

The War in the Pacific 3

From Lae to Tokyo Bay

16

Peleliu, Angaur & Morotai
August & September 44





The Contrarian ·
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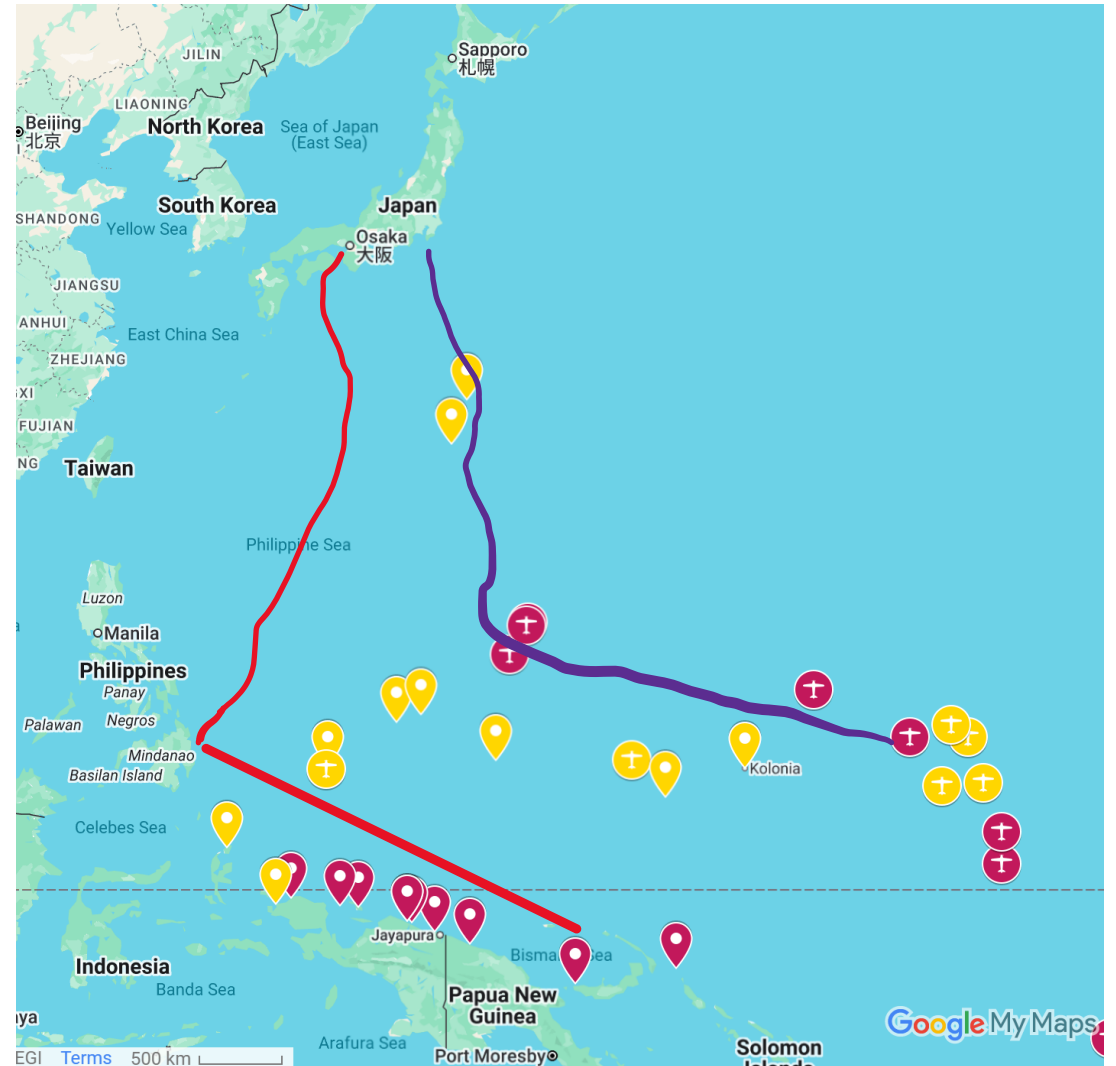
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The Negotiating Table by... See more



28 July 1944 – Pacific

- By 1944, American victories in the Southwest and Central Pacific had brought the war closer to Japan, with American bombers able to strike at the Japanese main islands from air bases on Saipan and Tinian.
- There was disagreement among the U.S. Joint Chiefs over two proposed strategies to defeat the Japanese Empire.
- MacArthur called for the recapture of the Philippines, followed by the capture of Okinawa, then an attack on the Japanese home islands.
- Nimitz favored bypassing the Philippines but seizing Okinawa and Taiwan as staging areas for an attack on the Japanese mainland.



28 July 1944 - Pacific

- President Roosevelt travelled to Pearl Harbor to personally meet both MacArthur and Nimitz and hear their arguments.
- MacArthur made the argument that the United States had constitutional responsibility to the people of the Philippines, thus must liberate the islands without further delay. He argued that the conquest of Philippine Islands made more strategic sense than the plan Nimitz presented; with Philippine Islands under Allied control, Japan would become separated from the resources of south east asia.
- MacArthur left out the details that a campaign in the Philippine Islands would likely be long and costly.
- Critics and MacArthur suspected the trip was partly staged for political optics, as FDR skipped the Democratic National Convention to accept his historic fourth nomination via radio during the journey.



President Roosevelt discusses strategy with General MacArthur, USA, Commander, Allied Forces, Southwest Pacific; Admiral Leahy, USN, Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief; and Admiral Nimitz, USN, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet. 28 July 1944

28 July 1944 - Pacific

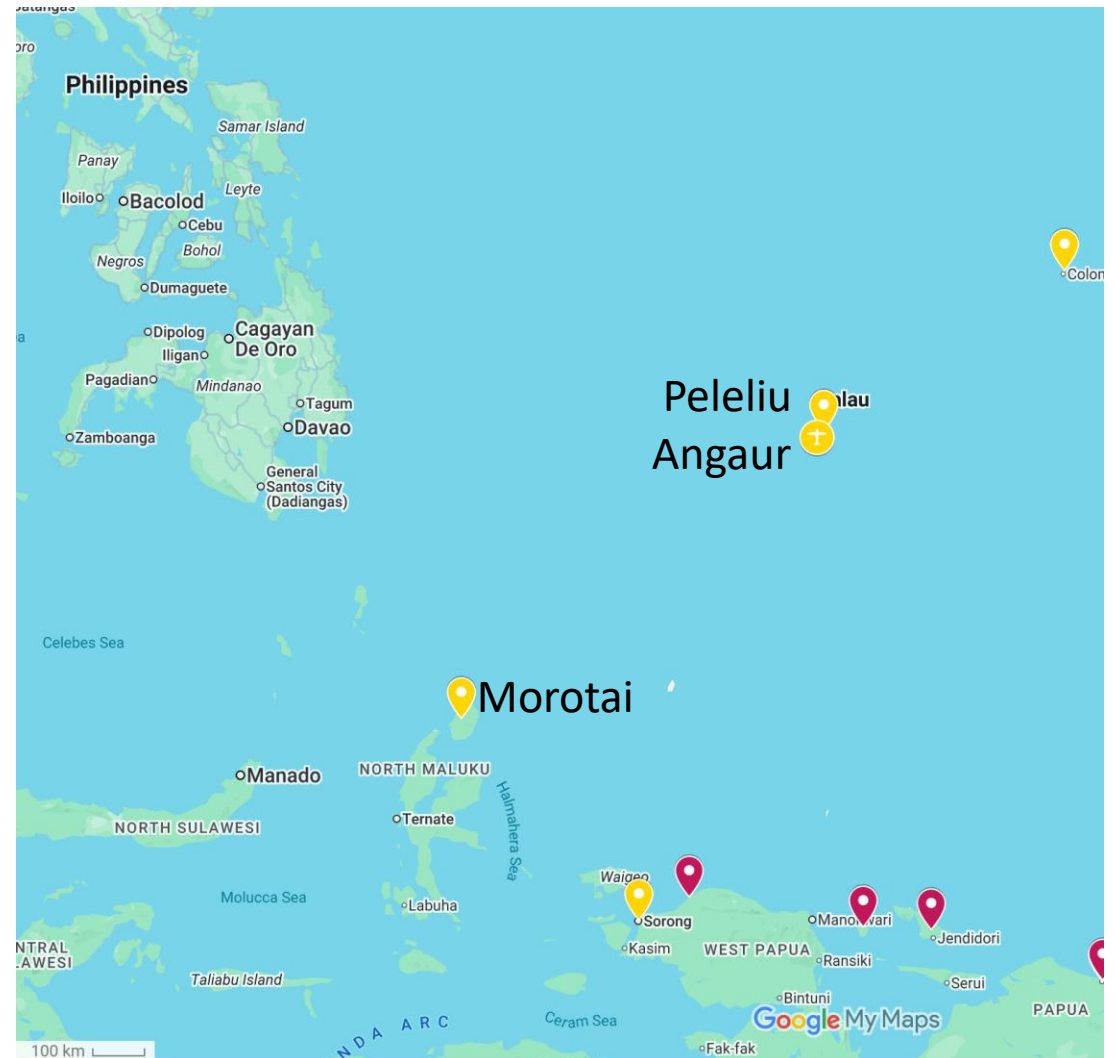
- Roosevelt, acted "entirely neutral" during the meeting, made no decisions.
- However, on 9 Aug, MacArthur received a letter from Roosevelt noting that as soon as he returned to Washington, DC, he would push on the plan that MacArthur recommended.
- It is possible that, as MacArthur suspected, Roosevelt sided with the general so not to upset him and his vast number of conservative supporters during an election year.
- So it was decided that MacArthur was to personally oversee the landings on the Philippine Islands, assisted by the entire Third Fleet under the command of Admiral Halsey.



FDR visited Pier 22B at the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard on the USS Baltimore on July 26, 1944. He is pictured with (left to right) General Douglas MacArthur and Admiral Chester Nimitz seated on either side. Admiral Leahy, Chief of staff to the president, is behind FDR.

28 July 1944 - Pacific

- So MacArthur's strategy was chosen.
- However, before MacArthur could retake the Philippines, the Palau Islands, specifically Peleliu and Angaur, were to be neutralized and an airfield built to protect the southern flank of MacArthur's planned landings on the Philippines.



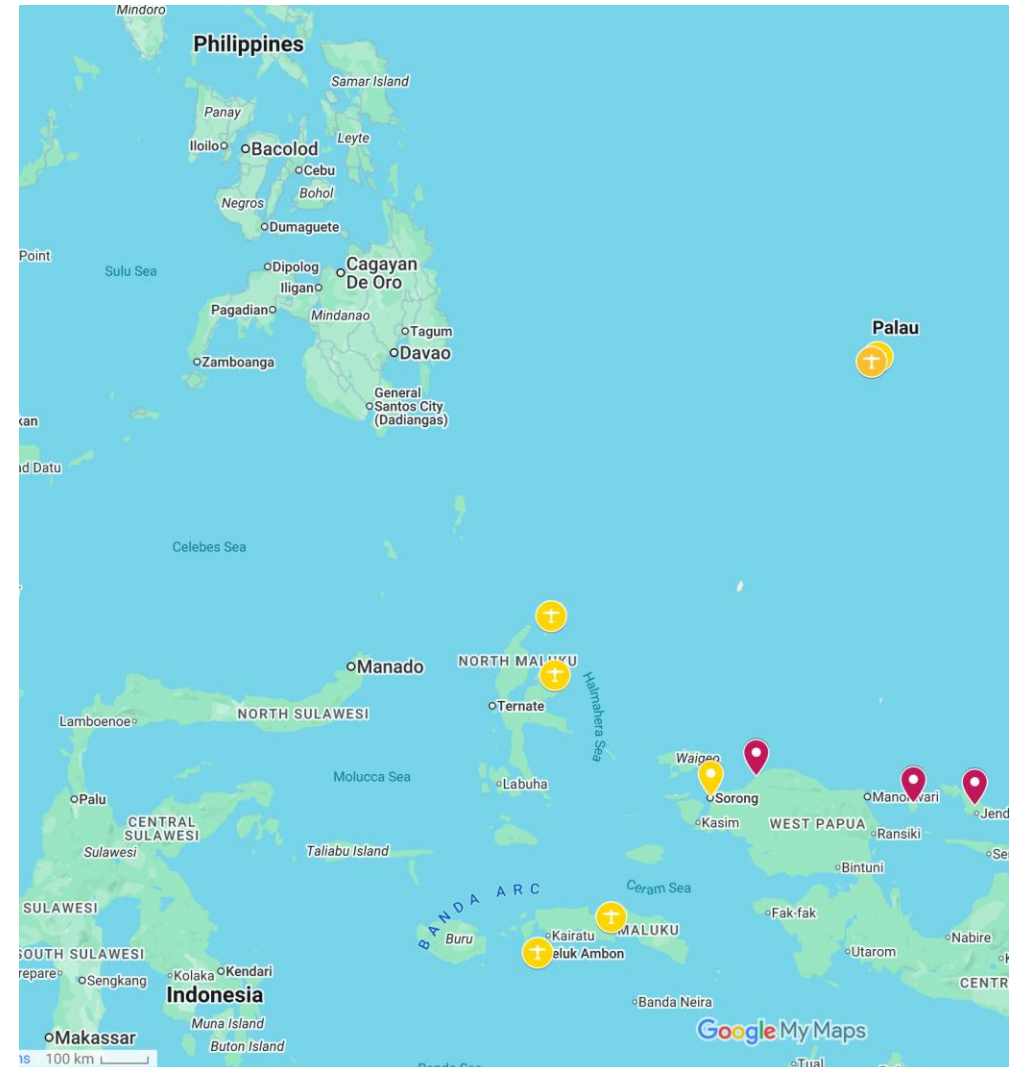
29 July 1944 - Pacific

- Roosevelt spent several hours visiting with wounded troops on July 29.
- Initially, several wounded soldiers were brought to Roosevelt's car on stretchers where he chatted with them.
- Very few people knew that Roosevelt couldn't walk and he would frequently meet his fellow Americans while he sat in the back seat of an open car so he could maintain the illusion he wasn't crippled.
- But later a Secret Service man pushed Roosevelt on his wheelchair through wards of a hospital that housed men who had lost limbs in battle.
- "He insisted on going past each individual bed. He had known for twenty three years what it was like to be deprived of the use of both legs. He wanted to display himself and his useless limbs to those boys who would have to face the same bitterness. This crippled man on the little wheelchair wanted to show them that it was possible to rise above such physical handicaps.
- With a cheery smile to each of them, and pleasant words at the bedside of a score or more, this man ...was living proof of what the humans spirit could do to conquer the incapacities of the human body.
- That was only one of three times he allowed people outside his inner circle to see him requiring help.



early in August 1944 – SW Pacific

- **By August** air fighting in the South-West Pacific Area had slowed down.
- The Japanese had withdrawn most of their aircraft to the Philippines where the bulk of their Pacific strength was now collected.
- They had there an estimated strength of 1,157 aircraft, a force which had been built up by withdrawing aircraft from the forward areas and by a flow of air reinforcements from Japan.
- Enemy operations in New Guinea had been cut down to sporadic night harassing raids on Biak and Noemfoor.
- However, although the Japanese had few aircraft in the forward areas, they continued to maintain serviceable aerodromes especially in Halmahera, Ceram and Ambon.
- From these forward bases and others on the Vogelkop Peninsula they would be able to stage raids against forward Allied bases or against future Allied advances.



early in August 1944 – SW Pacific

- At Noemfoor **early in August** Air Commodore Cobby had assumed command of No. 10 Group from Scherger who had been injured in a jeep accident.
- Airfield construction was being rushed at Biak, Sansapor and Owi Island as well as at Noemfoor to accommodate the many squadrons at rear bases which were now so far away from the war that they had few worthwhile targets to hit.
- The aircraft of No. 77 Wing, which now controlled Nos. 30 (Beaufighter) and 22 (Boston) Squadrons, had been called forward to Noemfoor to join in the air campaign over Dutch New Guinea.
- No. 30 Squadron flew in from Tadjil on **4th August**. Eleven Bostons arrived on the **10th** and six the **following day**. The squadron had been re-equipped with Boston "G" aircraft which had fuel capacity of 300 gallons more than the older versions giving them a 500-mile range carrying 2,000 pounds of bombs.
- Cobby was the leading fighter ace of the Australian Flying Corps (AFC) during World War I. He was credited with 29 aerial victories, and was awarded the DSO, the DFC and two bars, and a mention in despatches.



Air Commodore Cobby and Group Captain Caldwell (right) at Morotai: "the prima donna of one war, and ... the prima donna of the next war".

2-4 August 1944 – The Marianas

- The Marines and the Army's 77th Infantry Division overran the rest of the island.
- Rain and thick jungle made conditions difficult for the Americans, but after an engagement with the main Japanese line of defense around Mount Barrigada from 2 to 4 August, the Japanese line collapsed.
- On 10 August organized Japanese resistance ended, and Guam was declared secure, but 7,500 Japanese soldiers were estimated to still be at large.



5 August 1944 – Far East

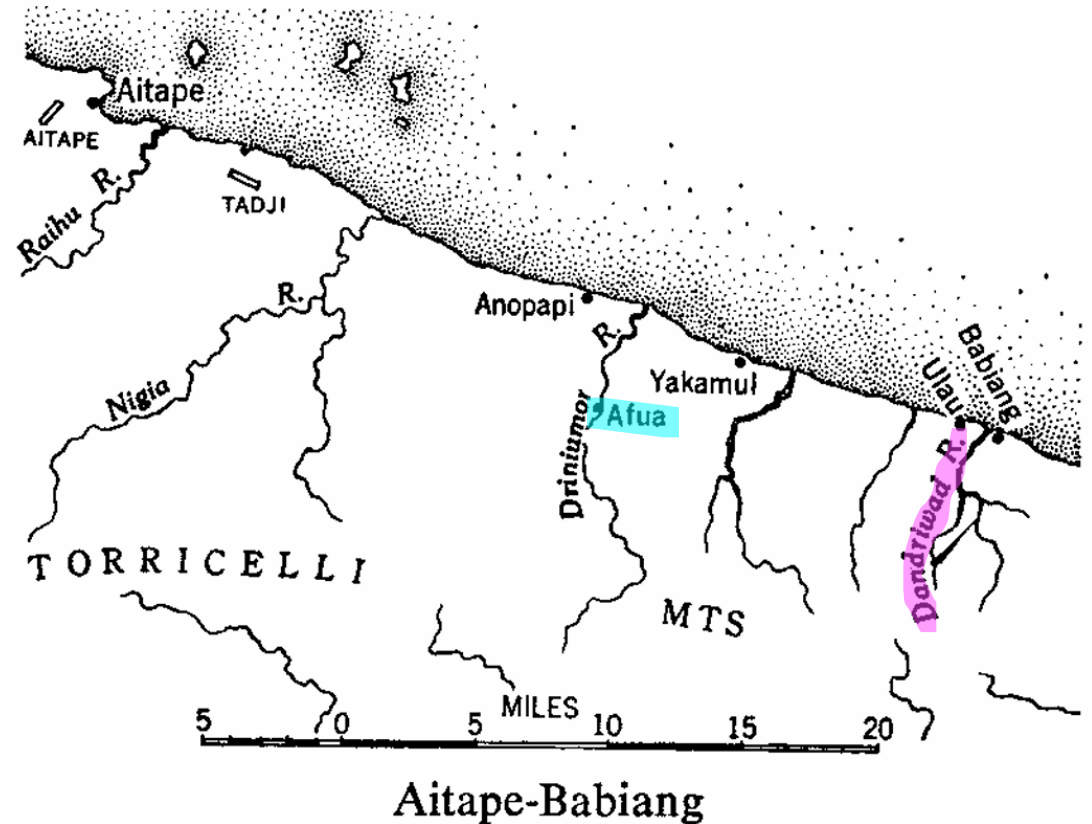
- In absorbing the additional air units from the 13th Air Force into the South Pacific theatre Kenny could no longer remain the commander of the fifth Air Force.
- A new organisational headquarters was needed to encompass both organisations.
- Kenny would remain in overall command.
- Far East Air Forces was given permanent status on August the 5th 1944
- Whitehead took over as commander of the fifth Air Force.
- Major General Saint Clair Streett was named head of the 13th Air Force.
- Kenny retained his title as the commander of Allied Air Forces.
- On June the 15th he had been placed in charge of air units remaining in the Solomon Islands including the First Marine Air Wing and the Royal New Zealand Air Force which were part of a command called Aircraft Northern Solomons under United States Marine Corps Major General Ralph J Mitchell.



