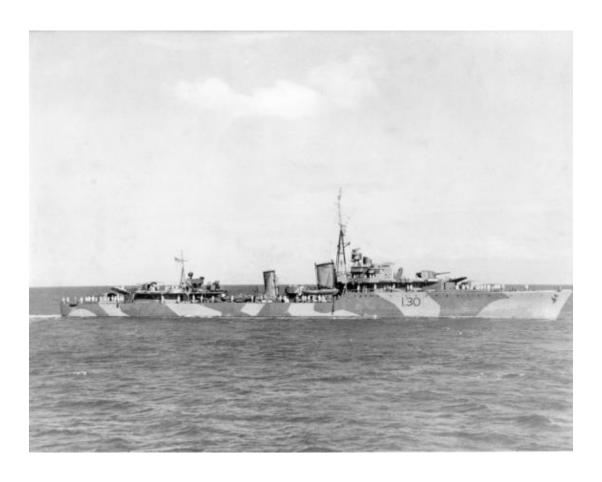


- On 9th January Van Heutsz was discharging in Oro Bay while her escort, Katoomba, maintained antisubmarine patrol outside.
- At 2 p.m. six Japanese dive bombers raided the bay and scored a direct hit and two near misses on Van Heutsz.
- Katoomba was machine-gunned, and some of her standing rigging was shot through.
- Neither ship was immobilised, and, in each, casualties were limited to two slightly wounded. The attack lasted about five minutes and terminated with the arrival of Allied fighters.



The KPM ship SS Van Heutsz

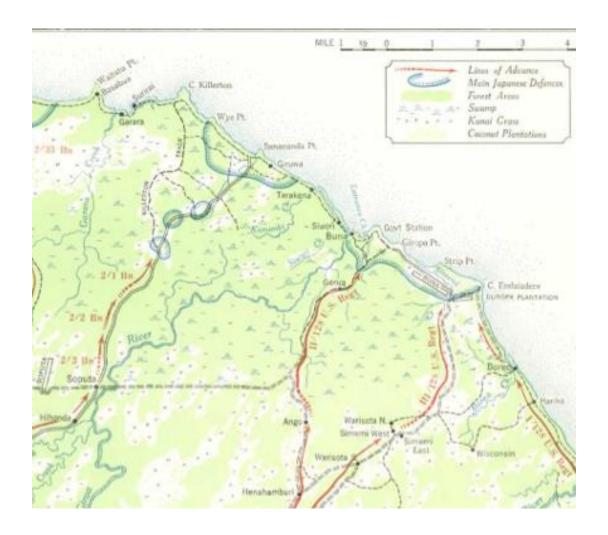
- She (Arunta) reached Darwin from Cairns on 7th January, embarked eight Army assault craft, and sailed from Darwin at 7 a.m. on the 9th.
- The cargo ship, Yosinogawa Maru, was torpedoed and sunk at Toep Harbour, Bougainville Island, Papua New Guinea by USS Nautilus.



HMAS Arunta

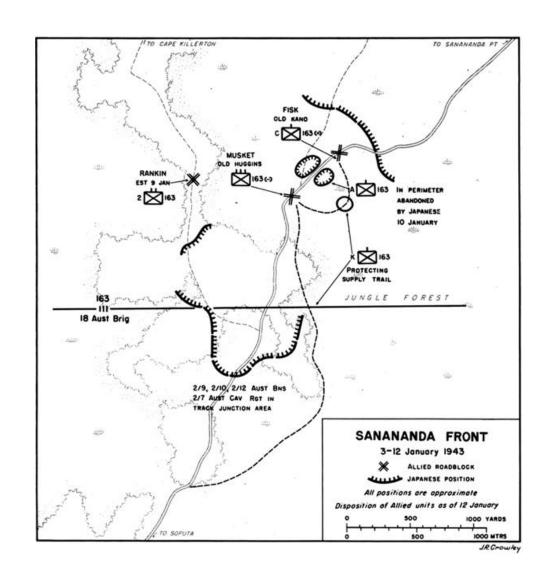
9 January – Tarakena

- The next step was to cross Konombi Creek, a tidal stream about forty feet across. A suspension bridge over the creek was badly damaged and attempts on 9 January to cross it were met by fire from hidden enemy emplacements on the opposite shore.
- Colonel Grose's plan was to flank the enemy positions by sending an element of Company C across the creek that night in the two available boats. The company commander, 1st Lt Fulmer, was put in charge of the crossing.



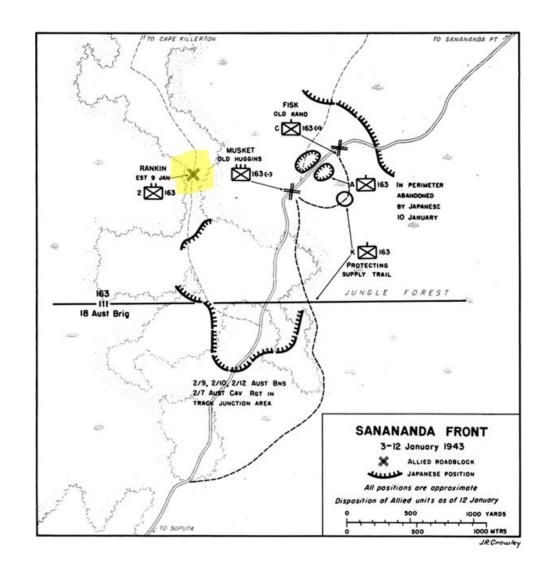
9 January – Sanananda

- Early on 9 January the 2d Battalion 163rd moved out from its position along the supply trail, passed through Musket, and marched on the Killerton trail a half mile away.
- The first opposition was encountered at 1030, as the battalion was approaching a narrow, corridorlike, north-south clearing through which the Killerton trail ran.
- A platoon of Company G was ordered to the edge of the jungle at the southern end of the corridor to act as cover for the battalion's left flank. The platoon began receiving heavy rifle and mortar fire from a cluster of enemy positions to the south.
- Half of the company crossed the clearing before heavy machine gun and rifle fire stopped further crossing. The rest of the company finally advanced through the clearing and across the trail via a sap dug through the clearing.
- The main body of the company set up a perimeter on the west side of the trail, and the covering platoon remained in place to the east of it.
- There it was strongly engaged by the Japanese who were in position only a few yards away.



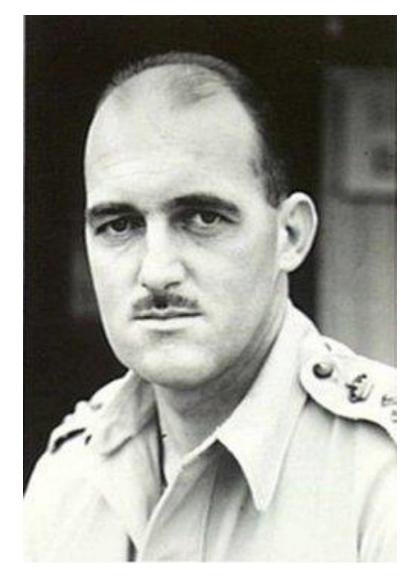
9 January – Sanananda

- The rest of the battalion had turned north. After following the edge of the jungle for about 250 yards, the troops crossed over and, against only light opposition, established themselves astride the trail.
- The new perimeter, which was almost due west of Musket, was named Rankin after the battalion commander.
- The day's operations had cost the 2d Battalion four killed and seven wounded.
- The first stage of the divisional plan for the advance on Sanananda had been completed. The last escape route of the Japanese troops in the track junction was closed.



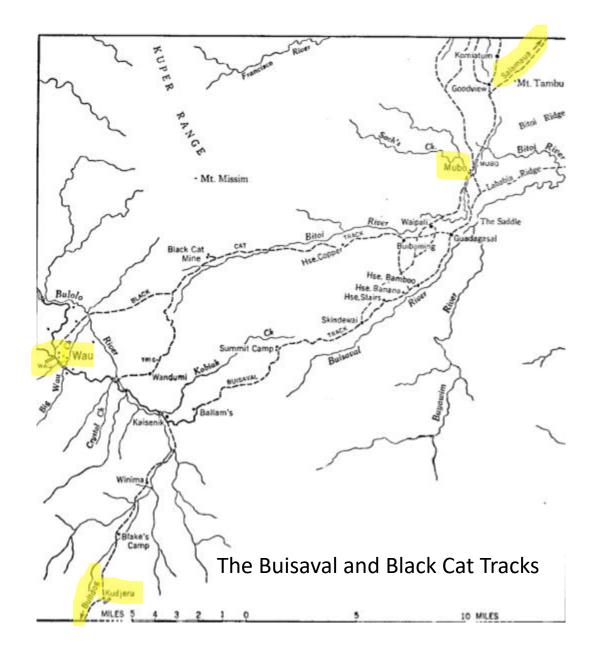
9 January – Sanananda

- The relief of the 126th Infantry troops was completed by the early afternoon of 9 January.
- In a letter to General Eichelberger, Brigadier Porter wrote:
- "By now it is realized that greater difficulties presented themselves here than were foreseen, and the men of your division probably bore most of them."
- When the troops had gone into action during the third week of November, they were 1,335 strong. On the day of their relief, they numbered 165, nearly all of them in such poor physical shape as to be scarcely able to walk.

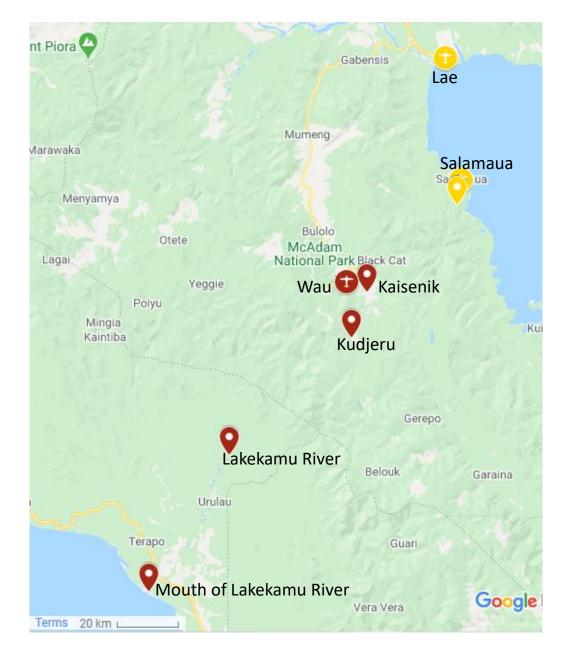


Brigadier Porter

- Blamey planned that, after the Japanese Sanananda positions had been reduced, the 41st American Division would be sufficient for the defence of the Buna area.
- He would then withdraw from the Papuan front the 32nd American Division and all the Australian units there and bring two fresh Australian brigades from the mainland.
- One of the fresh Australian brigades (the 29th) would replace the 17th at Milne Bay.
- On 9 January Blamey warned Brigadier Moten, commanding the 17th Brigade, that he was to take over all troops in the Wau area as from the 15th. The force there would continue to be known as Kanga Force.
- Its role would be to ensure the security of the Bulolo Valley as an advanced base with aerodrome facilities suitable for future operations which would "be facilitated if the enemy can be induced to believe that Salamaua is a future objective"; to collect and forward information regarding enemy strength, dispositions and movements; to facilitate the operations of coastwatching and air warning stations in the area.

