



War in the Pacific

Defending Australia

Campaigns in New Guinea and the Solomons

24 July – 3 August 1942

The Japanese take Kokoda, the Australians build up Milne Bay, The US Marines advance on Guadalcanal. The Air War continues but no decisive damage is done. Japanese subs are loose on the Australian east coast.

THE CLOCK WATCHER
 CHAS. SANKER & CO. LTD.
 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000.



The Courier-Mail

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No. 2772 BRISBANE, FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1942. 8 PAGES—12

HEAVY FIGHTING FOLLOWS DESERT PUSH



British Tighten Gains, Hold Counter-Attacks

THE British forces in Egypt are attacking the enemy along the whole 35-mile front from the coast to the Qattara Depression. Reuter's correspondent says that the Allies are gaining ground slowly, against stiff resistance.

The Australians are reported to have occupied the whole of Tel el Eisa Ridge, while Allied forces in the central sector have progressed along Ruweisat Ridge.

The latest Cairo communique says there was heavy fighting in all sectors on Wednesday, after the Allies attacked enemy positions in the central sector on Tuesday night.

Fighting in the northern sector centred round Tel el Eisa, El Makhkhad and Metariya Ridges, the communique says. It went on to say and throughout the day.

The communique adds: "Fighting in the central sector was mainly at the western end of Ruweisat Ridge and in the area of Dair el Shain, slightly northward. Our armoured forces and infantry during the day were engaged in this sector, making some progress which was consolidated."

Air operations early on Wednesday were curtailed because of bad weather, the communique says, but later light bombing was directed against the enemy's rear areas in support of the Allied land forces.

The effect has been to switch to the rearward sector, where better targets were found.

The communique says that during the day our armoured forces were engaged in the central sector, making some progress which was consolidated.

The British have been reported to have occupied the whole of Tel el Eisa Ridge, while Allied forces in the central sector have progressed along Ruweisat Ridge.

Germans' Bitter Resistance

The latest fighting in Egypt is as bitter as any seen in the desert for the last two months, and there is bitter resistance from the Germans, says the British United Press correspondent.

The correspondent says that the fighting was very bitter, and the Allies were making some progress, but the Germans were putting up a stiff resistance.

COTTON PICKERS ON WAY NORTH



LAST-MINUTE photograph of some of the women cotton-pickers who left Brisbane last night for the desert. On the extreme left is Miss E. E. Pender, who is one of the women who travelled to the front of the desert. (Photo on Page 12)

RUSSIANS FALL BACK TO NEW LOSTOV ZONE

LONDON, July 23.—The Daily Telegraph's Stockholm correspondent says that a terrific battle has been raging for the last 48 hours around the perimeter of the Rostov defence zone, which the Germans admit is very wide.

The Red Star says that the Russians have retired to new and more favourable positions. The Germans are trying to develop their winter successes and are bringing up from the rear new troops and panzer divisions.

The New-Caledonia correspondent says that the heavy artillery action has been very fierce, and that the Russians are trying to develop their winter successes and are bringing up from the rear new troops and panzer divisions.

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ONE-TAX LAWS UPHELD

THE Federal uniform taxation plan was upheld by the Full High Court in Melbourne yesterday.

The majority decision of the court was in favour of the Commonwealth, which sought to uphold the plan.

The court was divided 4-3 in its decision, with the majority in favour of the Commonwealth.

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ALL BACK TO SCHOOL Japs Lose Transport, Land Troops 100 Miles From Moresby

RESTRICTIONS on school children in the north-western sector of New Guinea have been imposed by the Japanese, according to the Australian Government.

The restrictions are aimed at preventing the Japanese from using school children as a source of labour.

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Strong Defence Area

In a report from the Japanese, it is stated that the Japanese are building up a strong defence area in the north-western sector of New Guinea.

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SERIOUS PROBLEM

If the Japs. succeed in consolidating their position in the Buna area, they will be within 100 miles of Port Moresby and 100 miles nearer North Queensland. They would also be within easy striking distance of the south-east corner of Papua and the important straits leading into the Coral Sea.

They would have a fourth base if they are able to develop the area for aircraft operations.

The landing is a serious problem for the Allied command, which now has an additional enemy area to cope with.

The most serious aspect, however, is that it is one more obstacle to be overcome when an Allied offensive is launched against the Japanese.

The Japs' objective in seeking to establish a base at Buna may be more defensive than offensive, but the possibility of their developing a bomber base from which to attack Port Moresby and possibly North Queensland cannot be overlooked.

Yesterday's South-west Pacific Headquarters communique read:

North-eastern Sector (Buna): The enemy effected a landing at Gona Mission, on the north coast of Papua, a point not occupied by Allied forces. The enemy convoy was discovered by reconnaissance

and our air force executed a series of bombing and strafing attacks throughout the day on enemy shipping, landing barges, and personnel on shore. One large transport and one barge were sunk and heavy casualties were inflicted on disembarking troops.

An enemy float plane was shot down in combat; two of our fighter planes are missing.

North-western Sector (Timor): An Allied air unit, on reconnaissance, lightly bombed enemy barracks.

Late City

JIC 24 July 42

Australia. On 22 July another Allied merchant vessel was torpedoed by an enemy submarine, 75 miles east of NEWCASTLE, AUSTRALIA. This is the fourth vessel lost in this general area since 20 July.

It is estimated that at least three enemy submarines are operating in the NEWCASTLE - JERVIS BAY area off Southeast AUSTRALIA.

Melanesia. The Japanese landing near BUNA (Summary No. 225) during the night of 21/22 July actually was carried out at GONA (15 miles north of BUNA) and effected by landing barges from four transports. Prior to the landing the supporting naval units, one cruiser and five destroyers, shelled the shore installations. No Allied troops were present to oppose the landing, although Allied airmen carried out fifteen attacks on the enemy naval units, shore installations and landing barges. A complete report of damage inflicted on the enemy has not been received.

A communique from Headquarters, SWPA, indicates that in addition to the landing in the GONA - BUNA area the enemy also landed a small force at AMBASI, 30 miles up the NEW GUINEA coast from BUNA.

24 July

- **Supply**
- On 24 July the War Department reports that General MacArthur was furnished with an inventory of gold specie now in Australia which is available for purchase of rubber.
- **Sea**
- The Australian Murada (3,345 tons) was unsuccessfully attacked by torpedo, with neither damage nor casualties, off Crowdy Head at 9.45 a.m. on the 24th.



Western Mail (Perth)
A house-to-house collection for scrap rubber organised by the Boy Scouts' Association in Perth, in July 1942. With the fall of the rubber-producing countries of Asia to the Japanese, rubber of all kinds became increasingly valuable.

24 July- Kokoda Supply

- After Kienzle had arrived at Uberi from his trip across the mountains with Templeton he had started more carrier trains forward to Nauro, with four days' supplies for 120 men, and to Efogi with similar quantities.
- On 24th July he sent Dean's company off with 135 natives carrying packs and supplies of various kinds and 22 carrying rice.
- He then went quickly back to Port Moresby and there stressed to Morris the need for more carriers, for the development of a supply-dropping program with aircraft possibly using Efogi and Kagi initially as dropping areas, and for a telephone line across the mountains.



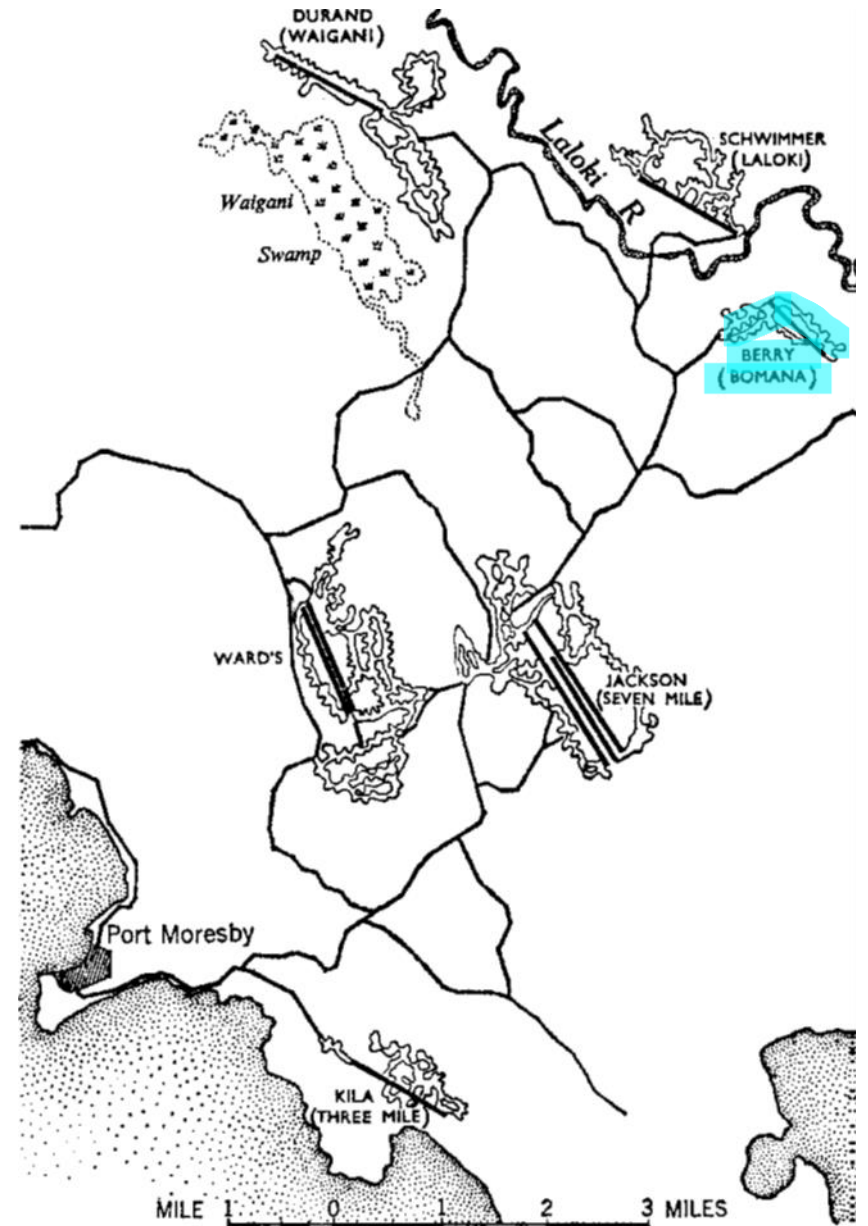
24 July - Kokoda

- By the early morning of the 24th (July) Seekamp's men and Watson's small group were on the western side of the Kumusi and had destroyed the bridge behind them. At 9 a.m. they received a message from Templeton:
- “Reported on radio broadcast that 1,500-2,000 Japs landed at Gona Mission Station. I think that this is near to correct and in view of the numbers I recommend that your action be contact and rearguard only—no do-or-die stunts. Close back on Kokoda.”
- At 10.30 Captain Stevenson, Templeton's second-in-command, arrived at Wairopi. He said that Lieutenant Mortimore's platoon was waiting near Gorari. He ordered Seekamp to prepare to fight a rearguard action as he withdrew along the track and to leave a lookout on the west side of the Kumusi.
- By 2.30 the Japs appeared on the east bank of the river. Fire was exchanged and then once more the Australians fell back and took up a position in rear of Mortimore's men near Gorari.



24 July - Air

- 13 B-26's, 8 A-24's, 1 Hudson and 12 fighters continue to pound AA positions and enemy troops at Gona as Japanese continue to push inland toward Kokoda.
- Two R.A.A.F. Catalinas of Nos. 11 and 20 Squadrons continued the nighttime harassing raids on Buna & Gona, the crews spending as long as five hours over the target, two aircraft between them dropping 7,736 pounds of "daisy cutter", general purpose, and incendiary bombs from about 2,000 feet.
- (Raid 73) 18 Japanese bombers escorted by 16 zeros bomb **Bomana Airfield (12 Mile Drome)** at Moresby in poor weather. Some bombs and petrol destroyed. The bombers had dropped their bombs and departed before the fighters could reach altitude to intercept.



25 July - Kokoda

- Near Gorari Owen and Templeton found Seekamp and Watson's men about 2 a.m. on the 25th July.
- Owen decided to make a stand 800 yards east of Gorari and dispersed his Australians beside the track with some of the Papuans in the thick bush on their flanks.
- He himself returned then to Kokoda to meet reinforcements who were expected by air and so was not present when the Japanese walked out of the bush track into the ambush which had been laid.
- The Australians claimed that they shot down fifteen of their enemies before they themselves withdrew to Gorari.



