

# War in the Pacific

## Defending Australia

### Campaigns in New Guinea and the Solomons

30 September 1942

25 Brigade advances from Iorabaiwa to Efogi without significant Japanese opposition.

A major Japanese Naval build up is detected in the Shortlands.

USS Hornet and No 100 Squadron RAAF attack the build up without significant effect.

# Situation Report – End September

- **Pacific**
  - Hornet is the only battleworthy American Carrier in the Pacific. Japanese submarines are making the area south of Guadalcanal hazardous for the Pacific Fleet
  - The ability to read Japanese codes and even to locate important Japanese ships has been lost following changes to the Japanese communications system.
- **Guadalcanal**
  - The Marines have a functioning Airbase.
  - Two Japanese ground attacks have been defeated.
  - The perimeter is under attack from the sea and the air and there are indications of a new Japanese land force to the West.
- **Kokoda**
  - In 23 days of furious Japanese attacks the Australians have been forced back to Imita Ridge. The Japanese did not follow up the last withdrawal from Ioribaiwa to Imita Ridge. Advancing Australian patrols have now found Ioribaiwa and Nauro abandoned by the enemy.
  - The allied air forces are harassing Japanese logistics at Gona and Buna and on the Track
  - Logistics on the Kokoda track remain a nightmare.
- **Lae & Salamaua**
  - The effectiveness of Kanga Force, screening Lae and Salamaua, has been reduced by sickness, logistics difficulties and more active Japanese counter measures. The force has lost 50% of its strength.
- **Timor**
  - The difficulties of supply to the Independent Company in Timor has recently resulted in the loss of the destroyer Voyager, going aground during a mission to take the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Company to relieve the 2/2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Japanese ground forces 2,000 strong, in response to the detection and bombing of Voyager emerged from Dilli and harried the Australians, who fell back into rough country south of Same.



U.S. SEA LOSSES



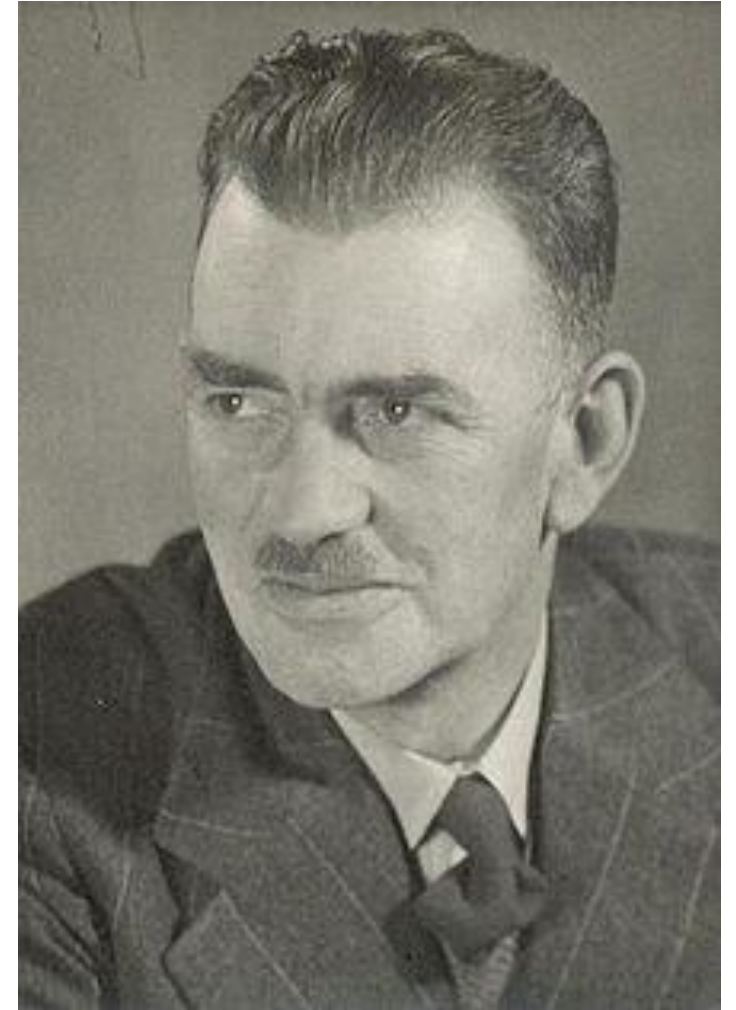
# 30 September - US Gov't

- Starting September 30, 1942, men's rubber boots and rubber work shoes were placed under rationing. To obtain a new pair, a man had to apply to the local ration board, prove he needed the shoes for essential industry—not for sport—and turn in the old pair.
- US Rationing of tires and rubber goods had been announced on December 27, 1941, to start on January 5, 1942.
- Local Tire Rationing Boards issued certificates for tires or recapping upon application.
- Certificates for new tires were restricted to vehicles for public health and safety (medical, fire, police, garbage, and mail services), essential trucking (food, ice, fuel), and public transportation.
- Recapping was allowed at the discretion of the local board for any of the above, and occasionally for taxis and defense workers who shared rides.
- Civilians were allowed to keep five tires per automobile and were required to surrender any others.



# 1 October - Government

- Under the National Security Regulations action could be taken against unauthorised absence, and
- for the New Year holiday season at the beginning of 1943 the powers were added to by Holidays and Annual Leave Regulations, introduced on 1 October 1942,
- Which made it an offence to stay away from work on New Year's Day.



John Dedman Minister for War  
Organisation of Industry

# 1 October - Sea

- An aircraft ferry was torpedoed and sunk in the Pacific west of Bougainville Island, Papua New Guinea (05°38'S 153°08'E) by USS *Sturgeon*.
- A 2,000 ton cargo ship was torpedoed and sunk off the coast of Japan by USS *Nautilus*.
- A 2,000 ton cargo ship was torpedoed and sunk in the Pacific Ocean off Japan by USS *Kingfish*.



