



American Battle Monuments  
Foundation  
presents  
*The Past is Prologue*  
Essay Contest  
[www.abmf.org](http://www.abmf.org)



Students ages 11-12, 13-15, 16-18 are invited to compete within their age group

\$5,000 First Prize, \$2,500 Second Prize and \$1,500 Third Prize awarded in each age group

Essay deadline is **November 1, 2022**. Early submissions encouraged.

**Details and Application Form:** [abmf.org](http://abmf.org)

- ★ Do you want to learn more about American history?
- ★ Do you like to think about how global events relate to your life?
- ★ Do you need an extra credit assignment for the school year?



**Topics:** Choose to write about one of three battles from WWI or WWII. Importantly, reflect upon what we can learn from the event, and how it is relevant to your life today and to your future.

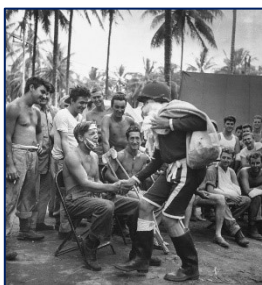


### Lafayette Escadrille

In 1916, before the United States joined its European allies in WWI, a group of American volunteer aviators flew with the French Air Service known as the Lafayette Escadrille. The squadron's mascots were lion cubs named Whiskey and Soda. Its insignia was a profile of a fierce Indian warrior. The aviators' innovations in flying techniques and daring maneuvers forever changed aerial warfare.

### Operation Dragoon

In August, 1944, this four-week operation was initiated via parachute drop by U.S. and British troops under the shield of a large naval task force. With assistance from the French Army and the French Resistance, the mission to liberate the south of France and the port cities of Marseille and Toulon was successful. The Germany Army was driven north into the Vosges mountains on the German border, committing numerous war crimes against civilians as they withdrew.



### Battle of Guadalcanal

Codenamed Operation Watchtower, this bloody, six-month battle in 1942 and 1943 between Allied and Imperial Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific, was fought on land, air, and sea and was one of the most strategically significant campaigns of the Pacific theater and a turning point in the war. The Japanese effort to control the South Pacific was stopped due to an irreplaceable loss of aircraft, ships, and its highly-trained and veteran crews. By crippling the so-called Japanese "Tokyo Express," allied shipping lanes from the U.S. to Australia were protected.

The American Battle Monuments Foundation ([abmf.org](http://abmf.org)) is the official non-profit partner of the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC.gov). ABMC, a U.S. government agency, is responsible for all of America's 26 military cemeteries and 32 memorials overseas. ABMF works to ensure that young people know that the more than 218,000 Americans who fought, died, and are buried or memorialized away from the homeland, did so to defend the values of personal liberty and democratic governance, a spirit that undergirds American leadership of the Free World.

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Questions? Sue Kenfield, ABMF Director of Youth Engagement, [skenfield@abmf.org](mailto:skenfield@abmf.org) 303.791.2807