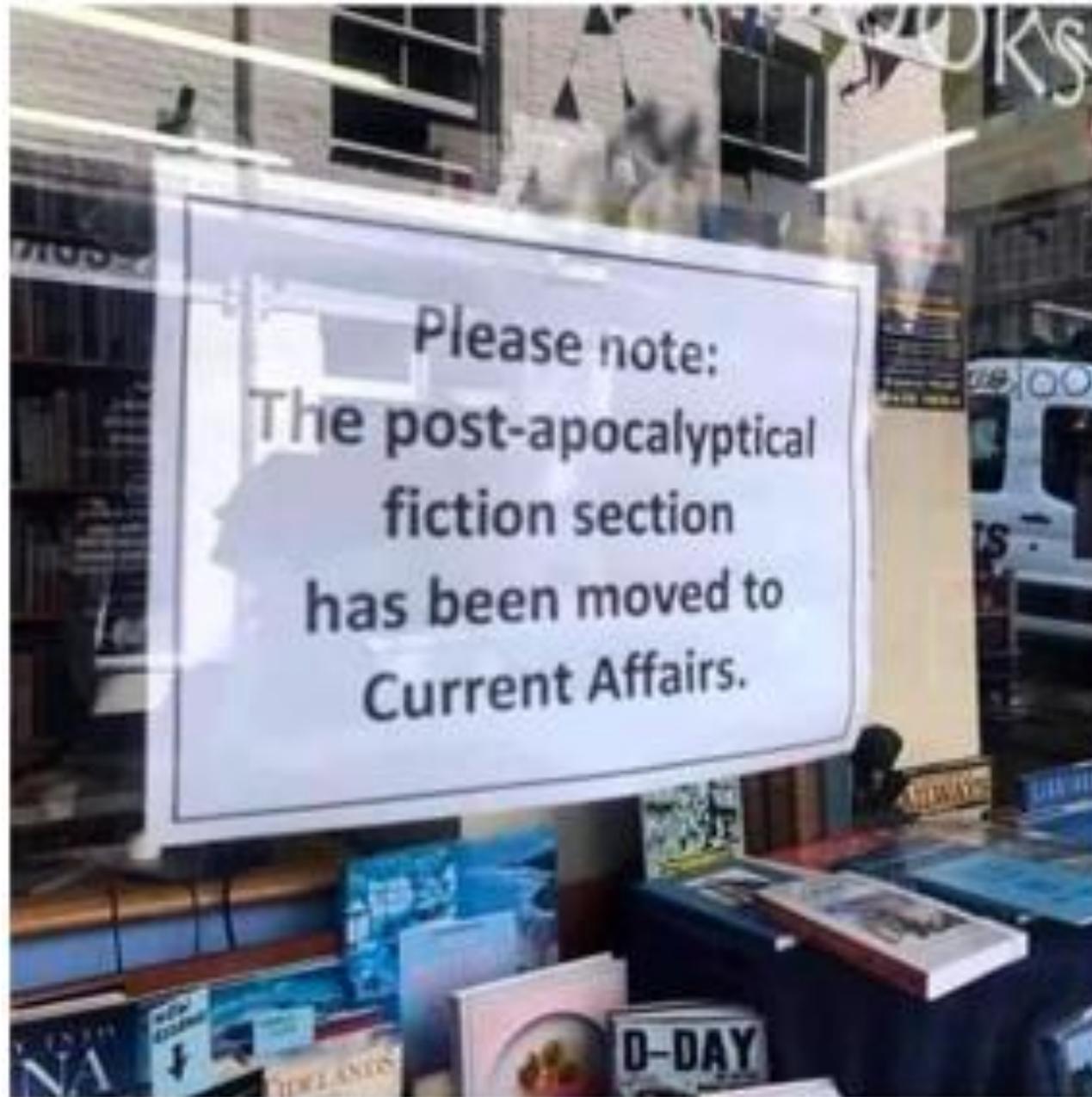


The War in the Pacific 3 From Lae to Tokyo Bay

6

Lae



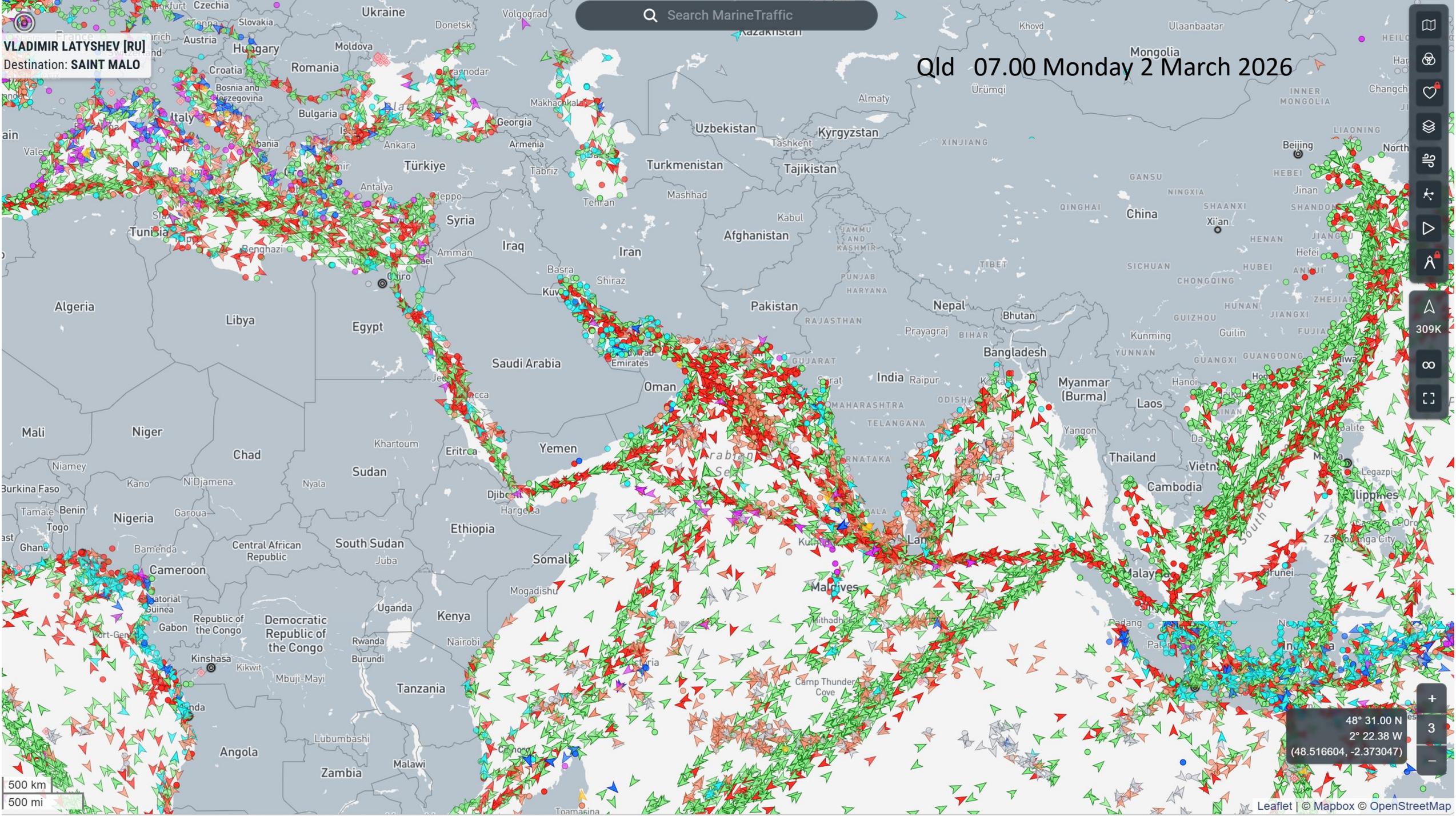


Putin's Wars - ©Jerry McBrien - October 2022

VLADIMIR LATYSHEV [RU]
Destination: SAINT MALO

Search MarineTraffic

Qld 07.00 Monday 2 March 2026



500 km
500 mi

48° 31.00 N
2° 22.38 W
(48.516604, -2.373047)

Oil Price History

- ~~The Oil Shocks in the 1970s were caused by the actions of Iran after the fall of the Shah and America's reactions to them.~~
- In 1973 the price of oil quadrupled from \$3 to \$12.
- In 1979 oil increased 2 and a half times from \$12 to \$30.
- Both of these oil shocks caused world wide recessions and inflation (Stagflation).



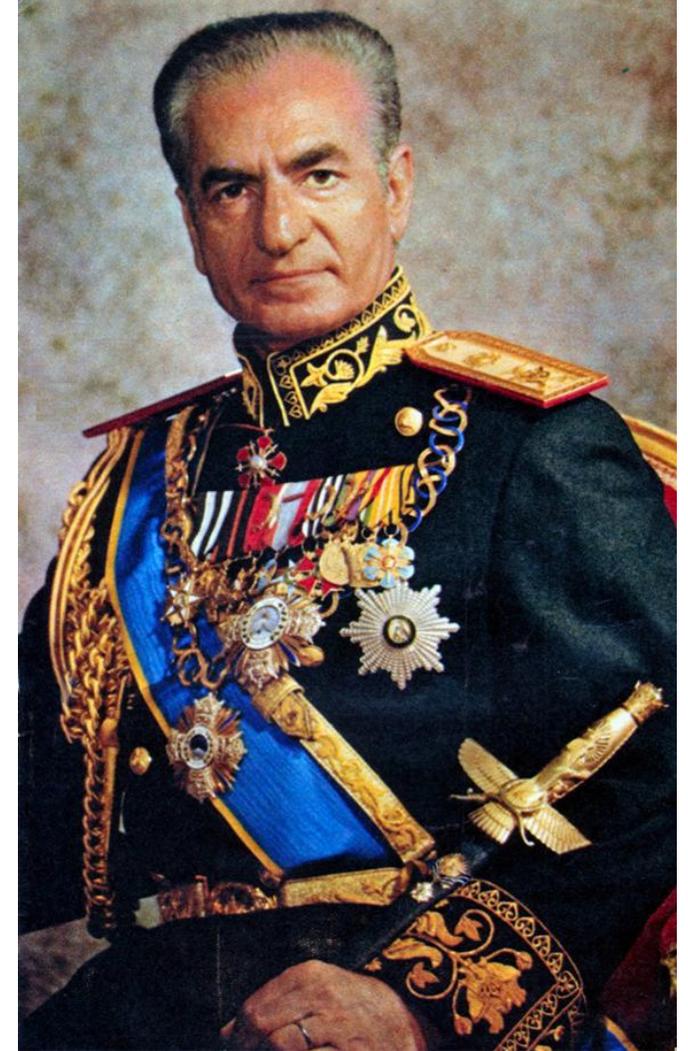
Oil Price History

- On October 19, 1973, immediately following President Nixon's request for Congress to make available \$2.2 billion in emergency aid to Israel for the conflict known as the Yom Kippur War, the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) instituted an oil embargo on the United States.
- The embargo ceased U.S. oil imports from participating OAPEC nations and began a series of production cuts that altered the world price of oil.
- These cuts nearly quadrupled the price of oil from \$2.90 a barrel before the embargo to \$11.65 a barrel in January 1974.
- (source Federal Reserve History 8/3/2026)



Oil Price History

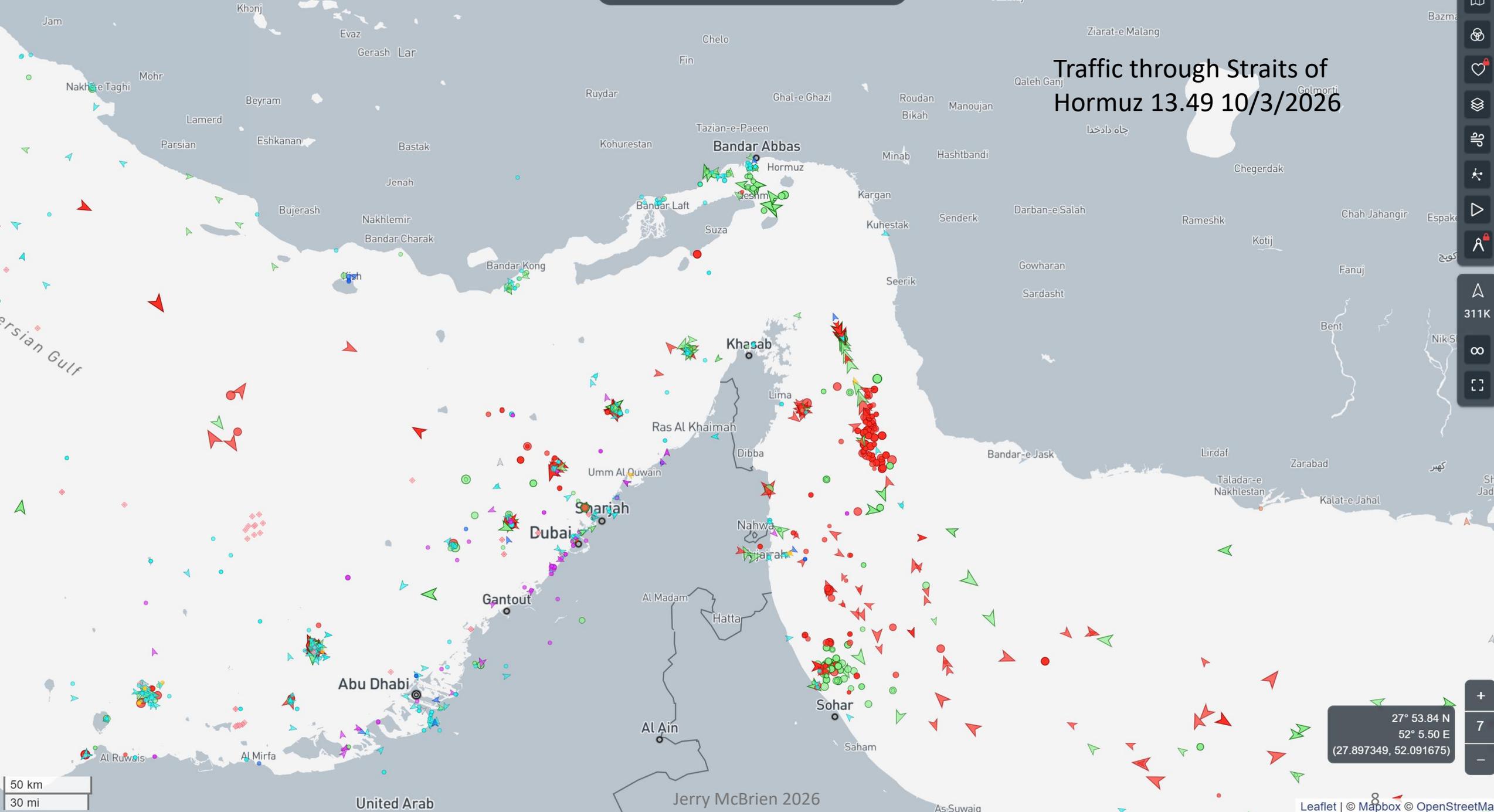
- The Iranian Revolution began in early 1978 and ended a year later, when the royal reign of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi collapsed and Sheikh Khomeini took control as grand ayatollah of the Islamic republic.
- In conjunction with the revolution, Iranian oil output declined by 4.8 million barrels per day (7 percent of world production at the time) by January 1979.
- However, this supply disruption may not have been the most important factor pushing oil prices higher. Rather, the Iranian disruption may have prompted a fear of further disruptions and spurred widespread speculative hoarding.
- Oil prices began to rise rapidly in mid-1979, more than doubling between April 1979 and April 1980. According to one estimate, surging oil demand—coming both from a booming global economy and a sharp increase in precautionary demand—was responsible for much of the increase in the cost of oil during the crisis.
- (source Federal Reserve History 8/3/2026)
- The immediate cause of the fall in production was a strike in November 1978 by 37,000 workers at Iran's nationalized oil refineries which reduced production from 6 million barrels per day to about 1.5 million barrels.
- Under the new Iranian government, oil exports later resumed but production was inconsistent and at a lower volume.
- The war between Iran and Iraq starting in September 1980 caused a further 7 percent drop in worldwide production.



Effect of Current War on Oil Prices



Traffic through Straits of Hormuz 13.49 10/3/2026



- Home icon
- Heart icon
- Layers icon
- Map style icon
- Full screen icon
- Location pin icon
- Home icon
- Scale: 311K
- Refresh icon
- Reset icon

50 km
30 mi

27° 53.84 N
52° 5.50 E
(27.897349, 52.091675)

United Arab

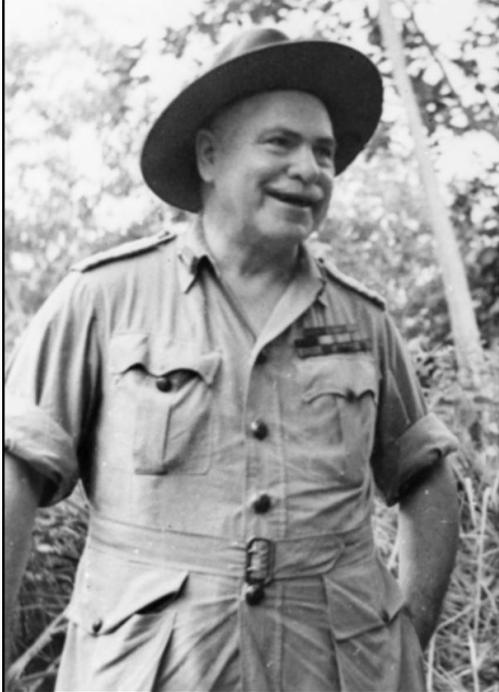
Jerry McBrien 2026

Leaflet | © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



To Return to History

26 February 1943 - Command



- Between February and April 1943 Lieut General Walter Krueger (right) and the headquarters of the Sixth American Army arrived in Australia, although there were then only three American divisions in the area.
- General Blamey (left) later wrote that "at no stage" was he given "any information as to the proposals [for the arrival of new American formations including the Sixth Army] or the development of the organisation".
- Blamey considered that at this stage MacArthur "took upon himself the functions of Commander, Allied Land Forces" and his own functions were limited to command of the Australian Military Forces.
- This position was arrived at, beyond doubt, on 26th February when, with the object of placing Sixth Army, and thus the American corps and divisions, directly under the command of G.H.Q., Sixth Army was named "Alamo Force" and was given the status of a "task force" under MacArthur's direct command.
- MacArthur did not consult the participating governments about this change as he should have done under the terms of his directive, nor did Blamey then raise the question with his own government, as he was entitled to do.



4 September 1943 – New Guinea

- At 0618, eighteen minutes after the sun rose, five destroyers fired a ten minute bombardment on the beaches.
- Then sixteen landing craft from the APD's started for the beaches carrying the assault waves.
- At 0631 the 20th Australian Infantry Brigade began going ashore at RED Beach, near Bulu Plantation and some eighteen miles east of Lae. This landing was unopposed.
- Two minutes later troops of the 26th Australian Infantry Brigade landed at YELLOW Beach, eighteen miles east of Lae, east of the Bulu River.
- A small group of Japanese on YELLOW Beach ran away at the approach of the Australians.
- [Landing at Red Beach | Australian War Memorial](#)



AUSTRALIAN TROOPS DEBARKING FROM LST'S for the occupation of Lae.

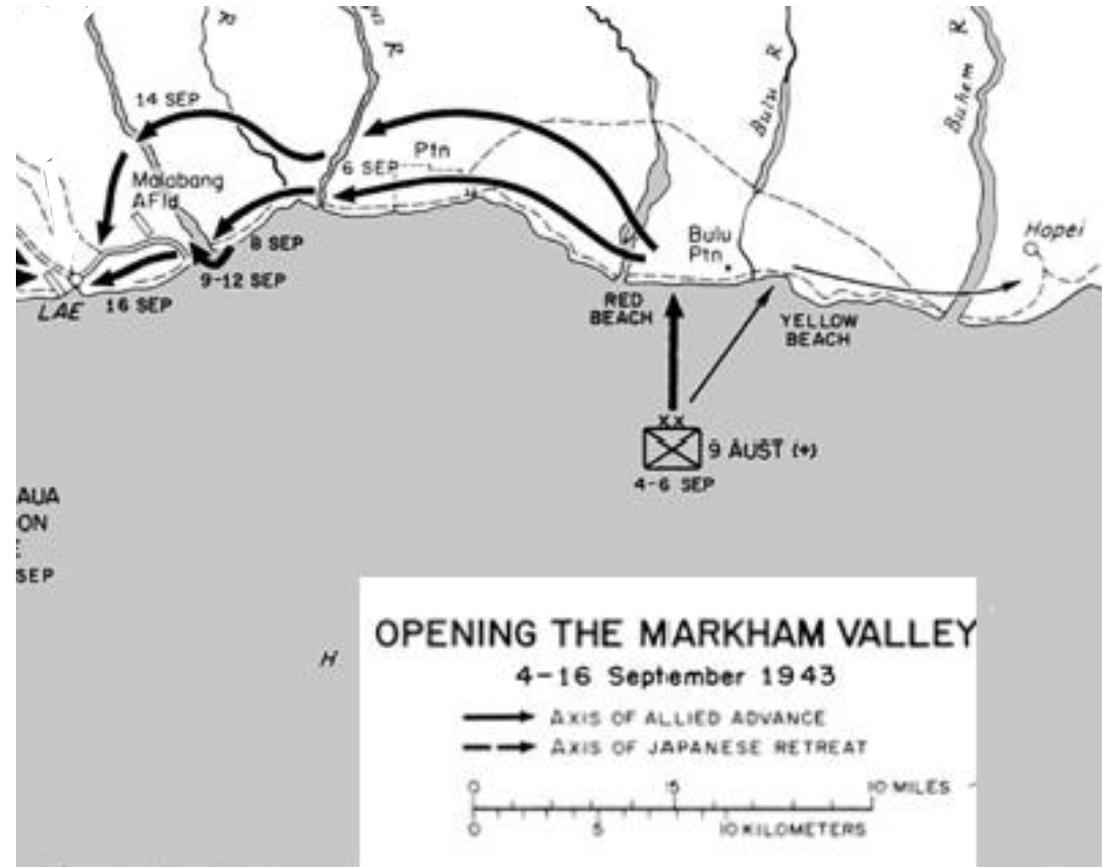
4 September 1943 – New Guinea

- The barges of the first assaulting waves, each carrying about 30 men, formed into line and roared off towards the beaches.
- In the barges the platoon commanders ordered the fixing of bayonets and the cold steel clipped on with an aggressive sound.
- Overhead the shells of the naval bombardment screamed and then thudded and exploded along the green fringe of the jungle.
- When there was no return fire from the shore many who had been crouching low beneath the gunwales gazing at the outline of their bayonets against the pale sky raised their heads to watch the shelling.
- The naval bombardment ceased at 6.25 a.m. when the landing barges were 1,200 yards from the shore. As the barges revved their engines and moved towards the shore the machine-guns on each barge raked the jungle fringe.
- Then the barges bumped the shore and lowered their ramps.
- Down them rushed the green-clad men in single file.
- At the water's edge they spread into line and raced across the narrow strip of sand for the jungle's fringe.

