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.