

# The War in the Pacific 3 From Lae to Tokyo Bay

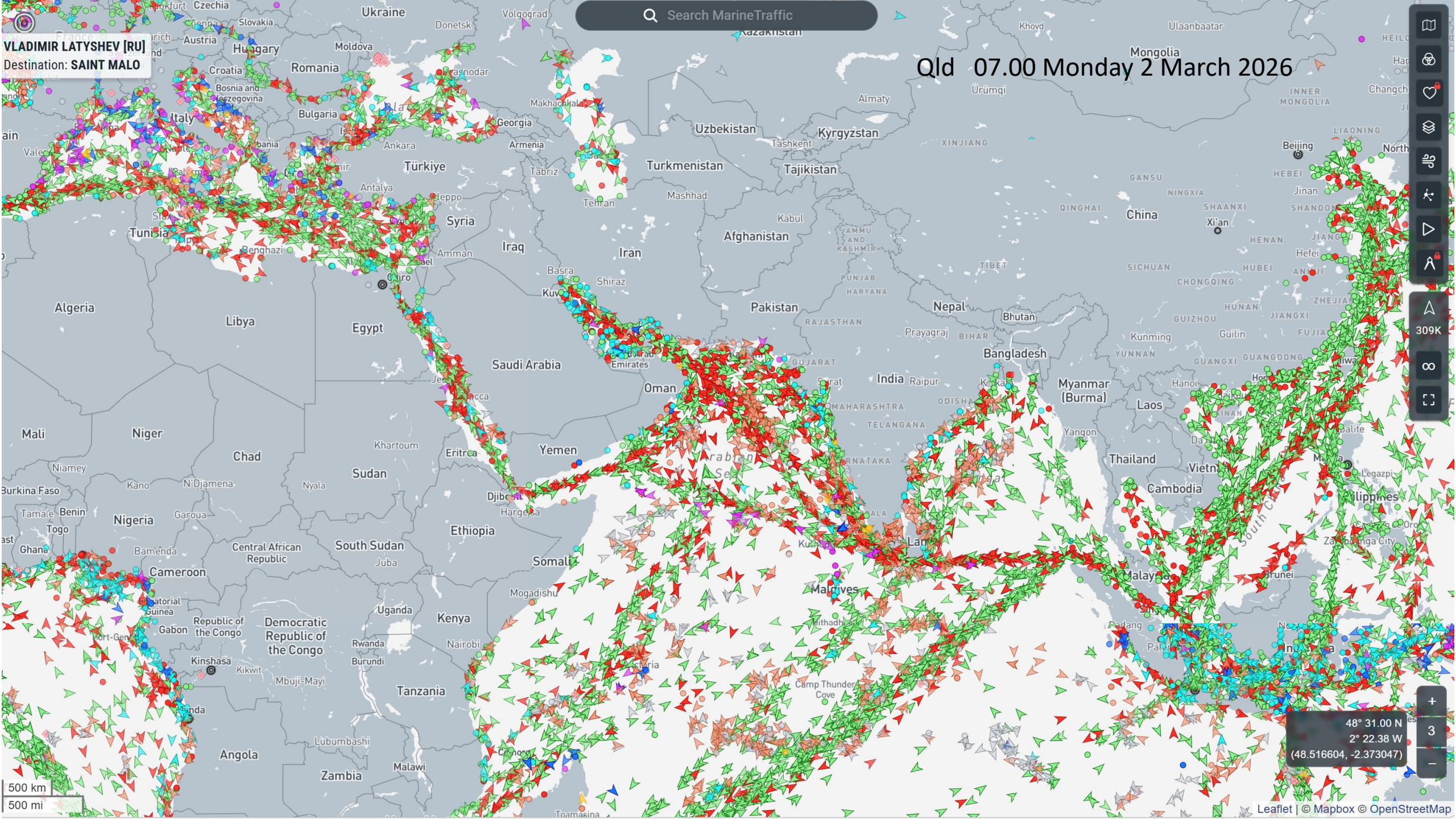
7

## Torokina





Putin's Wars - ©Jerry McBrien - October 2022



VLADIMIR LATYSHEV [RU]  
Destination: SAINT MALO

Search MarineTraffic

Qld 07.00 Monday 2 March 2026

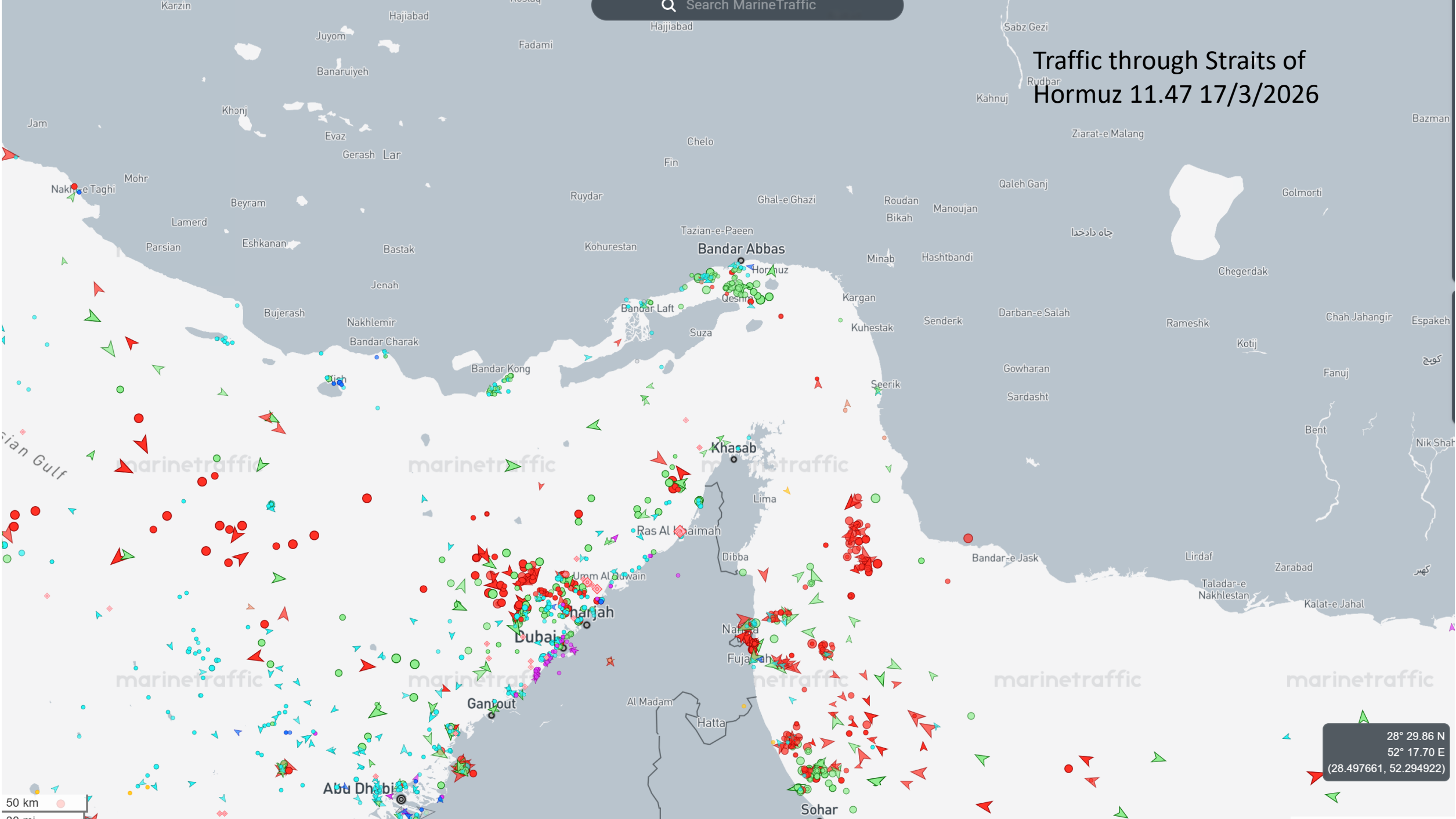
500 km  
500 mi

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

# Effect of Current War on Oil Prices



# Traffic through Straits of Hormuz 11.47 17/3/2026



50 km  
30 mi

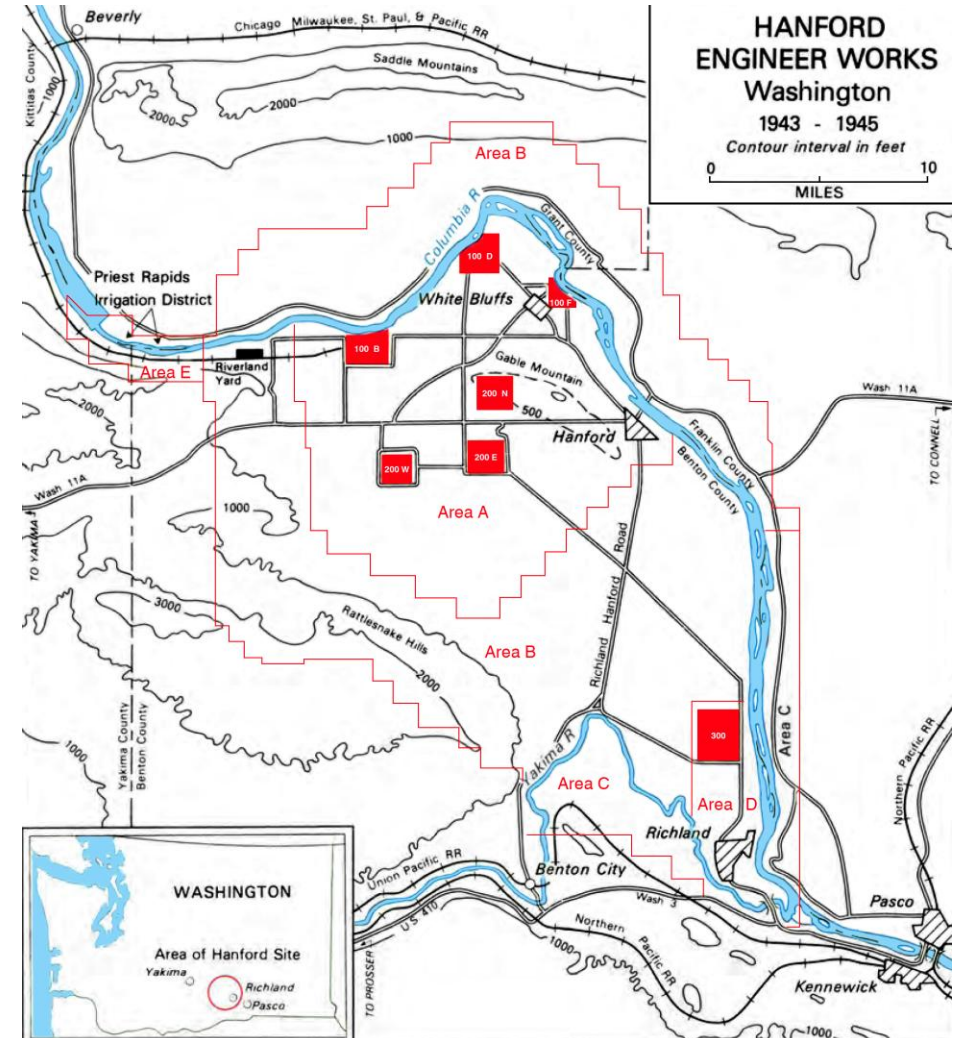
28° 29.86 N  
52° 17.70 E  
(28.497661, 52.294922)



# To Return to History

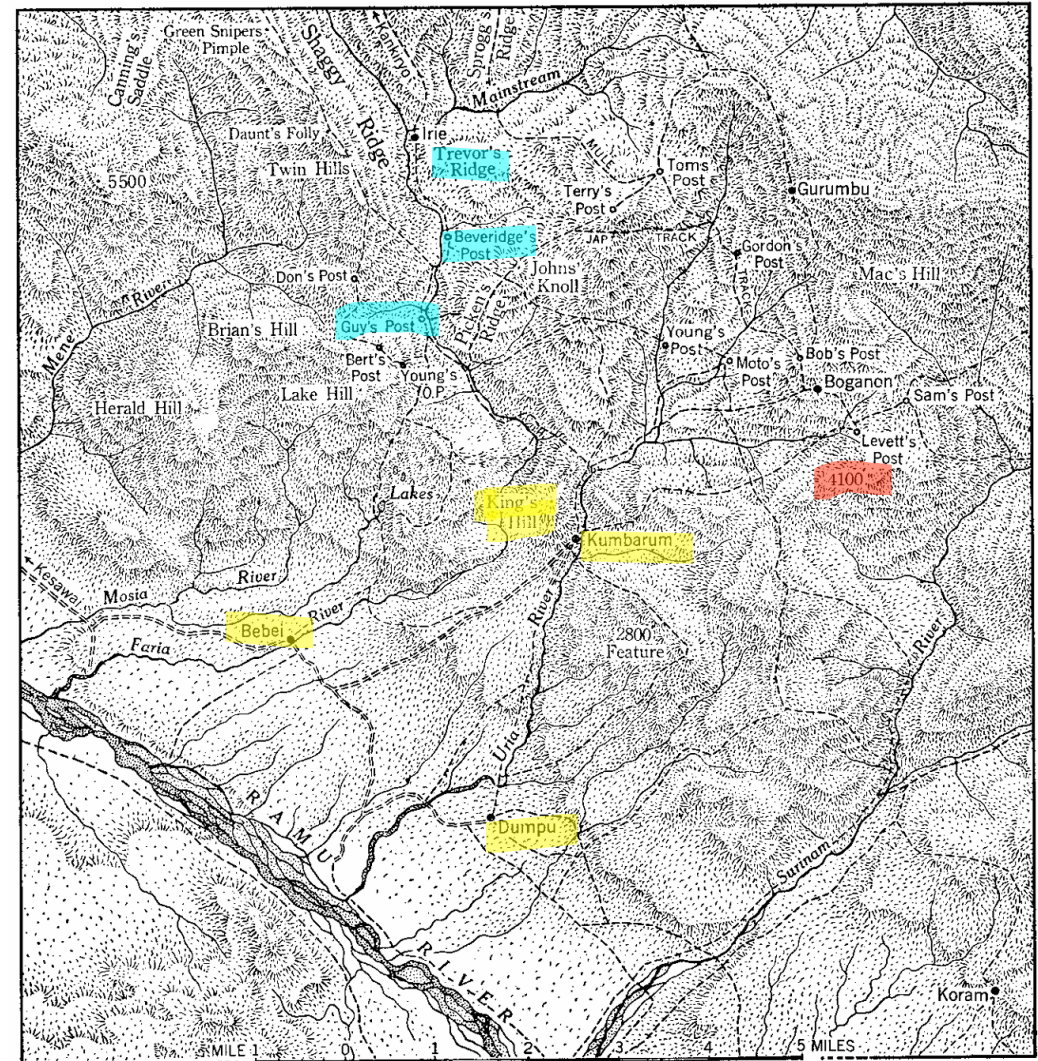
# 10 October 1943 - Manhattan Project

- Work began on Reactor B, the first of six planned 250 MW reactors, on 10 October 1943.
- The reactor complexes were given letter designations A through F, with B, D and F sites developed first, as this maximized the distance between the reactors.
- Some 390 tons of steel, 17,400 cubic yards of concrete, 50,000 concrete blocks and 71,000 concrete bricks were used to construct the 120-foot high building.
- Map of the Hanford Site. Railroads flank the plants to the north and south. Reactors are the three northernmost red squares, along the Columbia River. The separation plants are the lower two red squares from the grouping south of the reactors. The bottom red square is the 300 area.



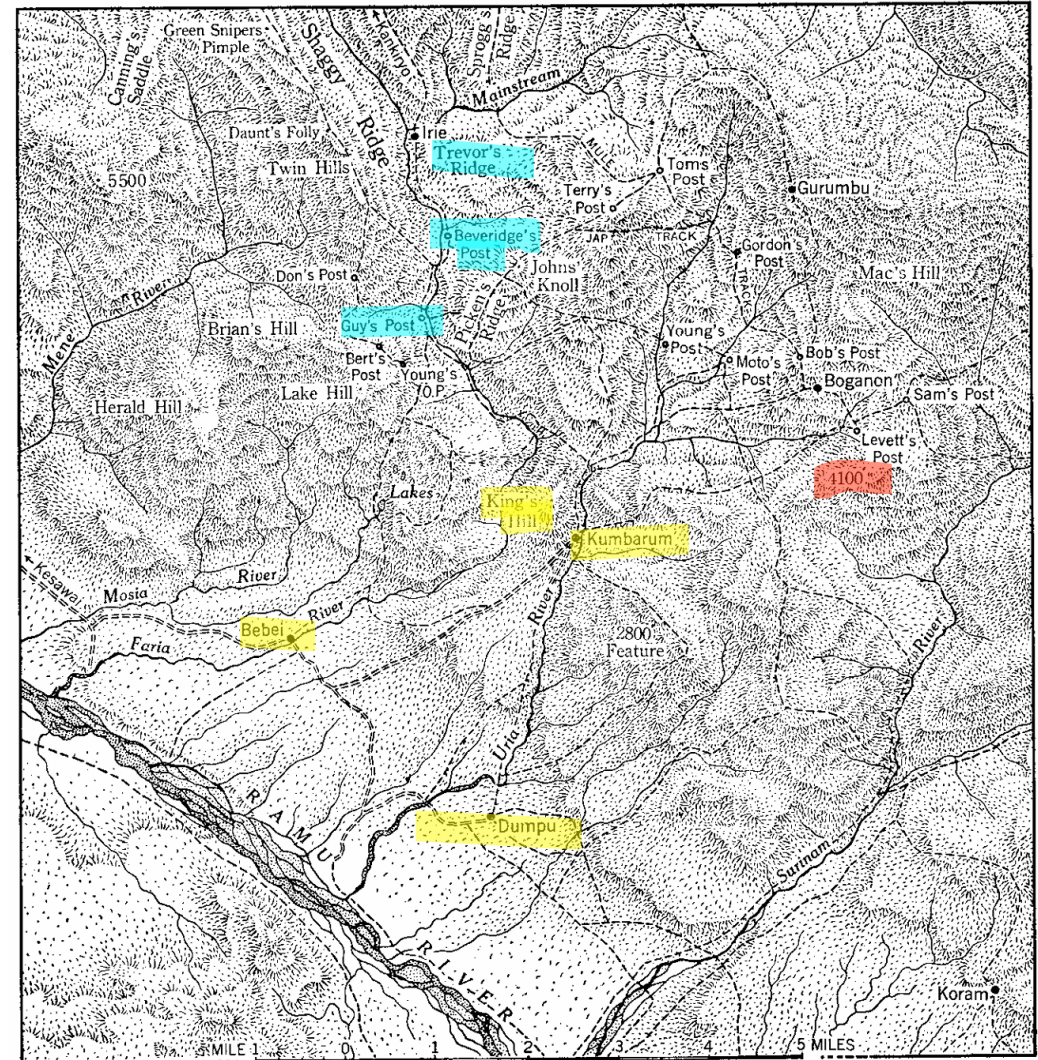
# 10 October 1943 - Finisterres

- To the east the 25th Brigade was entering the fight. Brigadier Eather instructed Colonel Cotton of the 2/33rd Battalion to clean out the Japanese who opposed Captain Power's company patrol.
- The 2/33rd left the Ramu Valley soon after dawn on the 10th and followed the track of Power's company into the hills. By 1.30 p.m. the battalion reached the leading company which was below the **4100 Feature**
- At 4 p.m. Major MacDougal's company led the ascent up the south end of the high feature, while Captain Mitchell's company climbed the high ground on the left flank to give protection and covering fire.
- The pace was slow and the amount of ground covered in the first hour was small because of the precipitous nature of the feature.
- For the next three-quarters of an hour, from 5 p.m., Kittyhawks strafed the top of the Japanese-held ridge.
- At 7 p.m., three hours after the start, MacDougal was still pushing steadily towards the top. "Country terrific—very hard going," reported the diarist.



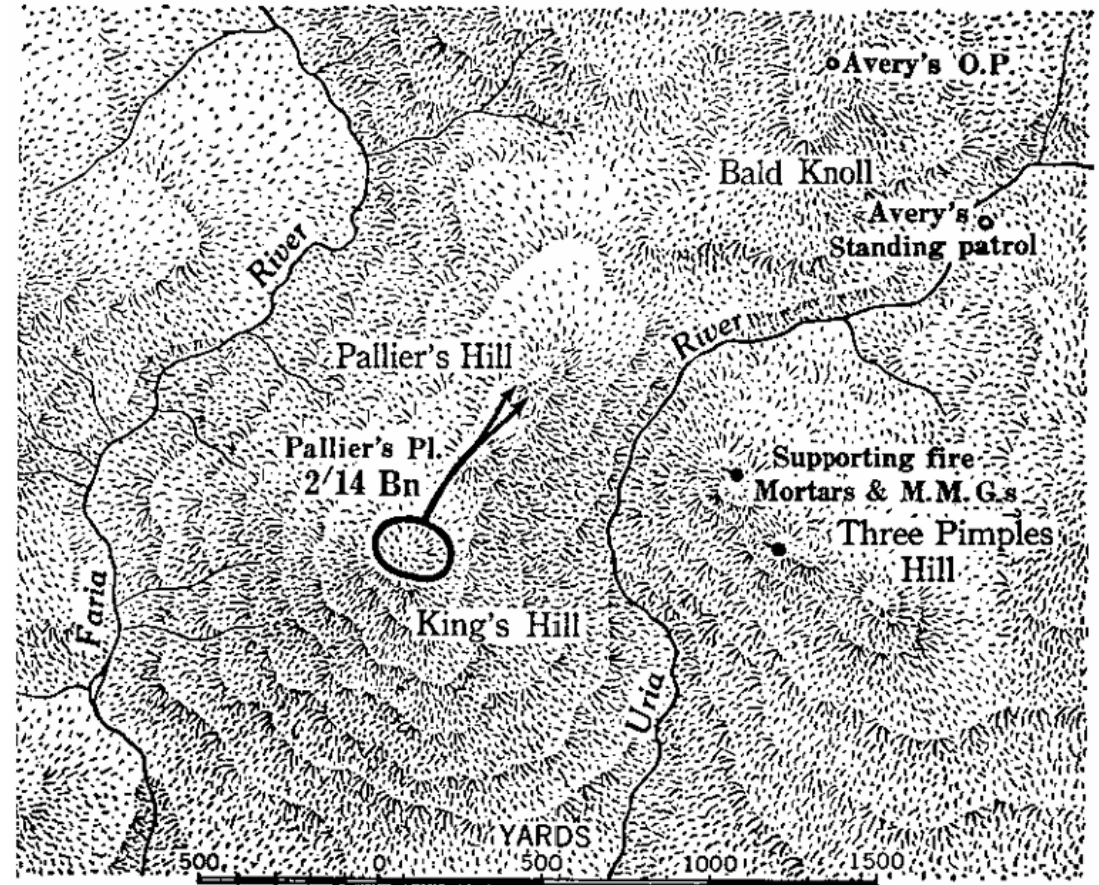
# 10/11 October 1943 - Finisterres

- The slope towards the top of the feature was almost sheer but Eather and Cotton were determined that, although a night attack was unusual in jungle fighting, the **4100 Feature** must be captured before the morning.
- Under cover of darkness MacDougal's men reached the top of the ridge at 9.30 p.m. and moved straight towards the highest point to try their luck against whatever opposition was there.
- The Japanese defenders were surprised, probably because they did not expect the Australians to attack by night.
- As the Australians loomed out of the darkness on the flank the Japanese first panicked and fled, then tried to stop and fight, and were finally driven from the feature .



