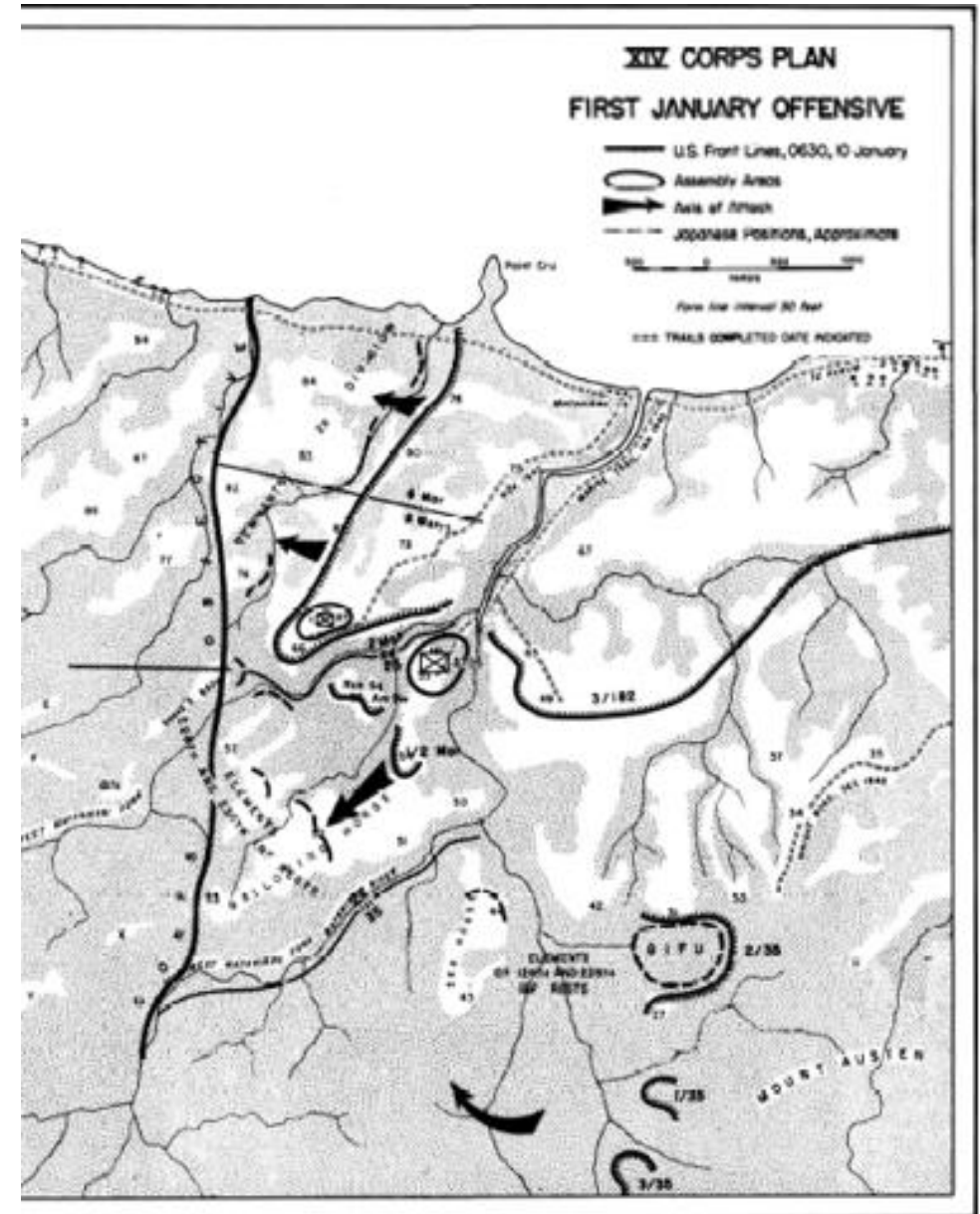


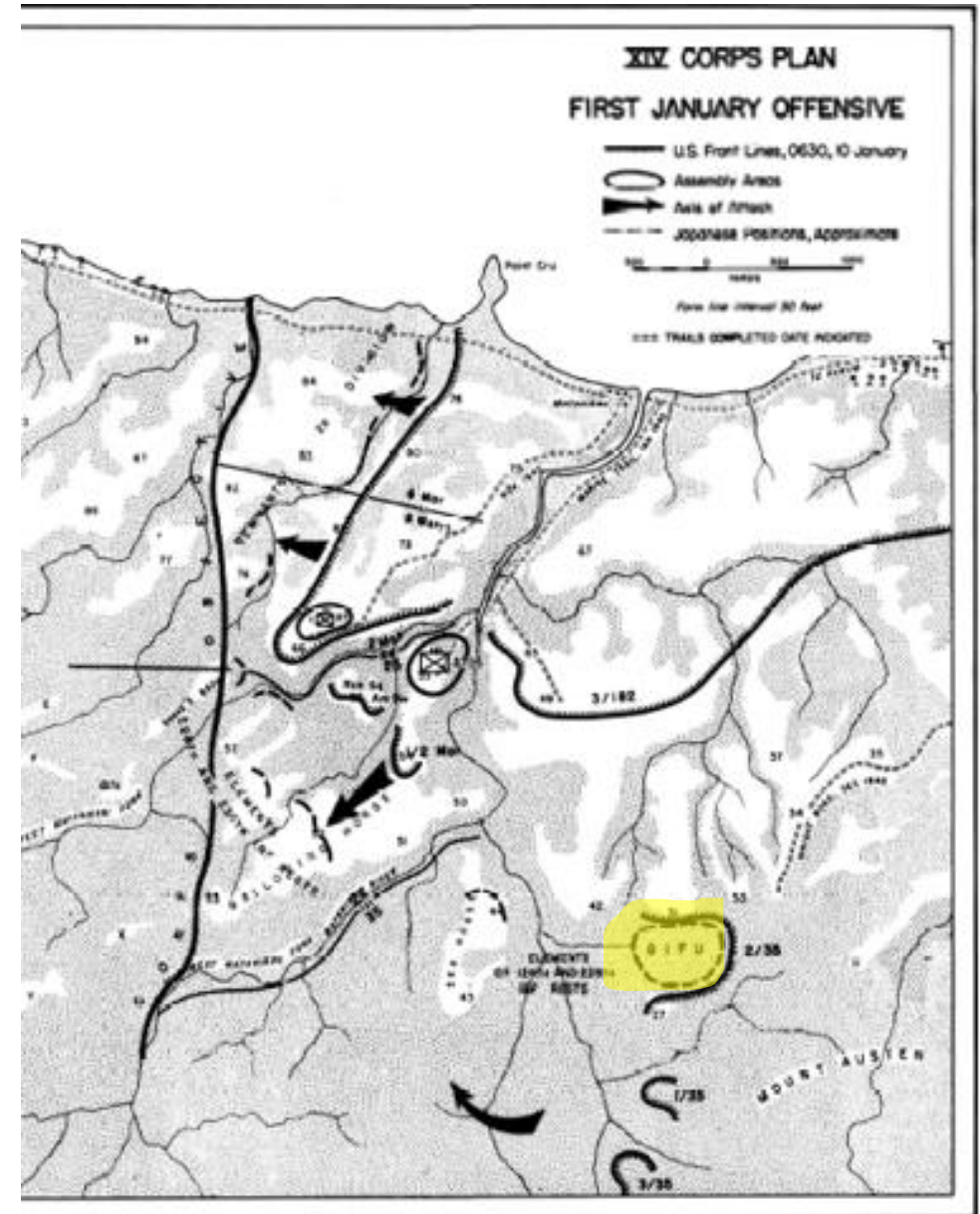
22 January - Guadalcanal

- The CAM Division on 22 January had opened a full-scale attack with the 6th Marines on the right by the beach, the 147th Infantry in the center, and the 182d Infantry on the left.
- Again the Marines had called on naval gunfire. Four destroyers provided close support to CAM troops who faced more cross compartments forward of Kokumbona. A radio spotting frequency was assigned the four SFCPs (Shore Fire Control Parties) serving with the assault battalions to call in fire missions from the destroyers.



22 January - Guadalcanal

- In response to requests, made as early as 12 January, three light tanks were released to 2/35.
- The tanks, originally property of the Marine Corps were now crewed by members of 25 Div Reconnaissance Squadron.
- Engineers managed to scratch a track up to the stronghold, but the rigorous climb left only one tank operational on 22nd January.

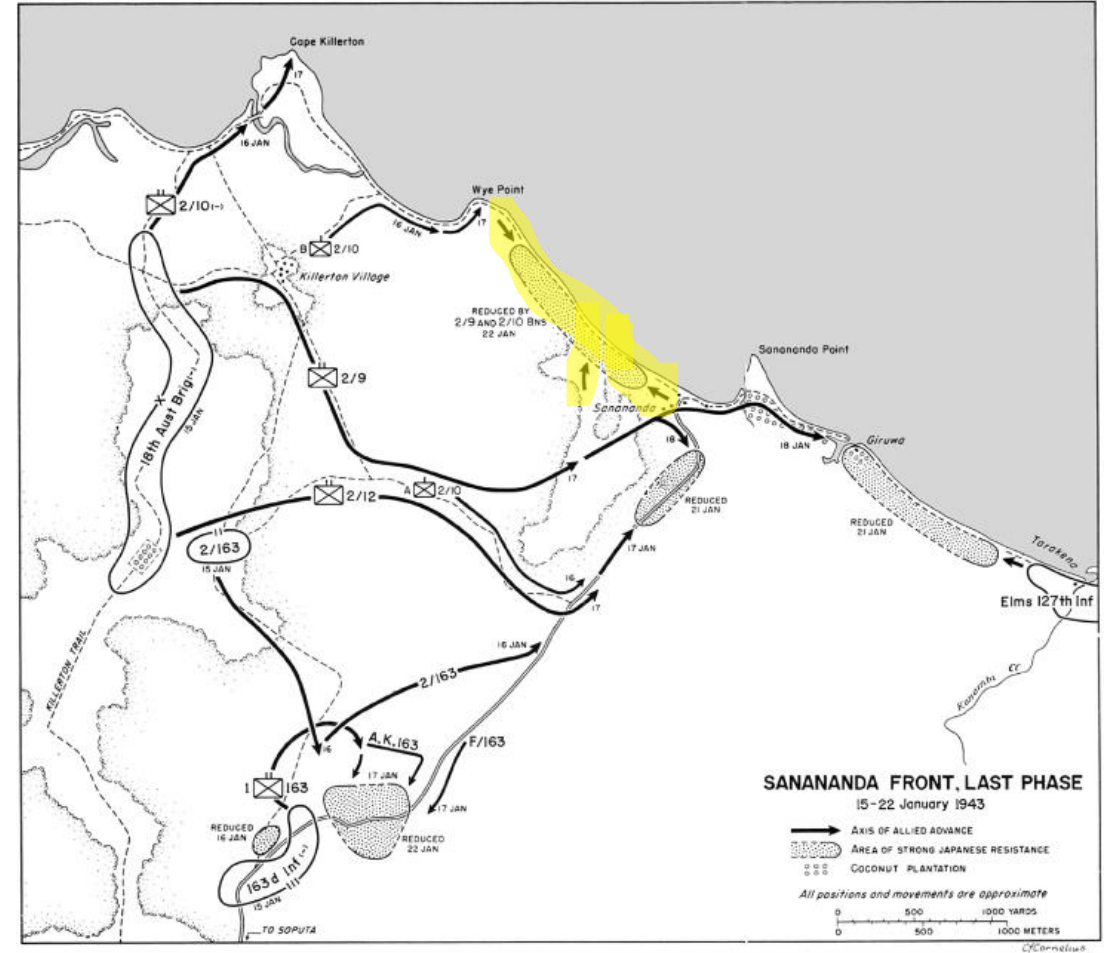


22 January - Guadalcanal

- Captain Teddy Deese, leader of the reconnaissance troop, took personal command of this vehicle and at 10.40 plunged into the stronghold on the left flank of Company G/25.
- One officer and a wedge of 15 riflemen followed Deese to provide close protection.
- Deese churned entirely through the position blasting three pillboxes.
- He then made another penetration at 15.00 disposing of five more pillboxes, one of which took four rounds of 37mm HE at close range before it crumbled.
- Deese had breached a gap 200 yards wide through which 2/35 surged to occupy a new line beyond the rim of pillboxes.

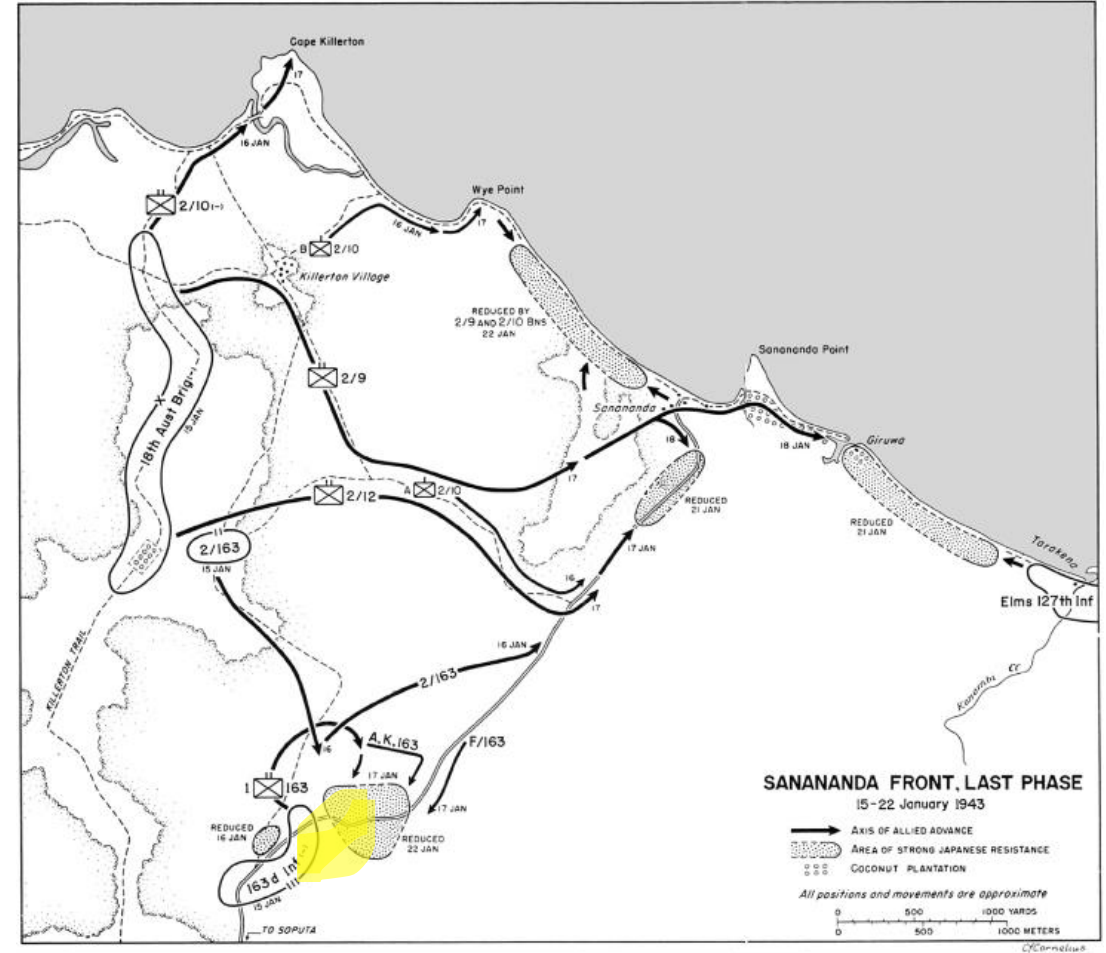
22 January - Sanananda

- The enemy position west of Sanananda was quickly reduced the next morning (22nd) with the help of artillery fire from Hanson Troop.
- The three attacking forces made contact along the beach at 1315, a meeting that marked the end of organized resistance in the area.
- More than 200 Japanese had been killed in the two-day attack.



22 January - Sanananda

- The next morning (22nd) at 1047, Companies I and L attacked the east perimeter from the south. As before, the troops went in on the run behind the last mortar salvo and again caught the Japanese still in their holes or trying to leave them.
- The position was overrun by 1152, and the mop-up was completed by 1300. This marked the end of all organized resistance on the M.T. Road.
- By evening the mop-up on either side of the road was complete. Giruwa had already been reduced some hours before.
- The 18th Brigade and the 127th and 163d Infantry Regiments had suffered 828 casualties since being committed to the Sanananda front.
- The Papuan Campaign was over, six months to the day after it had begun.



22 January - Sanananda

- At Sanananda and Gona the Allies captured a great deal of enemy matériel, including rifles, machine guns, mortars, antitank guns, land mines, radio transmitters, signal equipment, medical supplies, tools of all kinds, and a dozen motor vehicles, some with U.S. Army markings. They buried 1,993 of the enemy, and took more than 200 prisoners, including 159 Japanese.
- The final count of enemy dead in General Vasey's area since the beginning of operations was 2,537--959 of them killed at Gona and in the area west of Gona.
- The Australians on the ground, especially at Gona, realized that Japanese troops in considerable numbers were slipping past them. Because of the thick and tangled jungle terrain, they were able to intercept only a portion of them. The Australians estimated at the time that about 700 Japanese had succeeded in getting through their lines.
- The cost of the victory had not been light. The Australian troops who fought on the Sanananda side of the river sustained some 2,700 casualties. The American units on this front suffered 798. The casualties incurred in clearing the 7th Division area were thus about 3,500, roughly 700 more than at Buna.