Major General Ralph J. Mitchell and Brigadier General Field Harris at Torokina Airfield during air operations during Bougainville Campaign.

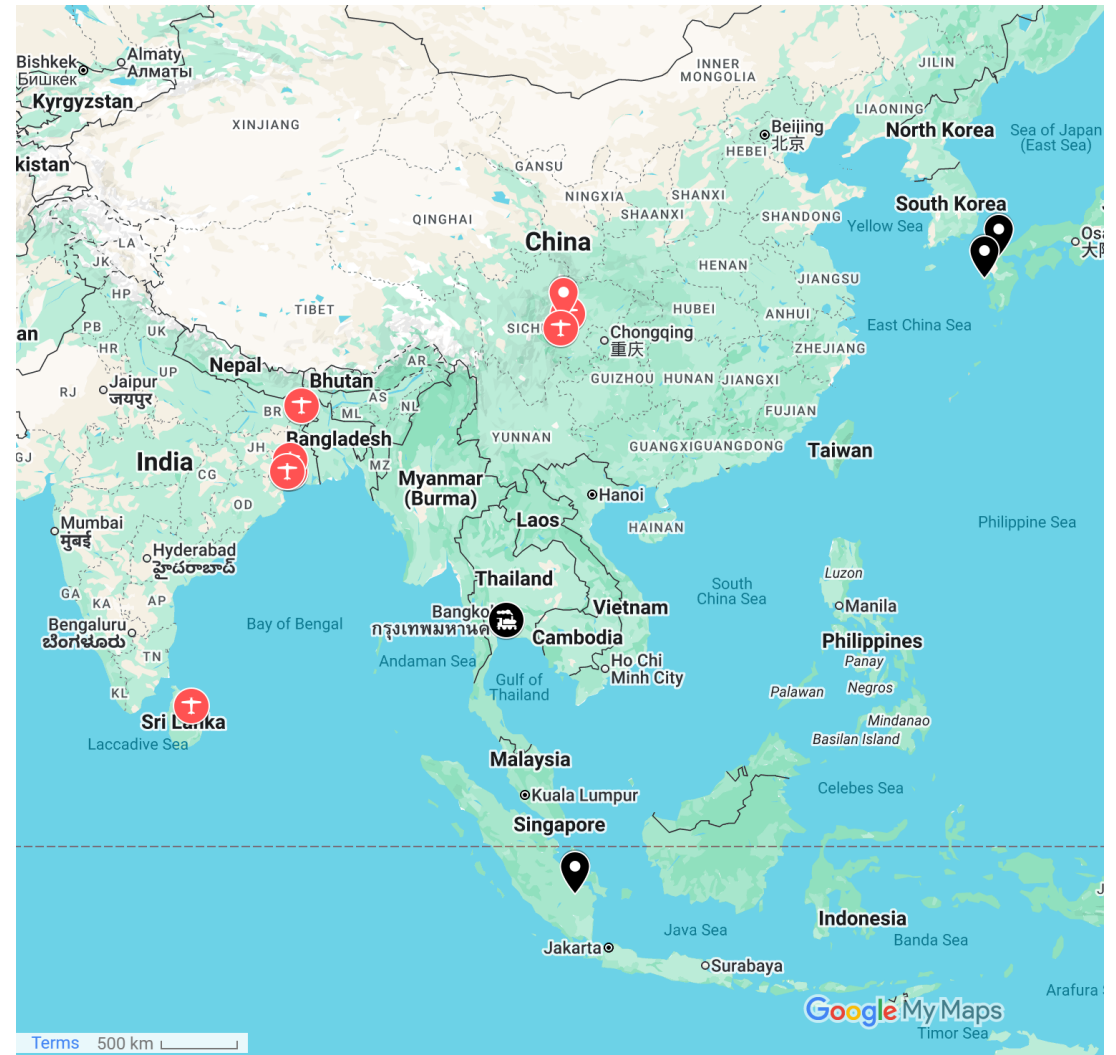
7 August 1944 – New Guinea

- General Adachi made one more attack towards Aitape.
- This was repulsed and almost simultaneously the Americans attacked and were soon thrusting the XVIII Army eastward to the **Dandriwad** where a Japanese rear guard halted them.
- The efforts of 71 Wing Beauforts (No.s 8 & 100 squadrons) had reached their peak early in August. On the 7th, No. 8 Squadron carried out a total of sixty-four sorties against enemy troops. The first sortie was at 10.45 a.m. and the last at 5.45 p.m., and the Beauforts dropped a total of 390 bombs.



10–11 August 1944 – B29

- On the night 10–11 August, 56 B-29s staged through British air bases in Ceylon attacked the Plajdoe oil storage facilities at Palembang on Sumatra in Indonesia.
- This involved a 4,030-mile, 19-hour mission from Ceylon to Sumatra, the longest American air raid of the war.
- Results, unfortunately, were poor.
- Eight other B-29s laid 16 mines in the Moesi River.
- On the same day, 24 B-29s attacked targets in Nagasaki. The night attack was unsuccessful.
- Gunner Technical Sergeant H.C. Edwards was credited with the first official B-29 confirmed aerial kill of the war against a Japanese plane.
- The ultimate decision on deployment of the B-29s was based largely on political considerations, including appeasing President Roosevelt's near-obsession with mounting an aerial bombardment campaign against Japan at the earliest opportunity. The liberal president was up for reelection to an unprecedented third term in 1944 and faced strong opposition from conservatives. The commencement of B-29 raids on Japan would boost his political stock. (Warfare History Network)



10–11 August 1944 – B29

- General Arnold, head of the Army Air Forces, documented that the White House placed relentless demands on him to strike the Japanese mainland. Arnold himself wanted to prove that air power alone could bypass a bloody ground invasion, leading to a shared urgency between the administration and USAAF planners.
- At high-level Allied conferences in 1943 at Casablanca and Quebec, Roosevelt advocated deploying B-29s to the China–Burma–India Theater.
- At the Cairo conference in late 1943, Roosevelt approved the plan to base B-29s in India and China. Maj. Gen. Laurence S. Kuter, assistant chief of Air Staff for plans, informed Kenney in March 1944 that Roosevelt wanted the B-29s in place by May 1944.
- Franklin D. Roosevelt, An Appeal to Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany, and Poland to Refrain from Air Bombing of Civilians Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, The American Presidency Project
<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/node/209957>
- There seems to be agreement that Hap Arnold was pushing very hard on earlier and more B29 bombing of Japan.

12 August 1944 - Australia

- On **12th August** Curtin again pressed Churchill for the early dispatch of a British naval force to the Pacific, emphasising that the need was not for a large contribution of sea, land and air forces at some future time but for a naval force as soon as possible."
- "I am deeply concerned," cabled Curtin, "at the position which would arise in our Far East if any considerable American opinion were to maintain that America fought a war on principle in the Far East and won it relatively unaided while the other Allies, including ourselves, did very little towards recovering our lost property."



Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady of the United States, with Curtin at a state luncheon in her honour at Old Parliament House, Canberra, in September 1943

20 August 1944 – B29

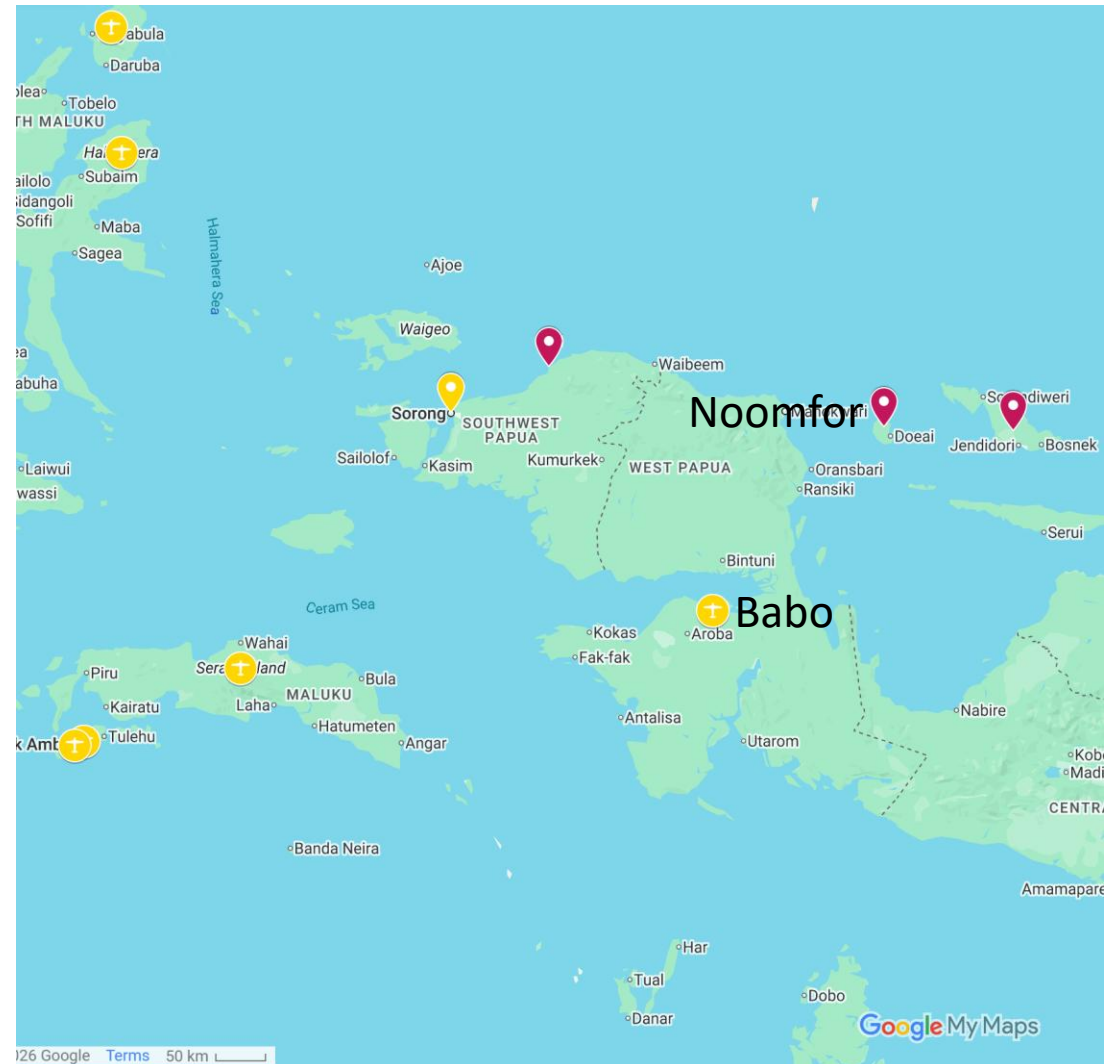
- On August 20, a total of 75 B-29s took off for Kyushu.
- One group was unable to get off until later in the day after a crash blocked the runway.
- Sixty-one B-29s hit the target in spite of intense opposition that claimed four bombers.
- Three were lost to what may have been a suicide attack when a fighter rammed the tail of one B-29 and the falling wreckage brought down two more.
- The 462nd Group managed to get its airplanes off the ground over the wreckage after lightening their loads for a night attack. Ten got over the target with little resistance.
- Still, the day was costly, with 14 bombers lost to various causes and 95 airmen killed or missing.
- Although XX Bomber Command believed the target was damaged, Japanese records indicated otherwise.



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

21 August 1944 – Dutch New Guinea

- By 18th August engineers had built two airfields at Sansapor—Mar on the mainland and Middleburg on Middleburg Island.
- American Lightnings of the Thirteenth Air Force had been flown in and by 24th August the Americans began air operations from these new bases.
- This relieved No. 78 Wing Kittyhawks of the duty of providing air cover patrols and they flew their last patrol mission on 21st August.
- Cobby now turned his attention to some of these forward enemy airfields. He planned an all-out offensive on 23rd, 24th and 25th August using all available Kitty hawks, Beaufighters and Bostons . The main target for the Kittyhawks was the airfield system at Babo, while the Beaufighters and Bostons were to hammer the three enemy airfields in the area south of the Maccleur Gulf — Mongosah, Sagan and Otawiri.



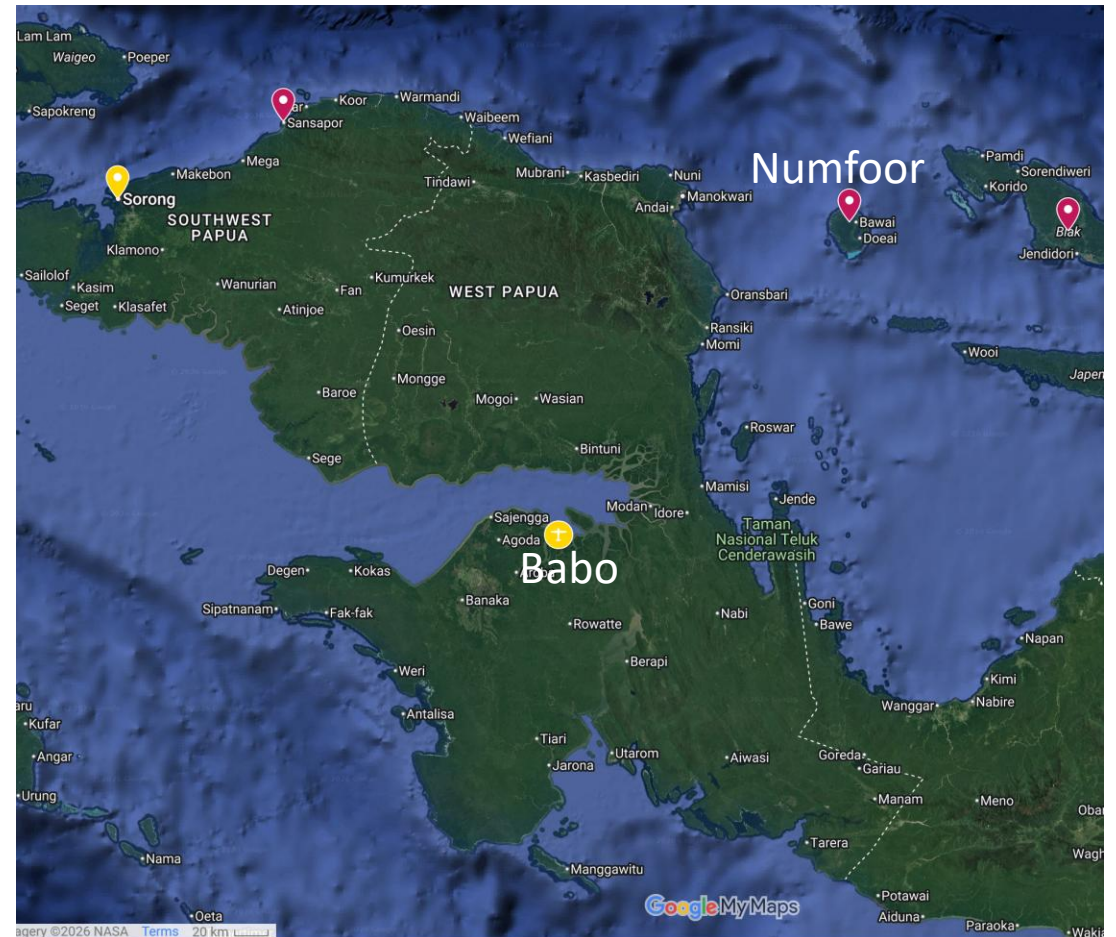
23 August 1944 - London

- On 23rd August Churchill replied to Curtin, repeating a cablegram that he had just sent to Washington.
- The British leaders were asking the Combined Chiefs of Staff to provide resources for an air/sea operation against Rangoon.
- Meanwhile, the cablegram added, a British fleet was being built up in the Bay of Bengal most of which would not be needed for the operations outlined.
- By mid 1945 it could take part in the operations leading to the final assault on Japan. But if the American Chiefs of Staff were unwilling to accept this contribution the British Government would discuss as an alternative the "British Empire task force under a British Commander"



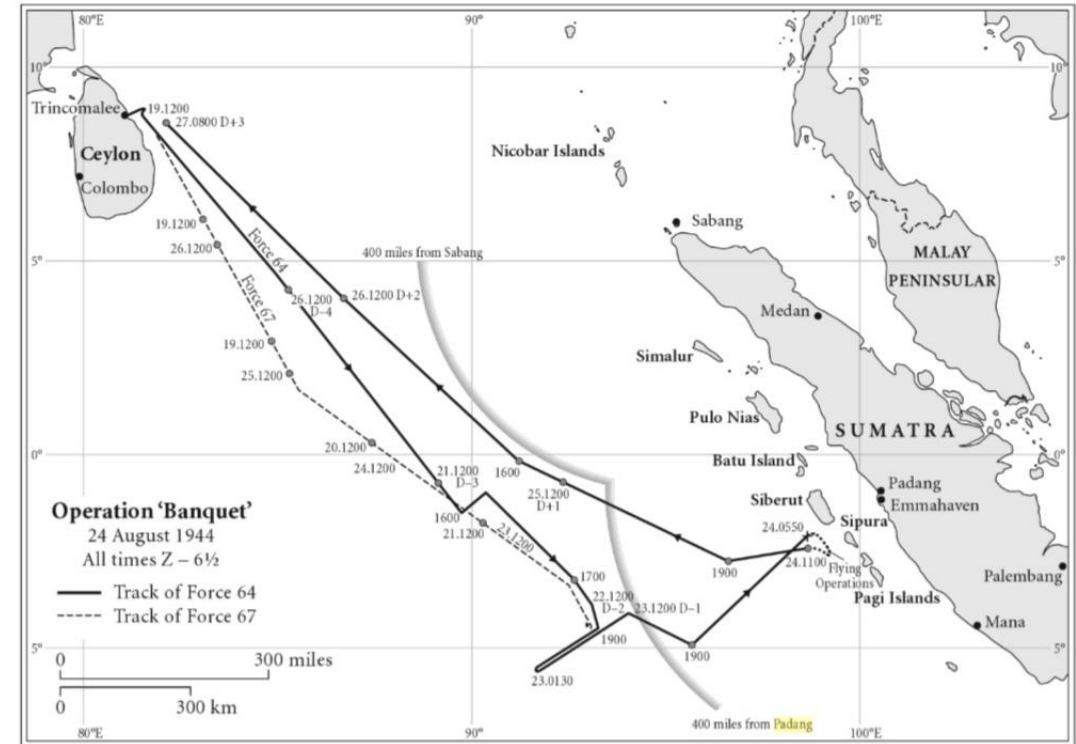
23 – 25 August 1944 - Dutch New Guinea

- Thirty-six aircraft of No. 78 Wing concentrated on No. 2 strip at Babo on **23rd August** and 31 bombs were seen to explode along and in the centre of the runway.
- The operation was repeated **the following day** when 24 bombs fell directly in the centre of the runway, the rest bursting along the end of the runway and among huts and dispersals.
- On **25th August** 36 aircraft scored a further 23 direct hits on the runway of No. 2 strip.
- Altogether the Kittyhawk wing flew 304 sorties against the target in the three days' bombardment. One pilot was lost.