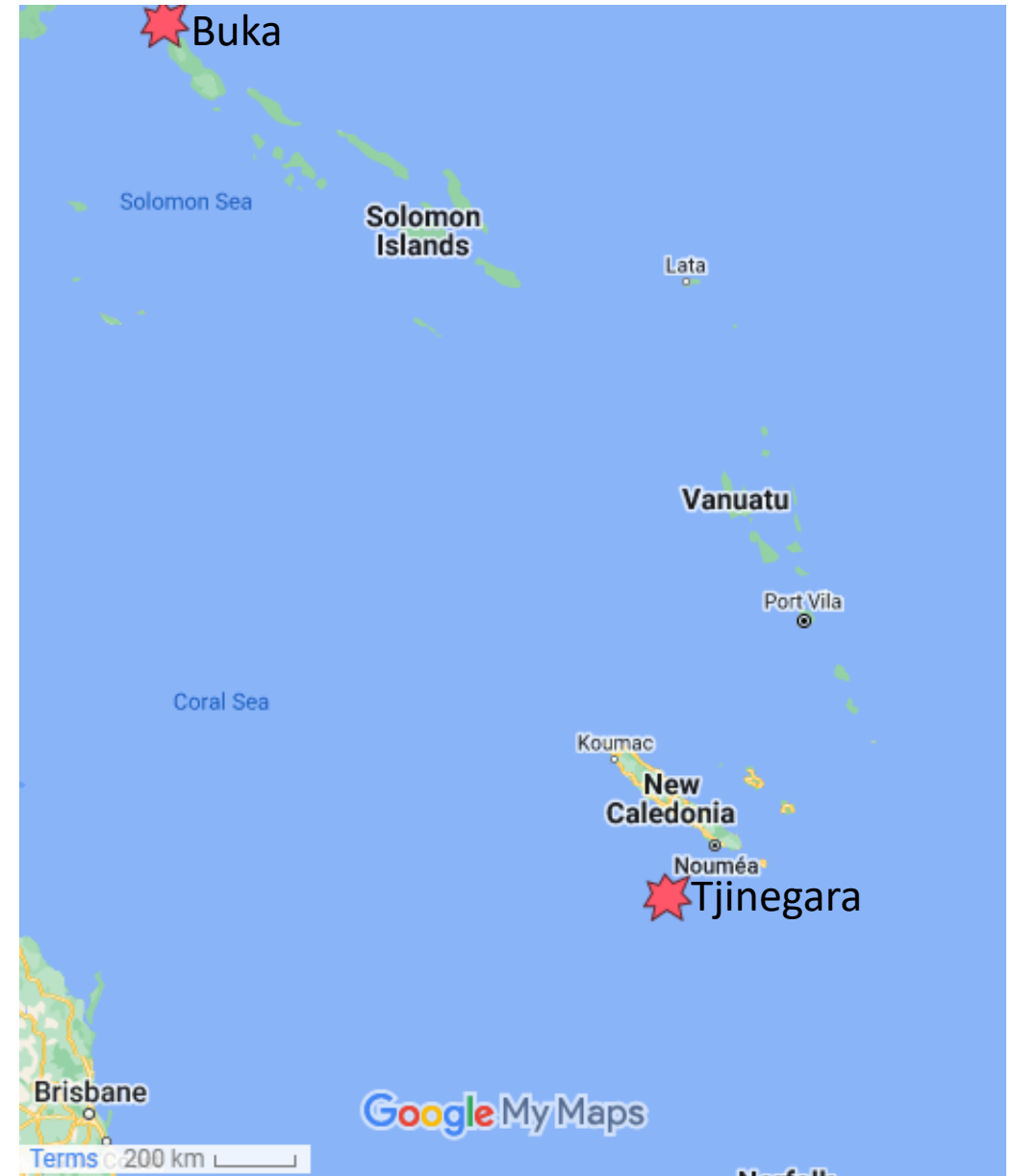
25 July

- **Kokoda Battle**
- But the invaders were swift and determined in pursuit, and by 4.45 p.m. they were again engaging the Australians. They forced them back to Oivi—two hours march east of Kokoda. The Australians were very tired then and six of their men were missing.
- **Kokoda Supply**
- Next day (25th July) Kienzle set off again from Ilolo with Symington's company, Warrant-Officer Lord, of ANGAU, and 500 carriers.
- **Noumea**
- General Patch reports that a vessel en route Brisbane Noumea with 520 cavalry horses was torpedoed and sunk on July 25.



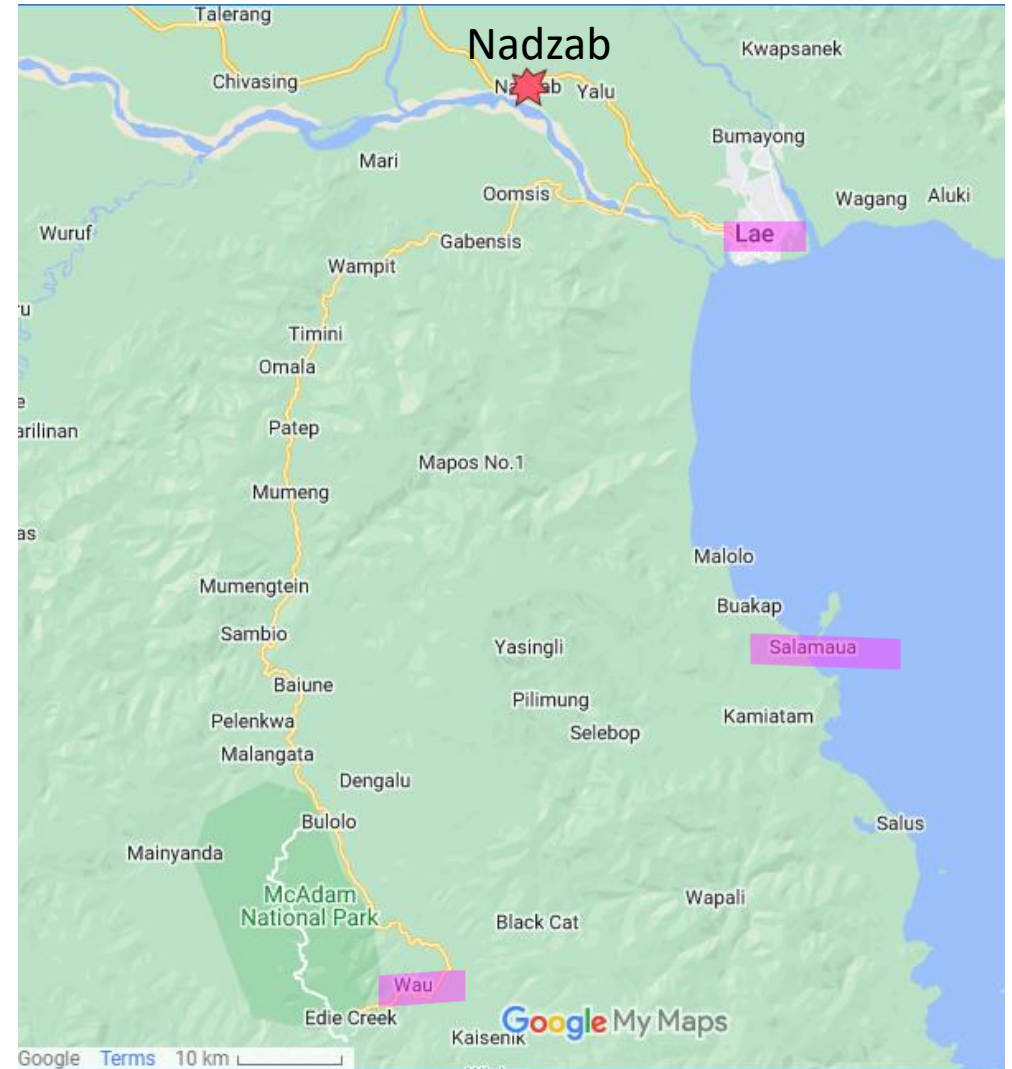
25 July

- **SOPAC**
- 90 miles south-west of Noumea, the Dutch Tjinegara (9,227 tons) was torpedoed and sunk by a submarine on the 25th (July). There were no casualties.
- Daily search missions over the Southern Solomons are begun from New Caledonia.
- A Liberator attacked Sohana Island and Buka airfield on 25/7. Results not observed due to weather.



25 July - Air

- **SWP**
- Five attacks by B-25's, P400s and P-39's on barges and concentrations at Gona and troops on the Gona and Kokoda trails.
- Nadzab was heavily bombed by the Japanese.
- **Milne Bay**
- No. 75 and 76 (Kittyhawk) Squadrons' aircraft were flown in to the raw jungle base at Milne Bay on 25th July.
- 75 Squadron, which had defended Port Moresby in April, had been re-equipped and refreshed and was still under the command of Squadron Leader Leslie Jackson.



25 July - Air

- No. 76 Squadron had a nucleus of pilots who had returned from overseas with distinguished combat records. Squadron Leader Turnbull, who had fought in the Western Desert and Syria, was chosen as its commander.
- Four other pilots with combat experience over Britain and France joined the squadron shortly before the move to Milne Bay. One of these, Squadron Leader Truscott, had been a prominent football player in Melbourne and as such he had become a public idol.
- On his return to Australia where, in Melbourne at least, he was now doubly idolised by the public, he became a leading figure in a test case that was of interest to the whole air force and particularly to those who, like himself, were called on to surrender their higher acting rank (and the higher pay for that rank) on return from an overseas posting.
- Although others were equally involved, Truscott was once more the centre of public attention. So strong was the popular clamour for the restitution of acting rank held by men who had become "veterans " in combat that the Minister for Air, Mr Drakeford, ordered the retention of acting rank in such circumstances.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

013061

Squadron Leader Keith William 'Bluey'
Truscott

25 July - Air

- When the Kittyhawk pilots flew in, the one completed runway, No. 1 Strip, was virtually under water.
- Interlocking steel matting laid over its 5,000 feet length to a width of 80 feet, alone made landing possible.
- The pilots, few if any of whom had landed on such a runway, touched down with their aircraft spraying water like hydroplanes.
- On landing the aircraft skidded, often so violently that they swung off the runway and became bogged in the morass at the side of the matting.
- The ground staff and all others who could help laboured in deep mud, dragging out bogged aircraft to what firm ground there was and laying further sections of steel matting for taxiways to the dispersal areas among the coconut plantations.



A Curtiss P-40 Warhawk piloted by Squadron Leader Keith "Bluey" Truscott of No. 76 Squadron RAAF taxiing along Marston Mat at Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea.

Marston Mat

- Marston Mat, properly pierced (or perforated) steel planking (PSP), is standardized, perforated steel matting material developed by the United States at the Waterways Experiment Station shortly before World War II, primarily for the rapid construction of temporary runways and landing strips. The nickname came from Marston, North Carolina, adjacent to Camp Mackall airfield where the material was first used.
- A typical PSP was the M8 landing mat. A single piece weighed about 66 pounds and was 10 ft (3.0 m) long by 15 in (0.38 m) wide.
- The perforated and channeled design of the matting created strength and rigidity and facilitated drainage.
- A runway two hundred feet wide and 5000 feet (1500 m) long could be created within two days by a small team of engineers.
- The runway would require 80,000 pieces of PSP weighing 2,500 tons.



FIRST TEST LANDING ON STEEL MATTING, CAROLINA MANEUVERS, 1941

25 July - Industry

- **Coal**

- Throughout May, June and July Common Cause, the newspaper of the Miner's Federation, had strongly condemned irresponsible stoppages. On 25th July 1942 a long leading article said:
- "Grasp the essential truth! Stoppages which once might have been a weapon in our hands against our enemies are today a weapon in the hands of our enemies against ourselves."
- In the same issue Harold Wells (photo), President of the Federation, stated in a letter:
- "Over the last six weeks there has been an average of eight mines idle each day, and at least five of each eight stoppages could have been avoided . . . either every man faces his full responsibility or he must be penalised, disciplined or expelled from the Federation."

- **Munitions**

- in July 1942 Toowoomba Foundry in Queensland had to be instructed to curtail production of primers because output of these had outstripped other components.



Harold Clyde 'Bob' Wells (1908–1996), carpenter, trade union leader, communist, and novelist,

Night of 25/26th July

- **Enemy**

- Buna was reinforced by more troops from a destroyer on the 25th-26th.
- On the 25th July the Japanese resumed their raiding of Darwin and three bombers attacked at 20.50 without escort. The damage was slight. No. 49 Group Kittyhawks did not intercept.
- On the night of the 25th-26th (July) at 11.35 p.m. Townsville had its first air raid warning. At 12.40 a.m. three flying-boats attacked the town, now the most important Allied air base in Australia. The enemy aircraft dropped six bombs over the harbour, all of them falling into the sea several hundred yards from the wharf area. Searchlights picked out the flying-boats, but there was no attempt at fighter interception.

