

The War in the Pacific 3

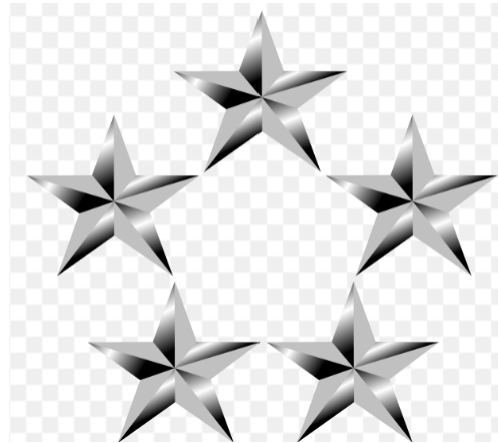
From Lae to Tokyo Bay

20

Luzon & Iwo Jima
January & February 45



- First a bit of delicate dancing around military etiquette and large egos.



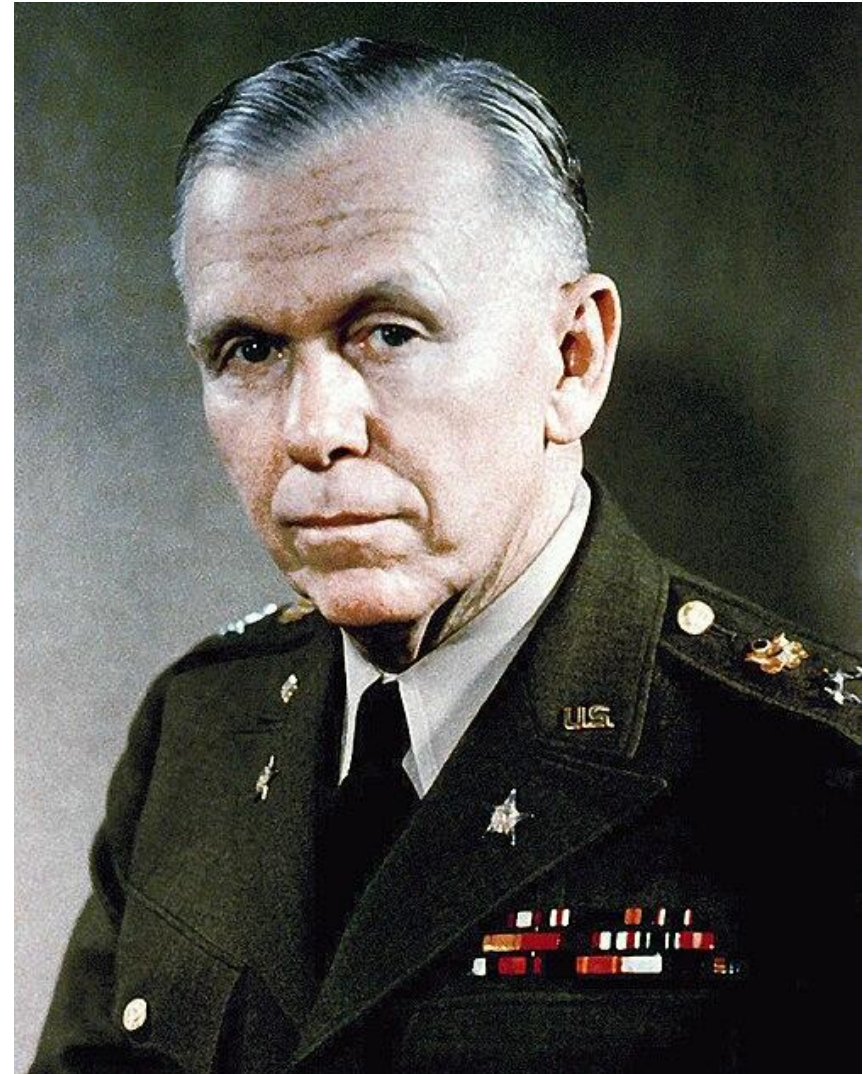
15 December 1944- Washington

- Promoted to Fleet Admiral 15 December 1944:
- William D. Leahy, Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief of the Army and the Navy.
- Formerly:
- Ambassador to France 18/11/1940 to 21/7/1940
- Governor of Puerto Rico
- Chief of Naval Operations.



16 December 1944- Washington

- Promoted to General of the Army 16 December 1944:
- George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the United States Army.



17 December 1944- Washington

- Promoted to Fleet Admiral 17 December 1944:
- Ernest J. King, Commander in Chief US Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations.



18 December 1944- Washington

- Promoted to General of the Army 18 December 1944:
- Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander South West Pacific Area.
- Formerly
- Field Marshal in the Army of the Commonwealth of the Philippines
- Chief of Staff of the United States Army.



19 December 1944- Washington

- Promoted to Fleet Admiral 19 December 1944:
- Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief US Pacific Fleet and Commander in Chief Pacific Ocean Area.



20 December 1944- Washington

- Promoted to General of the Army 20 December 1944:
- Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander Allied Expeditionary Force.
- Formerly
- Chief of Staff to General MacArthur



21 December 1944- Washington

- Promoted to General of the Army 21 December 1944:
- Henry H. “Hap” Arnold, Commanding General of the US Army Airforces.
- On 7 May 1949, Pub. L. 81–58: An Act to establish the grade of General of the Air Force changed the designation of Arnold's final rank and grade to that of General of the Air Force.



December 1944- Washington

- All this required management by Roosevelt, legislation by Congress and confirmation by the senate.
- Clue
- Cunningham was promoted Admiral of the Fleet 21 January 1943.
- Brooke was promoted Field Marshall 1 January 1944.
- Portal was promoted Marshal of the Royal Airforce 1 January 1944.
- Montgomery was promoted Field Marshal 1 September 1944.



11 December 1945 - Washington

- Promoted to Fleet Admiral 11 December 1945:
- William F. Halsey Jr, formerly commander of the 3rd Fleet.
- The Army had to have four five Stars so the Navy had to have four and couldn't have five.
- It should have gone to Spruance.



9 January 1945 - Philippines

- On 9th January, the Sixth Army put four divisions ashore in Lingayen Gulf, 150 miles north of Manila.
- XIV Corps under General Oscar Griswold then advanced south toward Manila.
- the U.S. forces did not meet much resistance until they reached the Clark Air Base on 23 January.



9 January 1945 – Lingayen Gulf

- Australia had completed her scheduled bombardments by 10.30 a.m. and, since no targets of opportunity arose had not again fired.
- At 1.11 p.m. two aircraft were sighted coming in from the east.
- One dived past Australia and hit U.S.S. Mississippi near the bridge.
- The other came in ahead of Australia after a curving dive and tried to hit the cruiser's bridge and fore controls.
- He missed his aim, however, and diving under the foreyard his wing tip caught on a mast strut which swung him into the foremost funnel and over the side.
- There was no other material damage than cutting off the top third of the funnel, which necessitated closing down two boilers in "A" boiler room, and damage to radar and WT aerials, which was quickly repaired.
- There were no casualties.
- A hole was cut in the damaged funnel by next day and all boilers were again in action



Australia in January 1945 showing accumulated damage from kamikaze attacks

9 January 1945 - Australia

- On 9 January 1945, MacArthur's communiques finally mentioned that Australian forces had relieved American forces in New Guinea, the Solomons and New Britain.
- This announcement ran:
 - Australian forces have relieved United States Army elements along the Solomons axis, in New Britain and British New Guinea. Continuous actions of attrition at all points of contact have been in progress. So far 372 Japanese have been killed, 20 captured and 10 friendly nationals recovered.
- Only now were the reports and photographs that had been accumulating for weeks permitted by the Censor to be published.
- The news included an official statement that "earlier announcement" of the presence of Australian troops in Bougainville, New Britain, and the Aitape area "was not possible because it involved the replacement of large bodies of American troops".
- The published estimates of the strength of the Japanese were: 23,000 in New Guinea, 40,000 in New Britain, and 16,000 on Bougainville.



9 January 1945 - Australia

- On the same day Mr Forde announced that "Australian fighting forces" would play a substantial part in the Philippines and Australian naval vessels were in action there, and that he was in touch with General MacArthur about the treatment of Australians in the communiquees.



Forde in April 1945 conversing with H. V. Evatt (left) and Stanley Bruce

9 January 1945

- On 9 January 1945 seventy-two B-29's were sent against Musashino near Tokyo.
- High winds broke up the formations so that only eighteen planes were able to bomb the target; twenty-four bombs, widely scattered in the plant area, destroyed one warehouse and damaged two others.
- Six B-29's were lost.



29th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy), 314th Bombardment Wing (Very Heavy), B-29 Superfortresses at North Field, Guam, 1945.

13 January 1945 - NEI

- On 13 January, while four Spitfires were on an intruder patrol over Halmahera Flight Sergeant Stevenson disappeared over Ternate Island.
- WO Byrne saw the aircraft off-shore in shallow water with its tail visible but the pilot missing.
- Natives later reported that Stevenson was unhurt when he landed but was taken prisoner.
- Stevenson died later while a prisoner.
- On the same day, four pilots of No. 80 Squadron, Flying Officer Hann, Warrant Officer Waters, and Flight Sergeants Parry and King, were reported missing on a ferry flight from Noemfoor to Morotai.
- Weather conditions at the time were normal, but the aircraft were not fitted with belly tanks so that their time in the air was limited.
- Extensive searches were made but without results.
- Hann, King and Waters had come down off Talaud Islands, having overshot Morotai.
- They were captured by the Japanese and, on 23rd March, were killed at a special ceremony.
- For complicity in this crime, a number of Japanese were tried after the war and executed.



14 January 1945 - Bougainville

- On 14th January Colonel Matthews of the 9th Battalion wrote in his diary:
- "At tea time a native police boy came in with an American carbine at the slope, slapped the butt as salute to the Angau officer and reported that he had completed his mission, which was to bring in the occupants of a native village two days' march away.
- It is the policy to withdraw complete villages and put the people in a native compound on the Laruma River.
- Able-bodied men become carriers, the sick are cared for, women and children are safe from Japs.
- The police boys had been out for 6 days with 2 other boys.
- About an hour later the village arrived. Old men, old women, all ages to babes in arms, with all the dogs and pigs they owned as well, in single file carrying their possessions on their backs. all types of lap laps, army singlets, etc.
- Dogs barked, pigs squealed, babies cried, natives jabbered and shouted. . . .
- Bully beef and biscuits issued to all."



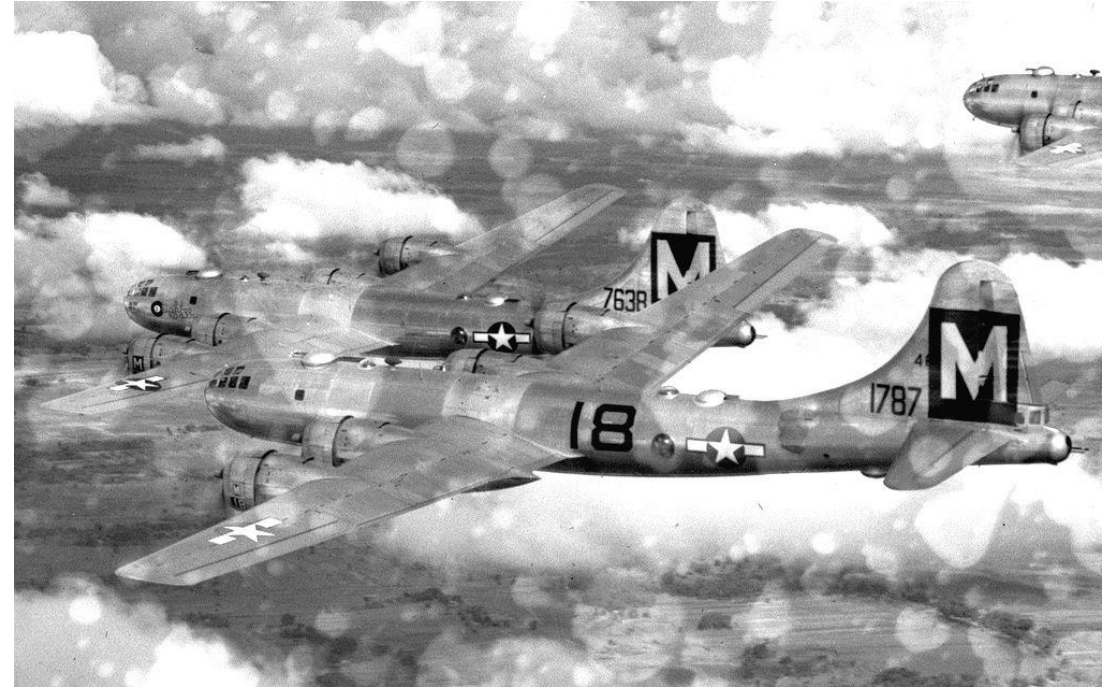
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

123259

Torokina. 1945-10-19. 9th Australian Infantry Battalion Headquarters personnel. Included are Lieutenant Colonel G.R. Mathews (Commanding Officer), Captain H.J. Swan, Lieutenants S.J.L Platz, J. Temple, Padre R.J. Miley and Mr N. Bedwell (YMCA).