# 1 October – Sea, Solomons

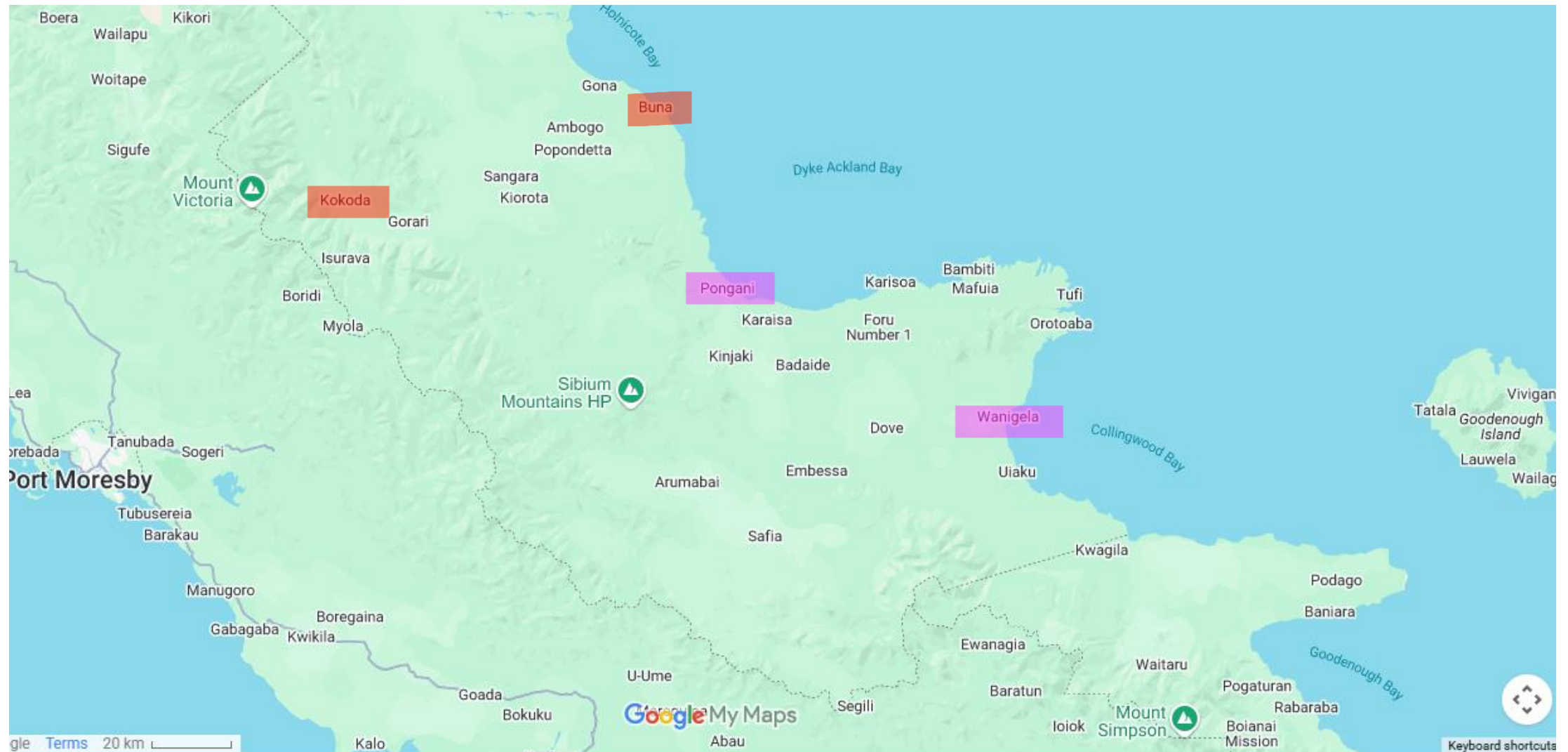
- In daylight when the Cactus airforce could fly cover Allied ships came in from the south with reinforcements and supplies for the Marines. Barges, landing craft, and YP's shuttled errands across Sealark Channel.
- By nightfall the larger ships departed and most of the others still in the Sealark area withdrew to safety in the Tulagi anchorage. Until dawn the Japanese took over.
- The destroyers and cruisers of the Tokyo Express habitually lurked in the Shortlands below Bougainville Island until the afternoon when they would start steaming south to be within 200 miles of Guadalcanal by about 1800.
- This was just inside the range of SBD'S and TBF's from Henderson Field, but the maneuvering ships made poor targets, and the late hour gave the American planes time for only one crack at them before turning back for Lunga.
- After that the Express had an open line all the way to Sealark. While transport destroyers unloaded on either side of the Marine perimeter, Japanese warships stood close in at Lunga and went to work with their guns.

# 1 October – New Guinea

- General Blamey planned to maintain General Rowell's intention that the Australian 25th and 16th Brigades would continue the advance across the Kokoda Track with the successive objects of
  - capturing **Kokoda** and the aerodrome there to facilitate reinforcement and supply;
  - of securing the line of the Kumusi River; and
  - of closing on **Buna**.
- At the same time one battalion of the 126th United States Infantry Regiment would strike up from the southeast, by way of Jaure, either to Wairopi or Buna (in accordance with the developing situation) and
- another force would move on a third axis **Wanigela-Pongani** (on the coast between Wanigela and Buna)-Buna .
- The main force on the third axis would be a battalion of the 128th Infantry which, having been flown to Wanigela, would press on along the coast to Pongani to join there with two battalions of the 126th Regiment which would be flown direct to Pongani or its immediate vicinity.
- The three forces would converge on the Japanese positions in the Buna-Gona area .



# 1 October – New Guinea



# 1 October – New Guinea

- Ground
- At the beginning of October action was most advanced along the first axis—the Kokoda Track.
- Patrols had already found Nauro unoccupied and had gone on toward Menari.
- The 3rd Battalion led the advance of the main body on the 1<sup>st</sup> (October).
- Air
- B-17's and P-400's pound forces and communications in the Owen Stanley Range, hitting Menari, Kagi; Myola Lake, Kokoda area, Wairopi bridge, and Buna-Wairopi trail.
- Three direct hits were scored on the bridge and about eighteen feet of the bridge was destroyed.



# 1 October – New Guinea, Air

- G.H.Q. Operations Instruction No. 12, dated 1st October, assigned to the R.A.A.F. general reconnaissance, bomber and torpedo squadrons the responsibility for keeping open the sea lanes to New Guinea; for "effecting the maximum possible dislocation" of Japanese shipping, supply lines and sea communications; and for maintaining constant reconnaissance of all "hostile sea approaches to New Guinea within range".
- On 1st October 6 Beaufighters and 4 P39s strafe buildings Salamaua and barges at Sananda point. Flight Lieutenant Willard (pilot) and Flight Sergeant Nelson (observer) flew their Beaufighter back across the Owen Stanley Range on one engine after the other one had been stopped by fire from an anti-aircraft battery at Sanananda.
- Attacks were made on Wairopi bridge on 1/10 by 6 P39s and three B17s. Bridge left unserviceable. Four P39s attacking at 15.30 reported the morning damage already under repair.



# 1 October – New Guinea, Air



A No. 6 Squadron RAAF Hudson taxiing on Gurney Field at Milne Bay during September or October 1942