Wave	Time	Composition	Craft	Troops
1	H		8 L.C.P. Ex. 2 A.P.D.	20 Bde
2	H+10		4 L.C.I.	20 Bde
3	H+15		4 L.C.I.	20 Bde
4	H+30		3 L.C.T. 2 L.C.V.	R.A.A. R.A.E. E.S.B.
5	H+35		7 L.C.I.	2/23 Bn Main Div H.Q.
6	H+50		8 L.C.V.	E.S.B.
7	H+53		8 L.C.V.	E.S.B.
8	H+60		4 L.C.T. 4 L.C.M.	E.S.B.
9	H+75		6 L.C.M. 2 L.C.V.	E.S.B.
10	H+85		8 L.C.V.	E.S.B.
11	H+92		8 L.C.V.	E.S.B.
12	H+105		6 L.S.T.	2/24 Bn 2/48 Bn 26 Bde H.Q. Div Tps
13	H+110		7 L.C.T.	Bulk Stores

4 September 1943 – New Guinea

- All assault troops had landed by 0830, and
- by 1030 fifteen hundred tons of supplies had been landed.
- The 2/13th Australian Infantry Battalion, once landed, pushed east from Bulu Plantation and secured the east flank by seizing Hopoi.
- By the end of the day the beachheads were secure, 2,400 more Australians had landed, and the 26th Brigade and the 2/17th Australian Infantry Battalion had crossed the Buso and begun the advance westward against Lae.



4 September 1943 – New Guinea

- There was no resistance on the ground, but Japanese aircraft attempted to break up the invasion.
- About 0700, before fighter cover had arrived, a few twin engine bombers with fighter escort attacked Task Force 76 and damaged two LCI's.
- The air counter attack from Rabaul was delayed by the fog over New Britain that Kenney's weathermen had predicted.
- Reid, the picket destroyer's, radar located eighty planes over Gasmata in the afternoon just as Task Force 76 was making ready to sail for Milne Bay. The Reid vectored out forty P-38's and twenty P-47's which intercepted the flight and broke it up.
- Some planes got through, however, and attacked a group of six LST's off Cape Ward Hunt. They damaged two and caused over a hundred casualties including 51 killed.
- The Japanese did not attack the jammed landing beaches at this time but returned in the evening to blow up an ammunition dump, damage two beached LCI's, and kill two men.



USS Reid (DD-369) off the Mare Island Naval Shipyard, California (USA), on 11 July 1943. She was in overhaul at Mare Island from 27 May to 16 July 1943.

4 September 1943 – New Guinea

- At 7.30 a.m on 4 September ten Beauforts of No. 100 Squadron and three Bostons of No. 22 continued the bombardment and machine-gunning of Gasmata airfield to make sure that the enemy could not use it for staging attacks on the landings at Lae.
- The enemy replied with anti-aircraft weapons and shot down a Beaufort, killing the crew.



Four DAP Beauforts of 100 Squadron, near the New Guinea coast in early 1945.

5 September 1943 – New Guinea

- It was vital that the airfield at Gasmata should be kept out of action during the parachute landings at Nadzab on 5 September.
- Beauforts of No. 100 Squadron were therefore ordered to follow the Bostons and press home their attacks on Gasmata airfield.
- Ten of them, led by Flt Lt Woollacott and protected above by eight Kittyhawks of No. 76 Squadron, arrived on the scene just after 7 a.m.
- An earlier visit of the Bostons had alerted the enemy defences.
- The Beauforts approached in a shallow dive starting at 3,000 feet and coming down to 1,500. This was a dangerously low level for slow aircraft, but the Australians had often bombed this airfield and had not previously met strong opposition.
- On this day, however, the enemy opened up with a sudden and unexpectedly heavy box barrage. It was impossible to avoid this deadly fire, but the pilots drove their Beauforts through it.
- Five aircraft were immediately hit. Woollacott's machine was hit, but, although it was in flames, he continued his run and his four bombs exploded on the runway. The aircraft crashed immediately, and Woollacott and his crew (Flight Sergeants Suggs, Williams and Pedler) were killed.
- Warrant Officer Wiggins' Beaufort crashed into the sea; and a third, piloted by Flying Officer Anderson, was missing after the attack.
- A fourth, piloted by Flying Officer Walsh, was badly damaged but the pilot managed to get it back to Vivigani. As a tyre had been shot away, it ground looped on landing and was destroyed. The crew, however, escaped injury.

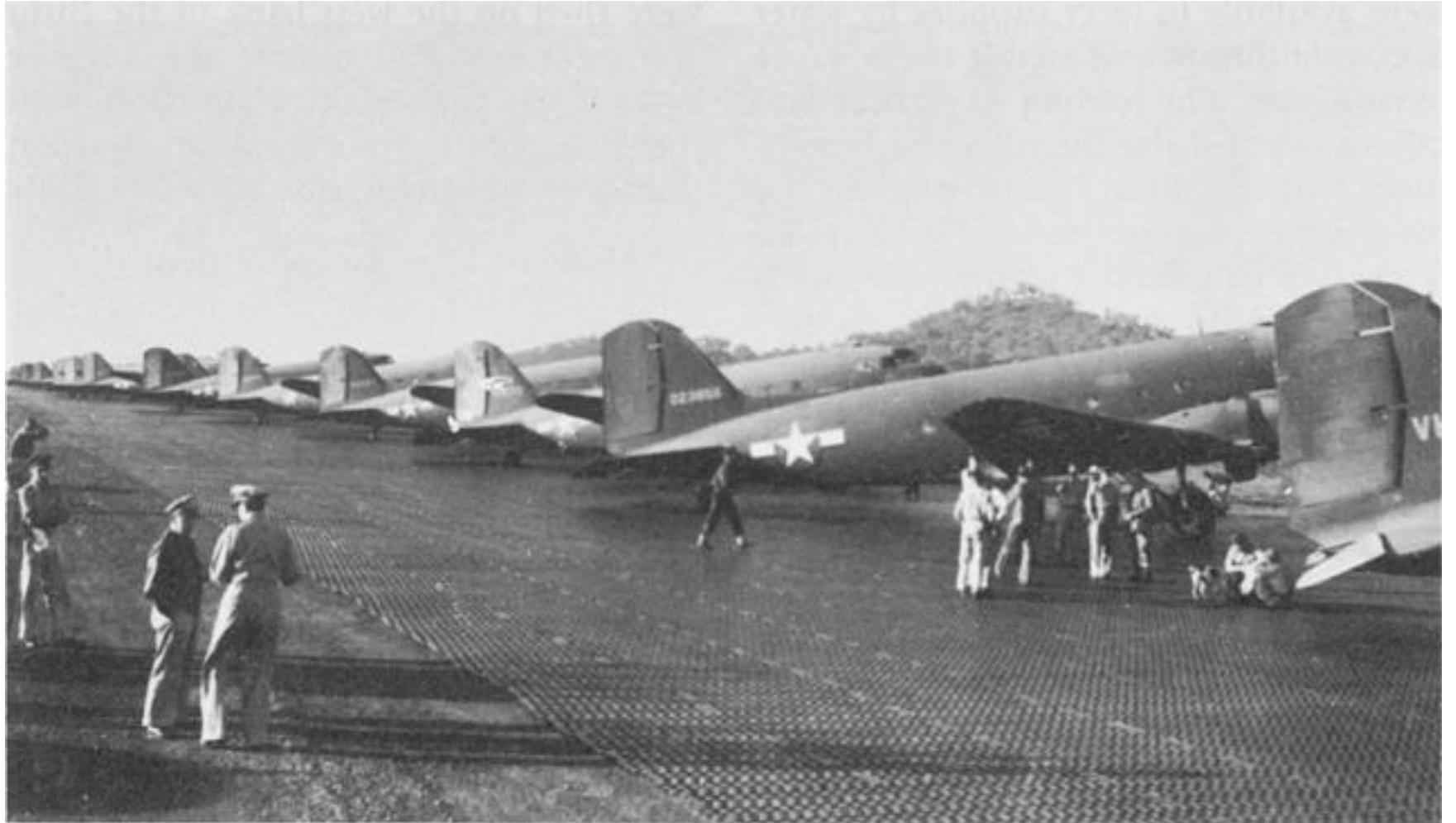


Four DAP Beauforts of 100 Squadron, near the New Guinea coast in early 1945.

5 September 1943 – New Guinea

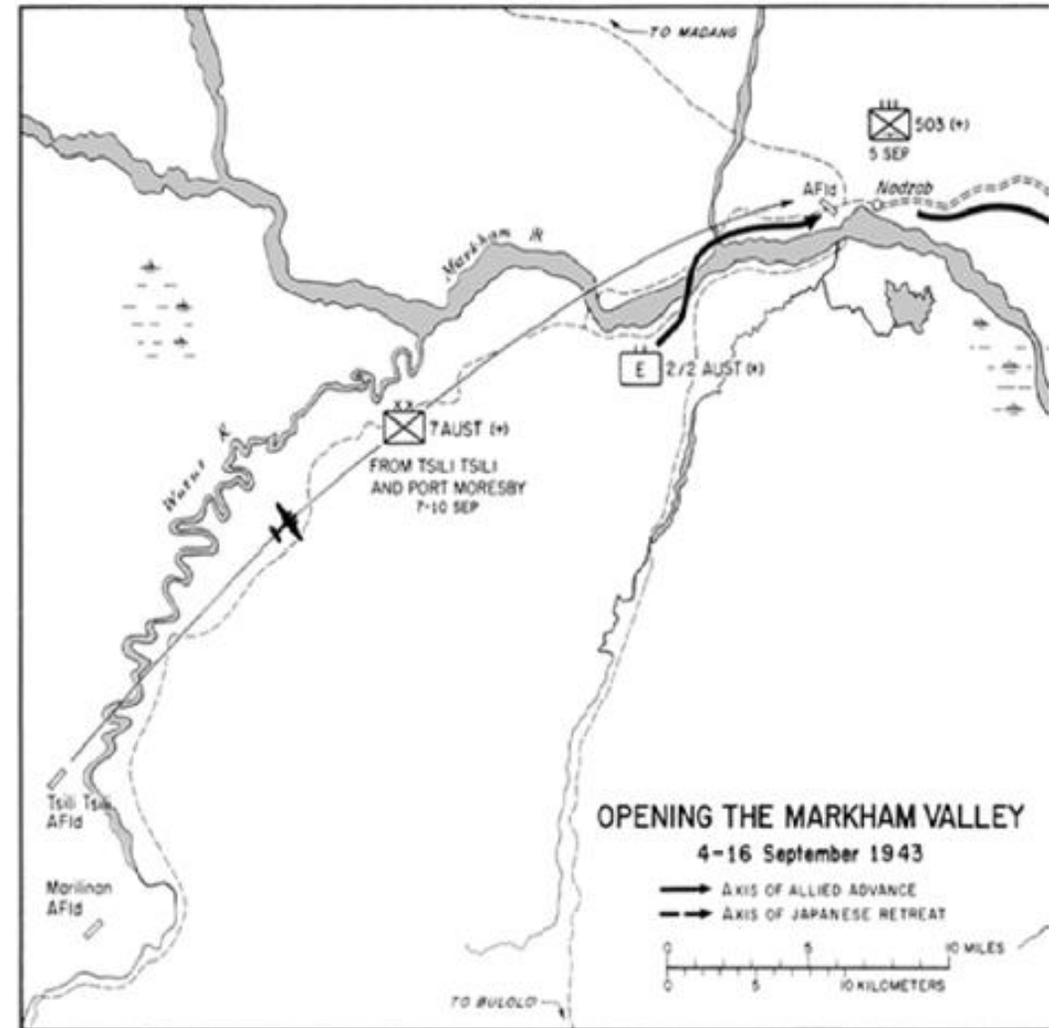
C-47 TRANSPORT PLANES LOADED WITH PARACHUTE TROOPS for the drop at Nadzab. Two men at left are General Kenney and General MacArthur.

The Generals viewed the airdrop from what Kenney called a "brass-hat" flight of three B-17's. MacArthur was in one, and Kenney in another.



5 September 1943 – New Guinea

- The US 503d Parachute Infantry Regiment, was tasked with the Capture of Nadzab and the additional mission of preparing the airstrip for C-47's carrying Vasey's 7th Australian Division from Tsili Tsili and Port Moresby.
- The first C-47 roared down the runway at 0825; by 0840 all transports were aloft. They crossed the Owen Stanleys then bombers, fighters, and weather planes joined the formation over Tsili Tsili, on time to the minute.
- All together 302 aircraft from eight different fields were involved.
- The air armada then flew down the Watut Valley, swung to the right over the Markham River, and headed for Nadzab.
- The C-47's dropped from 3,000 feet to 400-500 feet. The parachutists had stood in their planes and checked their equipment over Tsili Tsili, and twelve minutes later they formed by the plane doors ready to jump.



MAP 13

5 September 1943 – New Guinea

- In the lead six squadrons of B-25 strafers with eight .50-caliber machine guns in their noses and six parachute fragmentation bombs in their bays worked over the Nadzab field.
- Six A-20's laid smoke after the last bomb had exploded.
- Then came the C-47's, closely covered by fighters.
- The paratroopers began jumping from the three columns of C-47's onto separate jump areas about 1020.
- Eighty-one C-47's carrying the 503d were emptied in four and one-half minutes.
- All men of the 503d but one, who fainted while getting ready, left the planes. Two men were killed instantly when their chutes failed to open, and a third landed in a tree, fell sixty feet to the ground, and died.
- Thirty-three men were injured. There was no opposition from the enemy, either on the ground or in the air.
- Once they reached the ground, the 503d battalions laboriously moved through high kunai grass from landing grounds to assembly areas.



Early modification of B-25. (AAF photo from Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Intelligence, US Army Air Forces, "First Hand Accounts Make Minimum Altitude Bombing Lessons More Specific," *Impact!* 1, no. 3 [June 1943]: 44.)

5 September 1943 – New Guinea

AIRDROP AT
NADZAB, MORNING
OF 5 SEPTEMBER
1943. The
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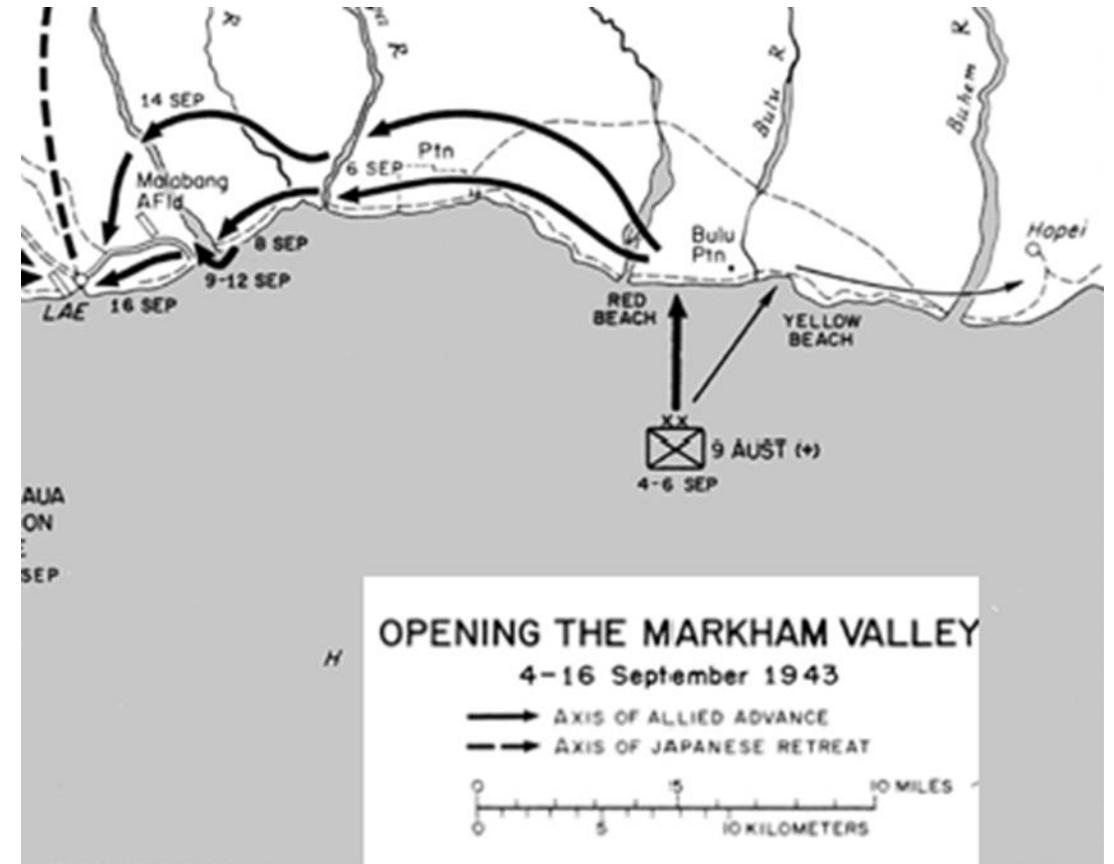


5 September 1943 – New Guinea

- Five B-17's carrying supply parachutes stayed over Nadzab all day.
- They dropped a total of fifteen tons of supplies on ground panel signals laid by the 503d.
- A detachment of 2/4th Australian Field Regiment with its 25-pounder guns parachuted down in the afternoon.
- The 503d's 1st Battalion seized the Nadzab airstrip and began to prepare it to receive C-47's. The 2d and 3d Battalions blocked the approaches from the north and east.
- As soon as the parachutists had begun landing, the Australian units that had come down the Watut River--the 2/2d Pioneer Battalion, the 2/6th Field Company, and one company of the Papuan Infantry Battalion--began landing on the north bank of the Markham.
- They made contact with the 503d in late afternoon and worked through the night in preparing the airstrip.
- [Paratroops land Markham Valley and Nadzab | Australian War Memorial](https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C189186)
- Video of Paratroops land Markham Valley and Nadzab
- 5 minutes 45secs
- <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C189186>

6 September 1943 – New Guinea

- The reserve 24th Infantry Brigade landed on schedule on the night of 5-6 September, and at daylight started west behind the 26th Brigade.
- On 6 September, after a ten-mile march, the 26th Brigade met its first opposition at the Bunga River.
- The 24th Brigade advanced along the coast while the 26th Brigade moved some distance inland in an effort to get behind Lae and cut off the enemy garrison.
- The 24th's advance was rendered difficult, not so much by the enemy as by the terrain. The heavy September rains flooded the creeks and turned the trails into deep mud that was virtually impassable for vehicles.
- Fortunately the boats of the US 2d Engineer Special Brigade were available to ferry supplies by water to coastal dumps and enable the advance to continue.



6 September 1943 – New Guinea

- The next morning (6/9/43) the first C-47 arrived at Nadzab. It brought in advance elements of the U.S. 871st Airborne Engineer Battalion.



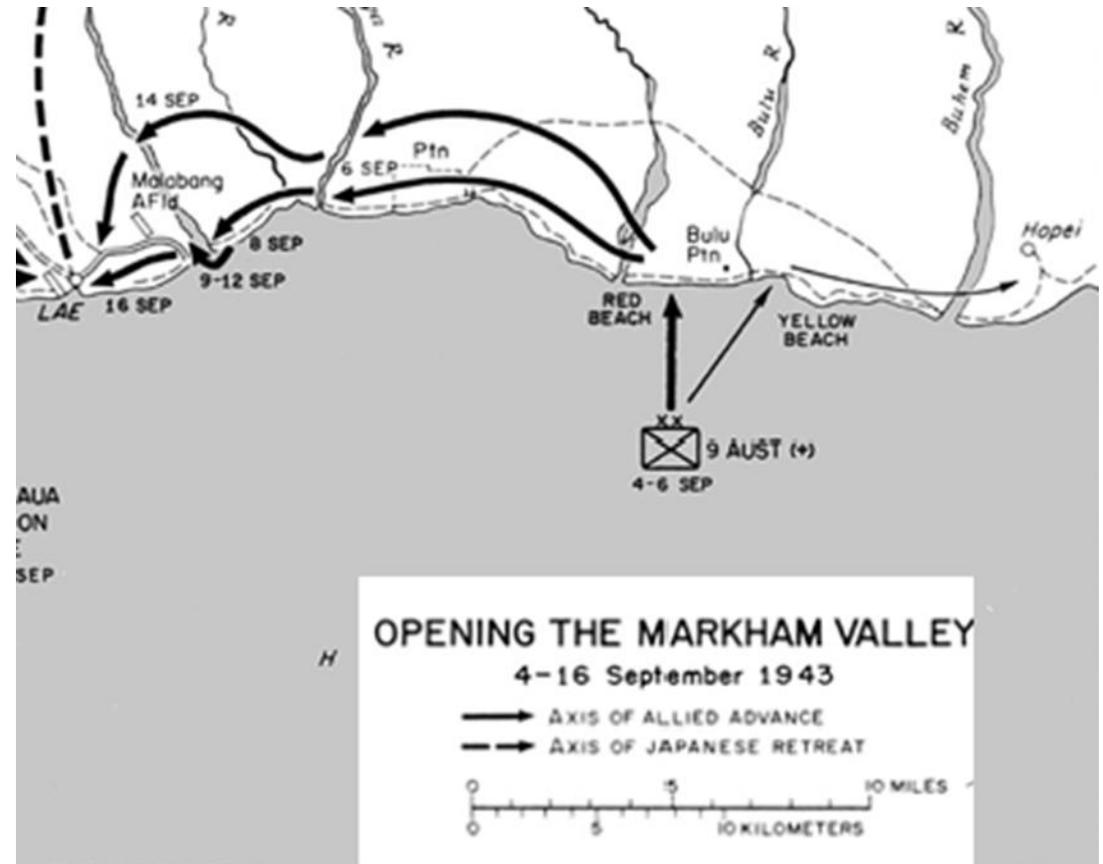
U.S. Army 871st Airborne Engineers loading a grader into the fuselage door of [C-47 41-38614](#)

Credit: U.S. Army Date: 1943

B&W

9 September 1943 – New Guinea

- The leading Australian battalions reached the Busu (not to be confused with the Buso farther east) on the morning of 8 September.
- This swollen river, five feet deep and sixty feet wide at the mouth, and flowing at twelve knots, was a severe obstacle in itself, and the west bank was held by the Japanese.
- Patrols attempted to force a crossing on the morning of 9 September but the combination of Japanese bullets and the swift current forced them back.
- In the late afternoon elements of four rifle companies got across in rubber boats and by wading and swimming.
- Several men were drowned and many weapons lost, but the four companies seized a bridgehead on the west bank and held it against enemy counterattacks.