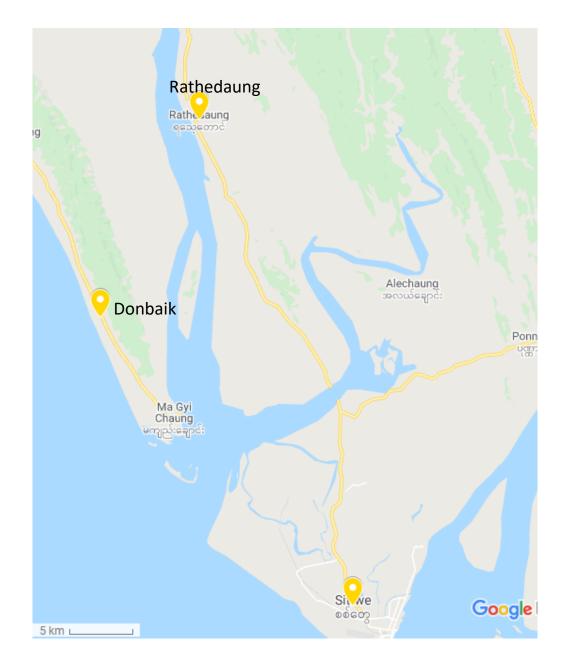


- Wau lay 3,000 feet above sea level. From the south the land approaches were through some of the wildest and most rugged country in the world —massive mountain ranges with peaks rising to 8,000 feet, more frequently than not covered in swirling cloud; precipitous gorges torn by rushing torrents, and dense rain forest, the whole drenched at frequent intervals by heavy tropical storms.
- From Port Moresby the only practicable route to Wau was a very rugged foot track, from the Lakekamu River which empties into the Gulf of Papua about 150 miles north of Port Moresby, northward for 50 miles to Bulldog, thence to Kudjeru, on to Kaisenik and thence into Wau. From Wau to Salamaua there were various and devious tracks.



9 January - Burma

- The Japanese occupied the narrow front between the sea and the foothills of the Mayu Range 1 mile (1.6 km) north of Donbaik, protected by a *chaung* (a tidal creek) with steep banks 9 feet (2.7 m) high.
- They constructed well-concealed and mutually supporting bunkers of timber and earth.
- Between 7 and 9 January 1943, the 47th Indian Infantry Brigade attacked this line but were repulsed.
- The bunkers could not be penetrated by field artillery, and if British or Indian infantry reached the bunkers, the defenders called down artillery and mortar fire on their own position.



- Early on the following morning (9 January), the enemy ships withdrew to the east, leaving one beached transport behind.
- The Japanese had succeeded in their effort to reinforce Lae; Headquarters, Allied Land Forces estimated that better than 4,000 troops had reached shore. But at least two transports, and perhaps more, had been sunk, and American fighters had enjoyed a field day.
- The P-40's of the veteran 49th Group claimed twenty-eight enemy planes shot down in addition to their contribution as dive bombers with 300-pound bombs in attacks on the transports.
- Lt. Richard Bong of the 49th, flying a P-38, claimed three planes, while other P-38's accounted for at least thirteen of the enemy. The total claims ran well over fifty, against a loss of ten Allied planes.



The wrecked Japanese ship aground on a beach near Lae.

- Huon Gulf The retiring enemy convoy, which departed from Lae early a.m. 9/1, was attacked during am 9/1 by 4 B17s, 3 B24s and 1 Catalina which dropped 18 x 1000—lb bombs, 22 x 500—lb., 4 x 250—lb. Near misses were claimed. 4 days of attacks on the convoy result in 2 transports sunk, several vessels damaged, and about 80 airplanes destroyed.
- Rabaul 2 B.17s dropped 40 x 100-lb bombs on Vunakanau aerodrome about 0900/9. The aircraft were Intercepted by 12-15 Zeros of which 7 were claimed as definitely shot down and others damaged.
- Lae -The beached transport and supplies ashore were attacked a.m. 9/1 by 4 B17s, 12 B25s, 3 B26s and 11 P40s with 24 P.40s and 8 P38s as cover. Bombs dropped 16 x 1000-lb, 129 x 300-lb. The beached transport was reported blazing after several direct hits, while fires were started ashore.
- Salamaua 3 A20s dropped 6 x 500-lb and 6 x 250-lb bombs on Salamaua. Direct hits were made *on* several buildings and some fires started.
- 5 B-25's, with escort of 9 P-40's, bomb Bhamo. Other ftrs strafe T/Os in Wanling, Bhamo, and Loiwing areas.

• Next day (9 January) Beaufighter crews gave air rescue aid to several American airmen who were sighted on a beach to the north of the Mambare River, to whom they dropped supplies and maps.



- Six Beauforts from No. 100 Squadron were sent out on a night torpedo attack (on the night of 9/10 January) The Beaufort crews found the ships soon after dark as they were approaching Gasmata.
- The only success in this assault was achieved by the crew of an aircraft piloted by Flight Lieutenant Hamblin whose torpedo was launched at the light cruiser in which a heavy explosion was observed.
- In the absence of any sighting of this vessel by reconnaissance crews next morning it was presumed that the ship had been sunk.



Bristol Beaufort RAAF UV S A9 951 01

Returning in darkness the Beauforts found their base at Milne Bay heavily shrouded by low-lying cloud. Two crews and their aircraft were lost. One crashed into a hillside close to Milne Bay, and a second crew also failed to return.

10 January - COIC

IV. ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

(1) Renewed offensive against Guadalcanal.

(2) Consolidation Lae-Salamana area, with infiltration into Papuan beach-heads and possible offensive activity eastern New Guinegarea.

(3) Consolidation Timor-Arafura Sea - Dutch New Guinea.

(4) Possible carrier-borne raids from NEI area against strategic points on west and NW coast of Australia.

For

DIRECTOR, C.O.I.C.

G.H.Q., S.W.P.A.

10/1/43

- On 10 January, an army aircraft—which was returning from a mission, out of bombs, spotted a convoy of three freighters and their escorting destroyers south of New Britain heading north east.
- While shadowing the convoy a crewman on board the plane saw one destroyer hit by a torpedo, and the destroyers promptly counterattacking.
- A submarine's bow suddenly broke the water at an unusual angle. It
 appeared that a depth charge had severely damaged the submarine. The
 destroyers continued circling, pumping shells into her; she slipped below
 the waves and disappeared.
- USS Argonaut, the big troop carrying submarine, had been ordered to the area in an attempt to intercept the convoy. No further reports were heard from her. One hundred and two officers and men of her crew were posted KIA, the worst loss of life ever for an American submarine.

- She (Arunta) crossed the Timor Sea in weather "overcast with heavy rain and wind squalls which provided excellent cover from enemy reconnaissance planes" and at 1.30 a.m. on the 10th anchored in 27 fathoms about three-quarters of a mile from the beach at Quicras.
- Beach conditions were bad, with a heavy surf running and capsizing and swamping several of the assault boats, and it was found impossible to load them with their correct complement of 15 men and crew of five.
- At 4 a.m. Morrow, Arunta's captain, told the beach that no more equipment or stores would be taken "and that the men must swim through the surf and board the assault craft outside it, otherwise there would be no chance of getting them off before daylight".
- At 5 a.m. there were still about 100 men on shore, but Morrow decided to wait and get them off
 if possible before daylight, hoping to run into bad cyclonic weather when about 30 miles clear of
 the coast.
- The last boats returned to the ship at 6.20 a.m., and ten minutes later Morrow "proceeded at my best speed.
- At 0710 it was daylight and much too clear, but I could see squalls about twenty miles to port of
 my course and steered towards them and from 0815 onwards the visibility was never more than
 two miles until I was approaching Darwin."
- All the troops except small Intelligence parties had been embarked.

- A Japanese Minekaze-class destroyer was torpedoed and sunk in the Pacific Ocean off Katsura, Chiba at 35°02'N 140°12'E by USS Trigger.
- Arunta secured alongside at Darwin at 7 p.m. on 10th January, bringing with her 24 officers and 258 other ranks of the 2/4th Independent Company, eleven women and children, and twenty Portuguese who had been working with the army.



Periscope camera shot from USS *Trigger*, of the sinking of Japanese destroyer.

- On 10th January 1943
 Comsouwespacfor, Admiral
 Carpender, ordered that
 continuous Coral Sea patrol should
 cease.
- The disposition of the ships be modified
 - to maintain a task group of one cruiser and two destroyers at short notice at a Barrier Reef anchorage;
 - a similar group in the north-east area at longer notice to permit training and upkeep;
 - and a task group in Moreton Bay exercising, drilling, and conducting firing practices.



Admiral Carpender

- On 10 January a coastwatcher sighted an eight destroyer Tokyo Express and raised the alarm but it was too late for the Cactus Airforce to catch them before dark.
- Nine PT boats lay in wait. Three sighted the destroyers and fired their torpedoes. When PT 43 fired its torpedoes there was a bright red flash, which drew fire which damaged the boat and killed three men.
- PT 40 and PT 112 both claimed hits but PT112 was hit by two shells which sunk the boat though all the crew survived.
- One of the destroyers was hit and retired at reduced speed.



An 80-foot Elco PT boat on patrol off the coast of New Guinea, 1943.

10 January - Tarakena

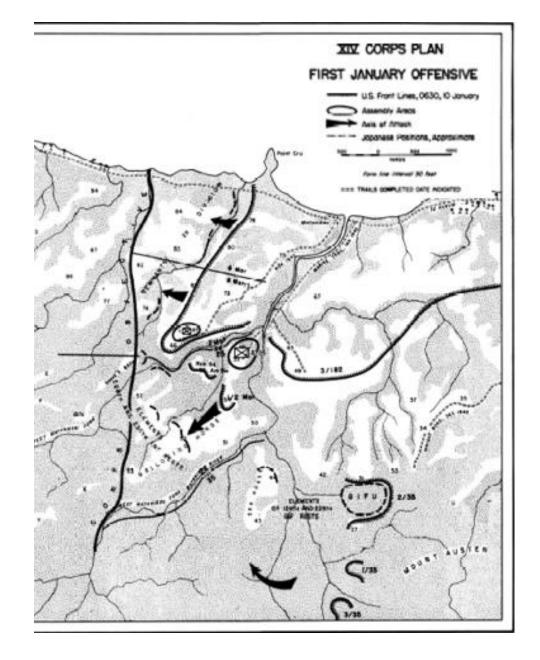
- Colonel Grose's plan to cross Konombi Creek was to flank the enemy positions by sending an element of Company C across the creek on the night of 9/10 January in the two available boats.
- The troops embarked at 0240 on the 10th. The swift current started taking the boats out to sea, but the danger was perceived in time, and the men reached shore before any harm was done.
- There was only one thing left to do: secure a guy wire to the opposite shore. Two volunteers, S. Sgt. Robert Thompson of Company C and Pfc. Jack Cunningham of Company E, swam across the creek in the dark and, just before daylight, had a wire in place on the other side. It broke when the leading boat caught on a sand bar, and the crossing had to be made in daylight.
- In late afternoon Sergeant Thompson again swam the creek, followed this time by four volunteers from Company C.

