

# The War in the Pacific 3

## From Lae to Tokyo Bay

8

### Sattelberg and Tarawa



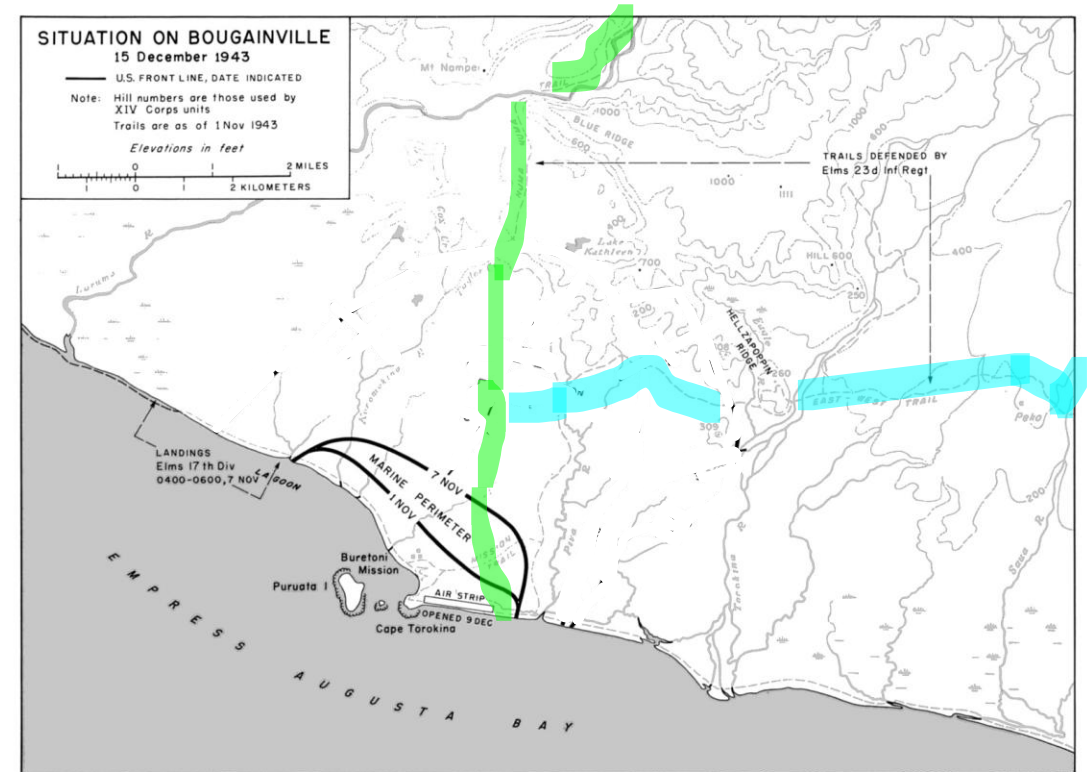
# Early November 1943 – Ellice Islands

- Throughout late 1943, landing fields were urgently built or expanded on Baker, Nukufetau, and Nanumea to support the offensive.
- In early November 1943, the VII Bomber Command and VII Air Force Service Command established forward echelons at Funafuti to manage the intensive bombing missions.
- Including attached Seventh Army Air Force aircraft, over 100 B-24 Liberator four-engine bombers, 24 PBY Catalina amphibians, and 24 Ventura twin-engine bombers provided pre-invasion bombardment and other support.



# 5 -11 November 10 1943 – Solomons

- Control of the trail system inland was of great importance to the security of the beachhead. It was clear that any counteroffensives would be delivered along the axes of the trails.
- There were two important tracks at Cape Torokina, **East-West Trail** and the **Numa Numa Trail**. The latter ran from the shore near the mouth of the Piva River northward through the mountains to Numa Numa on the east coast.
- East West Trail intersected the Numa Numa Trail about five thousand yards inland (north) of the Piva's mouth.
- It led eastward, then north through the mountains to Roravana Bay and intersected the several trails leading to Buin.
- A local track, Mission Trail, ran from a point about two thousand yards north of the Piva mouth southwestward to the Roman Catholic mission station at Buretoni just northwest of Torokina.
- On 5 November the Japanese attacked a block on Mission Trail that was held by the 3d Raider Battalion. After the raider battalion beat them off it and later the 3d Battalion, 9th Marines, counterattacked up Mission Trail and by Armistice Day had advanced to the junction of Mission and Numa Numa Trails.
- Losing 19 killed and 32 wounded, the marines estimated that they had accounted for 550 of the enemy.



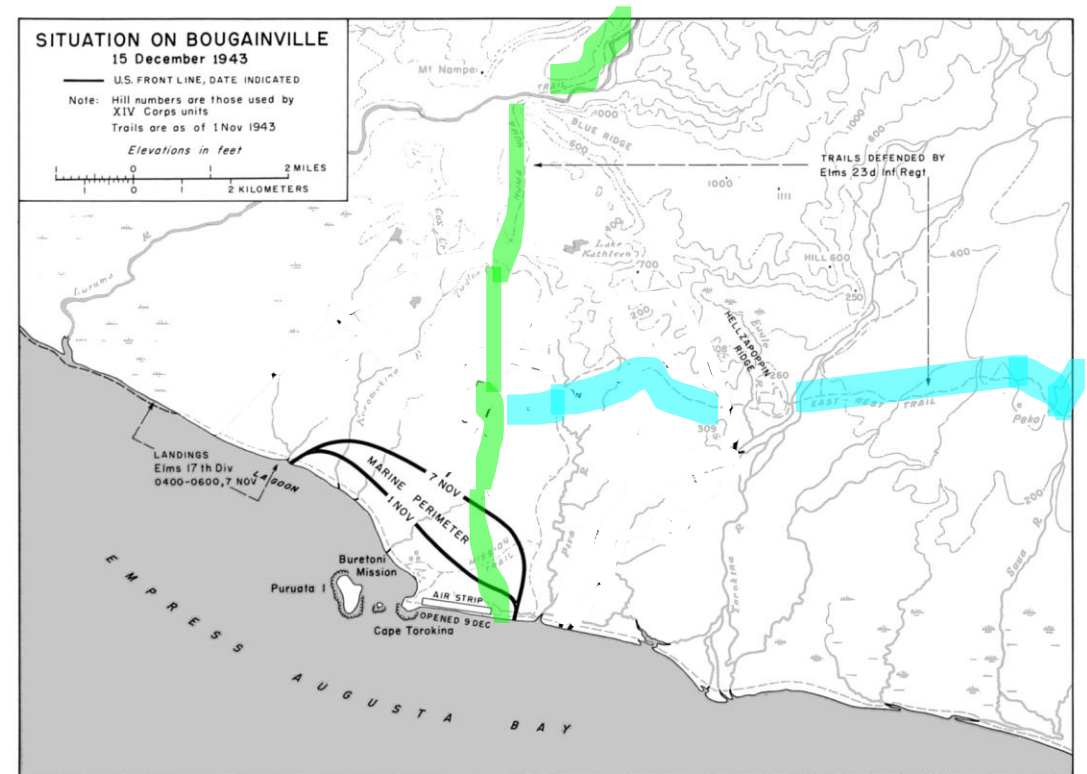
MAP 16

# 7 November 1943 – Solomons

- Four Japanese troop-carrying destroyers hove to off the beach between the Laruma and Koromokina Rivers in the predawn darkness on the morning of 7 November.
- Between 0400 and 0600, the 475 soldiers slipped ashore in twenty-one landing craft under the very noses of the American defenders. Patrolling PT boats missed the destroyers, and an antitank platoon on shore saw the landing craft but thought they were American. The enemy soldiers landed so close to the American lines that they actually cut off several marines in an outpost, who were later rescued by two LCM's.
- The Japanese attacked at once in the vicinity of a lagoon about fourteen hundred yards west of the Koromokina River. The sector was defended by troops of the 3d Marines.
- The enemy made some small local gains by infiltrating. The fighting, with rifles, machine guns, mortars, and grenades, was close work, but the marine lines held.
- Next morning five field artillery batteries, plus mortars, antitank guns, and machine guns, fired a twenty-minute preparation into the Japanese position. Then the newly arrived 1st Battalion, 21st Marines, supported by light tanks, assaulted. It met only light opposition; the artillery preparation had come close to achieving perfection. Instead of engaging in a fierce fight, the 1st Battalion walked, cautiously but steadily, through the jungle. It found, in the small area where the Japanese had packed themselves, about three hundred men killed almost instantaneously, their dead bodies lying beside their smashed weapons.
- In this action the Marines suffered sixteen men killed, thirty wounded.

# 7 – 14 November 1943 - Solomons

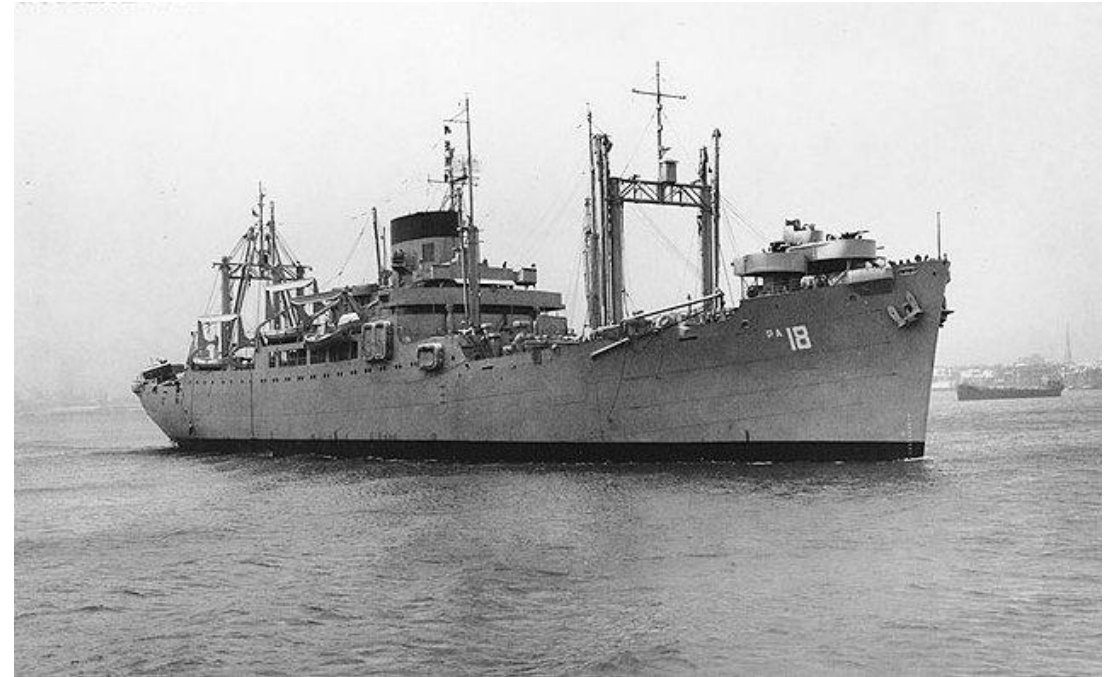
- On 7 November the 21st Marines continued the fight, this time not only to keep control of the trails but also to secure an airfield site.
- Since landing the Corps had been hard at work pushing supply routes through the swamps, an extremely difficult and time-consuming task.
- At the same time patrols had found a good airfield site in a coconut grove near the junction of the Numa Numa and East-West Trails.
- This was some distance from the 3d Division's front, and the difficulties of pushing supplies so far prevented an immediate forward move of the 3d Division to include the site.
- Generals Geiger and Turnage therefore decided to establish a self-sustaining outpost at the trail junction in order to hold the airfield site.
- On 13 and 14 November troops of the 21st Marines, fighting hard against Japanese in prepared positions, made their way through the coconut grove and by 1600 of 14 November had seized the trail junction.



MAP 16

# 5 – 9 November 1943 - Solomons

- The first reinforcements, one battalion of the 21st Marine Regiment, arrived on 6 November escorted by six destroyers and covered by Task Force 39.
- Japanese aircraft harried them during the night of 5-6 November but did no damage.
- On 8 November substantial reinforcements came in, some aboard six of the ships that had made the initial invasion and then returned to Guadalcanal to pick up the 148th Regimental Combat Team of the 37th Division.
- Japanese aircraft made the day exciting as the soldiers unloaded and went ashore. Over a hundred planes attacked at noon.
- Twenty-eight Allied fighters from New Georgia kept many of them off, but some got through and damaged the President Jackson.
- Once ashore, the 148th relieved the 3d Marines on the left flank, and the marine regiment was assigned a position in the middle of the inland side of the perimeter defense.



USS President Jackson (APA-18)

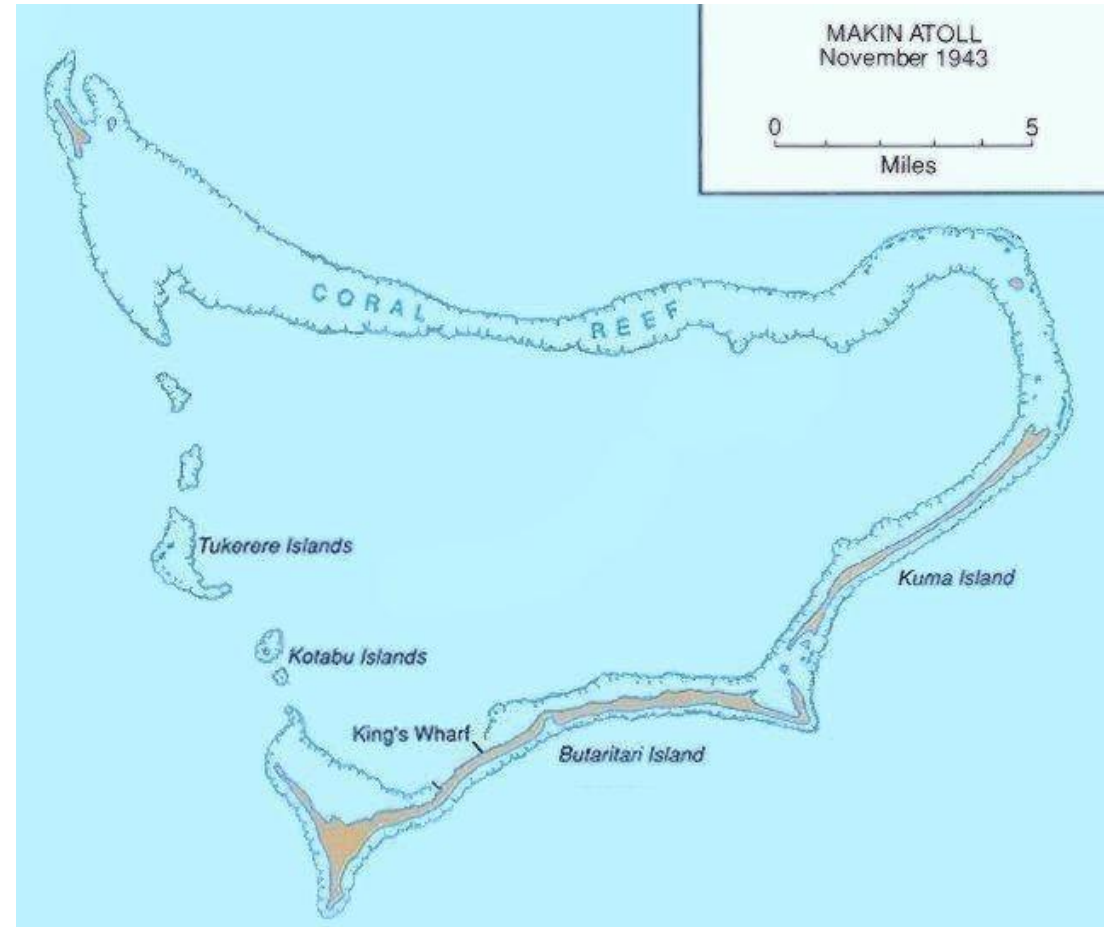
# 9 November 1943 - Solomons

- General Geiger (photo), having flown out from Washington and relieved General Vandegrift as corps commander, arrived at Bougainville on the 9th.
- Geiger had previously been the air commander at Guadalcanal in the early days of the siege.



# 13 November 1943 – The Gilberts

- Air operations against Makin began on 13 November 1943, with B-24 bombers of the Seventh Air Force from the Ellice Islands.
- Grumman F4F Wildcat fighters escorted Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bombers and Grumman TBF Avengers from escort carriers USS Liscome Bay, USS Coral Sea and USS Corregidor.
- The Air was followed by 8-inch guns from fire support ship USS Minneapolis and others. During the bombardment, a turret explosion on battleship USS Mississippi killed 43 sailors.



# 13 November 1943 - RAAF

- On 13th November Air Force Headquarters issued orders creating the new formation, which was to be known as No. 10 (Operational) Group. It was assigned as a subordinate force within No. 9 (Operational) Group.
- The units placed under the new group were:
  - No. 10 (Operational) Group Headquarters (Group Captain Scherger)
    - No. 13 Signals Unit.
    - No. 25 Stores Unit.
    - No. 11 R.A.A.F. Postal Unit.
    - No. 10 Replenishing Centre.
    - No. 7 Transport and Movements Office.
    - No. 2 Malaria Control Unit.
  - No. 77 Wing Headquarters (Wing Commander Fyfe)
    - No. 21 Dive Bomber Squadron.
    - No. 23 Dive Bomber Squadron.
    - No. 24 Dive Bomber Squadron.
    - No. 47 Operational Base Unit.
    - No. 11 Repair and Salvage Unit.
    - No. 23 Medical Clearing Station.
  - No. 78 Wing Headquarters (Wing Commander Brookes)
    - No. 80 Fighter Squadron.
    - No. 452 Fighter Squadron.
    - No. 457 Fighter Squadron.
    - No. 111 Fighter Sector Headquarters .
    - No. 48 Operational Base Unit.
    - No. 22 Repair and Salvage Unit .
    - No. 24 Medical Clearing Station
- Some of these units were not yet in existence and had to be formed and ready for movement by 1st December. Shipping was asked for to transport the group from Brisbane on 1st December .