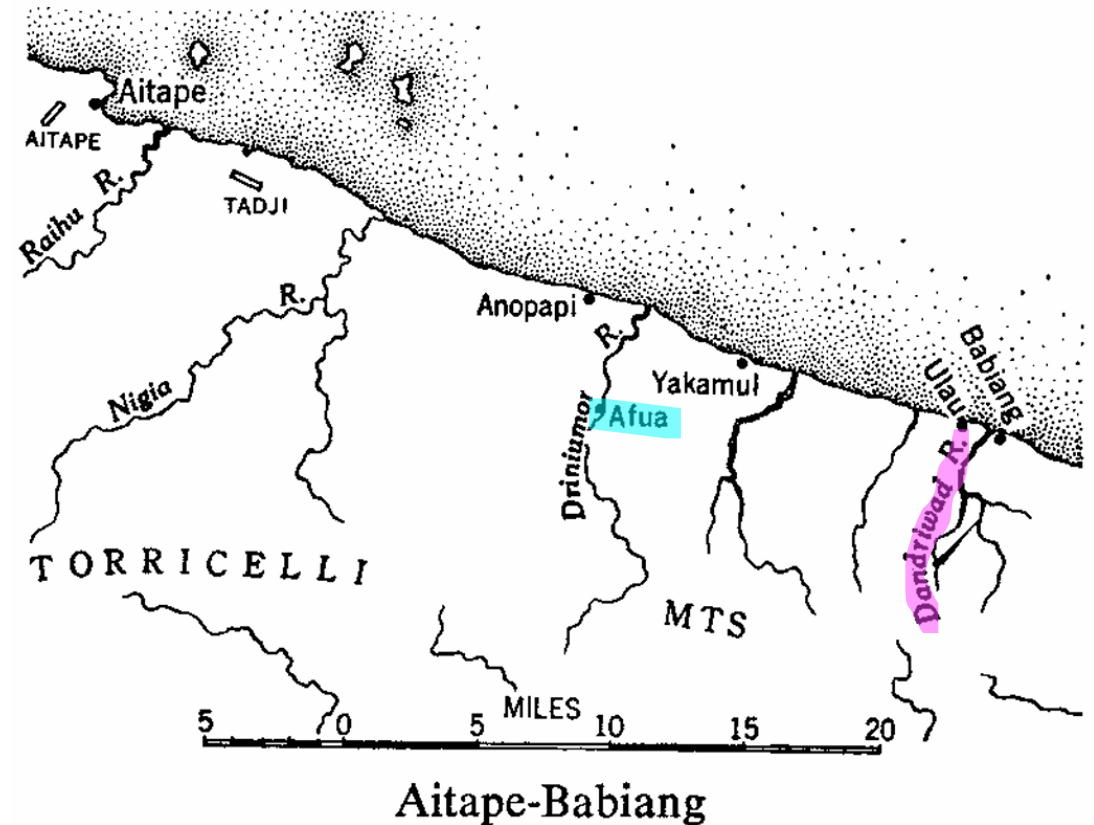
24 August 1944 – Indian Ocean

- Operation Banquet was a British Eastern Fleet operation, commanded by Rear Admiral Clement Moody.
- The objective was to bomb Japanese positions in and around Padang, on the south-western coast of Sumatra, in Indonesia, on 24 August 1944.
- The primary targets of the attack, Padang airfield, the Indaroeng cement works, and the harbor facilities and shipping at Emmahaven were also hit.



25 August 1944 – New Guinea

- 71 Wing RAAF had gone forward to Aitape in June where its two Beaufort units (Nos 8 and 100) were augmented by No. 30's Beaufighters, and the USAAF's 110th Reconnaissance Squadron flying P-39 Airacobras. These four squadrons undertook 1,510 sorties during the Battle of Aitape in July, delivering 670 tons of bombs. US General Hall praised the wing for contributing "in a large measure ... to the success of the operation by continuous interruption of enemy lines of communication and bombing and strafing of enemy concentrations and supplies".
- Commodore Collins, who led a RAN bombardment task force during the battle also paid tribute: "The accuracy of these bombardments was ensured by excellent air spotting. Beauforts of 71 Wing RAAF gave this spotting and deserve much credit for the efficient manner in which it was undertaken, particularly since the airmen were not trained spotters and a Beaufort is hardly a suitable plane for the work."
- The defenders had lost 450 killed and estimated that 8,800 Japanese had been killed from 22nd April to 25th August.



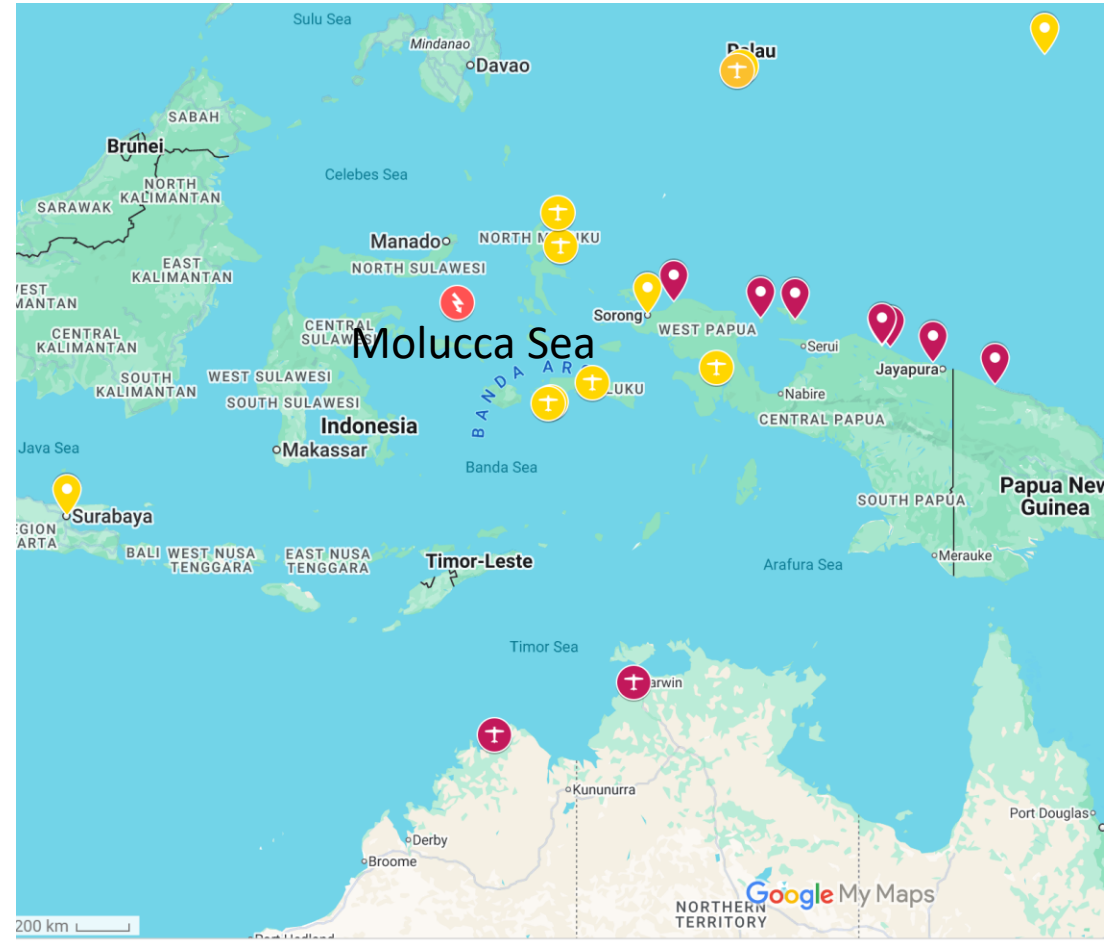
25 August 1944 – North West Area

- After the withdrawal of the Vultee Vengeance squadrons from New Guinea, it was decided that these squadrons (Nos. 21, 23 and 24) should be used as the nucleus of the first Liberator squadrons.
- In January 1944 General Arnold had told Kenney that he would let the Australians have twelve Liberators in May and then send six each month beginning in July 1944.
- Crews were trained by the 5th Bomber Command Replacement and Training Centre in New Guinea and were then assigned for operational training to the American No. 43 Bombardment Group at Nadzab.
- No. 24 Squadron RAAF moved from Lowood, Queensland, to Manbulloo, Northern Territory. The squadron, equipped with twelve new Liberators, which had been ferried out from America, was ready for operations by 5th July.



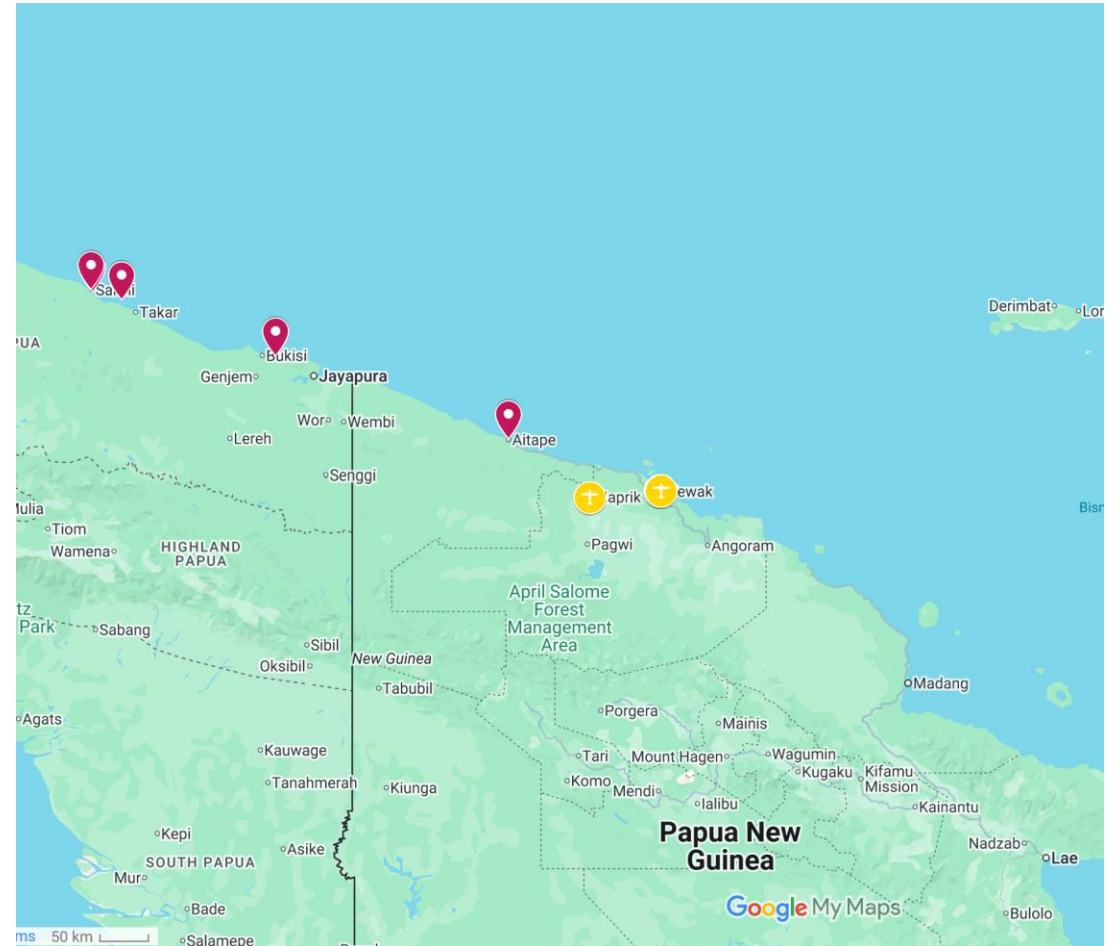
25 August 1944 – North West Area

- No. 24 was employed mainly on shipping searches in August.
- During one of these missions on 25th August a Liberator piloted by Flying Officer Carrigan found and attacked an enemy convoy of merchant vessels in the Molucca Sea.
- An enemy aircraft was covering the convoy but did not attempt an interception.
- Carrigan, attacking from 10,000 feet, dropped eight 300-lb bombs scoring two and possibly three direct hits and several near misses on one of the vessels which was left smoking .



26 August 1944 - New Guinea

- Through August and September the 71 Wing Beauforts at Aitape continued their daily bombardment of the enemy.
- They struck at Wewak, Boram, Maprik, Cape Moem and the Danmap River area and many other targets.
- On 26th August a heavy strike was carried out on the Boram airfield.



29 August 1944 – B29

- In Washington, it was decided that new leadership was needed for Twentieth Air Force.
- General Wolfe's replacement was Major General Curtis E. LeMay, who arrived in India on 29 August.
- Supply problems and aircraft accidents were still preventing a fully effective concentration of force and effort.
- In addition, Japanese defensive efforts were becoming more effective.
- Photo: Somewhere in China. Oct. 11, 1944. General Joseph Stilwell talking with Major General Curtis LeMay of the 20th Bomber command, at a B-29 base



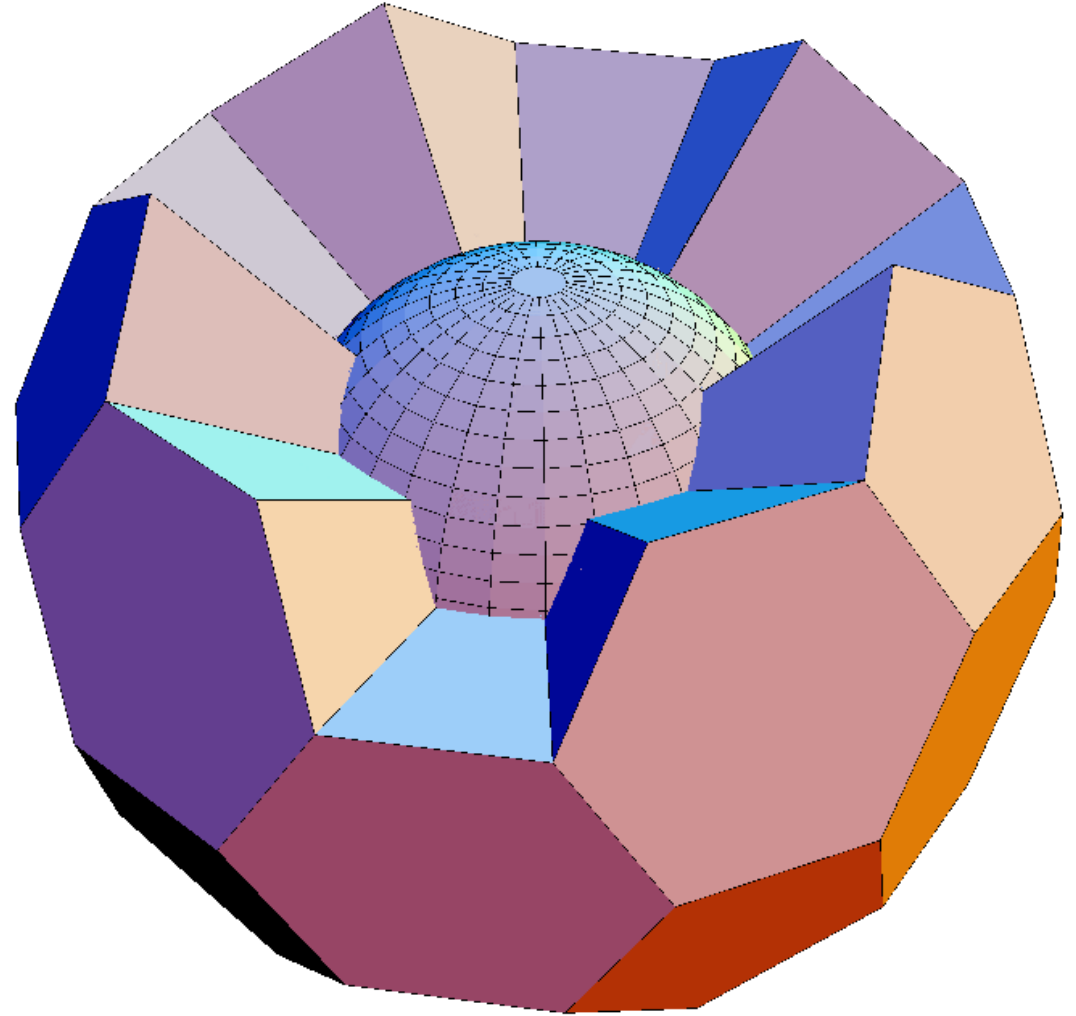
August

- Ambon was heavily attacked by the Darwin based Liberators of the 380th Bomb Group joined in August by No. 24 Squadron and was practically destroyed.
- All the airfield facilities and buildings were flattened and the runways put out of order for a month.



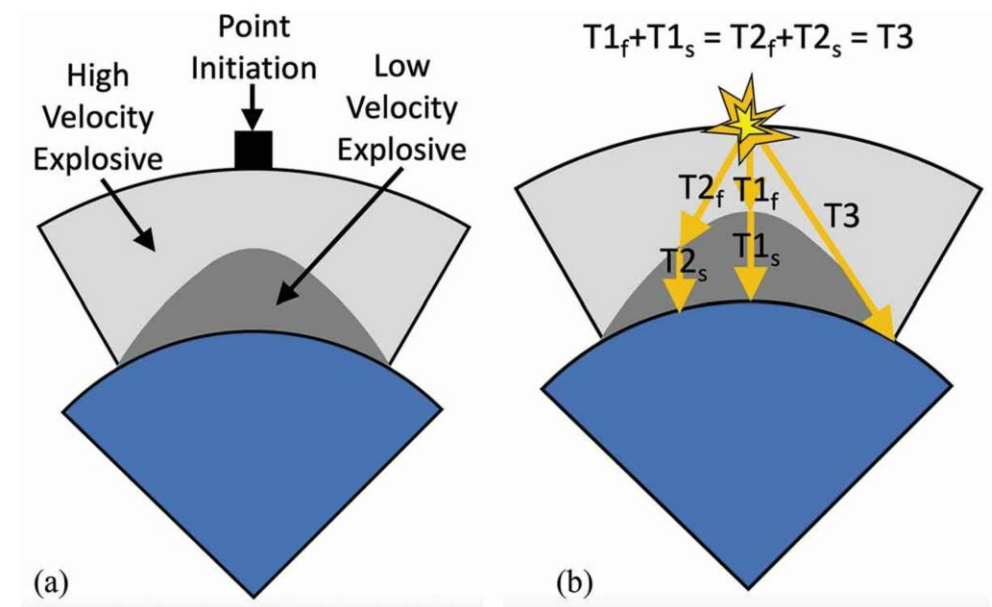
August 1944 - Manhattan Project

- An accelerated effort on the implosion design, codenamed Fat Man, began in August 1944 when Oppenheimer implemented a sweeping reorganization of the Los Alamos laboratory to focus on implosion.
- Two new groups were created at Los Alamos to develop the implosion weapon, X (for explosives) Division headed by explosives expert George Kistiakowsky and G (for gadget) Division under Robert Bacher.
- The new design featured explosive lenses that focused the implosion into a spherical shape.



August 1944 - Manhattan Project

- The design of lenses turned out to be slow, difficult and frustrating. Various explosives were tested before settling on composition B and baratol.
- The final design resembled a soccer ball, with 20 hexagonal and 12 pentagonal lenses, each weighing about 80 pounds.
- Getting the detonation just right required fast, reliable and safe electrical detonators, of which there were two for each lens for reliability. They used exploding-bridgewire detonators, a new invention developed at Los Alamos by a group led by Luis Alvarez.



(a) The conceptual arrangement of a lens system in an implosion weapon. (b) Detonation shockwave travel time from the detonator to the tamper surface is the same for all paths

August 1944 - Manhattan Project

- Robert Christy (photo), a Canadian-American theoretical physicist, is credited with doing the calculations that showed how a solid subcritical sphere of plutonium could be compressed to a critical state, greatly simplifying the task, since earlier efforts had attempted the more-difficult compression of a hollow spherical shell.



August 1944 - Manhattan Project

- To study the behavior of converging shock waves, Robert Serber devised the RaLa Experiment, which used the short-lived radioisotope lanthanum-140, a potent source of gamma radiation.
- The gamma ray source was placed in the center of a metal sphere surrounded by the explosive lenses, which in turn were inside an ionization chamber.
- This allowed the taking of an X-ray movie of the implosion. The lenses were designed primarily using this series of tests.
- RaLa became the most important single experiment affecting the final bomb design.