14 January 1945 – B29

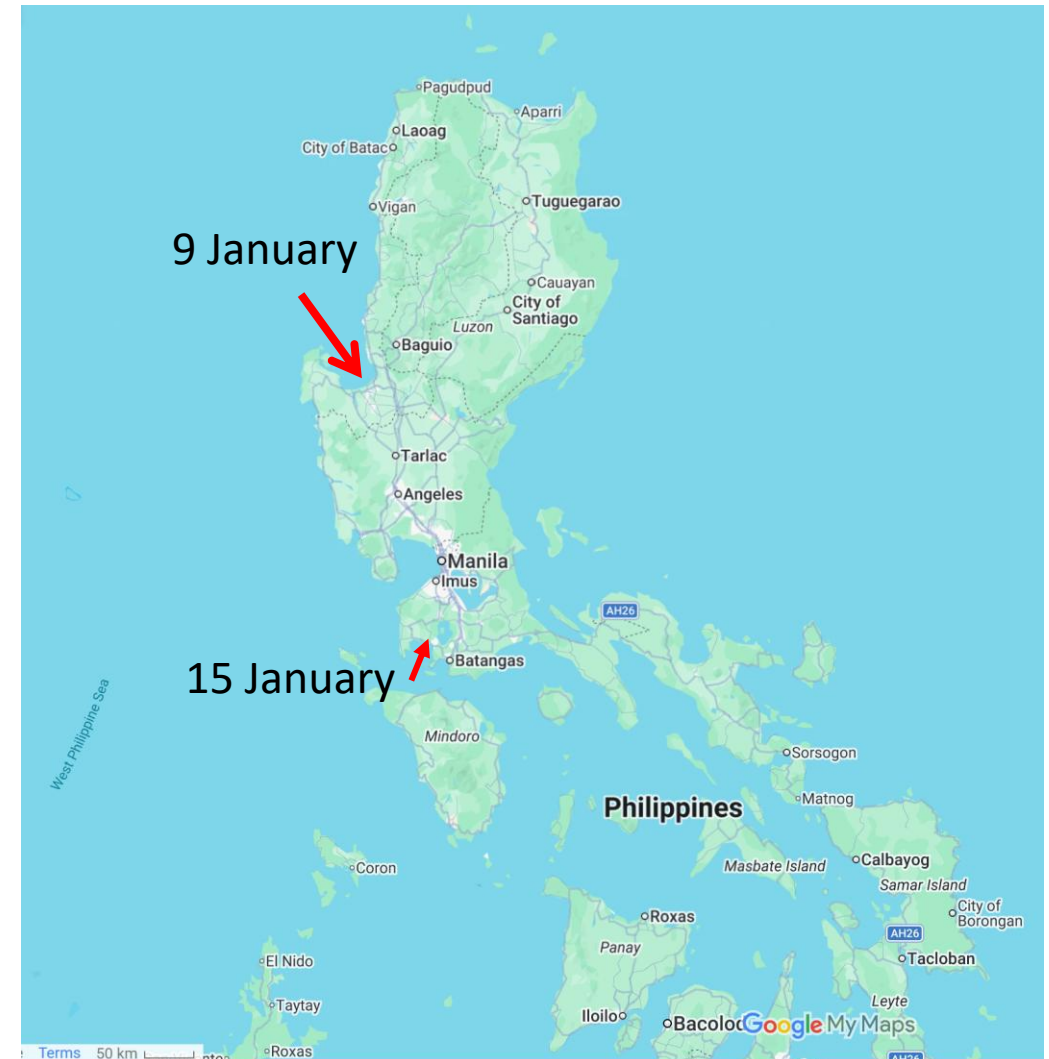
- At the Mitsubishi Aircraft Works at Nagoya on the 14th, precision bombing was again less than precise.
- Seventy-three B-29's were airborne and forty bombed, getting four GP's --one ton--into the No. 5 Works area and damaging three buildings.



Formation of 19th Bombardment Group B-29 Superfortresses 1945.

15 January 1945 - Philippines

- A second amphibious landing took place on 15 January, 45 mi (72 km) southwest of Manila.



mid-January 1945 – SW Pacific

- By mid-January five American divisions were firmly established on Luzon and five more were due to land in the next four weeks.
- This would leave four divisions for the extensive operations in the southern and central Philippines, and the 93rd (Negro) Division in reserve.
- By March all American divisions under MacArthur's command, except the 93rd, would be employed in operations.
- Now that all U.S. divisions are assigned to tasks, GHQ is giving more attention to the employment of I Aust Corps. . . . G3 [General Chamberlin] is trying to get the Corps into staging areas at Morotai and Hollandia and he thinks that our Corps will be employed in Mindanao and North Borneo. . . . GHQ Staff Study contemplates the use of 6 Aust Div in North Borneo. If this is so then 6 Aust Div could be replaced by one or two brigades, i.e. 8 Aust Inf Bde and a brigade from New Britain or the Solomon axis. . . . GHQ estimate that it will take two months to concentrate I Aust Corps in the staging areas and as the ports concerned in Australia and in the staging areas will be able to handle the shipping without delay application is being made to Washington for a definite allotment of shipping for the specific purpose of moving I Aust Corps.



Colonel Stephen J. Chamberlin,
1942

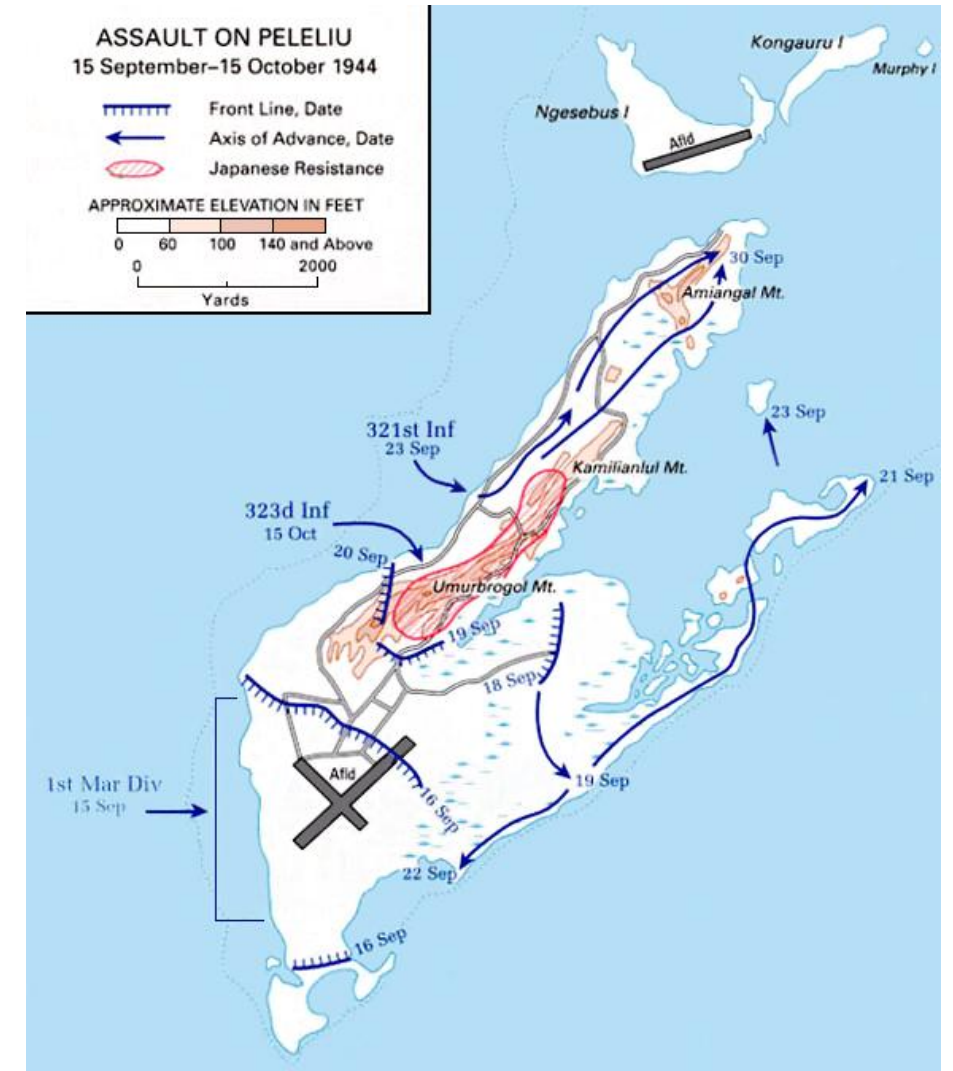
17/18 January 1945 - Australia

- On 17th January the Minister for Information, Mr Calwell (photo, 1940), told journalists at Canberra that the responsibility for not informing the public about the Australian operations rested with Army Public Relations and not with his department.
- Blamey came to the defence of his Directorate of Public Relations and on 18th January issued a statement in which he described the process by which the news was released.
- He concluded:
- “It is incredible that these facts and considerations are not known to the Information Minister. I regret the necessity for a public statement on the matter, especially where proper action has been taken to secure the safety of our gallant lads and their American comrades in their passage of perilous waters.
- But when a particular section of the army, whose members are serving their country with great fidelity and devotion, is attacked directly from high places, and the basis of such an attack is a direct lie, I would be remiss in my obligations to those under my command if I failed to ensure their public vindication.



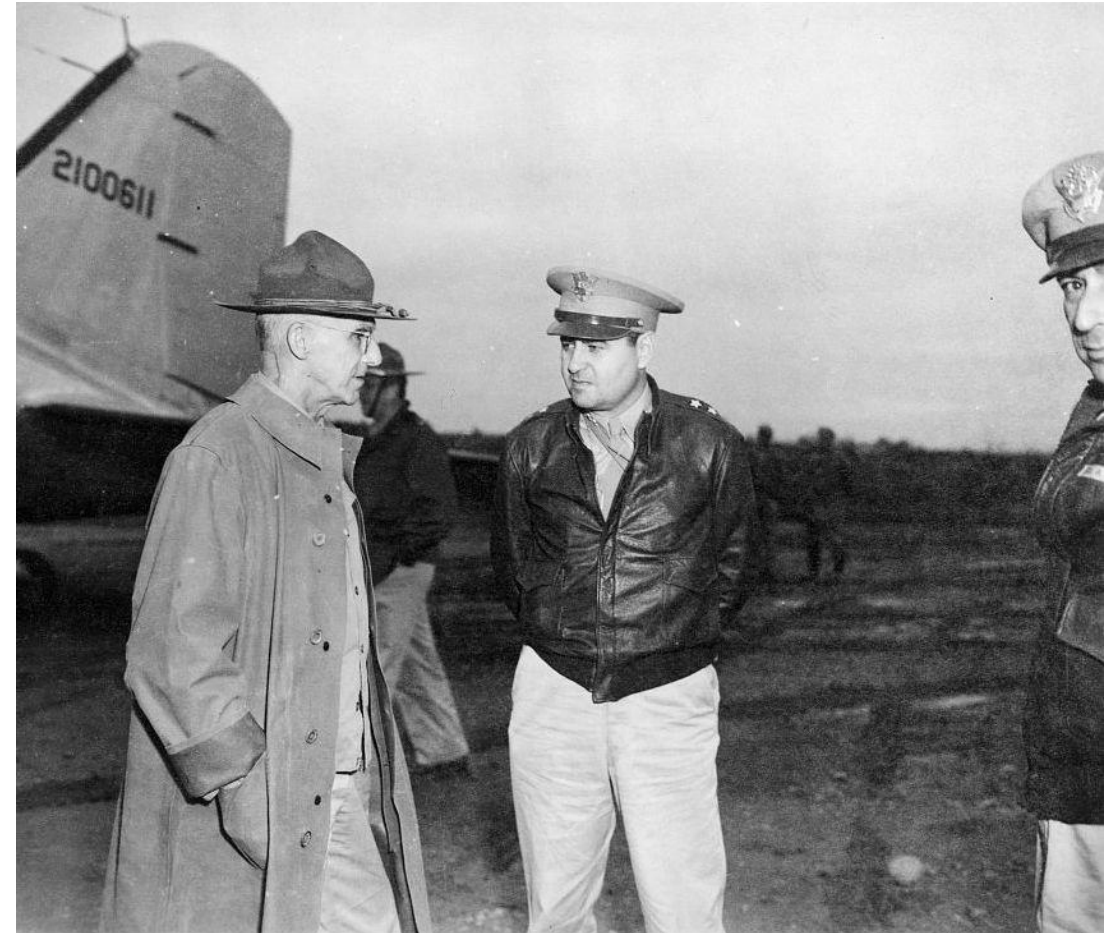
18 January 1945 - Palaus

- The 81st Infantry Division remained engaged on the island until the end of organized Japanese resistance on 18 January 1945.
- The highly developed fortified system and the unexpected shift in Japanese tactics to defense in depth ultimately cost 9,500 U.S. casualties.