A Vultee Vengeance dive bomber, Max speed 275 mph, ceiling 22,500 ft, bomb load 1,500 lbs.

# 13 – 17 November 1943 - Solomons

- On 13 November Admiral Wilkinson relinquished his control and Geiger became directly responsible to Halsey. The amphibious commander retained responsibility for the transport of troops and supplies to the beachhead.
- Photo: ADMIRAL HALSEY, center, with Maj. Gen. Roy Geiger, left, and Brig. Gen. Leo Kreber, Bougainville, 13 November 1943.
- The 129th Regimental Combat Team landed on 13 November
- and was followed six days later by the 145th.



# 13 – 17 November 1943 - Solomons

- The remaining units of the 21st Marines arrived on 11 and 17 November. During the latter shipment the APD McKean was fatally torpedoed by a Japanese plane.



McKean off Guadalcanal on 7 August 1942

# 14 November 1943 – New Guinea

- In such rugged country there was need for careful administrative planning to prepare roads and supply dumps before an offensive could be successfully launched against the Sattelberg citadel.
- By jeep and trailer and by native carrier reserve dumps were built up at Kumawa (20 days for 500) and at Jivevaneng (20 days for 2,000) by 14th November.
- On 1st November there were only 12,000 rounds of 25-pounder ammunition in the area, but stocks were now increased by two L.C.M. loads a day. As the daily average expenditure during this period of preparation was only 500 rounds, a satisfactory reserve was available when the Sattelberg offensive began.
- A large number of American troops, equipment and stores were coming in during this period to establish the base for the Fifth Air Force and a base for P.T. boats at Dreger Harbour.



*(Australian War Memorial)*  
A jeep negotiating mud and slush near 9th Division headquarters in the Finschhafen area, 7th November 1943.

# 14 November 1943 – New Guinea

- The staffs now had a fairly clear picture of the enemy's supply system to Sattelberg.
- Nambariwa, near Sio, was known to be his main forward supply distribution base, where barges from Madang and submarines from Rabaul discharged their cargoes.
- Supplies and troops thence moved down the coast in barges to staging points at Sialum Island, Kanomi, Walingai, Wandokai and Lakona, or overland along the track recently taken by the 79th Regiment from Kalasa to Wareo.
- This area of sea and land was vigorously strafed and bombed.
- For instance on 2nd November 12 Vultees and 15 Thunderbolts dive bombed and strafed suspected dumps and bivouac areas at Nambariwa and the track south.
- In three nights 9 barges were sunk by the PT Boats.



P-47D “Thunderbolt” 42-8077 of the 348th FG,  
340th FS New Guinea 1943

# 17 November 1943 – New Guinea

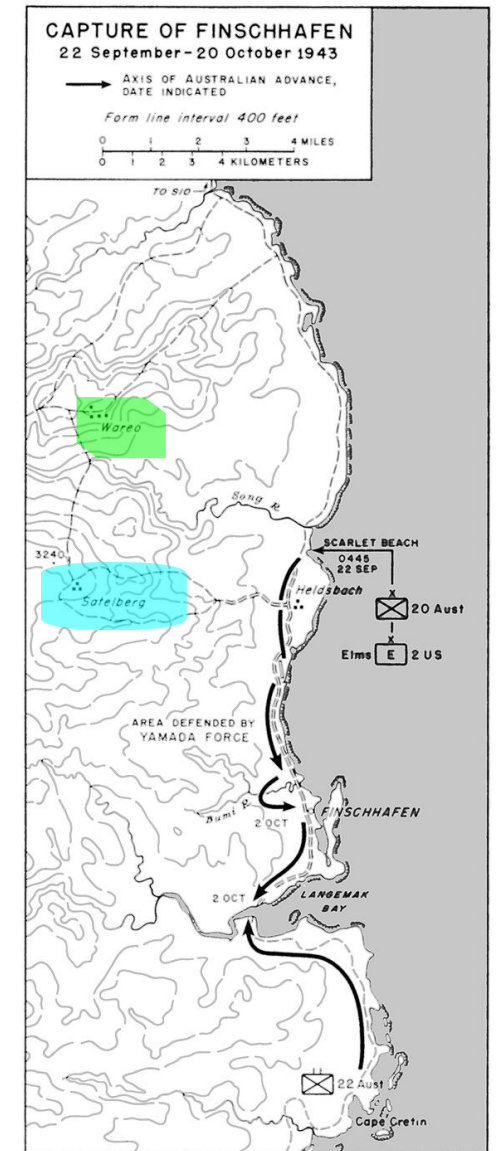
- Work on the airstrip and advanced naval base at Finschhafen had gone forward so quickly that PT boats from Finschhafen were now harrying enemy sea communications at night in consort with PBY's ("Black Cats").
- The PBY came with radar good enough to spot ships and barges on dark nights. Dubbed the "Black Cats," the radar-equipped PBYs made the aircraft an effective ship killer; one squadron destroyed 157,000 tons of Japanese shipping.
- The PBYs' answer to the barges was a locally produced mount that added four Browning .50s to the two machine guns already in the nose. Barges were an ideal target for the quad .50s. Black Cats sank dozens of enemy barges. One Cat sank 25 in a single mission.



A PBY-5 Catalina flying boat from a "Black Cat" night patrol squadron overflies the shoreline of New Guinea.

# 17 November 1943 – New Guinea

- By 17 November one more brigade, the 4th, had arrived to hold the beachhead while the three infantry brigades of the 9th Division attacked **Satelberg** and **Wareo**.



MAP 14

# 17 November 1943 – New Guinea

- With the support of tanks and artillery, and rocket-equipped LCVP's lying offshore, the 9th Division fought a major action to take the Sattelberg starting on 17 November.

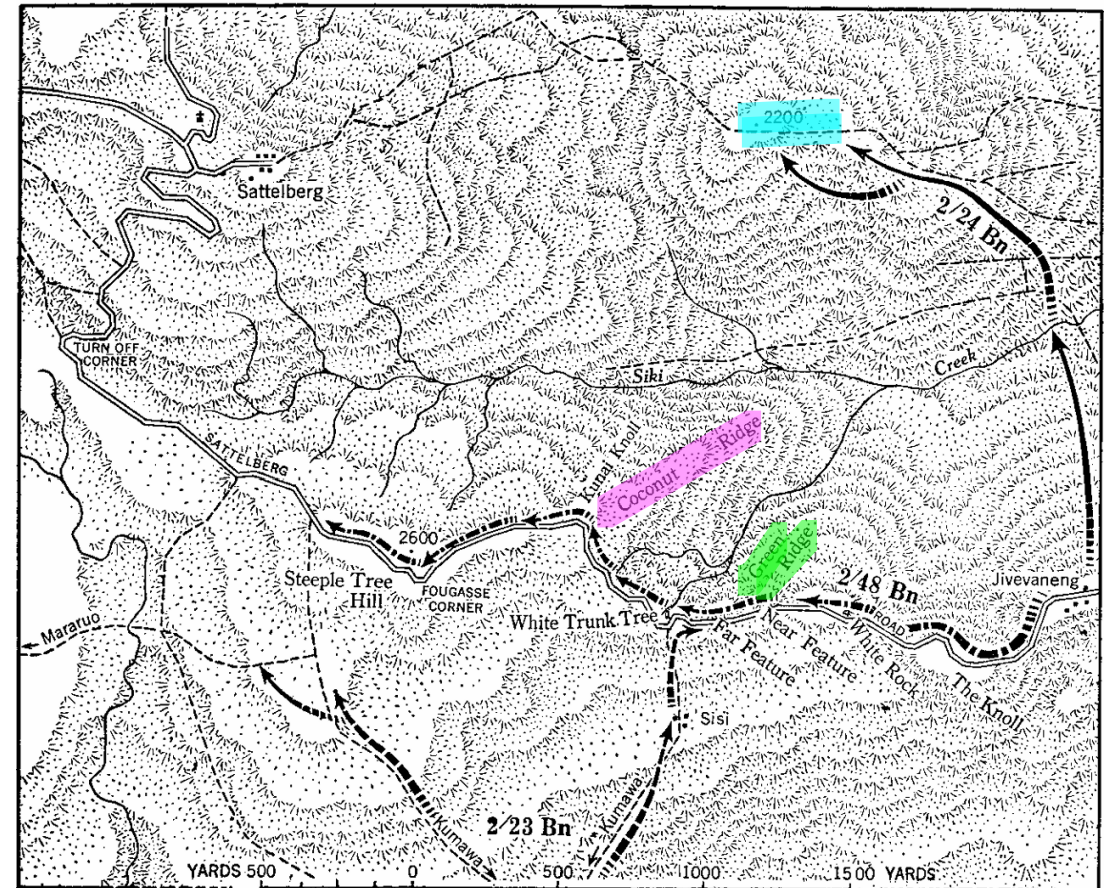


*(Australian War Memorial)*

Men of the 2/48th Battalion, supported by Matilda tanks, making their way forward to attack Coconut Ridge on the Sattelberg Road on 17th November 1943.

# 17 November 1943 – New Guinea

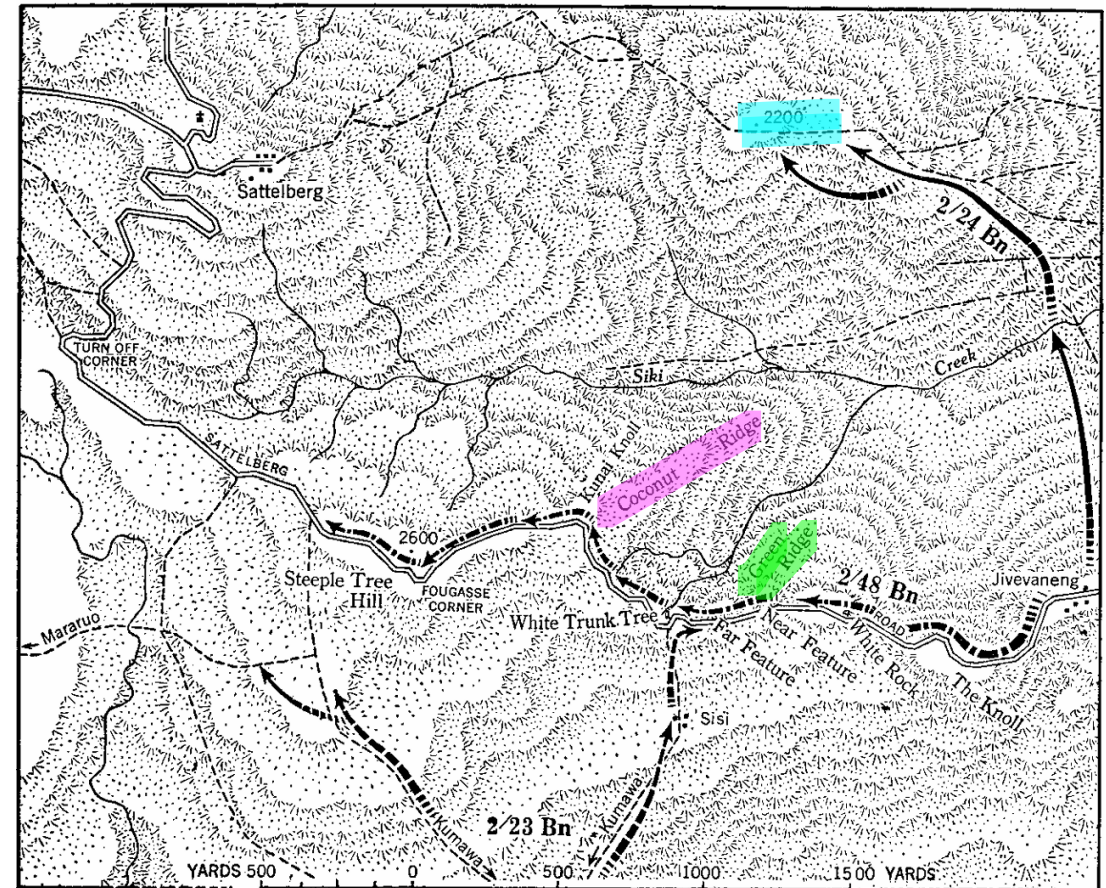
- On the night of the 16th, in order to prepare for the attack on the 2200 feature, the 2/48th Battalion captured Green Ridge, a small but important feature that dominated the Sattelberg road.
- the 2/48th Battalion handed over responsibility for the defence of the ridge to a company from the 2/23rd Battalion, and the attack commenced amidst heavy supporting artillery and machine-gun fire.
- Initially the Japanese were surprised by the presence of the Matilda tanks as their noise had been masked by the artillery and rocket barrage, and a number of positions were abandoned by Japanese soldiers who were put to flight upon seeing the tanks, however, as the day progressed the opposition stiffened and the defenders recovered after the initial shock.
- Progress subsequently became very slow, and as the 2/48th Battalion approached "Coconut Ridge" at around midday, one of the Matildas was disabled when it lost a track to an improvised explosive device which had been placed under the road by the defending Japanese.



26th Brigade offensive, 17th-21st November

# 17 November 1943 – New Guinea

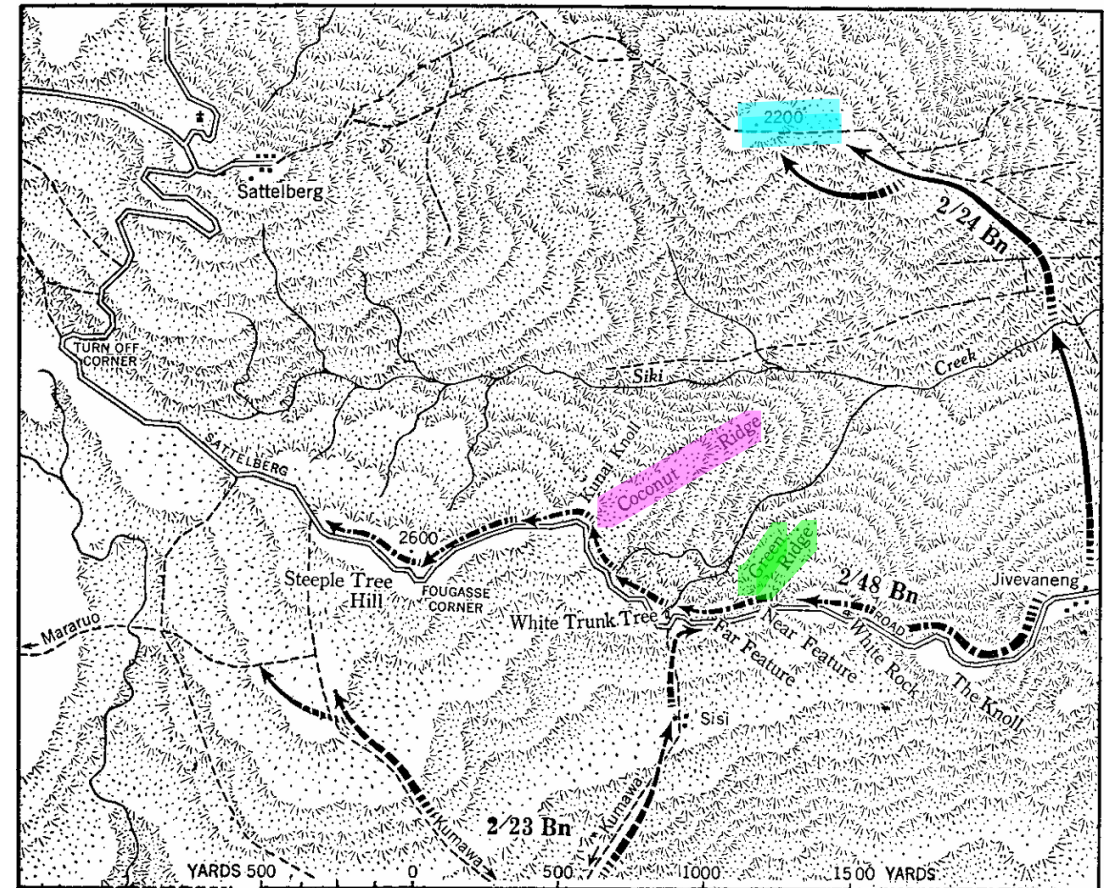
- With the tanks isolated from their infantry support, a small Japanese team advanced from cover to attack a second tank which had come up to support the first, and taking the machine gunner by surprise, they placed an explosive charge in front of it. Although the resulting explosion did not knock the tank out of action, it trapped its crew inside for the rest of the day.
- The Japanese defenders upon **Coconut Ridge** held up the advance. Throughout the rest of the day, the 2/48th Battalion undertook a series of flanking attacks in which at least 80 Japanese were killed, however by nightfall the Japanese still held the ridge, and the 2/48th Battalion withdrew to a nearby knoll to reorganise.
- Elsewhere, the other two Australian battalions had also found the going slow: the 2/24th had dug in east of the **2200** feature, while the 2/23rd had only managed to advance about half the expected distance.



