

War in the Pacific

Defending Australia

Campaigns in New Guinea and the Solomons

30 October 1942

The 7th Division AIF retakes Kokoda and pushes on towards the north coast.

The Japanese land more troops on Guadalcanal but a reinforcement convoy to Buna is forced back by the airforces.

The Marine take the offensive both east and west of the perimeter.

30 October – Situation Report

- The US and Japanese fleets have fought another carrier battle around the Santa Cruz Islands to the east of the Solomons. The US Navy scored bomb hits on two Japanese carriers but lost one of its own carriers sunk and another badly damaged and now have no battle worthy carriers left in the Pacific. The Japanese fleet also retired after this encounter.
- The major Japanese army reinforcements of the Solomons made two strong night attacks on the Marine perimeter on 24/5 and 25/6 but made no progress and suffered heavy losses. Japanese ground attacks have now petered out.
- President Roosevelt has intervened to ensure that Guadalcanal is being strengthened with everything necessary to hold the perimeter and exploit the success.
- The Allies are pushing forward in New Guinea but the Japanese, aided by the terrain are resisting tenaciously. On the Kokoda track the Australians have now overcome very determined resistance at Eora Creek and are advancing again. General Allen has been replaced in command by General Vasey because of Command unhappiness about slow progress.
- The air battle continues with both sides attacking the opposition's air force and ships.
- The Australian Government are attempting to disentangle the 9th Division AIF from a battle at Alamein and bring it home to Australia.

3

30 October



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

150821

Port Moresby, New Guinea. 3 October 1942. General Douglas MacArthur leaves the Papua Hotel.

"I have noted the statement quoted in the morning papers from the Christian Science Monitor's Washington correspondent that political Washington was largely responsible for the establishment of two separate commands in the Pacific, partly because of the conservative opposition, which launched the 'MacArthur for President' campaign.

"I have no political ambitions whatsoever. Any suggestion to the contrary must be regarded as merely amiable gestures of goodwill dictated by friendship. I started as a soldier and I shall finish as one.

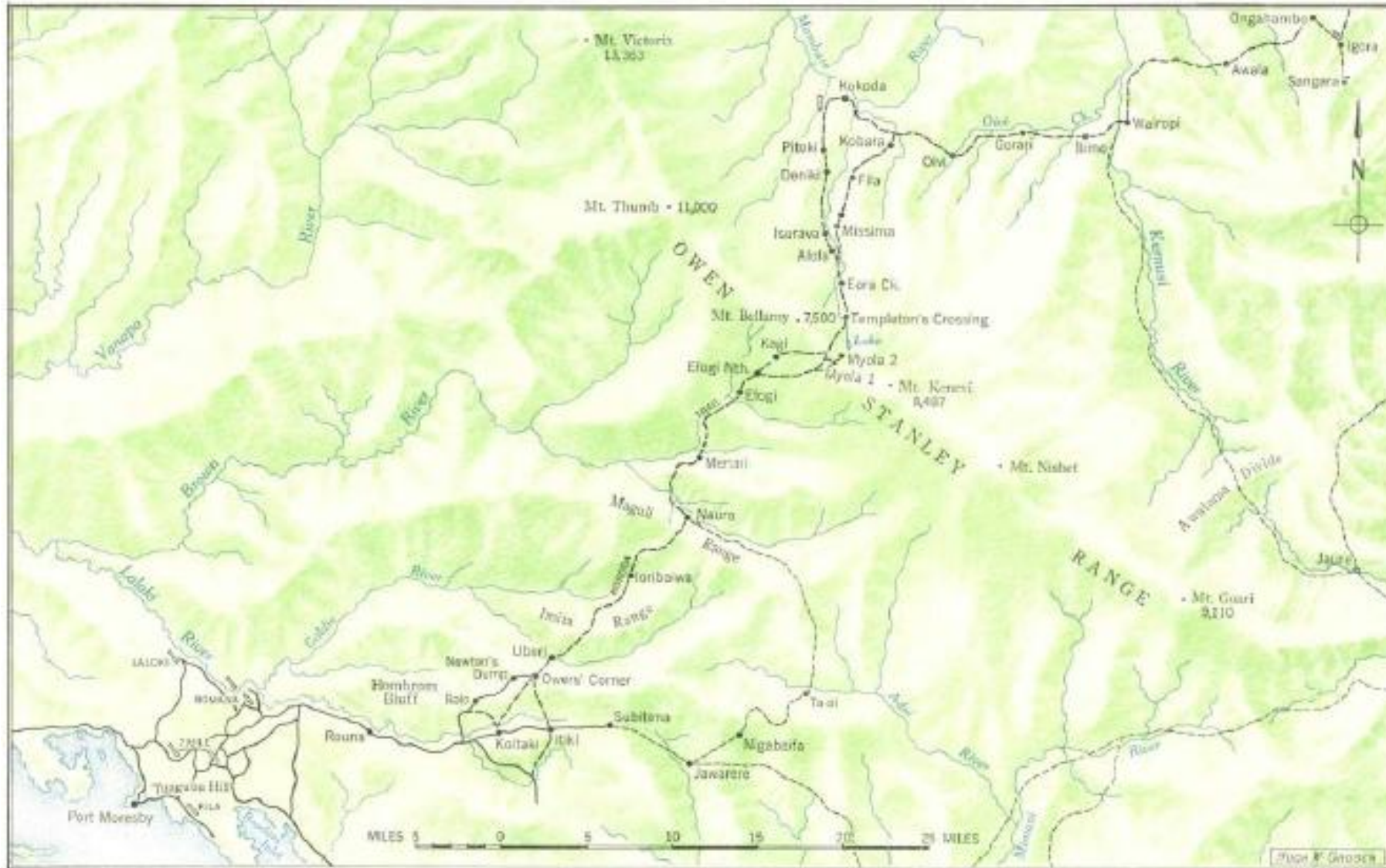
"The only hope and ambition I have in the world is for victory for our cause in the war. If I survive the campaign I shall return to that retirement from which this great struggle called me.

30 October - Kokoda

- By the early afternoon of the 30th the 2/1st had entered Alola without opposition and its leading men were thrusting towards Isurava.
- The forward company of the 2/2nd then took the right-hand fork of the track from Alola and went plunging down the mountain side to secure the bridge across Eora Creek.
- Night found the 2/1st Battalion at Isurava Rest House patrolling forward to Isurava itself, with the main force of the 2/2nd camped in the Alola area (it was "insanitary and plagued by rats " they said), and the 2/3rd Battalion nearby; the 2/31st was in rear.

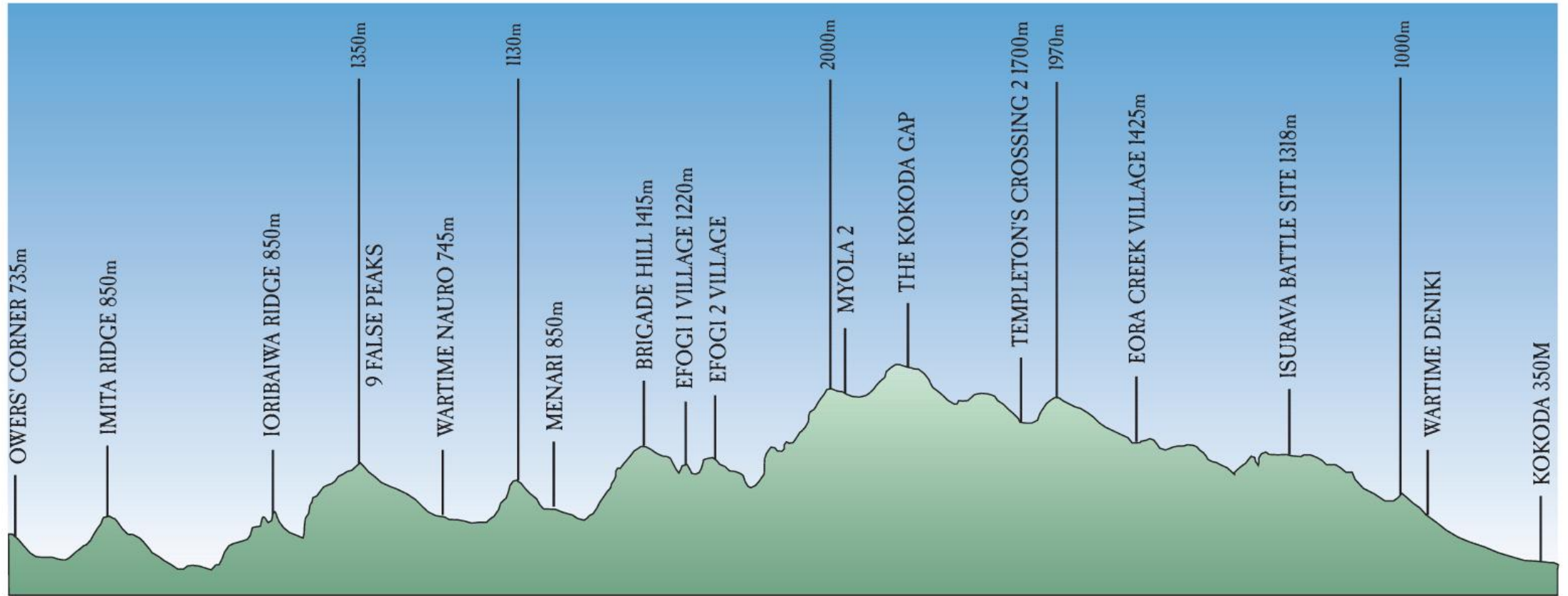


30 October - Kokoda



The Kokoda Track

30 October - Kokoda



OWEN STANLEY RANGE - KOKODA TRACK

30 October - Kokoda

- Farther west of the creek the other two battalions of the 25th Brigade were making a difficult way. On the 29th the 2/25th was cutting a track over mountains so steep and thickly covered that, at one stage, the men made only some 600 yards in over two hours.
- They bivouacked that night among the dripping moss, on the cold wet crests of mountains which they estimated (having only sketchy maps) reached about 10,000 feet above sea level.
- Behind them the 2/33rd had reached Templeton's Crossing and been told to follow a hunting track wide on the west side of Eora Creek in order to close on the Japanese in the vicinity of Alola.
- Late on the 30th Lieut-Colonel Marson of the 2/25th received orders to try for Alola by the shortest and quickest route in view of the Japanese withdrawal from Eora Creek.
- Buttrose of the 2/33rd was then still searching the mountains for the track by which he aimed to strike eastwards.

30 October - Air

- During the early morning eight Australian patrol bombers and fifteen B-17's bomb harbor and shipping at Buin.
 - Three coordinated attacks resulted in a probable hit on a cruiser, two hits and a near miss on a large naval vessel, four near misses on a light cruiser and one near miss on a possible aircraft carrier.
 - All hits were with 500 pound bombs. AA fire was light and inaccurate.
- President Roosevelt in his instructions to Donald Nelson, Chairman of War Production Board, gave top priority to a 1943 production objective of 107,000 airplanes.



31 October – Courier Mail

MORE DEFENDERS FOR STALINGRAD

THE Russians have brought up more reinforcements for Stalingrad. German tanks trying to break through in the factory area have been thrown back.

In their relief drive north-west of the city the Russians have made a new gain, occupying the outskirts of another suburb.

Moscow claims that the Germans at Stalingrad have lost 150,000 men and 2,000 tanks since the beginning of August.

In recent Stalingrad attacks the Germans used six new divisions in the factory area, but the results could be measured only in yards.

Ferocity of the fighting has increased since the battle area was narrowed.

No quarter is asked or given. Every stone has become a barrier and every chimney a fort.

Stockholm quotes a report from Berlin that the Germans now do not believe the Red October works and strong railway district south of it can be taken by infantry.

Infantry in the last few days has been able to achieve only the slightest progress.