DAP Beaufort A9-29 of 100 Squadron RAAF

# 1 October – Cactus

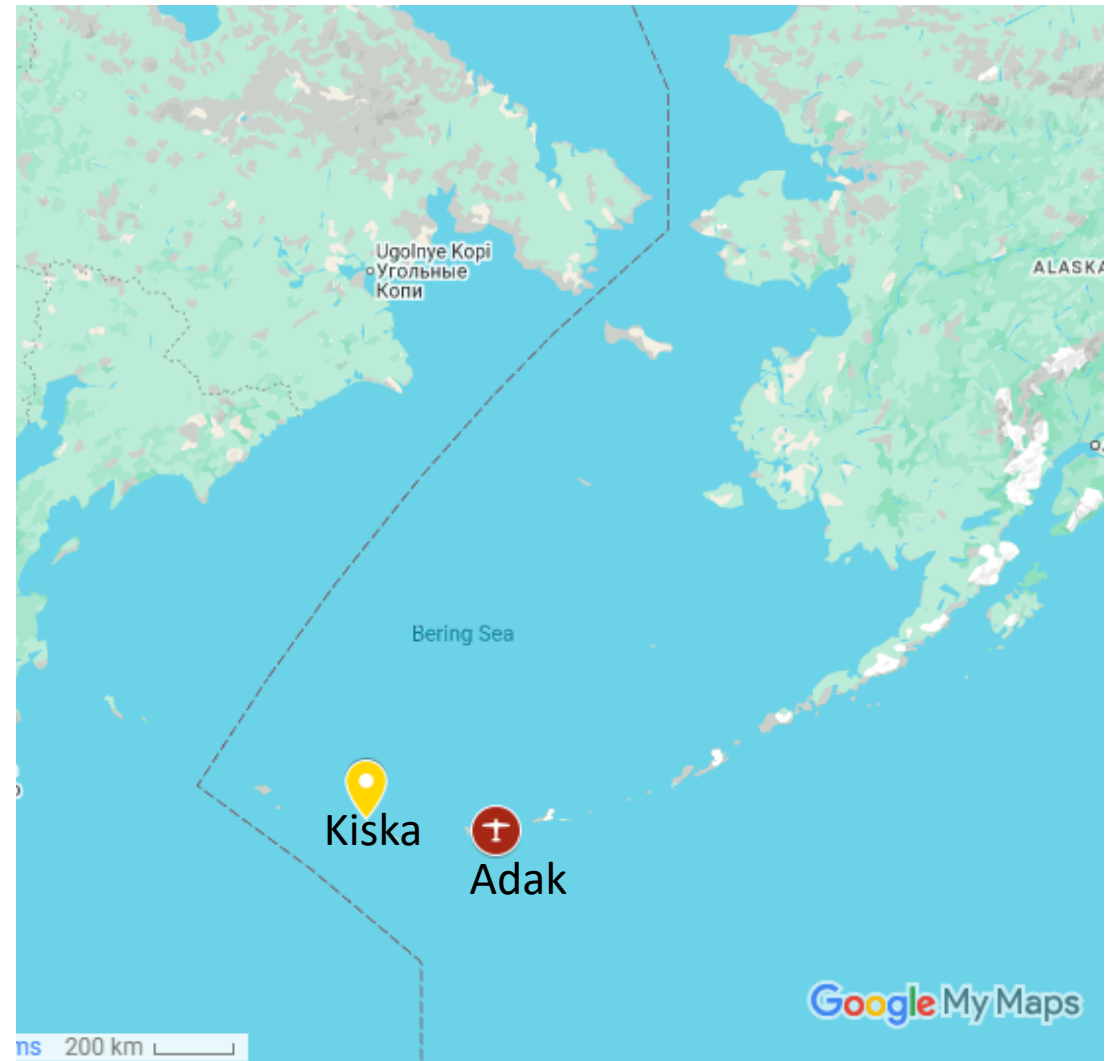
- **Air**
- By 1 October, Lieutenant Colonel Mangrum's original VMSB-232 and Lieutenant Commander Caldwell's Flight 300 were done for,
- Army pilots from the 67th Fighter Squadron had only about six or eight of their P400's in shape to fly,
- John Smith's VMF-223 had lost an even dozen pilots—six killed and six wounded—and
- other units, although stronger, still piled up their share of losses.
- On the first day of October General Geiger had 58 planes.
- **Ground**
- The 43<sup>rd</sup> Division sailed from San Francisco on 1st October for New Zealand whence it was to be shipped in November to Guadalcanal.



Maj John L. Smith, LtCol Richard C. Mangrum, and Capt Marion E. Carl pose for photos after returning to the States after service in the Cactus Air Force at Guadalcanal in 1942.

# 1 October – Air

- A Japanese rcn airplane over Adak establishes US occupation on the island.
- 7 B-24's on a search attack and photo rcn mission over Kiska hit hangars and ramps, starting several fires.
- 4 ftrs appear and are engaged. 1 probable victory is claimed.
- 2 other B-24's take off, after Navy Catalinas contact a transport, but cannot locate it.





# 2 October - COIC

## Enemy Forces

(1) BUIN-SHORTLAND AREA - The enemy force in this area yesterday 1/10 appears to have included the following vessels -

- 2 -

3 heavy cruisers (described 2 "NACHI", 1 "KAKO" class)  
2 light cruisers (1 "SENDAI", 1 "TENRYU" class)  
20 destroyers and patrol boats  
2 probable minelayers  
2 converted S/P Tenders  
5-7 merchant vessels (cargo vessels and transports)  
2 oilers

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Only 15 DD's and patrol craft were visible at 1730/1 although more had been sighted earlier in the day.

Movements of shipping reported during the day were the departure of 4 destroyers from Buin southwards at 0930, the arrival of 7 destroyers from N.E. at 1730 and the movement of 7 cargo ships from Buin to Kirihi between 0720 and 1450, the arrival of a "SENDAI" class cruiser between 0720 and 0820, and the arrival of a "NACHI" cruiser and cargo ship between 1450 and 1730.

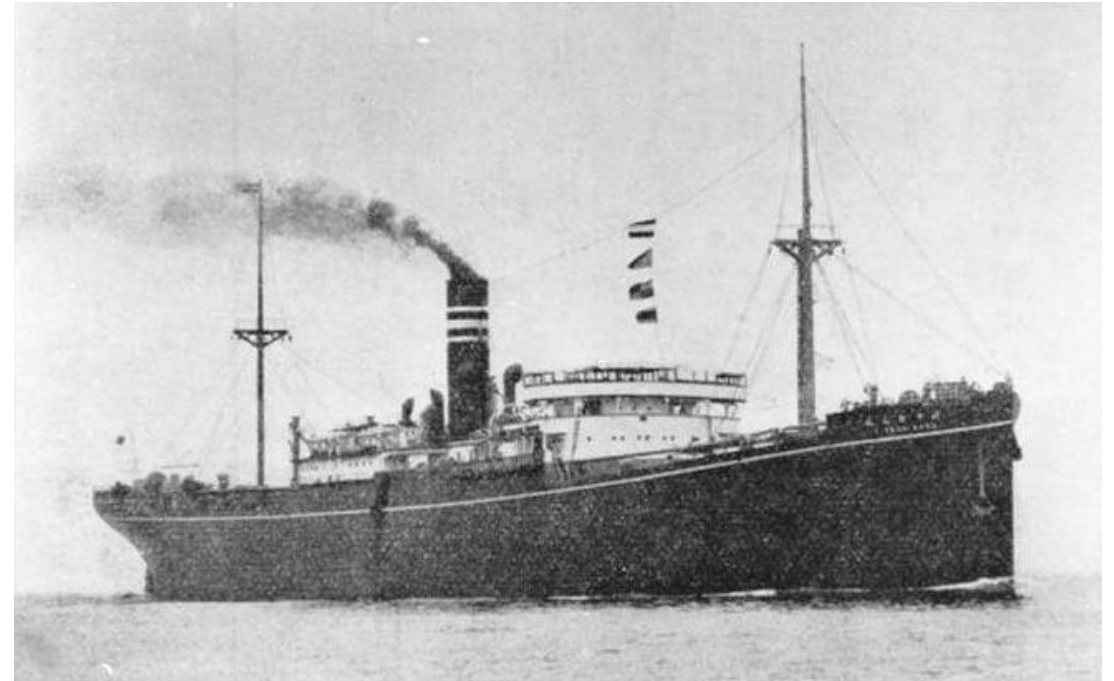
## 2 October - Sea

- As a great increase in shipping in the Shortlands was reported, Ghormley guessed that another offensive was building up.
- He wanted to break it up but only the B17s had the range and they rarely seemed to be able to hit a ship.
- Ghormley decided to take a crack at the target even though it meant risking his only remaining carrier, Hornet.
- Hornet left Noumea on 2 October screened by four cruisers and six destroyers.



## 2 October – Sea

- The Lisbon Maru a 7,000 ton transport, sank due to torpedo damage inflicted the previous day 20 mi (32 km) north of Chushan Island, China (29°57'N 122°56'E) by the submarine USS *Grouper*.
- She was carrying 1,800 British and Canadian prisoners-of-war , captured after the fall of Hong Kong.
- Three guards and 826 POWs were killed;
- most of the POWs killed were shot by guards while attempting to abandon ship.
- Survivors were rescued by a destroyer, by Toyokuni Maru ( Japan), and by Chinese junks.



