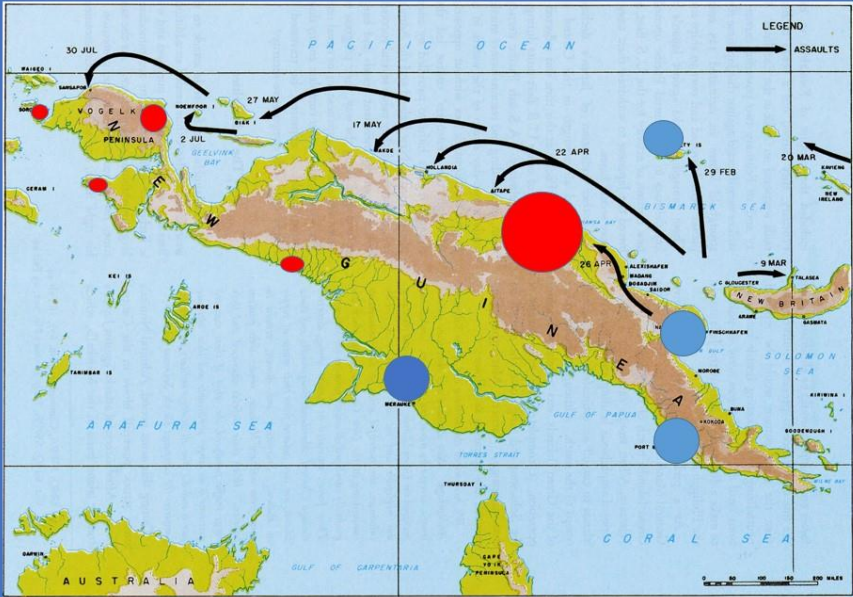


A LITTLE KNOWN STORY: WORLD WAR TWO WEST PAPUA

A FEATURE OF 2017 SAMPARI
ART EXHIBITION & SALE FOR
WEST PAPUA

SCRIPT



West Papua Nederlands Nieuw Guinea (or Dutch New Guinea) in World War II

The Exhibition

Ladies & Gentlemen. Good afternoon.

This exhibition is about the war against the Japanese in West Papua, or as it was then, Netherlands Nieuw Guinea, or Dutch New Guinea. It was of course just part of the War in the Pacific. This presentation aims to put the West Papua Exhibition in context.

Firstly, historically. Secondly, in the context of the whole War in the Pacific against the Japanese from 1941 to 1945. And finally, in relation to the better known part of that War and Australia's role in it / the War in Australia's territory of Papua New Guinea.

Maps - History & Perspectives

- **New Guinea before WWI**
- **The Japanese Occupation WWII**
- **Indonesian Papua (from 1963)**
- **The West Papuan Perspective**

What and where is West Papua? The next four slides are maps showing a very brief history of New Guinea.



Prior to WW1 the Netherlands, Germany and Britain were the colonial powers in New Guinea.

Territory of Papua (Red). In 1883, the Colony of Queensland tried to annex the southern half of eastern New Guinea, but the British government did not approve. However, when Germany began settlements in the north a British protectorate was proclaimed in 1884 over the southern coast of New Guinea and its adjacent islands. The protectorate, called British New Guinea, was annexed outright on 4 September 1888. The possession was placed under the authority of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1902, following Federation. Following the passage of the Papua Act in 1905, British New Guinea became the Territory of Papua, formal Australian administration began in 1906, and Papua remained under Australian control until the independence of Papua New Guinea in 1975.

German New Guinea(Black) (German: *Deutsch-Neuguinea*) was the first part of the German colonial empire. German New Guinea consisted of the north-eastern part of New Guinea and several nearby island groups in the Bismark Archipelago and the North Solomons, with its capital at Rabaul. It was a protectorate from 1884 until 1914 when it fell to Australian forces following the outbreak of the First World War. New Zealand defeated the Germans in Samoa at about the same time in 1914. What was German New Guinea is now the New Guinea part of Papua New Guinea.

The Netherlands claimed sovereignty over West New Guinea (Orange) in 1872 having been a colonial power in the region since 1800 when it nationalised the colonies of the Dutch East India Company (now Indonesia). It became Netherlands Nieuw Guinea.



Japanese Occupation in WWII January to March 1942

The New Guinea campaign of the Pacific War lasted from January 1942 until the end of the war in August 1945.

During the initial phase in early 1942, the Empire of Japan invaded the Australian-administered territories of the New Guinea Mandate – formerly German New Guinea (23 January 1942) - part of Papua (8 March 1942) - and overran western or Dutch New Guinea (beginning 29/30 March 1942). The Japanese were not successful in taking all of New Guinea, although they did later try, and fail.

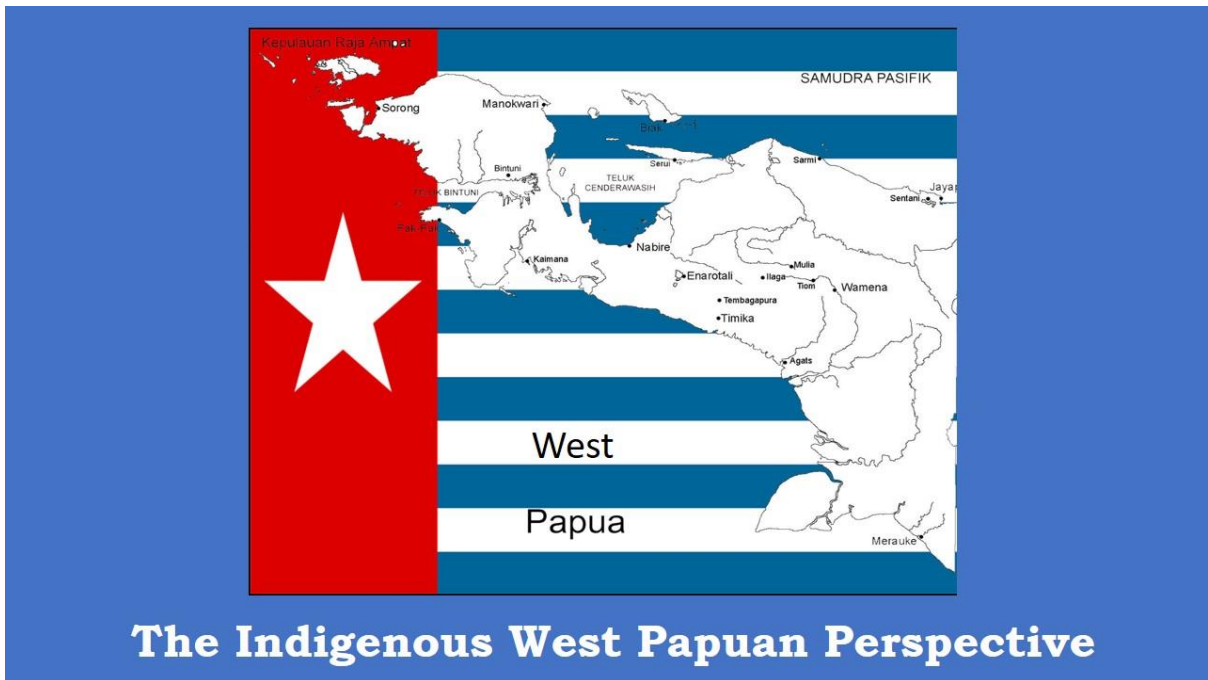
NOTE that the southern part of Papua, including Port Moresby remained in Australian hands, and the southern part of Dutch New Guinea, including Merauke, remained in Dutch hands, heavily supported by Australian and US troops.

The blue circles show those locations.

During the second phase, lasting from late 1942 until the Japanese surrender in 1945, the Allies—consisting primarily of Australian and US forces—cleared the Japanese first from Papua, then the New Guinea Mandate and finally from the Dutch colony.



The situation today, 72 years after WW2, and 54 Years after Indonesia gained possession of Dutch New Guinea, is that the previous Dutch territory now comprises two provinces of Indonesia, PAPUA and WEST PAPUA.



However, the PAPUA MERDEKA or FREE PAPUA movement sees West Papua as a free and independent nation under its own Morning Star Flag. Their struggle for independence continues and this SAMPARI Art Exhibition and associated events are in support of that struggle.

The Exhibition in Context World War II in the Pacific

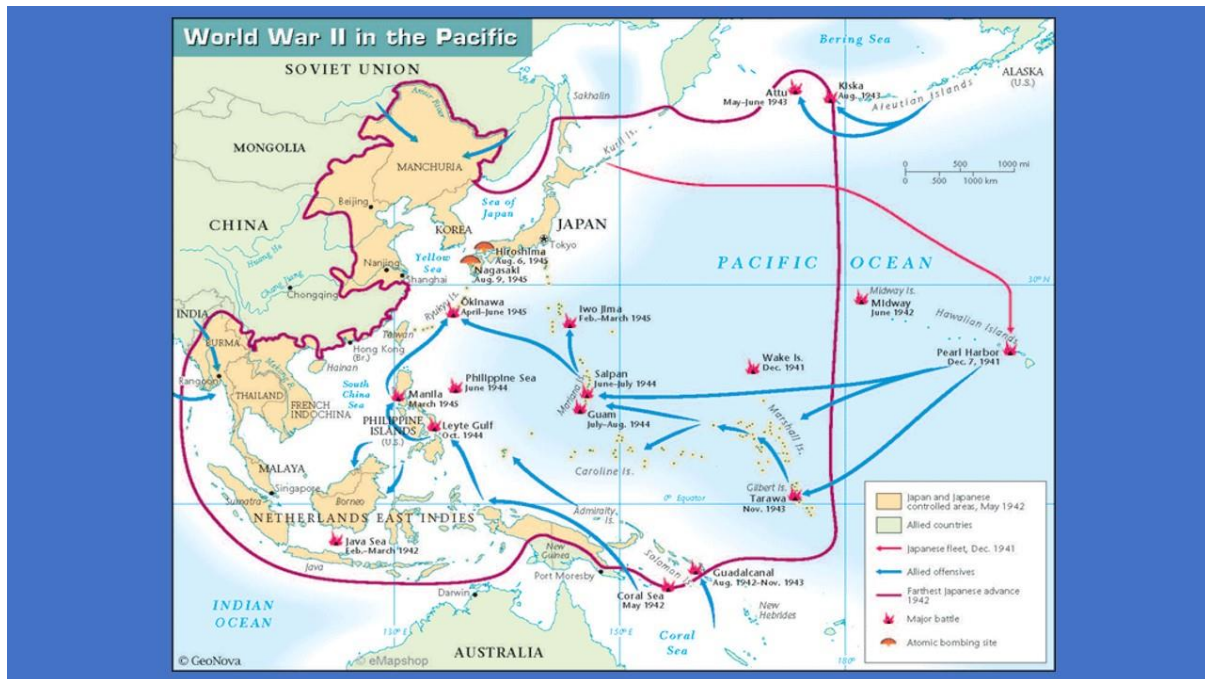
- **7/8 December 1941 - Pearl Harbour, Wake Island, Guam, Philippines, Thailand, Hong Kong, Malaya, Singapore**
- **8 December 1941 - Britain, USA and New Zealand declared war on Japan**
- **8 December 1941 - Netherlands declared war on Japan**
- **9 December 1941 - Australia declared war on Japan**
- **17 December 1941 - Japan invaded Dutch East Indies**
- **January to March 1942 - New Guinea Occupied**
- **1942 to 1945 - The Allied Offensive**

The next slide will show on a map the progress of the War in the Pacific, from the simultaneous attacks on Pearl Harbour, Wake Island, Guam, Philippines, Thailand, Hong Kong, Malaya and Singapore early in December 1941 through the Allied counter-offensive, to the eventual defeat of Japan.