The Germans have been obliged to split up their efforts in several directions, while Russian reserves of men and material appear to cross the Volga inexhaustibly.

fences and met the enemy with hand grenades in fierce hand-to-hand fighting. The Soviet troops captured an ammunition dump and other material.

In another sector in this area Soviet artillery dispersed enemy concentrations.

In fortified new lines the Russians resisted persistent German attempts to recapture a populated place.

Snow In Caucasus

Russians in the West Caucasus have launched a new series of counter-attacks to prevent further enemy penetration to the Black Sea. They have captured an important height.

Units of the Russian Black Sea Fleet shelled enemy positions for 20 minutes, holding up their advance.

In the battle for the Caucasian town of Nalchik the Germans are using hundreds of tanks and planes. According to Swedish reports the Nazis want the town for a winter base.

Sapping Jap Sea Power

NEW YORK, Oct. 30 (A.A.P.).

—Japan's Pacific superiority is being slowly whittled down by losses and the growing output of American shipyards, says Hanson Baldwin, New York Times correspondent.

He says that in addition to the new battleships, North Carolina and Washington, four vessels of the 35,000-ton South Dakota class, doing 27 knots and 16in. guns, have been commissioned or will be commissioned this year.

In addition certain new type anti-aircraft cruisers have been commissioned, and scores of submarines with a wide range are under construction.

Baldwin adds, however: "Japan started the war with a clear-cut numerical superiority in warships in the Pacific, and, despite the losses in the Coral Sea and at Midway, still holds a superiority.

Bayonets Oust Japs In Gap

THE Japanese have been driven by bayonet from another position in the Owen Stanley Gap in New Guinea. This is the first bayonet assault recorded in the present phase of the fighting.

It is believed the enemy suffered considerable loss in the action. Twenty prisoners were taken.

The Australian advance continues. Gains are slow because of rough country and because of stiffer Japanese resistance.

Our forces still are south of Alola, on the Kokoda trail.

Allied planes continue their strafing of Japanese supply lines. Trails around Kokoda have been strafed and bombed by attack planes.

Slight damage was done when two enemy aircraft lightly raided Port Moresby in darkness early on Thursday morning.

Page 3: Tebbutt's Review

31 October - Sea

- More of the Australian-manned corvettes built in Australia for the Admiralty left to join the Eastern Fleet in the second half of 1942.
- First to go was Geraldton, which left Fremantle on 26th July, followed by Launceston 4th September; Wollongong 14th September; Burnie 27th September and Cairns 16th October.
- Three ships built for the Royal Indian Navy also left Australia to join their own forces, in the order Punjab (17th June); Madras (4th September) and Bombay (13th September).



HMAS Geraldton

31 October - Sea

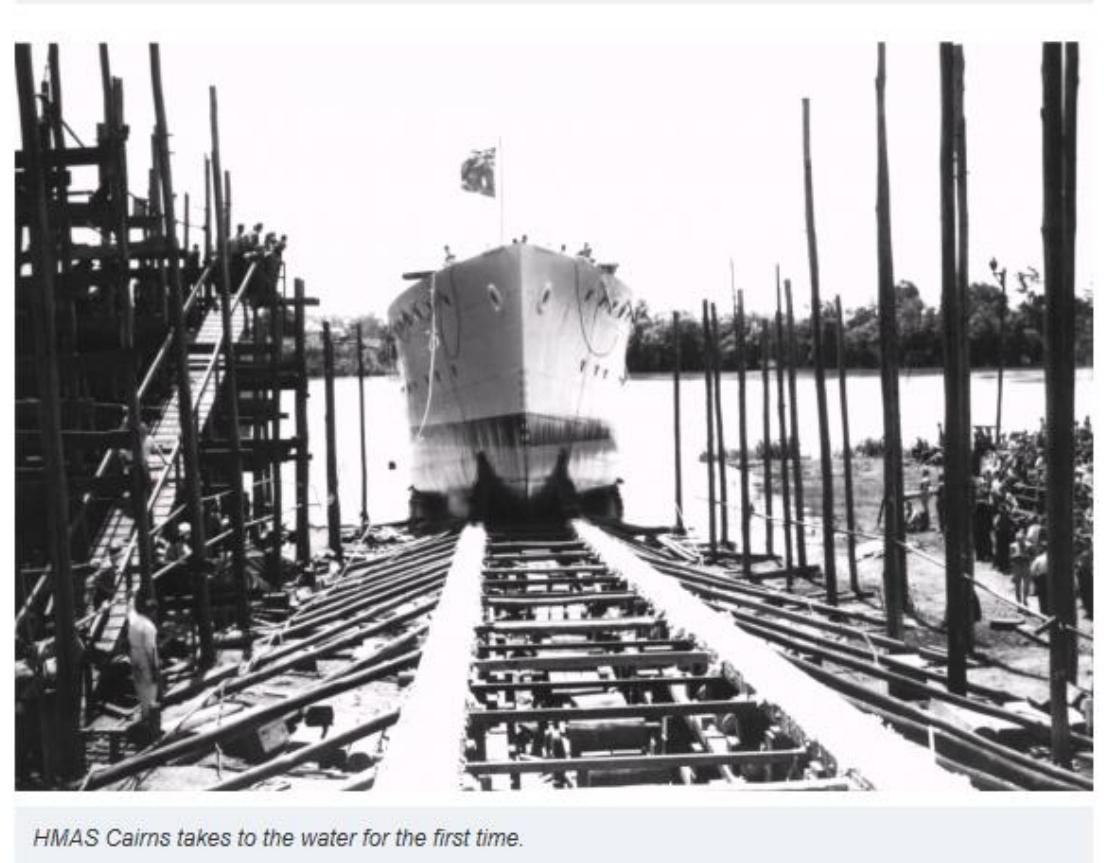
- HMAS *Cairns* was one of sixty Australian Minesweepers (commonly known as corvettes) built during World War II in Australian shipyards as part of the Commonwealth Government's wartime shipbuilding programme.
- Twenty (including *Cairns*) were built on Admiralty order but manned and commissioned by the Royal Australian Navy.
- Thirty six were built for the Royal Australian Navy and four for the Royal Indian Navy.
- HMAS *Cairns* was laid down at Walkers Ltd, Maryborough, Queensland on 31 March 1941. She was launched on 7 October 1941 by Mrs Weber, wife of the Works Manager, Walkers Ltd and commissioned on 11 May 1942.



HMAS *Cairns* was launched on 7 October 1941 by Mrs RD Weber, wife of the Works Manager, Walkers Ltd.

31 October - Sea

- **Bathurst Class Corvettes**
- The lead shipyard was Cockatoo Island Dockyard in Sydney, which laid down the first ship, HMAS Bathurst, in February 1940, and produced a further seven vessels.
- The other seven shipyards involved were
 - Walkers Limited in Maryborough, Queensland (7 ships),
 - Evans Deakin & Co in Brisbane (11 ships),
 - Morts Dock & Engineering Co in Sydney (14 ships),
 - Poole & Steel in Sydney (7 ships),
 - State Dockyard at Newcastle, New South Wales (1 ship),
 - HMA Naval Dockyard at Williamstown, Victoria (8 ships), and
 - Broken Hill Pty Co Ltd at Whyalla, South Australia (4 ships).
- Each ship cost approximately A£250,000 to build



31 October - Sea

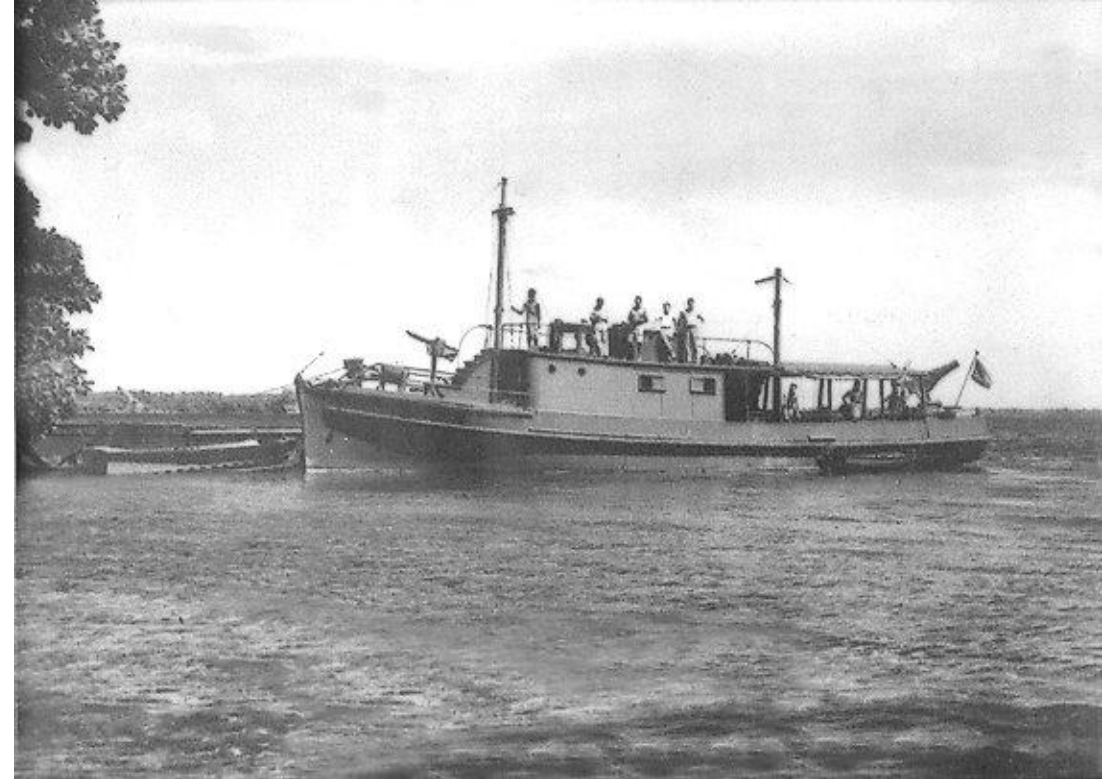
- In the RAN rates of pay had increased on those ruling at the outbreak of war.
- In October 1942—an ordinary seaman, 2nd class, was to receive double the 1s 9d a day which was his little lot in September 1939 (plus 6d a day deferred pay).
- The higher ratings were not fortunate enough to have their pay doubled, but on minimum rates an able seaman's 7s a day was increased to 8s 6d (plus 1s 9d a day deferred pay), and
- a chief petty officer's 11s a day became 12s 6d (plus 2s 7d a day deferred).
- A marriage allowance of 4s 6d a day was made to both officers and ratings, all of whom (except lieut-commanders and above) received daily allowances for children.



Members of the crew of Cairns, circa 1944. (Argus Newspaper Collection of Photographs, State Library of Victoria)

31 October - Sea

- H.M.A.S. Paluma, was allotted by G.H.Q. the job of carrying out the coastal survey between Milne Bay and Buna, installing necessary lights, and landing reporting parties.
- Lieutenant Champion was put in command to make sketch surveys of reefs and
 - locate suitable harbours for ships of up to 6,000 tons in the Cape Nelson area;
 - buoy, beacon, and light reefs at essential points to ensure the safe passage of ships;
 - guide and pilot ships through the resulting passages; and
 - place shore parties to reconnoitre the coast and hinterland, establish radio stations, and tend navigational lights.



"Paluma" complete with a deck gun at Nissan Island in 1944. via Oz at War

31 October - Sea

- The Hydrographic Branch of the RAN undertook surveys to establish the shortest safe navigable routes from Milne Bay into Goschen Strait and thence to Ward Hunt Strait.
- Lieut Commander Tancred was put in charge. Between 24th and 30th October in H.M.A.S. Warrego Tancred established a safe navigable channel from Milne Bay to Cape Nelson through Goschen and Ward Hunt Straits and also carried out surveys of the coasts of Goodenough Island.
- Meanwhile the Paluma party completed sketch surveys of suitable harbours in the Cape Nelson area up to Oro Bay, landed the shore parties, and established radio stations, lights and beacons.
- Captain McCarthy, A.I.F. commanded the shore parties.