22 January - Air

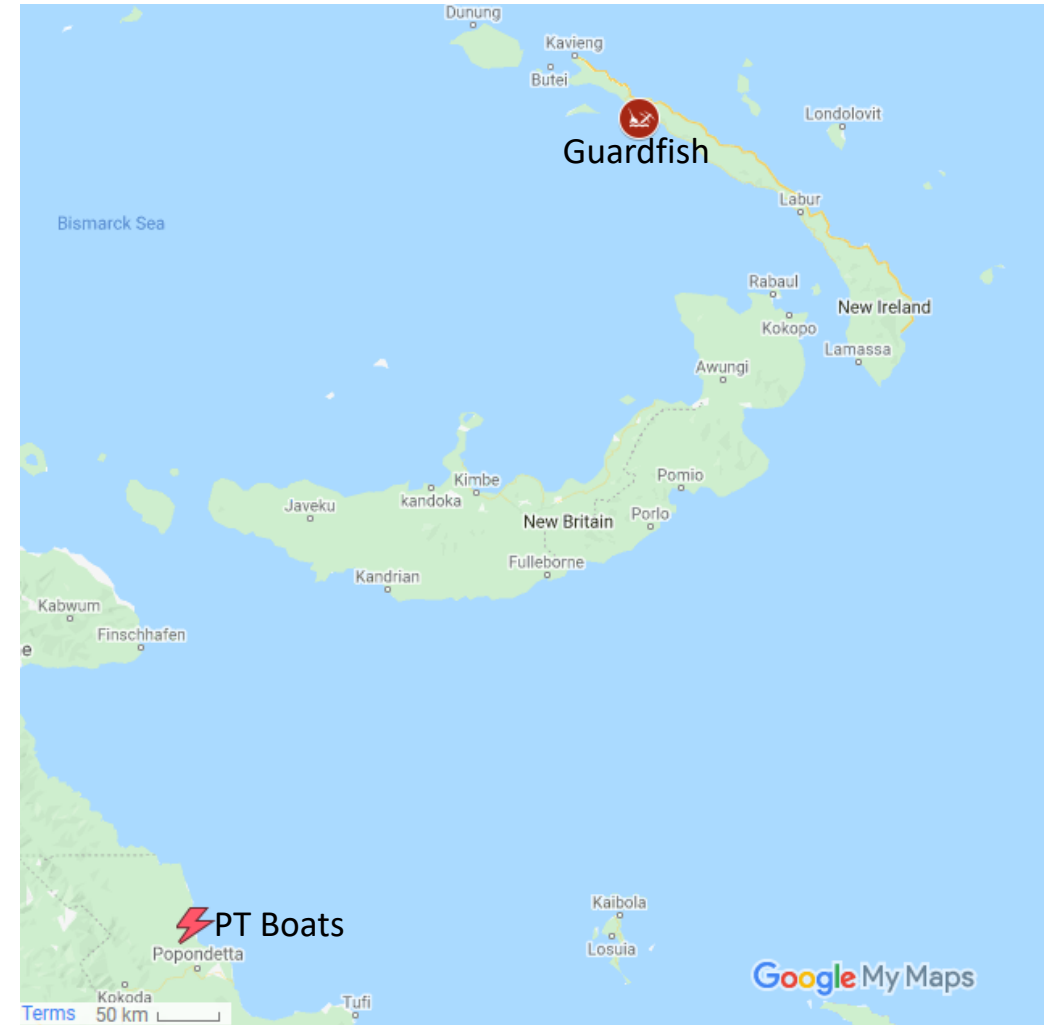
- B-25's bomb Lae terrace area.
- B17s and B-24's bomb Simpson Harbor and shipping and searchlights at Rabaul before dawn, and attack vessel off Amboina. In Simpson Harbour 5 Liberators bombed from approx 7000 ft between 0350 and 0500/22 while between 0405 and 0440 /22 3 fortresses came down to 250-ft. or lower and with delay action 500lb bombs scored hits on 4 vessels.
 - 2 vessels (2-4000 tons) seen to sink
 - 1 vessel (6-8000 tons) - 3 direct hits - left burning and later seen to explode
 - 1 vessel (6-8000 tons) - 2 direct hits - left burning and a series of explosions followed.
- A-20's strafe small boats in Baden Bay and at Woiba I.
- Probably three enemy aircraft bombed Milne Bay at 2120/22. No damage or casualties.
- Two small coastal vessels sighted east of Vella Lavella on course 225°, speed 12 knots, were attacked by nine dive bombers escorted by seven Grummans at 1425/22. No hits claimed but Grummans strafed the ships.
- Weather rcn aircraft finds Kiska closed in and flies negative search mission for 2 missing B-24's. For first time weather airplane draws AA fire through overcast at Kiska, suggesting that the Japanese have fire-control radar.
- 9 P-40's bomb and strafe Nsopzup and hit T/O S of town.

23 January - Sea

- American radio intelligence found the Vila area on Kolombangara associated with aviation units.
- Photographic reconnaissance found an air base under construction and it was also suspected of being a staging point for supplies to Munda.
- Halsey tasked Ainsworth's cruisers and the Saratoga Air Group with shutting it down.
- Ainsworth was found by Japanese search planes on the afternoon of January 23rd but he feinted towards Munda and lost them after dark. He took 2 cruisers and four destroyers into Kula gulf for the shoot. With a spotter in a black cat overhead they fired 2,000 six inch and 1,500 five inch in half an hour.
- The Americans withdrew taking advantage of every rain cloud and using measured doses of radar directed 5 inch anti-aircraft fire to avoid the Japanese search aircraft.

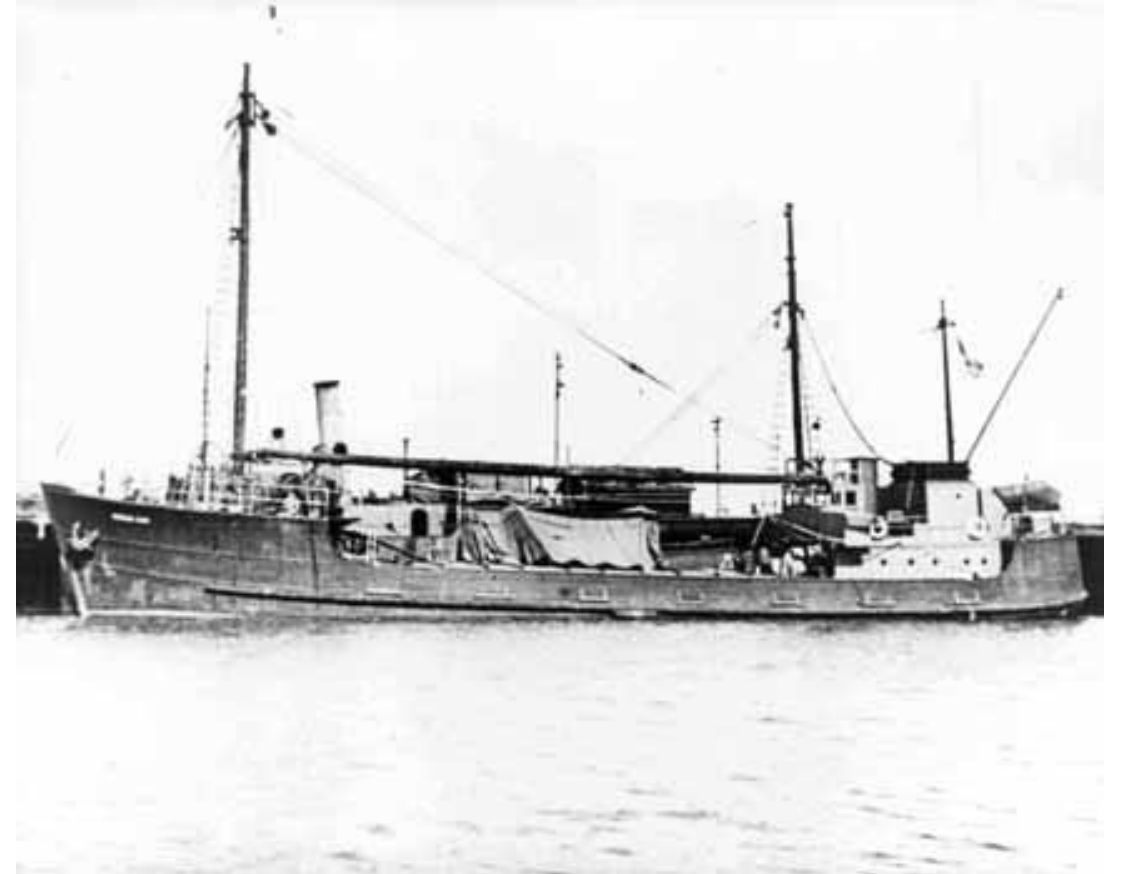
23 January - Sea

- "Gympie" departed Sydney at 2255/22 and "Zane" at 0130/23 to render assistance to the Peter Burnett. "ARUNTA" is also en route the scene of action ETA 1600/23.
- A Minekaze-class destroyer was torpedoed and sunk in the Gazelle Channel south of Kavieng at 2°47'S 150°38'E by USS Guardfish.
- 2 motor torpedo boats attacked enemy barges a mile offshore at the Kumusi River mouth during the night 22-23/1. Both barges were left beached and one of them was smoking.



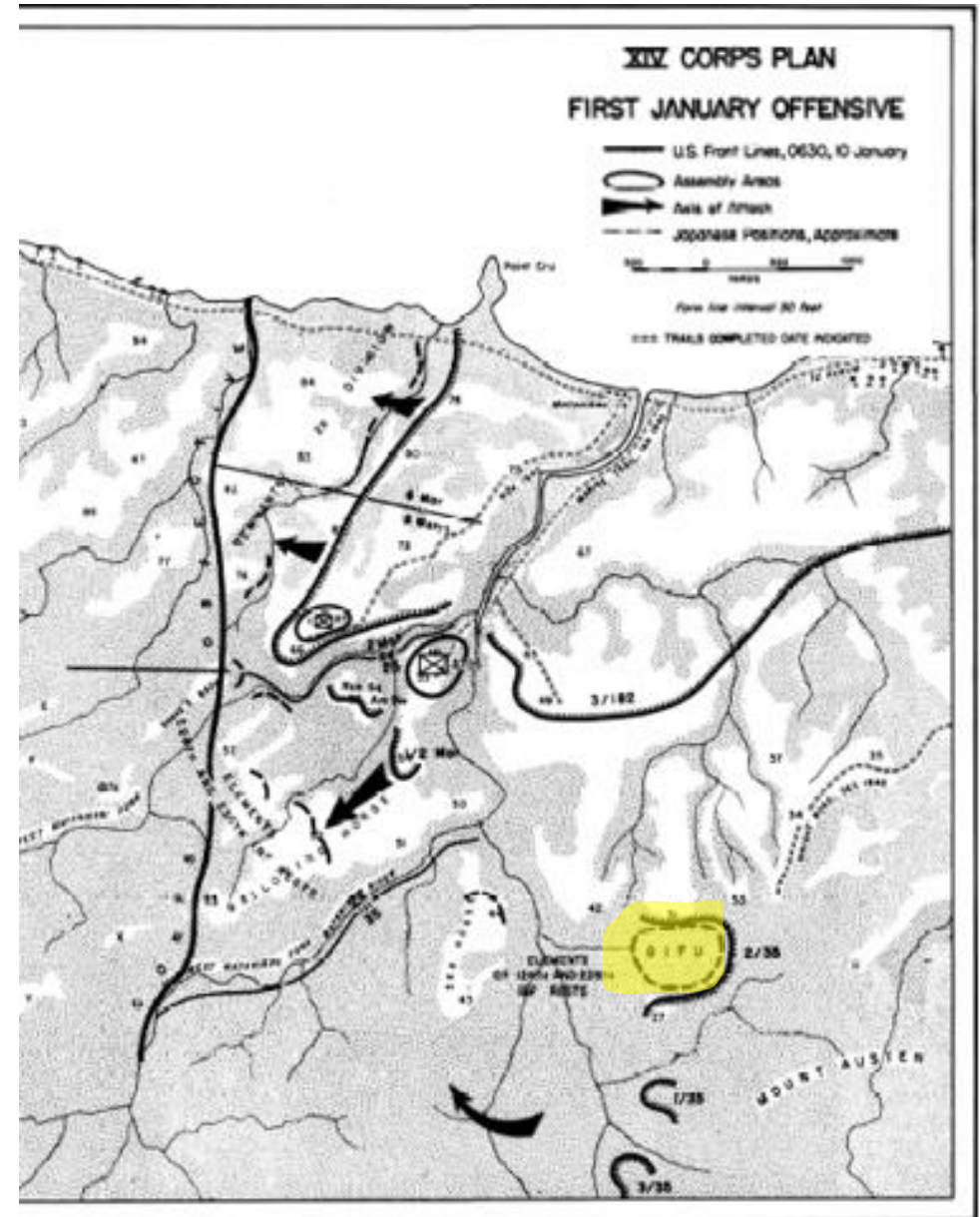
23 January - Sea

- The remaining survivors from Patricia Cam drifted southwards in a strong current, and finally a landing was made on a small islet at 3.30 a.m. on Saturday, 23rd January.
- All but two—E.R.A. Moffitt, and Ordinary Seaman Johnston who were last seen at dusk on the 22nd clinging to some wreckage —got safely ashore.
- Here Cameron and the third native died.
- The survivors had no food other than oysters and some edible roots shown to them by the two native survivors.



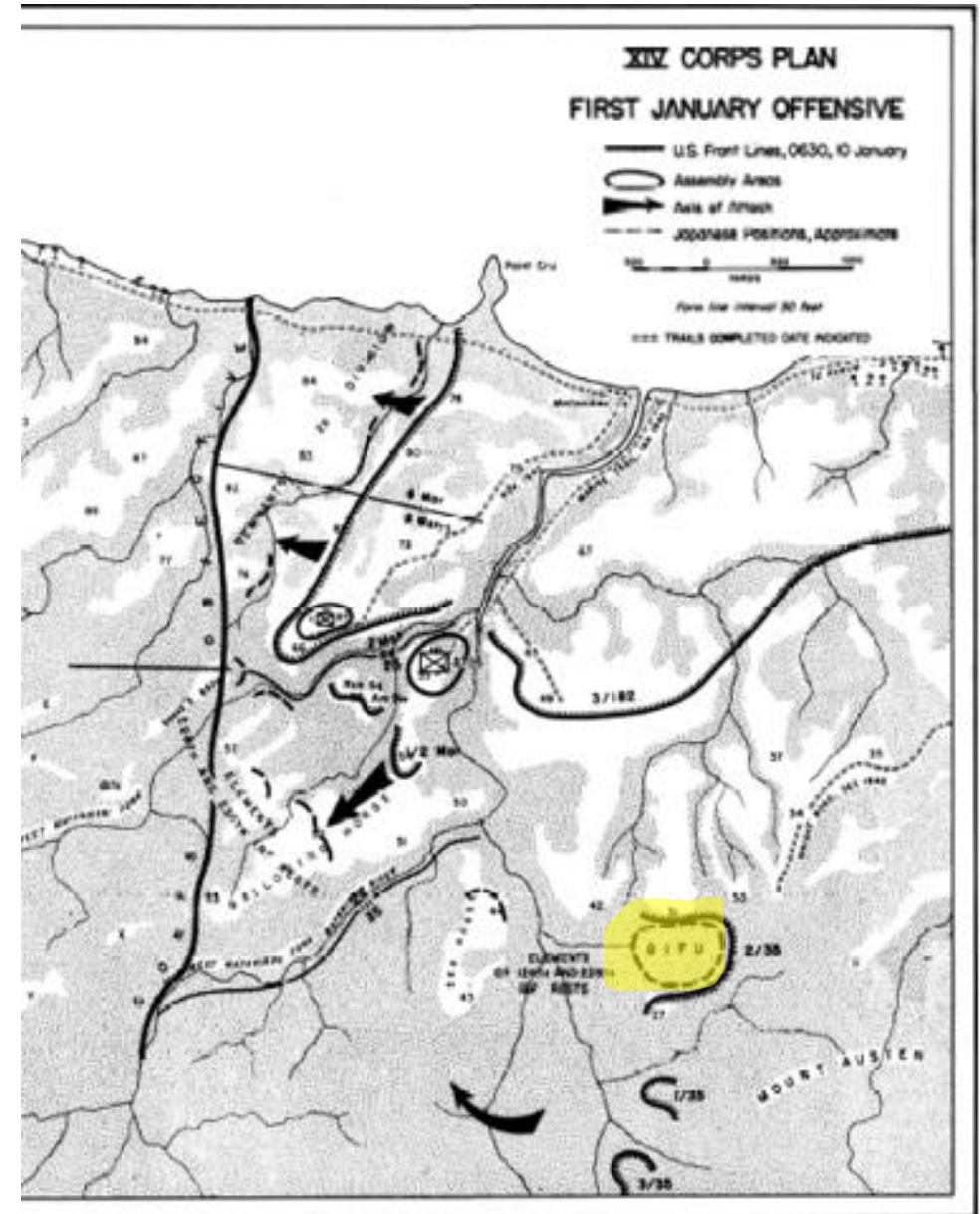
23 January - Guadalcanal

- At 02.30 on the 23rd about 100 shouting Japanese, armed with pistols hand grenades and rifles, rushed out of the stronghold at the American line held by the F and anti tank companies.
- A violent 20 minute skirmish left 85 Japanese dead and 3 captured.
- Inspection of the bodies in the morning revealed 2 majors, 8 Captains and 15 Lieutenants.



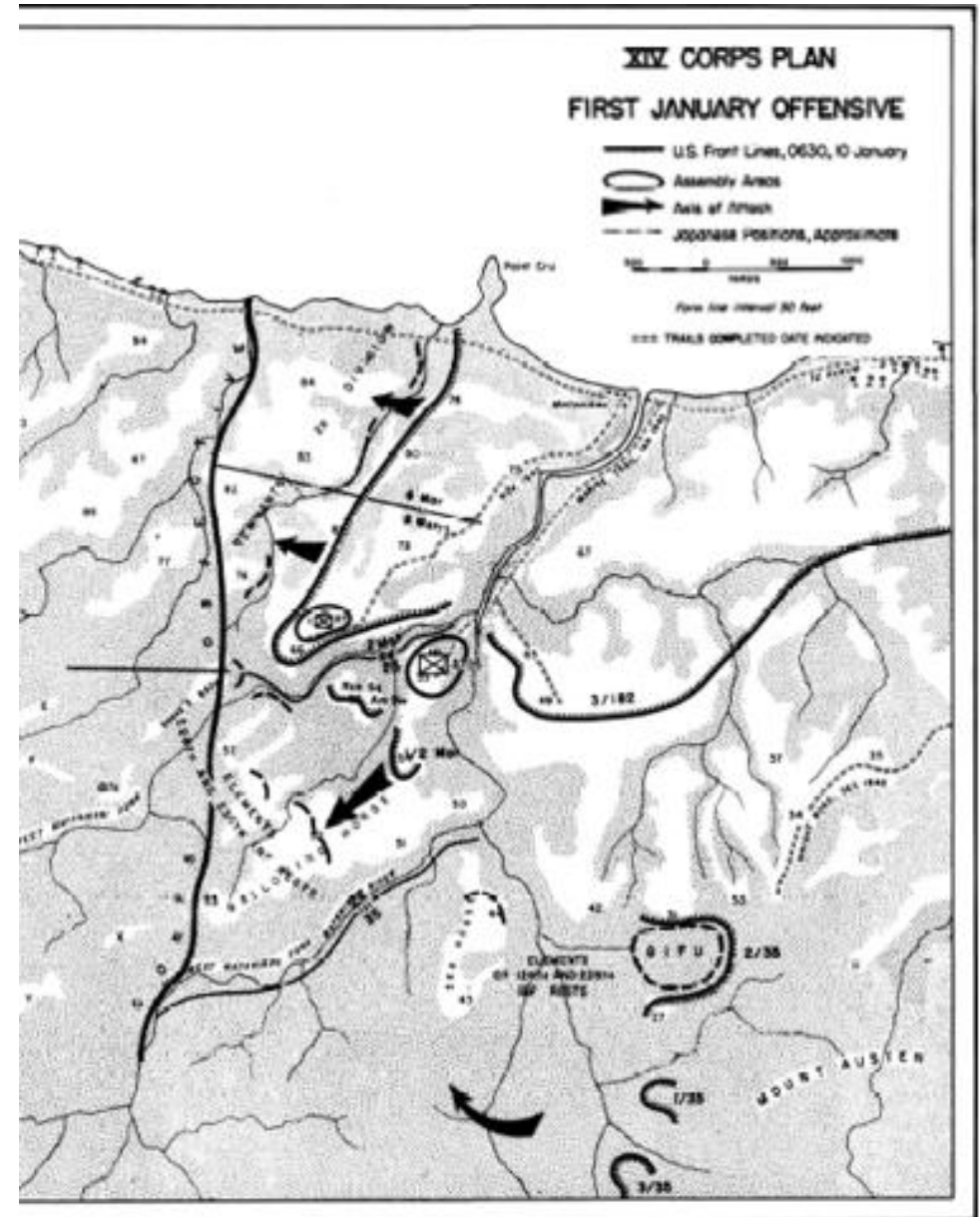
23 January - Guadalcanal

- Major Larsen put his battalion in skirmish order and advanced.
- By sunset the Americans had taken the stronghold at the cost of only one wounded.
- The second Battalion 35th Infantry lost 64 killed taking the stronghold, making 175 killed by all 5 battalions involved in the siege.
- It captured 40 machine guns, 12 mortars, 200 rifles and 38 swords. It set Japanese killed at 431.