The War is usually thought to have started with the attack on Pearl Harbour, but there were multiple attacks within a few hours of each other. Because of the difference in time zones they were on 7 December on one side of the International Date Line (in Hawai'i) / and 8 December on the other side. The attack on Kota Baru in Northern Malaya on 8 December was actually a few hours before the attack on Pearl Harbour on 7 December.

The next slide shows the US, Australian, New Zealand and Dutch part of the war against Japan.

But we should remember that the war was also being fought in India and in Burma by the British / and in China by the Chinese / with covert air support from the US.



The War Begins

War between the Empire of Japan and the Republic of China had been in progress since 7 July 1937, with hostilities dating back as far as 19 September 1931 with the Japanese invasion of Manchuria. However, it is more widely accepted that the Pacific War itself began in December 1941, when Japan invaded Thailand and attacked the British possessions of Malaya, Singapore, and Hong Kong as well as the United States military and naval bases in Hawai'i, Wake Island (Anen-kiō), Guam and the Philippines. The British and Chinese in Burma were defeated between December 1941 and April 1942.

Escape from the Philippines

Many US troops, including General Douglas MacArthur and his family, escaped from the Philippines and made their way firstly to Melbourne where MacArthur established his General HQ, commanding both US and Australian forces in the South West Pacific Area. His HQ later moved to Brisbane.

Outline of the War in the Pacific

We should note the extent of the Japanese occupation denoted by the red line, and the two main campaigns against the Japanese in the Pacific, by Admiral Nimitz and his navy, naval air assets and US Marines through the Central Pacific towards Japan, and by General MacArthur and his composite US, Australian, New Zealand & Dutch campaign through the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Dutch New Guinea and the Philippines towards Japan.

The End of the War

The war ended before either of them got there, in the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6th and 9th August 1945, and other large aerial bomb attacks by the United States Army Air Forces. In between the atom bombs the Soviet Union declared war on Japan and invaded Manchuria on 8th August 1945. Japan announced its intent to surrender a week later on 15 August 1945.

NOTE: The location of Midway (near Hawai'i) where a naval battle ensued in June 1942. I will mention it later in the presentation.

The allied campaign in the other half of New Guinea (Papua New Guinea)

- 7-8th May 1942 - Battle of the CORAL SEA
- July to November 1942 – KOKODA / BUNA
- August to September 1942 – MILNE BAY
- 9 August 1942 – Savo Island
- August 1942 to February 1943 – GUADALCANAL
- 2-4th March 1943 – BISMARK SEA

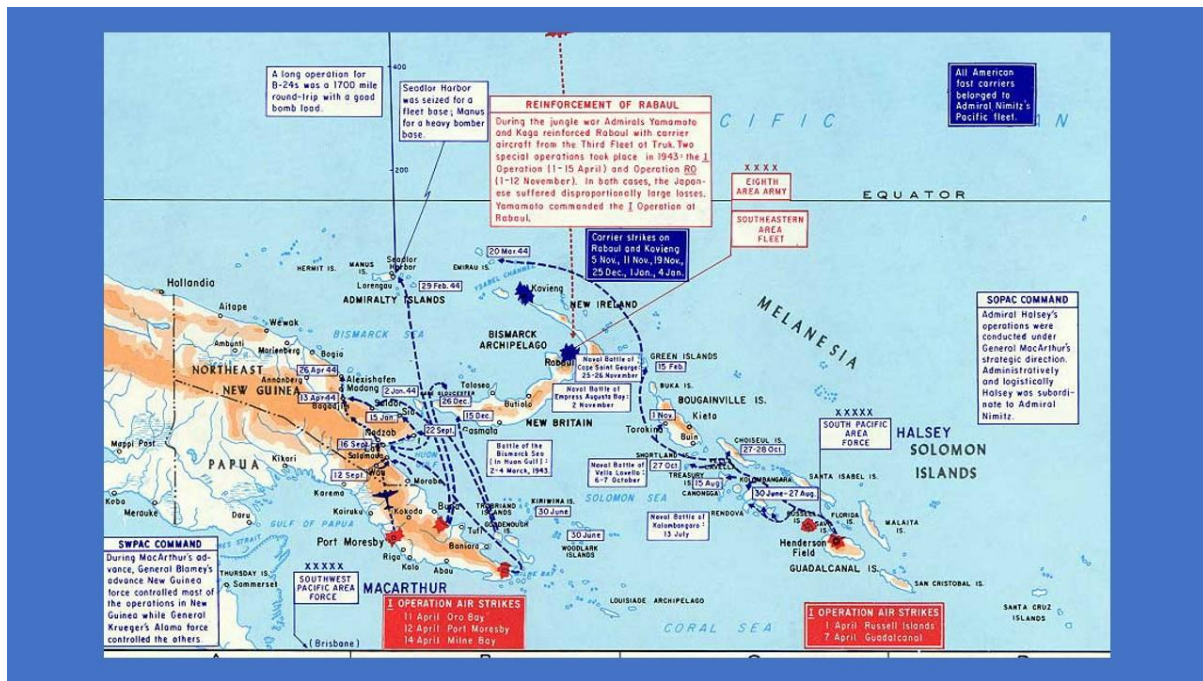
We are more familiar with the campaigns in Papua New Guinea than we are with those in Dutch New Guinea.

The campaign across the KOKODA TRACK or TRAIL has reached legendary status and is now, along with Gallipoli, the Western Front, and perhaps Beersheba, a place of pilgrimage for Australians.

By comparison the battles of Hollandia, Wakde/Sarmia/One Tree Hill, Biak, Noemfoor and Sansapor in Dutch New Guinea are unknown to most. As is the fact that there was a large Australian base on the South coast of Dutch New Guinea for the duration of the war.

The allied campaign in the other half of New Guinea (Papua New Guinea) Continued

- April to September 1943 – HUON PENINSULA
- August 1943 – BOMBING OF WEWAK
- August 1943 – BOMBING OF RABAU
- November 1943 to August 1945 – BOUGAINVILLE
- February 1944 – ADMIRALTY ISLANDS INCLUDING LOS NEGROS and MANUS ISLANDS
- 1943 – 1945 – Continued fierce fighting during mopping-up operations



This map shows the progression of the campaign in Papua Guinea and adjacent islands:

- 7/8 May 1942 Coral Sea (HMAS Australia, HMAS Hobart)
- Jul – Nov 1942 Kokoda - Buna
- Aug – Sep 1942 Milne Bay
- Aug 1942 – Feb 1943 Guadalcanal
- 9 Aug 1942 Savo Island (in the Solomon Sea) – (HMAS Australia, HMAS Hobart, HMAS Canberra)
- 2/4 Mar 1943 Bismark Sea (prevented reinforcement of Huon from Rabaul)
- Apr – Sep 1943 Huon Peninsula (Nadzab, Salamaua, Lae, Finschafen)
- Aug 1943 The Bismark Archipelago (New Britain & New Ireland) – Rabaul bombed.
The original plan was to attack the main Japanese HQ and base at Rabaul. But that was discarded and Rabaul was contained, isolated and bypassed. That decision avoided thousands of Allied casualties.
- Nov 1943 – Nov 1944 Bougainville (US troops)
- Feb 1944 The Admiralty Islands (Los Negros and Manus)
- Mar – Apr 1944 Wewak: Bombed, isolated and bypassed.
- Apr 1944 Aitape & Dutch New Guinea – Hollandia, Wakte, Biak, Noemfoor, Sansapor
- Nov 1944 – Aug 1945 Bougainville (Australian troops)
- 1943 – 1945 Mopping Up

THE EXHIBITION

Nederlands Nieuw Guinea

(on the way to the Philippines from Papua New Guinea)

- 1942 to 1945 – MERAUKE Allied Base
- 1942 to 1945 – Dutch and Indigenous Resistance
- 22 April 1944 – AITAPE (base for No 78 Fighter Wing RAAF)
- 22 April 1944 – HOLLANDIA (OPERATION RECKLESS)
- 17 May 1944 – WAKDE ISLAND / SARMI / ONE TREE HILL / MAFFIN BAY
- 27 May 1944 – BIAK ISLAND
- 2 July 1944 – NOEMFOOR ISLAND
- 30 July 1944 – CAPE SANSAPOR / VOGELKOP

West Papua in World War 2

This Exhibition is about what was happening in the other half, in Dutch New Guinea, from 1942 to 1944, and also about what happened next, in 1944, after those battles in the Solomon Islands and in Papua New Guinea.

While there was still fierce fighting (or mopping up) going on in Papua New Guinea and in the islands, in April 1944 the main US invasion forces, supported by Australian naval and air, moved on to Dutch New Guinea.

But before we get to that 1944 invasion let's look at what was happening in Dutch New Guinea from 1942 to 1944.