Lisbon Maru



## 2 October – New Guinea

- The 3rd Battalion found evidence of hasty Japanese withdrawal:
- bodies and equipment lay along the track.
- By the early afternoon of the 2nd the leading company was at Menari and was continuing towards Efogi without opposition.
- Colonel Cameron reported that the area between Loribaiwa and Nauro seemed to have been occupied by some 2,000 men;
- that his troops had buried twelve Japanese on whom there were no signs of wounds;
- that there was evidence that the invaders had been reduced to eating wood, grass, roots and fruits which were known to be inedible, and that dysentery was rife among them.
- He found the bodies of two Australians, one bound to a tree, one decapitated.
- Behind it (3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion) the 2/25th moved out from Loribaiwa on the 2<sup>nd</sup> (October) with Major Marson in command. The other two battalions were to follow on succeeding days.



# 2 October - Air

- **SWP**

- Subject to a check on the entire plan by Kenney, MacArthur, on 2nd October, approved Operation HATRACK (as the “Wanigela thing” had been named).
- In the Owen Stanley Range, three A-20s bomb and strafe Japanese campsites around Myola and hit several trails in the area, while ten P-400's strafe bridges at Sirorata and Wairopi and village NE of Wairopi.
- Early in the morning six B17's bomb shipping and A/F at Rabaul scoring direct hits on one 15,000 ton and one 7,000 ton transports both of which were left burning. There was no interception.

- **SoPac**

- Allied aircraft attacked Rekata Bay. A large building was damaged, AA positions were silenced and large fires were started.
- Six Patrol bombers attacked A/Fs at Buka & Buin.
- At 12.30 Cactus radar detected a flight of small fast aircraft approaching and 36 Wildcats took off, too late to meet the bandits at altitude.
  - The Japanese pilots shot down 6 Wildcats killing 4 of the pilots.
  - Major Galer claimed two Zeros before he parted company from his riddled Wildcat near Tulagi and Major Smith claimed one before he crash landed six miles south east of the perimeter.
  - American claims totalled four Zeros.
  - Two SBDs also disappeared.

## 2 October - Air

- **CBI**
- Twelve Blenheims (photo) attacked Japanese barracks at Meitila and Schwebo.
- One B25 destroyed the bridge south of Mogaung with two direct hits from an altitude of fifty feet.
- **Aleutians**
- 11 B-24's and 6 P-39's bomb 2 cargo ships at Kiska Harbor (no hits observed) drop demolition charges throughout Main Camp area and hit hangar S of seaplane ramp. 4 float-planes and 1 biplane are shot down.(Enemy AA fire was reported heavier and more effective than formerly.)JIC)
- Enemy aircraft bomb Adak A/F without inflicting damage.





# 3 October - Government

- Curtin: 'Escapes briefly from a pile of official documents and cables' to
- examine a 'fowlhouse and run which is being built at The Lodge' by "Big Bill Tracey, the PM's chauffeur, who is also a keen punter" who
- "elected with a grin to begin the job on Australia's first raceless Saturday."
- The PM sauntered down with a cigarette to view the work and complimented the perspiring Tracy on his design and architecture.'



# 3 October - Kokoda

- The 3rd Battalion, except for Captain Boag's company which went ahead towards Efogi,
- spent the 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> (October) clearing dropping grounds at Nauro.
- Marson passed through to bivouac half-way between Nauro and Menari.
- When they set out on 3rd October to take over from 25<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Brigadier Lloyd and the 16<sup>th</sup> Brigade passed General MacArthur near Owers' Corner on their way forward.
- He said then: "Lloyd, by some act of God, your brigade has been chosen for this job. The eyes of the western world are upon you. I have every confidence in you and your men. Good luck and don't stop."
- MacArthur was making his first visit to New Guinea. He had arrived on 2nd October, spent about an hour at Owers' Corner on the 3rd, and thus was able to see from a distance the country in which the troops were operating.



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# 3 October - Kokoda

- As an outcome of the Government's anxiety the Minister for Air, Mr Drakeford, and the Minister for the Army, Mr Forde, had flown to Port Moresby on 1st October.
- Forde, who was accompanied by the Secretary of the Department of the Army, Mr Sinclair, spent 2nd October at Milne Bay.
- On the 3rd he was taken by jeep to the ridge overlooking Uberi and spent about an hour there.



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Forde MacArthur and Blamey New Guinea October 42

# 3 October

- **Sea**
  - A cargo ship of about 6,000 tons was sunk by US submarine Greenling at 38-46N,142-02E.
  - The USSR cargo ship Mikoyan was torpedoed and sunk in the Bay of Bengal, presumably by a Japanese submarine.
  - Japan was not at war with the USSR.
- **Aleutians**
  - 6 B-24's, 4 P-38's, and 8 P-39's bomb and strafe 7 vessels in and around Kiska Harbor hitting a beached cargo vessel and the camp. The ftrs down 6 float ftrs attempting interception. Enemy bombs Adak A/F but inflicts no damage.
- **CBI**
  - IATF is activated at Dinjan to support Chinese resistance along Salween River by hitting supply lines in C and S Burma. The new task force, cmd by Col Haynes, includes all AAF combat units in India— the 7th and 341st Bomb and 51st Ftr Gps.



Nakajima A6M2-N "Rufe"



# 3 October - Air

- **SWP**

- Three A-20's bomb and strafe Efogi and Myola Lake, eight P-40's strafe Efogi-Buna trail, two B-25's score direct hits on the bridge at Wairopi, and a lone B-17 bombs camp on Kumusi R
- A US heavy bomber attacked and damaged a converted radio boat in the lagoon at Kapinga Maragi island about 400 miles northeast of Rabaul.

- **SoPac**

- Two more squadrons of B17s from No. 5 group from Hawaii arrived to join No. 11 Group at Espiritu Santo in October.
- Coastwatcher Read reported 15 bombers and 27 fighters at 10.27. Radar observed the bombers turn back at the Russels. At noon the fighters reached Henderson field and one section dived to attack the field. The AA gunners downed one Zero but the days honors went to the Wildcats. With the early warning and recognising the fighters only tactics control stacked 29 Wildcats higher than ever before. A section of five Wildcats led by Marion Carl, including Lt Col Bauer, pulled off the best ambush of the campaign. Diving out of the sun from 34,000 feet they carved up a section of Zeros and shot down five in the first pass. Total claims were nine Zeros including four by Bauer. Only two Wildcats were lost, both pilots surviving.
- Eight SBDs and three TBFs intercepted the Tokyo Express at 17.25 but failed to score any hits. A second relay of five SBDs took off at 22.20. Most of the pilots became lost but one found a Japanese ship and claimed a near miss.
- During the day six more SBDs from VS-71 and three TBFs from VT-8 flew into Henderson Field to reinforce the Cactus Airforce.

# 4 October - Government

- On the 4<sup>th</sup> (October) he (Forde) flew back to Brisbane. One result of this visit was a 31-page report in which there was much emphasis on alleged wastefulness—Sinclair was a former Army Department accountant.
- Blamey, in November, wrote a commentary on the report's "numerous errors" and "theories contrary to the principles of war" and asked that his remarks should be shown to all members of the War Cabinet and Advisory War Council.



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New Guinea. October 1942. General MacArthur, (cup in hand), chats with Australian troops of the 55th Infantry Battalion at Owers' Corner on the Kokoda Trail. The General, accompanied by the Army Minister Mr Forde and General Blamey was making his first trip to New Guinea.