10 January - Tarakena

- To cover the crossing, Lieutenant Fraser of Company E emplaced his mortars and his 37-mm. gun on the east bank of the creek.
- As the men began swimming across, armed only with pistols and hand grenades, Fraser and his weapons crews engaged the enemy on the opposite shore with fire. The enemy replied in kind, but Fraser and his men held their position along the river bank, and all five men got safely across the creek.
- By 1740 the wire was in place, and Lieutenant Fulmer and a platoon of Company C began crossing. The boat made the trip safely, covered by fire from Lieutenant Fraser's mortars and 37-mm. gun, which quickly reduced the enemy emplacements commanding the bridge.
- Thereafter the crossing went swiftly. Company C was across by 1755, followed closely by Company A. By evening the two companies, disposed in depth, held a 200-yard bridgehead on the other side of the creek.

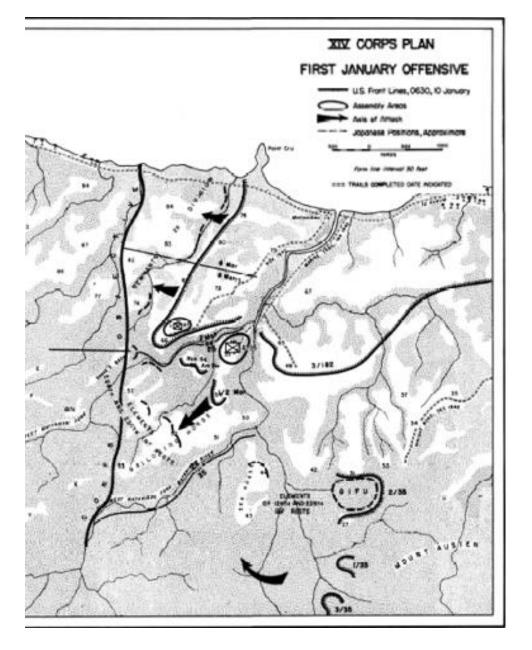
10 January - Guadalcanal

- With the Japanese in the Mount Austen area localized the drive to the west could get underway.
- General Patch planned to extend his Point Cruz-Hill 66 line farther inland and then to push west, destroying the Japanese or driving them from the island.
- General Collins' 25th Division would advance west of Mount Austen on the inland flank.
- The 2d Marine Division would advance between the 25th Division and the beach.
- The Americal Division would hold the main perimeter.



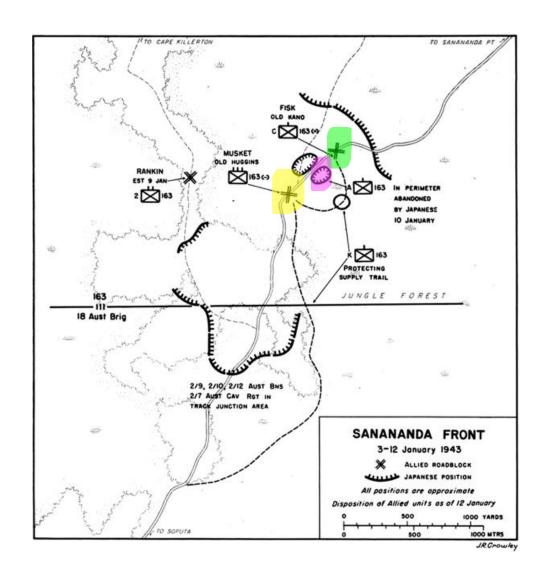
10 January - Guadalcanal

- Since the 25th Division would have some fighting to do before it could come abreast of the Point Cruz-Hill 66 line, it was the first ordered into action.
- The 35th Infantry was ordered to advance to the west on the division's inland flank.
- The 27th Infantry would capture the high ground south of Hill 66 between the northwest and southwest forks of the Matanikau.
- The 161st Infantry would be the division reserve.
- The ground thus assigned to the 27th Infantry consisted of a jumble of hills (dubbed the Galloping Horse because of their appearance on aerial photographs) which lie some 1,500 yards south of Hill 66.
- Army units began their attacks against this terrain on 10 January.



10 January - Sanananda

- The 1st Battalion had continued to attack the area between Musket and Fisk (Kano).
- On 10 January Cpl. Paul Knight, a member of the regimental Antitank Company, noticed that the enemy was not firing from the smaller perimeter east of the track.
- Reconnoitering the position on his own initiative, he discovered that the enemy had abandoned it.
- Colonel Doe lost no time in exploiting the windfall. Company A took over the position immediately.
- The Japanese left behind considerable material. Including a water-cooled, .50-caliber machine gun, two mortars, some hand grenades, a quantity of small arms ammunition, and a cache of rifles.
- The enemy troops had obviously been very hungry when they abandoned the perimeter, and there was gruesome evidence that some of them had been reduced to cannibalism.



10 January - Burma

- On 9–10 January, renewed attacks on Rathedaung were thrown back.
- Wavell (CinC India) and Irwin (GOC Eastern Army) (photo) visited Lloyd (GOC 14th Indian Division) on 10 January.
- General Irwin had bypassed the XV corps to command the campaign direct from Eastern Army. During the campaign 14 Div was built up with twice as many units as a standard division.
- Lloyd asked for tanks to deal with the bunkers. Irwin in turn demanded a single troop of tanks from 50th Indian Tank Brigade, part of Slim's XV Corps at Ranchi.
- Both Slim and the brigade commander (Brigadier Todd) protested that a complete regiment (of 50 or more tanks) would be required, but they were overruled.



- 2 Catalinas, 2 Liberators and 3 Fortresses operating over Solomon Sea S of New Britain continue to attack vessels of convoy which departed Lae on 9 Jan. Hits were claimed with one 1000-lb bomb and 250-lb bombs; also a near miss with 500-lb bomb. 3 enemy fighters were claimed shot down and one probably.
- 11 Beaufighters strafed grounded aircraft at Lae from 0950-1010/10. One fighter was burned and others hit. 6 B25s with 9 P38s as cover also bombed and strafed the shore front at 1000/10. After the raid Beaufighter crews reported fires which were visible 40 miles away from the target area.
- A Liberator dropped 2 x 500-lb bombs on the runway at Finschhafen at 0750/10, 2 x 500-pounders on Madang at 09.15/10 and 6 x 500-lb bombs in the vicinity of the runway at Wewak at 1110/10.
- P-39's and SBD's spt ground forces in Guadalcanal battle area. Strong-point and ammo dump are destroyed.
- MBs and HBs jointly attack Myitnge bridge, knocking out a span and causing considerable damage to the entire tgt.

- Beaufighter crews also gave aid on the 10th (January) to a solitary American airman who had inscribed in large letters on a sandy beach the words, "Shoes, maps, food, matches."
- The Australians dropped boots, a flying suit, food, medical and other supplies and maps.



 The wreck of PT 43 drifted ashore on a Japanese-held beach and was destroyed the next day by gunfire from the corvette HMNZS Kiwi.



HMNZS Kiwi 1943 (RNZN Museum ABJ0196

11 January - Buna

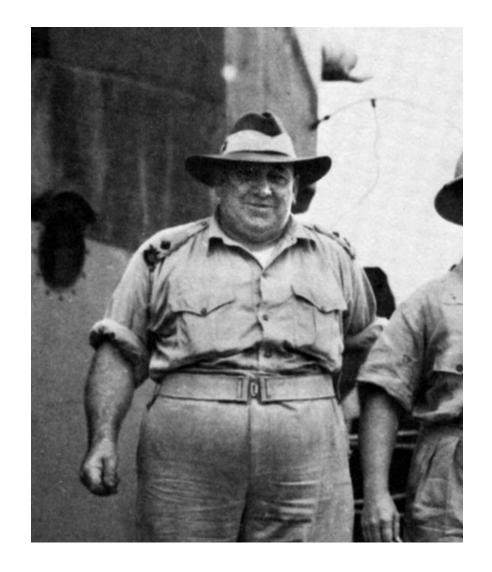
- Upon General Blamey's return to Australia, General Herring again became commander of New Guinea Force and returned to Port Moresby on 11 January.
- Two days later, General Eichelberger took command of all Australian and American troops at the front as Commander, Advance New Guinea Force, and General Berryman became his chief of staff.



GENERAL HERRING (left), and General Eichelberger.

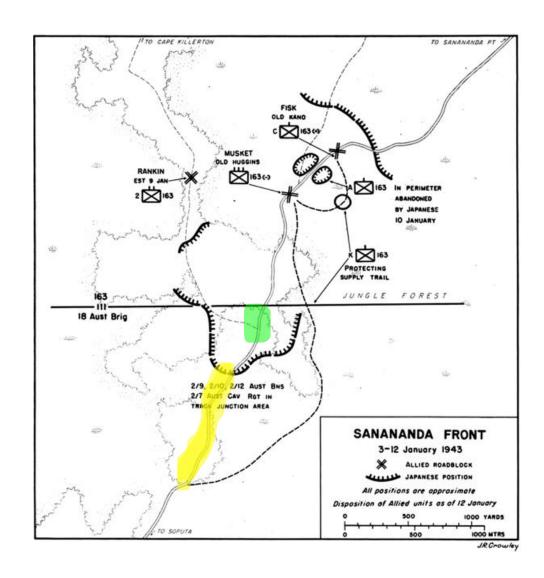
11 January - Sanananda

- On the 11th, two days after the establishment of Rankin, Brigadier Wootten (photo) called a conference to discuss his plan for the reduction next day of the area south of Musket.
- The discussion revealed that artillery would be of only limited usefulness because the Australian front line was by this time within fifty yards of the enemy.
- The main reliance therefore would have to be on armor even though, because of the marshy nature of the terrain, the tanks would have to attack straight up the M.T. Road.

