

The War in the Pacific 3

From Lae to Tokyo Bay

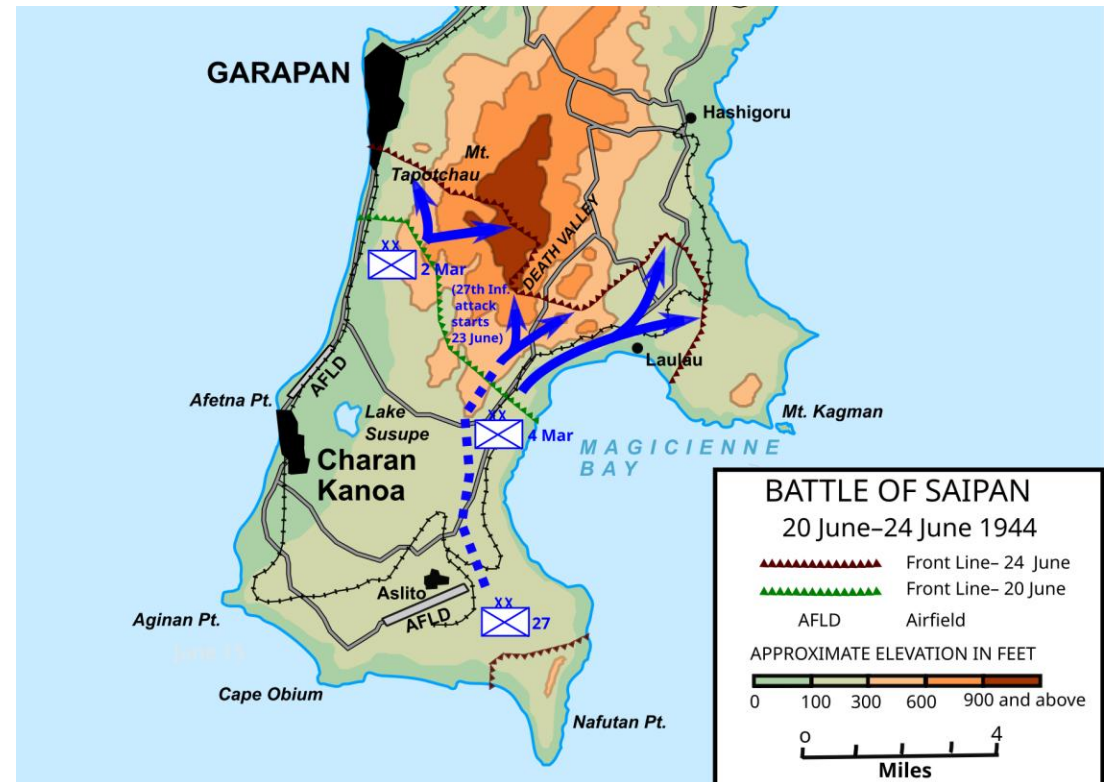
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Saipan, Guam & Tinian June & July 1944



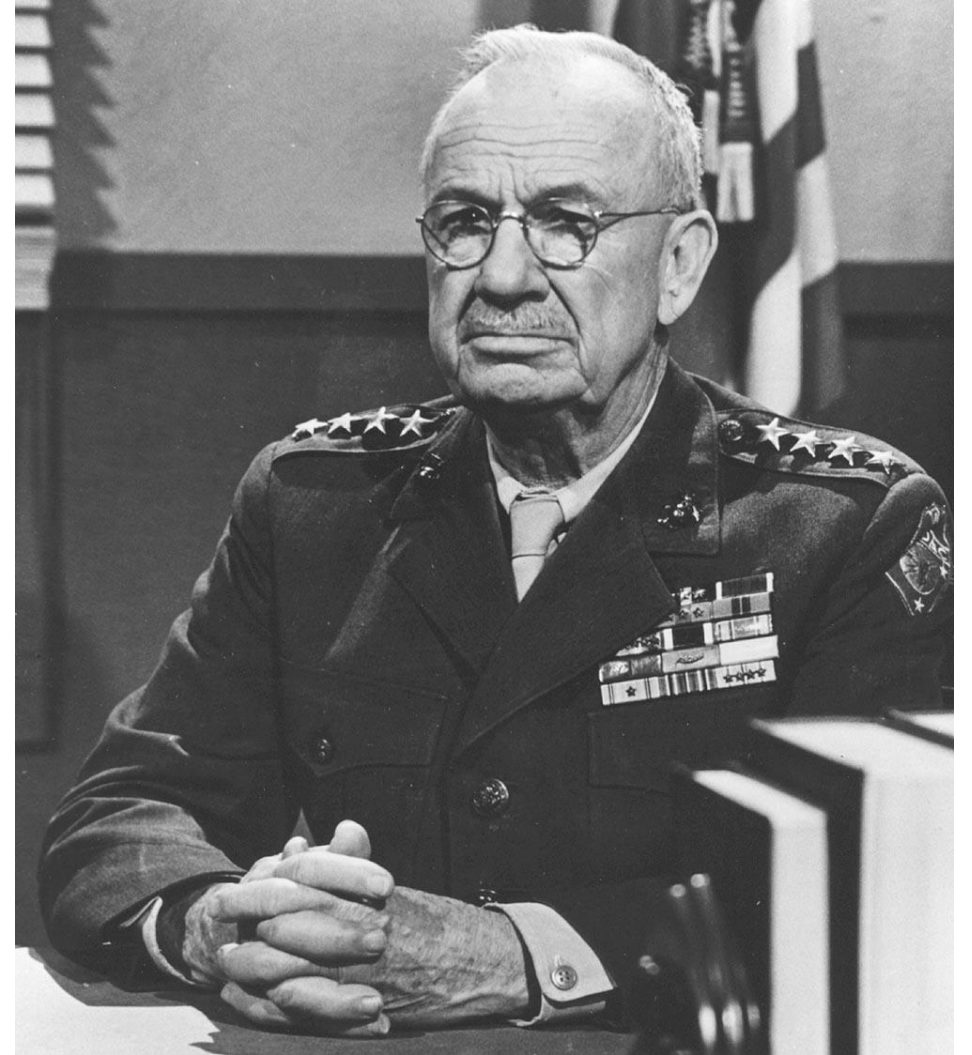
22/3 June 1944 - Marianas

- The new Japanese defense line held most of the island's high ground, which allowed the Japanese to observe American movements, and the rough terrain was filled with caves concealed by brush.
- The American forces prepared for a frontal assault on the line using all three divisions.
- The attack began on 22 June. The 2 Marine Divisions advanced along the coasts creating gaps in the line in the hilly ground between the two divisions.
- That evening, the 27th Infantry Division, less the regiment left to reduce Nafutan point, was ordered to move up into the difficult terrain between the two Marine divisions.
- The next day, the Marine divisions on the flanks made progress, but the 27th Infantry Division, which started its attack late, stalled in its assault on a valley surrounding a low-lying ridge that was defended by about 4,000 Japanese soldiers.
- The battle around these features, which American soldiers nicknamed "Death Valley" and "Purple Heart Ridge", began to bend the line of the American advance into a horseshoe, creating gaps in the Marine divisions' flanks and forcing them to halt.



22/3 June 1944 - Marianas

- Frustrated by what he saw as lack of progress by the 27th Division, Holland Smith (photo) relieved its commander, Major General Ralph Smith, and temporarily replaced him with another Army officer, Major General Sanderford Jarman.
- The debate over the appropriateness of Holland Smith's action—a Marine general dismissing an Army general—immediately created an inter-service controversy.
- Despite the replacement of the 27th Division's commander, six more days were needed for the valley to be captured



24 June 1944 - Pacific

- The cargo ship Kennichi Maru was torpedoed and sunk in the East China Sea (32°24'N 129°38'E) by USS Tang. Two gunners and 34 crewmen were killed.
- The tanker Nasusan Maru was torpedoed and sunk in the Koshiki Straits, 40 miles south west of Nagasaki (32°24'N 129°38'E) by USS Tang. 11 crewmen were killed.
- The cargo ship, Tainan Maru, was torpedoed and sunk in the East China Sea (32°24'N 129°38'E) by USS Tang. Thirty-four crewmen were killed.
- The transport, Tamahoko Maru was transporting 772 prisoners of war (197 British, 42 American, 258 Australian and 281 Dutch) from Taiwan to Japan. There were also some 500 Japanese soldiers on board. She was torpedoed by USS Tang and sank in two minutes in the East China Sea (32°24'N 129°38'E). Survivors found themselves in the water with Japanese survivors, all seeking to find debris to cling to. It was extremely cold with sleet and rain. The POWs were dressed in very little.
- Fortunately no depth chargers were dropped.
- A corvette picked up the Japanese survivors only.

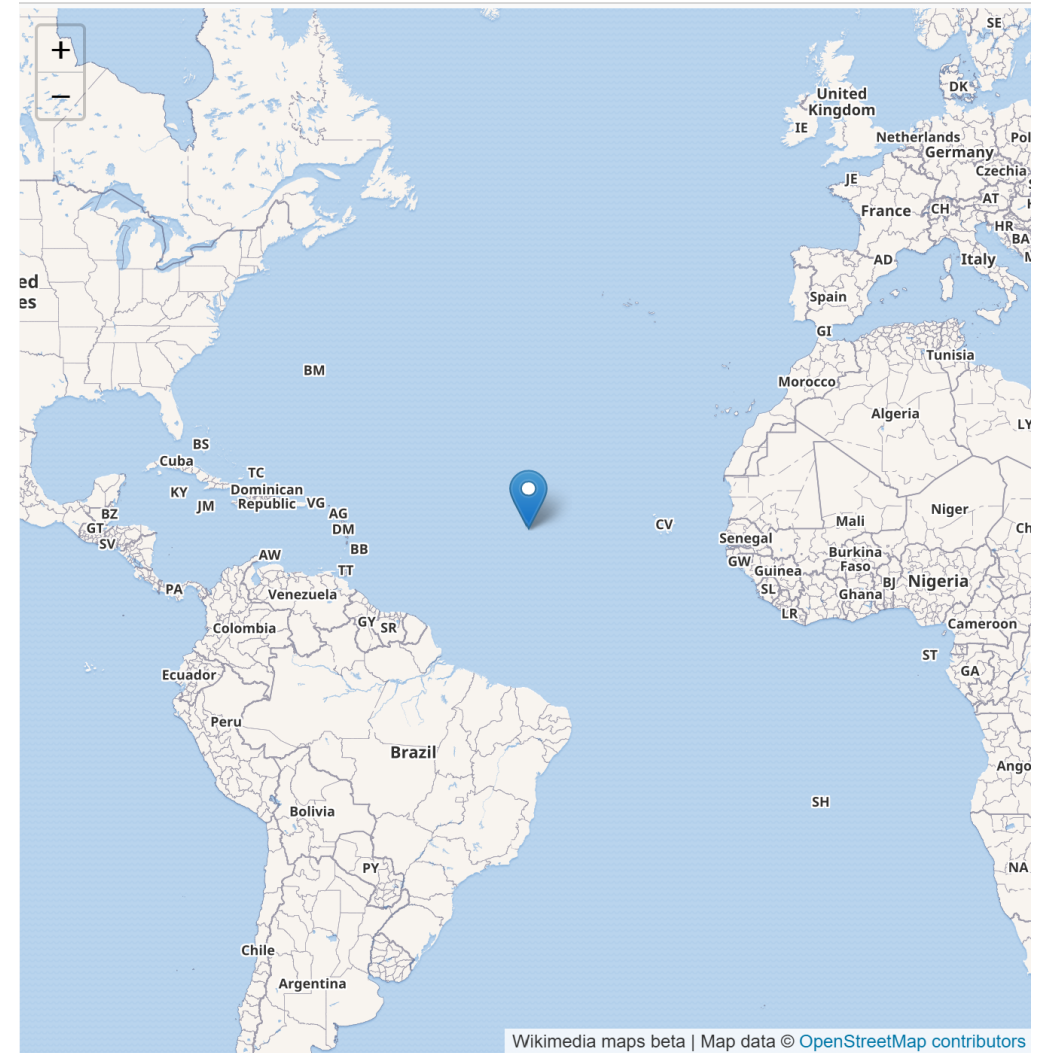


Tamahoko Maru

- At 7 am a Japanese whaling ship came by and lowered rope ladders for the surviving POWs.
- At 12.30pm the whaling ship with 221 POW passengers arrived at Nagasaki. The POWs waiting in the bitterly cold weather until they were landed at 6pm.
- Two gunners, 33 crewmen and 560 Allied prisoners of war died.

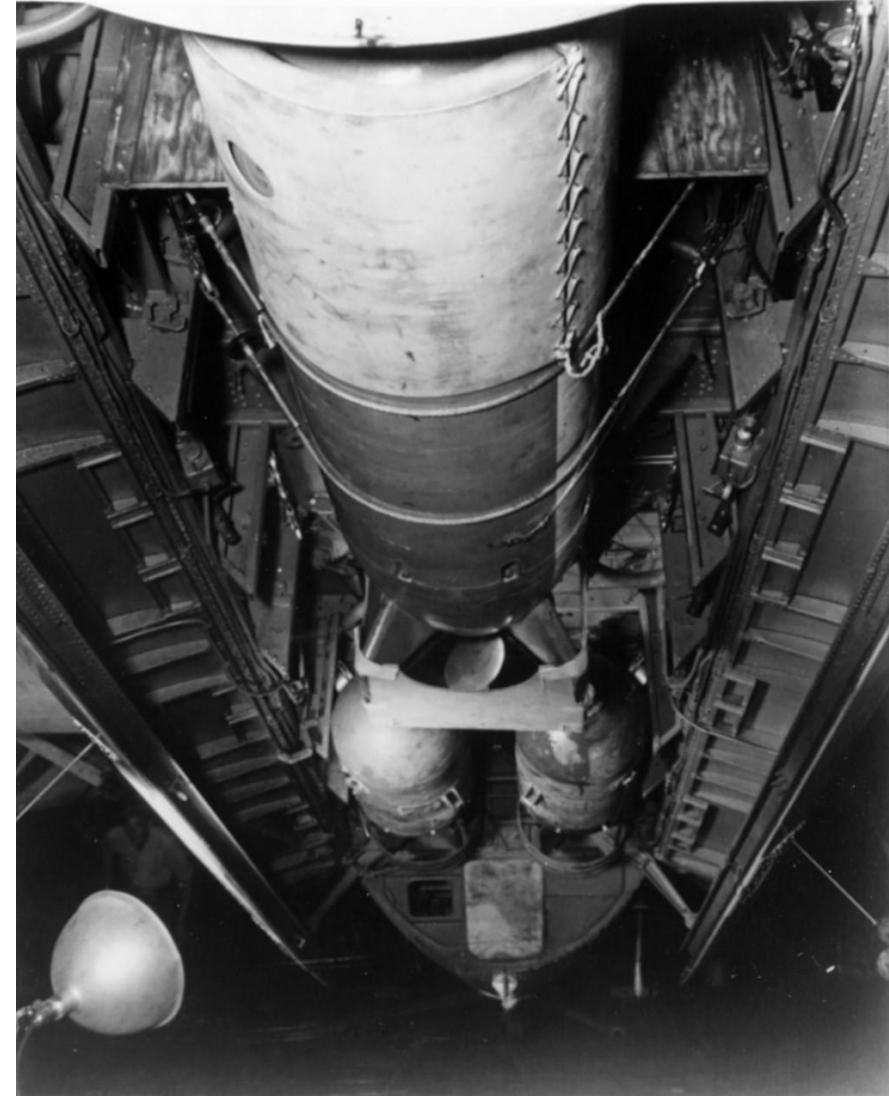
24 June 1944 - Atlantic

- The Type C3 Japanese submarine, I-52 was navigating towards Lorient in German-occupied France carrying 2 tons of gold, rubber, tin, tungsten, and quinine for Nazi Germany, intended for payment for technical assistance and war materials.
- On the night of 23–24 June in the Atlantic Ocean 800 nautical miles (1,500 km) south west of the Azores, Portugal (15°16'N 39°55'W) I-52 rendezvoused with the German U-boat U-530, which transferred two German radar technicians and radar detection equipment (Naxos) to the Japanese vessel to help it survive in Allied-controlled waters.



24 June 1944 - Atlantic

- While on the surface, I-52 was spotted by an Avenger torpedo bomber from the USS Bogue.
- The submarine dived but was tracked, hit by a first acoustic homing torpedo, and shortly after, a second "Fido" torpedo which sank it.
- The Mark 24 mine (also known as FIDO or Fido) is an air-dropped anti-submarine (ASW) acoustic torpedo developed by the United States during World War II; it was called a mine to conceal its capabilities. The torpedo entered service with the Allies in March 1943.
- Photo: Torpedo Mk 24 (nicknamed "Fido" in service), in the bomb bay of a TBM "Avenger" on board USS MANILA BAY (CVE-61), 24 February 1944. A pair of depth bombs are loaded behind the "Fido".



22/3 June 1944 - Marianas

- The US forces had built up substantial firepower to continue their northward drive.
- On 22 June, P-47s from the Seventh Air Force landed on Aslito Field and immediately began launching ground assault missions.
- On the same day, the XXIV Corps Artillery moved 24 155 mm field guns and 24 155 mm howitzers into place to fire on Japanese positions.
- The Americans also used truck-launched rockets for saturation barrages.
- Spotters flying in L-4 Grasshoppers helped direct ground artillery, and Navajo code talkers relayed information about Japanese troop movements.
- In the hills, soldiers relied on personal flamethrowers, particularly in locations where the motorized flamethrowers could not reach.
- They gradually developed tactics for effectively reducing caves, using a combination of flamethrowers and demolition charges to clear them, or sometimes using demolitions to seal them off.



IHC M-2-4 rocket trucks on Saipan firing a barrage, June 1944

24 June 1944 - Marianas

- By 24 June, the American warships had returned from the Philippine Sea and were once more available to provide fire support.
- Naval fire was particularly feared by the Japanese because it could strike from almost any direction.
- The ships were also well-supplied with star shells, providing illumination that disrupted Japanese night movements and counterattacks.
- This naval support was facilitated by joint assault signal companies that directed both naval and aerial firepower to where it was needed by the ground forces.