HMAS Warrego a Grimsby class sloop

31 October - Kokoda

- From 7 a.m. on the 31st supplies were being dropped at Alola. But the small dropping area was on a ridge so that the percentage of recovery was low and many hungry men were disappointed.
- A little later the fullscale movement of the 16th Brigade along the right fork of the track got under way with the 2/2nd leading and 2/3rd following. And in their wake the 2/1st Battalion took the track to Missima after the 2/31st relieved them in the Isurava area in the early afternoon.
- On the Alola-Isurava track the 2/31st was still forward when night came. Behind them the 3rd Battalion had all its companies at the Alola dropping ground. Nearby General Vasey established his advanced headquarters in the last light.
- The 2/25th and 2/33rd Battalions were still struggling in from the left. Weakness and weariness were bearing hard on them, the constant wet, cold and lack of hot and energy-producing foods, diarrhoea and scrub typhus, exacting a heavy toll so that the 2/25th diarist recorded:
- Many men in such condition that it was pitiable to see them struggle on—will power in many cases fighting against bodily exhaustion. . . . Frequently a day's hard march found the unit bivouacked for the night no further than one mile from the previous bivouac area.
- Cumulative totals of voluntary transfers from C.M.F. to A.I.F. were 83,568 by 31st October 1942, when the total of Australian land forces was 433,579 (171,246 A.I.F. and 262,333 C.M.F.)

31 October - Guadalcanal

- In October 1,960 malaria patients were hospitalized on Guadalcanal.
- At least 90% of the original force to land on Guadalcanal were suffering from malaria, suppressed but not prevented or cured by the Atabrine administered on a daily basis as a substitute for quinine.
- The rations, never quite sufficient, improved but were always of poor quality. Loss of weight and strength continued. For the first time the number of fallouts from men unable to shoulder their packs became a significant factor in moving troops.



1st Marine Division Hospital. Wounded were kept on stretchers to expedite evacuation during frequent air raids or bombardments. Building was former Japanese barracks.

31 October - Air

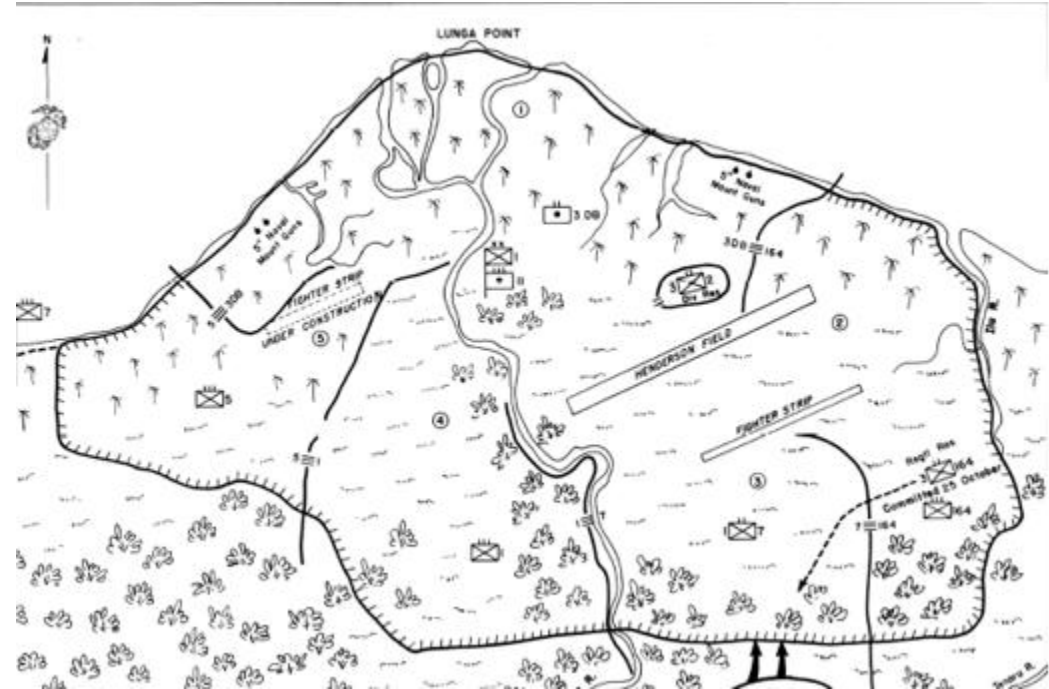
- At Myola 438 sick and wounded men waited to be evacuated. Engineers had prepared a landing strip and by the end of October it had been possible to land a Stinson aircraft on it.
- At the end of October Garing had under his command in the R.A.A.F's No. 9 Operational Group in New Guinea only four units— a torpedo-bomber unit (No. 100 Beaufort Squadron), a long-range fighter unit (No. 30 Beaufighter), an attack bomber (No. 22 Boston) only then moving in from the mainland—and a general reconnaissance unit (No. 6 Hudson) which had moved from Horn Island that month.
- In October RAAF North West Area was strengthened by the addition of a second Kittyhawk squadron—No. 76—(in addition to No 77 which had been there since September) and No. 31 Squadron equipped with Beaufighters.
- Production progress with the Beaufort was good. The target, established in July, for deliveries by October 1942 was 140 aircraft, but in fact 159 had been delivered.

31 October - Air

- No1 Rescue and Communication Flight, was the RAAF's most unusual operational unit. Its strange assortment of light aircraft was as varied and as appropriate to its task as the flying record of its commander, Squadron Leader Pentland.
 - A pilot with the R.A.F. in the 1914-18 War, in which he was credited with having shot down 23 German aircraft, Pentland at 48 was probably the oldest R.A.A.F. pilot serving in an operational area.
 - Between the wars he was involved with the development of commercial flying in New Guinea, stimulated by the need for air transport to the goldfields round Wau and Bulolo.
- Leading his unit, Pentland was now flying to and from remote, often improvised, air strips some of them inaccessible to other types of aircraft and pilots less familiar with the country.
- He organised the successful rescue of the crews of an American Marauder and three Dauntless dive bombers which had crash-landed in the Upper Ramu Valley, and the evacuation of civilians and troops. He directed aerial surveys from which light aircraft and emergency air strips were constructed at Bena Bena, Abau, Kulpi, Hood Point, Cape Rodney, Huiva and Rami.

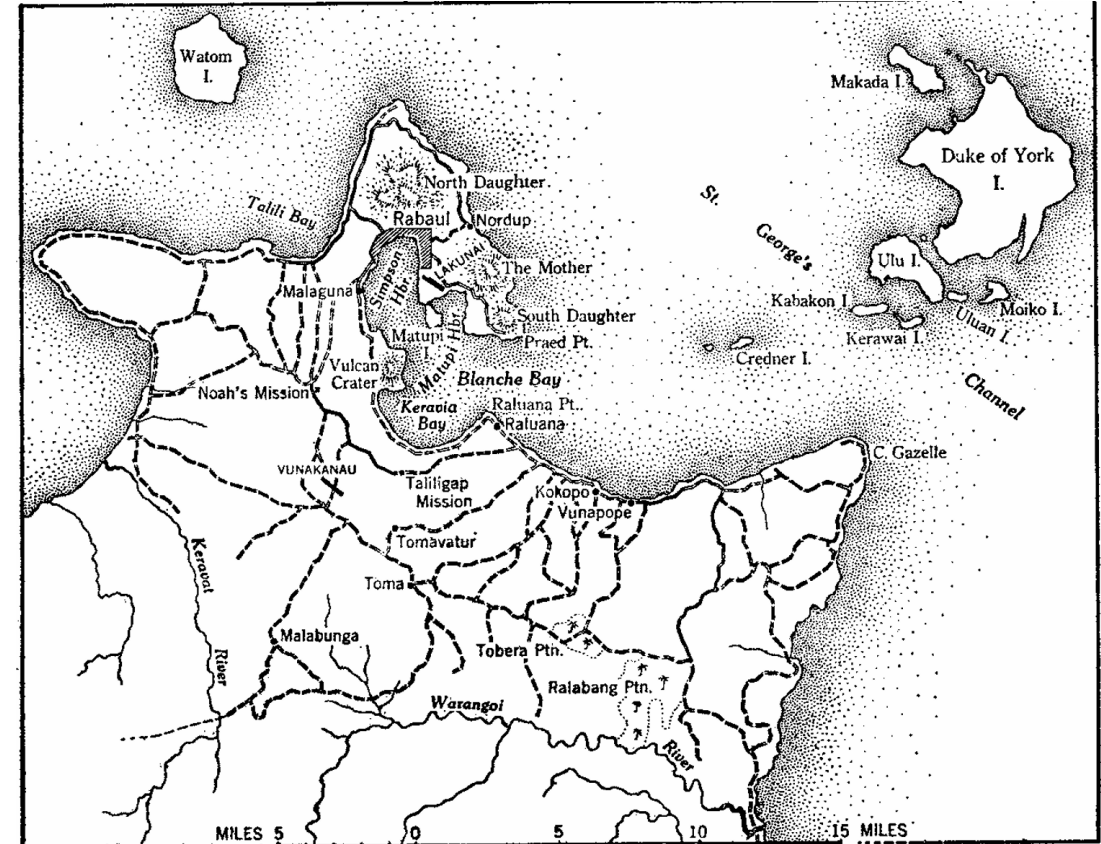
31 October - Air

- On the 31st Henderson Field had 60 Operational aircraft.
 - 34 Wildcats
 - 19 SBDs
 - 7 P39/P400s
- About 35 operational B17s could support the Island from Espiritu Santo and Noumea.
- There were now three strips.
 - The original strip. 5,400 feet (3,500 feet with Marston mat)
 - Fighter One, 4,600 feet of soggy rolled grass, and
 - Fighter two, 3,200 feet of graded earth.



31 October - Air

- Photographic reconnaissance of Rabaul revealed thirty three ships including two light cruisers and two destroyers. Twelve bombers and forty five fighters on the Lakunai airfield.
- The US heavy bomber carrying out the reconnaissance was intercepted by eleven enemy fighters three of which, were possibly destroyed.
- A patrol bomber attacked the Salamaua and Lae areas. It is reported that the airfield at Lae is serviceable again and that twenty four enemy fighters landed there on the evening of 31st Oct.
- Two Australian medium bombers attacked the airfield at Dilli. Results were not observed.



Rabaul & surrounds 1942

31 October - Air

- Three A-20's bomb and strafe Nauro and area to N.
- Three B-25's strafe supply trucks SE of Gona.
- Nine B-17's bomb shipping at Rabaul starting a fire on one unidentified vessel and
- nine heavy bombers attacked shipping in Buin-Faisi-Tonolai area. Two direct hits and two near misses were scored on a possible heavy cruiser which was seen to explode. A hit and two near misses were scored on two other ships.