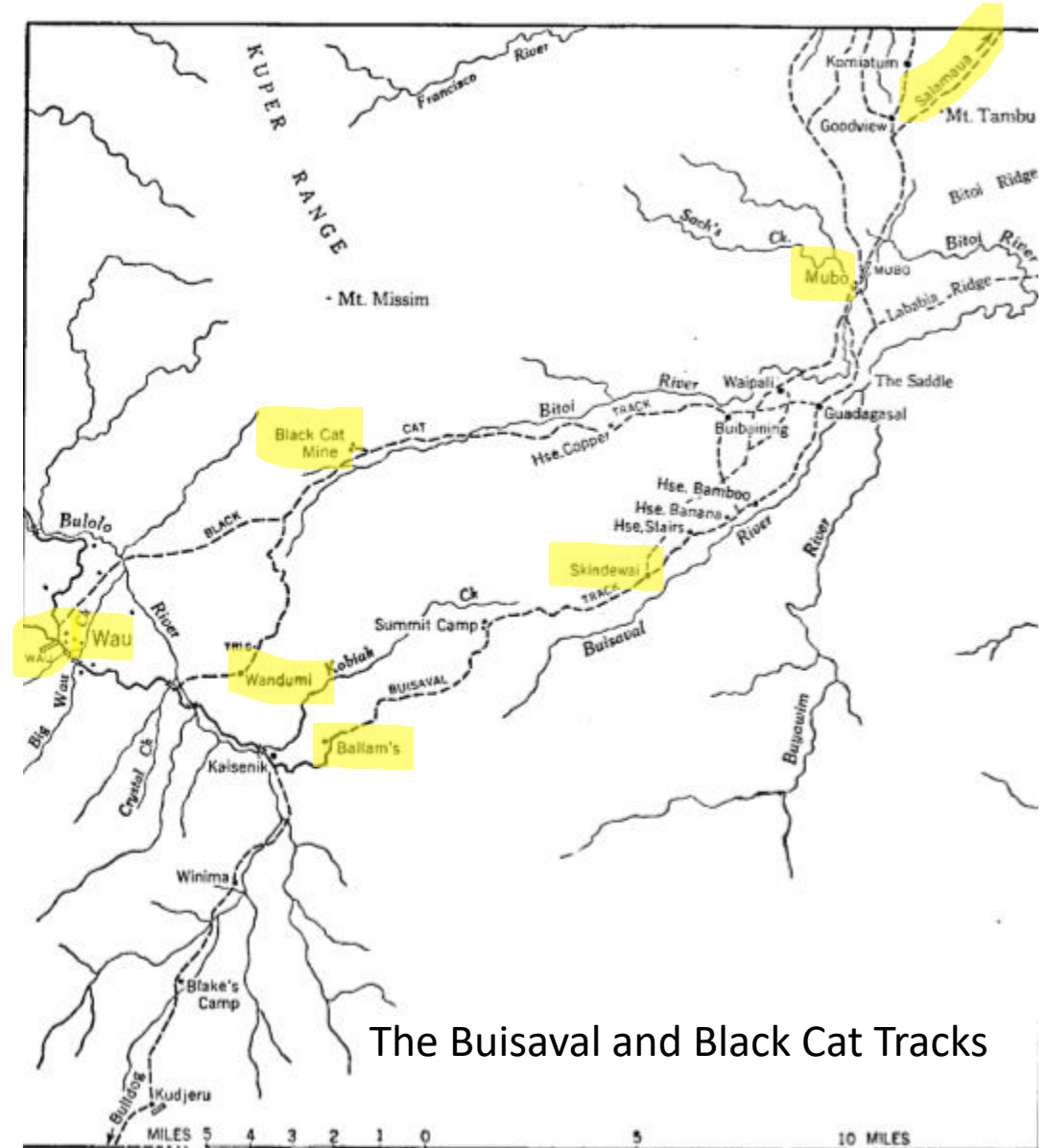
23 January - Guadalcanal

- The attack along the coast continued on 23 January when the 27th Infantry occupied Kokumbona, but by this time most of the enemy already had slipped away along the coast.
- Marines in the CAM Division ran into the strongest opposition, and they were stopped the first day by about 200 Japanese in a ravine west of Hill 94.



23 January - Wau

- When Moten had the news of the first sightings he sent Captain Winning (who had recently returned to Wau leaving only some 55 of his company out with MacAdie) with about 30 of his men to the Black Cat Mine.
- Nevertheless the position was still by no means clear and the precise axis of the Japanese thrust at Wau (if one were coming) was still undefined.
- Each day's delay meant that the Australians would be in a stronger position: on the 23rd 31 air transports arrived at Wau bringing additional men of the 2/6th Battalion and more supplies;



23 January - Air

- B-17's attack A/Fs at Rabaul and shipping off Cape Gazelle.
- B-25's pound supply dumps in terrace area of Lae.
- B-24's, operating individually, hit Madang and Finschhafen, and attack transports N of Rabaul and at Simpson Harbor.
- No. 18 squadron undertook their first squadron operation on 23rd January when nine Mitchells were over Dili, but poor visibility prevented the release of their bombs.
- Probably two enemy a/c were over Milne Bay at midnight 22-23/1. Material damage has not yet been assessed. At 0530/23, about six enemy aircraft were over again and dropped bombs causing slight damage only.
- Port Moresby - At about 2230/22, probably 4 enemy a/c dropped bombs in the vicinity of Kila aerodrome and seaplane anchorage. At 0300/23, one or more a/c were over the area and dropped bombs.
- 24 P-40's of 78th Ftr Sq fly from Barking Sands, Kauai, in the Hawaiian Is to Midway (where they carry out patrols until 23 Apr 43). This flight of about 1,100 nautical mi is the longest over-water massed flight of single-engine planes made as of this date. The 78th replaces the P-40's of the 73d Ftr Sq on Midway.

23 January – Report to the White House

/In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 22, General MacArthur reports that organized resistance in the Sanananda area has ceased. Three "flying fortresses", carrying out a pre-dawn low-level attack on shipping at Rabaul, hit and sank two medium-size vessels and scored direct hits on two large ships, both of which were observed to be on fire and badly damaged.

24 January - Sea

- On 16 January USS Wahoo had sailed from Brisbane on her third war patrol, commanded by the newly appointed Lt Cmdr Dudley "Mush" Morton (photo).
- Wahoo's orders were to reconnoiter Wewak. There was a problem: Wahoo had no charts of the harbor. However, it turned out that Motor Machinist's Mate Dalton "Bird Dog" Keeter had bought a cheap school atlas while in Australia. It had a map of New Guinea with a small indentation labeled "Wewak". With that as a reference, a blowup of the Navy chart was made.
- On 24 January 1943, Wahoo dove and proceeded to penetrate Wewak Harbour. She sighted a Japanese destroyer with RO-class submarines nested alongside. The destroyer was getting underway, so Wahoo fired a spread of three torpedoes at the moving target from 1,200 yd, all missed aft. Another torpedo was fired, which the destroyer avoided by turning away, continuing through 270 degrees of a circle and headed straight for Wahoo, whose position was marked by the wakes of the steam torpedoes.



24 January - Sea

- At a range of 800 yd Wahoo fired her last bow torpedo. This hit amidships, breaking the destroyer's back.
“Apparently her skipper ... saw our last torpedo heading toward him and put the rudder over to try to miss it, and by swinging himself broadside to it he signed the destroyer's death warrant.” Wahoo had no difficulty escaping from the area. Despite heavy damage.
- Photos taken in the morning of 24/1 showed that the Vila Plantation buildings had been completely destroyed, together with one wharf and 6 A.A. gun emplacements. The area appeared well worked over by the naval bombardment.



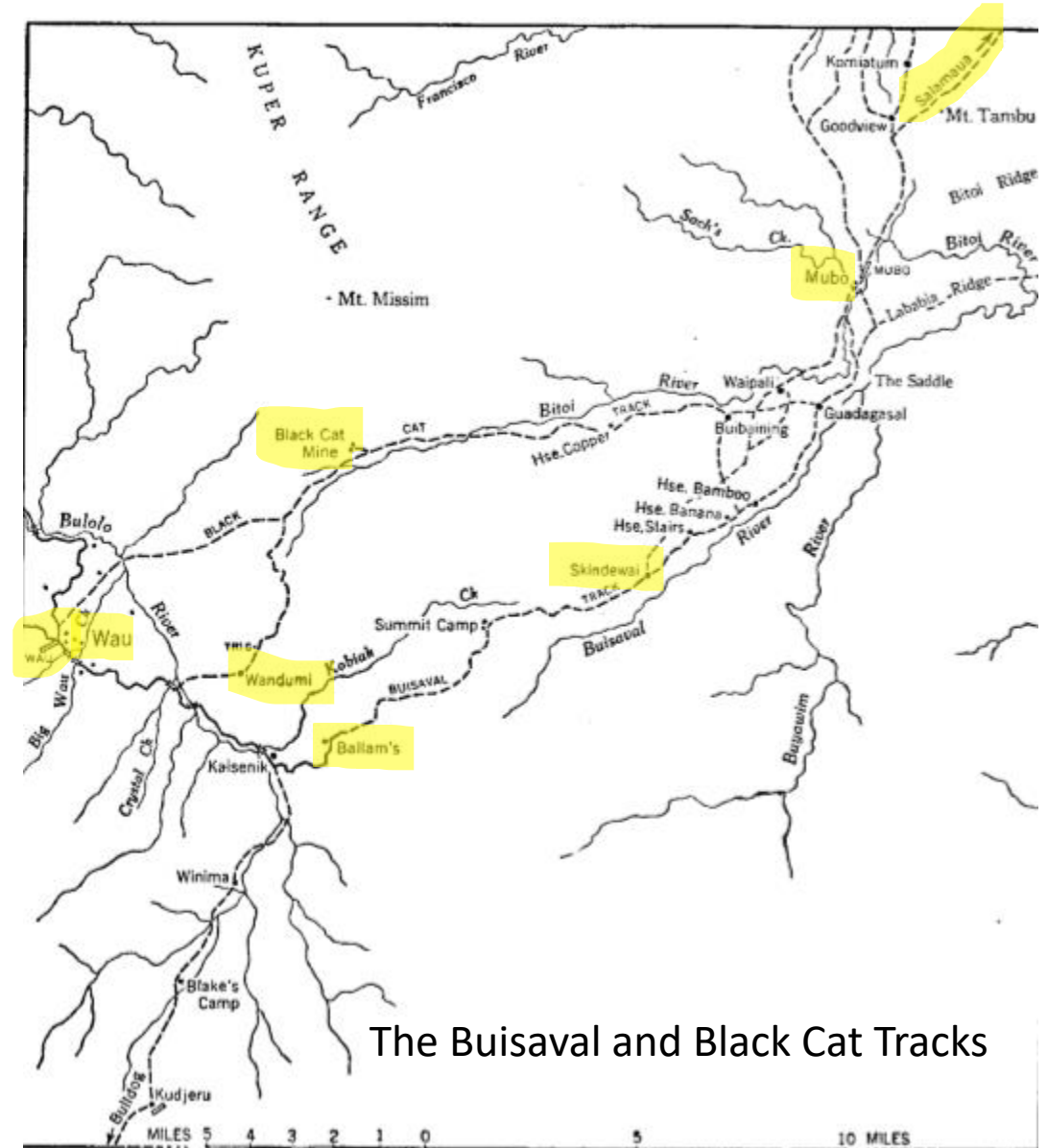
The destroyer photographed through the periscope of USS *Wahoo*.

24 January - Guadalcanal

- With the help of the close-in naval gunfire adding its weight to artillery, air, and infantry weapons, this opposition was overcome by noon of 24 January when the CAM Division made contact with the 25th Division on the high ground above Kokumbona.
- XIV Corps maintained the momentum of its western advance by resupplying its attacking divisions over the beach at Kokumbona, where the Tokyo Express had often unloaded and ordering the attack to push on toward the Poha River, a stream some 2,500 yards beyond Kokumbona.
- The 2d Battalion, 27th Infantry met opposition in the high ground south and west of Kokumbona and attacked on 24 Jan.

24 January - Wau

- On the 24th 34 planes brought more stores again, the leading elements of the 2/5th Battalion (some 81 all ranks including the commander, Lieut-Colonel Starr) and engineers of the 2/8th Field Company.
- On the 24th Winning had indications that the Japanese were on the move in the vicinity of the Black Cat.



The Buisaval and Black Cat Tracks

24 January - Air

- The naval bombardment of Vila was followed up at 08.00 on the 24th by an air attack by 24 SBDs, seventeen TBFs and eighteen Wildcats of Saratoga's air group, which swept over the Vila area dropping 48 light and 92 medium bombs. They destroyed the one remaining dock and silenced the only 2 remaining A.A. positions and destroyed stores along the beach area. The aircraft had staged through Guadalcanal and returned to their ship the same day.
- Rabaul - 8 B17s attacked shipping in harbour midnight 24/1 dropping bombs on a 2000 ton vessel, causing a large explosion and scoring one hit on another vessel. Final assessment of damage is that one 2000 ton probable ammunition ship was hit and blew up with a very violent explosion. Another unidentified ship was hit leaving a large hole in her side.
- B-25's hit supply dumps in terrace area of Lae.
- Single B-24's attack runways at Cape Gloucester and Gasmata, and bomb Dili.
- B-24's mount a 9-plane strike against docks at Rangoon. Hits are scored on the wharves, storage areas, and a 6,000-ton vessel in the harbor.
- P-40's bomb and strafe ammo stores at Shaduzup.

24 January - Air

- At 1340 on 24th fifty eight Zeros reached Guadalcanal in the first daylight raid since November.
- A faltering scramble in variable weather succeeded in putting only eight Wildcats and six P38s in contact with the raiders.
- A flight of four Wildcats from VMF-121 claimed three Zeros and a P38 pilot claimed one more.
- The Cactus Airforce suffered no losses.

24 January - Strategy

- The Casablanca Conference wound up on 24th January.
- Attended by Mr Churchill, President Roosevelt, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Planners, the Conference confirmed the "Beat Germany First" strategy decided by the British and American leaders in January 1942 and drew up plans for the immediate and near-future conduct of the war.



24 January - Strategy

- It was agreed that the security of sea communications constituted the first charge on Allied resources;
- that the immediate target after the final defeat of the enemy in North Africa should be Sicily; and that,
- subject to the prior need to capture Sicily, strong American forces were to be assembled in Britain in anticipation of a cross-Channel invasion of France.
- Simultaneously with the Allied offensive in the Mediterranean, the heaviest possible air attacks were to be maintained on Germany from Britain by night and day.
- In the war against Japan, pressure would be applied in a British autumn campaign to recapture Burma.
- In the Pacific, operations for the capture of Rabaul and the clearing of the enemy from New Guinea would continue;
- and if resources permitted, American operations against the Marshall and Caroline Islands would be implemented.

25 January – COIC

III. ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Renewed offensive against Guadalcanal.
- (2) Consolidation Lae-Salamaua area, ~~with infiltration into Papua beach-heads and possible offensive activity east New Guinea area.~~
- (3) Consolidation Timor-Arafura Sea - Dutch New Guinea including possible attempt to occupy Merauke.
- (4) Possible carrier-borne raids from NEI area against strategic points on west and NW coast Australia.

Laundz
For A/DIRECTOR C.O.I.C.
G.H.Q., S.W.P.A.

25 January – Sea

II. NAVAL INCIDENTS

X (1) Sydney - Air and surface searches for "PETER H. BURNETT" on 24/1 failed to locate her but her estimated position at 0500/25, given in a signal originated by "PETER H. BURNETT" was 33°43'S, 161°17'E, approx 130 miles SE of the scene of the attack.

A lifeboat with 20 occupants was seen by a Catalina at 0600/25 in position 33°35'S, 160°50'E (approx 30 miles N.W. of the position given at 0500/25.

"ZANE" & "GYMPIE" are in the area.

25 January – Sea

- Gympie located torpedoed ship “PETER H BURNETT” at 1015/25 in a position 510 miles east of Sydney.
- Vessel was badly holed on starboard quarter but riding on an even keel. No immediate danger of sinking.
- “ZANE” and “GYMPIE” reported they were standing by after having picked up survivors from life-boats. All personnel now accounted for.
- “ZANE” proceeding to tow “PETER H. BURNETT” towards Sydney until tug “ST. ARISTELL” takes over tow. “GYMPIE” & “MILDURA” are providing A/S escort.



SS Peter H. Burnett under tow by HMAS Mildura

25 January – Sea

- On night 24/25/1 two PT boats attacked four enemy barges south of Kumusi River. Two barges were sunk and the other two beached. Our boats suffered no damage.
- On 25th January 1943, 12 days after he took command of the 13th Air Force, a plane carrying Brig. Gen. Twining and 14 others went missing en route from Guadalcanal to Espiritu Santo.