19 January 1945 – B29

- Arnold wanted the Command to produce results quickly and decided to relieve Hansell of his command and replace Hansell with LeMay.
- Hansell was informed of Arnold's decision on 6 January but remained in his position until mid-January.
- In the last attack planned by Hansell 77 B-29s plus 3 others in a diversionary strike attacked a Kawasaki Aircraft Industries factory near Akashi on 19 January.
- In good weather 62 crews bombed the primary target with 155 tons of GP's and returned with no losses.
- Interpreting strike photos, intelligence officers estimated that 38 per cent of the roofed area showed major damage.
- During XXI Bomber Command's first three months of operations, it lost an average of 4.1 percent of aircraft dispatched in each raid.
- Whatever the cause, out went Hansell, the brilliant planner, and in came LeMay, widely recognized as a driving operator.



LeMay with General Joseph W. Stilwell

• 19 January 1945 - RAAF

- The USAAF was not the only airforce having command issues.
- A signal (No. A.452) from R.A.A.F. Headquarters to the A.O.C. R.A.A.F. Command, on 19th January 1945, contained the following passage:
- “I take strong exception to the insubordinate tone of your signal and your repeated attempts to usurp authority of this Headquarters. Communications couched in terms such as the one under reply are to cease forthwith.”
- To which the following reply went back next day to R.A.A.F. Head quarters:
- “Secret, for C.A.S. from A.O.C. I also have responsibilities. You do not understand current Allied air and R.A.A.F. Higher Organisation in accordance with which I am responsible to Commander, Allied Air Forces, and not, repeat not, subordinate to you for the discharge of the duties incumbent upon my appointment. I do, and will continue to, take the strongest exception to your unwarranted and uninformed interference.”



Newly appointed Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) Air Vice Marshal George Jones (left) with Air Vice-Marshal Bill Bostock (centre) and outgoing CAS Air Chief Marshal Sir Charles Burnett, RAF, May 1942

22 January 1945 – SW Pacific

- Sutherland informed Berryman on 22nd January that the operation against Okinawa, then planned to begin on 16th April, might be postponed, in which event a good deal of amphibious shipping would be available about that time.
- To make full use of it, MacArthur might speed up his operations, using the 31st American Division, then at Morotai, to capture and establish an air base in the Sulu Archipelago from which to support operations by the A.I.F. in North Borneo, and bringing I Australian Corps forward to Morotai which would be handed over to the A.I.F. as a temporary advanced base.
- "North Borneo should provide a suitable base for our subsequent operations either against the N.E.I. or Malaya and should also provide a suitable harbour for the Navy."



Left to right: Lieutenant General George Kenney, Lieutenant General Richard K. Sutherland, President Sergio Osmeña, General Douglas MacArthur, pictured here off Leyte, October 1944.

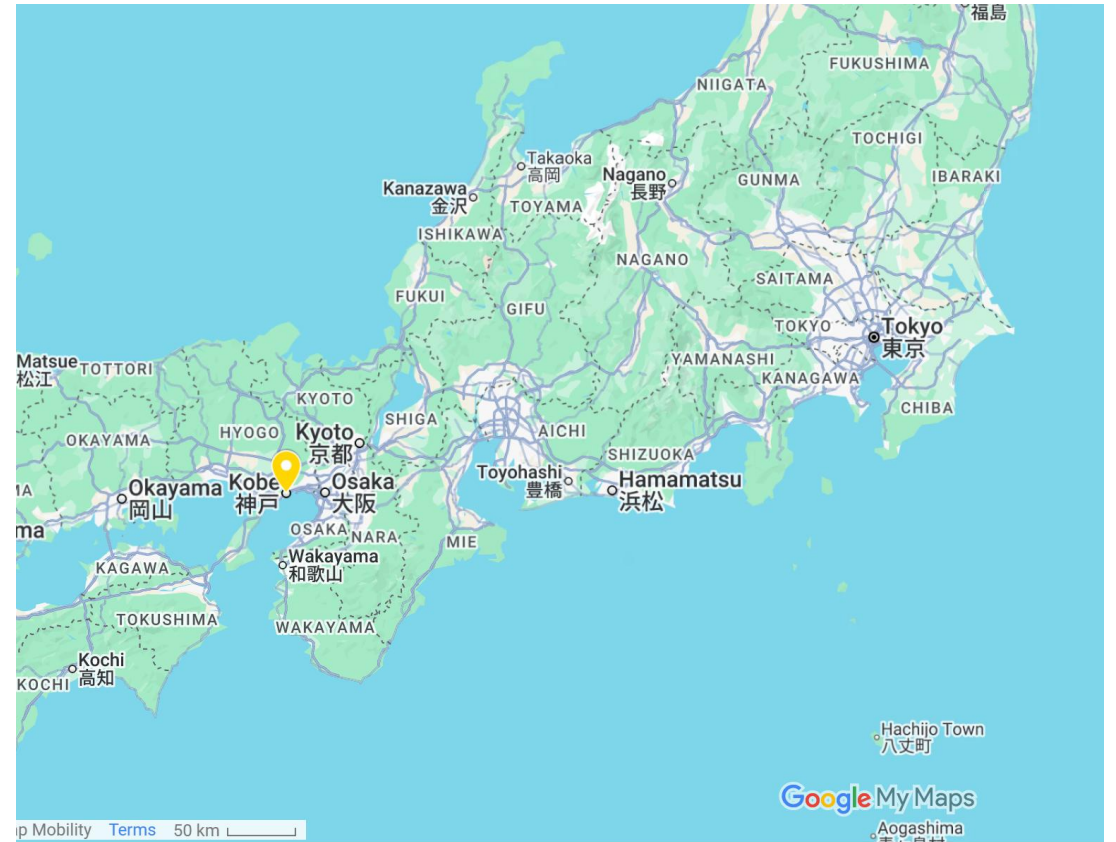
23 – 31 January 1945 - Philippines

- The battle for Clark Air Base lasted until the end of January.
- By January 31, 1945 the Japanese were defeated and had lost all their tanks and heavy weapons.
- The survivors retreated into the Zambales Mountains.
- The 129th Infantry Regiment proceeded to the west and occupied a hill dubbed "Top of the World".
- Afterwards, the 40th Infantry Division guarded Clark Field and conducted mopping up while the XIV Corps advance continued southward towards Manila.



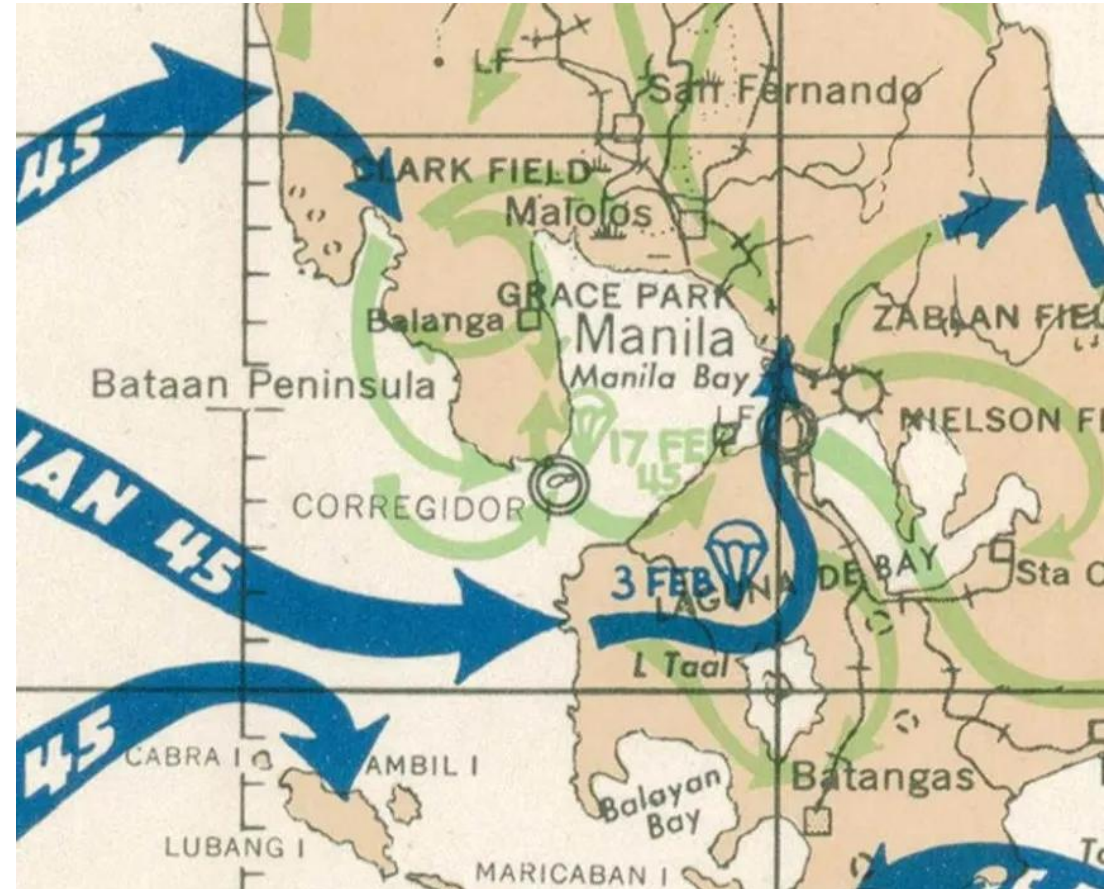
23 & 28 January 1945 – B29s

- LeMay's first two missions, however, showed little variation from the familiar pattern.
- On the 23 January mission against the Mitsubishi engine plant at Nagoya, 9/10 cloud so obscured the city that only 28 out of 73 planes bombed, getting 4 GP's and 144 incendiaries in the target area and causing some damage to an assembly shop, a prototype shop, and an office building.
- Four days later a planned attack on Musashino was completely spoiled by clouds and high winds over Tokyo.
- On 28 January LeMay suggested turning from Tokyo and Nagoya to targets less hotly defended; specifically, he recommended the Mitsubishi Aircraft Works at Tamashima.
- Norstad replied that LeMay had "fullest latitude" in mixing his blows so as to disperse enemy defenders, even to the extent of hitting lower-priority targets when "tactical consideration" warranted.
- Tamashima was so unimportant, however, that it was dubious that the Japanese would make any significant changes in fighter deployment for its defense.
- Norstad thought an incendiary attack on Kobe would be more fruitful; it would furnish information lacking after the inconclusive test raid on Nagoya and if successful might cause the enemy to thin out his fighter defenses.



31 January- 4 February 1945 - Philippines

- On 31 January, two regiments of the 11th Airborne Division made an airborne assault, capturing a bridge, and later advanced toward Manila.
- On 3 February, the 1st Cavalry Division captured the bridge across Tullahan River leading to the city. They advanced into the city that evening, beginning the battle for the capture of Manila.
- On 4 February, the paratroopers of the 11th Airborne—approaching the city from the south—came to the main Japanese defenses south of the city of Manila where their advance was halted by heavy resistance.
- Japanese forces entrenched throughout the city continued to resist U.S. forces.
- U.S. and Filipino forces carried out clearing operations in the city in the following weeks.
- Military casualties totalled 1,010 Americans, 3,079 Filipinos, and 16,000 Japanese.