# 4 October -

- **Sea**
- A cargo ship of approx. 4,000 tons was sunk by US submarine Greenling at 39-48N, 142-08E.
- **Kokoda**
- General MacArthur departed New Guinea on the 4th.
- On the afternoon of the 4th (October) Boag reached Efogi and reported it clear. He said that carriers who had been working for the Japanese told him that their most recent masters had fallen back to Kokoda.
- On 2nd October Eather had told General Allen that a program of air droppings must be quickly instituted. This began on the 4<sup>th</sup> (October) with drops at Nauro but the percentage of supplies lost was high.
- US rcn party from 126th Inf, 32d Div reaches Jauri, completing rcn of Kapa Kapa-Jauri trail, which is found to be difficult but practicable for use as a route in contemplated offensive against Buna-Gona area.

# 4 October - Air

- On the night of 3rd-4th October Wing Commander Balmer, commanding No. 100 Squadron, led ten of his Beaufort crews off from Milne Bay to attack a concentration of enemy ships sheltering in waters near Buin-Tonolei, off the Shortland Islands.
- They were to be attacked with torpedoes by moonlight.
- Airborne about 1 a.m., the formation set out on its flight of 420 nautical miles, flying at 1,000 feet in moderately fine weather. Approaching the target rain squalls were encountered, in the last of which, apparently, two aircraft lost contact and the remainder were separated into two flights, one of which entered the target area to the east of the Shortlands and the other (as planned) to the west.
- It was now about 4 a.m. Height had been reduced to about 200 feet and navigation and formation lights extinguished. The eight aircraft went in to attack, flying independently. Seven each found a ship and released their torpedo.
- At least four of these were observed by the rear gunners to be making good runs towards their targets. No hits were observed but the moon had become clouded and the crews considered it improbable that they had missed completely with all torpedoes.
- Two cruisers opened fire belatedly. One enemy fighter was seen but there was no interception.
- One crew—Flight Lieutenant Stumm (pilot), Flying Officer Hendy (observer ) and Sergeants Hale and Walker (wireless air gunners)—did not return. They were posted missing and presumed lost. None of the other crews saw what happened to them.
- The failure of the mission, on which the Beauforts had flown 950 nautical miles, was enquired into closely and a detachment of the squadron was withdrawn for further torpedo training. Even so it was agreed that the failure was due to defects in the torpedoes rather than lack of efficiency on the part of the crews.



# 4 October - Air

- **SWP**

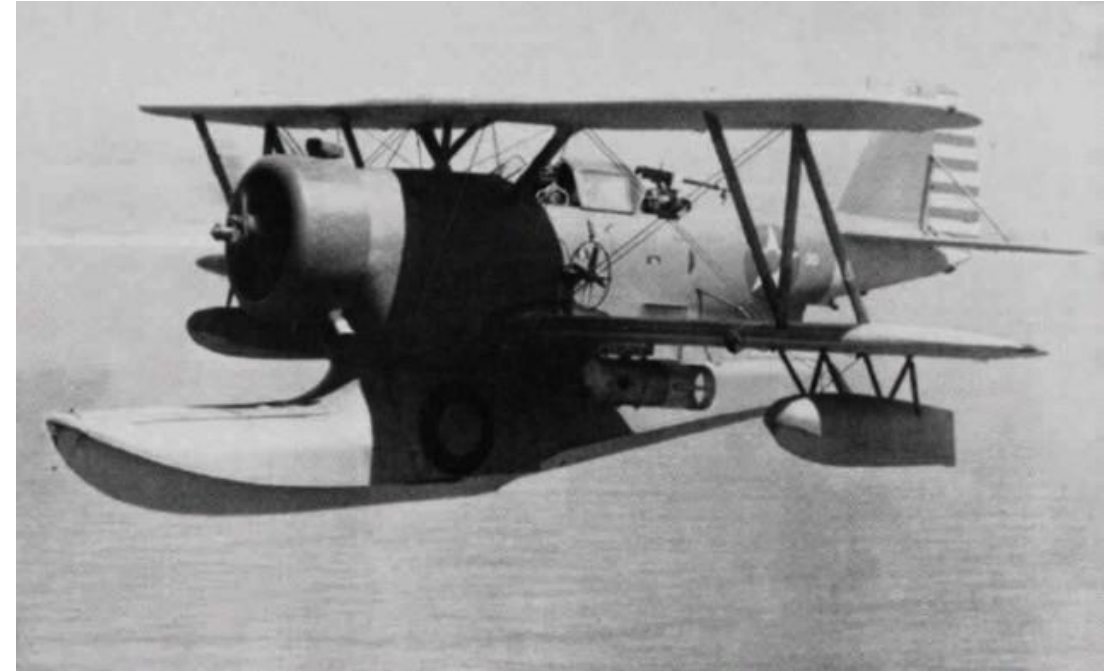
- Eight P-40's strafe forces and occupied areas at Myola Lake, Kokoda, Wairopi, Yodda, and Buna. The heavy bomber reconnoitering Rabaul harbour was unsuccessfully attacked by seven enemy fighters.

- **SoPac**

- Four heavy bombers attacked the A/F at Buka, destroying at least one aircraft and causing fires and explosions. Reconnaissance showed further development of A/Fs at both Buka and Buin.
- In the morning seven SBDs and four TBFs found the Tokyo Express before it got out of range. While evading the escorting float planes, the SBDs also lost sight of the targets. The TBFs attacked but without success. The B17s, returning from Buka, then wandered into this battle. One of the Japanese observation float planes deliberately rammed a B17. The Japanese crew were seen to parachute. The B17 took its entire crew of nine to their deaths.
- **Aleutians**
- 3 B-24's abort weather, bombing and photo missions over Kiska due to weather and instead attack a cargo vessel. Ship's rudder is probably damaged. 1 B-24 is damaged.

# 5 October - Sea

- Hornet's aircraft attacked shipping in the Buin area. Foul weather with low cloud ceilings prevented dive bombing. Damaging hits were claimed on a heavy cruiser and a transport. The escorting Wildcats claimed four four engined flying boats destroyed and six others damaged at their moorings. Hits were also scored on the runway and building of the A/F.
- All planes were recovered and Hornet withdrew to the south east at best speed. During the withdrawal the CAP intercepted and shot down two reconnaissance Bettys.
- The Cactus Airforce attacked Rekata Bay in support of the Hornet strike but were also frustrated by the foul weather. An SBD fell foul of three float fighters and was compelled to ditch. The crew were recovered by a Grumman J2F-5 Duck.



