

War in the Pacific

Defending Australia

Campaigns in New Guinea and the Solomons

5 November 1942

The Japanese make another determined stand at Oivi. 7th Division incurs heavy casualties attempting to push them out.

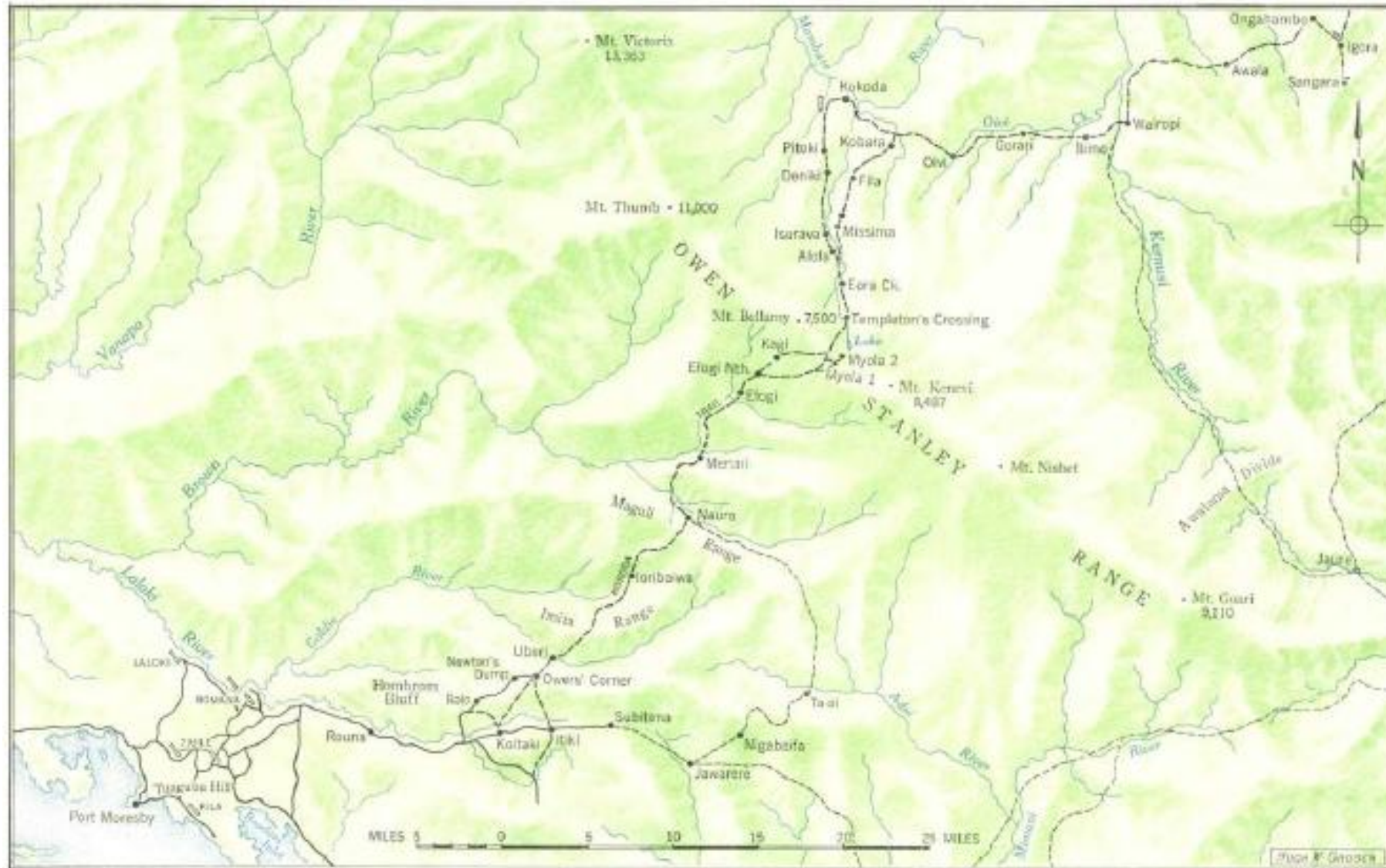
The Marines and Army continue an offensive to push the Japanese further away from Henderson field.

In Africa the 8th Army defeats the Africa Korps at Alamein and pursues them to the west and a new Allied Army lands in French West Africa.

5 November – 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 of October but made no progress and suffered heavy losses. Japanese ground attacks have now petered out and the Americans are launching limited attacks to push the Japanese further away from the Airfields. Admiral Turner has also landed a force at Aola about 40 miles east of the Perimeter.
- 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 and have retaken Kokoda. Possession of the Kokoda airfield has greatly eased medevac and supply difficulties. General Allen has been replaced in command by General Vasey because of Command unhappiness about slow progress.
- Preparations to mount attacks on Buna by sea from Milne Bay and by air into new strips near Pongani are in train.
- The air battle continues with both sides attacking the opposition's air force and ships and developing their own airfields.
- The Australian Government are attempting to disentangle the 9th Division AIF from a major offensive in North Africa and bring it home to Australia. This effort is being resisted by both Roosevelt and Churchill.

5 November - Kokoda



The Kokoda Track

5 November

Queen Mary And Mrs. Roosevelt

LONDON, Nov. 4. — Mrs. Roosevelt said to-day that she stayed with Queen Mary on Sunday night.

"I was impressed by the attention that she gives to international affairs, especially America," said Mrs. Roosevelt. "We talked as she and the Princess Royal knitted. Queen Mary spoke of her keen interest in afforestation, to which I have given much attention in the last two years."

S.W. PACIFIC COMMUNIQUE

Following is the text of the communique issued yesterday from General MacArthur's headquarters:—

NORTH-WESTERN SECTOR

Dilli: The town and wharf areas were attacked by two formations of medium bombers during the early morning and mid-forenoon. The second wave was intercepted by at least five type Zero fighters, one of which was certainly destroyed, one probably destroyed, and one damaged. Fires were started in addition to those still burning as a result of raids the previous day, and heavy new damage was inflicted. All our planes returned.

NORTH-EASTERN SECTOR

Buin-Faisi: Our medium bombers, under cover of darkness, attacked enemy shipping with unobserved results.

New Britain: The burning hulk of one of the transports destroyed in the attempted landing at Buna was located by our reconnaissance planes off the south coast, stationary, and still burning in the same position as when attacked.

Owen Stanley Area: We continue our pursuit of the retreating enemy with our advance elements now approaching Olvi.

5 November - Kokoda

- On the 5th Edgar (2/2nd) resumed the advance at 7.30 a.m., ready to test an extension of normal battle procedure. On meeting opposition his leading company would pin the front and begin a local encirclement. Automatically the second company would carry out a deeper encircling attack in an attempt to cut the track in the Japanese rear. (Although such a drill had become standard on the platoon level the colonel had not previously committed a second company automatically.)
- When Captain Ferguson's company, leading the advance, was engaged from the high ground fronting Oivi on either side of the track, before it had gone three-quarters of a mile, it deployed at once and Captain Brock's company manoeuvred deep on the right.
- But Ferguson's vanguard platoon was held on the track under destructive fire.
- Staff-Sergeant Blackwell's platoon, moving through bush on the right, found the way barred by lines of fire before they had covered more than 50 yards and Blackwell himself was killed.
- Lieutenant Moore, Ferguson's second-in-command, attacked round the left flank with the third platoon but could make little headway.
- It looked now as though the Australians were coming against the main Oivi defences.



5 November - Kokoda

- Oivi itself still lay approximately a mile ahead but the high ground which the Japanese were now holding controlled the approaches. This rose on either side of the track with a number of thickly wooded spurs thrusting westward.
- The Japanese had them well held, criss-crossing them with the fixed lines of light and heavy machine-guns. Snipers screened the defences, and mortars and one or two mountain guns supported them.
- As the morning wore on Edgar, supporting Ferguson closely with Fairbrother's company, had reports from Moore of considerable strength on his flanks.
- He therefore sent Captain Gall's and Captain Walker's companies of the 2/3rd Battalion, which had come forward about 10.30 a.m., round to the left to assist Moore, relieve some of the pressure on Ferguson's company generally, and seize the high ground on that flank.



5 November - Kokoda

- A little later, having had no word from Brock who was relying on runners for communication, he pushed Captain Blamey's company of his own battalion up one of the spurs which the Japanese were holding on the right. Blamey moved strongly and gained some ground but then had to dig his men in to enable them to survive in the storm which was beating about them.
- Soon afterwards Brock returned to the track and reported that he had not been able to penetrate the Japanese positions which seemed to be in considerable width.
- Edgar therefore sent him to Blamey's right to lengthen the front at a dangerously open point and work the high ground there. Although the other companies tried to help him move forward by attempting to create a diversion with vigorous fire the Japanese effectively retaliated with heavy machine-guns and mortars.
- He was making slow headway against determined opposition when Edgar ordered him later to link with Blamey and hold.

5 November - Kokoda

- Hutchison moved the rest of the 2/3rd forward. Late in the afternoon Edgar had him send his two remaining rifle companies (Lysaght's and Fulton's) round Brock's right in an effort to encircle the Japanese positions on the track in rear.
- Both were slowed by heavy machine-gun and mortar fire to which they began to lose heavily. As night came both battalions dug in, the forward elements not more than 50 yards from their opponents.
- The 3rd Battalion had moved forward from Kobara and were in perimeter defence on the track in rear. Darkness settled on tired troops who had been able to achieve no decision.

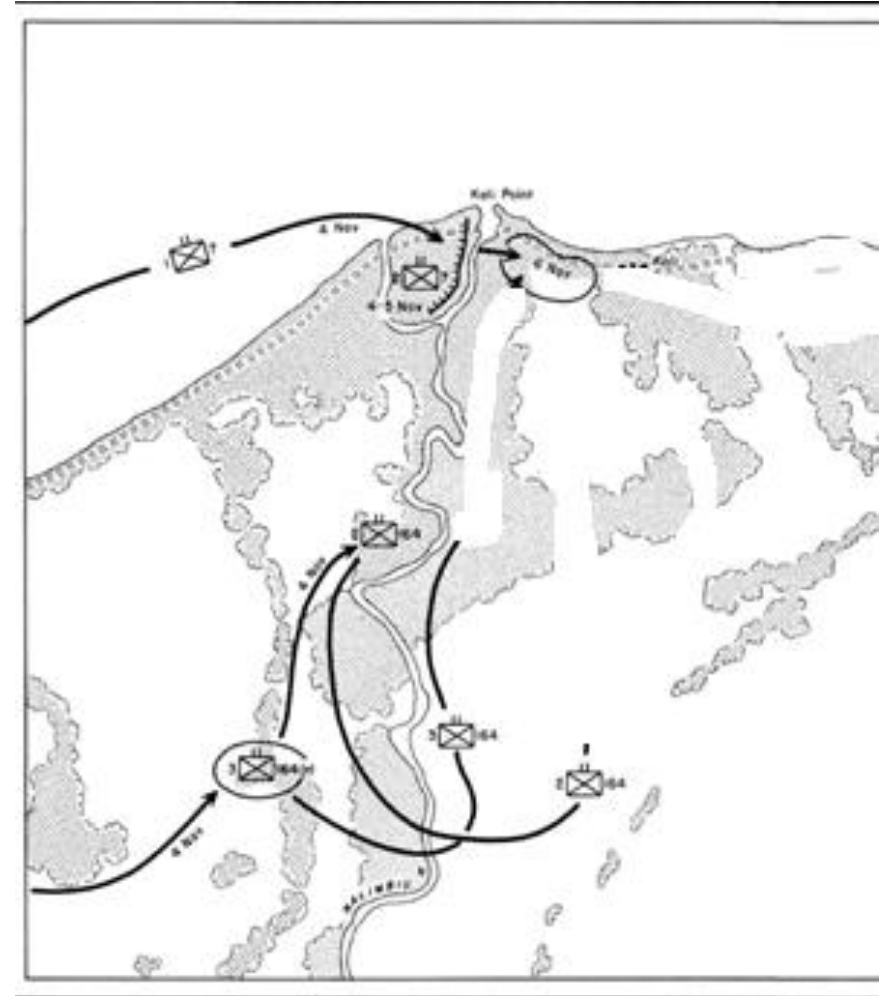
5 November - Kokoda

- Cullen was leading his 2/1st Battalion along the lower track which paralleled the main track for some distance before swinging north to junction with it near Ilimo.
- On the 5th progress (for 2/1st) was easy at first. The men were on the move from 7.30 a.m. through villages and native gardens. In one of the villages, Sengai, they found the bodies of five Australians who had apparently been killed weeks before as they lay wounded on stretchers.
- Pushing on in the afternoon they came upon signs of a recent Japanese reconnaissance patrol—footprints, cigarette packages, a small fire left burning—in whose steps they were apparently following.
- About 5 p.m. they arrived at a track junction with a lateral turning north—the track to Gorari.
- Cullen had Lieutenant Leaney—now commanding "A" Company—send one of his platoons as a patrol along this track, in the obvious wake of the Japanese reconnaissance party. The platoon surprised three enemy soldiers sheltering in an old hut. The Japanese fled, two of them badly wounded, and leaving their weapons and equipment.
- The 2/1st Battalion bivouacked for the night.