# 11 October 1943 - Finisterres

- The 2/27th had been in peril of being cut off on the 11th. Lieutenant Pallier's platoon of the 2/14th Battalion had occupied King's Hill the previous day.
- Soon after first light on the 11th Lieutenant Avery's standing patrol in the hills to the north-east reported seeing figures digging in on a high feature west across the Uria from the Three Pimples feature and north from King's Hill.
- When Crocker's escort and carrying party for the 2/27th was fired on by these Japanese near the Faria, the natives dumped the supplies and "went bush".
- It was thus established that about 30 Japanese had moved there during the night and were now digging in, not only on the high feature subsequently known as Pallier's Hill, but also astride the ridge over which the 2/27th's line of communication to the north ran.



11th October

# 11 October 1943 - Finisterres

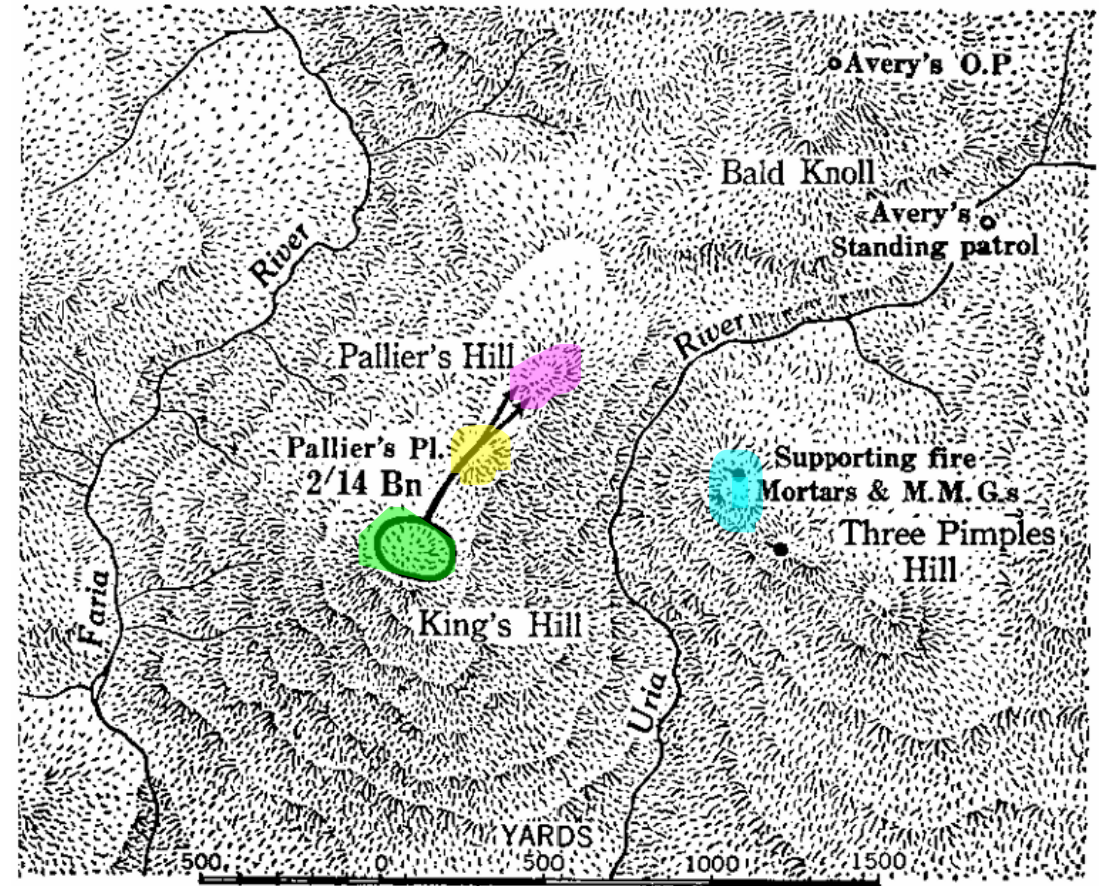
- Soon after the startling discovery of the enemy's attempt to block the 2/27<sup>th</sup>'s supply route the 2/14<sup>th</sup>'s adjutant, Captain Bisset, climbed the rugged Three Pimples feature on the right, found a position between 700 and 1,200 yards from the enemy on Pallier's Hill, and radioed back accurate information about their positions.
- Dougherty sent forward his brigade major, Owens, carrying orders for prompt action by the 2/14<sup>th</sup> to clear the 2/27<sup>th</sup>'s lines of communication.
- Major Landale of the 2/14<sup>th</sup> realised that there was only one way to attack Pallier's Hill—from King's Hill. He sent Captain O'Day with two platoons to take command on King's Hill, and decided not to attack until mortars and machine-guns could be dragged up into the very difficult country near the Three Pimples on the right whence they could give supporting fire.
- This was done in the late morning. Dougherty was chafing at the delay and sent Major A. J. Lee across from the 2/16<sup>th</sup> Battalion to take command of the 2/14<sup>th</sup>.



Brigadier Ivan Dougherty, Commander 21st Brigade (centre), with Major L. E. Walcott and Captain H. M. Hamilton (right). c Jan 43.

# 11 October 1943 - Finisterres

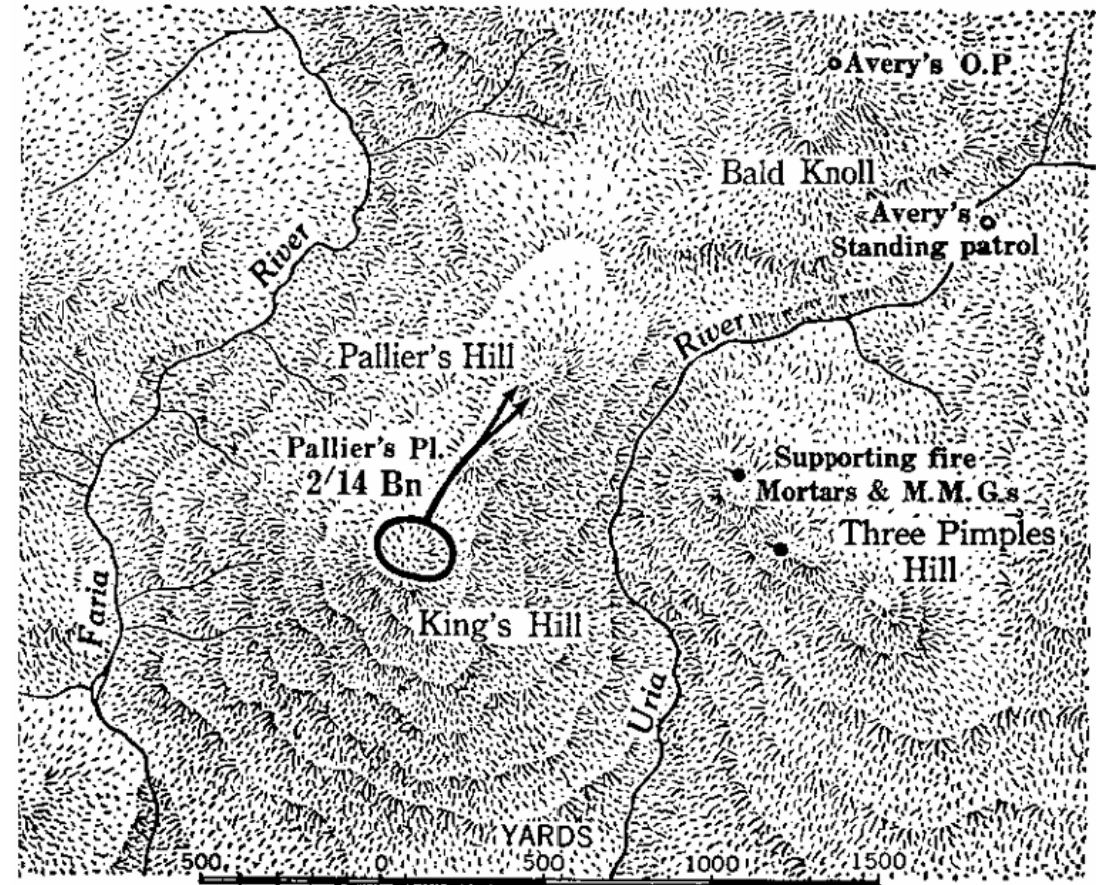
- During the late morning a section with Vickers guns, a mortar control party and one infantry platoon climbed the **Three Pimples** so that covering fire could be brought to bear at right angles to any advance from King's Hill. While two other platoons were climbing **King's Hill** to relieve Pallier's platoon for the attack.
- All was in readiness for the attack to begin at 4.50 p.m. "From the point of view of supporting fire it was an ideal text-book attack" because the medium machine-guns from Three Pimples were firing at right angles to the line of advance of the assaulting troops and were able to fire within a few yards of them.
- The mortars and artillery also had excellent observation.
- The situation confronting the attacking platoon, however, was not encouraging.
- King's Hill and **Pallier's Hill** were about 1,000 yards apart and connected by a knife-edged ridge with a **small pimple** about half way between the two. Sloping down slightly to this pimple the ridge then sloped up to the summit of Pallier's Hill.
- On the right side the ridge was very steep and fell almost sheer to a swift stream hundreds of feet below. Apart from kunai grass which had been burnt in patches along the ridge, the only vegetation was a small patch of jungle near the pimple.



11th October

# 11 October 1943 - Finisterres

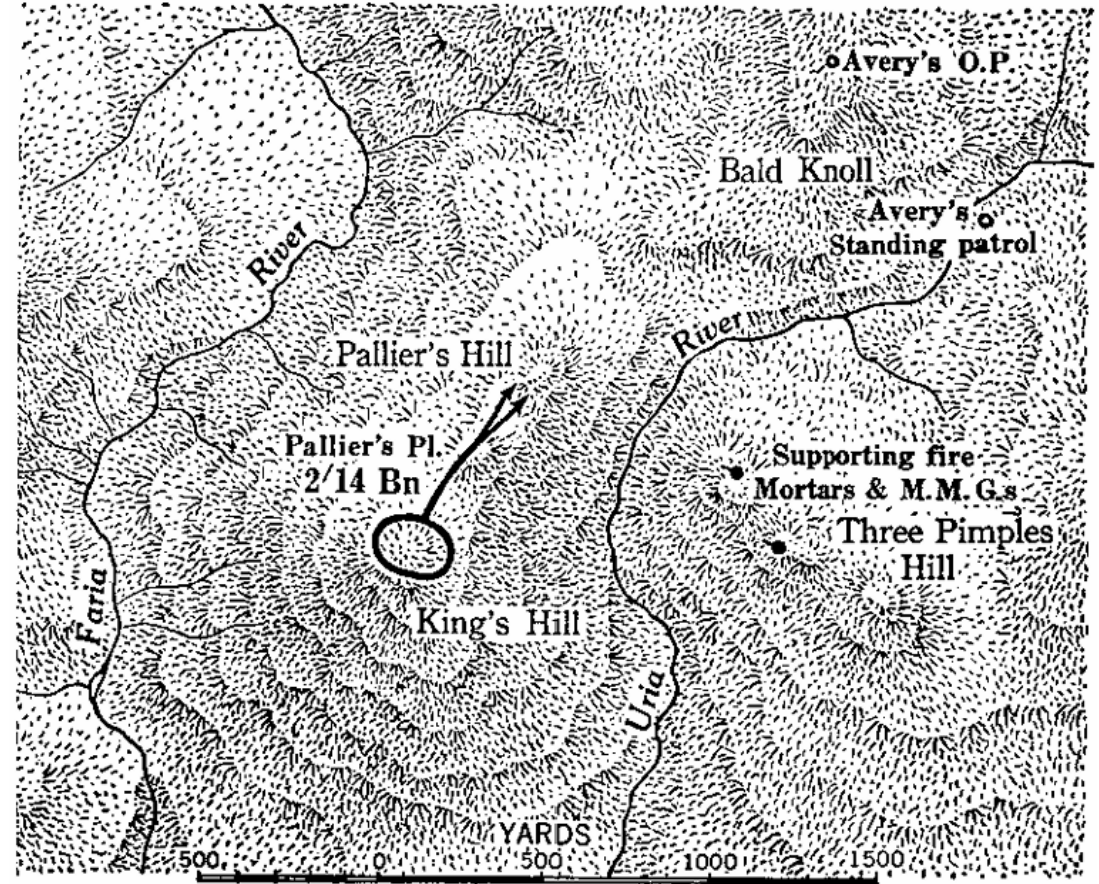
- Pallier's plan was to advance with one section on the right and one on the left and the third section in reserve to give covering fire.
- The ridge was so narrow and the sides so steep, however, that it was difficult for the advance to be other than in single file, with some scrambling along the sides.
- At 4.50 p.m. the platoon left the protection of King's Hill and formed up as the Australian artillery, mortars and machine-guns stepped up their bombardment; this was so effective that the platoon reached the pimple without opposition.
- Here one man was stationed with a Bren gun and two with a 2-inch mortar to give close supporting fire.
- To the incredulity of the platoon there was still no opposition as they moved rapidly up towards Pallier's Hill.
- When they were near the summit the artillery stopped, leaving mortars and machine-guns as the only support. The ridge now became even steeper and one false step could have meant sliding down the steep slope to hurtle into the creek below.



11th October

# 11 October 1943 - Finisterres

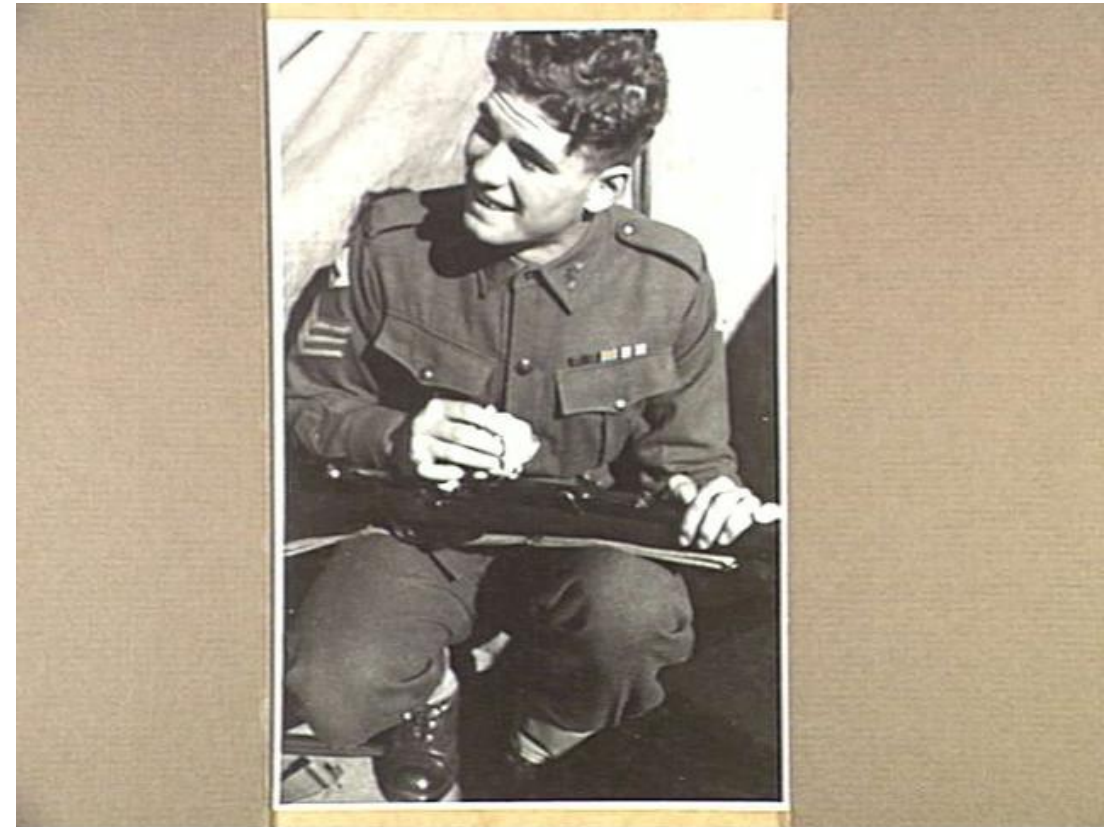
- Twenty yards from the Japanese on the summit the last of the covering fire ceased and then the expected opposition came with a vengeance.
- The Japanese, about a company of them, fired everything they had.
- They killed two of the three men left at the pimple, but not before the small band had given valuable supporting fire in the vital stages.
- The critical moment came when the Japanese raised their heads from their weapon-pits and rolled grenades down on the Australians some 20 feet below—Corporal Silver's section on the right and Corporal Whitechurch's on the left.
- Some of the grenades landed above the men, rolled down among them and were speeded on in many cases by a push or kick. Most of them rolled too far down and did not do much damage.
- Hurling their own grenades up into the Japanese positions, the men began to scramble up the last few yards. Fortunately the artillery fire had loosened the soil enabling them to gain a foothold.



11th October

# 11 October 1943 - Finisterres

- Most of the enemy fire was concentrated on the right-hand section where the platoon sergeant, L. A. Bear, was with Corporal Silver.
- Several casualties were suffered here as Bear and Silver led their men in a spirited and almost perpendicular charge straight up into the enemy position.
- Reaching the top Bear fired his rifle among the Japanese defenders and, as he and Silver scrambled over the ledge, they saw a Japanese in a foxhole at the same instant as he saw them coming above the ledge.
- The Japanese tried to fire at each of the Australians in turn and they at him point-blank but nothing happened for all three had emptied their magazines.
- "Bear heaved himself straight up over the ledge, lunging with the bayonet in the same movement. He hurled the Japanese like a sheaf-tosser, then he sprang clear to meet the next foe."
- As the rest of the section followed Bear and Silver up, the left-hand section, led by Whitechurch firing his Owen gun from the hip, came charging in. Whitechurch reported later



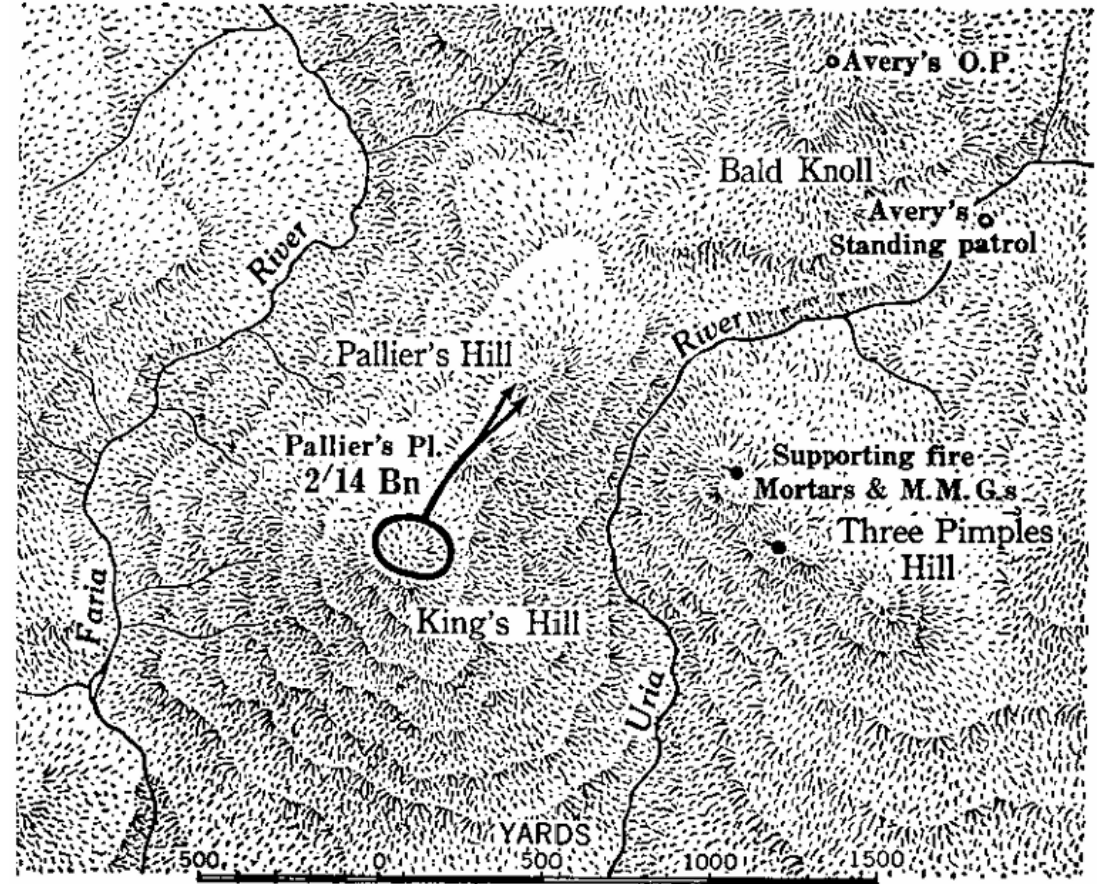
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

065540

VX17821 SERGEANT L.A. BEAR, DCM, MM. "A" COMPANY 2/14TH INFANTRY BATTALION, CAREFULLY CLEANING HIS RIFLE PRIOR TO THE 7TH DIVISION'S CEREMONIAL INSPECTION BY GENERAL VASEY