(1) Merauke

(December 1942 – July 1945)

The southern part of Papua was the only region of the Netherlands East Indies not to fall under Japanese control during the Pacific War. The contribution to the war effort by south coast Papuans, Torres Strait Islanders, and Australian military based in Merauke and outlying radio posts, has largely been neglected by journalists and war historians.

The Base at Merauke

Throughout the campaigns in Papua New Guinea & Dutch New Guinea / Dutch, Australian and a few US forces maintained a major base at Merauke on the South coast of Dutch New Guinea, just as a major base was maintained at Port Moresby on the South coast of Papua.

There were about 7,000 troops stationed at Merauke, mostly Australian Army and Air Force.

The base maintained an allied presence in Dutch New Guinea, it was part of the early warning system for the defence of northern Australia, and it provided a forward airfield from which raids against the Japanese were launched. It provided protection from Japanese invasion of Papua New Guinea from the West.

It was also used to support Dutch and West Papuan behind-the-lines groups.

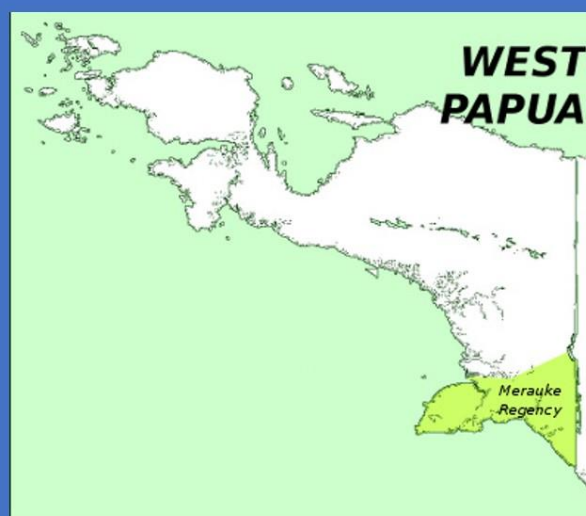
In April 1944 Australia began to plan an offensive from Merauke along the South coast of Dutch New Guinea, but the offensive did not eventuate.



Japanese Occupation

A reminder about which parts of New Guinea were not occupied by the Japanese, despite their intention to occupy all of it.

MERAUKE



The Allied Base at Merauke Some of the Main Combat Units

- **62nd Australian Infantry Battalion (Merauke Regiment)**
- **1st Nederlands East Indies Fusilier Company**

- **Merauke Force (Australian 11th Brigade – Militia)**
 - Merauke Force & Area HQ
 - 62nd Australian Infantry Battalion
 - 20th Motorised Regiment (replaced 62 Bn – Feb 1944)
 - B Company, 2/3rd Australian Machine Gun Battalion
 - 31/51st Australian Infantry Battalion
 - A Company, 26th Australian Infantry Battalion
 - Airfield Construction Engineers

The importance of Merauke was in its airfield from which air operations would be launched. It required a large defensive force of infantry who also patrolled into no-man's land to give depth to the defence of Merauke.

The Allied Base at Merauke Some of the Main Combat Units (Continued)

- **52nd Composite Anti-Aircraft Regiment**
- **2/9th Field Artillery Regiment**
- **Communications Units**
- **Engineer Units**
- **No 72 Wing RAAF**
 - No 12 Squadron RAAF (Maritime Patrols, Anti-Submarine & Convoy Escort)
 - No 84 Fighter Squadron RAAF
 - No 86 Fighter Squadron RAAF
 - RAAF Radar Stations
- **No 120 Squadron, Dutch East Indies Air Force**
- **Torres Strait Force (Indigenous)**

Field artillery and anti-aircraft artillery.

Radar stations.

And air squadrons.

Additionally there were engineers, communications units, logistics, hospitals.

Some US Naval, Army and Air units.

A small Dutch police and administrative presence, in addition to their infantry and air force.

And notably a small detachment of Torres Strait Islanders from the Torres Strait Battalion of the Torres Strait Force – the only indigenous unit raised by Australia.

(2) The Resistance and Behind-the-Lines Forces in Nederlands Nieuw Guinea

- Dutch stay behind groups and indigenous Papuan resistance
- The Coastwatchers / M Special Unit – Australian, NZ, Dutch, British, Indigenous
- Operation WHITING - Dutch/Australian Coastwatchers landed at BENA BENA in PNG, heading for HOLLANDIA (captured before they got there). February to October 1943.
- New Guinea Air Warning Wireless Company (Australian) Spotter Station behind enemy lines at HOLLANDIA. 1944.
- Z Special Unit (Commando) – Australian, NZ, Indigenous

There were a number of SECRET units operating in Dutch New Guinea throughout the War.

Resistance

I will cover the Dutch, Indonesian and Papuan resistance in more detail later.

Coastwatchers

The famous Coastwatchers conducted their operations mainly in the Solomon Islands, and in Papua New Guinea and its islands. New Zealand coastwatchers established stations out into the Pacific. Their importance, exploits and successes are well documented.

Operation WHITING – An operation by M Special Unit (Coastwatchers) in 1943, mounted by the Netherlands East Indies Forces Intelligence Service to insert a group near Hollandia.

2 x Dutch, 2 x Indonesians & 1 x Dutch Australian

They inserted at Bena Bena on the north coast of Papua New Guinea to make their way 100's of miles by sea and land to Hollandia. They made it to Aitape in PNG (near the border with Dutch New Guinea) before they were captured and killed.

New Guinea Air Warning Wireless Company

Was an independent TOP SECRET Australian Army signals unit. Established in 1942, partly to fill in the gaps in the Coastwatcher network. It performed the same functions at the Coastwatcher network including rescuing downed Allied aircrew.

By the end of the war it had established 150 stations operating behind enemy lines, including in Dutch New Guinea in 1944 to support Allied operations.

Unsuccessful Coastwatcher Landing at Hollandia

In March 1944 about a month before the Aitape / Hollandia battles there was an unsuccessful attempt to insert a Coastwatcher group behind enemy lines at Hollandia. More details towards the end of the presentation [2nd to last photograph].

(2) Dutch & Indigenous Papuan Resistance

- A total of ten Dutch resistance groups were dropped behind Japanese lines to organise indigenous resistance and espionage.
- 1942 - 1944. "Oaktree" Party of Dutch, Indonesian and Papuans led by Captain Jean Victor de Bruijen operated in the central highlands and was supplied from Merauke.
- Operation CRAYFISH (26th February 1944)
- 1942 – 1944. Another group (initially 62 Dutch and 17 Papuans) operated in Vogelkop under Willemsz Geerom (who was captured and executed 1st April 1943), then under Sergeant Mauritz Christiaan Kokkelink.

Dutch and Indigenous Resistance

I have found evidence that up to ten Dutch-led groups either stayed behind after the Japanese invasion, or were later inserted behind the lines. For this exhibition we have information about three of them.

There may well be more information available in archives in the Netherlands.

Oaktree

The Oaktree Party is well documented in a 1947 book about its leader, Captain Jan Victor de Bruijn / Jungle Pimpernel. This group did not engage in armed operations against the Japanese although the Japanese were aware of its existence and tried to track it down. The Oaktree Party very successfully used some of its Papuan members to collect intelligence about Japanese locations and movements. It reported by radio to the Dutch HQ in Australia. It was supplied from Merauke.

Crayfish

This was a successful operation to insert by parachute another Dutch officer and Radio operator to join the Oaktree Party.

Geerom Group

This group was actively hunted by the Japanese and fought a number of battles. It suffered significant casualties. It included a number of indigenous Moluccan people (Maluku) including a teenage girl.

(2) Dutch & Indigenous Papuan Resistance (continued)

- **1944 - Mandochan Brothers led by Jan van Eechoud operated in the mountains behind Manokwari (Vogelkop). Jacob Rumbiak's uncle was a fighter in this group. He was wounded and captured but escaped.**
- **PVK (Papuan Battalion) of 400 Papuans, formed in 1944 under Dutch command, claimed it killed 2,119 Japanese and took 249 prisoners during mopping up operations in August – October 1944. PVK included members of the Oaktree and Mandochan groups.**

Jan van Eechoud

Van Eechoud was Commissioner of Police at Manokwari in Dutch New Guinea. After the Japanese invasion in March/April 1942 he escaped into the interior to the Idenburg River Post.

He was evacuated on 20th August 1942 to Australia where he worked with the Dutch intelligence services.

After the successful US attacks in 1944 he returned to New Guinea and led a group operating against the remaining Japanese.

After the war he was the Dutch Resident in New Guinea. His aim was to create Dutch New Guinea as a separate colony. It didn't happen and was eventually folded into Indonesia.

The Papuan Battalion

The exhibition contains quite a bit of interesting information about this Dutch-led indigenous battalion, raised after the Allied landings in Dutch New Guinea. The exhibition describes its activities against the Japanese, and its history after the war.

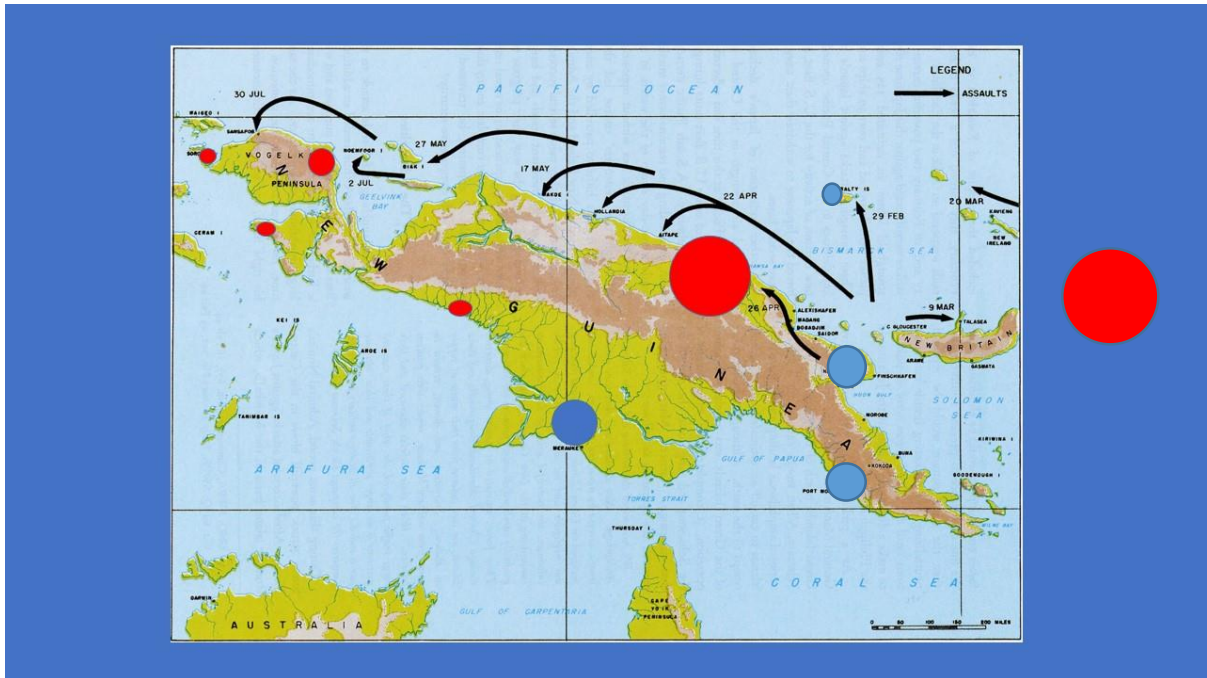
(3) The Campaign Across the North of Dutch New Guinea - 1944