Remote handling of a kilocurie source of radiolanthanum for a RaLa Experiment at Los Alamos

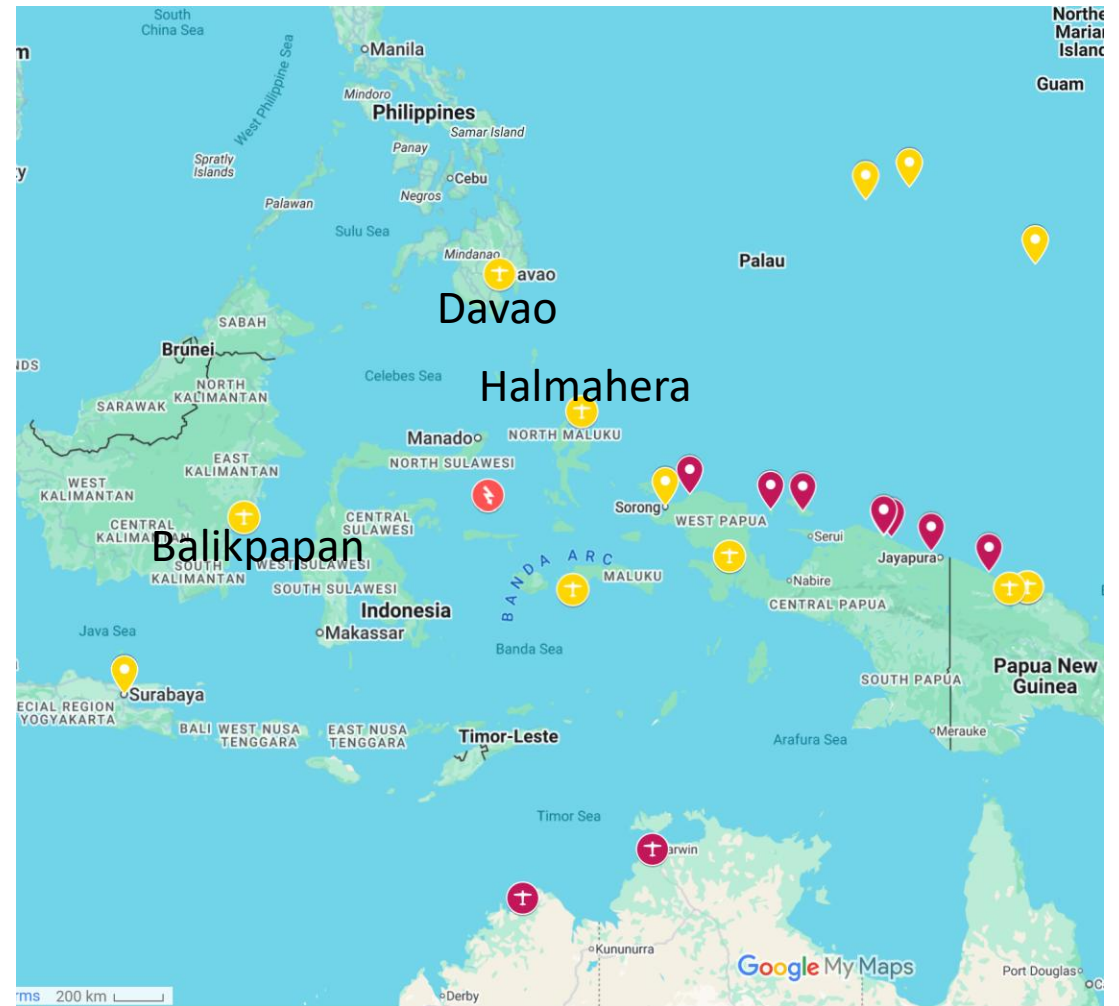
1 September 1944 - Australia

- Curtin protested strongly against the alternative proposal for British participation, reminding Churchill, on 1st September, that on several occasions he had emphasised that Australia had a deep interest in preserving the existing command arrangements in the South-West Pacific.
- Government and Opposition leaders were agreed that they should not be varied.
- He should have been consulted before the new proposal for a British-led British and Dominion force had gone to Washington.



1 September SWPA Air

- The attacks on Morotai and Peleliu were to be preceded by widespread bombardment by aircraft of the Pacific Fleet.
- The 15th September was to be assault day.
- The simultaneous actions would help to divide Japanese reaction, whatever it might be.
- The S.W.P.A. air forces were to play their part.
- Beginning on **1st September**, they were to carry out heavy daylight raids against enemy air facilities in Ceram, Halmahera and north Celebes and, in addition, to neutralise the Vogelkop airfields.
- Tasks in the Vogelkop area would be carried out by No. 10 Group.
- Heavy bombers of the Thirteenth Air Force were also to attack as far north as Davao in Mindanao and as far west as Balikpapan in Borneo.



2 September 1944 - Pacific

- On 2 September 1944 Bush's target was a Japanese radio station on ChiChi Jima, 600 miles southwest of Japan in the Bonin Islands. The station had been intercepting U.S. radio transmissions and warning Japan of impending American air strikes.
- Bush's aircraft successfully attacked the target but was downed by anti aircraft fire. Though both of Bush's fellow crew members died, Bush successfully bailed out from the aircraft and parachuted safely into the water, dangerously close to the shore.
- Once in the water, Bush unleashed his inflatable lifeboat, climbed in, and paddled quickly out to sea. The Japanese sent out a boat to capture him but Lieutenant Doug West, a fellow VT-51 Avenger pilot, strafed the boat.
- Circling fighter planes transmitted Bush's plight and position to U.S. submarine Finback, patrolling 15 to 20 miles from the island "This was 1944 and there were very few enemy targets left,". "So, the main reason for our being on patrol was to act as lifeguard and pick up aviators."
- Bush was rescued by Finback and remained on the sub for the remaining 30 days of its patrol. The rescued aviators were put to work as lookouts. "Four hours on, eight hours off."
- Eight other aviators shot down on this raid were captured and eventually murdered.
- During his active service, Bush had flown 58 missions, completed 128 carrier landings, and recorded 1228 hours of flight time.

Jerry McBrien 2026



3 September 1944 - Dutch New Guinea

- In their operations in the Vogelkop the Kittyhawks of No. 80 Squadron began carrying a 1,500-lb bomb load, instead of the normal load of 1,000 pounds.
- The increased load was possible because this squadron had the latest type of Kittyhawks which were more sturdily built.
- On **3rd September**, four aircraft of the squadron dive-bombed Babo in the first operation with the 1,500-lb bomb load, and from then on No. 80 delivered this load in many bombing attacks, mainly against Babo and Kokas. Carrying the extra bomb load, however, shortened the range of the aircraft.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P03372.011

Front view of a P40 Kittyhawk aircraft of 450 Squadron RAAF. The aircraft is carrying six 250 lb bombs. 450 only operated in North Africa & Italy.

After 1 September 1944 - London

- Churchill replied that it had not been suggested that Australian troops should be taken away from General MacArthur.
- "On the contrary, we have suggested sending to Australia a British naval force which would be combined with the Australian and New Zealand forces already on the spot into a British and Dominion task force under General MacArthur's direct command."
- Thus the phrase "under a British commander" was now omitted and did not recur in later discussion of the subject.
- Churchill added that it was the practice of the Combined Chiefs to draw plans for British and American forces without references to "the various Governments whose forces are included".



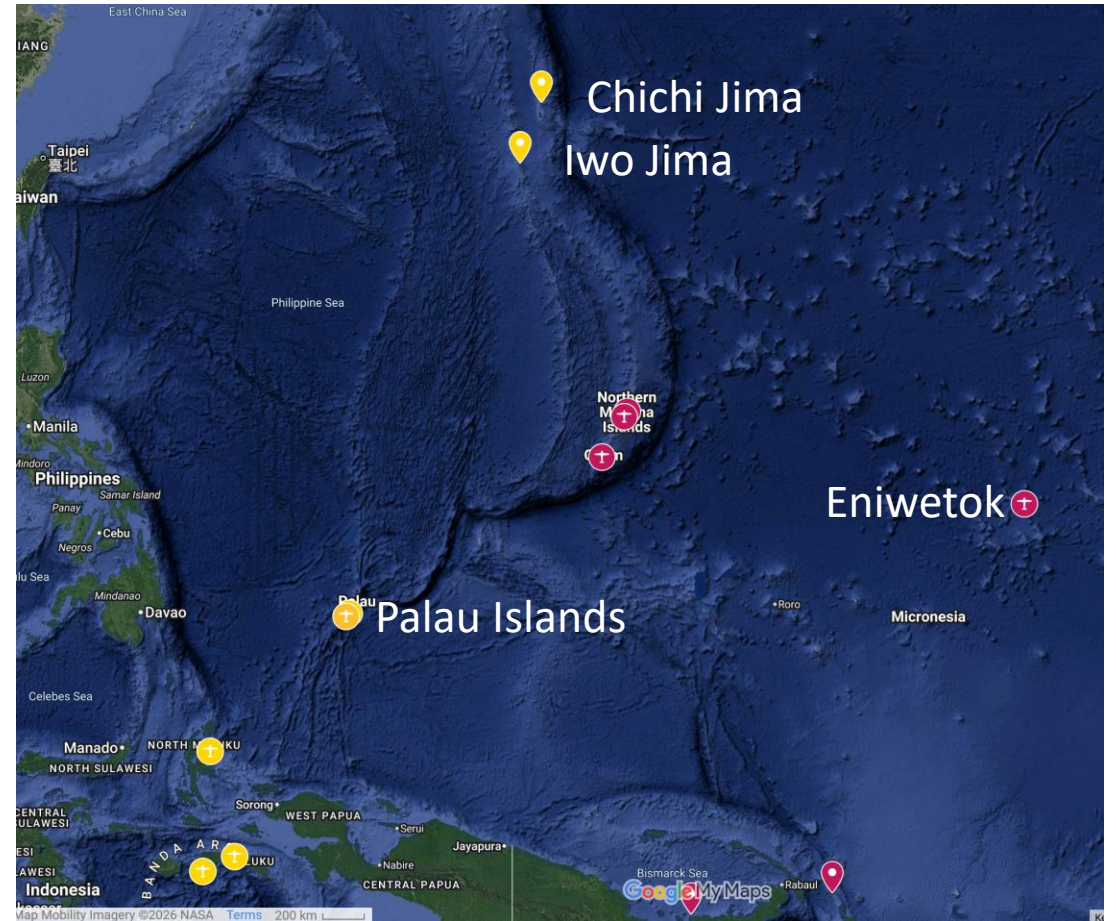
5 September 1944 - Dutch New Guinea

- The Bostons and Beaufighters with their longer range were used against airfields on Ceram and in the Kai Islands, and for barge sweeps.
- About half of both squadrons' efforts were concentrated on denying the enemy use of Bula airfield in Ceram and Langgur on the Kai Islands.
- These attacks produced good results with about 75 per cent of bombs landing on the targets.
- Minor damage was caused to eight aircraft by anti-aircraft fire.
- One Boston was found to have forty holes in it when it returned to base after a raid on Bula on 5th September.



6 - 8 September 1944 - Palaus

- Task Groups 38.1, 38.2, and 38.3 sortied from Eniwetok Anchorage in the Marshall Islands on August 29.
- Task Group 38.4 detached to strike Chichi Jima and Iwo Jima from August 31 to September 2 to deceive and distract Japanese forces.
- The main carrier groups arrived off the Palau Islands where planes from Vice Admiral Marc Mitscher's carriers bombed supply dumps, barracks, and airfields on Peleliu and surrounding islands on September 6-8.



7 September 1944 - Australia

- Blamey informed the Advisory War Council on 7th September 1944 The XIV US Corps in Bougainville would be replaced by the II Australian Corps, which was now operating as New Guinea Force Headquarters.
- They would move to Torokina and would also garrison Munda, the Treasury Islands and Emirau. Rabaul would be left alone for the time being.
- This would absorb the 3rd Division under Major-General W. Bridgeford and two brigades of the 11th Division.
- The Australians had also been directed to take control of New Britain, and the 5th Australian Division under Major-General A. H. Ramsay would be used for this purpose.
- The Aitape area would be the responsibility of the 6th Australian Division under Major-General J. E. S. Stevens.
- Headquarters, First Australian Army, would move from Atherton and take over the New Guinea area.
- In addition to the above activities, which would absorb four divisions, the Commander-in-Chief S.W.P.A. desired to establish an expeditionary force for further operations.
- This would consist of the 7th and 9th Divisions, making up the I Corps, which was now being prepared under Morshead.
- The foregoing dispositions would require practically all the fighting troops now in Australia. The garrison in Western Australia was being reduced to a minimum and that in the Northern Territory was being substantially reduced.

9 September 1944 - Washington

- On 9th September the American Chiefs had accepted the British proposal for a British task force under a British commander who would be subordinate to MacArthur but ignored the main proposal concerning participation in the attack on Japan by the British Fleet.



11 September 1944 – New Guinea

- Early in September American Airacobras on reconnaissance discovered that the Japanese were filling in craters in the Wewak airfield and 2,000 feet of the runway was serviceable.
- Evidently the enemy planned to stage aircraft into the stranded garrison.
- Moran ordered a maximum effort against the airfield.
- On 11th September, No. 100 Squadron carried out an "all-out" operation against it.
- Forty sorties were made throughout the day from 5.27 a.m. until 5.10 in the afternoon. Ten crews took part and all flew four sorties each.
- Eighty direct hits were seen on the runway by aircraft stationed to observe results, and the airfield was put out of action.



Tactical reconnaissance crews of No. 71 Wing being briefed at Tadjil Airstrip in New Guinea, June 1945

11 September

- General MacArthur's original plan for gaining a beachhead in the Philippines called for a late October 1944 landing on the southern coast of Mindanao, the southernmost island of the Philippines, at Sarangani Bay where he could have an airfield site.
- In preparation for the invasion Task Force 38 aircraft raided a number of Japanese bases in the islands, and in the process of one of the raids on 11 September, Ensign Thomas C. Tillar, a Hornet aviator, was shot down near the central island of Leyte.
- He was rescued and returned to Hornet where he told RADM Clark that the natives who picked him up recommended Leyte as an invasion site because there were no Japanese there.
- Clark sent the recommendation up the chain of command, and in less than forty-eight hours a response came back that the proposal had been accepted, and the Leyte landing was scheduled for 20 October.



12 September 1944 - Quebec

- At the first plenary session at the Octagon Conference at Quebec (12 – 16 September 1944) Mr Churchill offered the main British fleet for service in the Pacific and President Roosevelt promptly accepted it.
- Churchill then said that the placing of the main British fleet in the Central Pacific would not prevent a detachment from working with General MacArthur if desired and added that there was "no intention to interfere in any way with General MacArthur's Command".



14 September 1944 - Quebec

- Later, however, the American Chiefs sent a memorandum to their British colleagues in the course of which they said that they considered that the initial use of the British naval task force should be on the western flank of the advance in the South-West Pacific.
- This led to long and acrimonious debate in the course of which it became evident that Admirals William D. Leahy and Ernest J. King—two politically aware admirals—did not want the British Fleet to have any share in the main operations in the Pacific and the British Chiefs considered it "for political reasons . . . essential" that it should.

14 September 1944 - Quebec

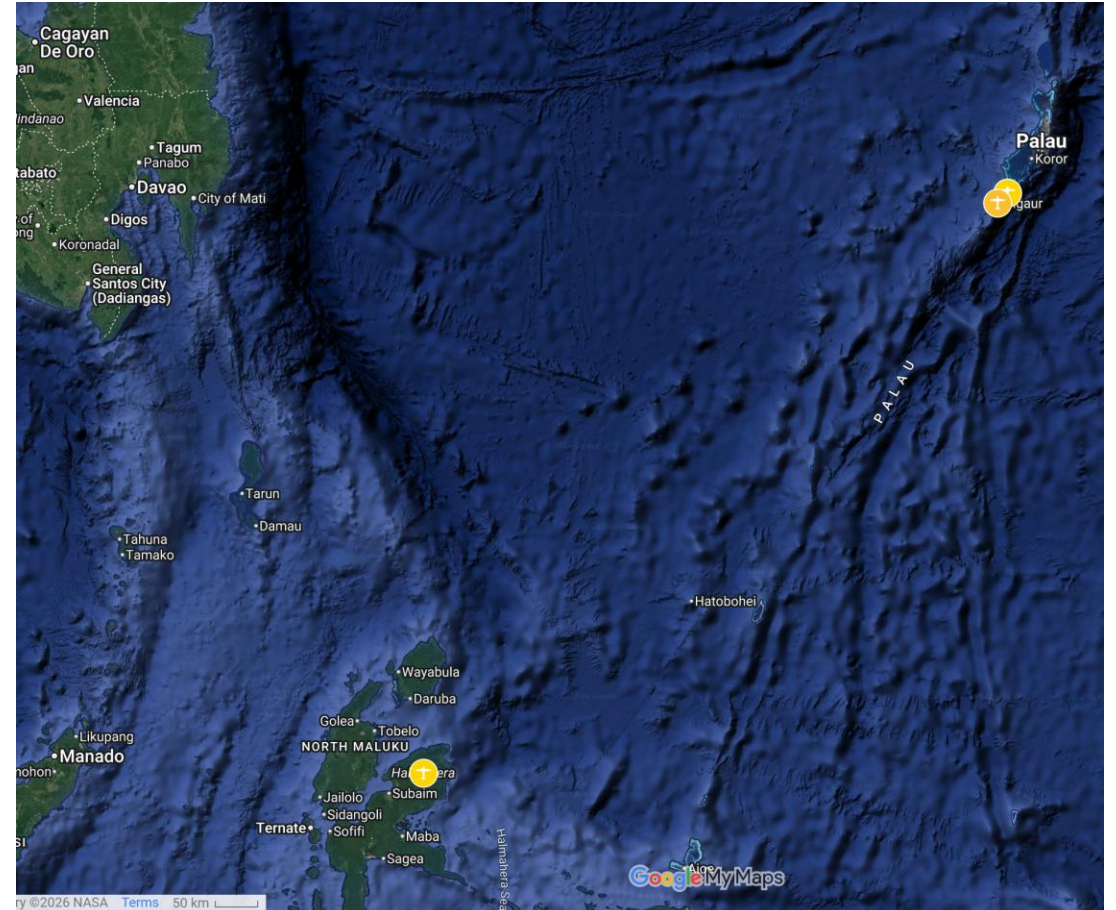
- General Brooke's diary.
- "A combined meeting at 10 AM lasting till 12 noon.
- A very successful meeting at which we got the Americans to accept the British fleet in central Pacific and also the Burma operation.
- We had great trouble with King who lost his temper entirely and was opposed by the whole of his own committee!
- He was determined if he could not to admit British naval forces into Nimitz's command in the central Pacific."



Combined Chiefs of Staff in the earlier conference in Quebec – August 23, 1943. Admiral Pound had a stroke in the days following the conference. Field Marshal Dill died shortly after the 1944 conference.

14 September 1944 - Philippines

- Task Force 38 with its eight fleet carriers, eight light carriers and 1,000 planes moved away from the immediate Palau combat zone to hit Japanese airfields and shipping in Mindanao and the central Philippines (the Visayas) from 9 to 14 September, ensuring enemy planes could not interfere with the ongoing landings on the Palaus or Morotai.