Members of the 1st JASCO on Saipan, 1944

25 June 1944 - Darwin

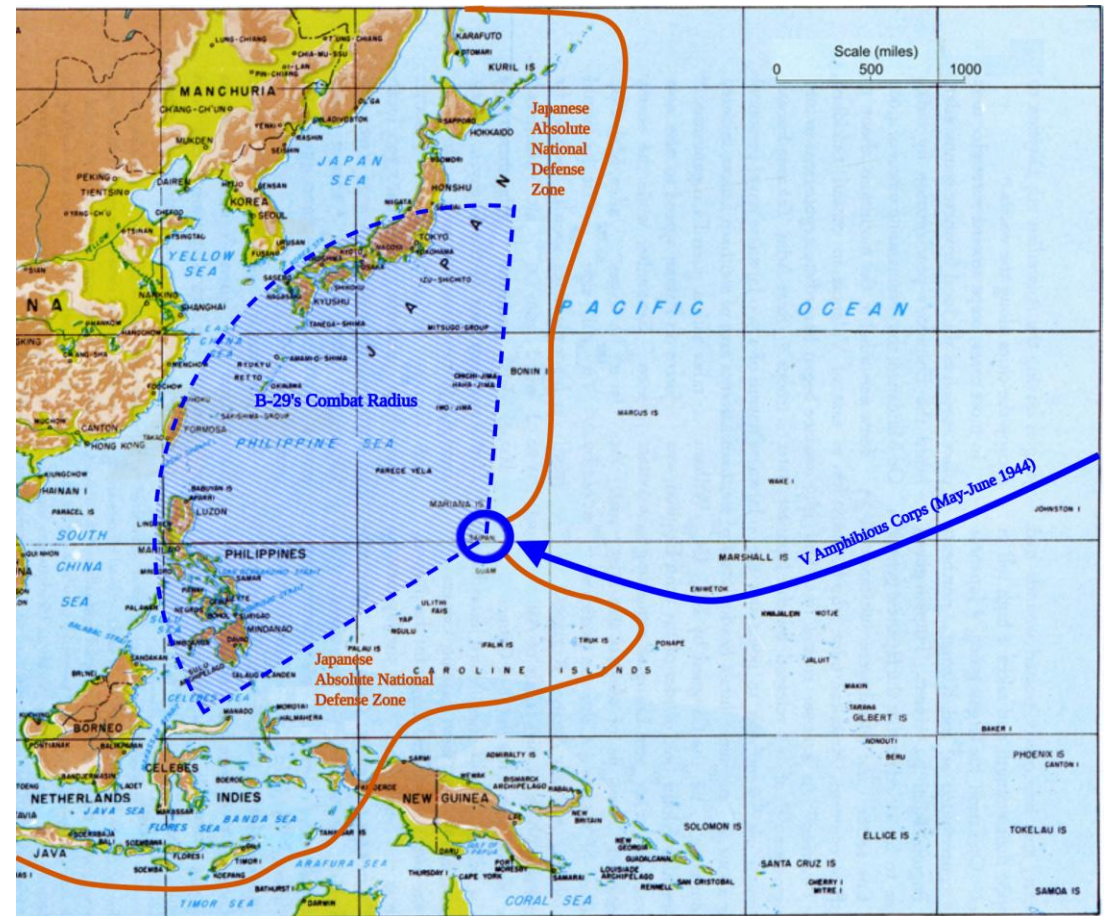
- At the end of May a Mosquito had arrived in North-Western Area for duty with No. 1 PRU, which greatly relieved the strain on No. 380 Group, which had borne the main responsibility for carrying out this important work.
- The long-range Mosquito, relying on speed and high altitude, did not need the defensive armament of the Liberator.
- Cole had found it necessary to send six Liberators in formation to do the reconnaissance work which one Mosquito could do.
- In June the Mosquito flew nine operational missions, while one Lightning aircraft of No. 1 PRU carried out four.
- On the 12th June, the Japanese sent a Dinah reconnaissance aircraft over Darwin and south to Fenton. On its return Spitfires of No. 452 Squadron caught it near Point Blaze. Flying Officer Gamble attacked first, tearing a hole in its wing. Other pilots scored hits and it went into a spin, struck the water and exploded. During the attack Flying Officer O'Loughlin's engine failed, and he was forced to take to his parachute. He landed safely close to shore, and two hours later a Catalina picked him up.
- On 25th June, while over Surabaya, one of the Mosquito's engines failed but Flying Officer Boss-Walker continued to take photographs of the city until his film had been used up, before returning 900 miles to Broome on one engine.



FLT LT Kenneth Boss-Walker. His brother, FLT LT Hubert Boss-Walker, a test pilot, was tragically killed in a Mosquito crash during a test flight on 10 June 1944. The newspapers described Hubert's aircraft as breaking apart in the air.

9 July 1944 - Marianas

- Map showing strategic implication of Saipan's fall: Japanese Absolute National Defense Zone would be pierced and the Japanese home islands would be within the 1,600 mile range of the B-29.
- Construction of an aerodrome for B-29s began on Isely Field—the renamed Aslito Field—on 24 June, before the island was declared secure.



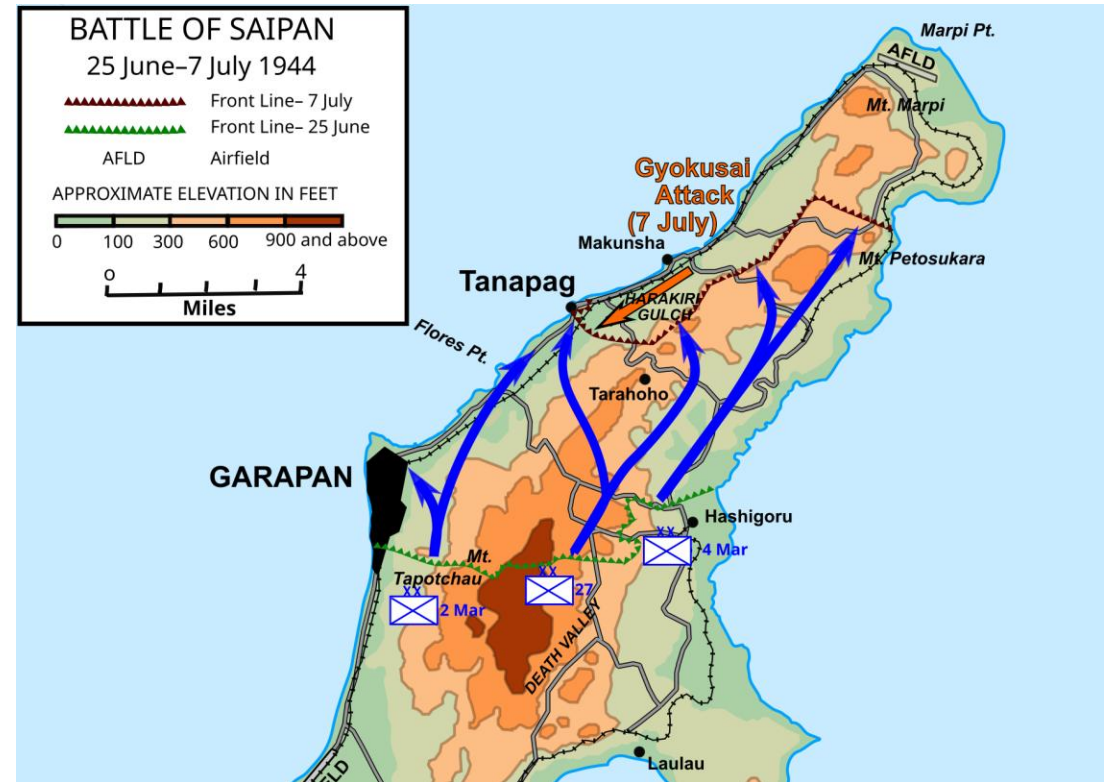
25 June 1944 – Dutch New Guinea

- By 25th June the Japanese force had been defeated and dispersed, having lost about 3,800 killed in the Wakde-Sarmi area.
- About 400 Americans were killed in the whole operation.



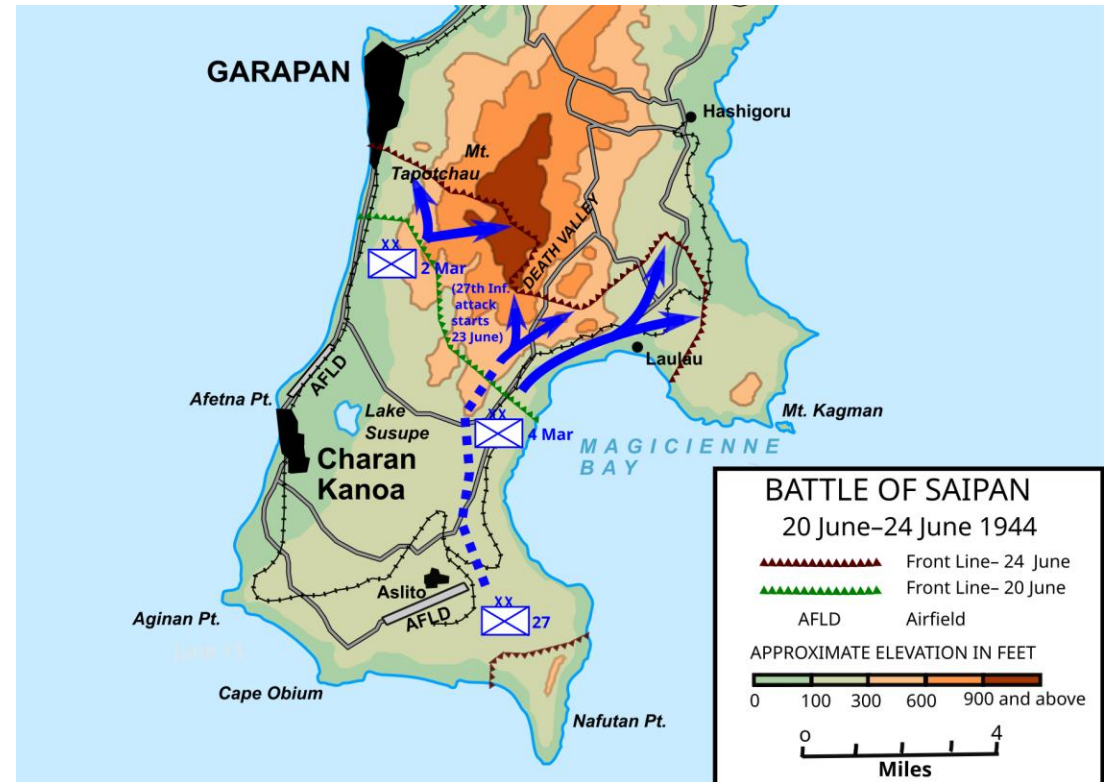
25 June 1944 - Marianas

- On 25 June, the 27th Infantry Division was not able to make much headway in their fight for Death Valley, but the 2nd Marine Division to the west gained control of Mount Tapotchau, the key artillery observation posts in central Saipan.
- On the east coast, the 4th Marine Division quickly occupied most of the Kagman peninsula, meeting little organized resistance because the Japanese had evacuated it.
- Between 26 June and 30 June, the 2nd Marine Division and the 27th Infantry Division made little progress. The 2nd Marines remained south of Garapan, slowly fighting their way north of Mount Tapotchau. The 4th Marine Division was able to advance up the eastern coast to a line just north of the village of Hashigoru.



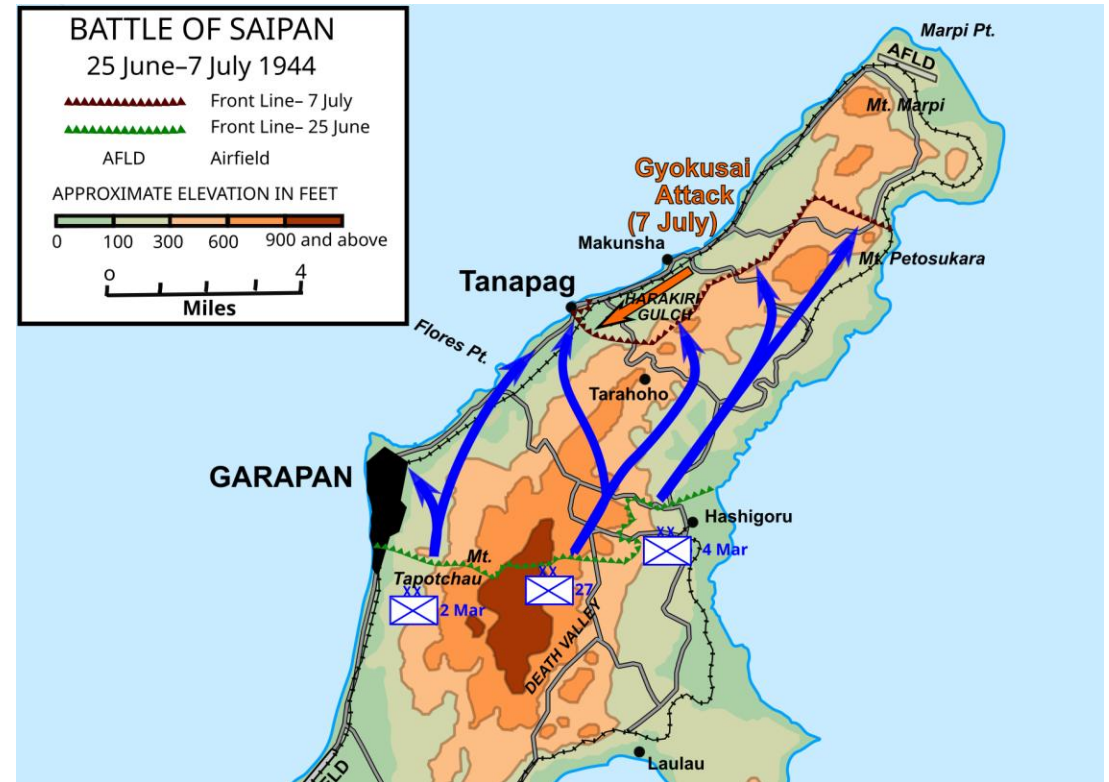
26 June 1944 - Marianas

- About 500 Japanese broke out of Nafutan Point on the night of 26 June.
- They headed toward Aslito Field, destroying one P-47 and damaging two others.
- They then ran into a unit of Marines, who were in reserve, and a unit of Marine artillery.
- Almost all the Japanese soldiers were killed in the ensuing firefight.
- The next day, the elements of the 27th Infantry Division that had been fighting at the point moved in to occupy the area, no survivors were found.



28 June 1944 - Marianas

- On 28 June, Army Major General George Griner, who had been sent for from Hawaii, took over command of the 27th Infantry Division.
- On 30 June, the 27th Infantry Division captured Death Valley and Purple Heart Ridge, and advanced far enough to re-establish contact with the two Marine divisions on their flanks.
- The Japanese began their retreat north to their final defensive line.
- To date, American casualties were about 11,000.



June 1944 – Air Defence

- V-1s were first launched against London on 13 June 1944, one week after (and prompted by) the Allied D Day landings in France.
- At times more than one hundred V-1s a day, each containing an 850Kg warhead, were land launched against south-east England, 9,521 in total, decreasing in number as launch sites were overrun until October 1944, when the last V-1 site in range of Britain was overrun by Allied forces.
- After which the campaign continued using air-launched missiles.



V-1 on Walter catapult ramp at Éperlecques

June 1944 – Air Defence

- V-1 buzz bombs flew at high speeds and low altitudes (600–900 meters) too high for light 40mm Bofors guns
- The heavy 3 inch and 3.7 inch anti-aircraft guns redeployed in mid-June 1944 from positions on the North Downs to the south coast of England.
- The standard British QF 3.7 in mobile gun could not traverse fast enough to track a V-1.
- However, the static version of the gun, designed for a permanent concrete platform, had a faster traverse.
- The cost and delay of installing new permanent platforms for the guns was avoided by a new temporary platform devised by the REME and made from railway sleepers and rails.
- Photo: A battery of static QF 3.7-inch guns on railway-sleeper platforms at Hastings on the south coast of England, July 1944.



June 1944 – Air Defence

- The SCR-584's most dramatic success came against the V-1 flying bomb. The SCR-584, combined with the proximity fuze—a miniature radar in the shell nose that detonated when near a target—eliminated the need for direct hits.
- These electronic aids arrived in quantity from June 1944.
- Seventeen per cent of all flying bombs entering the coastal "gun belt" were destroyed by guns in their first week on the coast.



Figure 22. Exterior View of Radio Set SCR-584.

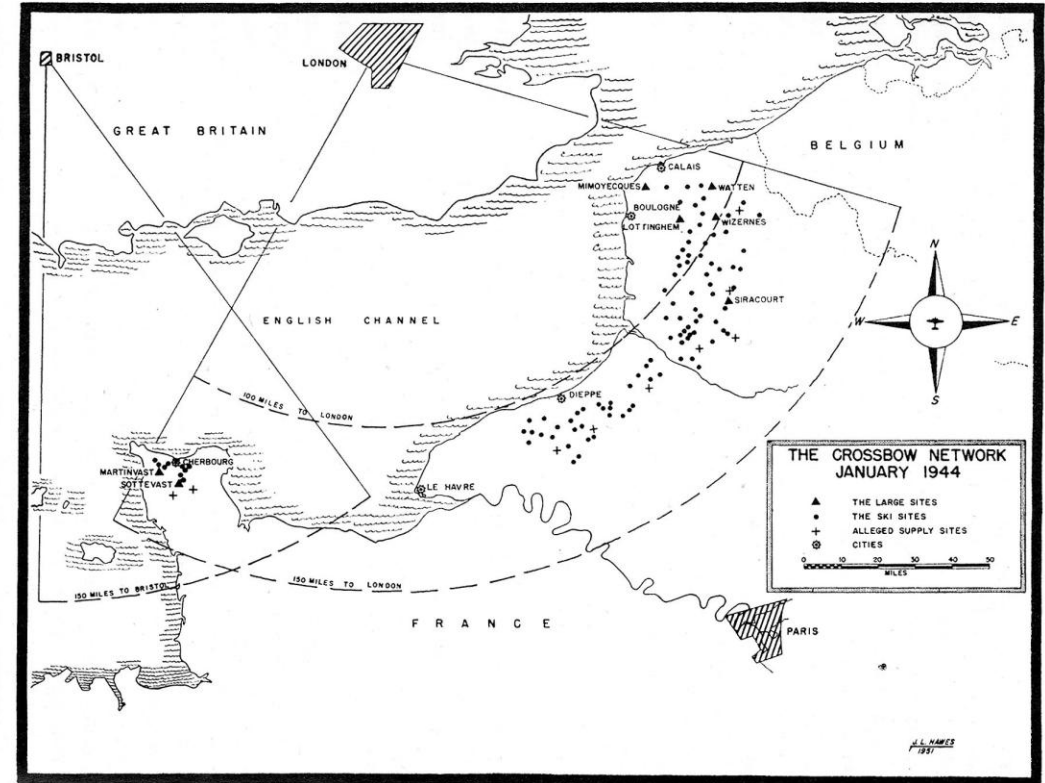
June 1944 – Air Defence

- As these electronic aids arrived in quantity this rose to 60 per cent by 23 August and 74 per cent in the last week of the month, when on one day 82 per cent were shot down.
- You are seeing this photo because it illustrates the new temporary mounting and because the guns are installed 200 odd yards from the beach where I used to swim as a kid.