A night time scene of soldiers pictured standing in front of B17s taking off, with searchlights glowing up into the sky. William Dargie, Port Moresby, October 1942

1 November - Government

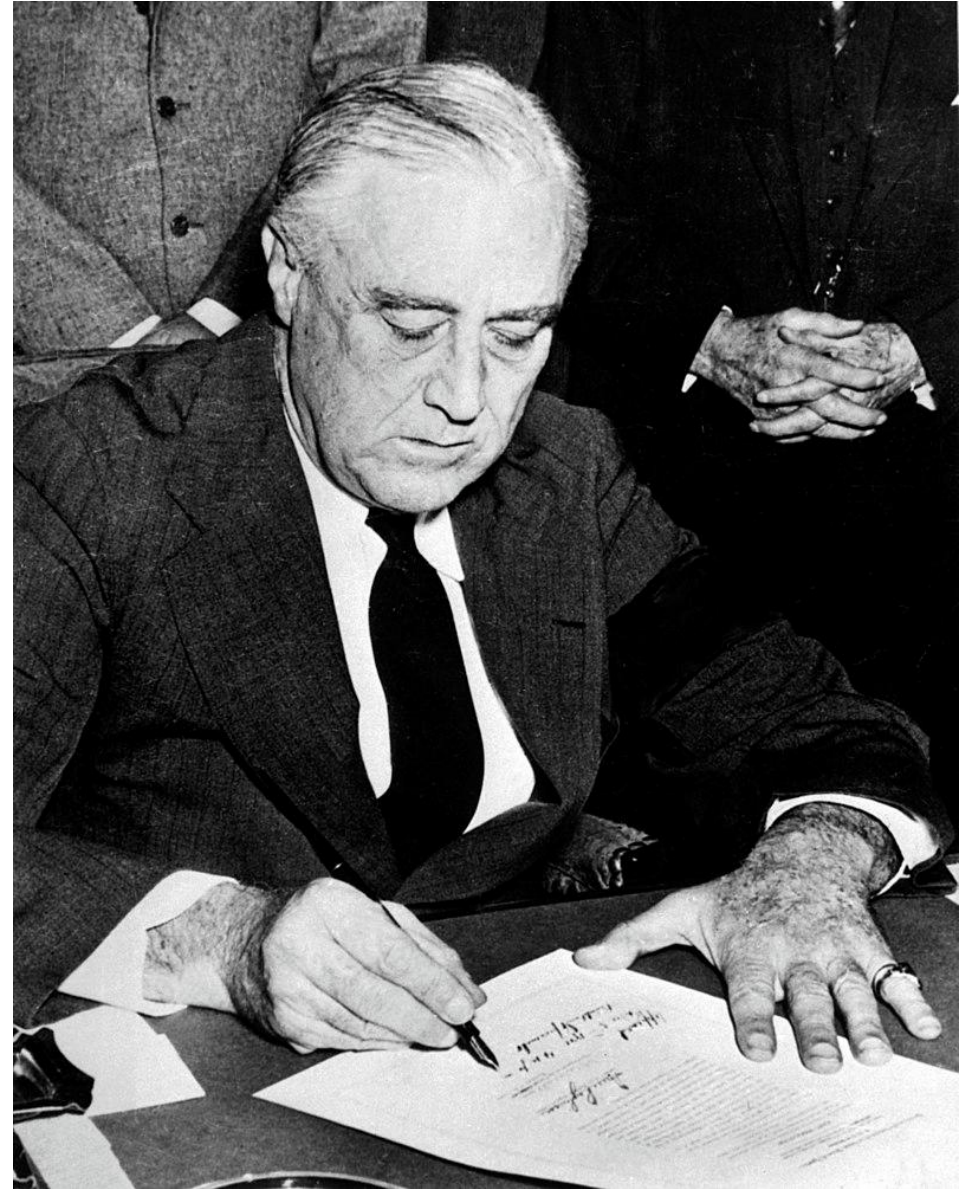
- Bruce confirmed (on 1 November) that instructions were sent from London to the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, but suggested that they did not preclude Alexander from using the division in the recent offensive within the limits set by the fact that no more reinforcements were coming forward and that the division was not to be broken up.
- He then asked if he could assume that, in view of the importance of the operations in the Middle East, Australia would agree to the continued use of the 9th Division until such time as the operational situation permitted its withdrawal and subject to the same limits as before, namely, that it would not be reinforced and must not be broken up.
- The Australian reply accepted this assumption, "in view of the situation with which we are now confronted".



Bruce 1934

1 November - Government

- Roosevelt replied to Curtin, in a message received in Australia on 1st November,
- expressing his conviction that the common cause could best be served if the 9th Division remained in the Middle East and
- offering to dispatch a United States division to Australia from Hawaii,
- it being understood that, if the situation required, this additional division could be diverted to another locality within the South Pacific or South-West Pacific Areas where its employment would be of greater advantage to the defence of Australia.



1 November - Kokoda

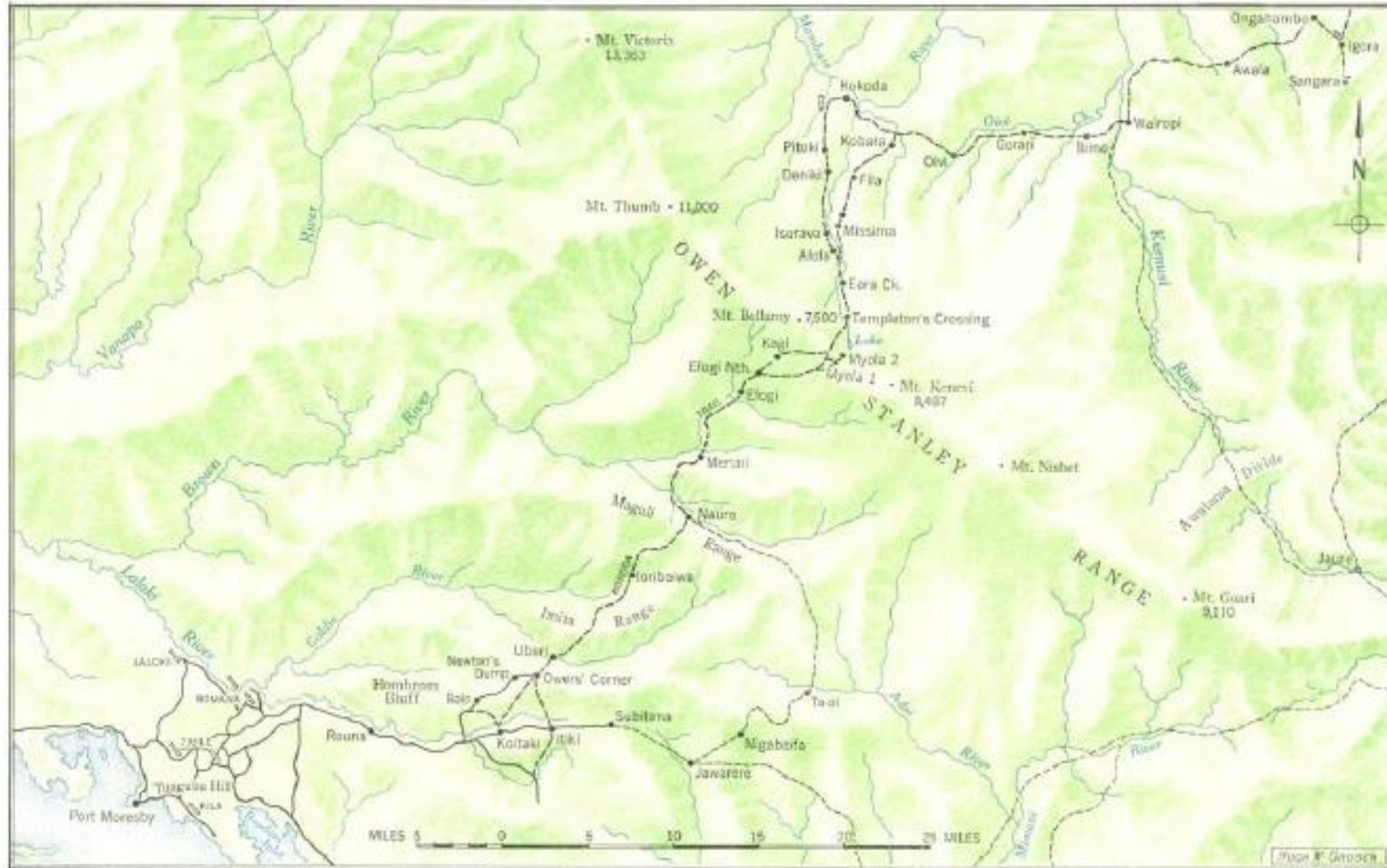
- General Vasey on 1st November told Brigadier Lloyd to push on regardless of the situation in the Deniki area and this the 16th Brigade men did.
- It was a happy sort of day (wrote the Brigade's diarist).
- The troops— or the majority of them—had a hot meal the night before—and hot meals had been rarities in the ranges.
- The track was drier and fairly easy and the country was becoming more and more pleasant—opening out into garden patches. The valley was widening, the pouring, dripping, misty ranges were being left behind.
- Everyone seemed to feel it; even the native carriers returning along the track had stuck gay yellow flowers in their hair, adding an air almost of festivity to the march.
- We had very little to eat, but we had some tobacco and the sun on our backs and so were happy . . .
- It was fortunate that, with rations in the state they were , we were now entering into an area where there were plenty of vegetables in the native gardens. Marrow, yams and taro made a welcome change in the diet, as well as providing bulk to depleted supplies and giving us our first fresh vegetables for ages.

1 November - Kokoda

- That night the 2/2nd camped near Missima village—"a pretty spot, full of flowers, a few huts, and we had our first view of Kokoda from there", they recorded. The 2/3rd passed through and its companies bivouacked along the track from Kaile to Fila.
- To the west the 25th Brigade was closing in. The 2/31st was still forward along the track, the other two battalions completing the circle of their wanderings with the 2/25th between Alola and Deniki and the 2/33rd at Alola.



1 November - Kokoda



The Kokoda Track

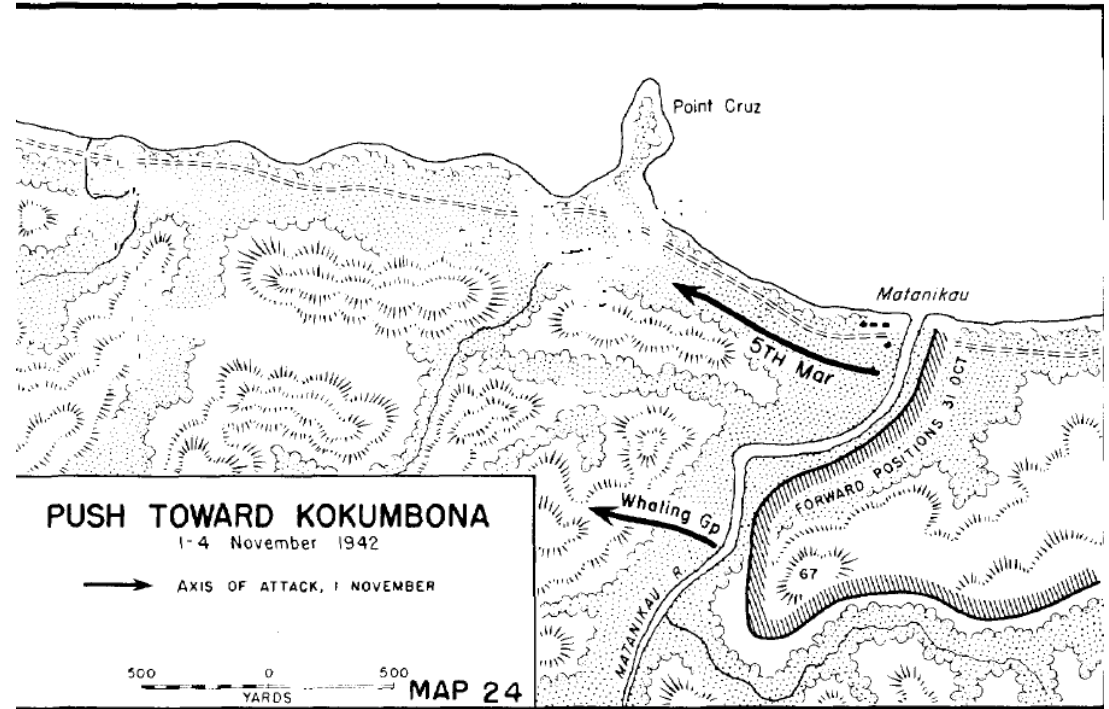
War in the Pacific - ©Jerry McBrien - Wk 21 – 30 Oct 1942

1 November - Guadalcanal

- The Marines sought to dislodge the enemy completely from the Kokumbona-Poha River area some five and a half miles west of the Matanikau.
- Once cleared from this area Pistol Pete would be beyond range of Henderson Field, and the Marines and soldiers could possibly meet Japanese reinforcements from the Tokyo Express before another buildup could muster strength for a new major effort against the perimeter.
- Under Colonel Edson, the force on this operation included the colonel's 5th Marines, the 2d Marines (less 3/2), and a new Whaling Group consisting of the scout-snipers and the 3d Battalion, 7th Marines.
- The 11th Marines and Army artillery battalions, Cactus fliers, engineers and bombardment ships were in support.
- The plan:
 - At 0630 on 1 November attack west across the Matanikau on engineer footbridges;
 - move on a 1,500-yard front along the coast behind supporting artillery and naval shelling;
 - assault the Japanese with the 5th Marines in the van, the 2d Marines in reserve, and with the Whaling Group screening the inland flank.
- By 31 October preliminary deployment had taken place. The fifth Marines had relieved battalions of the 7th west of the Lunga; the 1st and 2d Battalions, 2nd Marines had come across from Tulagi and the engineers were ready with their fuel drum floats and other bridging material for the crossing sites.