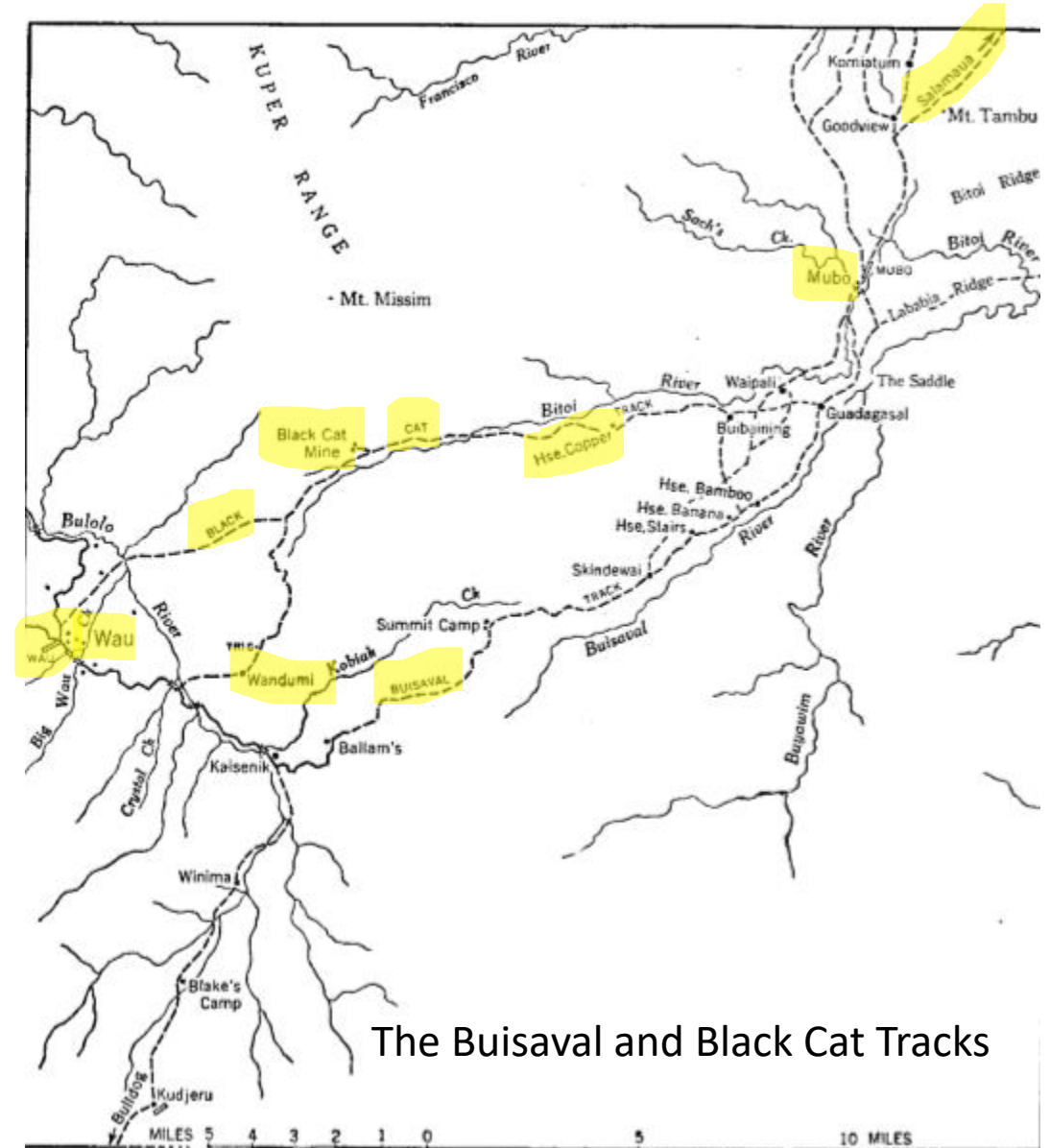


25 January - Guadalcanal

- Opposition was overcome in attacks of 24 and 25 January, and units of the regiment reached the Poha river before dark on the 25th.
- After the corps advance reached the Poha River, intelligence sources began reporting a new buildup of Japanese ships at Rabaul and in the Shortlands, and the Allied command concluded that the enemy was ready for still another attempt to retake Guadalcanal.
- Admiral Halsey deployed six task forces south of Guadalcanal, and General Patch recalled the 25th Division from the western advance to bolster the perimeter. It was the same problem General Vandegrift had faced so many times in the past, but now there were more troops and the western attack did not have to be completely stopped.
- Pursuit of the Japanese was assigned to the CAM Division.

25 January - Wau

- Starr was early on the move on the 25th along the track to Mubo, approximately half of his party moving behind him and the other half remaining at Wau.
- Next day (25th) reports from a patrol he (Winning) had out along the track towards House Copper indicated more definitely what he had already begun to suspect— that the invaders were cutting their way along a long-disused track from House Copper south-west to Wandumi.
- This was roughly parallel with and between the Black Cat Track and the Buisaval Track. It was soon to become known to the Australians as the "Jap Track".



25 January - Air

- An unidentified aircraft was over Sydney for about an hour from 0011/25. The report is graded B.2.
- B-26's and P-38's hit A/F at Munda and bomb the wharf at Repirepi, demolishing it. Other P-38's bomb installations in Rekata Bay area, Santa Isabel I.
- Raid No.101 on Port Moresby took place at 0332/25 by 2 to 6 enemy aircraft. One grounded transport aircraft was destroyed.
- 6 B-24's, staging through Midway from Oahu, carry out photo rcn mission over Wake and drop 60 bombs. They claim 1 ftr shot down.
- P-38's are dispatched too late to engage 2 float-planes bombing Amchitka.
- 5 B-25's from Argatala bomb bridge (which the enemy is striving to rebuild) at Myitnge. The S approach to the bridge is destroyed and repair work on the bridge suspended.
- 3 B-25's add to destruction at Mandalay M/Y, tearing up tracks, wrecking about 75 railroad cars, and setting the freight house aflame. 3 other B-25's inflict similar damage on M/Y at Naba.
- 6 B-24's pound Rangoon dock area.

26 January – COIC

III. ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Renewed offensive against Guadalcanal.
- (2) Possible diversionary action from the Marshalls area.
- (3) Consolidation Lae-Salamaua - Wewak area.
- (4) Possible offensive against east New Guinea area (Milne Bay).
- (5) Consolidation Timor-Arafura Sea - Dutch New Guinea including possible attempt to occupy Merauke.
- (6) Possible carrier-borne raids from NEI area against strategic points on west and NW coast Australia.

Handwritten signature
For A/DIRECTOR C.O.I.C.
G.H.Q., S.W.P.A.

26/1/43

26 January – Sea

- On 26 January, Wahoo sighted the smoke of two ships 270 nautical miles north of Dutch New Guinea at 02°04'N 140°10'E.
- Wahoo obtained a position, launched two torpedoes at the leading ship and, 17 seconds later, two at the second ship. The first two torpedoes hit the Fukuei Maru. The third passed ahead of the second freighter, the fourth hit.
- Upon observing the damage, Wahoo discovered there were two more ships; a huge transport, Buyo Maru, and a tanker. Fukuei Maru was listing badly to starboard and sinking by the stern; the second ship was headed directly for Wahoo, at a slow speed.
- Ignoring this, Wahoo fired a three-torpedo spread at the transport; the second and third hit and stopped her.



Morton (front) and O'Kane in the conning tower of *Wahoo* during an attack on a Japanese convoy off New Guinea, 26 January 1943

26 January – Sea

- Turning her attention to the second target, which was still headed for her, Wahoo fired two bow tubes "down the throat" to stop him. The second torpedo hit, but the target kept coming and forced the submarine to turn hard left at full speed to avoid being rammed. There followed so many explosions that it was hard to tell what was happening. Returning to periscope depth, Wahoo observed Fukuei Maru had sunk; the second target was still moving, evidently with steering trouble; and Buyo Maru was stopped but still afloat.
- Wahoo then headed for the transport and fired a bow tube; the torpedo passed directly under the middle of the ship but failed to explode. The sub then fired another torpedo which headed right for the stack and blew the target apart midships. The submarine then headed for the crippled freighter, which had formed up with a tanker, and both ships were moving away. Wahoo decided to let these two ships get over the horizon, while she surfaced to charge her batteries and attack the shipwrecked Japanese now sitting in about twenty lifeboats. The fire from Wahoo was intended to force the Japanese to abandon their boats.
- However Wahoo had misidentified the survivors as Japanese. In fact, they were mainly Indian POWs of 16th Punjab Regiment, plus escorting Japanese. Of 1,126 men aboard Buyo Maru, 195 Indians and 87 Japanese died, including those killed in the initial sinking.

26 January – Sea

- At 0412/26, there were indications of an enemy submarine probably within 250 miles of Sydney.
- On Monday morning, the 25th January, Lieutenant Meldrum, the commander of Patricia Cam, set off with some natives by canoe for Marchinbar where, after walking 25 miles barefoot, he reached Jensen's coastwatching station at 9 p.m. on the 26th. Jensen sent natives with food, first-aid kit and other items to the island, and a message was radioed to Darwin.



26 January – Sea

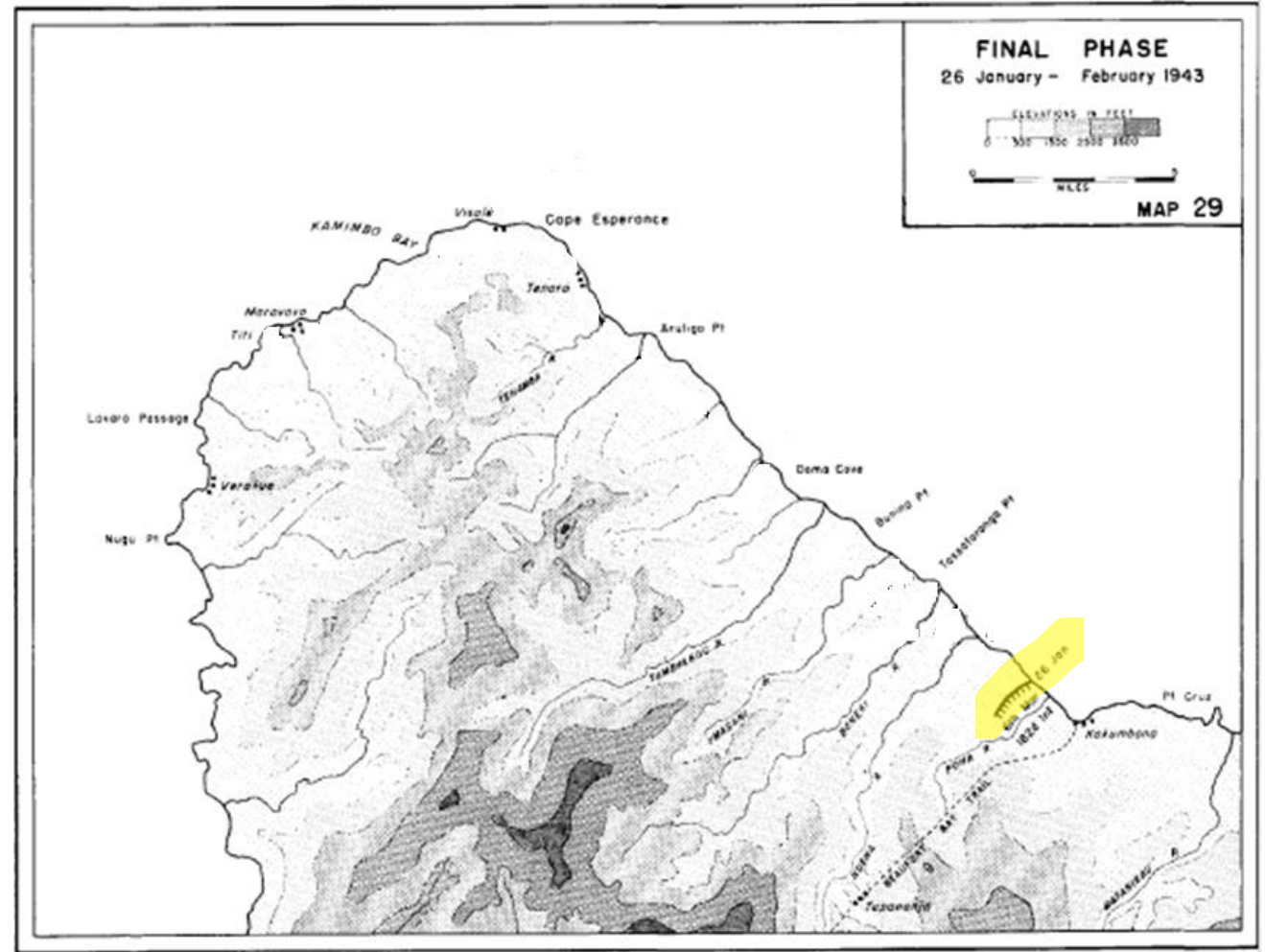
- 26 Jan The cargo ship, Ushio Maru, was torpedoed and sunk in the Philippine Sea west of Luzon, the Philippines, by the submarine USS Grayling.
- The convoy of at least 9 ships including some large transports sighted 40 miles east of Buka Passage at 1541/26 was again reported at 1704/26 off Banin Bay (N. coast Bougainville between the Passage and Tinputz Bay) moving slowly.
- At dusk 26/1 14 vessels were sighted In Buin - Faisi area.

26 January - Sea

- Very little shipping was seen in Rabaul Harbour morning 26th but a large concentration was observed between Praed Point and Duke of York Is. indicating night dispersal.
- The enemy force of 1 cruiser and 7 destroyers, which was reported at about 2220/26 30 miles off Korigole Bay course south, was located by a Catalina and bombed at 2316/26. One near miss was obtained.
- Contact was lost at 2330/26 and the aircraft believed that the force turned back.
- No confirmation or other evidence in support of this view has been received but it would appear unlikely that the force should relinquish its task when within 75 miles of Guadalcanal.

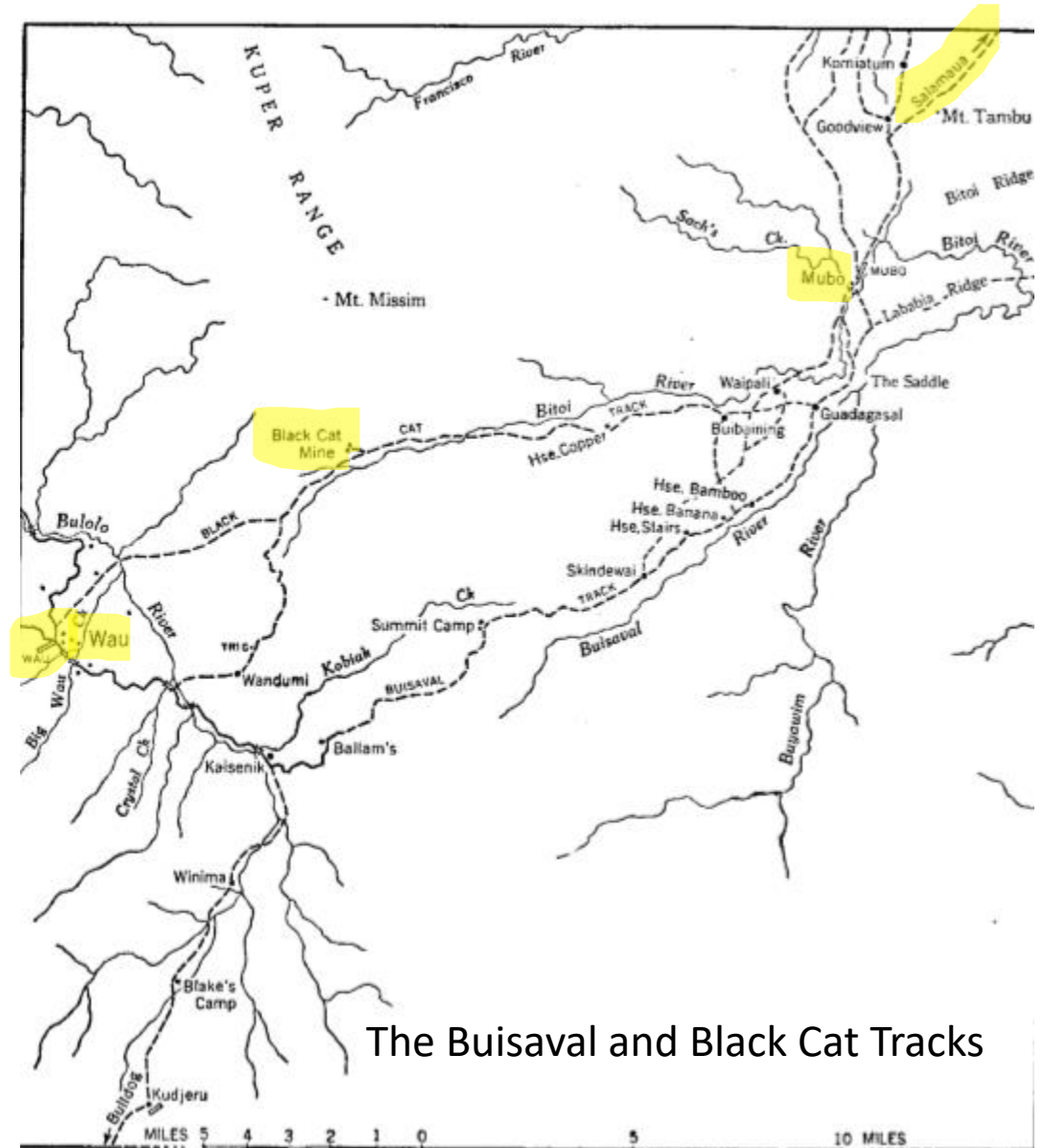
26 January - Guadalcanal

- When regiments of the CAM Division launched their new attacks early on 26 January they advanced rapidly along the narrow coastal corridor against slight opposition.
- The Marines and soldiers gained 1,000 yards the first day.



26 January - Wau

- By the 26th Moten felt reasonably sure that this new track had developed as the main axis of the advance. He decided to use the 2/6th Battalion in an aggressive movement through the Black Cat area on the assumption that his essential reserve would arrive at Wau by the 27th.
- Wood, with two platoons already at the Black Cat, one having followed Winning there, regrouped his main local strength into two companies, one under Captain Gullett and one under Captain Stewart, and set out along the Black Cat Track next day with 110 native carriers—a steep, slippery climb of about 8 hours for the laden soldiers whose sojourn at Milne Bay had not left them in good condition for mountain work.
- But the weather disappointed on the 26th and no aircraft were able to land.



The Buisaval and Black Cat Tracks

26 January - Air

- Seven B-17's bomb shipping and Rapopo airstrip in Rabaul area before dawn. Hits scored on unidentified ship which was later reported on fire. Fires were also started on shore.
- A-20's and B-25's pound Lae area, concentrating on supply storage dumps.
- B-24's carry out individual attacks on runways at Cape Gloucester and Gasmata and hit Finschhafen.
- Raid No.102 on Port Moresby took place at 0325/26 by 2 bombers. No damage or casualties.
- B-17's bomb A/F on Ballale I.
- P-39's, along with Navy aircraft, bomb AA positions and revetment area at Munda.
- 3 B-24's, taking off from Funafuti in the Ellice Is, fly photo rcn mission over Tarawa, Maiana, Abemama, Beru, and Tomama in the Gilberts. The HBs attack merchant vessel in lagoon at Tarawa.
- P-40's of 73d Ftr Sq fly from Midway to Kaneoke NAS in the Hawaiian Is, a distance of about 1,400 mi, thus breaking the record set by the 78th Sq on 23 Jan.
- 7 B-24's bomb shipping and dock area at Rangoon.
- 12 B-25's bomb Mandalay M/Ys.
- 15 P-40's and 3 B-25's hit town area and bridge at Shaduzup, railroad SW of Meza, and Naba M/Y.