# 11 October 1943 - Finisterres

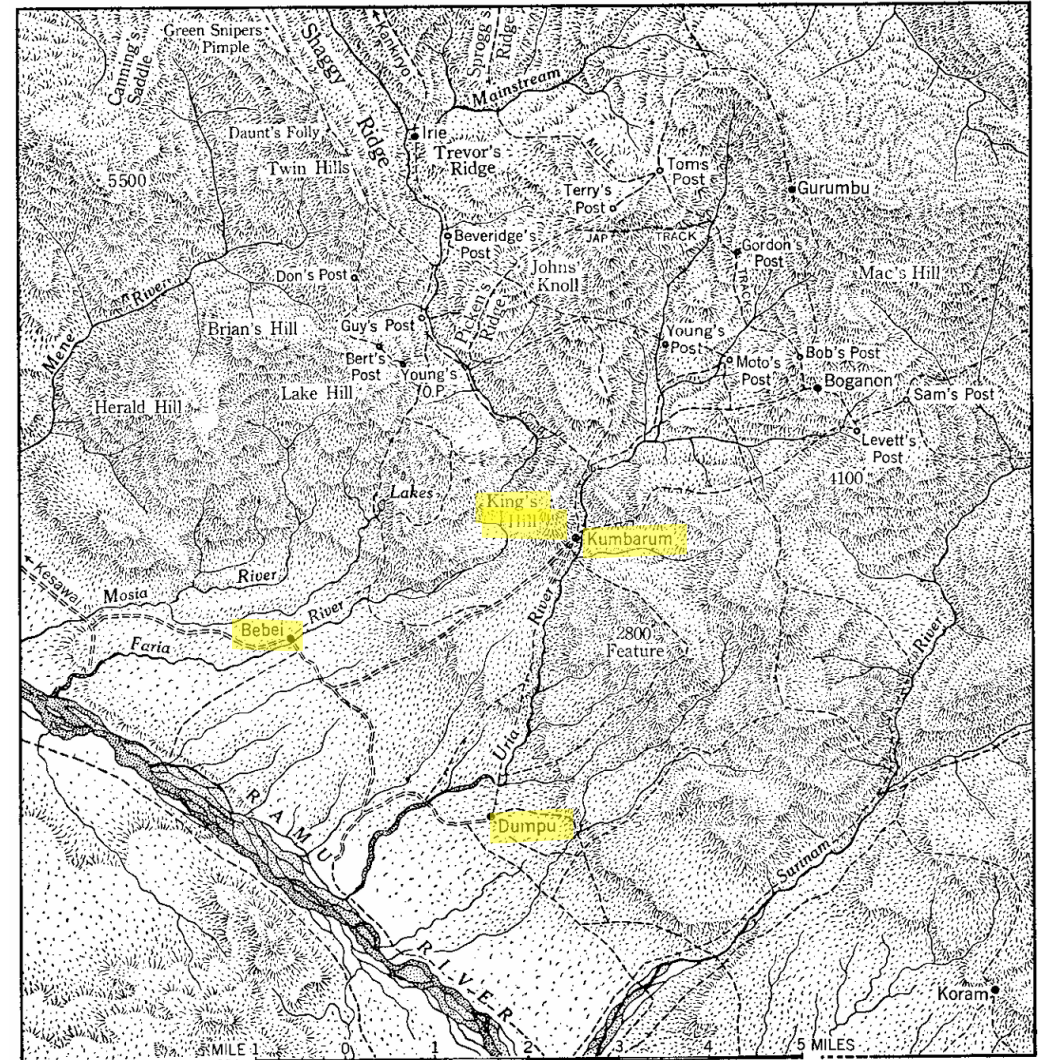
- Whitechurch reported later:
- “We could see them now and opened fire on their heads as they bobbed up above their foxholes. Their fire began to slacken off. One of our chaps gave a shrill blood curdling yell that startled even us and was partly responsible for some of the Japs running headlong down the hill in panic. Unable to stop at the edge of the cliff, they plunged to their doom hundreds of feet below.”
- The platoon had carried all before it and a Japanese company, entrenched in a seemingly impregnable position, had been routed.
- For the loss of 3 men killed and 5 wounded, including Pallier and Bear, the platoon had killed about 30 Japanese and captured the vital ground astride the 2/27<sup>th</sup>'s lines of communication.



**11th October**

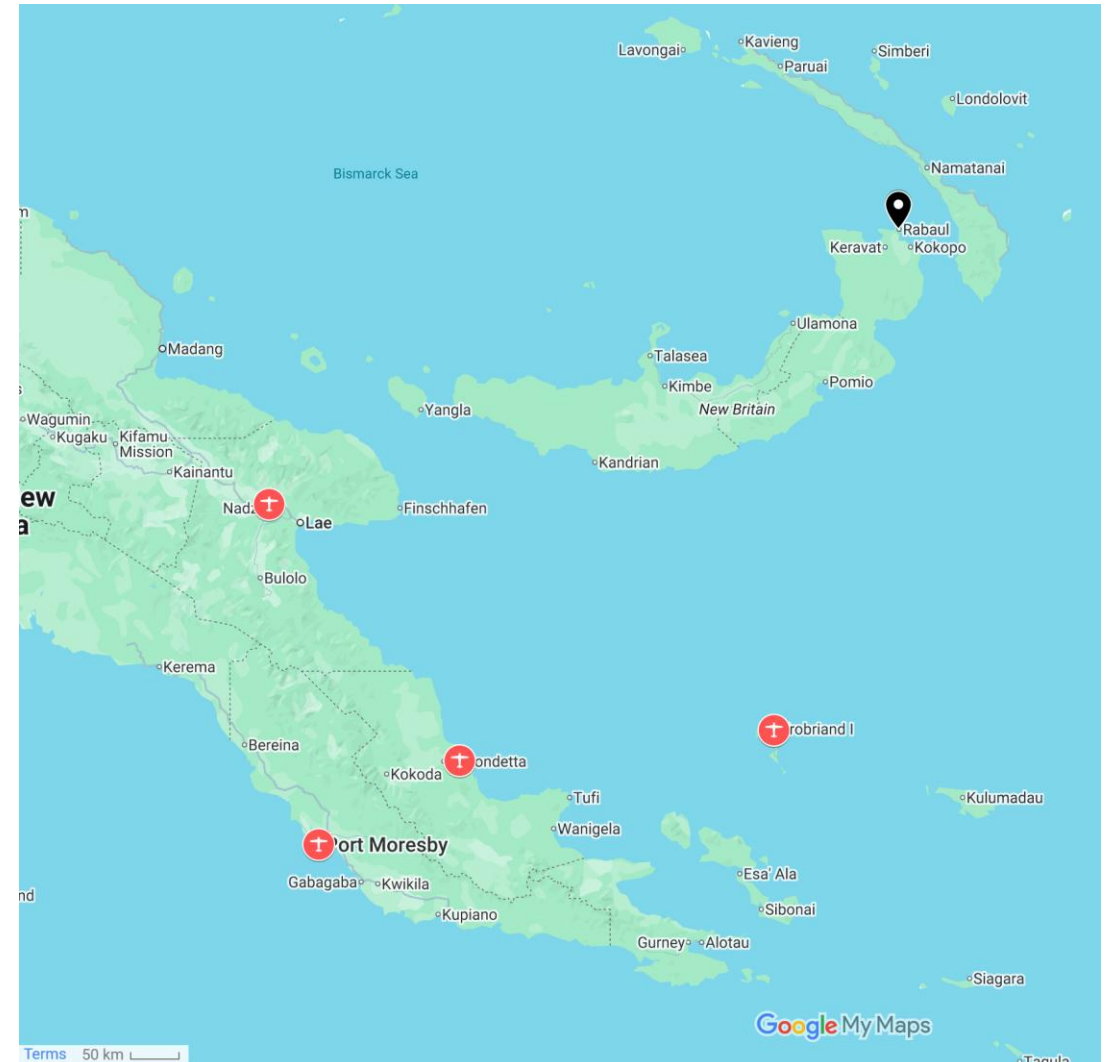
# 11/12 October 1943 - Finisterres

- During the night of the 11th-12th the Japanese were again on the move .
- Two hours after midnight they tried to raid the guns.
- Six Japanese armed with 15 pounds of gun cotton, 50 feet of detonating fuse, small arms and grenades, crawled into the gun area 1,000 yards south of Kumbarum where two guns were protected by the gunners and a section from the 2/14th Battalion.
- Shots and grenades were exchanged between the Australians and Japanese before the raiding party dropped their bundles and fled.



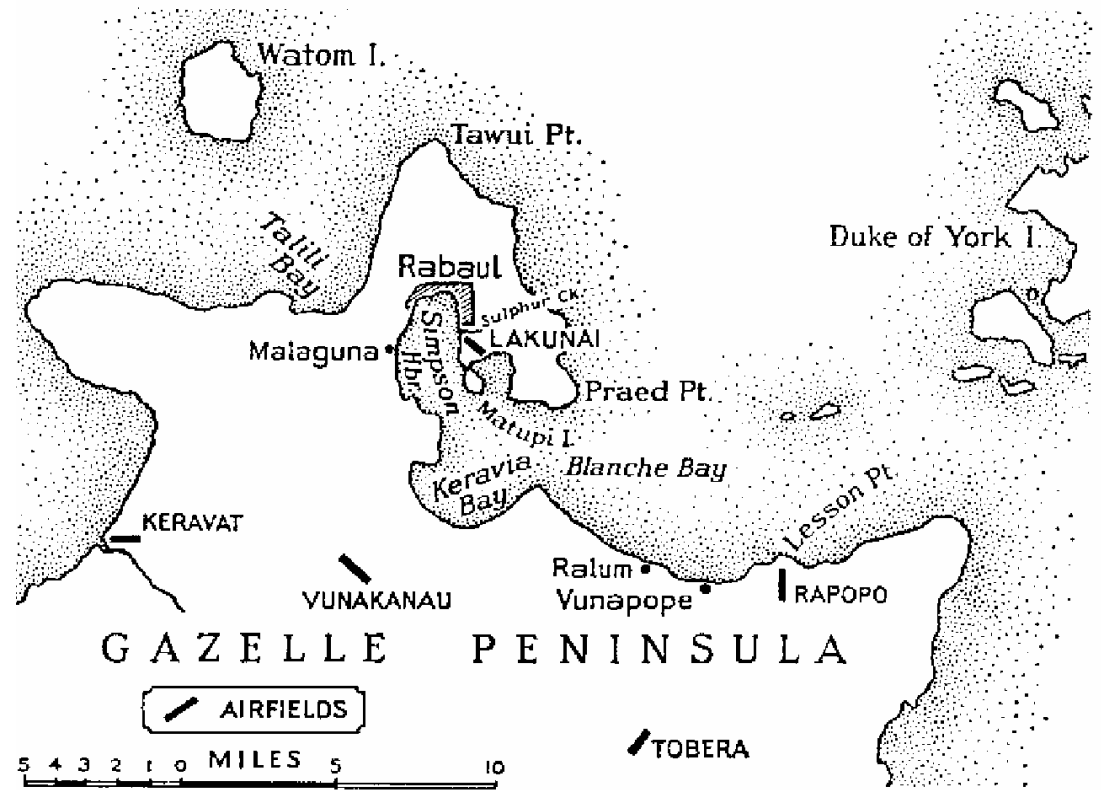
# 12 October 1943 – New Guinea

- By October nearly all the Fifth Air Force's warplanes had been displaced to forward bases. Port Moresby, an outpost in 1942, was now a rear base.
- Dobodura was the main staging base for heavy bombers, and Nadzab was being readied as the main base for future operations.
- Dobodura is not much closer to Rabaul than Moresby but it has a clear radar view over the sea and it is not shut in by the Owen Stanleys and their weather.
- P-38's from New Guinea could stage through Kiriwina and escort the bombers all the way to Rabaul.
- Transports, cargo ships, and smaller craft, together with some warships, crowded Simpson Harbor. Supply depots were fully stocked.



# 12 October 1943 – New Guinea

- Four all-weather airfields--Lakunai, Vunakanau, Rapopo, and Tobera--were in operation in and near Rabaul.
- For the first big attack on 12 October 349 planes took part: 87 heavy bombers, 114 B-25's, 12 Beaufighters and 125 P-38's, plus some weather and photo reconnaissance planes--or, as Kenney put it, "Everything I owned that was in commission, and could fly that far."
- 29 B-25's and Beaufighters made sweeps over Vunakanau, Rapopo, and Tobera while the heavy bombers struck at shipping. The Allies lost four planes and estimated a great deal of damage to Japanese aircraft and ships.



# 12 October 1943 - Solomons

- Halsey issued the basic orders for the operation on 12 October.
- He organized five task forces : Task Force 31 (the attack force), under Admiral Wilkinson; Task Force 33 (South Pacific land-based aircraft), under Admiral Fitch; Sherman's Task Force 38, carrier Saratoga, light carrier Princeton, two anti-aircraft cruisers, and ten destroyers; the cruisers and destroyers of Admiral Merrill's Task Force 39; and Captain Fife's submarines in Task Force 72.
- Halsey planned to employ Sherman's Task Force 38 in a raid against Buka and Bonis, which lay beyond effective fighter range of the New Georgia airfields.



Saratoga landing aircraft, 6 June 1935. Demonstrates the complications of operating aircraft on a straight decked carrier. Saratoga and Lexington were the biggest warships in the world when built.

# 12 October 1943 - Solomons

- The submarines were to carry out offensive reconnaissance in the waters of the Bismarck Archipelago and would be supplemented in their work by Central Pacific submarines operating out of Pearl Harbor.
- Merrill's ships would support the invasion by operating against enemy surface ships and by bombarding Buka and the Shortlands.
- Task Force 33 under Admiral Fitch was ordered to carry out its usual missions of reconnaissance, destruction of enemy ships and aircraft, and air cover and support of the invasion force.

Photo # NH 92750 VAdm. A.W. Fitch departing Guadalcanal, May 1943



Vice Admiral Aubrey W. Fitch, USN, Commander, Aircraft, South Pacific Force, boards a PBY-5A aircraft at Guadalcanal (right). c.1943

# 12 October 1943 - Solomons

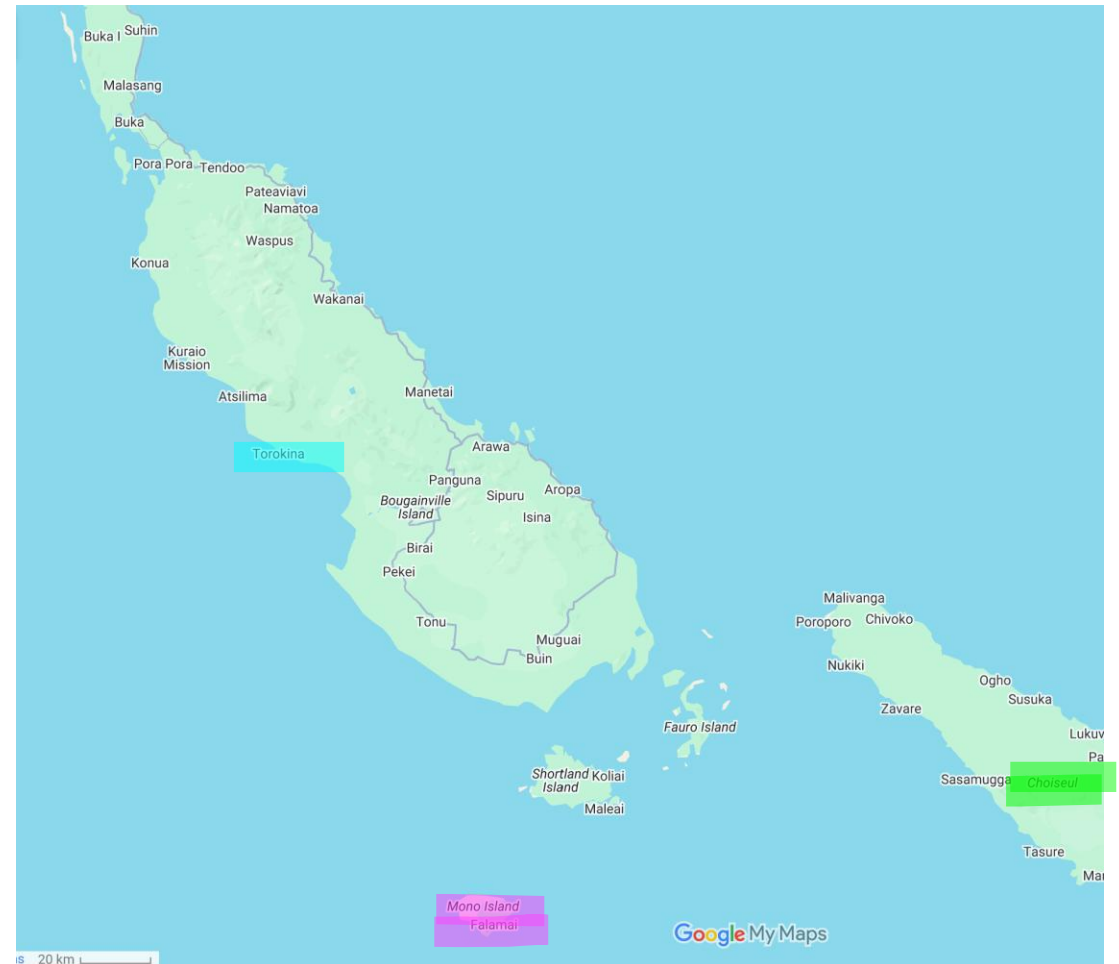
- Admiral Wilkinson's invasion force, Task Force 31, consisted of eight transports, four cargo ships, two destroyer squadrons, mine craft, almost all the South Pacific's PT squadrons, and a large force of ground troops under the Commanding General, I Marine Amphibious Corps (IMAC).
- The ground commander was General Vandegrift, USMC who had won distinction by his conduct of operations on Guadalcanal from 7 August 1942 until December of that year.
- Vandegrift was at this time slated to become commandant of the Marine Corps in Washington. Halsey's choice for the corps command was Maj. Gen. Roy S. Geiger, USMC, another hero of Guadalcanal, who was then in Washington as Director of Marine Corps Aviation.
- Vandegrift was to exercise the command until Geiger could arrive.
- Ground forces assigned to the attack included the following: I Marine Amphibious Corps headquarters and corps troops; 3d Marine Division; 37th Division and 8th Brigade Group, 3d New Zealand Division.



Wilkinson, second from left, with Brigadier General Leonard F. Wing, Rear Admiral Richmond K. Turner, and Major General John H. Hester aboard Turner's flagship during the New Georgia Campaign.

# 12 October 1943 - Solomons

- Naming D Day for the invasion of **Empress Augusta Bay** as 1 November, Halsey ordered Task Force 31 to seize and hold the **Treasury Islands** on D minus 5 (27 October) and establish radar positions and a small naval base.
- Wilkinson's main attack would be the seizure of Empress Augusta Bay on 1 November, which would be followed by the speedy construction of two airfields on sites to be determined by ground reconnaissance after the troops had landed.
- Halsey, Wilkinson, and Vandegrift decided to use the 2d Marine Parachute Battalion in a twelve-day raid on **Choiseul** which they hoped would mislead the enemy into believing that the real objective lay on Bougainville's east coast.
- Halsey made Wilkinson, whose headquarters was then at Guadalcanal, responsible for co-ordination of all amphibious plans.
- Wilkinson was to command all elements of Task Force 31 until, at a time agreed upon by him and the ground commander, direction of all air, ground, and naval forces at Empress Augusta Bay would be transferred to the latter.

