

World War II Vocabulary Cheat Sheet

Aircraft Carrier: a ship with a flat deck that planes can take off from and land on. Widely considered to be one of the most important types of ships used during World War II.

Atoll: a ring of land that partially encircles a lagoon.

Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet: refers to Admiral Ernest King, the admiral in charge of the entire U.S. Navy, worldwide.

Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet: refers to Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, the admiral in charge of U.S. Navy commands in the Pacific Fleet.

Cryptologist: analysts who try to break codes.

Dive Bombers: planes that dropped bombs directly onto ships to damage and/or sink them.

OP-20-G: U.S. Navy radio intelligence unit responsible for decoding and translating Japanese radio communications.

Ship Acronyms: abbreviations used by the U.S. Navy to refer to different types of ships.

- **CV:** aircraft carrier
- **BB:** battleship
- **CA:** heavy cruiser
- **CL:** light cruiser
- **DD:** destroyer
- **AP:** transport ship
- **AK:** cargo ship

Signals Intelligence: the gathering of information using intercepted communications (e.g. radio messages).

Squadron: a group of pilots who conduct military operations together under the direction of their commander.

Torpedo Bombers: planes that dropped torpedoes to damage and/or sink ships.

VF: Abbreviation used by the U.S. Navy for a unit made up of fighter planes, whose job it was to shoot down enemy aircraft and defend American ships and planes.