1945 – Manhattan Project

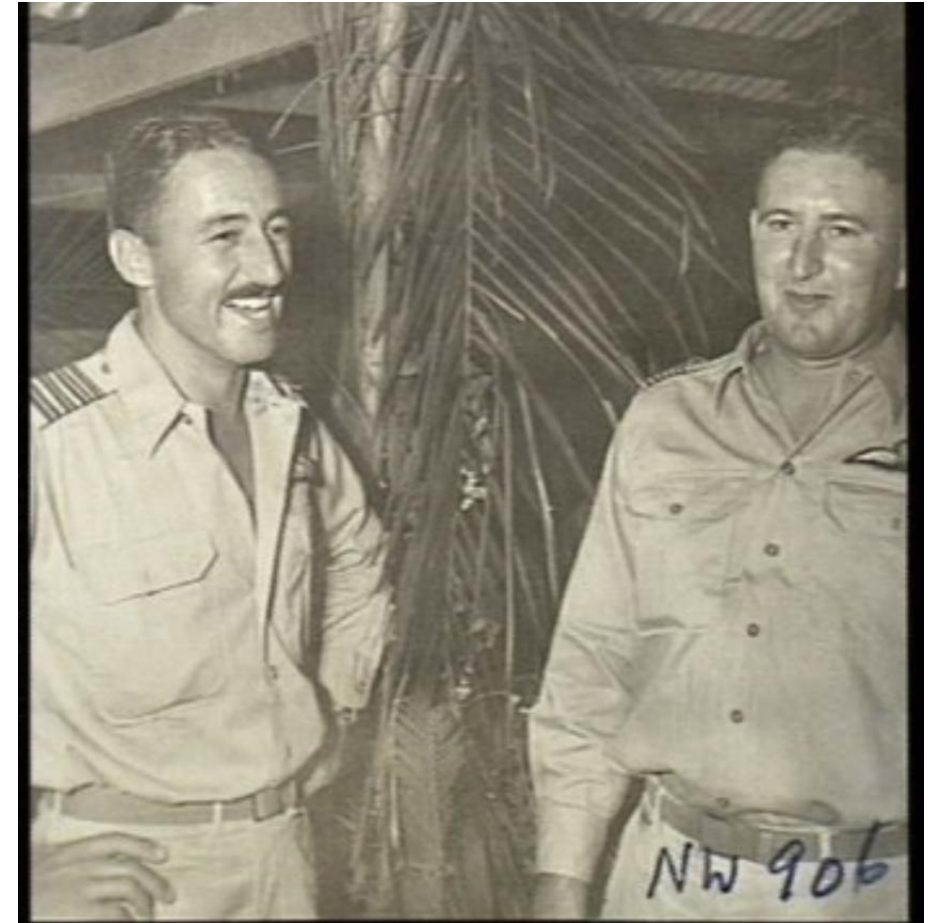
- In 1945 Groves cancelled the upper stages of K-25, directing Kellogg to instead design and build a 540-stage side feed unit, which became known as K-27.



K-27 Gaseous Diffusion plant

January 1945 – North Western Area

- By January, another Australian heavy bomber squadron (No. 21 had arrived in the area from Queensland, and was based at Fenton, in the Northern Territory.
- No. 23 Squadron, also armed with Liberators, was expected to arrive from the south in February, while No. 25 Squadron, based at Cunderdin, in Western Australia, was being rearmed with Liberators and would be available for reconnaissance or strikes in the Netherlands East Indies.
- No. 21 Squadron and No. 24 Squadron, which had been controlled by the American No. 380 Bombardment Group, now came under the control of R.A.A.F No. 82 Wing Headquarters, commanded by Group Captain Kingwell.
- The R.A.A.F. Wing was to take over the duties carried out by No. 380 Group, which was under orders to move to the Philippines.



Fenton, NT. 1945-06. Group Captain D. W. Kingwell (left), Commanding No. 82 Wing and Wing Commander R. E. Bell Commanding No. 24 (Liberator) Squadron. 31

January 1945 – Manhattan Project

- Strenuous recovery efforts helped raise the Y-12 electromagnetic uranium enrichment plant's production to 10% of the uranium-235 feed by January 1945.
- Natural Uranium is 99.3% U238 so 10% of the U235 feed would be 0.07% of the natural uranium feed. (my calculation please check)
- Alpha Racetracks (First Stage): Enriched natural uranium feedstock (as uranium tetrachloride, UCl_4) up to roughly 10% U-235.
- Beta Racetracks (Second Stage): Took the product from the Alpha tanks and refined it further to 84% to 95% U-235.



Employees of the Manhattan Project operating calutron control panels at Y-12

January 1945 - Pacific

- The two night carriers Enterprise and Independence were assigned to operate together starting in January 1945 to form the first night operations task group.
- In mid-January, while Carrier Task Force 38 was entering the South China Sea through the Bashi Channel, Independence night fighters shot down three snoopers in one night.
- The new Commander Task Force 38, Vice Admiral J. S. McCain, thought highly of the night carriers and he wrote in his action report of the Japan operation:
 - When the number of carriers permits the assignment of one carrier to exclusive night duties, the results have been exceptional. The relief of other carriers from night duties, plus the use of the specially trained night groups for special night tactical and defense missions are very advantageous.



McCain (left) with Colonel LaVerne G. Saunders and Major General Millard Harmon at Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, in August 1942

January 1945 - Philippines

- In January 1945, the Japanese again began mounting serious dusk attacks on the fast carrier task force at Linguyan Gulf in the Philippines. Commander Seventh Fleet noted:
- ...thirty percent of the damaging suicide attacks occurred between the hours of 1700 and 1800....Sunset for this period was at 1740. This shows the Jap's preference for attacking a half hour before sunset when he can use the sun's glare to cover up his approach, and when our combat air patrol is being recovered.
- If the fighter direction ships had been equipped with SM or SP height finding radar they might have been able to detect the incoming low fliers, but such was not the case.
- The night fighters seemed to be more effective against individual snoopers than against large attacks



Admiral Kinkaid, Commander Seventh Fleet (left center) ,with General MacArthur (center) on the flag bridge of USS Phoenix during the pre-invasion bombardment of Los Negros Island.

January 1945 – New Guinea

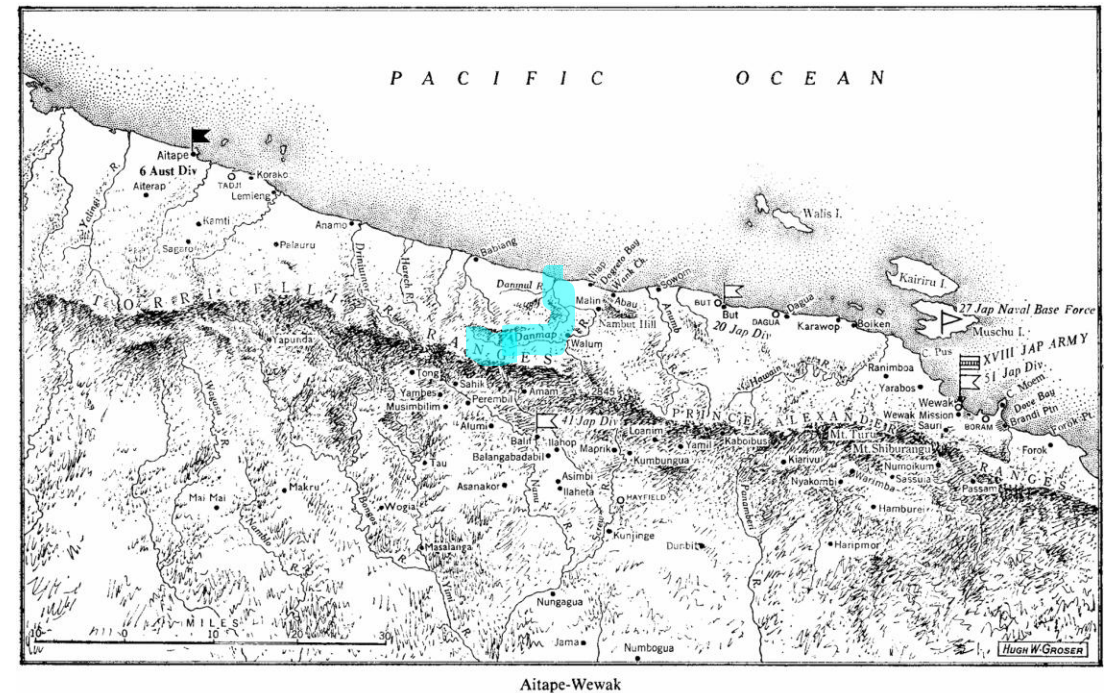
- No. 71 Wing's Beaufort units flew around 500 sorties per month from November 1944 to January 1945 but thereafter had to reduce their rate of effort owing to aircrew, ordnance and fuel shortages.



Beauforts of No. 100 Squadron near Wewak, January 1945

27 January 1945 - Aitape

- The operations were characterised by prolonged small-scale patrolling with small-scale company attacks.
- Progress was slowed by the difficulties of transporting supplies overland or by barge and the flash flooding of a number of the rivers the Australians had to cross.
- On 27th January seven men from the 2/3rd Battalion drowned in the swollen waters of the **Danmap** River which had risen suddenly after a torrential downpour.



31 January 1945 - Aitape

- Between their arrival at Aitape and 10th February the 6th Division patrolled on an increasing scale. An operation by the 2/3rd Battalion gives the flavour.
- To the north and east of Mima Creek rose Long Ridge, a long steep spur which culminated in a mountain about 3,200 feet above sea level. After a patrol had found a track along the top of the spur, Hutchison on 31st January sent out to Long Ridge a force commanded by Lt Cory and including two platoons (Lts Weir and Pope), and an artillery officer (Lt Needham), with eight signallers and 10,000 yards of cable.
- Cory's force was to locate and destroy any enemy force on the track along this ridge, verify the existence of the track itself and check the position of streams on each side of the feature.
- Early on the 31st they climbed from Mima Creek on to the ridge, there 2,500 feet high, and bivouacked.
- Next morning they climbed up towards what was later named Cory's Spur. The forward scouts sent back word that there were huts on the top of the slope and that they were occupied by Japanese.
- Pope's platoon attacked, killing three while two others escaped. From this point three spurs rose. Cory chose the main one and the force began to advance along a narrow ridge from which rose a series of knolls on each of which unoccupied enemy positions were found.

31 January 1945 - Aitape

- About 4 p.m. the forward scout, Private Perry, surprised a Japanese sentry and killed him silently with his machete, and soon reported a big camp and about 30 Japanese who were unaware of the presence of the Australians.
- Cory deployed the force to attack this position, which was on a small plateau. This deployment took about twelve minutes with the Japanese working only a few yards away from the concealed Australians.
- Then Weir's men charged and had overrun three machine-guns and secured about one-third of the plateau before the Japanese had time to man the weapons that remained. Weir, although wounded, seized one machine-gun and fired it at the enemy. This leading platoon was now pinned down and Cory sent Pope's in.
- Pope reached Weir, who was in a Japanese fox hole, but before they had time to say much to each other Pope was shot in the head. Sergeant Gooley took charge of Pope's platoon, and his men pressed on throwing grenades and firing Brens and sub-machine-guns but were soon pinned down by the Japanese who had reorganised on the highest part of the plateau.
- The fire fight continued until it was nearly dark, by which time little ammunition was left. Cory's force then withdrew with its wounded and its spoils but was forced by the darkness to bivouac just a few hundred yards down the very steep side of the mountain.
- There were 33 Japanese dead—confirmed a week later by a count of Japanese graves on the site. The captured weapons included 10 pistols, 37 packs full of new equipment and 6 machine-guns. Two Australians had been killed or mortally wounded, and 7 wounded.

31 January 1945 - Aitape

- The report of the 16th Brigade sets out the doctrine concerning attack accepted in this formation at this time:
- "When the attack is launched and especially if surprise has been effected, the force must at once strike with every weapon and man available and at the same time movement must be maintained.
- It is fatal for attacking troops to go to ground ...
- Troops who remain on their feet and move quickly from tree to tree run much less risk of becoming casualties even at point blank range. . .
- Sufficient reserve should be available to bring through when the assault has lost intensity and the fire fight begins to develop. .
- The only time the soldier becomes so exhausted as to feel incapable of further action is when the officer in command succumbs to fatigue."
- Photo: Brigadier Roy King commander of 16 Brigade at Aitape. Photo as Director of Military Training in December 1945.



February 1945 – Manhattan Project

- In February the Alpha racetracks of the electromagnetic uranium enrichment plant began receiving slightly enriched (1.4%) feed from the new S-50 thermal diffusion plant.
- This required converting the Uranium feed from Uranium Hexafluoride (UF_6) to Uranium Tetrachloride (UCl_4)



The S-50 thermal diffusion plant is the dark building to the upper left behind the Oak Ridge powerhouse (with smokestacks).

3 February 1945 – SW Pacific

- On 3rd February Berryman informed Blamey that G.H.Q. proposed that the 9th Division should secure the Jesselton-Brunei Bay-Miri area, beginning on 1st April, and later carry out operations against Sandakan and Kuching, probably with paratroops, if Australian prisoners were still there.
- A brigade of the 7th Division would attack Tarakan on 25th April.
- After six months of planning G.H.Q. had not yet finally fixed a role for the I Australian Corps and the two divisions it contained



3 February 1945 – SW Pacific

- On 3rd February General MacArthur (photo) had sent a telegram to General Marshall to say that it was considered of the utmost importance to recover the oilfields of British and Dutch Borneo as soon as possible to provide readily-accessible oil for the advance to Japan.
- He planned to use the I Australian Corps for these operations but to bring it to the Hollandia-Morotai area would require 87 shiploads of troops and cargo.
- He asked for authority to retain for some weeks certain Liberty ships then in his area and asked for 10 trans-Pacific troopships for this period.