- **SWP**

- Two R.A.A.F. Catalinas of Nos. 11 and 20 Squadrons continued the night time harassing raids on Buna & Gona, the crews spending as long as five hours over the target, two aircraft between them dropping 7,736 pounds of "daisy cutter", general purpose, and incendiary bombs from about 2,000 feet.
- On the night of 25th July, the day the Kittyhawks arrived at Milne Bay, the first "Form Green" (attack order) was received. The Kittyhawks were to take off early next morning to try and intercept the flying-boats that had raided Townsville on their way back to Rabaul.

26 July - Sea

- H.M.A.S. Cairns (Lieutenant MacMillan) fruitlessly attacked a submarine about 20 miles south of Newcastle on the 26th July.
- The "Tasman" carrying the 808th Engineer Aviation Battalion docked at Port Moresby and the engineers disembarked.



A depth charge exploding in the wake of HMAS Cairns, a corvette built by Walkers at Maryborough, commissioned on 11 May 1942. She was one of 60 of this class built in Australia. 20 including Cairns were built for Admiralty account but manned by the RAN.

26 July - Watchtower

- The components of the WATCHTOWER assault force not previously in New Zealand had converged on the rendezvous point from many directions.
- Colonel John Arthur's 2d Marines, embarked in the *Crescent City*, *President Adams*, *President Hayes*, *President Jackson* and *Alhena*, steamed south from San Diego escorted by the *Wasp* taskforce.
- The 1st Raider Battalion, in the four destroyer transports of Transport Division 12, had been picked up at Noumea.



USS Colhoun APD2, a destroyer converted to a fast transport, photo taken from HMAS Hobart August 42

26 July - Watchtower

- The 3d Defense Battalion on board the USS *Betelgeuse* and *Zeilin* was en route from Pearl Harbor where it had been stationed since the outbreak of the war. It would meet the remainder of the force on 2 August.
- The Carrier Force, built around *Saratoga* and *Enterprise*, with Fletcher flying his flag in the *Saratoga* was also on its way from Pearl Harbor.
- Rendezvous was made as planned, at 1400 on 26 July, some 400 miles south of Fiji.
- A conference convened at once on board the *Saratoga*.



Enterprise (foreground) and *Saratoga* (rear) near Guadalcanal. A Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bomber is visible between the two carriers.

26 July - Watchtower

- At the conference of group commanders of the Allied Force, held in Saratoga, Admiral Fletcher announced that he would not remain in supporting distance of the landings for more than two days.
- Admiral Turner protested vehemently, stating that he could not possibly unload the transports in less than four days, during the whole of which they would need air cover.
- Admiral Ghormley, in strategic command, was not present.
- His representative, Rear Admiral Callaghan, Ghormley's chief of staff, was junior to the other two Admirals and was unable to resolve the dispute either on the spot or later after conferring with his boss.



Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher

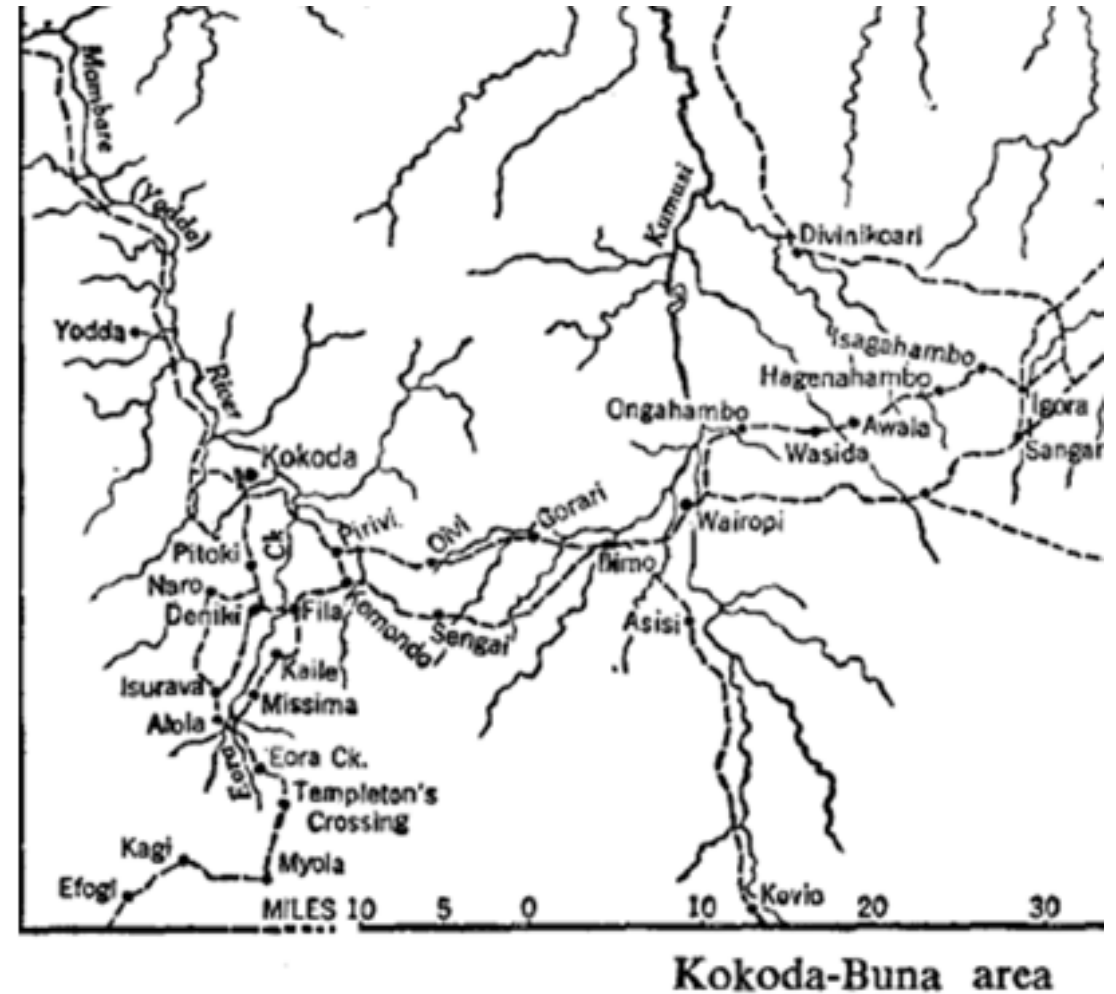
26 July - Kokoda

- Owen asked that two fresh companies of his battalion be flown in. Morris had only two aircraft serviceable and the best he could do was to get two aircraft in to Kokoda on the 26th July, each carrying fifteen men of Lieutenant McClean's platoon.
- McClean hurried forward to Oivi with his men who arrived in the first lift. He was with Templeton's two platoons and the Papuans when the Japanese attacked at 3 p.m.
- The attackers were halted at first by the fire of the forward section, then outflanked it and forced it back to the main positions on the plateau on which Oivi stood.
- The defenders then went into a tight perimeter defence of diameter about 50 yards. The two opposing groups maintained a desultory fire during the afternoon, the Japanese sometimes pressing to within a few yards of the perimeter before they were killed.
- About 5 o'clock Templeton went to examine the rear defences and to warn the second half of McClean's platoon, under Corporal Morrison, whom he thought to be about to arrive. There was a burst of fire from the forest. Templeton did not return.



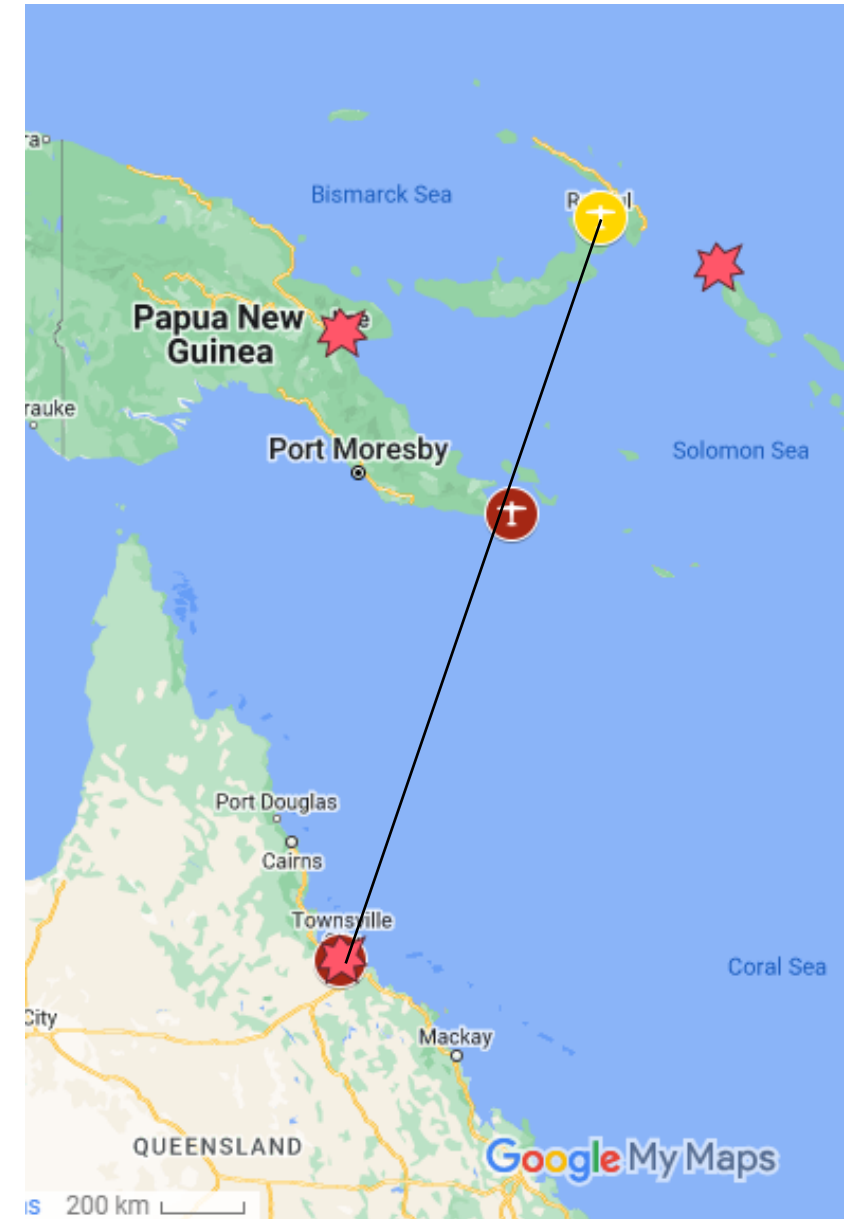
26 July - Kokoda

- As dusk was falling the Japanese finally encircled the tired men on the plateau. Watson, commanding both Papuans and Australians, estimated that the enemy was strongest in his rear and that the attackers were bringing fire to bear from about twenty light machine – guns though their shooting was high and wild.
- He felt his force to be greatly outnumbered, although their machine-gun fire continued to hold the attackers outside the perimeter.
- McClean and Corporal Pike temporarily lessened the pressure on the rear positions about 8 p.m. when they crawled to the perimeter edge and engaged their enemies with hand grenades. The groans and cries of pain from this sally were plainly heard within the defences, and were of different tone to the coaxing "Come forward, Corporal White!" and "Taubada me want 'im you!" and similar invitations with which the Japanese were trying to trick the Australians out of cover.
- But the militiamen were approaching a state of exhaustion. Stevenson showed Watson some of his men falling asleep over their weapons even as their enemies pressed them closely.
- At 10.15, therefore, guided by Lance - Corporal Sanopa (a Papuan policeman), Watson led the whole group out to the south where the fewest Japanese were thought to be. He intended to circle back across the Kokoda path and re-engage at daylight. But there was no track. It was very dark and heavy rain was falling. The men struggled towards Deniki (as easier to reach than Kokoda).