5 November - Guadalcanal

- Next day (5 November) the 3d Battalion, 164th crossed the river about 3,500 yards upstream and advanced along the east bank toward the Japanese.
- The 2d Battalion also crossed the river and followed its sister battalion to cover the right rear of the advance. As the soldiers neared the Japanese force they began to draw scattered small-arms fire, and two platoons of Company G were halted temporarily by automatic weapons fire.
- This opposition was silenced by U.S. artillery and mortars, however, and when the Army units halted for the night there still was no firm contact with the enemy.



5 November - Guadalcanal

- A raid of 27 Bettys and 24 Zeros attempted to attack the airfield.
- Heavy cloud kept honours even by hiding the bombers from the defending fighters and the airfields from the bombers.
- Anti aircraft guns claimed two Bettys.
- Four US Torpedo Boats attempted to intercept a large fleet of destroyers off Guadalcanal on the night of 5/6 November. PT 39 attacked one destroyer but did not score a hit.



Mitsubishi G4M bombers, allied reporting name Betty

5 November - Air

- B-25's unsuccessfully attack schooner near Arawe.
- One B17 on recce in the Bismarks claimed two of six enemy aircraft which attempted to intercept shot down.
- On the night of 5/6 Oct five patrol bombers attacked shipping in the Buin area. One near miss was scored on a light cruiser.
- A Japanese munitions dump at Maungdaw was strafed causing explosions & fires.
- IATF HBs carry out raid on Rangoon. Warehouses were hit and a 2,000 ton freighter hit.



STAFF SERGEANT P. HOFFEOKER LOOKS OUT FROM HIS B-17 NAMED "HONI KUU OKOLE", WHICH IS HAWAIIAN FOR 'KISS MY ASS'. THE SYMBOLS CLAIM 7 SHIPS DAMAGED OR SUNK, 18 AIRCRAFT DESTROYED, 68 BOMBING MISSIONS AND 9 PURPLE HEARTS. THE WHITE PANELS HAVE BEEN REDACTED BY MILITARY CENSORS. 9 June 1943.

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WALLACE BISHOP'S
RING GEORGE SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM

14

6 November

A.I.F. DOES 'GREAT JOB'

From W. J. Munday, Courier-Mail
Correspondent with the 8th Army.

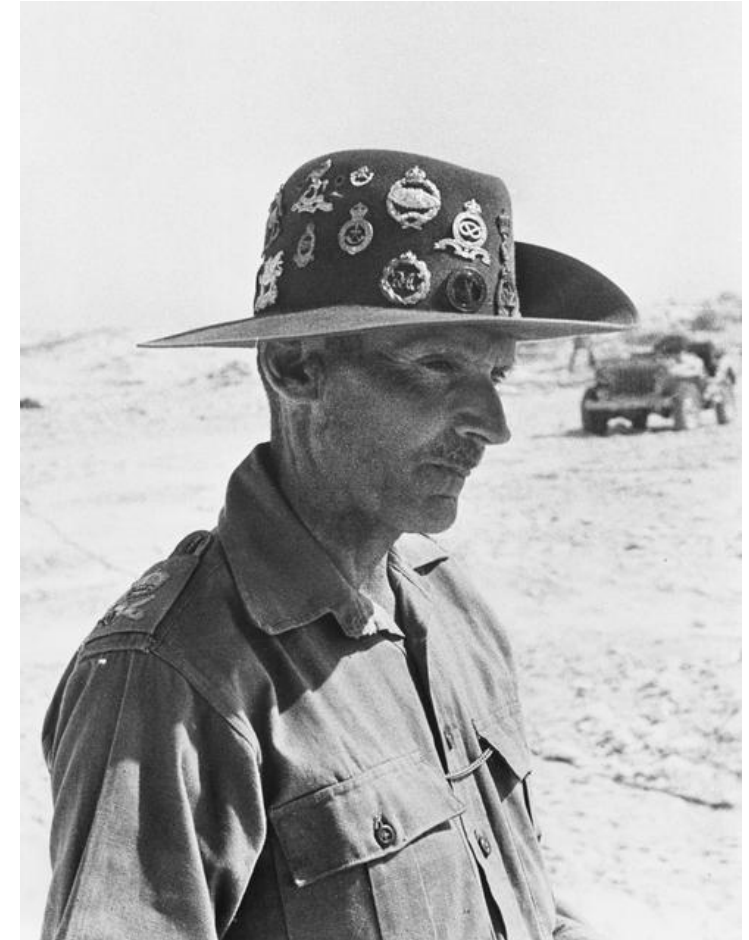
**BATTLE HEADQUARTERS,
Nov. 3.—Lieut.-General Mont-
gomery, 8th Army leader, has
sent a special message of praise
to Major-General Morshead,
commanding the Australian
forces.**

Lieutenant-General Montgomery
says:

"I want to congratulate you on
the magnificent work your divi-
sion has done on the right of
the line.

"Your men are absolutely splen-
did, and the part they've played
in this battle is beyond all
praise.

"Please tell the division I'm de-
lighted with the way it has
fought."



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

044866

GENERAL MONTGOMERY WEARING AN AUSTRALIAN SLOUCH HAT WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO HIM ON 1942-08-14 AT 24TH BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS, 9TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION, NEAR EL ALAMEIN. THE UNIT BADGES WERE ADDED BY THE GENERAL LATER.

6 November

Spectacular War Output

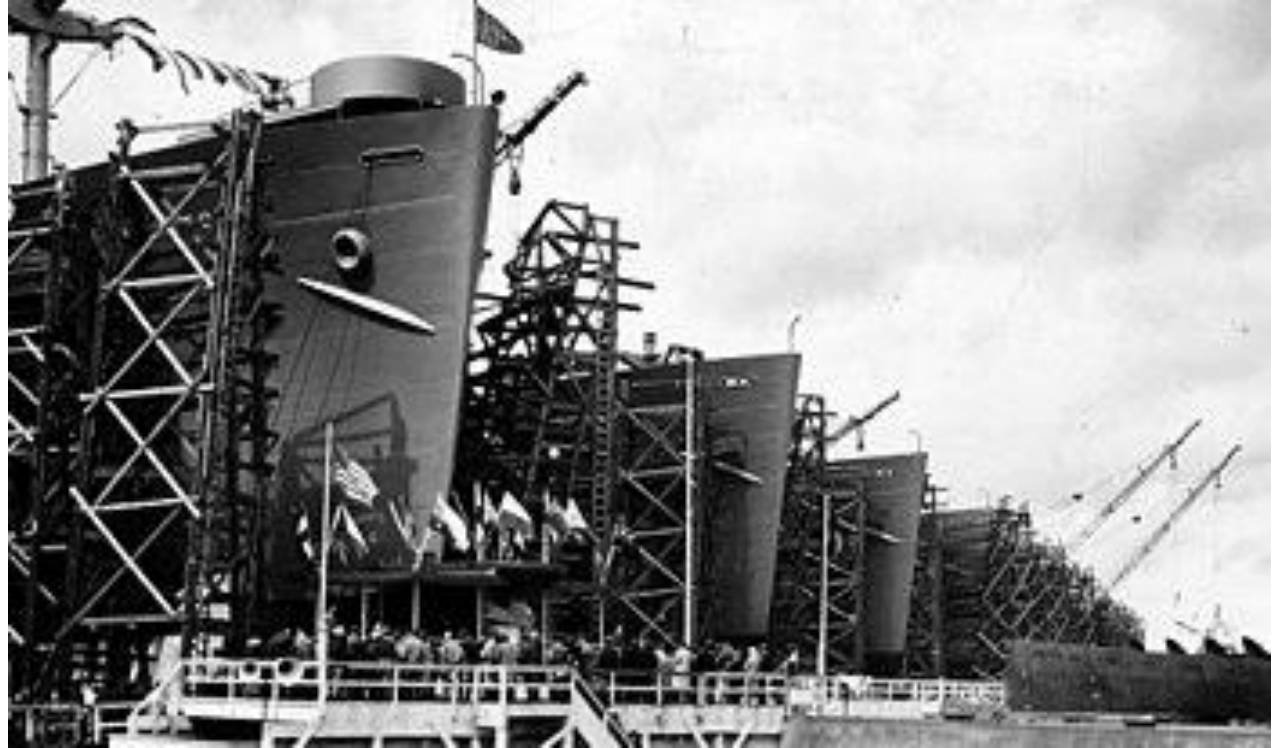
SYDNEY, Thursday.—"American and Canadian war production is, to say the least, spectacular," said the Director of Ordnance Production (Mr. L. J. Hartnett) to-day.

Mr. L. J. Hartnett has returned by air to Australia after having led a successful Australian munitions mission to the United States and Canada. During an absence of four months, he visited many of the largest war factories in America, and negotiated important

"There is no doubt that the new world's will is to win the war," said Mr. Hartnett. "Their war factories are beginning to give astonishing results, with large quantities of equipment flowing off the end of the production lines. When this great and growing production, added to the already formidable production of Great Britain and Russia, and to a lesser, though significant extent that of Australia, can be moved in big quantities into the field of battle, there will be a striking transformation in the fortunes of the Allied Nations."

6 November - Industry

- In November (1942) at Kaiser's Richmond #2 yard, the SS Robert E. Peary was launched 4 days, 15 hours and 29 minutes after her keel was laid.
- While not ever met or repeated, these "stunt" ships came only a little more than a year after the first ships ordered as part of the Emergency Program were launched.



6 November- Kokoda

- A dawn patrol (on 6th November) from Lysaght's company lost seven men within a short distance. A supporting patrol from Fulton's company was little more successful.
- Fulton then began to work round the flanks and he and Lysaght attacked at 2 p.m. In the fierce fighting which followed Lysaght's men were pinned to the ground although Fulton's drove hard and actually captured the highest feature on the crest of the ridge and a heavy machine-gun located there. But a destructive fire swept them off the ridge before they could consolidate.
- It looked as though the greatly weakened company might not be able to sustain the counter-attack so Hutchison met the threat with Lieutenant Hoddinott's anti-aircraft platoon which was largely responsible for holding the position.
- It seemed then that the Japanese were going to attack strongly between Edgar's companies and Lysaght. Captain Atkinson and Captain Jeffrey from the 3rd Battalion were therefore sent forward with their companies to Hutchison's command. They found Hutchison's men holding thinly and formed a perimeter with them. Scarcely were they in position, however, when the Japanese struck against the combined group with loud cries sounding through the last of the day.
- The Australians drove them back but, as darkness came, they knew that, though they had gained some ground, their general position was not greatly improved.

