 aircraft, this plane and its crew were lost attacking Japanese aircraft carriers a little more than two hours later. *Official U.S. Navy Photograph.*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers Midway today as Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge lies within Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, a marine protected area encompassing all of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. In 2000, The Secretary of the Interior designated Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge as the Battle of Midway National Memorial. This was the first National Memorial designated on a National Wildlife Refuge, reminding us of the heroic courage and sacrifice of those who fought against overwhelming odds to win an incredible victory.

Pihemanu is a Hawaiian word for loud din of birds and Kuaihelani means back bone of heaven. Both are place names for Midway Atoll within Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. The Monument's intrinsic cultural values assured its place as a World Heritage Site for both its cultural and natural heritage. The year 2016 marked the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the Monument, the 5th Anniversary of its World Heritage inscription, and on August 26, 2016 the Monument was expanded to become one of the world's largest marine conservation areas.



This product is the result of a collaboration between NOAA's Office of Coast Survey, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, and Lynker Technologies.
For more information on the Office of Marine Sanctuaries, including the Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Monument, visit *sanctuaries.noaa.gov*.
More information on nautical charts, including a current version of the chart used in this poster, is available at *nauticalcharts.noaa.gov*.
For more information about the Battle of Midway, please visit *pmnmims.org/battlemidway*.

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LIGHTS, BEACONS, BUOYS, AND DANGERS CORRECTED FOR INFORMATION RECEIVED TO DATE OF ISSUE

(Midway Islands), U.S.C.& G.S. 4188

Background image is of Chart 4188 (1943).
The current chart of Midway Islands is Chart 19481.