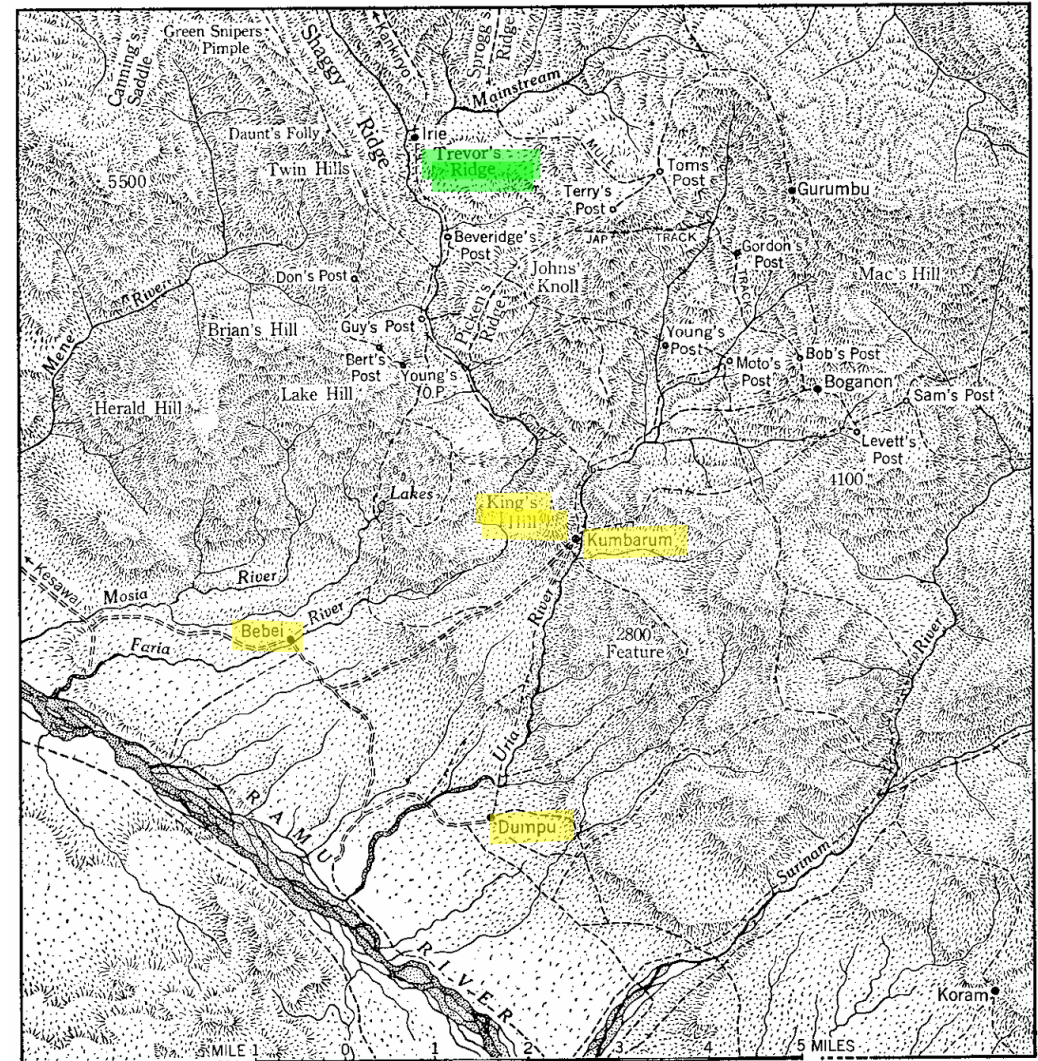






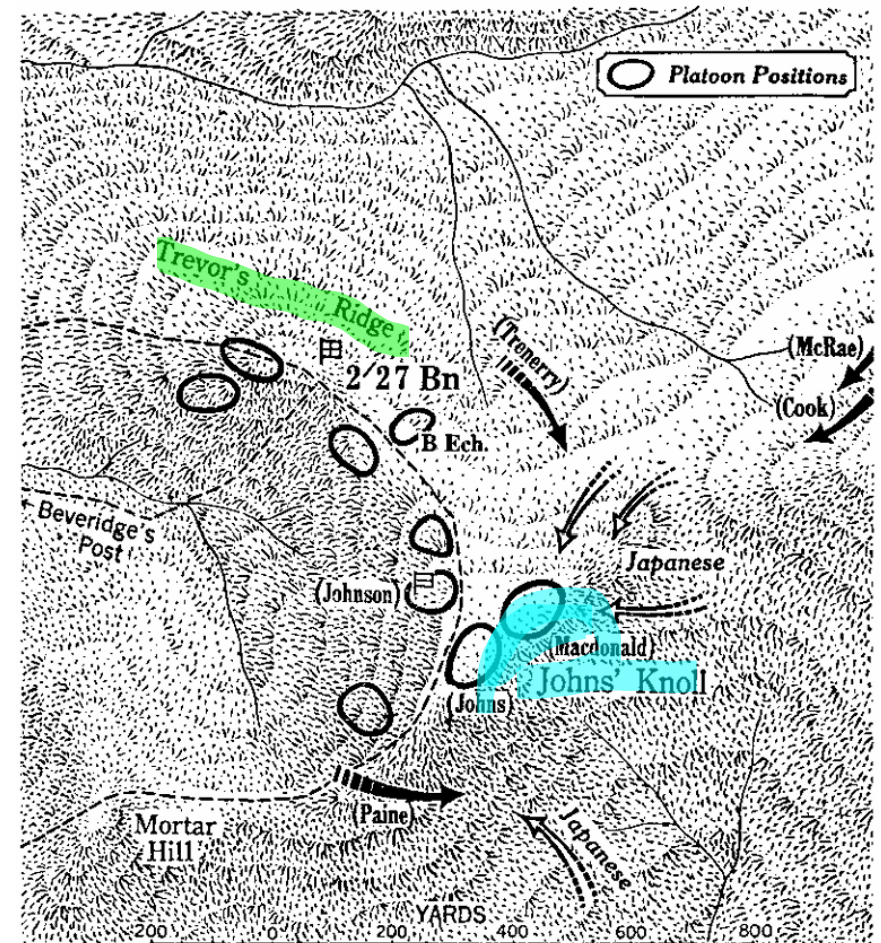
# 12 October 1943 - Finisterres

- At dawn on 12th October two incomplete companies of the 2/27th were stationed in the Trevor's Ridge area, with battalion headquarters and portions of Headquarters Company. at 10.45 a.m. the enemy attacked in strength.
- The attack was supported by two mountain guns, mortars and light machine-guns.
- The enemy plastered the ridge and the knoll with grenades from grenade-throwers and under very heavy supporting fire they attacked Johns' position with bayonets.
- They gained the lower easterly part of the ridge proper where the defenders were all wounded, but this lower slope could be brought under heavy fire from a section on the crest above and was untenable by the enemy.



# 12 October 1943 - Finisterres

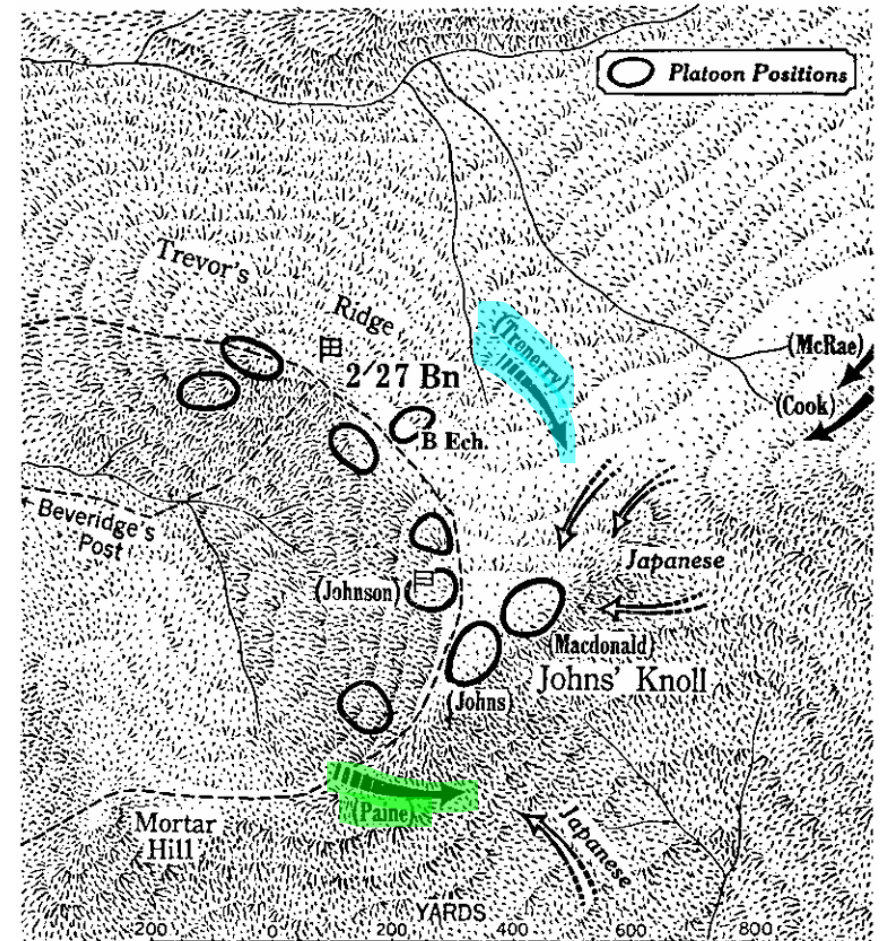
- Major Johnson sent across a section from Trevor's Ridge to reinforce Johns, and Bishop sent forward also Lieutenant Macdonald's platoon.
- About 11 a.m. Macdonald's men reached the knoll and raced through heavy enemy fire to fill the pits vacated by Johns' casualties. Macdonald arrived just after the second attack had been beaten back.
- By this time Bishop was becoming very worried at the depletion of his ammunition, for there was no sign of the expected supply train.
- He had in this forward area only two Vickers guns and one 3-inch mortar for which there were only 18 bombs. When the enemy had reached within 20 yards of the Australian positions in the first assault, Sergeant Eddy went forward and directed 12 mortar bombs at the enemy 20 yards in front of the Australians. The bombs caused havoc among the enemy and Bishop kept 6 as a last reserve.
- There were two more Japanese attacks on Johns' Knoll but both were thrown back with heavy casualties .



Defence of Trevor's Ridge and Johns' Knoll by 2/27th Battalion, 12th October

# 12 October 1943 - Finisterres

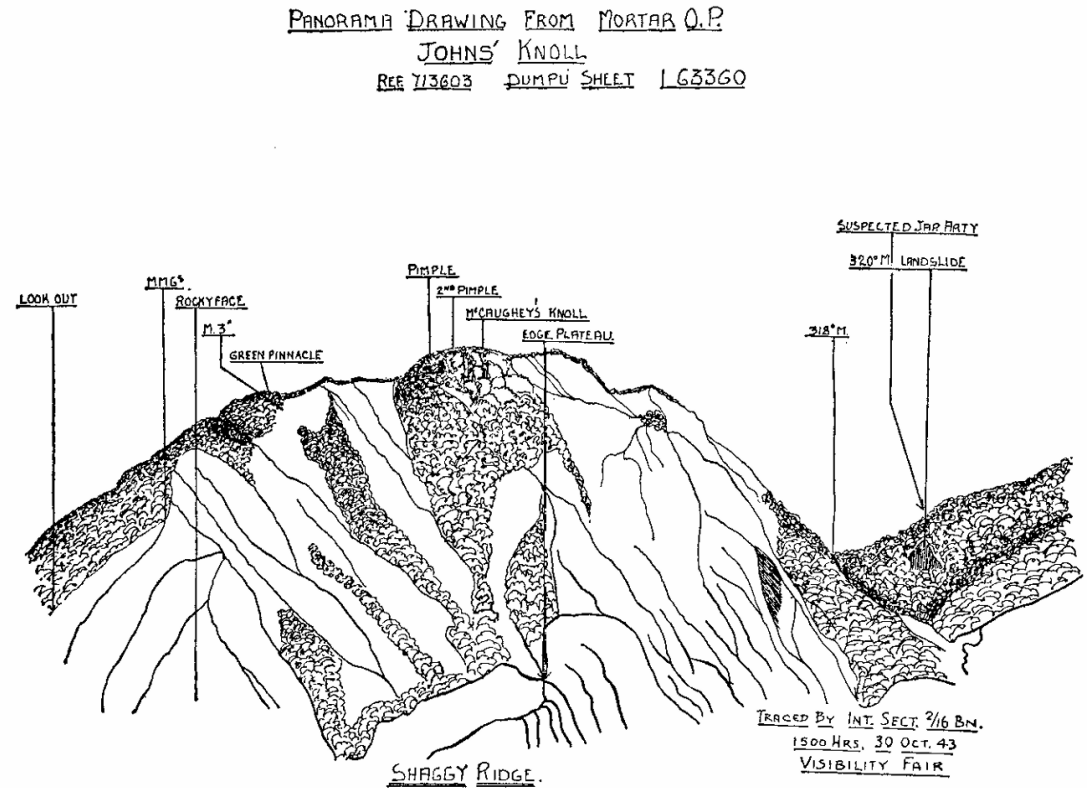
- By 3 pm four separate attacks had been defeated. Although there were many enemy dead before Johns' Knoll the position was dangerous, and the dogged infantrymen realised that they would have to pull out if no ammunition arrived.
- Teams were collecting ammunition from headquarters and even from the platoon on Trevor's Ridge and racing it forward to the two beleaguered platoons. Private Barnes raced out under heavy fire to retrieve a Bren gun and ammunition from a dead gunner.
- Bishop had ordered Johnson to launch a counter-attack to relieve the pressure on Johns' Knoll. Johnson promptly sent out two platoons, one to attack the enemy's right flank and one to attack his left.
- Lieutenant **Paine's** platoon from a position astride the track was sent round the right to attack the Japanese left flank and Lieutenant **Trenerry's** from the company on Trevor's Ridge round the left.



Defence of Trevor's Ridge and Johns' Knoll by 2/27th Battalion, 12th October

# 12 October 1943 - Finisterres

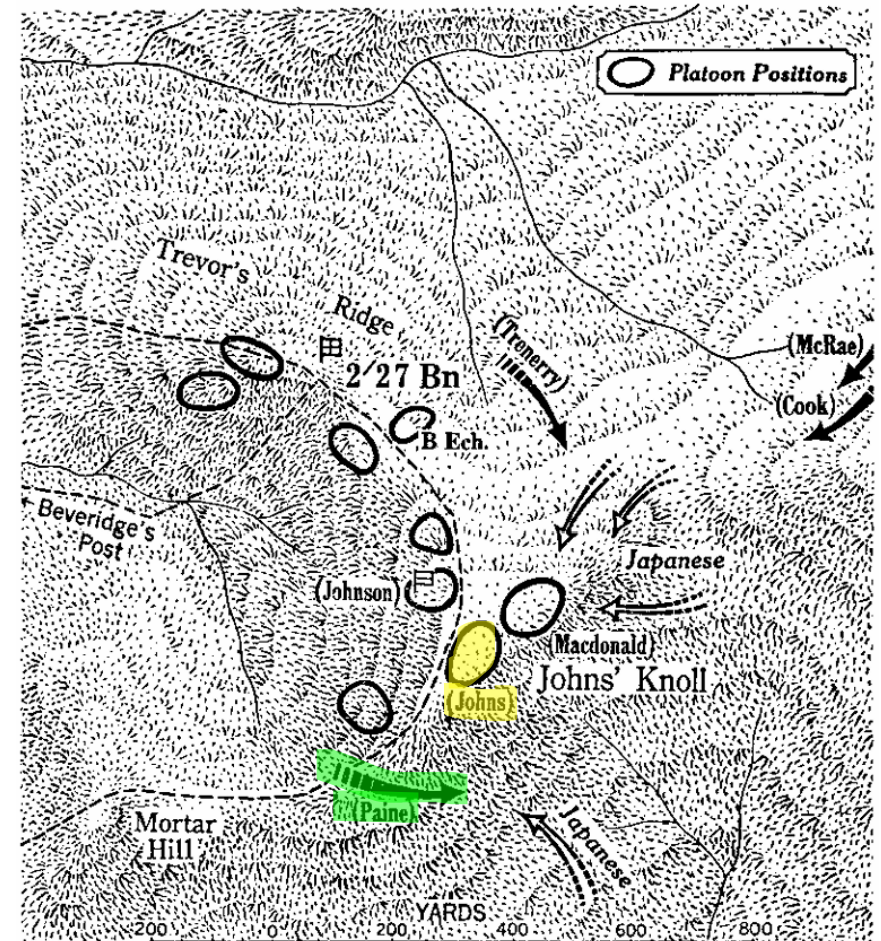
- **Trenerry**, with two sections, set out soon after 2 p.m. the platoon was ready by 4 p.m. to take advantage of heavy rain and raced for the track about 150 yards to the rear of the Japanese forward troops.
- The men could see six or seven groups of Japanese near by who were attacking Johns' Knoll. Suddenly Trenerry's men threw sixteen hand grenades into these groups. Many Japanese were killed and, in confusion and terror, the others dispersed very quickly running mainly into the Australians' fire.
- With five men Trenerry cleared the track to Johns' Knoll while five men cleared the track in the opposite direction and the remainder took up covering positions just below the crest of the ridge. By the time Trenerry's men joined Johns they knew that they had killed at least 24 Japanese with small arms fire apart from those originally killed in the grenade bombardment.
- The two counter-attacking platoons had relieved much of the pressure on Johns' Knoll



Reproduction of sketch in war diary of 2/16th Battalion for October 1943

# 12 October 1943 - Finisterres

- At 5.25 p.m. Crocker's supply train had arrived at Guy's Post and went forward full speed ahead.
- About 6 p.m. Paine, on the razor-back to the right, sang out to Johns to ask if he could move up to his position.
- When Johns gave a cheery O.K., Paine moved up and found that the Japanese had disappeared from the area between his platoon and the men on the knoll.
- Two hours after midnight on the 12th-13th the native supply train arrived with the supplies, including the much-needed ammunition.
- The wounded were carried out by the returning native train, and the tired but triumphant unit waited confidently through a long wet night.



Defence of Trevor's Ridge and Johns' Knoll by 2/27th Battalion, 12th October

# 12 October 1943 - Finisterres

- The 2/27th Battalion was an AIF infantry battalion.
- Raised in May 1940 as part of the 7th Division from volunteers from the state of South Australia, the battalion was assigned to the 21st Brigade.
- The battalion's first combat experience came against the Vichy French during the short Syria–Lebanon campaign during which it fought major engagements around Sidon and Damour in August 1941.
- From September 1942 until early 1943, the 2/27th took part in the Kokoda Track campaign and then the Battle of Buna–Gona, before being withdrawn to Australia where it was rebuilt.



Hammana, Lebanon. September 2, 1941. Major General A. S. "Tubby" Allen (centre), commander of the Australian 7th Division, with Lt Colonel Murray Moten (centre right), commander of the 2/27th Infantry Battalion and his men. (Photographer: Frank Hurley)

# 12 October 1943 – New Guinea

- Men of A Company 2/16<sup>th</sup> Battalion on John's Knoll.



*(Australian War Memorial)*  
Men of "A" Company, 2/16th Battalion on Johns' Knoll, 17th October 1943.

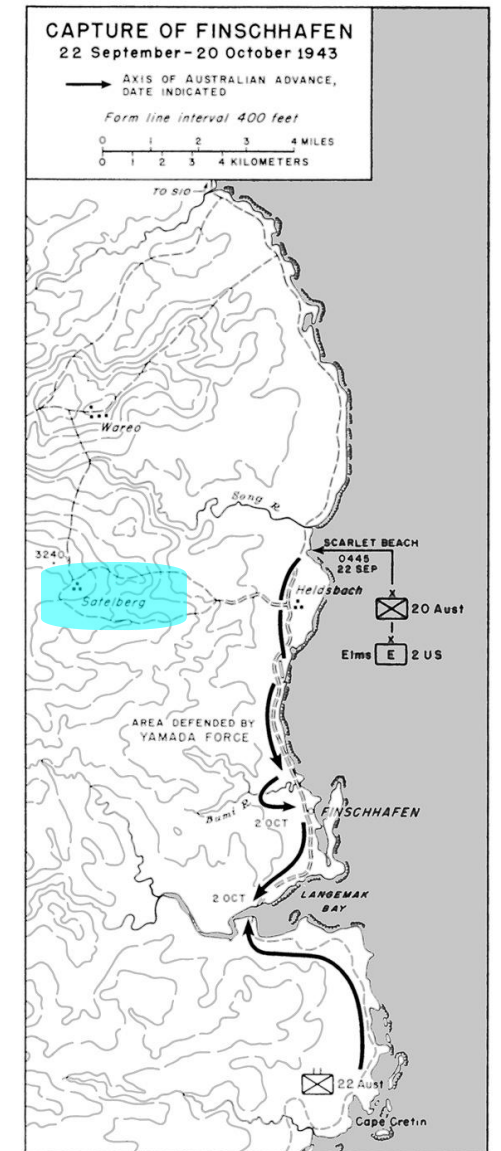
# 15 October 1943 – New Guinea

- P.T. boats in the early morning of 15th October reported having sunk four barges laden with troops heading south-east from Sio.
- Photo: An 80-foot Elco PT boat with original Mark 18 torpedo tubes on patrol off the coast of New Guinea, 1943.



# 15 - 25 October 1943 – New Guinea

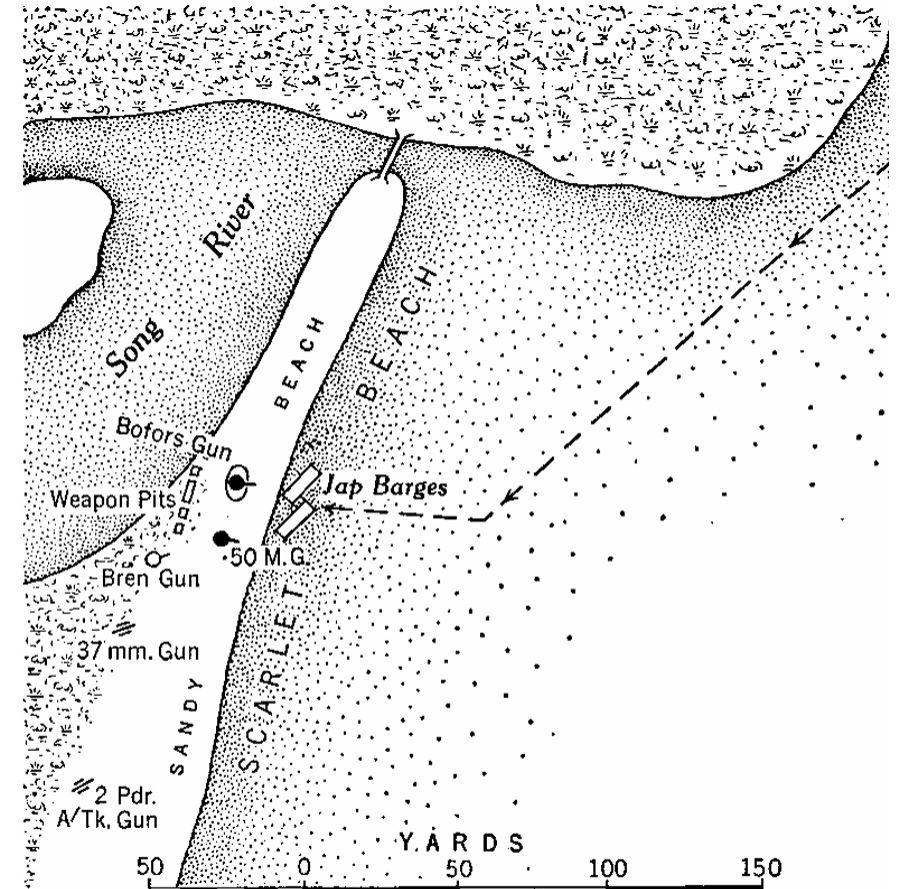
- When General Wootten's headquarters and the 24th Brigade arrived at Finschhafen, Wootten decided that all signs indicated the Japanese would counterattack immediately, before he could complete his preparations for advancing to Sio.
- He decided to go on the defensive for the time being.
- On 15 October Wootten received a captured Japanese order which warned him to expect a two-regiment attack from **Dump**, coupled with a seaborne assault. The Australians made ready.
- Next day the 9th Division, though suffering some local reverses, repulsed the attack from Satelberg.