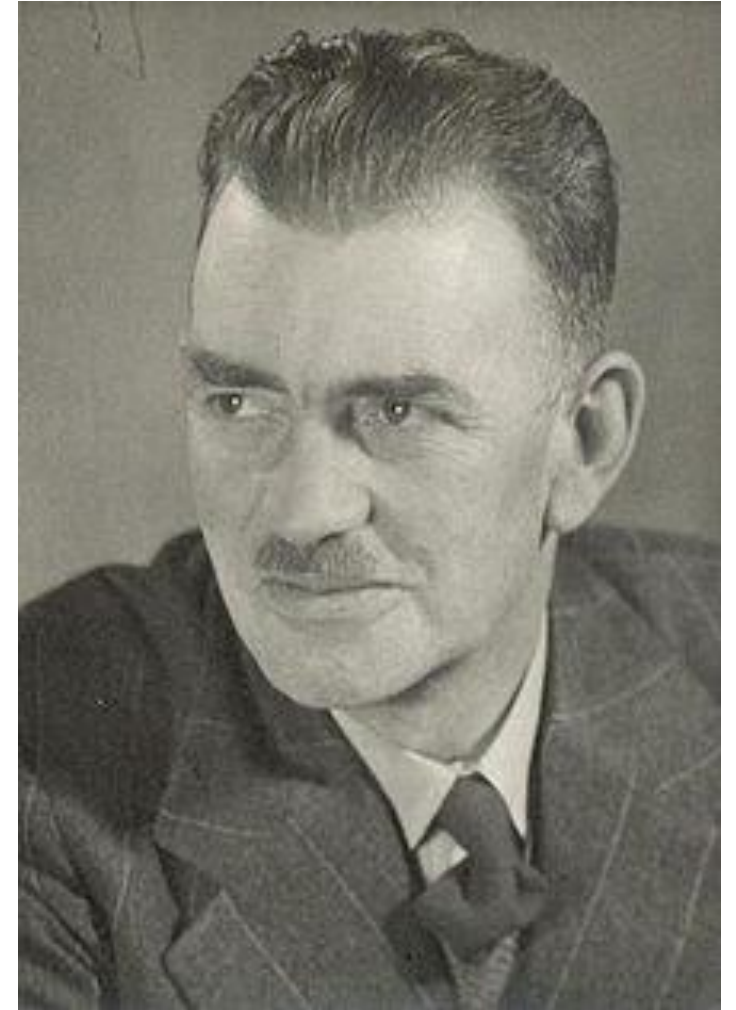
26 July - Air

- **SWP**
- The Kittyhawks from Milne Bay went up to look for the Townsville raiders, but there was no interception.
- A strike against Gasmata by 5 B25s is repulsed by ftr interception.
- 3 B-26's attack destroyer at Gona but fail to score hits.
- Two R.A.A.F. Catalinas of Nos. 11 and 20 Squadrons again raided Buna & Gona, the crews spending hours over the target.
- Two RAAF Hudsons attacked the airfield at Koepang on Timor.
- On the 26th July the Japanese again raided Darwin. Two groups of three bombers attacked at 21.39 and 22.54. The damage was slight.
- **SOPAC**
- A liberator attacked two transports in Kieta Harbour without success.



27 July - Rationing

- On 27th July controls for simplified clothing were announced under the slogan "Fashions for Victory".
- Men's suits must not have double-breasted fronts, vests, buttons or cuffs on the sleeves, cuffs on the trousers, or various other fancy additions.
- Mr Dedman, Minister for War Organisation of Industry had himself photographed wearing one to show how sensible and good-looking it was.
- It was not an attractive advertisement.



John Dedman Minister for War
Organisation of Industry

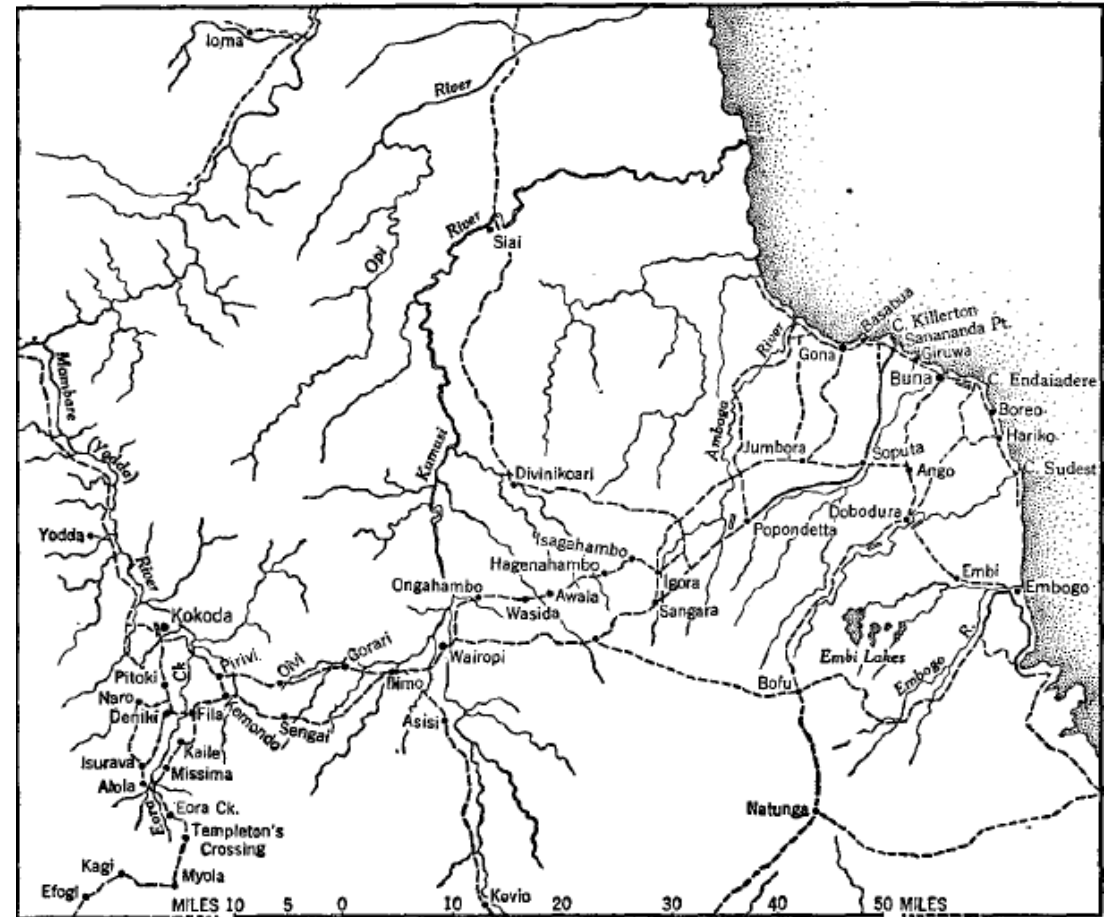
27 July

- **Sea**
- At 4.45 a.m. next day (27th July), away to the south, the Australian Coolana (2,197 tons) was attacked by gunfire some 30 miles north of Cape Howe, without damage or casualties.
- **Air**
- B-26's and A-24's attacked Gona and targets along the Buna trail.
- Enemy recce aircraft was sighted over Broome 10.40/27.
- Three Japanese bombers attacked Darwin at 22.27 but caused no damage.
- Two R.A.A.F. Catalinas of Nos. 11 and 20 Squadrons again raided Buna & Gona, the crews spending hours over the target.



27 July - Kokoda

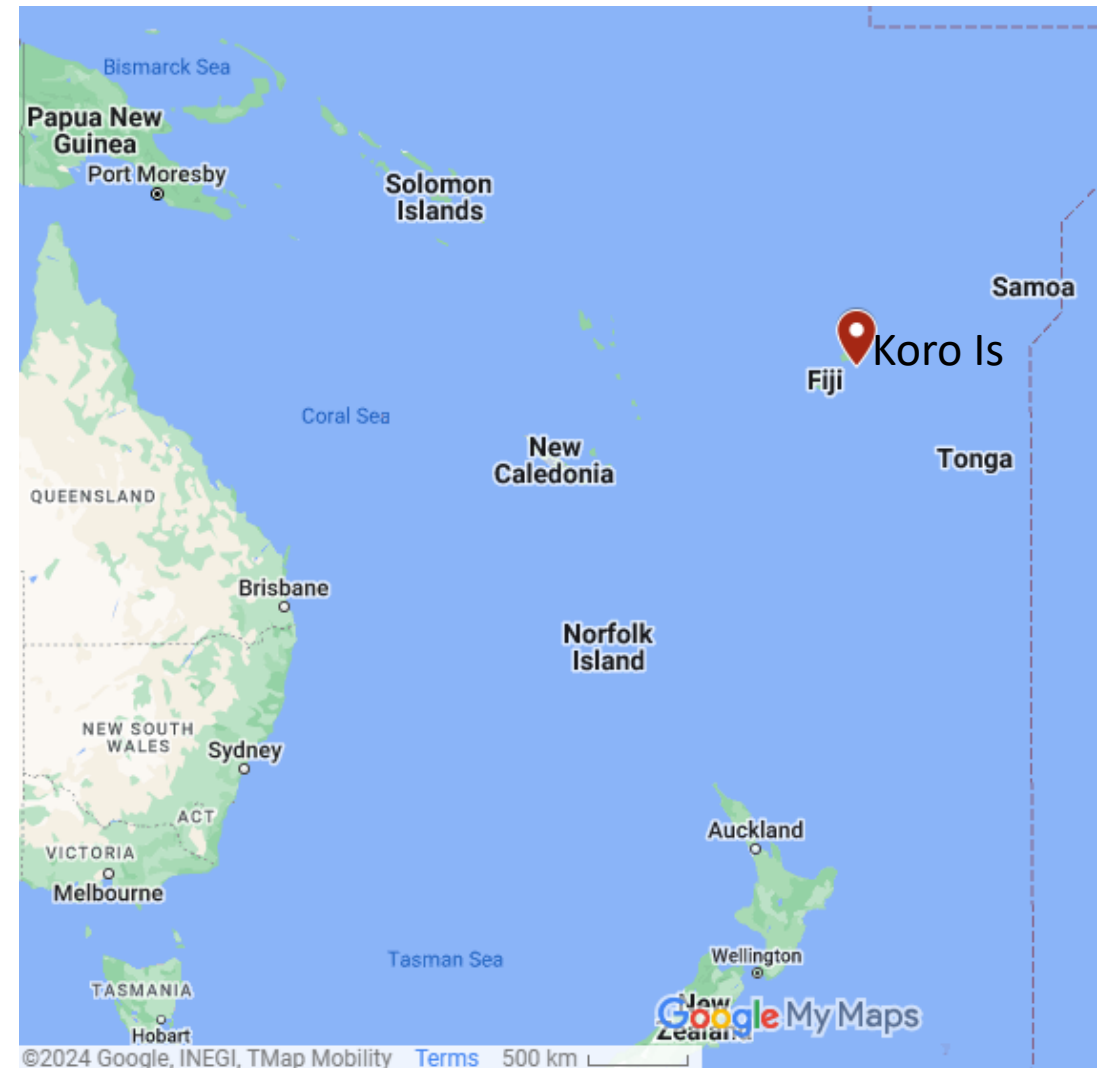
- They (Watson's men) stumbled into creeks, slipped on the steep hillsides. The bush tore at them. When daylight came, on 27th July, they were still only two miles from Oivi.
- Owen, waiting with Lieutenant Garland's platoon at Kokoda, had no news of the fighting at Oivi until some of Morrison's men reported about 2 a.m. on the 27th that Oivi had been surrounded and cut off from their approach.
- Later he decided that, failing more news from Oivi by 11 a.m. he would then leave for Deniki.
- They stacked into the houses everything they could not carry away, and at 11 a.m. set out for Deniki leaving the houses burning.
- To their surprise they found, when they reached Deniki, that Watson and most of his men had arrived there an hour or two before.