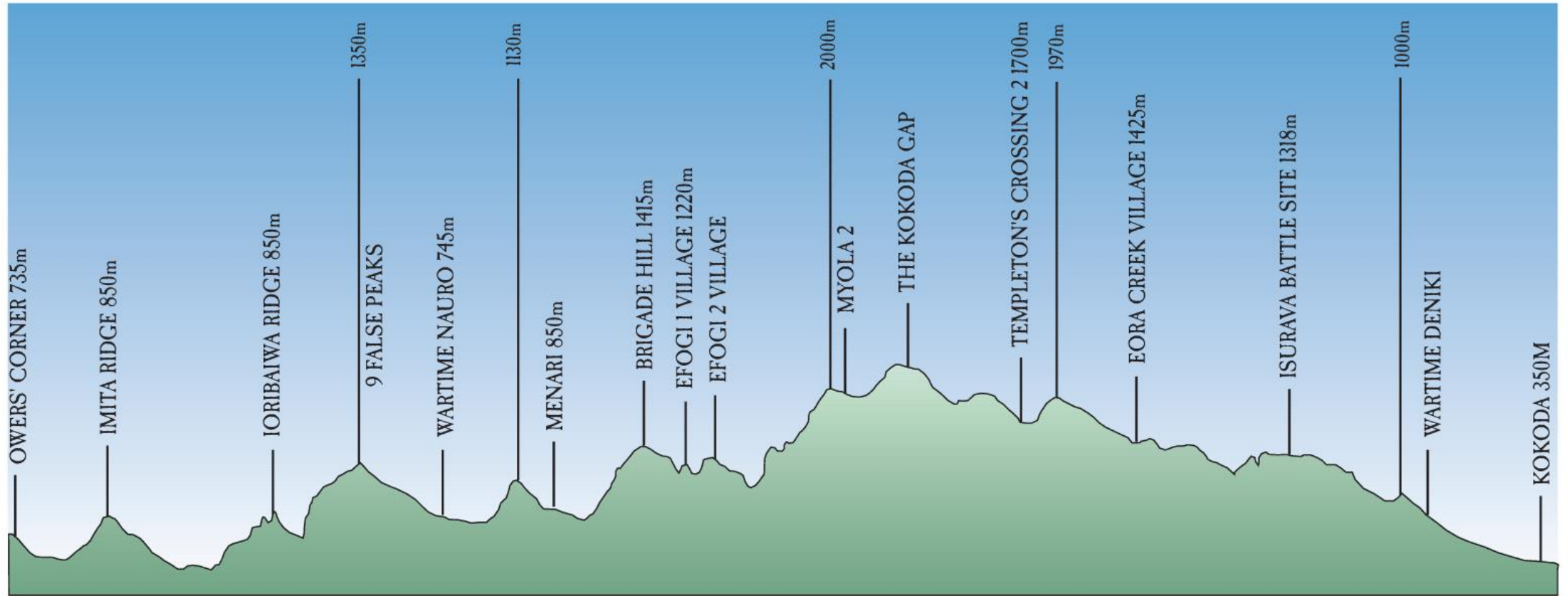
Grumman J2F-5 Duck

On the night of 5/6 aircraft from Guadalcanal attacked six enemy destroyers north of the island. One destroyer was sunk and another damaged.

# 5 October - Kokoda

- Cameron's main body reached Menari on the 5<sup>th</sup> (October). Both battalions had patrols working well ahead and on the flanks.
  - On the 5th Marson had sent out Lieutenant Barnett and Lieutenant Cox with 53 men, carrying five days' rations, to try to reach Myola, contact the Japanese if possible and determine their strength.
  - Cameron's patrols were working round towards the Myola-Templeton's Crossing area through Kagi on the left.
- By the end of the 5th (October) Eather's instructions to retake Kokoda had been modified by reference to maintenance as a limiting factor.
  - He was told to concentrate on covering Kagi and Myola;
  - that his brigade would be relieved by Brigadier Lloyd's 16th Brigade as soon as possible after he was in position beyond those areas.
- Lloyd himself arrived forward on the 5th to discuss plans with him.

# 5 October - Kokoda



OWEN STANLEY RANGE - KOKODA TRACK



# 5 October - Wanigela

- An advanced party of the Australian Army, including a detachment of engineers, had been landed at Wanigela where, with the aid of natives, they had burned off the kunai grass on the selected aerodrome site and cleared a runway
- On 5th October 61 plane-loads of men and material were flown to Wanigela and a force (Hatforce) which consisted mainly of 2/10th Battalion and a battery of American .5-inch antiaircraft guns was established there.



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# 5 October – New Guinea

- "For the moment air supply is paramount," Blamey wrote to MacArthur on 5th October.
- He reported that with the Kokoda front, Kanga Force; HATRACK and the 32nd Division's overland operation, the frontline troops to be supplied would number 7,000 and the essential carrier lines still needed would add 3,900 natives to the total.
  - The total average daily air transport requirement was 102,000 pounds.
  - The successful establishment of a small-ships supply line from Milne Bay to Wanigela (which might always be precarious),
  - the improvement in the situation when Kokoda aerodrome could be reopened and aircraft land there, so saving approximately 30 per cent of their loads (the estimated loss in dropping supplies),
  - and the landing of aircraft at Wau (to supply Kanga Force) would reduce the minimum daily weight for air transport to 61,900 pounds.
- It was necessary to recognise that frequently there would be days when bad weather would completely prohibit flying.

# 5 October – New Guinea

- MacArthur ordered the establishment of the Combined Operational Services Command on 5th October.
  - COSC was designed to meet the administrative difficulties of supply. Under the control of the Commander, New Guinea Force, it included all Australian Lines of Communications units and the United States Service of Supply. It was responsible also for all coastal seaborne supply lines.
- On 5th October the II Battalion of the 126th U.S. Regiment began their trans-mountain march from Rigo,
- The air lift to Wanigela began.
  - The task was given to No. 21 U.S. Transport Squadron which made 60 sorties, one crew completing five return flights between Laloki airfield near Port Moresby, and Wanigela, in one day.
  - Fighter cover was provided throughout the operation,
  - all enemy airfields were under close reconnaissance and light-bomber units were on stand-by for concentrated attacks on Lae and Salamaua should any special enemy air activity be reported.
  - While the aircraft were unloaded the transports' engines were kept running so that they were ready for immediate take-off.
  - Equipment and stores were camouflaged or hidden as unloaded.
  - The entire operation was performed without a hitch .

# 5 October – Air

- Six B-25s attack convoy off Buna, the transport was escorted by two destroyers and several fighters, the attack was unsuccessful, two of the enemy fighters, and probably another, were shot down, one of our bombers is missing.
- Seven A-20s and eight kittyhawks hit AA positions at Sanananda Pt and bomb village of Sanananda.
- B-17's bomb A/Fs at Buna and
- Eleven B17s also hit Rabaul A/Fs. About twenty enemy fighters attempted interception at Rabaul, four were probably shot down. One bomber is missing and six others were damaged.
- Nine SBDs intercept the Tokyo Express 150 miles from Guadalcanal and claim a destroyer sunk and some near misses. Eighteen additional sorties failed to find the ships again and two TBFs failed to return.
- US army heavy bombers attacked enemy installations at Gizo harbour.
- Fourteen Blenheims bombed Yenangyaung and Kalewa (Burma) hitting Japanese barracks and other buildings.



## 5 October – Air



Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bomber



TBF Avenger dropping a torpedo  
Max speed 275 mph

# 6 October - Government

- On 6 October He (MacArthur) wrote to Curtin:
  - With regard to the local situation . . . I look with apprehension upon the growing shrinkage in army combat troops. I believe that vigorous action should be taken to maintain the number, the strength and the efficiency of the divisions that were projected six months ago and feel most earnestly that the time has come for the Ninth Division to be returned to Australia.
  - A period of relative inaction has settled upon the Middle East and the crisis there has materially diminished. Ample time has been given to the Allies to build up the reinforcements necessary for General Alexander's forces. It is evident from Mr Churchill's statements that little can be expected from English support of this area, and the concept that the 9th Division's presence in Egypt would be offset by British or other naval reinforcements no longer exists.
- On 6<sup>th</sup> October, at a meeting of the War Cabinet, the Ministers for the Army and for Air, reported on their visit to New Guinea at the end of September.
  - They spoke of the confidence of both army and air force that they could defeat the Japanese.
  - There were then over 60,000 Allied troops at Port Moresby and Milne Bay, including 18,600 Americans; morale was high and equipment "generally satisfactory"

# 6 October - COIC

## 4. ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (i) Continued night infiltration on Guadalcanal by means of destroyers and submarines from the Buin - Faisi - Tonolei Harbour base.
- (ii) Heavy naval and air counter-attacks against allied positions in the Solomons with a view to re-occupation of Guadalcanal.
- (iii) Heavy attack and attempt at consolidation Milne Bay - Buna area.
- (iv) Attack on Port Moresby area.
- (v) Intensified submarine activity in the S.W.P.A.