27 January - Sea

- The last of the twenty corvettes, built in Australia for the Admiralty but Australian manned, H.M.A.S. Tamworth left Fremantle on 27th January 1943.
- She escorted the tanker SS Athelduke to Diego Garcia then proceeded to Colombo to join the British Eastern Fleet for Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf convoy escort duty.



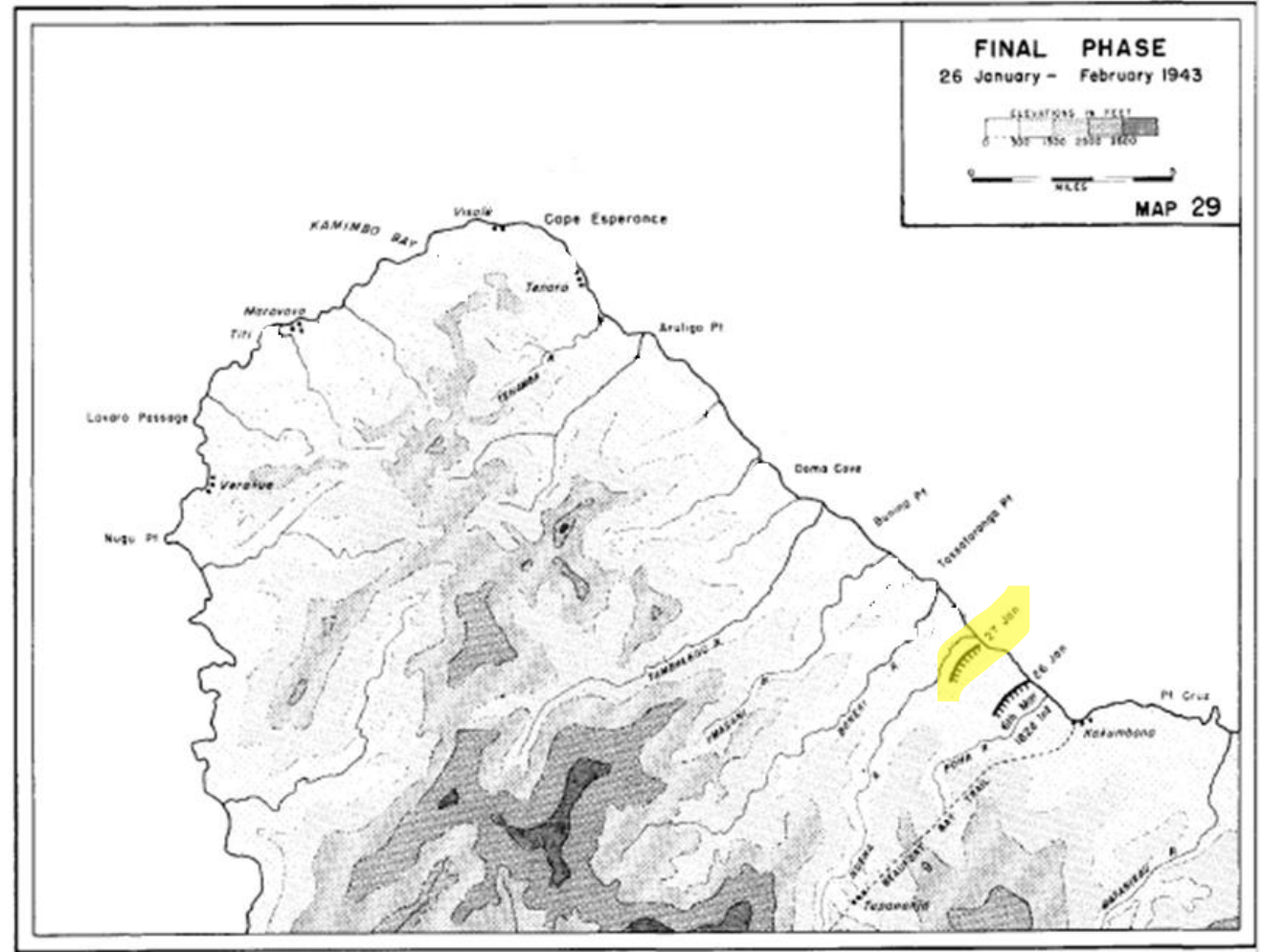
HMAS Tamworth's ship's company, Fremantle, January 1943.

27 January - Sea

- On 27 January 1943, *Wahoo* made contact with a convoy of eight ships, including two freighters and a tanker. The tanker was unarmed and appeared to be having trouble maintaining convoy speed.
- Morton decided to surface astern of this ship, which would panic the convoy and cause it to scatter. After the convoy broke up, *Wahoo* would use her deck gun to sink the tanker.
- Morton's plan worked, up to a point. She surfaced and the convoy scattered, but before Morton could have the deck gun manned a Japanese destroyer escort charged out of a rain squall onto the scene, forcing *Wahoo* to run for it.
- The submarine had no option but to retreat since she had previously expended all torpedoes. After coming into firing range and opening fire on *Wahoo*, forcing her under, the persistent destroyer escort dropped six depth charges, none close.
- Morton reported to base: "Another running gun battle today. Destroyer gunning, *Wahoo* running"

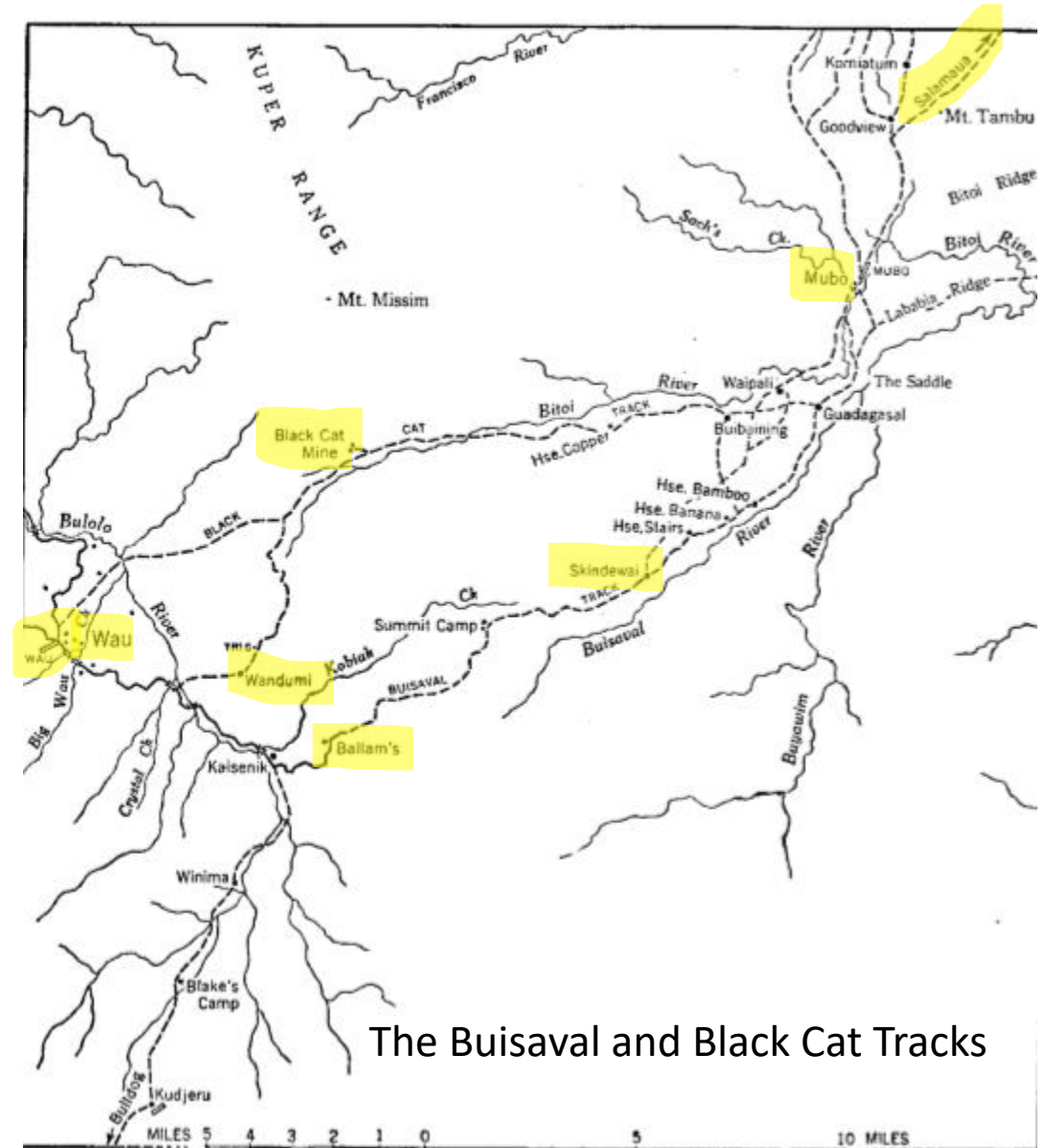
27 January - Guadalcanal

- The CAM Division again advanced rapidly along the narrow coastal corridor against slight opposition.
- The Marines and soldiers gained another 2,000 yards on the 27th, the second day of the attack.



27 January - Wau

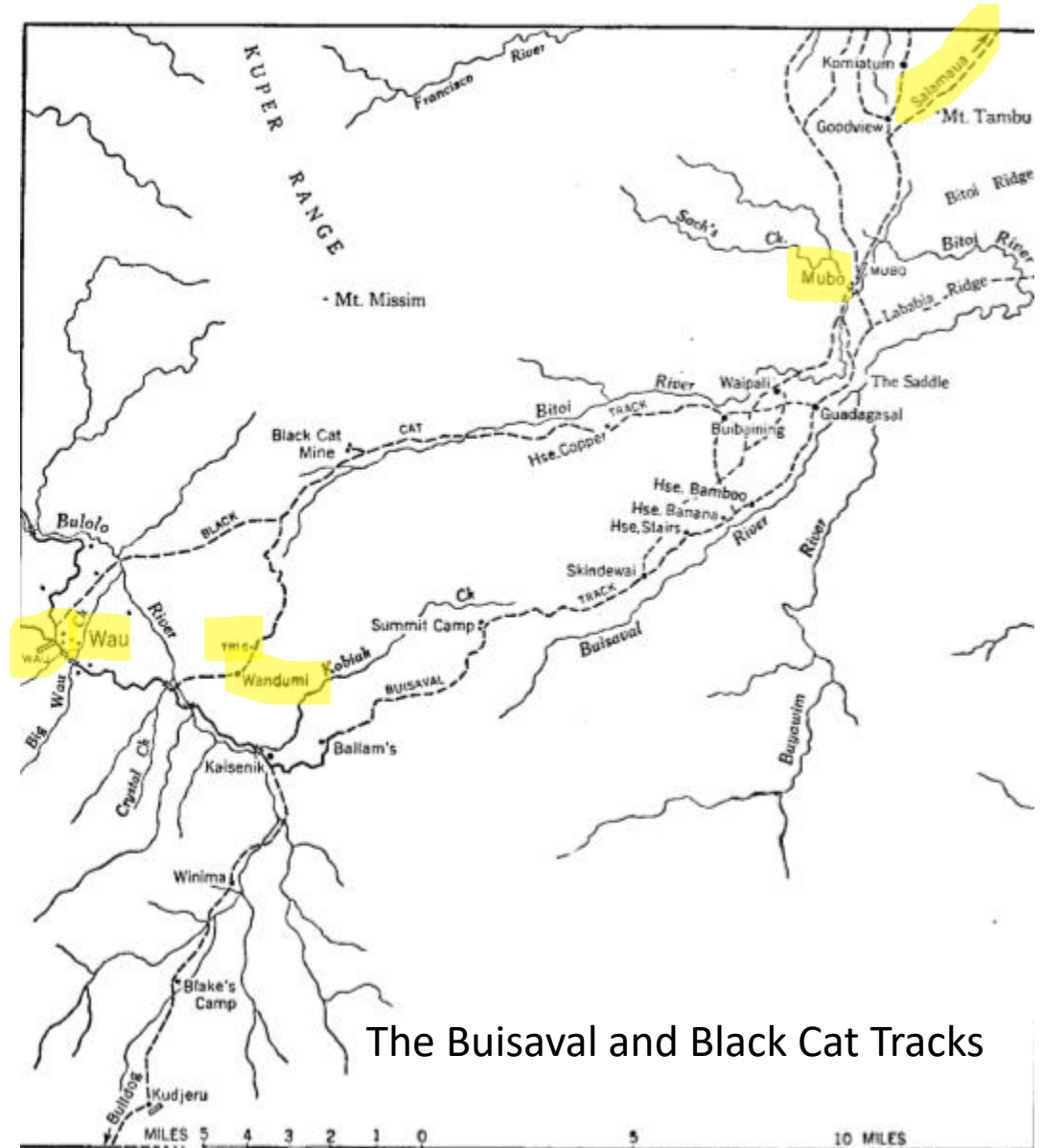
- Moten planned that, having taken Winning's group into his command, Wood would attack from the Black Cat towards House Copper on the 28th.
- At the same time Jones, having moved "stealthily" the previous day to the track east of House Copper, would sally towards the Black Cat and fall upon the rear of the Japanese being assailed by Wood, his own rear protected by Lade and his patrol and additional men brought forward by MacAdie blocking the Mubo-House Copper track near Waipali.
- Sherlock, having previously concentrated his company at Wandumi, would attack up the Jap Track towards House Copper.
- As a preliminary Winning and Sherlock would scout offensively on the 27th.
- On the 27th the main body of the 2/5th Battalion was arriving at Wau. By noon 9 officers and 204 men had landed.
- Captain Bennett's company set out at once to stage the night at Ballam's and move on to Skindewai on the 28th.
- Starr was to take command of all troops on the Buisaval Track from the beginning of the 28th.



The Buisaval and Black Cat Tracks

27 January - Wau

- About 10 a.m. on the 27th Sergeant Wild of Sherlock's company, patrolling the Jap Track between Wandumi and Wandumi Trig, clashed with Japanese whom he thought to be setting booby traps.
- On hearing the exchange of fire Sherlock settled his company (and 2 officers and 20 men of the 2/5th Independent Company) in positions he had prepared on the kunai slopes forward of Wandumi village and waited for more news.
- Later he sent Lieutenant Kerr of the Independent Company to try to supplement Wild's report.
- When Kerr returned later in the afternoon he had little to add except that he had lost one of his men to a sniper.
- Sherlock then decided to make no further move until the following morning and camped in the village for the night, his men remaining quiet in the face of questing bursts fired blindly by the Japanese .



The Buisaval and Black Cat Tracks

27 January - Air

- Individual B-24's bomb Finschhafen town, runway on tip of Huon Peninsula, and Gasmata A/F.
- A-20's hit huts and AA positions at Garrison Hill while B-25's pound supply storage and runway at Malahang.
- During the night 26/27/1, four flights of enemy bombers in flights of 3, 3, 3 & 7 attacked Guadalcanal without causing any material damage.
- Japanese army aircraft attacked Guadalcanal midday 27. Nine Lily light bombers were escorted by no fewer than 74 Oscars. The Oscars tangled with a dozen Wildcats, six P38s and ten P40s and the battle continued all the way back to the Russels. The defenders shot down six but lost the same number themselves. The Lilies dashed in to dump bombs along the Matanikau with little effect.
- 6 B-26's and 8 P-39's attack A/F at Munda.

27 January - Air

- The destroyer and cargo vessel, sighted at 1627/27 NW of Vella Lavella heading SE, were attacked at 1740/27 by 5 Grumman torpedo planes, 9 dive-bombers covered by 9 Grumman fighters between Vella Lavella and Kolombangara.
- Dive bombers scored 2 hits on a cargo vessel and 3 near misses on the destroyer. The cargo vessel was seen smoking badly and a fighter pilot stated she was certainly sinking. The destroyer probably suffered some damage too.
- Two float biplanes attempted interception and both were shot down - one by fighters and the other by torpedo planes.

28 January - Sea

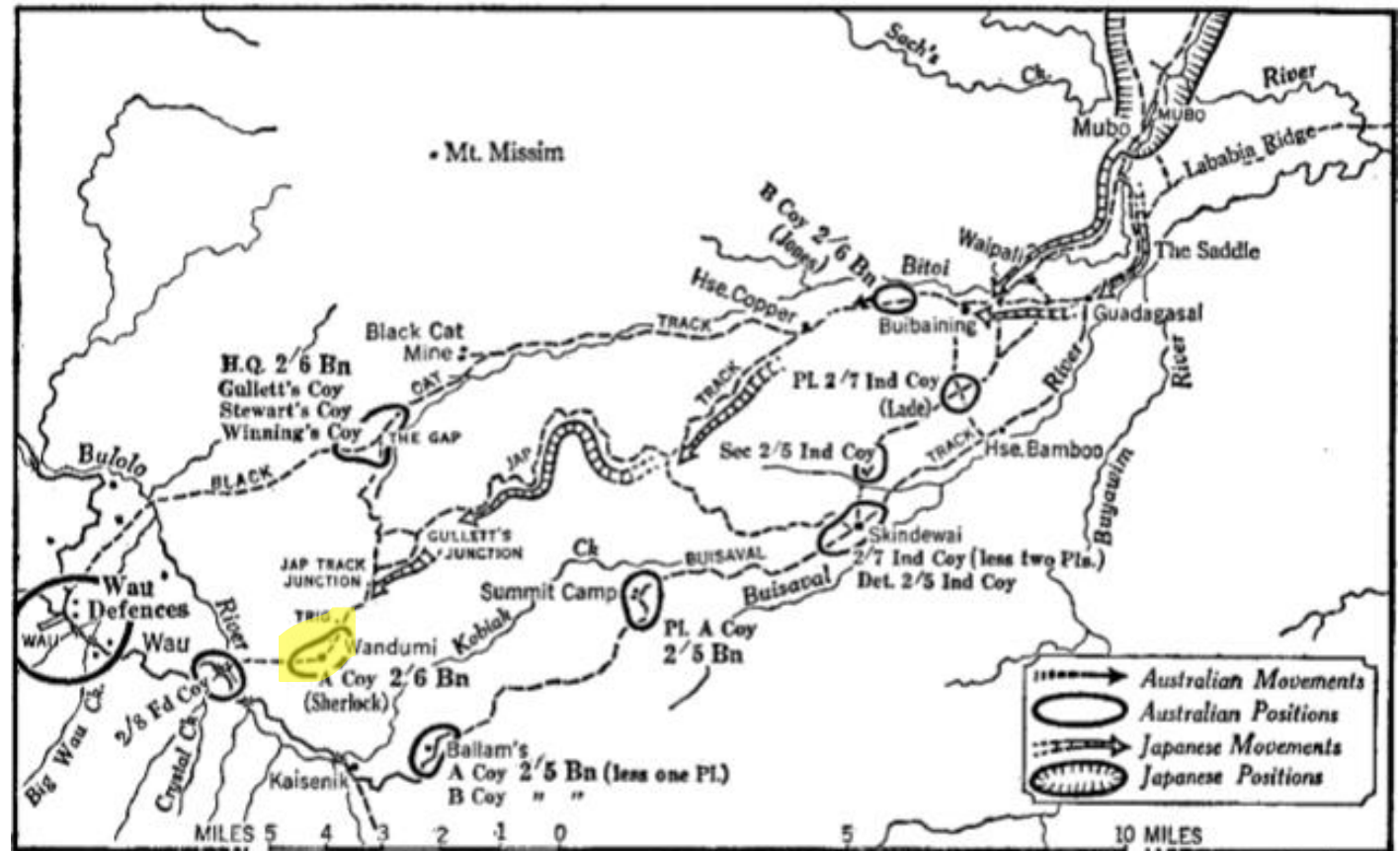
- Enemy shipping in the vicinity of Vella Lavella was attacked at about 1520/28 by 12 dive-bombers & 4 Grumman torpedo planes escorted by 2 Lightnings, 6 War hawks and 7 Grumman fighters. The torpedo planes attacked a force of 6 destroyers and the dive bombers a convoy of 1 destroyer or corvette, one cargo vessel and one tanker all in the area N, or NE of Kolombangara. A torpedo hit was claimed on one destroyer and a hit, plus near misses, on the cargo vessel; near misses were also scored on the tanker. Both the cargo vessel and the tanker were later reported smoking, the former heavily.
- Eight enemy fighters were seen over the shipping and four of them attempted interception. One was shot down. All our aircraft returned.
- The destroyers, or some of them, apparently proceeded on their SE course and were seen at 1656/28 N. of New Georgia course 110° with air cover of 9 Zeros.
- They were probably en route Guadalcanal.