MAP 14

# 15 - 25 October 1943 – New Guinea

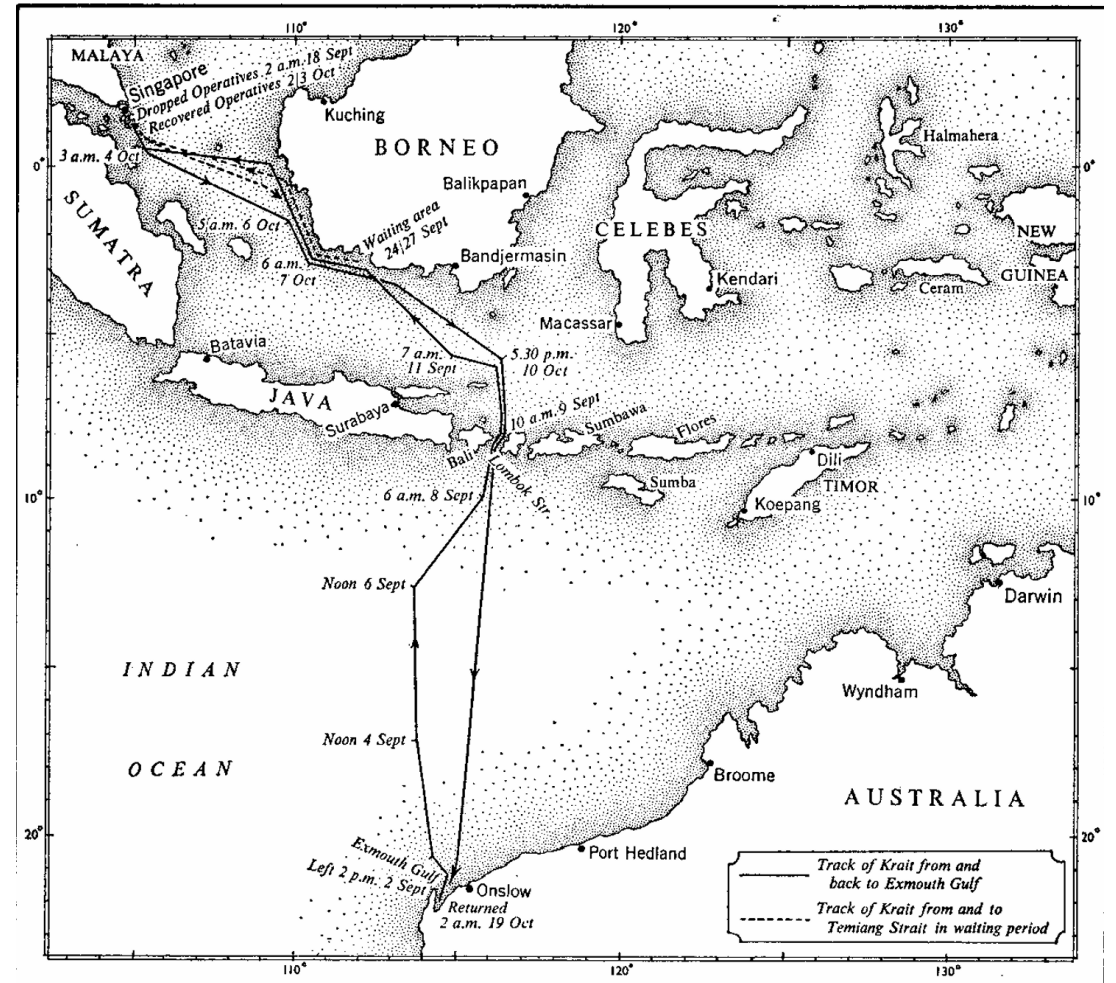
- At 0300, 17 October, Japanese planes bombed the Allies, whereupon 155 men attempted to land from their four craft. Two barges were sunk, one departed in haste, and the other reached shore in the vicinity of a .50-caliber machine gun position manned by Pvt. Nathan Van Noy, Jr. who won a posthumous Medal of Honor in killing most of them.
- Though the Japanese claim that the few men who reached the shore wrought great damage, in actuality they were all quickly killed.
- Later in the morning came another major attack from Sattelberg. Wootten, who had no reserve brigade, asked for the 26th and Barbey's ships transported it to SCARLET Beach on 20 October.
- The Japanese attacks continued through 25 October achieving some penetrations and causing considerable confusion, but all ultimately failed.
- The Australians, losing 49 dead in these actions counted 679 Japanese dead.



Japanese seaborne attack on Scarlet Beach,  
17th October

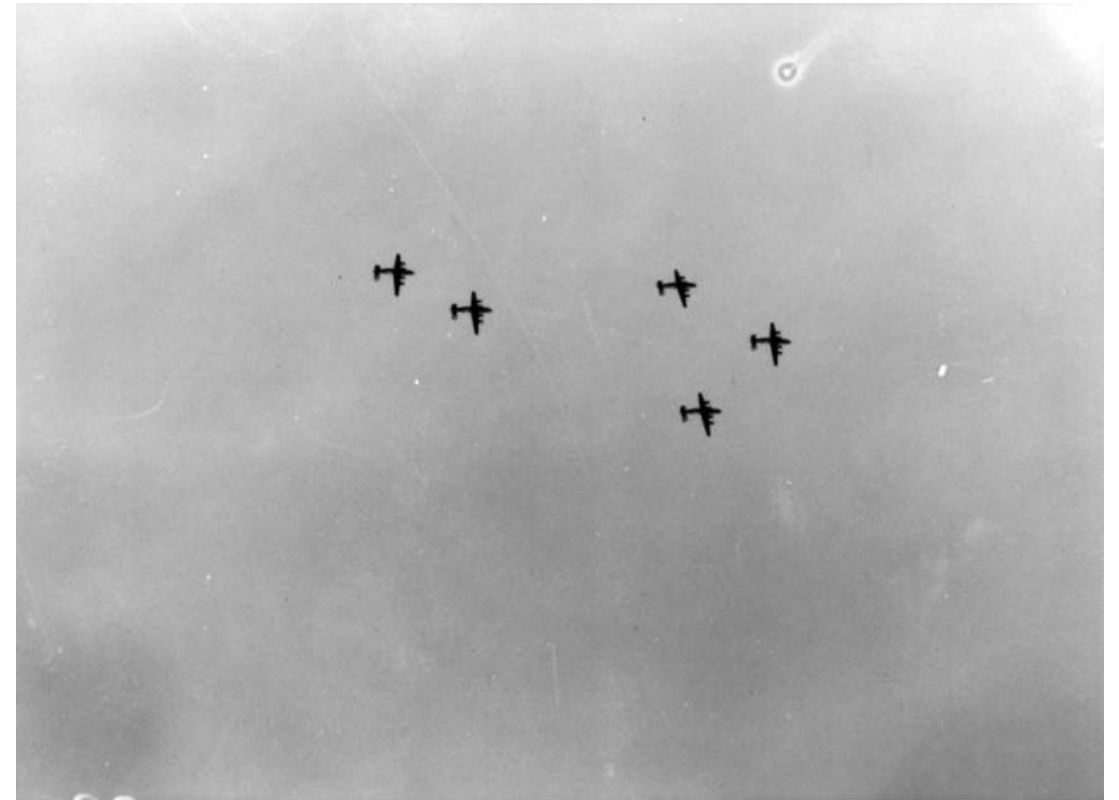
# 19 October 1943 - Jaywick

- At 3 a.m. on 4th October Krait cleared Temiang Strait and set course E.S.E. for Borneo.
- At 4.30 p.m. on 11th October Krait was approaching Lombok Strait. Lombok Island was clearly visible about 10 miles distant, and Bali's Agung peak was in sight above a cloud bank, bearing W.S.W.
- The weather eased about 11 p.m. as she got into the strait proper, and the water was fairly calm.
- At 2330 the lookouts reported a sail approaching from the Lombok side. On looking at it I saw it was a large naval patrol approaching rapidly on our beam. All hands were called and armed and everything prepared to evacuate. She approached bows on to within about one hundred yards, then slowed down and turned alongside on our port quarter. She appeared to be a modern type destroyer. After pacing us for about five minutes she sheered off and went directly away from us.
- After this encounter Krait had a clear run through the strait, and at daybreak on 12th October was in the open sea.
- 19th October 1943 0600 proceeded alongside USS Chanticleer.



# 18 – 29 October 1943 – New Guinea

- Bad weather over New Guinea halted Kenney's operations against Rabaul for the next few days.
- The Allied planes did not sit idle while Rabaul was inaccessible but struck at Wewak on the 16th and again the next day.
- Kenney planned and sent out another big raid against Rabaul on 18 October, but when the air armada was over the Solomon Sea the weather closed in. Fifty-four B-25's went on to Rabaul anyway.
- Kenney followed this attack with three successive daylight raids on 23, 24, and 25 October before the weather again imposed a delay, this time until the 29th, when B-24's and P-38's bombed Vunakanau.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

0G0690

NADZAB, NEW GUINEA. C. 1944-02. B-24 LIBERATOR BOMBER AIRCRAFT OF THE 5TH AIR FORCE, US ARMY AIR FORCE, FLYING OVER NADZAB ON THE WAY TO BOMB JAPANESE POSITIONS IN NEW GUINEA.

# 18 – 31 October 1943 - Solomons

- General Twining's composite force, Air Command, Solomons, had been striking hard at the northern Solomons bases during the same period and for the same purpose--to knock out the Bougainville bases so that Wilkinson's convoys could sail past in safety.
- Twining's available air strength had been displaced forward to bases within range of south Bougainville targets.
- At the start of operations in October, Twining had 614 Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and RNZAF planes. Of these, 264 fighters and 223 medium, dive, torpedo, and patrol bombers were at New Georgia and the Russells, and 127 heavy bombers and patrol planes were at Guadalcanal.
- Ever since 1942 South Pacific planes had been battering at the Japanese bases at Kahili, the Shortlands, Ballale, Kieta, and Buka. Now the process was intensified in an effort to put them out of commission.
- Starting on 18 October, Twining drove his force hard in a continuous series of bombing attacks and fighter sweeps, all made with escorting fighters.
- By 1 November all Japanese Bougainville airfields had been knocked out of commission, and the continuous attacks kept them that way.



U.S. Army ground and air generals confer with their chief. From left to right: Major General Alexander Patch, Lieutenant General Millard Harmon, and Major General Nathan Twining South Pacific, February 1943.

# 24 October 1943

- Captain John Murphy's Coastwatcher patrol had been landed on 28 September at Cape Orford and was marching to find a position above Gasmata in time for the landings at Arawe and Cape Gloucester.
- On 24 October 1943, while travelling on the coastal track to make up time and reach Gasmata by the 1 November deadline he had been given, the group were ambushed by Japanese.
- Lt Barrett and Sgt Carlson were killed and Murphy was captured.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

021240

NX18434 Warrant Officer Class 2 Francis Alfred Barrett escaped from a German camp in Austria and made his way to Syria through Greece and Turkey. Barrett was promoted to Lieutenant and killed in action in New Guinea on 24 October 1943.

# 27 October 1943 - Solomons

- Covered by the destroyers' gunfire and accompanied by the LCI gunboats, the first wave of LCP(R)'s, carrying elements of two battalions of the NZ 8th Brigade, moved through the channel in the wet, misty half-light on 27<sup>th</sup> October.
- There were only a handful of Japanese on Mono, some 225 men of the special naval landing forces. The naval bombardment drove most of the defenders out of their beach positions, and as the New Zealand infantry went ashore they drove out or killed the Japanese in the vicinity of the beach.
- However, enemy mortars and machine guns from hidden positions in the jungle fired on the landing beaches and on the LST's of the fourth transport group, which beached at 0735.
- This fire caused some casualties, damaged some weapons and equipment, and delayed the unloading. But before noon the 8th Brigade troops captured two 75-mm. guns and one 90-mm. mortar and resistance to the landing ceased.



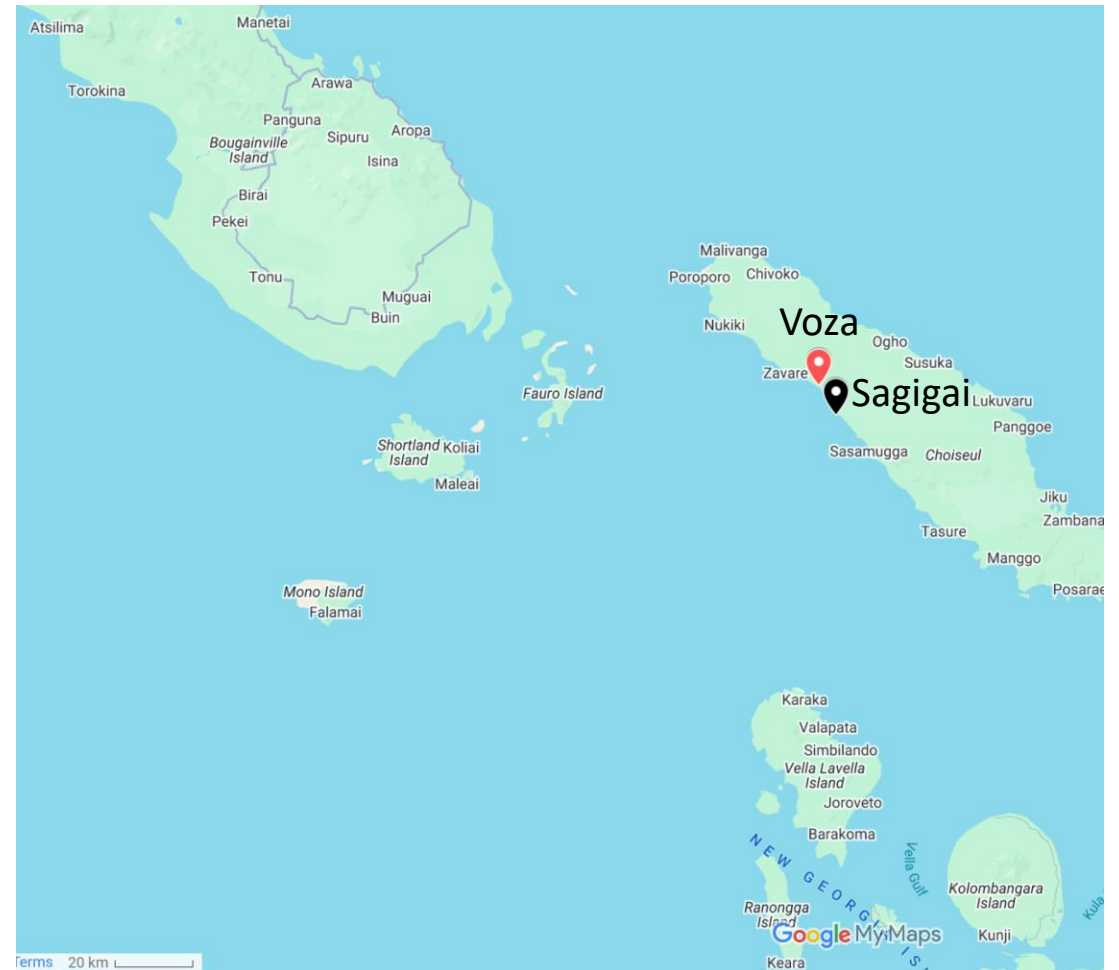
# 27 October 1943 - Solomons

- Stirling Island, which was not occupied by the enemy, was secured by a battalion during the morning. A total of 2,500 men--252 Americans of the 198th Coast Artillery and several detachments from other units, the rest New Zealanders--had been landed on the south shore of Mono. The radar detachment and accompanying combat troops that had landed on the north coast of Mono numbered 200.
- The American destroyers were busy. In addition to providing fire support for the landings they escorted the unloaded transport groups back to Guadalcanal. Two picket destroyers with fighter director teams aboard were stationed east and west of the Treasuries to warn against enemy air attacks.
- The Japanese sent fighters and dive bombers against the Allies.
- Most of these were headed off by the New Georgia-based P-38's and P-40's that formed the southern force's air cover, but some got through to damage the picket destroyer Cony and harass the retiring LST's.
- On shore, Brigadier R. A. Row NZA, the landing force commander, set up beach defenses.



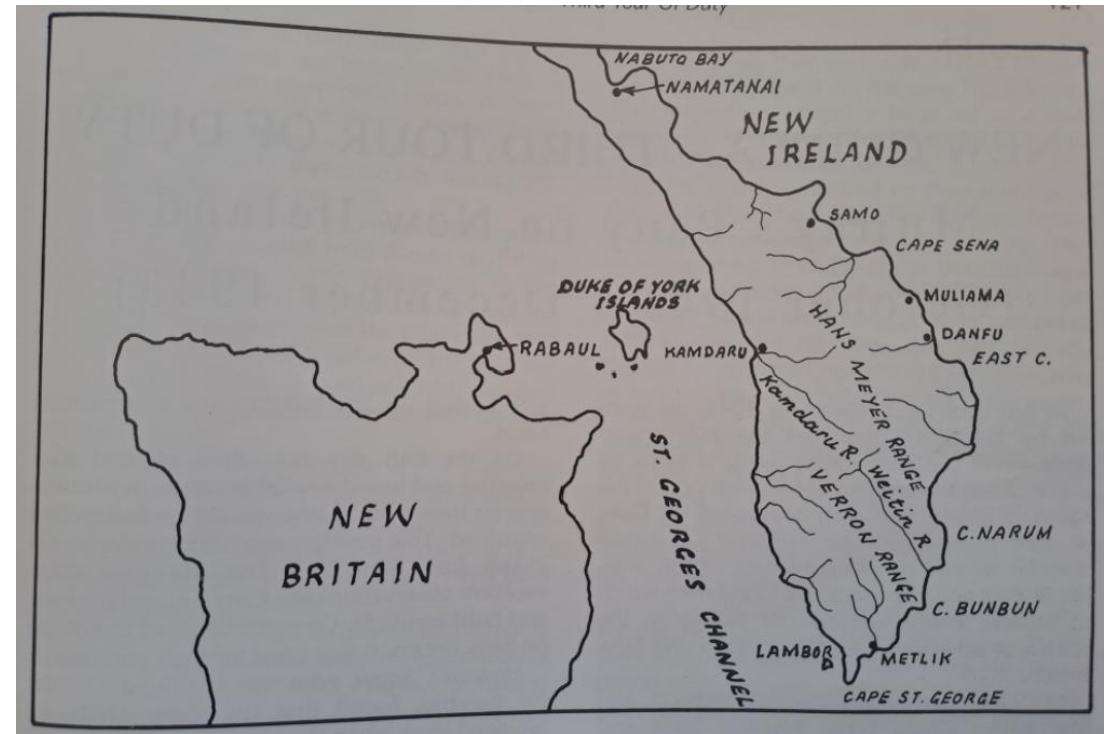
# 27 October 1943 - Solomons

- Four APD sailed to Vella Lavella on 27 October and there took aboard 725 men of Lt. Col. Victor H. Krulak's 2d Marine Parachute Battalion, plus fourteen days' rations and two units of fire. Escorted by the destroyer Conway, the APD's steamed for the village of Voza on Choiseul, and that night landed the parachutists and their gear.
- General Vandegrift had ordered Krulak to conduct operations so that the Japanese would believe a large force was present.
- Krulak therefore raided a barge staging point at Sagigai, some eight miles from Voza, and then sent strong combat patrols to the western part of Choiseul.



# 30 October 1943 – New Ireland

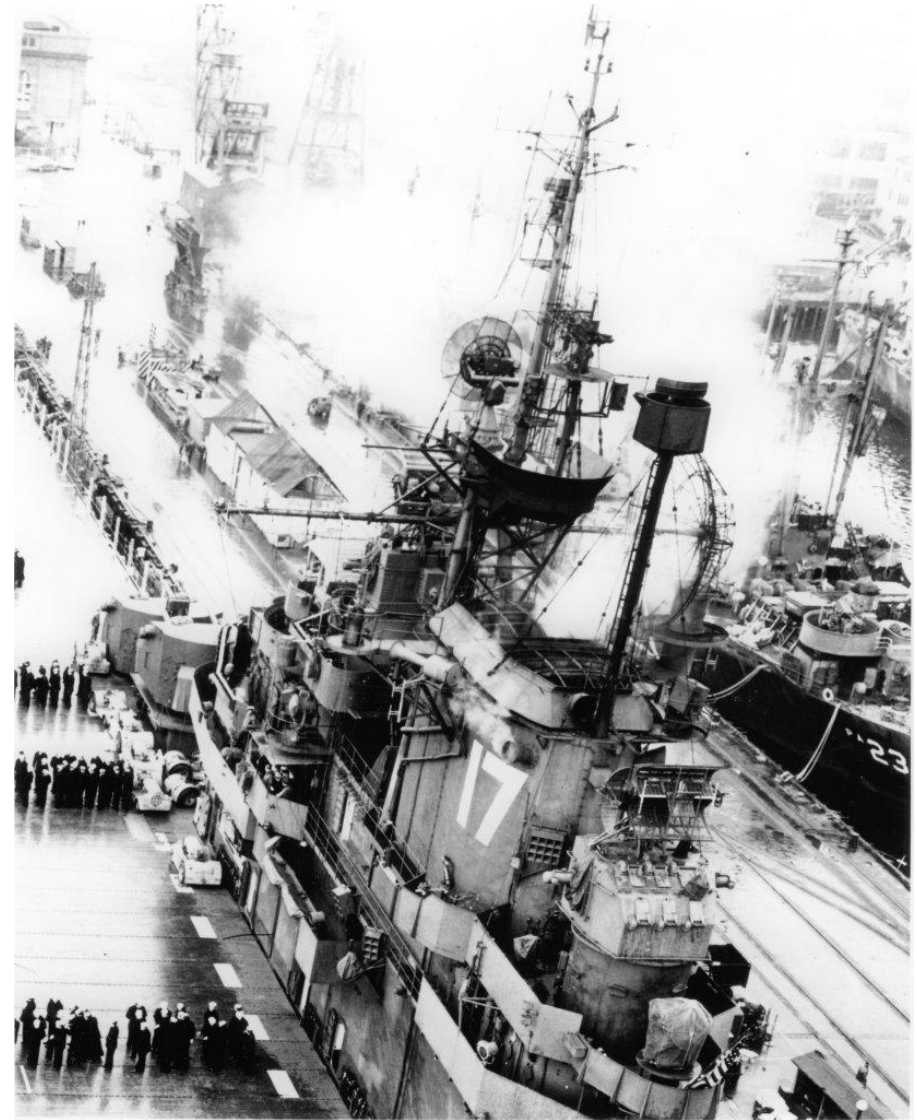
- In early October a new coastwatchers team was needed in New Ireland. Their mission was to gain information on the enemy on New Ireland prior to the American landing at Torokina.
- For over 15 months the allies had been without information on the Japanese strength especially around the southern New Ireland area that overlooked St. George's passage and Rabaul.
- The new island party led by Captain Harry Murray, with Bill Dolby, Snow Evans, Percy Cream and nine native scouts, was landed from the submarine USS Scamp on the south east coast of New Ireland on 30 October 1943 and headed inland in search of an observation site.



# October 1943 – Air Defence

- The SCR-584 was so successful that it was adapted for use by the United States Navy for Fighter Direction use.
- CXBL, a prototype of the navy version, was mounted on the carrier USS Lexington in March 1943, while the production version, the SM, built by General Electric, was operational on the carriers USS Bunker Hill and USS Enterprise by October 1943.

