

## Wake Island Survey to Surrender

**Purpose:** The exhibit tells the story of Wake, a US possession, from the naval survey 1935 to the civilian and US Marine POWs interned during WWII. A combination of philatelic material, post cards, photos, and dinner menu support significant factors relating to this pacific outpost. The islands role in the development of Pan Am (FAM14) China Clipper flights and the first US battle of WWII. Sixteen days of fighting ended with another first. Civilian contractors, Navy service members, and US Marines became POW's under Japan.

**Importance:** In 2018 fewer than 500,000 of the 16 million military veterans are alive today. Their story, of bravery and courage must be remembered and this exhibit honors their memory. It also honors the civilian contract employees who gave up their lives or were placed in forced labor or interned in Japan during the war.

**Significant exhibit items:** The two survey flight covers with black cachet of Wake, signed by the pilot are 2 of 500. The magenta (pink) cachet had a small printing and dealers have estimated between 12 to 25 items. N.D.Teters civilian contractors supervisor, signed the Christmas dinner menu planned for December 25, 1941. The delivery ship never ventured beyond Hawaii. The POWs from Wake were the longest held captives of WWII. Covers with letters to these captives are included.

### Exhibit Plan

- Title Page Introduction and Purpose
- Survey Covers and Pilots letter to wife
- Picture post card of atoll and photo of Martin China Clipper
- FAM 14 Pan Am covers, photo of maintenance crew, post card China Clipper
- Naval Covers
- War and Patriot Covers after the surrender
- Christmas dinner menu and civilian internee mail
- Military POW mail