26th Brigade offensive, 17th-21st November

# 18 November 1943 – New Guinea

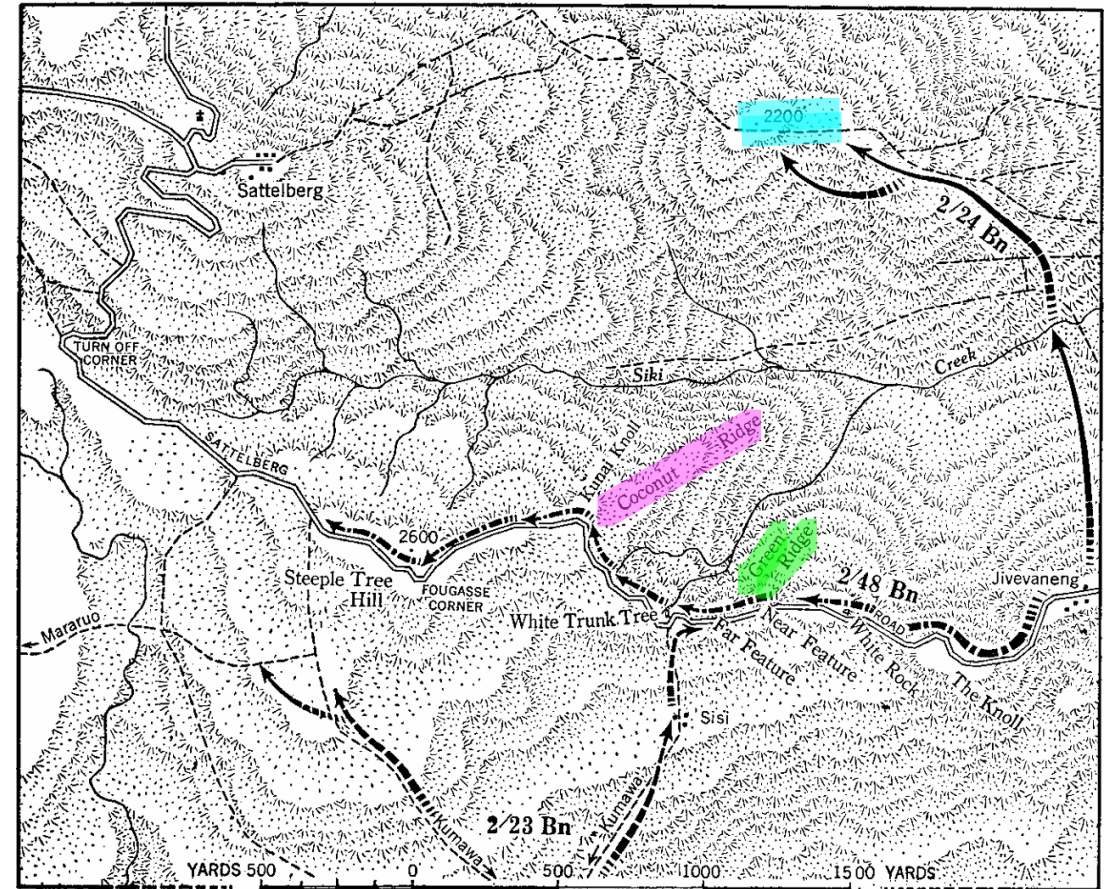
- The Japanese abandoned **Coconut Ridge** that night, while in the morning the Australians brought up three replacement tanks. At around 7:00 am, an Australian patrol scouted the ridge and an hour later a platoon attack was put in, confirming that the defenders had gone.
- As battlefield clearance operations got underway, the tanks that had been disabled the day before were also repaired, bringing the total number of Matildas available to seven.
- In the early afternoon, the advance was resumed, however the Australians only managed to progress a further 250 yards before they were halted by stiff opposition from Japanese armed with 37 mm anti-tank guns.
- A number of these pieces were destroyed and at least 40 Japanese were killed or wounded, but Japanese snipers inflicted a number of casualties and although none were fatal it prevented any further gains as the 2/48th spent most of the day hunting the snipers in the trees.
- Elsewhere, in front of the **2,200 feature** and on the southern flank, only limited progress was made by the Australians, who suffered a number of casualties from Japanese 75 mm mountain guns before these were silenced by a bombardment by the 2/12th Field Regiment.



26th Brigade offensive, 17th-21st November

# 18 November 1943 – New Guinea

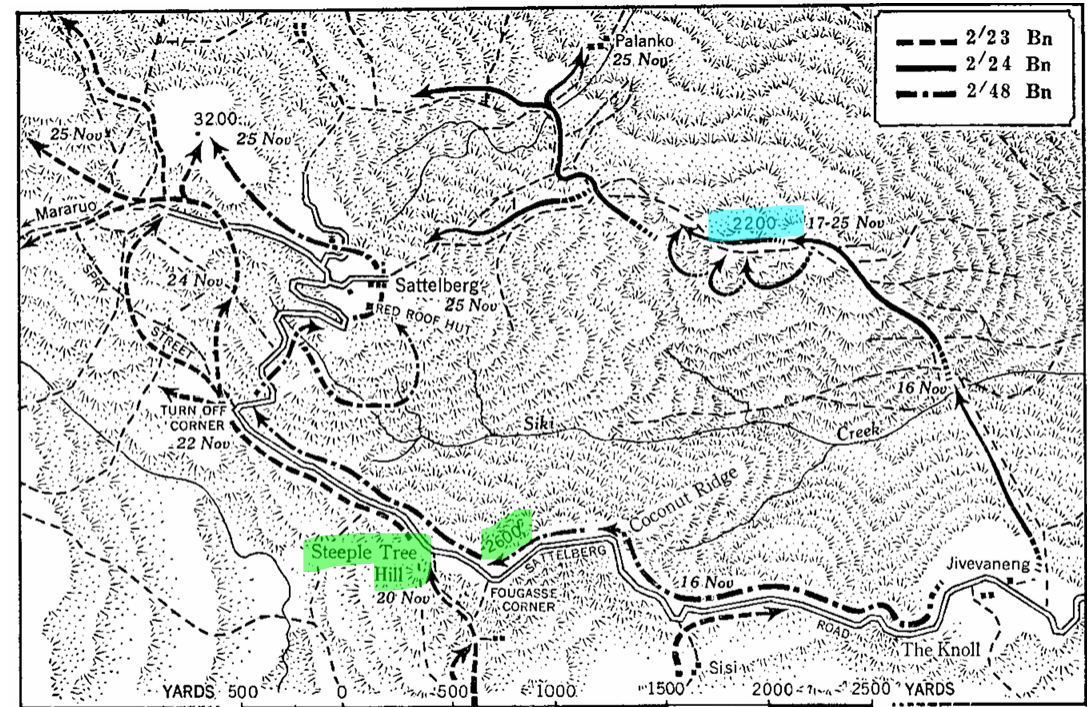
- That night, Wootten reassessed. Based on captured documents, Australian intelligence placed about 2,000 Japanese troops around the mission. These men were believed to be close to exhaustion and unlikely to be able to withstand any further pressure.
- Wootten decided to change the concept of operations. The 2/24th Battalion's attack on the 2,200 feature had originally been intended to serve as a holding action.
- Now the lack of progress by the 2/48th and 2/23rd encouraged Wootten to order the 26th Brigade to drive through the 2,200 feature and on to Sattelberg.
- Making a "double-pronged" attack, with the 2/24th also attempting to break through to Sattelberg.



26th Brigade offensive, 17th-21st November

# 19 November 1943 – New Guinea

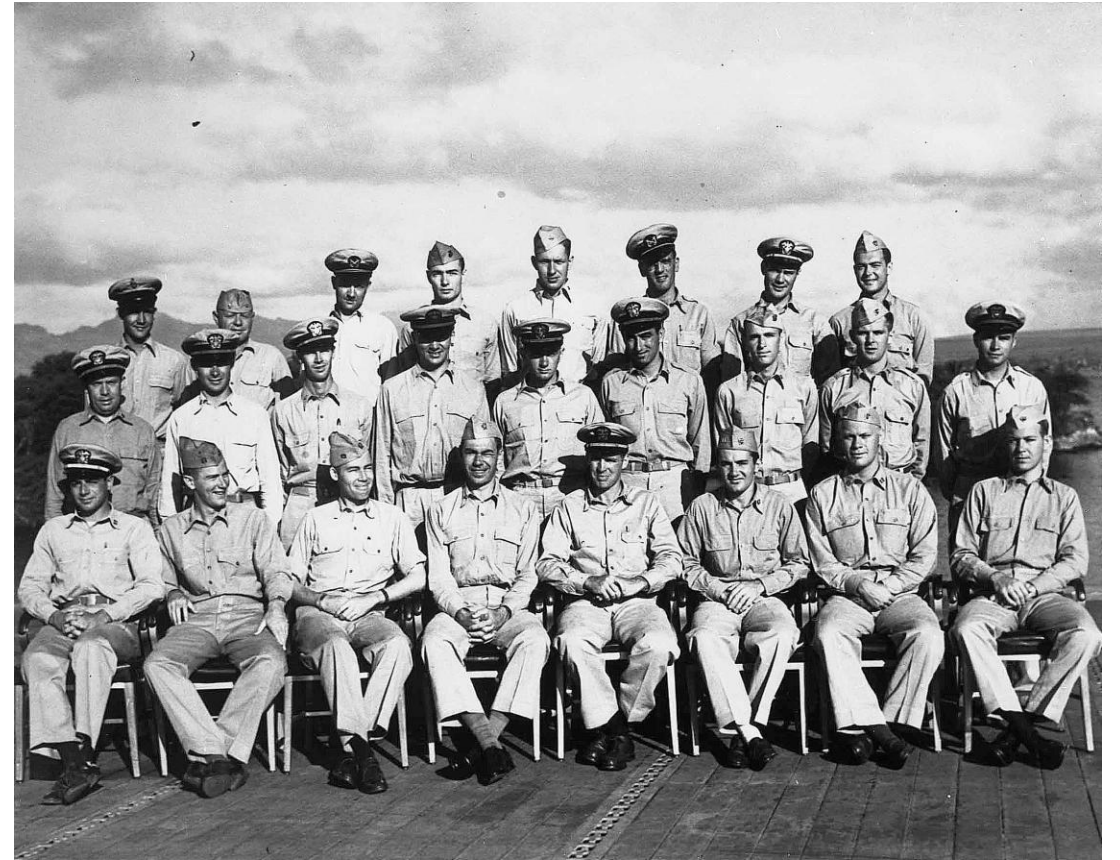
- On 19 November, the Australians came up against a series of prepared defences which further slowed their progress.
- Throughout the night the Japanese had dug a number of anti-tank ditches, about 6 ft wide and 4 ft deep, which Australian engineers had to fill before the tanks could continue.
- Progress was made, however, and amidst hand-to-hand fighting troops from the 2/48th managed to seize part of the 2,600 feature (Steeple Tree Hill), after engineers under the command of Lieutenant Spry, helped clear the way through the use of two fougasses made out of 4-gallon drums filled with petrol, which were exploded in order to stun the Japanese and provide a smoke screen while the infantry attacked.
- The Japanese launched a counter-attack as dusk fell, but this was repelled with heavy losses: the Australians had 20 men killed or wounded, while the Japanese left behind 46 killed, as well as a number of machine-guns and mortars, as they withdrew from the position.
- The 2/23rd Battalion to the south, up against the same defensive system that was delaying the 2/48th, was also held up further, while on the northern route, the 2/24th found the 2,200 feature unoccupied, but was unable to proceed further after they came under heavy machine-gun and artillery fire.



The capture of Sattelberg, 16th-25th November

# 19 November 1943 – Central Pacific

- USS Monterey, a new Independence class carrier, reached the Gilbert Islands on 19 November 1943, in time to join the Northern Carrier Group for the landing on Makin Island.
- From the ship's commissioning on June 17, 1943, until the end of December 1944, Lieutenant Gerald R Ford served as the Assistant Navigator, Athletic Officer, and Antiaircraft Battery Officer on board the USS Monterey.



The Gunnery officers of USS Monterey, 1943. Ford is second from the right, in the front row.

# 19 November 1943 – The Gilberts

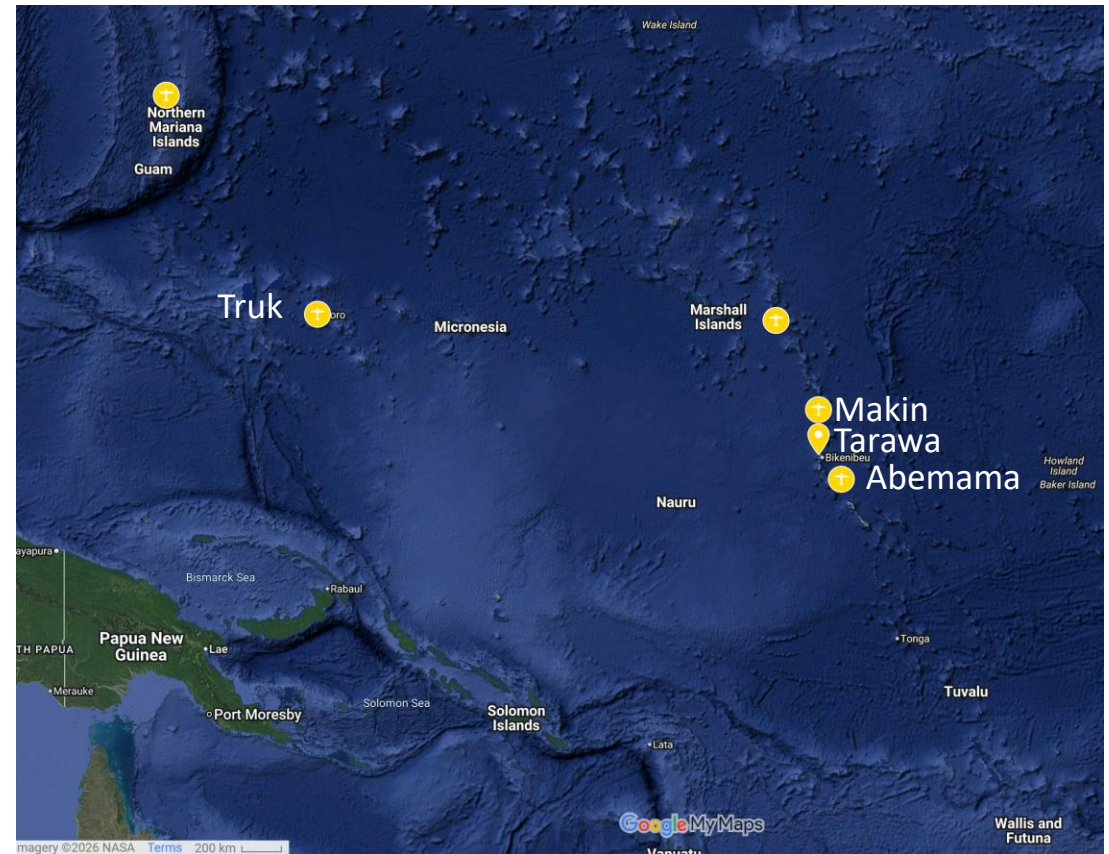
- Nautilus returned to Tarawa 18 November to obtain last-minute information on weather and surf conditions, landing hazards and the results of recent bombardments.
- At 21:59 on 19 November, mistaking her for a Japanese submarine, the destroyer USS Ringgold fired at her while she was off Maiana in the Gilbert Islands at 01°05'N 173°03'E, hitting her at the base of her conning tower with a five-inch shell which did not explode but damaged the main induction valve.
- Diving as soon as the water depth permitted, Nautilus was rigged for depth charging and the damage control party went to work.
- Nautilus avoided further damage and suffered no casualties but reached a depth of 310 feet before her crew regained control of her.
- Within two hours repairs were sufficient to allow Nautilus to continue with her primary mission: landing a 78-man scouting party, composed of 5th Amphibious Reconnaissance Company Marines and an Australian scout, on Abemama.



The U.S. Navy submarine N2 USS Nautilus (SS-168) underway in the early 1930s. 350 ft and displacing 4,000 tons submerged.

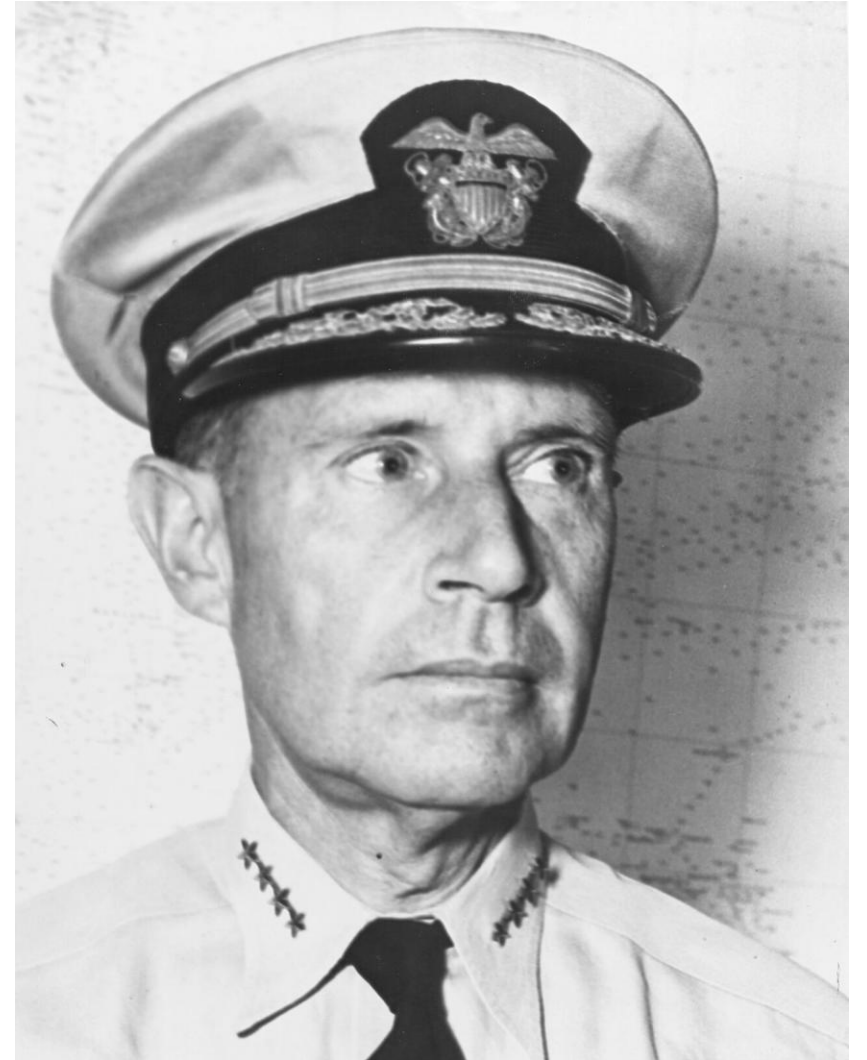
# 19 November 1943 – The Gilberts

- TG 50.4, the relief carrier group, under the command of Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman, embarked in the carrier Saratoga with the light carrier Princeton attacked Nauru Island 380 miles west of the Gilberts on 19 Nov, to ensure no Japanese aircraft on Nauru could intervene in the invasion of the Gilberts.