6 November- Kokoda

- On the left of the track Walker kept his company in holding contact while Gall tried to work the flank.
- But though Gall could hear the Japanese chattering and chopping as they built up their defences he could not locate their extreme right.
- He was told then to link with Walker and secure the Australian left.
- At the end of the day Lloyd knew that he had lost at least 13 killed and 34 wounded from his two A.I.F. battalions while one man of the 3rd had been killed and two had been wounded.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

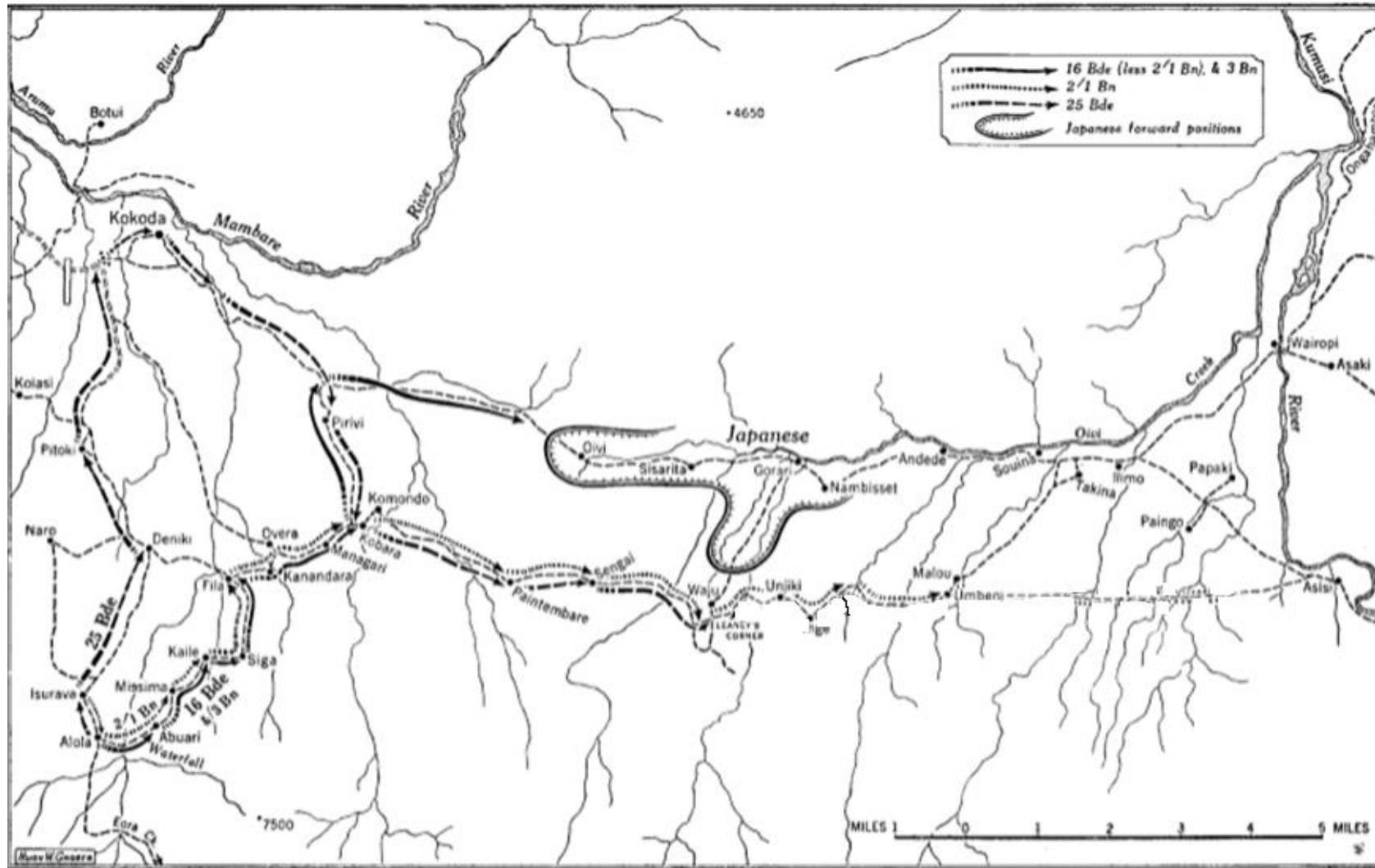
122335

Brigadier J E Lloyd, CO 16th Brigade

6 November- Kokoda

- The 2/1st were on the move again early on the 6th, leaving Leaney with his company at the track junction to secure their flank and rear and to establish a small supply base. Cullen told Leaney not to involve himself too deeply with any Japanese he might encounter.
- The main battalion objective was Ilimo and Cullen did not want to dissipate his strength with side issues. But the battalion made slow progress, crossing many streams and moving behind patrols which scoured the native gardens alongside their path.
- About 12.30 they came to a larger rushing stream through which they dragged themselves by means of a stout creeper which they flung across. On the other side of the creek a track ran northwards to Ilimo.
- But the Australians did not know this and were misled by confusing information given them in by friendly natives. As a result they continued eastwards.

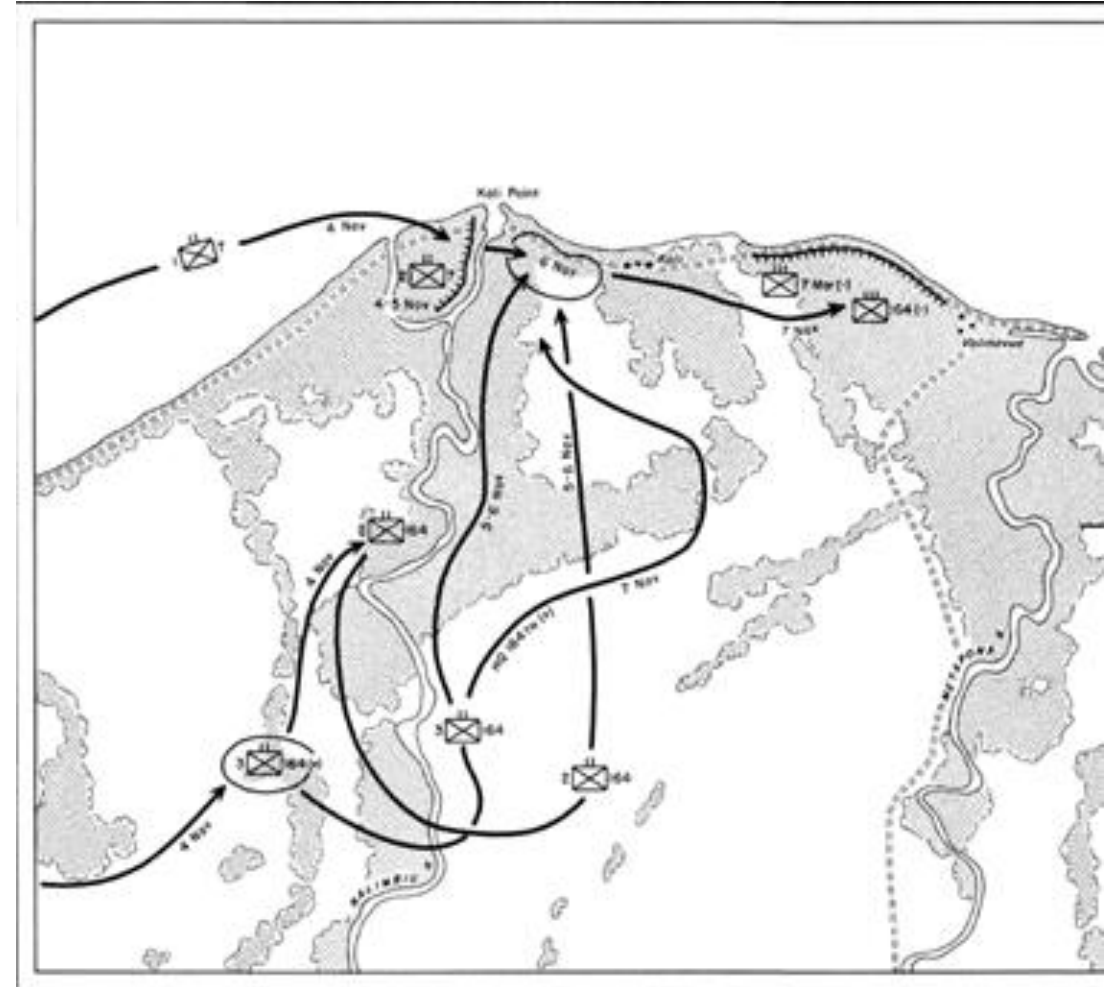
6 November- Kokoda



The approach to Oivi-Gorari, 31st October to 6th November

6 November- Guadalcanal

- Action on 6th November again failed to fix the Japanese in solid opposition, although
- The 7th Marines crossed the Nalimbiu and moved eastward along the coast, and the 164th Infantry found an abandoned enemy bivouac farther inland.
- Meanwhile, Company B of the 8th Marines, just ashore on the island, moved east to join the attacking forces as did regimental headquarters and the Antitank and C Companies of the 164th Infantry.
- The combined force then advanced to positions a mile west of the Metapona River and there dug in for the night, the Marines near the beach to guard against an expected Japanese landing.
- They remained in this position guarding against a landing throughout the 7th.



6 November- Air

- A single B-25 attacks destroyer off Southern tip of New Ireland. No hits are scored.
- Gen MacArthur flies to Port Moresby, where an Advanced Echelon of GHQ opens to direct operations.



7 November

JAP DRIVE ON INDIA?

LONDON, Nov. 6 (A.A.P.).—Japanese troops have crossed the Indian frontier at several places to the north of Akyab (Burma), says the German-controlled Norwegian radio, quoting an Ankara dispatch.

Japanese tanks and planes are reported to be participating in a hard battle with the British forces.

Reuter's Ankara correspondent says it is reliably reported that when it became apparent Rommel's position was desperate Hitler sent an SOS to Tokio, urging the Japanese to stage a diversion against South Africa or Madagascar.

Hitler hoped thereby to take British troops from Egypt.

Tokio's reply was that Japan had its hands already overful and had neither troops nor warships to spare.

"Pacific Danger Still Exists"

WELLINGTON (N.Z.), Nov 6 (Special).—"New Zealand still is definitely in the danger zone," said the Prime Minister (Mr. Fraser) to-day.

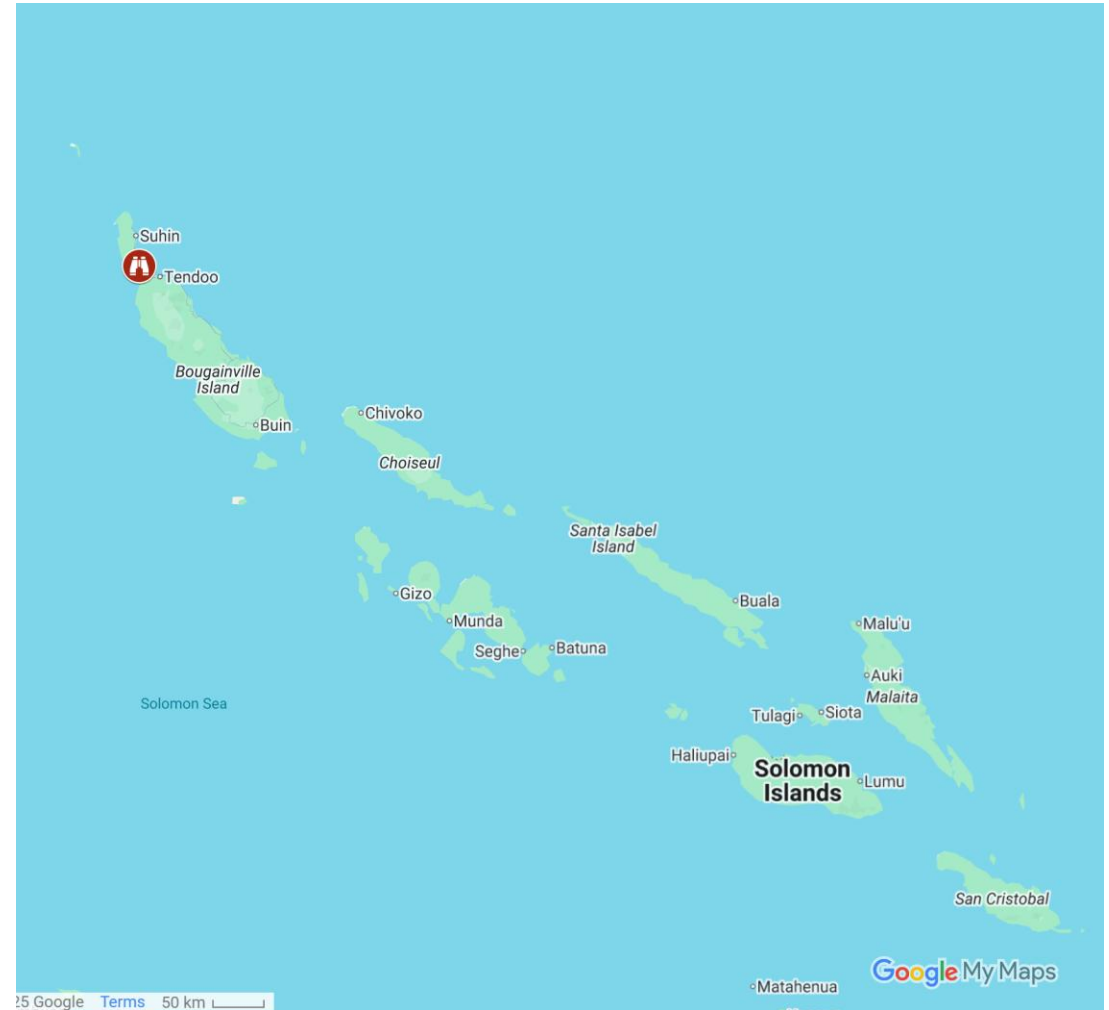
"We have been lucky up to now, but no one can forecast what a fortnight, a week or a day may bring," said Mr. Fraser. "Luck is not enough to carry us through."

