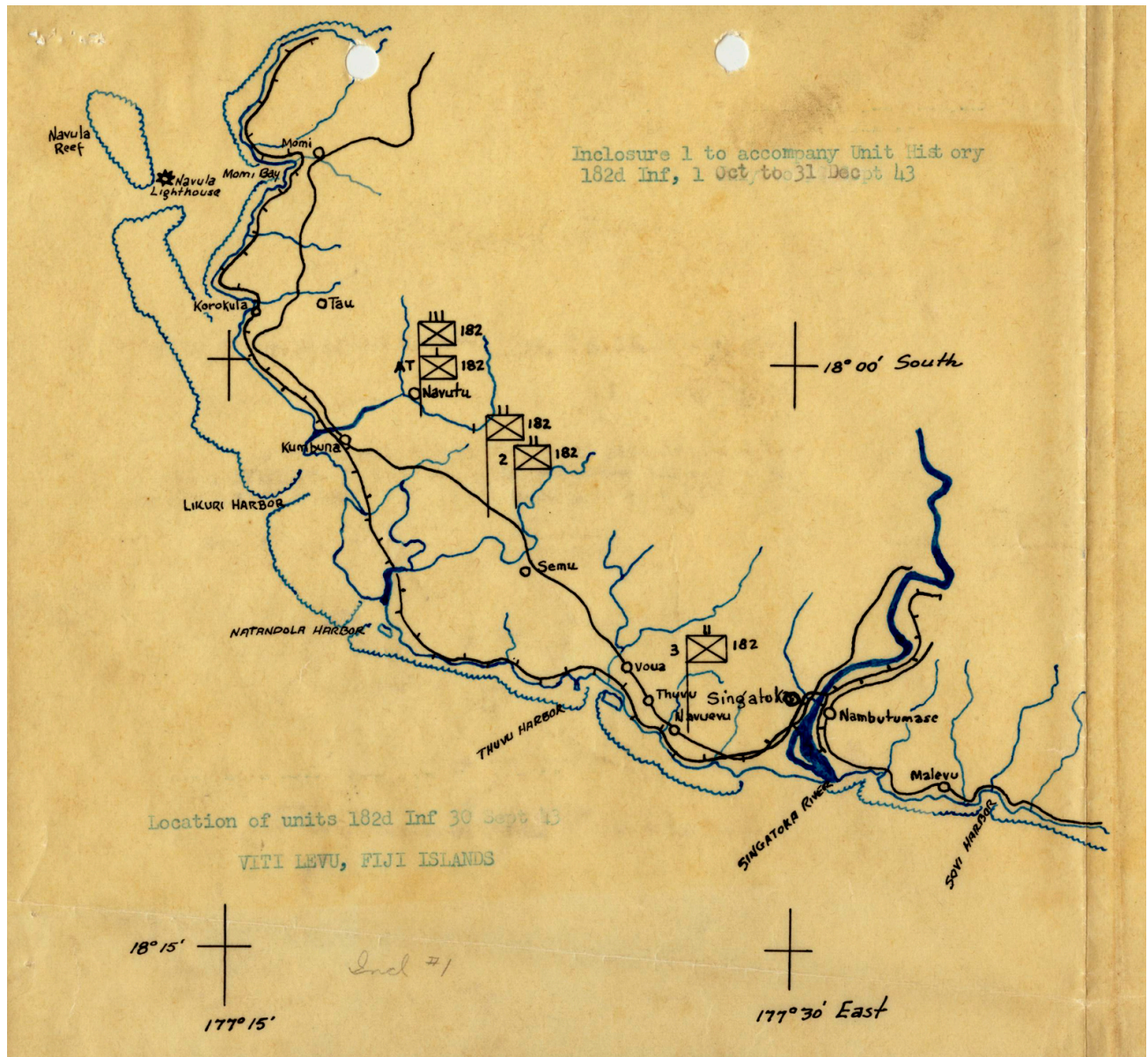


BOUGAINVILLE

After spending months in Fiji, away from the action, the formality became tedious. *The same held true between missions in Vietnam, which only lasted 3-4 days.*