1 November - Guadalcanal

- Companies A, C, and D of the 1st Engineer Battalion constructed the bridges during the night of 31 October, and
- by dawn of 1 November, Company E of 2/5 had crossed the river in rubber boats to cover the crossing of the other units on the bridges.
- The 1st and 2d Battalions of the fifth Marines reached their assembly areas on the Matanikau's west bank by 0700 and
- moved out in the attack with 1/5 on the right along the coast and 2/5 on high ground farther inland. The 3d Battalion was Edson's regimental reserve, and battalions of the 2d Marines followed as force reserve. The area around Point Cruz was shelled by cruisers *San Francisco* and *Helena* and destroyer *Sterrett* while P-39's and SBD'S from Henderson Field and B-17's from Espiritu Santo strafed and bombed Japanese positions around Kokumbona.



1 November - Guadalcanal

- Marines of 2/5 advanced against little opposition along the high ground to reach their first phase line by 1000 and their second phase line by 1440.
- Near the coast 1/5 met strong resistance, and as it held up to attack Japanese dug in along a deep ravine near the base of Point Cruz, the two 5th Marines battalions lost contact.
- Farther inland, Whaling screened the flank with no significant enemy contacts.
- It seemed clear that, 1/5 had located the major Japanese force in the area. While Companies A and C of 1/5 engaged the enemy, Company B was ordered up to fill a gap which opened between these attacking companies.
- The opposition held firm and Company C, hardest hit in the first clash with the entrenched Japanese, had to withdraw. The Company B commander, trying to flank positions which had plagued the withdrawn unit also suffered heavy casualties and was forced to withdraw.
- Edson then committed his reserve, and Companies I and K of 3/5 came up to the base of Point Cruz on a line between 1/5 and the coast. This put a Marine front to the east and south of the Japanese pocket; but the enemy held, and the Marines halted for the night.
- **Tenaru**
- On 1 November division sent Lieutenant Colonel Herman Hanneken's 2d Battalion, 7th Marines out to investigate reports of Japanese activities to the east. Hanneken trucked his men to the Tenaru River that day.

1 November - Air

- The first four SBDs of Major Joseph Sailor's VMSB132, the first squadron of MAG 11, flew into Henderson Field.
- Seven B-25's bomb A/F and dump area at Lae early in the morning, scoring hits on the runway and dispersal areas, and starting fires.
- Three allied medium bombers on reconnaissance near Buna were intercepted by seven Japanese fighters.
- Fourteen allied light bombers dispatched to attack Lae were intercepted South of Lae by fifteen to twenty fighters.
- Later in the day allied light bombers escorted by fighters succeeded in reaching Lae where they encountered eight to ten fighters.
- In these actions three enemy fighters were probably shot down. One of our aircraft is missing.
- Nine Australian patrol bombers and twelve B-17's strike shipping in Buin-Faisi-Tonolai area. One direct hit was scored on a cargo ship and two probable hits and two near misses on unidentified ships. Kahili AF on Bougainville is also attacked.

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2 November - Government

- Bruce reported on the 2nd November that in the knowledge that Roosevelt's message had been sent, the Chiefs of Staff in London deferred action until the Australian reply was known, as the return of the 9th Division would entail a diversion of shipping from other commitments.



Bruce 1934

2 November - Kokoda

- On the eastern track, on the 2nd, the 2/3rd went forward to Kobara where the men began to prepare a dropping ground in an open kunai patch.
- One patrol quested as far as Pirivi. The whole brigade then camped in the Kobara region hungrily waiting for the food which would be dropped to them next day.
- Had it not been for the fruit and roots they had gathered from native gardens they would have fared badly. They made their evening meal from yams, paw paw, sweet potatoes, taro root and cucumber, all slightly green.
- The going had been easier during the day—the track falling from Siga into the valley and, after passing through Fila, becoming well defined and level—so that, although the men were tired and hungry, they were not as distressed as they had been in the mountains.

ALLIES PUSH ON IN OWEN STANLEYS

AFTER occupying the village of Alola, in the Owen Stanley Range, in New Guinea, Allied forces are pushing on towards Isurava.

Important Move In New Guinea?

MELBOURNE, Sunday.—An important development in the New Guinea campaign was hinted at by the Army Minister (Mr. Forde), when he arrived from Canberra to-day.

"Operations in New Guinea are proceeding to a carefully worked out plan," Mr. Forde said, "and is well on the way to fulfilment."

Latest reports were that the Australian troops were still pushing back the Japanese and doing everything expected of them.

There is no indication whether our troops are still in contact with the Japanese.

From Alola to Isurava the track runs along a mountain spur, after which there is a steep drop to Deneki and Kokoda, which is 5000ft. below Isurava.

Normal march from Alola to Isurava might take from one and a half to two and a half hours, depending on the weather.

Along the spur rain forest is encountered, but on the downward track from Isurava the country opens up and is far more favourable for rapid movement than that in which recent fighting has been taking place.

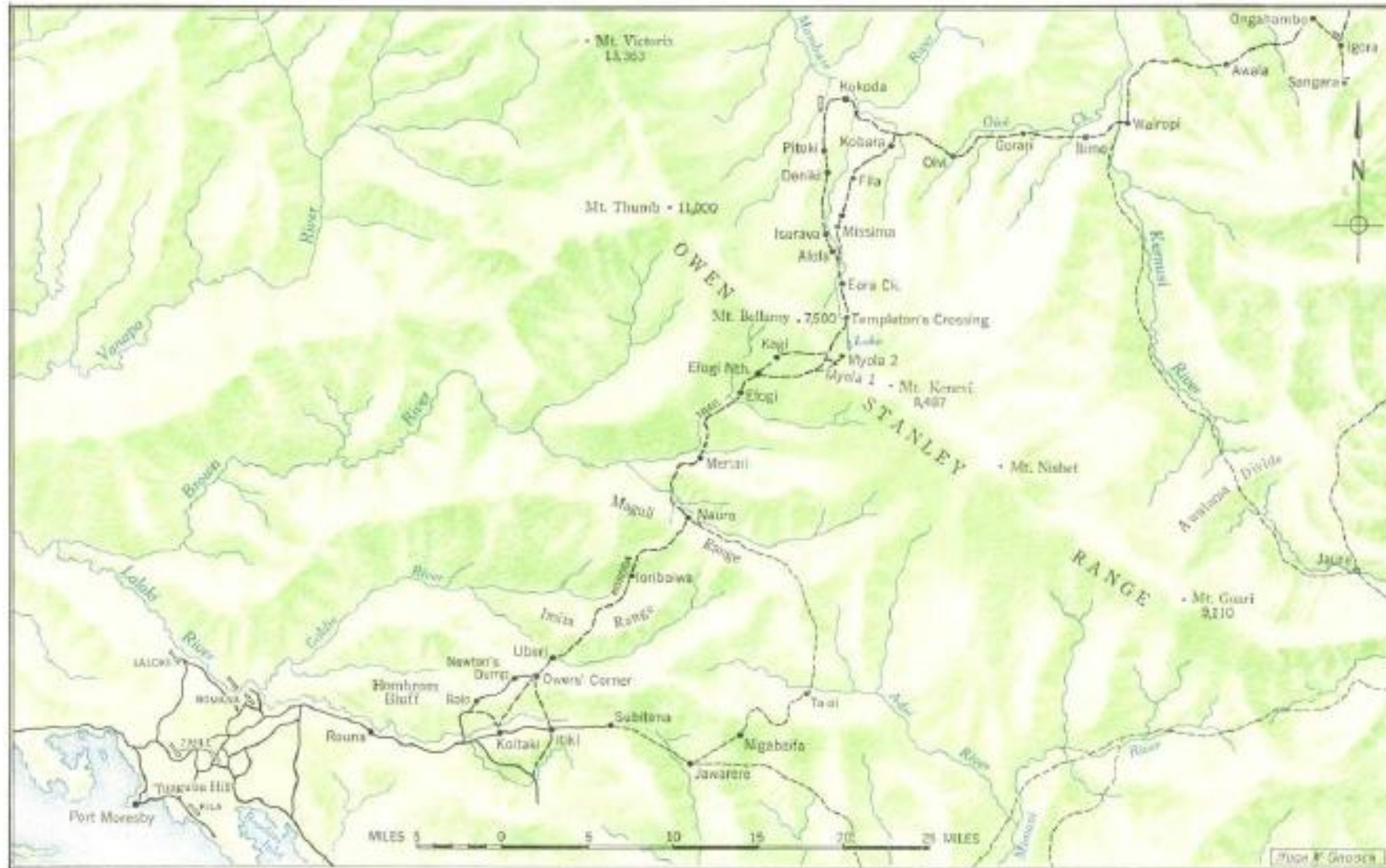
Allied air units supporting the forward troops have continued their bombing and strafing of the areas behind the Japanese.

The runway and dispersal areas at Lae have been lightly bombed, and buildings at Salamaua machine-gunned.

2 November - Kokoda

- There was good news from the western track. In the morning a patrol of the 2/31st under Lieutenant Black, entered Kokoda itself and found that the Japanese had been gone two days.
- By 11.30 a.m. the main 2/31st Battalion group was moving forward and had Kokoda firmly covered by the middle of the afternoon. By 4 p.m. Brigadier Eather was there with his advanced headquarters and the other two battalions were approaching.
- Preliminary engineer reconnaissance suggested that aircraft would be able to land after two days work on the strip and dropping could go on from dawn of the 3rd.
- So, quietly, the Australians re-entered Kokoda. Apart from its airfield its significance lay only in its name which would identify the easiest track across the Papuan mountains from sea to sea.
- Vasey's new orders followed quickly. Lloyd was to prepare to move onwards to Wairopi and, from midday on the 4th, would be responsible for the whole area east of a north-south line running through Oivi.
- Nor did Vasey intend that the brigadier would lose sight of the need for haste. He signalled: I wish to see you moving towards Oivi in full strength at earliest. I feel your HQ and 2/1 Bn too far back.