7 - 10 September 1943 – New Guinea

- Twenty-four hours later (7/9/43) C-47's brought General Vasey's 7th Division headquarters and part of the 25th Australian Infantry Brigade Group to Nadzab from Tsili Tsili, where they had staged from Port Moresby.
- Thereafter the transports flew the Australian infantry and the American engineers directly from Port Moresby.
- By 10 September the 7th Division troops at Nadzab were able to relieve the 503d of its defensive missions. Enough American engineers had arrived to take over construction of new airstrips.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

057048

NADZAB AREA, NEW GUINEA. 1943-09-20. VX9
MAJOR GENERAL G. A. VASEY CB OBE DSO, GENERAL
OFFICER COMMANDING, 7TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

12 September – New Guinea

- Early September saw Japanese resistance at Salamaua slackening.
- On 11 September the Australians and the 162d Infantry Reconnaissance Platoon crossed the rain-swollen Francisco River and by the end of 12 September the airfield, the town, and the entire isthmus, which had been held by the Japanese for eighteen months, was back in Allied hands.
- The cost was not cheap. On 29 June there were 2,554 men in the 162d Infantry. By 12 September battle casualties and disease had reduced the regiment to 1,763 men. One hundred and two had been killed, 447 wounded.
- The 162d estimated it had killed 1,272 Japanese and reported the capture of 6 prisoners.



12 September 1943 - Mediterranean

- The Armistice provided for the Immediate transfer of the Italian Fleet and Italian aircraft to such points as may be designated by the Allied CinC.
- Nazi Germany, having anticipated the armistice, responded by attacking Italian forces in Italy, southern France, Greece, Yugoslavia and the Dodecanese, and by freeing Benito Mussolini on 12 September.
- Tripartite Pact ally Japan felt betrayed by Italy's decision to leave the war, although relations were already poor due to Japanese demands for Italy to surrender its concessions in China to the Wang Jingwei puppet regime.
- In September 1943, Japanese forces forcibly took over Italian settlements in China (the Peking legation, and its concessions at Shanhai Pass and Tianjin), confiscated Italian naval vessels, and started to intern Italian nationals across Asia, including diplomats.



HMS VALIANT seen from HMS WARSPITE as the two battleships led the surrendering Italian Fleet to Malta. In the foreground are four of the WARSPITE's 15" guns.

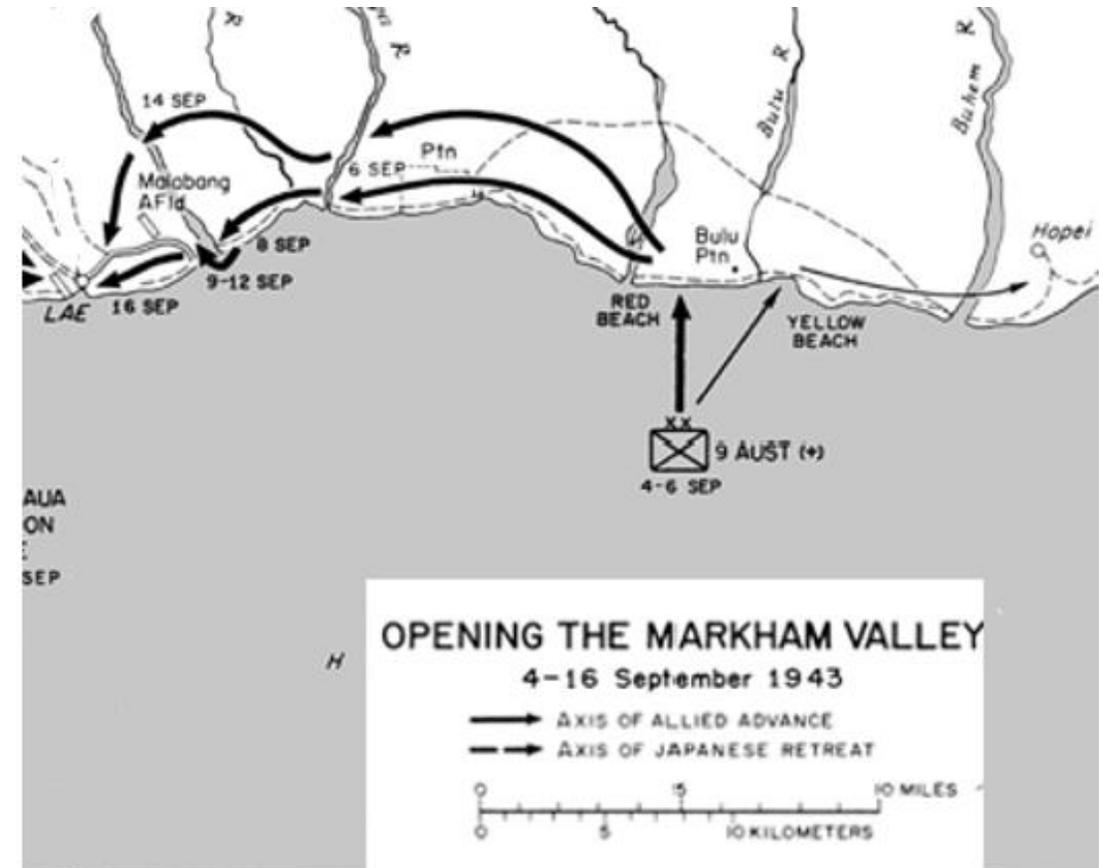
10 - 16 September 1943 – New Guinea

- The 25th Australian Infantry Brigade Group moved eastward out of Nadzab toward Lae on 10 September.
- While some troops blocked the trail at Yalu, and the 2/33d Australian Infantry Battalion guarded the line of communications, the 2/25th Australian Infantry Battalion advanced down the road and part of the 2/2d Australian Pioneer Battalion moved down the north bank of the river.
- When a small group of Japanese offered resistance to the advance at Jensen's Plantation the 2/25th Battalion drove it back and
- on 14 September captured Heath's Plantation.
- The 2/33d Australian Infantry Battalion then took over and pushed on toward Lae.
- By now the Australians had come within range of Japanese 75-mm. guns and found the going harder.
- But an assault the next day cleared Edward's Plantation and enemy resistance ended.
- The advance elements of the 25th Brigade entered Lae on 16 September.



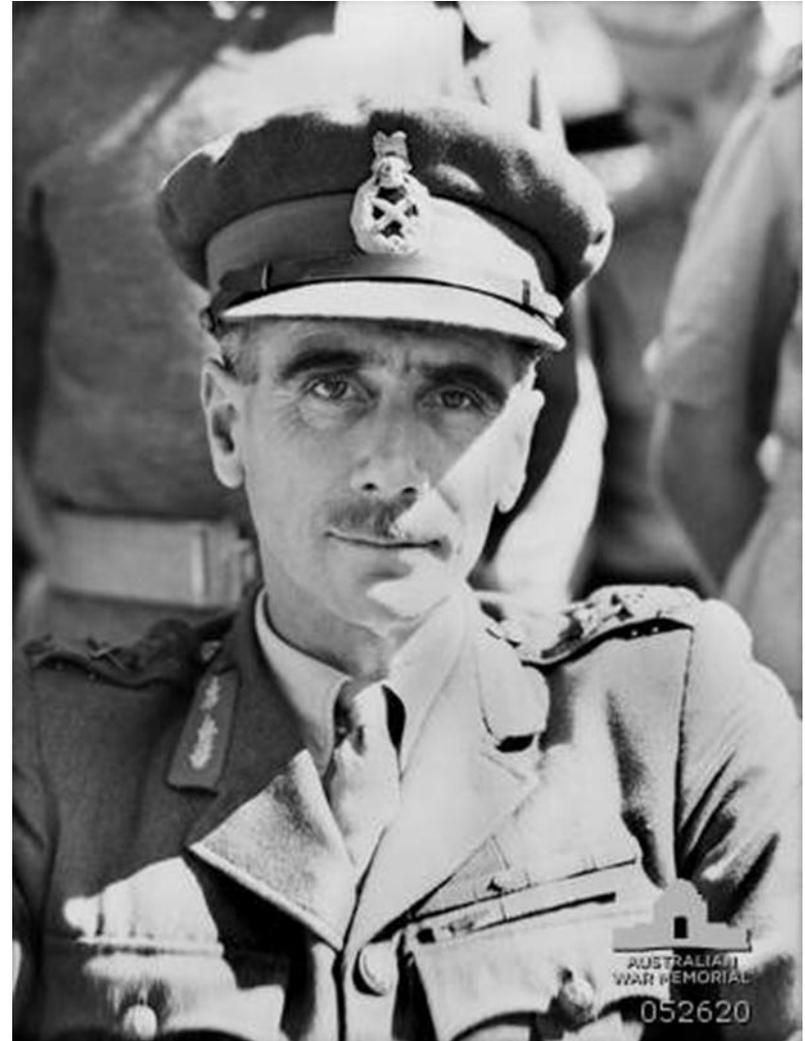
14 September 1943 – New Guinea

- Meanwhile the troops on the east bank of the Busu loaded men, weapons, and ammunition onto the 2d Engineer Special Brigade's landing craft and sent them to the west bank.
- For the next sixty hours, the landing craft plied back and forth until the entire 24th Brigade had been transferred to the west bank.
- Rain, mist, and darkness helped hide the boats from the Japanese, who tried to hit them with artillery, machine guns, and rifles.
- During the same period a box girder bridge was moved in pieces by landing craft from Bulu Plantation to the mouth of the Burep River, then laboriously hauled inland to the 26th Brigade's zone over a jeep track built by the 2d Engineer Special Brigade.
- The bridge was installed over the Busu under enemy fire on the morning of the 14th.
- The 26th Brigade crossed over that night. Both brigades were then on the west bank of the Busu and were ready to resume the advance against Lae and effect a junction with the troops of the 7th Division.



14 September 1943 – New Guinea

- On 14 September General Vasey had learned from a captured document and from interrogation of a prisoner that the Japanese were leaving Lae.
- He dispatched troops northward to reinforce the 2/4th Australian Independent Company, which was operating in the wilds north of Lae, but the Japanese eluded their pursuers.
- It was a band of retreating enemy that the 3d Battalion, 503d, encountered at Yalu, and when Australian forces rushed there the Japanese hastily altered their route to avoid interception.



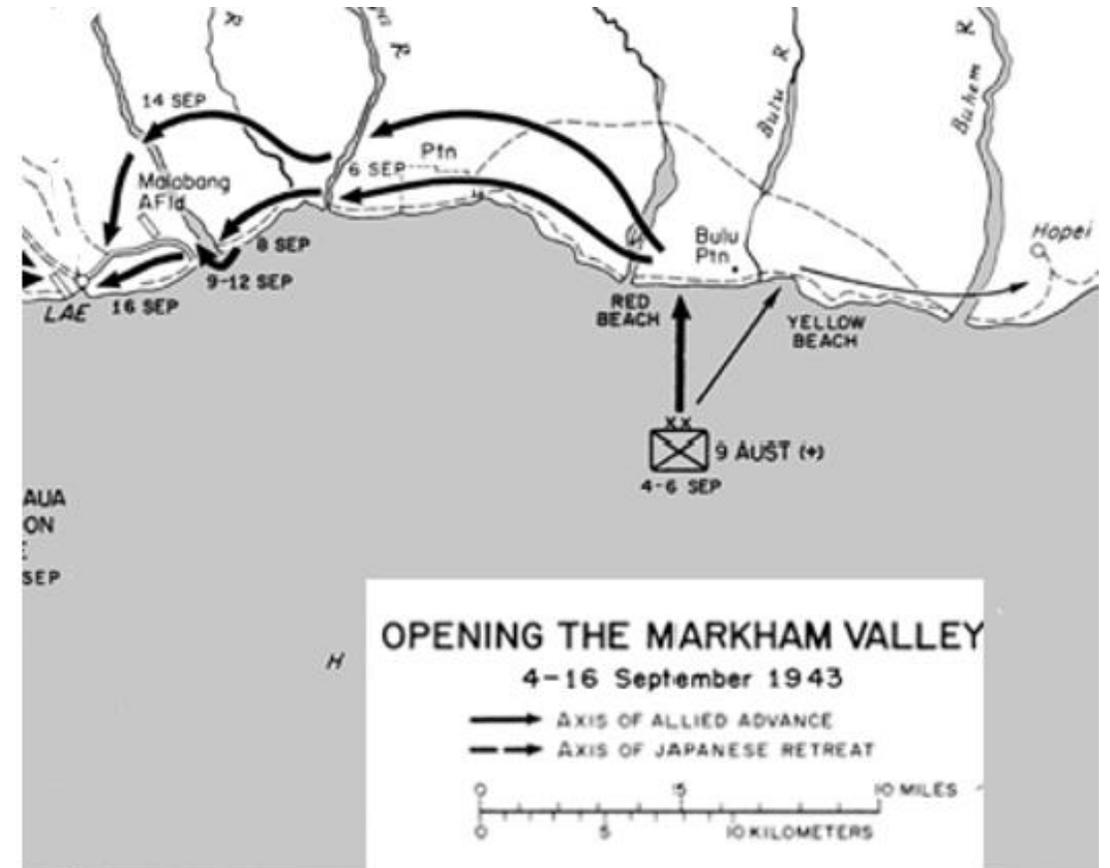
15 September 1943 – New Guinea

- The advanced echelon of GHQ had moved to Port Moresby during the planning for Lae and the Markham Valley.
- The questions of the next steps were thrashed out at a conference at Port Moresby on 3 September. MacArthur, Sutherland, Chamberlin, Kenney, Whitehead, Blamey, Carpenter, and others attended.
- On 15 September MacArthur ordered Blamey's New Guinea Force, supported by Kenney's forces, to seize Kaiapit and a prewar airfield at Dumpu in the Ramu Valley to provide cover for a future move against Cape Gloucester.
- Two days later he ordered the New Guinea Force, with naval support, to capture Finschhafen. It would serve as an advanced air base, and Allied Naval Forces, basing light naval craft there, would use it to cut off the Japanese from Cape Gloucester and Saidor.
- The attack on Madang was postponed.

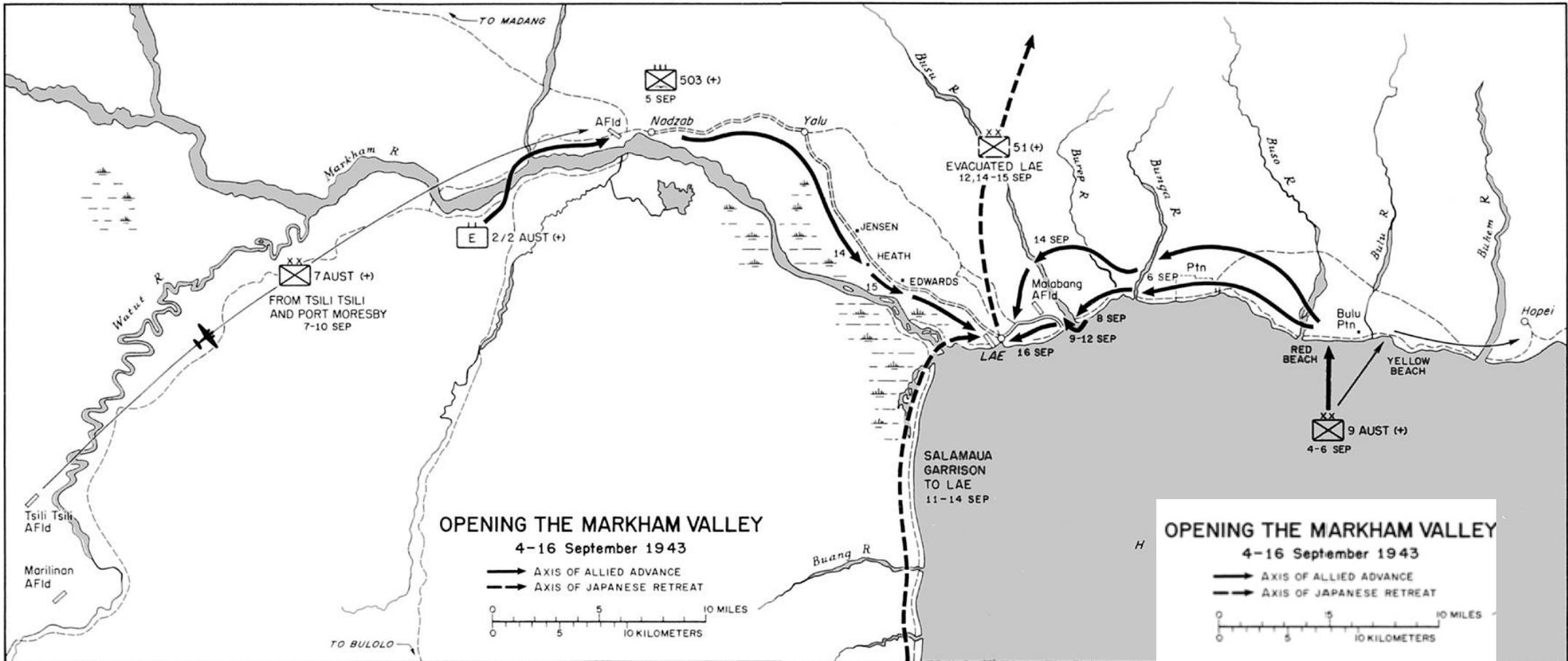


15 - 16 September 1943 – New Guinea

- In the afternoon the 24th Brigade, which had advanced from the east and captured Malahang Airdrome on 15 September, pushed into Lae and made contact with the 25th Brigade.
- The Japanese had vanished.



4 - 16 September 1943 – New Guinea

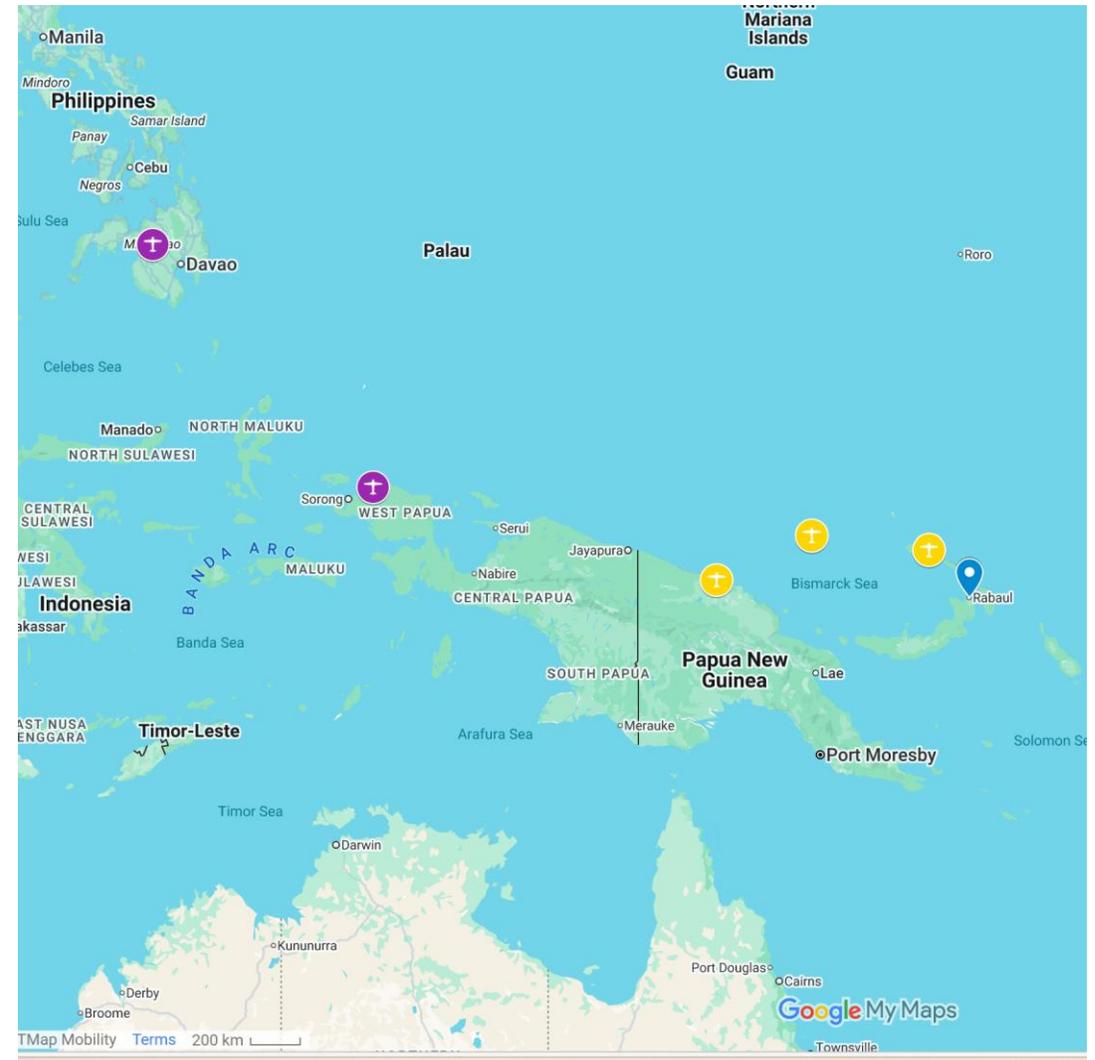


MAP 13

D. Holmes, Jr.

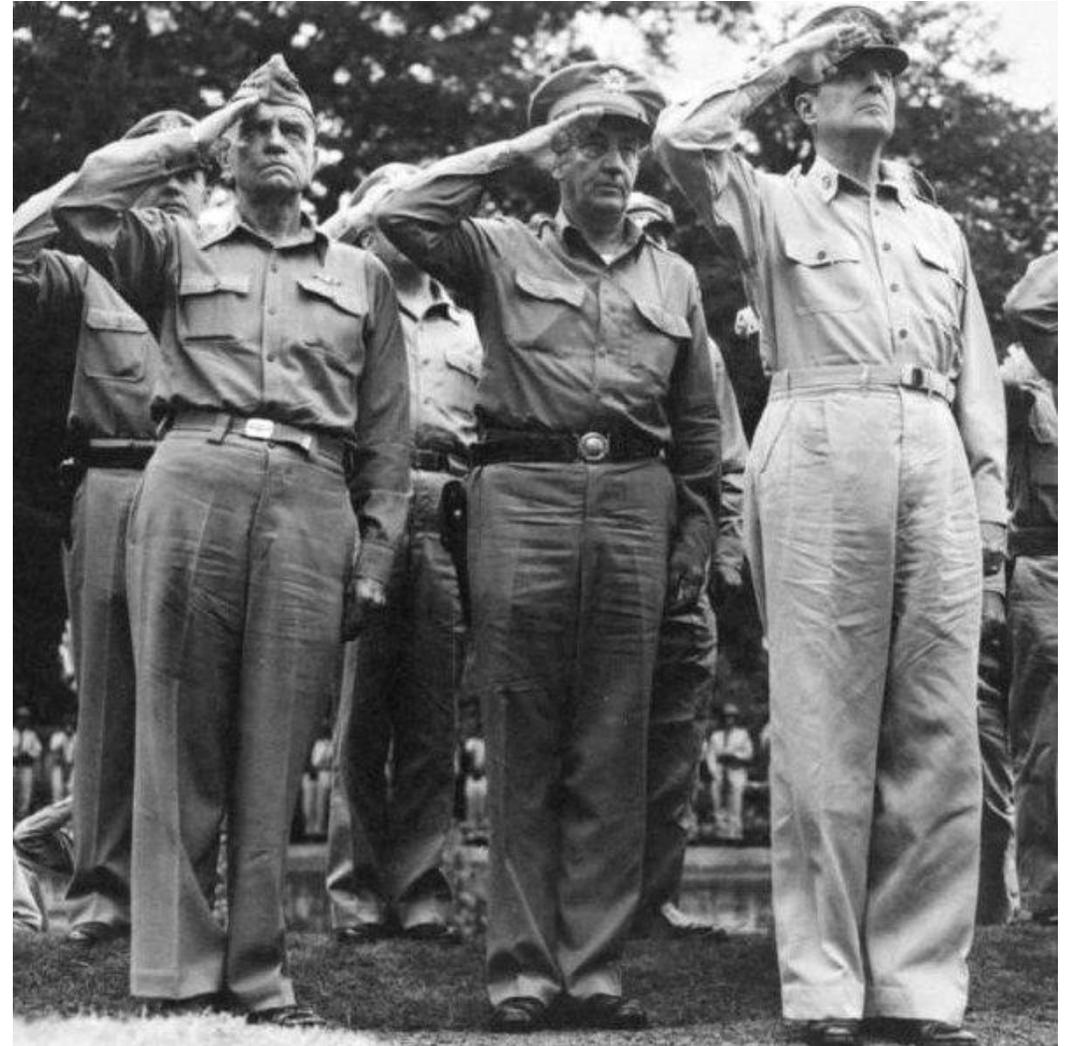
17 September 1943 – South West Pacific

- The Combined Chiefs, meeting with President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill in Quebec during August, received and approved the Joint Chiefs' recommendation that Rabaul be neutralized, not captured.
- They further agreed that after CARTWHEEL MacArthur and Halsey should neutralize New Guinea as far west as Wewak and should capture Manus and Kavieng to use as naval bases for supporting additional advances westward.
- Once these operations were concluded, MacArthur was to move west along the north coast of New Guinea to the Vogelkop Peninsula. Subsequently MacArthur was informed that his cherished ambition to return to the Philippines would be realized; Marshall radioed him that once the Vogelkop was reached, the Southwest Pacific's next logical objective would be Mindanao.
- Papers containing the Combined Chiefs decisions were delivered to General MacArthur by Col. William L. Ritchie of the Operations Division, War Department General Staff, who reached GHQ on 17 September.
- This formalised a decision to resolve the contest between Nimitz' and MacArthur's plans by doing both.