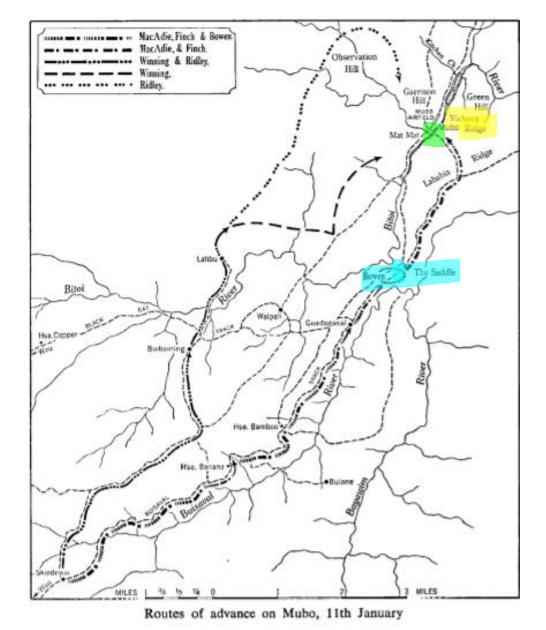


11 January - Sanananda

- The plan called for the 2/9 Battalion to attack on the right and the 2/12 Battalion, its left flank anchored on the M.T. Road, to attack on the left.
- They were to be supported by the mortars of both battalions, brigaded together.
- Supported by a company of the 2/10 Battalion, the 2/9th would move off to the northeast, circle the enemy's left flank, and try to come in behind the track junction.
- The main attack would be generally to the right of the M.T. Road. It would be launched by the 2/12 Battalion, a company of the 2/10 Battalion, and three of the four available tanks.
- The 2/7 Cavalry and the remaining two companies of the 2/10 Battalion would be in reserve to the left and rear of the 2/12 Battalion, ready to go in at a moment's notice.

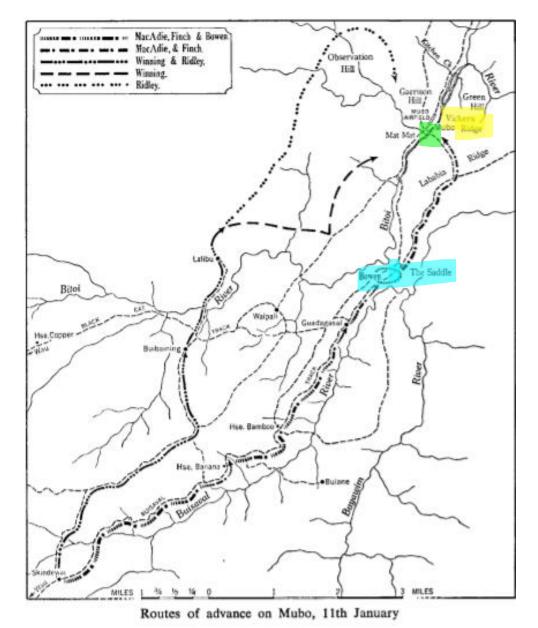


- MacAdie and his men reached their formingup place high on the Buisaval Track above Vickers Ridge, on the evening of the 10th.
- Winning's men were, however, having difficulty in reaching their positions. He had to drive his men into a searing march and climb of 10 and a half hours on both the 9th and 10th. Even so they could not keep to the starttime, which they were to signal themselves with a long burst from their one Vickers gun.
- The morning of the 11th, after a night of drenching rain, brought swirling fog. This was fortunate for Winning as his weary men were still scrambling into their positions when the attack should have been opening, struggling to get their 3-inch mortar and Vickers gun into positions.
- MacAdie's men above Vickers Ridge had breakfasted on and were settled into their positions by 8.30 a.m.



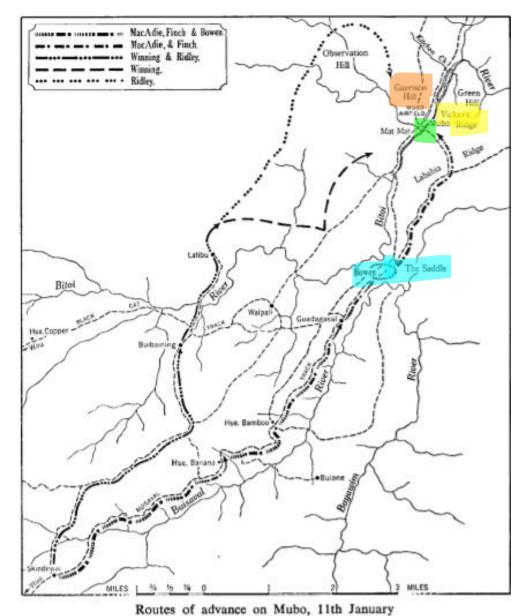
War in the Pacific 1943 - ©Jerry McBrien - Wk 11

- The long Vickers burst at last broke out—at 1.20 p.m.
- Almost at the same time plunging fire from MacAdie's men struck into the completely surprised Japanese on Garrison Hill below them. The Australians claimed 20 or 30 for their first bursts.
- They saw Winning's mortar bombs explode off the target and in their own area but, just at the right time, found wireless touch with him, and from their own grandstand seats, directed the mortar fire.
- Whenever the Japanese broke cover their machine-gunners got fairly among them. But on the other side of the gorge difficulties continued to dog Winning. his own party found themselves committed to an advance down a razor edge seldom more than 8 feet wide at the top, rocky, overgrown, falling away so steeply at the sides that only the actual profile was negotiable.



War in the Pacific 1943 - ©Jerry McBrien - Wk 11

- Lieutenant Kerr was looking after the actual movement, but the country defeated him. As the afternoon dragged on, the weariness of his men the inimical terrain, and the wellplaced Japanese kept his men out of the fight.
- More success had attended Ridley's thrust at Observation Hill. After the general firing started he burst out of the thick growth near his objective and got right among the Japanese gun positions.
- His men killed the Japanese who tried to stop them and swept on down the slope towards Garrison Hill.
- Their advance brought them, however, into danger from MacAdie's fire and so they pulled back some distance up the hill. There they remained, effectively engaged by sniping fire which killed Leitch, until Winning, preparing to get his own party out of their trouble, recalled them.



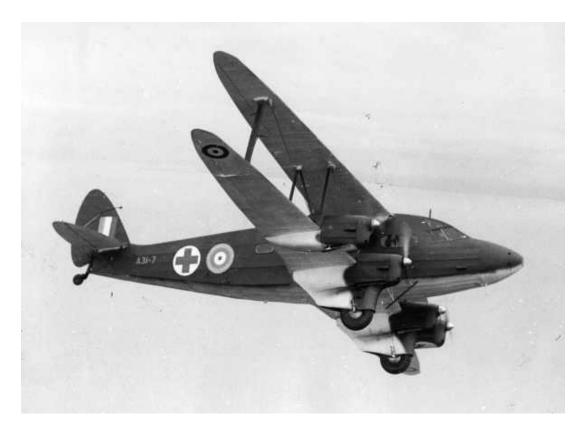
- After four days of maximum effort against the Lae convoy COIC reported no USAAF air operations in the New Guinea area on the 11th.
- Four Beaufighters and three Bostons bombed and strafed the Salamaua to Komiatum track 11.30 12.15/11.
- Aroe Islands Three Hudsons attacked a jetty at Dobo at 1225/11, dropping 12 x 250 G.P. bombs and 45 x 4-lb Incendiaries. Nil hits observed.
- B-26's and P-39's hit Munda area.
- Ftrs attack Bhamo, destroying barges, tugs, warehouses, and other port facilities. The ftrs also strafe fuel drums along road between Chefang and Mangshih and hit a truckful of soldiers near Ho-lu.

- On 11th January, the tension having eased, the Special Transport Flight was able to return to the mainland.
- From 14th December to 11th January the Hudsons (photo) alone had made 645 sorties over the Owen Stanley Mountains, logged 1,020 flying hours, and carried 1,107 troops and almost 780 tons of supplies.
- In Mid December Snow Evans, a replacement for the 2/5 Independent Company, was flown with about a dozen others into Wau in a Hudson. The Pilot asked Snow if he could use a machine gun, when he said yes the pilot said "You can man that one...Watch out for Jap planes. If you see them, fire like mad."



The bomber had Lewis guns poking out through its windows as a defensive measure. Presumably it was one of these that Snow was invited to man.

- The DH-86 aircraft had been employed between Port Moresby and points such as Bena Bena, while
- the Lockheed 10s operated between Port Moresby and Townsville
- as did the civil Douglas aircraft whose principal task was the evacuation of wounded.



DH 86

- No. 33 Squadron, operating from Ward's aerodrome, was also engaged in transport operations to the limit of the capacity of its light aircraft, principally Ansons, Dragons and Moths.
- In December, its first month of operations, the unit delivered 60,000 pounds of freight to men manning isolated Allied posts. It also ferried officers and men to and from such posts.
- No. 36 Squadron, with its (Dakota) aircraft operated a regular transport service between Townsville and Port Moresby.



No. 33 Squadron de Havilland Dragon at Kokoda, New Guinea, in February 1943.

11 January – Report to the White House

Replying to a War Department request for a summary of reverse Lend-Lease activities

General MacArthur reports that dollar figures for reciprocal aid from Australia are only partially available but, on November 31, actual Treasury debits totalled \$80,054,400. A large proportion of the Army and Navy rations are furnished locally under this arrangement, and in

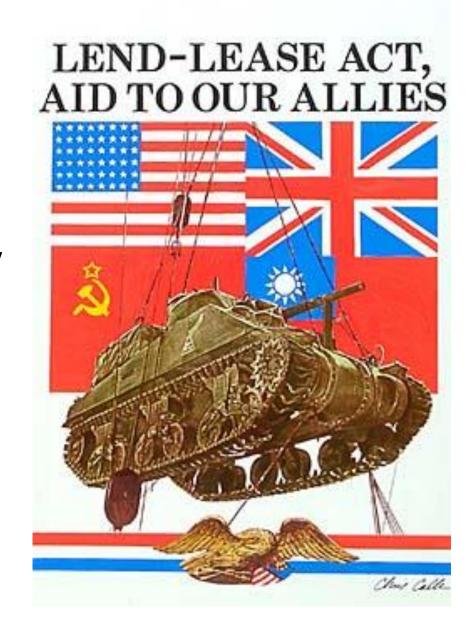
1943 this aid is to be extended to US forces in the South Pacific Area, although this is outside the basic reciprocal aid area. Other services rendered include the furnishing of buildings, hospitals, land, machinery, manpower, communications, transportation, and civilian and military stores.

- The Neutrality Acts of 1935, 1936, and 1937 intended to keep the United States out of war, by making it illegal for Americans to sell or transport arms, or other war materials to warring nations.
- In 1939 as Germany, Japan, and Italy pursued aggressive, militaristic policies President Roosevelt wanted more flexibility to help contain Axis aggression. FDR suggested amending the act to allow warring nations to purchase military goods if they paid cash and transported the goods on their own ships, a policy that would favor Britain and France. Initially, this proposal failed, but after Germany invaded Poland in September, Congress passed the Neutrality Act of 1939 ending the munitions embargo on a "cash and carry" basis.
- On December 7, 1940, Winston Churchill in a 15-page letter warned President Roosevelt that Britain was near the end of its financial resources and pressed him for American help.
- In a radio broadcast delivered on 29 December 1940
 Roosevelt promised to help the United Kingdom fight
 Nazi Germany by giving them military supplies while the
 United States stayed out of the actual fighting, using the
 slogan "Arsenal of Democracy".