Kokoda-Buna area

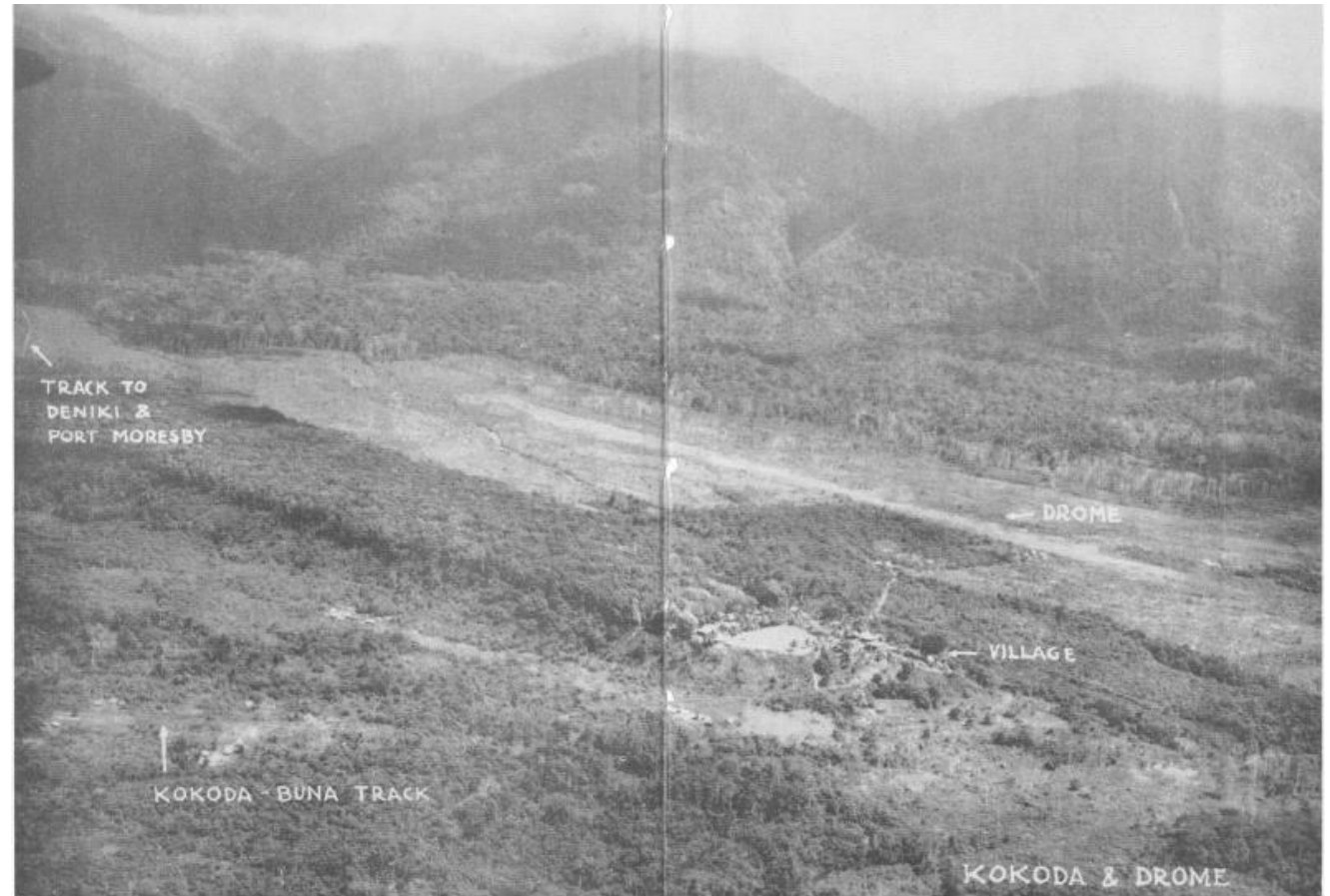
28 July

- **Sea**
- The whole WATCHTOWER force then proceeded to the vicinity of the Fiji Islands where, from 28th to 31st July, the amphibious and screening forces carried out landing rehearsals on Koro Island.
- On 28th July an aircraft bombed a submarine 45 miles south-west of Albany, without result.
- **USSR**
- Soviet High Command admits Rostov's fall to the Germans.



28 July - Kokoda

- Early next morning (28th July) a small group of McClean's men, who had become separated, reported in with the news that they had slept at Kokoda the previous night and that there had been no appearance of the Japanese before they left.
- Owen then realised that he had erred. He had told Port Moresby that he had left Kokoda and was thus cut off from supplies and reinforcements which could have been landed there (and which were ready at Port Moresby for dispatch).
- Attempting to retrieve the situation he left McClean and two of his sections at Deniki and hurried back to Kokoda with the balance of the 39th and the P.I.B., all told numbering some 80 men.
- By about 11.30 a.m. on the 28th Owen had disposed his force round the administrative area on the extreme tip of the tongue – shaped Kokoda plateau.

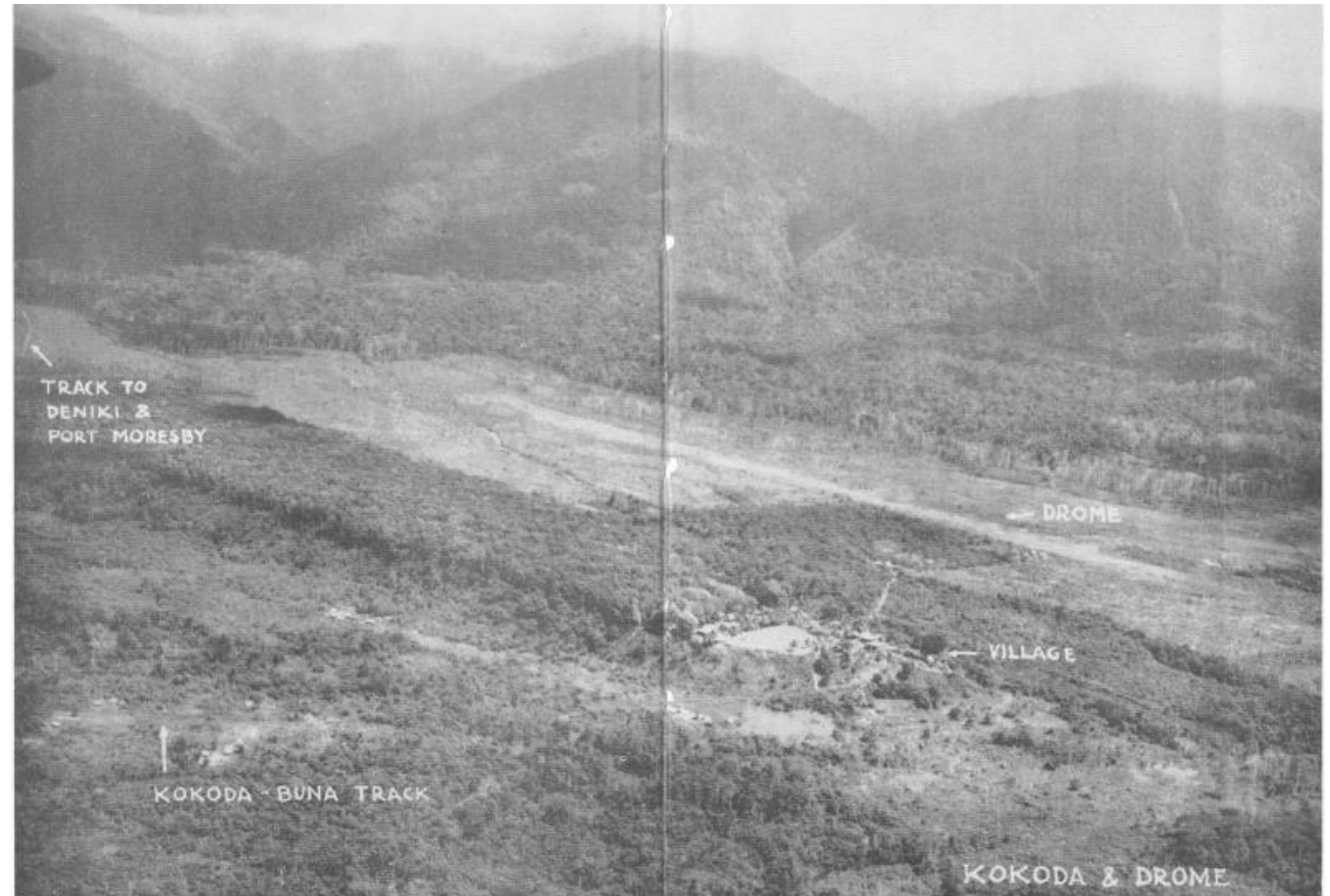


Kokoda village and airfield, 14th July 1942.

(Allied Air Forces S.W.P.A.)

28 July - Kokoda

- About midday two aircraft circled the field.
 - Owen's men hastened to try to remove the obstructions which they had placed there but
 - finally, on instructions from Port Moresby, the aircraft did not land the reinforcements they were bringing and
 - made back the way they had come.
- Three days later (28th July) the first air drops began:
 - rice was dropped at both Efogi and Kagi.
 - Three aircraft, a DC5, a DC3 and a DC2, took off from Port Moresby to drop supplies at a new "landing site" near Kokoda.
 - Fighter protection was provided and
 - the air force recorded all three missions as successful.
- The aircraft then flew two missions to Wau, the first successful, the second aborted when they were unable to find the airfield due to bad weather.



Kokoda village and airfield, 14th July 1942.

(Allied Air Forces S.W.P.A.)

28 July - Air

- **Enemy**

- Three Japanese bombers attacked Darwin at night but caused no damage.
- At 2.25 a .m. on the 28th (July) Townsville was attacked again, a single enemy flying-boat dropped a stick of eight bombs harmlessly in the foothills of the Many Peaks Range outside the town, drawing 72 rounds of fire from the defenders' anti-aircraft guns. Six Airacobras unsuccessfully attempted interception.

- **SWP**

- 1 B-26 bombs installations at Gona.
- Two R.A.A.F. Catalinas of Nos. 11 and 20 Squadrons again raided Buna & Gona, the crews spending hours over the target.

- **Aleutians**

- Air coverage survey for Army ground operations to Adak and Tanaga Is is flown. Weather cancels bombing mission to Kiska.

28 July - Air

- Gen George Kenney, commander-designate of SWP Air Forces reached Australia on 28th July to assume command of the Allied Air Forces, South-West Pacific Area on 4th August.
- General Arnold and General Marshall had told him that there were about 600 aircraft out there and that should be enough to fight a pretty good war. They would do what they could to help him out, but they just had to build up the European show first.



28 July - Air

- Kenney flew to Brisbane where GHQ S.W.P.A., and Allied Air Forces Headquarters were now located.
- Here he found that "Brett certainly was in wrong. Nothing that he did was right."
- This he heard from MacArthur's chief of staff, General Sutherland, whom he described as a brilliant, hard-working officer with an unfortunate bit of arrogance combined with his egotism that made him almost universally disliked.
- According to Sutherland
 - "... none of Brett's staff or senior commanders was any good, the pilots couldn't hit anything and knew nothing about proper maintenance of their equipment or how to handle their supplies.
 - He also thought there was some question about the kids having much stomach for fighting.
 - He thought the Australians were about as undisciplined, untrained, over-advertised and generally useless as the Air Force."
- Kenney heard just about everyone hauled over the coals except Douglas MacArthur and Richard K. Sutherland.



General Richard K Sutherland

28 July - Air

- From MacArthur himself Kenney also heard all about the shortcomings of the air force
- "until finally there was nothing left but an inefficient rabble of boulevard shock troops whose contribution to the war effort was practically nil
- He had no use for anyone in the whole organisation from Brett down to and including the rank of colonel
- Finally he expressed the opinion that the air personnel had gone beyond just being antagonistic to his headquarters, to the point of disloyalty."



29 July - Air

- On 29th July two more enemy transports, escorted by two destroyers, were reported headed south from Rabaul.
 - Attacks were made on the convoy by B17s (which on this occasion bombed from 2,000 feet and claimed direct hits on one transport) supported by R.A.A.F. Hudsons and Catalinas and by American Dauntless dive bombers.
 - None of these attacks prevented reinforcements from being landed at Buna.
- Seven Dauntlesses crossed the Owen Stanleys to strike at the convoy, now close in-shore.
 - The enemy had strong fighter cover.
 - The dive bombers' own fighter cover of 16 Aeracobras, apparently unable to stay with their much slower charges, had become separated from them at the crucial time.
- The Zero pilots struck and five of the Dauntlesses were shot down. One, riddled by gunfire, was nursed to Milne Bay. Only one got back to Port Moresby unharmed.



Rear gunner position on A-24 displayed at the National Museum of the United States Air Force.
B17 – 287 mph 249kn 13*.5 in 9 positions
Hudson – 246 mph 214kn 2*.303 in dorsal turret
Dauntless – 255mph 222kn 2*.30 in rear