## 4. ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (i) Continued night infiltration on Guadalcanal by means of destroyers and submarines from the Buin - Faisi - Tonolei Harbour base.
- (ii) Heavy naval and air counter-attacks against allied positions in the Solomons with a view to re-occupation of Guadalcanal.
- (iii) Consolidation on islands in the Gilberts Group and possible occupation of islands in Ellice Group.

For   
DIRECTOR C.O.I.C.

6/10/42

## 6 October – New Guinea

- By the end of the next day (6<sup>th</sup> October), Marson was pressing on towards Efogi.
- General Harding of the 32nd Division was so impressed by the efficiency and speed with which HATFORCE was established that he immediately sought other aerodrome sites closer to Buna. With the aid of a New Guinea-born missionary, Mr Cecil Abels, who knew the country well, a reconnaissance was made. Abels, assisted by natives, then made a preliminary landing strip at a point about four days' march from Sapia, midway across Papua.
- MacNider, appointed to command HATFORCE, had been given three immediate tasks: establish Wanigela as a sea and air supply base, "exploit" forward towards Buna by both sea and land, and develop a small-ships supply service between Wanigela and Pongani.

# 6 October – New Guinea

- On 6th October Blamey had requested an army-cooperation squadron armed with comparatively slow aircraft.
- He quoted Walker as suggesting a squadron equipped with Wirraways, Boomerangs and Tiger Moths. Next day he learnt that No. 4 Squadron, with Wirraways, would be sent to Port Moresby.
- This proposal met with some opposition at General Headquarters. The Wirraway, it was held, was obsolete, and if intercepted by Japanese fighters casualties would be high. The most reliable observation could be obtained by modern fighter aircraft operating in flights of three, and such aircraft would be able to meet enemy aircraft in combat.
- Blamey agreed that the evidence indicated the unsuitability of the Wirraway but said that this type would be acceptable if none more suitable was available. An answer to this problem, he said, might be the re-equipment of No. 4 Squadron with the new Boomerang aircraft that the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation was then producing, but the squadron was required urgently.
- MacArthur told Blamey that he had been informed that it was unlikely that Boomerangs would be available for service within three months and the squadron, equipped with Wirraways, would therefore be transferred to New Guinea as early as possible.



# 6 October – New Guinea



CAC Wirraway of No 4 Squadron RAAF over New Guinea

# 6 October – Air

- Fifth AF aircraft complete movement to Wanigela.
- Three allied medium bombers attacked oil storage tanks at Boela northeast corner of Ceram Island results were not observed.
- Four Catalinas attacked Buka and Buin airfields night of 5/6 October.
- The Japanese have begun aerial reconnaissance of various places in the Ellice Islands.
- US airforces continue small scale but daily attacks from Assam and Yunnan on Japanese forces in Burma and Southwestern Yunnan. Points attacked 1 to 6 October were on or near the Burma Rd between Lungling and Lashio and near Katha. AA fire was encountered but no casualties were sustained.



Papuan natives assisting men of the 2/6th Australian Independent Company to unload their equipment from the 5th US Army Air Force (USAAF) C-47-DL transport plane ("Maxine" Serial Number 41-18585)

# 6 October – Air

- 9 Heavy Bombers and 18 fighters attack Kiska.
- A large transport is bombed in the harbor which is left sinking.
- Hits are scored on a corvette and on a large freighter at Gertrude Cove and on a hangar in Main Camp.
- The radio station is damaged.
- A float fighter is strafed and set afire, and 6 Zeros are hit on the water.



# 7 October - Sea

- A passenger-cargo ship of about 2,000 tons was sunk by US submarine Amberjack at 1-55N,153-42E.
- A transport of about 5,000 tons was sunk by US submarine Sculpin at 3-51S,151-21E.



# 7 October - Kokoda

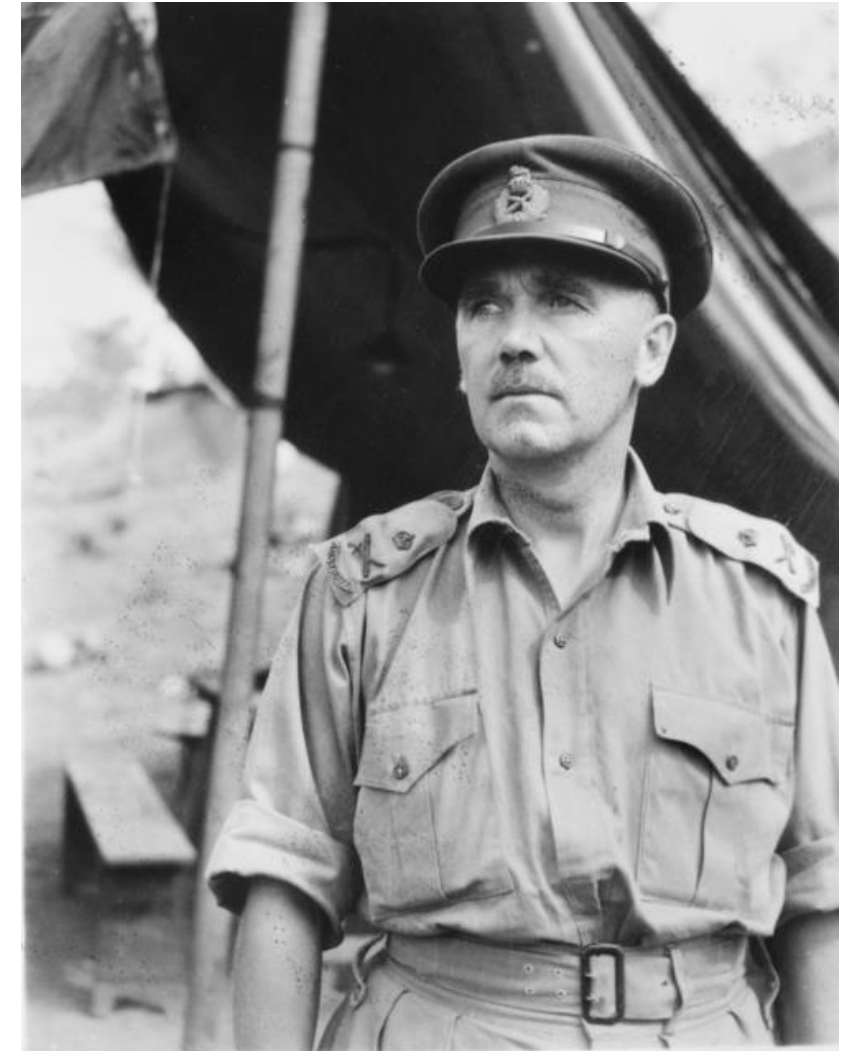
- The men of the 2/33rd Battalion, moving behind Marson and Cameron, were clearing distressing evidence of the fighting which had taken place between Menari and Efogi nearly a month before.
- On the 7<sup>th</sup> (October) they buried there the bodies of some 55 Australians as well as many Japanese dead;
- next day they buried 20 more.