# 20 November 1943 – The Gilberts

- the Central Pacific Force was re-designated as the Fifth Fleet, and Vice Admiral Raymond A. Spruance assumed command on 5 August, 1943. Spruance was generally embarked on the heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis (CA-35).



# 20 November 1943 – The Gilberts



Vice Adm. Richmond  
Kelly Turner  
Lieut. Gen. Holland M.  
Smith, USMC



# 20 November 1943 – Tarawa



Rear Adm. Harry W.  
Hill  
Maj. Gen. Julian C.  
Smith, USMC



# 20 November 1943 – Makin

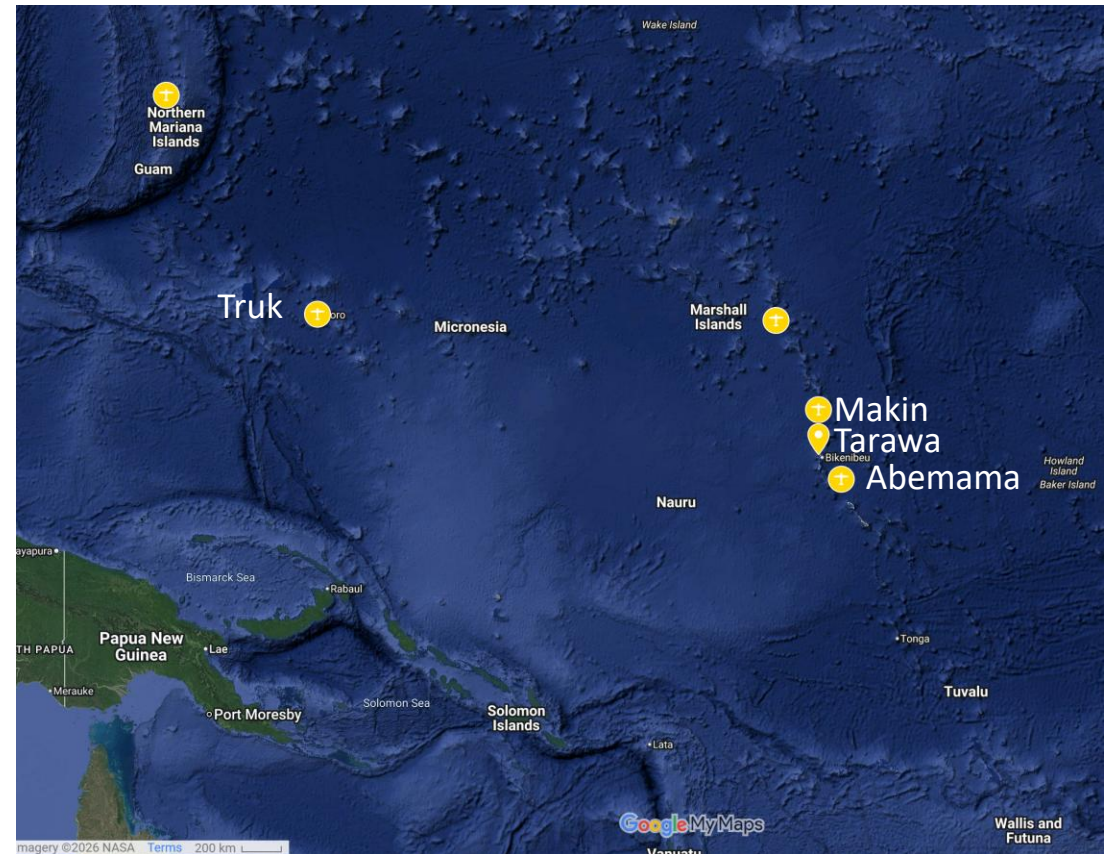


- The Northern Attack Force (Task Force 52 – Makin)
- Vice Admiral Turner (L) also in overall command of the amphibious elements of the whole Gilberts campaign in battleship Pennsylvania
- embarking 27th Infantry Division (Army) (Major General Ralph C. Smith (R))



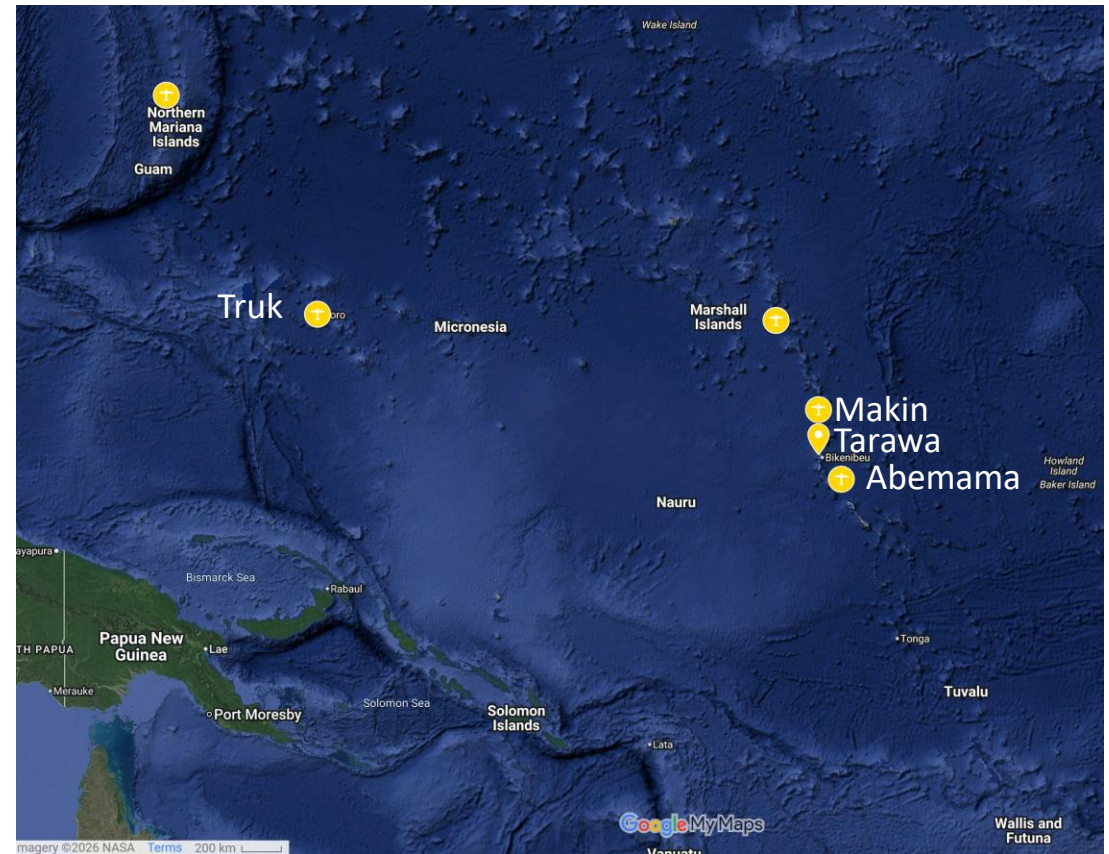
# 20 November 1943 – The Gilberts

- Covering the whole operation was the Fast Carrier Force Pacific Fleet (Task Force 50) commanded by Rear Admiral Pownall, broken down into four Task Groups.
- TG 50.1, the carrier interceptor group, under Pownall's direct command, embarked in the carrier Yorktown (CV-10), with Lexington (CV-16), and the light carrier Cowpens (CVL-25).
- TG 50.4, the relief carrier group, under the command of Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman, embarked in the carrier Saratoga with the light carrier Princeton
- TG 50.2 and TG 50.3 provided direct cover to the northern and southern attack groups.



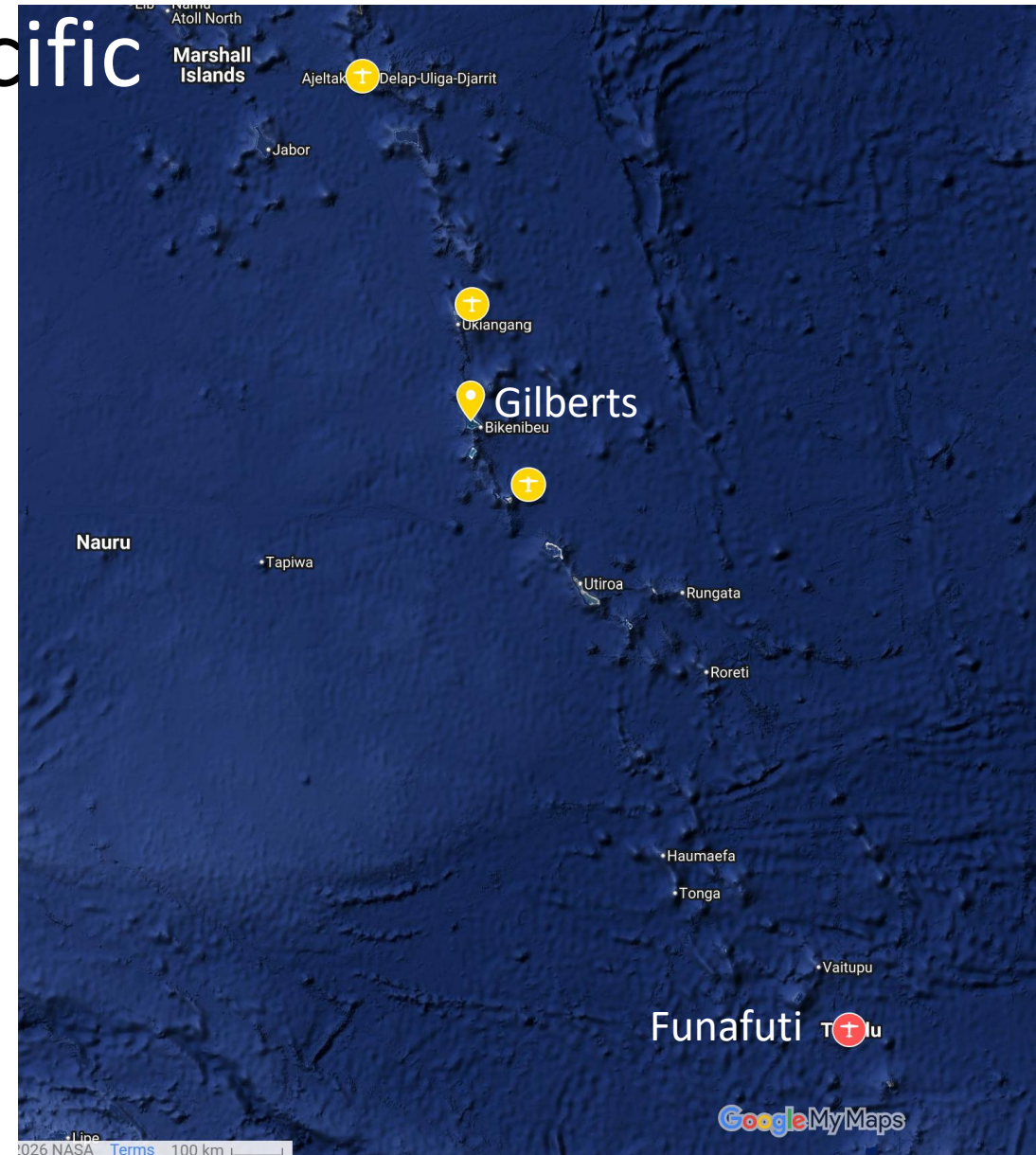
# 20 November 1943 – The Gilberts

- TG 50.1, the carrier interceptor group, under Pownall's direct command, embarked in the carrier Yorktown (CV-10), with Lexington (CV-16), and the light carrier Cowpens (CVL-25), was positioned to intercept any Japanese aircraft from the Marshalls trying to reach Makin or Tarawa shooting down 17 of 20 that made the attempt the first day, and repeating the performance the next.



# 20 November 1943 - Pacific

- Additional land-based air support was provided by TF 57, commanded by Rear Admiral John H. Hoover, embarked on the seaplane tender Curtiss (AV-4) at Funafuti lagoon, Ellice Islands.
- Including attached Seventh Army Air Force aircraft, over 100 B-24 Liberator four-engine bombers, 24 PBV Catalina amphibians, and 24 Ventura twin-engine bombers provided pre-invasion bombardment and other support.



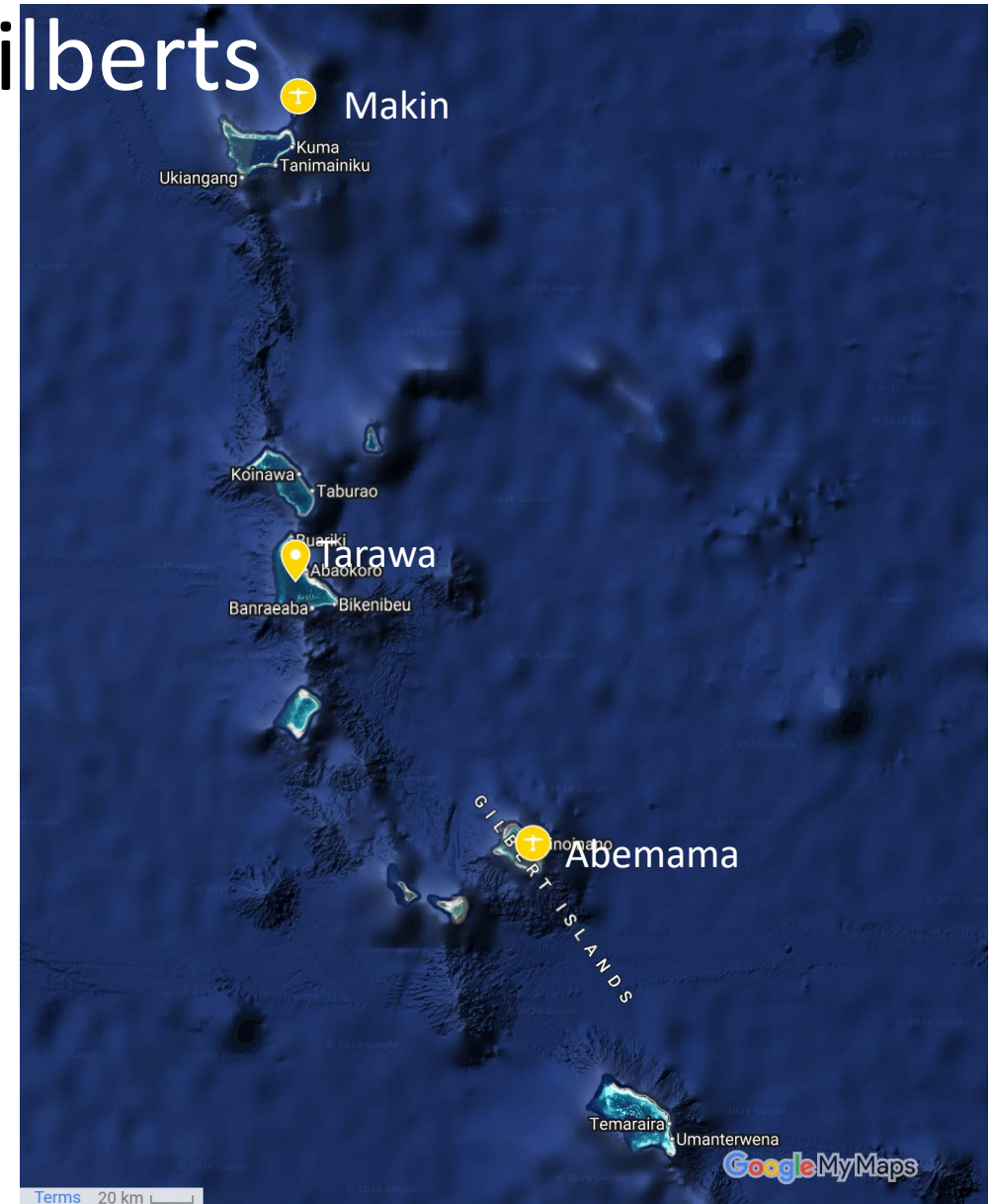
# 20 November 1943 – The Gilberts

- The American invasion force to the Gilberts, consisted of 17 aircraft carriers (6 fleet aircraft carriers, 5 light aircraft carriers, and 6 escort carriers), 12 battleships, 8 heavy cruisers, 4 light cruisers, 66 destroyers, and 36 transport ships.
- On board the transports were the 2nd Marine Division and the Army's 27th Infantry Division, for a total of about 35,000 troops.
- This was the largest force yet assembled for a single operation in the Pacific.
- Photo: Aerial view of Betio Island in Tarawa Atoll looking east, before invasion of the island by U.S. Marines, 18 September 1943. The image was taken by an aircraft from Composite Squadron 24.