June 1944 – Air Defence

- July 1944 was a period of intense V-1 activity in the Hastings area, which was directly under the flight path to London from some of the launching sites.
- In addition to frequent aa barrages there were several strikes in the vicinity.
- There was a fatal V1 strike in Old Church Road on July 16, 1944.
- The St Leonards Parish Church, no more than a kilometre east of the guns and just across the road from the beach, was destroyed by a V-1 on July 29, 1944.
- The church was completely destroyed when the V1 exploded on its steps. Fortunately it was empty at the time and no one was killed or injured.



June 1944 – The Solomons

- In early 1944, the New Zealand Government faced a manpower crisis caused by the demands of maintaining two divisions overseas while simultaneously maintaining agricultural and industrial production to meet the needs of the United Kingdom and US Forces in the Pacific.
- The NZ Government saw no option other than to disband one of the country's two infantry divisions and consulted with the British and United States governments on which division to withdraw.
- Both Governments were unhelpful verging on intransigent in the decision making. Roosevelt finally passed the buck to Churchill.
- Churchill expressed a wish that 2 Division, then preparing for the Cassino offensive, should be represented at the fall of Rome and finally said he desired at least a brigade group, with Freyberg in command, to be retained in Europe until the end of hostilities.



General Sir John Dill, British Chief of the Imperial General Staff, visits Maadi Camp, Egypt. From left to right: Brigadiers R. Miles and E. Puttick, Major General Freyberg and General Dill, Brigadiers J. Hargest and H. E. Barrowclough.

June 1944 – The Solomons

- Puttick, the NZ Chief of Staff, condemned Churchill's suggestion as 'distasteful' and 'dangerous'. Freyberg, GOC 2 NZ Division, was equally downright in condemning it, and in a long signal to Fraser pointed out the dangers of leaving a small detached group in an active theatre where it might possibly be employed to its grievous disadvantage.
- The British Chiefs of Staff finally recommended that the Navy and Air Force should remain undisturbed, and that New Zealand's manpower requirements for the production of meat and dairy produce could be met by the temporary withdrawal of 3 Division from the Pacific. They considered operations in the Solomons theatre of secondary importance to those in Italy and that the withdrawal of 3 Division would not create the shipping problem that would be involved in withdrawing the division from Europe.
- The 3rd NZ Division was withdrawn to New Caledonia in June 1944 returned to New Zealand in August and disbanded in October.
- Puttick (2nd from left) commanded the 4th NZ Brigade in Greece and the 2nd NZ Division in Crete then returned to New Zealand as Chief of the General Staff.
- Barrowclough (far right) commanded 6th N Z Brigade in Greece and Egypt then the third New Zealand Division throughout its period of operations in the Pacific. In 1953 he was appointed Chief Justice of New Zealand.



General Sir John Dill, British Chief of the Imperial General Staff, visits Maadi Camp, Egypt. From left to right: Brigadiers R. Miles and E. Puttick, Major General Freyberg and General Dill, Brigadiers J. Hargest and H. E. Barrowclough.

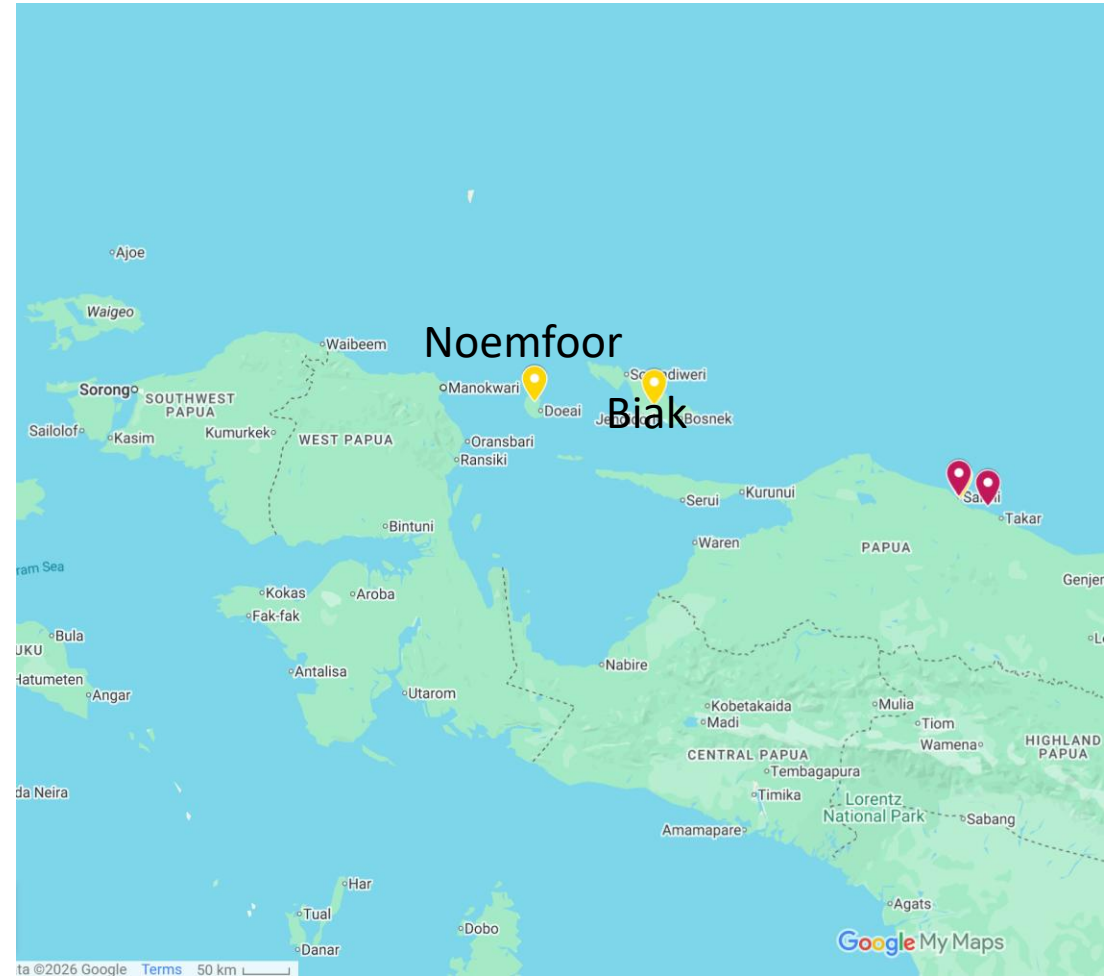
June 1944 – The Solomons

- Freyberg was brought up in New Zealand but served in the British Army during the WW1. He was the youngest general in that Army during that War. He won a Victoria Cross and a DSO with three bars, making him one of the most highly decorated British Empire soldiers of the WW1.
- Despite being classified as unfit for active service in 1937 on being approached by the New Zealand Government, Freyberg offered his services and was appointed commander of the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force and of the 2nd New Zealand Division.
- In the chaos of the retreat from Greece in 1941, Churchill gave Freyberg command of the Allied forces during the Battle of Crete. Although instructed to prevent an assault from the air, he remained obsessed with the possibility of a naval landing and based his tactics on it, neglecting adequately to defend the airfield at Maleme, ignoring ULTRA intelligence messages, which showed that the assault was coming by air.
- Promoted to lieutenant-general in March 1942 Freyberg continued to command the 2nd New Zealand Division through the North African and Italian campaigns. He had an excellent reputation as a divisional-level tactician. The two occasions that Freyberg commanded at Corps level—at Crete and Monte Cassino—were less successful.
- Freyberg was injured in an aircraft accident in September 1944. After six weeks in hospital he returned to command the NZ Division in its final operations, the Spring 1945 offensive in Italy, which involved a series of river crossings and an advance of 250 miles in three weeks. By the time of the German surrender, the New Zealanders had reached Trieste.
- Freyberg served as Governor-General of New Zealand from 1946 until 1952.



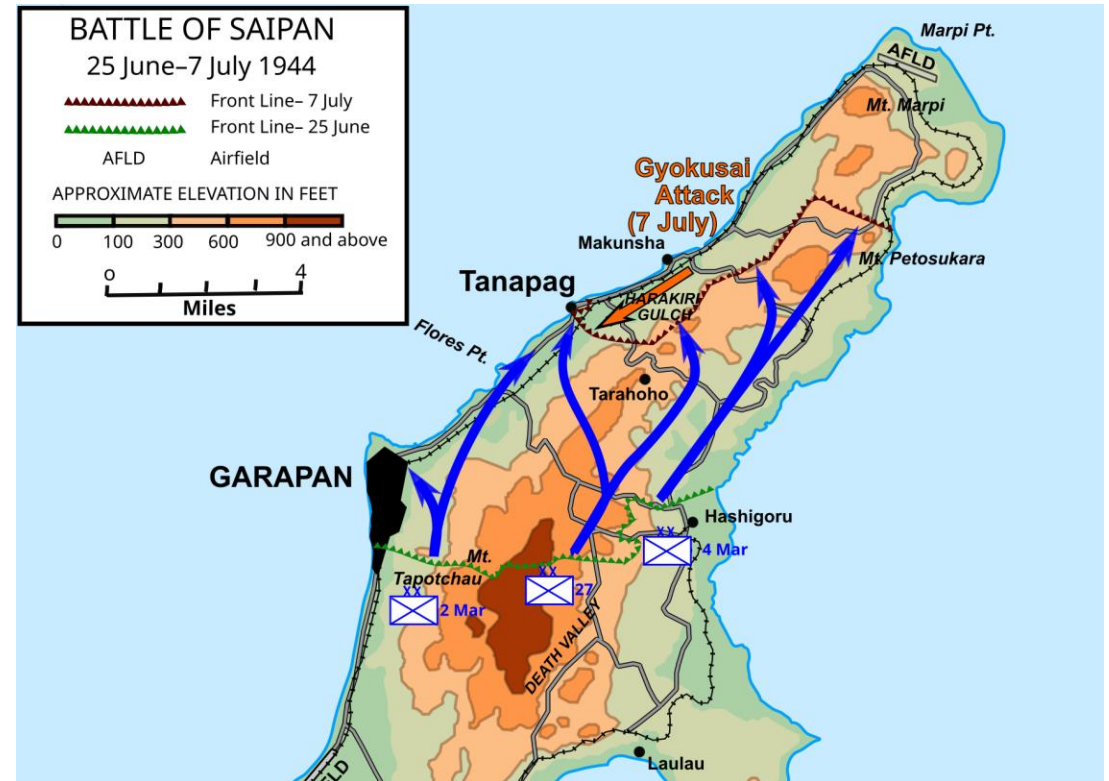
2 July 1944 – Dutch New Guinea

- Noemfoor Island contained airfields from which fighters could patrol the Vogelkop Peninsula and also was a base from which Japanese barges might run to Biak.
- The island was believed to be garrisoned by about 3,000 troops, the main fighting unit being a battalion of the 35th Division.
- Krueger allotted Noemfoor to the 158th Regimental Group, reinforced for this operation to a strength of 8,000.
- The landing on 2nd July was unopposed and, by the end of the first day there, had met no organised resistance.



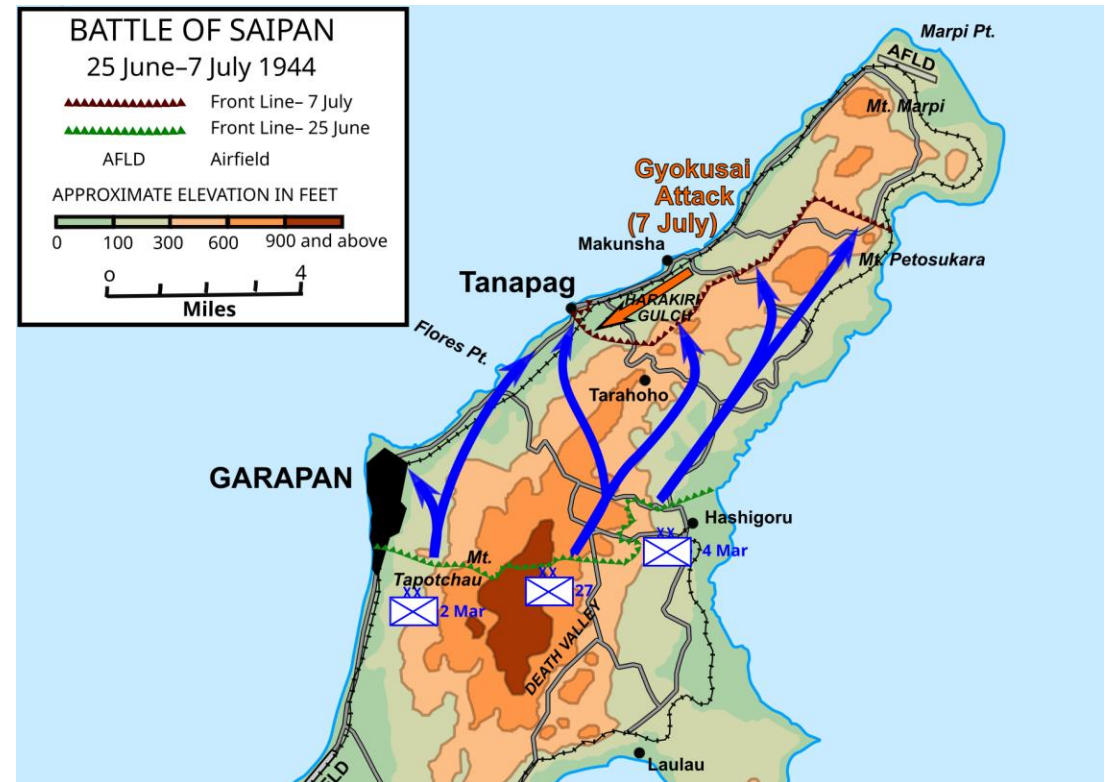
2- 4 July 1944 - Marianas

- Saitō intended to form a new line that would be anchored on Tanapag on the west, running southeast to a village called Tarahoho, and through to the east coast.
- He was not able to. His army's cohesion was disintegrating. Some of the remaining forces retreated north, some holed up in whatever caves they could find, and others put up disorganized resistance where they were.
- During 2–4 July, the 2nd Marine Division took the ruins of Garapan.
- The 4th Marine Division quickly moved north on the east coast in the face of light resistance.
- As Saitō's attempt to form the defense line collapsed, he moved his headquarters near Makunsha on the west coast.
- On 4 July, the 27th Infantry and 4th Marines headed northwest. The 27th division reached the west coast at Flores Point, south of Tanapag, cutting off any Japanese retreating from Garapan.
- The 2nd Marines no longer faced organized resistance and went into reserve.
- The 27th Infantry was to move up the west coast toward Tanapag, and the 4th Marine Division would advance northwest.



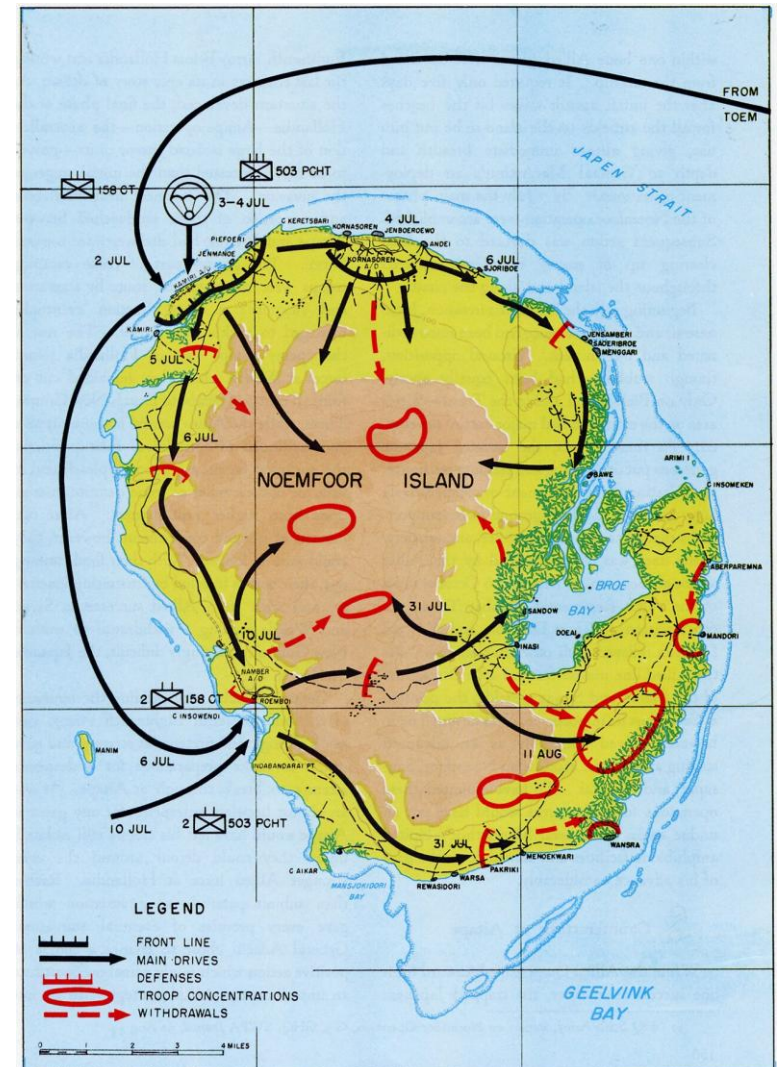
5 July 1944 - Marianas

- On 5 July, the 27th Infantry encountered strong resistance in a narrow canyon on the west coast north of Tanapag that they dubbed "Harikiri Gulch", which expanded into a two-day battle.
- The 4th Marine Division continued to make rapid progress north during 4–5 July, and on 6 July, Holland Smith ordered them to head toward the western coast near Makunsha to cut off the Japanese forces fighting the 27th Infantry Division.
- Then the Marines would complete the occupation of the rest of northern Saipan on their own.
- In the evening, the Marines had taken Mount Petosukara, one of the last mountains before reaching the northern tip of the island, but the units that turned toward Makunsha encountered too much resistance to reach the western coast.



6 July 1944 – Dutch New Guinea

- On Noemfoor on the early morning of the 6th, however, the Japanese made a desperate counter-attack in which they lost 200 killed; mopping up was virtually complete on 31st August .
- The Americans had lost 70 killed, the Japanese about 1,900.