After 3 February 1945 – SW Pacific

- Marshall (photo) replied to MacArthur, however, that no ships could then be made available for the Borneo project, that there was an "unmanageable deficit" in shipping in both the Pacific and Atlantic in the first half of 1945 and no remedy unless the war ended in Europe, and that operations in Borneo would have little immediate effect on the war against Japan.



4 February 1945 - NEI

- By the end of 1944 the R.A.A.F. squadrons had been left far behind the main battle; yet there was a distinct tendency for a maximum output of sorties and flying hours to be maintained, even though the targets were no longer as lucrative, and some pilots were asking why they should be sent on missions where the results might mean loss of aircrew for very little damage to the enemy
- It was against this background that the 24 year old Group Captain Arthur arrived at Noemfoor as the new commander of No. 81 Wing.
- He quickly came to the conclusion that the targets were not worthwhile, and that the R.A.A.F. was wasting time, endangering its people's lives and wasting bombs and ammunition.
- Having decided that the operations at Noemfoor were not worthwhile, he drew up an "operational balance sheet."



Flight Lieutenant Arthur draped in a German flag following action on 30 November 1941, when he shot down four enemy aircraft, winning the DFC.

4 February 1945 - NEI

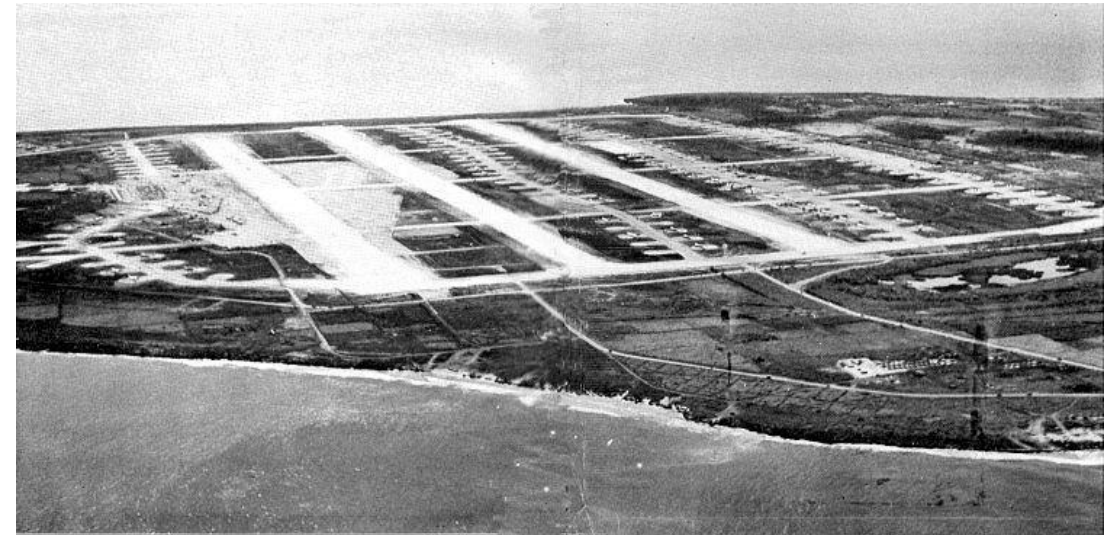
- Arthur felt strongly that something should be done to correct the situation and flew to Morotai and obtained an interview with Air Commodore Cobby. Cobby thanked Arthur for the figures and decided to examine the operations of all three of his fighter wings.
- Cobby believed that the targets "were not very payable".
- However in a tactical appreciation written to Bostock a few days later he reported: "An impression existed among units of First T.A.F. that our aircraft were taking more damage from ack-ack than the targets warranted. Such an impression is dangerous to morale and in order to dispel it, if untrue, I ordered an analysis to be made.
- The figures, published in the First T.A.F. Intelligence Summary of 4th February, showed that one aircraft was destroyed by anti-aircraft fire in November 1944 for a total of 862 sorties. The figures for December were 2,249 sorties with two aircraft destroyed, and for January, 2,037 sorties for five destroyed.
- However, Arthur was concerned not with losses in relation to sorties, but losses in relation to results. In other words, was the effort worth it?



Air Commodore Cobby and Group Captain Caldwell (right) at Morotai

4 February 1945 – B29s

- LeMay scheduled his first February mission as an incendiary attack on the port and built-up areas of Kobe, which, with a prewar population of a million was Japan's sixth largest city and most important port.
- Its yards housed Japan's largest concentration of shipbuilding and marine engine capacity; it was an important rail junction and its key industrial plants--steel, railway equipment, machinery, rubber, and ordnance--were closely integrated into the city's transportation system.
- Though of comparatively recent growth and hence more modern in construction than many of Japan's cities, Kobe's congested business and factory districts and adjacent residential areas were considered highly vulnerable to incendiaries.
- For the test attack, the target would be the core of the city where the population averaged about 100,000 per square mile.
- Aircraft and crews of the 313th Bombardment Wing began to arrive at North Field, Tinian, on 27 December. By the end of January they had 122 B-29's. Hansell had implemented some remedial training and by early February it seemed that the wing could be sent to one of the less formidable homeland targets.



North Field, Tinian. The photo shows only three runways, which dates it sometime earlier than May 1945 when construction of Runway Four was completed. North Field was designed for an entire wing of B-29 Superfortresses, the 313th Bombardment Wing, with hardstands to park 265 B-29s. Each of the parallel runways was more than a mile and a half long. Around and between the runways were nearly eleven miles of taxiways.

4 February 1945 – B29s

- On the basis of favorable weather forecasts, LeMay decided on 3 February to run the mission next day.
- Not satisfied with the concentration achieved with the M69 bombs used in the Nagoya test, he loaded his planes with E28 500-pound incendiary clusters topped off with frag clusters.
- Including 38 from the 313th Wing, 129 planes were airborne, but only 69 got through to the target where they dropped 159.2 tons of incendiaries and 13.6 tons of frags from altitudes ranging between 24,500 and 27,000 feet.



Armorers fuse 500lb incendiary clusters that have been loaded into a 500th Bomb Group B-29 Superfortress. (National Archives)

4 February 1945 – B29s

- About 200 enemy fighters attacked, proving that Kobe was not a soft touch. They shot down one B-29 and damaged thirty-five; another burned upon landing at Saipan.
- The results, however, were far more encouraging than at Nagoya, for post-strike photos showed damage to 2,651,000 square feet of built-up area.



The E1, Bomb, Incendiary, Oil, 6 lb, M69. The bomb body was a hexagonal case with a nose cup welded to the forward end. The nose cup, fuze and powder charges were sealed off from the rest of the case by an impact diaphragm. The tail consists of gauze streamers about 4.5-inches in length.

Mid Jan to early Feb 1945 -Philippines

- From the middle of January to early February the largest ever tank battle between American and Japanese forces took place.
- The Japanese 2nd Tank Division's 220 tanks (175 Type 97 ShinHōtō Chi-Ha medium tanks, 25 Type 97 Chi-Ha medium tanks, and 20 Type 95 Ha-Go light tanks) faced off against
- only 76 American tanks (59 M4 Sherman medium tanks and 17 M5A1 Stuart light tanks) supported by infantry armed with bazookas and dozens of 105mm M7 Priest self-propelled howitzers.
- The Japanese made this tank battle last for over three weeks instead of a single one-day battle by hiding their tanks behind and under camouflaged and protected fortifications, either digging the tanks into the ground or creating a series of semi-enclosed fortifications for them to move around and reposition during the battles.
- Tanks duels caused the loss of dozens of American and around 200 Japanese tanks.



Type 97 Shinhōtō Chi-Ha "Gongchen tank" at the Beijing military museum. Crew of 5 (Commander, gunner, loader, bow gunner, driver) 1 x Type 1 47 mm tank gun 2 x 7.7 mm Type 97 machine gun. Front hull armor 25mm.

5 February 1945 - Manhattan Project

- Because of the high levels of radioactivity involved, work in the separation plants had to be conducted by remote control using closed-circuit television, something unheard of in 1943.
- Maintenance was carried out with the aid of an overhead crane and specially designed tools.
- The 224 buildings were smaller because they had less material to process, and it was less radioactive. The 224-T and 224-U buildings were completed on 8 October 1944, and 224-B followed on 10 February 1945.
- On 5 February 1945, Matthias hand-delivered the first shipment of 80 g of 95%-pure plutonium nitrate to a Los Alamos courier in Los Angeles.



T Plant is the factory designed to separate plutonium from uranium. T Plant, Hanford's first and largest chemical separation plant, began operations on December 26, 1944. Inside this massive structure, workers used remote controls, the world's first CCTV system, early robotics, and engineered controls including thick concrete walls and leaded glass to protect workers from the radiation given off by the irradiated uranium fuel slugs.

1 Jan – 9 Feb 1945 - Bougainville

- Pursuant to Savige's 31 December order to begin operations in the northwest ASAP Stevensons's 11th Brigade advanced along the coast, reaching the village of Rukussia by mid-January 1945.
- However, since the coastal plain was dominated by Tsimba Ridge, the Genga River could not be crossed in force until the Japanese had been dislodged from the crest of that ridge.
- In the Battle of Tsimba Ridge, the Australians encountered determined resistance in heavily fortified positions, and it was not until 9 February that the last Japanese dug in on the western edge of the ridge were rooted out.



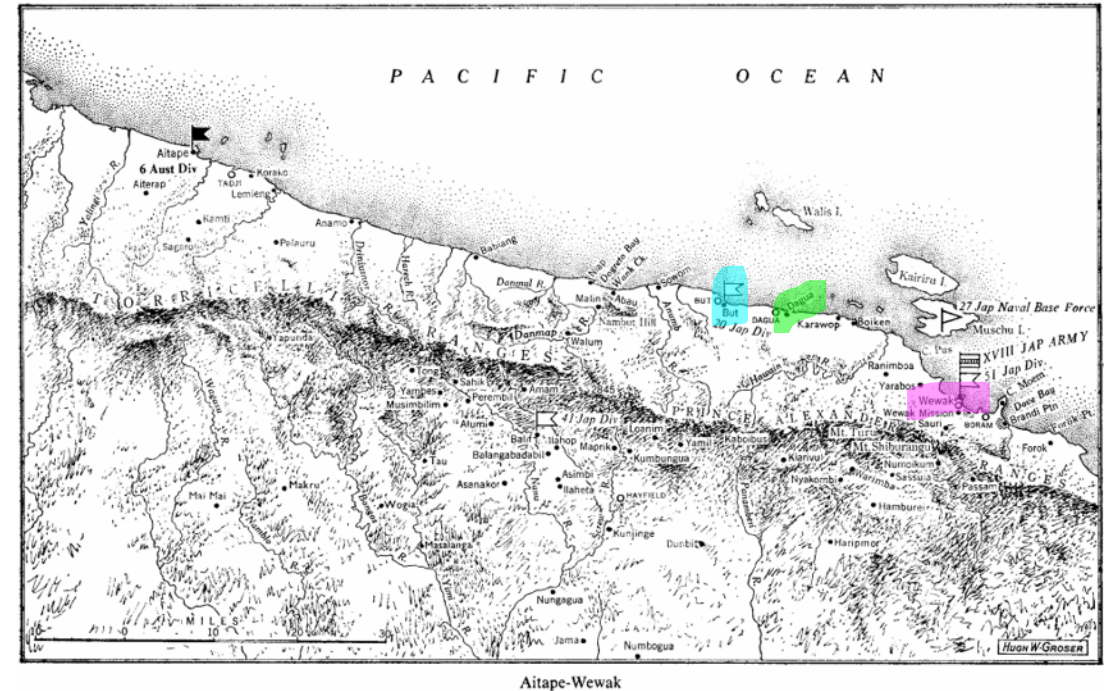
9 February 1945 - Australia

- The Defence Committee's review of the situation as it was at 31st December came to the War Cabinet on 9th February, when the Ministers decided to confirm their decision of the previous August to reduce the army by a further 30,000 and the air force by 15,000 before 30th June, but to order no more reductions so long as General MacArthur's plans for the employment of the Australian forces were adhered to.
- Mr Curtin would consult MacArthur to determine when further reductions could be made.
- However, the distribution of the men among the three Services was revised in the army's favor. The army was allotted 1,500 men a month instead of 420, the air force 900 instead of 2,280.
- It was decided that the army's "organisation for active operations" was not to be reduced below the six divisions and two armoured brigades laid down in July.
- One of these armoured brigades had actually already been disbanded, though some of its units remained.
- When consulted by Curtin, MacArthur replied that his plans contemplated the use of all the Australian forces assigned to his command, whereupon the War Cabinet agreed that no further reductions in the operational strength of the army should be made until the next phase of operations had ended.