Commenting on the announcement that N.Z. forces had been placed under American command, General Puttick, G.O.C. N.Z. military forces, said that the New Zealand Government did not give up responsibility for the adequate defence of the country.

Measures for defence of New Zealand by the home forces would remain the responsibility of New Zealand's Chiefs of Staff, guided by advice received on the strategical situation from the American command. Training of the local forces also remained a New Zealand responsibility.

7 November - Sea

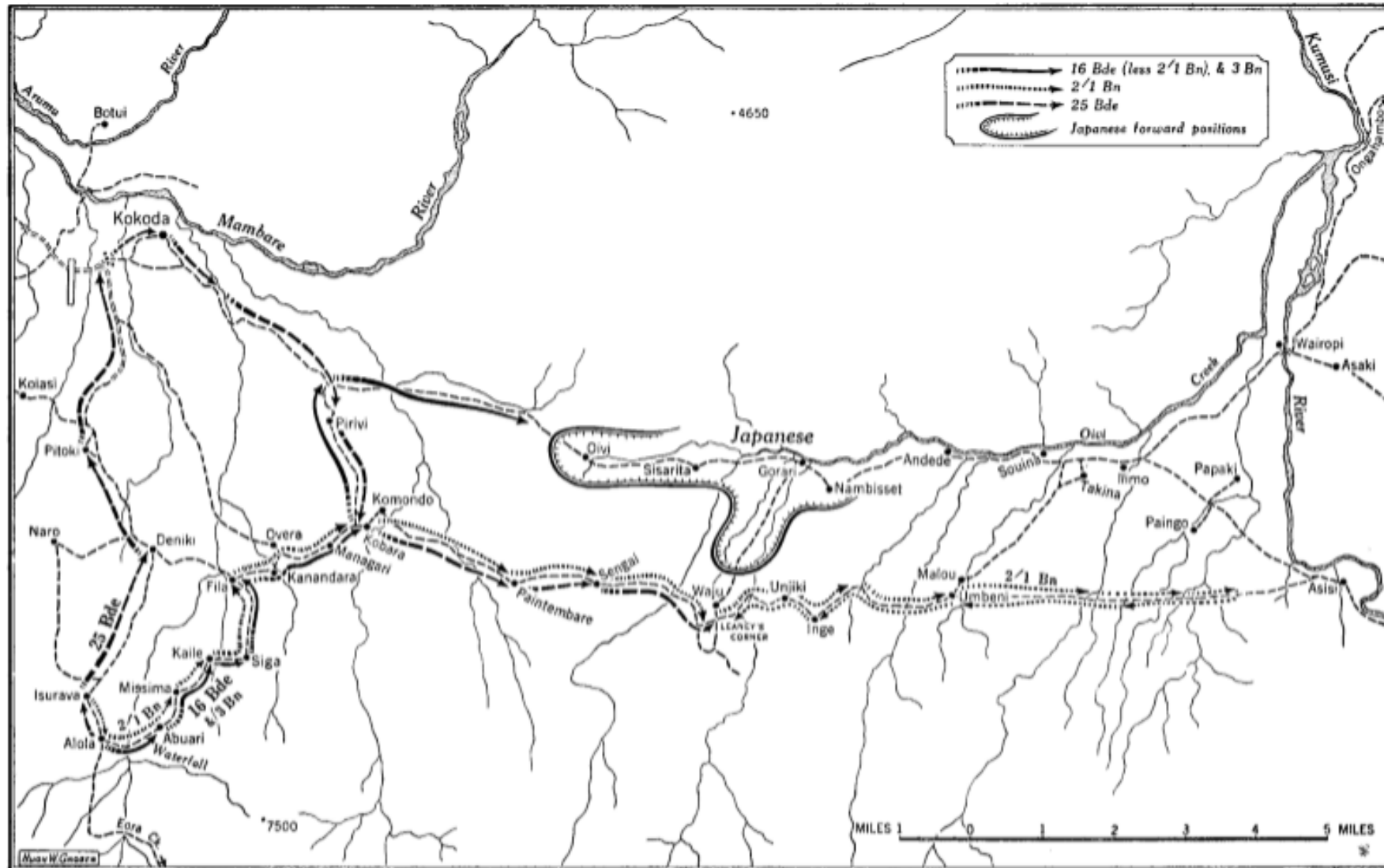
- On 7th November Read, the Australian coastwatcher at the north end of Bougainville Island, reported a convoy of 12 large transports headed south.



7 November - Kokoda

- The fighting on the 7th intensified the stalemate which was fast developing before Oivi.
- On the right of the track the Australians flung forward again at the high ground. Soon after 9 a.m. Lysaght's men went in with Jeffrey's of the 3rd supporting them, a crossfire from Fulton and Atkinson on the right, and Edgar's men on the left, beating their front.
- But four of Lysaght's remaining men were killed, one of his officers and eight men wounded, for no gain. With ammunition coming forward from Kokoda now the Australians could try the effect of their mortars on the Japanese. They brought them into action but it was difficult to gauge results—except that every burst provoked the defenders to vigorous retaliation.
- Attackers and defenders lay dug in among the thick bush and flailed each other with fire.
- The knowledge that they were obviously in error, rapidly failing supplies, and almost complete lack of communication with the main force (having no telephone cable they were relying entirely on a 208-wireless set which they had not been able to net in with the brigade set), caused the 2/1st to retrace their steps towards Leaney's Corner on the 7th.

7 November - Kokoda



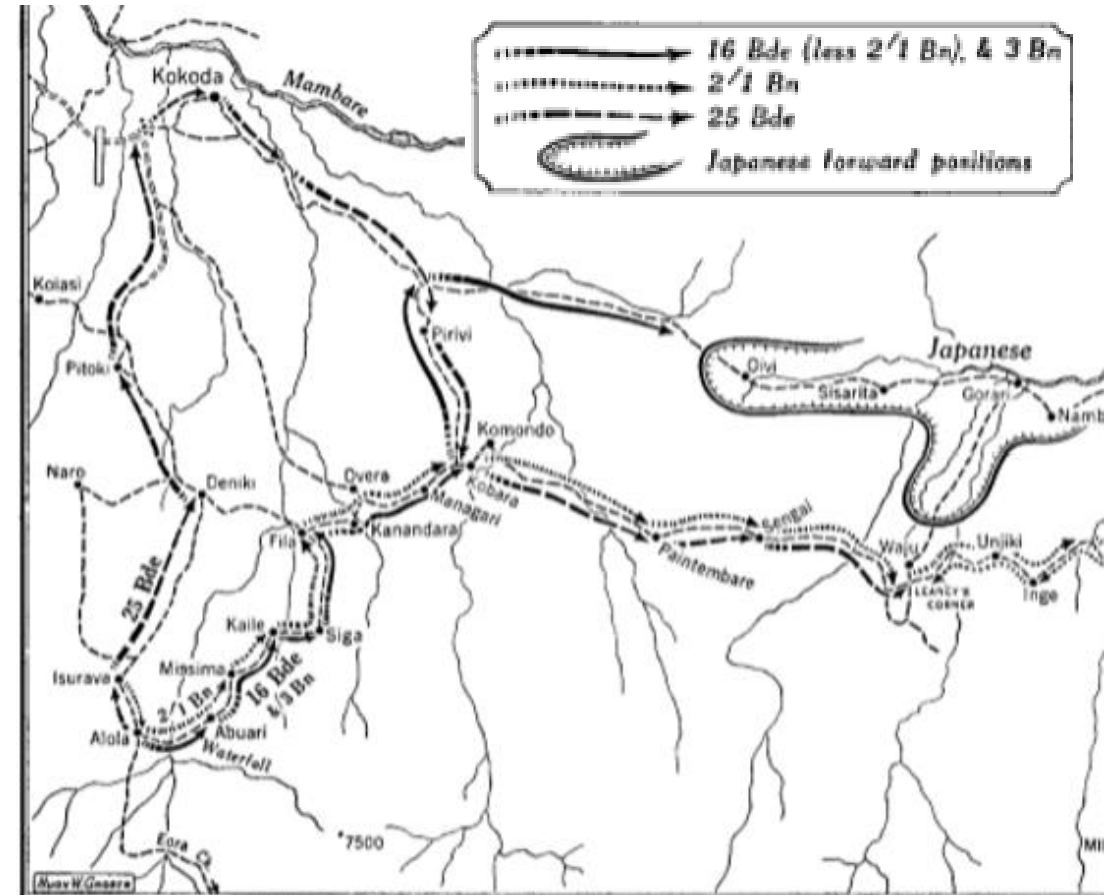
The approach to Oivi-Gorari, 31st October to 8th November

7 November - Kokoda

- Vasey said that he was willing at that stage "to risk having no backstop on this front".
- The 16th Brigade was to maintain continuous pressure at Oivi and to consolidate on the Oivi position when the situation clarified;
- the 25th Brigade would achieve a position astride the Kokoda-Buna track in the vicinity of Ilimo, secure the area between Ilimo and Oivi, and establish the Kumusi bridgehead.
- To do this Brigadier Eather would try to take the Japanese in rear by moving down the lower track which the 2/1st had already opened up. On contact with the 2/1st Eather would assume command of that battalion.
- Eather then ordered the 2/31st Battalion under Lieut-Colonel Miller to seize Gorari on 8th November.
- At the same time he told Buttrose of the 2/33rd and Marson of the 2/25th to move from the rear against the main Oivi positions. He planned also to have Cullen gain Ilimo with his 2/1st, prepare a supply dropping ground there, and patrol vigorously eastwards to Wairopi and west to Gorari.

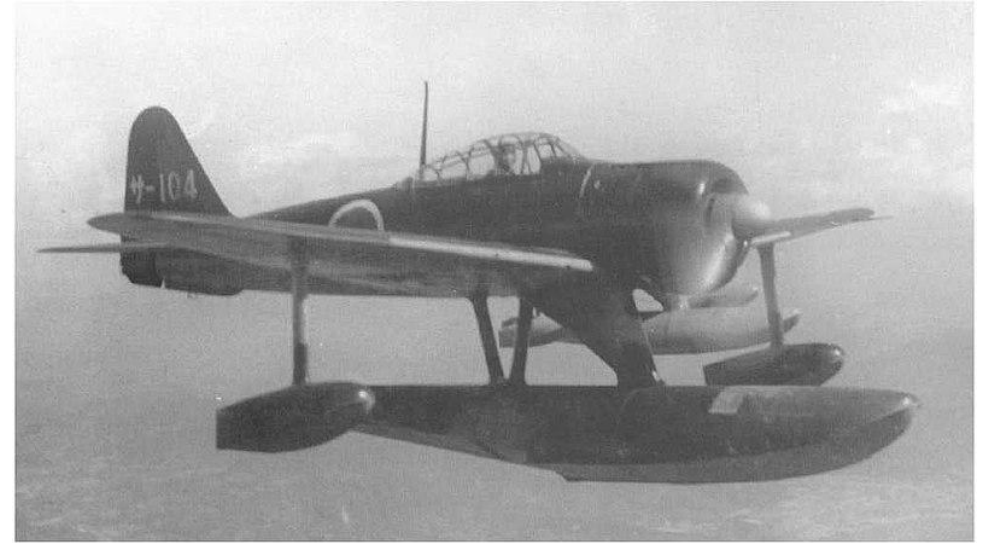
7 November - Kokoda

- The 25th Brigade moved swiftly from Kokoda by way of Kobara on the 7th, laying line as they went.
- The speed of the movement strained the men who were weakened by diarrhoea, the sickness which the new foods had brought upon them, and the unaccustomed heat of the lower country.
- But they camped for the night within perimeters not far west of Leaney's Corner.