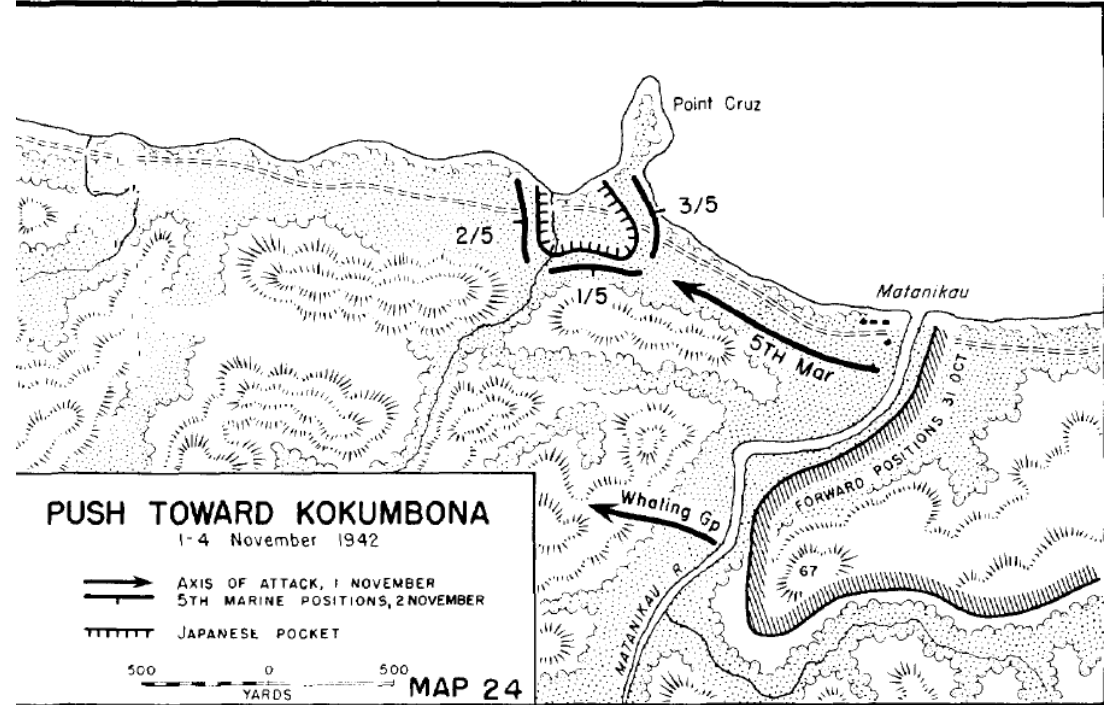
1 November - Kokoda



The Kokoda Track

2 November - Guadalcanal

- Next morning (2 November) Edson's 2d Battalion came to the assistance of the regiment's other two battalions, and the enemy was backed to the beach just west of Point Cruz and surrounded.
- The Marines pounded the Japanese with heavy artillery and mortars, and late in the afternoon launched an attack to compress the enemy pocket. Companies I and K stopped short against an isolated enemy force distinct from the main Japanese position, but this resistance broke up under the campaign's only authenticated bayonet charge, an assault led by Captain Erskine Wells, Company I commander.
- Elsewhere the going also was slow and advances less spectacular. A Marine attempt to use 75mm half-tracks failed when rough terrain stopped the vehicles.
- The 3/5 attack gained approximately 1,500 yards but the main pocket of resistance held, and the regiment halted for another night.



2 November - Guadalcanal

- On 2 November the 2/7 battalion made a forced march across the base of Koli Point to the Metapona River, about 13 miles east of the perimeter. Intelligence had it that the Japanese had not yet been able to build up much strength here, and Hanneken's mission was to keep things that way.
- On the night of 2 November he deployed his battalion along the coast east of the Metapona and dug in for the night.
- While 2/7 Marines strained to see and hear into the black rainy night, six Japanese ships came down Sealark Channel, lay to offshore about a mile east of the American battalion, and began to unload troops.
- Rain had put Colonel Hanneken's radio out of commission, and he could not contact division with information of this landing.
- Two 155mm gun batteries, one Marine and the other army, landed in the lunga perimeter on 2 November to provide the first effective weapons for answering the Japanese 150mm howitzers.

2 November - Air

- Kenney proposed a plan, code-name GULLIVER, to MacArthur on 2nd November, the day Kokoda was re-occupied.
- Strong fighter bases at Milne Bay, on Goodenough and in the Buna area; bases that, though primarily for fighters would also have accommodation for the staging of all classes of bombers, whose range would be extended and bomb loads increased.



2 November - Air

- The enemy attempted to land an estimated 7,000 troops near Buna from two large transports, escorted by a light cruiser, a destroyer and nine fighters. B-17's attack shipping NE of Buna (scoring several near misses on the transports and shooting down four or five of the enemy fighters. As a result the convoy retired northwards.
- In mid afternoon ten B-25s strike at convoy S of New Britain (scoring two very near misses on each ship.
- At dusk a third attack was made by eight US heavy bombers near Gasmata, scoring one direct hit on one of the transports and additional near misses on the other. The ships were also machine gunned. One of the transports was left burning and dead in the water.—
- Photographic reconnaissance showed 61 fighters and 4 medium bombers at Lakunai airfield near Rabaul.
- An R4D transport flew the first ten pilots of VMF112 into Henderson Field.
- Nine B-26's bomb Dili demolishing many buildings and starting a large fire. Six Hudsons of No 13 Squadron attacked Bobonaro (south of Dilli), in support of the Independent Company, scoring direct hits on barracks, destroying buildings, starting fires and machine gunning enemy personnel.

2 November - Air

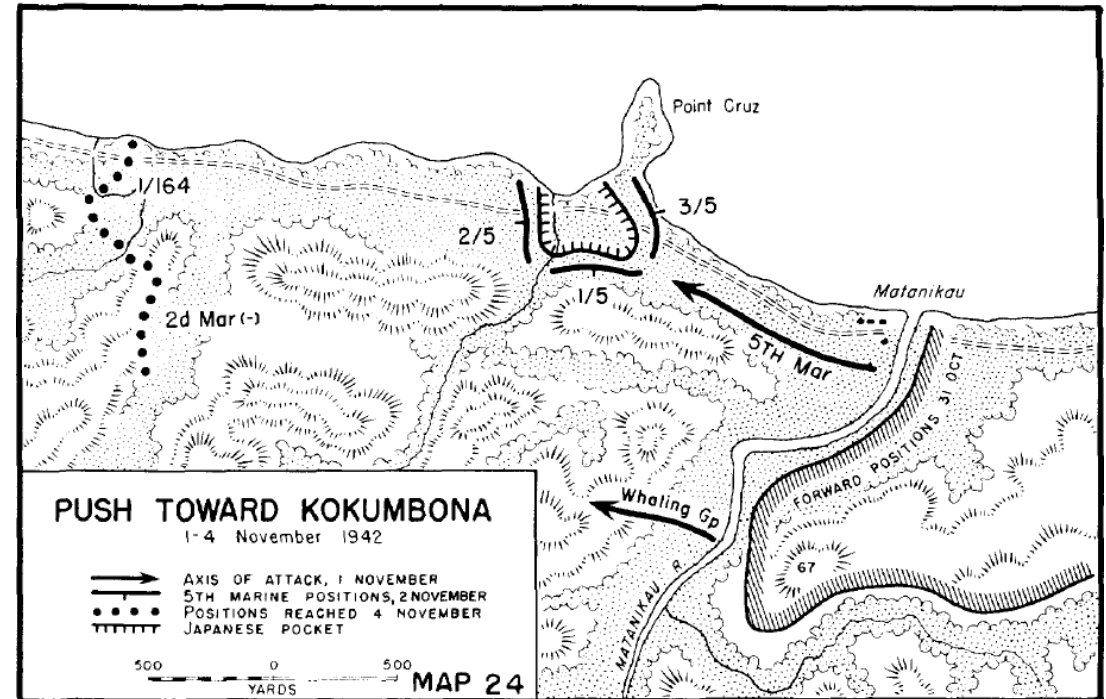
- American radio intelligence extracted the outline of a scheme to land reinforcements at Koli Point from five destroyers on the night of 2 November.
- A B17 sighted eleven destroyers approaching the Island in the afternoon.
- At 17.30 Lt Cdr John Eldridge, the commander of VS-71, and two VMSB 132 pilots went out in a solid overcast to try and disrupt the Japanese landings.
- About 21.00 two more SBDs went out on a similar mission.
- Only one of these five aircraft returned.
- Two SBDs disappeared. The wreckage of two others, including Eldridge's, and the remains of the crews were found on Santa Isabel.

3 November - Kokoda

- On the 3rd the 2/2nd Battalion moved out at 1 p.m. With his leading company along the main track to Oivi—about 1,000 yards from the junction of that and the track from Pirivi—The sudden rattle of machine-gun and rifle fire broke about them. Edgar had Captains Fairbrother and Ferguson whip a platoon from each of their companies wide to the right and left respectively and the small Japanese rearguard which had caused the trouble was driven in.
- By that time darkness was not far off and the battalion went into a defensive position astride the track with Fairbrother's patrols working forward on the right, Ferguson's on the left.
- Staff-Sergeant Blackwell's patrol came against firm positions and lost two men wounded but brought back valuable information which enabled Edgar to make his plans for the next day. It seemed clear now that Oivi would be defended.
- In Kokoda air dropping began about 8 a.m. (3rd) but supplies rained down on the strip itself so that the task of repair and renovation was interrupted. The 2/6th Field Company, however, quickly got the task in hand again.
- Just after midday, General Vasey, with ceremony, hoisted the Australian flag outside Eather's headquarters.

3 November - Guadalcanal

- Final reduction of the Japanese stronghold began at 0800 on 3 November. Companies E and G of 2/5 first assaulted to compress the enemy into the. Northeast corner of the pocket, and this attack was followed by advances of Company F of 2/5 and Companies I and K of 3/5.
- Japanese resistance ended shortly after noon. At least 300 enemy were killed; 12 antitank 37mms, a field piece, and 34 machine guns were captured.
- It seemed that this success should at last help pave the way for pushing on to Kokumbona. From there the enemy would be driven across the Poha River, Henderson Field would be beyond reach of Pistol Pete, and the Japanese would have one less weapon able to bear on their efforts to ground the Cactus fliers..



3 November - Guadalcanal

- The 2/7 Marines held their positions that night but moved to attack next morning after an eight-man Japanese patrol approached their line by the Metapona. Marines killed four members of this patrol, and the battalion then moved up to fire 81mm mortars into the enemy's landing site.
- This brought no immediate response, but as Hanneken's infantrymen prepared to follow this mortar preparation a large force of Imperial soldiers maneuvered to flank the Marines who began also to draw mortar and artillery fire.
- In the face of this coordinated attack by the Japanese, 2/7 withdrew, fighting a rear guard action as it pulled back to take up stronger positions on the west bank of the Nalimbiu River, some 5,000 yards west of the Metapona.
- During the withdrawal, Hanneken managed to make radio contact with the CP at Lunga. He reported his situation, and called for air attacks against the enemy and for landing craft to meet him at Koli Point and evacuate his wounded.
- This message reached division at 1445, and Vandegrift immediately dispatched the requested air support and also relayed the situation to gunfire ships which had supported the Koli Point operation.

3 November - Guadalcanal

- Cruisers *San Francisco* and *Helena* and 2 destroyers shelled likely target areas east of the Marine battalion, and 31 aircraft scrambled from Henderson and ranged overhead in vain searches for signs of the enemy.
- Communications still were none too good and elements of 2/7 were accidentally strafed and bombed by some of the first planes that came out from Cactus.
- Meanwhile, division had made the decision to concentrate more force against the evident buildup to the east. The western attack then in progress would be called back while General Rupertus went to Koli Point with Colonel Sims of the 7th Marines, and Sims' 1st Battalion (Puller).
- Vandegrift added the 164th Infantry (less 1st Battalion) which would march overland to envelop the Koli Point enemy from the south. Artillery batteries of the 1st Battalion, 10th Marines would be in general support.