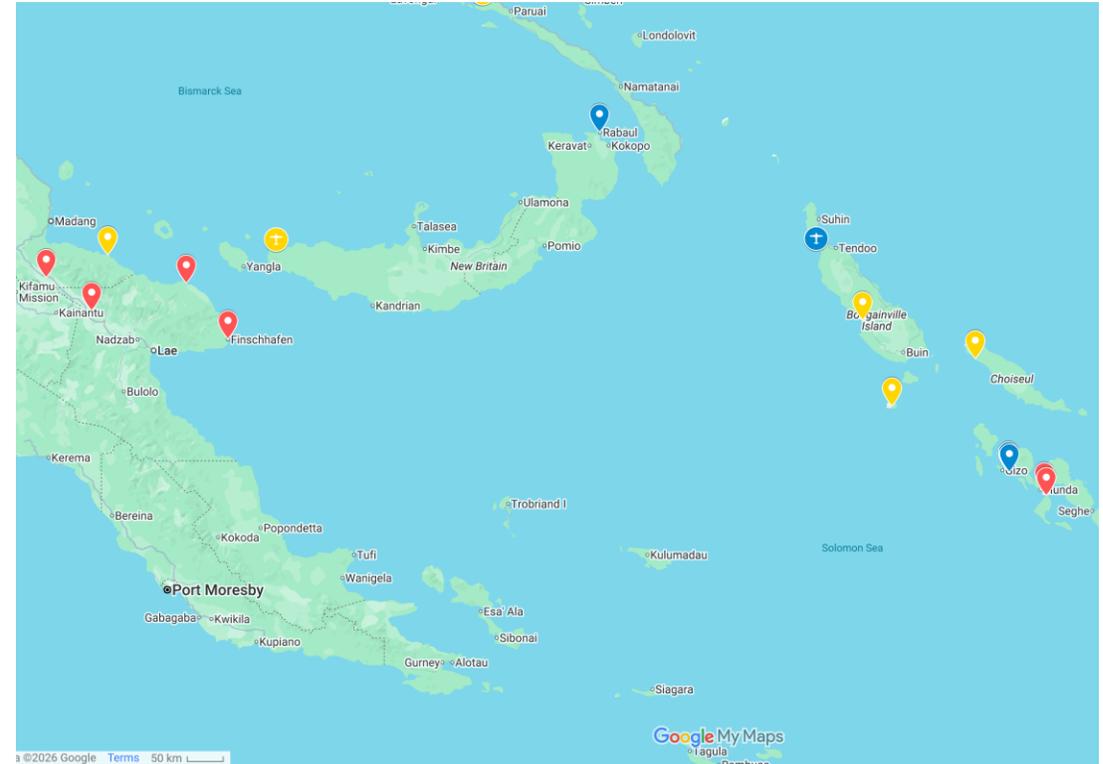
early September 1943

- By early September, however, Admiral Halsey had decided on a further change in plan. Several factors influenced his decision.
- The impressive and inexpensive success on Vella Lavella had demonstrated once more the validity of the old principle of striking soft spots, when possible, in preference to headlong assault against fixed positions.
- Further, reconnaissance had indicated that airdrome sites on the Shortlands were not very good. Landing in the Shortlands, which the Japanese were believed to be reinforcing, would entail heavy losses; poor beaches would impede the landing of heavy construction equipment and artillery for the neutralization of Kahili.
- Halsey decided in favor of increased air effort from the New Georgia fields against southern Bougainville and Buka.
- Starting about 1 November, he proposed to capture the Treasury Islands and Choiseul Bay as airfield, radar, and PT base sites from which to "contain and strangle" southern Bougainville and the Shortlands.
- He proposed that after the mainland of Bougainville had been reconnoitered he and MacArthur could decide whether to advance from Choiseul to Kieta on the east coast or from the Treasuries to Empress Augusta Bay on the west if post-CARTWHEEL plans required the establishment of positions on the mainland of Bougainville,



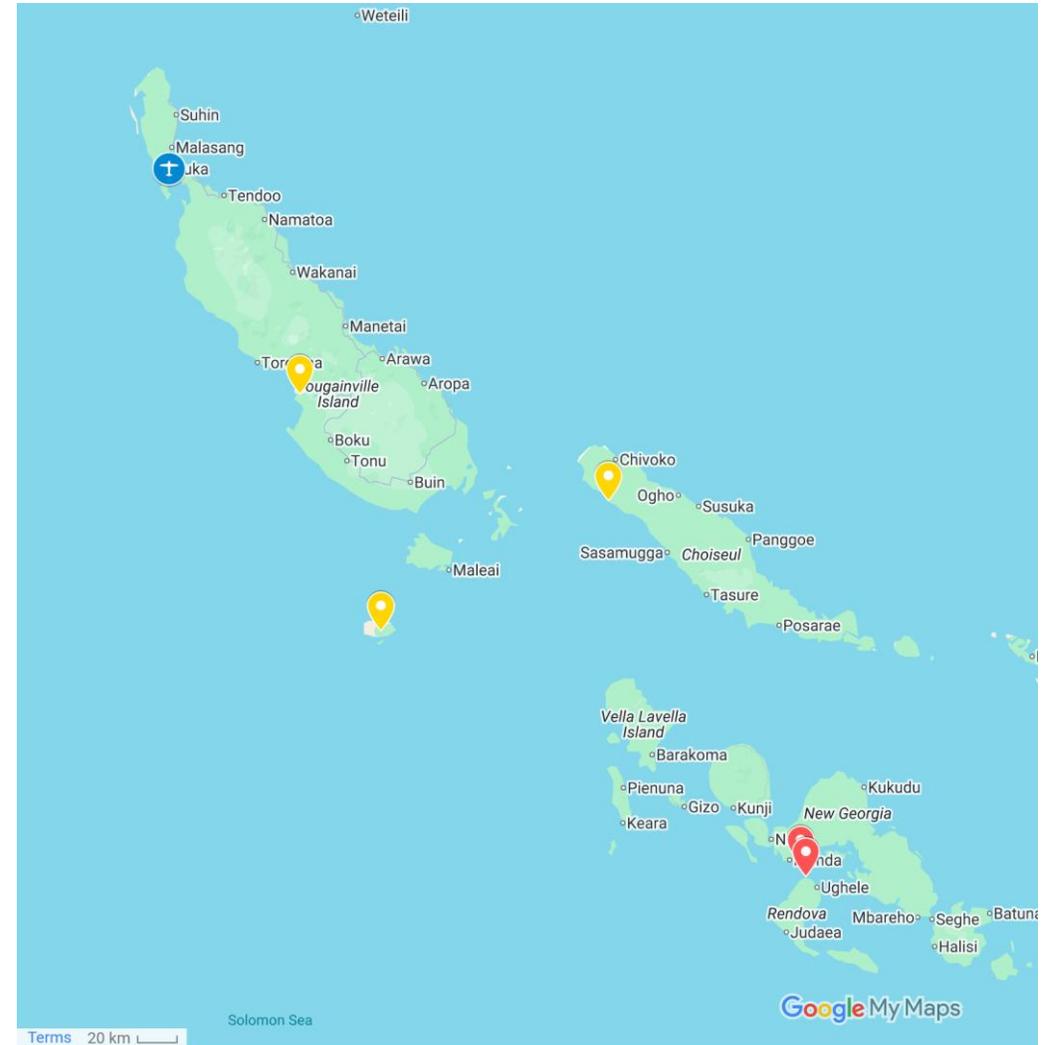
early September 1943

- MacArthur wanted Halsey's aircraft established within fighter range of Rabaul in time to assist with the neutralization of Rabaul that would cover the Southwest Pacific's invasion of Cape Gloucester.
- Therefore it would be necessary for South Pacific forces to establish themselves on the mainland of Bougainville about 1 November. So important was the operation that MacArthur tacitly approved commitment of the major part of South Pacific ground forces.
- Specifically, he proposed the following outline plan:
 - 15 October-1 November, Southwest Pacific air forces would make heavy attacks against Japanese aircraft, air installations, and shipping at Rabaul;
 - 20-25 October, South Pacific forces would occupy the Treasuries and positions on northern Choiseul in order to establish radar positions and PT boat bases;
 - 1 November, South Pacific forces would occupy Empress Augusta Bay on the west coast of Bougainville in order to establish airfields within fighter range of Rabaul;
 - 1-6 November, the Southwest Pacific would continue air attacks on Rabaul and would assist in the neutralization of Buka;
 - 25 December 1943-1 January 1944, Southwest Pacific forces would seize Cape Gloucester and Saidor in order to gain control of Vitiaz and Dampier Straits and to secure airdromes for the neutralization of Kavieng. During this period South Pacific forces would neutralize Rabaul.



17 September

- General MacArthur stressed the importance of a landing on the mainland at another meeting on 17 September attended by General Harmon and Colonel Riley.
- Asked if he preferred a landing on the east or the west coast of Bougainville, he put the decision entirely in Admiral Halsey's hands.



18 September 1943 – New Guinea

- At a meeting on the 18th Herring warned Milford (CO 5th Division, from Wau) to prepare for a move to Lae where he would supervise the establishment of the base.
- Milford warned that the Americans intended to use their equipment solely for their half of the base, leaving the Australian side a series of camps connected by muddy tracks. He concluded: The acceptance of stores until some roads are available will be extremely difficult.
- There is practically no Australian engineer mechanical equipment now available at Lae. . . . The need for Australian engineer units with heavy mechanical equipment is therefore extremely urgent especially tip-trucks, gravel loading equipment and graders. The construction of access roads to . . . depots involves a very large road construction program.
- Until port facilities were developed everything had to be landed on the open beach from landing craft of the Engineer Special Brigade. Their orders forbade them to be within 20 miles of Lae between dusk and dawn, and on some nights there was not enough time to unload the few craft that were serving the base and they would depart with urgently needed stores still on board.



Brigadier E. J. Milford RAA 7th Division AIF (left) and Major-General J. D. Lavarack, Commander 7th Division AIF (right) taken on the deck of the troopship carrying the Division overseas.

18 September 1943

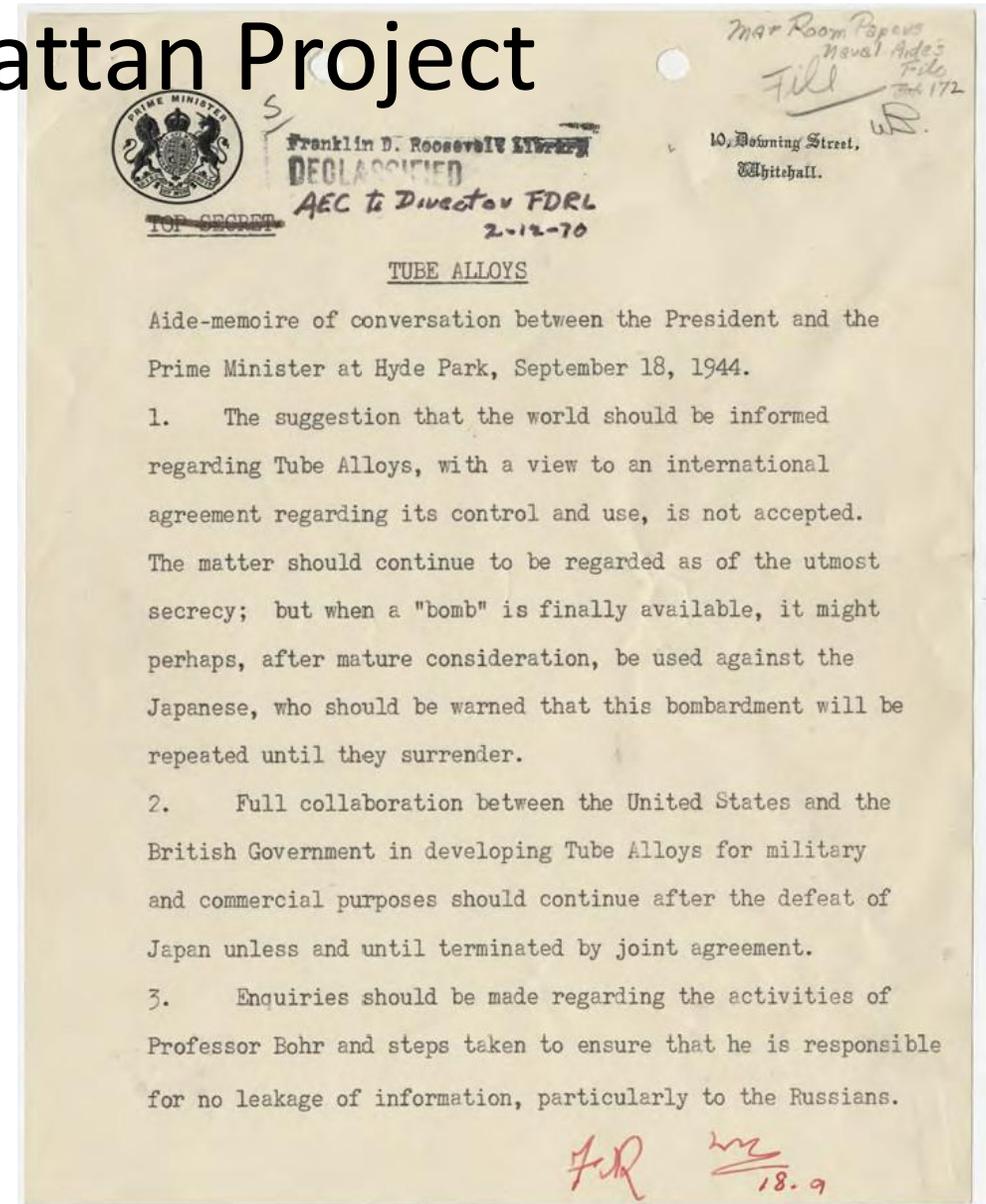
- At 2 a.m. on the 18th, after seeing "the lights of Singapore glowing a mere 22 miles away", Krait anchored off Panjang Island in the Rhio Archipelago and commenced disembarking the operatives, their canoes and other gear.
- "The operation went off without a hitch and at 0445 we raised anchor and started to retrace our steps."



The crew of Krait during Operation Jaywick

18 September 1943 - Manhattan Project

- Churchill had discussions with Roosevelt, while visiting at his home Hyde Park, about the use of these weapons on 18/09/1943.



18 and 19 September 1943 - Central Pacific

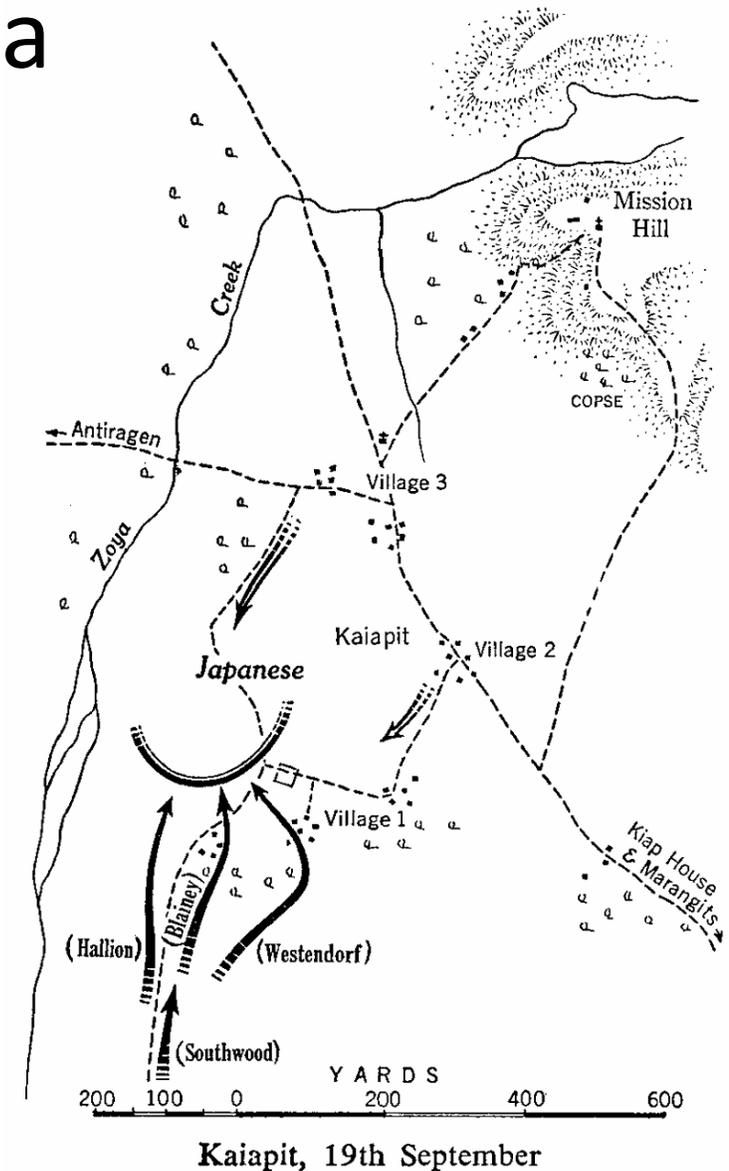
- Belleau Wood and Princeton rejoined Lexington in mid-September to carry out strikes on Japanese positions in the Gilbert Islands on 18 and 19 September, as part of the preparatory attacks before the Battle of Tarawa.
- The BW CAP also shot down a Mitsubishi G4M bomber that attempted to attack the fleet.



Overhead view of Belleau Wood in 1943, showing the general arrangement of the ship's deck, island, and defensive armament

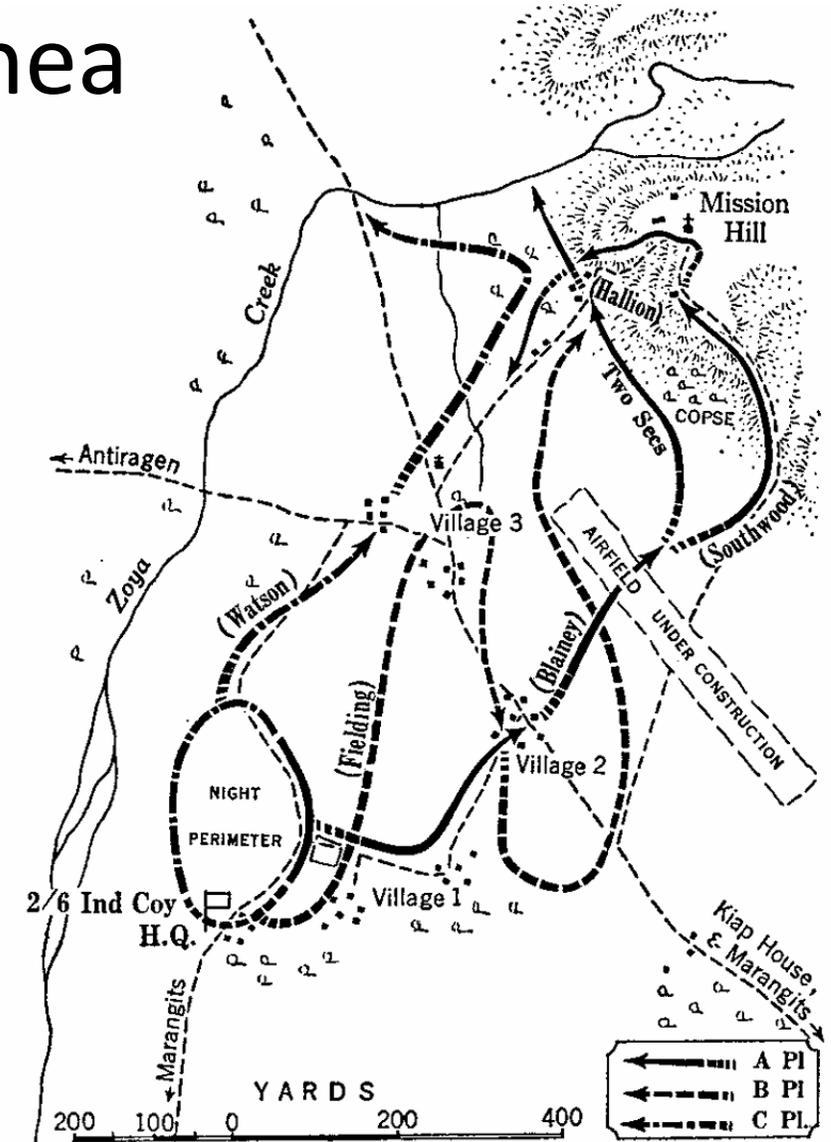
19 September 1943 – New Guinea

- The 2/6th Australian Independent Company began the drive in September when Kenney's transport planes landed it on a prewar airstrip in the Markham Valley some thirty miles northwest of Nadzab near the Leron River.
- At 3.15 p.m. On the 19th the company formed up in the flat kunai on the edge of a swamp about 1,200 yards from Kaiapit.
- Captain G. C. Blainey's platoon advanced on a wide front with Lieutenant Westendorf's section on the right, Lieutenant Hallion's on the left and Lieutenant Southwood's in reserve. Thirty-five minutes later the leading section was fired on from foxholes 150 yards from the first Kaiapit village. The platoon went in hard and the first rush took the leading section into the village, which it cleared.
- Westendorf's section swung out to the right flank at 4.5 p.m. and, with the help of the other two, cleared the main foxholes behind the first village with bayonets and grenades. Westendorf was killed leading a charge but his men killed 11 Japanese where he fell. Against these fierce attacks the enemy broke and fled to the northwest abandoning Kaiapit and leaving 30 dead and several weapons.
- The Independent Company had 2 killed and 7 wounded, including King who had been forward with Blainey's company. King carried on.