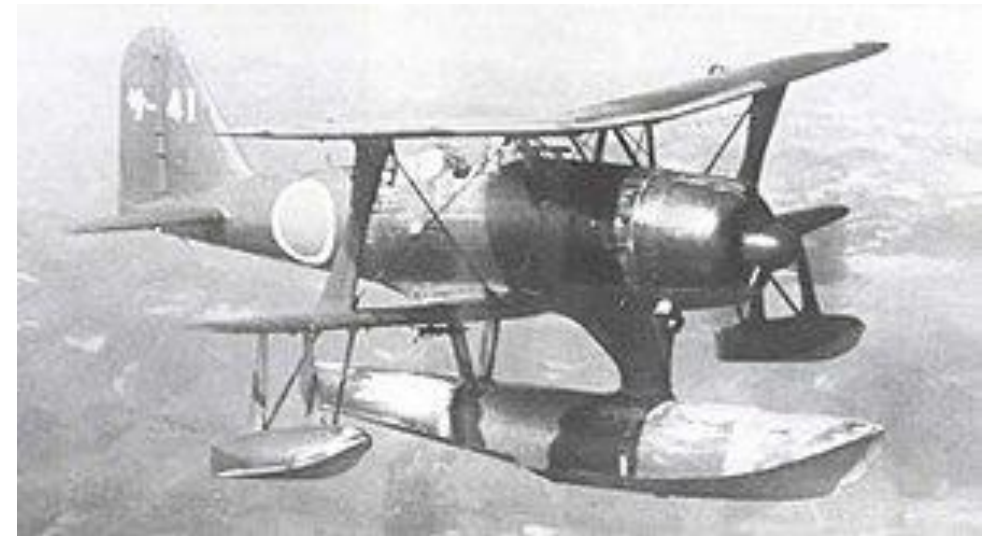


7 November - Guadalcanal

- A search plane discovered eleven troop laden destroyers steaming for Guadalcanal.
- The Cactus Air Force sent up 7 Marine SBDs, 3 Navy TBFs, 21 Marine Wildcats and 9 Army P39s to try and derail this Tokyo Express.
- The destroyers were defended by Rufes and Petes from Rekata Bay.
- The Cactus Fighters claimed 14 floatplanes downed but lost one Wildcat in combat and three operationally.
- No hits were scored on the destroyers but two near misses may have been close enough to cause damage.



Float Zero allied reporting name Rufe



Mitsubishi F1M2 allied reporting name Pete

7 November - Air

- **New Guinea**

- Three A-20's bomb and strafe forces at Kakandeta in Owen Stanley Range.
- On armed reconnaissance, three B-25's attack shipping at Maklo I and seaplanes at Lasonga I.
- The first three Wirraways of No. 4 squadron RAAF reached Port Moresby on 7th November to fly army cooperation missions, one of them flown by the squadron's commander, Squadron Leader Quinan.

- **Aleutians**

- 6 B-24's and 2 B-26's attack submarine base in Kiska Harbor, lightly damaging float ftrs and a seaplane beached by storm.
- A B-17 flies rcn over A/F W of Holtz Bay, and bombs submarine base and a previously-damaged freighter in Gertrude Cove.

8 November - Intelligence

- At the beginning of October the Japanese Navy had changed its entire communications system as part of a pattern of increasing communications security.
- On 1 November it implemented another call sign change and for the next week American SigInt estimates were notably tentative.
- On 8 November the Japanese issued a major operational plan and in an extraordinary feat American cryptanalysts extracted most of the key elements of the plan.
 - 8th Fleet to escort large troop convoy to land at Guadalcanal on Z-day,
 - Aircraft massing at Buin, 11th Air Fleet to begin attacks on Z – 3,
 - Carrier group to fuel on the equator preparatory to a strike on Z – 1,
 - Combined Fleet to sortie from Truk with two carriers, four battleships, eleven cruisers and twenty one destroyers.

8 November - Sea

- Colonel Daniel W. Hogan's 182d Infantry (less 3d Battalion) sailed from Noumea in the afternoon of 8 November on board Admiral Turner's four transports, escorted by Admiral Callaghan's cruisers and destroyers.
- Admiral Kinkaid with the *Enterprise*, two battleships, two cruisers, and eight destroyers would provide cover for the troop movement.
- Enterprise, the only seaworthy American carrier left in the Pacific, had reached Nouméa, New Caledonia on 30 October for repairs to the bomb damage received on 26 October at the battle of the Santa Cruz Islands.
- Now a new Japanese thrust at the Solomons demanded her return to the fray.



Admiral Kinkaid on Enterprise

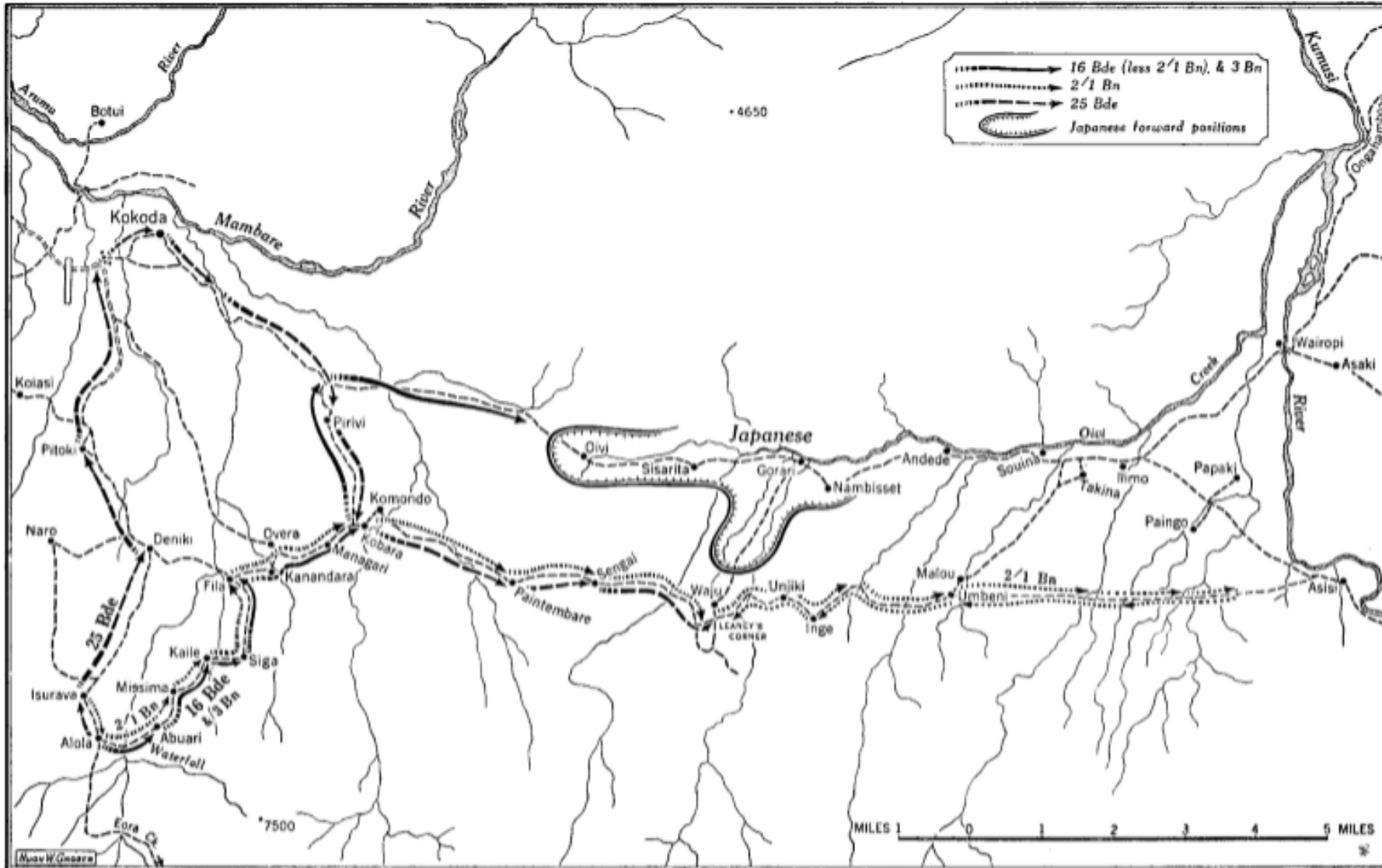
8 November - Kokoda

- Soon after dawn on the 8th the 2/2nd had their mortars at work and the forward men reported that "the enemy were heard squealing when the bombs burst".
- But the Japanese replied with heavy concentrations of mortar and mountain-gun fire.
- Not only did the 2/2nd have to endure that but, to their disgust, could not reply vigorously in kind after their early morning shoot. Vasey's headquarters told them that the mortar ammunition landed at Kokoda had been less than hoped for and they should conserve their stocks as much as possible.
- At 8 a.m. Lloyd told his forward commanders that air support was coming up and two hours later low-flying fighters strafed the Oivi-Gorari track and dropped eighty 20-pound bombs in an attempt to soften the very tough defence.
- The effect was heartening to the Australians even though some of them were wryly non-committal in their comments: "One morning we got U.S. air support. We had been supported by them once before at Eora Creek, but they had frightened us more than they had the Japanese. Now we were to have help again. They bombed the feature with reasonable accuracy, and strafed Oivi village behind. The Japs, however, were so well dug in that we doubted whether the air support would be effective. But, in any case, the Yanks didn't hit us on this occasion."
- The 2/2nd's later mortar shoots had to be reduced to twenty-five rounds of harassing fire about 4.30 p.m.

8 November - Kokoda

- On the morning of the 8th, on the way to Leaney's Corner, Miller of the 2/31st met and discussed the situation with Cullen, who was told by Eather soon afterwards to rest his men while the newcomers attacked up the track to Gorari.
- Miller then passed through Leaney's men who were in light contact some distance up the lateral, after which he sent Captain Hurrell's company on a wide right-flanking movement and by 11.50 a.m. his machine-guns and mortars were engaging the defenders.
- Forty minutes later Captain Beazley's company began a fighting advance just to the right of the lateral. They were soon committed against positions on that axis.
- Then Captain Thorn led his company round Beazley's right flank in the face of comparatively light opposition.
- Hurrell, in the wider right-flank movement, was faced by Japanese on a front of about 300 yards and, in the now familiar pattern, was groping for the elusive flanks and losing men quite rapidly as he did so.
- On the left edge of all this flurry Captain Upcher's company of the 2/31st was maintaining the main axis along the track.

8 November - Kokoda



The approach to Oivi-Gorari, 31st October to 8th November

8 November - Guadalcanal

- After remaining in positions to guard against the expected landing throughout 7th November, the U. S. forces under Generals Rupertus and Sebree advanced eastward again on the 8th.
- Patrols had located the Japanese near the coast just east of Gavaga Creek, a stream some 2,000 yards east of the Metapona River.
- The 2d Battalion, 164th Infantry was attached to the 7th Marines as regimental reserve, and the combined forces moved rapidly to surround the Japanese.
- During the advance General Rupertus retired from the action with an attack of dengue fever, and Vandegrift placed General Sebree in command of the entire operation.
- The 1st Battalion, 7th Marines met stiff resistance, and four Marines were killed while 31, including Lieutenant Colonel Puller, were wounded. Major John E. Weber next day succeeded to command of this battalion.