10 February 1945 - Aitape

- General Stevens received General Sturdee's decision of 10th February that the division might press on to Wewak, although it would be given no additional resources to help it do so.
- Promptly Stevens informed his subordinates that he intended to take, in succession, But, Dagua and Wewak, and, in the mountains, to capture Maprik and advance eastward.
- The 16th Brigade was given the task of advancing to the Anumb River.
- Moten was informed that this would have to be accomplished by one battalion plus a company, two commando squadrons, and service troops, as this was all that the available aircraft could maintain.
- Stevens informed Sturdee that "administratively the operation was a complete gamble" because he had no guarantee that the five L.C.T's then at Aitape would remain in his area, and the weather, as it had demonstrated, might dislocate the road, sea and air routes for days on end.



10 February 1945 – B29s

- After Kobe, XXI Bomber Command returned to precision attacks.
- For a while, most of the missions were coordinated with the amphibious assault on Iwo Jima but support of that operation was incidental to the primary mission of destroying the aircraft industry.
- Target for the first of the post-Kobe mainland attacks was Nakajima's Ota plant, given highest priority among the assembly plants in the 11 November directive.
- Ota's importance stemmed from the fact that it was concentrating on the manufacture of a very effective fighter, the Ki-84 (photo), called Frank by the Americans.
- The plant had reached a production peak of 300 planes in December 1944.
- The one attack which had previously been scheduled for Ota (on 3 December) had been cancelled because of weather.



10 February 1945 – B29s

- Forecasts for 10 February, however, were favorable, and on that morning 118 planes took off, loaded with 500-pound GP's and M76 incendiaries in a weight ratio of 4 to 1.
- Weather over Ota was even better than predicted and eighty-four planes bombed the Nakajima plant.
- Bombing accuracy, however, was not impressive: only seven incendiaries and ninety-seven GPs (of which forty-three were duds!) fell in the factory area.
- Nevertheless, eleven of the plant's thirty-seven buildings were damaged and seventy-four Franks were destroyed.
- Heavy losses--twelve B-29's lost and twenty-nine damaged--reflected the increasing effectiveness of Japanese defenses.



11 February 1945 - Yalta

- Roosevelt wanted the Soviets to enter the Pacific War against Japan with the Allies, which he hoped would end the war sooner and reduce American casualties.
- The Soviets wanted the return of South Sakhalin, which had been taken from Russia by Japan in the Russo-Japanese War in 1905, and the cession of the Kuril Islands by Japan, both of which were approved by the other Allies.
- In return, Stalin pledged that the Soviet Union would enter the Pacific War three months after the defeat of Germany.



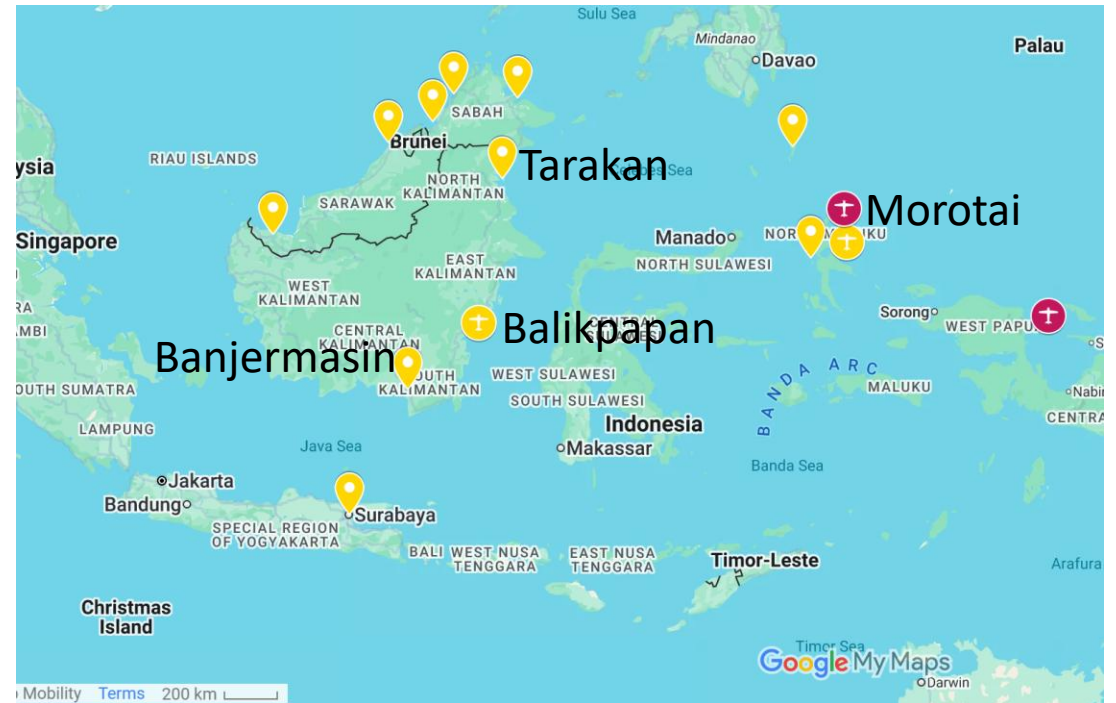
11 February 1945 - Yalta

- At the conference of Allied leaders at Yalta in the Crimea from February 4 to 11 the Joint Chiefs of Staff stated that if invasion of Japan had to be postponed until 1946 because of delays in Europe, operations might be undertaken in 1945 against Hainan, or British Borneo or the Chusan-Ningpo area in China.



15 February 1945 – SW Pacific

- On 15th February Blamey learnt more details of the new plans for the employment of I Corps.
- G.H.Q. proposed to use the three A.I.F. divisions in an advance to Borneo with Java as a later objective: first taking Tarakan with a brigade if land-based aircraft were available, but, if carrier aircraft were available, taking Balikpapan with a division.
- It might then be necessary to take Bandjermasin before an assault on Java by a corps of two divisions.
- In these operations I Corps was to be under the command of the Eighth American Army.
- This information came from General Berryman, who on 11th February had established the Forward Echelon of L.H.Q. side by side with G.H.Q. on Leyte.



15 February 1945 – SW Pacific

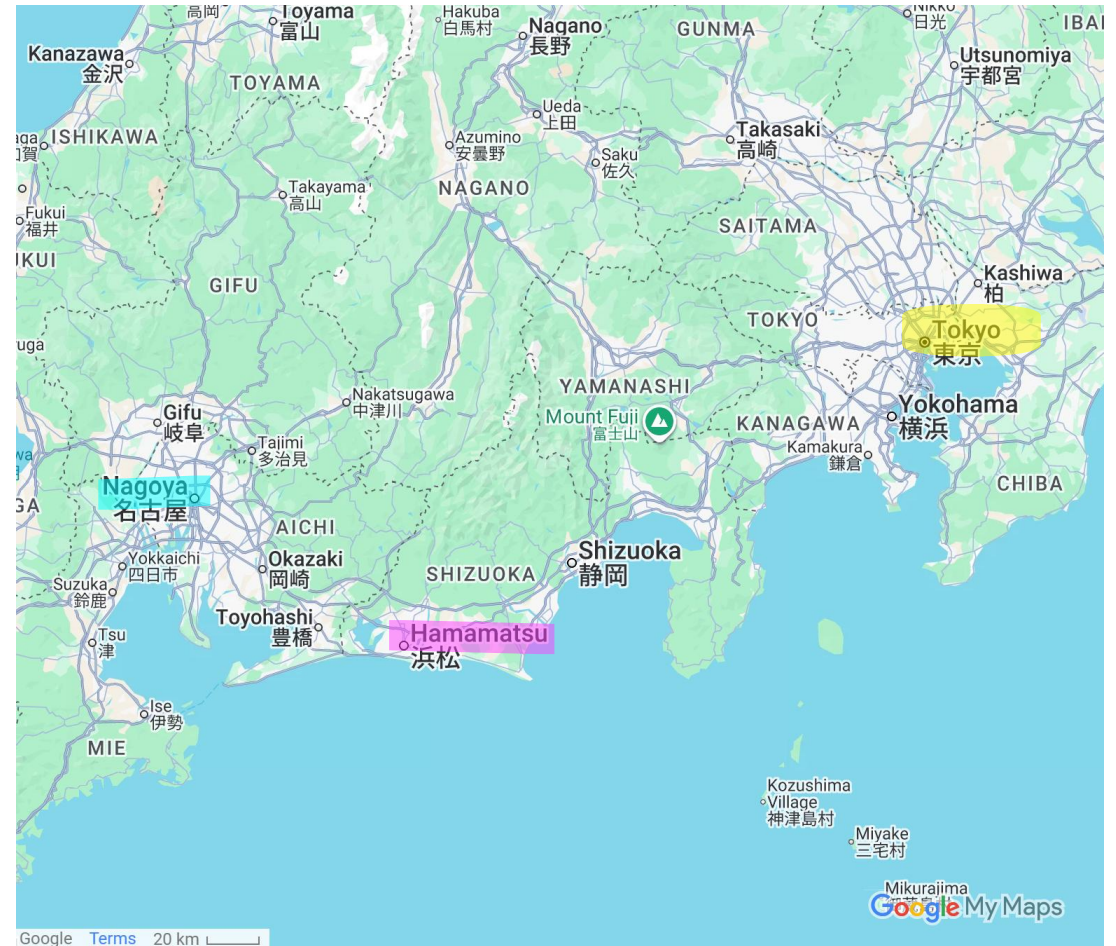
- On 15th February Curtin wrote to MacArthur seeking a definite decision about the part Australia was to play.
- He noted that shipping was not to be provided to move the AIF forward and that they had been out of action since 1943.
- He restated the Australian manpower stringency, reinforced that Australian forces had been in arms since 1939 and made the point that unlike all the other allies Australia would get little relief from the defeat of Germany.
- He then invited MacArthur's comments on these issues



John Curtin with Frederick McLaughlin his
Departmental Private Secretary,
1944. JCPML00129/20

15 February 1945 – B29

- By agreement with CINCPOA, LeMay scheduled a mission against Tokyo for 15 February, D minus 4 at Iwo.
- Since weather forecasts ruled out Tokyo but were favorable to Nagoya, the command sent 117 B-29's back to visit Mitsubishi's engine works at that city.
- On the way, they hit an unexpected cold front that broke up the formations, so that only thirty-three planes bombed the primary target; they caused a fair amount of superficial damage, particularly in the as yet untouched No. 10 Works, but did not greatly affect production.
- Most of the others unloaded on Hamamatsu, apparently with considerable effect.



16 February 1945 – Iwo Jima

- The battleship USS New York firing her 14 in main guns on the island of Iwo Jima, 16 February 1945 (D minus 3).