# 20 November 1943 – The Gilberts

- The 2nd Marine Division was to land on Betio in the Tarawa atoll.
- The Army's 27th Infantry Division was to land on Makin.
- 78 men of the Marines 5th Amphibious Reconnaissance Company were to land on Abemama.



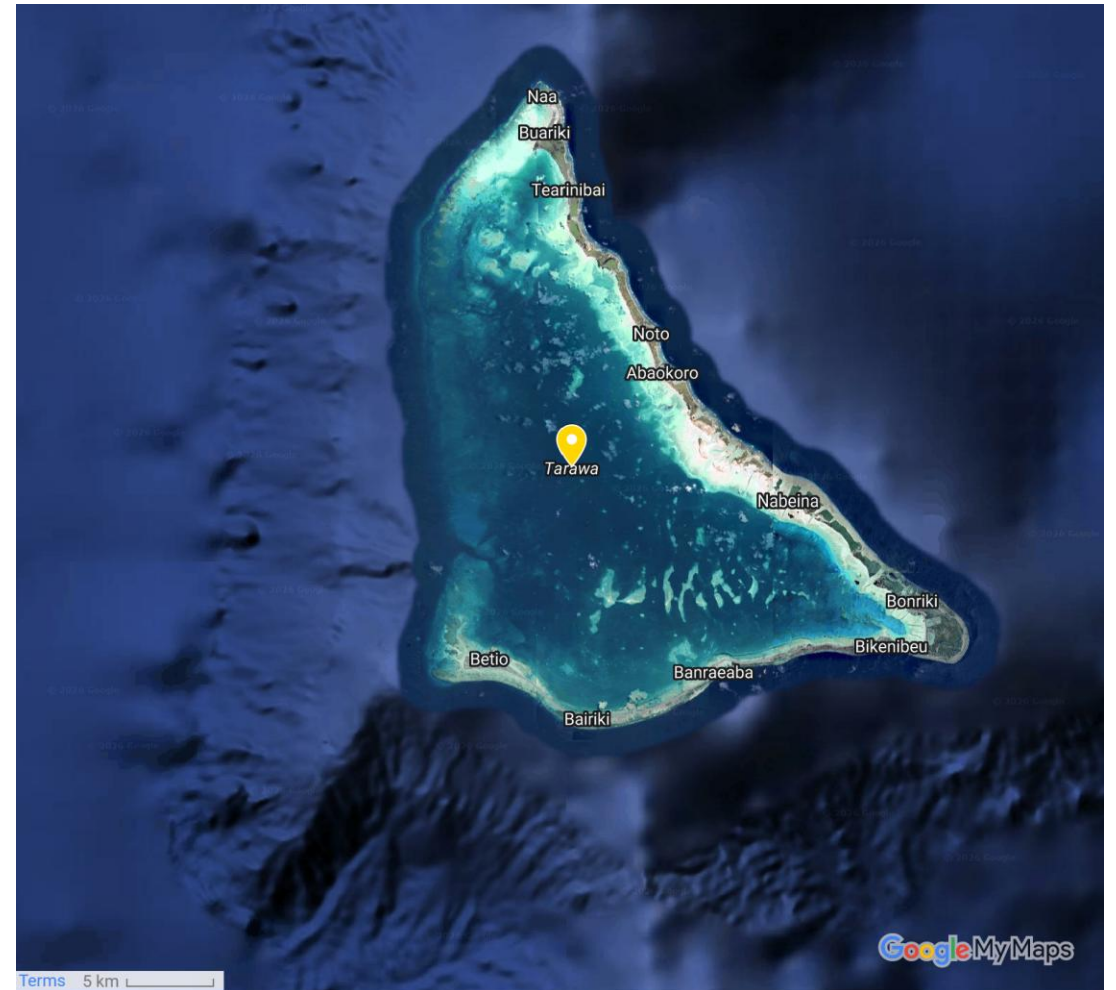
# 20 November 1943 – Tarawa

- As the invasion flotilla hove to in the predawn hours, the island's four 8-inch guns opened fire.
- A gunnery duel developed as the main batteries on the battleships USS Colorado and USS Maryland commenced counter-battery fire.
- This proved effective, with several of the 16-inch shells finding their marks. One shell penetrated the ammunition storage for one of the guns, setting off a huge explosion as the ordnance went up in a massive fireball.
- Three of the four guns were knocked out in short order. One continued its intermittent, though inaccurate, fire through the second day.
- The damage to the big guns left the approach to the lagoon open.



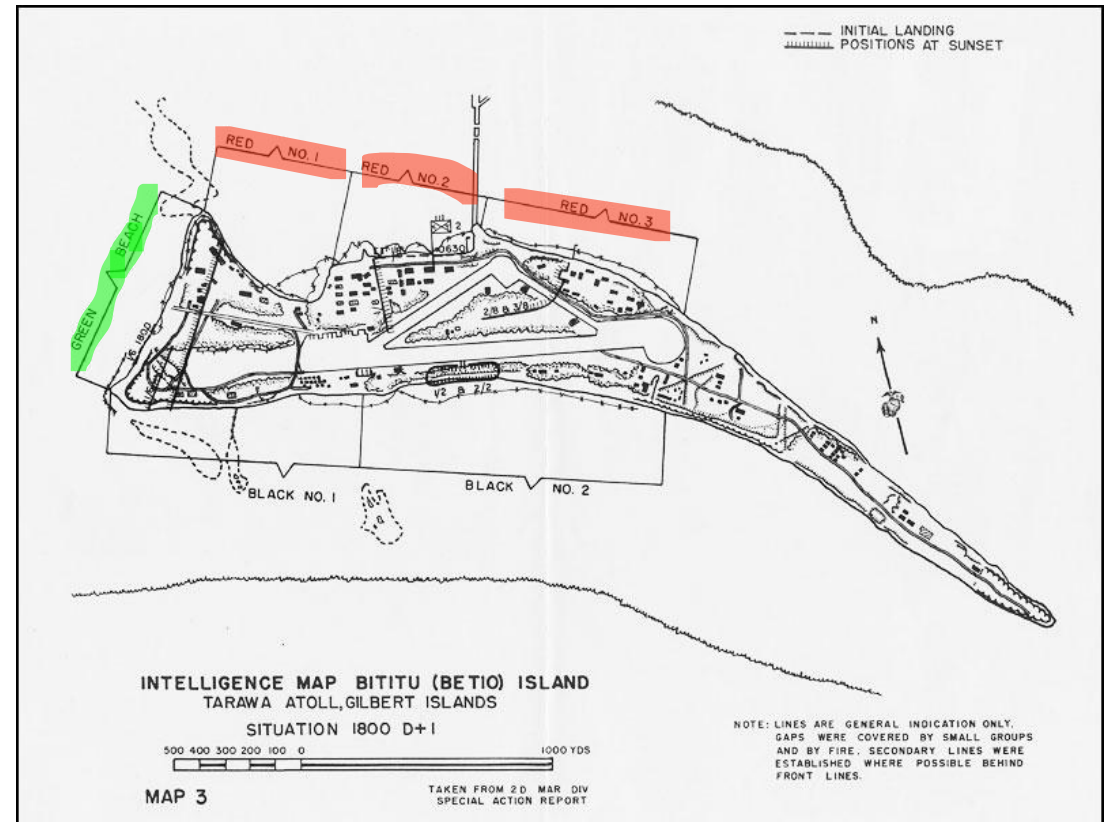
# 20 November 1943 – Tarawa

- Following the gunnery duel and an air attack of the island at 06:10, the naval bombardment of the island began in earnest and was sustained for the next three hours.
- At least 40% of defenders were killed during the naval bombardment before H-hour.
- Two minesweepers, with two destroyers to provide covering fire, entered the lagoon in the pre-dawn hours and cleared the shallows of mines.
- A guide light from one of the minesweepers then guided the landing craft into the lagoon, where they awaited the end of the bombardment.



# 20 November 1943 – Tarawa

- The plan was to land Marines on the north beaches, divided into three sections: Red Beach 1 on the far west of the island, Red Beach 2 in the center just west of the pier, and Red Beach 3 to the east of the pier.
- Green Beach was a contingency landing beach on the western shoreline and was used for landings on 21 November.
- Black Beaches 1 and 2 made up the southern shore of the island and were not used.
- The airstrip, running roughly east–west, divided the island into north and south.



# 20 November 1943 – Tarawa

- Marine Corps battle planners had expected the normal rising tide to provide a water depth of 5 feet over the reef, allowing their 4-foot draft Higgins boats room to spare.
- However, on this day and the next, the ocean experienced a neap tide and failed to rise.
- In the words of some observers, "the ocean just sat there", leaving a mean depth of 3 feet over the reef.
- A New Zealand Army liaison officer, Major Frank Holland, had 15 years' experience on Tarawa and warned that there would be at most 3 feet depth.
- Shoup warned his Marines that there would be a 50–50 chance that they would need to wade ashore, but the attack was not delayed until more favorable spring tides.



# 20 November 1943 – Tarawa

- The supporting naval bombardment lifted, and the Marines started their attack from the lagoon at 09:00, thirty minutes later than expected, but found the tide had not risen enough to allow their shallow draft Higgins boats to clear the reef.
- Only the tracked LVT "Alligators" were able to get across.
- With the pause in the naval bombardment, those Japanese who had survived the shelling were again able to man their firing pits.
- Japanese troops from the southern beaches were shifted up to the northern beaches.
- As the LVTs made their way over the reef and into the shallows, the number of Japanese troops in the firing pits slowly began to increase, and the volume of combined arms fire the LVTs faced gradually intensified.



Marines seek cover among the dead and wounded behind the sea wall on Red Beach 3, Tarawa.

# 20 November 1943 – Tarawa

- The LVTs had holes punched through their non-armored hulls, and many were knocked out of the battle.
- Those LVTs that did make it in proved unable to clear the sea wall, leaving the men in the first assault waves pinned down against the log wall along the beach.
- Several LVTs went back out to the reef in an attempt to carry in the men who were stuck there, but most of these were too badly holed to remain seaworthy, leaving the Marines stuck on the reef some 500 yards off shore.
- Half of the LVTs were knocked out of action by the end of the first day.



# 20 November 1943 – Tarawa

- "On Tarawa Beach.
- Marines landing on Tarawa Island beach creep up on Jap pill boxes.
- The terrain of the island offered very little protective covering but these Marines made use of what little covering there was.
- Some of the Jap troops in pill boxes held out for two days before they surrendered or were blasted out."
- From the Julian C. Smith Collection (COLL/202), Marine Corps Archives & Special Collections OFFICIAL USMC PHOTOGRAPH



# 20 November 1943 – Tarawa

- Colonel David M. Shoup, commander of the 2nd Marine Regiment, was the senior officer of the landed forces, and he assumed command of all landed Marines upon getting ashore.
- Although wounded by an exploding shell soon after landing at the pier, Shoup had the pier cleared of Japanese snipers and rallied the first wave of Marines who had become pinned down behind the limited protection of the sea wall.
- Early attempts to land tanks for close support and to get past the sea wall failed when the LCM landing craft (LCM) carrying them hung up behind the reef.
- Some of these craft were hit out in the lagoon while they waited to move in to the beach and either sank outright or had to withdraw while taking on water.
- Two Stuart tanks were landed on the east end of the beach but were knocked out of action fairly quickly.
- Photo: Shoup as a colonel



# 20 November 1943 – Tarawa

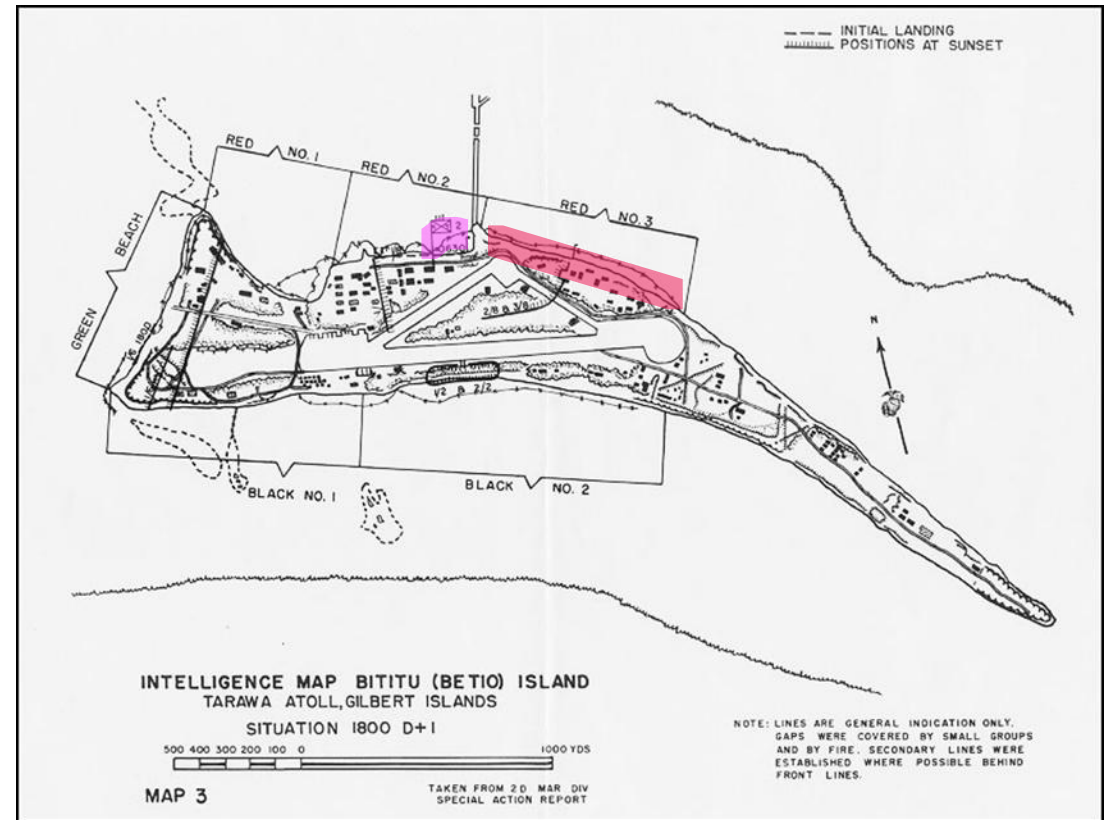
- The battalion commander of 3rd Battalion, 2nd Regiment found several LCMs near the reef and ordered them to land their Sherman tanks and head to Red Beach 2.
- The LCMs dropped ramps and the six tanks came down, climbed over the reef and dropped into the surf beyond. They were guided in to shore by Marines on foot, but several of these tanks fell into holes caused by the naval gunfire bombardment and sank.
- The surviving Shermans on the western end of the island proved considerably more effective than the lighter Stuarts.
- They helped push the line in to about 300 yards (270 m) from shore.
- One became stuck in a tank trap, and another was knocked out by a magnetic mine.
- The remaining tank took a shell hit to its barrel and had its 75 mm gun disabled.
- It was used as a portable machine gun pillbox for the rest of the day.



View of the beach of Betio Island, filled with dead marines and a destroyed Sherman tank, Tarawa

# 20 November 1943 – Tarawa

- By noon the Marines had successfully taken the beach as far as the first line of Japanese defenses.
- A third platoon was able to land all four of its Shermans on Red 3 around noon and operated them successfully for much of the day, but by day's end only one tank was still in action.
- By 15:30 the line had moved inland in places but was still generally along the first line of defenses.
- The arrival of the tanks started the line moving on Red 3 and the end of Red 2 (the right flank, as viewed from the north), and by nightfall the line was about half-way across the island, only a short distance from the main runway.



# 20 November 1943 – Tarawa

- Major Michael P. Ryan, a company commander, had gathered together remnants of his company with Marines and sailors from other landing waves, as well as two Sherman tanks, and had diverted them to a more lightly defended section of Green Beach.
- This impromptu unit was later referred to as "Ryan's Orphans".
- Ryan, who had been thought to be dead, arranged for naval gunfire and mounted an attack that cleared the island's western end.
- Photo: Ryan as Major General



# 20 November 1943 – Tarawa

- As night fell on the first day, the Japanese defenders kept up sporadic harassing fire but did not launch an attack on the Marines clinging to their beachhead and the territory won in the day's hard fighting.
- The Marines brought a battery of 75 mm pack howitzers ashore, unpacked them and set them up for action for the next day's fight, but most of the second wave was unable to land.
- They spent the night floating in the lagoon without food or water, trying to sleep in their Higgins boats.
- By the end of the first day, of the 5,000 Marines put ashore, 1,500 were casualties, either dead or wounded.



M116 howitzers, Chengkungling History Museum, Taiwan (2011)

# 20 November 1943 – Makin

- Troops began to go ashore at two beaches at 08:30 on 20 November.
- The initial landings on Red Beach went according to plan with the assault troops moving rapidly inland after an uneventful trip on the ocean side of the island.
- Their progress off the beach was slowed only by an occasional sniper and the need to negotiate their way around the debris and water-filled craters left by the air and naval bombardment.
- The craters in particular stymied tank support of the Red Beach forces by the light tanks of the 193rd Tank Battalion when the lead M3 Stuart light tank became partially submerged in a shellhole and blocked passage of all the vehicles behind it.



Makin Island – M3 Stuart light tank, bogged down in a shell crater, holds up the advance on the narrow causeway north of Jill lake.