20 September 1943 – New Guinea

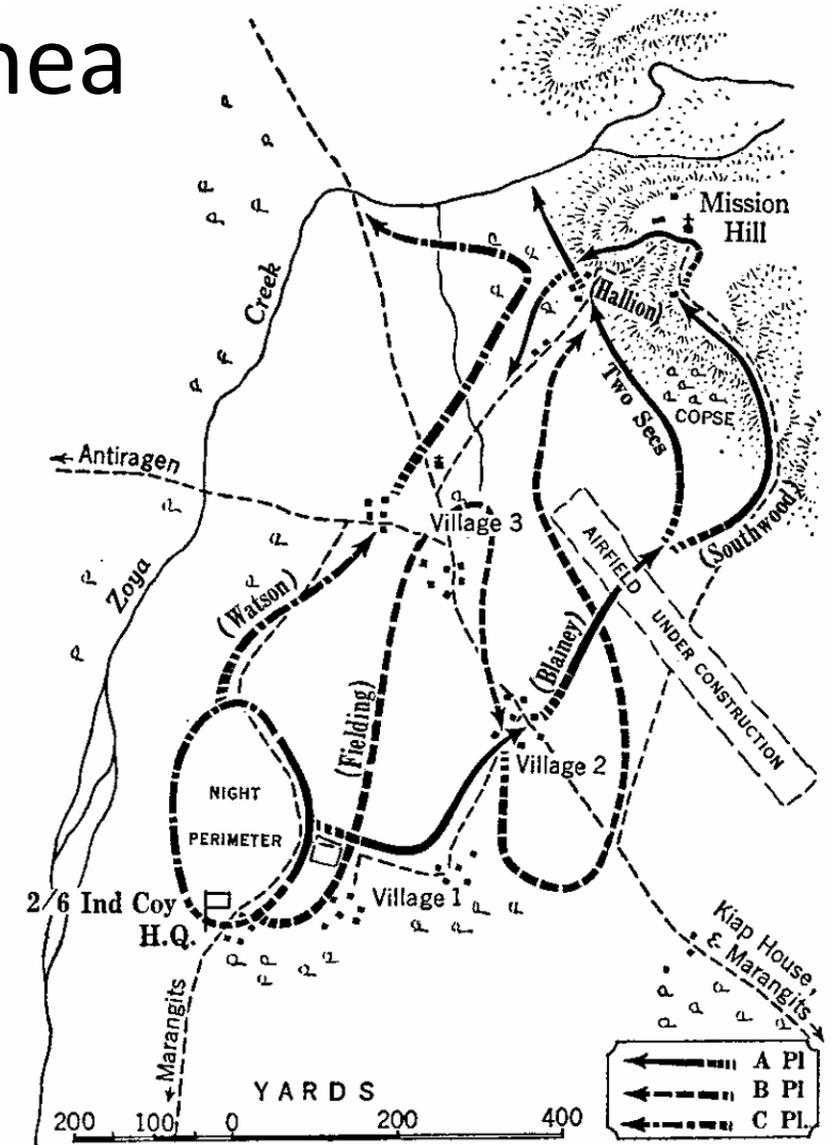
- About 6.15 on 20th September what appeared to be a powerful enemy force attacked the section of the perimeter which covered the track entering Kaiapit from the west.
- The company's report says that there was "a hell of a lot of firing and shouting, but very little offensive spirit shown".
- Captain King decided to counter-attack despite the fact that he had very little ammunition left. A quarter of an hour after the first enemy attack, Watson's platoon charged and drove the enemy back about 200 yards to the No. 3 village where heavy fire forced them to ground.
- They lost several men including one of the section commanders, Lieutenant Scott, seriously wounded.
- King sent Blainey's platoon round on the right flank. The shortage of ammunition was becoming desperate and King saw that he might eventually have to withdraw for lack of it.
- The third platoon (Lieutenant G. A. Fielding), less one section, was therefore directed to form a firm base and cover the evacuation of the increasing number of wounded.



20th September

20 September 1943 – New Guinea

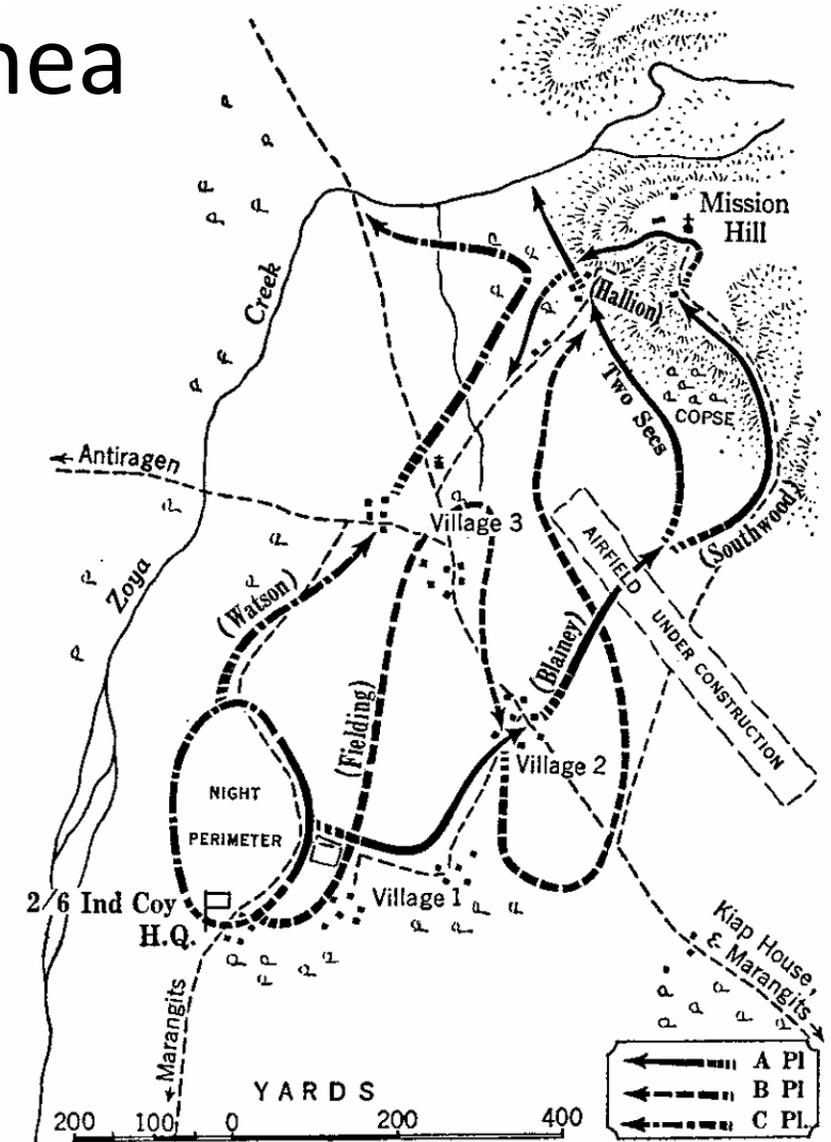
- At 6.45 a.m. Blainey's platoon attacked to the right through No. 2 village and pursued some enemy bands into the kunai to the east, using the 2-inch mortar on a small copse surrounded by wire near the foot of Mission Hill.
- It then fanned out, Lieutenant Southwood's section making for Mission Hill and the other two moving on parallel lines toward some huts at the foot of this hill. Corporal Graham was now wounded twice more. In the intervening kunai several enemy were killed. By this time at least 100 Japanese had been killed and many of the others were showing signs of having had enough.
- Soon after 7 a.m. a small carrying party of signallers and other men from headquarters carried forward to Watson's platoon some ammunition which they had been able to scrape together.
- It was a pitifully small amount but enough to encourage the platoon to rise to its feet and with fixed bayonets break out from the village.



20th September

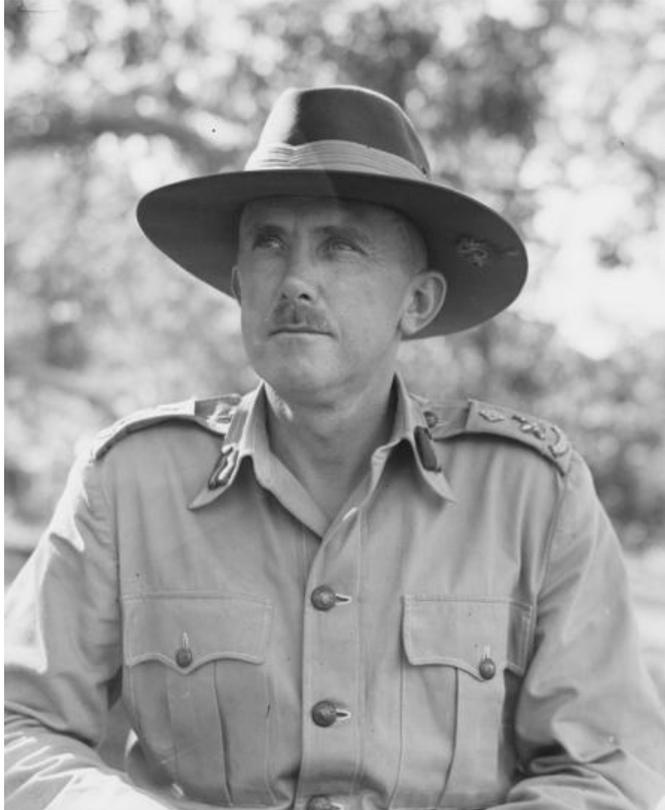
20 September 1943 – New Guinea

- Lieutenant Balderstone set a fine example by leading his section across 70 yards of open ground and wiping out three machine-gun posts with grenades. The Japanese, superior in number, turned and fled into the kunai and pit-pit with the Australians hot on their trail.
- By 7.30 Southwood's section had secured Mission Hill and remained there observing and directing the two platoons below it towards enemy bands and barracking as if at a football match.
- Lieutenant Hallion was killed when leading his section against an enemy machine-gun post. Corporal Wilson, who had carried in two wounded men under heavy fire during the fighting on the previous day, now took command of Hallion's section.
- With bayonets and grenades the section captured the machine-gun and killed twelve Japanese where Hallion fell. This was the last organised resistance.
- The ubiquitous and enterprising Lieutenant Frazier, USA, landed on the strip in his Piper Cub at 12.30 p.m. and advised that the strip must be ready for transports by 11 a.m. on the 21st.



20th September

20 September 1943 – New Guinea



Major General F.H. Berryman
Deputy Chief of the General
Staff

- At Moresby on the 20th General Chamberlin rang General Berryman and asked what the Australians were doing about Kaiapit.
- Berryman replied that Vasey was in command on the spot and that General Blamey was content to leave it to him.
- Berryman that day noted down the subsequent conversation:
 - "He said General MacArthur would not be satisfied with that.
 - I told him General MacArthur should ring up my chief.
 - Chamberlin said MacArthur was hot foot after him."
- When the Americans learnt what had happened their praise and their generosity knew no bounds. The Independent Company received General Kenney's thanks and an offer to fly in a plane-load of whatever the company wanted, and in due course a consignment mainly of soft drinks, sweets, cigarettes and reading matter arrived .



Brigadier General S.J.
Chamberlin, Assistant Chief
of Staff, G-3 (Plans &
Operations) SWP.

21 September 1943 – New Guinea

- On the 21st the Kaiapit strip saw the arrival, after a flight up from Nadzab, of the 21st Brigade Group of General Vasey's 7th Australian Division.

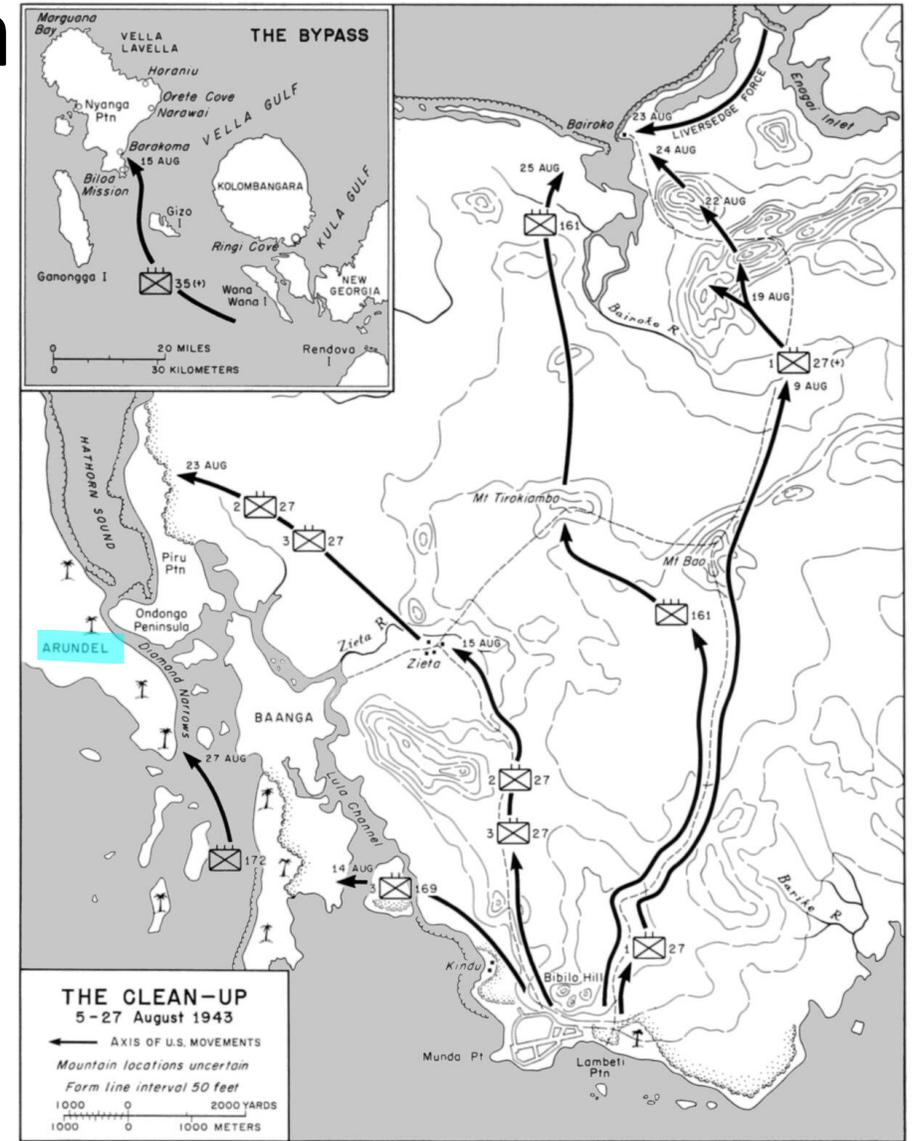


(Australian War Memorial)

Men of the 2/16th Battalion arrive at Kaiapit by plane on 21st September 1943 to begin their advance on foot along the Markham and Ramu Valleys.

21 September – New Georgia

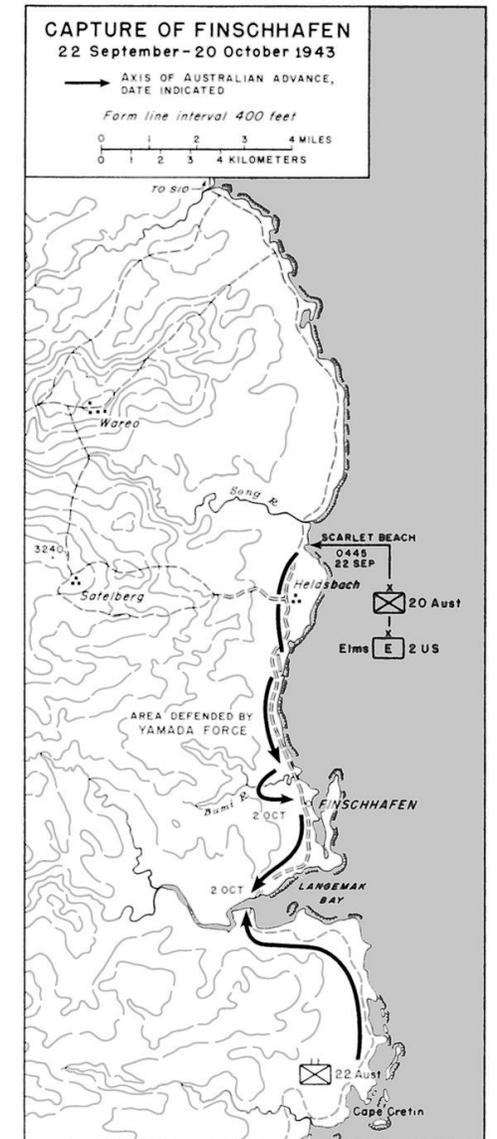
- The Japanese carried out a particularly determined attack on 15 September, bringing the whole Allied effort on **Arundel** to a halt, and with far fewer troops than his opponents.
- Griswold ordered a full-scale effort, including Marine Corps tanks, to drive the Japanese off the island.
- After vicious fighting on 17 and 18 September, the Japanese abandoned Arundel for good on the night of 20–21 September.



MAP 11

21 September 1943 – New Guinea

- Admiral Barbey assembled 8 LST's, 16 LCI's, 10 destroyers, and 4 APD's for the invasion on 22 September.
- The LST's loaded at Buna, and the whole task group assembled in the harbor at Lae on 21 September.
- General Wootten meanwhile had selected the 20th Infantry Brigade Group of his division to make the landing and had ordered
- the 22d Infantry Battalion to advance east along the coast to threaten Langemak Bay, just south of Finschhafen.
- Elements of the 2d Engineer Special Brigade had been attached to Wootten.
- No close air support was planned for the invasion, but in the days preceding 22 September B-24's and B-25's bombed the Gasmata airfield on the south coast of New Britain.
- Daytime A-20's and B-25's struck at Japanese lines of communication to Finschhafen, and PT's took over the work at night.



MAP 14

September 1943 – New Guinea

- On 21 September squadrons of American heavy bombers raided Cape Gloucester airfield, while three Bostons and ten Beauforts of No. 9 Group bombed Gasmata, dropping twelve tons of bombs on or near the runway again for the purpose of ensuring the enemy could not stage aircraft there for attacks on the beach-head the following day.
- The Beauforts, five of which were from No. 8 (Torpedo) Squadron, just arrived in the New Guinea area, attacked before dawn.
- The Bostons attacked later and one aircraft, while returning to base discovered a 300-foot submarine, loaded with supplies, south of Gasmata. The Bostons strafed the submarine and its deck cargo before it crash-dived.
- No. 9 Group had been strengthened by the arrival of this additional squadron from the mainland and the conversion of No. 6 Squadron from Hudson aircraft to Beauforts.
- No. 8 Squadron had been given Beauforts in March 1943 and went through a rigorous training as a torpedo squadron. After some service at Townsville and long delay awaiting sea transport, the entire squadron was moved to Goodenough and began operations in September.



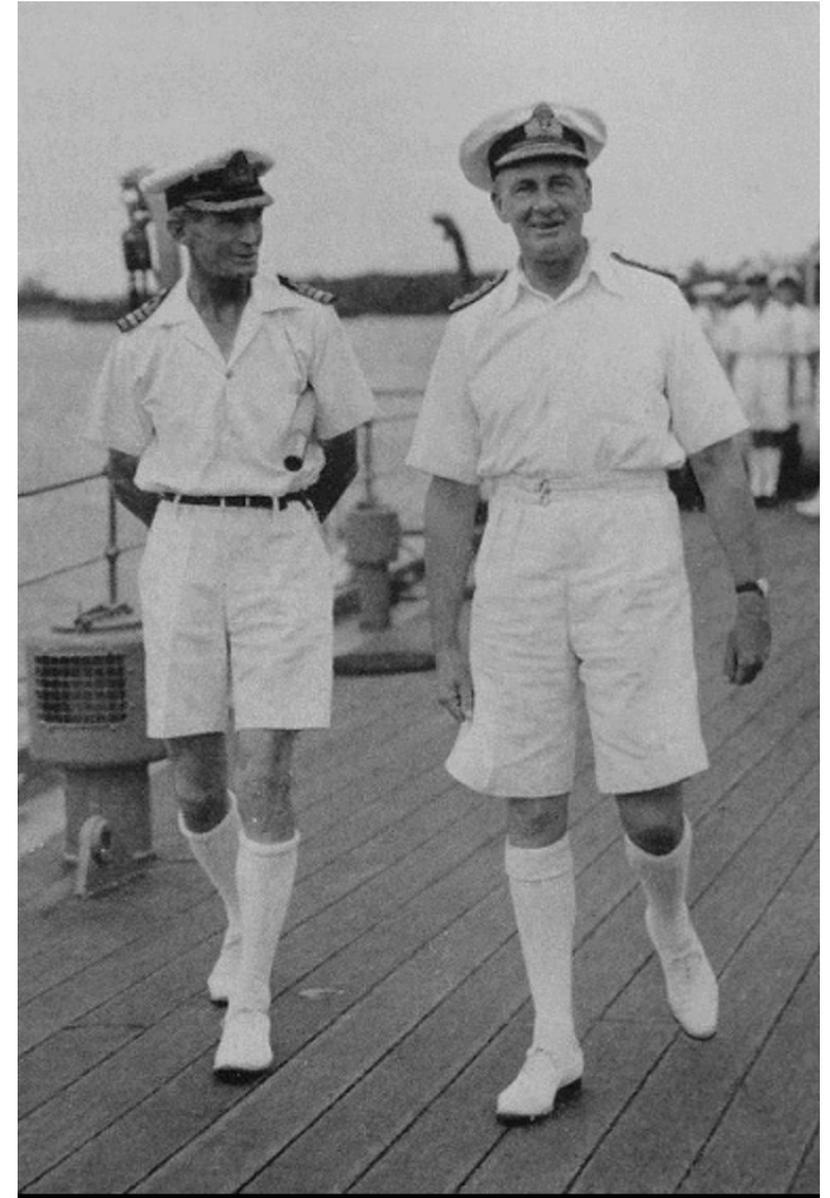
Hudsons, 214 knots, 1,400 lb bomb load were replaced by Beauforts 235 knots, 2,000 lb bombload.