President Roosevelt addressing the nation.

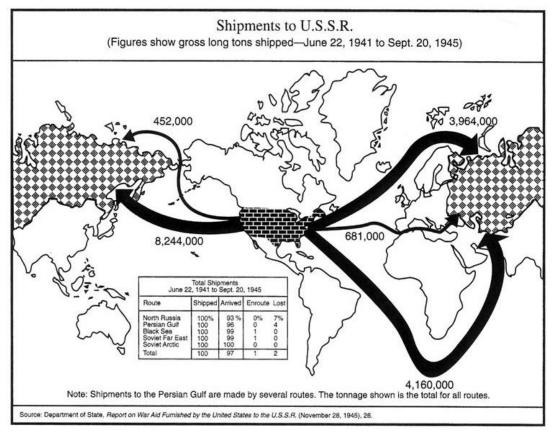
- On 10 January 1941, Draft H.R. 1776 the "Lend Lease Bill" was presented to the United States Congress.
- After passage by Congress President Roosevelt signed the Lend-Lease bill into law on March 11, 1941. It permitted him to sell, transfer title to, exchange, lease, lend, or otherwise dispose of, to any government whose defense the President deemed vital to the defense of the United States, any defense article.
- The administration of Lend Lease was to be entrusted to the President, with the US Congress exercising its constitutional control over appropriations. The provisions for final settlement were to be left very broad.
- The greatest immediate benefit was expected to be the continued resistance of Allied nations towards the aggressor nations, which would provide a buffer zone for the United States to fully tool up for a war in which its involvement was almost inevitable.



- In April 1941, Lend Lease was extended to China, and in October to the Soviet Union. Roosevelt approved US\$1 billion in Lend-Lease aid to Britain at the end of October 1941.
- No payment was required for articles provided under Lend Lease.
 After the war they were to be returned if not destroyed, lost or consumed.
- The Lend-Lease agreements with 30 countries provided for repayment not in terms of money or returned goods, but in "joint action directed towards the creation of a liberalized international economic order in the post war world."

- Defense articles were defined as
 - (1) any weapon, munition, aircraft, vessel or boat;
 - (2) any machinery, facility, tool, material or supply necessary for the manufacture, production, processing, repair, servicing or operation of any articles described in this sub-section;
 - (3) any component material, or part of, or equipment for, any article described In this sub-section;
 - (4) any agricultural, industrial or other commodity or article for defense.
- The definition gave the Americans considerable flexibility in deciding if supplies requested were eligible.
- In addition to eligibility issues, allocation of available supplies was governed by strategic priorities.

- U.S. deliveries to the USSR through Lend-Lease included over 400,000 jeeps and trucks; 12,000 armored vehicles (including 4,102 M4 Shermans); 11,400 aircraft, 2,670,371 tons of petroleum products, 1,977 railway locomotives and 11,075 railway wagons as well as 1.75 million tons of food.
- Nearly 50% of Lend Lease aid to the USSR went across the North Pacific. After Pearl Harbour it could only be carried in Soviet ships and under neutrality rules military supplies could not be carried.



map shows US Lend Lease shipments to USSR in WW2 by route

- In a speech at the Mansion House in London on November 10, 1941 Churchill said, "The Lease-Lend Bill must be regarded without question as the most unsordid act in the whole of recorded history."
- Churchill used this quote again when speaking in the House of Commons after President Roosevelt's death, when he remarked, "At about that same time he devised the extraordinary measure of assistance called Lend-Lease, which will stand forth as the most unselfish and unsordid financial act of any country in all history."

Major recipients of Lend Lease were:

• British Empire (ex Oz) -62.0%

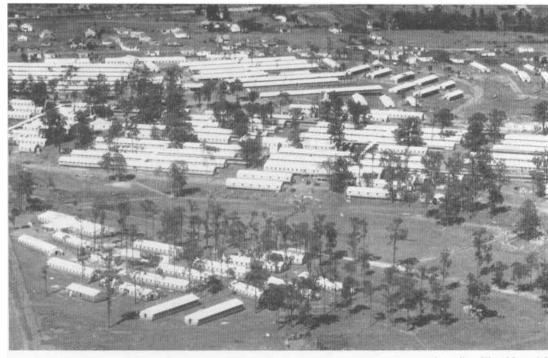
• USSR -- 20.7%

• China -- 3.3%

• Australia -- 2.9%

• Netherlands -- 0.25%

- In return for Lend Lease aid, Allied nations were to provide goods or services to the United States under a program known as reverse or reciprocal lend lease.
- The basic idea of allied cooperation being that each of the United Nations is giving to the full extent of its ability—in both manpower and materials—to accomplish the defeat of the Axis.
- Lend-lease and reverse lend-lease create a pool of resources to which and from which contributions and withdrawals are made as the demands of the fighting fronts dictate.



Australian War Memorial
Aerial view of a 4,250-bed hospital constructed by the Allied Works Council for the
American forces.

United States Lend-Lease Aid to Australia, (\$US'000)

Category	1941 Mar-Dec	1942	
Munitions	5,975	141,091	
Transport equipment	_	17,988	
Industrial equipment and metals	1,045	43,600	
Chemicals and medical	1,045	43,000	
supplies	170	4,576	
Textiles	933	9,046	
Timber, paper, pulp	99	2,017	
Food and tobacco	1,313	3,977	
Petroleum products	_	21,545	
Other goods	5	1,247	
Total goods, f.o.b. add unrecorded freight	9,440	245,087	
and other services	1,274	33,087	
Total Lend-Lease	10,714	278,174	
Australian-currency equivalent of			
total Lend-Lease	£2,551	66,232	

Australian	Reciprocal	Aid	to	the	United	States,
	(£A'000)					
			-	-		

	1941-42	1942-43
Military Stores	2,023	18,356
Food	1,300	11,791
Services	992	8,996
Construction	2,185	19,814
Total	6,500	58,957
U.S. dollar equivalent \$U	JS24,700	224,037

- In the global totals Lend Lease Aid was about five times greater than the global totals of Reciprocal Aid.
- Australian capacities and the war situation resulted in Australia's proportional contribution to Reciprocal Aid being higher than that of other countries.

	United States: Total Lend-Lease Aid as percentage of		Lend-Lease to Australia as percentage of	
	War Expenditure	Net National Income	Total Lend-Lease	
1942	13.8	4.8	4.2	
	Avetralia	Decimend Aid to	Decision of Aide Visit 1	
		Reciprocal Aid to tes as percentage of	Reciprocal Aid to United States as percentage of	
		Net National Income	e Total Reciprocal Aid	
1942-43	11.0	4.8	15.2	

In general, Australian-United States mutual aid grew rapidly and effectively during 1942 with a remarkable absence of friction and a predominance of goodwill on both sides. In view of the complexity and scale of mutual aid, one would have expected much more misunderstanding, confusion and frustration than actually did occur. (Official History)

12 January - Sea

- USS Woorden, a Farragut-class destroyer, was driven onto rocks at Constantine Harbor, Amchitka Island, Alaska, during the unopposed occupation of Amchitka, and was wrecked with the loss of fourteen of her 186 crew.
- PT 28 an Elco 77' PT boat was wrecked at Dora Harbor, Unimak Island, Alaska.
- The patrol boat, YP-492 was sunk in the Pacific Ocean when it ran aground on the west coast of the big island of Hawaii.
- A Japanese patrol boat, a converted destroyer, was torpedoed and sunk in the Pacific Ocean off New Hanover Island, Bismarck Archipelago 02°51'S 149°43'E by the submarine USS Guardfish.



USS *Worden* being abandoned, after going aground in Constantine Harbor.

12 January - Sea



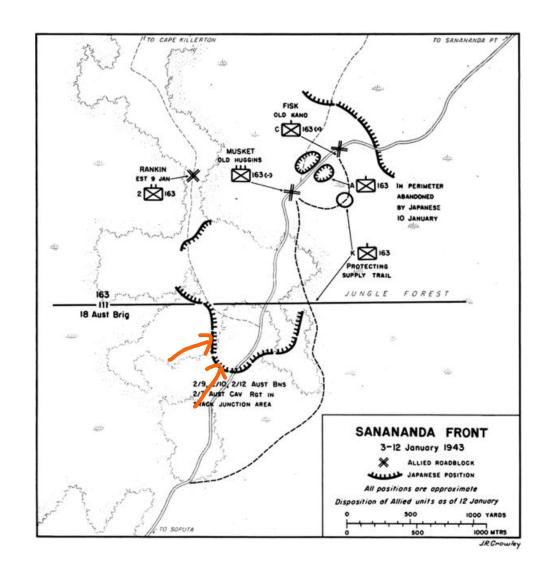
12 January - Tarakena

- On the other side of the creek the advancing troops ran into terrain difficulties. No trails could be found branching southward from the coast, and the coast line, a narrow strip of sand bounded by a tidal swamp which came almost to the shore, was frequently under water at high tide.
- Since the enemy was present in the area in strength, it seemed to be the better part of wisdom to hold up the 127th Infantry advance until the concerted offensive on the Sanananda front got under way and eased the enemy pressure.
- General Eichelberger explained the situation to General MacArthur on the 12th. "... the mangrove swamp comes down to the sea. At high tide the ocean is right in the swamp. . . . "
- It would not be wise to extend too far until there had been "developments across the Girua." The coastal advance would mark time until the 163d Infantry and the 18th Brigade began driving directly on Sanananda.

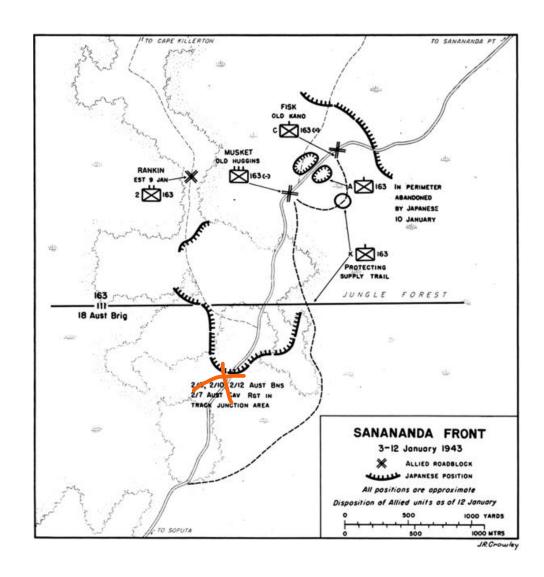


(Australian War Memorial) Lieut-General Robert L. Eichelberger, Commanding General I U.S. Corps.