# 20 November 1943 – Makin

- As the landing craft approached Yellow Beach from the lagoon, they began to receive small-arms and machine-gun fire from the island's defenders.
- The assault troops were also surprised to discover that even though they were approaching the beach at high tide as planned, a miscalculation of the lagoon's depth caused their small boats to go aground, forcing them to wade the final 250 yards to the beach in waist-deep water.
- Equipment and weapons were lost or water-soaked, and three men were killed approaching the beach, mainly because the defenders chose to make their final stand farther inland along the tank barriers.



165th Infantry assault wave attacking Butaritari, Yellow Beach Two, find it slow going in the coral bottom waters. Japanese machine gun fire from the right flank makes it more difficult for them.

# 20 November 1943 – Makin

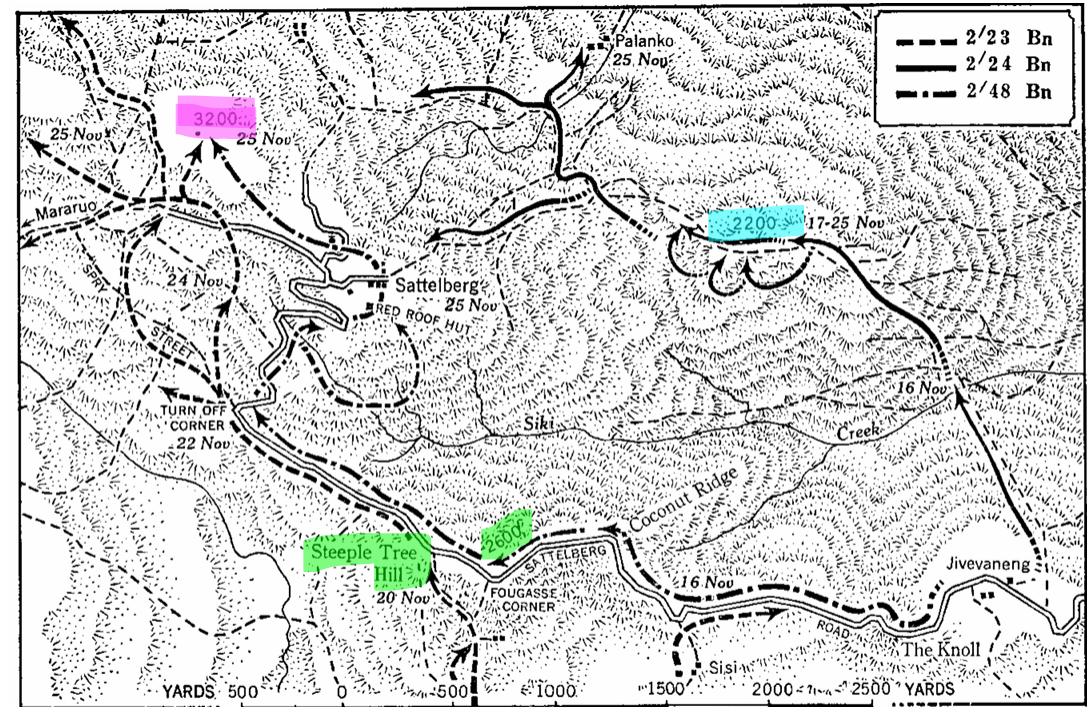
- The Japanese did not respond to the attack on Red Beach and withdrew from Yellow Beach with only harassing fire, leaving the troops of the 27th Division no choice but to attack the fortified strongpoints one by one.
- Reduction operations were hampered by the frequent inability to use heavy support weapons, including tanks, because of the danger of cross-fire.
- The commander of the 165th Infantry Regiment, Colonel Gardiner Conroy, was killed in action by a Japanese sniper on the afternoon of the first day and was succeeded by Colonel Gerard W. Kelley.



After its original occupants have been killed, an American soldier stands in the entrance to a Japanese bunker on Butaritari. Heavy coconut logs were used to reinforce the enemy strongpoint.

# 20 November 1943 – New Guinea

- 20 November, brought no forward movement at the 2,200 feature as the Japanese defenders fought tenaciously to prevent the 2/24th from moving forward.
- On the main road at the start of the day, the Australian 2/48th Battalion had only been able to advance a further 250 yards before their progress was held up by thick scrub which delayed their tank support, however, to the south, the 2/23rd Battalion moved up the southern slope of Steeple Tree Hill and over the course of the afternoon gradually forced the defenders back.
- The 2/48th made slow progress but by 6:35 pm they reported that they had reached the summit of the hill and as night fell, the two Australian battalions were separated by about 300 yds.
- Caught between two groups of Australians, during night the Japanese defenders abandoned the position and fell back towards the main defensive position at Sattelberg.



The capture of Sattelberg, 16th-25th November

# 20–21 November 1943 – The Gilberts

- At midnight 20–21 November, Nautilus lay 3,000 yards off an island in the Abemama Atoll to discharge her passengers, a 78-man scouting party, composed of 5th Amphibious Reconnaissance Company Marines and an Australian, Lieutenant George Hand of the Ocean Island Defense Force, as guide and interpreter.
- By 15:00, all were safely ashore.



# 21 November 1943 – Tarawa

- The forces on Red 1 were directed to secure Green Beach for the landing of reinforcements.
- Green Beach made up the entire western end of the island.
- The effort to take Green Beach initially met with heavy resistance.
- Naval gunfire was called in to reduce the pillboxes and gun emplacements barring the way.
- Inching their way forward, artillery spotters were able to direct naval gunfire directly upon the machine gun posts and remaining strong points.
- With the major obstacles reduced, the Marines were able to take the positions in about an hour of combat with relatively few losses.
- Photo: A Marine fires on a Japanese pillbox



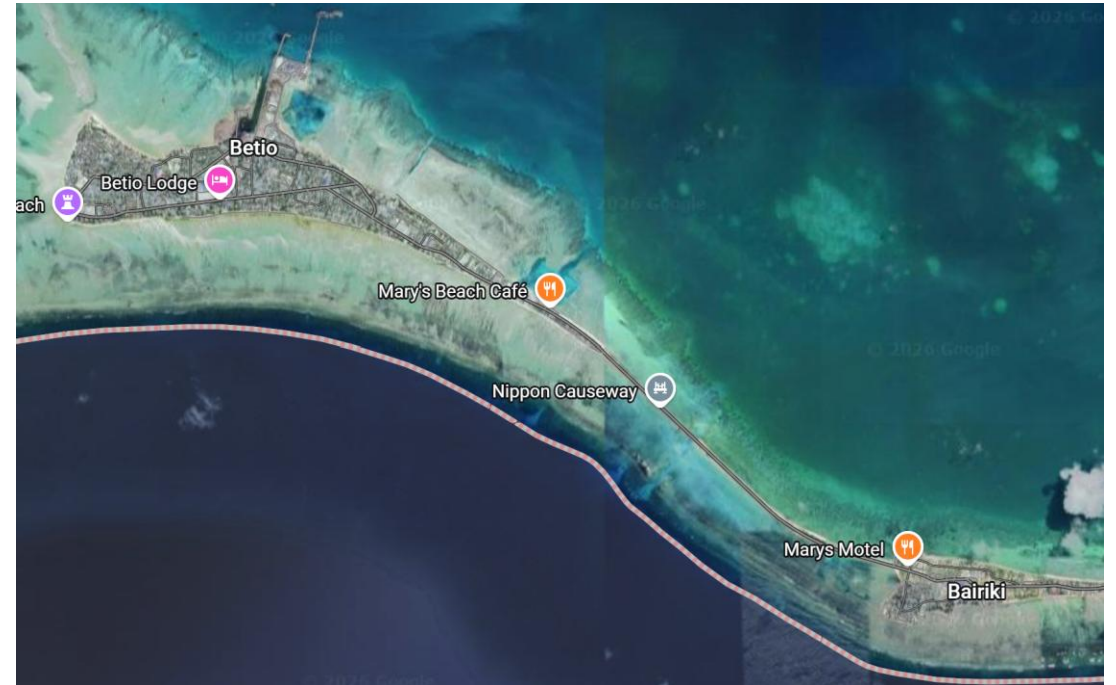
# 21 November 1943 – Tarawa

- The Marines holding a thin line on the island were commanded to attack Red Beach 2 and 3 and push inward and divide the Japanese defenders into two sections, expanding the bulge near the airfield until it reached the southern shore.
- Operations along Red 2 and Red 3 were considerably more difficult than on Green.
- During the night the defenders had set up several new machine gun posts between the closest approach of the forces from the two beaches, and fire from those machine gun nests cut off the Marines from each other for some time.
- By noon the Marines had brought up their own heavy machine guns, and the Japanese posts were put out of action.
- By the early afternoon they had crossed the airstrip and had occupied abandoned defensive works on the south side.



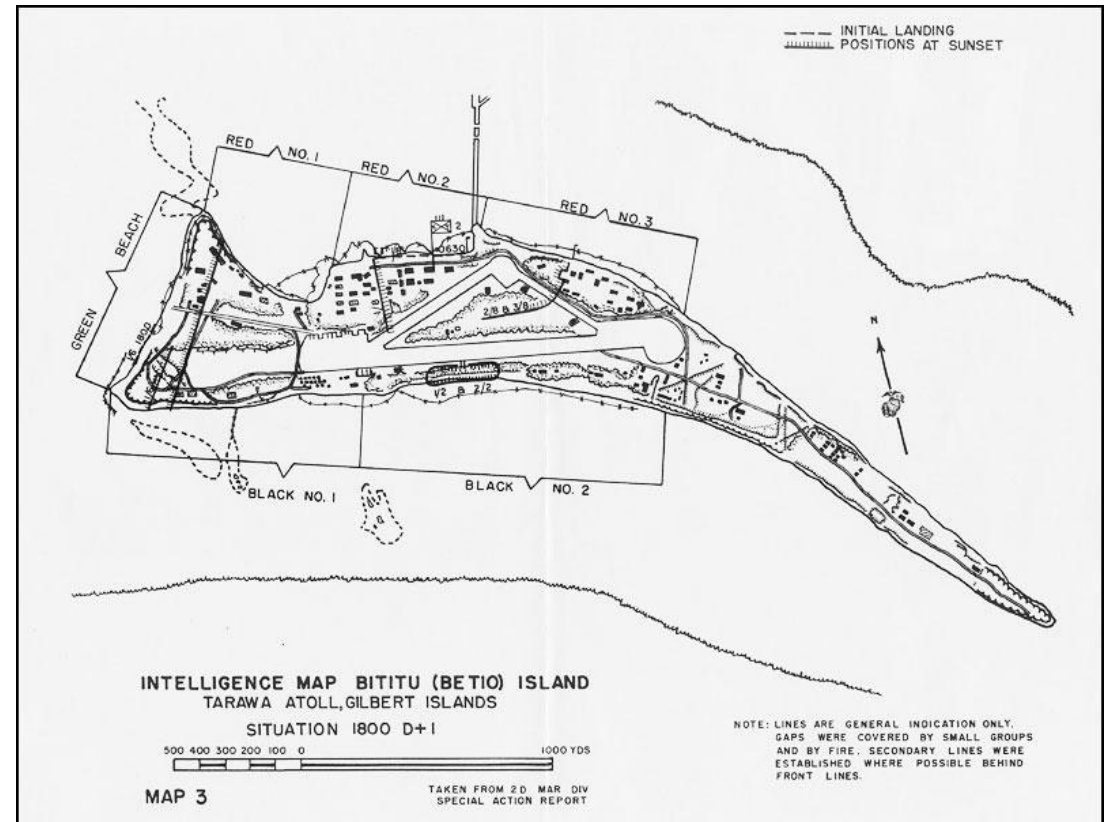
# 21 November 1943 – Tarawa

- Around 12:30 a message arrived that some of the defenders were making their way across the sandbars from the extreme eastern end of the islet to Bairiki, the next islet over.
- Portions of the 6th Marine Regiment were ordered to land on Bairiki to seal off the retreat path.
- They formed up, including tanks and pack artillery, and were able to start their landings at 16:55.
- They received machine gun fire, so aircraft were sent in to try to locate the guns and suppress them.
- The force landed with no further fire, and it was later found that only a single pillbox with 12 machine guns had been set up by the forces that had been assumed to be escaping.
- They had a small tank of gasoline in their pillbox, and when it was hit with fire from the aircraft the entire force was burned.
- Later, other units of the 6th Marine Regiment were landed unopposed on Green Beach, north (near Red Beach 1).



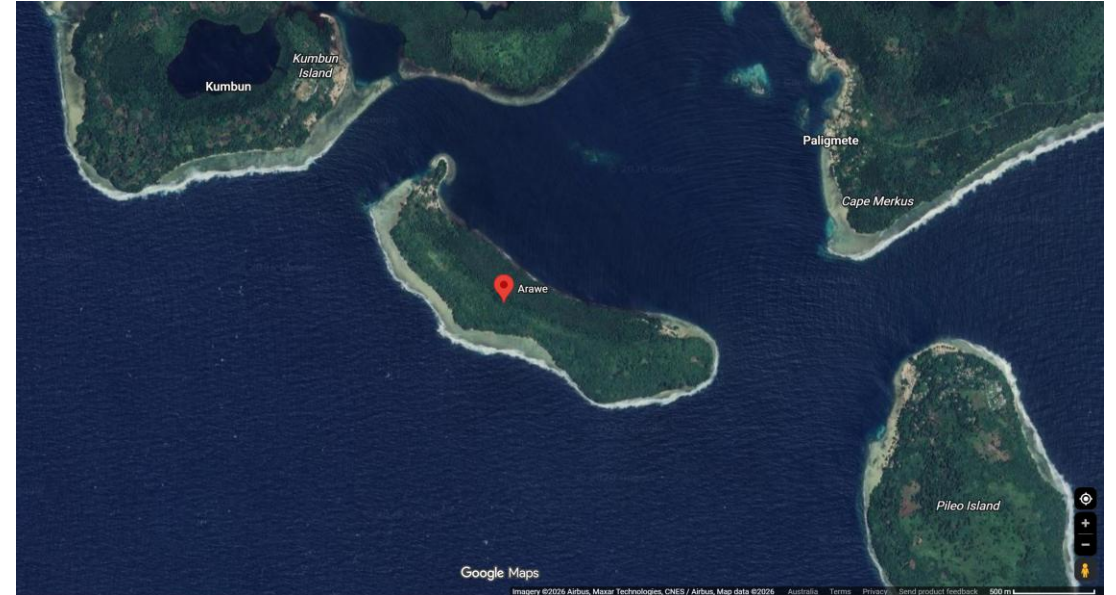
# 21 November 1943 – Tarawa

- By the end of the day, the entire western end of the island was in U.S. control, as well as a fairly continuous line between Red 2 and Red 3 around the airfield aprons.
- A separate group had moved across the airfield and set up a perimeter on the southern side, up against Black 2.
- The groups were not in contact with each other, with a gap of over 500 yards between the forces at Red 1/Green and Red 2, and the lines on the northern side inland from Red 2/Red 3 were not continuous.



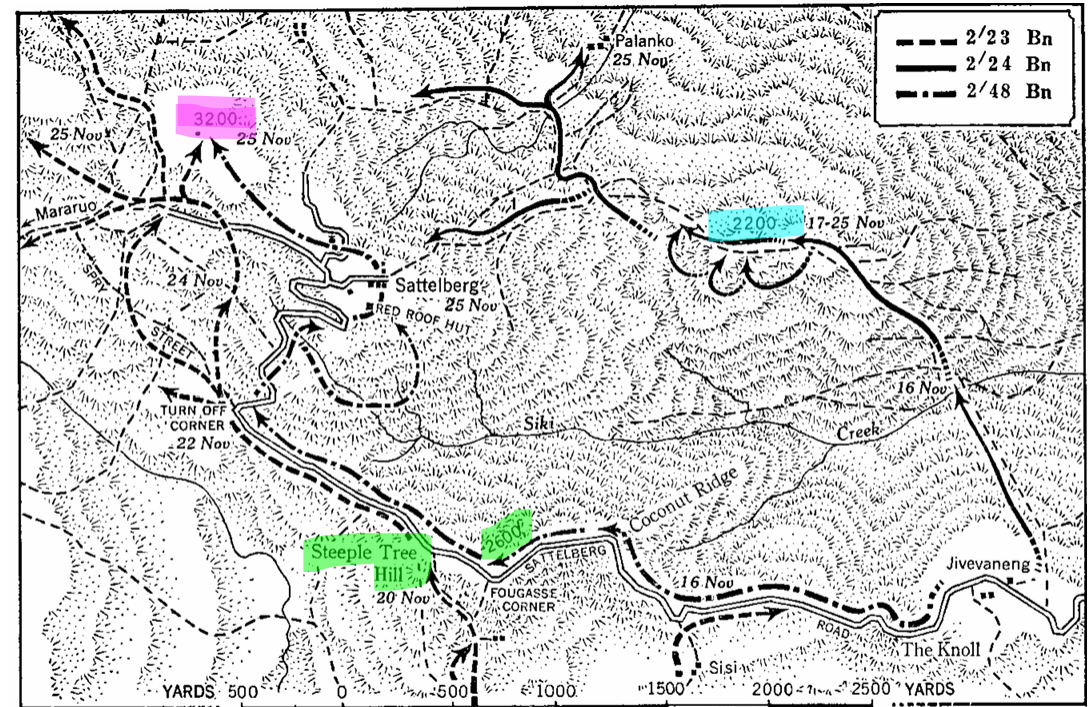
# 21 November 1943 – New Britain

- At a conference at GHQ in Brisbane on 21 November attended by Kenney, Carpender, and Barbey the naval commanders opposed Gasmata and are reported to have wanted a PT boat base elsewhere on New Britain's south coast.
- Therefore Arawe, the name of a peninsula, a harbor, and an island west of Gasmata which had been listed as an objective in ELKTON III, was substituted for Gasmata with the intention of using it as a PT base and in the hope of diverting the enemy's attention from Cape Gloucester.
- Arawe had a fair anchorage and there were only a few Japanese in the area.
- General Kenney assured his fellow commanders that he could give better air cover to Arawe than to Gasmata.
- Cape Gloucester remained the main objective. As the same ships had to be used for both invasions, the dates were staggered.