28 January - Brisbane

- On 28th January 1943, Blamey wrote to MacArthur proposing new measures. These would include
 - the attachment of selected officers and non-commissioned officers from each force to units of the other, preferably at the rate of one officer per battalion and one N.C.O. per company;
 - the interchange of staff officers (a measure proposed earlier by Blamey but accepted "to a limited degree only" by MacArthur) ;
 - a concerted but unobtrusive effort by the public relations sections of each army;
 - lectures by good men chosen from each force.
- Blamey mentioned that interchange of officers and N.C.O's had produced excellent results in 1914-18.
- He informed Curtin of his proposals.

28 January - Wau

- At 4 a.m. on the 28th **Sherlock's men** were astir in preparation for their move towards House Copper.
- Ten minutes later, however, the Japanese attacked them and when Sherlock moved them back at 5 a.m. into positions on the track some 300 yards south-west of the village they had lost one killed and 4 wounded.
- In the new positions Lieutenant St John's Platoon, which had already borne the brunt of the attack on the village, was on the right and the main force of the new attack fell on them.
- St John's men inspired by their leader and Sergeant Gray (who fearlessly went out under heavy fire to bring Corporal Noble in from a forward slope where he was lying wounded) resisted all the Japanese attempts to oust them during the morning.
- They still held their ground as the early afternoon wore on.



Dispositions, dawn, 28th January

28 January - Wau

- About 12.30 p.m., Lt Cameron's platoon of Bennett's company of the 2/5th Battalion had arrived after a quick movement early that morning down from Ballam's to Kaisenik and a gruelling forced march from there over the scorched kunai ridges.
- After only a few minutes' rest the platoon moved to reinforce Sherlock's position.
- Until about 2.30 p.m. the Japanese repeatedly attacked the Australian positions frontally with mortar and machine-gun support. But, as fast as they formed up to charge, cool and well-directed Australian fire broke up the attacks.
- Then the Japanese changed their tactics. Crawling through the high kunai grass under cover of machine-gun fire they got well among St John's foremost positions.
- Sherlock himself, with the survivors from the infiltrated positions, his own headquarters, two or three commandos and Wilkinson's section, then drove with the bayonet in a demoralising counter-attack, overwhelmed the intruders and restored the positions (the tireless Gray—among others—being hit during this movement).

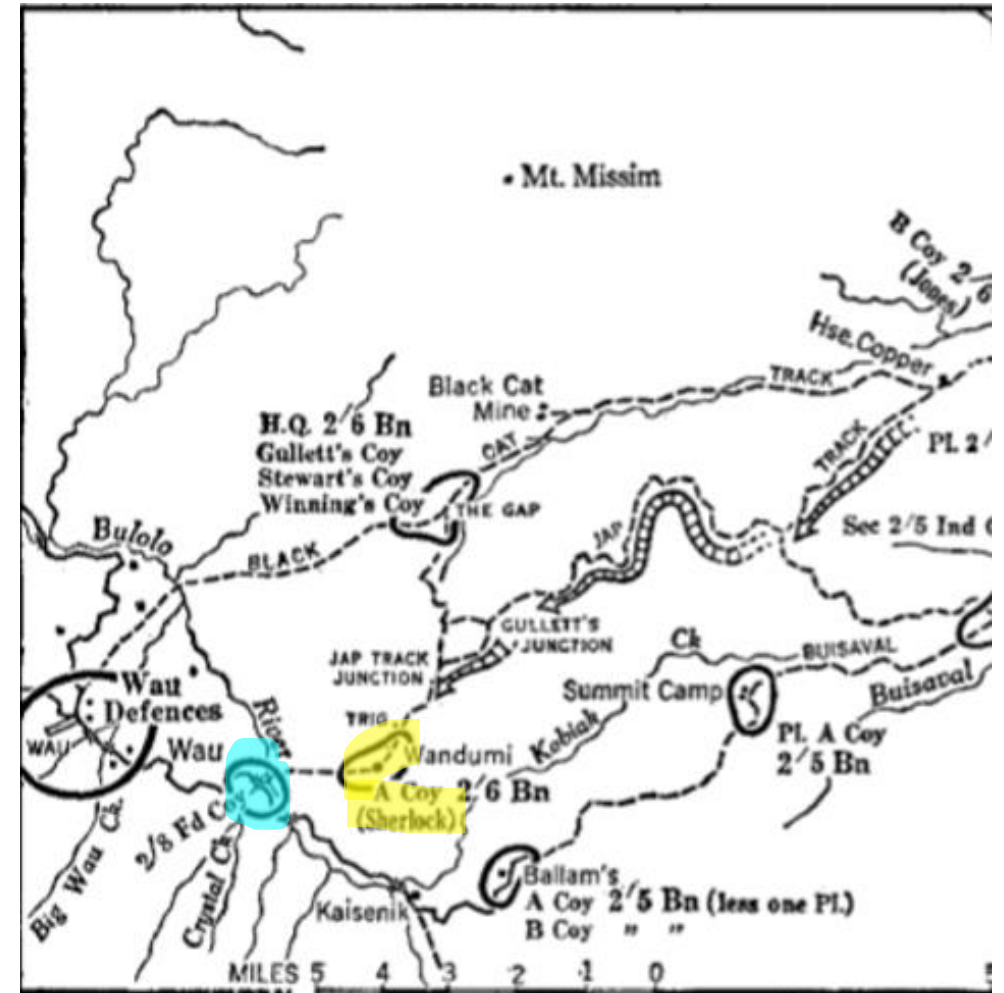
War in the Pacific 1943 - ©Jerry McBrien - Wk 13



Dispositions, dawn, 28th January

28 January - Wau

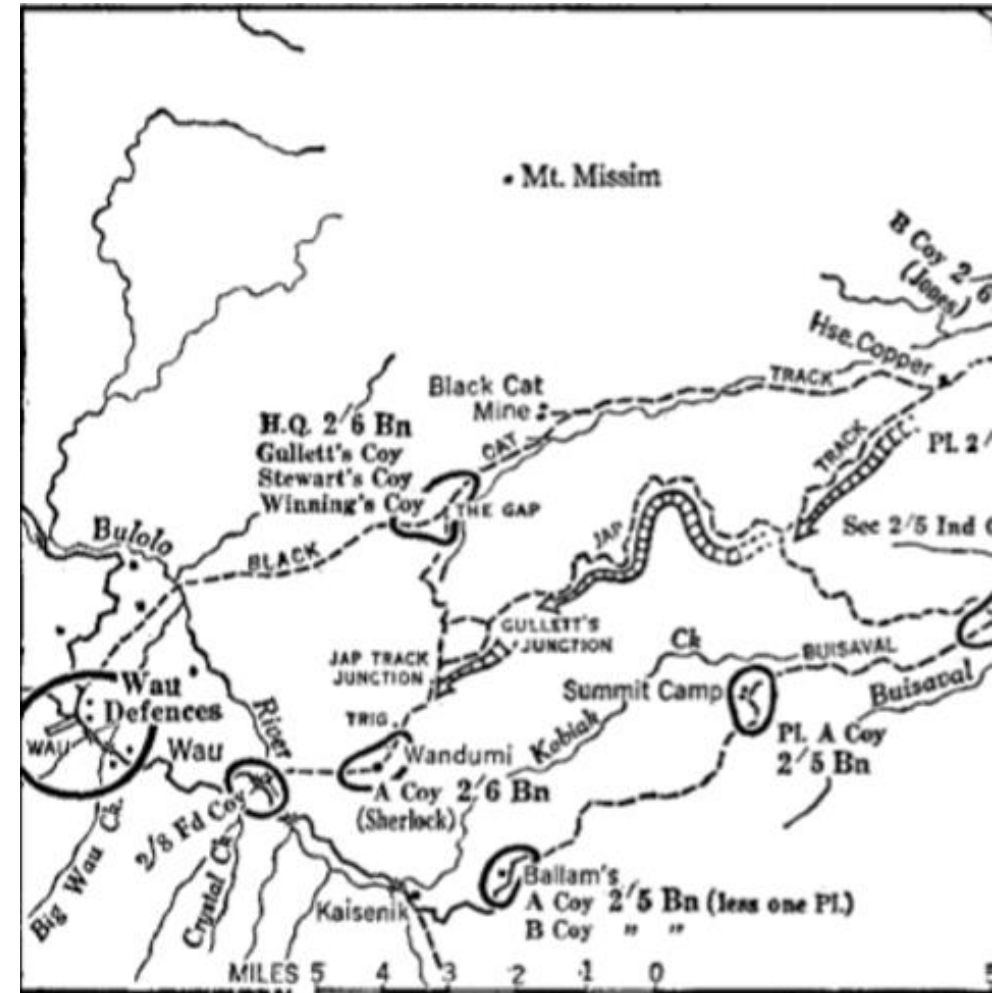
- When the **Sherlock** reported by telephone to brigade headquarters about 3 p.m. that he could see "hundreds" of Japanese moving down the track in front of him there could be no further doubt that he was in the direct line of the main Japanese advance.
- At 3.35 p.m. Moten signalled Herring: Enemy attacking in force Wandumi about four hours from Wau. Our company isolated ... Sending company from Wau to Wandumi to support. No reserve force left in Wau. You must expedite arrival of troops this area.
- "C" Company and Headquarters Company elements of the 2/5th Battalion who had landed at Wau only that morning were started out under Major Duffy to reinforce the hard-pressed Wandumi force. They came up with Sherlock about evening.
- At 6 p.m. the sweating defenders were still holding firm, though they had lost five more men in the later afternoon. By that time their mortar bombs were exhausted and their small-arms ammunition was failing (though **engineers from a 2/8th Field Company detachment at Crystal Creek** had been bringing ammunition and water forward to them, and carrying out their wounded).



Dispositions, dawn, 28th January

28 January - Wau

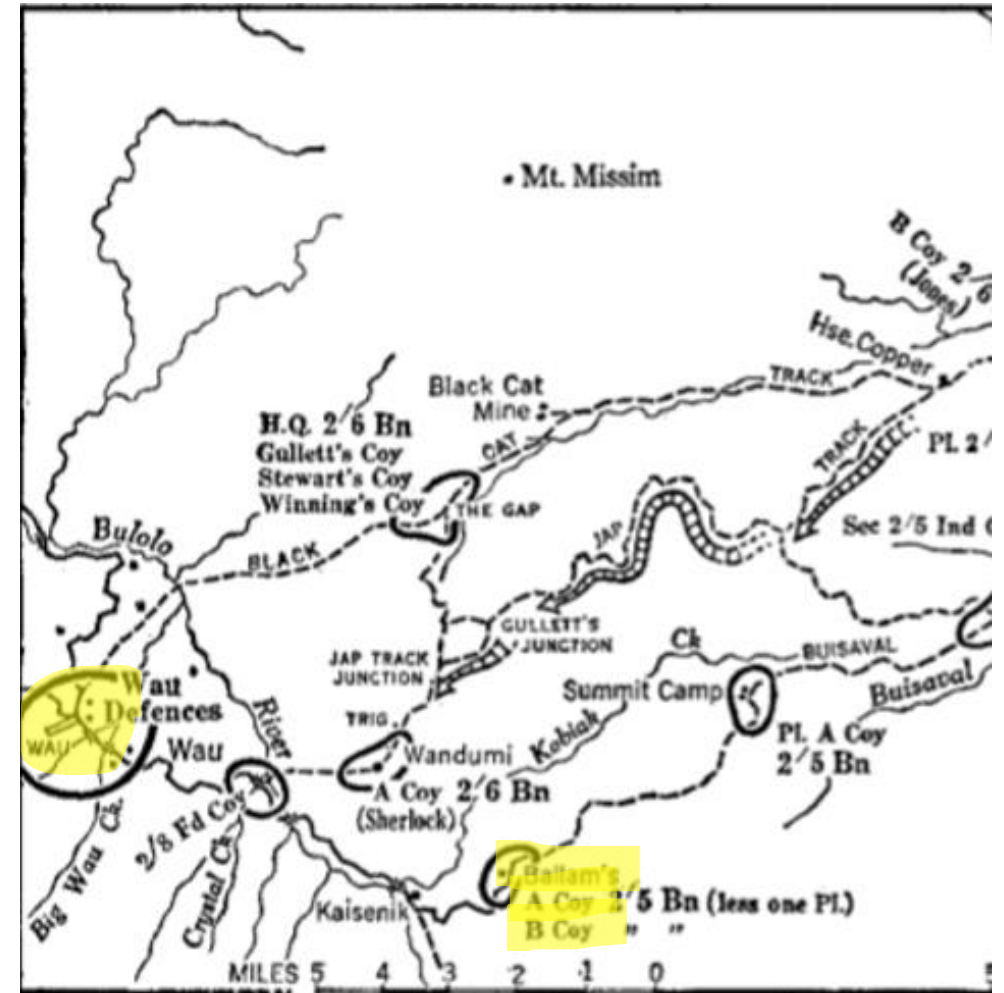
- Sherlock and Duffy then decided that, since they could not hope to hold the hundreds of Japanese closing in upon them and, in any case, these would flow round any position the Australians took up between Wandumi and the river, they would draw their force back to the river.
- This movement was already under way when Major Muir, Moten's brigade major, arrived. He informed Moten at once of the position and the latter ordered him to take command of the whole force.
- Muir then decided to hold on one of the lower features in rear of the former position.
- He reasoned that, although the nature of the country (of which sharp kunai-clad ridges falling down towards the river were the main feature) doomed holding forward towards Wandumi to failure since the Japanese were commanding the higher ground, the force should try to hold the track until morning to give the 2/7th Battalion time to build up at Wau on the 29th.
- The Japanese were all round them in the darkness and so they felt their way back to a conical-shaped hill below which, in their rear, the ground sloped down to the river. There, with bursts of fire from attackers already spread along the river in their rear breaking spasmodically over them, they waited for the new day.



Dispositions, dawn, 28th January

28 January - Wau

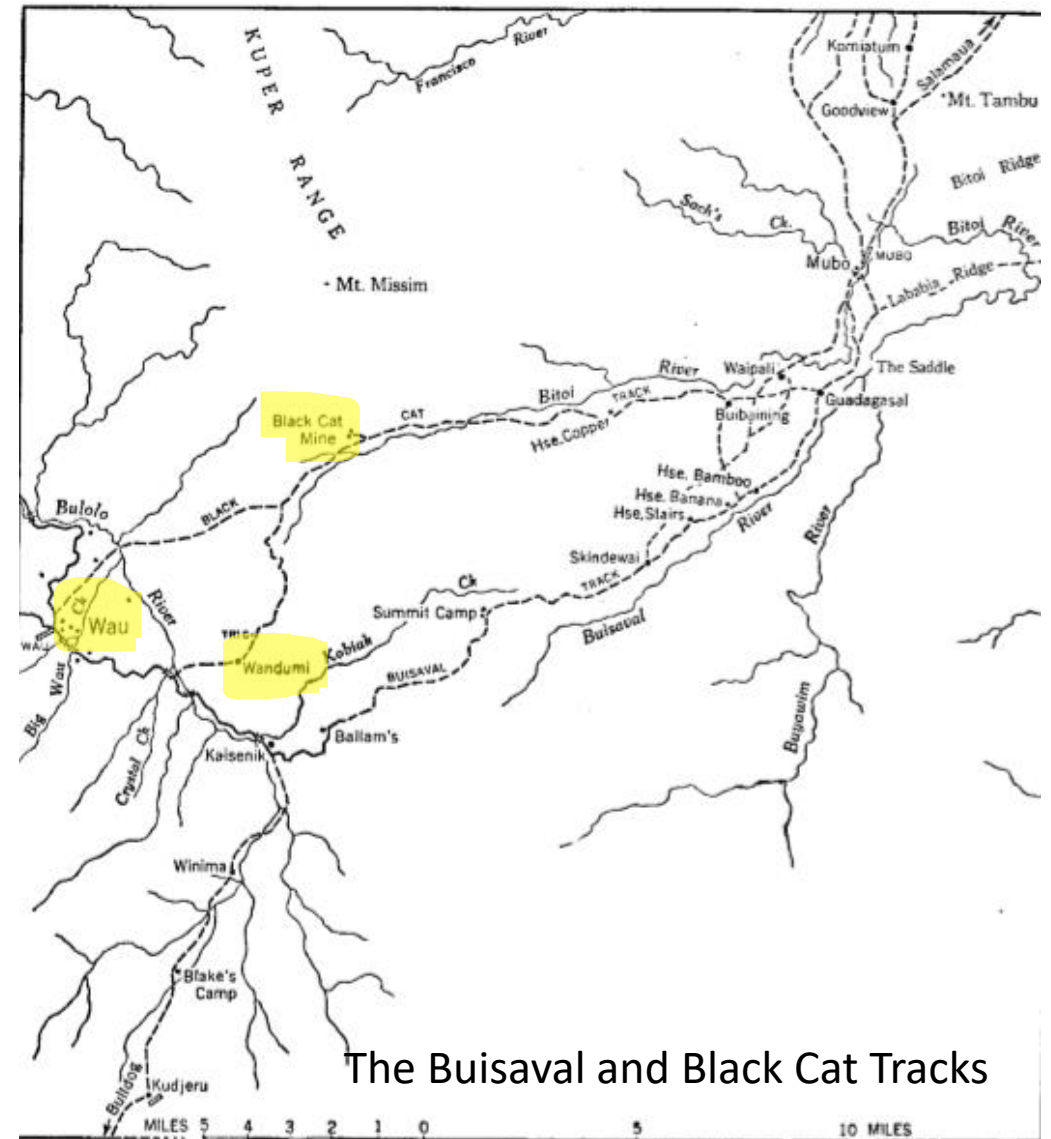
- Moten was looking not only for the arrival of the rest of the 2/5th Battalion but also for the 2/7th Battalion.
- But the weather was against him . The first flight of planes (4 of 30 which left Port Moresby that morning) had arrived at 9 a.m. with the additional 2/5th Battalion men, most of whom had been rushed out to Wandumi during the afternoon.
- But these were all who did arrive that day as the weather closed in after their landing.
- By the end of the day Moten had only scratch groups on the ground at Wau itself.
- In a desperate effort to get some substance back into his Wau defences Moten ordered Starr to bring his two companies in from Ballam's. They left there in a forced march at 10 p.m.



