On September 9, 2013, the Marshall Islands Postal Service issues ten new stamps commemorating America’s involvement in World War II during 1943. This special issue is the third in a five-year series.

The 2013 World War II 70th Anniversary: 1943 Issue commemorates ten key events and important aspects of the year 1943 relating to World War II: the Allies’ success over German U-boats, ending Axis naval dominance in the Atlantic; the courageous efforts of medics who saved countless lives; the Allied invasion of Sicily, the first Allied invasion of an Axis homeland; the bombing of Ploesti refineries; the enhancements to Allied mail service (called V-mail); the Allied landing at Salerno; the use of War Bonds and Stamps to aid the war effort; the iconic cartoon characters Willie and Joe; the Gold Star, which hung in the window of every family with a member who died in war service; and the U.S. Marine landing on the Japanese-held Tarawa Atoll.

A Full Mint Sheet of 10 is available for $7.13 (stock number 467-5754). A First Day Cover Set of 2 is available at the Official Price of $10.23 (stock number 467-5819). A shipping and handling charge is added to all orders.

For information about this issue, or other stamps of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, contact the Stamps and Philatelic Center of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.
On April 16, 1942, 16 American B-25s bomb Tokyo. The brainchild of Lt. Col. James Doolittle, this daring raid struck at the very heart of Japanese society: the war has found Japan.

While of little military significance, Doolittle’s raid is nevertheless an emotional boost to American morale and teenage naming events.

In May 1942 the U.S. government begins a rearming program to ensure fair division of essential items and to keep inflation from skyrocketing. Sugar is in the first tier to be rationed, and Americans receive their first supply of rubber tires. The next consideration: these sacrifices their patriotic duty as part of the war effort.

Hoping to broaden Japan’s control of the Solomons islands and eventually conquer Australia, a massive Japanese fleet sailed for New Guinea in May 1942. The American carriersLexington and Yorktown and 111 aircraft play a decisive role in the Elcho battle where another naval opponent comes within sight of the other.

On April 8, 1942, Lt. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright is taken prisoner. At his deathbed that evening, Wainwright defiantly, “My country!” and the Philippine Army, the “Little Allies,” continue to fight.

In June 1942, as a consequence of the effects of the invasion of Guadalcanal, the Japanese invaded the Solomon Islands and the Philippines. Despite the loss of tens of thousands of lives, the Americans and the Allies continued to fight against the Japanese.

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, the U.S. Navy’s Pacific Fleet. The attack results in the destruction of 21 ships and the loss of 2,402 lives.

After the Battle of the Coral Sea, the Americans receive Japanese communications, allowing them to plan a new operation. They plan to invade Midway to capture Japanese warships. In Operation Magic, radio waves are used to intercept Japanese messages. Without warning, Japan's ships are attacked.

On April 18, 1942, 16 American B-25s fly a daring raid against Tokyo. The attack stuns Japan, but it does not stop the war.

The Battle of Midway begins on June 4, 1942, when U.S. carrier-launched planes engage the Japanese fleet. After several days of fighting, the Americans win.

The Japanese framed as a lose-the-winter-lose-the-war story. However, the Battle of Midway was a turning point in the Pacific War.

After the Battle of Midway, the Americans win the war. The Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945.

**TECHNICAL DATA**

**Issue:** World War II 70th Anniversary: 1943

**Face Value:** 10 x $0.46

**Issue Date:** September 9, 2013

**Issue Place:** Majuro
Stamp Artist: Chris Calle
First Day Cover Design: Herb Kawainui Kane
Printing Process: Cyan, black, magenta, yellow by offset lithography on unwatermarked gummed paper
Printer: Pioneer Printing, Cheyenne, Wyoming, U.S.A.
Stamp Format: Vertical
Stamps Per Sheet: 10 with corresponding tabs
Designs per Sheet: 10
Overall Sheet Size: 179mm x 190mm
Size of Stamps: 31mm x 40mm
Issue Number: C370
Stamp Number: (10-1) Overcoming the U-Boat Menace
(10-2) Medics Saving Lives
(10-3) Allies Invade Sicily
(10-4) 4 Liberators Bomb Ploesti Refineries
(10-5) Soldier Writing Letter
(10-6) Allied Forces Land at Salerno
(10-7) Bonds and Stamps Help War Effort
(10-8) Willie and Joe
(10-9) Gold Star with Flag
(10-10) Marines Land on Tarawa Atoll
Withdrawal Date: While supplies last