# 21 November 1943 – New Guinea

- Throughout 21 November, there was a lull in the battle as the Australians paused for resupply.
- Whitehead produced a new set of orders prior to stepping off on 22 November.
  - The 2/48th continued to advance along the road;
  - the 2/23rd were to break track beyond Steeple Tree Hill at a location dubbed "Turn-Off Corner" and advance around behind the mission, to attack the 3,200 feature, while
  - the 2/24th Battalion were to advance west, attempting to bypass the main Japanese positions in front of the 2,200 feature via an adjacent saddle to assist in the capture of Sattelberg, while
  - also sending a detachment further north to secure Palanko



The capture of Sattelberg, 16th-25th November

# 22 November 1943 – Tarawa

- The third day of battle consisted primarily of consolidating existing lines along Red 1 and 2, an eastward thrust from the wharf, and moving additional heavy equipment and tanks ashore onto Green Beach at 08:00.
- During the morning the forces originally landed on Red 1 made some progress towards Red 2 but took casualties.
- Meanwhile, the 6th Marines which had landed on Green Beach to the south of Red 1 formed up while the remaining battalion of the 6th landed.



# 22 November 1943 – Tarawa

- By the afternoon the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines (1/6) were sufficiently organized and equipped to take to the offensive.
- At 12:30 they pressed the Japanese forces across the southern coast of the island.
- By late afternoon they had reached the eastern end of the airfield and had formed a continuous line with the forces that landed on Red 3 two days earlier.
- By the evening the remaining Japanese forces were either pushed back into the tiny amount of land to the east of the airstrip, or operating in several isolated pockets near Red 1/Red 2 and near the western edge of the airstrip.

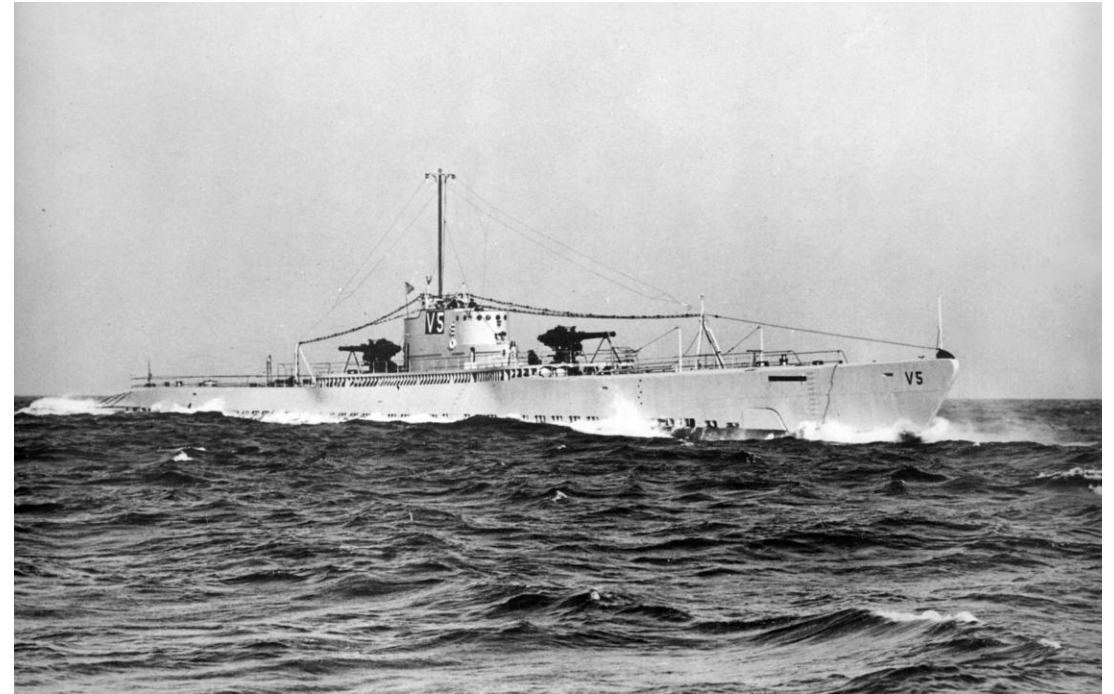


# 22 November 1943 – Tarawa

- That night the Japanese forces formed up for a counterattack, which started at about 19:30.
- Small units were sent in to infiltrate the U.S. lines in preparation for a full-scale assault.
- The assembling forces were broken up by concentrated artillery fire, and the assault never took place.

# 22 November 1943 – The Gilberts

- On the afternoon of 22 November, Nautilus provided fire support to bring the tiny (25-man) enemy garrison out of their bunkers.
- This proved accurate, killing 14; the remainder committed suicide.
- By the time the main assault force arrived on 26 November, Abemama had been secured and preparations to turn it into an air base for the Marshall Islands campaign had begun.

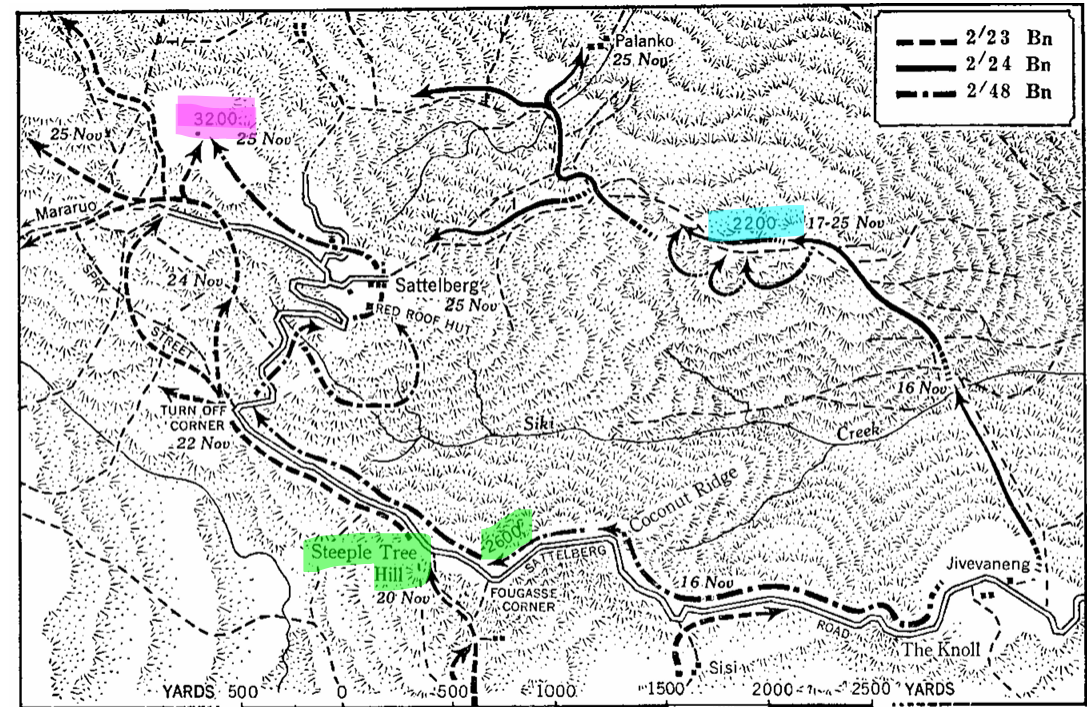


USS Narwhal (SS-167), a sister ship of Nautilus, underway in 1931. Shows Mark 17 wet mounting 6-inch/53-caliber guns.

These single open mounts were installed fore and aft of the conning tower on USS Argonaut (SM-1), USS Narwhal (SS-167), and USS Nautilus (SS-168).

# 22 November 1943 – New Guinea

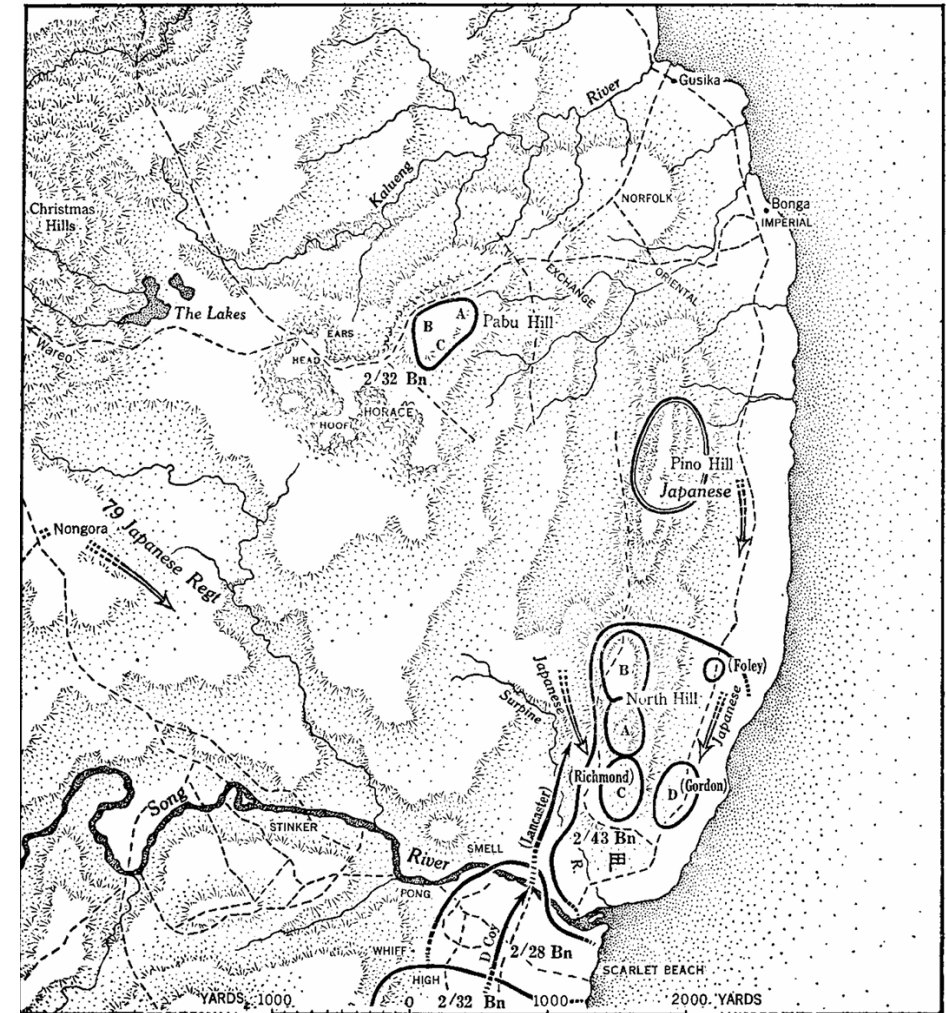
- On the 22<sup>nd</sup> the advance continued to be frustratingly slow for the Australian commanders.
- The terrain over which the final part of the advance was undertaken was particularly taxing on the troops involved. Many of the slopes up which the troops were required to advance had gradients of at least 45 degrees, which meant that even reasonably short distances took considerable time.
- To make matters worse, near the junction of the Siki Creek, a landslide caused by the Allied bombing, coupled with a number of land mines that the Japanese had planted, blocked the main road to Sattelberg, meaning that the soldiers from the 2/48th would have to make the final attack on Sattelberg without armoured support.
- In an effort to counter this problem, Whitehead determined that the tanks would be re-allocated to the 2/23rd, in the hope that a new route would be opened up by the engineers.



The capture of Sattelberg, 16th-25th November

# 22 November 1943 – New Guinea

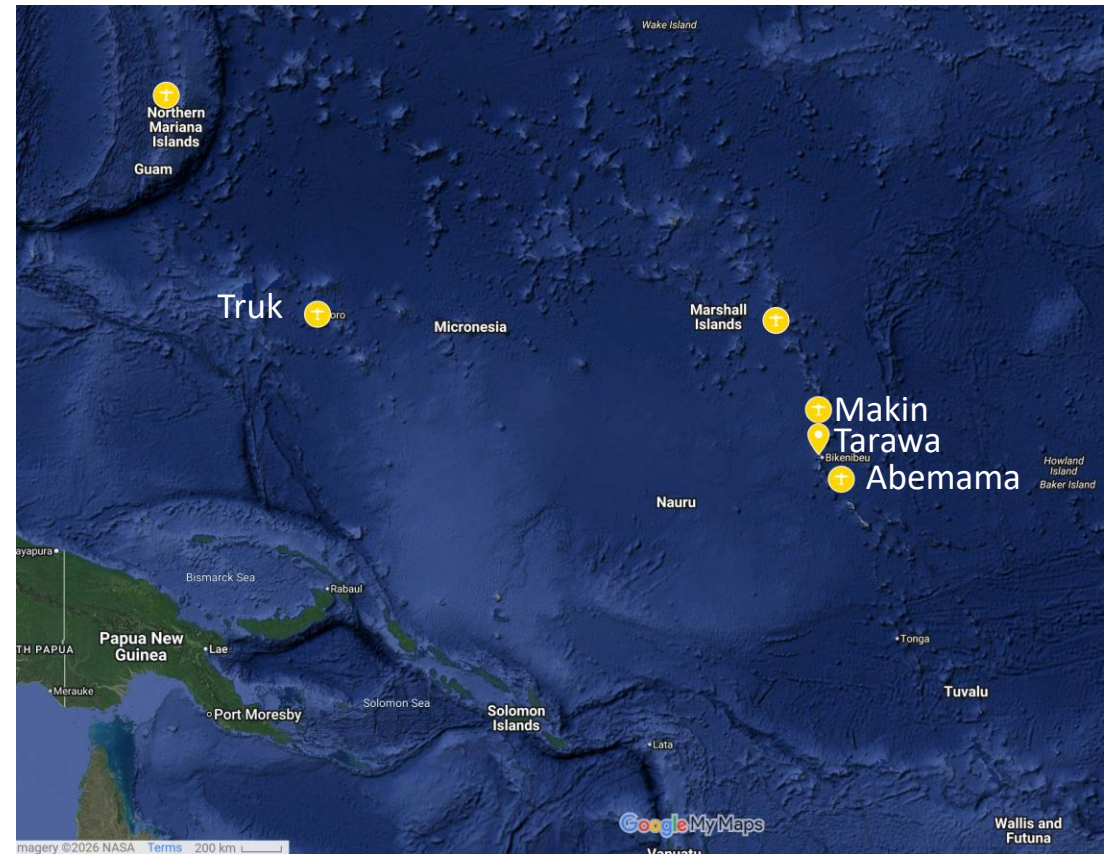
- A Japanese counter-attack on 22nd November was no surprise to the Australians.
- From dawn sporadic artillery fire falling over a large area came from the Pino Hill area.
- The Japanese attacked Scarlet Beach from the west and attacked south from Gusika.
- All day small bands of Japanese were seen on all sides and most were cut down by the defenders' fire.
- The enemy managed to force the anti-tank platoon of the 2/43<sup>rd</sup> back. This platoon had been under heavy fire during the day. On several occasions the enemy tried to break through but was driven back.
- Lieutenant North's platoon on the left inflicted casualties but, despite two fierce attacks, was unable to dislodge the now strongly entrenched Japanese.
- At 3 p.m. Joshua ordered that 200 2-inch mortar bombs be directed at the enemy now bottled up in the Surpine Valley. At 5.40 p.m. Smith's platoon attacked and captured the whole area.
- It was fairly obvious to Wootten and Porter at the end of the 22nd that the Japanese counter-attack could be held and that it might already have been defeated.



The Japanese counter-attack on the 24th Brigade, 22nd-23rd November

# 23 November 1943 – The Gilberts

- TG 50.1, the carrier interceptor group pounded Japanese airfields in the Marshalls commencing 23 November.



# 23 November 1943 – Tarawa

- At 04:00 the Japanese attacked Major Jones' 1st Battalion, 6th Marines in force.
- Roughly 300 Japanese troops launched a banzai charge into the lines of A and B Companies.
- Receiving support from 1st Battalion, 10th Marines' 75 mm pack howitzers and the destroyers Schroeder and Sigsbee, the Marines were able to beat back the attack but only after calling artillery to within 250 feet of their own lines.
- When the assault ended about an hour later there were 200 dead Japanese soldiers in the Marine front lines and another 125 beyond their lines.



USS Sigsbee (DD-502) is coming alongside of the escort carrier USS Chenango (CVE-28) in the Pacific Ocean on 23 June 1944.

# 23 November 1943 – Tarawa

- At 07:00 Navy fighters and dive bombers started softening up the Japanese positions on the eastern tip of the island.
- After 30 minutes of air attack the pack howitzers of 1/10 opened up on the Japanese positions.
- Fifteen minutes later the Navy kicked off the last part of the bombardment with a further 15 minutes of shelling.
- At 08:00 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines (3/6) under the command of Lieutenant Colonel McLeod attacked, Jones' 1/6 having been pulled off the line after suffering 45 killed and 128 wounded in the previous night's fighting.
- Due to the narrowing nature of the island, I and L Companies of 3/6 formed the entire Marine front with K Company in reserve. The Marines advanced quickly against the few Japanese left alive on the eastern tip of Betio.
- They had two Sherman tanks named Colorado and China Gal, 5 light tanks in support and engineers in direct support.