William H. Rupertus, USMC

3 November - Air

- Four Australian Hudsons in the morning and in the afternoon eight B-26's bomb Dili. All bombs fell in the town demolishing many buildings. The second attack was intercepted by six Japanese fighters, one of which was destroyed, one possibly destroyed and one damaged. One US plane was damaged.
- B-17's bomb A/F and wharf at Lae, and attack ship S of Gasmata.
- Early in the morning six patrol bombers attacked enemy shipping in the Buin area. Results were not observed. Four enemy fighters intercepted with the aid of a beacon from Buin airfield.

3 November - Air

- Milne Bay had been transformed. Engineers, medical officers and administrators had cooperated to conquer the mud, malaria and confusion that had so recently threatened to deny victory to the defenders.
- No. 1 and No. 3 Strips had been developed as originally planned. No. 2 Strip presented insuperable drainage problems and was abandoned, but another was developed in its place so that the base now had three good runways with revetment areas.
- By 3rd November there were three American squadrons (two fighter and one heavy bomber) and one Australian unit — No. 100 (Beaufort torpedo-bomber) Squadron—based there.
- Formations of bombers frequently staged through the base on long-range missions.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

OG0061N

MILNE BAY, PAPUA. C. 1942-10. THREE BEAUFORTS OF NO. 100 SQUADRON RAAF PREPARING TO TAKE OFF FROM A MUDDY GURNEY AIRSTRIP. ALSO SHOWN IS A HUDSON OF NO. 6 SQUADRON RAAF (EXTREME RIGHT) AND TWO BEAUFIGHTERS OF NO. 30 SQUADRON RAAF.

3 November - Industry

- The keel of USS Casablanca was laid down on 3 November 1942.
- She was the first of 50 Casablanca-class carriers to be built by Kaiser Company Inc.'s Shipbuilding Division, Vancouver Yard on the Columbia River in Vancouver, Washington.
- The Vancouver yard was built in 1942 to construct Liberty Ships but soon found itself building LST landing craft.
- Kaiser had reduced construction time of (Liberty ships) from more than a year to less than 90 days and proposed building a fleet of 50 small carriers in less than two years.
- The US naval authorities had refused to approve construction of the Casablanclas until Kaiser went directly to the President's advisors.



USS *Casablanca* (CVE-55), first of her class and the first escort carrier designed and built as such. The Casablanclas were 11,000 tons full load, carried 28 aircraft and could make 20 knots.

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KOKODA TAKEN: TROOPSHIPS BOMBED

Allies Driving On In Ranges: Jap Landing Bid Fails

KOKODA, most important inland point of the Owen Stanley trail across Papua, has been captured by Allied troops. The landing field there is understood to be in our hands. There was no enemy resistance.

Forward troops moved into Kokoda early on Monday morning, and the occupation was completed when the main body moved in the afternoon.

Our troops are pressing on along the main trail to Oivi, six miles east of Kokoda.

Three attacks by bombers on Monday drove off an attempt by the Japanese to land strong reinforcements near Buna, on the north coast of Papua.

Seven thousand troops were reported on board two transports, with warship escort and fighter cover.

In the north-western sector raids of heavier than the average recent proportions were carried out against Japanese-occupied points in Timor.

Jap Transport Afire

Collected with the capture of Kokoda by our forces, the Japanese on Monday attempted to land large reinforcements on the north coast of Papua, near Buna.

Two transport ships, one of which was the *Yamato*, were set on fire by our forces. The *Yamato* was a large transport ship, and the other was a smaller one.

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Three attacks by bombers on Monday drove off an attempt by the Japanese to land strong reinforcements near Buna, on the north coast of Papua.

GUADALCANAL MARINES PUSHING JAPS BACK

NEW YORK, Nov. 3 (AP)—Japanese troops are slowly retreating westward from the American air base on Guadalcanal.

The Japanese, who landed on the island in August, are now being pushed back by American forces. The Japanese are now in a defensive position, and the Americans are pushing them back.

The Japanese are now in a defensive position, and the Americans are pushing them back.



Men who planned the British offensive in Egypt look out over the desert battlefront. General Sir Harold Alexander (left) is Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, and Lieut-General Bernard Montgomery (right) leader of the Eighth Army.

Further Gain By Germans In Caucasus Drive

FOLLOWING the evacuation of Nalchik, in the Central Caucasus, 110 miles west of the Grassy oil fields and 50 miles west of Mosdok, the Russians have been forced to make further withdrawals south of the city.

The Russians are continuing to evacuate their forces from the Caucasus region. The Germans are pushing them back, and the Russians are withdrawing south of the city.

The Germans are pushing them back, and the Russians are withdrawing south of the city.

FIERCE TANK BATTLE IN DESERT; GAIN BY ALLIED INFANTRY

LONDON, Nov. 3.—While mighty armoured forces were at death grips in the Western Desert yesterday, Allied infantry attacked in the southern sector of the Alamein line and made an important advance, taking many prisoners.

To-day's Cairo communiqué says that the armoured battle, which is on a considerable scale, continued all day, and heavy fighting is still proceeding.

The German armoured forces, which were at death grips in the Western Desert yesterday, were attacked by Allied infantry. The Allied infantry made an important advance, taking many prisoners.

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HUGE LOAN LAUNCHED BY CURTIN

AUSTRALIA raised \$100 million in a huge loan launched by Prime Minister Curtin today.

The loan is for the purpose of financing the war effort. It is a very large loan, and it is expected that it will be successful.

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War Fronts At A Glance

EGYPT
Allied infantry made an important advance in the southern sector of the Alamein line yesterday, taking many prisoners.

RUSSIA
The German armoured forces were at death grips in the Western Desert yesterday, and Allied infantry attacked in the southern sector of the Alamein line.

NEW GUINEA
The Japanese are slowly retreating westward from the American air base on Guadalcanal.

SOLOMONS
The Japanese are slowly retreating westward from the American air base on Guadalcanal.

11,000 Dead In Cyclone
A cyclone has killed 11,000 people in the Philippines.

VITAL ROLE OF A.I.F.
The Australian Imperial Force is playing a vital role in the war effort.



Three Attacks by bombers on Monday drove off an attempt by the Japanese to land strong reinforcements near Buna, on the north coast of Papua.

4 November – Courier Mail

- War Organisation of Industry continued to extend the list of prohibited products to free up resources for production of military supplies.
- This ad from the Courier Mail illustrates the process.

CATTLE
LICK INGREDIENTS
AND FEEDS

Though the sale of ready-mixed licks has been prohibited under National Security Regulations, we are still able to offer Salt and Lick ingredients without restrictions, provided they are to be fed to cattle.

We stock Butchers' Coarse Salt
Crude stock salt
Sterilized Boneflour
Epsom salts, best quality
Glauber salts
• Finely ground limestone
Sulphur, highest grade pure
Molasses, 44 gallon drums



O.P.S.
always to the
fore with
latest
information.
Write for
interesting
Lick Literature

Buy
War Saving
Certificates

Queensland Pastoral Supplies

4 November - Kokoda

- On the morning of the 4th the men of the 2/2nd moved forward warily to the point where Blackwell had been held the previous evening. But the Japanese were gone.
- Fairbrother led the new advance and, within less than a mile, his men began blasting Japanese before them. After another half mile, however, about 1.30 p.m., heavy and light machine-gun fire and the shells from a mountain gun were beating around them.
- Lieutenant Burke's platoon could not advance. Fairbrother then, with an additional platoon under his command, moved the rest of his company by the flanks to take the Japanese positions in rear.
- By 5 p.m. his men had succeeded in cutting the track. But the Japanese had gone again and marks in the mud showed that they were dragging a mountain gun with them.
- By this time the 2/3rd Battalion was in support and the 2/1st, with fresh supplies which had been dropped in the morning, headed eastward along a trail bearing almost directly east, below and roughly parallel with the main Oivi Track.
- But wrong tracks confused them and, after about two hours' travelling, they found themselves back within a few hundred yards of their starting point. They camped for the night.



4 November - Kokoda

- The first Douglas transport had landed about 9.45 a.m. and several other aircraft followed during the day with rations, clothing and medical supplies. Chocolate was issued to troops hungry for sweets and the men tasted bread for the first time in many days.
- From midday onwards the 2/4th Field Ambulance had a Main Dressing Station in operation. For the first time in the Kokoda campaign, the men could hope for reasonably comfortable conditions if they became casualties.
- As battle casualties and sick built up at the M.D.S. tented accommodation fell behind requirements, and for a time an area existed where sick men arriving at Kokoda built their own shelters and lay in cheerless circumstances on the ground.
- Nevertheless, for the first time, it was possible to fly the sick and wounded to hospital at Port Moresby, and with the consequent reduction in the number of patients at the M.D.S. conditions rapidly improved.



(Australian War Memorial)

Wounded Australians from the Oivi-Gorari battle at the M.D.S. Kokoda, November 1942.

4 November - Kokoda

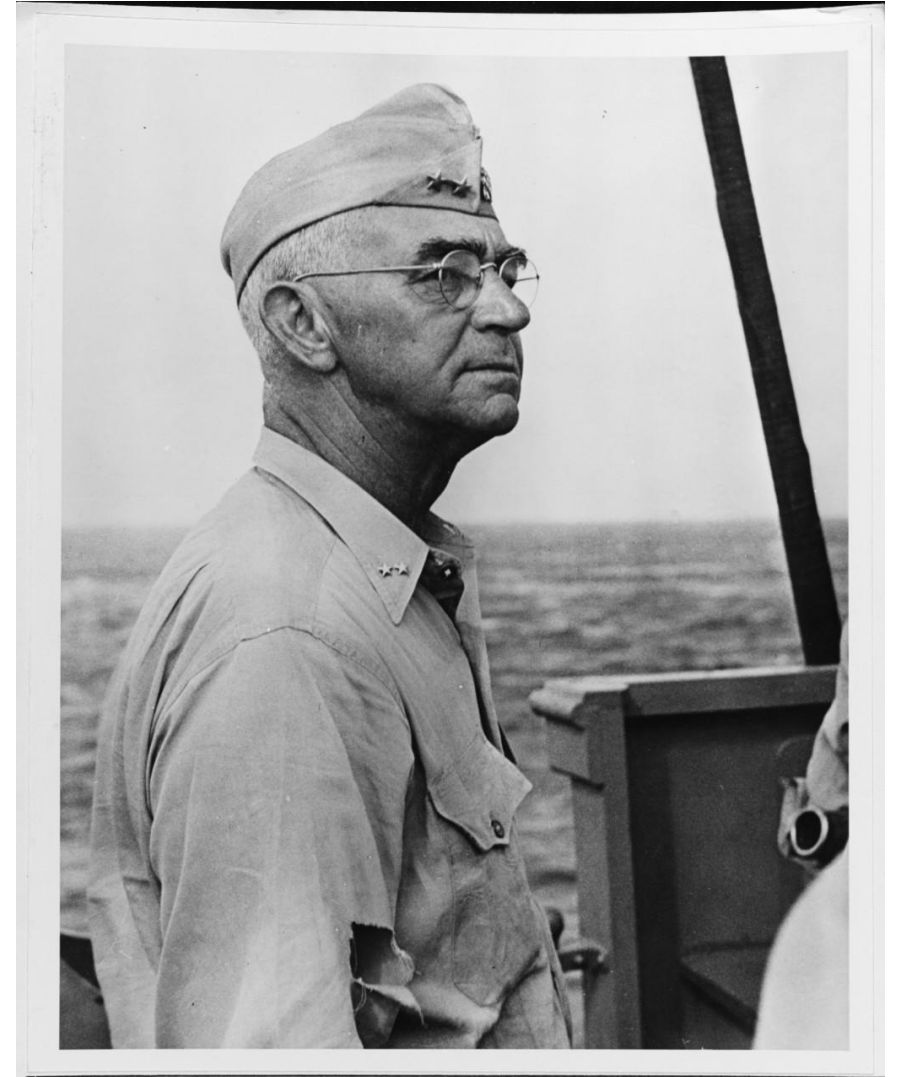
- Lieut-Colonel Chenhall and his 2/6th Field Ambulance detachment at Myola had had 438 sick and wounded men on his hands on 1st November.
- At the end of October a Stinson, the first of a number of small planes to land there, put down at Myola on a strip which the 2/6th Field Company had prepared. During early November several landings were made. On the morning of the 3rd the fourth patient was flown out and several cases were taken out on succeeding days.
- On the 7th Lieutenant Ronald Notestine, an American transport pilot, flew in and greatly impressed the Australians. In all, however, only about 40 casualties were flown out of the mountains.
- Colonel Kingsley Norris (the 7th Division's chief medical officer) wrote later:
- Two bombers, one loaded with stores . . . actually landed on the strip and after off-loading had taken off with no difficulty—the pilot remarking (among other things) "This is a grand little strip". In spite of every effort by Div and N.G.F., air evacuation was neglected. Why this was never adequately undertaken—why after three years of war no adequate ambulance planes were available—why certain casualties had to remain in a forward medical post for eleven weeks after being wounded—these and many other questions remain unanswered.