- **22 April - Aitape / Hollandia**
- **17 May - Wakde Island / Sarmi / Lone Tree Hill / Maffin Bay**
- **27 May - Biak Island**
- **2 July - Noemfoor Island**
- **30 July - Cape Sansapor / Vogelkop**

In 1944 General MacArthur turned his attention to Dutch New Guinea. We should remember that his immediate aim was to liberate the Philippines from the Japanese. He was the Commander of US Forces in the Philippines when it fell to the Japanese. He famously vowed 'I shall return'.

This campaign across the North of Dutch New Guinea was a stepping stone to the Philippines. It consisted of the five main battles listed in the slide.

NOTE that Aitape is actually part of Papua New Guinea but it was part of the campaign across the North.



Port Moresby & Merauke, Huon Peninsula & Manus Island

The Allied bases at Port Moresby, Merauke, Huon Peninsula & Manus Island are marked by the blue circles.

The Operations

Aitape/Hollandia, Maffin Bay Area, Biak, Noemfoor, Sansapor.

These operations from April to July 1944, rolling or cartwheeling along the north coast of Dutch New Guinea, are presented in some detail in the Exhibition.

Rabaul

The red circle off to the right of the map marks the large Japanese HQ and base of over 100,000 troops at Rabaul. It was contained, isolated and bypassed.

Wewak / Hansa Bay / Madang

The large red circle on the map marks the main Japanese base in the Wewak / Hansa Bay / Madang area contained, isolated and bypassed.

Bypassing Wewak

“The decision to jump eight hundred and fifty miles to Hollandia was one of the great strategic decisions of the Pacific War. It did indeed advance our progress by many months. The base became invaluable to future operations”.

“There were other cogent arguments for this leap into the unknown. It would by-pass and isolate the reinforced Jap strongholds at Madang, Hansa Bay, and Wewak. It would cut across their supply lines, since Hollandia was a depot from which a great enemy army lower down the coast was fed and munitioned. It would place all north-eastern New Guinea under Allied domination and provide us with excellent naval and air bases for future operations”.

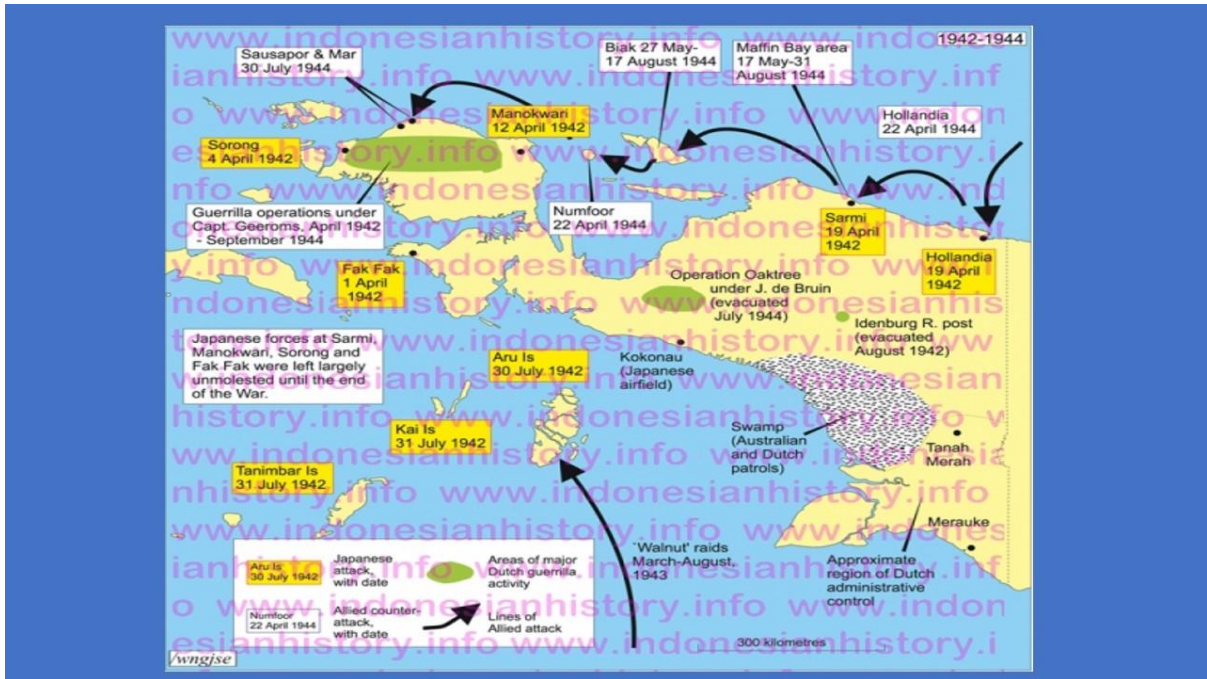
Eichelberger, General Robert L.. Our Jungle Road To Tokyo.

Manokwari

The base at Manokwari was contained, isolated and bypassed.

Sorong, Fak Fak & Kokonao

Other bases were left in place.



This rather busy map sums up and shows the complete timeline for the war in Dutch New Guinea.

The Japanese Invasion (Yellow)

Fak Fak	1 Apr 42
Sorong	4 Apr 42
Manokwari	12 Apr 42
Sarmi	19 Apr 42
Hollandia	19 Apr 42
Sthn Islands	30/31 Jul 42
Kokonao	

Merauke – note the large swamp between Merauke and Kokonao

Behind-the-Lines (Green)

Geerom	Apr 42 to Sep 44
Oaktree	Apr 42 to Jul 44
Idenburg	Apr 42 to Aug 42

Allied Invasion (White)

Hollandia	22 Apr 44
Maffin Bay	17 May to 31 Aug 44
Biak	27 May to 17 Aug 44
Noemfoor	22 Apr 44
Sansapor	30 Jul 44

That map sums up the Exhibition.

War History

- The commanders write their personal recollections, often based on their official records and diaries.
 - Journalists write popular accounts.
 - The dry, factual official histories are written.
 - A trickle or a flood of personal memoirs (and websites today).
 - War historians write their books, often to coincide with the anniversary of a battle or campaign. Journalists write more popular histories.
 - Film makers create heroic war history.
-
- Then 30 to 50 years after the event SECRET and TOP SECRET Intelligence archives are declassified and we discover the actual history, or as much as we are able.

Bletchley Park & Signals Intelligence

For a few decades after WW2 the operations of the British codebreakers at Bletchley Park near London were a closely guarded secret. But since the 1980's more and more has been revealed about the huge influence the TOP SECRET information provided by the codebreakers had on the war in North Africa, Europe, the Atlantic & elsewhere. The breaking of the German ENIGMA ciphers during WW2 is now legendary.

However British codebreakers were not just working on German codes and ciphers, they were breaking those of all of Germany's allies in Europe: Italy; Hungary; Romania; Bulgaria; and initially, of course, the Soviet Union, as well as those of neutral countries such as Sweden, Spain and Portugal. The codes and ciphers of a number of non-European countries were also under the scrutiny of the British codebreakers, and the most important by far of these was Japan.

In fact the British codebreakers had been intercepting and reading Japanese communications from the 1920's, long before the outbreak of the war against Japan.

The Secret War in the Pacific

We have known for many decades about the contribution of M Special Unit / the Coastwatchers / and Z Special Unit / the Commandos / their courage and tenacity in the face of fearful odds.

The book by the commander of the Australian Coastwatchers, Eric Feldt, was published in 1946.

We have known about other aspects of the secret war. The operations of the New Guinea Air Warning Wireless Company is however, not so well known.

What we didn't know for at least 30 years after the War, and what has only recently been made widely known, is the extraordinary valuable contribution of Signals Intelligence.

These were the British, American, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand men and women who used radio direction finding to locate Japanese forces, who intercepted and analysed Japanese wireless traffic to help forecast their intentions, and who applied their sheer brilliance to the task of breaking Japanese codes and ciphers.

Theirs was an information war, and that information was crucial to the unfolding of the Allied campaigns. The winning of that information war was based on the brilliance of the people involved, recruited from the universities, and from the rest of the population, for their tenacity, their skills, intellect and ability to solve puzzles and problems.

Based on what we now know / the history of the War in the Pacific / is still being re-written.

In fact / I have read a few recent histories of the War in the Pacific / still based on outdated, decades old, information.

A Campaign Shaped by Signals Intelligence (SIGINT)

- **Central Bureau** – Joint US, Australian, New Zealand & Dutch Army & Air Force TOP SECRET radio direction finding, radio intercept and codebreaking organisation. Reported to General MacArthur.
- **Fleet Radio Unit Melbourne (FRUMEL)** – Joint US & Australian Naval TOP SECRET radio direction finding, radio intercept and codebreaking organisation. Reported to Admiral Nimitz.
- **Wireless Intercept (Y) Units** in Australia (16) and with forward troops

From the 1920s onwards British codebreakers had been attacking Japanese Codes and Ciphers with some success in the UK, India, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Singapore. / Throughout the war against the Japanese this continued in the UK and India, and at their forward signals intelligence base at Colombo in Ceylon (Sri Lanka). / Similarly US codebreakers in Washington DC and in Hawaii, had been having some success since the 1920s.