“Some soldiers resented the return to Army formality on Fiji, after the more lax – though dangerous – lifestyle they had enjoyed on Guadalcanal. A poem by John Mulcahy of Company G expresses these sentiments, without reservation.”¹

Ode To Our Leaders

Return me at once to Guadalcanal
To a hole in the ground for me and my pal
To that indolent Isle where one does as he pleases
Where you sleep ‘neath the palms-caressed by the breezes.

Here in the Fijis no Japs can be found
And Officers brave have come out of the ground.
They’ve pressed up their pinks and polished their brass
And attendance has fallen each Sunday at Mass.

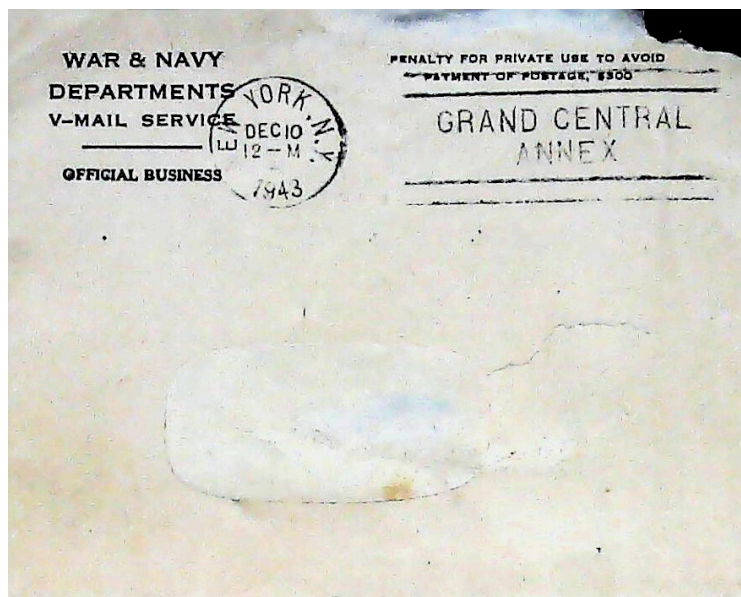
“Come on all you fellows, there’s no time for play
there’s work to be done and we’ll show the way.
To be soldiers, and not just a squad that is armed.
How to guard a CP , so the ‘Brains’ won’t be harmed.

That’s what they tell us, these be-ribboned brasses
Who stood ‘gainst the foe and watched through field glasses.
Who, all through the battle rallied their men.
Then scurried for cover , like a neurotic hen.
But now that it’s quiet and we’re far from the din.
Our freed om will stop and the nonsense begin.
We’ll maneuver and battle and climb over ridges!
Form beach heads! Night-firing! And demolish bridges!

We’ve done it before and we know the story
We do the work- they get the glory.
But this time we know you,old pal
‘Cause we saw you in action on Guadalcanal.

Note: CP in line 12 refers to the leader’s Command Post. This was usually a comfortable bunker dug deep in the ground and well fortified and protected. I spent my last 30 days as one of three radiomen in the Colonel’s CP Bunker.

¹ <https://www.182ndinfantry.org/>



Before leaving Fiji, the soldiers would have filled out a Christmas card for the family back home. His date on the card below is November 16th. Based on the New York postmark of December 10th, it would have taken 3½ weeks to travel from Fiji to San Francisco and then to NY.



The card is addressed to his parents back in Oxford, MA. His rank on this card is just plain Sergeant.

On December 17th, he would board a ship bound for Bougainville and spend Christmas at sea.

On the same day, the First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, would visit the troops there. David heard about her arrival but missed seeing her. They were on board the ship at the time.