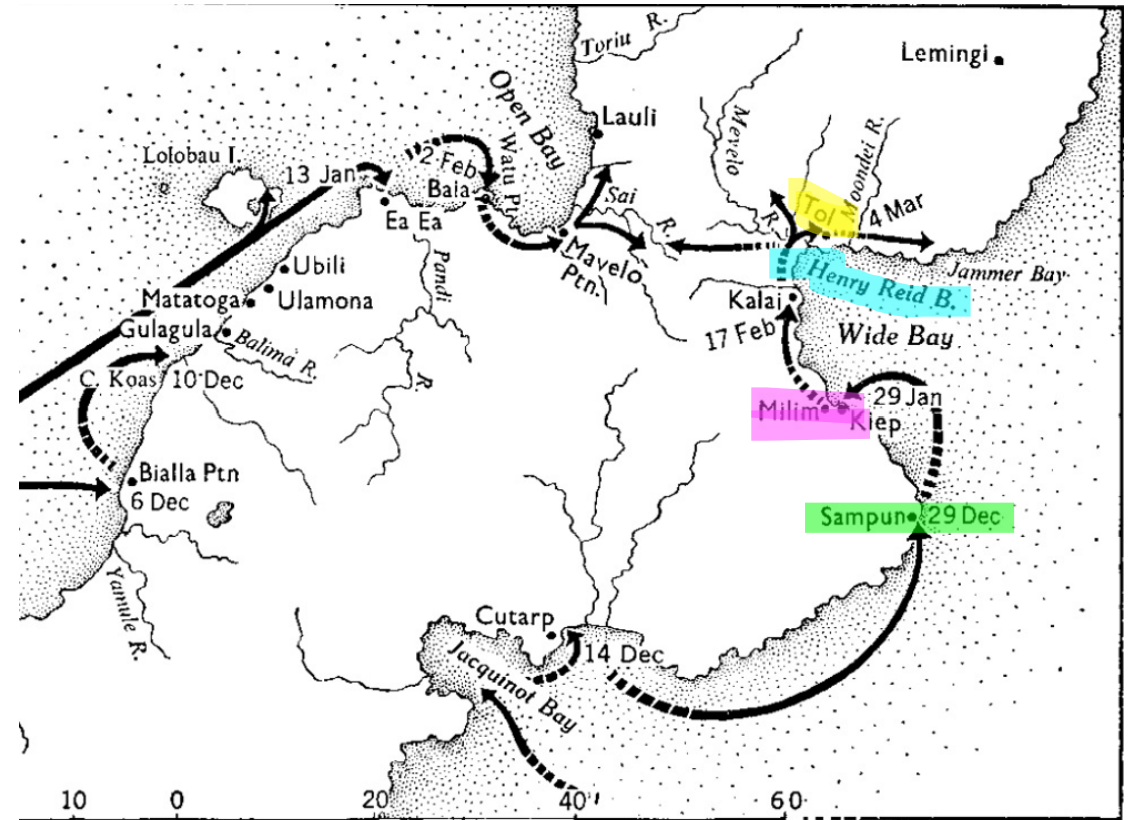
17 February 1945 – SW Pacific

- Blamey instructed Berryman strongly to resist the proposal that I Corps be incorporated in an American Army.
- On the 17th Berryman sent the following signal to Blamey:
- “I had frank discussion with Chamberlin who today received instructions that Morshead would command the Aust task force and would be under the direct command of GHQ and not under 8th Army.
- I pointed out that anticipated I Aust Corps HQ was not organised to command the AIF but that Adv LHQ was and that if a task force HQ was formed it would be necessary to integrate Adv LHQ and HQ I Aust Corps.
- I further pointed out that in the proposed series of operations the task force HQ would have to form a forward tactical HQ in Java and a rear HQ in Morotai or Balikpapan to handle administration and other functions so that in effect we would arrive back to our existing organisation Chamberlin said the question was beyond his level and that he could only act on his orders and that he thought General MacArthur would insist on dealing with one commander only ...



17 February 1945 – New Britain

- At this point, Japanese resistance on the southern coast began to grow and in the final phase of the advance, the Australians began advancing on foot around **Henry Reid Bay**, to secure the Waitavalo–**Tol** area, which was held by a Japanese force in around battalion strength.



18 February 1945 – Iwo Jima

- From February 1945 Task Force 58 ranged along the Japanese homeland coast attacking airfields to reduce the air power that could oppose an invasion force.
- Land based air was reduced but at some cost.
- During the night of 18 February 1945, Task Force 58, arrived off Iwo Jima.
- Mitscher's (photo) fliers assisted the surface vessel bombardment that accompanied the launch of the amphibious landing craft toward the island on the morning of the 19th.



19 February 1945 – B29

- On 19 February, D-day at Iwo, LeMay directed his planes to the familiar Musashino target, hoping to discourage air reinforcements for the beleaguered island.
- Two days before, the Navy had staged a carrier attack in which low-flying planes, using small bombs and rockets, had done substantial damage at Musashino.
- But on the 19th, weather again baffled the B-29's; frontal conditions made the trip out difficult and thick clouds hid Musashino completely.
- Crews had been briefed to hit Tokyo port and urban areas as a secondary target, and 119 B-29's (out of 150 dispatched) dropped on those districts by radar.
- Visible damage covered a total area of 102,600 square feet and included 2 important objectives, a spinning mill and the Sumida River railroad yard and bridge.
- The mission merely added to the cumulative evidence that precision bombing under existing conditions was not paying dividends.
- Though still unwilling to launch the all-out incendiary attacks against major cities until the B-29 force had been built up, Washington wanted more experimentation with fire bombs.



Japanese Weather

19 February 1945 – Iwo Jima

- The invasion of Iwo Jima, codenamed “Operation Detachment” aimed to achieve several objectives:
- remove the Japanese garrison that was providing early warning of B-29 raids en route to Japan,
- eliminate the enemy airfields that allowed Japanese pilots to harass the Marianas,
- establish the island as an emergency landing place for the B29s and
- provide air fields for long-range fighters to escort the B29s over the Japanese home islands.
- Capturing Iwo Jima would also protect the right flank for a future American invasion of Okinawa.
- At 08:59 on 19 February, one minute ahead of schedule, the first wave of Marines landed on the beaches of the southeastern coast of Iwo Jima.



19 February 1945 – Iwo Jima

- The Americans put a corps of three divisions of marines, about 82,000 men, ashore on an 8 square mile island, which had risen from the sea in the memory of living men, on 19th February 1945.
- The landings swiftly became congested due to the loose volcanic ash covering the island.
- After allowing the Americans to concentrate men and materiel on the beach for just over an hour, the Japanese opened fire.
- Machine guns fire, mortars, and heavy artillery began to rain down on the crowded beach.
- After crossing the beach, the Marines were faced with 15 ft-high slopes of soft black volcanic ash.
- This ash provided neither secure footing nor protective foxholes but it did absorb some of the fragments from Japanese artillery.



South Western Iwo Jima looking South West. The Marines landed on beaches in the top left. Mount Suribachi top centre

19 February 1945 – Iwo Jima

- Artillery bunkers in Mount Suribachi were shielded with steel doors. After firing they closed them immediately to protect against counterfire. This made it exceedingly difficult for American units to destroy a Japanese artillery piece.
- Most bunkers were connected to the elaborate tunnel system running through most of the island.
- Bunkers cleared with flamethrowers and grenades were often reoccupied shortly afterwards by Japanese troops moving underground.
- This caused many casualties among the Marines from bunkers thought to be secure.
- Amtracs, unable to gain traction in the black ash, made no progress up the slopes off the beach; their Marine passengers had to dismount and footslog forward.
- Naval Construction Battalions 31 and 133, braving enemy fire, were eventually able to bulldoze roads off the beach. This allowed the Marines to finally make some progress inland and get off the beach, which had become overcrowded with both men and materiel.



South Western Iwo Jima looking South West. The Marines landed on beaches in the top left. Mount Suribachi top centre

19 February 1945 – Iwo Jima

- By 11:30, some Marines had managed to reach the southern tip of Airfield No. 1, which had been one of the objectives for the first day.
- They repelled a fanatical charge by over 100 Japanese troops and were able to keep their toehold on Airfield No. 1 as night fell.
- In the left-most sector of the landings, the Americans did manage to achieve one of their objectives for the battle that day.
- Led by Colonel "Harry the Horse" Liversedge, the 28th Marines drove across the island at its narrowest width, around 870 yds, thereby isolating the Japanese dug in on Mount Suribachi.
- The rightmost landing area was dominated by Japanese fortifications located at "the Quarry". The 25th Marine Regiment conducted a two-pronged attack to neutralize this position.
- The 25th Marines' 3rd Battalion had landed approximately 900 men on the island that morning. Japanese resistance at the Quarry was so fierce that by nightfall, only 150 Marines were left in fighting condition, an 83.3% casualty rate.



19 February 1945 – Iwo Jima

- The Marines expected the usual Japanese banzai charge during the night but that did not occur.
- At night, the Japanese left their defenses in small groups to attack American foxholes under cover of darkness so USN ships began firing star shells to illuminate the battlefield.
- English-speaking Japanese often yelled "corpsman", pretending to be a wounded Marine, in order to lure and kill the USN medical personnel attached to Marine infantry companies.



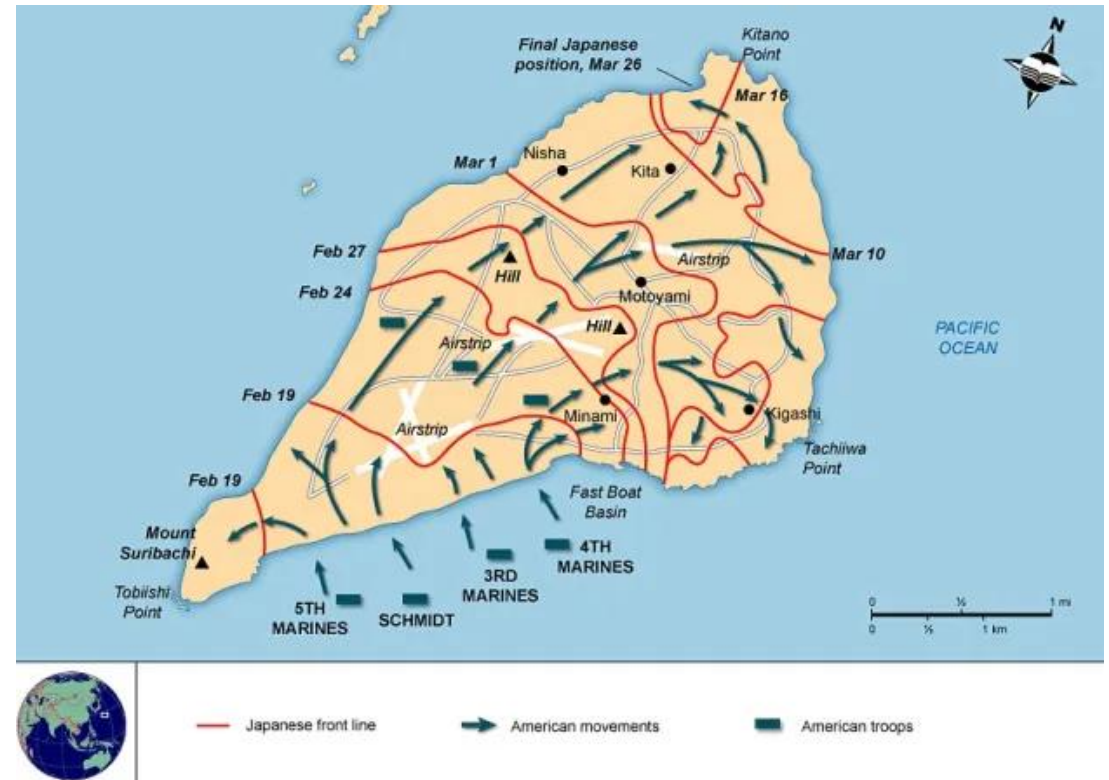
20 February 1945 – Iwo Jima

- The fighting remained intense, and the American advance was stalled by numerous defensive positions augmented by artillery.
- Marines were frequently ambushed by Japanese troops who sprang out of previously-unseen tunnels.
- The Marines learned that firearms were relatively ineffective against the Japanese defenders and turned to flamethrowers and grenades to flush the Japanese troops out of their tunnels.
- One of the technological innovations of the battle, the eight Sherman M4A3R3 medium tanks equipped with a flamethrower ("Ronson" or "Zippo" tanks), proved highly effective at clearing hardened Japanese positions.
- The Shermans were difficult to disable, often requiring Japanese defenders to assault them in the open, where they were vulnerable to the superior numbers and firepower of the Marines.
- Photo: A flamethrower operator of E Company, 2nd Battalion 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, runs under fire on Iwo Jima.



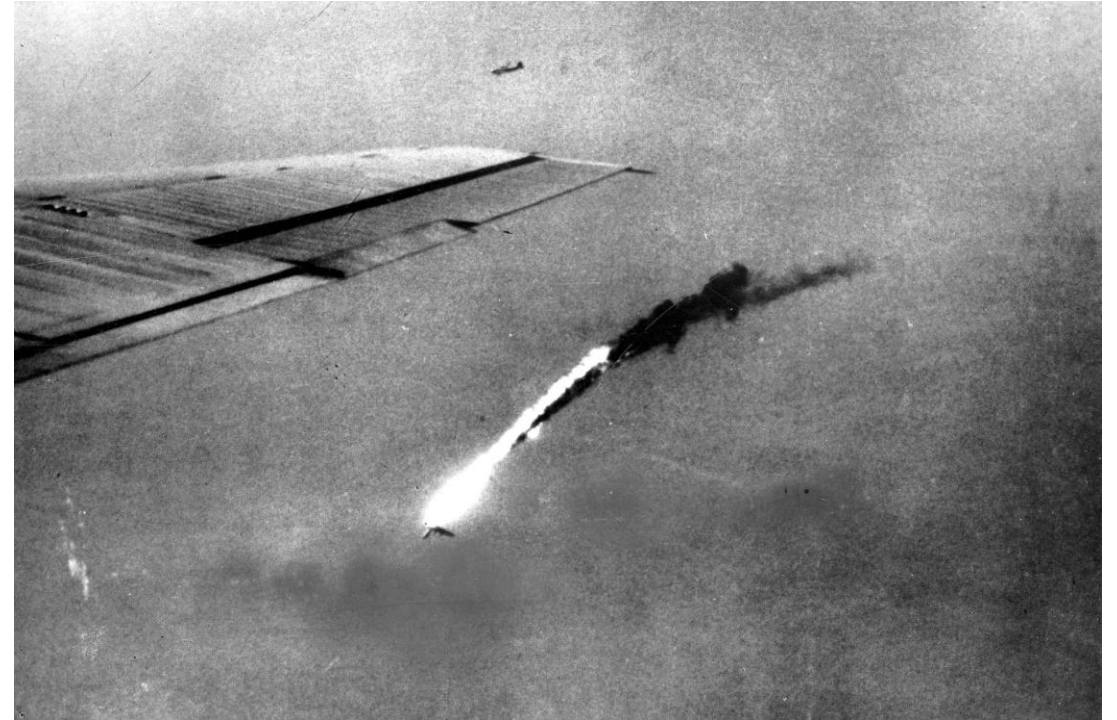
20 February 1945 – Iwo Jima

- Once the landing area was secured, more troops and heavy equipment came ashore, and the Americans proceeded north to capture the airfields.
- The Marines' overall objective at this point was to take control of Airfield No. 2 in the center of the island.
- However, every "penetration seemed to become a disaster" as "units were raked from the flanks, chewed up, and sometimes wiped out.
- Tanks were destroyed by interlocking fire or were hoisted into the air on the spouting fireballs of buried mines".
- The fighting bogged down, and American casualties piled up rapidly. Capturing strongpoints did not guarantee that the captured territory was secure, since previously cleared fortifications could be reoccupied by the Japanese using the island's tunnel system.
- Most Japanese soldiers fought to the death.