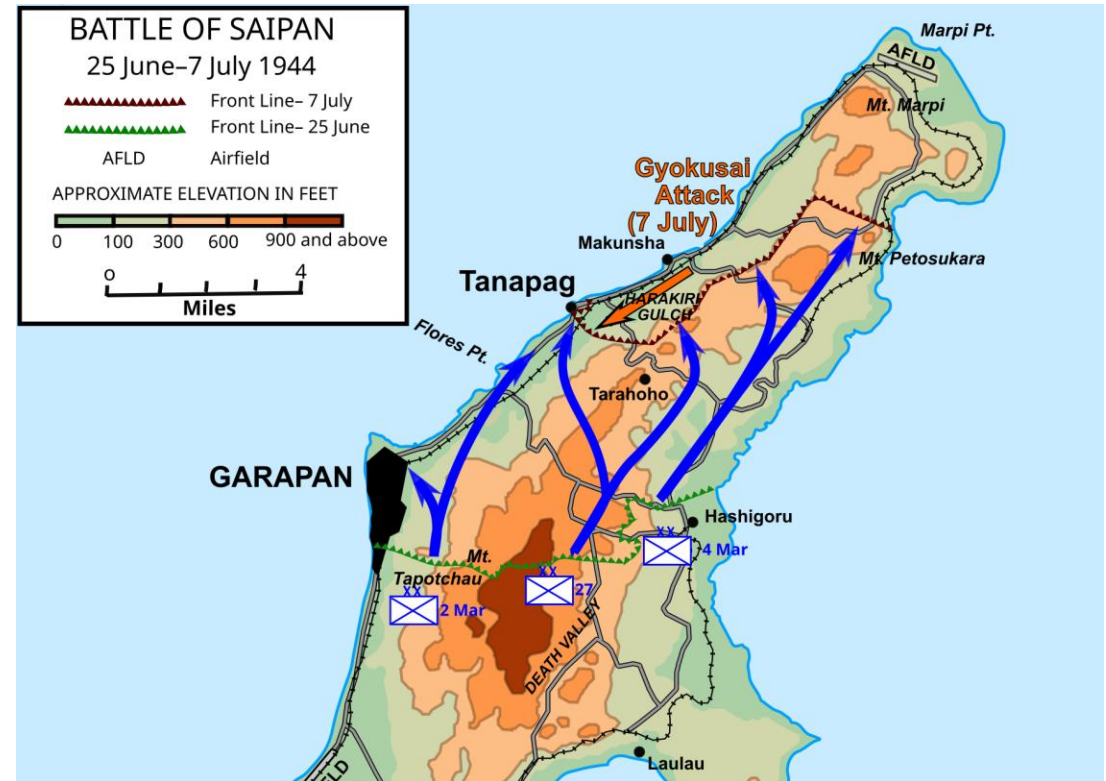
6 July 1944 - Marianas

- On 6 July, Saitō decided the situation was hopeless and sent out orders for the remainder of his forces to perform gyokusai, a final suicide attack to destroy as many of the enemy as possible, on the 7th.
- That night, Saitō committed seppuku; Nagumo killed himself around the same time.
- Photo: Admiral Chuichi Nagumo, who commanded the Raid on Pearl Harbour and the Battle of Midway in c. 1941–42.



6- 7 July 1944 - Marianas

- At least 3,000 Japanese participated in the gyokusai attack naval personnel, support troops, civilians and the walking wounded. It included three tanks, supporting mortars, and machine guns, but some troops were only armed with sticks with bayonets, knives, or grenades tied to poles.
- They assembled near Makunsha. At around 04:00, the force advanced south along the western coastal area toward a weak spot in the American line reconnaissance patrols had found.
- Two battalions of the 105 Infantry Regiment of the 27th Infantry Division were isolated from the other American forces.
- The gyokusai struck the two battalions at about 04:45, overrunning both. The two battalions suffered about 900 casualties, which was 80% of their effective force.
- The charge continued toward Tanapag village, overrunning two batteries of Marine artillery, but was halted in the late morning by a hastily formed American line around the village.
- The fighting continued throughout the day, as American soldiers struggled against scattered elements of the gyokusai attack and recaptured lost ground.



9 July 1944 - Marianas

On 8 July, most of the 27th Infantry Division, which had suffered high losses in the gyokusai attack, was placed into reserve.

The 2nd Marine Division advanced up the Tanapag plain, looking for Japanese stragglers.

The 4th Marine Division reached the western coast north of Makunsha and headed toward the island's northern-most tip.

As they advanced, they saw hundreds of Japanese civilians die on inland and coastal cliffs.

Some threw themselves off, others were thrown or pushed off.

By the evening of 9 July, the 4th Marine Division had reached the northern end of the Island and Turner declared the island secure.



Banzai Cliff, with memorials visible in the upper left corner.

9 July 1944 - Marianas

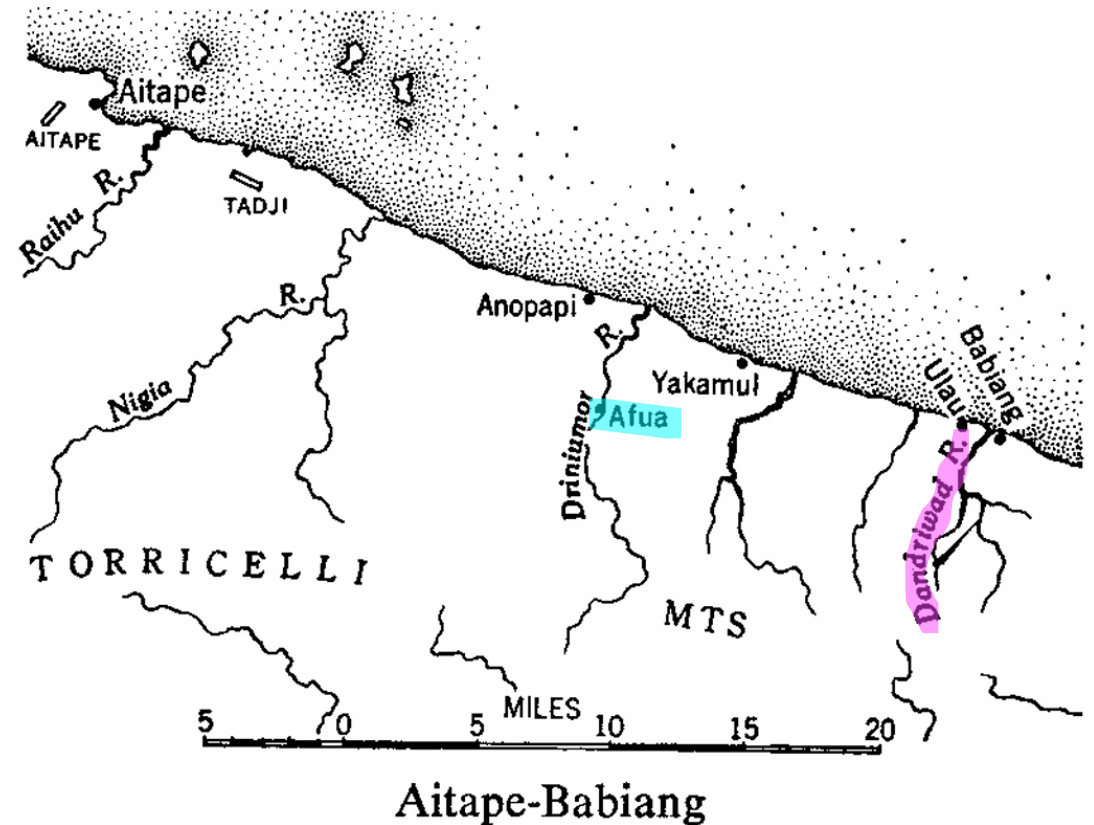
- Almost the entire Japanese garrison—approximately 30,000 military personnel—were killed in the battle. Eventually 1,700, about half of whom were Korean workers, were taken prisoner.
- American forces suffered about 16,500 casualties—3,100 killed and 13,000 wounded—out of 71,000 who were part of the assault force.
- The casualty rate was over 20%, which was comparable to Tarawa.
- The casualties on Saipan were used by American planners to predict American losses in future engagements.
- Its prediction of high casualties was part of the reason that the Joint Chiefs of Staff did not approve an invasion of Taiwan.
- This "Saipan ratio"—one American killed and several wounded for every seven Japanese soldiers killed—became one of the justifications for American planners to increase conscription, projecting an increased need for replacements in the war on Japan.
- The Saipan ratio guided the initial estimate that the invasion of Japan would cost up to 2,000,000 American casualties, including 500,000 killed.



The American Memorial Park in Saipan

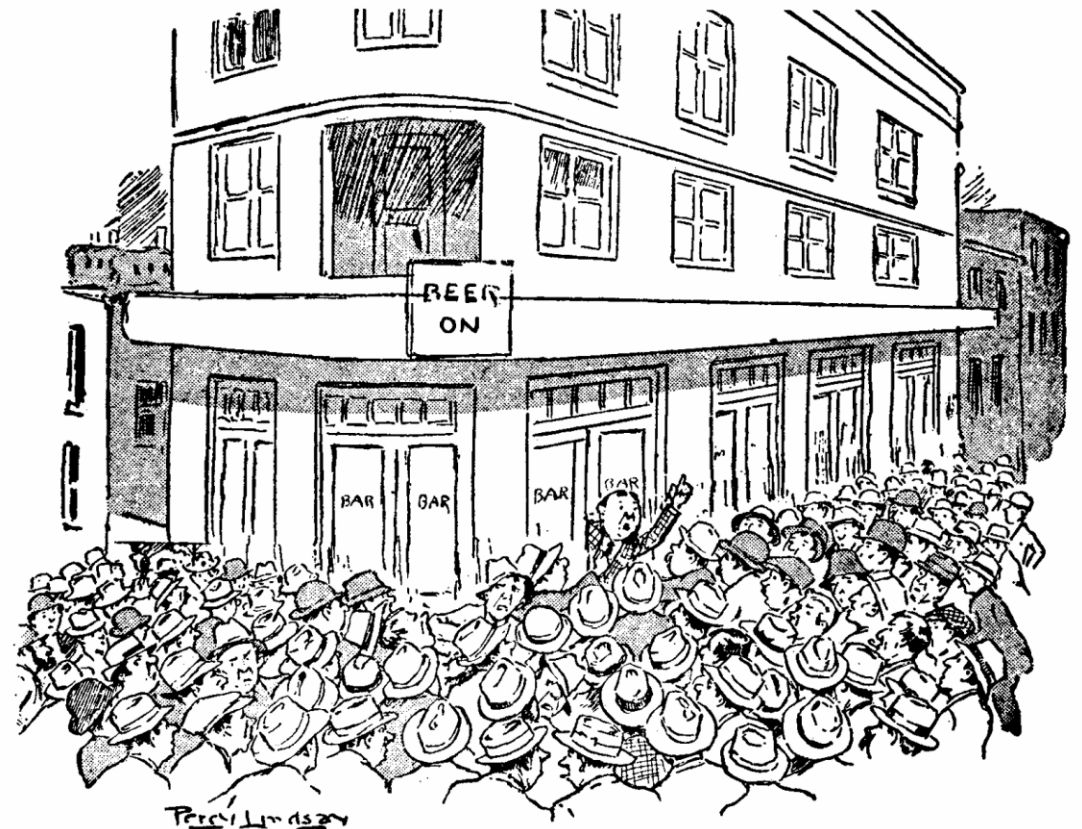
11 July 1944 – New Guinea

- By 10th July the Japanese had three regiments on the Driniumor and early next morning they attacked as intelligence had predicted and broke through the American line.
- The defenders withdrew about four miles.
- The navy shelled the coastal trails and air missions from Tadjil and Saidor helped isolate the attacking force.
- Counter-attacks carried the Americans forward again to the Driniumor, and by 18th July they held the river line from Afua to the coast.
- By the end of July the Japanese pressure was easing.
- The enemy troops were ill-fed and many were sick.



12 July 1944

- At this stage, in crowded Brisbane, the beer was on tap in the bars for only two or three hours in the afternoon.
- The bars were crowded by 4 p.m., presumably mostly by men who had ceased work early so as not to miss the beer.
- It is probable that more man-hours were wasted in the search for liquor and tobacco than were gained by reducing the number of people working in breweries and tobacco factories.
- Perhaps the severe restriction of these amenities was largely due to the existence at the top of a Prime Minister who regarded "austerity" as a positive good and of academic economists who omitted to take human factors into account.



"There's room for one more."

Percy Lindsay in Bulletin (Sydney) 12 Jul 1944

12 July 1944 - Australia

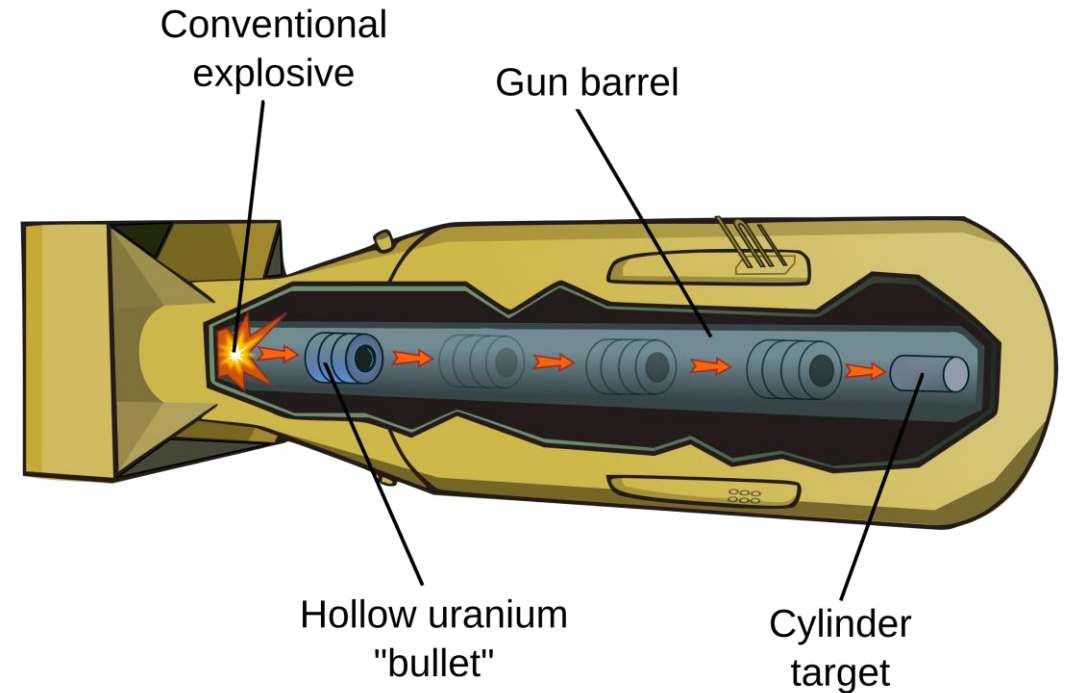
- On 12th July MacArthur informed Blamey that he wished Australian troops to assume responsibility for the continued neutralisation of the Japanese in Australian and British territory and mandates, exclusive of the Admiralty Islands, by the following dates:
- northern Solomons-Green Islands-Emirau Island by 1st October;
- Australian New Guinea and New Britain by 1st November.
- In the advance to the Philippines, he said, he contemplated using one Australian division by November 1944 and a second by January 1945.
- MacArthur would not agree to Blamey's proposal that he should hold the three areas with a total of seven brigades, which was little more than one-third of the American forces then deployed in them.
- After a series of conferences he directed that four brigades be used on Bougainville, one distributed among Emirau, Green, the Treasury Islands and New Georgia, three on New Britain, and four on the mainland of New Guinea.
- Only an Australian corps of two divisions would remain for operations farther north, with no division in reserve.



New Guinea, October 1942. Left to right: Frank Forde (Australian Minister for the Army); MacArthur; General Sir Thomas Blamey, Allied Land Forces; Lieutenant General George Kenney, Allied Air Forces; Lieutenant General Edmund Herring, New Guinea Force; Brigadier General Kenneth Walker, V Bomber Command.

17 July 1944 - Manhattan Project

- All gun-type work in the Manhattan Project was re-directed towards the Little Boy, enriched uranium gun design.
- In contrast to the plutonium Fat Man, the uranium gun-type Little Boy weapon was straightforward if not trivial to design.
- Technical work at Los Alamos consolidated under Lieutenant Commander Francis Birch's group.
- The gun-type design now had to work with enriched uranium only, and this allowed the design to be greatly simplified. A high-velocity gun was no longer required, and a simpler weapon was substituted.



The "gun" assembly method. When the hollow uranium projectile was driven onto the target cylinder, a nuclear explosion resulted

17 July 1944 - Marianas

- Air Group 25, on the Mighty Moo, learned of Bob Price's rescue on 25 June. Air Group 25's skipper had been shot down while attacking an enemy convoy on 14 June. He was spotted alive and unhurt in the water, but two separate attempts to recover him that day failed to account for his drift on the currents.
- The recovery of Price and the detachment from the Cowpens at Pearl Harbor on 17 July for transport back to the United States lifted the morale of an air group that was badly fatigued from a long stretch of combat duty.
- In a month of supporting Operation Forager, the Moo's pilots flew 959 sorties with each pilot spending at least four hours a day in the air for 23 days straight.
- During the busiest days some section and division leaders were spending as much as 12 hours a day in the air.
- After a brief overhaul at Pearl Harbor, Cowpens rejoined the fast carrier task force at Eniwetok on 17 August.



USS Cowpens, with sister ship USS Independence in distance, August 1944

18 July 1944 - Japan

- Following the Battles of the Philippine Sea and Saipan General Tojo lost the confidence of the Japanese elite around the Emperor and was forced to resign as Prime Minister on 18th July 1944.
- Another former general Kuniaki Koiso was appointed Prime Minister but his power was limited by resistance from the Army and Navy.