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Wavelength                 | 10 cm   |
| Pulse Width                | 1 microsecond   |
| Pulse Repetition Frequency | 775-825 Hz  |
| Power                      | 600-700 kW  |
| Range                      | 50 nautical miles (90 km) (bomber)<br>25 nautical miles (50 km) (battleship)  |
| Scan rate                  | 2-6 rotations per minute in search mode<br>7.5 scans per second over a 60 degree sector in track mode   |
| Scope                      | PPI with 10, 50, and 80 nautical mile (19, 90, and 150 km) distance scales  |
| Accuracy                   | 200 yards/0.5 degree/500 feet<br>180 meters/0.5 degrees/150 meters  |
| Resolution                 | 200 yards/3 degrees<br>180 meters/3 degrees   |
| Production                 | First prototype installed on <a href="#">Lexington</a> 3/43.<br>First two production models on Bunker Hill 9/43 and <a href="#">Enterprise</a> 10/43.<br>A total of 23 were deployed through 1944-10. |
| Variants                   | The SM-1 was a lighter version. All 26 were given to the Royal Navy as <a href="#">Lend-Lease</a> .   |



SM aboard USS Bunker Hill

# October 1943 – Manhattan Project

- Kellex's design for K-25 called for a four-story 0.5-mile long U-shaped structure containing 54 contiguous buildings.
- These were divided into nine sections containing cells of six stages. A survey party began construction by marking out the 500-acre site in May 1943.
- Work on the main building began in October 1943.



# 29 October 1943 - Australia

- On 8th September 1942, a month after HMAS Canberra was lost in the Savo Island battle, the British Prime Minister announced:
  - His Majesty's Government consider that the Commonwealth should not bear this grievous loss following the sinking of other gallant Australian ships (Sydney, Perth, Vampire). We have therefore decided to offer, fully and unconditionally, to transfer H.M. 8-inch gun cruiser Shropshire to the Commonwealth Government. This offer has been most warmly received.
- On Friday, 13th August 1943, she left Scapa for Australia, and reached Fremantle on Friday, 24th September.
- She joined Task Force 74 at Brisbane on 30 October 1943.
- Task Force 74, now comprising Australia, Shropshire, Ralph Talbot, Warramunga, Arunta and Helm,



British heavy cruiser HMS SHROPSHIRE at a buoy at Sheerness just before being handed over to the Royal Australian Navy as HMAS Shropshire, April 1943..



# 1 November 1943 - Solomons

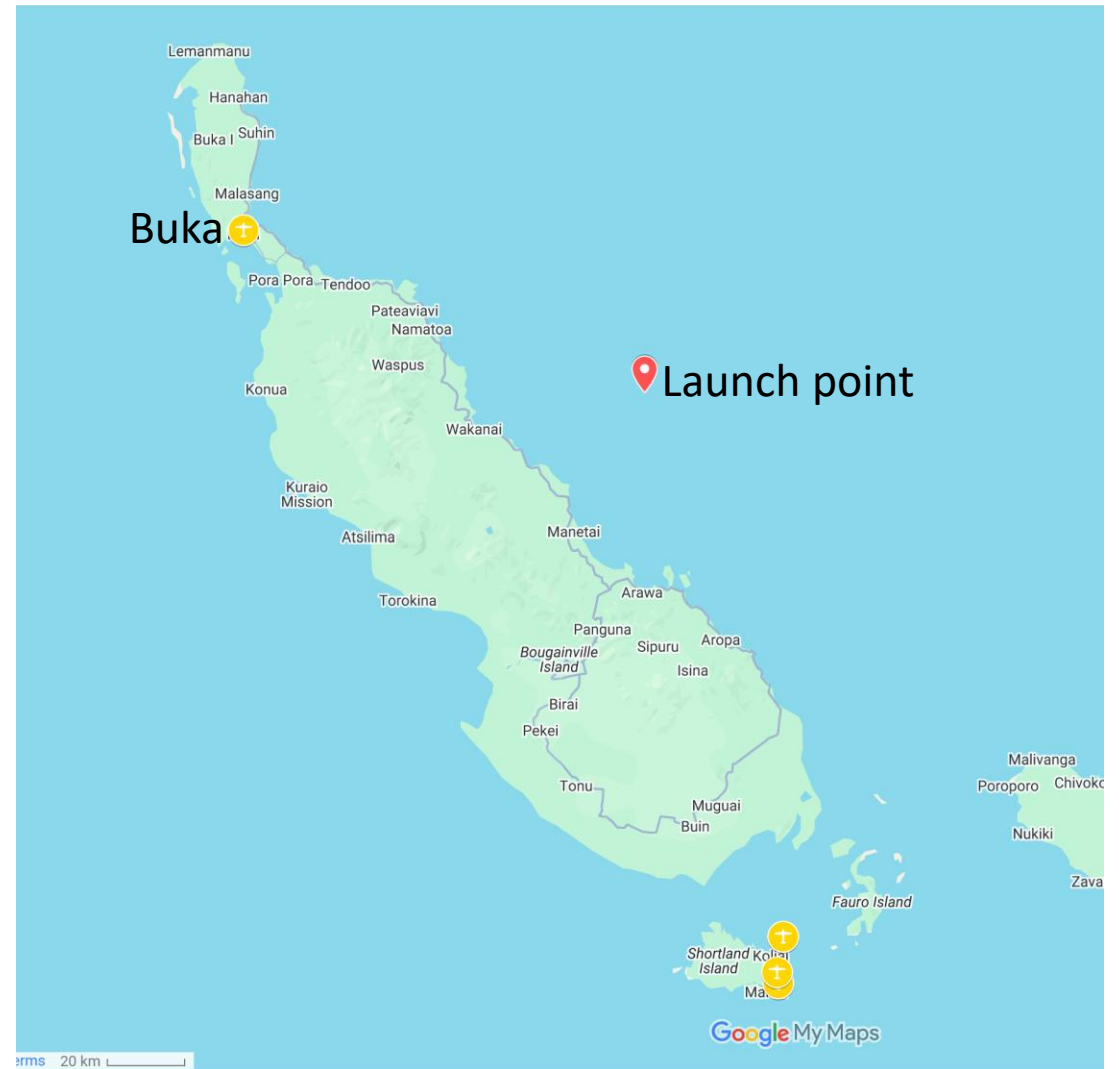
- Merrill, sailing well south of the Russells and west of the Treasuries arrived off Buka Passage at 0021, 1 November, and fired 300 6-inch and 2,400 5-inch shells at Buka and Bonis fields.
- Shore batteries replied but without effect. Merrill then retired at thirty knots toward the Shortland Islands. Enemy planes harassed the task force but no damage was done. One fire started by the bombardment was visible from sixty miles away.



Admiral Aaron S. Merrill and Captain W.D. Brown working with a maneuvering board on USS Montpelier (CL-57), during operations in the Solomon Islands, December 23, 1943.

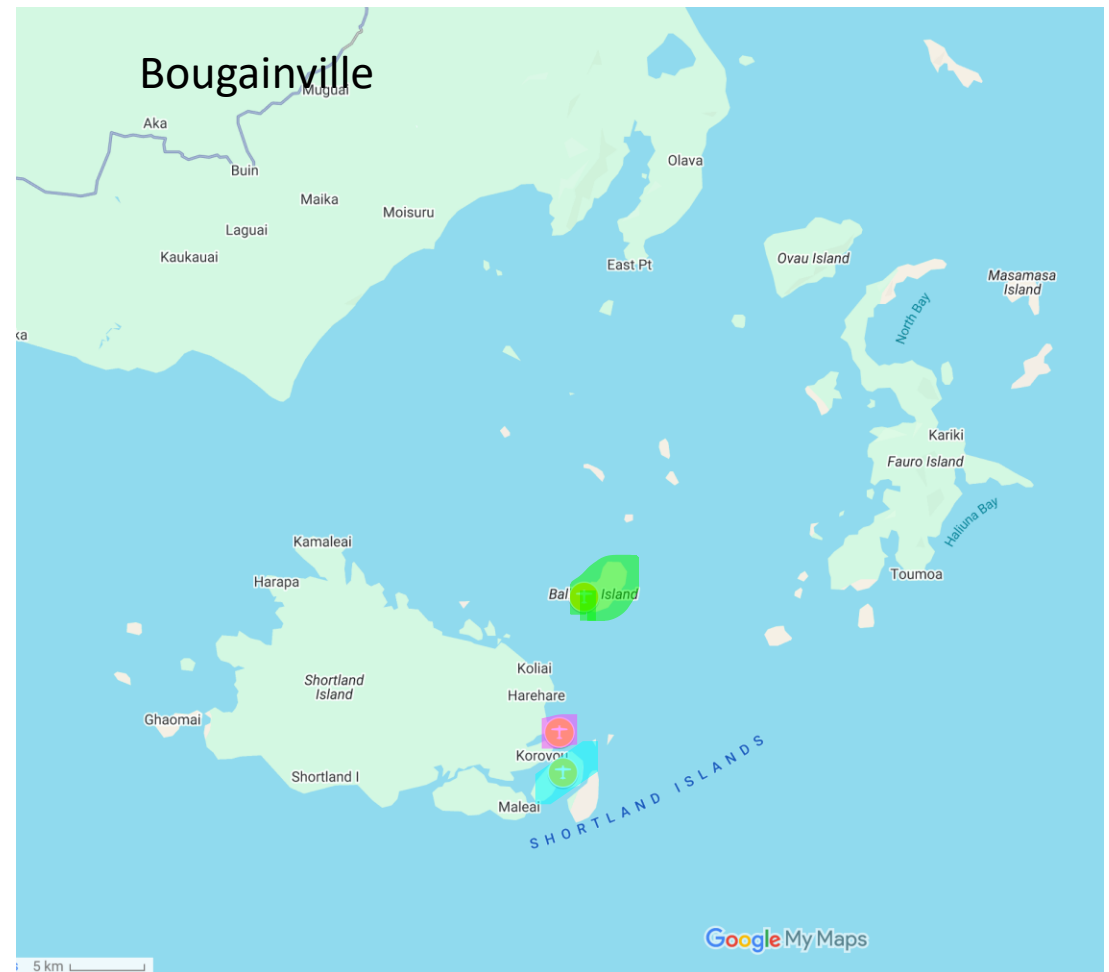
# 1 November 1943 - Solomons

- About four hours after the beginning of Merrill's bombardment Task Force 38 reached a launching position sixty-five miles southeast of Buka.
- This was the first time since the outbreak of the war that an Allied aircraft carrier had ventured within fighter range of Rabaul.
- The weather was bad for carrier operations as the planes for the first strike, eighteen fighters, fifteen dive bombers, and eleven torpedo bombers, prepared to take off in the darkness.
- There was no breeze blowing over the flight decks, so the planes had to be catapulted into the air, a slow process that, coupled with the planes' difficulties in forming up in the dark, delayed their arrival over Buka until daylight.
- Two torpedo bombers and one dive bomber hit the water on take-off. The rest of the planes dropped three 1,000-pound bombs on Buka's runway and seventy-two 100 pound bombs on supply dumps and dispersal areas.
- The next strike--fourteen fighters, twenty-one dive bombers, and eleven torpedo bombers--was launched at 0930 without casualties. These planes struck Buka again and bombed several small ships offshore.



# 1-2 November 1943 - Solomons

- Merrill's ships had sped from Buka to the Shortlands in the early morning hours of 1 November to bombard Poporang, Ballale, Faisi, and smaller islands.
- Merrill had bombarded these before, on the night of 29-30 June, but in stormy darkness.
- Now the bombardment was in broad daylight; it started at 0631, seventeen minutes after sunrise.
- Japanese shore batteries replied with inaccurate fire. Only the destroyer Dyson was hit, and its casualties and damage were minor. His mission completed, Merrill headed south.
- At dawn 2 November, forty-four planes attacked Bonis, and at 1036 forty-one more repeated the attack.



# 1-2 November 1943 - Solomons

- Then Sherman, under orders from Halsey, headed for the vicinity of Rennell, due south of Guadalcanal, to refuel.
- In two days of action Task Force 38, operating within sixty-five miles of Buka, estimated that it had destroyed about thirty Japanese planes and hit several small ships.
- More important, it had guaranteed that the Buka and Bonis runways could not be used for air attacks against Admiral Wilkinson's ships. The Americans lost seven men and eleven planes in combat and operational crashes.
- Photo: Admiral Frederick C. Sherman, he had been captain of Lexington when it was sunk at the Coral Sea, he and his dog were the last two to leave the ship.



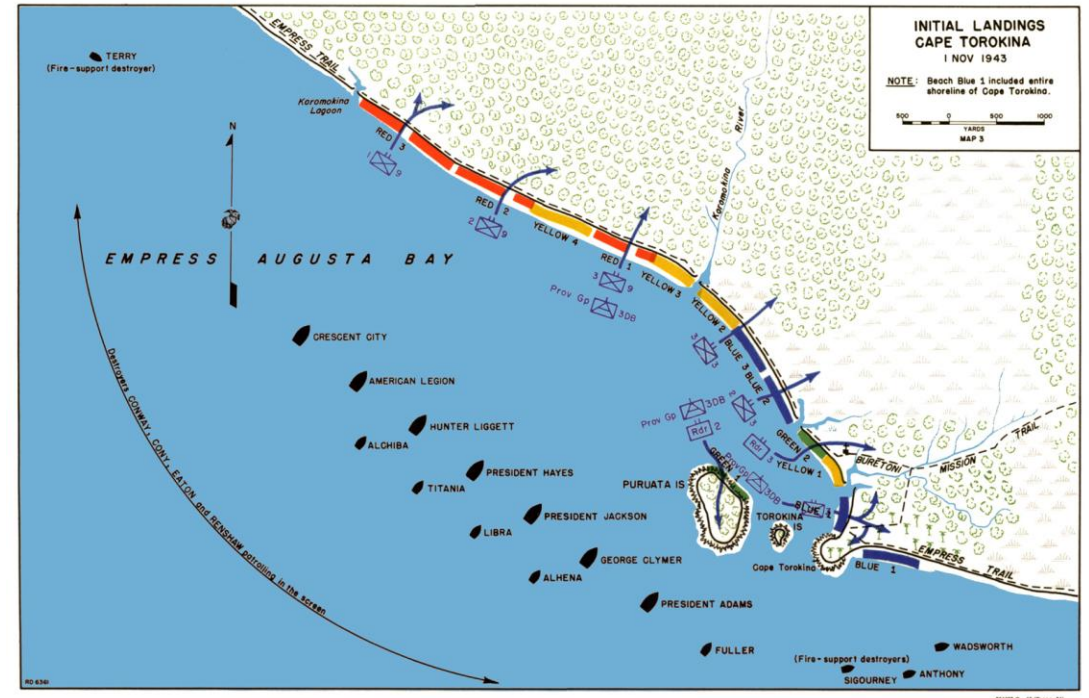
# 1 November 1943 - Solomons

- At 0432 of 1 November, Wilkinson's ships changed course from northwest to northeast and approached Cape Torokina in Empress Augusta Bay.
- Speed was reduced from fifteen to twelve knots. The minesweepers went out ahead to check the area. General quarters sounded on all ships at 0500, and forty-five minutes later the ships reached the transport area.
- The transport Crescent City struck a reef but suffered no damage.
- Sunrise did not come until 0614, but the morning was bright and clear enough for the warships to begin a slow, deliberate bombardment of Cape Torokina at 0547. As each transport passed the cape it too fired with its 3-inch and anti-aircraft guns. Wilkinson set H Hour for the landing at 0730. At 0645 the eight transports anchored about three thousand yards from shore; the cargo ships formed a similar line to seaward of the transports.
- Wilkinson, sure that the Japanese would launch heavy air attacks, had come so lightly loaded that four to five hours of unloading time would find his ships emptied.
- Vandegrift and Turnage, anticipating little opposition at the beach, had planned to speed unloading by sending more than seven thousand men ashore in the assault wave.
- They would land along beaches (eleven on the mainland and one on Puruata Island off Cape Torokina) with a total length of eight thousand yards.
- The assault wave boarded landing craft at the ships' rails. The winchmen quickly lowered the craft into the water; and the first wave formed rapidly and started for shore.
- A moderately heavy sea was running
- Photo: Marines board landing craft in Empress Augusta Bay



# 1 November 1943 - Solomons

- The destroyers continued firing until 0731, when thirty-one torpedo bombers from New Georgia bombed and strafed the shore line for five minutes.
- The first troops reached the beach at 0726, and in the next few minutes all the assault wave came ashore.
- There was no opposition except at Puruata Island and at Cape Torokina and its immediate vicinity. There the Japanese, though few in numbers, fought with skill and ferocity.
- Cape Torokina was held by a company of 270 Japanese soldiers. One platoon held Puruata. On Cape Torokina the enemy had built about eighteen log-and-sandbag pillboxes, each with two machine guns, mutually supporting, camouflaged, and arranged in depth. He had also emplaced a 75-mm. gun in an open-ended log-and-sand bunker to fire on landing craft nearing the beach.
- Neither air bombardment nor naval gunfire had had any appreciable effect on these positions. Because air reconnaissance had shown that the enemy had built defense positions on Cape Torokina (a low, flat, sandy area covered with palm trees), it had been a target for naval bombardment. Two destroyers had fired at the cape from the south but had done no damage. Exploding shells and bombs sent up smoke and dust that made observation difficult; some shells had burst prematurely in the palm trees. Poor gunnery was also a factor, for many shells were seen to hit the water.



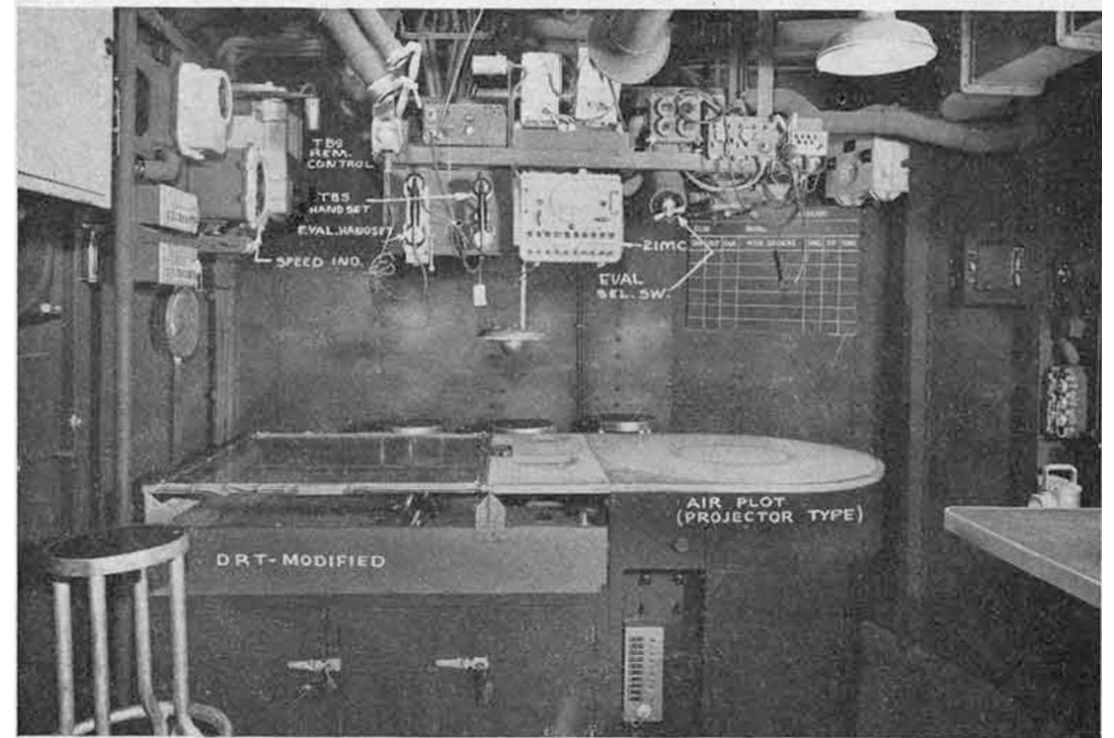
# 1 November 1943 - Solomons

- When landing craft bearing the 3d Marines neared the cape the 75-mm. gun and the machine guns opened fire.
- The men were forced to disembark under fire and to start fighting the moment they put foot to the ground.
- Casualties were lighter than might have been expected--78 men were killed and 104 wounded in the day's action--but only after fierce fighting were the men of the 3d Marines able to establish themselves ashore.
- The pillboxes were reduced by three-man fire teams: one BAR man and two riflemen with M1's, all three using grenades whenever possible. The gun position was taken by Sgt. Robert A. Owens of A Company, 3d Marines, who rushed the position under cover of fire from four riflemen. He killed part of the Japanese crew and drove off the rest before he died of wounds received in his assault.
- By 1100 Cape Torokina was cleared. Most of its defenders were dead; the survivors retreated inland.
- Puruata Island was secured at about the same time, although some Japanese remained alive until the next day.
- Elsewhere the landing waves, though not opposed by the enemy, pushed inland slowly through dense jungle and a knee-deep swamp that ran two miles inland and backed most of the beach north and east of Cape Torokina. The swamp's existence had not previously been suspected.
- Photo: Men of the Third Marines hotly engaged on Blue Beach shortly after their landing.



# 1 November 1943 - Solomons

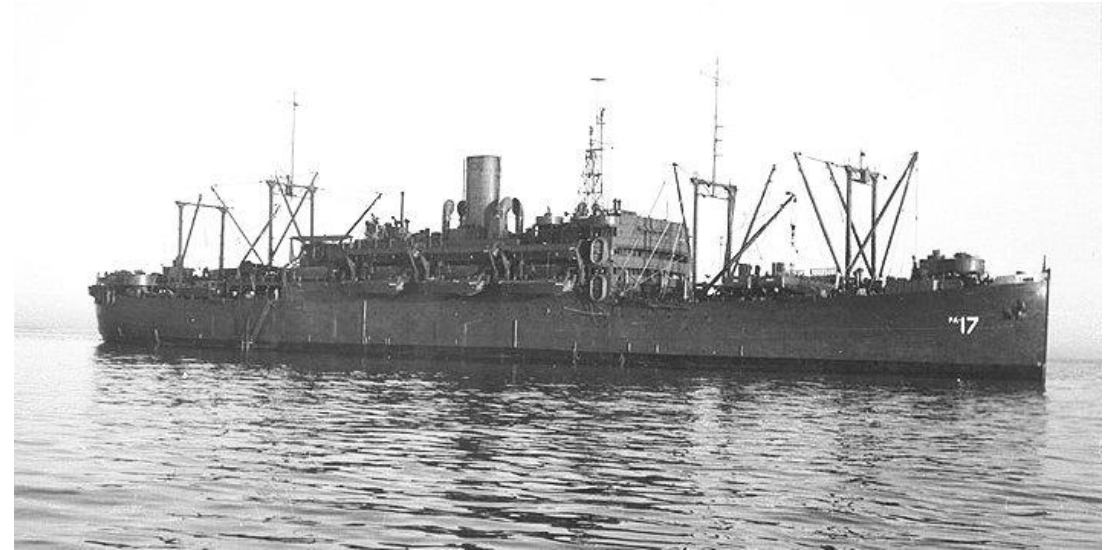
- General Twining had arranged for thirty-two New Georgia-based fighter planes -to be overhead in the vicinity all day.
- These planes were vectored by a fighter director team aboard the destroyer Conway. Turning in an outstanding performance, they destroyed or drove off most of the planes that the Japanese sent against Wilkinson. But they could not keep them all away.
- At 0718, as the last boats of the assault wave were leaving their transports, the destroyers' radars picked up a flight of approaching enemy planes then fifty miles distant.
- The covering fighters kept most of the planes away, but a few, perhaps twelve, dive bombers broke through to attack the ships.
- The transports and cargo ships weighed anchor and steamed for the open sea. They escaped harm, and the dive bombers were able to inflict only light damage to the destroyers.
- Two sailors were killed. The transports returned and resumed unloading at 0930, having lost two hours.