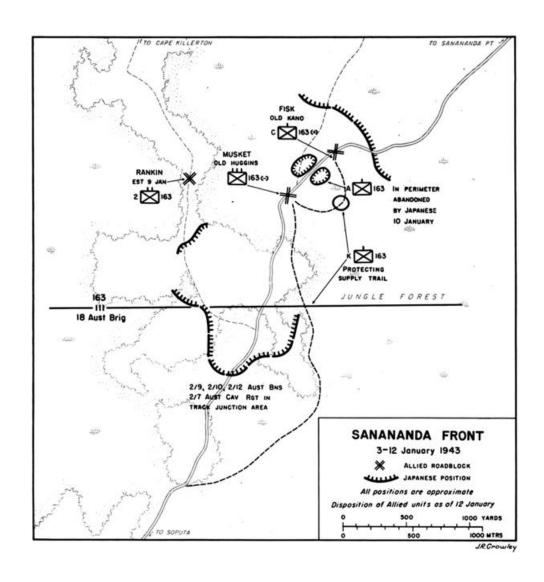
- At 0800 the next morning (12th), while the 163d Infantry executed feints from Musket and Rankin, the two battalions of the 18th Brigade attacked the Japanese positions covering the junction.
- After a heavy artillery concentration from south and east, principally on the enemy's rear areas,
- the 2/9 Battalion moved off to the northeast on a two-company front, with Company K, 163d Infantry, covering its right flank.
- The 2/12 Battalion, with one company and three tanks on the road, and two companies to the right of the road, moved off on the left. Preceded by the tanks, the company on the road attacked straight up the track, and
- the companies on the right, which were a short distance forward, attacked obliquely toward the road.



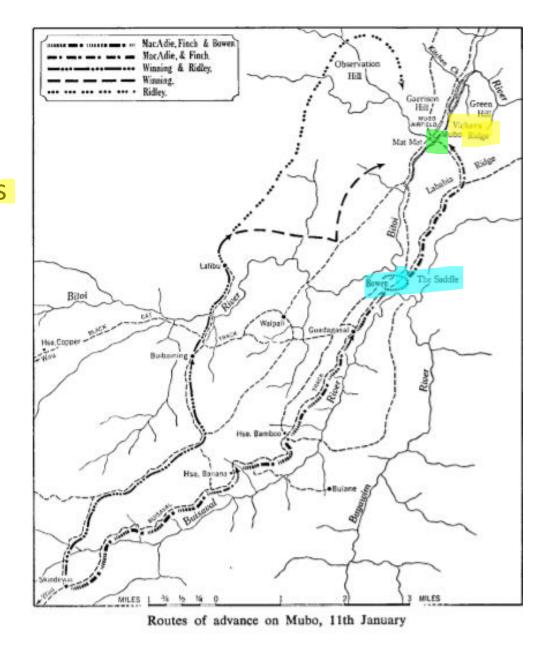
- It had been assumed that the tanks would receive no antitank fire, since the Japanese had fired neither field guns nor antitank guns on this front since 23 December.
- As the tanks advanced up the narrow road in column, a 3-inch antitank shell pierced the leading tank and destroyed its radio set. The troop commander, who was inside, got the tank off the road but was unable to warn the tanks behind him that they were facing shortrange antitank fire.
- As a result, each of the other two tanks was hit as it came forward. The first tank bogged down when it left the road but managed finally to withdraw.
- The second tank went out of control when hit and, after careening wildly along the track, was finally knocked out by the Japanese.
- The third tank, though disabled by both antitank shells and land mines, was subsequently recovered.



- Left without tank support, the 2/12 Battalion nonetheless fought on doggedly, killing a great many Japanese and reducing a number of enemy positions. The little ground that it gained, however, was mostly on the right side of the road.
- The 2/9 Battalion on the right flank met less opposition and gained more ground, but it still faced a number of unreduced enemy positions at the end of the day.
- Though the 18th Brigade had lost 142 men in the day's fighting--34 killed, 66 wounded, and 51 missing (some of whom were later recovered) the Japanese line was intact.
- General Eichelberger reported to General MacArthur that night: "The attack ... was not successful. The advance went through where there were no Japanese and bogged down where the Japanese were."



- When Winning and Ridley went, MacAdie was uncertain as to their future plans.
- He decided to hold his positions on Vickers Ridge and the Saddle. His men lay quiet during the wet night and the next morning, until they saw their enemies going about their normal occasions in the evident belief that the Australians had all gone.
- Then they opened sudden and effective fire. As the morning went on they shot at whatever targets were offering and were vigorously engaged by the Japanese.
- Night found them miserable beneath more rain, mortar bombs bursting among them.



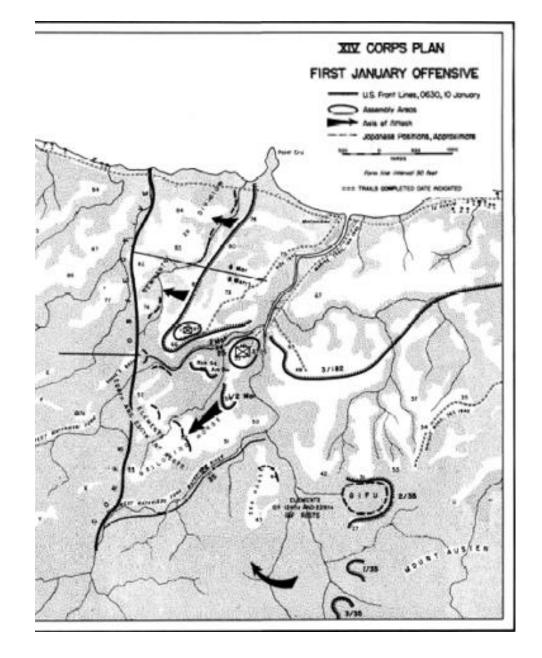
- A single B-24 bombed Finschhafen and Madang areas.
- Three Beaufighters strafed possible enemy concentrations in coconut groves in the Mambare delta 09.30 10.45/12.
- Four Bostons bombed and strafed Killerton village am 12/1.
- 9 enemy bombers dropped about 14 bombs on Merauke. Slight further damage.
- Four Beaufighters strafed the airfield at Fuiloro, Timor 10.45/12.
- B-26's, P-38's, P-39's, and P-40's attack Munda. Other P-39's hit forces on Guadalcanal.
- 2 B-24's cover a small US Army and Navy force landing unopposed at Amchitka. 2 B-25's and 4 P-38 escorts also on this cover mission turn back due to weather.

13 January - Sea

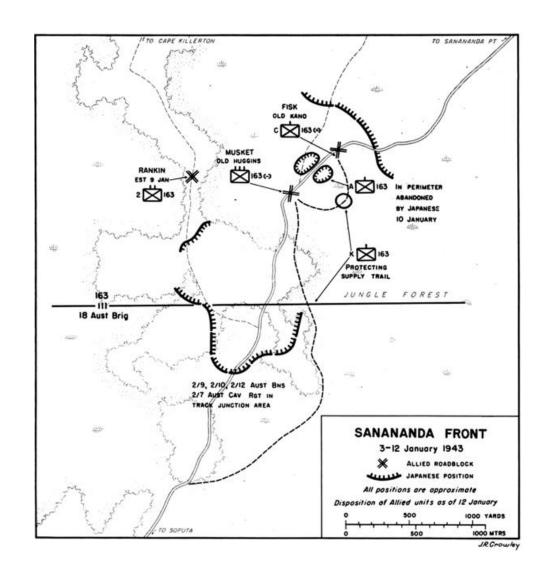
- The Eastern Fleet lost the aircraft carrier Illustrious in January—but not, as Churchill had said in December, by her going to the Pacific. She was sent to the United Kingdom to be brought up to date "before taking part in projected operations in northern waters". She sailed from Kilindini on 13th January.
- The withdrawal of other ships from Somerville's command at this juncture reduced the Eastern Fleet to a trade protection force, with even the vessels for this duty diminished in numbers owing to urgent requirements elsewhere.
- The COIC daily appreciation still listed Illustrious, four battleships and twenty cruisers in the Eastern Fleet. It also showed "Possible carrier-borne raids from NEI area against strategic points on west and NW coast of Australia" as one of the enemy's "Probable Next Moves".
- The cargo ship, Iwashiro Maru, was torpedoed and sunk in the Pacific Ocean between Kwajalein and Truk 09°54′N 167°07′Eby USS Wahoo.

13 January - Guadalcanal

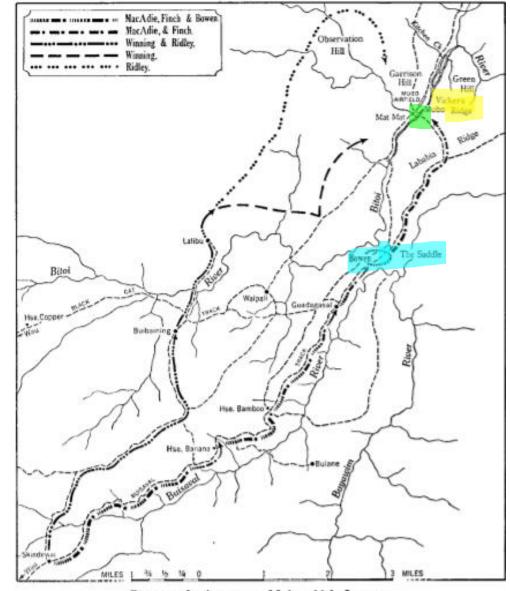
- Marines on the right flank of the corps line began their forward movement on 13 January.
- Launching its attack with the 8th Marines on the right and the 2d on the left, the 2d Division immediately encountered a series of cross compartments in which the Japanese had established very effective defensive positions. Using a minimum of men and weapons, the enemy fired down the long axis of these valleys which were perpendicular to the Marine advance, and thus engaged the attackers in a cross fire in each terrain compartment.
- Enemy positions of this type held up the 8th Marines throughout the day, but two battalions of the 2d Marines advanced about 1,000 yards on the inland flank.
- The 6th Marines then moved up to relieve the 2d Marines which was long overdue for withdrawal from the Guadalcanal theatre. Lines were adjusted at this time.
- The 8th Marines now was on the left and the 6th along the coast.



- General Eichelberger flew across the river to see what could be done.
- He reported the situation to General Herring that night (13th).
- "The best plan would seem to be to surround the area and cut off all supplies, accompanied by plenty of mortar fire and constant harassing. This seemed to me very slow work, but I realize that any other decision may result in tremendous loss of personnel without commensurate gains."
- General Vasey ordered intensive patrolling.



- MacAdie's men were plaguing the Japanese again in the early daylight hours of the 13th.
- About 11.30 a.m. they counted 126 fresh troops approaching Mubo from Komiatum. As these came straight on down the valley the Australian fire cut numbers of them down.
- MacAdie was still uncertain whether the attack from Mat Mat Hill was to be renewed. The only instructions he had were to "withdraw to the Saddle if in danger". He therefore sent Finch back to the Saddle for more definite orders.
- By this time too he was worried particularly about his right flank which was most vulnerable, and during the afternoon he sent Captain Lowe and Sergeant Jubb to reconnoitre that area.
- Lowe returned about 5, shot through the back, with the news that a band of about 100 were outflanking the Australians round their right and others were closing in from lower down the slope. One of the latter had wounded Lowe and killed Jubb.
- MacAdie then gave Lowe's platoon to Lieutenant Lade and sent them off to intercept the outflankers. Afterwards, with Lade covering them, the rest of the group began a steady movement uphill towards the Lababia Track.
- By that time it was dark. It was raining again. The uphill slope was steep and muddy as the hungry men dragged their gear up with them. On the track at the top they formed a defensive position and without food or definite orders waited for the next dawn.