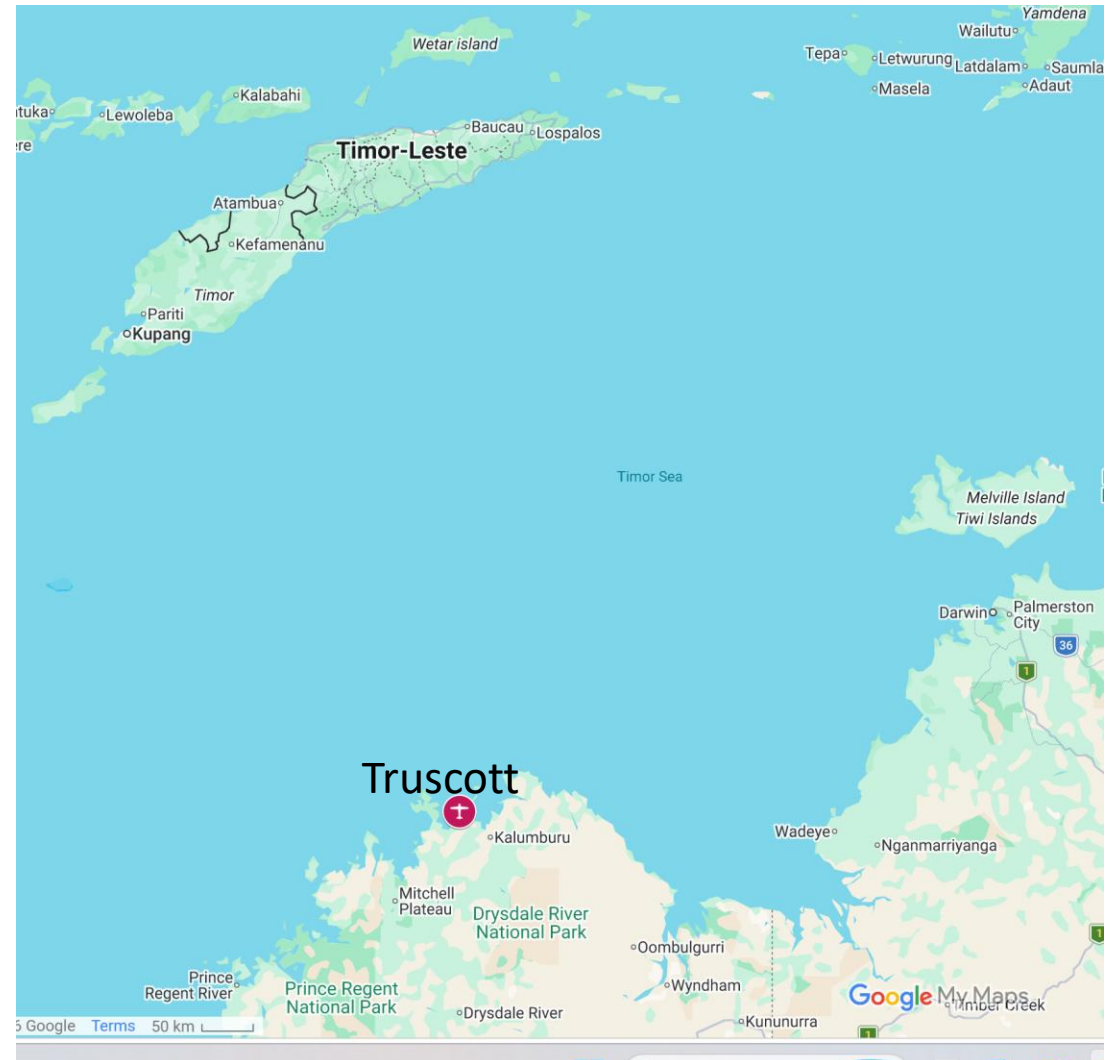
19 July 1944 – Dutch East Indies

- On 15th June 1944 a revised plan (RENO V) was completed which provided for an advance into the Halmaheras area on 15th September—the date tentatively fixed for Admiral Nimitz's invasion of the Palaus.
- MacArthur's staff considered that it would be necessary to seize islands in the Arafura Sea from which to give land-based air cover to the operations farther north.
- It was now decided that these islands would be occupied only if land-based aircraft from Darwin and the New Guinea bases could not secure the left flank from attack by Japanese aircraft based on Ambon, Ceram and Celebes.
- The landing on Mindanao was scheduled for 25th October.
- It was believed that the Japanese had some 30,000 troops in the main islands of the Halmaheras whereas Morotai, some 50 miles to the north, was lightly defended.
- Consequently on 19th July an outline plan for the occupation of Morotai was completed.



20 July 1944 - Australia

- There was one clash with the enemy on 20th July when three Spitfires of No. 54 Squadron RAF, stationed at Truscott, caught and destroyed a reconnaissance plane over the Drysdale Mission.
- On three other occasions Spitfires were sent up to intercept reported raiders but without finding any.



21 July 1944 – The Marianas

- The Battle of the Philippine Sea and stubborn resistance by the unexpectedly large Japanese garrison on Saipan led to the invasion of Guam, 125 miles south west of Saipan, being postponed for over a month.
- In the thirteen days leading up to W-Day, 836 rounds of 16-inch, 5,422 rounds of 14-inch, 3,862 rounds of 8-inch, 2,430 rounds of 6-inch and 16,214 rounds of 5-inch shells pounded the island. In addition, aircraft from Task Forces 53 and 58 dropped 1,131 short tons of bombs and rockets.
- Three Underwater Demolition Teams arrived off Guam on 16 July and commenced three days and nights of reconnoitering the beaches then began the systematic demolition of the beach obstacles with 10 short tons of tetrytol.
- Photo: An Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) explosive charge blows up an underwater obstacle off Agat Beach.



21 July 1944 – The Marianas

- On 21 July, American forces landed on both sides of the Orote Peninsula on the western side of Guam, planning to secure Apra Harbor.
- The 3rd Marine Division landed at Asan near Agana to the north of Orote, and the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade landed near Agat to the south.
- The Marines at the two beachheads were pinned down by heavy Japanese fire, making initial progress inland quite slow.
- Supply was very difficult; landing ships could not come closer than the reef, several hundred yards from the beach, and amphibious vehicles were scarce.



21 July 1944 – Manhattan Project

- Robert Oppenheimer, the director of the Manhattan Project's Los Alamos Laboratory, had given up all hope of getting the Thin Man gun-type nuclear weapon to work.
- Los Alamos had discovered that reactor-bred plutonium contained an unacceptably high amount of the plutonium-240 isotope, which had a far higher spontaneous fission rate than plutonium-239. A gun could not fire a plutonium bullet fast enough to avoid predetonation, and prospects for separating the isotopes seemed dim. The Los Alamos Laboratory was now going to concentrate on the development of the Fat Man implosion-type nuclear weapon.
- A meeting with Groves and James B. Conant in Washington, DC, was arranged for 21 July.



A row of Thin Man casings. Fat Man casings are visible in the background.

Gun type weapons using 240 isotope rich plutonium would have needed casings much longer than any bomber could carry

21 July 1944 – Manhattan Project

- At this point, Reactor B at Hanford was nearly complete, but Reactor D was several months behind it, and Reactor F was not even a quarter complete.
- If the Los Alamos Laboratory was somehow able to design and build a working implosion weapon in just a few months, then each bomb would require only a few kilograms of plutonium, and there might be no need for Reactor F.
- If not, then there would be no need for any of the reactors at all.
- Groves and Conant were not convinced that the figures they had were reliable enough to take such a drastic step as canceling Reactor F, and they suggested that Williams and Greenewalt discuss the issue with Fermi when they got back to Hanford. They did, and Fermi confirmed that an implosion-type weapon would indeed require much less plutonium.



Aerial view of Hanford B-Reactor site, June 1944

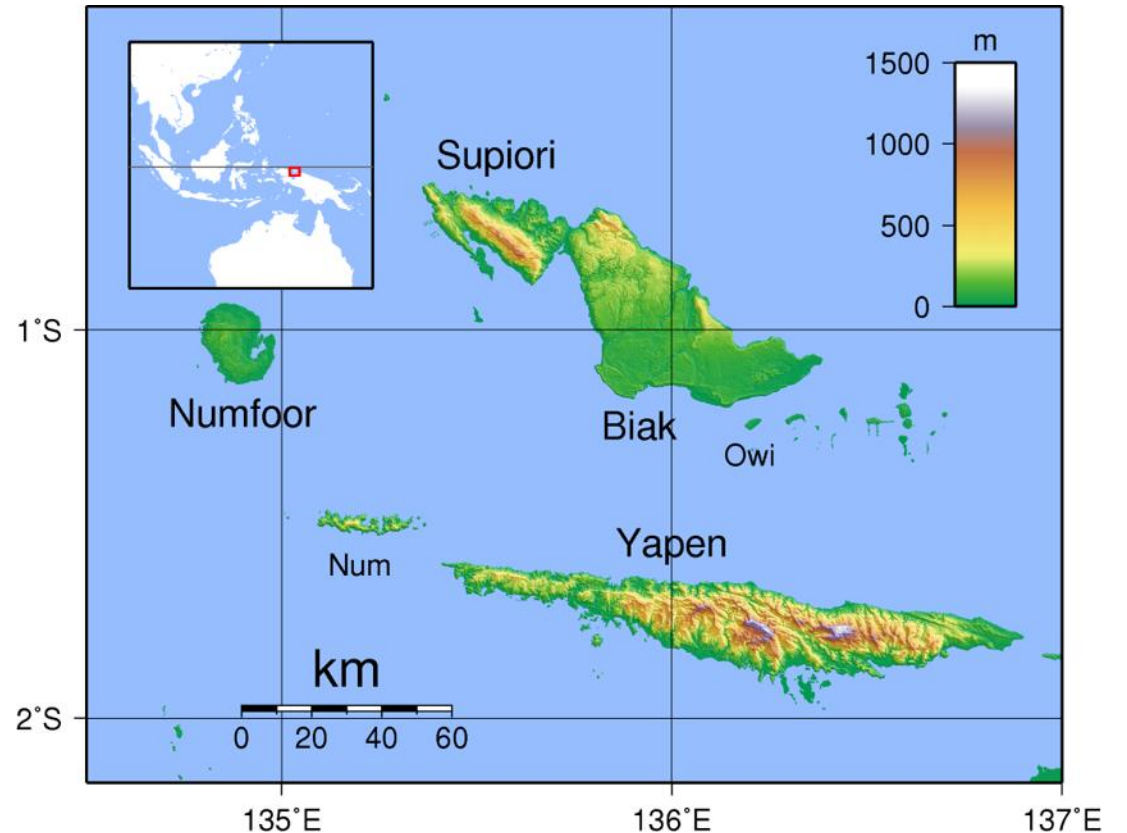
25-31 July 1944 – The Marianas

- The 1st Provisional Brigade blocked off the Orote Peninsula on 25 July, and that night the Japanese counterattacked, in coordination with an attack against the 3rd Marine Division to the north.
- The effort was a failure.
- On 28 July the two beachheads were linked, and by 29 July the Americans had secured the Orote peninsula.
- The Japanese counterattacks against the beachheads and the fierce fighting beforehand had exhausted them.
- By the start of August, the Japanese were running out of food and ammunition, and they had only a handful of tanks left.
- They withdrew from southern Guam, planning to make a stand in the mountainous central and northern part of the island, and to engage in a delaying action.

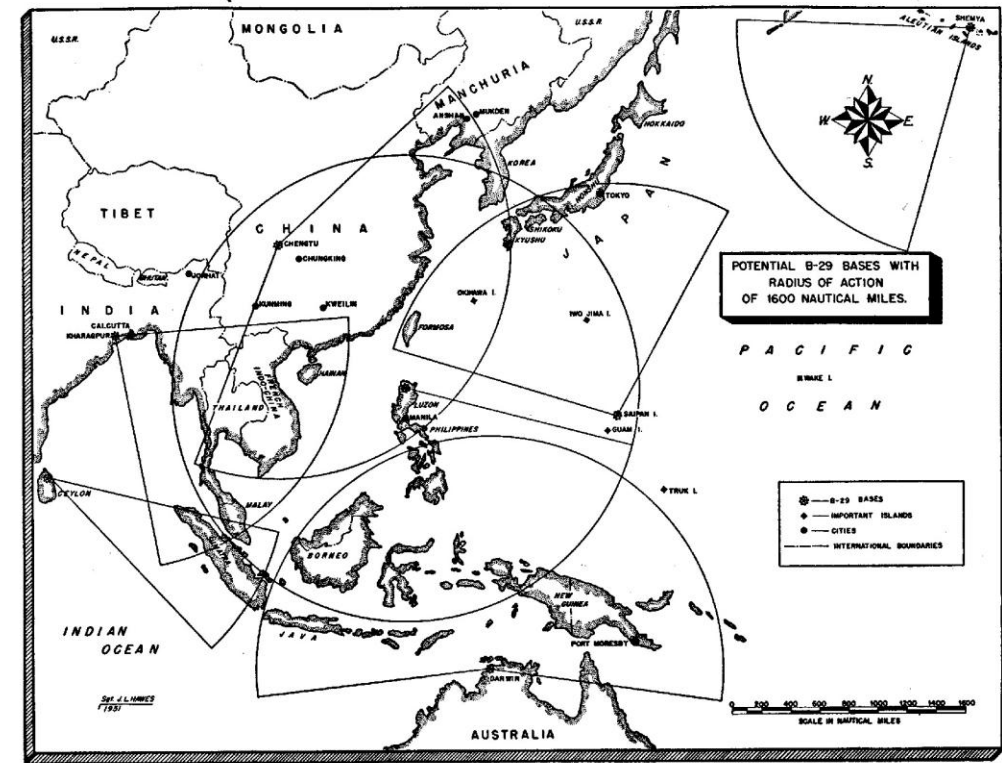


22 July 1944 – Dutch New Guinea

- It was a hard task to clear the Japanese from deep caves above the airfields on Biak, a strongly-defended pocket to the east, and from the jungle-clad northern part of the island.
- It was 22nd July before it could be said that effective Japanese resistance had ceased.
- About 400 Americans and 6,000 Japanese were killed compared with the original intelligence that the garrison was only 2,000 strong.



24 July 1944 – The Marianas



Tinian offered more real estate for airfields within B29 range of Japan.

24 July 1944 – The Marianas

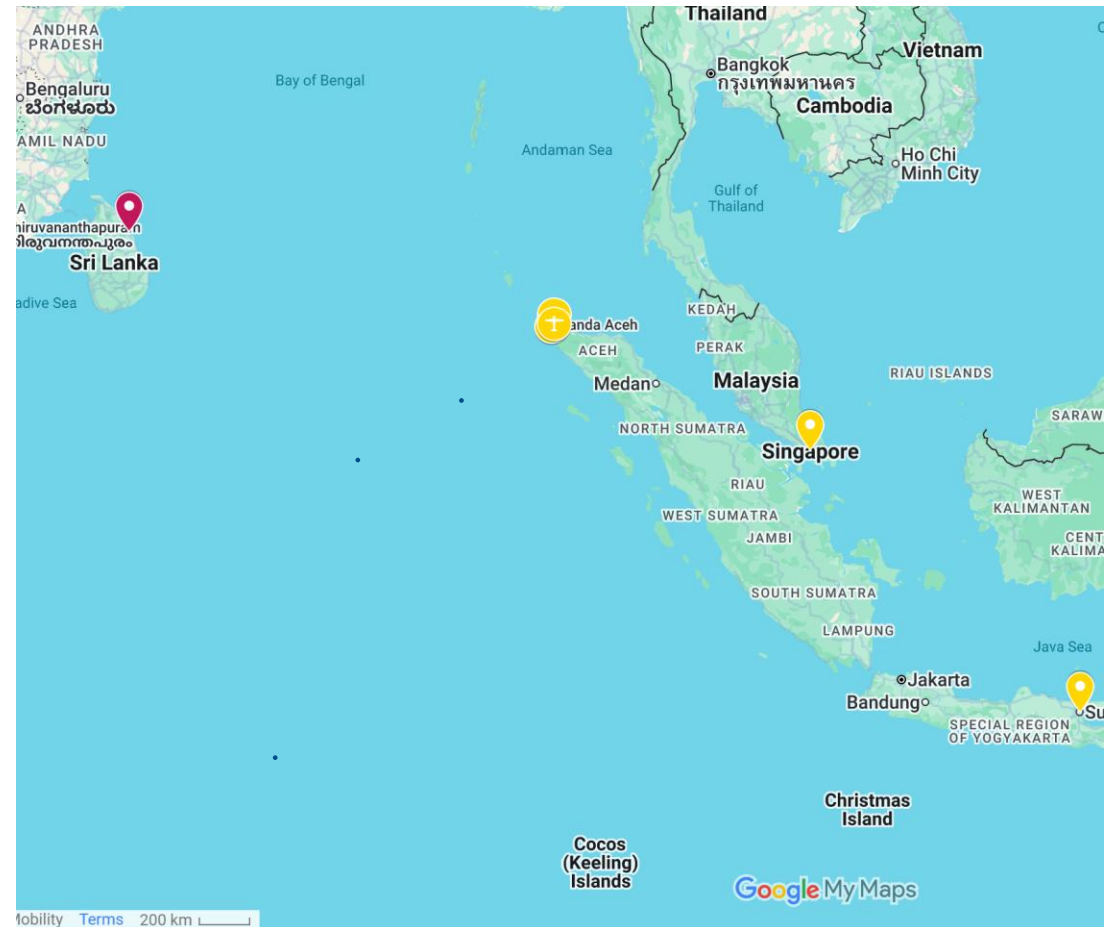
- Major General Clifton B. Cates's 4th Marine Division landed on Tinian on 24 July 1944, supported by naval bombardment and the guns of the XXIV Corps Artillery, firing across the strait from Saipan.
- Instead of landing in the southwest, they landed on the northwest coast, where there were two small beaches that were lightly defended.
- These beaches were flanked by low coral cliffs that the marines were able to surmount with the aid of ramps mounted on modified amphibious tractors (LVTs).
- This creation was named a "Doodlebug". The Doodlebugs allowed vehicles to scale the low cliffs around the White Beaches.
- The Doodlebug drove up to the cliff face, firmly attached hooks to the cliff tops and then backed away from under the ramps, leaving them in place, with the other end falling into the water.
- The ramp crews checked that the ramps were firmly anchored and then the Doodlebugs drove over them to the top of the cliffs. The ramps were strong enough to hold the weight of a 32 ton medium tank.



Demonstration of the Doodlebug on Saipan

25 July 1944 – Indian Ocean

- Operation Crimson was an Eastern Fleet operation to attack Japanese airfields in Sabang, Lhoknga and Kutaraja on 25 July 1944.
- Two aircraft carriers, four battleships, six cruisers, ten destroyers and two submarines sailed from Trincomalee, under the command of Admiral Somerville.
- Victorious flew off thirty-nine F4U Corsairs. It was too dark for the planes to accurately strafe the air fields, so instead they attacked large buildings in the vicinity.
- Japanese anti-air defences shot down a Corsair, whose pilot was rescued.