Beauforts had been retired from operations from the UK in May 1942.

21 September 1943 - SEAC

- The Eastern Fleet had withdrawn to Kilindini in East Africa in April 1942 when the Japanese carriers were loose in the Indian Ocean.
- It now returned from its East African base to Colombo.
- The staff of the CinC Eastern Fleet sailed on 8th September, for Colombo. Admiral Somerville himself arrived on 21st September in the cruiser Hawkins.
- In August, of the six Australian destroyers attached to the fleet, only Nepal was available for escort duty at a time when the Indian Ocean had the heaviest shipping losses of any theatre—eight ships of 54,035 tons. Of the other five Australian ships, Napier was refitting in South Africa, Nizam was on passage to Australia, and Norman, Quickmatch, and Quiberon were on loan to the South Atlantic Station.
- September, however, saw the Australian destroyers back in the Indian Ocean, with the exception of Nizam who did not rejoin until November.
- The Australian corvettes from the Mediterranean also returned to the Indian Ocean station. Ship losses in the Indian Ocean in September declined to six ships of 39,471 tons.
- Photo: Somerville as Commander-in-Chief, Eastern Fleet with Captain G.N. Oliver on board HMS Warspite (early 1942)



22 September 1943 – New Guinea

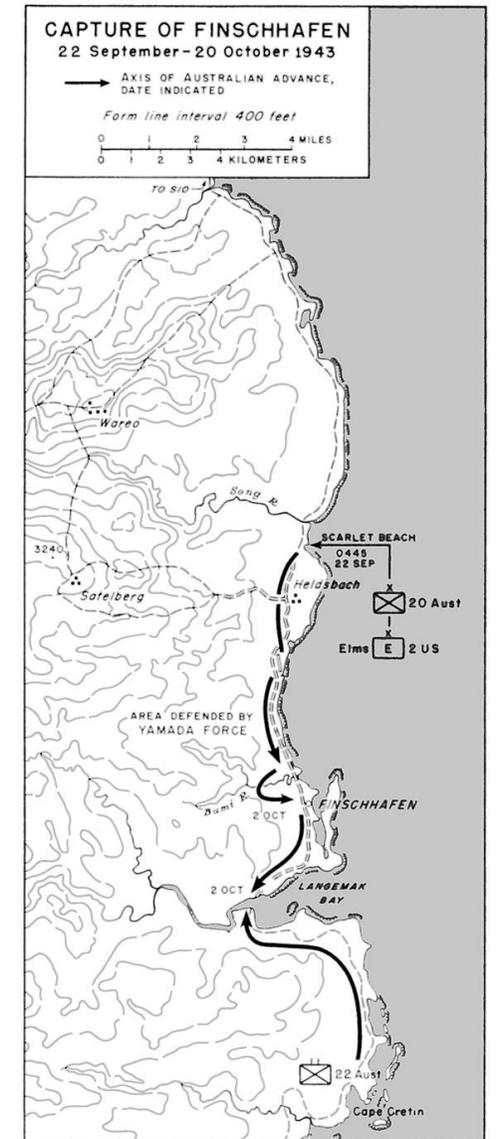
- The 22d Battalion marched out of Lae en route to Langemak Bay on the 21st, and the same day the amphibious force sailed for Finschhafen, eighty-two miles distant.
- Destroyers bombarded SCARLET Beach on the morning of 22 September, and during darkness, at 0445, the first Australian assault wave touched down.
- Coxswains had difficulty finding the right beach in the dark with the result that most landing craft carrying the first two waves lost direction and landed in a small cove south of SCARLET Beach.
- First light aided the LCI's carrying the third wave; they landed at the right place.



(Australian War Memorial)
An L.S.T. landing troops of the 9th Division at Scarlet Beach, near Finschhafen, on 22nd September 1943.

22 September 1943 – New Guinea

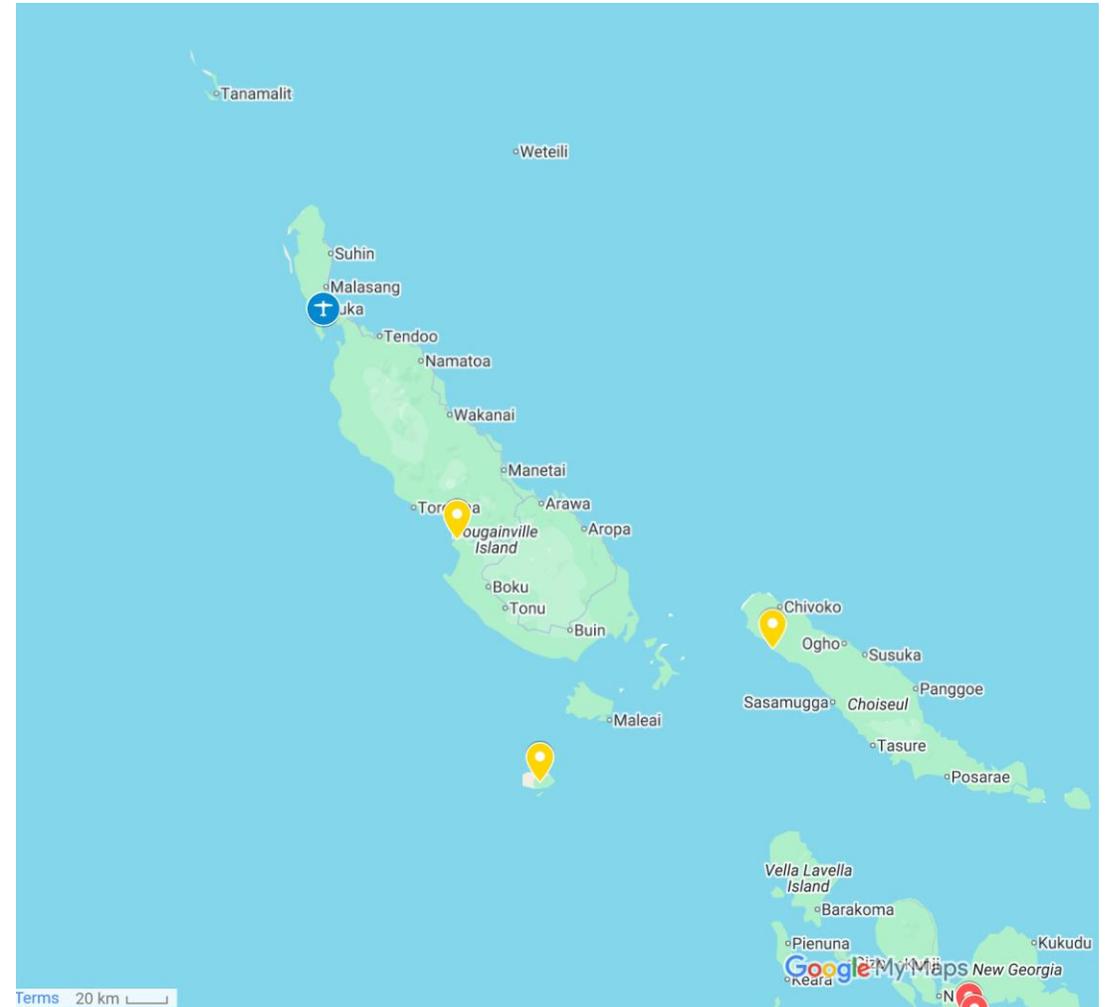
- The waves that landed at the cove met some scattered but ineffective fire from enemy posts in the fringe of the jungle.
- The third wave met better organized opposition from log-and-earth pillboxes, but by 0930 all resistance had been overcome, all troops and supplies were ashore, and the landing craft retracted.
- The Japanese survivors retired to rising ground about a half mile inland and some sharp fighting ensued before the 2/17th Battalion was in complete possession of the beachhead.
- The 2/13 Battalion meanwhile swung left (south) toward the village of Heldsbach, which was just north of the Finschhafen airstrip.



MAP 14

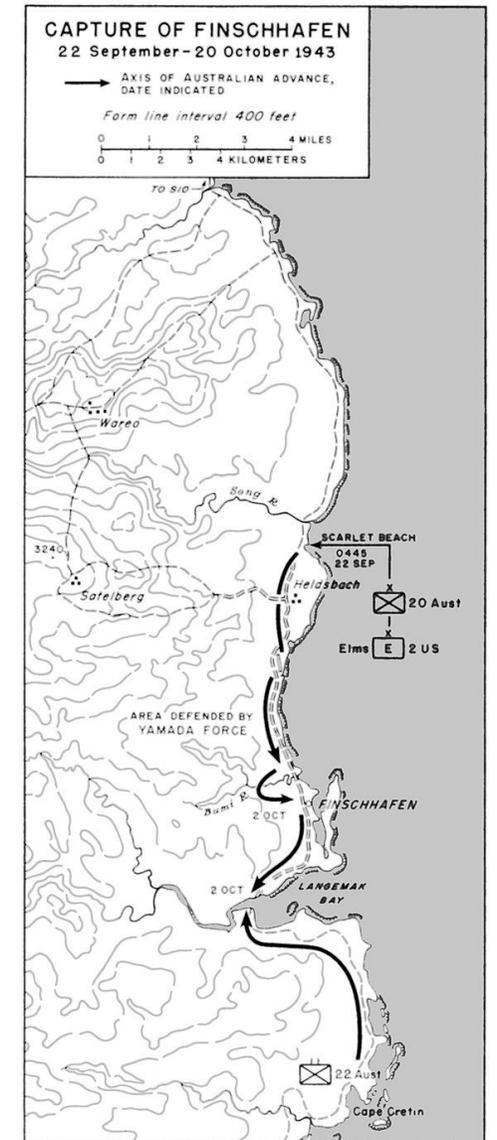
22 September

- On 22 September, Halsey issued warning orders which canceled all his earlier plans and assigned the units to constitute the invasion force.
- Admiral Wilkinson would lead it. The landing forces, under Wilkinson, were still to be under the commanding general of the I Marine Amphibious Corps.
- Halsey instructed Wilkinson and his units to be ready to carry out one of two plans: either they were to seize and hold the Treasury Islands and the airfield sites in the Empress Augusta Bay region on the west coast of Bougainville; or they were to seize the Treasuries and Choiseul Bay, build airfields, PT boat bases, and landing craft staging points, and in late December seize the Japanese airfield at Tenekau on the east coast of Bougainville.



22-24 September 1943 – New Guinea

- Bad weather over central New Guinea kept the Army planes on the ground but the Navy planes at Rabaul went up and fiercely attacked the retiring amphibious force on 22 and 24 September.
- The vigilant destroyer Reid had given warning and Allied fighters, the ships' own anti-aircraft, and "good luck in addition to good ship maneuvering" kept the ships from harm.
- At the beachhead the American engineers built roads and dumps and unloaded naval craft. The larger engineer craft carried additional supplies from Lae to SCARLET Beach, while the LCVP's hauled supplies at night from SCARLET Beach to the Australians who were pushing south toward Finschhafen.
- The 20th Brigade continued its move toward Finschhafen on the 23d. It captured Hellsbach, the airfield, and part of the shore of the harbor before meeting stiff resistance at the Bumi River.
- Two companies of the 2/15th Battalion moved inland (right) to outflank the enemy, and the next morning the Australians forced their way over the river in the face of stalwart resistance.



MAP 14

22-24 September 1943 – New Guinea

- In an effort to prevent the staging in of more enemy planes from Rabaul to the battle area, 12 Kittyhawks of No. 76 Squadron, which was now based at Kiriwina, were sent that afternoon to dive-bomb Gasmata airfield.
- They were armed with 500-lb demolition bombs , five of which they dropped near the airfield.
- They struck at Gasmata again at 6.30 next morning with twelve bombs which they dropped from as low as 2,000 feet. Only four, however, hit the target and three were seen to drop harmlessly into the sea.
- Flight Sergeant Roantree, one of the pilots, did not return
- The Beauforts of No. 8 Squadron had also attacked the Cape Hoskins airfield at dawn on this day, losing one crew , captained by Flying Officer Spooner.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

064231

FINISTERRE RANGES, NEW GUINEA. 1944-01-22. A "KITTYHAWK" DIVE BOMBER OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE DROPPING IT'S BOMB ON JAPANESE POSITIONS.

22-24 September 1943 – New Guinea

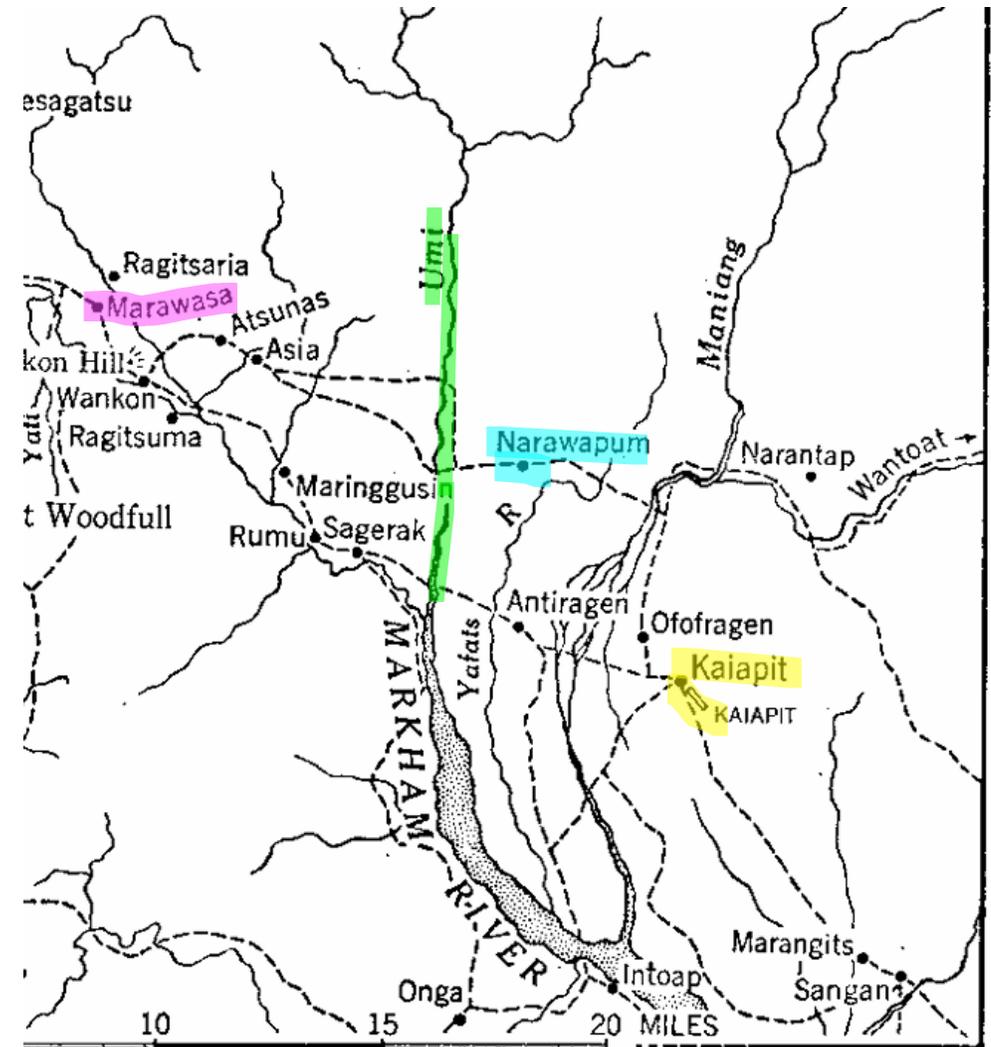
- Kiriwina airfield had not been attacked by the Japanese so the Australian fighter pilots who were responsible for the defence of Kiriwina were not experiencing any air-to-air fighting.
- Enemy aircraft were frequently raiding Dobodura, but they were always too far distant for interception by the Kiriwina squadrons.
- Some of the pilots who had served in the Middle East and had seen the use of Hurricanes as light bombers asked that their machines be fitted with racks for carrying bombs.
- Wing Cmdr Garrison, the No. 9 Group armament officer arranged for the bomb racks to be fitted.
- After initial difficulties this was done and the Kittyhawk pilots were trained in the technique of bombing, although some at first were dubious about carrying bomb loads over water and considered that, with a live bomb under the wings, take-off was dangerous. Occasionally bombs had broken loose during take-off and skidded along runways .
- In low-level attacks fighter-bombers were less vulnerable to ground fire than Beauforts because of their superior speed, and before long proved their value in the new role.



An RAF Wing Commander inspects a 1,000-lb GP bomb slung beneath the fuselage of a Curtiss P-40 Kittyhawk Mark IV of No. 450 Squadron RAAF at Cutella. Two 500-lb GP bombs are also slung from the wing loading points.

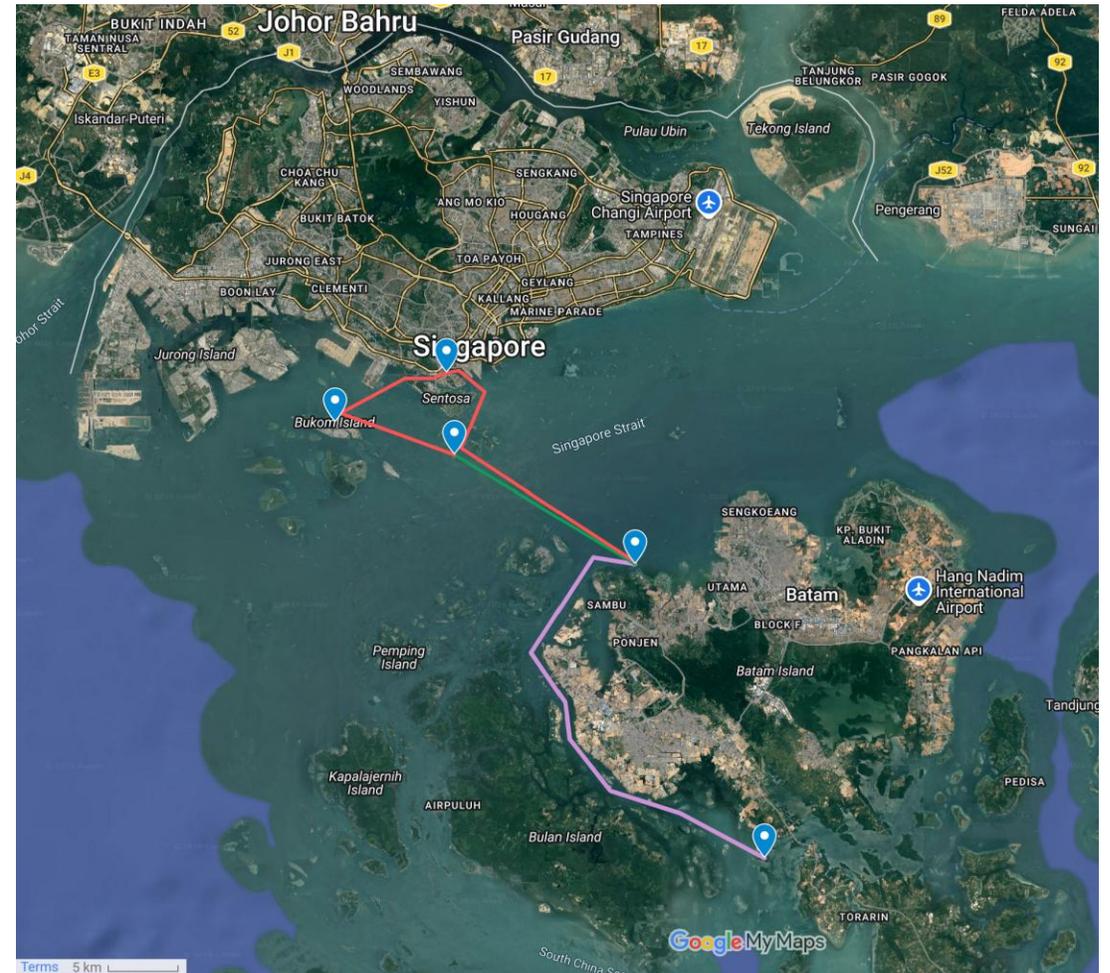
27 September 1943 – New Guinea

- Only the advanced headquarters of the 25th Brigade arrived at **Kaiapit** on the 27th.
- The planes were now landing on the new airstrip which had been built mainly by "Marys", under the direction of Angau officers, as the native men had been recruited for the carrier trains.
- As patrols from the 2/6th Independent Company and the Papuans reported on the 26th and 27th that **Narawapum** was deserted and that natives said that the Japanese had retreated across the **Umi River**, Vasey decided to wait no longer.
- Late on the 27th he signalled Dougherty that if he was convinced that there were no enemy east of the Umi he was to cross the river on the night of the 28th-29th September and move as quickly as possible to **Marawasa**.