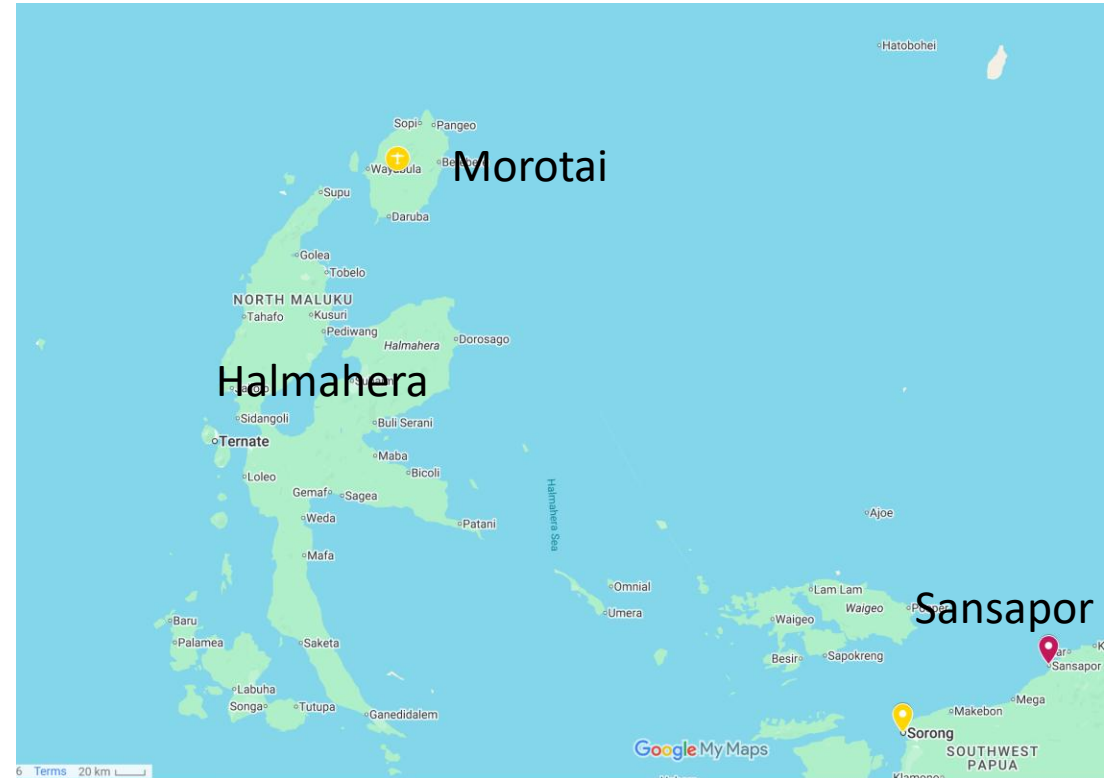


15 September 1944 - Quebec

- Finally the Combined Chiefs agreed that the British Fleet should participate in the main operations against Japan in the Pacific, took note that the British Chiefs withdrew their proposal to form a British Empire task force in the South-West Pacific, and invited the Chief of the Air Staff to put forward proposals about the contribution the R.A.F. could make to the main operations against Japan.
- Thus, after nine months of debate, the nature of the British contribution in the Pacific was at last agreed upon.

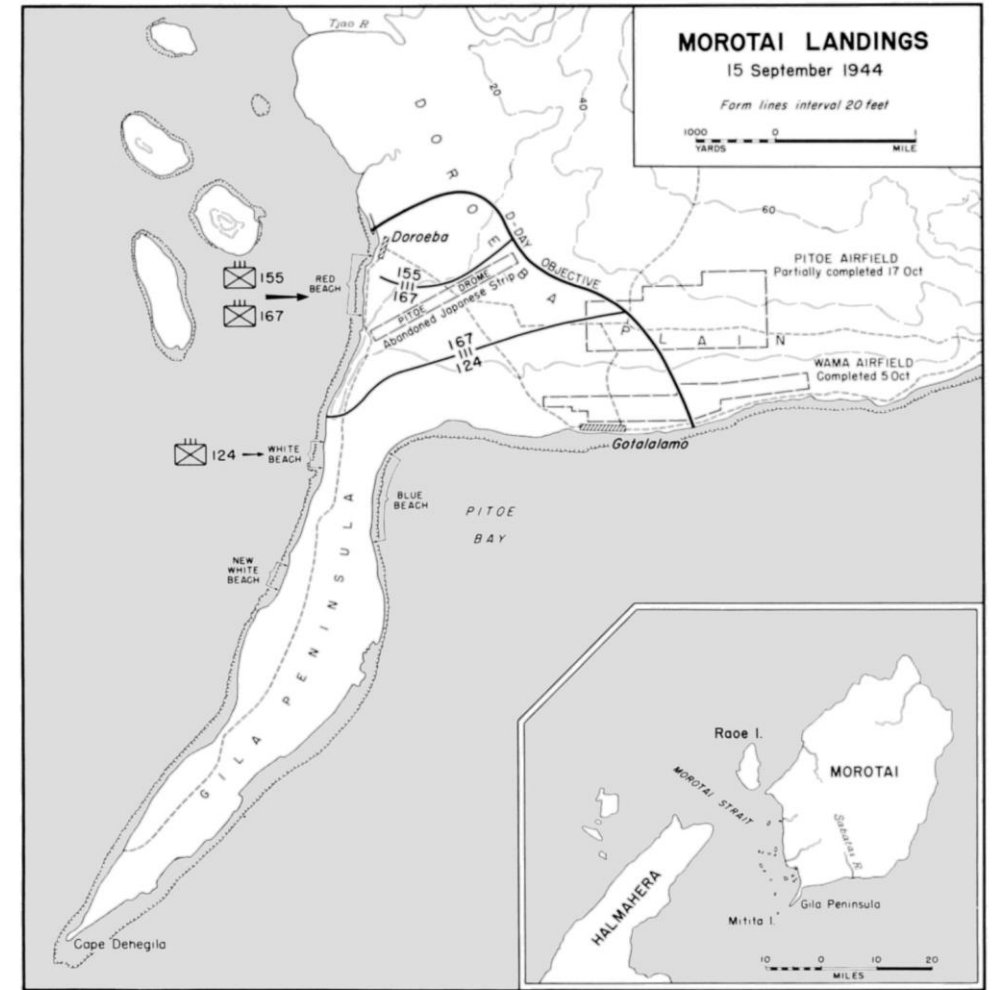
15 September 1944 – Morotai

- McArthur selected Morotai as the location for air bases and naval facilities needed to support the liberation of Mindanao in the Philippines.
- At the time this landing in the Philippines was planned for 15 November.
- Two Japanese battalions were sent to Morotai to develop an airstrip on the Doroeba Plain. Both battalions were withdrawn to Halmahera in mid-July and the airstrip was abandoned because of drainage problems.
- Allied code breakers detected the Japanese buildup at Halmahera and Morotai's weak defenses and passed this information on to the relevant planning staff.
- While Morotai was undeveloped, it was preferred over Halmahera, as the larger and much better-defended island was judged too difficult to capture and secure.
- The landing was scheduled to take place on 15 September 1944, the same day as the 1st Marine Division's landing at Peleliu.
- This schedule allowed the main body of the United States Pacific Fleet to simultaneously protect both operations from potential Japanese counter-attacks.



15 September 1944 – Morotai

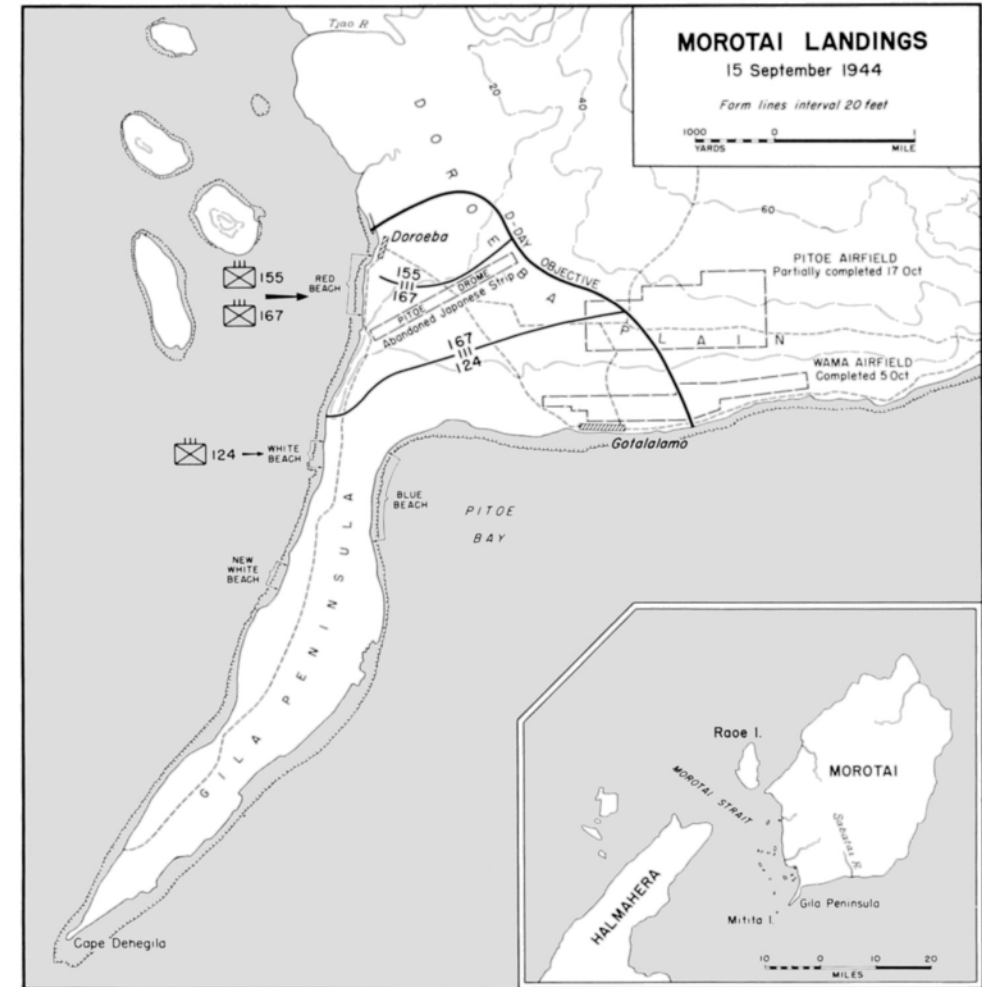
- As little opposition was expected at Morotai, Allied planners decided to land the invasion force close to the airfield sites on the Doroeba Plain.
- Two beaches on the south-west coast of the island were selected as suitable landing sites and were designated Red Beach and White Beach.
- Three infantry regiments of the 31st Division would be landed across these beaches on 15 September and swiftly drive inland to secure the plain.
- As Morotai's interior had no military value, the Allies did not intend to advance beyond a perimeter needed to defend the airfields.
- Planning for the construction of airfields and other base installations was also conducted prior to the landing, and tentative locations for these facilities had been selected by 15 September.
- The Tradewind Task Force numbered 40,105 U.S. Army soldiers and 16,915 USAAF and RAAF personnel.



MAP 20

15 September 1944 – Morotai

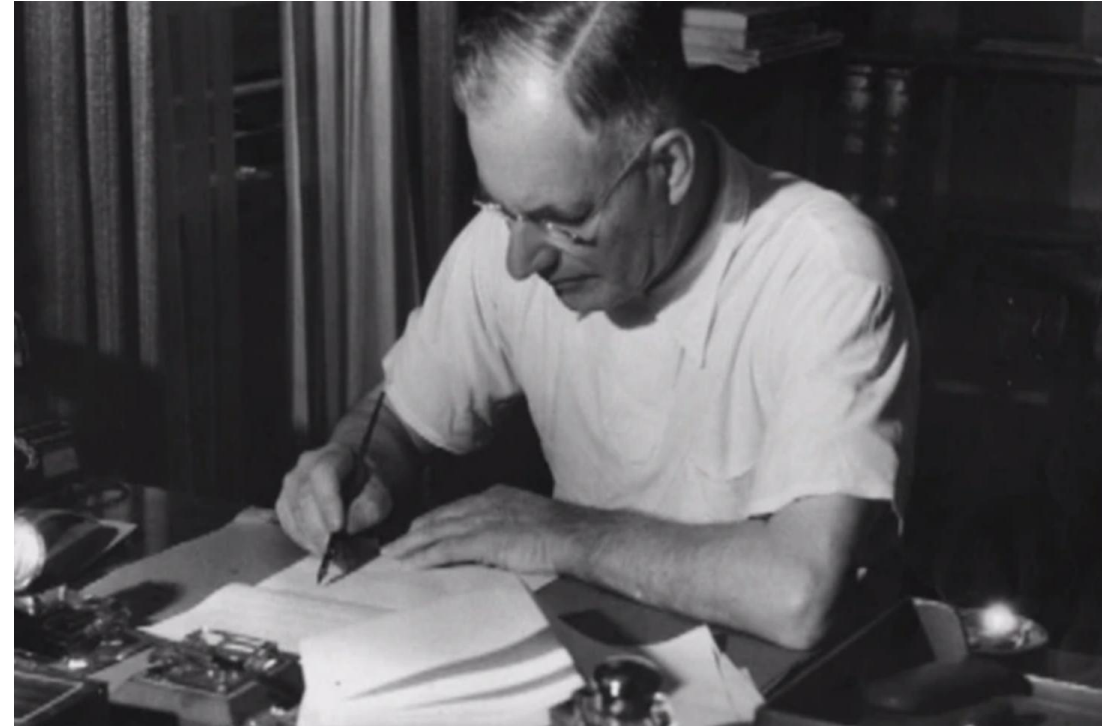
- At 6:30 on the morning of 15 September. Allied warships conducted a two-hour-long bombardment of the landing area to suppress any Japanese forces there.
- This bombardment set several villages on fire, but caused few Japanese casualties as they did not have many troops in the area.
- The first wave of troops landed at 8:30 and did not encounter any opposition.
- The 155th and 167th RCTs landed at Red Beach and the 124th RCT at White Beach.
- Both beaches were muddy and difficult for landing craft to approach owing to rocky ridges and coral reefs. As a result, soldiers and equipment had to be landed through deep surf. This delayed the operation and caused a large quantity of equipment to be damaged.
- Once ashore, the assault troops assembled into their tactical units and rapidly advanced inland.
- By the end of the day the 31st Division had secured all of its D-Day objectives and held a perimeter 2,000 yards inland.
- There was little fighting and casualties were very low.
- On the morning of D-Day a survey party determined that a beach on the south coast of Morotai was much better suited to LSTs. This became the primary Allied landing point from 16 September.



MAP 20

16 September 1944 - Australia

- Curtin (unaware of decisions in Quebec) (on 16th September) sent Churchill a further cable saying that he felt that he had not misunderstood the task force proposal, and that in principle it did involve a change in the existing direct relationship between the Australian forces and General MacArthur.
- (Curtin communicated the gist of all these messages to MacArthur.)
- Since it was for the sake of prestige that the United Kingdom wished to be represented by forces in the Pacific it was natural that they wished the commander of the proposed task force to be a member of a British Service.
- Curtin, however, had long since clearly indicated that such a proposal would not be acceptable to Australia.
- Thus one British proposal was unwelcome to the Americans and the other not acceptable to the Australians.



16 September 1944 – Morotai

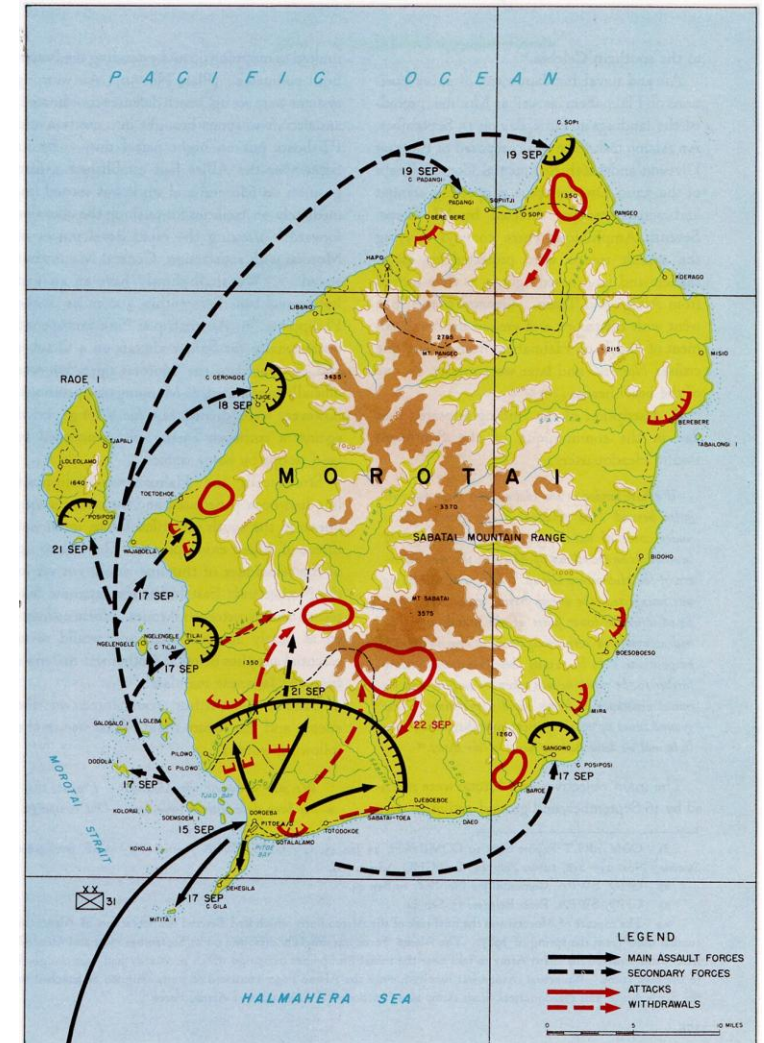
- The U.S. Navy established a PT boat base at Morotai on 16 September when the tenders USS Mobjack and USS Oyster Bay arrived with motor torpedo boat squadrons 9, 10, 18 and 33 and their 41 boats.
- The PT boats' primary mission was to prevent the Japanese from moving troops from Halmahera to Morotai by establishing a blockade of the 12 mile wide strait between the two islands.



USS Mobjack (AGP-7) off Houghton, Washington, on her commissioning day, 17 September 1943

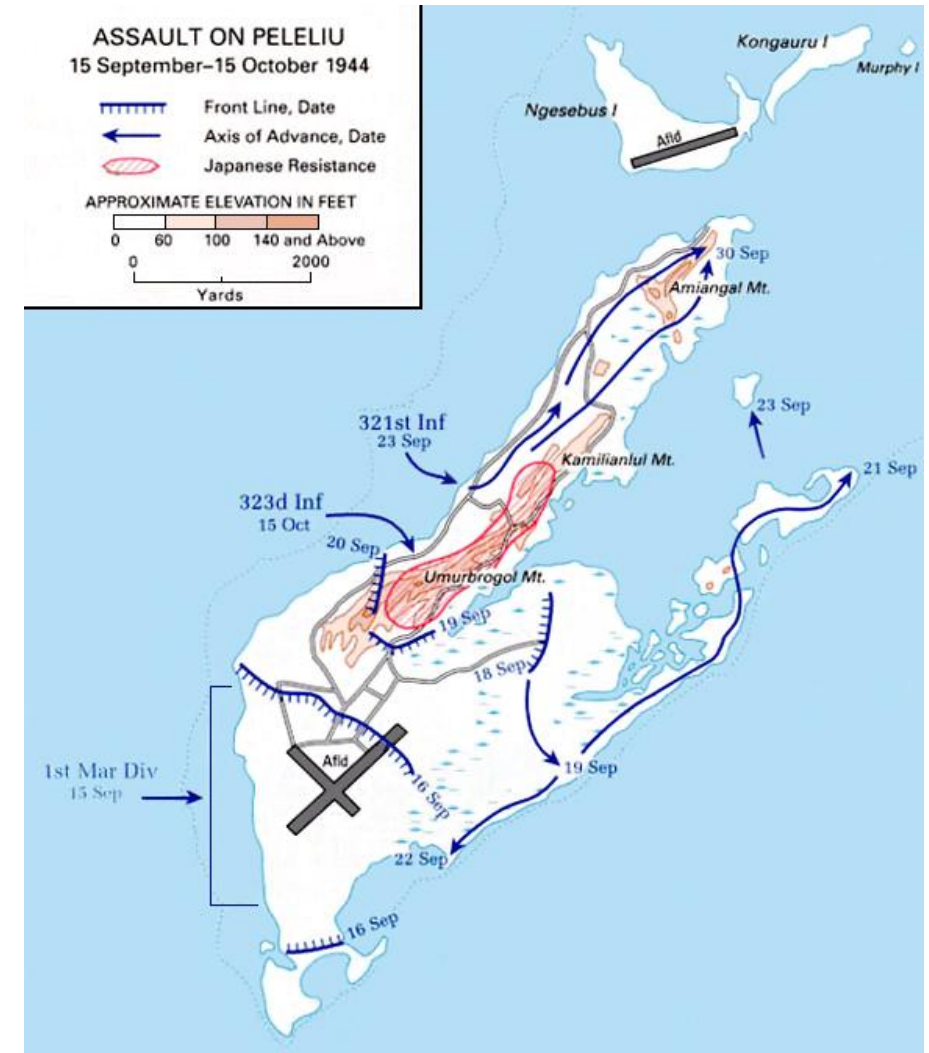
16-20 September 1944 – Morotai

- The 31st Division continued its advance inland on 16 September.
- They met little opposition and secured the planned perimeter line around the airfield area that afternoon.
- From 17 September, the 126th Infantry Regiment landed at several points on Morotai's coastline and offshore islands to establish radar stations and observation posts.
- These operations were generally unopposed, though patrols landed in northern Morotai made numerous contacts with small Japanese parties.
- The ground troops did not require the heavy air support available to them, and the fast carrier group was released for other duties on 17 September.
- On 20 September, the 31st Division advanced further inland to secure an expanded perimeter. To provide room for additional bivouacs and supply installations after General MacArthur's headquarters decided to expand airfield construction on the island. The advance met little resistance and was completed in one day.