Oblique of Betio Island, Tarawa

# 23 November 1943 – Tarawa

- I and L Companies advanced 350 yards before experiencing any serious resistance in the form of connected bunkers on I Company's front.
- McLeod ordered L Company to continue their advance, thereby bypassing the Japanese position.
- At this point L Company made up the entire front across the now 200-yard wide island, while I Company reduced the Japanese strong point with the support of the tank Colorado and attached demolition/flame thrower teams provided by the engineers.
- As I Company closed in, the Japanese broke from cover and attempted to retreat down a narrow defile. Alerted to the attempted retreat, the commander of the Colorado tank fired in enfilade at the line of fleeing soldiers.
- The near total destruction of the Japanese soldiers' bodies made it impossible to know how many men were killed by this single shot, but it was estimated that 50 to 75 men died.



# 23 November 1943 – Tarawa

- While L Company advanced down the eastern end of the island, Major Schoettel's 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines (3/2) and Major Hay's 1st Battalion, 8th Marines (1/8) were cleaning out the Japanese pocket that still existed between beaches Red 1 and Red 2.
- This pocket had been resisting the advance of the Marines landing on Red 1 and Red 2 since D-day, and they had not yet been able to move against it.



# 23 November 1943 – Tarawa

- 1/8 advanced on the pocket from the east (Red 2) while 3/2 advanced from the west (Red 1).
- Major Hewitt Adams led an infantry platoon supported by two pack howitzers from the lagoon into the Japanese positions to complete the encirclement.
- By noon the pocket had been reduced.
- On the eastern end of the island L Company continued to advance, bypassing pockets of resistance and leaving them to be cleared out by tanks, engineers and air support. By 13:00 they had reached the eastern tip of Betio.
- 3/6 killed roughly 475 Japanese soldiers on the morning of 23 November while losing 9 killed and 25 wounded.
- Back at the Red 1/Red 2 pocket there were 50–100 believed still resisting when the island was declared secure at 13:30 on 23 November.



Japanese prisoners of war

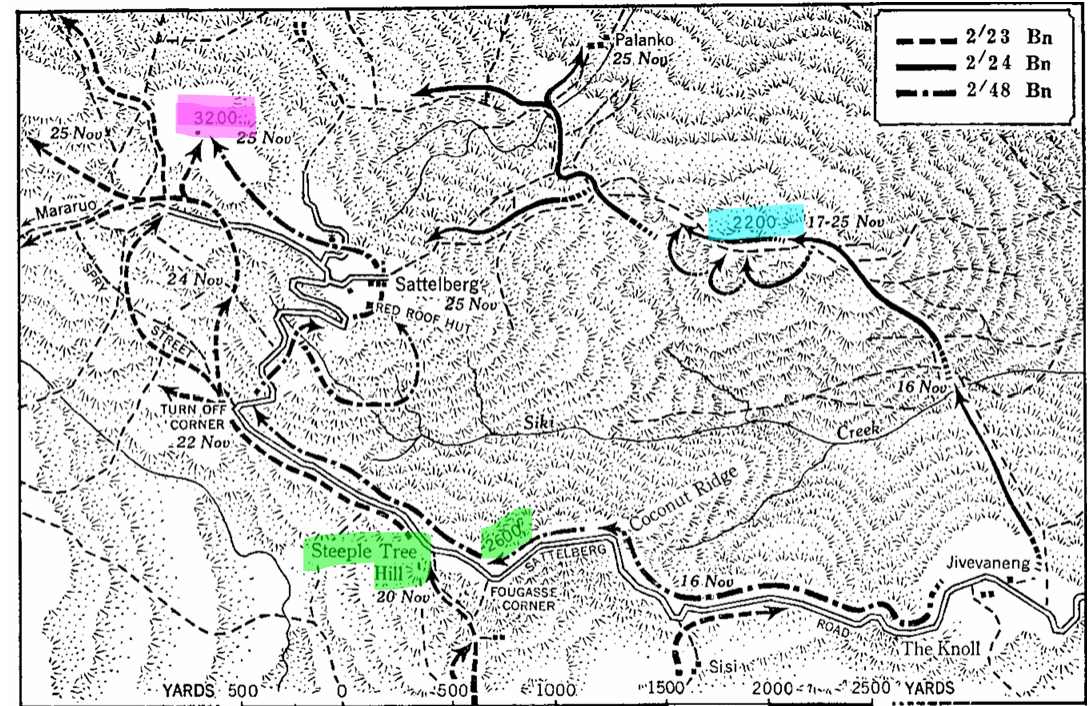
# 23 November 1943 – Makin

- Two days of determined fighting reduced Japanese resistance. After clearing the entire atoll (photo), Smith reported on the morning of 23 November, "Makin taken, recommend command pass to commander garrison force."
- The most difficult problem capturing Makin was coordinating the actions of two separate landing forces, made more difficult because the defenders did not respond as anticipated.
- The unsuitability of the narrow beaches for supply landing operations—which went undiscovered by pre-invasion reconnaissance—was also a severe handicap.



# 23 November 1943 – New Guinea

- An intense five-day Allied aerial bombardment, which had begun on 19 November, had destroyed the majority of the Japanese guns around Sattelberg.
- On 23 November the 2/48th, nearing their objective, cautiously began to probe the outer positions, while to the north, three companies from the 2/24th managed to reach the saddle that lay below the north-eastern approach to the mission, although there was still uncertainty as to whether or not the Japanese had withdrawn from the 2,200 feature.
- To the south-west, the 2/23rd began skirting north around the main positions at Sattelberg, making for the 3,200 feature. After they had struck Turn-Off Corner, the infantry from the 2/23rd were accompanied by engineers from the 2/13th Field Company, who were tasked with laying down a makeshift road, over which the tanks that had been re-allocated to the 2/23rd would traverse.



The capture of Sattelberg, 16th-25th November

# 24 November 1943 – Makin

- In the early hours of 24 November the escort carrier and flagship USS Liscome Bay was sunk by a Japanese submarine.
- A single torpedo detonated the Liscome Bay's aircraft bomb magazine, causing a devastating explosion which engulfed the entire ship.
- Considerable debris fell on the battleship New Mexico about 1,500 yards off, while a sailor on board the escort carrier Coral Sea was hit by a fire extinguisher from Liscome Bay.
- At 05:33, only 23 minutes after the explosion, Liscome Bay listed to starboard and sank.
- The destruction of the Liscome Bay accounted for the majority of American casualties in the Battle of Makin.
- Of the 916 crewmen of Liscome Bay, 702 perished, including the flagship's admiral and task force group commander, Rear Admiral Henry M. Mullinnix, Captain Irving Wiltsie, and Pearl Harbor Navy Cross recipient Cook Second Class Doris Miller (photo).



# 24 November 1943 – Makin

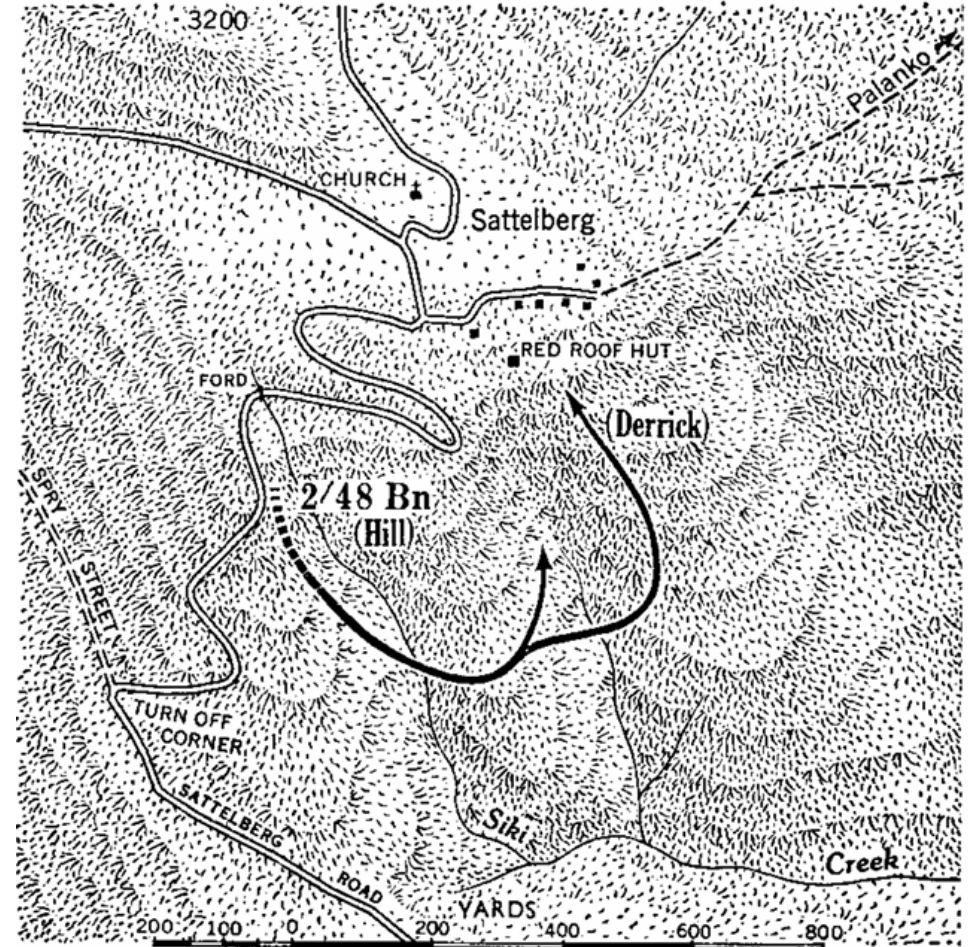
- The complete occupation of Makin took four days. Despite possessing great superiority in men and weapons, the 27th Division had difficulty subduing the island's small defense force.
- One Japanese Ha-Go tank was destroyed in combat, and two tanks placed in revetments were abandoned without being used in combat.
- Against an estimated 395 Japanese casualties in action during the operation, American ground casualties numbered 66 killed and 152 wounded.
- U.S. Navy losses were: 702 deaths on the Liscome Bay, 43 killed in a turret fire on the battleship Mississippi, and 10 killed in action with naval shore parties or as aviators.
- The total of 821 American dead was double the number of the entire Japanese garrison.



Burial at sea aboard troopship Leonard Wood of two Liscome Bay sailors, victims of the submarine attack: In the foreground facing the ceremony are survivors of Liscome Bay.

# 24 November 1943 – New Guinea

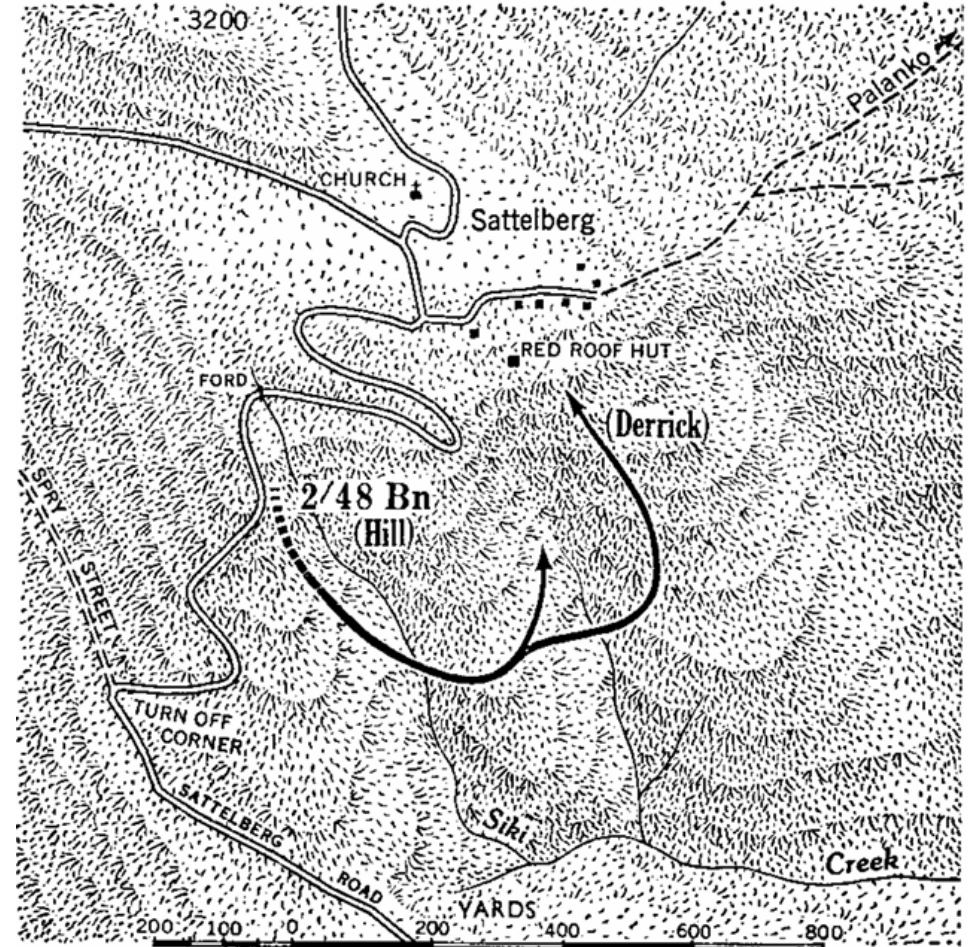
- By 24 November the Australians were within striking distance of the mission atop the summit.
- A reconnaissance patrol the previous evening had provided the Australian commander with the idea to send a company from the 2/48th over the Siki Creek and attack the mission from the south-east up a steep escarpment that was covered in thick kunai grass, which offered an attacking force a degree of concealment.
- A red roofed hut stood at the point where the attack was aimed. This was about 300 yd below the Lutheran church that formed the main part of the mission. Around the hut, the Japanese had constructed a number of reinforced defensive positions and although they had not been damaged by the numerous aerial attacks that had been launched by the Allies during the previous week, it was believed that because the approach was so difficult, it might be lightly defended.
- During the morning, while a diversionary attack was made by the 2/23rd Battalion, and patrols from the 2/24th to the north attempted to break through, a company from the 2/48th, under the command of Captain Hill, attempted to reach the summit at Sattelberg.
- Two platoons launched attacks during the early afternoon but were beaten back by the twenty Japanese defenders that were dug in around the spur.



Sattelberg, 24th November

# 24 November 1943 – New Guinea

- Late in the afternoon, a third platoon commanded by Sergeant Derrick, attempted another attack from further to the right of the position but it too was checked by machine-gun fire and lobbed grenades.
- As the light began to fade, Derrick reported his lack of progress to his company commander and was ordered to withdraw, so that another attempt could be made in the morning.
- Derrick's response to this order was to obfuscate, however, and instead of withdrawing, he subsequently led his platoon forward, attacking 10 Japanese positions with grenades as his men supported him with Bren and Owen submachine-gun fire.
- After stopping about 100 yards from the summit, Derrick's platoon continued to hold their position through the night.
- Elsewhere, the 2/24th Battalion reported that they were just below the crest of the 2,200 feature, the last Japanese defensive position to the north, and that they would capture it the following morning, before proceeding on to their secondary objective at Palanko.
- Believing that the key to taking Sattelberg lay in having the 2/24th in a position to support the 2/48th's final attack, Whitehead pressured for the tanks to get up to the 2/24th as soon as possible.



Sattelberg, 24th November

# 25 November 1943 - Solomons

- So sure were the Japanese that Buka was an ultimate target that they continued to send reinforcements there.
- Late in November 920 soldiers on board three destroyers with two more escorting attempted to get to Buka.
- The Japanese destroyers landed the 920 troops and supplies and embarked 700 Navy aviation personnel being withdrawn because Allied bombing had rendered the airfield at Buka non-operational
- They were intercepted in the Solomon Sea during the night of 25 November by Captain Arleigh Burke's destroyer squadron, which chased them from near Buka almost to Cape Saint George, the southern tip of New Ireland.
- Burke's ships sank three destroyers without receiving as much as one hit themselves.
- This action, the Battle of Cape Saint George, was the last of the night surface engagements which had characterized the Solomons campaigns since the one off Savo Island on 8 August 1942.
- Photo: Admiral Arleigh Burke, Chief of Naval Operations. Portrait photograph, 15 December 1958.



# 25 November 1943 – New Guinea

- At first light on the 25th, spurred on by the example provided by Derrick's Platoon, reinforcements from the 2/48th came up to complete the capture of Sattelberg.
- Just after dawn, a heavy artillery barrage was brought down on the summit in preparation for the final attack.
- At 8:25 am patrols were sent out from 'B' Company, 2/48th Battalion, and they reported that the Japanese had abandoned the position sometime during the night.
- Fifty minutes later, the lead elements of the 2/48th Battalion entered the main mission complex.
- At 10:00 am, upon the insistence of the 2/48th Battalion's CO, Lt Col Ainslie, Sgt Derrick was given the honour of raising the Australian flag over the mission.
- Shortly after this, the tanks finally reached the 2/24th Battalion, and the 2,200 feature was also captured.
- After the flag-raising ceremony, a company of the 2/48th moved on to the 3,200 feature, which had also been abandoned, while further to the west, the 2/23<sup>rd</sup> cleared Mararuo.
- Derrick was awarded the Victoria Cross.
- Australian losses at Sattelberg were 49 men killed and 118 wounded.



*(Australian War Memorial)*

The last steep pinch of the Sattelberg Road, just before reaching the summit, on 27th November 1943. The white coral formation shown here was typical of this area.

# Sattelberg

- [Fall of Sattelberg | Australian War Memorial](#)

- 25 minutes
- silent