After General MacArthur established his HQ in Australia two new joint US/Australian codebreaking organisations were set up – Central Bureau comprising Army and Air Force and reporting to MacArthur, and Fleet Radio Unit Melbourne (FRUMEL) reporting to USN Admiral Nimitz. An extensive network of intercept stations, including in New Zealand.

One of the most famous and most accomplished of the codebreakers at FRUMEL was Eric Nave, an Australian naval officer who transferred to the British Navy in the 1920's when they discovered his excellent facility in the Japanese language and his extraordinary codebreaking skill. He served with the Royal Navy in London, Hong Kong and Singapore, before he returned to Australia to recover from a tropical illness. / Australia contrived to keep him, and his expertise, here in Melbourne / then Brisbane / for the duration of the war.

Nave was breaking Japanese naval codes from 1925 onwards.

It is thought that code-breakers shortened the European War by at least two years. In the Pacific War they shortened the war by at least several months although the Atom Bombs were ultimately decisive.

This whole organisation was classified TOP SECRET and very few ever knew about its existence or its work. It remained highly classified until at least 30 years after the war. This UK, US, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Signals Intelligence network was formalised after the war and became what we know today as the "Five Eyes" Network.

The Impact of Signals Intelligence (SIGINT)

- Japanese codes and ciphers were broken and messages read
- MacArthur knew Japanese locations, strengths & intentions
- He also knew what the Japanese thought his plans were
- Knowing that, he decided to bypass the major Japanese base area at Madang /Wewak and to capture the lightly defended bases at Aitape and Hollandia
- Signals Intelligence allowed him to deceive Japanese commanders about his intentions and to cripple Japanese naval and air assets before launching Operation RECKLESS at AITAPE and HOLLANDIA

The successes in breaking Japanese naval and air codes resulted in several victories by Admiral Nimitz and the joint US/Australian forces under General MacArthur. For example.

MO/Port Moresby

A Japanese seaborne invasion of Port Moresby was disrupted on 7/8 May 1942 in the Battle of the Coral Sea, due mostly to signals intelligence.

- As early as 9 Apr 1942 (a month before the battle) Naval codebreakers in Melbourne and Hawaii suspected an attack on Port Moresby was being planned. Japanese naval communications about the invasion were decoded and read from then on.
- By 23 Apr 1942 they had confirmation of the details of the planned invasion, including attacks on northern Australia. General MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz were fully briefed, and they made their plans to prevent the invasion.
- Nine days later on 2 May 1942 the first Coastwatcher report was received. Another was received a day later.
- On 5 May 1942 a reconnaissance plane was sent to fly over the invasion fleet to deceive the Japanese that they had been found by air recon rather than by other means. That was a deception often employed to hide the fact that Japanese communications were being read.

MI/Midway

Port Moresby was the first leg of the grand Japanese plan to complete their control of the Pacific. The destruction of the US Fleet at Midway Island was the second leg. The Battle of Midway on 4-7th June 1942 enabled the US Fleet to inflict serious damage on the Japanese Fleet and was a turning point in the campaign for supremacy on the sea. That US victory was also made possible by early warning by the codebreakers as much as two months before the battle.

The Third Leg

Port Moresby was the first leg of the plan, hatched months before the simultaneous invasions of 7/8 December 1941. Midway was the second.

The third leg was to capture Fiji, Samoa and New Caledonia. As a result of the Japanese failures to capture Port Moresby and to destroy the US Fleet at Midway, the plan to capture Fiji, Samoa and New Caledonia was abandoned.

The defeat of that three-pronged plan was enabled by the early warning provided by the codebreakers.

Guadalcanal / Rabaul – 7 August 1942 to 9 February 1943

The codebreakers were not having much success at the time of the Battle of Guadalcanal, but their fellow Signals Intelligence people still made a major contribution. The Radio Direction Finders, and the Traffic Analysts, provided a trove of information from intercepted communications. The information provided by Signals Intelligence and by the Coastwatchers was vital to the success at Guadalcanal.

As the assault on Guadalcanal began in August 1942, General Kenney, MacArthur's newly appointed air commander in the South West Pacific, also orchestrated an air attack on Rabaul to prevent its aircraft from disrupting the attack on Guadalcanal. This was his first use of Signals Intelligence. He was to make great use of that source of intelligence in his brilliant use of airpower throughout the rest of the war.

Bougainville – October/November 1943

Information by Signals Intelligence and Coastwatchers was again vital.

Bismark Sea March 1943

The destruction of a Japanese convoy off New Guinea in the March 1943 battle of the Bismarck Sea had its origin in the interception of Japanese messages.

As early as January 1943, two months earlier, FRUMEL and Central Bureau picked up the first signs of a major Japanese attempt to reinforce the garrison at Lae as a prelude to striking south towards Port Moresby in order to capture the tiny Australian garrison at Wau. The details were confirmed from intercepts by mid-February.

The Buildup at Wewak

- The Japanese Water Transport Code was broken in April 1943 by a British and US collaboration in New Delhi, enabling the codebreakers to monitor from May through to August 1943 a massive buildup of combat power at WEWAK, including air assets at its four airfields.
- The Japanese Naval Air codes were also being read at Melbourne and Brisbane.
- From August 1943 air strikes began to erode the combat potential of Wewak. Aircraft had been massing at Wewak in preparation for massive airstrikes on allied positions. In a short period 150 aircraft were destroyed on the ground, and

shipping prevented from reaching Wewak. Fuel shortages were reported by the Japanese, their reports monitored by the codebreakers.

- This intercepted information was made available to Central Bureau by No 1 Wireless Unit RAAF. As a result of its success General MacArthur ordered that another five wireless intercept units be established.

Japanese Army Codes

The naval codes were read throughout the War but the Japanese Army codes were not broken until January/February 1944 after a buried metal trunk containing code books was found after a Japanese defeat and withdrawal from Sio in New Guinea.

- When the HQ of the Japanese 20th Division withdrew / the communications staff were meant to burn the code books / but to tear off and keep the covers as proof that they had been destroyed. In this case the books were not burnt but were put into a metal trunk and buried in a swamp. They reported that they had destroyed the books. But an Australian unit discovered the trunk and an intelligence officer recognised their value.
- The books were flown to Central Bureau in Brisbane where the pages were very carefully dried and photographed.
- That breakthrough gave General MacArthur an enormous advantage in the planning of his CARTWHEEL operations across the north coast of New Guinea two months later.

Reinforcement of Hollandia prior to Operation RECKLESS Prevented

In April 1944 when Signals Intelligence analysts learned of a major Japanese resupply convoy of 9 merchant vessels and 12 escorts moving from Chinese ports to Hollandia bases with over 20,000 troops and supplies. American naval submarines sank at least 4 of these vessels with a loss of over 4,000 troops. The remainder retreated.

1944 – Japanese Counter Attack on Aitape and Hollandia Prevented

No 55 Australian Wireless Section had moved to Hollandia after the landings. From there it intercepted a large number of reports about the 18th Army's preparations for a counter-attack. Using the newly captured codes, Central Bureau decoded detailed messages about enemy intentions. The Japanese 18th Army was marching through the jungle from Madang towards Aitape, intent on recapturing it. The codebreakers read operational orders in the mainline Army General Administrative Code giving full details of the Japanese plans. The attack was repelled and the remnants of the Japanese forces were pushed back into the jungle where with neither supplies nor reinforcements their numbers steadily dwindled.

Those are just a selection of the many instances where TOP SECRET Signals Intelligence had a major influence on the planning and conduct of operations.

It was such a closely guarded source of information that only a few senior commanders were privy to its existence.

The Signals Intelligence Contribution



“The decision to jump eight hundred and fifty miles to Hollandia was one of the great strategic decisions of the Pacific War. It did indeed advance our progress by many months. The base became invaluable to future operations”.

Eichelberger, General Robert L.. Our Jungle Road To Tokyo

That strategic decision was made possible by the intercept operators, the radio direction finders, the radio traffic analysts and code breakers, among others. It wasn't entirely strategic brilliance. MacArthur had access to the information he needed to make that bold move.

Japanese aircraft were located and many of them destroyed on their airfields, at Rabaul, Wewak and Hollandia. Japanese warships, resupply and reinforcement ships were located and many of them destroyed or severely damaged. Reinforcement and resupply of Hollandia from China, the Philippines, from Manokwari (and from Wewak) was effectively cut off.

The success of the deception plan to convince the Japanese that an attack on Wewak was imminent was able to be monitored by reading Japanese communications.

“Despite the sustained bombardment of Hollandia, the messages intercepted by Central Bureau showed that the Japanese still saw the Hansa Bay– Madang area as the most likely focus of MacArthur's next ground attack. Secure in this knowledge, he landed two divisions at Hollandia, at the same time seizing the airstrip at Aitape in order to provide continued air support. The move was a brilliant use of Ultra Signals Intelligence that left an entire Japanese army totally encircled at the cost of very few casualties”.

Smith, Michael. The Emperor's Codes: Bletchley Park's role in breaking Japan's secret cyphers (Kindle Locations 4394-4398). Biteback Publishing. Kindle Edition, 2010.

The Use of Intelligence

However the success of Intelligence depends on senior commanders' understanding of the reliability of the information they are given, and on their willingness to put their trust in those who provide reliable information and analysis.

One of the failures of the campaign across the north of Dutch New Guinea was caused in large part by senior intelligence officers not trusting in the codebreakers' information.

They were told by the codebreakers that there were several thousand Japanese defenders at Biak. They thought there were only several hundred / and proceeded to attack Biak with insufficient combat power; men and equipment. There were actually about three thousand more than the codebreakers reported but they were a lot better informed than General MacArthur's rather pompous and opinionated senior intelligence officer.

On the other hand, the information provided by signals intelligence was never complete. Information in war is always incomplete and patchy, but from late 1942, and certainly from 1943 onwards, signals intelligence had become the most available and reliable source of information about enemy locations, strengths and intentions in the history of warfare.

It was so in the War in the Pacific.