15 September 1944 – Palaus

- A Navy Underwater Demolition Team cleared the beaches of some obstacles as warships began their pre-invasion bombardment of Peleliu on 12 September.
- Five battleships, four heavy and three light cruisers led by the command ship Mount McKinley, subjected the 6 sq mi island to a massive three-day bombardment, pausing only to permit air strikes from the three aircraft carriers, five light aircraft carriers, and eleven escort carriers that sailed with the attack force.
- A total of 519 rounds of 16 in, 1,845 rounds of 14 in shells and 1,793 500 lb bombs pounded Peleliu during this period.
- The Americans believed the bombardment to be successful, as Rear Admiral Jesse Oldendorf claimed that the Navy had run out of targets.



15 September 1944 – Palaus

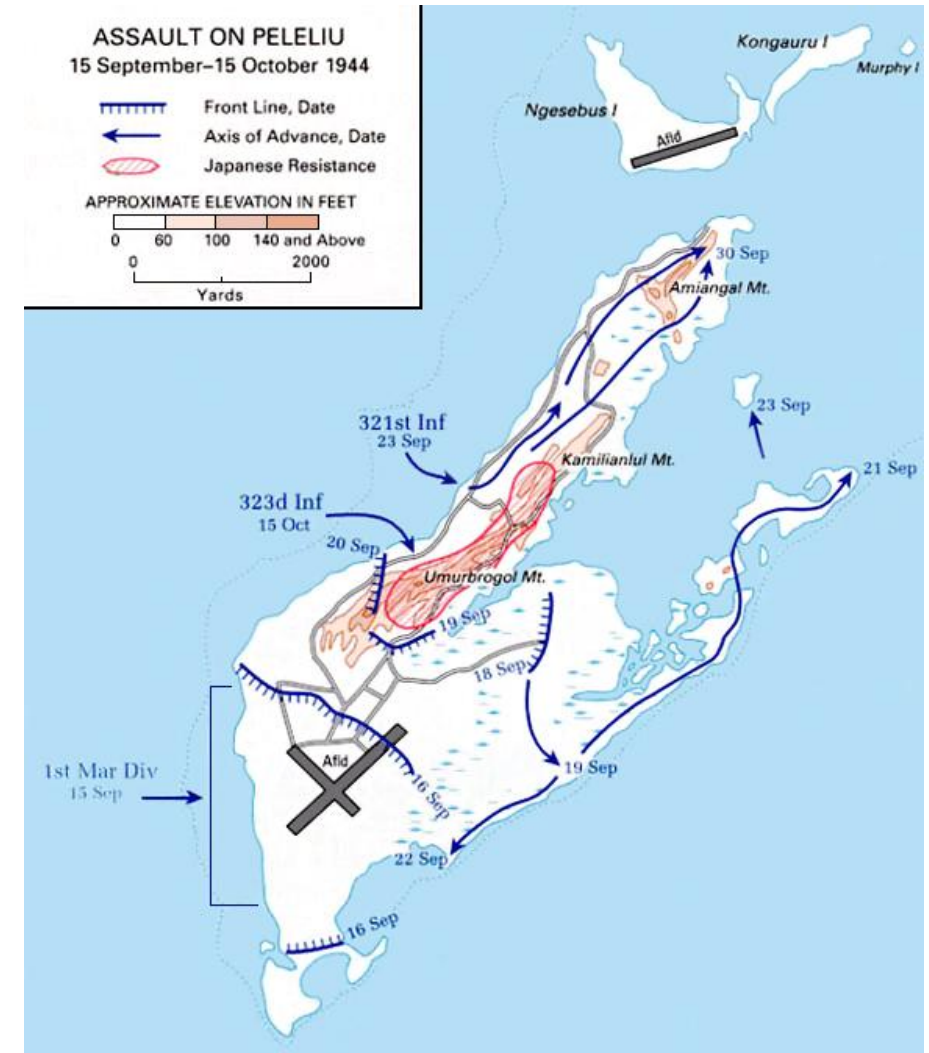
- The 1st Marine Division began landing on Peleliu at 08:32 on 15 September.
- As the additional landing craft approached the beaches, the Marines on shore were caught in a crossfire when the Japanese opened the steel doors guarding their positions and began firing artillery.
- The positions on the coral promontories guarding each flank fired on the Marines with 47 mm guns and 20 mm cannons. By 09:30 the Japanese had destroyed 60 LVTs and DUKWs.
- The 1st Marines were quickly bogged down by heavy fire from the 30-foot high coral ridge on their left flank, "The Point".
- The 7th Marines faced a cluttered Orange Beach 3, with natural and man-made obstacles forcing the LVTs to bunch together and approach in column.
- The 1st Marines suffered very heavy casualties on White Beach 1, and its line was opened at multiple points, and faced potential annihilation in the face of a counterattack, but a counterattack had never materialized.



Japanese fortifications

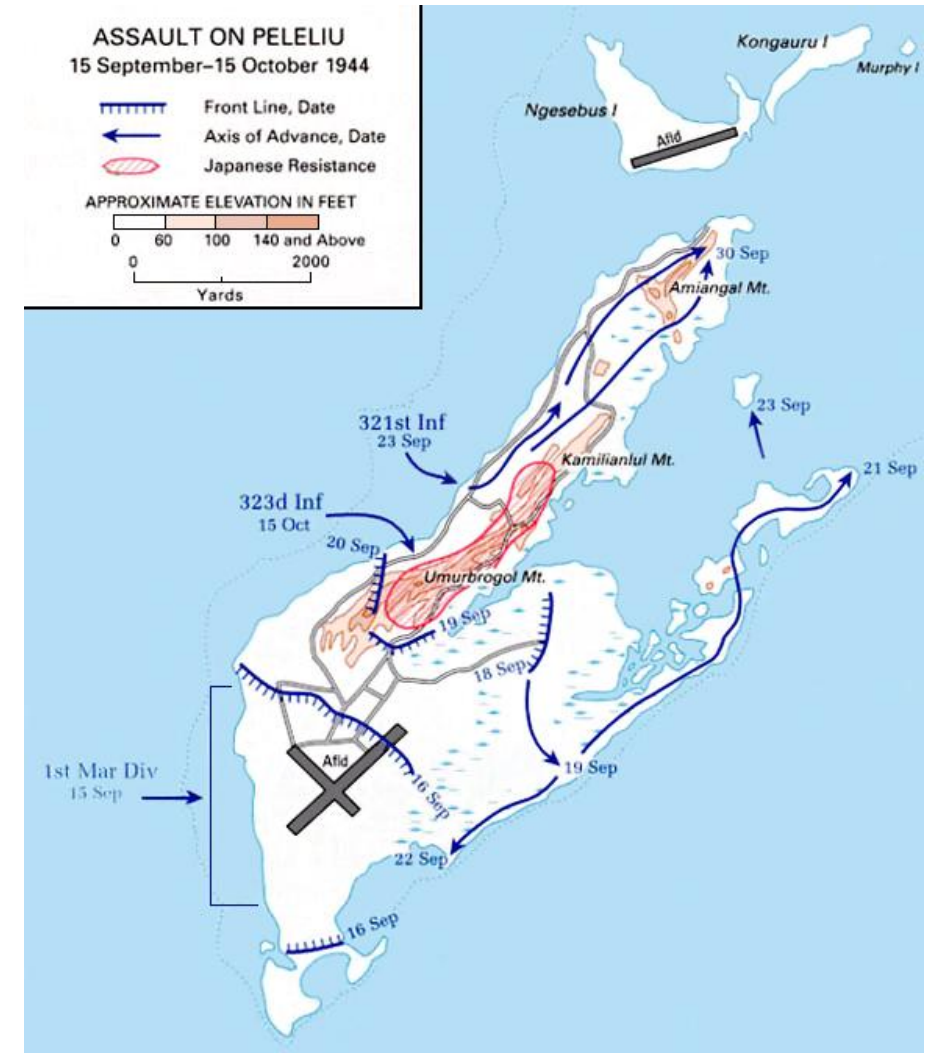
15 September 1944 – Palaus

- After securing the beachhead, the Marines advanced abreast, but progress was very slow contrasting with the envisioned 3-day timetable due to heavy resistance.
- Losses on White Beach 1 were particularly severe. A tank crewman recalled "When the tide went out that night, you could have walked 300 yards across the beach on the bodies of dead Marines".
- Many Japanese troops on the beachhead retreated northwards at this stage towards the ridges on the center of the island, while other stragglers and isolated pockets of Japanese continued to fight behind the Marine lines.
- The 5th Marines made the most progress on the first day, aided by cover provided by coconut groves. As they approached the airfield they were met with a Japanese counterattack, comprising between 11 and 17 light tanks.
- The Japanese troops advanced across the airfield and attempted to push the Marines back. The light tanks raced across the landing strip, some with Japanese infantry mounted on some of them.
- The counterattack was met with tank fire, heavy machine guns and air attack and was swiftly defeated, though some of the tanks reached the Marine lines.



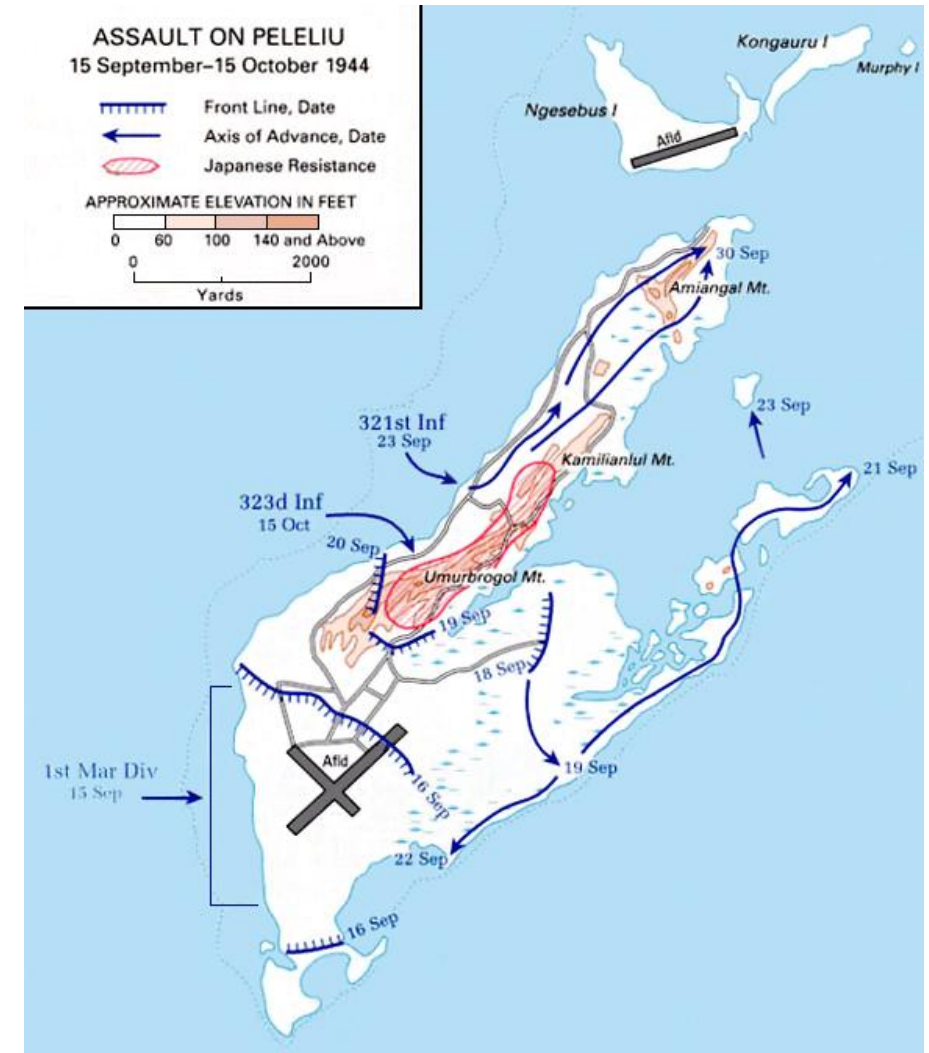
15 September 1944 – Palaus

- At the end of the first day, the Americans held their 2-mile stretch of landing beaches but little else. Their biggest push in the south moved 1 mile inland, but the 1st Marines to the north made very little progress in the face of extremely heavy Japanese resistance.
- The Marines had suffered 200 dead and 900 wounded on the first day. Rupertus, still unaware of his enemy's change of tactics, believed the Japanese defenses would quickly crumble since their perimeter had been broken.
- As night settled, with the Marines capturing little more than a beachhead. Japanese troops, some wearing helmets of dead American Marines, began infiltrating the Marine lines and engaging in close-quarters combat with the Marines, with three infiltrators penetrating as far as Smith's command post in the rear of the Marine lines.



16 September 1944 – Palaus

- On 16 September the 5th Marines moved to capture the airfield and push toward Peleliu's eastern shore.
- The entire regiment crossed the airfield simultaneously, enduring heavy artillery fire from the highlands to the north, and suffered heavy casualties in the process.
- After capturing the airfield, they rapidly advanced to the eastern coast of Peleliu.
- One Japanese battalion was isolated on the southern tip of the island, and it fell to the 7th Marines to destroy this pocket.
- This area was hotly contested by the Japanese, who still occupied numerous pillboxes.
- The temperature was around 115 °F (46 °C), and the Marines suffered high casualties from heat exhaustion aggravated by drinking water distributed in empty oil drums, contaminating it with oil residue.
- Regardless, by 23 September the 5th and 7th Marines had accomplished their objectives, holding the airfield and the southern portion of the island, although the airfield remained under threat of sustained Japanese fire from the heights of Umurbrogol Mountain until the end of the battle.



16 September 1944 – Palaus

- American forces began using the airfield on 17 September.
- Stinson OY-1 Sentinels from VMO-3 began aerial spotting missions for Marine artillery and naval gunfire support.
- On 26 September Marine F4U Corsairs from VMF-114 landed on the airstrip. The Corsairs began dive-bombing missions across Peleliu, firing rockets into open cave entrances in support of infantry attacks, and dropping napalm.
- Napalm proved effective at burning away vegetation hiding spider holes, usually killing their occupants.
- The time from takeoff to the target area for the Corsairs operating from Peleliu Airfield was very short, sometimes only 10 to 15 seconds.
- Most pilots did not bother to raise their landing gear, leaving them down during the strike. After a strike was completed, the Corsair simply turned back into the landing pattern again.



An F4U Corsair drops napalm on Japanese positions atop Umurbrogol.

16 September 1944 – Palaus

- "The Point" at the end of the northern landing beaches continued to cause heavy Marine casualties from the enfilading fire of Japanese heavy machine guns and anti-tank artillery across the landing beaches.
- Puller ordered Captain George P. Hunt, commander of K Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, to capture the position.
- Hunt's company approached "The Point" short on supplies, having lost most of its machine guns while approaching the beaches.
- Hunt's second platoon was pinned down for nearly a day in an anti-tank trench between fortifications.
- The rest of his company was threatened when the Japanese cut a hole in their line, surrounding his unit and leaving his right flank cut off.
- A rifle platoon then began knocking out the Japanese gun positions one by one. Using smoke grenades for concealment, the platoon swept through each hole, destroying the positions via a combination of rifle grenades and close-quarters combat.
- Photo: Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller commanding the 1st Marine regiment. Photographed as a major general



16 September 1944 – Palaus

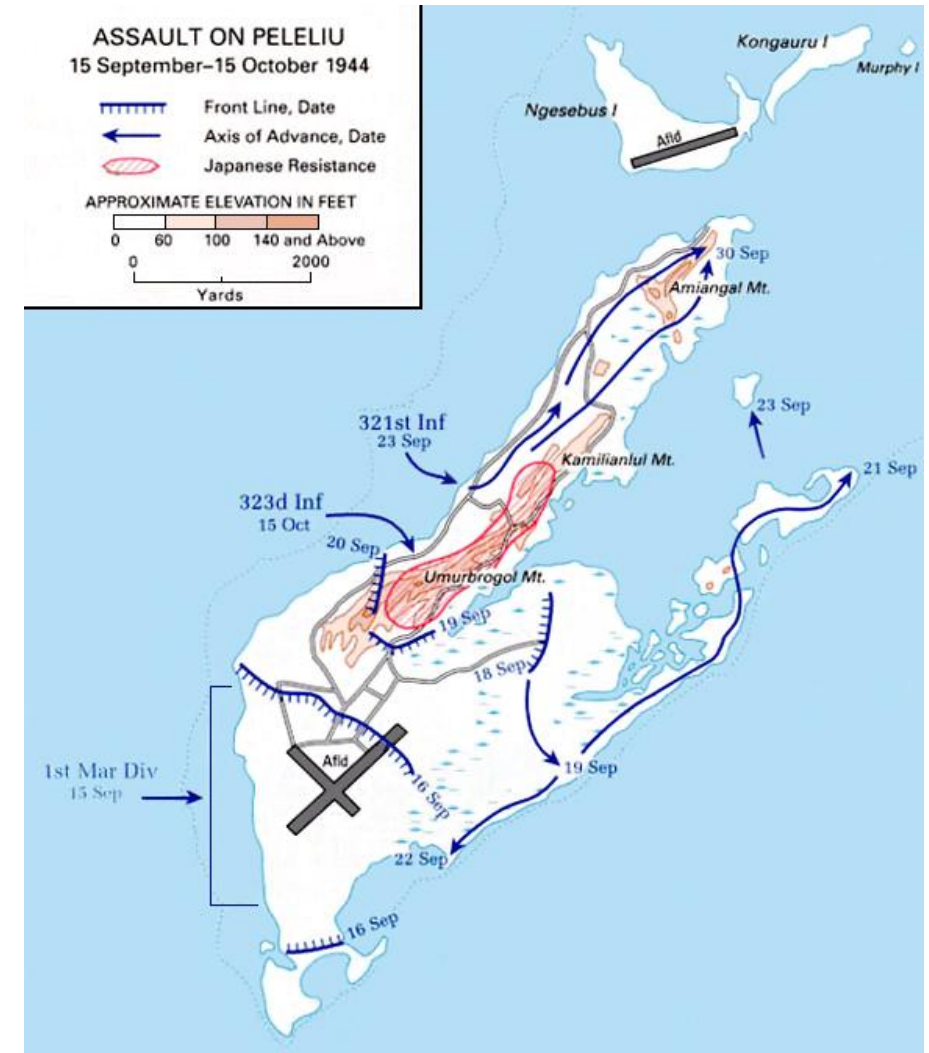
- After knocking out six machine gun positions, the Marines faced a cave housing the 47 mm gun. A lieutenant blinded the gun crew with a smoke grenade, allowing Corporal Henry W. Hahn to launch a grenade through the cave's aperture.
- The grenade detonated the 47 mm's shells, forcing the Japanese defenders out with their bodies alight and their ammunition belts exploding around their waists. A Marine fire team on the flank of the cave gunned down the emerging occupants.
- K Company had captured "The Point", but the Japanese again counterattacked.
- Over the next 30 hours the Japanese counterattacked four times against a single company, critically low on supplies, out of water and virtually surrounded.
- The Marines had to resort to hand-to-hand combat to fend off the Japanese attackers.
- By the time reinforcements arrived, the company had successfully repulsed the Japanese attacks, but had been reduced to 18 men, suffering 157 casualties during the battle for The Point.
- Hunt and Hahn were both awarded the Navy Cross.