Dispositions, dawn, 28th January

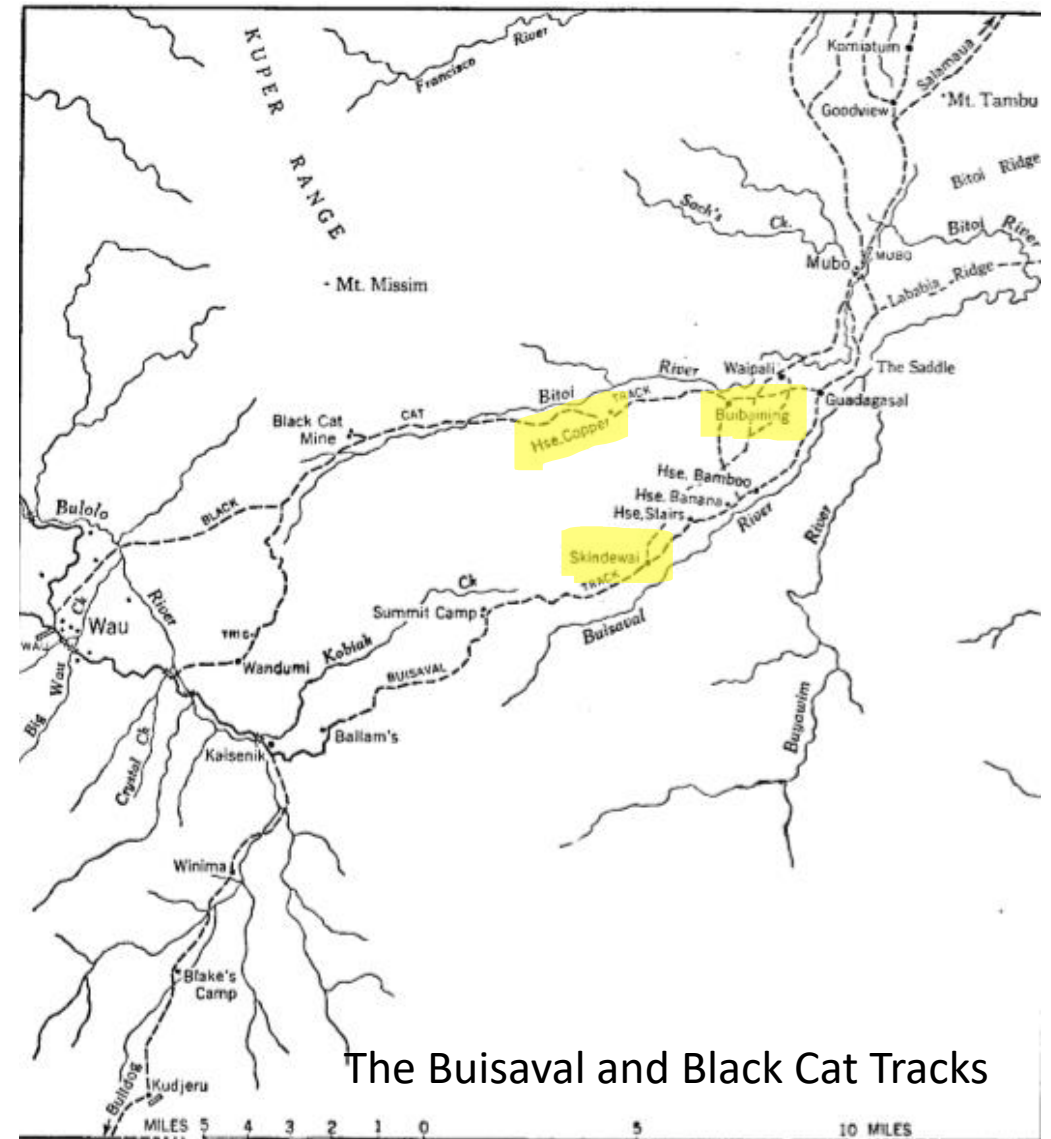
28 January - Wau

- Lt-Col Wood was ordered to send a party down to assist at **Wandumi**. He instructed Winning to go.
- Winning set out from the **Black Cat Mine** at 8.15 a.m. with 91 men. Wood estimated that the party should reach Wandumi by noon. But they found the going slow and began to meet opposition. Communications with Wood failed.
- It seemed to Winning that the sounds of fighting which had been coming from Wandumi had swung towards the Crystal Creek-Wau area so he turned in that direction. And so he arrived at **Wau** the following day.



28 January - Wau

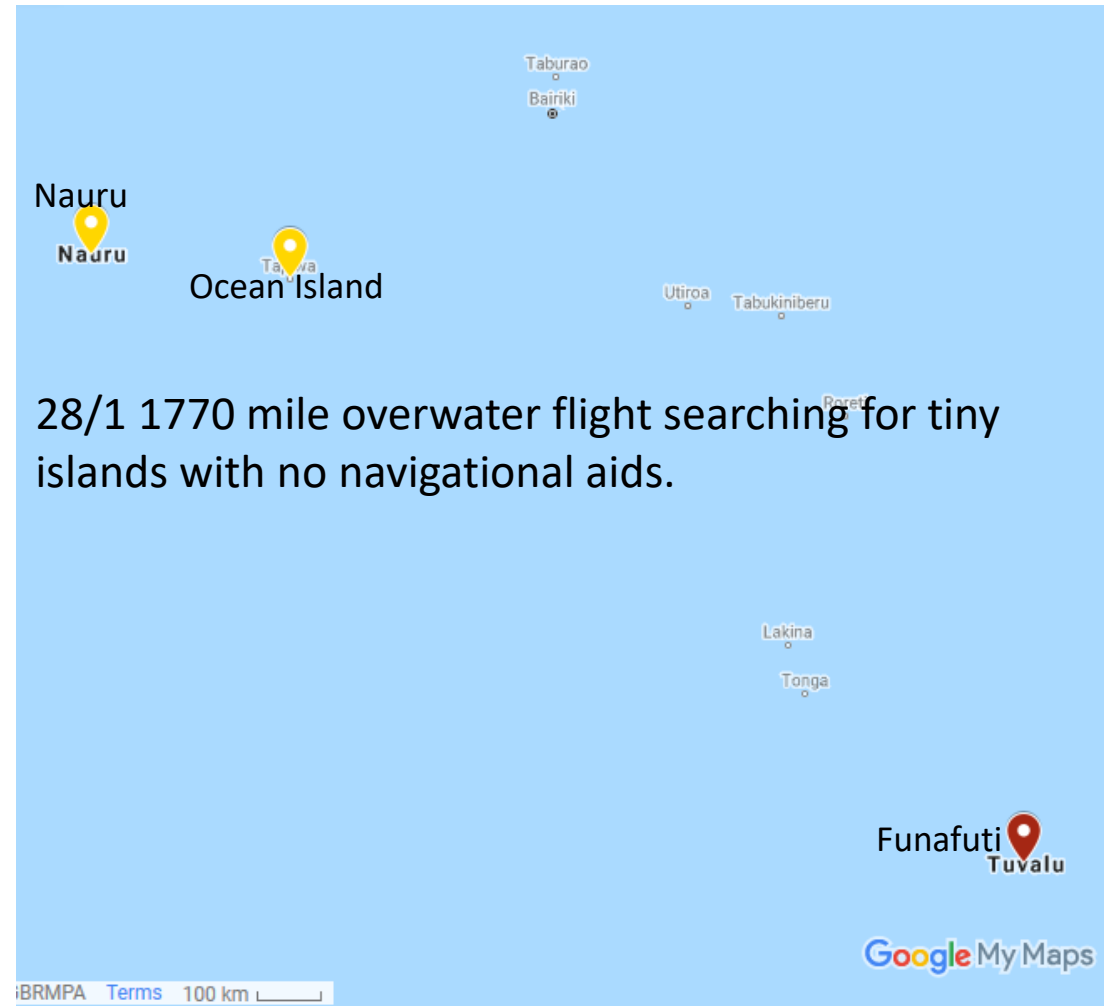
- Wood had also sent Stewart out along the track to **House Copper** to link with Jones advancing from **Buibaining**. Stewart with 104 men left the mine at 8.45 a.m.. He was delayed by a difficult track and heavy rain, all his radios failed and night found his men with nothing achieved.
- Jones had brought his company to a position on the track about four and a half hours east of House Copper by the evening of the 27th. On the morning of the 28th he began his move onwards but quickly ran into stiff opposition. He lost a number of men, could not progress and, by midday on the 30th, was back at **Skindewai**, his men tired, footsore and hungry.
- The three groups under Jones, Stewart and Winning thus fruitlessly exhausted themselves



28 January - Air

- A-20's bomb area from Garrison Hill to Komiatum Track.
- B-17's hit Wewak area.
- B-24's carryout individual attacks at Salamaua, on cargo vessel in Open Bay and nearby village in New Britain, and on transport off Amboina.
- 5 B-26's and 12 P-39's attack A/F at Vila on Kolombangara.
- 1 B-24 flies photo rcn over Nauru and Ocean I.

USAAF overwater flights Jan 43



29 January - Strategy

- Following the Casablanca Conference, Australia was informed, on 29th January 1943, of the decisions affecting the South-West Pacific Area:
- The Prime Minister gave the fullest possible assurance to the President that, after the defeat of Germany, Great Britain would pursue the war against Japan with the maximum available resources by land, sea and air. The Prime Minister had repeated this assurance to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.
- Operations in the Pacific theatre will continue with the object of maintaining pressure on Japan, retaining the initiative and attaining a position of readiness for a full-scale offensive by the United Nations as soon as Germany is defeated.
- These operations will meanwhile be kept within such limits as will not prejudice the capacity of the United Nations to take advantage of any favourable opportunity for an endeavour to defeat Germany in 1943. Subject to this reservation, they will include limited offensives in Burma preparatory to reconquest of that country; building up of United States air forces in China and continuance of United States operations in the South-West Pacific to the greatest possible extent.
- The objectives of United States operations in the South-West Pacific are:
 - (a) To keep Japan from further expansion and from consolidating and strengthening her present positions.
 - (b) To maintain the security of the Midway-Hawaii line and communications to Australia and New Zealand.
 - (c) To block Japanese approaches to Australia either via Rabaul or from the north-west via Malaya.
 - (d) To secure positions from which to threaten Japanese communications with the Dutch East Indies, to the Philippines and to the South China Sea.
- Forces available for the above operations will be limited by the necessity for concentrating the maximum United States and British forces against Germany, the primary enemy, but these will be sufficient to ensure that we retain the initiative against the Japanese.

29 January - Sea

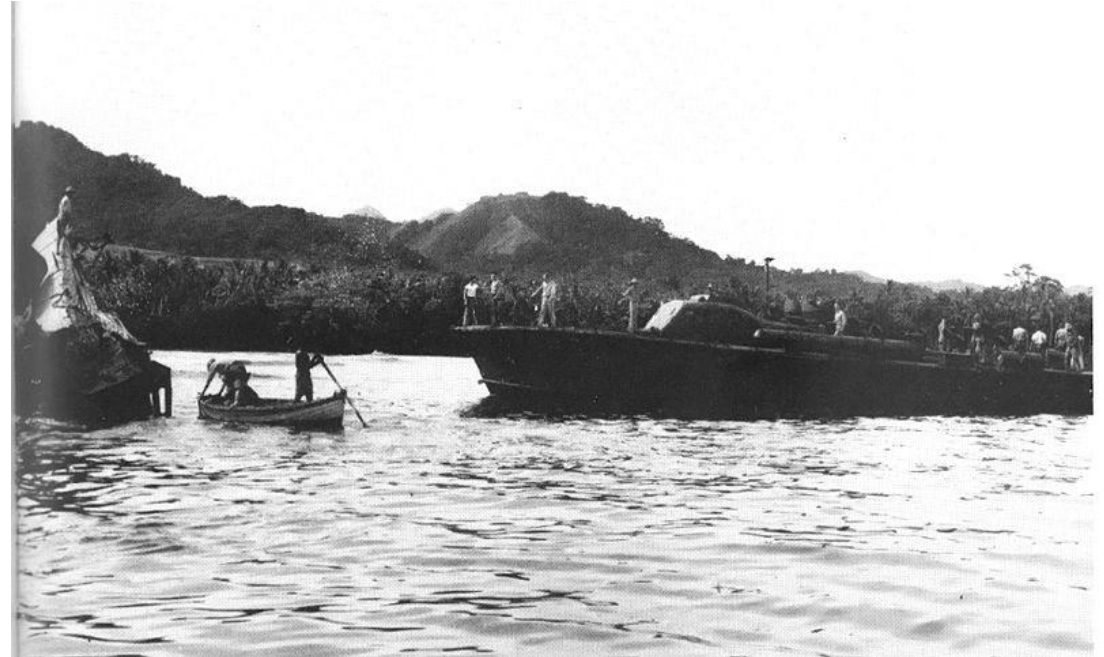
- Acting on intelligence predictions of a submarine supply run to Guadalcanal on the night of 29th January, the New Zealand corvettes Kiwi and Moa were waiting off Kamimbo that night.
- Kiwi got a sound contact about 21.05. Two depth charge attacks by Kiwi brought the submarine to the surface where Kiwi's 4 inch and 20 mm gunners cut lose, illuminating the scene.
- Lt. Cdr. Bridson, Kiwi's captain, called for full speed and set course to ram. Overcoming his chief engineer's concerns with the promise of a two week pass to Auckland, Bridson rammed the sub three times.



HMNZS Kiwi 1943 (RNZN Museum ABJ0196)

29 January - Sea

- A sword wielding Japanese officer attempted to board Kiwi but only succeeded in gaining a hand hold on the rail.
- The third ramming sent Kiwi rearing up over the submarine and caused a large quantity of diesel oil to spout up over the corvette's bow.
- At this point 90 minutes after the first contact Bridson withdrew and turned the action over to Moa, but the sub sank at that point.



The crew of U.S. PT boat PT-59 inspects the wreckage of Japanese submarine I-1 at Kamimbo on Guadalcanal, February, 1943. I-1 had been sunk during January by HMNZS Kiwi and HMNZS Moa.

29 January - Sea

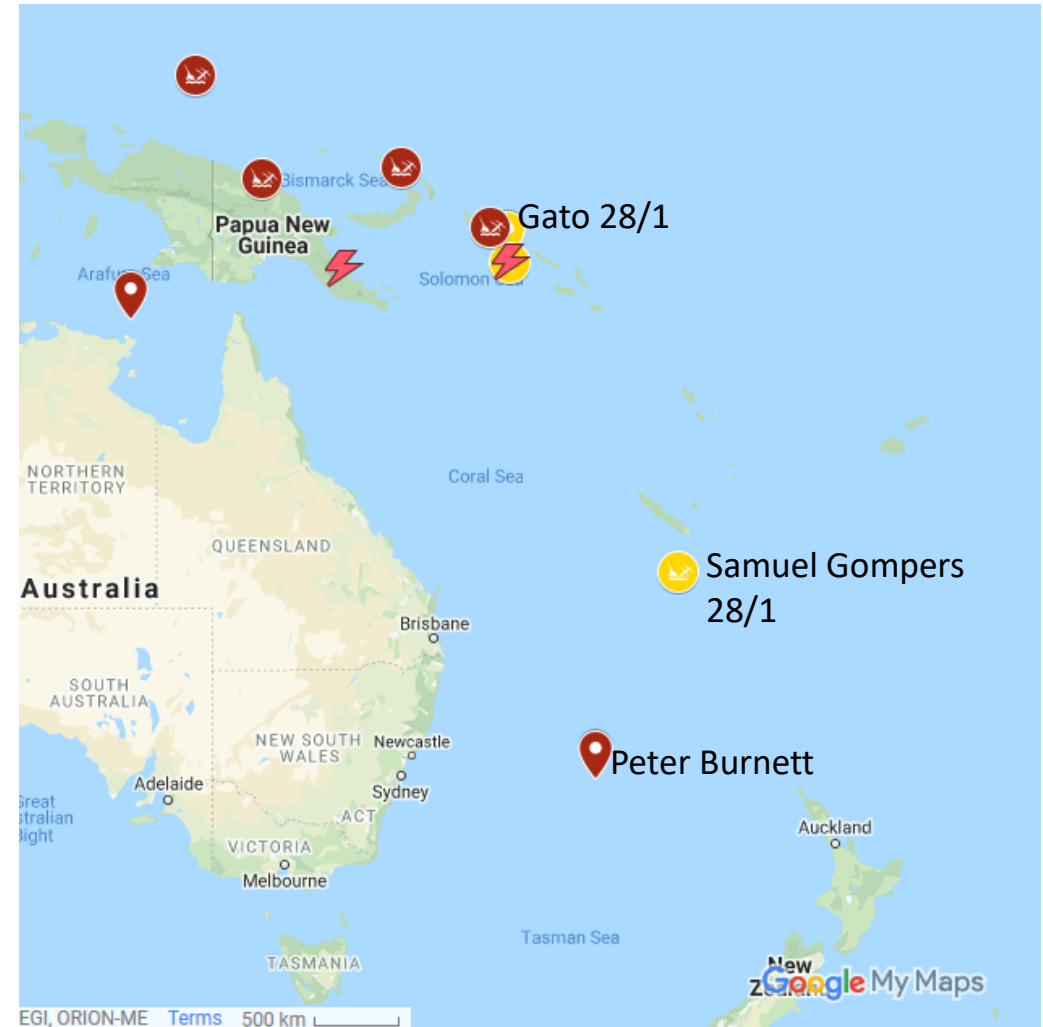
- Chicago was one of a cruiser and destroyer group covering an American reinforcement convoy making for Guadalcanal from the southward, when at 7.45 p.m. on 29th January she received two torpedo hits in a night time attack by enemy torpedo bombers.
- A third torpedo hit Wichita but failed to explode. Three of the bombers were shot down. Chicago was taken in tow for Espiritu Santo.