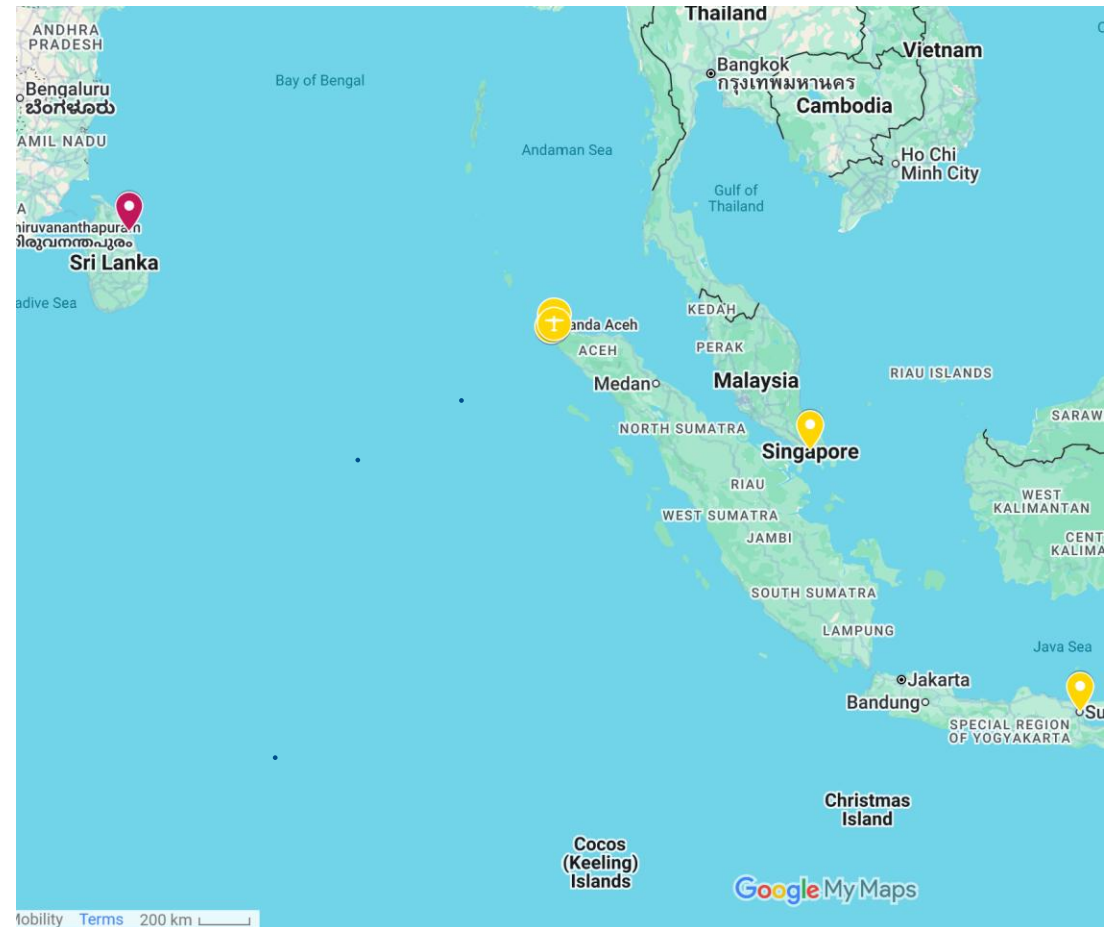
25 July 1944 – Indian Ocean

- The battleships, aided by aircraft from *Illustrious*, bombarded Sabang harbour installations and the local barracks from afar.
- The cruisers and destroyers spotted their own targets; the former attacking a wireless station and responding shore batteries, while the latter focused on a radar station.
- Following the main bombardment, HNLMS *Tromp* and three destroyers under Captain Richard Onslow entered Sabang harbour, shelling Japanese positions and launching torpedoes.
- Return fire from coastal artillery lightly damaged the ships causing some casualties and killing a war correspondent.



25 July 1944 – Indian Ocean

- As the task force withdrew, two Japanese reconnaissance aircraft tried to shadow it but both were intercepted and shot down.
- Later in the afternoon, 9 to 10 Japanese A6M "Zero" fighters approached the force. They were engaged by 13 Corsairs, which destroyed two Zeros and damaged two more.



25 July 1944 - Marianas

- At around 02:00 on 25 July, a force of about 600 Japanese sailors encountered the 1st Battalion, 24th Marines, on the left of the American beachhead, and charged into machine gun, mortar, rifle and 37 mm antitank gun canister shot fire.
- A furious fight ensued, in which Company A was reduced to just 30 men, but by 07:00 476 Japanese lay dead.
- In the center of the American line another attack developed at the boundary between the 24th and 25th Marines.
- About 200 Japanese soldiers broke through the lines of Company K, 25th Marines, and divided into two groups. One group attacked Battery D, 14th Marines. The attack was halted with the help of Browning .50 caliber machine gun fire from Batteries E and F.
- Company C of the 8th Marines was sent to their aid but found the situation in hand.
- About 100 dead Japanese were found in the area; two men of Battery D were killed.
- The other group was engaged in a wooded area by 60 mm mortars. The attack in the center cost the Japanese about 500 dead,



Department of Defense Photo (USMC) 83989

The 37mm gun was a workhorse for the Marines in a wide variety of firing missions. Those are Japanese bullet holes in its "shield."

25 July 1944 - Marianas

- On the right, the 23rd Marines were attacked by five or six Japanese tanks, accompanied by three Battalions of infantry.
- The moonless night was lit up by Navy star shells.
- Five Japanese tanks were knocked out by bazookas, 75 mm halftracks and 37 mm antitank guns.
- The Japanese infantry charged the lines of the 2nd battalion, 23rd Marines, and 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines. Some broke through their lines, only to encounter the 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines.
- In the morning, 267 Japanese dead were counted in this sector.



Marines inspect a knocked out Japanese tank

25 July 1944 – The Marianas

- A successful feint in the southwest by Major General Thomas E. Watson's 2nd Marine Division distracted defenders from the actual landing site on the north of the island on the 24th.
- The 2nd Marine Division then landed behind the 4th Marine Division on the 25th.



25 - 31 July 1944 – The Marianas

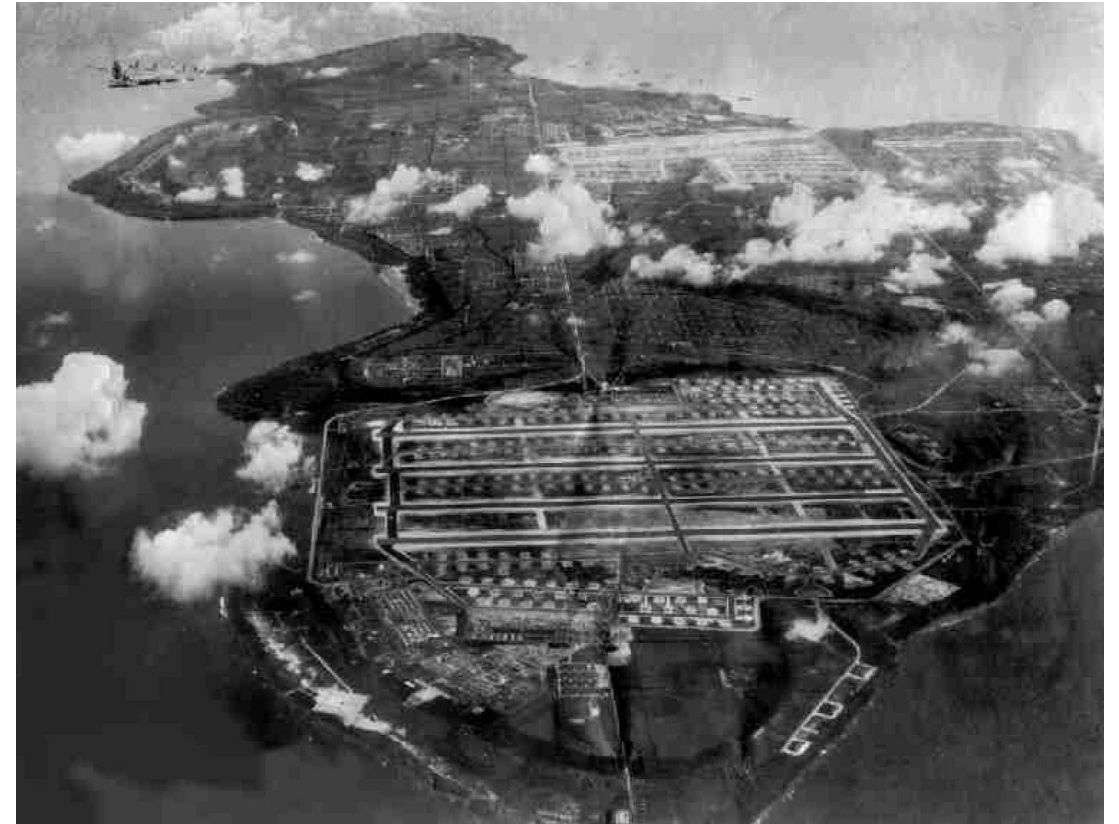
- The weather worsened on 28 July, damaging the pontoon causeways and interrupting the unloading of supplies, but on 30 July the 4th Marine Division occupied Tinian Town and the airfield.
- Japanese remnants conducted a last stand in the caves and ravines of a limestone ridge on the south portion of the island. Although the island was declared secure on 1 August, mopping up patrols continued into 1945.
- Marine casualties on Tinian totalled 290 killed, 1,515 wounded and 24 missing. Another 63 sailors and marines were killed and 177 wounded aboard ships.
- Japanese casualties included 404 taken prisoner and 5,745 buried by the Americans.



USS LST-340 at the pontoon pier on White Beach 2

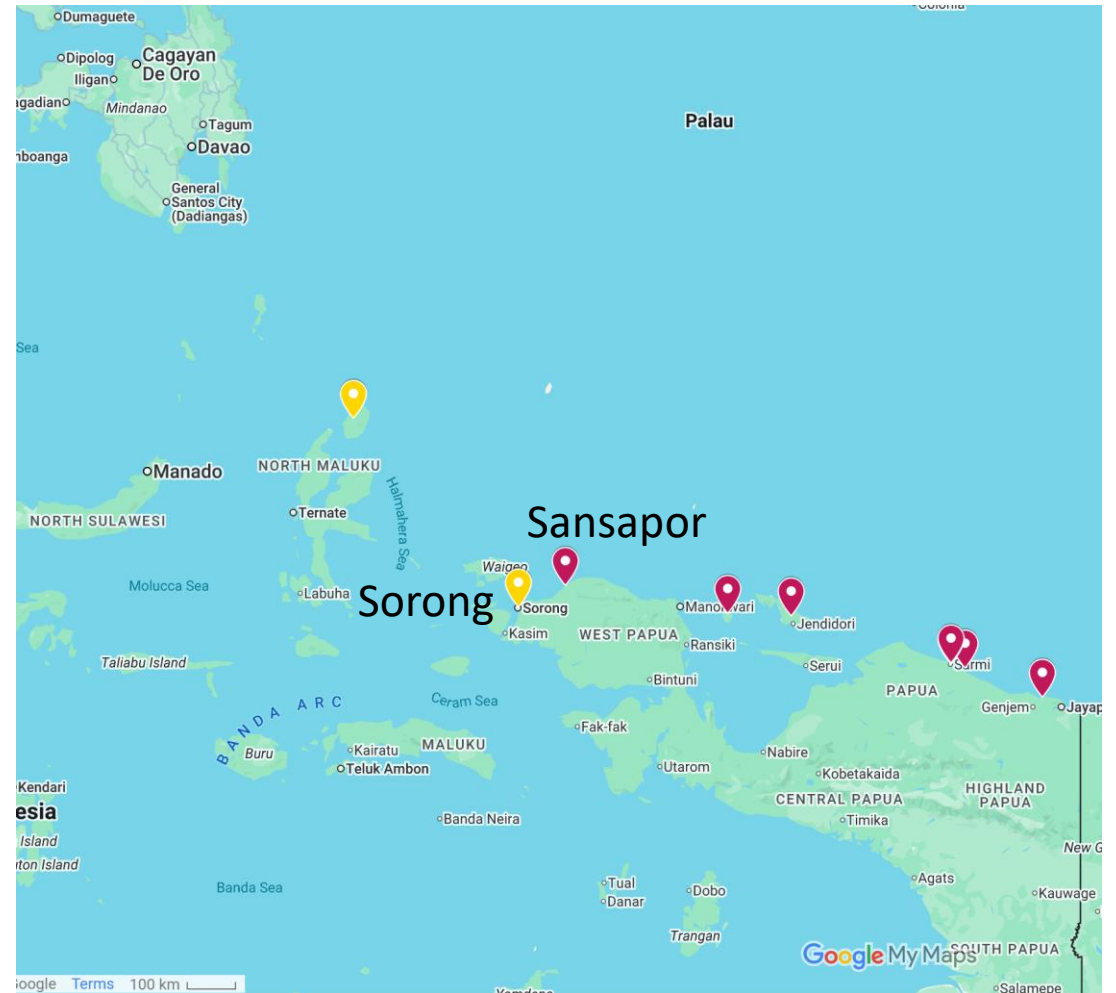
25 - 31 July 1944 – The Marianas

- With the Ushi Point airfield in American hands, the 121st Naval Construction Battalion commenced its repair on 27 July, filling in the bomb and shell craters.
- By that evening, an airstrip 2,500 feet long and 150 feet wide was ready for use, and it was fully restored to its 4,700-foot length the next day.
- On 29 July, a P-47 landed and took off again.
- Hill summoned the 9th Troop Carrier Squadron from Eniwetok and its Douglas C-47 Skytrains, together with the Curtiss C-46 Commandos of VMR-252, delivered 33,000 rations from Saipan on 31 July. On the return trip they carried wounded.
- When work was completed on 5 May 1945, two airfields had six 8,500-foot B29 runways, with 18 miles of taxiways, 485 hardstands and 516 administration, maintenance and repair buildings.



30 July 1944 – Dutch New Guinea

- The 6th American Division landed in the Sansapor area on the Vogelkop west of Manokwari on 30th July.
- There was no opposition. The II Japanese Army Headquarters had moved to the narrow neck of the Vogelkop and most of the 35th Division to Sorong.



July 1944 – B29

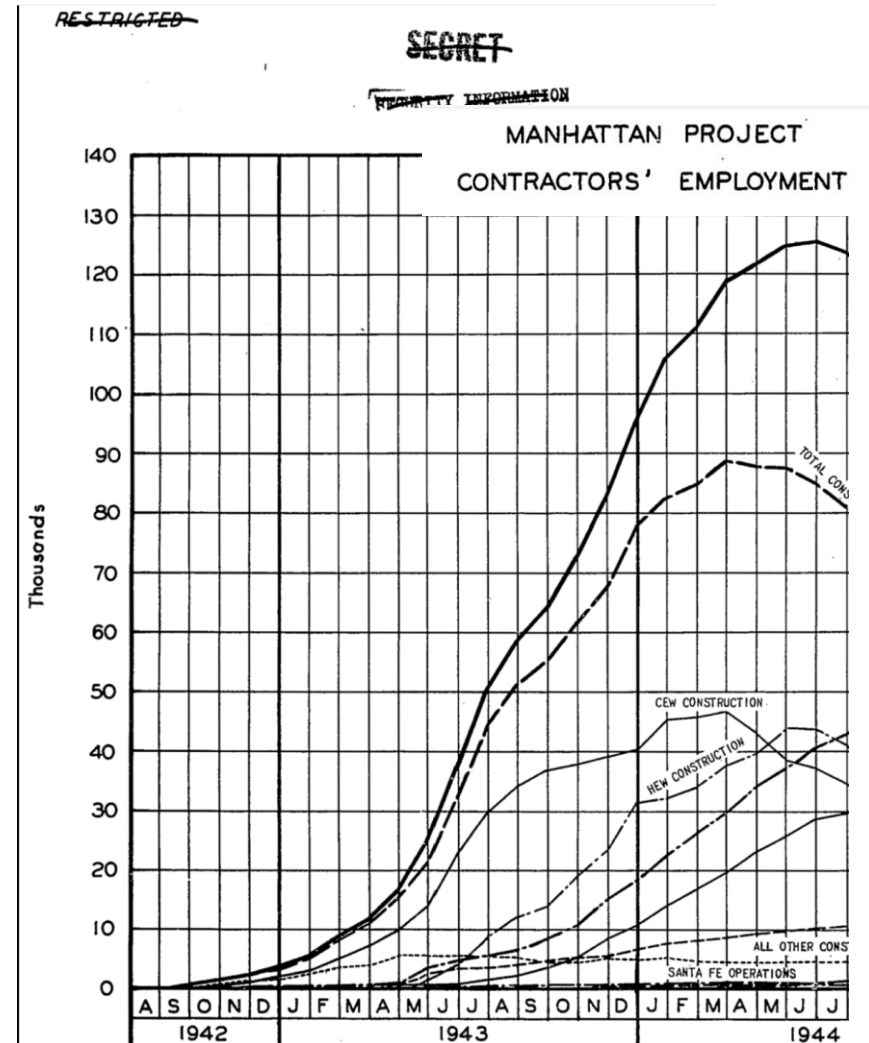
- Starting in July, the raids against Japan from Chinese airfields continued at relatively low intensity. Japan was bombed on:
- 7 July 1944 (14 B-29s)
- 29 July 20th airforce directed a daylight attack with at least one hundred B-29s. Only sixty B29s got over Anshan, and the effects were not satisfactory.
- B-29 raids were also launched from China and India against other targets throughout Southeast Asia.



B-29 of the 16th Bombardment Group during World War II in 1944

July 1944 - Manhattan Project

- By July 1944, some 1,200 buildings had been erected and nearly 51,000 people were living in the Richland construction camp.



July 1944 - Manhattan Project

- At its peak, the construction camp was the third most populous town in Washington state. Hanford operated a fleet of over 900 buses, more than the city of Chicago.