Routes of advance on Mubo, 11th January

- On 13th January 1943 the Thirteenth Air Force came into being to command all US Army Airforces in the South Pacific. It comprised:
 - Nos. 11 and 5 Heavy Bombardment Groups each of four squadrons of Fortresses;
 - Nos. 69 and 70 Medium Bomber Squadrons (Marauders);
 - No. 347 Fighter Group (2 squadrons of Airacobras, 1 of Kittyhawks and 1 of Lightnings);
 - No. 12 Fighter Squadron (Airacobras); No. 44 Fighter Squadron (Kittyhawks);
 - No. 13 Troop Carrier Squadron (Dakotas).
- Brig Gen Nathan Twining was appointed to command.



Lt Gen Millard Harmon, commanding Army forces in the South Pacific area. Maj Gen Alexander Patch, left, XIV Corps; Maj Gen Nathan Twining, right, 13th Air Force.

- 6 Bostons bomb and strafe Sanananda Pt area and forces along Sanananda track am 13/1.
- 3 B17s 6 B26s and 7 Beaufighters hit dock facilities and A/F at Lae with 8 Lightnings as top cover.
- 3 Bostons bombed and strafed the Komiatum Salamaua track at 11.30/13.
- P-39's strafe forces on the beach at Kokumbona and hit Visale in spt of ground offensive.
- Also MBs and ftrs hit A/F and adjacent areas at Munda, and pound Rekata Bay area.

14 January - Strategy

- The Casablanca Conference convened in the French Moroccan seaport on 14th January to determine future Allied strategy.
- The conference was attended by Mr Churchill, President Roosevelt, the Combined Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Planners



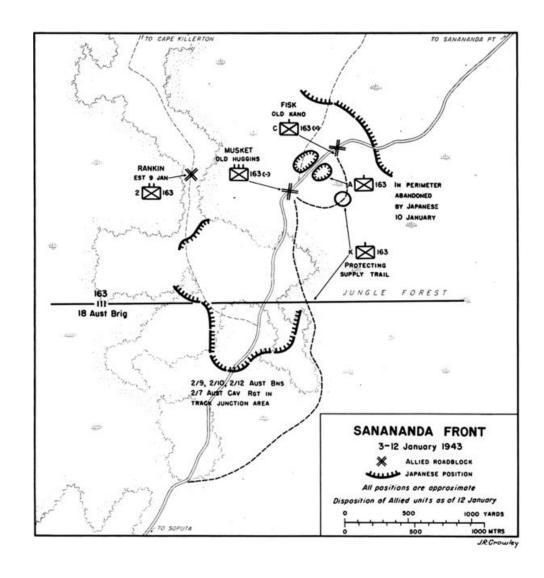
14 January - Sea

- USS Independence (CVL22) the first of the class of fast light carriers was commissioned on 14 January 1943.
- The cargo ship Shiraha Maru and an auxiliary submarine chaser were torpedoed and sunk in the Pacific Ocean at 9°32′N 130°42′E by USS Searaven.
- A force of 9 vessels probably all destroyers left Shortlands at about 1445/14 and were seen in various positions during the afternoon and evening.

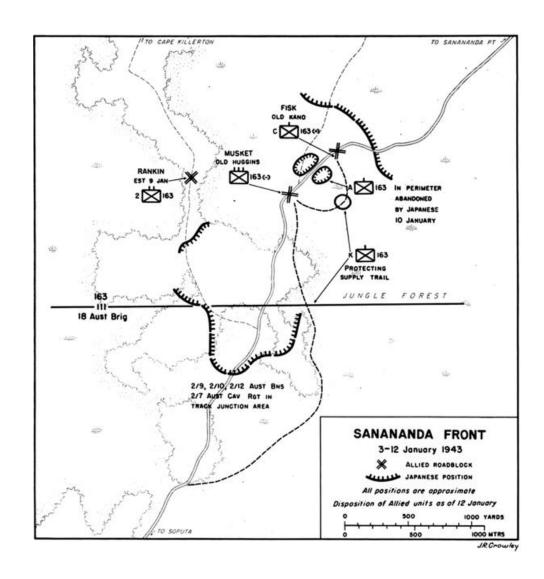


USS Independence in San Francisco Bay, 15 July 1943

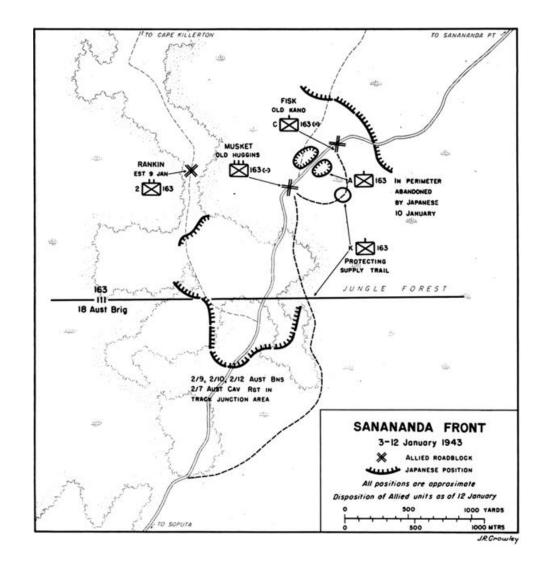
- The 163d Infantry at Musket sent patrols south to find out how far north the enemy positions in the junction extended.
- On the 14th, shortly after daybreak, a 163d Infantry patrol came upon a sick Japanese lying in some bushes just south of Musket.
- Taken prisoner and interrogated, the Japanese revealed that orders on the 12th had called for the withdrawal of all able-bodied troops from the junction area.
- He had left with the rest, he told his captors, but had been too sick to keep up and had collapsed on the trail.



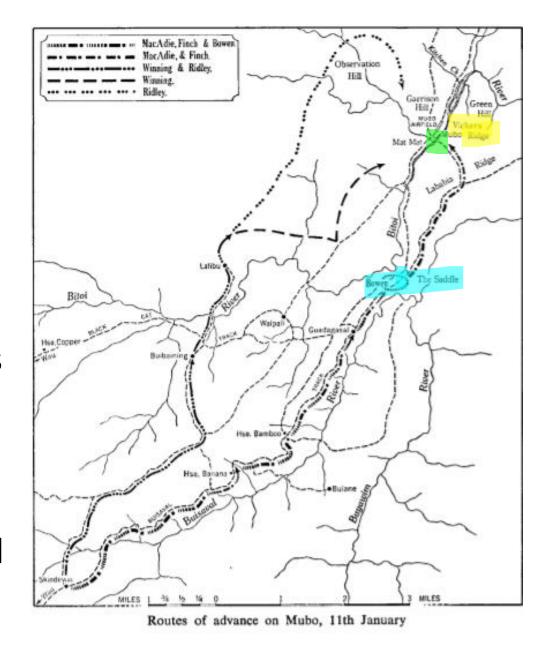
- General Vasey immediately ordered the 18th Brigade to launch a general offensive and the 163d Infantry to send all available troops southward to block off all possible escape routes.
- Aided by Hanson Troop and the battalion's mortars, the units led by Major Rankin, the battalion commander, reduced the three enemy perimeters on their southern flank.
- At least a hundred Japanese were killed in the attack, many of them apparently escapees from the track junction. Machine guns, rifles, and ammunition were the principal booty taken.



- The 18th Brigade, with the 2/7 Cavalry under its command, made short work of the Japanese who were still to be found in the track junction area.
- By early afternoon the Australian troops had swept completely through the area and had joined hands with the 163d Infantry units on both the M.T. Road and the Killerton track.
- Enemy equipment taken by the Australians included a 3 inch antiaircraft gun, six grenade launchers, forty machine guns (including thirteen Brens), 120 rifles (thirty of them Australian 303's), and a quantity of hand grenades, but their bag of the enemy was small--152 Japanese killed and six prisoners of war.

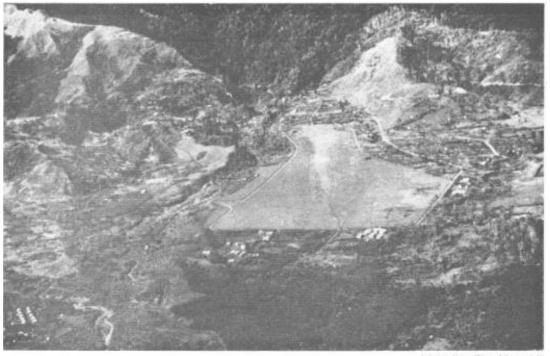


- After dawn came MacAdie's men patrolled to find the Japanese and bring in the gear they had been unable to carry the previous night.
- Finch returned with orders to retire to the Saddle. They did this.
- The main body regrouped (Lade was still out) and nightfall found MacAdie busily organising the defences.
- He knew that there were strong forces out after him by this time and he waited for the counter-thrust which he felt sure would come.



War in the Pacific 1943 - ©Jerry McBrien - Wk 11

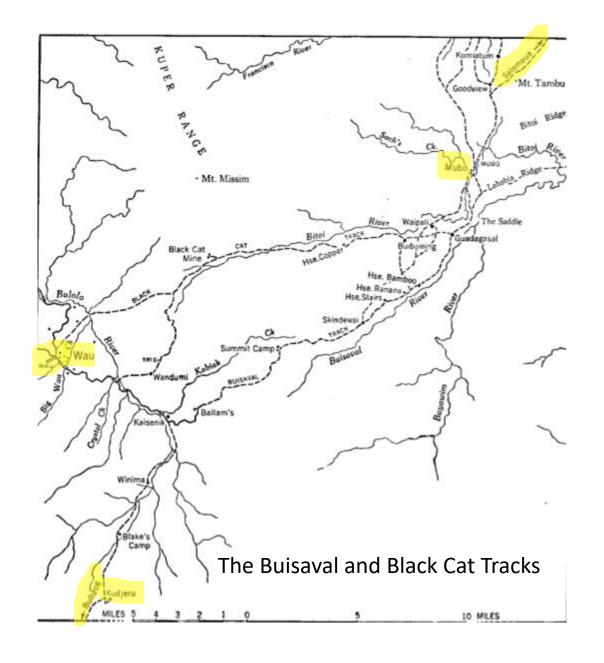
- With the Japanese threat to Wau building up, the only answer to the problem of supply lay in air transport.
- Long before war came to New Guinea aviation history had been made in the Wau-Bulolo-Edie Creek area. Junkers aircraft, skilfully piloted by airmen who knew the tortuous route between the mountain peaks and the treacherous weather, alighted on Wau's steeply set landing ground to deliver huge consignments of mining machinery.
- A grassed field 3,300 feet long, Wau aerodrome had the distinction that its "upper" threshold was 300 feet higher than its lower threshold, and since it headed into the mountains there was only one approach for aircraft.
- On 14th January the air move of the first troops of the 17th Brigade into Wau began.