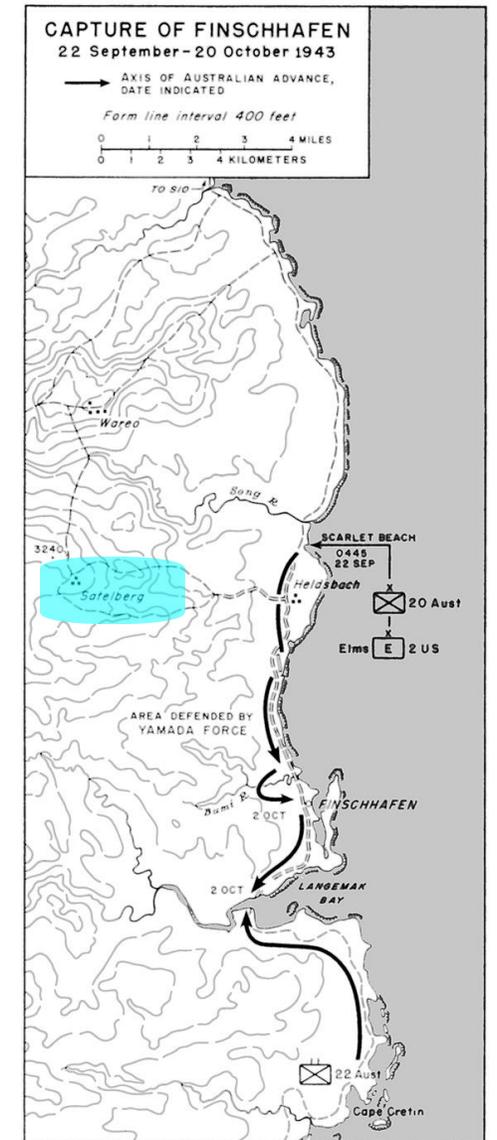
27 September 1943 -

- After the ship left them they spent two days resting on Panjang Island, and at midnight on 22nd September established an observation post on Dongas Island. 33kms.
- In the night of 24th-25th September the three canoes left Dongas for an attack but the attempt was abandoned at 1 a.m. because of a strong adverse current so they shifted to a better placed observation post on Subar Island. Net 14kms.
- At 7 p.m. on the 26th the three canoes set out.
- No. 1, Lyon and Huston, attacked a tanker and placed two limpet mines on the engine room and one on the propeller shaft.
- No. 2, Davidson and Falls, attached limpet mines to three ships in the Roads. "Each ship was attacked on the port side, away from Singapore's lights.
- No. 3, Page and Jones, attacked a total of three ships, one at Bukom Island and the others in Keppel Harbour. 37 kms
- All the canoes were well clear of their target areas (Nos. 1 and 3 were back at Dongas Island) before the first explosion at 5.15 a.m. on the 27th.
- Seven Japanese ships were sunk or badly damaged, including in all between 25,000 and 30,000 tons.



29 September 1943 – New Guinea

- The brigade commander, who was becoming increasingly aware of the Japanese concentration at **Satelberg**, asked Wootten for one more battalion with which to hold SCARLET Beach while he concentrated his brigade against Finschhafen.
- Wootten assented. The 2/43d Battalion landed at SCARLET Beach on the night of 29-30 September to relieve the 2/17th, and the latter moved out at once for Finschhafen.



MAP 14

September 1943 – New Guinea

- The Beaufighters made 130 sorties in September, during which they claimed destruction of 33 barges and damage to 51, in addition to strafing airfields.
- The offensive activities of the three Beaufort squadrons were limited by the necessity of making daily flights in search of enemy shipping or convoying friendly ships. They were even used at times as transports.
- Losses of No. 9 group during the month had been heavy—6 Beauforts with 5 of their crews, 3 Beaufighters and 3 crews, and 3 Bostons and 2 crews. The group included 3 squadrons of Beauforts, 1 Squadron each of Beaufighters and Bostons and 3 squadrons of single seat fighters.



NEW GUINEA. C. 1942. BEAUFIGHTER OF NO. 30 SQUADRON RAAF IN FLIGHT CLOSE TO A ROCKY OUTCROP IN A VALLEY IN THE OWEN STANLEY RANGE.

September 1943 – Air Defence

- By September 1943 there were sufficient Mark III IFF sets in the fleet to dispense with the Mark II equipment that operated on the same frequencies as the radars.
- IFF Mark III was the Allied Forces standard identification friend or foe (IFF) system from 1943. It was widely used by aircraft, ships, and submarines.
- The Mark III had its own assigned frequency, and its own antenna, which was usually mounted on top of the search radar antenna.
- The Mark II equipment had the same bearing discrimination as the search radar to which it was attached, however, the Mark III discrimination was not quite as sharp as the search radar.
- To make up for this, it could detect one of seven codes set up in an aircraft. For example, this would allow controlled fighters to be identified separately from other friendly aircraft.
- Photo: The IFF antenna is visible extending down under the cockpit of this Hawker Typhoon.



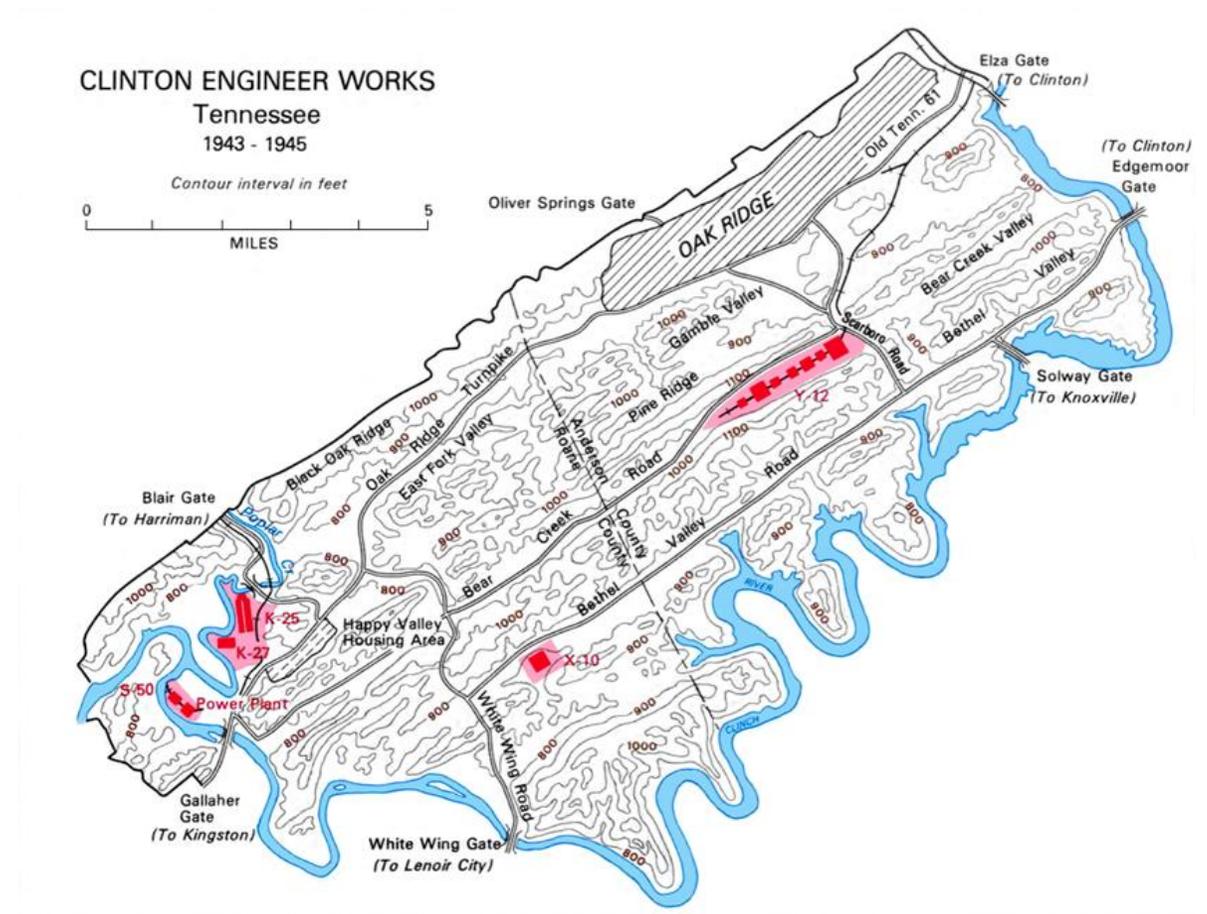
September 1943 - Manhattan Project

- September 8: First meeting of the Combined Policy Committee, established by the Quebec Agreement to coordinate the efforts of the United States, United Kingdom and Canada.
- United States Secretary of War Henry Stimson, Bush and Conant are the American members; Field Marshal Sir John Dill and Colonel J. J. Llewellyn are the British members, and C. D. Howe is the Canadian member.
- Photo: General Dill, then CIGS, at the Atlantic Conference aboard Prince of Wales in 1941 (third from the right in second row/directly above Churchill).



September 1943 - Manhattan Project

- In September 1943 the administration of community facilities at Oak Ridge was outsourced to Turner Construction Company through a subsidiary, the Roane-Anderson Company.
- Chemical engineers were part of "frantic efforts" to make 10% to 12% enriched uranium 235, with tight security and fast approvals for supplies and materials.
- The population of Oak Ridge soon expanded well beyond the initial plans.
- The town soon had 300 miles of roads, 55 miles of railroad track, ten schools, seven theaters, 17 restaurants and cafeterias, and 13 supermarkets.
- Prefabricated modular homes, apartments, and dormitories, many made from cemesto (bonded cement and asbestos) panels, were quickly erected.
- A library with 9,400 books, a symphony orchestra, sporting facilities, church services for 17 denominations, and a Fuller Brush Company salesman served the new city and its 75,000 residents.



September 1943 - RAAF

- In September 1943 General Kenney asked Bostock to provide him with a mobile Australian force.
- By that time the R.A.A.F. had received more than 100 Vultee Vengeance dive bombers.
- It was therefore decided that the new force would consist of a dive bomber wing and a fighter wing, with their servicing and other necessary units.
- The group was to be ready for action at the end of 1943 and would probably be assigned to the New Britain area.
- Both Bostock and Group Captain Packer, who commanded Forward Echelon, emphasised to Air Force Headquarters that in planning the group they should concentrate on the fact that this was the "last chance to keep the R.A.A.F. always up with the advance towards Japan".

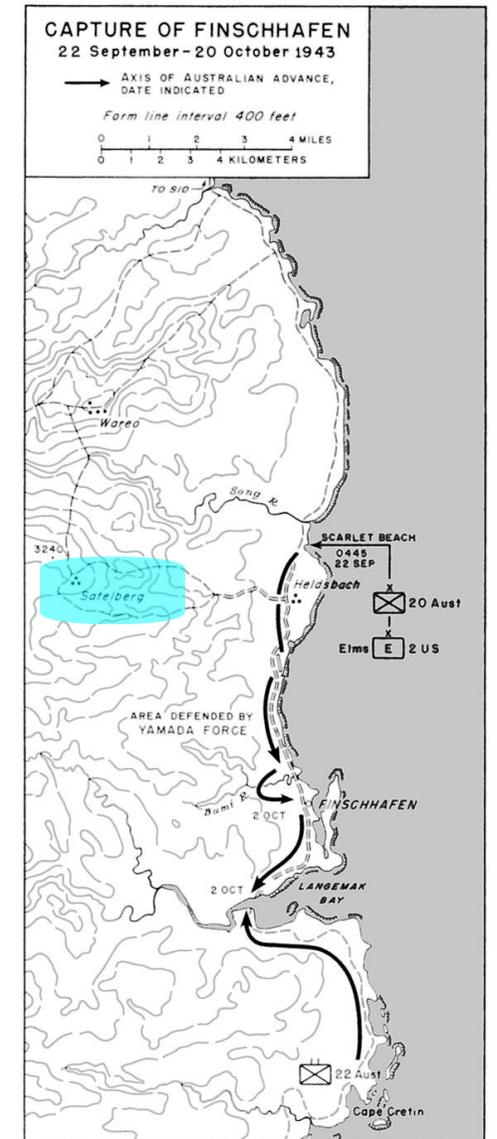


1 October 1943

- Submarines took patrols to the east coast and to Empress Augusta Bay to gather data, and South Pacific intelligence officers interviewed missionaries, traders, planters, coastwatchers, and fliers who had been shot down over Bougainville.
- The east coast patrol, carried by the submarine Gato, delivered an unfavorable report.
- The west coast patrol landed from the submarine Guardfish about ten miles northwest of Cape Torokina in Empress Augusta Bay. They were unable to examine Cape Torokina because it was occupied by the Japanese, but they took samples of soil similar to that at Torokina. When tested, it showed that Cape Torokina was suitable for airfields.
- Between the sea and the mountains at Cape Torokina, which lay within fighter range of Munda, was a coastal plain of about seven square miles. It was lightly defended; Halsey estimated that there were about one thousand Japanese in the area. So forbidding were the surrounding mountains that the area was almost isolated from the strong Japanese garrisons in southern Bougainville. Halsey and his planners estimated that if Allied forces seized Torokina the Japanese would require three or four months to bring enough heavy equipment over the mountains to launch an effective counterattack. But there were disadvantages. The heavy surf in Empress Augusta Bay, which had no protected anchorages, would make landing operations difficult. No more than 65 miles separated the cape from all the Japanese air bases on Bougainville, and Rabaul was only 215 miles to the northwest.
- Admiral Halsey calculated the chances and decided on Torokina. Enthusiasm for the plan was far from unanimous, even in the South Pacific, but the decision having been made, all hands were told to 'Get going.'"
- Halsey informed MacArthur of his decision on 1 October. Expressing his complete agreement, MacArthur promised maximum air support from the Southwest Pacific. The invasion would be launched on 1 November.

1 – 2 October 1943 – New Guinea

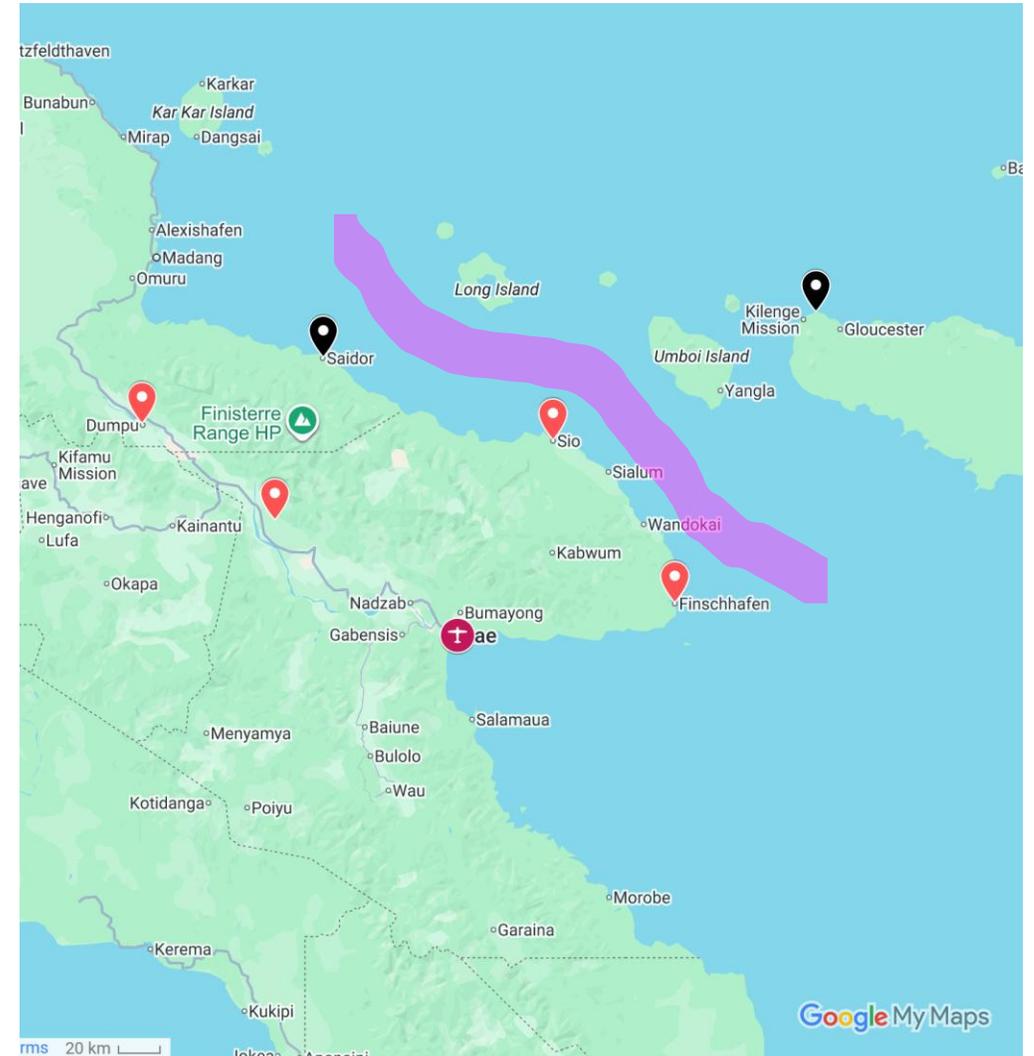
- Following air and artillery bombardment, the three Australian battalions--the 2/13th, 2/15th, and 2/17th—attacked Finschhafen on 1 October, fought all day, and overwhelmed the defenders.
- The next morning they occupied the village and harbor of Finschhafen and made contact south of Langemak Bay with patrols of the 22d Battalion, which had advanced overland from Lae.



MAP 14

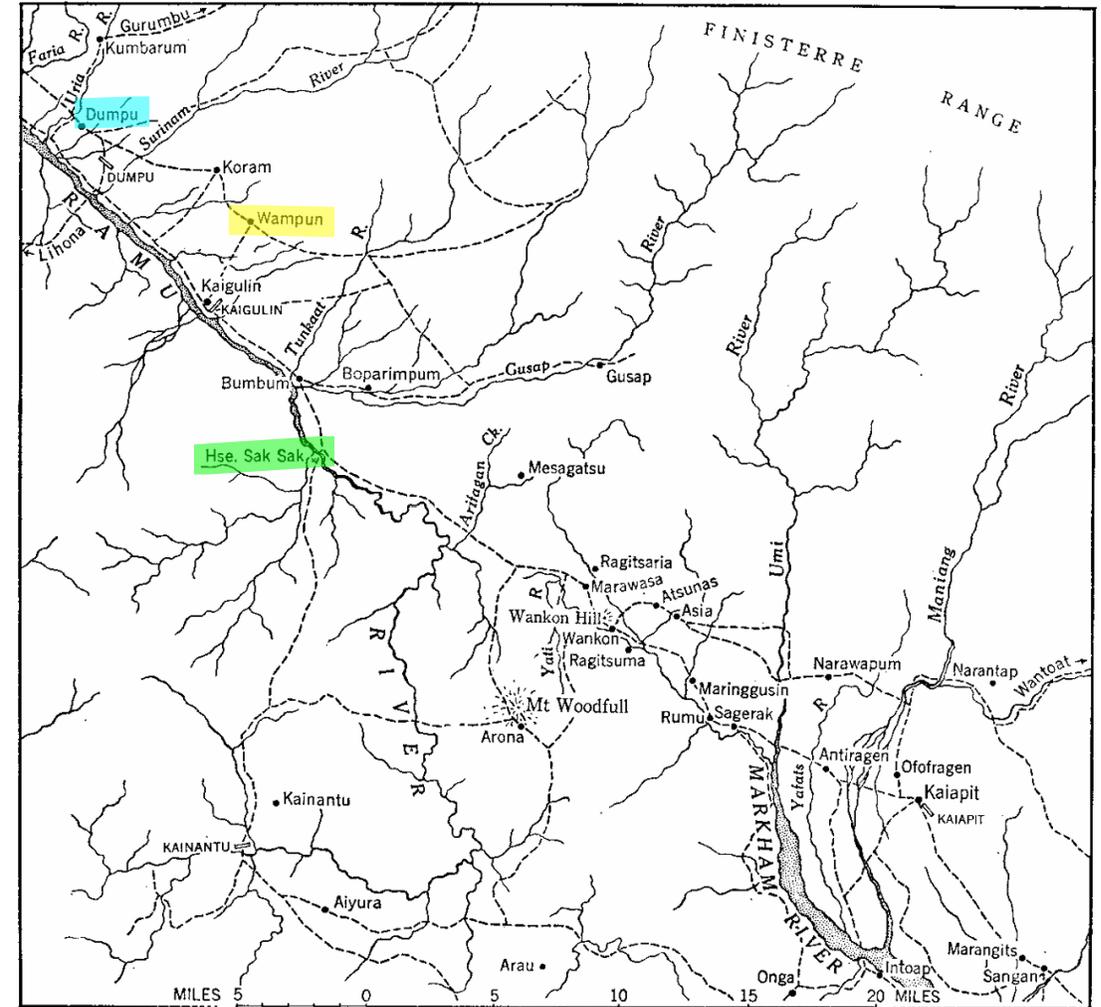
2 October 1943 – New Guinea

- To gain complete control of the New Guinea side of Vitiiaz Strait, Generals MacArthur and Blamey had ordered that the capture of Finschhafen be followed by an advance along the coast to Sio, fifty land miles distant.
- But the advance could not be undertaken until the Japanese were driven from their dominating positions at Satelberg and on Wareo spur, a lower spur which lay north of the Song River from Satelberg.
- On 26 September the Japanese had launched an unsuccessful attack against the Australian beachhead.
- After Finschhafen fell on 2 October, the 20th Brigade moved back to SCARLET Beach in preparation for an assault against Satelberg. Two battalions attacked but met stout resistance.



3 October 1943 – New Guinea

- The 3rd October was a Sunday and, while waiting for the 25th Brigade to move up to **House Sak Sak**, Dougherty restricted his brigade's activities to patrolling only, while his men enjoyed a swim in the Ramu and Gusap Rivers and "the administrative side of affairs was consolidated".
- After this spell the battalions were fresh and ready for the final advance on the 4th.
- Early on the 4th the 21st Brigade set out towards its western objectives—the 2/14th on the right flank towards **Wampun** and the 2/16th on the left flank towards **Dumpu**.



3 October 1943 – New Guinea

- On 29 May 1943 the 2/7th Independent Company was flown to Bena Bena to reinforce the small garrison as Japanese air attacks on Bena increased.
- During August and September, as attacks increased on the garrison and the 2/2nd Independent Company arrived to reinforce Bena Force, patrols were sent out through the Ramu Valley in order to observe the main approaches to Bena Bena.

