

## Part V: Mapping Exercise

In World War II, the United States was faced with a difficult dilemma. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor because the United States had placed an embargo on oil to Japan due to Japanese aggression in China. The attack on Pearl Harbor was an attempt by the Japanese to weaken the United States so that it would cooperate with Japanese intentions to acquire various lands that contained natural resources. After the attack on Japan, the United States was forced to determine a method whereby it could mobilize American troops. As the Paul McGilvra oral history reveals, the United States had considerable difficulty in maintaining its fleets so that they could operate efficiently. Moreover, the United States was hard pressed to find enough ships to accommodate the large amount of troops that were needed in various theaters of the war. The Paul McGilvra oral history is a rich resource that illustrates many of the difficulties that the United States faced in the Pacific theater of World War II. In the following exercises, students will listen to clips from the Paul McGilvra oral history. Students will then discuss what they have learned from the various clips. Students will also perform a map exercise so that they can become familiar with various parts of the world in which McGilvra traveled.

1. Students will play, listen to and discuss audio clip E, in which McGilvra discusses his ship ride overseas.

**Play Clip E [3:47 minutes]**

### Questions for Class Discussion

1. What problems did the soldiers experience on board the ship? Why do you think that the soldiers experienced these problems? Mechanical problems, water shortages. The U.S. military did not have enough time to make repairs on its ships
  2. Did the soldiers have enough room on board the ship? Why or why not? Overcrowding. They were on a small merchant ship and there were about seventeen hundred soldiers on board the ship.
  3. Did weather conditions affect the ship that McGilvra was on? Yes. The weather was stormy and produced large waves which made McGilvra sick. The weather was also very hot which led the army to issue special sun clothing to the troops.
2. Next, students will play, listen to and discuss audio clip F.  
**Play Clip F [1:15 minutes]**

### Questions for Class Discussion

1. Why did McGilvra enjoy this boat ride? (It was December 22, 1945 and the war had officially ended in September of 1945. He was coming home)

2. Why do you think that McGilvra had to stay in Japan until December when the war was over in September? The troops were still policing the area and trying to restore order to the area.
  3. It was Christmas when McGilvra was on the boat. Did they do anything special for the troops? Why or why not? The soldiers would get turkey and dressing on most holidays. If the conditions were unfavorable (i.e. dangerous because of the war), the soldiers would not have anything special.
3. Map Exercise: Paul McGilvra spent a considerable amount of time traveling during his tour of duty. In the following exercise, students will become familiar with geographic locations in which McGilvra traveled. Students will first listen to clips from the Paul McGilvra Oral History that describes McGilvra's movement during World War II. Students will then plot his movements on maps provided in the links below (outline maps). Resource maps are also provided for further resources for teachers.

**Clips from McGilvra Interview**

**Clip G [29 seconds]** McGilvra in New Jersey.

**Clip H [20 seconds]** McGilvra lands in Havana, Cuba.

**Clip I [20 seconds]** McGilvra goes through Panama.

**Clip J [22 seconds]** McGilvra lands in New Caledonia.

**Clip K [16 seconds]** McGilvra goes to New Zealand.

**Clip L [16 seconds]** McGilvra leaves Auckland, New Zealand for Aitiapia, New Guinea.

**Clip M [1.12minutes]** McGilvra in Lingayen Gulf.

**Clip N [47 seconds]** McGilvra in Yokohoma, Tokyo.

Click here for world resource map (**Note:** this an interactive map in which you can zoom in and out to find geographic locations)

[http://encarta.msn.com/map\\_701510348/Atlantic\\_Ocean.html](http://encarta.msn.com/map_701510348/Atlantic_Ocean.html)

Click here for outline map of Pacific Region (New Caledonia, New Zealand, New Guinea, and Japan)

<http://bedfordstmartins.com/mapcentral/om/pdfs/PacificRim.pdf>

Click here for outline map of the United States.

[http://bedfordstmartins.com/mapcentral/om/pdfs/USA2003\\_Pol.pdf](http://bedfordstmartins.com/mapcentral/om/pdfs/USA2003_Pol.pdf)