(Australian War Memorial)

An aerial view of Wau airfield during the Japanese attack, January 1943.

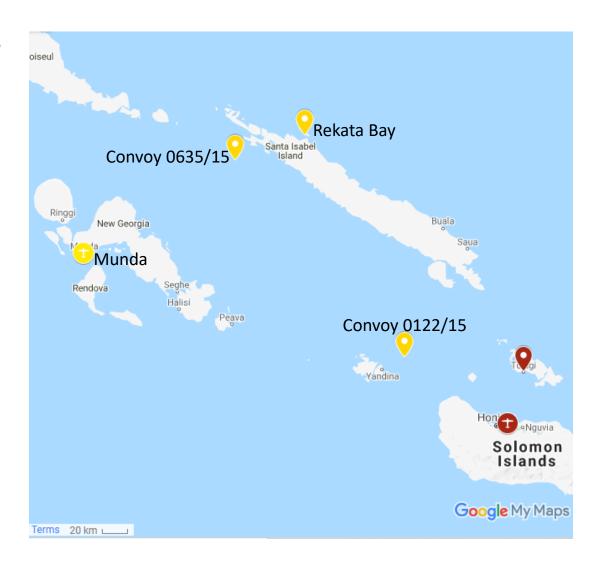
- The 17th Brigade had been moving from Milne Bay to Port Moresby. The 2/6th, the first battalion to move, completed its journey by the 13th and got its leading elements away to Wau next day.
- With them went their commander, Lieut-Colonel Wood, and, although the move was hampered by unfavourable weather and an accident to one of the troopcarrying aircraft, nightfall found Wood settling a solid nucleus of his battalion at Wau and
- the 17th Brigade advanced headquarter s functioning there.



- Six A-20's strafe Labu area and small boats in Sachsen Bay.
- Four B-25's, with eight P38s for top cover, bomb fuel dump and other supplies along beach in vicinity of Voco Point near Lae. Large oil or petrol fires were started.
- B-24s carry out single-plane attacks on Madang and Finschhafen, and also bomb Gasmata.
- Four Bostons strafed the Komiatum to Salamaua track and Bakumbari village.
- P-39's, dropping improvised gasoline bombs in Guadalcanal battle area around Mount Austen and Kokumbona pound forces and supplies throughout the day. Others hit barges and launches at Kaimana Bay and Aruligo Point.
- Six SBDs escorted by eleven Wildcats bomb the runway at Munda.

15 January - Sea

- The cargo ship, Nichimei Maru, was sunk 200 nautical miles south southwest of Rangoon, Burma 13°30'N 97°30'E by Consolidated B-24 Liberator aircraft of the United States Army Air Force.
- 5 gunners and crewmen, 97 Japanese soldiers and 39 Dutch prisoners were killed.
- At 0122/15 5 vessels were sighted 18 miles east of Russel Island heading south east. At 0635/15 9 destroyers were reported 18 miles off Korrigole Harbour (Santa Ysabel) returning to base. 5 Destroyers were believed damaged and were withdrawing at reduced speed.

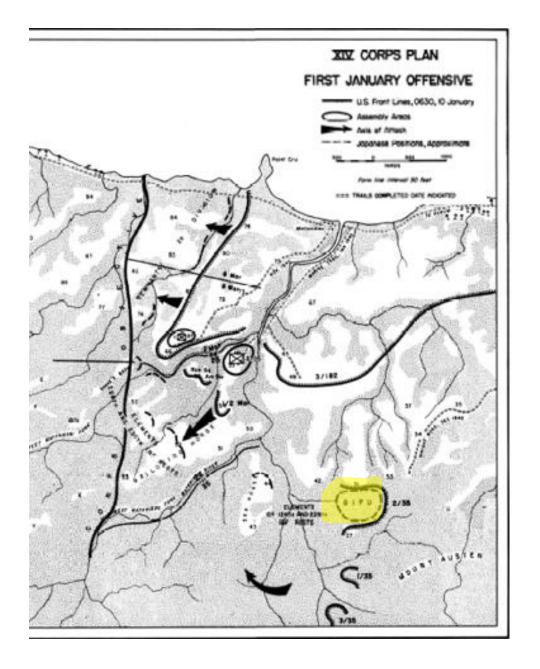


15 January - Guadalcanal

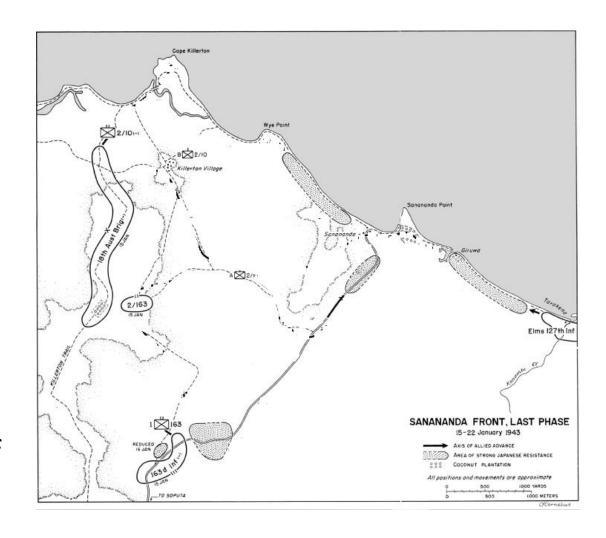
- This relief was completed by 15 January, and the 2d Marines sailed for New Zealand.
- The 8th Marines hammered at the ravine defenses of the Japanese.
 Operations along the coast provided the first opportunity for Marines to test, in a rudimentary way, their principles of naval gunfire in support of an attack.
- The four destroyers in action fired only deep support missions in this phase of the advance, however, and close-in fighting of the Japanese held the 8th Marines to insignificant gains until the afternoon of 15 January when flame throwers were put in action for the first time on this front.
- Three Japanese emplacements were burned out that day, and the attack, supported by tanks, began to move forward.

15 January - Guadalcanal

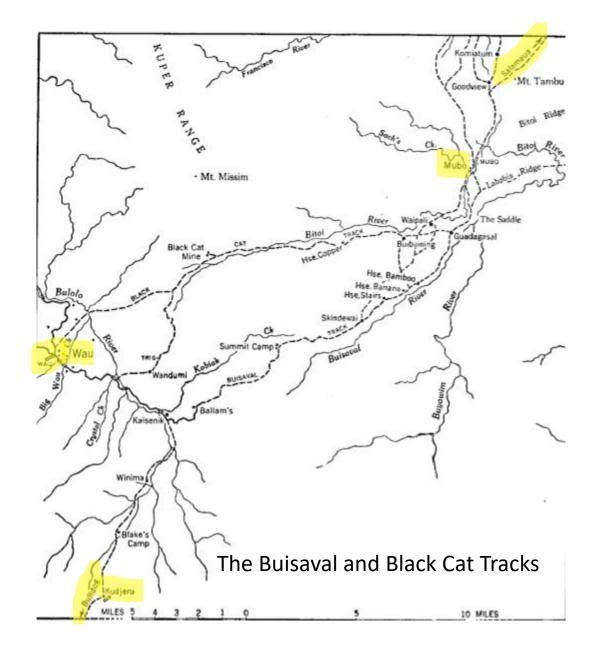
- The second battalion, 35th infantry had been detailed to reduce a Japanese stronghold on the inland end of the line.
- After five days of patrolling and scouting a general attack was scheduled for the 15th.
- After 15 minutes mortar preparation three companies started to push west.
- Withering fire flung them to the ground with an average advance of only 50 yards.
- A second attempt at 1400 also crumbled.
- About 1600 the battalion XO ordered one badly shaken platoon to withdraw, but as the order was passed verbally along the line, the soldiers misinterpreted it as an order to the entire battalion to retire, and all fell back.



- No opposition had been met during the day (15th), and the brigade was now poised to move on Cape Killerton, Wye Point, and Sanananda.
- It could attack south to the M.T.
 Road from Killerton Village, and
 north to the coast from the village
 and the junction secured by the
 2/10 Battalion.
- The 2d Battalion, 163d Infantry, was also in position and was preparing to attack eastward toward the M.T. Road as the rest of the 163d Infantry attacked northward from Fisk.



- Next day (15th) ten more planes flew in with more of the 2/6th and Wood's major deployment was prepared.
- Major Jones was ordered to place his company in a defensive position on the track in the vicinity of Mubo and he set off at once with his reconnaissance party;
- Captain Dexter, ordered to settle his company in a similar position on the Wau-Lae track near Timne, likewise got his reconnaissance quickly under way.
- On 15th January six aircraft (carrying among others Moten and the main part of his headquarters) left Port Moresby for Wau with a fighter escort. All were forced back.



- A-20's strafe Sanananda Pt area as US troops envelop pockets along Soputa-Sanananda road.
- 6 B25's bomb supply dumps at Lae.
- 2 HBs hit A/F at Gasmata.
- B-24's carry out single-plane attacks on bridge construction at Wewak and runway at Cape Gloucester.
- 2 Beaufighters strafed enemy positions Mambare delta.
- 15 Dive bombers escorted by 15 fighters attacked enemy convoy at 0735/15. Intercepted by about 12 Zeros. 11 Zeros claimed shot down. We lost 2 P39s and 3 Wildcats.
- 9 B-17's, 4 P-40's, 4 P-39's, and 6 P-38's attack enemy convoy at 1640/15. 14 fighters including 12 Zero floatplanes encountered. 12 floatplanes claimed shot down. All our aircraft returned.
- 12 dive bombers and 13 fighters failed to locate enemy convoy but bombed cargo vessel believed heading for Vila at 1745/15. Two hits and four very near misses claimed; ship burning and dead in the water at 1820/15. Intercepted by 12 Zeros of which 7 were claimed shot down. We lost one Wildcat.
- 1 HB bombs Ballale I.
- Other P-39's hit forces in Guadalcanal battle area and attack vessel off Kolombangara.
- 6 B-24's hit shipping in Rangoon area, claiming 1 vessel sunk and another damaged.
- 6 P-40's bomb barges at Bhamo; 6 others bomb Nsopzup; 3 more hit footbridges and T/Os at Taihpa Ga, Yupbang Ga, and other points in N Burma.

- Thanks for your attention.
- If you have enjoyed this presentation recommend it to your friends.
- I will put the overheads up on the website at jerrymcbrien.com
- My ebook "War in the Pacific The First Six months" is available at all good ebook stores.