Navy Cross

AWARDED FOR ACTIONS
DURING World War II

Service: Marine Corps

Rank: Lieutenant Colonel

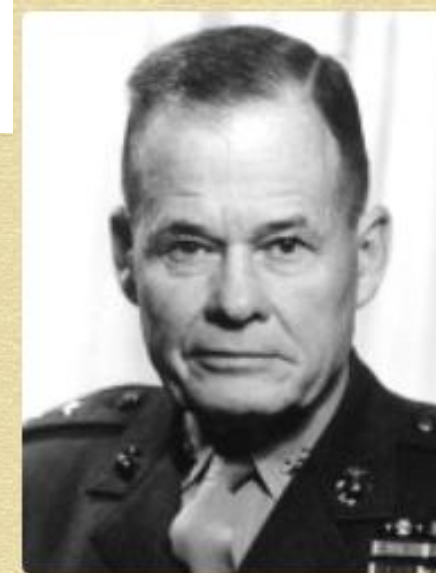
Battalion: 1st Battalion

Division: 1st Marine Division

GENERAL ORDERS:

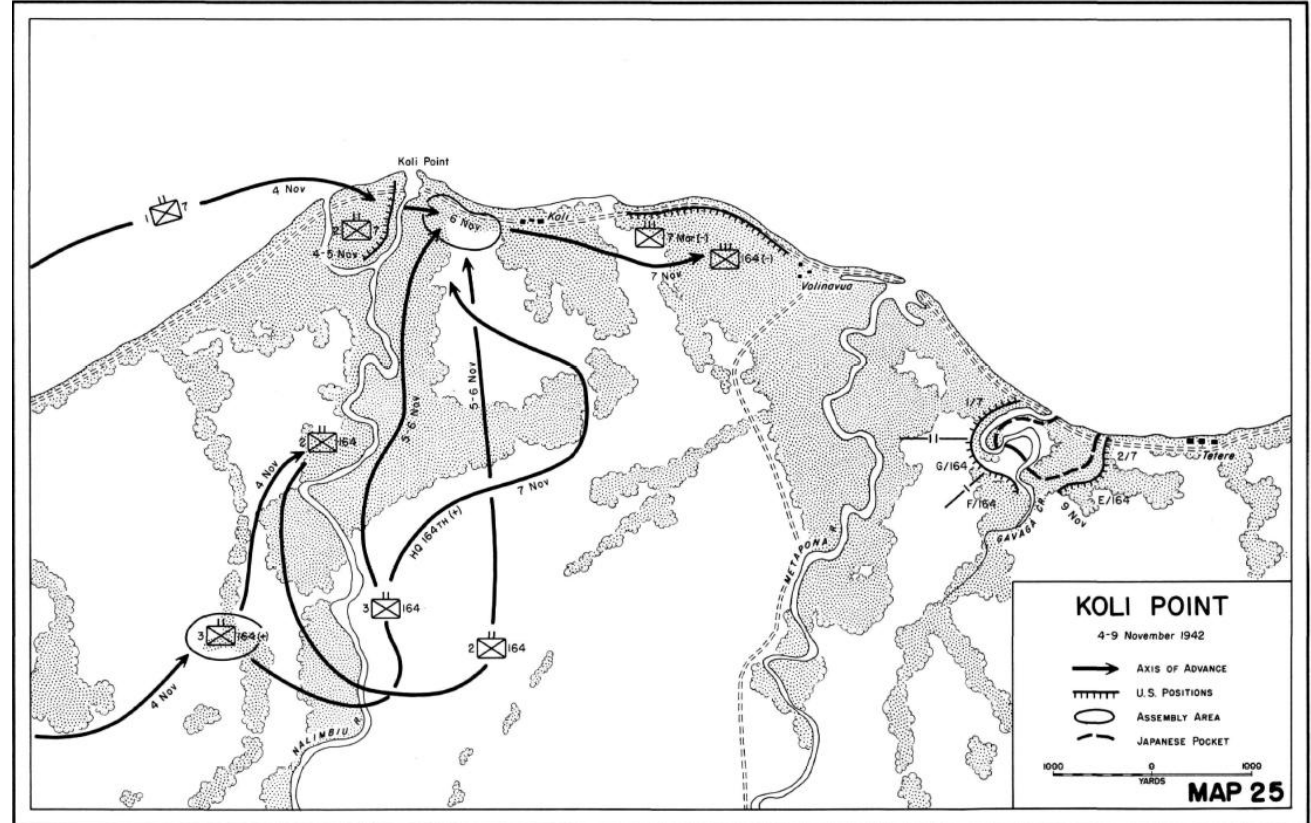
CITATION:

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting a Second Gold Star in lieu of a Third Award of the Navy Cross to Lieutenant Colonel Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller (MCSN: 0-3158), United States Marine Corps, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service as Commanding Officer of the First Battalion, Seventh Marines, FIRST Marine Division, during the action against enemy Japanese forces on Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, on the night of 24 - 25 October 1942. While Lieutenant Colonel Puller's battalion was holding a mile-long front in a heavy downpour of rain, a Japanese force, superior in number, launched a vigorous assault against that position of the line which passed through a dense jungle. Courageously withstanding the enemy's desperate and determined attacks, Lieutenant Colonel Puller not only held his battalion to its position until reinforcements arrived three hours later, but also effectively commanded the augmented force until late in the afternoon of the next day. By his tireless devotion to duty and cool judgment under fire, he prevented a hostile penetration of our lines



8 November - Guadalcanal

- Hanneken's 2/7 moved around the Japanese to positions east of the creek with its right flank on the beach.
- The 2d Battalion of the 164th Infantry tied in on 2/7's left flank, straddled Gavaga Creek, and tied in with the right flank of the 1st Battalion 7th Marines.
- From this point 1/7 extended north to the beach and the ring was closed on the enemy.
- With this action stabilized, division called for the return of the 164th Infantry. Vandegrift planned to resume the western action toward Kokumbona.



On 8th November, two weeks after the battle, another of the missing men from Briggs' outpost finally returned to safety after harrowing adventures with the jungle and enemy. Four of the thirteen who had failed to return on the 25th remained missing.

8 November - Guadalcanal

- Admiral Halsey came up to Guadalcanal for a visit.
- Shelling from a Japanese destroyer, one of ten on a Tokyo Express run, disturbed the Admirals sleep.
- Three torpedo boats skirmished with the destroyers.
- PT 61 sustained a 5-inch hit on the bow and escaped through a smoke screen, maintaining speed to keep her stem out of the water.
- PT37 and PT39 each fired two torpedoes but saw no hits.



American PT Boat

8 November - Air

- Escorted by four fighters, three A-20's hit forces in Oivi area in Owen Stanley Range as Australian ground forces push over mts toward Gona-Buna area.
- Fifth AF transports fly final elements of 128th Inf, 32d Div, from Port Moresby to Wanigela.
- Two flights of three B-25's bomb radio station and A/F at Gasmata.
- Three patrol bombers attacked the airfield at Kavieng. Results were not observed.

6 PAGES—2

The text of the White House announcement reads:
"The President has received the text of the letter from the Soviet Union, dated May 1, 1955, and has been assured that the Soviet Union is ready and willing to negotiate on the basis of the principles of mutual respect and equality of rights."

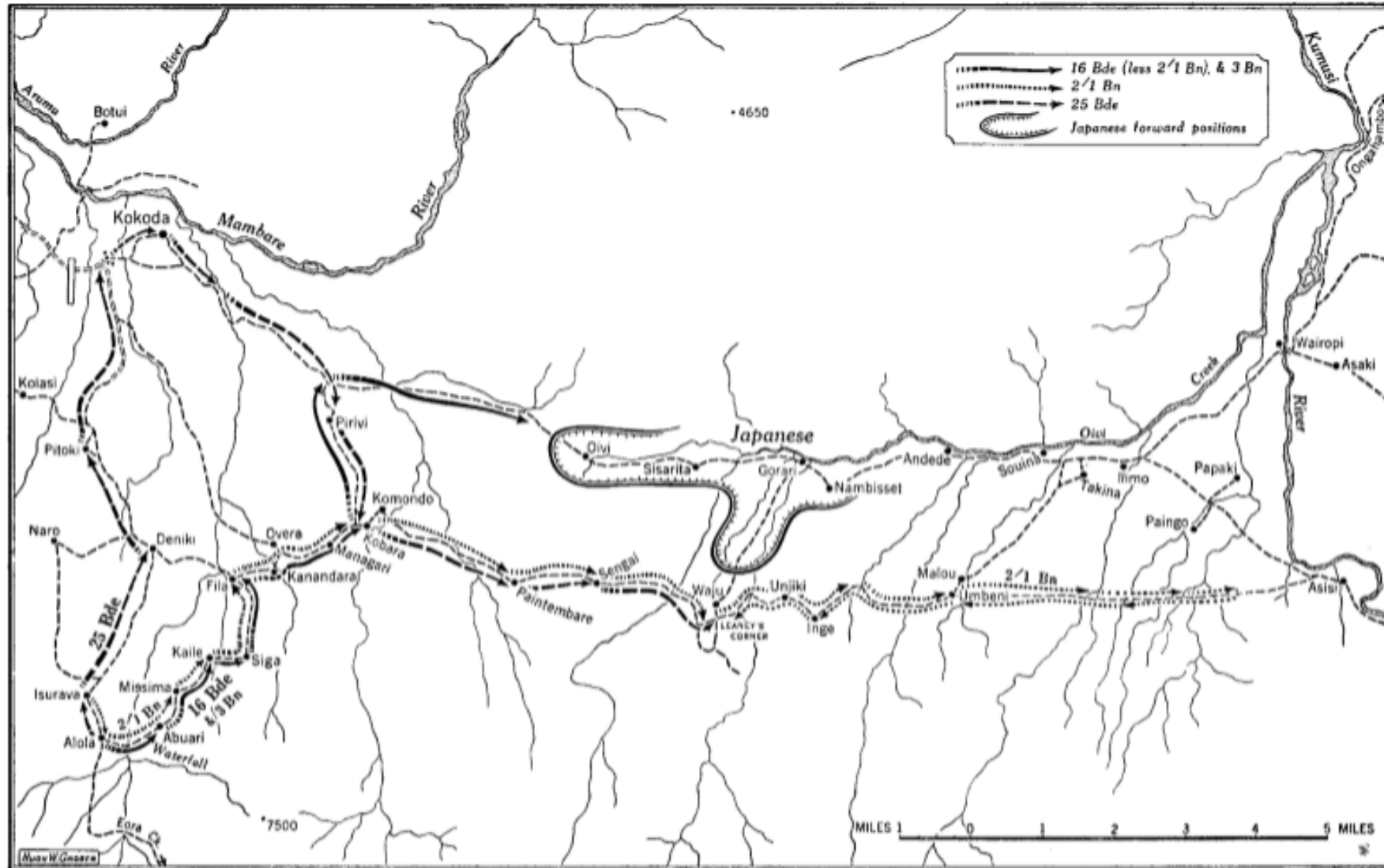
9 November - Sea

- A day later (9 November) Admiral Scott sailed from Espiritu Santo with a supply run for Guadalcanal, comprised of three attack cargo ships escorted by the anti aircraft cruiser Atlanta with four destroyers.



USS Atlanta

9 November - Kokoda



The approach to Oivi-Gorari, 31st October to 8th November

9 November - Kokoda

- And then it was night again, with torrential rain drumming through the darkness. When the 9th came, from the lower track the 25th Brigade was maintaining its impetus, enveloping the Japanese more firmly.
- The signal for more general pressure came when Hurrell's company of the 2/31st, after a sharp give and take, reported Japanese withdrawing north-east along the track.
- With low-flying aircraft gunning and bombing, the 2/31st edged ahead, Captain Upcher's men clearing out a small village which lay in their path.
- But by noon the advance was halted, with three companies astride the track in the order Hurrell's, Thorn's and Beazley's from right to left, with Upcher's company and Major Thorne's Headquarters Company in reserve.
- Fronting them lay a dangerously cleared field of fire athwart the track, laced in depth with vine fences covered by fire. So the weary process of digging and feeling began again and by the end of the day the 2/31st had lost 9 more men killed and 9 more wounded.

9 November - Kokoda

- The 2/31st were an effective block against which, from the positions they had achieved in rear, the 2/25th could force the Japanese.
- The 2/25th had begun to apply heavy pressure about 9.30 a.m. when Captains O'Grady, Butler and Crombie swept their companies forward in a converging movement.
- Though they gained ground the defence not only held from well dug-in and barricaded positions behind cleared fields of fire and enfilading machine-guns, but twice during the day erupted into vigorous counter-attack.
- In the last light the 2/25th drove again, this time with all four companies. But the sullen defence again refused ground.
- The day cost Marson 's battalion 37 casualties—4 officers and 10 men killed, 2 and 21 wounded—the most costly single day the 2/25th had so far fought.