Aerial view of Hanford B-Reactor site, June 1944

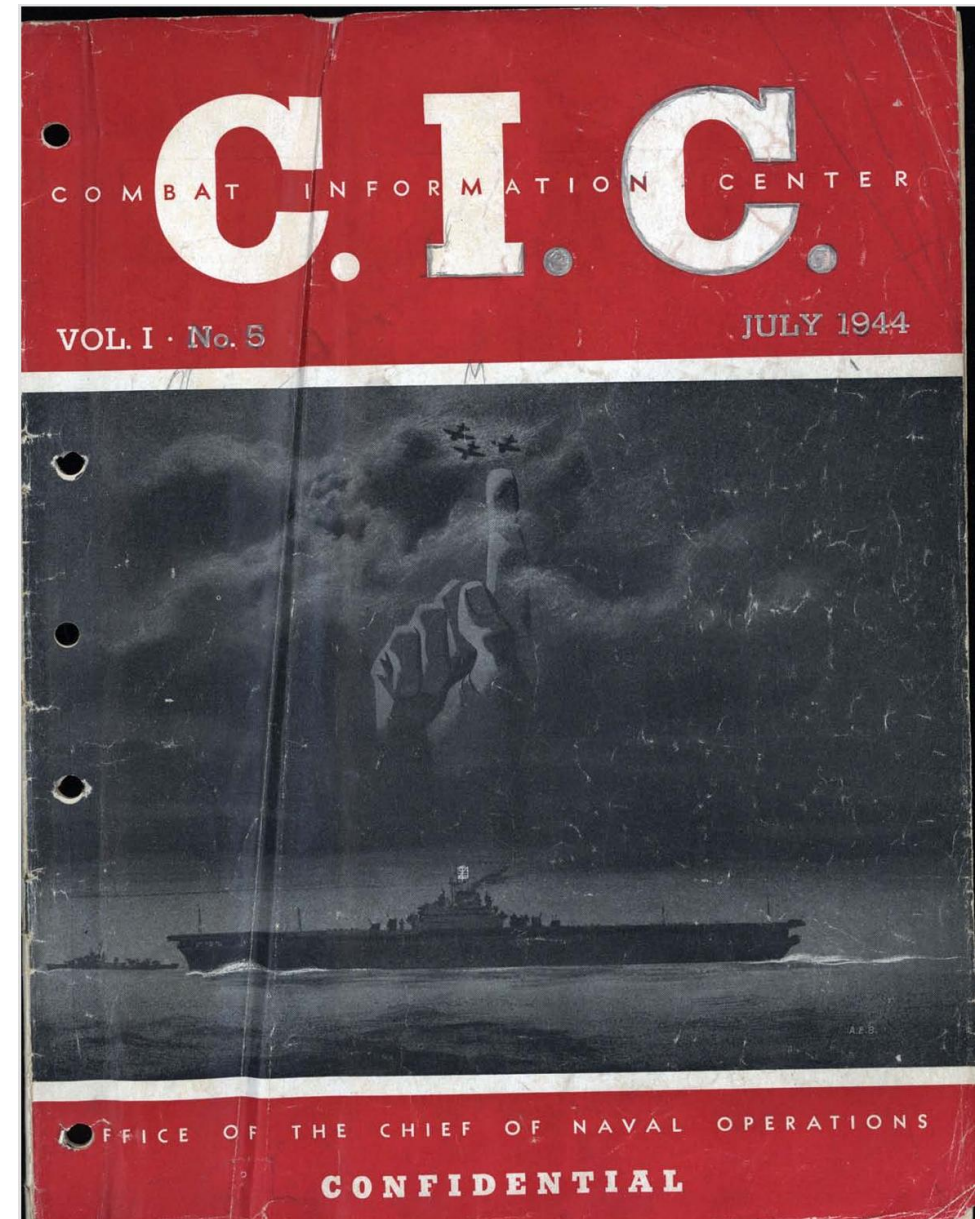
July 1944 – Air Defence

UNITED STATES FLEET
Headquarters of the Commander in Chief
Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

1 July 1944.

This magazine CIC is established as an aid to Command, CIC, Aviation and other interested personnel to present, monthly, a digest of the latest operational methods evolved, and lessons learned in combat, so their skill and ability may, at all times, equal the capabilities of the equipment which is available to them.

R. S. EDWARDS,
Chief of Staff.

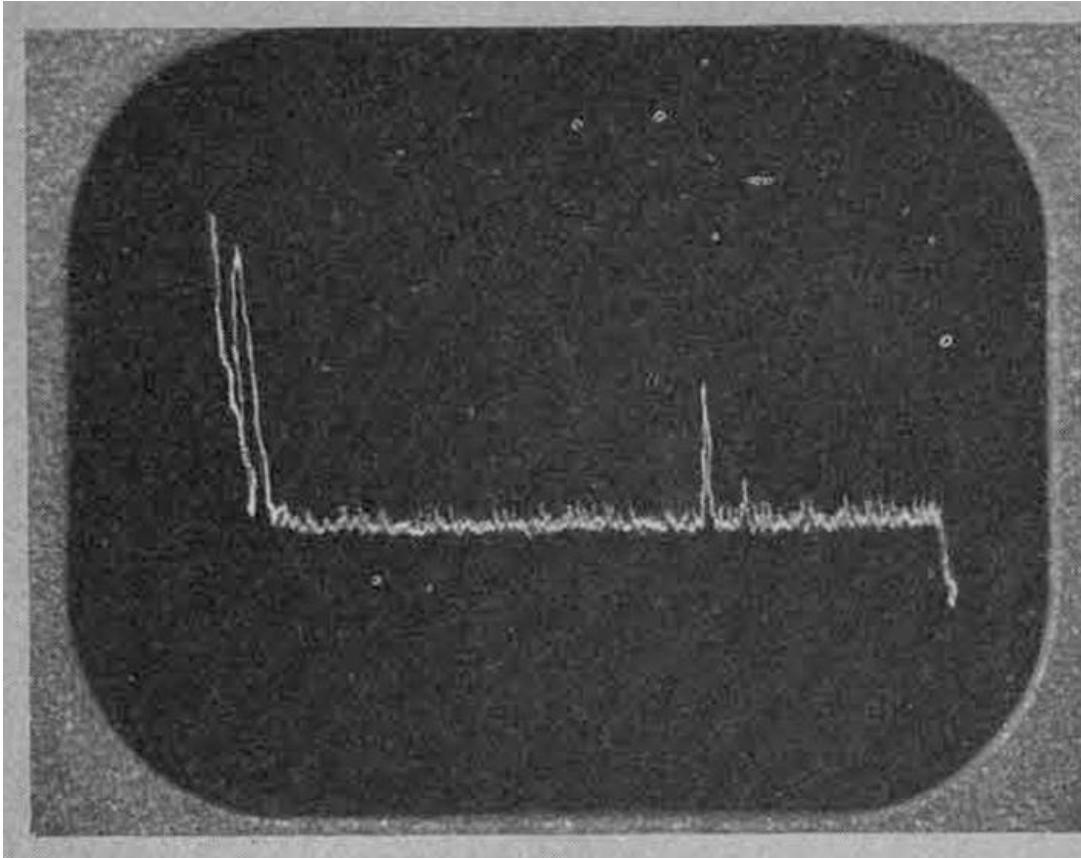


July 1944 – Air Defence



◀ Unidentified aircraft—*bogeys*—are detected by the long range search radar. The operator reports to the Combat Information Center, giving the bearing and range of the aircraft.

July 1944 – Air Defence



◀ When the planes are first detected on the radar scope it may be difficult to determine information other than bearing and range of the target. Subsequent reports will, when plotted and evaluated in Combat Information Center, show course and speed of the bogeys and the important information on altitude.

July 1944 – Air Defence



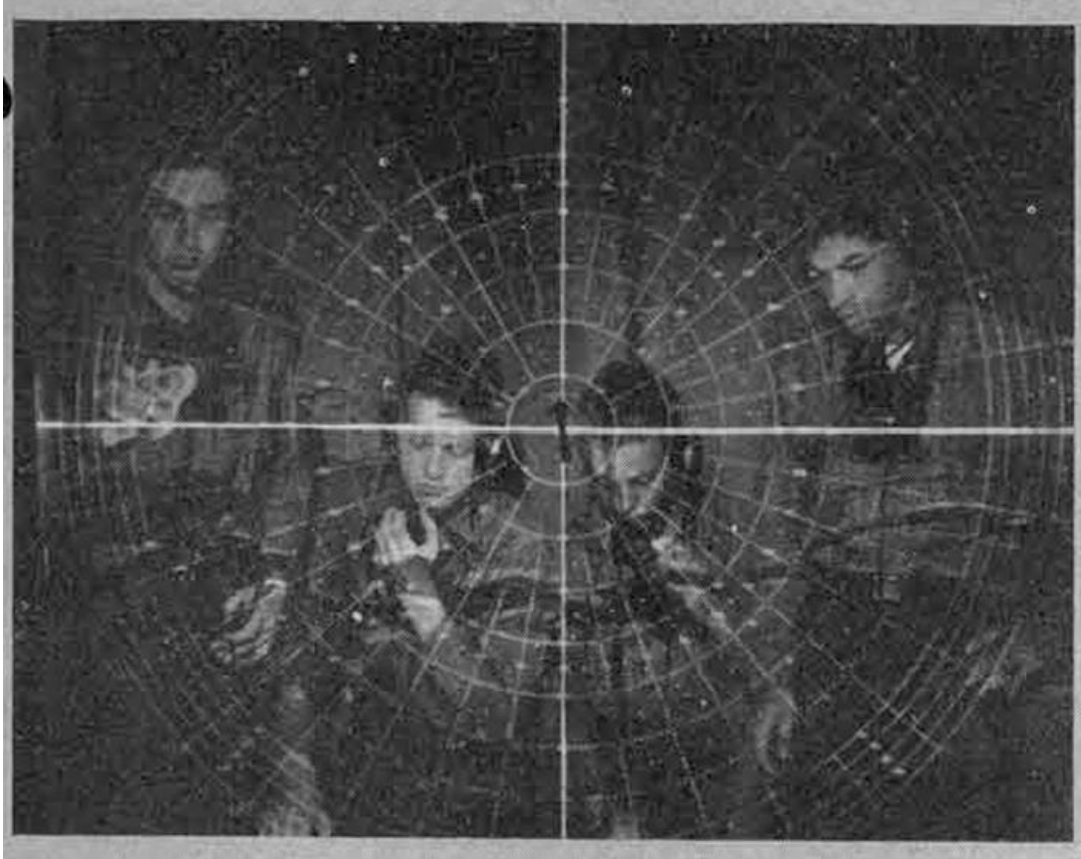
◀ The force fighter director designates the raid by number, gives instructions for the interception of the raid, and informs the task force commander of the action taken.

July 1944 – Air Defence



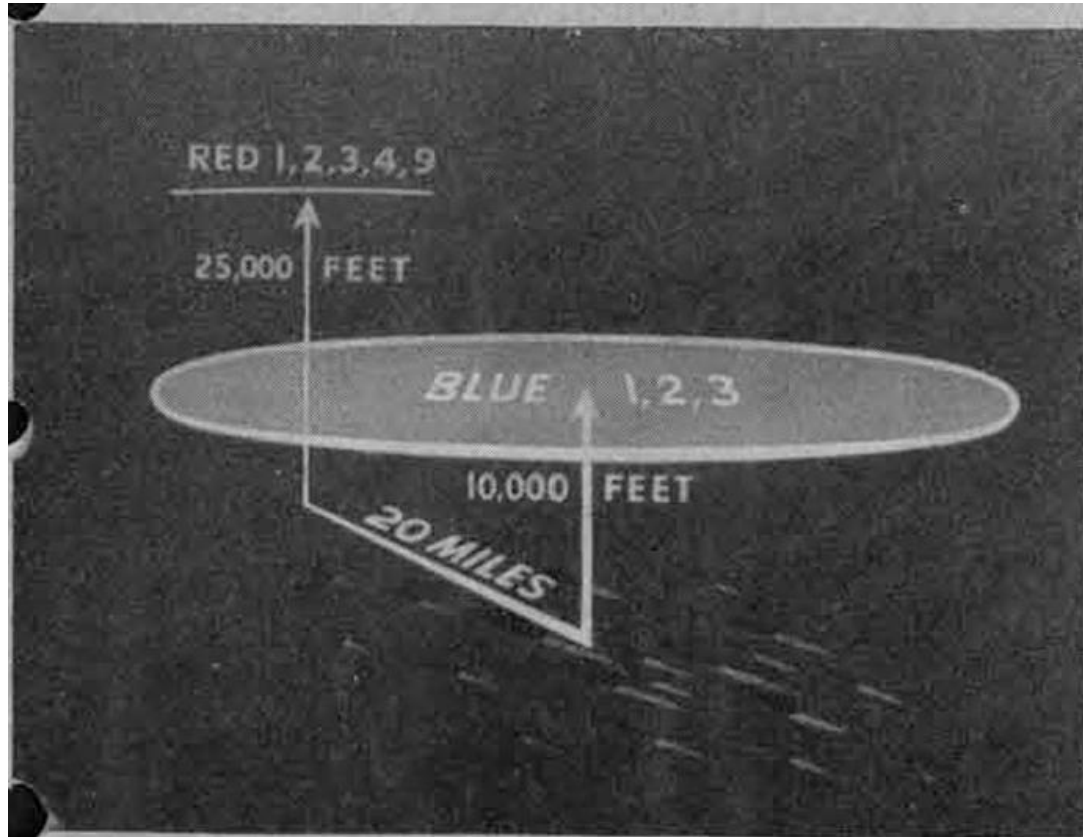
◀ The radio intercept operator furnishes valuable information to C. I. C. Such information—usually translations of the enemy's ship or aircraft radiotelephone conversations—may indicate, for example, that a "shadower" has seen our forces and reported our position to his base.

July 1944 – Air Defence



◀ When radar and air search information shows enemy air activity in great force, ship and aviation personnel are ordered to General Quarters. C.I.C. is then fully manned and ready to operate under battle conditions.

July 1944 – Air Defence



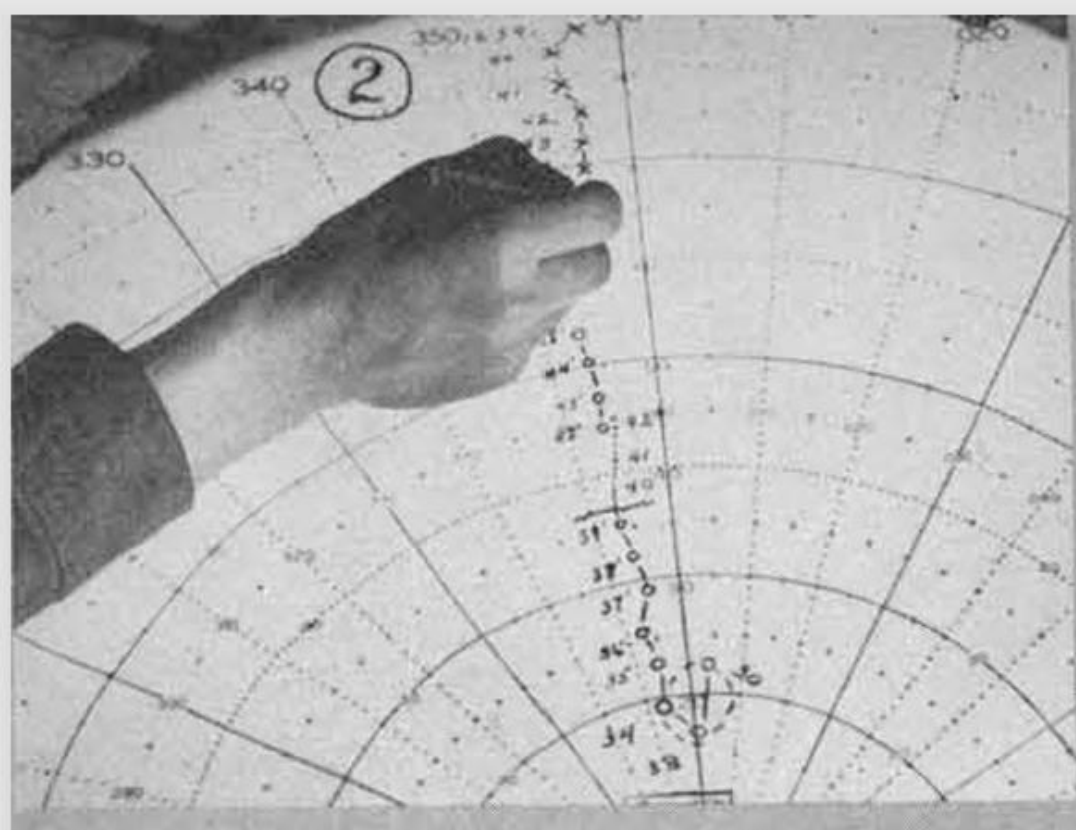
◀ The force fighter director orders the appropriate number of fighter aircraft to be scrambled and combat air patrols take station as directed, dependent upon the tactical situation. Some fighters will remain over the force, ready to intercept *bandits* which break through or sneak inside the twenty-mile circle.

July 1944 – Air Defence



◀ The officer in front of the vertical plot evaluates the radar plots visible to him through the board and marks the estimated position of the planes for a particular time. He is shown here marking the position of *friendlies* on their way out to intercept raid 3.

July 1944 – Air Defence



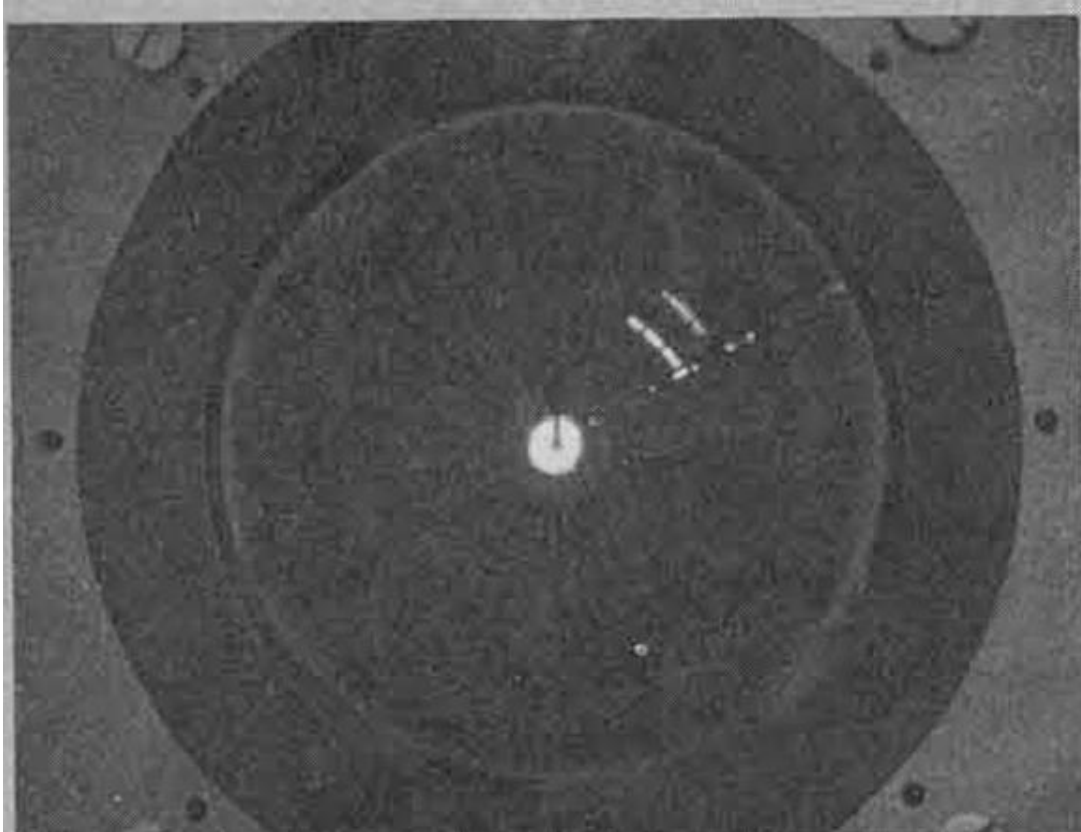
◀ The FDO has instructed the intercept officer to intercept raid 2. On the intercept board the position of the enemy and friendly planes is plotted continuously. The intercept officer endeavors, as the situation develops, to keep the fighters between the *bandits* and the task force.