Australian Signals Intelligence at Hollandia & The Philippines

- **Large part of Central Bureau (US/Australian) moved from BRISBANE to HOLLANDIA in November 1944**
- **No 53 Wireless Section (Army)**
- **No 55 Wireless Section (Army)**
- **No 6 Wireless Unit RAAF of about 120 men then went with the US forces to the PHILIPPINES**
- **Central Bureau including 1,000 Australians moved from HOLLANDIA to the PHILIPPINES by August 1945. Australians sailed home in October 1945.**

Signals Intelligence in the North

A large contingent of Central Bureau moved to Hollandia from Brisbane after General MacArthur went there with his General HQ. US servicewomen went too, but the Australian Government refused to allow Australian servicewomen to serve in an operational theatre with Central Bureau. Consequently hundreds of valuable intelligence personnel were left behind in Brisbane.

The Australian intercept operators and code-breakers were held in such high regard by the US command that No 6 Wireless Unit was taken with the US invasion force to the Philippines. Some of them were in the landing craft with the invading forces. Their job was to give early warning of Japanese air attacks against the landing, especially by KAMIKAZE aircraft.

They forgot to ask the Australian hierarchy to authorise their deployment so they arrived in the Philippines in US uniforms carrying US weapons. Perhaps it was easier to seek forgiveness than to ask for permission.

The New Guinea Air Warning Wireless Company did seek permission to deploy to the Philippines. The Australian government refused to allow them to move beyond the Australian area of operations.

However when Central Bureau moved on from Hollandia to the Philippines there were about 1,000 Australians with the organisation in the Philippines.

These Australians and their vital contribution to the War went unrecorded by history, and unheralded, until recently. They were not acknowledged on ANZAC Day. They didn't begin to march in the Sydney parade under their own banner until late in the 1970s and early 1980s. Their very existence remained classified until about 1975, 30 years after the War. The details of most of their activities have still not reached the public.

And remarkably, because of the heavy blanket of secrecy placed over their very existence and their operations, none of them spoke of their contribution to the War. Not to their families. Not to anyone. Thousands of Australians kept that information secret for 30 years and more.

Main Australian Combat Units at Hollandia, Wakde, Biak, Noemfoor & Sansapor

- HMAS Australia
- HMAS Shropshire
- HMAS Arunta
- HMAS Warramunga
- No 4 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron RAAF
- No 11 Bomber Squadron RAAF
- No 22 Bomber Squadron RAAF
- No 75 Fighter Squadron RAAF
- No 76 Fighter Squadron RAAF
- No 77 Fighter Squadron RAAF (**John Gorton**)
- No 78 Fighter Squadron RAAF (**Len Waters**)
- No 80 Fighter Squadron RAAF
- No 82 Fighter Squadron RAAF
- No 20 Minelaying Squadron RAAF (out of Darwin)
- No 43 Minelaying Squadron RAAF (out of Darwin)

Back to the Combat Units

Incidentally, because of the proven reliability of Coastwatcher communications a Coastwatcher Signal Unit went with the combat troops across the North of Dutch New Guinea to receive and transmit messages from other intelligence organisations.

The main Australian combat units at Hollandia were ships and aircraft. Among them, a pilot in No 77 Sqn, was a future Australian Prime Minister, John Gorton. He got his twisted grin from a crash during the war.

In No 78 Sqn was the only Aboriginal person to serve as a pilot in WW2 – Len Waters.



**Warrant Officer Leonard Victor Waters
No 78 Squadron RAAF**

Len Waters biography is soon to be published. Coincidentally the author Peter Rees is married to one of the the oldest friends of one of the main organisers of this Sampari Exhibition for the past three years, Robin Vote.

Main Australian Combat Units at Hollandia, Wakde, Biak, Noemfoor & Sansapor

- HMAS Australia
- HMAS Shropshire
- HMAS Arunta
- HMAS Warramunga
- No 4 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron RAAF
- No 11 Bomber Squadron RAAF
- No 22 Bomber Squadron RAAF (Bill Newton, KIA March 1943)
- No 75 Fighter Squadron RAAF
- No 76 Fighter Squadron RAAF
- No 77 Fighter Squadron RAAF
- No 78 Fighter Squadron RAAF
- No 80 Fighter Squadron RAAF
- No 82 Fighter Squadron RAAF
- No 20 Minelaying Squadron RAAF (out of Darwin)
- No 43 Minelaying Squadron RAAF (out of Darwin)

A pilot with No 22 Sqn was Bill Newton. He didn't make it to Hollandia as he was shot down and executed at Salamaua in Papua New Guinea a year before the Hollandia operation.



Flt Lt William Ellis Newton VC No 22 Squadron RAAF

He was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross, the only RAAF VC winner in the War in the Pacific, and one of only four in the RAAF to be awarded the VC.

22 Sqn is now based at Richmond NSW and holds an annual dinner in his honour.

This is a replica set of his medals. The originals are in the Australian War Museum.

He had nothing to do with the campaign in Dutch New Guinea of course. I mention him here because coincidentally his niece, his brother's daughter, has been organising the Sampari Exhibition for the past three years – Robin Vote.

Where was the Australian Army? 6th Australian Division was nearby in Papua New Guinea

- **1940-41 – Nth Africa, Greece, Crete, Syria**
- **1942 – Australia**
- **1942-43 – KOKODA, BUNA, SALAMAUA-LAE**
- **1943 - Australia**
- **October 1944 - Took over from US forces at AITAPE in Papua New Guinea (near HOLLANDIA)**
- **10 May 1945 – Mopping up, captured WEWAK in Papua New Guinea**
- **November 1945 – Returned to Australia**

As we have seen, the main Australian combat units in this part of the campaign were ships and aircraft.

Where was the Army?

After fighting at Kokoda, Buna and Salamaua-Lae, 6th Division regrouped in Australia before taking on the formidable task of defeating the Japanese in Northern Papua New Guinea, and the large Japanese base at Wewak.

Where was the Australian Army? (continued)

8th Australian Division

- 1941 – MALAYA, SINGAPORE, RABAUL, TIMOR (**Tom Uren**), AMBON

3RD Australian Division

- 1943 to 1944 – PAPUA NEW GUINEA

5th Australian Division

- 1943 to 1945 – PAPUA NEW GUINEA

7th Australian Division

- 1942 to 1944 – PAPUA NEW GUINEA
- 1945 to 1946 – BORNEO

9th Australian Division

- 1943 – PAPUA NEW GUINEA
- 1945 – BORNEO

11TH Australian Division

- 1943 to 1945 – PAPUA NEW GUINEA

8th Division

The 8th Division was formed for service in the Middle East but was instead divided into four separate forces to defend MALAYA/SINGAPORE, RABAUL (Lark Force), TIMOR (Sparrow Force) and AMBON (Gull Force). They were all destroyed as fighting forces by the end of February 1942. Most of them became POW and one in three died in captivity.

A future Australian federal cabinet minister, TOM UREN, was captured in TIMOR and spent time working on the infamous Thai/Burma railway.

After MacArthur

The war didn't end after General MacArthur passed by. There were still huge Japanese bases isolated, bypassed and left in place. They were still there up to and beyond the Japanese surrender.

Over 60,000 were left in place at Wewak. Over 100,000 remained at Rabaul.

In Dutch New Guinea the Japanese bases at Manokwari, Sorong and Fak Fak were left in place. Many Japanese troops moved South into the hinterland after the attacks on Hollandia and the rest of the North Coast. They all had to be winkled out.

The 5th, 6th & 11th Divisions fought on in Papua New Guinea into 1945.

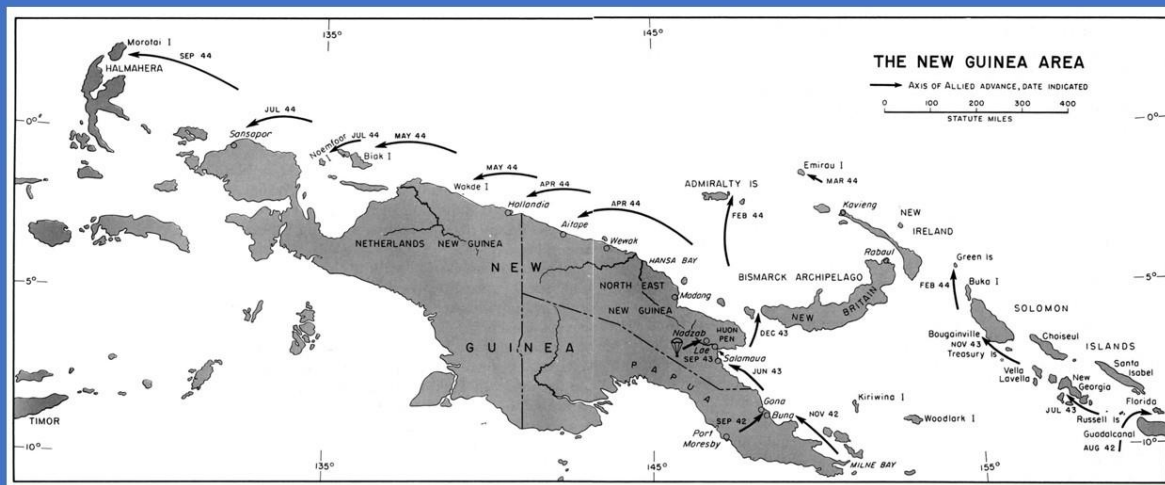
FERDINAND / The Coastwatchers

Although not an Army unit, the Coastwatchers also remained active, particularly on the island of New Britain, where they actually transitioned from coast watching into an Australian led indigenous guerrilla force from early in 1944, and confined the Japanese to their base at Rabaul.

Borneo

After regrouping in Australia the 7th and 9th Divisions went to Borneo to fight.

Across New Guinea to Morotai



After Dutch New Guinea

Operation TRADEWIND

After Dutch New Guinea the next step was Morotai in the Moluccas (now Maluku). Operation TRADEWIND. Again the location of the Operation TRADEWIND was based on TOP SECRET Signals Intelligence information about the location and strength of Japanese forces.

No 13 Sqn - Whitlam

No 13 Bomber Squadron RAAF spent most of the War based in the Northern Territory and carried out bombing raids across the Dutch East Indies, including anti-shipping raids.

In June and July 1945 it relocated to Morotai, before then moving to Labuan in Borneo.