29 July - Air

- **Enemy**

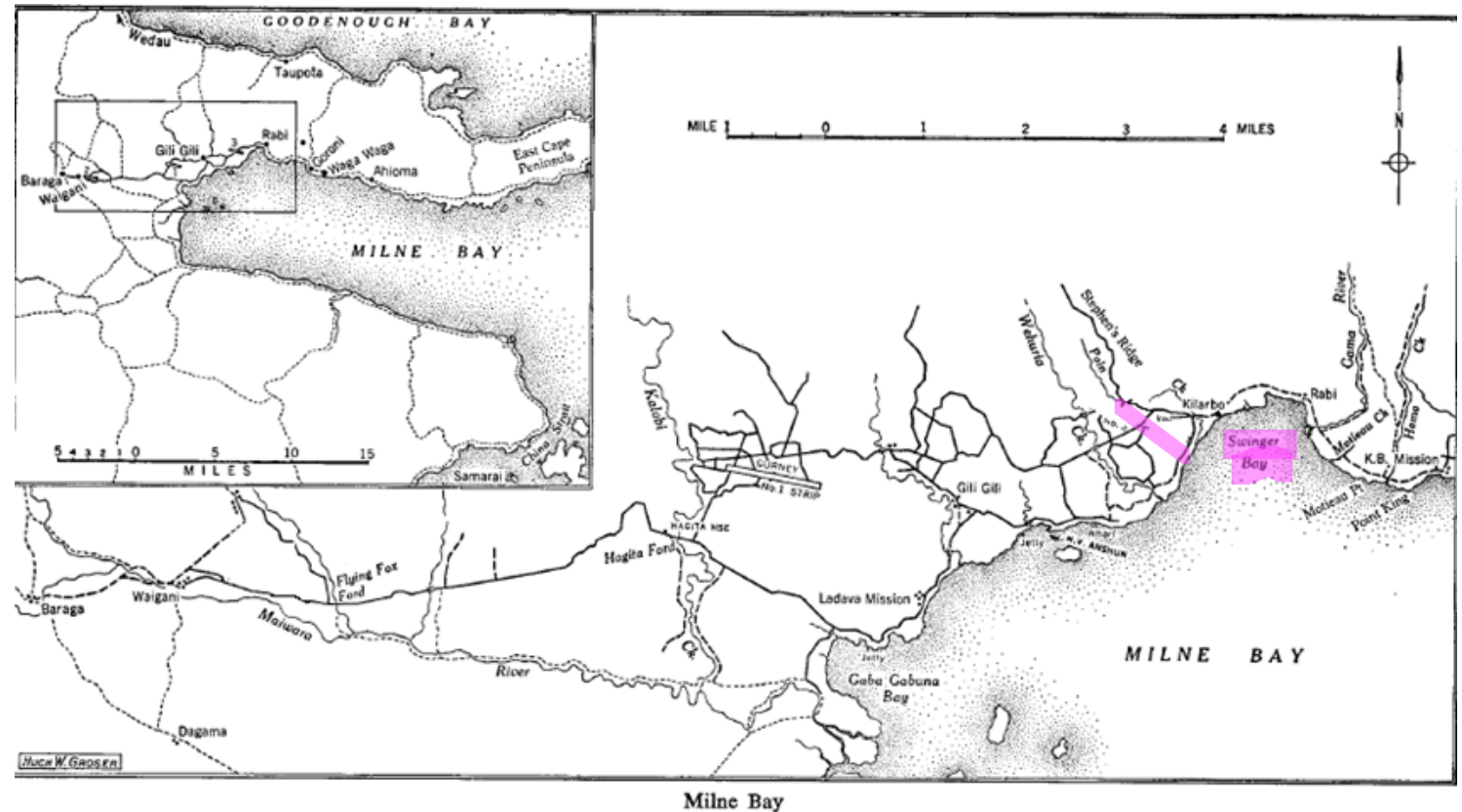
- Townsville had its third raid at 2.27 a.m. on the 29th (July) when, once more, a single four-engined flying-boat appeared.
 - It released seven bombs, six of which went harmlessly into the sea and the seventh exploded close to the racecourse without causing more damage than a few broken windows.
 - On this occasion four American Airacobra pilots attempted to intercept and one closed with the enemy aircraft sufficiently to open fire on it.
 - Though the fire from one of the fighters appeared to hit the flying-boat, it escaped apparently without any serious damage and
 - the operator of No. 1 Wireless Unit at Townsville later heard the flying-boat's crew calling Rabaul and asking for a flare-path on the harbour.
- Six Japanese bombers attacked Darwin at 00.59 on the 29th causing slight damage.
- (Raid 74, Raid 75) Day and night raids on Port Moresby by Japanese bombers. No damage.

- **Allied**

- Two R.A.A.F. Catalinas of Nos. 11 and 20 Squadrons again raided Buna & Gona, the crews spending hours over the target.
- 4 B-24's and 5 B-17's bomb vessels and installations in Kiska Harbor area with unobserved results due to clouds.

29 July - Air

- By the end of the month (July) Field had planned a third (No. 3) strip, a mile north-eastward of the dock and running north-westward from the water's edge on the west side of Swinger Bay.



29 July - Kokoda

- About 2 o'clock in the morning of the 29th (July) the Japanese began to lay down machine-gun and mortar fire.
- Half an hour later, through the moonlight, they launched an emphatic attack up the steep slope at the northern end of the area where Seekamp was waiting. The attack pressed in. It was close fighting with the Australians beating the attackers back with grenades. Owen was in the most forward position at the most threatened point in Seekamp's sector, on the lip of the plateau. He was throwing grenades when a bullet struck him above the right eye.
- Watson sent for Vernon, the medical officer, deaf and unconcerned, who was asleep at the R.A.P. The two carried Owen back to the medical post but he died soon after.
- Watson now took command of the force but soon defenders and attackers were so intermingled that it was difficult to tell friend from foe in the misty moonlight.
- Soon it was clear that the attackers were through the northern positions and both flanks. The Australians were falling back. Watson, Stevenson, Brewer and Morrison were among the last to withdraw. Just behind them were a Bren gunner named "Snowy" Parr and his mate, reluctantly giving ground. A group of 20 or 30 of their enemies appeared in the cleared area close to Parr. He blasted them deliberately at close range. Brewer said "I saw Japs dropping". Parr thought he got about 15 of them. "You couldn't miss," he said.
- They left Kokoda and withdrew back to Deniki

29 July - Kokoda

- The men were jaded and very dispirited when they arrived back at Deniki.
- Their actual casualties at Kokoda had not been heavy (about 2 killed, 7 or 8 wounded) but some men had been cut off in the fighting and were missing and a few had fled.
- Most of the Australians were very young (the average age of one of Templeton's sections was only 18) and the closed green world was strange to them.



(Australian War Memorial)
Lieut-Colonel O. A. Kessels, C.O. 49th Battalion; Brigadier S. H. W. C. Porter, commanding 30th Brigade; Lieut-Colonel N. L. Fleay, O.C. Kanga Force; Lieut-Colonel W. T. Owen, C.O. 39th Battalion; and Major J. A. E. Findlay, Owen's second-in-command. Port Moresby, July 1942.

Lt Col Owen, CO 39th Battalion (4th from left) survivor from Rabaul, KIA 29 July.

30 July - Government

- The future employment of the 9th Division was again discussed by the War Cabinet and Advisory War Council on 29th and 30th July against the background of renewed apprehension in the Pacific.
- They sent Churchill on 30th July a telegram which, commenting on the review of the Middle East situation, expressed disappointment that once again the possibilities in the Pacific, both in regard to offensive action by Japan and offensive action by the United Nations to defeat Japan, had been overlooked.
- The Government then proceeded to express its "willing agreement" to the "temporary retention of the 9th Division in the Middle East" on condition that the United Kingdom would give an assurance that its representatives in Washington would do their utmost to ensure the allotment of aircraft for the re-equipment of the R.A.A.F. to 73 squadrons by June 1943.
- They also added a cautionary word that reinforcements for the 9th Division would only provide enough for two and a half months on the intense scale of activity.

30 July - Government

- Curtin Holds press conference which includes an expression of annoyance at Fadden's statement on coal last night.
 - "What did they do when they were in power?" he asked. "Bob [Menzies] sat here like a pontiff and then decided to go and make a speech which aggravated the bloody position."
- He makes a public statement questioning coalminer's right to strike when Australia is at war.

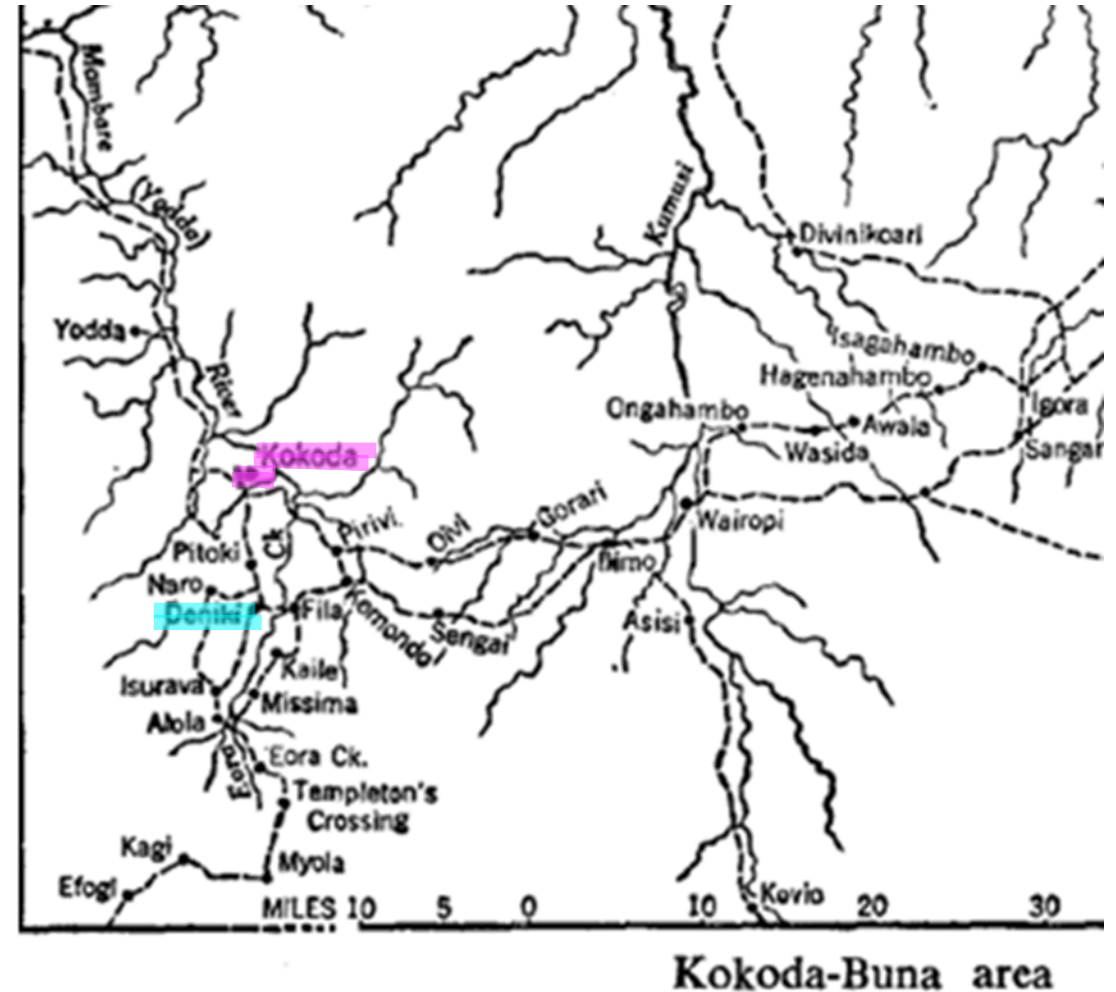


30 July - Strategy

- On 30 July General MacArthur was informed that the Joint Chiefs of Staff have directed the Joint Psychological Warfare Committee to prepare a plan for operation against Japan.
- The War Dept asked the General for full information as to what organisation for this purpose he has already set up and his recommendations on the subject.

30 July – New Guinea

- **Ground**
- The day after their return to **Deniki** brought both respite and assistance to the forward Australians. By midday on the 30th (July) Dean and his company had arrived with supplies and ammunition.
- **Air**
- On 30th July a No. 32 Squadron Hudson captained by Manning made that unit's last combat sortie in New Guinea when they attacked enemy positions in the Buna area. The squadron was then withdrawn to Australia, where it flew anti submarine patrols out of Richmond in NSW. They had been in action from Moresby and Horn Island since the fall of Rabaul in January.



Air



DAP Beaufort

Maximum speed 270 mph

Cruise 180 mph

Ceiling 18,000ft

Range with 1500lb bombs 1200 miles.