July 1944 – Air Defence



◀ Beside the intercept board is a PPI unit on which is a radar picture of the situation. The intercept officer, as the interception progresses, refers to this indicator continually—sometimes exclusively, as the fighters overtake the *bandits*.

July 1944 – Air Defence



◀ Here is what the intercept officer sees when the fighters are close to the *bandits*. The bandits are shown as the outermost segment, the fighters slightly inside; the task force is at the center of the indicator. Notice that the VF are directly between the raid and *base*.

July 1944 – Air Defence



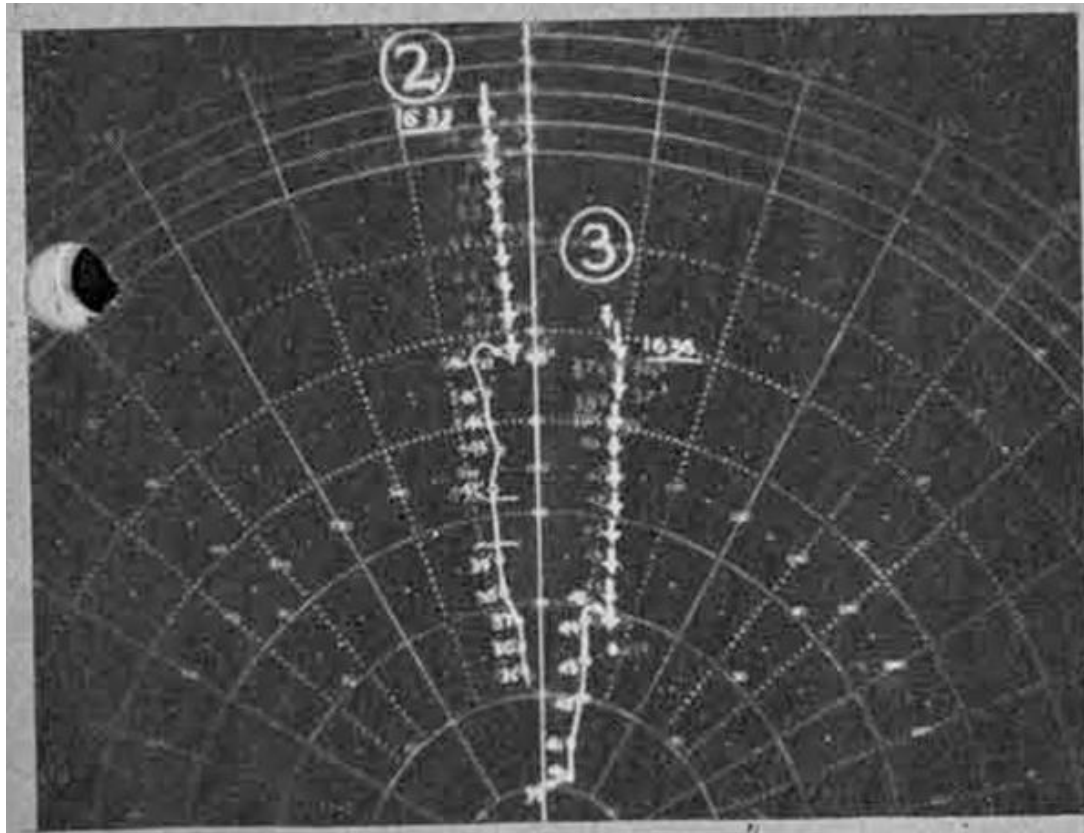
◀ As the fighters approach the enemy planes the intercept officer informs the pilot of the direction relative from the interceptor's course. In this case he would say, "Eleven thirty," and give the approximate distance. The fighters have been vectored to intercept above and in front of the incoming *bandits*.

July 1944 – Air Defence



◀ “Tallyho” from the pilot to base. The fighters have contacted, visually, the enemy aircraft. The fighters “have the ball” from here on in until the enemy planes are shot down or dispersed.

July 1944 – Air Defence



◀ This is how the vertical plot looks to the CIC personnel after two raids have been intercepted. The air battle is at a crescendo, and some of the enemy bombers or torpedo planes may break away and threaten another sector of the defensive ring around the task force.

July 1944 – Air Defence

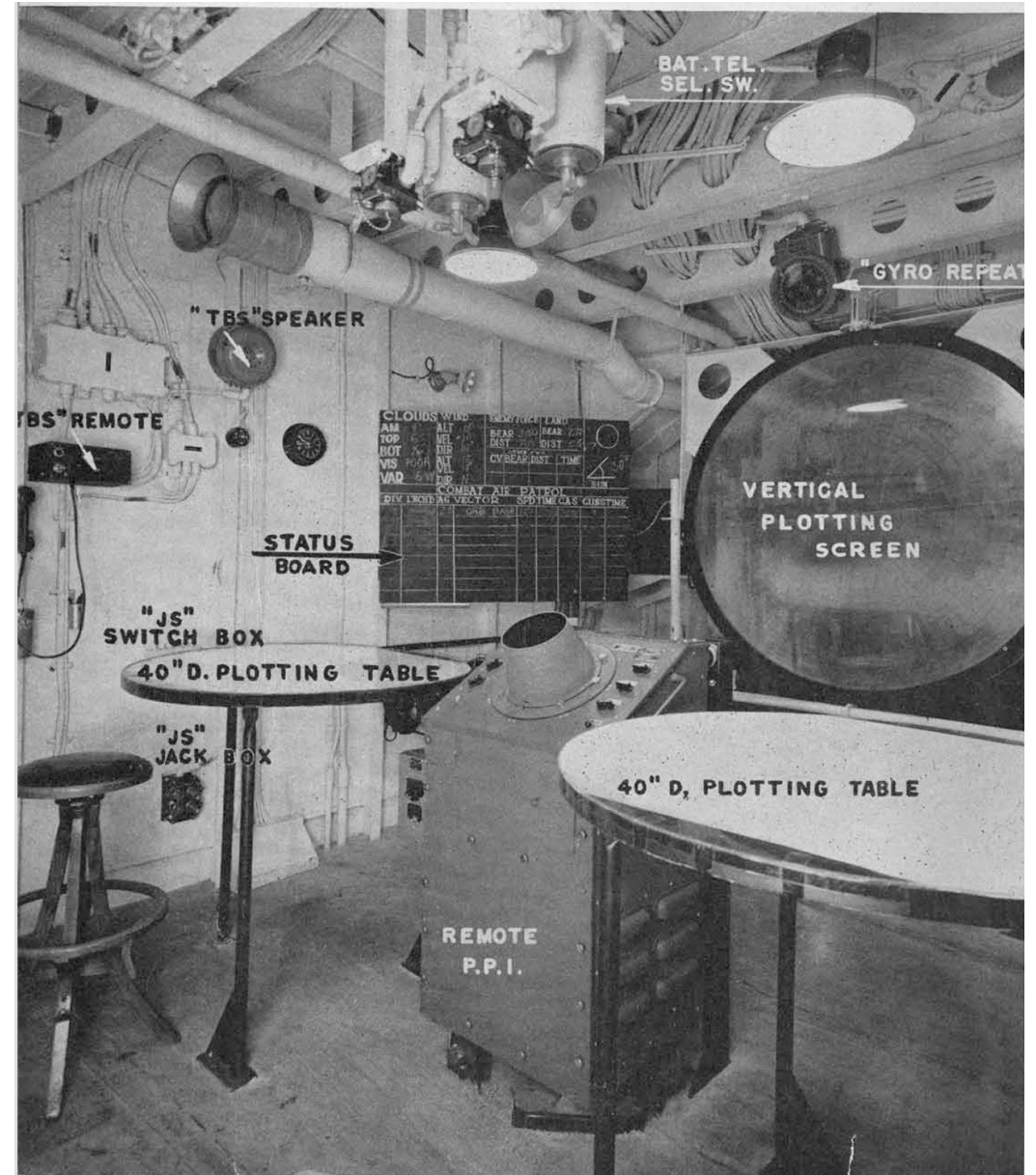


◀ If another raid develops as bombers break through the outer defenses, the FDO must vector some of the CAP immediately to put them *between the new raid and base*. Even with these measures some of the planes may get through to the ships.

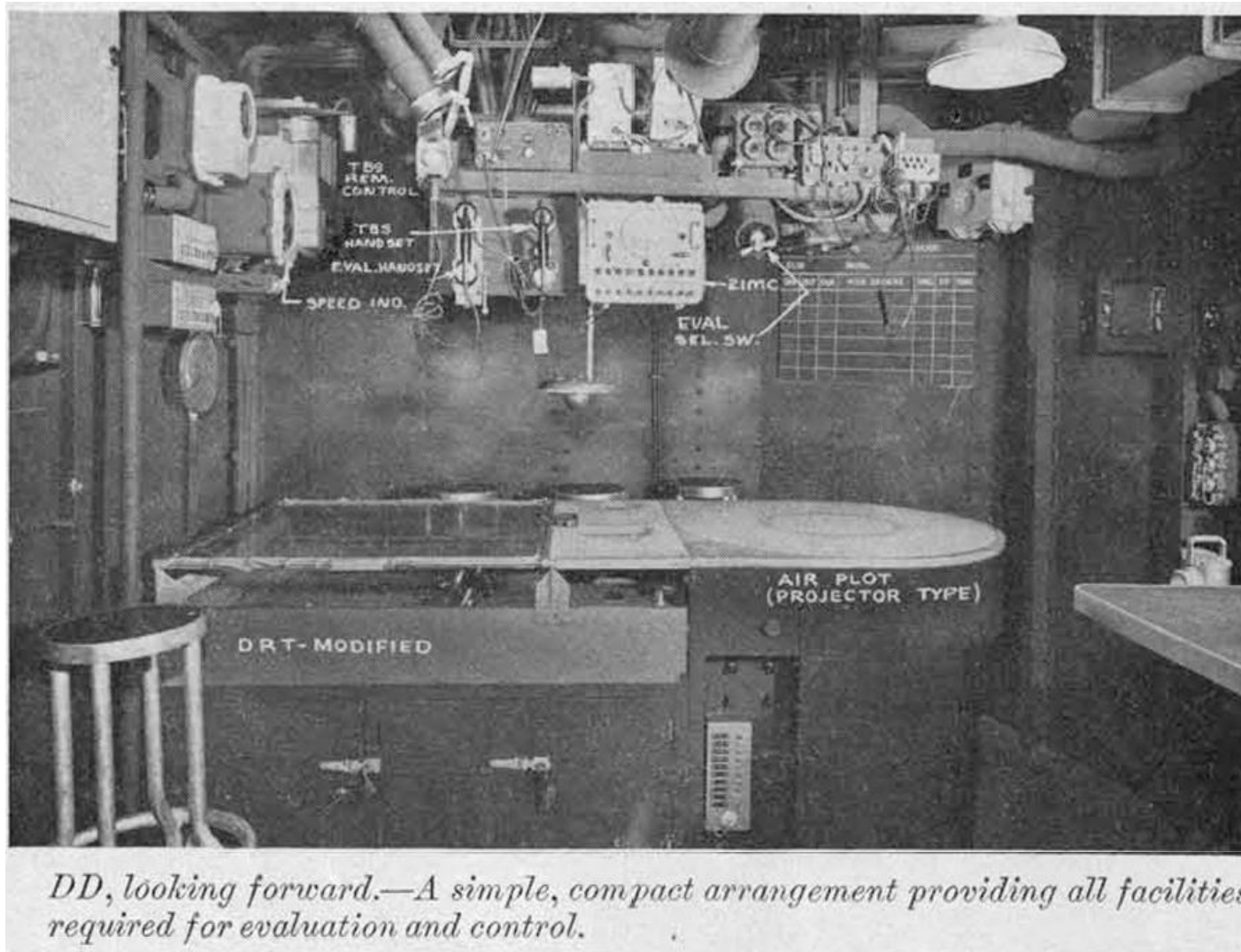
July 1944 – Air Defence

By the end of 1942, the old concept of radar plot had evolved into the now-familiar CIC, with considerable thought given to layout, soundproofing, and separation from unnecessary visitors.

CV, looking aft. Facilities for controlling Combat Air Patrols and numerous raids. Vertical Display Plot and Status Board tell the Fighter Director what the tactical situation is at all times.



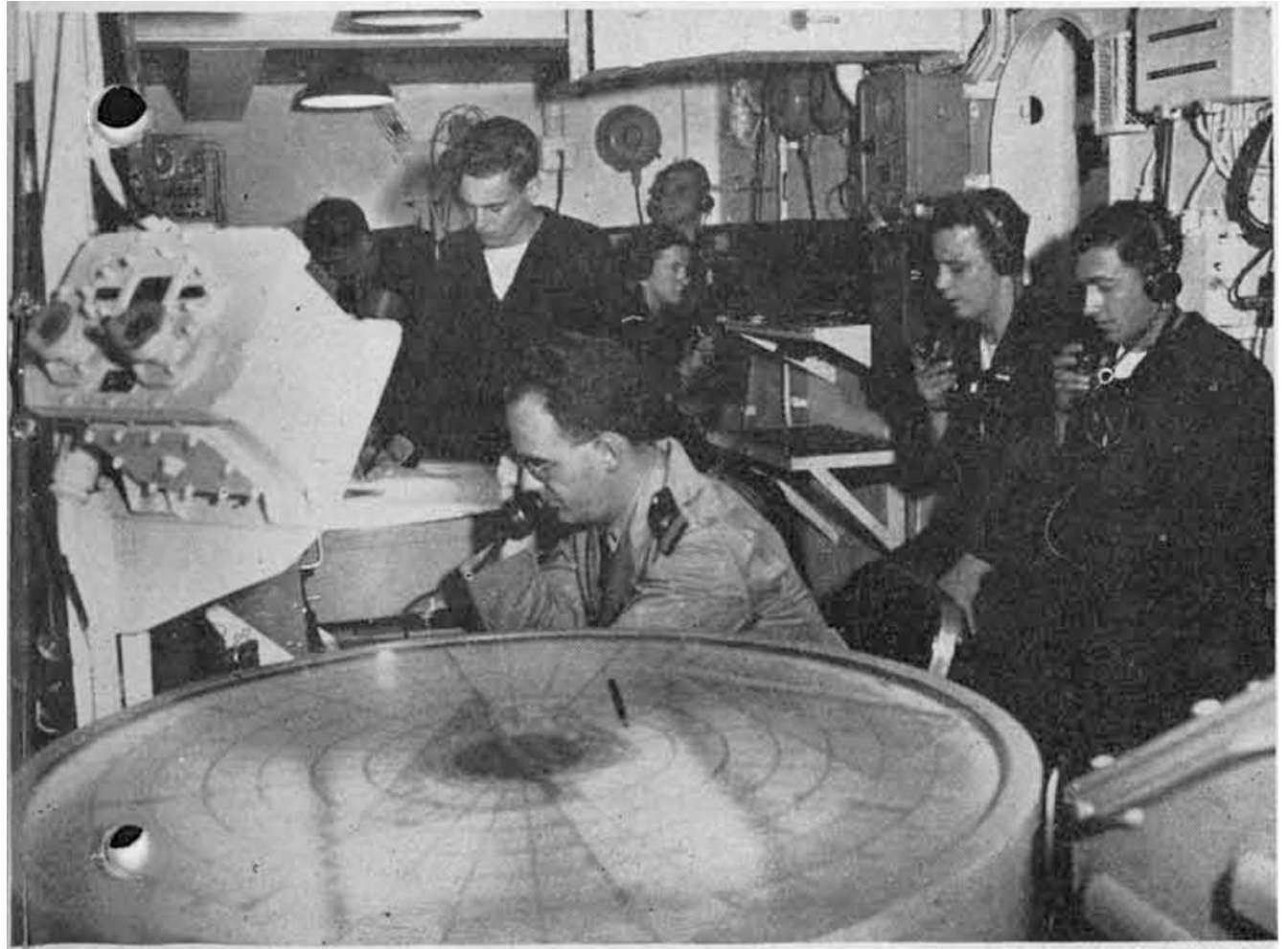
July 1944 – Air Defence



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

July 1944 – Air Defence

CA, with battle stations manned. Looming up in the left foreground, in front of the CIC watch officer, is a TDT (target designation transmitter) giving ranges and bearings to remote stations. Often, on Cruisers, the TDT is located beside the radars but here, interestingly, is stationed beside plot.



- Visual fighter direction did not become important, and was hardly covered in FDO schools, until the summer of 1944 when the Japanese intensified low level daylight torpedo attacks.
- Even though by this time most carriers had SM or SP height finding radars that could detect low fliers, the height finders had to be coached on to targets by air search radars because of their narrow beams.
- On their own the height finders were not very adept at early detection of low fliers.
- The best way of detecting low flying attackers was still visual, and if detected, there had to be immediate communication with nearby CAP. Communication from lookout to CIC, and then CIC to CAP was too slow.
- The best way during daylight hours was permanent stationing of visual FDOs who could radio immediate orders and give the required rapid heading changes to line fighters up on the attacker.
- In recognition of this change in tactics, the Chief of Naval Operations issued a change to USF 10A, Current Tactical Orders and Doctrine U.S. Fleet, directing that fighter direction ships station a visual FDO in a high outside location.



July 1944 – Air Defence



◀ The FDO instructs the visual intercept officer to prepare for interception of the incoming torpedo planes, and his antiaircraft liaison officer keeps Air Defense and the gun crews informed of the positions of the enemy planes.

◀ Topside the plot and information are kept up to date and the visual intercept officer is ready to direct planes of CAP to intercept the *bandits* on the outskirts of the formation. *These men would be wearing helmets at this stage of the battle.*

July 1944 – Air Defence

- Hank Rowe, a well-versed practitioner and instructor, summed up the criteria necessary for a good fighter director:
- “Mainly we felt that an FDO was a manager rather than an ex-pilot or technical scientist, because what you’re doing is managing a bunch of fighters.
- You have an input of so many planes, how long their fuel will last on climb and at altitude, when you must replace them.
- You also have a very complicated problem aboard ship in getting back into the wind. Your cycle time is such that you have to get planes back, refuel them and get them into the air again.
- Managing your resources is the primary function of an FDO.
- “Then we said, ‘What does it really take?’ It takes somebody who can think on his feet, can keep account of all things that are going on all the time which affect an air battle, and not get bound up with one small corner of the problem. So an organization, a management function, is really the simplest way of putting it.”
- With the nature of FDO work defined, the specific types of individuals desired came under closer scrutiny. Since the schools had first pick of the entire Navy, they decided that anyone who had made a total of more than \$30,000 during the previous three years was an ideal prospect.
- He had proven himself a good manager. Additionally, he had to be able to express himself in the simplest possible terms under conditions of mental stress. As a result of this analysis, the FDO program took on numerous lawyers, stock brokers, salesmen, and journalists. Teachers were included also, being exempt from the \$30,000 minimum because of the generally low pay scales in their profession.
- The majority of student FDOs were under age 30.

