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AFTER THE JAPANESE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII, ON DECEMBER 7, 1941, U.S. NAVY INTERCEPT SITES IN HAWAII EAVESDROPPED ON JAPANESE NAVY COMMUNICATIONS. AMERICAN NAVY CODEBREAKERS SOON BEGAN SOLVING THE JAPANESE NAVY'S MOST SECRET MESSAGES.

IN MID 1942, THE DECRYPTED JAPANESE MESSAGES DESCRIBED HOW THE JAPANESE MILITARY WAS ESTABLISHING BASES IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS, PARTICULARLY THE ISLAND OF GUADALCANAL. THEY INTENDED TO KEEP THE AMERICANS FROM



LINKING THEIR ARMED FORCES WITH THOSE OF AUSTRALIA.

**Solomon Islands**

LEARNING JAPANESE INTENTIONS FROM THESE DECRYPTS, THE U.S. LANDED A FORCE OF MARINES ON GUADALCANAL TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE ISLAND FROM THE JAPANESE. THIS LED TO MONTHS OF HARD FIGHTING IN JUNGLES & SWAMPS.



WHEN THE AMERICANS SOLVED THE JAPANESE SECRET MESSAGES, MANY OF THEM TOLD SPECIFIC JAPANESE PLANS TO ADD TO THE NUMBER OF TROOPS ON GUADALCANAL. THE U.S. NAVY SENT AIRPLANES AND SHIPS TO ATTACK THE JAPANESE TROOP SHIPS; THIS PREVENTED MOST OF THE REINFORCEMENTS FROM GETTING THROUGH.



ON GUADALCANAL ITSELF, INTERCEPT OPERATORS LISTENED IN ON JAPANESE COMMUNICATIONS. THEY WERE ABLE TO LOCATE JAPANESE POSITIONS FOR THE MARINES, AND, OFTEN, TO WARN THE MARINES WHERE THE JAPANESE WERE PLANNING AMBUSHES.



THE FIGHT AT SEA AND ON THE ISLAND OF GUADALCANAL WAS ARDUOUS, AND MANY BRAVE AMERICANS GAVE THEIR LIVES. THEIR SACRIFICE ENABLED VICTORY AGAINST THE JAPANESE IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS— AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP THAT LED TO FURTHER VICTORIES IN THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN. THEIR EFFORTS WERE SUPPORTED AT ALL TIMES BY EXPERT AMERICAN INTERCEPT OPERATORS AND CODEBREAKERS.