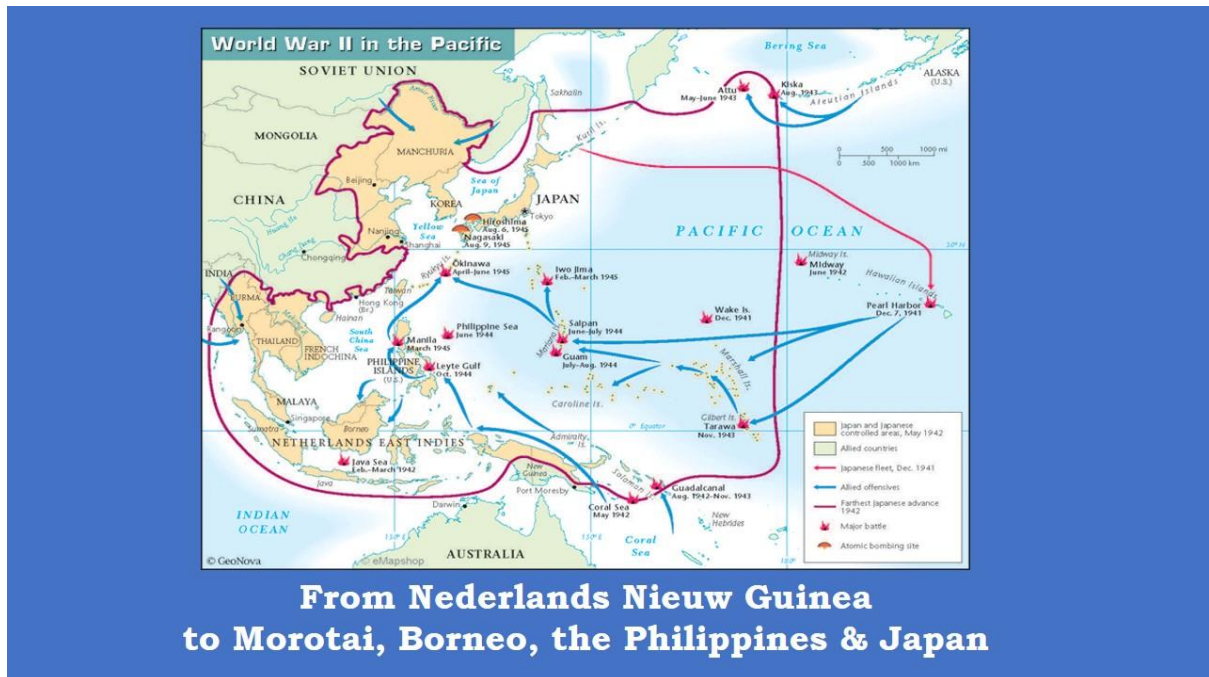
Future Prime Minister Flt Lt Gough Whitlam was a navigator / bomb-aimer with No 13 Sqn and was at Morotai.

To Borneo

From April 1945 Morotai was used by the Australian I Corps (7 Div and 9 Div) to mount the Borneo Campaign.

Jacob Rumbiak at Morotai

Years later freedom fighter Jacob Rumbiak was imprisoned for a time by the Indonesians on Morotai Island.



MacArthur

After taking Cape Sansapor, General MacArthur and his forces took Morotai Island, bypassing more Japanese troops to the south of Morotai, then invaded Leyte Island and Luzon Island in the Philippines. He by-passed significant Japanese forces on Leyte and Mindanao Islands and left his 8th Army under General Eichelberger to deal with them.

Borneo

Australian forces went West to Labuan and Balikpapan / in Borneo.

Nimitz

Admiral Nimitz and John Wayne continued their campaign through the Central Pacific taking Guam, Saipan, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Japan

General MacArthur, Admiral Nimitz and strategic bombing proponent General Curtis Lemay debated who would invade Japan, and how, but President Truman settled the matter with Atomic Bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In between the two bombs Russia invaded Japanese held Manchuria.

The Exhibition

- **Merauke**
- **Dutch & Indigenous Resistance**
- **Hollandia**
- **Wakde Island, Sarmi, Lone Tree Hill, Maffin Bay**
- **Biak Island**
- **Noemfoor Island**
- **Cape Sansapor / Vogelkop**

To Recap

This presentation aimed to put the Exhibition in its context in the War in the Pacific.

The Exhibition itself is just about the War in Netherlands New Guinea or West Papua. It consists of a continuous slide show and displays / containing photographs and stories about the War in West Papua.

These next slides are just a few of the photographs.



**No 12 Squadron Aircrew at
Merauke December 1943**



**A No 12 Squadron RAAF Vengeance
dive bomber based at Merauke**



**No 86 Squadron RAAF Kittyhawk
fighter aircraft at Merauke**



**Destroying Japanese Aircraft at
Hollandia**



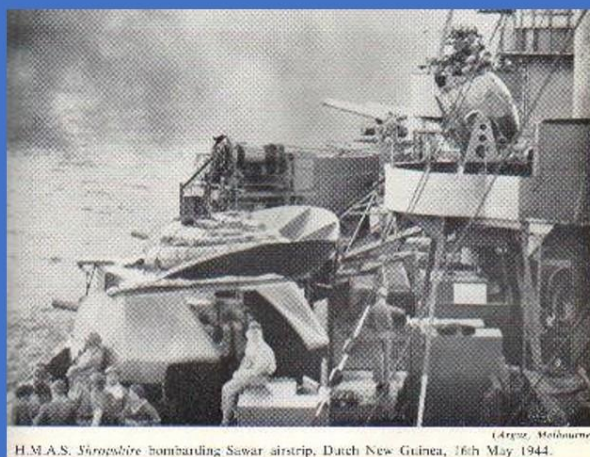
The Invasion Fleet at Hollandia



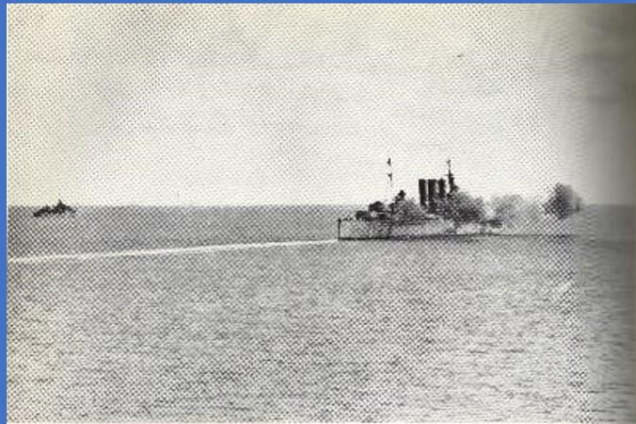
Landing at Wakte Island



On the Beach at Wakde Island

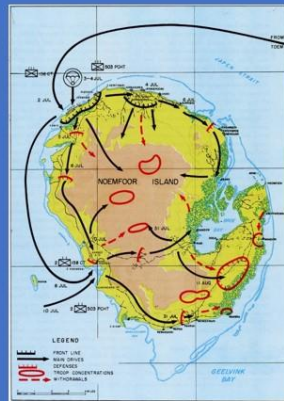


**H.M.A.S. Shropshire Bombarding Sawar
Airstrip (Sarmi) 16th May 1944**



H.M.A.S. *Australia* bombarding Mokmer, Biak Island, 27th May 1944.

HMAS Australia Bombarding Mokmer on Biak Island (27th May 1944)



Noemfoor Island - Jacob Rumbiak's Home Jacob's father was enslaved by the Japanese on Noemfoor



Unloading at Noemfoor



En Route to Sansapor, Vogelkop



Amphibious Tanks at Cape Sansapor



**Coastwatcher Party in a submarine off Hollandia
24th March 1944 before a disastrous landing and
ambush in which 6 were KIA and 5 survived.**

Note that the Party includes Australians and Papuans. After disembarking from the submarine its small landing boats capsized in the surf and they lost most of their food, weapons and equipment. Several were captured by the Japanese.

Coastwatcher Sgt James Burrowes OAM, who served mainly in New Britain at Rabaul, and in Papua New Guinea, relates the incident and tells the story of his own good fortune in his website "The Last Coastwatcher". He writes:

"The Americans had called for a party to infiltrate Hollandia to check out Japanese presence, prior to their planned invasion to retake it.

I was selected as the Signaller to go on that Hollandia (now Jayapura, the capital of West Papua) venture, led by Captain 'Blue' Harris (who had played a major role in repatriating hundreds of escapees from Rabaul to safety) but, at the last minute, the Signaller Jack Bunning replaced me after recovering from sickness".

Jack Bunning was one of those KIA.

The very fortunate James Burrowes, THE LAST COASTWATCHER, is with us today. He and his son Robert Burrowes are staunch supporters of the PAPUA MERDEKA / FREE PAPUA Movement.

A warm Welcome to you both.

**Oaktree Group & Villagers at Bilarai
31st August 1943 – Queen Wilhelmina’s Birthday**



**Remembering Indigenous West Papuans
and their part in the war to save Australia**

This final photograph comes from the book “Jungle Pimpernel, the story of a District Officer in Central Netherlands New Guinea (Lloyd Rhys, Hodder & Stoughton, 1947) about Captain Jan Victor de Brujin and his Oaktree Group.

In the village of Bilarai / on the occasion of the birthday of Queen Wilhelmina / on 31st August 1943 / the Netherlands flag was raised / and de Brujin addressed the assembled people in Dutch, Malay, Ekari & Migani. They then celebrated by feasting and dancing. It is not known whether the people came for the flag raising and speeches / or for the feasting and dancing. What do you think? Well, we do know that de Brujin made sure they came for the Queen’s Birthday by organising the feast.

We don’t know either how many Papuans were killed and wounded in Dutch New Guinea during the Japanese invasion in 1942 / during the Japanese occupation from 1942 – 45 / or during the Allied attacks in 1944. But there were many.

In East Timor it is estimated that 30,000 died during the same time.

In popular culture we remember the War in the Pacific through the exploits and bravery of our own soldiers, sailors and airmen. And so we should.