Maximum speed: 218 kt (246 mph, 397 km/h)

Range: 1,700 nmi (1,960 mi, 3,150 km)

Service ceiling: 24,500 ft (7,470 m)

Bombs: 750 lb (340 kg) of bombs or depth charges

30 July - Watchtower

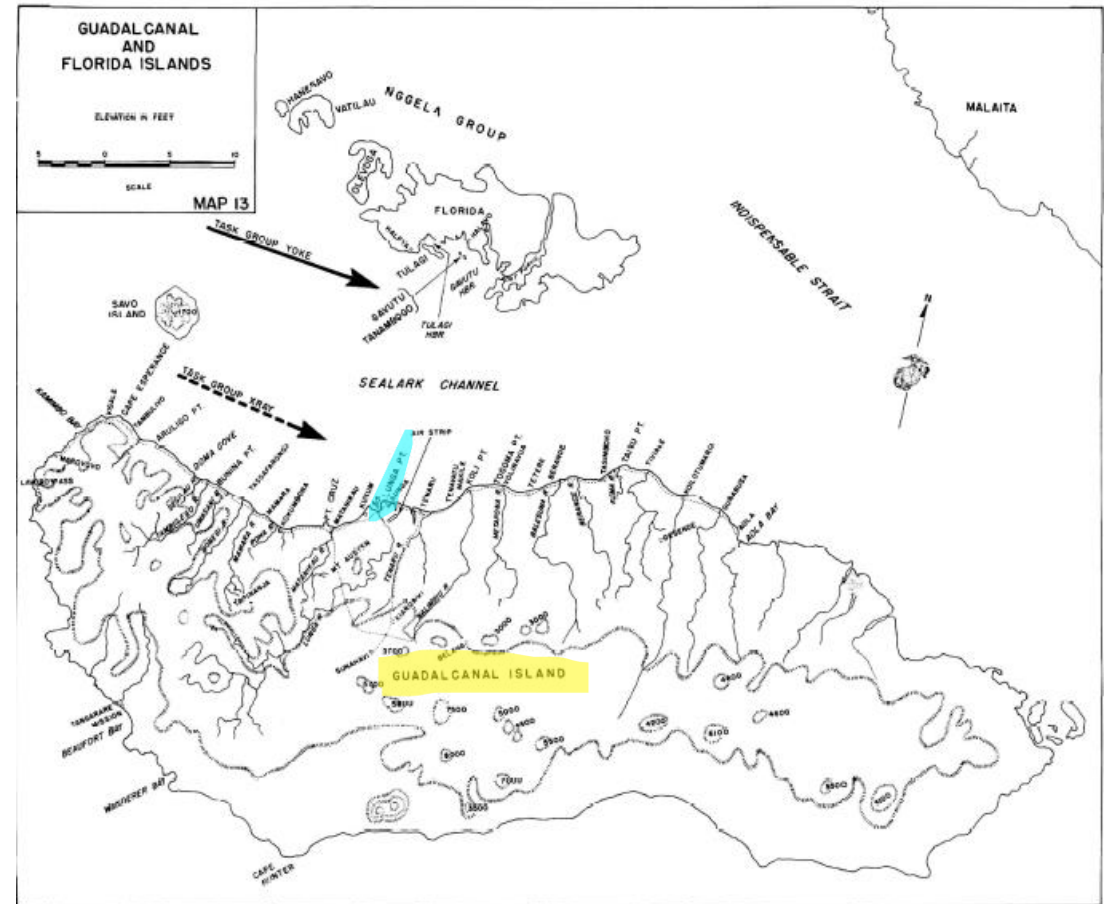
- Admiral Turner's Operation Plan, issued at the Koro Island rehearsals in the Fijis on 30 July, estimated that 1,850 enemy would be found on Tulagi and Gavutu-Tanambogo, and 5,275 on Guadalcanal.
- Vandegrift divided his organization into two forces.
- The units landing on the Florida side (Group Yoke) were to be commanded by Brigadier General Rupertus, the assistant division commander while
- Vandergrift himself would exercise command over Group X-Ray landing at Lunga Point.
- It was expected that the Florida-side landings would be more severely contested, and the general assigned his best-trained units:
 - the 1st Marine Raider Battalion,
 - the 1st Parachute Battalion and the
 - 2d Battalion, 5th Marines
- to that landing.



Admiral Turner (l) & General Vandergrift (r)

30 JULY - Watchtower

- The **Guadalcanal** scheme envisaged landing the 5th Marines (less 2d Bn) across a beach some few hundred yards east of the **Lunga Point** area where the Japanese were expected to be concentrated, and there to establish a beachhead.
- The 1st Marines then would come ashore in a column of battalions and pass through this perimeter to take Mount Austen.
- The 2nd Marines would be the landing force reserve.



30 July - Air

- Within two days of his arrival (30th July) Kenney was in New Guinea accompanied by Brigadier-General Ennis Whitehead. He made a searching inspection of the units there and promptly chose Whitehead as commander of the air force elements in New Guinea.
- Kenney soon found cause for concern in operational procedures; as he expressed it, "the set-up was chaotic".
- Heavy-bomber strikes were assigned from Brisbane, relayed to Townsville, the orders passed on to No. 19 Group who were by this time based at Mareeba, about 250 miles farther north, and who sent what combat-worthy aircraft they had to Port Moresby where the crews got their final briefing.
- There seemed to be no formation leader, and the aircraft might or might not get together on the way to the target. Usually 7 to 9 bombers came from Mareeba, 6 might get off on the raid and from one to 3 usually arrived at the target.
- If enemy aircraft were encountered all bombs and auxiliary fuel were jettisoned and the mission abandoned.
- "The crews," Kenney wrote, were "obsessed with the idea that a single bullet would detonate the bombs and blow up the whole works."
- No one had explained to "the kids" that the bombs were not as sensitive as that.



General Whitehead in New Guinea

30 July - Air

- Kenney examined the heavy bombers' mainland base at Mareeba and the supply organisation that lay behind it.
- He found No. 19 Group's situation "appalling". So many Fortresses were out of commission for lack of engines and tail wheels that, had he then called for immediate action, the group could not have put more than four aircraft into the air.
- Requisitions for supplies and spare parts went from the group to Royce's headquarters at Townsville, then to an advance air depot at Charters Towers, then to Melbourne and from there on to the main air force depot at Tocumwal, over 100 miles north of Melbourne.
- On an average about a month passed before the requisition was returned to the group, generally with the notation "Not available" or "Improperly filled out".
- The immediate task for Kenney was to reconnoitre and if necessary attack in the area west of 158th degree of longitude and make an attack on Rabaul on D-day in sufficient strength, it was hoped, to "put down" and "keep down" the main Japanese air striking force in support of Watchtower.



30 July - Air

- **CBI**

- The Japanese send about 120 airplanes against the base at Hengyang from which CATF is harassing the Yangtze Valley. The attacks last about 36 hrs. Fierce opposition by US P-40's prevents major damage to the base. 17 Japanese aircraft are shot down, 4 of them at night. 3 P-40's are lost.

- **Aleutians**

- 1 LB-30, 3 B-17's and 3 B-24's fly photo rcn and bombing missions to Tanaga and Kiska. Missions are unsuccessful due to weather.

30 July - Air

- B-17's of 11th Bomb Gp begin arriving at Espiritu Santo where they are to constitute a rcn and strike force over Guadalcanal-Tulagi-Gavutu area in preparation for amphibious assault on 7 Aug.
- B-17's attack shipping in Solomon Sea.
- Two R.A.A.F. Catalinas of Nos. 11 and 20 Squadrons again raided Buna & Gona, the crews spending hours over the target.
- (Raid 76) Night raid on Port Moresby by six Japanese bombers. No Damage.
- Darwin 3 aircraft dropped 9 bombs at 04.20. No damage.
- The Japanese also made a daylight attack, for which the Kittyhawk pilots were airborne and waiting. Soon after midday 27 bombers and between 15 and 20 fighters struck at Darwin. The American pilots claimed shot down 6 Zeros and 2 bombers and probably destroyed 3 fighters and 3 bombers in addition to damaging 5 other aircraft, but two fuel dumps were destroyed, and power, water and telephone services were disrupted for a time. 1 Kittyhawk destroyed two damaged.
- Port Hedland also suffered minor damage when 9 bombers attacked the airfield.
- A lone bomber succeeded in damaging five of No. 32 Squadron's Hudsons in the dispersal area at Horn Island.
- Air raid alarms were sounded at Cairns at 02.35 and at Bowen at 03.14.



31 July - Army

- Curtin Announces:
 - An increase in pay and allowances for service personnel.
- A steady transference of men to the A.I.F. by voluntary enlistment proceeded, and at the end of July it was decided that where 75 per cent of the strength of a C.M.F. unit volunteered for service in the A.I.F. that unit should be classified as an A.I.F. unit.
- Members of a C.M.F. unit who were not accepted or who did not volunteer for the A.I.F. would not be withdrawn to depots immediately, but they would be withdrawn in the event of a unit being required to proceed overseas.



31 July- Sea

- **WATCHTOWER**

- The amphibious force and screening force sailed from Koro Island at 5.30 p.m. on 31st July and, south of the Fiji Islands at 5 p.m. next day, met the three carrier groups. Almost 19,000 Marines were embarked in the 19 transports and four destroyer-transport.

- **Submarines**

- There were some reported sightings and other contacts, and Japanese attempts to confuse by simulating submerged submarines were indicated by the finding by a fisherman off Narooma on 31st July of a dummy periscope made of a 9-foot bamboo spar, with a mirror at the top, and weighted at the bottom to keep it floating upright.

- **Aircraft Carriers**

- USS *Essex* (CV9) the lead ship of the *Essex* class of fleet aircraft carriers, of which thirteen had been ordered for the United States Navy, was launched on 31 July 1942. This was the first new fleet carrier launched since *Wasp* in April 1939. The *Essex* class were 33,000 tons full load with a speed of 32 knots and could carry 90 to 100 aircraft.

31 July - COIC

Enemy Forces

Palao - Saipan - Bonins - Japan

11 Battleships

YAMATO
MUTSU FUSO
NAGATO KIRISHIMA
HYUGA KONGO
HIYEI ISE
YAMASHIRO
HARUNA

5 Aircraft Carriers

SHOKAKU
RYUJO
HOSHO
HIYO
JUNYO

3 Converted A/C Carriers

ZUIHO
KASUGA MARU
NISSHIN
ATAGO
TAKAO
TONE
HAGURO
MYOKO

5 - 8" Cruisers

EAST INDIES - PHILIPPINES

Enemy Forces

1 Aircraft Carrier

3 - 8" Cruisers

ZUIKANU
ASHIGARA
KUMANO)
SUZUYA)

Total 6

CENTRAL PACIFIC AREA

British and Allied Forces

Battle ships

Aircraft Carriers

8" Cruisers

SOUTHERN PACIFIC AREA

British and Allied Forces

Battleship

Aircraft Carriers

8" Cruisers

Effective

MARYLAND (8-16")
COLORADO (8-16")
IDAHO (12-14")
MISSISSIPPI (12-14")
NEW MEXICO (12-14")
TENNESSEE (12-14")
PENNSYLVANIA (12-14")
HORNET
LONG ISLAND (Converted)
NORTHAMPTON
PENSACOLA

NORTH CAROLINA (9-16")

SARATOGA

WASP

ENTERPRISE

ASTORIA

PORTLAND

VINCENNES

MINNEAPOLIS

QUINCY

NEW ORLEANS

SAN FRANCISCO

AUSTRIA

CANBERRA

CHICAGO

SALT LAKE CITY

Total 4

31 July – Gona Mission

- Eight B.17s attacked a merchant vessel and destroyer approx. 80 miles N.E. Ambasi at 18.00. Five direct hits claimed on M.V. which burst into flames. No hits on destroyer. Two direct hits on wrecked MV off Gona.
- Two R.A.A.F. Catalinas of Nos. 11 and 20 Squadrons again raided Buna & Gona, the crews spending hours over the target.



Gona Mission, 31st July 1942, ten days after the Japanese landings in that area.

(Allied Air Forces S.W.P.A.)

31 July - Air

- **SWP**
- On 31st July a single aircraft flew over the Mossman district near Cairns and dropped a single bomb which exploded 20 yards from a house and injured a child—the first civilian air-raid casualty on the east coast of Australia.
- The No. 1 Mobile Works Squadron RAAF was formed in April to build airfields in the war zone and began field operations in North-Western Area in July.
- **SOPAC**
- Col LaVerne Saunders leads 9 B-17's of his 11th Bomb Group from Efate on strike against Guadalcanal, bombing landing strip and area about Lunga Pt.
- On 31st July 10 Liberators of the U.S.A.A.F. and 6 Hudsons of the New Zealand Air Force conducted searches north-west from New Caledonia.
- **Seventh AF**
- 1 B-17, from Midway, flies photo rcn of Wake. The HB is intercepted by 6 ftrs. In the ensuing fight US gunners claim 4 fighters destroyed.
- **Aleutians**
- 1 B-24 and 1 LB-30 fly weather and photo rcn. Weather cancels combat mission to Kiska.



31 July - Rationing

- Some rationing was carried out at the source of distribution.
- Tobacco had been rationed by limiting the output of manufacturers. Retailers were supplied on the basis of quotas related to the amount received in the "base" year (1940).
- From the middle of 1942 there was a reduction of 25 per cent from the base year.
- Beer and spirits had been cut by about one-third and the output of Australian wine was pegged at the 1941 level.
- It became part of the art of living for the civilian in need of alcohol or tobacco to attach themselves to a publican or shopkeeper and try to get on his "list".
- The heavy smoker usually had a busy few days at the beginning of each month picking up a packet of cigarettes from a hairdresser, another from the newsagent's, a little gift from some friend who had access to a military canteen, and two packets which his wife had got from an aunt who lived in another suburb, and so on.
- A place on a "list" and the retention of the shopkeeper's favour was usually obtained at the price of regular custom for other commodities.

Rationing

- A newspaper article from the Sydney Sun of 10 May 1942 revealed that the Prime Minister was affected by war time tobacco shortages just like any other smoker:
- Finding it just as difficult as any other Australian to make his cigarette-ends meet is chain-smoking Prime Minister John Curtin. Yet at a Press conference last week with a burst of generosity, pure Socialism, or what-you-will, he produced from a locked drawer his 'hoard' – three small packets of a popular brand and offered to 'loan' a packet to anybody left without cigarettes for the weekend. The Prime Minister's Press secretary, Don Rodgers, promptly borrowed two packets, then spent all his spare time scouring cigarette starved Canberra to replace them.