19 February 1945 – B29

- While improved maintenance procedures implemented by LeMay reduced the number of B-29s that had to return to base during raids due to technical problems, the Command suffered a loss rate of 5.1 percent between 23 January and 19 February .



A B-29 falls in flames after a direct hit by an anti-aircraft shell over Japan

12 – 19 February 1945 – North Western Area

- The enemy was losing from 25 to 50 per cent of all shipping sighted by North-Western Area aircraft but persisted in his movements.
- The week from 12th to 19th February produced a flood of ship sightings and it looked as though orders from higher authority were behind the enemy determination to press on with these movements.
- It appeared that they were trying to move food, fuel and supplies eastward from Flores and Sumbawa and also from Timor.
- Altogether during February the enemy in this area lost 29 ships and another 32 damaged .



February 1945 – SW Pacific

- As first conceived by GHQ in February, the OBOE plan was in six parts.
 - OBOE ONE: on 23rd April a brigade group of the 6th Division would attack Tarakan Island and establish an airstrip to provide air support for the next move.
 - OBOE Two: an attack on Balikpapan on 18th May by the 9th Division. Balikpapan would then become an advanced base for
 - OBOE THREE: the occupation on 28th May of Bandjermasin by a brigade group of the 9th Division. (If British carriers were available to support the advance to Java, OBOE THREE was to be omitted.)
 - OBOE FOUR: With air support from Bandjermasin or from British carriers, I Australian Corps, with the 6th and 7th Divisions, two tank battalions and, later, a brigade of the 9th Division, would seize the Surabaya area on 27th June and advance thence west to Batavia and Bandung and east to Lombok Strait.
 - OBOE FIVE: provided for the consolidation of the remaining areas of the Nether lands Indies,
 - OBOE SIX: for the occupation of the remaining areas of Borneo.



19 February 1945 – SW Pacific

- Curtin's letter had reached MacArthur and produced swift action.
- Berryman informed Blamey that G.H.Q. anticipated that from early in March one Liberty ship would berth at Townsville or Cairns daily for 34 days and 8 to 10 troopers would be available over the same period.
- These should lift the 9th Division and base troops to Morotai by 5th May; and ample shipping should be available to embark the 7th Division and corps troops.



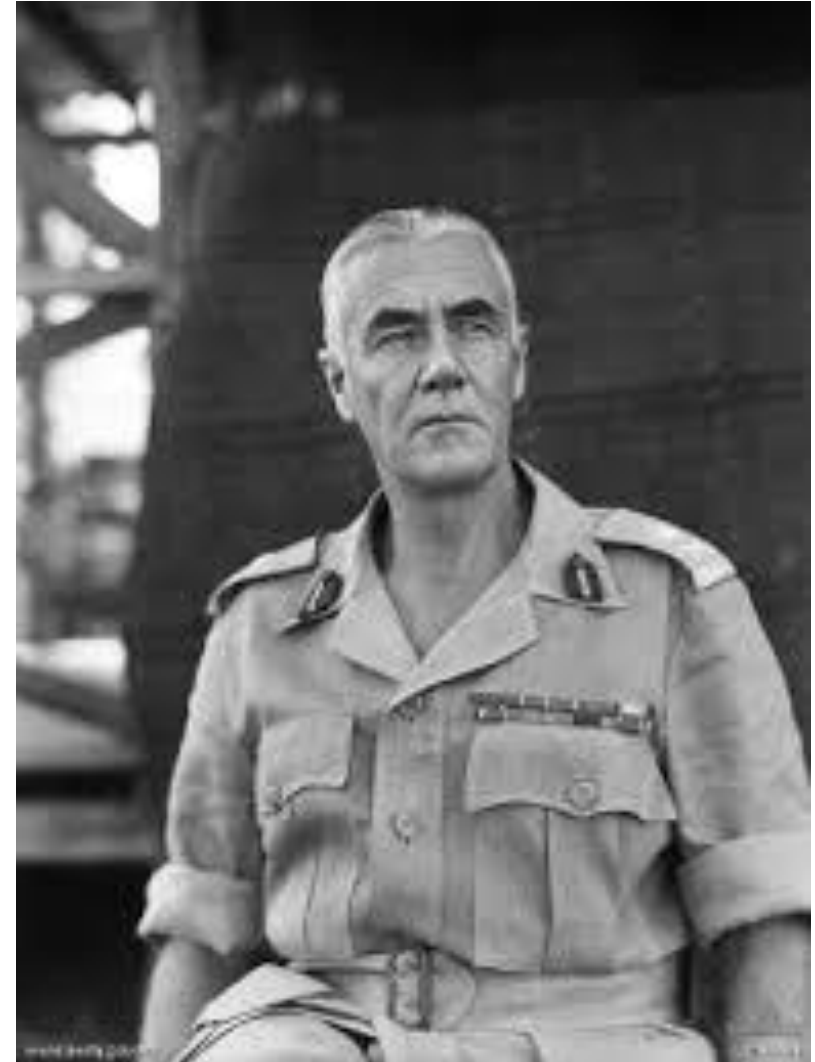
20 February 1945 - Bougainville

- On 28 December, Savige issued orders to the 29th Brigade to begin the drive toward the principal Japanese concentration around Buin.
- After a month's fighting, the Australians were in control of an area extending twelve miles south of the Perimeter and six miles inland.
- Employing barges to outflank the Japanese, they entered the village of Mosigetta by 11 February 1945 and Barara by 20 February.
- The Australians then cleared an area near Mawaraka for an airstrip.



20-21 February 1945 – SW Pacific

- On 20th February Berryman informed Blamey that G.H.Q. proposed to use the 6th Division in the Borneo operation and a great part of it was expected to begin combat loading at Aitape about 1st April.
- G.H.Q. proposed that the headquarters of the 11th Division with the 23rd Brigade and the 8th Brigade less a battalion should relieve the 6th Division.
- This plan would involve taking 5,000 base troops from First Army.
- Sturdee (photo) telegraphed Blamey on the 21st that it would be impossible to maintain the troops in the operational areas if he lost 5,000 base troops.



21 February 1945 - Australia

- Parliament re-assembled on 21st February and on the 22nd Mr Menzies (photo) raised "a matter which was gravely concerning his own mind..."
- The question of where, in broad terms, Australian forces should be sent was, in the best sense of the term, a political question, Menzies continued.
- It was right that the Philippines were being retaken primarily by American military strength because America was "deeply pledged in its honour, self-respect, and pride" to relieve the Philippines.
- In the same way people of the British race had a profound interest in the relief of Burma, Malaya and Singapore, and Australians had a particular interest in the relief of the Netherlands East Indies.
- He would like to think—and he was not alone in Australia in this matter—that Australia would be able at this time to have a division, or perhaps two divisions, of the Australian Imperial Force fighting with other British troops for the relief of Malaya, and the rescue of those men who were captured at Singapore.



21 February 1945 - Japan

- At 18:45 on 21 February seven Japanese aircraft attacked the escort carriers.
- After five near-misses on the Lunga Point two planes crashed into the Bismarck Sea, crippling firefighting and triggering major fires and explosions.
- Captain Pratt ordered abandon ship at 19:05; the carrier sank at 21:15 with 318 lost.



Bismarck Sea exploding after being hit by a kamikaze, photographed from USS Saginaw Bay

21 February 1945 - Japan

- On 29 January 1945, Saratoga departed Pearl Harbor to form a night fighter task group (TG 58.5/Night Carrier Division 7) with Enterprise to provide air cover for the amphibious landings on Iwo Jima with the 53 Hellcats and 17 Avengers of Carrier Air Group (Night) 53 aboard.
- Saratoga was detached with an escort of three destroyers to carry out night patrols over Iwo Jima and nearby Chichi Jima.
- Taking advantage of low cloud cover and Saratoga's weak escort, six Japanese planes scored five bomb hits on the carrier in three minutes; three of the aircraft also struck the carrier.
- Saratoga's flight deck forward was wrecked, her starboard side was holed twice and large fires were started in her hangar deck; she lost 123 of her crew dead or missing as well as 192 wounded. Forty of her aircraft were destroyed.
- Another attack two hours later further damaged her flight deck.
- Slightly over an hour later, the fires were under control, and Saratoga was able to recover six fighters. The ship was sent to Bremerton for permanent repairs, arriving there on 16 March.



Saratoga after having been hit by a kamikaze, 21 February 1945.

22 February 1945 – SW Pacific

- Orders were issued on 22nd February for the move of the 9th Division to the staging base at Morotai, and
- on 1st March planning teams from I Corps, the 9th Division, and the 1st Base Sub-Area were ordered forward to Morotai



22 February 1945 - Australia

- Curtin (photo) replied that the Government had decided that all Australian ground troops should be assigned to the command of General MacArthur in the South-West Pacific Area.
- He accepted Menzies's view that Australia had a major political and national interest in the British Empire, Malaya, Singapore and the Far East, but Australia had a major political issue nearer home: to clear out the enemy still in occupation of territories for which the Australian Government was politically responsible.



22-24 February 1945 – SW Pacific

- On the 22nd Blamey (photo) signalled Sturdee and Berryman to defer action on the 6th Division until further orders; the matter was under consideration by the Government.
- And on the 24th, after seeing Curtin, he signalled Sturdee that all instructions requiring him to prepare for the withdrawal of the 6th Division and base troops were cancelled.
- After the decision that the 6th Division should not be used in Borneo the plan was amended to provide for the capture of Tarakan by a brigade group of the 9th and of Balikpapan by the remainder of the division.



22 February 1945 - Australia

- It is not obvious to me who made this decision.
- Sturdee told Blamey that he could not continue current mopping up operations without 6 Div.
- Blamey, I suspect viewed the proposal as the transfer of another division from his, essentially independent command, to MacArthur's command.
- Menzies would clearly support anything in the nature of recovering the British Empire's lost property, but Oboe, as currently conceived, was only about Dutch property.
- The Joint Chiefs had authorised British Borneo, not Dutch Borneo.
- Curtin accepted responsibility for mopping up New Guinea, had been pressuring MacArthur for a job for a two Division I Corps, to keep Australia a valued member of the United Nations, but wanted to shrink the army as soon as possible and may have been sensitive to the fact that the 6th Division included the men first to volunteer.
- It seems to me that it was a 4-1 decision with the opposition being the one.
- It would have been possible to shut down New Guinea and just guard the airfields and send 6 Div to Borneo. Curtin had been saying forcefully for years that the whole army was at MacArthurs orders.
- I suspect that Curtin had been strung along by MacArthur long enough.



23 February 1945 – Iwo Jima

- Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima is a black and white photograph taken by Joe Rosenthal depicting six Marines from E Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Marines, raising a U.S. flag atop Mount Suribachi on 23 February 1945.
- There were two flag-raisings on the site that day both by patrols who encountered no effective opposition.
- The second one was required because the just landed Secretary of the navy decided that he wanted the flag as a souvenir.
- The photograph was of the second raising.
- Three of the six Marines depicted in the photograph were killed in action days after the flag-raising.
- There have been three subsequent Marine Corps investigations into the identities of the six men in the photograph, most recently in 2019.



25 February 1945 - Manhattan Project

- Reactor F, the third reactor at Hanford, was started on 25 February 1945.
- The three reactors could each produce 20 Kgs of Plutonium a month once the reactor and the separation plants had achieved full rates.
- The Fat Man bomb design only required 6 kgs of Plutonium.



A plutonium button