*DD, looking forward.—A simple, compact arrangement providing all facilities required for evaluation and control.*

# 1 November 1943 - Solomons

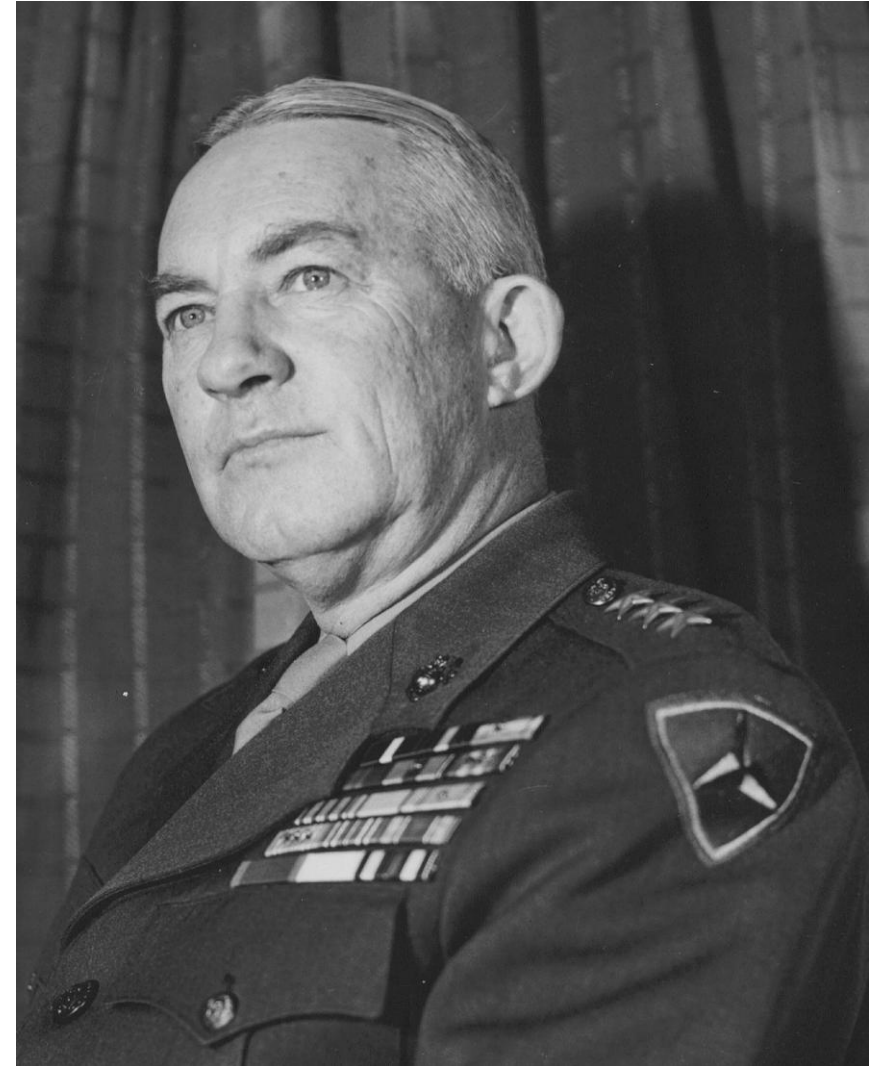
- Another enemy attack at 1248 succeeded in breaking through the fighter cover.
- Warned again by radar, the transports, except for the American Legion, which stuck on an uncharted shoal, fled.
- The Japanese attacked the moving ships instead of the Legion. No damage was done, but the ships lost two more hours of unloading time.
- The halts in unloading caused by air attacks, coupled with beach and terrain conditions that Admiral Halsey described as "worse than any we had previously encountered," slowed the movement of supplies and equipment.
- Fully one third of the landing force--5,700 men in all--had been assigned to the shore party, but nature and the Japanese aircraft thwarted efforts to unload all the ships on D Day.



American Legion underway, circa 1944-45, location unknown.

# 1 November 1943 - Solomons

- Even on quiet days the surf at Empress Augusta Bay was rough, and on 1 November a stiff breeze whipped it higher. The northernmost beaches were steep and narrow.
- The surf, and possibly the inexperience of some of the crews, took a heavy toll of landing craft. No less than sixty-four LCVP's and twenty-two LCM's broached on shore and were swamped by the driving surf.
- As surf conditions got worse, several beaches became completely unusable. Five ships were shifted to beaches farther south, with more delay and congestion at the southern beaches. It was during this move that the American Legion ran aground.
- By 1730 the eight transports were empty and Wilkinson took them back to Guadalcanal. But the four cargo ships, which carried heavy guns and equipment, were still practically full.
- Vandegrift, who had had ample experience at Guadalcanal of being left stranded on a hostile shore while much of his equipment remained in the holds of departing ships, persuaded Wilkinson to allow the cargo ships to put out to sea for the night and return the next morning to unload.
- Most of the troops aboard went ashore in LCVP's before Commodore Reifsnider led the cargo ships out to sea.
- Except for the full holds of the cargo ships, D Day had been thoroughly successful. All the landing force, including General Turnage (photo), were ashore. The missions now were to bring in reinforcements; to organize a perimeter defense against the inevitable Japanese counterattack; and to build airfields that would put South Pacific fighter planes over Rabaul.



# 1-2 November 1943 - Solomons

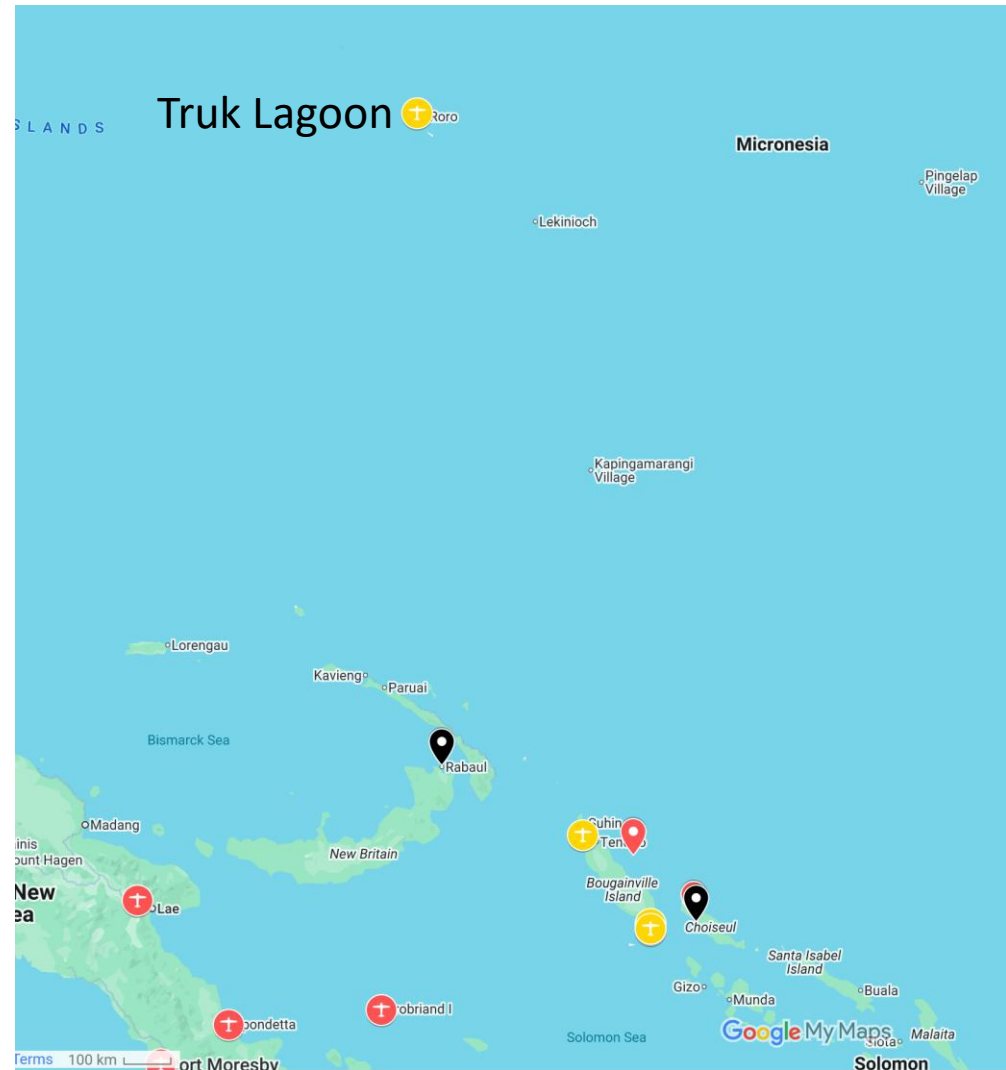
- Admiral Merrill's Task Force 39 was at Vella Lavella with four of his eight destroyers refuelling in the late afternoon of 1 November when General Twining's reconnaissance planes spotted a Japanese force of two heavy and two light cruisers and six destroyers and flashed a warning.
- Halsey ordered Merrill out to intercept.
- Receiving continuous, accurate plots of the Japanese course and speed, Merrill set his course to intercept west of Empress Augusta Bay.
- At 0229, 2 November, a few miles from Cape Torokina, Task Force 39 made contact with Omori and attacked at once.
- In the Battle of Empress Augusta Bay, Merrill sank one light cruiser and one destroyer; except for the destroyer Foote, which lost her stern to a Japanese torpedo, the American ships received light damage.
- The engagement lasted until dawn, when the Japanese took their surviving ships back to Rabaul.



View forward from the US light cruiser Columbia towards the US light cruiser Cleveland as both ships fire at Japanese warships during the battle

# 2 November 1943 – New Guinea

- The weather intervened again, so that it was not until 2 November, the day after South Pacific forces landed at Empress Augusta Bay, that Southwest Pacific aircraft again struck at Rabaul.
- On that day seventy-five B-25's escorted by P-38's attacked and ran into the fiercest opposition the Fifth Air Force encountered during World War II.
- Nine of the Mitchells were lost, and nine Lightnings. The Fifth Air Force claimed 68 enemy planes destroyed.
- A large number of carrier planes and pilots from the Combined Fleet at Truk had just been transferred to Rabaul, and they put up a stiff fight.



# 2 November 1943 - Solomons

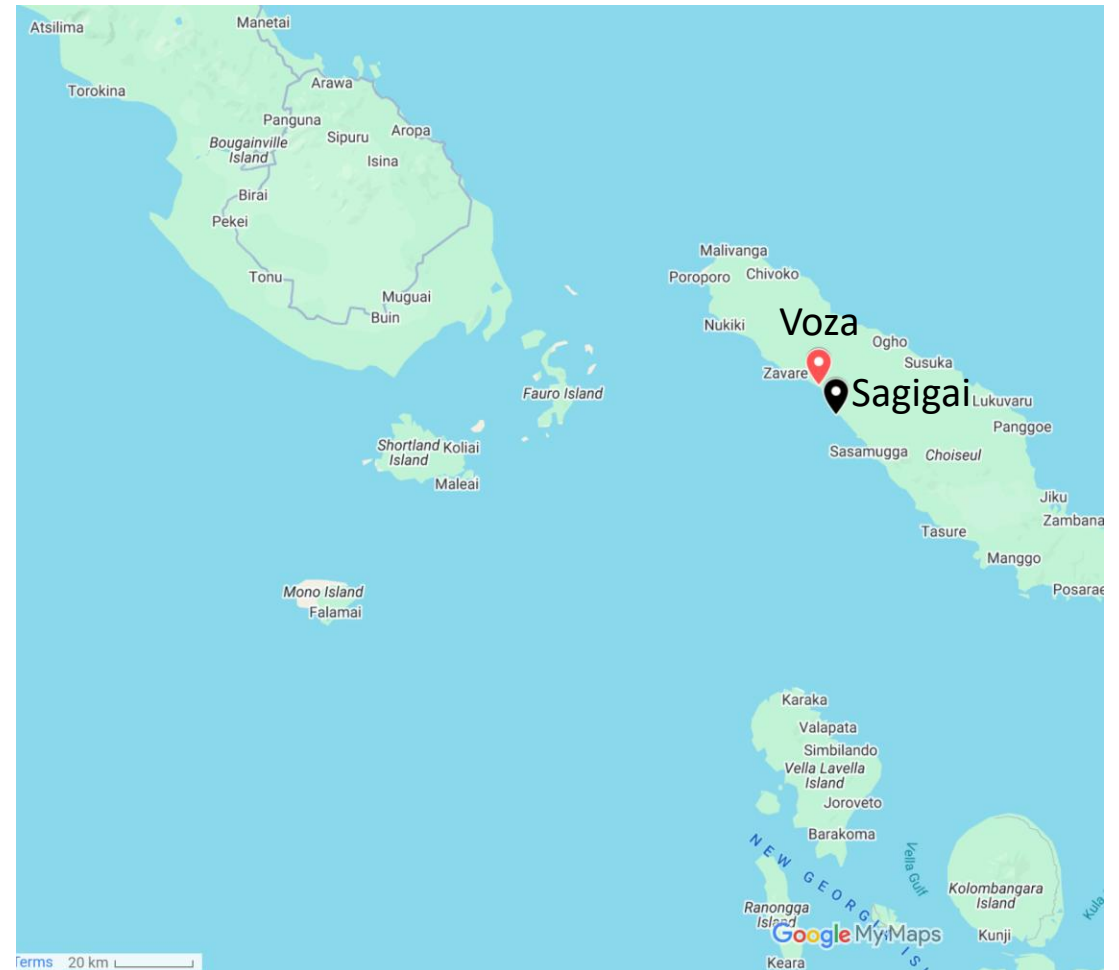
- When a Japanese patrol plane sighted Merrill 18 dive bombers and 80 fighters promptly took off from Rabaul to the attack.
- Bad weather on the morning of 2 November had kept most of the Allied fighters on the New Georgia fields, but 8 F6F's, 1 F4U, 3 P-38's, and 4 New Zealand P-40's, vectored by a destroyer still in Empress Augusta Bay, hurled themselves at part of the Japanese formation and shot down several planes.
- The remaining enemy planes came upon Task Force 39 shortly before 0800 and promptly attacked. The task force maneuvered rapidly, sailing clockwise in a circle and shooting 5-inch, 40 mm., 20-mm., and even 6-inch guns at the diving Japanese with considerable success.
- The light cruiser Montpelier suffered two bomb hits which wounded several men, but the other ships went unscathed.
- The Japanese broke off the action, but on the way home lost more planes to Allied fighters.
- More planes from Rabaul would doubtless have come out after Merrill that day but for the Fifth Air Force's raid on the airfields, which the Japanese carrier pilots contested so hotly.



The USS Montpelier (CL-57) max speed 32.5 knots. 4 × triple 6 in (150 mm)/47 caliber Mark 16 guns  
6 × dual 5 in (130 mm)/38 caliber anti-aircraft guns  
4 × quad 40 mm (1.6 in) Bofors anti-aircraft guns  
4 × dual 40 mm (1.6 in) Bofors anti-aircraft guns  
17 × single 20 mm (0.79 in) Oerlikon anti-aircraft cannons.

# 4 November 1943 - Solomons

- But by 2 November the Japanese appeared to be concentrating at Sagigai with the obvious intention of destroying the 2d Parachute Battalion.
- From eight hundred to one thousand enemy were reported to have moved into Sagigai from positions farther east, with more on the way. By now the Empress Augusta Bay landing had been safely executed, and Vandegrift ordered Krulak to withdraw.
- The battalion embarked on three LCI's in the early morning hours of 4 November. The raid cost 11 Marines dead, 14 wounded; 143 Japanese were estimated to have been killed.



# 4 November 1943 - Solomons

- The Japanese now moved seven heavy cruisers, one light cruiser, four destroyers, and a fleet train down from Truk to Rabaul.
- They arrived safely on 4 November, although later ships were hit by Twining's B-24's.
- This force of heavy cruisers at Rabaul posed a serious threat to the new beachhead at Empress Augusta Bay.
- Halsey had only two naval task forces--Merrill's, which was exhausted and Sherman's carriers.
- Up to now carriers had been employed against land bases only in the most gingerly fashion. The South Pacific staff calculated that Sherman, from his refuelling position near Rennell, could strike the Japanese before the Japanese would strike Empress Augusta Bay.
- So Halsey ordered Sherman to hit Rabaul.
- Halsey "fully expected that they [Sherman's carriers] would be lost." ". . . but we could not let the men at Torokina be wiped out while we stood by and wrung our hands."
- Halsey was never a man to stand idly by and wring his hands, or to allow anyone else that emotional luxury.

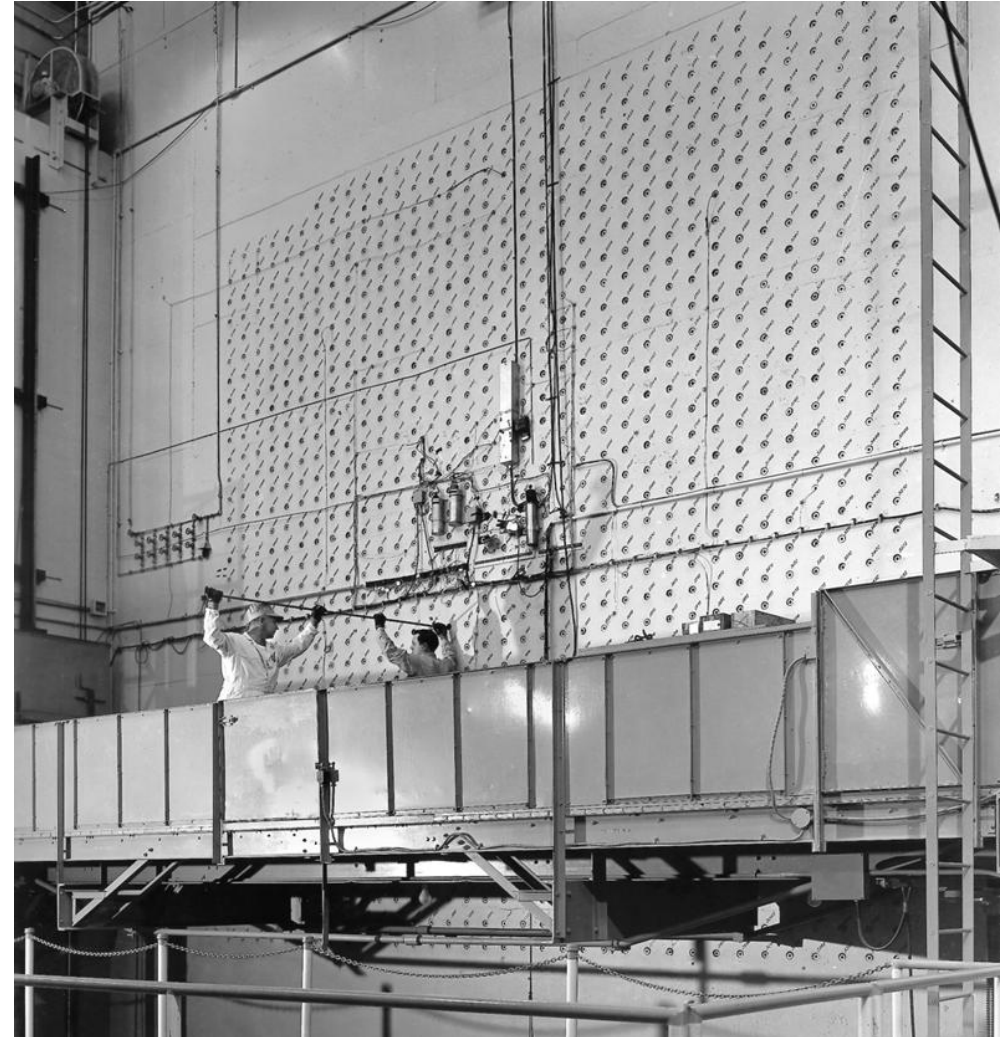


Admiral Halsey, Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler, and Maj. Gen. Roy S. Geiger (seated, left to right) discuss a map problem at the 37th Division command post on Bougainville.