9 November - Kokoda

- Colonel Buttrose moved the 2/33rd out of their bivouac area at 7 a.m. Soon he was in touch with the 2/31st and then ordered his men to move round that battalion and the 2/25th farther north, to cut the track to Gorari.
- They were astride the track north of the 2/25th by 10.20 a.m. Soon afterwards they were moving north towards Gorari itself.
- Captain Clowes' company, leading, brushed a small patrol out of their way but then struck dug-in positions which appeared to be protecting a dump or headquarters area of some kind.
- They believed the area might contain the junction of the Gorari lateral and the main Kokoda-Oivi-Gorari-Ilimo track, but a stubborn defence halted them there.
- Captain Clowes then led his company in a right-flank movement and fell upon what he considered to be a Japanese company in the outskirts of Gorari village.
- But the Japanese struck back at Clowes and drove his men to the protection of a near-by ridge. This was an ephemeral success, however, as Clowes then swept them out of his way and took the village so that Buttrose was able to form a perimeter in the village area for the night.

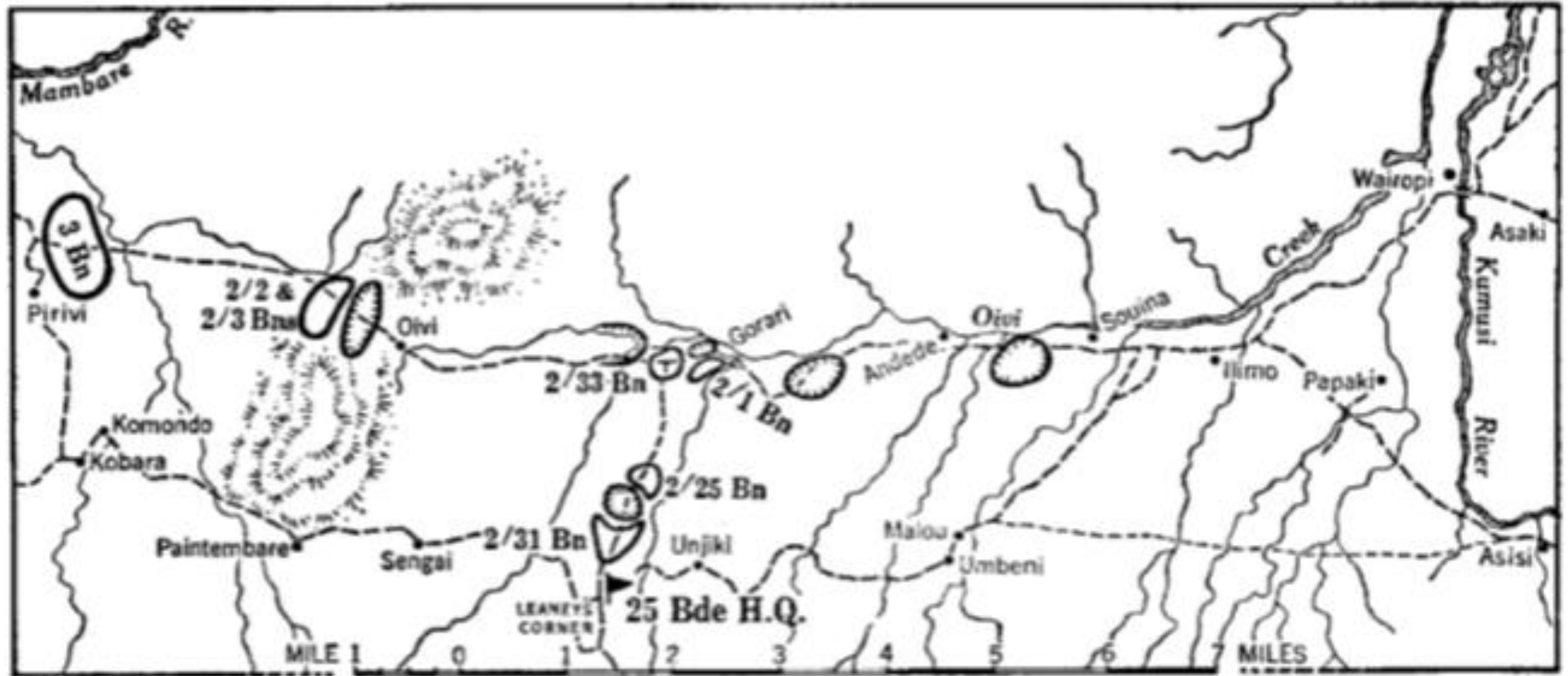
9 November - Kokoda

- Cullen had led the 2/1st in the wake of the 2/33rd, with orders to by-pass it to the east and gain the main track.
- About 5 p.m. the 2/1st swung east through the bush. Soon, however, a stream which they could not cross turned them north, as the sounds of the 2/33rd's engagement were reaching them.
- About 5.45 p.m., over the line his men were laying as they went, Cullen had news from Buttrose that the defenders of Gorari were moving eastward along the track (i.e. towards the 2/1st) as they gave to the 2/33rd assaults.
- He continued his northward movement, Lieutenant Leaney's company leading through the bush.
- About 6.30 Leaney's men met opposition which, however, they swiftly broke.
- And then the battalion emerged on to the main Gorari-Ilimo track, on their right a stout bridge spanning swift water, and across the bridge Japanese holding against Leaney's efforts to force a crossing and harassing him severely with sniper and mortar fire.

9 November - Kokoda

- The 2/1st then dug in in the Japanese position which they had overrun.
- Among its defences were several huts which had been part of a headquarters and medical area of some kind.
- There were bags of rice and wheat, little barrels of plums pickled in brine, and medical stores including quinine, morphia, bandages and crystals of mercurochrome—
- all very helpful to the Australians.

9 November - Kokoda



Oivi-Gorari, nightfall, 9th November

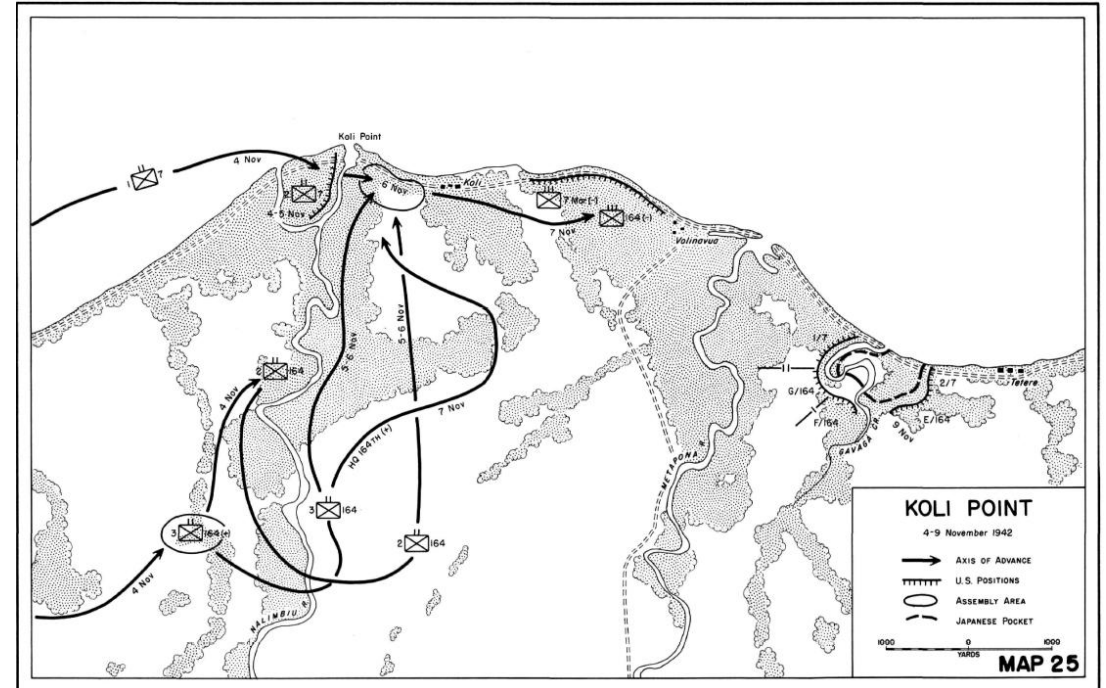
9 November – Koitaki

- On 9 November Blamey addressed the men of the 21st Brigade on the parade ground at Koitaki. The men of Maroubra Force expected congratulations for their efforts in holding back the Japanese.
- Blamey's personal assistant Lt Col Norman Carlyon, "Standing beside the small platform from which Blamey was to address the troops ... realised that he was in a most aggressive mood..."
- Blamey told the brigade that they had been "beaten" by inferior forces, and that "no soldier should be afraid to die".
- Then he made his famous remark that 'the rabbit that ran away is the rabbit that got shot'.
- The whole parade was almost molten with rage and indignation.
- After the rank and file had left, Blamey addressed the officers. He questioned whether they were worthy of their men and told them they must improve.



9 November – Guadalcanal

- On 9 November the 7th Marines and 2/164 began attacks to reduce the Gavaga Creek pocket.
- Supported by 155mm guns, two pack howitzer batteries, and aircraft, the two Marine battalions closed in from east and west while the soldiers of the army battalion moved north to compress the Japanese into the beach area.
- The Japanese fought bitterly to break out of the trap, especially to the south through a gap where Companies E (on the right) and F of the 164th Infantry were unable to make contact across the swampy creek.



9 November – Air

- **New Guinea**

- Nine A-20's hit troops at Oivi in spt of Australian offensive in Owen Stanley Range.
- Eight B-26's bomb Buna while
- B-25's score hit on merchant vessel off S tip of New Ireland and attack schooner off Salamaua. The transport was severely damaged and beached on New Ireland.
- Airlift of elements of 126th Inf, US 32d Div, from Port Moresby to forward areas begins. First elements are flown to Abel's Field and moved overland to Pongani.

- **Aleutians**

- 2 B-26's and 4 P-38's bomb a cargo ship in Gertrude Cove. No hits.
- 2 P-38's then strafe Kiska Harbor area.
- 1 B-17 and 4 P-38's attack Holtz Bay and Attu A/F, destroying 8 float Zeros.
- 1 B-17 flies weather rcn over Attu, Kiska, and Segula.

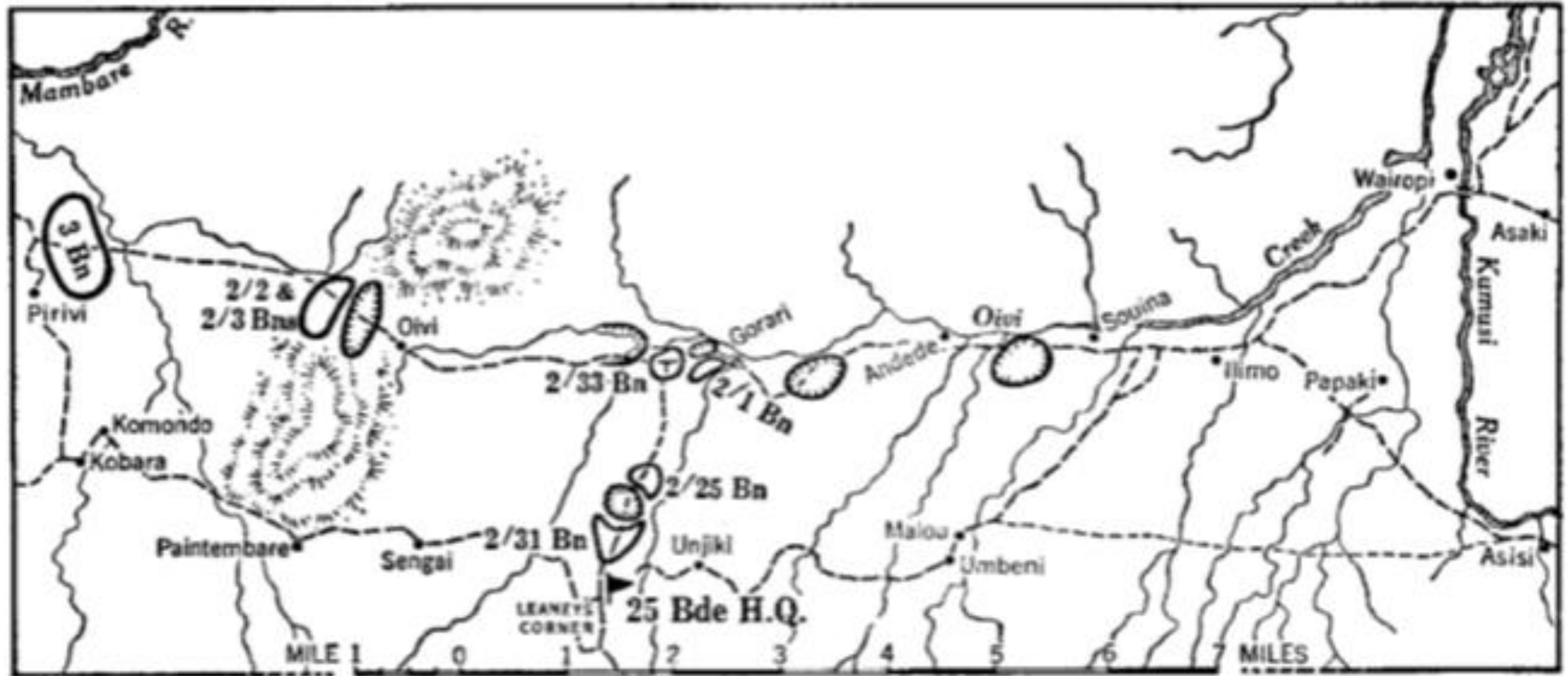
- **CBI**

- Six B24s of the IATF raid Rangoon starting many fires.