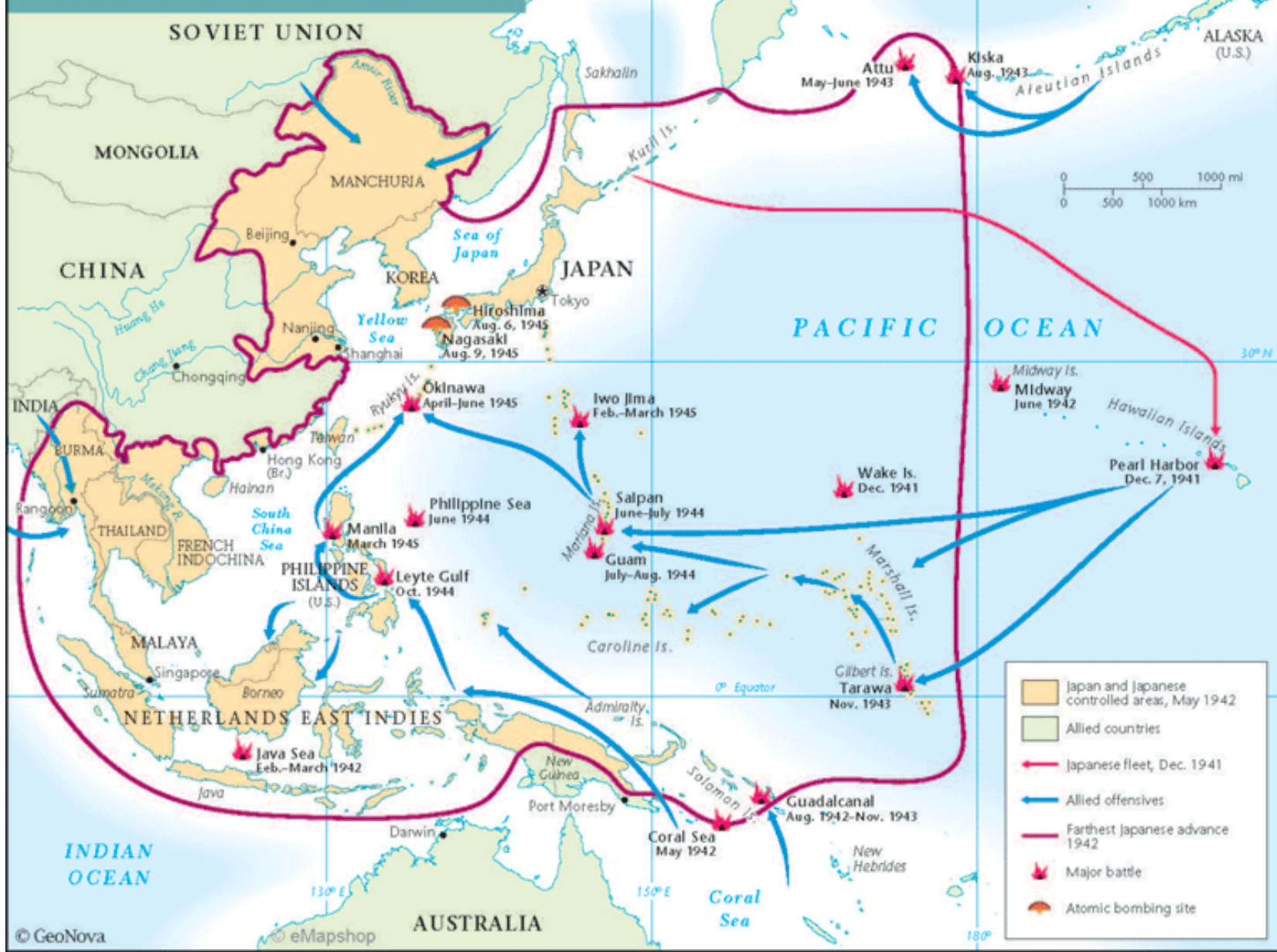
We remember fondly in passing the so called “fuzzy wuzzies” who helped the fighting forces.

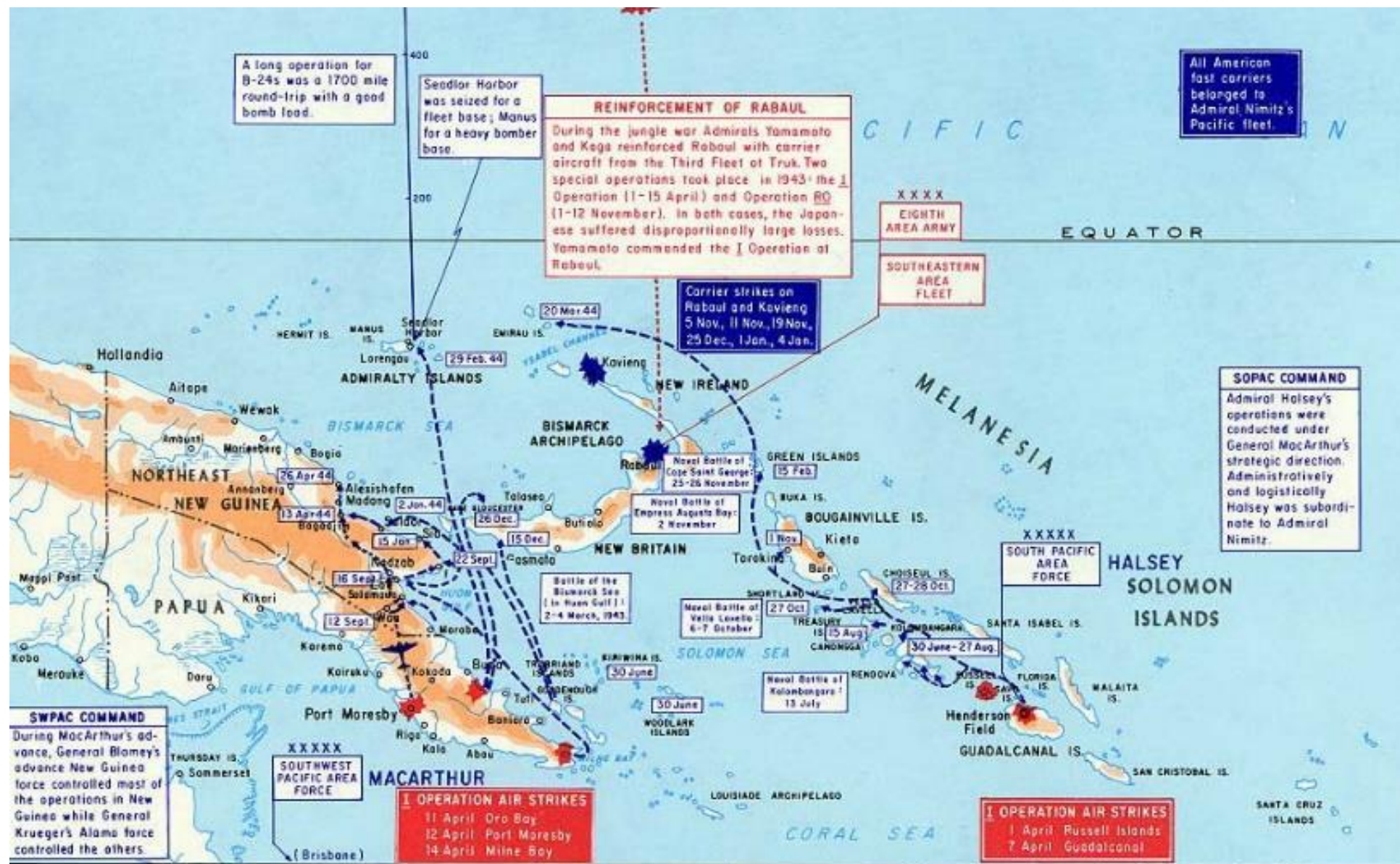
But it was the indigenous people of Dutch New Guinea / and the many other indigenous peoples / who actually bore the brunt of the War / in our neighbourhood, / and for that they should all, / including the West Papuans, / be thanked, / honoured by Australia, / and afforded the gratitude of the Nation.

West Papuans are still fighting to free their homeland.

PAPUA MERDEKA

World War II in the Pacific





A long operation for B-24s was a 1700 mile round-trip with a good bomb load.

Seadler Harbor was seized for a fleet base; Manus for a heavy bomber base.

REINFORCEMENT OF RABAUL
 During the jungle war Admirals Yamamoto and Kaga reinforced Rabaul with carrier aircraft from the Third Fleet at Truk. Two special operations took place in 1943: the I Operation (1-15 April) and Operation RO (1-12 November). In both cases, the Japanese suffered disproportionately large losses. Yamamoto commanded the I Operation at Rabaul.

All American fast carriers belonged to Admiral Nimitz's Pacific fleet.

Carrier strikes on Rabaul and Kavieng
 5 Nov, 11 Nov, 19 Nov, 25 Dec, 1 Jan, 4 Jan.

XXXX
 EIGHTH AREA ARMY

SOUTHEASTERN AREA FLEET

SOPAC COMMAND
 Admiral Halsey's operations were conducted under General MacArthur's strategic direction. Administratively and logistically Halsey was subordinate to Admiral Nimitz.

SWPAC COMMAND
 During MacArthur's advance, General Blamey's advance New Guinea force controlled most of the operations in New Guinea while General Krueger's Alamo force controlled the others.

XXXXX
 SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA FORCE

I OPERATION AIR STRIKES
 11 April Oro Bay
 12 April Port Moresby
 14 April Milne Bay

I OPERATION AIR STRIKES
 1 April Russell Islands
 7 April Guadalcanal

XXXXX
 SOUTH PACIFIC AREA FORCE

A Maori Lament for the Fallen

A tatau korero hoki ra, e aue i,
I nui o rangi ra,
He mea kia mahue, e aue i.
Ka kitea rikiriki,
Ka ngaro hoki ra, e aue i,
Nga waha ki, nga hautu o te waka,
I hoea ai te moana;
Hei whakapuru atu ra, e aue i,
Mo nga tai kino, mo nga tai marangai,
Ka puta ki waho ra.
Taua mai ra tatau e, e aue i,
Ki tau nei ki a Marewa-i-te-ata,
I maunu atu ai e, e aue i,
Te taniwha i tona rua , i.

Ah me, the speeches we made
In those honourable days of yore,
Now comes it I am all alone.
Looking about me in vain,
Gone forever are the
Orators, and the fogle-men of the canoe,
Who voyaged across the ocean;
Ye who did plug securely against
The flood tides of stormy weather,
When they threatened from without.
Let us now all foregather (and)
Chant the lay of Marewa-i-te-ata,
Which was the accompaniment of the exit
Of the dreaded dragon from its lair.