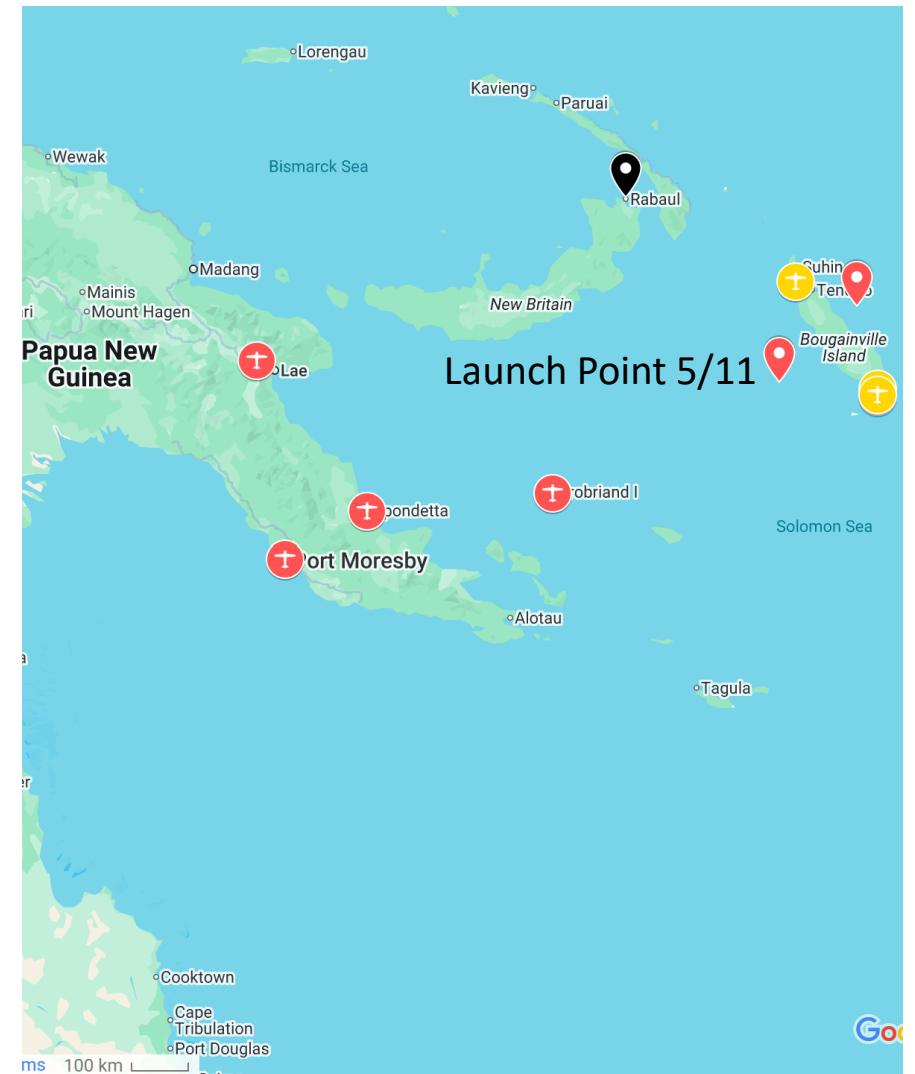
# 4 November 1943 - Manhattan Project

- The X-10 Graphite Reactor went critical on 4 November 1943 with about 30 tons of uranium.
- A week later the load was increased to 36 tons, raising its power generation to 500 kW, and by the end of the month the first 500 mg of plutonium was created.
- Gradual modifications raised the power to 4,000 kW in July 1944. X-10 operated as a production plant until January 1945, when it was turned over to research.
- Photo: Workers load uranium slugs into the X-10 Graphite Reactor's concrete face. X10 was the first-ever production reactor and acted as a proof of concept for the reactors that would produce materials for the first nuclear bombs. The concrete face is 44 by 44 feet.



# 5 November 1943 - Solomons

- Halsey directed South Pacific land-based air (Task Force 33) to provide cover for Sherman during his daylight approach and retirement. This job was done by Navy fighters from New Georgia, which of course were capable of landing on carrier decks.
- Thus Sherman was able to send all his aircraft against Rabaul instead of keeping some of them overhead for protection.
- Task Force 38 reached its launching point in the Solomon Sea 57 miles southwest of Torokina and 230 miles southeast of Rabaul at 0900, 5 November.
- The weather was fine for carrier operations; a steady breeze was blowing, and there were frequent rain squalls where the ships could hide in case of air attack.
- The two carriers sent out 97 planes: 23 torpedo bombers, 22 dive bombers, and 52 fighters.
- They arrived over Rabaul and dived through a hole in the clouds to take the Japanese by surprise. Though faced by intense anti-aircraft fire they bored in with resounding success.
- They did not sink any ships, but damaged three heavy cruisers, two light cruisers, and two destroyers so severely that months passed before any of them were fit to fight again. This was done at a cost of fifteen men killed or missing, ten planes lost.



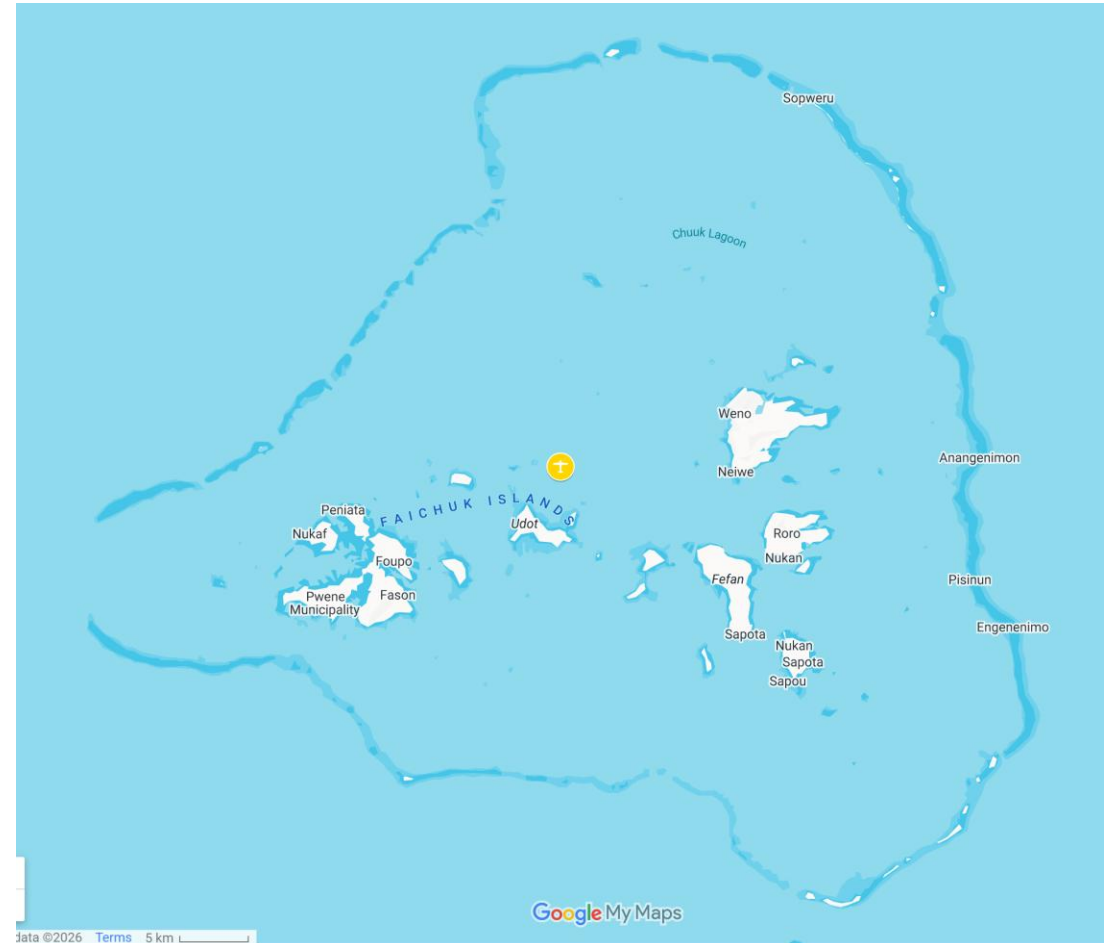
# 5 November 1943 - Solomons

- Twenty-seven B-24's (photo) and fifty-eight P-38's from the Fifth Air Force reached Rabaul in the afternoon.
- As practically all the Japanese planes were out after Task Force 38, Kenney's men bombed the wharves.
- The Japanese failed to find Sherman
- Halsey's gloomy expectations were not fulfilled.



# 6 November 1943 - Solomons

- The Japanese decided to pull their heavy cruisers back to Truk, and the threat to Cape Torokina was ended.



# 6 November 1943 - Solomons

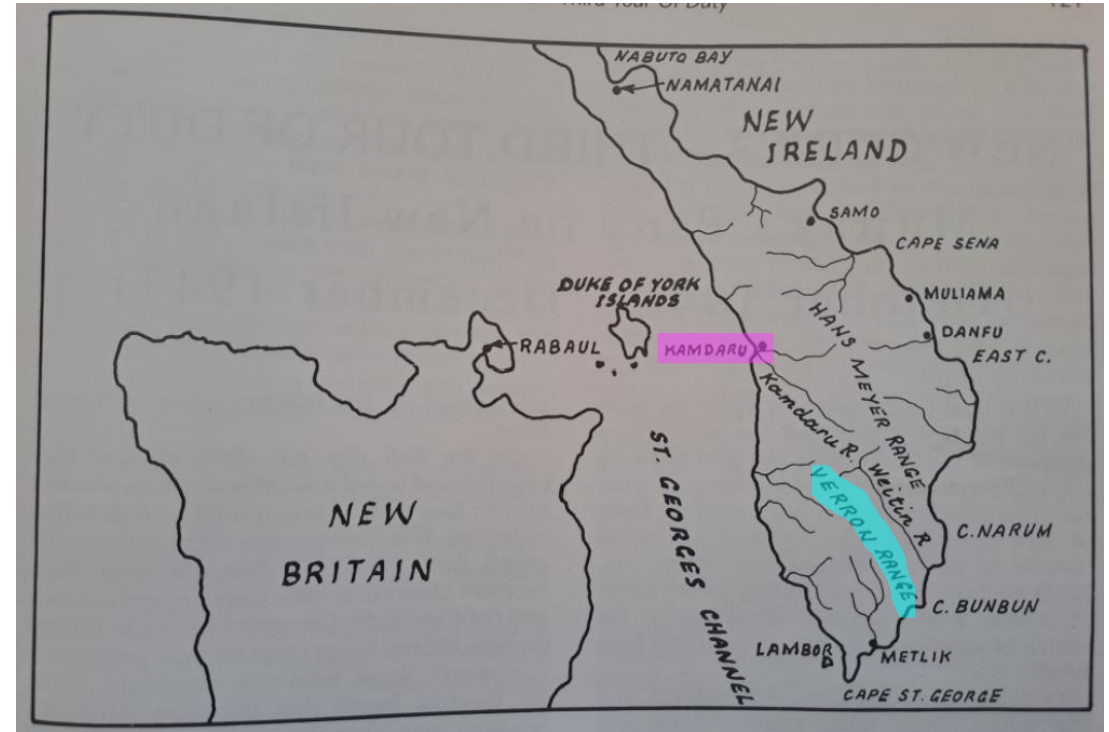
- Japanese aircraft had been striking day and night against Cape Torokina, hammering at reinforcement convoys and fighting almost constantly with Allied fighter planes.
- They damaged three ships and sank one but kept losing planes to ship- and shore-based anti-aircraft guns and to Twining's fighters.
- Air Command, Solomons, made a maximum effort to keep the enemy's Bougainville bases out of action and to keep the Rabaul-based planes away from Cape Torokina and the reinforcement convoys.
- For example, on 10 November there were 712 take-offs and landings at Munda airfield alone.
- Rabaul was still a primary target for General Kenney. The weather prevented an attack on 6 November, but 10 November saw a heavy attack, and next day RAAF Beauforts and Fifth Air Force planes struck in the morning before heavy clouds piled up over Rabaul.



TBF Avengers at Munda Airfield New Georgia

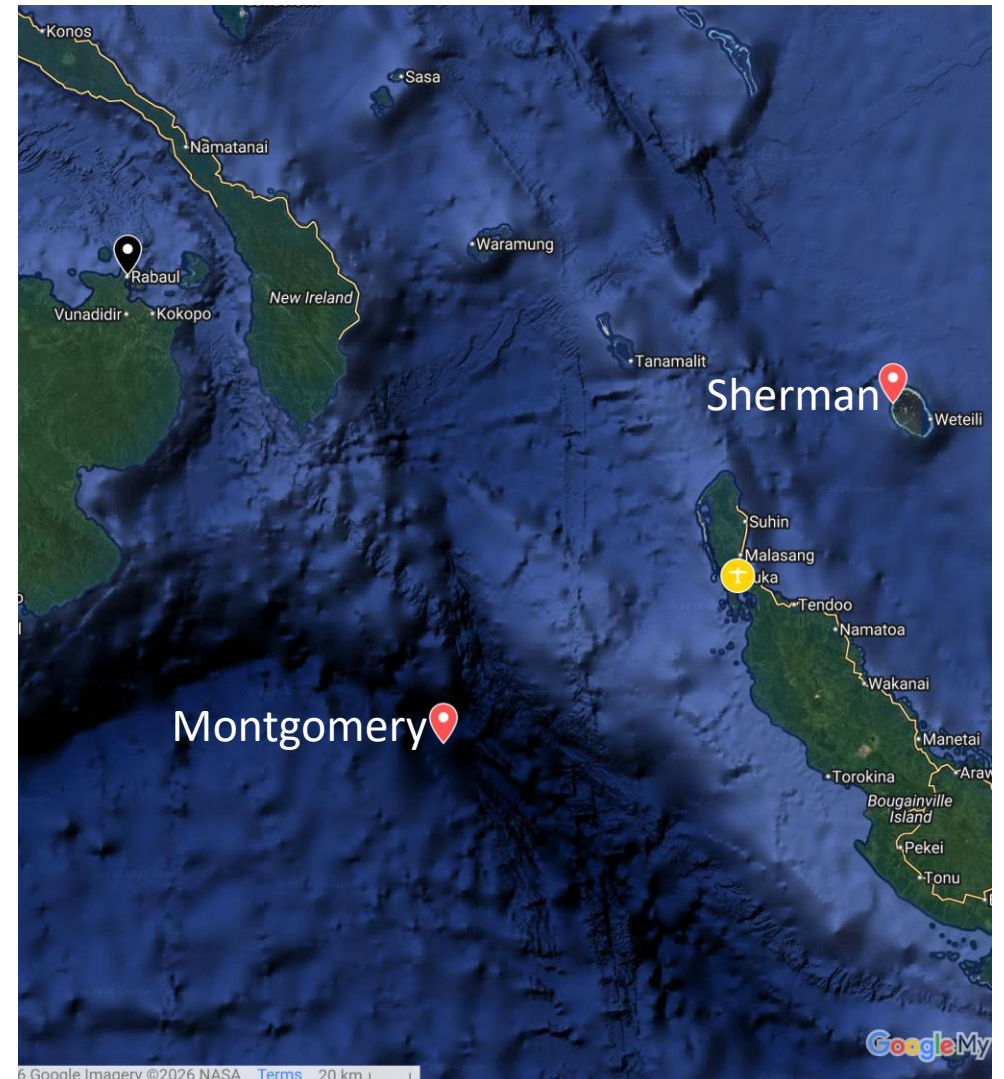
# 3 – 20 Nov 1943 – New Ireland

- Murray sent Dolby and Evans over to the west coast to find an observation post with a view to Rabaul.
- It was 30 kilometres on the map but over the steep mountains of the Verron range and thick jungle with prickly vines it took 5 days.
- They found a site about a days walk from Kamdaru with a view across the channel to Kokopo but when they tried to report back found that the radio had been damaged in their struggle across the mountains.
- With no means to report they made two patrols to establish Japanese activities in the local area and returned to base camp. The trip back was another ordeal.



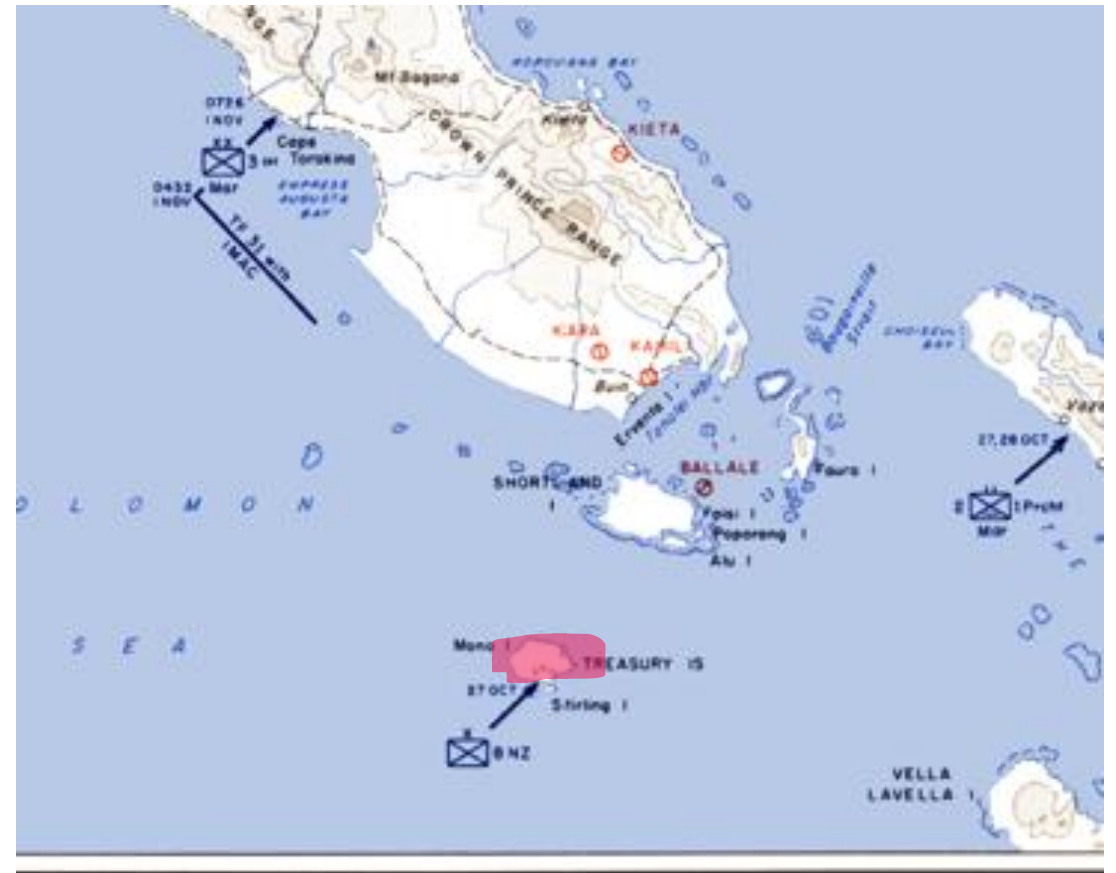
# 11 November 1943 - Solomons

- The additional carrier task group that Nimitz had promised to Halsey reached the South Pacific on 7 November. Commanded by Rear Adm. Montgomery, it consisted of the fleet carriers Essex, Bunker Hill, and the light carrier Independence. Halsey planned to use Montgomery's ships as well as Task Force 38 in a double carrier strike against Rabaul on 11 November.
- Sherman sailed to a point in the Pacific Ocean near Green Island and launched planes. They reached Rabaul in bad weather about 0830, struck at ships, and returned to the carriers, which retired southward without being detected.
- Montgomery launched his strike from a point in the Solomon Sea about 160 miles southeast of Rabaul. His planes hit at ships too, then returned to their mother carriers.
- The Japanese found Montgomery and delivered a series of furious though unsuccessful air attacks which inflicted only slight damage. They lost thirty-five planes to ships' anti-aircraft guns and to carrier fighters and fighters from New Georgia.



# 12 Nov 1943 - Solomons

- By 12 November Brigadier Row's New Zealand troops had killed or captured the enemy garrison which had fled into the hills of **Mono**.
- Two hundred and five Japanese corpses were counted; 40 New Zealanders and 12 Americans had been killed, 145 New Zealanders and 29 Americans wounded.



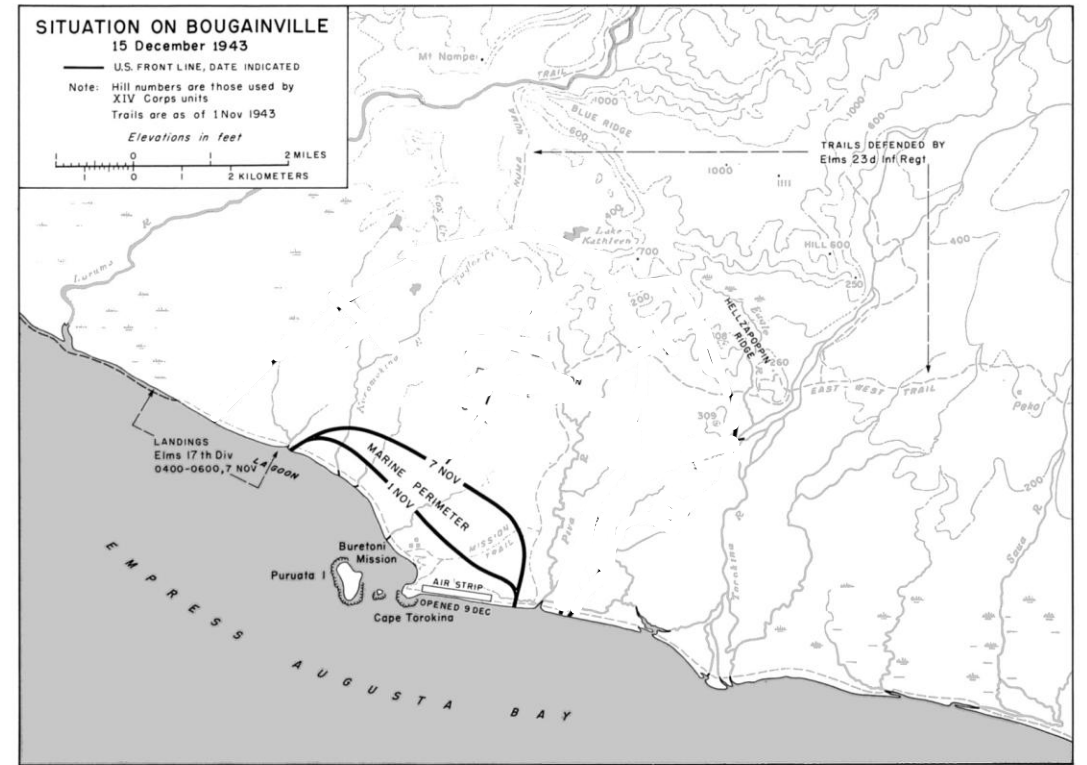
# 12 November 1943 – New Guinea

- On 12 November the Japanese withdrew their carrier planes to Truk.
- The withdrawal, first of the cruisers and then of the planes, ended Rabaul's offensive threat.
- Thereafter it was a formidable defense position only, and Southwest Pacific planes were now able to cease their attacks against it and concentrate against enemy bases to the west.



# 5 November 1943 - Solomons

- Now landed and completely protected from Japanese surface attack, although subject to frequent air raids by day and by night, the 3d Marine Division was hampered as much by terrain as by the enemy.
- The swamps and dense forest slowed the movement of supplies and the building of roads and airfields.
- During their first five days on shore the marines patrolled, established anti-aircraft and beach defenses, and extended the perimeter two thousand yards inland.
- Seventy-eight marines were killed or missing, 104 wounded.



MAP 16