9 November – Washington JIC reports

- There is no official confirmation of press reports that German and Italian forces have moved into unoccupied France.
- Freezing conditions are reported to be setting in at Stalingrad.
- Pacific
- Reconnaissance reveals ten damaged fighters and ten damaged bombers on Buna airfield. The enemy has built new blast shelters there since 21 October.
- A US merchant ship was torpedoed 70 miles south of New Caledonia (date not stated).

10 November - Kokoda



Oivi-Gorari, nightfall, 9th November

10 November - Kokoda

- On the 10th early morning patrols of the 2/33rd estimated that at least two enemy companies were located only 400 yards to the west.
- Then Japanese attempts at infiltration were beaten back, although they cost Captain Brinkley, the "B" Company commander, his life.
- In the early afternoon a determined threat seemed to be developing from the north-west supported by gunfire from close range and heavy small arms fire. A force of unknown strength tried to push in on the 2/33rd but the men were able to hold. They received no rations that day and were forced to fall back on their emergency rations.
- From their more easterly positions the 2/1st undoubtedly diverted some of the pressure from the 2/33rd. Early in the morning Cullen sent Captain Simpson's company westward towards a higher feature which he imagined the Japanese to be holding against any eastward movement by the 2/33rd.
- But Simpson's company, some fifty strong, met trouble and quickly lost sixteen of their number so that they withdrew to form the north-west corner of Cullen's perimeter.

10 November - Kokoda

- Lieutenant Powell, commanding "B" Company, Captain Catterns being ill, was ordered to anticipate Japanese counter-attack from the west. As he waited, Leaney's company was settling to a day of vicious give and take of fire with Japanese engaging them hotly from scattered rocks in the vicinity of the track across the creek.
- Lieutenant Blakiston's platoon, right at the bridge, was the centre of this and the company lost three men killed as they exposed themselves to return the Japanese fire.
- Farther south, from the southernmost corner of the perimeter, Captain Burrell's company were trying to cross the creek with the help of the pioneers .
- There Lieutenant Gosnell's platoon, one by one, slowly levered themselves across three thin logs which had been placed across the creek at its narrowest point. Then they moved north along the creek, about the middle of the afternoon, killing three Japanese as they went, while the rest of the company continued the slow crossing in preparation for an attack on the 11th.

10 November - Kokoda

- On the 10th the 2/31st, pressing up the lateral from the south, and the 2/25th, bearing down the lateral from the north to crush the Japanese against the 2/31st, sparred for openings and felt round the Japanese positions to link with one another.
- During the morning, Crombie's company of the 2/25th thrust into the Japanese positions on the west of the track but were then held by Japanese fire sweeping open ground over which they had to advance.
- Then Lieutenant Mackay, from Upcher's company of the 2/31st, linked with Crombie's company of the 2/25th and Upcher and Crombie planned a coordinated attack.
- But just as this attack was to start in the late afternoon the Japanese themselves struck and a wild melee began in the scrub off the track. Both Australian companies, however, broke through the outer crust of the Japanese defences, gouging at the Japanese pockets which barred their way. The end of the day found them digging in among the enemy positions.

10 November - Kokoda

- Eather claimed 150 Japanese for the day's killing but the cost was beginning to worry him.
- From 8th November to 6 p.m. on the 10th,
- the 2/25th Battalion had lost 16 men killed, 31 wounded;
- the 2/31st had lost 17 men killed (with 4 others probably killed and 1 missing) and 44 wounded ;
- the 2/33rd had lost 5 men killed and 27 wounded ;
- the 2/1st had lost 6 men killed and 21 wounded.



(Australian War Memorial)

The Kokoda-Wairopi track, near Oivi.

10 November - Air

- **New Guinea**

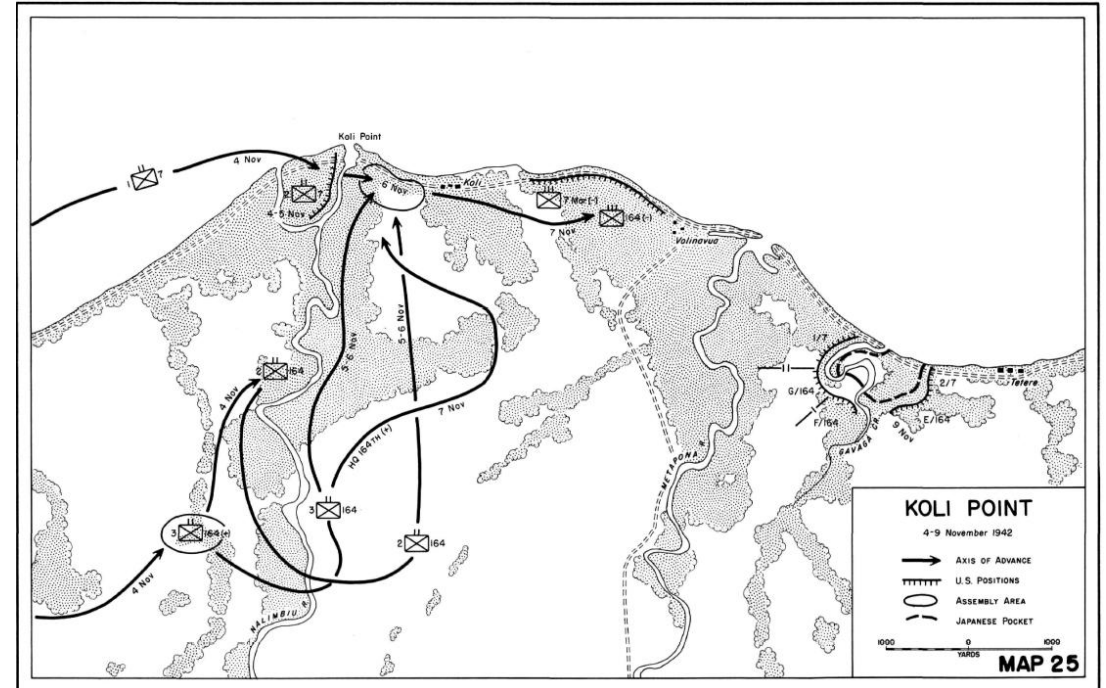
- B-26's bomb AA positions and supply dumps along Sanananda-Soputa trail.
- A-20's hit positions at Soputa as Australian ground forces push Japanese from Oivi toward mouth of the Kumusi.
- Fighters were also involved in these strikes which were unusually successful.

- **Aleutians**

- Rcn is flown over Attu, Semichi, Segula, Alaid, and Kiska islands.
- 5 B-24's and 1 B-17 bomb Kiska, but they cannot bomb Kiska submarine base and return with some bombs.
- 2 P-38's and 1 OA-10 fly local air coverage.

10 November – Guadalcanal

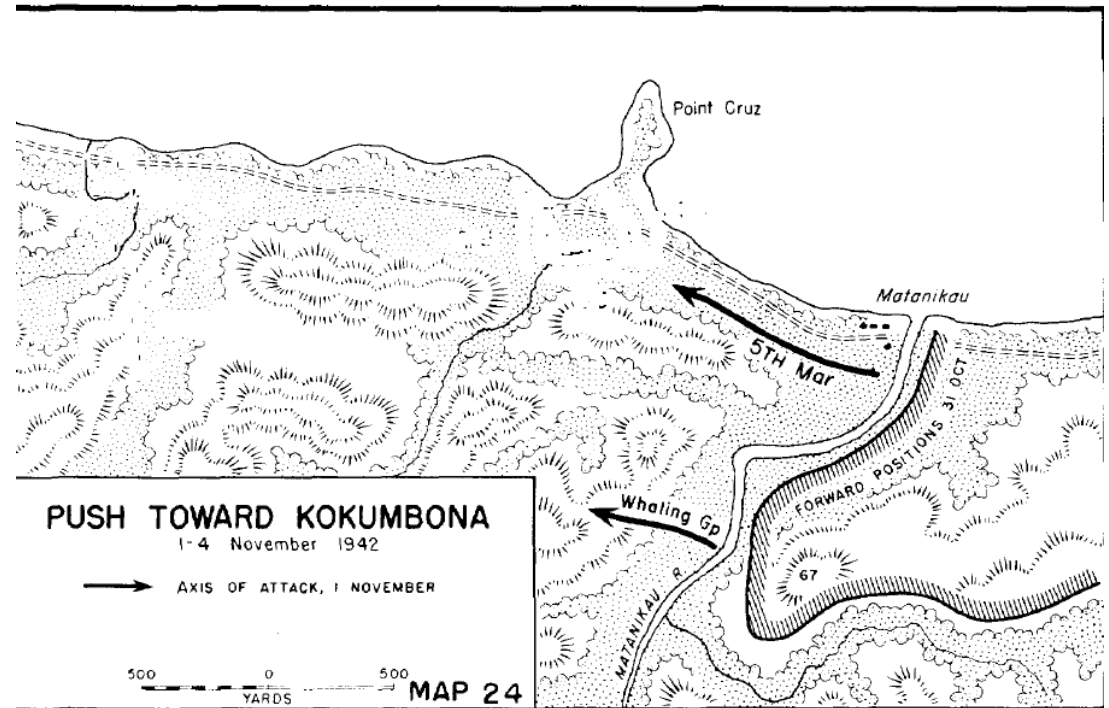
- This action, to reduce the Gavaga Creek pocket, continued through 10 November, with repeated orders by General Sebree for 2/164 to close the gap across the creek.
- This was not done and the commander of 2/164 was relieved on 10 November.
- 31 American fighters went up to intercept a sweep of 18 Zeros. They fumbled for each other between layers of cloud. The only contact came when two Wildcats brushed with a few Zeros claiming one.



At dusk five destroyers were sighted heading down the Slot for the island. A dozen SBDs failed to score any hits. Three PT boats skirmished briefly with the destroyers without inflicting or receiving any damage.

10 November – Guadalcanal

- Colonel Arthur's 2d Marines (less 3/2), augmented by the 8th Marines and the 164th Infantry (less 2/164), pushed west from Point Cruz toward Kokumbona on 10 November.
- The force advanced against ragged opposition from infantry weapons and by 11 November had regained most of the ground that had been given up when Vandegrift shifted his attacks to the east earlier in the month.



10 November - Sea

- A Japanese submarine was sunk by US surface craft at 10-13S, 161-09E.
- On the 10th Mason, the Coastwatcher overlooking Buin in the south of Bougainville, told of
- "at least 61 ships this area, viz : 2 Nachi, 1 Aoba, 1 Mogami, 1 Kiso, 1 Tatsuta, 2 sloops, 33 destroyers, 17 cargo, 2 tankers, 1 passenger liner of 8,000 tons"
- On 10th November radio intelligence confirmed that Z day of the Japanese offensive was November 13th.