4 November - Kokoda

- This was followed, in the early days of November, by several more light planes and a few patients were flown out of Myola, but Whitehead and Garing ruled against a large-scale air lift with the aircraft then available.
- Five more suitable aircraft having been obtained, an attempt was made to operate a medical air evacuation service.
- A single-engine Stinson and a tri-motor Ford both crashed at Myola soon after beginning operations and each of the other three aircraft—two Stinsons and a Dragon Rapide—crashed soon after arriving in New Guinea.
- Of the two aircraft that did land, the Ford evacuated eight and the Stinson about 30 patients before they were wrecked.

4 November - Guadalcanal

- Other reinforcements commenced a distinctly separate operation on the island. These units included the 1st Battalion of the 147th Infantry, 2nd Raiders, the 246th Field Artillery's Provisional Battery K and the Seabees.
- Under the command of Colonel W. B. Tuttle, commander of the 147th Infantry, this force landed on 4 November at Aola Bay about 40 miles east of the Lunga.
- There, over the objections of Vandegrift, Clemens and all other qualified observers, Admiral Turner had detailed Tuttle's command to construct a new airfield.



Admiral Turner

4 November - Guadalcanal

- The 2nd Raider Battalion was commanded by Lt Col Evans Carlson.
 - In 1937 Evans Carlson had been sent on a third tour of duty in China detailed to learn the Chinese language. While diligently studying the language he also obtained permission from Mao Tse Tung to go into the field with the Communist army fighting the Japanese in remote areas of China in 1938.
 - On his return he reported on the Chinese and Japanese armies to the Marine Corps and to President Roosevelt, who knew him from his service on the Marine detail at Warm Springs, the Presidents alternative White House.



Lt Col Evans Carlson, Commander 2nd Raider Battalion USMC.

25 May - Midway

- The US Marines are widely regarded as a very “Gung Ho” organisation, which is sometimes regarded as too much of a good thing.
- Carlson had been impressed with the excellence of the discipline, training and indoctrination of the Chinese Communist troops.
- When training the 2nd Raiders he adapted one of the Chinese inspirational slogans “Gung Ho” as a war cry for his unit.
- Introducing the phrase to the Marine Corps and the English language.



Evans Carlson

4 November - Guadalcanal

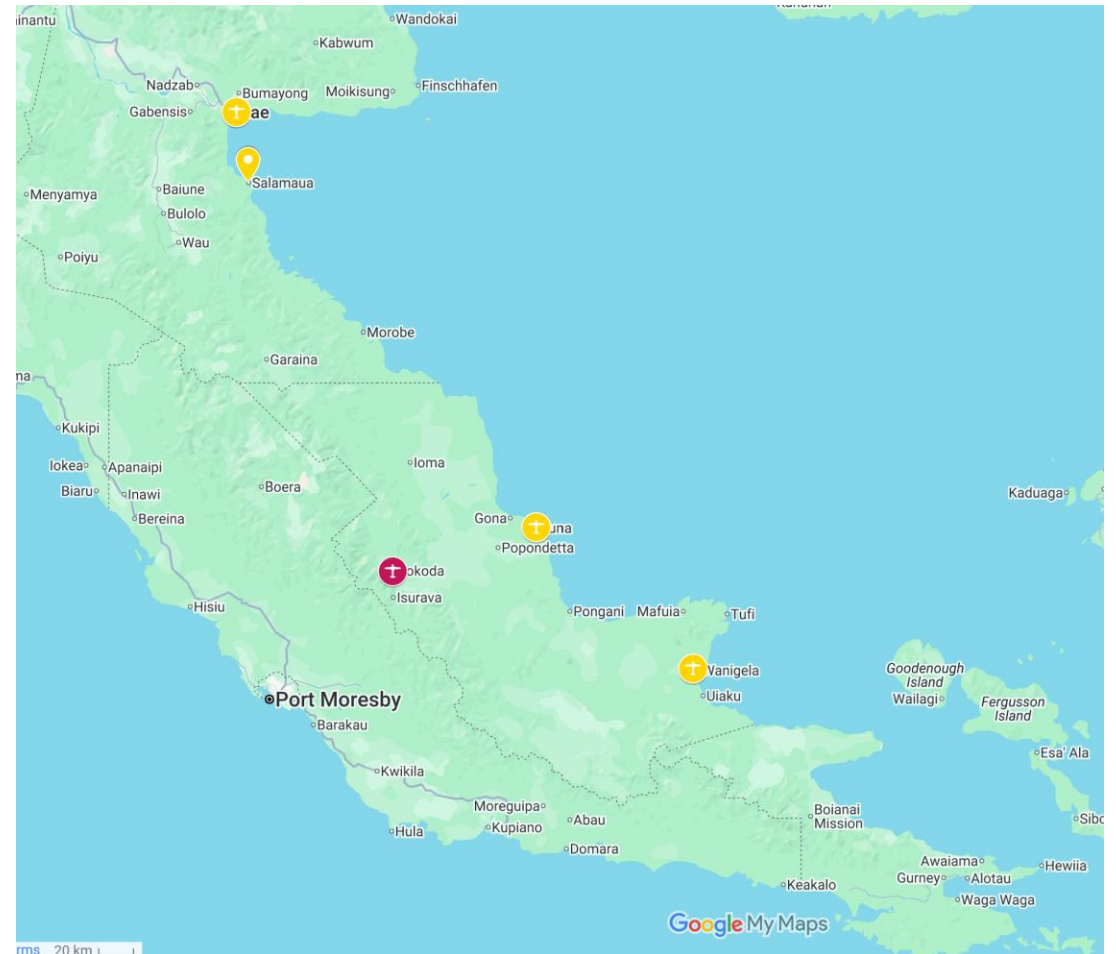
- At 0600 on 4 November Brigadier General Edmund Sebree, Americal Division ADC who had just arrived on the island to prepare for the arrival of other Americal troops (which included the 132nd and 182nd infantry regiments, in addition to the 164th Infantry already in the Solomons action), marched out of the perimeter in command of the 164th Infantry.
- And to add even more troops to this concentration of effort to the east, Vandegrift obtained release of Carlson's 2d Raider Battalion from Colonel Tuttle's command at Aola Bay and ordered it to march overland toward Koli Point and cut off any Japanese who might flee east from the envelopment of the 7th Marines and the 164th Infantry.
- The 8th Marines were not due in Sealark Channel until the next day (and there was always a chance that Japanese surface action would delay this arrival) so Vandegrift again pulled in his western attack to keep the perimeter strong.
- Division decided to hold its gain, however, and it left Colonel Arthur's 2d Marines (less 3d Battalion) and the 1st Battalion, 164th Infantry on the defense near Point Cruz while Edson and Whaling led their forces back to Lunga.

4 November - Guadalcanal

- On 4 November the Japanese on the east bank of the Nalimbiu did not seriously threaten the Marines on the west, but General Rupertus held defensive positions while awaiting the arrival of the 164th Infantry.
- The soldiers, weighted down by their heavy packs, weapons, and ammunition, reached their first assembly area on the west bank of the Nalimbiu inland at about noon. There the regimental CP bivouacked for the night with the 3d Battalion while the 2d Battalion pushed on some 2,000 yards downstream toward Koli Point.
- On 4 and 5 November the 8th Marines landed with its supporting 1st Battalion of the 10th Marines (75mm pack howitzers).

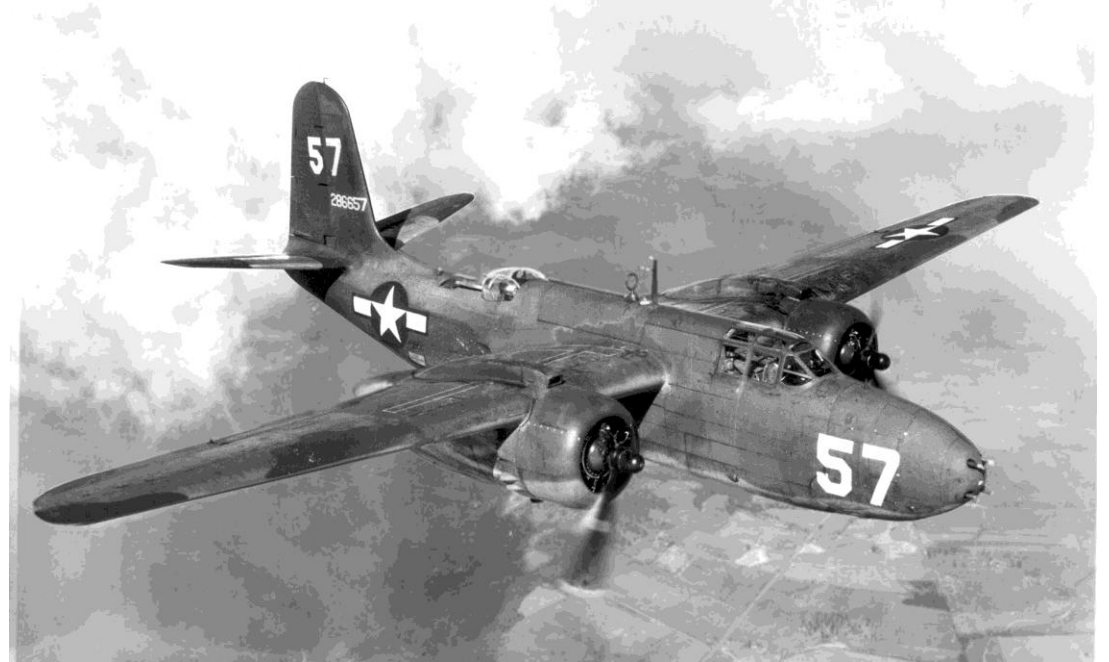
4 November - Air

- Nine light and nine medium bombers B-17's and B-25's bomb town and harbor of Salamaua (Many fires were started and there was a large explosion from a probable ammunition dump).
- A-20's hit troop concentrations at Oivi, where Australian attack meets firm resistance.
- Six allied light bombers attack the landing areas at Sananda north of Buna. Supplies were destroyed and an AA position silenced.
- Reconnaissance reveals Buna and Lae airfields are both serviceable.
- Transports fly most of the remainder of 128th Inf, 32d Div, to Wanigela.
- Six Australian Hudsons attacked Maobisse, later six B-26's bomb Aileu and Maobisse.



4 November - Air

- Moving northwards from this landing ground, named Abels' Field, American engineers spent several weeks, clearing strips as they went until they reached the coast where, in the vicinity of Pongani, they had, by 4th November, cleared a runway as the beginning of another important base.
- No. 22 Squadron RAAF, armed with Bostons arrived at Port Moresby early in November and moved into a camp close to No. 30 Squadron's camp near Ward's aerodrome



Douglas A-20 Havoc Light Bomber known as the Boston to the RAAF