All her boys served in WWII, as follows:

James Roosevelt (1907-91): Despite occasionally debilitating health problems, Roosevelt served with the 2nd Raiders at Midway in early June 1942 and in the Makin Island raid on August 17–18, 1942, where he and 22 others were awarded the Navy Cross. In October, he was given command of the new 4th Raiders, but during training for an upcoming combat operation, he became ill enough to be hospitalized by February 1943. Beginning in August 1943, he served in various staff positions for the duration of the war. He was attached to and landed with the U.S. Army's 165th Regimental Combat Team, 27th infantry Division during the invasion of Makin on November 20–23 and was awarded the Army Silver Star.

Elliott Roosevelt (1910-90): Following a navigator/bombardier course in the fall of 1941 and a brief stint on anti-submarine patrol duty with the 6th Reconnaissance Squadron at Muroc AAB, Roosevelt received a top-secret assignment to carry out clandestine reconnaissance flights over the Sahara Desert, with emphasis on French West Africa, with which the United States was not at war. Having been successful with this (Project Rusty), he was given command of the new 3d Reconnaissance Group at Colorado Springs. From Gibraltar and then Oran, Algeria, he led this unit in Operation Torch, the invasion of Northwest Africa in early November 1942. Roosevelt (with a pilot) flew the first U.S. reconnaissance missions over the theater in a borrowed RAF de Havilland Mosquito. This led to a long campaign for the U.S. adoption of this British aircraft, as Roosevelt held the American counterparts (modified Boeing B-17Cs and early Lockheed P-38s) to be inadequate and unlikely to survive in contested airspace.

From Maison Blanche, Algeria, and after the fall of Tunis, La Marsa near ancient Carthage, Roosevelt pioneered new tactics, including night aerial photography and obtained before and after imagery of Rome during that city's first heavy bombing on 19 July 1943.

After his detachment to investigate reconnaissance issues in the United States (see the Hughes scandal section below), Roosevelt received command of the 8th Air Force's reconnaissance wing in England: the 8th Provisional RW, later renamed the 325th Reconnaissance Wing. During this period, Roosevelt worked on the shuttle-bombing project with the USSR, and participated in the May 1944 mission to the USSR which inspected the new

American bases at Poltava, Mirgorod, and Piryatin. His units also supported the D-Day invasion of Normandy and the bombing campaign against V-weapon sites.

Franklin Roosevelt Jr. (1914-88): Roosevelt was commissioned an ensign in the United States Navy Reserve on June 11, 1940. He was a junior naval officer in World War II and was decorated for bravery in the Naval Battle of Casablanca.

At the request of his father, along with brother Elliott Roosevelt, he attended both the Argentia (Atlantic Charter) Summit in New Foundland with Prime Minister Winston Churchill in August 1941, and the Casablanca Conference in January 1943. Franklin also met FDR in Africa prior to the Tehran Conference. Returning from Argentia, he sailed with Churchill and stood with him at parades in newly American-occupied Reykjavik, Iceland, to symbolize American solidarity with the United Kingdom.

Brother James Roosevelt summarized "Brud's" naval service: "Franklin served on a destroyer that dodged torpedoes from Iceland to Minsk [sic!][He, obviously, meant Murmansk]. He became executive officer of the destroyer USS Mayrant (DD-402), which was bombed at Palermo in the Sicilian invasion. The famed war correspondent Quentin Reynolds went out of his way to write mother how bravely Franklin performed in that bloody ordeal, in which he was awarded the Silver Star Medal for exposing himself under fire to carry a critically wounded sailor to safety."^[7]

Later, as a lieutenant commander, to which he was promoted to on March 1, 1944, Franklin became the commanding officer of the destroyer escort USS Ulvert M. Moore (DE-442) on July 18, 1944. Ulvert M. Moore served in the Pacific and shot down two Japanese aircraft and sank the Imperial Japanese Navy submarine Ro-115. The Moore was in Tokyo Bay when Japan formally surrendered on September 2, 1945. James Roosevelt remembered that his brother was known as "Big Moose" to the men who served under him, he did "a tremendous job".