USS Chicago low in the water on the morning of 30 January 1943, from torpedo damage inflicted the night before

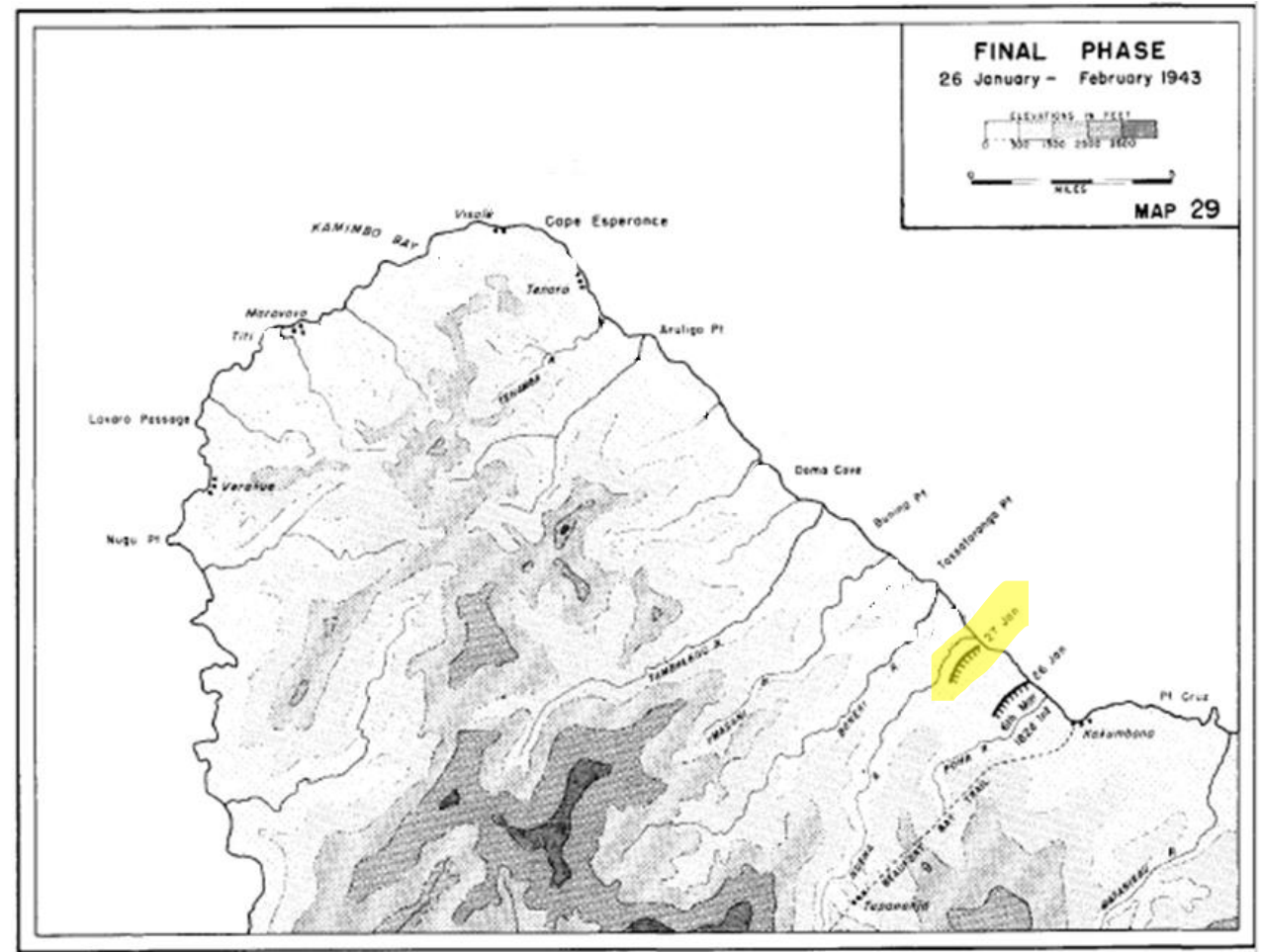
29 January - Sea

- The American Samuel Gompers (7,176 tons) was torpedoed and sunk south of New Caledonia at 24°21'S 166°21'W on 29th January. 1 Gunner and 3 crewmen killed. Survivors were rescued by French fishing boats.
- 29 Jan The cargo ship, Nichiun Maru, was torpedoed and sunk in the Pacific Ocean off New Georgia, Solomon Islands at 06°22'S 156°04'E by USS Gato.



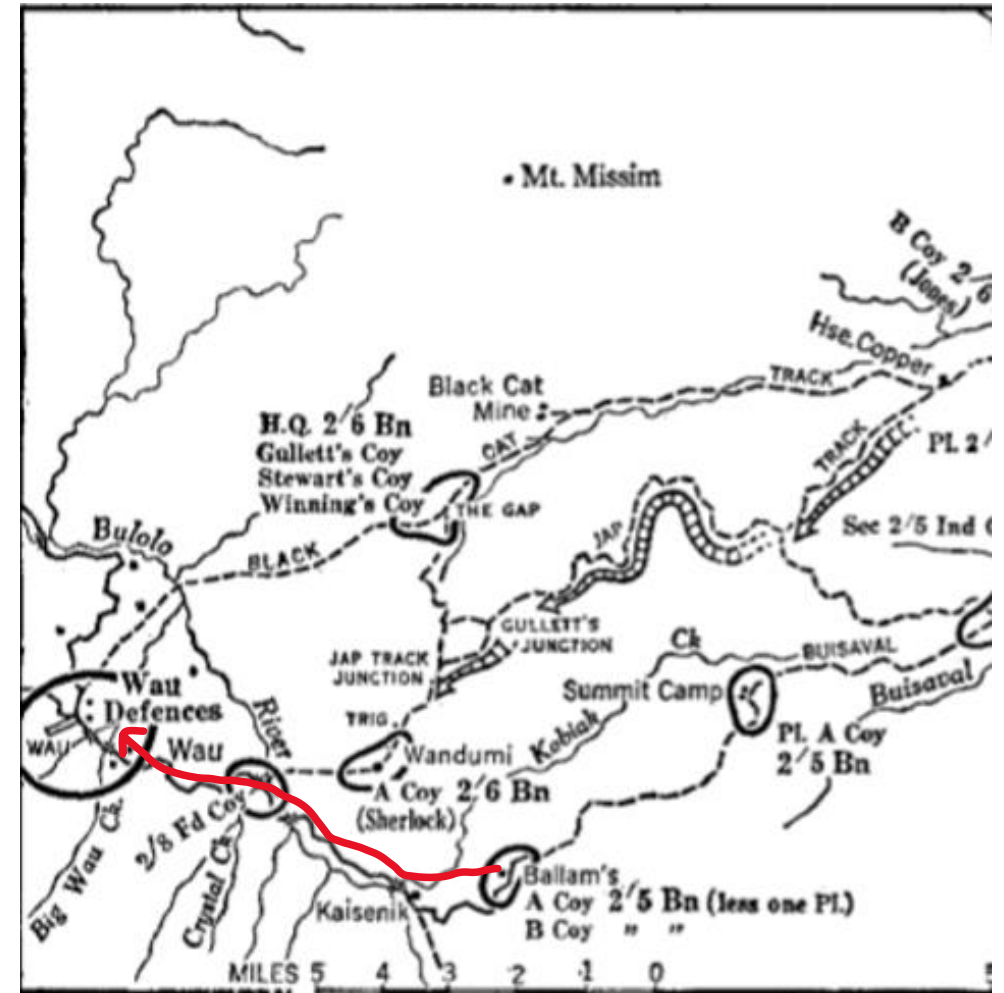
29 January - Guadalcanal

- Opposition now was such that General Patch on 29 January brought the 182d Infantry back to the perimeter and ordered the 147th Infantry to continue the pursuit while the 6th Marines covered the rear of the Army regiment.



29 January - Wau

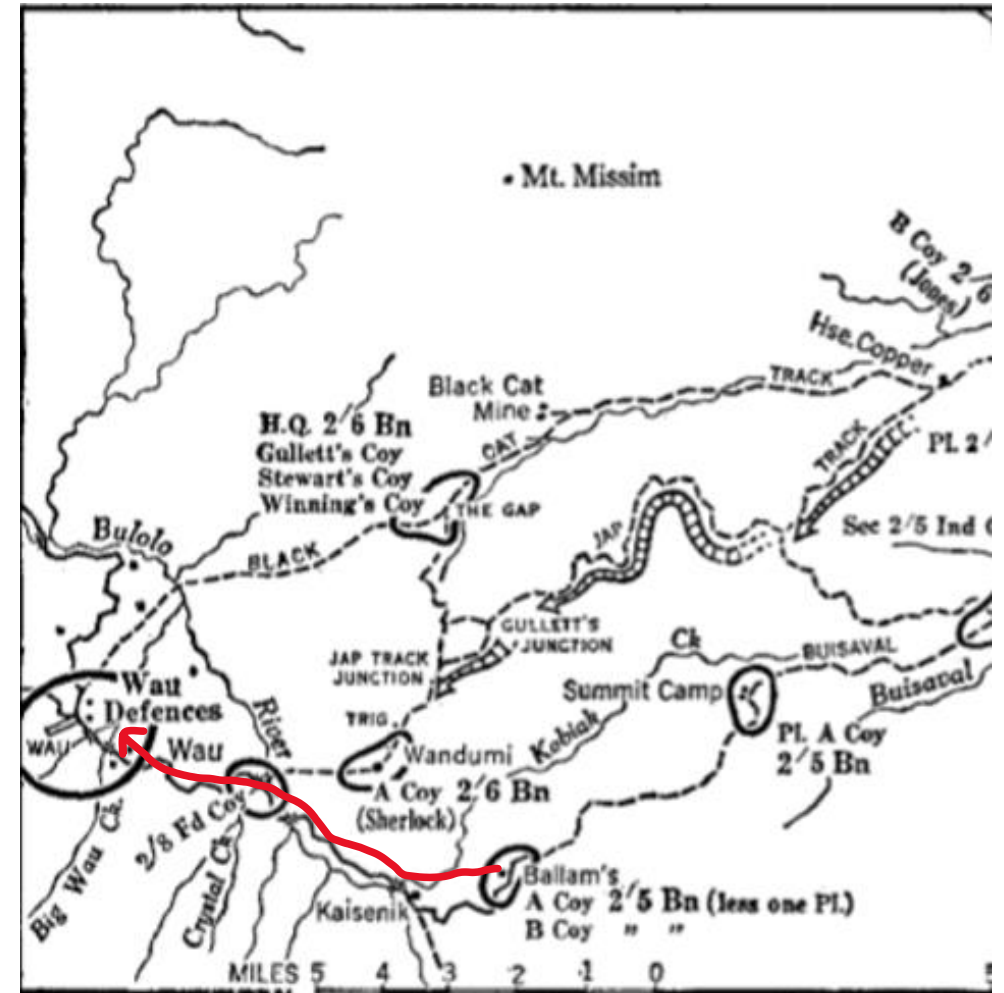
- The last message Moten received from Muir was at 3 a.m. on the 29th reporting that there were 300-500 troops fronting them; large numbers were moving round their left flank;
- if Moten decided they should move to the Wau side of the Bulolo they would do so, but otherwise they would hold on.
- Moten replied that they were to withdraw but they never received the message.
- Starr's two companies from Ballam's on their march back to the airfield reached the Crystal Creek area about 4.30 a.m. on the 29th.



Dispositions, dawn, 28th January

29 January - Wau

- Four inches of rain fell at Wau in the night and early in the morning the valley was covered in dense mist.
- In the rain and darkness Starr's two companies had actually passed almost unchallenged through the Japanese who were astride the road, and arrived to help man the aerodrome defences at 7 a.m.
- By 07.00 Japanese small arms and mortar fire from the south-east was falling on the outer defences of the airfield and it continued intermittently until 8.15 a.m.



Dispositions, dawn, 28th January

29 January - Wau

- The Allied defenders could hear the planes with reinforcements circling above them waiting to land.
- Just after 08.00, when it seemed the airfield would remain covered for the day and the transports would have to return to Moresby, the fog began to disperse.
- Quickly the Douglasses began to land pouring out men, weapons and supplies.
- Australian reinforcements reached a record arrival of 60 planes with 814 troops—the remainder of the 2/5th Battalion and Lt-Col Guinn's 2/7th Battalion.
- Moten then disposed the forces immediately available closely about the airfield.

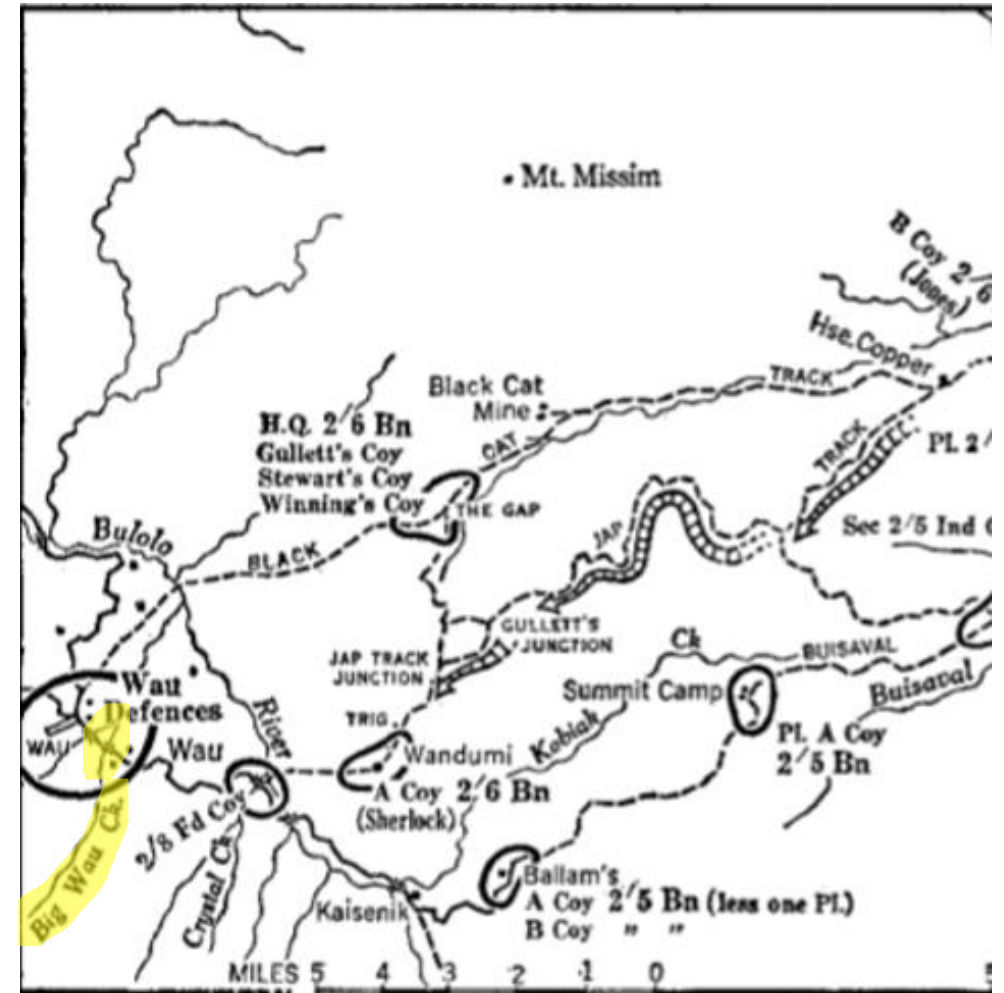


(Australian War Memorial)

The 17th Brigade was flown in to defend Wau. These infantrymen are leaving a transport plane to go into action.

29 January - Wau

- As the situation clarified a little during the day Moten ordered Guinn to send Major Walker with his company in a sortie out along the road towards Crystal Creek.
- Walker ("Luger Joe" to his men) came sharply against the Japanese in the vicinity of Leahy's Farm (south-east of the airfield), killed about 15 of them, he estimated, for the loss of four of his own men, and settled for the night facing the enemy, Rowan's company of the 2/5th to his immediate and right rear, Captain Pringle's company of the 2/7th backing Rowan and holding the **Big Wau Creek crossing**.
- More of Guinn's battalion packed the eastern end of the airfield in the native hospital area with the balance of the battalion (Captain Edney's company) holding the north-eastern approaches.
- Men of the 2/5th Battalion held the north-west and western approaches.



Dispositions, dawn, 28th January

29 January - Air

- Washing Machine Charlie had been a constant annoyance. For months, small raids by enemy planes at night had caused much annoyance to troops and air personnel on Guadalcanal. Pilots rapidly felt the loss of sleep, and even though enemy bombing was never very accurate and some of the missiles were only bottles, nevertheless the mental stress was constant.
- The increase in exposure to malaria during the dark hours in the foxholes offered a constant threat to the combat efficiency of all personnel.
- To check Charlie's depredations a request for a flight of night fighters went to Washington, but these would not arrive from Hawaii until the last day of February.
- Meanwhile night defense of Guadalcanal was provided by searchlights, anti-aircraft, and fighter searchlight teams. Very rarely did these methods have any success.
- But just before dawn on 29 January Capt. John Mitchell in a P-38 sent an enemy bomber flaming into the sea.

29 January - Air

- B-25's pound area around Mubo, concentrating on positions on Garrison and Mat Hill.
- Single B-24's bomb runways at Cape Gloucester and Gasmata.
- B-26's and P-39's hit bivouac area at Vila, Kolombangara and A/F at Munda Pt.
- B-17's bomb Kahili A/F.

30 January - COIC

X (3) Shortlands: At 1315/29, three cruisers, six destroyers and 20 transports or cargo vessels were in the Faisi-Tonolei area. This is the largest concentration of merchant shipping in the area since 12/11/42, just before the last large scale attempt to reinforce Guadalcanal.

At 1540/29 aircraft reported a destroyer and a cargo vessel in the Shortlands area on course 145°, speed 8 knots. The position is vague and the vessels may be proceeding into the area or, on the other hand, may be departing.

- Thanks for your attention.
- That's the end of this semester.
- Next Semester starts on 21st July, hopefully back in the lecture room at USC.
- You will need to re-enroll.
- If you have enjoyed the course tell your friends about the course, the web site and my ebook.