Marines in a hospital on Guadalcanal after being wounded in the Battle of Peleliu

16 September 1944 – Palaus

- The 5th Marines—after securing the airfield—were sent to capture Ngesebus Island, just north of Peleliu.
- Ngesebus was occupied by multiple Japanese artillery positions and was the site of an airfield still under construction.
- The tiny island was connected to Peleliu by a narrow causeway, but 5th Marines commander Harris opted instead to make a shore-to-shore amphibious landing, predicting the causeway to be an obvious target for the island's defenders.
- Harris coordinated a pre-landing bombardment of the island on 28 September, carried out by Army 155 mm guns, naval guns, howitzers from the 11th Marines, strafing runs from VMF-114's Corsairs and 75 mm fire from the approaching LVTs.
- Unlike the Navy's bombardment of Peleliu, Harris' assault on Ngesebus successfully killed most of the Japanese defenders.
- The Marines still faced opposition in the ridges and caves, but the island fell quickly, with relatively light casualties for the 5th Marines. They had suffered 15 killed and 33 wounded and inflicted 470 casualties on the Japanese.



16 September 1944 – Palaus

- After capturing "The Point", the 1st Marines moved north into the Umurbrogol pocket, nicknamed "Bloody Nose Ridge" by the Marines.
- Puller led his men in numerous assaults, but each incurred severe casualties from Japanese fire.
- The 1st Marines' movement was constrained by the narrow paths between the ridges, with each ridge fortification able to support the others with direct and indirect fires.
- The Marines took increasingly heavy casualties as they slowly advanced through the ridges.
- The Japanese again showed unusual fire discipline, striking only when they could inflict maximum casualties.
- Japanese soldiers also frequently attempted to infiltrate the American lines at night. The Marines built two-man fighting holes, so one Marine could sleep while the other kept watch for infiltrators.



Frontline warning sign on Peleliu, October 1944

16 September 1944 – Palaus

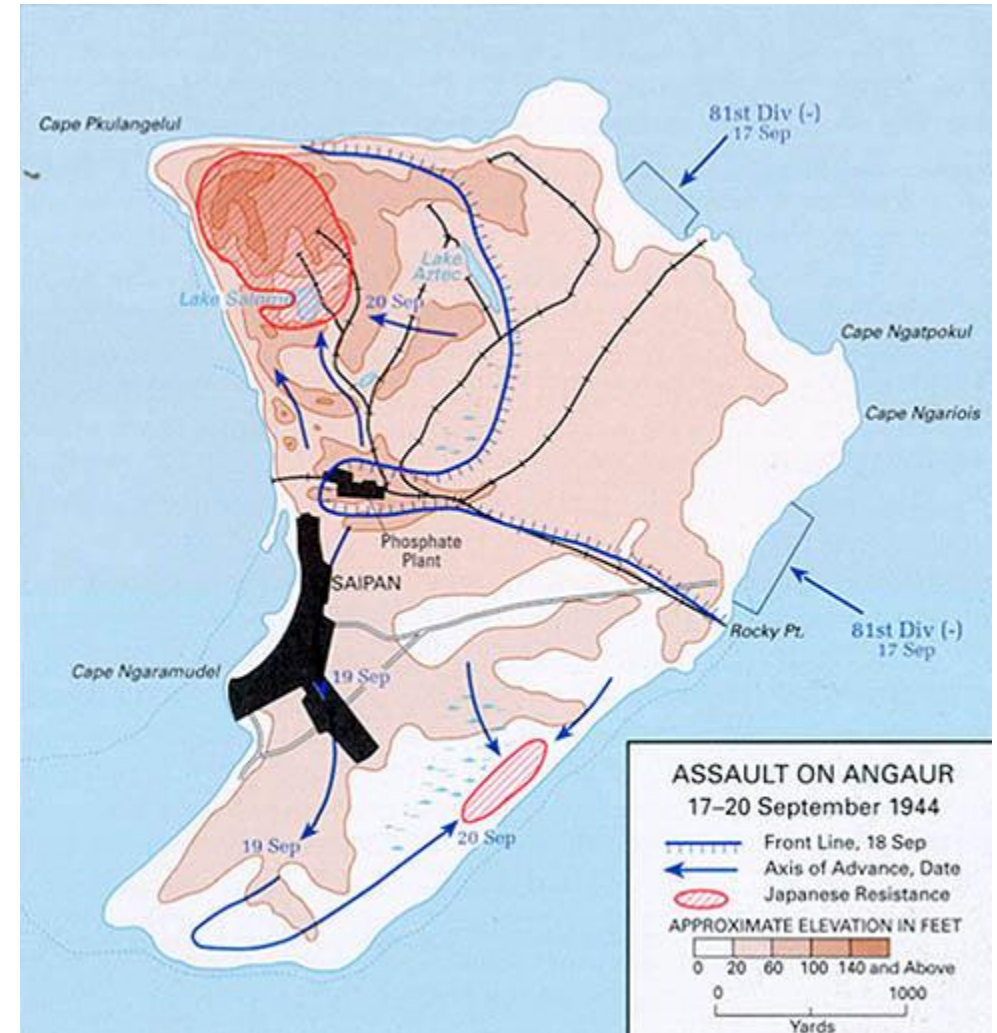
- A particularly intense engagement occurred when the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines—under the command of Major Raymond Davis—attacked Hill 100.
- Over six days of fighting, the battalion suffered 71% casualties.
- Captain Everett P. Pope and his company penetrated deep into the ridges, leading his remaining 90 men to seize what he thought was Hill 100.
- It took a day's fighting to reach what he thought was the crest of the hill, which was in fact another ridge occupied by more Japanese defenders.
- Trapped at the base of the ridge, Pope set up a small defensive perimeter, which was attacked relentlessly throughout the night.
- The Marines ran out of ammunition and had to fight the attackers with knives and fists. Pope and his men managed to hold out until dawn, which brought on more deadly fire.
- When they evacuated the position, only nine men remained. Pope later received the Medal of Honor for the action.



Pope (front row left) at the Medal of Honor presentation (June 15, 1945)

17 September 1944 – The Palaus

- Bombardment of Angaur by the battleship Tennessee, four cruisers, and 40 Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bombers from the aircraft carrier Wasp began on 11 September 1944.
- Six days later on 17 September, the two RCTs landed on the northeast and southeast coasts.
- Not having enough troops to defend all the beaches, the Japanese selected the most attractive beach for an amphibious landing (code named Green Beach by the Americans) to build his beach defenses.
- His defenses consisted of a formidable array of pillboxes, blockhouses, trenches and antitank ditches. Seeing the buildup around Green Beach, Mueller decided to land his troops at the more constricted but less defended beaches of Red and Blue Beach.
- The 322nd RCT received sporadic mortar and machine gun fire, but they landed fairly unopposed and with light casualties.
- The 321st landing at Blue Beach faced heavier machine gun and mortar fire, but it too was able to get ashore with minimal casualties.



18 – September – 4 October 1944 – Morotai

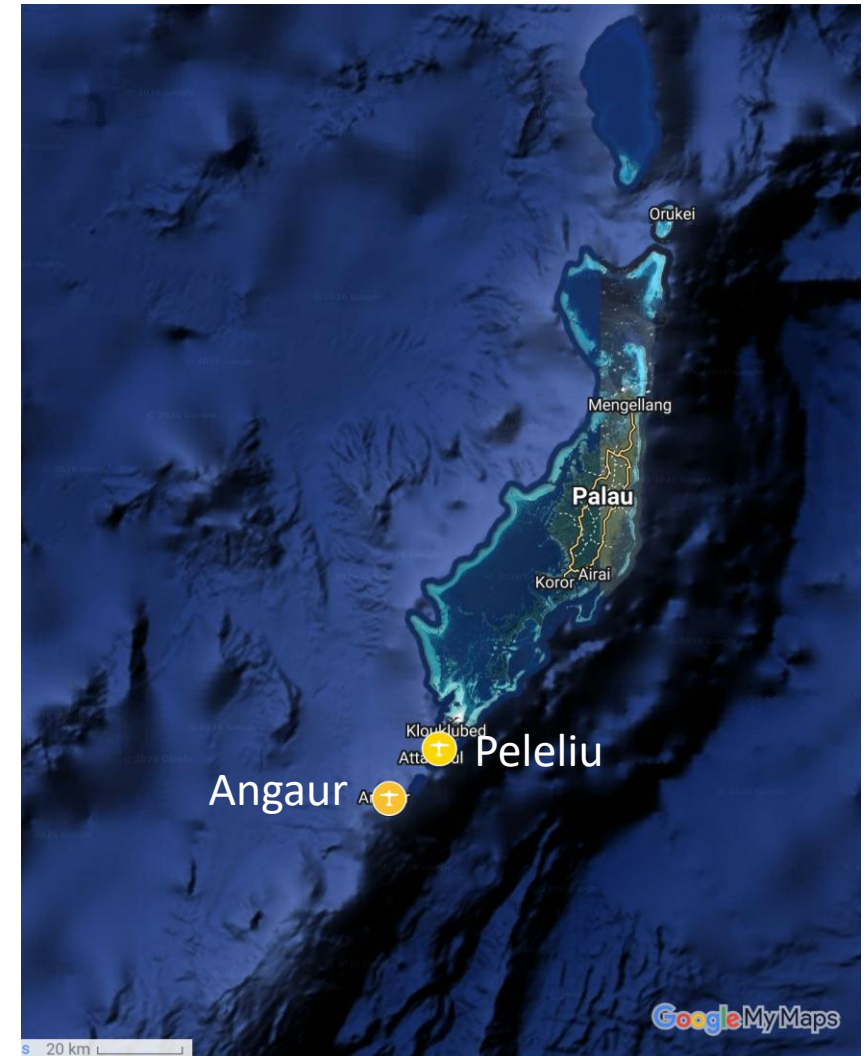
- No. 61 Airfield Construction Wing, RAAF, which had left the Darwin area in August, arrived off Morotai (via Aitape) on 18th September to take part in construction projects on the island.
- The wing headquarters and the engineers of No. 14 Airfield Construction Squadron went ashore at Pitu Bay, and the following day began work on road repair to the Wama airfield site.
- By 20th September the squadron had begun work on the Wama airfield itself.
- On 4th October at Morotai, Wama airfield, on which Nos. 3 and 14 Airfield Construction Squadrons had been working, was opened for flying and a squadron of American Lightnings arrived.



Wama Drome in April 1945

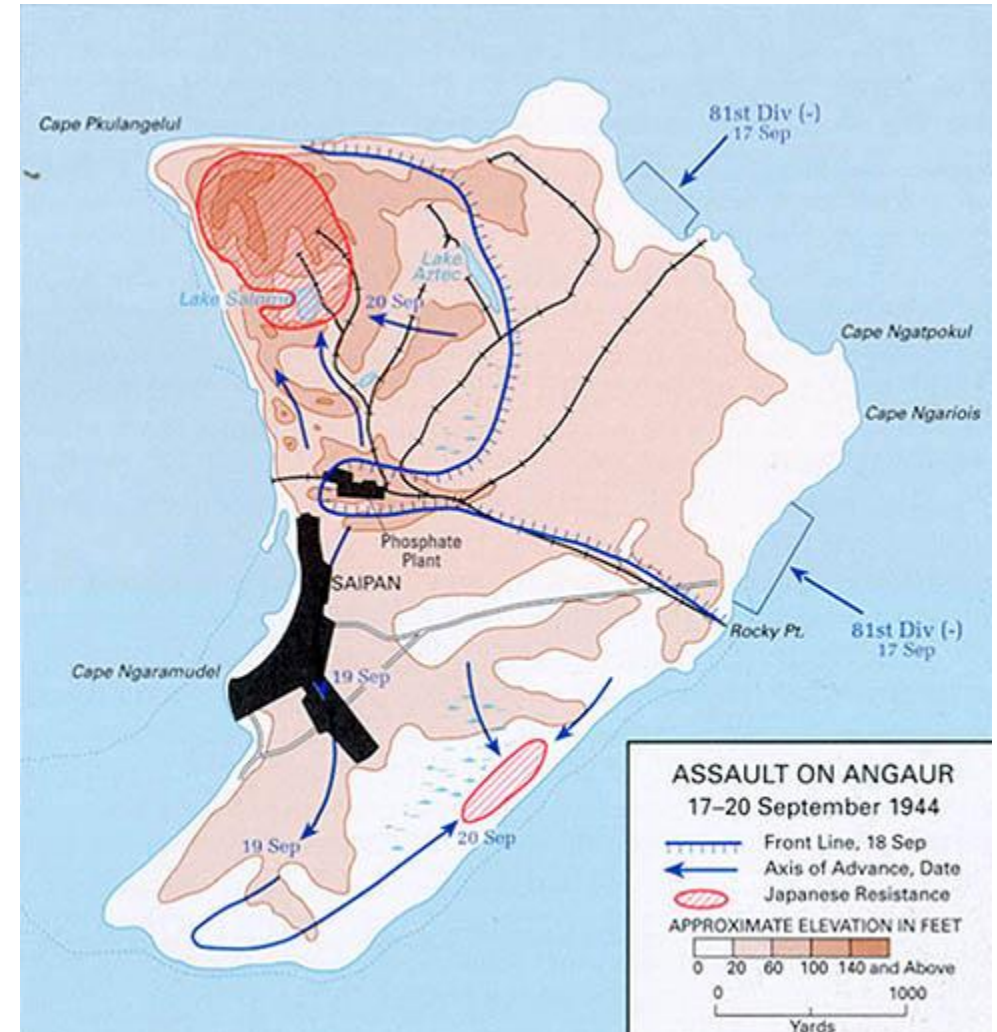
18 - 23 September 1944 – The Palaus

- Both RCTs were counterattacked during the night but this achieved little.
- Late the next day on 18 September, both RCTs were able to link up and push on to their respective objectives.
- By the end of the third day, 19 September, the RCTs had cut the island in half, with two pockets of resistance.
- The main Japanese force on Ramauldo Hill and the other dug in at the Green Beach defensive fortifications.
- After two days of harsh fighting and heavy casualties, the 321st had overrun the Green Beach defenses by flanking them from behind. At a cost of 300 casualties, the southern half of the island was declared secure.
- The 322nd RCT moved across the island to the western coast securing the only inhabited area of the island, "Saipan Town", then swept north towards Romauldo Hill where the main 750-strong force was heavily dug in on the island's most difficult terrain.
- With the southern half of the island secured, on 23 September the 321st RCT was dispatched to nearby Peleliu to relieve the 1st Marine Division.
- Securing the rest of Angaur fell to the 3,200 men of the 322nd RCT.



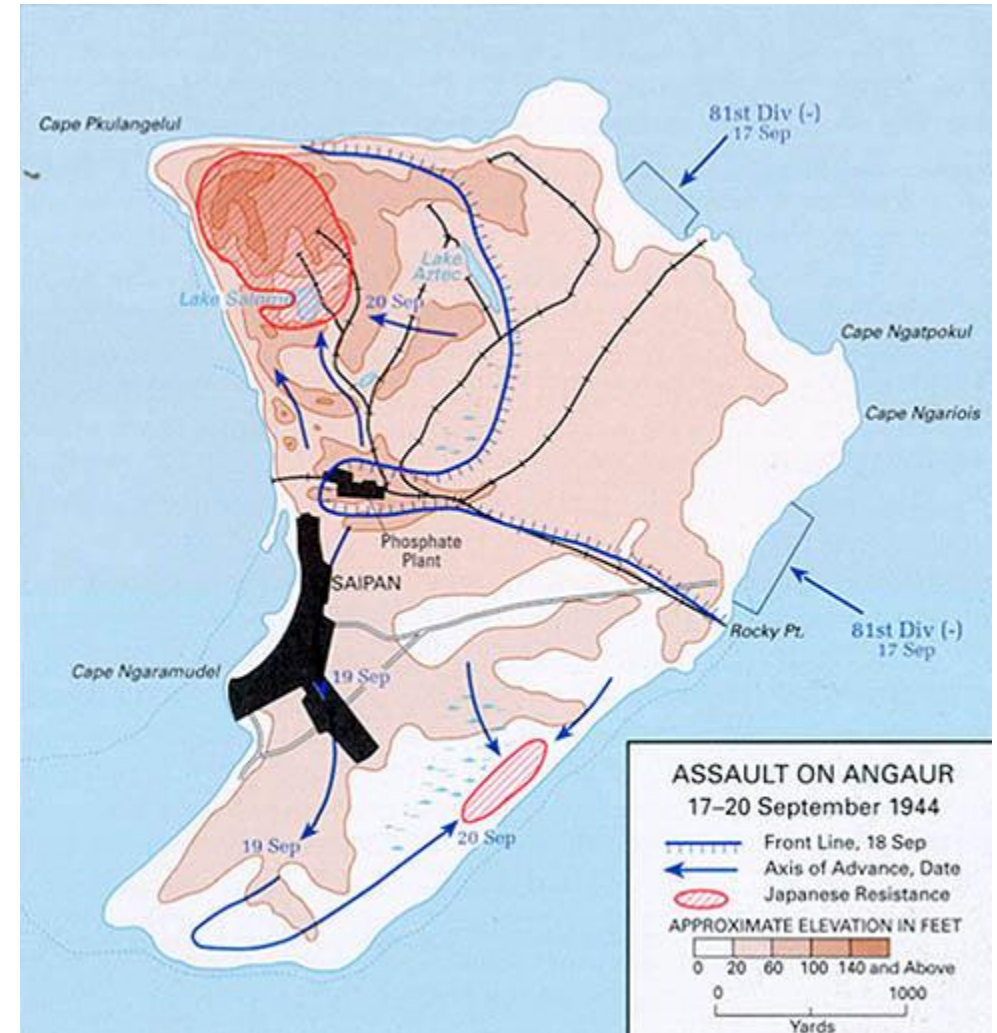
20 - 30 September 1944 – The Palaus

- The entire hill was honeycombed with interconnecting caves, pillboxes and bunkers built into the coral rock, forming an almost impregnable position where the defenders were dug in.
- Near the top of the hill was a small bowl-like valley with a lake surrounded by ridges almost 100 feet tall, which became known as "the Bowl".
- To add to the defenders' advantage there was only one way into and out of the bowl, through a narrow gorge, later named "Bloody Gulch."
- As the 322nd RCT advanced on "the Bowl", they were met with withering machine gun, mortar and sniper fire.
- From 20 September, the 322nd RCT repeatedly attacked the Bowl, but the dug in defenders repulsed them with artillery, mortars, grenades and machine guns, inflicting heavy losses.