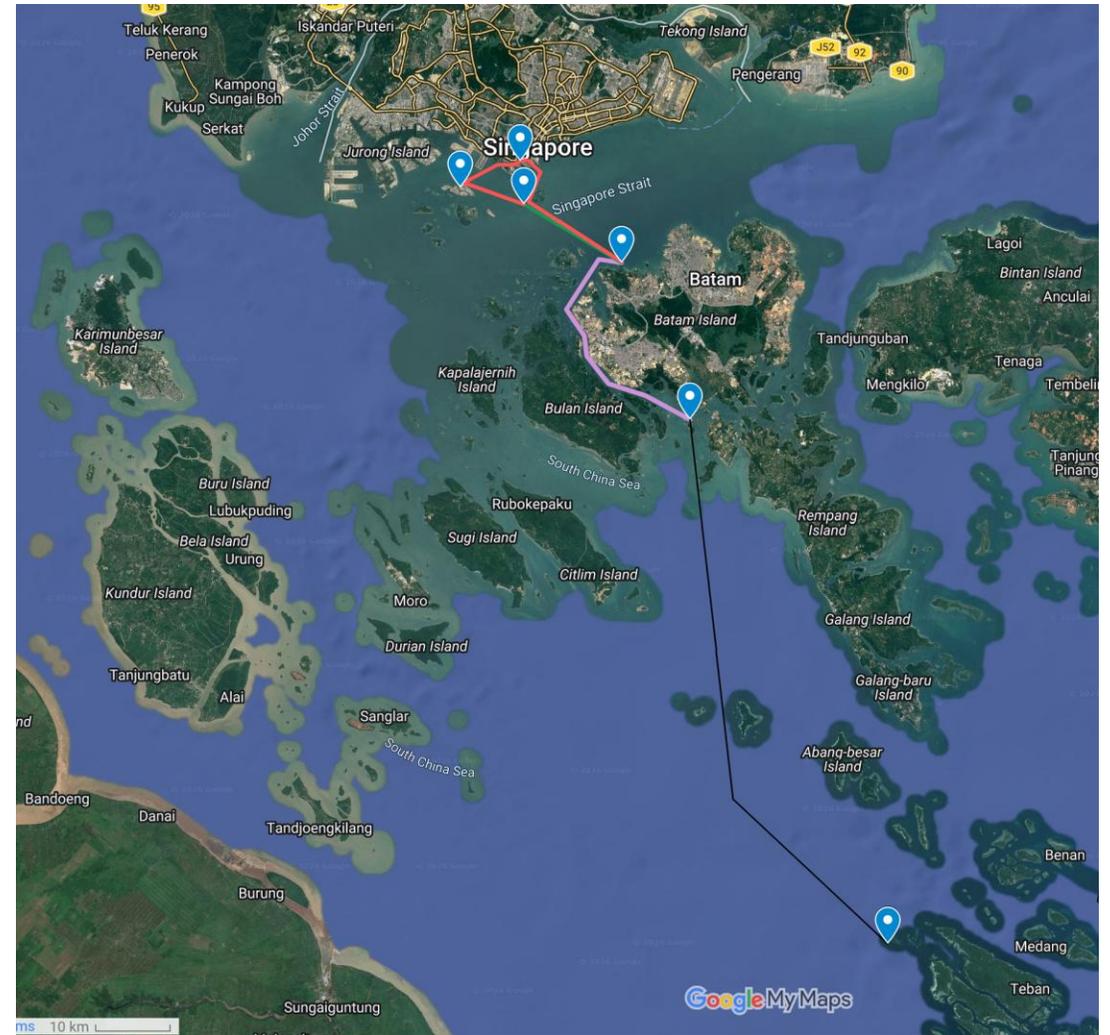


(Australian War Memorial)

Chimbu and Bena Bena carriers arriving at the 2/7th Independent Company's headquarters on 3rd October 1943.

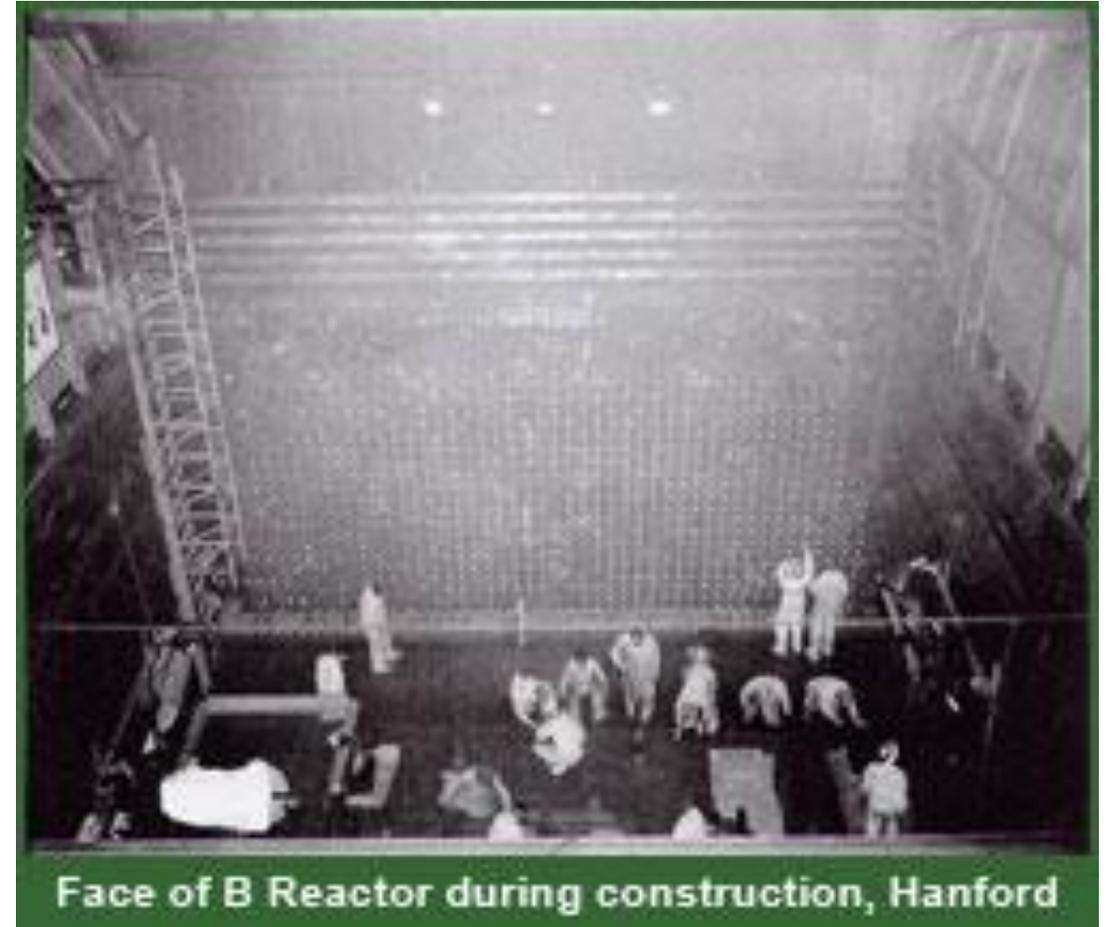
3 October 1943 - Jaywick

- For the next fourteen days Krait cruised around mainly off the south west coast of Borneo, filling in time before she was due back in the Lingga Archipelago to pick up the operatives off Pompong Island.
- The 24th was the day on which the operatives planned to make their attack on the ships at Singapore.
- The first news those in Krait got of the operative parties was when they picked up one canoe at Pompong Island soon after midnight 1st-2nd October.
- The other two canoes were there but could not find the ship in the darkness, and Krait retired south of the Temiang Strait for the day and returned and picked them up at Pompong Island at 9 p.m. on 3rd October.
- Panjang to Pompong 77 kms.



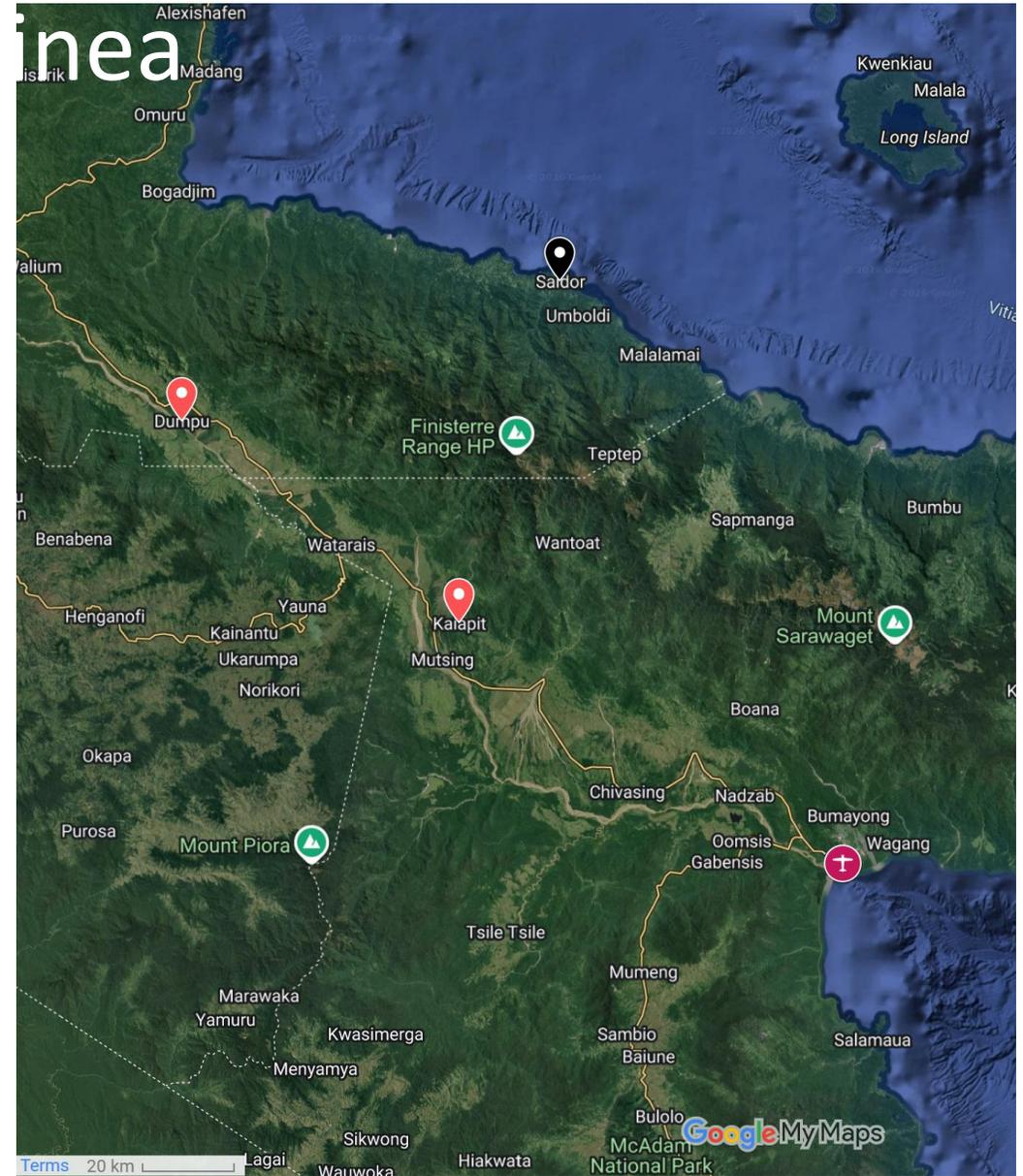
4 October 1943 - Manhattan Project

- Initial designs for the Hanford reactors by the Metallurgical Laboratory and DuPont used helium for cooling, before they determined that a water-cooled reactor was simpler, cheaper and quicker to build.
- The design did not become available until 4 October 1943; in the meantime, Matthias concentrated on improving the Hanford Site by erecting accommodations, improving the roads, building a railway switch line, and upgrading the electricity, water and telephone lines.
- Similar to the X-10 Graphite Reactor at Oak Ridge in terms of loading and unloading fuel, the Hanford production reactors would be built on a much larger scale.
 - Consisting of a 28- by 36-foot, 1,200-ton graphite cylinder lying on its side, the production reactors were penetrated through their entire length horizontally by 2,004 aluminum tubes.
 - Two hundred tons of uranium slugs the size of rolls of quarters and sealed in aluminum cans went into the tubes.
 - Cooling water was pumped through the aluminum tubes around the uranium slugs at the rate of 30,000 gallons per minute.
- The Army and the DuPont Corporation located the three water-cooled production reactors (piles) at the points of a triangle formed by a bend in the Columbia River near White Bluffs. Designated as the 100 B (West), 100 D (North), and 100 F (East) Pile Areas, each area was about 1 mile square and, for reasons of safety, about 6 miles apart.



6 October 1943 – New Guinea

- By 6 October the 21st was in possession of Dumpu, where 7th Division headquarters was established.
- The great Markham-Ramu trough had fallen with an ease that the Allies had not expected.
- The capture of the Ramu Valley, allowed a forward airbase to be developed at Gusap.
- The 7th Division provided security for the airfield.
- However, the Japanese remained in strong possession of the Finisterre Range, and their positions at Kankiryo Saddle north of the Ramu river and the 1,500 m (4,900 ft) high razorback ridge named Shaggy Ridge, continued to threaten the airfields.



5 & 6 October 1943

- The U.S. Navy carried out a major carrier-based raid on 5 & 6 October 1943 against Japanese-occupied Wake Island, led by Rear Admiral Alfred E. Montgomery's Task Force 14, comprising six carriers, Essex, Yorktown, Independence, Belleau Wood, Cowpens and accompanying cruisers/destroyers.
- This was the largest carrier task force assembled at that time, testing new multi-carrier operating tactics.
- The attack, involving carrier-based aircraft and naval bombardment, aimed to neutralize Japanese defenses on the atoll, which had been heavily fortified after its capture by Japan in 1941.
- The operation effectively destroyed the island's airfield, anti-aircraft positions, and coastal defenses, significantly diminishing its utility as a forward base for the Japanese.
- Fearing a full-scale invasion, the Japanese commander ordered the execution of all 98 American civilians held captive on the island since 1941; they were killed on October 7, 1943.



SBD's attack Wake Island, Oct. 5 and 6, 1943

6/7 October - Vella Lavella

- Throughout August, the Allies pushed the remaining Japanese ground forces on Vella Lavella into a pocket in the northwest corner of the island.
- The 3rd New Zealand Division, under the command of Major General Harold E. Barrowclough, landed as a follow up force in September and was tasked with destroying this pocket.
- The New Zealanders began their pincer movement on 21 September, but the Japanese resisted so fiercely that it took until 5–6 October to bottle them up.
- On the night of 6–7 October, a Japanese naval force took the 600 remaining ground troops off Vella Lavella.
- In response, a force of US destroyers was dispatched to intercept them. Each side lost a ship in the ensuing naval battle, but the Japanese were able to successfully complete their evacuation.
- Barrowclough's men entered the evacuated area unopposed, concluding the New Georgia campaign.



Barrowclough (right), with Major General Oscar Griswold, commander of U. S. XIV Corps, Vella Lavella, 1943.

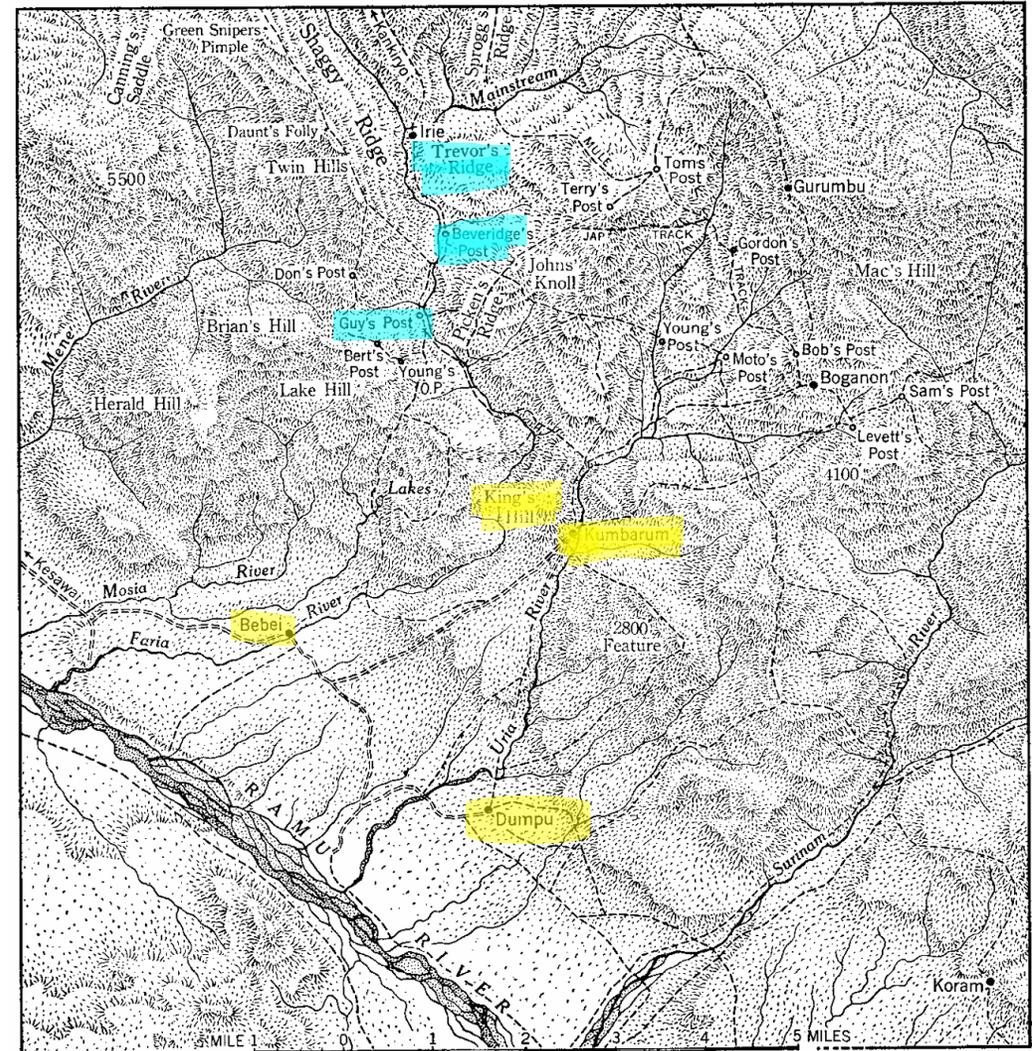
8 October 1943 – Solomons

- On 27 September 1943, Major General Barrett, who had been commanding the third Marine Division, replaced Lieutenant General Alexander Vandegrift as the commanding general of the First Marine Amphibious Corps (IMAC) when Vandegrift was to return to Washington, D.C. to become the 18th Commandant of the Marine Corps.
- In this capacity, Barrett continued with the planning for the assault on Bougainville until he was fired as IMAC CG by Admiral Halsey on 7 October 1943.
- The general fell out of the second floor window of his residence at Nouméa and died on 8th October.
- The inquest ruled the death accidental, related to a possible cerebral hemorrhage. However, the interior window sill was four feet above the floor, and a chair was found placed next to it which Barrett apparently used as a step to jump out the window.
- The operations officer of the corps, General Twining, believed that Barrett “increasingly allowed his humanitarian instincts to prevail over every dictate of a dire military necessity. In short he had forgotten why he and his marines were there.”
- The sudden death of General Barrett resulted in Vandegrift's recall to the Pacific to resume command of IMAC.
- Photo: General Vandegrift Commandant of the Marine Corps 1944-1947.



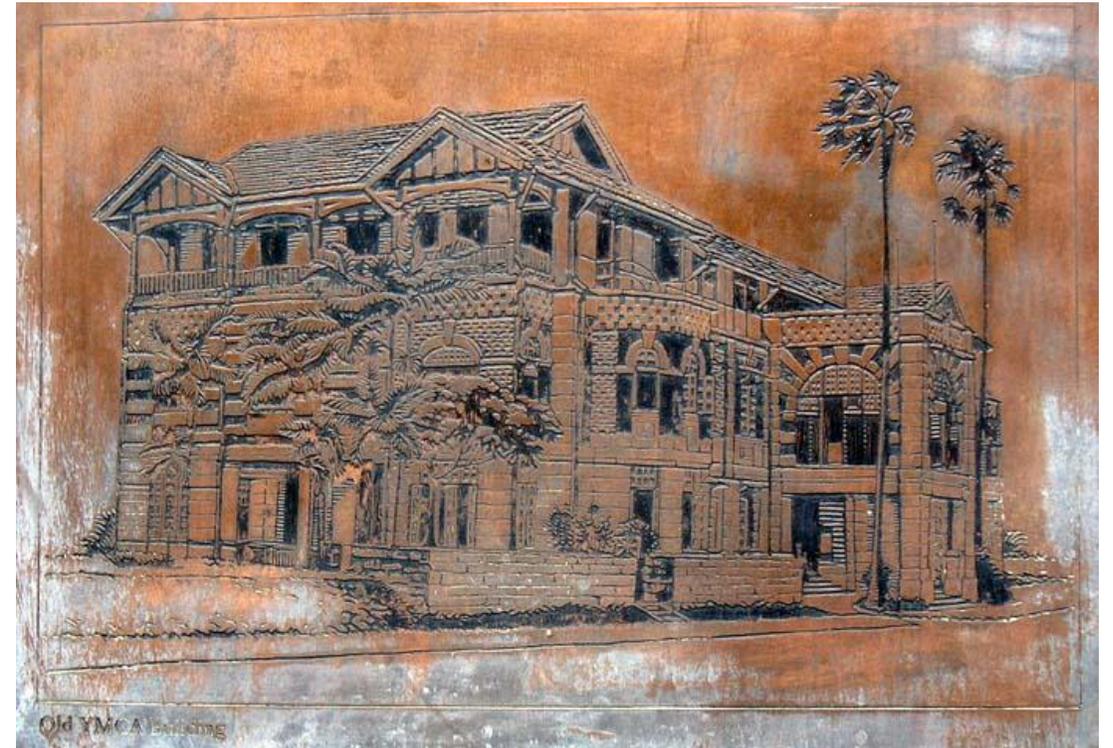
9 October 1943 - Finisterres

- Patrols early in October proved conclusively that the Japanese had left the actual valley of the Ramu and had retreated into the foothills of the Finisterres.
- The supply problem would limit the Australian advance, for the 7th Division was supplied from the air and the Fifth Air Force had many commitments.
- As a result of the supply limitation on 7th October the 7th Division was ordered that its Operations against the village on coast (Bogadjim) 17 miles SSW of [Madang] will be restricted to patrol activities until other orders are given by [N.G.F.] so as to avoid a logistic commitment outside resources of I [II] Aust Corps.
- By 9 October Brigadier Dougherty's 21st Brigade had occupied Dumpu, Kumbarum, Bebei and King's Hill and had patrolled to Guy's post, Beveridge's post and Trevor's Ridge



10 October 1943 - Jaywick

- The Krait raid took the Japanese authorities in Singapore by surprise.
- Not suspecting such an attack could be mounted from Australia, they assumed it had been carried out by local saboteurs, most likely pro-Communist Chinese guerillas.
- In their efforts to uncover the perpetrators, a wave of arrests, torture and executions began.
- The incident became known as the Double Tenth, for 10 October, the day that Japanese secret police began the mass arrests.
- The Kenpeitai arrested and tortured fifty-seven civilians and civilian internees on suspicion of their involvement in the raid.
- Fifteen internees died in the Kenpeitai's cells in the YMCA during the Double Tenth inquisition.



The etched drawings on the heritage monument, near where the present YMCA building stands, depict what the Old YMCA Building looked like.