IMPORTED CIGARETTE PRICES

CANBERRA, Mon: Professor Copland, Prices Commissioner, today announced fixed maximum retail prices for 3 additional brands and packings of imported cigarettes which form part of refugee cargoes requisitioned by the Government for sale in Australia. Virginia House, cork tip 10's, are to sell at 1/3½ a packet, Turf, cork tip 10's, at 1/2½, and Capstan 10's, ordinary, at 1/3.

The Argus (Melbourne) 8 December 1942

1 August - Sea

- **Indian Ocean**
- Towards the end of July, Admiral King had asked the Admiralty for a diversion by the Eastern Fleet early in August to help the offensive in the Solomons. The result was operation STAB, carried out by Admiral Somerville in the Bay of Bengal.
- Force "A" of the Eastern Fleet, comprising Warspite, Illustrious, Formidable, cruisers, and destroyers including the Australian ships Napier, Norman and Nizam, reached Colombo at the end of July.
- Sufficient merchant ships were assembled to form three dummy convoys, and from 1st August these were sailed from Colombo and the east coast of India to simulate an expedition against the Andaman Islands.
- On 1st August reports were received that an enemy naval force was concentrating at Surabaya, in Java. (civil v2p176)
- **American Torpedoes**
- Finally, on 1 August 1942, eight months after the war's start, word was passed to the fleet that torpedoes were running ten feet too deep.
 - There still remained some premature explosions and
 - some apparent failures of the contact exploders to be explained.



Somerville as Commander-in-Chief, Eastern Fleet with Captain Oliver on board HMS *Warspite*.

1 August – New Guinea

- On the 1st August it was decided that the 7th Division A.I.F. should go to New Guinea, to reinforce the New Guinea Force of about 10,000 men. (civil v2p176)
- On 1st August Captain Symington who had fought with the 2/16th Battalion in Syria, arrived with his "A" Company and took over as second-in-command to Watson.
- The two other companies and other details were moving up the track.
- Photo: Lieutenants SX4542 John Francis Cunneen (21st Australian Infantry Brigade), Noel Mallam Symington (2/16th Battalion) and SX2643 Arthur Cyril Dean (2/27th Battalion), Intelligence Officers in the Advance party of 21st Australian Infantry Brigade group for the invasion of Syria. 26 May 1941.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

040341

1 August - Kokoda

- When Kienzle had arrived at Isurava on the 31st (July) he had word from Watson that the latter's need for both food and ammunition was urgent as the supplies at Kokoda had been lost and no reserves were held.
- Kienzle then decided that the only solution was to find a dropping ground reasonably close to the front.
- Kienzle remembered that on flights from Kokoda to Port Moresby before the war he had noticed a clear area on the very crest of the range which looked as though it might be the bed of a dry lake or lakes.
- On 1st August, accompanied by four natives, he set out from Isurava to look for this. About the point where the track topped the range he struck eastwards cutting through a tangle of dense bush and vines, and moss.



Herbert Thomson "Bert" Kienzle, ANGAU

1 August - Air

- **SWP**

- B-17's attack installations at Gona and shipping 75 mi E of Salamaua in Huon Gulf.
- Another single-aircraft attack on Horn Island was made two days later on 1st August the bombs falling harmlessly into the sea.

- **SOPAC**

- Ten 11 Group Flying Fortress bombers attacked Guadalcanal;
- 10 Liberators of the U.S.A.A.F. and 6 Hudsons of the New Zealand Air Force conducted searches north-west from New Caledonia.

- **Aleutians**

- Weather and photo rcn is flown by 1 B-24 and 1 LB-30 over Korovin Bay and North Cape.

1 August - War Dept report to the White House

3. In view of the serious threats to the Middle East oil fields, General Andrews was asked for his views concerning the proposal to construct oil pipe-lines across the isthmus in order to supply the Southwest Pacific area and India. It is estimated that at least 100,000 barrels per day would be needed.

1 August - War Dept report to the White House

1. For his guidance, General Stilwell and his headquarters in New Delhi were informed that the War Department is not directly concerned in Indian internal political problems and does not take sides in the issue. US has a great strategic interest in a maximum United Nations war effort and is determined to maintain the closest possible solidarity with our allies to secure the defeat of the Axis Powers. Only in the event that internal disorders endanger American personnel or military property, or hampers our aid to China or operations against Japan, may US troops be employed to suppress disorders.

August - India

- Cripps' mission, to keep India loyal to the British war effort in exchange for a promise of elections and full self-government once the war was over, finally failed 12 April 1942.
- Gandhi described Cripps' offer of Dominion Status after the war as a "post-dated cheque drawn on a failing bank".
- When the British remained unresponsive, Gandhi and the Indian National Congress began planning a major public revolt, the Quit India movement, which demanded immediate British withdrawal from India.



Sir Stafford Cripps meets Mahatma Gandhi.

2 August - Watchtower

- Noon position on Sunday, 2nd August, was some 250 miles east of the southernmost of the New Hebrides.
- Admiral Ghormley assumed operational command of the U.S. Army Forces in the South Pacific, and
- the dividing line between the South Pacific and South-West Pacific was moved one degree westward, to 159 degrees East.
- The expedition steamed north-westward up between the New Hebrides and Loyalty Islands.

2 August - Air

- **SOPAC**
- VMO-251 barely had time to set up camp at Tontouta and uncrate its aircraft before it got the word to go up to the new field at Santo and back up the landing.
- On 2 August the unit began to arrive at this northern New Hebrides field, and within nine days Lt Col John Hart had his squadron installed there with its sixteen F4F-3P long-range photographic planes.
- Hart still was short his wing tanks for long-range flying, however.
- Eleven 11 Group Flying Fortress bombers attacked Guadalcanal;
- The USAAF and the RNZAF continued their searches north-west from New Caledonia.
- **SWP**
- 1 B-17 flies unsuccessful strike against cargo vessel 5 mi S of Salamaua while another bombs Gona.



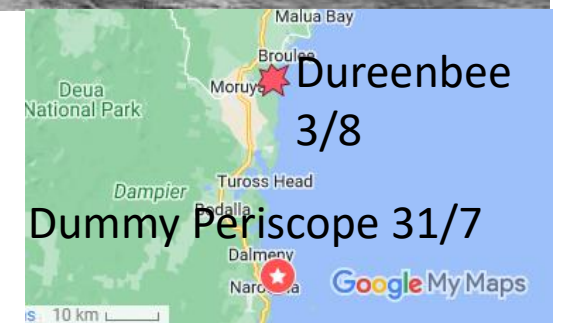
Grumman F4F 3P Wildcat VMO 251 at Espiritu Santo
1942

3 August – Australian Coast

- On 3rd August a trawler of 223 tons, Dureenbee was fishing off the NSW south coast.
- At 0.45 a.m. a submarine broke surface, and lay scarcely moving about 200 yards on Dureenbee's starboard side then opened fire with her deck gun.
- The trawler's skipper William Reid, hailed the submarine with "Ship ahoy! This is only a fishing craft."
- The reply was more shell fire.
- For some time at close range she battered Dureenbee with intermittent shell and machine-gun fire.
- When she finally submerged and disappeared two of the fishermen were dead, and three wounded. Dureenbee's bridge was smashed, her funnel shot away, and she was holed and on fire.
- Another fishing boat put out from port and recovered the survivors and two dead. The wreck of the trawler drifted for some hours and finally went ashore about a mile north of Moruya Heads.

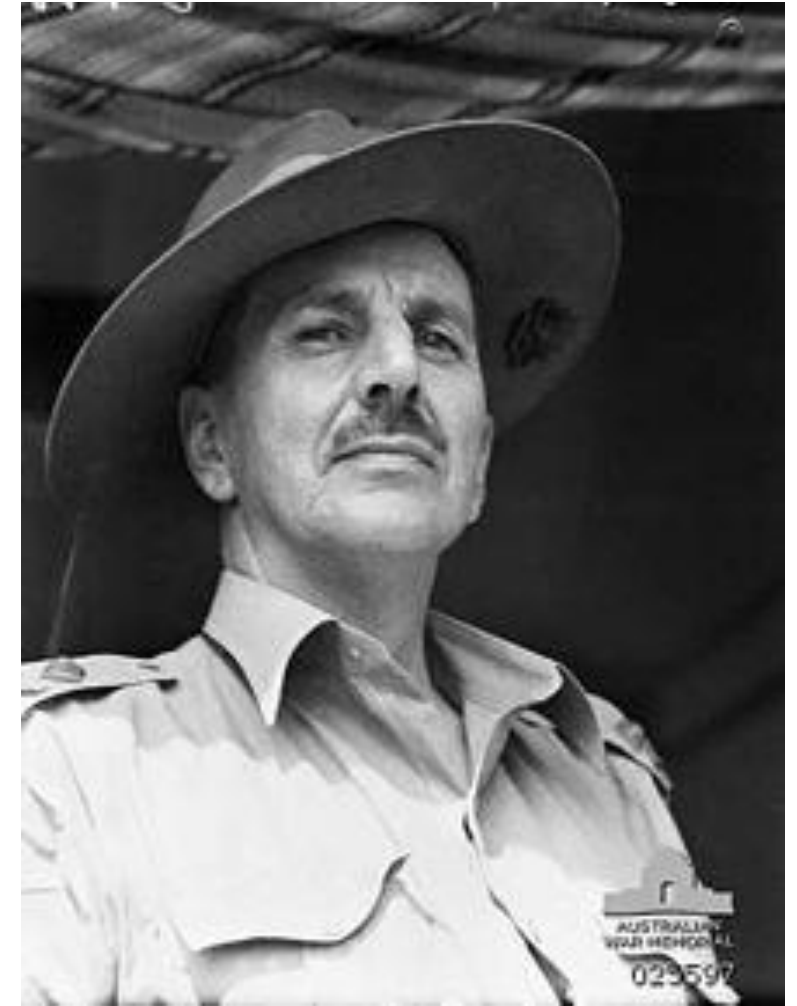


Dureenbee



3 August – New Guinea

- **Morris**
- As the strength of the Japanese thrust into the mountains became apparent perturbation grew at Port Moresby and in Australia itself. On 3rd August Morris signalled to Army Headquarters:
 - “Supply situation Maroubra and Kanga most serious. Must repeat must have transport planes with parachutes stationed here immediately. Failing this operations will be jeopardised and forward troops liable to starvation.”
- **Kienzle**
- Early on 3rd August Kienzle emerged from the bush on to the edge of the smaller of the two old lake beds which lay close to one another but separated by a mountain spur.
- It was set like a saucer in the high mountain tops, was well over a mile long and up to half a mile wide. The ground was flat and treeless and covered with kunai grass. The place had no name so he called it Myola.
- He sent word to Sergeant Jarrett at Efogi to come forward and establish a large camp at Myola as quickly as possible



Major General Basil Morris, Port Moresby, New Guinea, July 1942

3 August - Air

- **SWP**

- By early August, when work on No. 3 Strip was started, the Allied forces at Milne Bay comprised 8,600 Australian combat troops, supported by two R.A.A.F. Kittyhawk fighter squadrons, with 1,300 American troops, mainly engineers constructing the airstrip and anti-aircraft units.
- P-40's strafe Oivi and Kokoda.
- Two Catalina flying boats attacked Lae-Salamaua.

- **SOPAC**

- Two 11 Group Flying Fortress bombers attacked Guadalcanal;
- The USAAF and the RNZAF continued their searches north-west from New Caledonia.

- **Aleutians**

- 3 B-17's, 2 B-24's, and 1 LB-30 fly bombing and photo rcn mission to Tanaga and Kanaga and also bomb Kiska. 4 of the aircraft have mechanical trouble but all return.

JIC 3 August 42

Melanesia. The Japanese continue to extend and strengthen their grip on the coast of eastern NEW GUINEA and in the SOLOMON ISLANDS. The method employed is to land small occupying forces in successively advancing positions from small convoys, to develop these positions as minor bases and observation posts and then to proceed to further occupations. Bombing attacks by Allied aircraft are countering these operations, but so far they have failed completely to stop or even seriously impede the Japanese advance.

Allied planes continued bombing attacks and reconnaissance flights over Japanese held positions in NEW GUINEA, the SOLOMON ISLANDS, and the BISMARK ARCHIPELAGO, inflicting minor damage on the enemy.

On 31 July, air reconnaissance of the RABAU - NEW IRELAND area revealed the following enemy ships: at least three cruisers, one large vessel (possibly a seaplane tanker), three transports, seven medium merchant vessels, and six other ships (types unidentified).

In the SOLOMONS the enemy continues to improve his airfield facilities. Two fields, one south of BUKA airdrome, BOUGAINVILLE, and the other on GUADALCANAL ISLAND, are nearing completion.