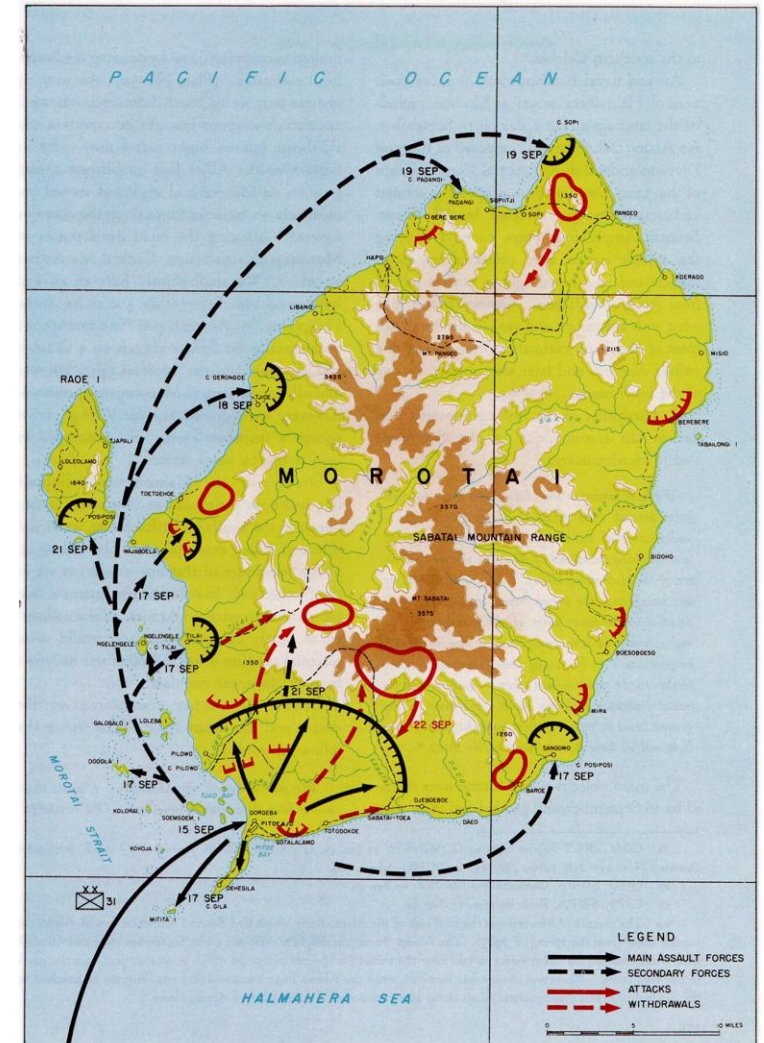
20 – 30 September 1944 – The Palaus

- Gradually, hunger, thirst and American shellfire and bombing took their toll on the Japanese, and by 25 September, after three costly frontal attacks the Americans had penetrated the Bowl.
- Rather than fight for possession of the caves, they used bulldozers to seal the entrances.
- By 30 September the island was said to be secure although the Japanese still had about 300 more soldiers in the Bowl that continued to hold out.



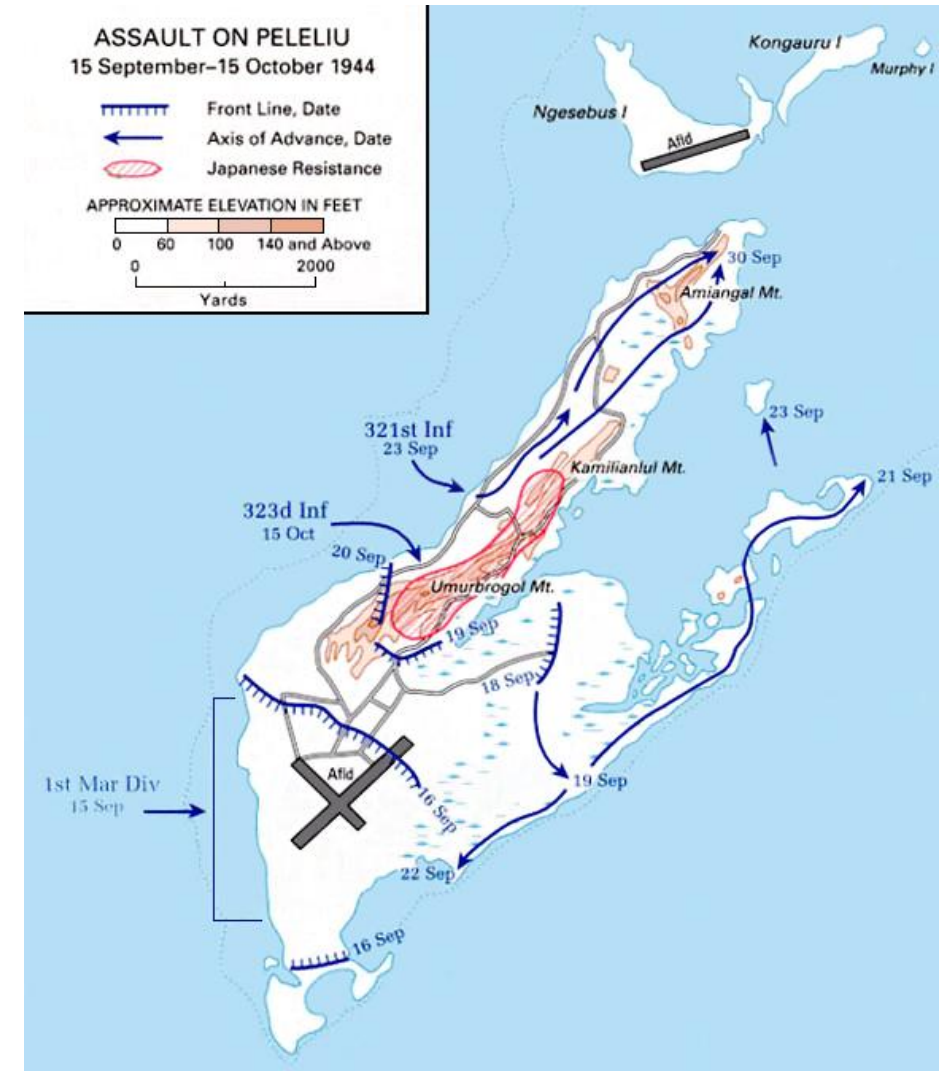
22 September – 4 October 1944 – Morotai

- On 22 September, a Japanese force attacked the headquarters of the 1st Battalion, 167th Infantry Regiment but was easily repulsed.
- The following day, a company from the 126th Infantry Regiment unsuccessfully attacked a fortified Japanese unit near Wajaboeta on the island's west coast. The 126th resumed its attack on 24 September and secured the position.
- US forces continued intensive patrolling until 4 October when the island was declared secure.
- U.S. casualties during the initial occupation of Morotai numbered 30 dead, 85 wounded, and one missing. Japanese casualties were much higher, numbering over 300 dead and 13 captured.



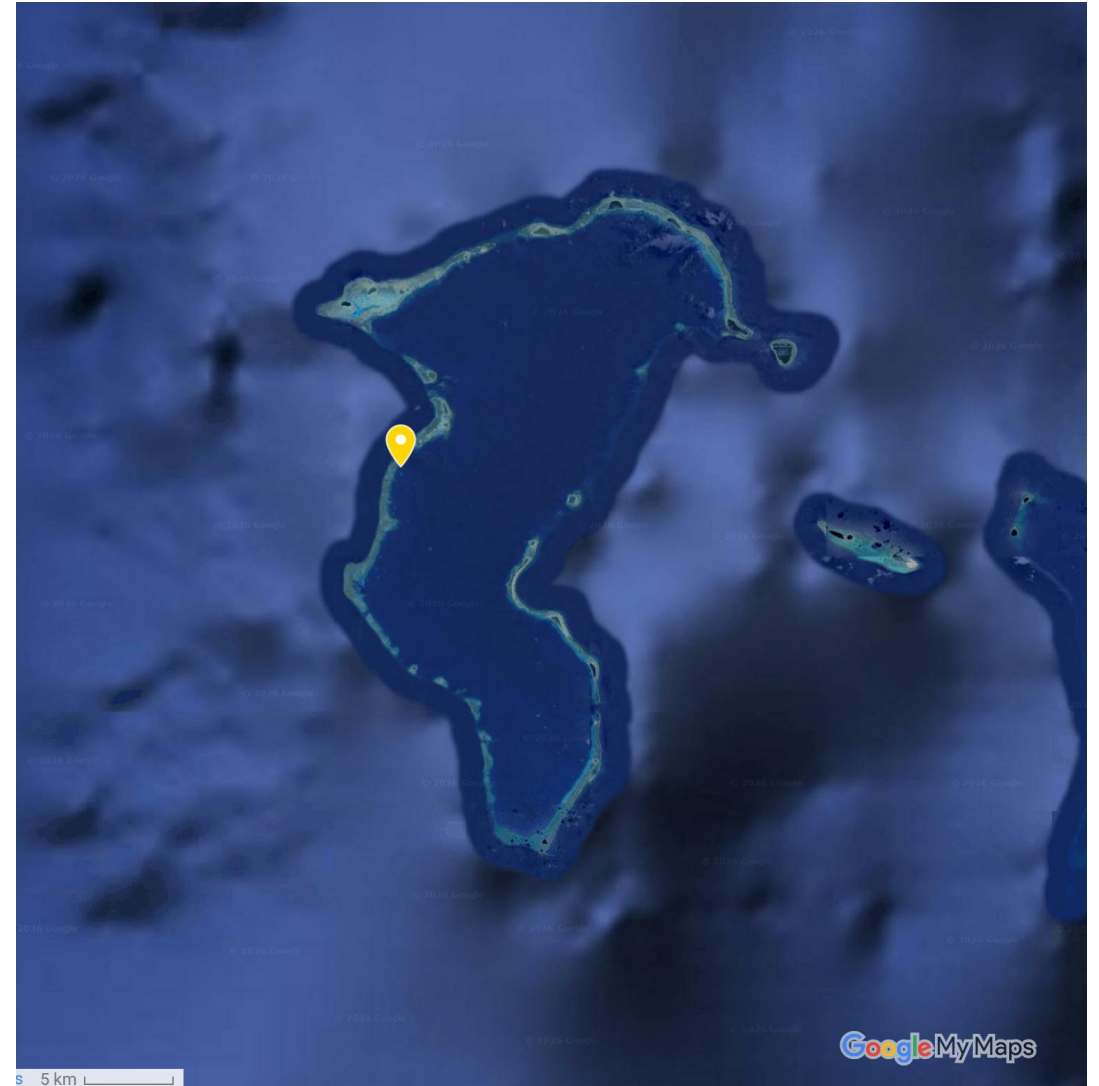
23- 24 September 1944 - Palaus

- The Japanese inflicted 70% casualties on Puller's 1st Marines, or 1,749 men.
- After six days of fighting in the ridges of the Umurbrogol, Geiger sent elements of the U.S. Army's 81st Infantry Division to Peleliu to relieve the regiment.
- The 321st Regiment Combat Team landed on the western beaches of Peleliu—at the northern end of Umurbrogol mountain—on 23 September.
- The warren of ridges still occupied by Japanese troops became colloquially known as "the Pocket".
- The 321st and the 7th Marines had fully encircled this "Pocket" by 24 September, D+9.



23 September 1944 - Ulithi

- The US Army 81st Division landed unopposed on Ulithi on 23 September 1944.
- The survey ship USS Sumner found the lagoon was well-protected and usable for fleet anchorage, with depths ranging from 80 to 100 feet.
- Soon, US Navy Seabees started work building the large base at Ulithi, taking advantage of the islands' geography: the Ulithi coral reef is about 20 miles long and 10 miles wide, with over 30 small islands.
- The largest island is only half a square mile in area.
- Japan bombed the US base at Ulithi a few times, with only marginal damage.



27 September 1944 - Manhattan Project

- Watched by Compton, Matthias, Leona Woods (photo) and Fermi, who inserted the first slug, the first reactor was powered up beginning on 13 September 1944.
- Over the next few days, 838 tubes were loaded and the reactor went critical.
- Shortly after midnight on 27 September, the operators began to withdraw the control rods to initiate production. At first all appeared well but around 03:00 the power level started to drop and by 06:30 the reactor had shut down completely.
- The cooling water was investigated to see if there was a leak or contamination.
- The next day the reactor started up again, only to shut down once more.



In this 1946 photo of the Chicago pile team, Woods at 23 the youngest as well as the only woman is fourth from the left in the middle row.

27 September 1944 - Manhattan Project

- Fermi contacted Chien-Shiung Wu (photo), who identified the cause of the problem as neutron poisoning from xenon-135, which has a half-life of 9.2 hours.
- Fermi, Woods, Donald J. Hughes and John Archibald Wheeler then calculated the nuclear cross section of xenon-135, which turned out to be 30,000 times that of uranium.
- DuPont engineer George Graves had deviated from the Metallurgical Laboratory's original design in which the reactor had 1,500 tubes arranged in a circle and had added an additional 504 tubes to fill in the corners.
- The scientists had originally considered this overengineering a waste of time and money, but Fermi realized that by loading all 2,004 tubes, the reactor could reach the required power level and efficiently produce plutonium.



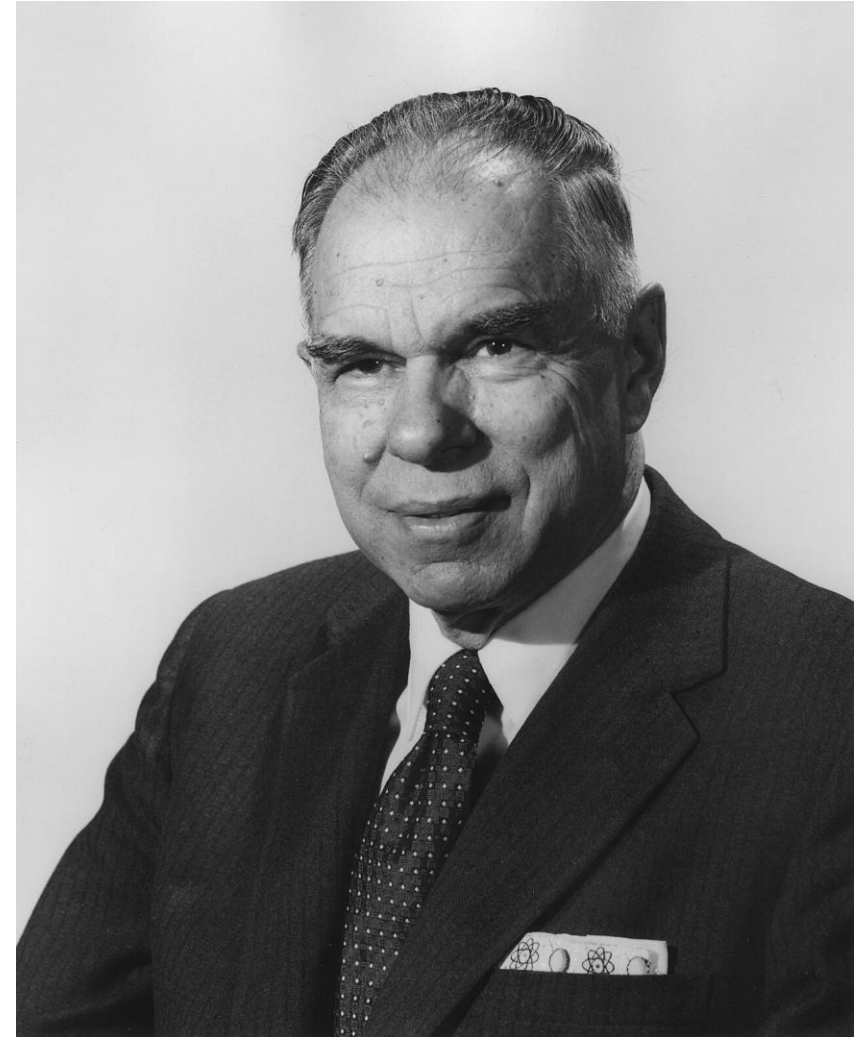
27 September 1944 - Manhattan Project

- Chien-Shiung Wu was a particle and experimental physicist who made significant contributions in the fields of nuclear and particle physics.
- Wu worked on the Manhattan Project, where she helped develop the process for separating uranium into uranium-235 and uranium-238 isotopes by gaseous diffusion.
- She is best known for conducting the Wu experiment, which proved that parity is not conserved.
- This discovery resulted in her colleagues Tsung-Dao Lee and Chen-Ning Yang winning the 1957 Nobel Prize in Physics, while Wu herself was awarded the inaugural Wolf Prize in Physics in 1978.



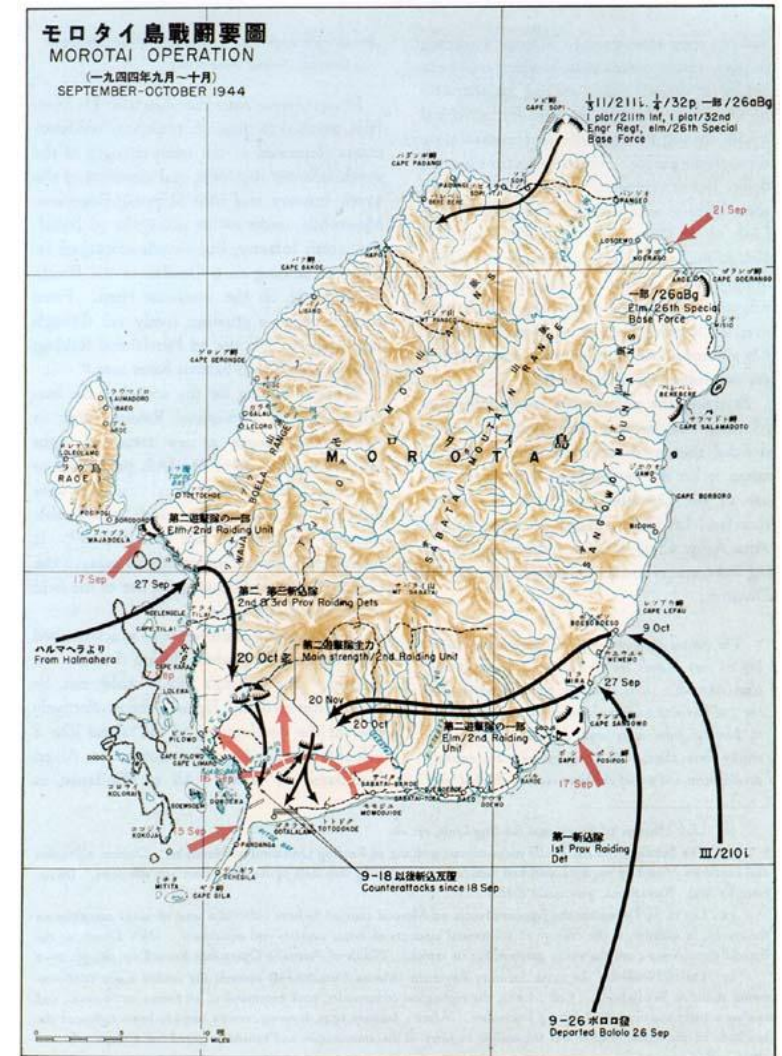
27 September 1944 - Manhattan Project

- Meanwhile, the chemists considered how plutonium could be separated from uranium when its chemical properties were not known.
- Working with the minute quantities of plutonium available at the Metallurgical Laboratory in 1942, a team under Charles M. Cooper developed a lanthanum fluoride process which was chosen for the pilot separation plant.
- A second separation process, the bismuth phosphate process, was subsequently developed by Seaborg and Stanley G. Thomson.
- Greenewalt favored the bismuth phosphate process due to the corrosive nature of lanthanum fluoride, and it was selected for the Hanford separation plants.
- Once X-10 began producing plutonium, the pilot separation plant was put to the test. The first batch was processed at 40% efficiency but over the next few months this was raised to 90%.
- Photo: Glenn Seaborg was an American chemist whose involvement in the synthesis, discovery and investigation of ten transuranium elements earned him a share of the 1951 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.



Late September 1944 – Morotai

- In an attempt to disrupt the airfield construction program, the Japanese Army commanders on Halmahera sent large numbers of reinforcements to Morotai starting in late September.
- These troops included the main body of the 211th Infantry Regiment, the 3rd Battalion of the 210th Infantry Regiment and three raiding detachments.
- Allied codebreakers were often able to warn the forces at Morotai of attempts to run the blockade, and PT boats destroyed a large number of the barges the Japanese used to transport troops from Halmahera.
- The Allies were, however, unable to completely stop the Japanese buildup.
- The Japanese counter-offensive on Morotai was not successful. The troops brought to the island suffered from high rates of disease and it proved impossible to bring sufficient supplies through the Allied air and naval blockade.
- As a result, while the 2nd Provisional Raiding Unit raided the US perimeter on several occasions, the reinforcements were unable to mount larger attacks and did not impede Allied airfield construction activities.



September North West Area

- During **September**, North-Western Area directed its attack against Ceram and southern Celebes.
- The Liberators of No. 24 Squadron began offensive operations in September, joining with No. 380 Group in combined missions.
- Almost daily attacks continued in September.