# 7 October - Kokoda

- On the 7<sup>th</sup> (October) Allen signalled Lieut-General Herring (who had arrived at Port Moresby on the 1st in succession to General Rowell):
- Implementation of air-dropping programme causing gravest concern. Under present system it would appear that air force cannot supply planes necessary to assure dropping of 50,000 pounds daily weather permitting.
- (2) 50,000 pounds daily covers maintenance only and does not repeat not provide for building up a reserve. It does however allow for 30 per cent wastage due to destruction by dropping.
- Actual daily requirements for delivery to units etc for maintenance is 35,000 pounds.
- (3) Understood it is intention to build up 21 days' reserve supplies ammunition etc forward under existing system. This is quite impossible as supplies etc dropped during first two days of programme less than 50% of requirements for daily maintenance only.
- (4) Unless supply etc dropping of 50,000 pounds daily plus additional to build up reserve is assured complete revision of plans will have to be made and large proportion of troops withdrawn to Imita Ridge position.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

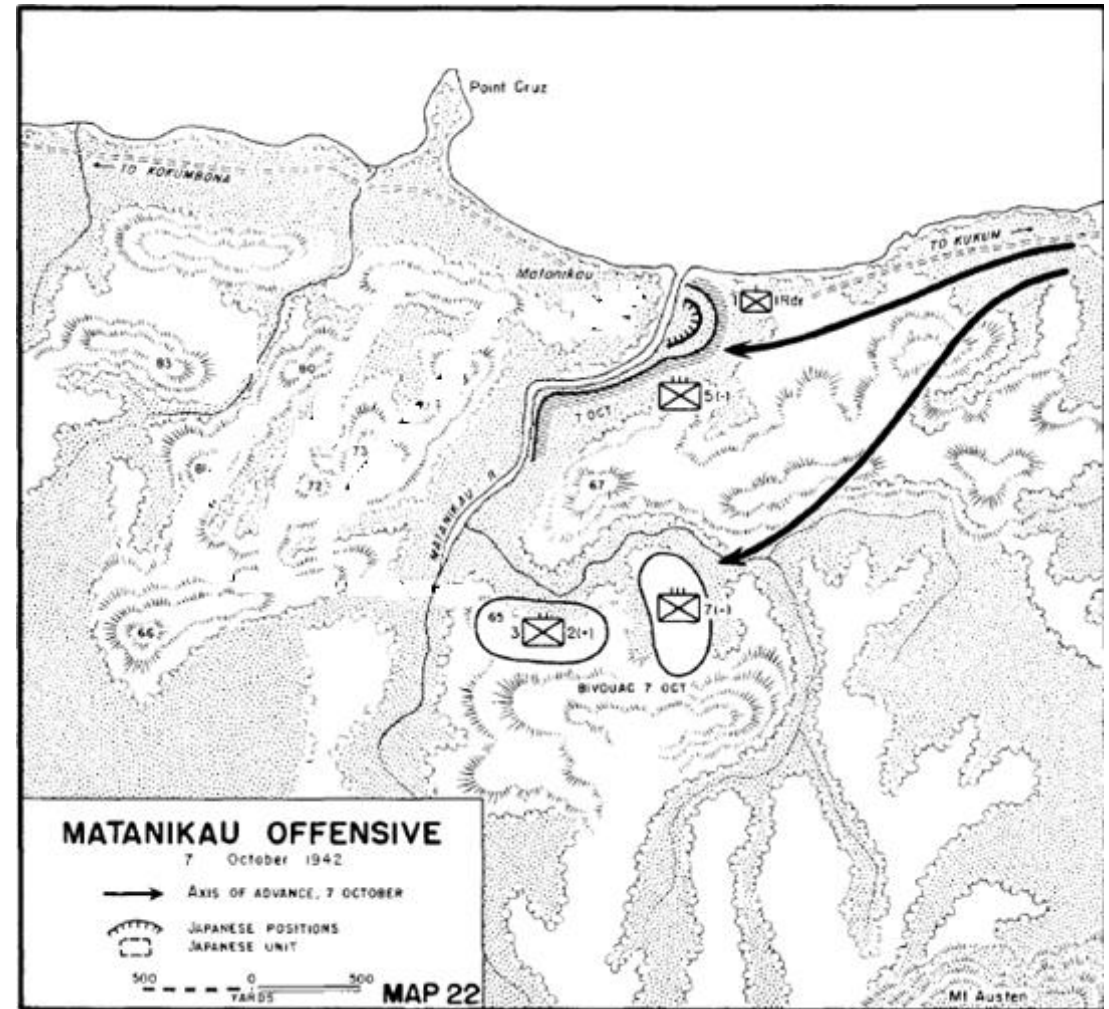
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# 7 October - Guadalcanal

- An attack was scheduled to trap the enemy force, to the west of the perimeter, and drive survivors beyond artillery range.
- Two battalions of the 5th Marines would engage the enemy at the river mouth while the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> battalions of the 7th Marines and the 3d Battalion, 2d Marines, reinforced by the division scout-sniper detachment, would cross the river inland and then attack north toward Point Cruz and Matanikau Village.
- Movements of the forces were to get underway on 7 October, and the, coordinated attack would jump off on 8 October.
- The forces moved out of the perimeter at 0700 on 7 October. Both forces ran into Japanese opposition on the east side of the Matanikau during their approach marches.
- The envelopment group scrapped for several hours with a Japanese force, which confined its opposition to sniping and harassment, but by the middle of the afternoon Whaling decided to bypass the enemy.
- At nightfall the envelopment force bivouacked on high ground south of the Matanikau's fork, the designated assembly area for the 8 October attack, and the Japanese did not pursue.

# 7 October – Guadalcanal

- The advance guard of the 3d Battalion, 5th Marines came under fire from the enemy at about 1000, and the battalion deployed forward in an attack while the 2d Battalion swung to the left around the action and reached the river without opposition.
- The Japanese gave ground to previously prepared positions, but 3/5 was unable to push them beyond this line in spite of flanking assistance from 2/5.
- Vandegrift reinforced Edson with an understrength raider company, but the Japanese continued to hold their confined bridgehead and the Marines drew up for the night.



# 7 October - Air

- Allied planes attacked enemy merchant vessels at Koepang and Saumlaki. Eight enemy aircraft were observed on the A/F at Dilli.
- An allied plane on reconnaissance encountered a Japanese medium bomber 240 miles northwest of Broome.
- Two Beaufighters machine gunned enemy positions on Goodenough island. It is estimated that about 300 Japanese troops remain on the south end of the island.



# 7 October COIC

## Bougainville (continued).

Meanwhile, an exceptionally large number of enemy warships and merchant vessels was reported in the area North-east of Bougainville Strait. In addition to the vessels based on Buin, as set out above, a large Task Force appeared to be operating in the area, including at least 4 battleships and two heavy cruisers. One force, consisting of 2 battleships, 3 heavy cruisers and two destroyers, was last sighted at 0826, 75 miles East Kieta, on course 060, and a second force reported to include 2 battleships, 12 light cruisers, 2 destroyers, was manoeuvring 43 miles SNE Kieta, at 0846. It appears that at least 30 vessels were operating in this area in addition to those sighted off Buin at 1515, as follows:-

4 battleships,	
2 heavy cruisers,	
14 light cruisers.	} majority probably destroyers.
5 destroyers	
5 merchant vessels	
	(including transports and supply ships).

30