



Control of the mideast meant control of the Suez Canal, pictured. A fraction of U.S. troops traversed the Suez. It was in the British zone.

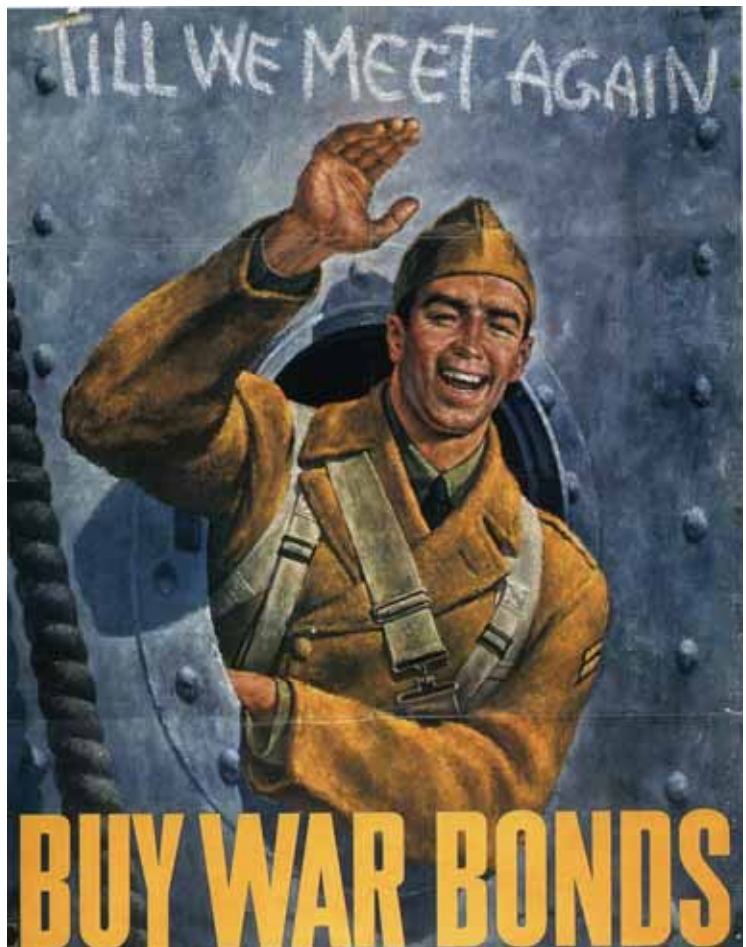
World War Two was in convulsive, international, myriad war zones. China, our Ally, was in its 6th year of war.



Persian Theater



Fourth Air Force
U.S. Far West





U.S. 27nd
Inf Div
Hawaii



U.S. 40th
Inf Div
Hawaii



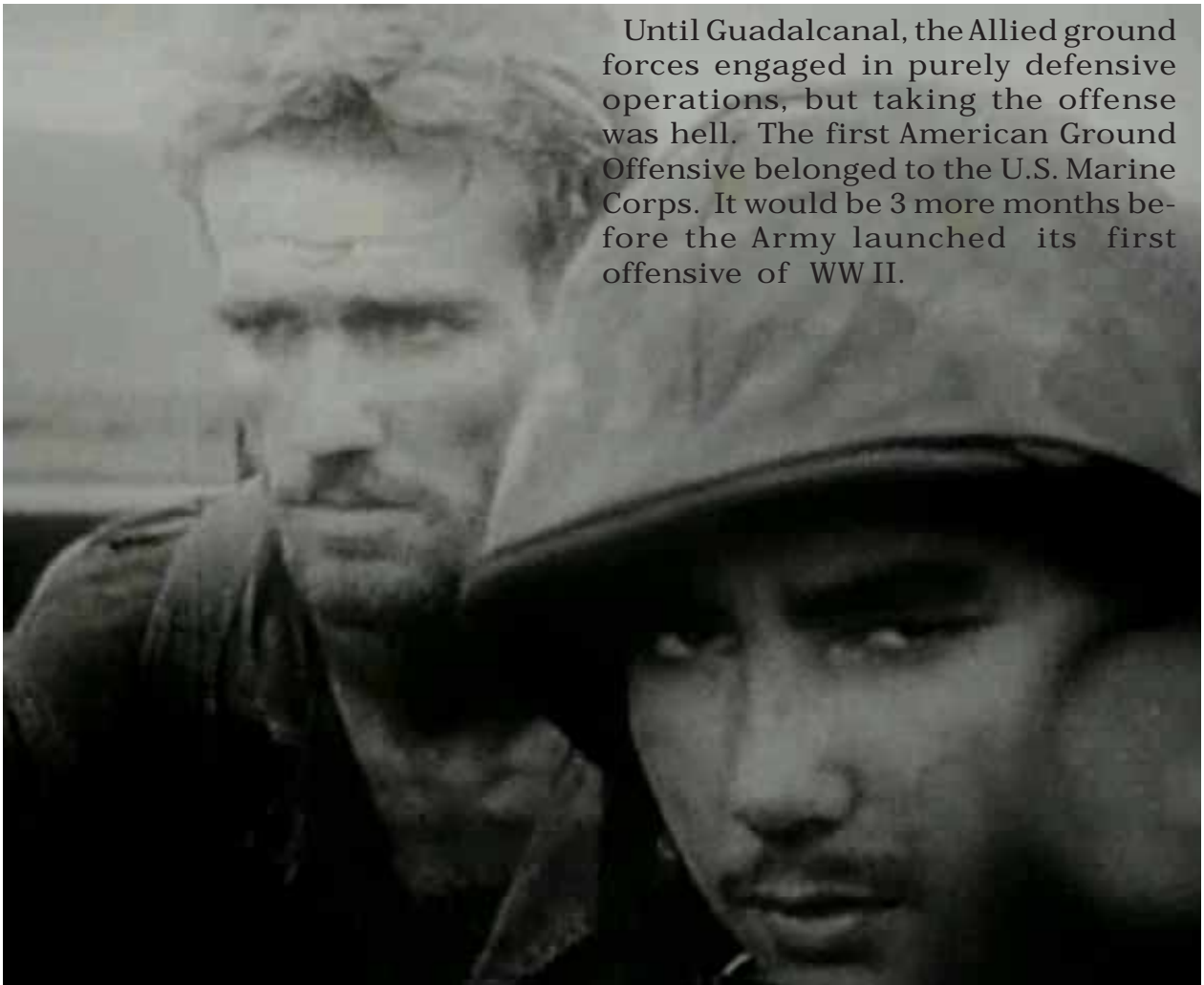
U.S. 1st
Marine Div
Guadalcanal



Americal Div
Guadalcanal

Two pictures from the war zone, one in Africa, one in Guadalcanal; one in color, one in b/w. A long way from home, the troops in North Africa, plus 15,000 Marines and 15,000 Army that rounded-out Guadalcanal initially, plus another 80,000, represent only a fraction of the 6.4 million in U.S. uniform on Dec. 31, 1942.* The United States was still not at full zenith. But, the American people were beginning to flex their muscle. Both Allies and Axis would meet a dire loss of gruelling battles and a cost of people. In the color picture, troops fire at enemy aircraft. We learned no great victory is possible without air superiority.

*WAACS included



Until Guadalcanal, the Allied ground forces engaged in purely defensive operations, but taking the offense was hell. The first American Ground Offensive belonged to the U.S. Marine Corps. It would be 3 more months before the Army launched its first offensive of WW II.