John Roosevelt (1916-81): In 1941 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, engaged in the Pacific front aboard an aircraft carrier, the USS Wasp, as an assistant supply officer, and, by the time of his departure in 1946, he had reached the rank of lieutenant commander and had been awarded the Bronze Star.

Eleanor's Itinerary

ITINERARY

<u>1943</u>	<u>FLIGHT #321 - PACIFIC</u>	<u>LOCAL TIME</u>
8/17	Depart Hamilton Field, San Francisco	11:00 p.m.
18	Arrive Hickam Field, Hawaii	9:30 a.m.
	Leave Hickam Field, Hawaii	2:00 p.m.
	Arrive Christmas	9:30 p.m.
19	Spend the day at Christmas	
20	Leave Christmas	8:00 a.m.
	Arrive Penrhyn	12:40 p.m.
	Leave Penrhyn	2:30 p.m.
	Arrive Borabora	5:30 p.m.
21	Spend the day at Borabora	
22	Leave Borabora	8:00 a.m.
	Arrive Aitutaki	11:00 a.m.
	Leave Aitutaki	2:30 p.m.
	Arrive Tutuila, Samoa	5:30 p.m.
23	Leave Tutuila	11:00 a.m.
	Arrive Nandi, Fiji	4:30 p.m.
24	Leave Fiji	11:00 a.m.
	Arrive New Caledonia (Plaines des Gaiacs)	4:30 p.m.
25	Leave New Caledonia	6:00 a.m.
	Arrive Auckland, New Zealand	12:30 p.m.
26)	Devote to New Zealand
31)		
9/1	Leave New Zealand	8:00 a.m.
	Arrive Sydney, Australia	2:00 p.m.
2)	Devote to Australia
11)		
12	Leave Brisbane	8:00 a.m.
	Arrive New Caledonia	1:40 p.m.
13)	Devote to New Caledonia, Espiritu Santo	
16)	and Guadalcanal
17	Leave New Caledonia	9:10 a.m.
	Arrive Fiji	2:40 p.m.
18	Leave Fiji	8:00 a.m.
	Arrive Funa Puti	11:30 a.m.
	Leave Funa Puti	2:30 p.m.
	Arrive Canton	7:40 p.m.
	Leave Canton	11:00 p.m.
19	Arrive Hickam Field, Hawaii	8:00 a.m.
20)	Devote to Hawaii
22)		
23	Leave Hickam	6:30 p.m.
24	Arrive Hamilton	10:30 a.m.

TEDDY ROOSEVELT'S FAMILY

Theodore Roosevelt's four sons inherited their father's burning desire to serve in uniform when duty called. Given their father's heroics during his own crowded hour, it would have been nearly impossible for TR's sons not to test themselves in the crucible of battle.

Quentin, the youngest son, was killed during aerial combat near Chaméry, France, on July 14, 1918. Had he survived the first world war, Quentin would have surely followed his three older brothers' example of volunteering for military service in both world wars.

Ted, the oldest son, petitioned General George Marshall to post him to active duty in early 1941. At age 54, Colonel Ted Roosevelt was given command of his old unit, the 26th Infantry of the First Division. By early 1942 he had been promoted to the rank of brigadier general. After participating in combat operations in North Africa, Ted participated in the Allied landing at Normandy on June 6, 1944. General Roosevelt, whose leadership played a key role in the successful Allied landing at Utah Beach, earned the Medal of Honor (an honor his father would later receive posthumously). Ted's son, **Quentin II**, also participated in the Allied landing at Normandy, making Ted and Quentin II the only father and son team to participate in the assault. At 57, Ted was the oldest soldier to land at Normandy. Ted, who also played a key role in the siege of Cherbourg, suffered a fatal heart attack a few weeks later on July 11, 1944. He was buried in the American cemetery in Sainte-Laurent-sur-Mer, near Normandy. Quentin's remains were reinterred next to his older brother the following year.

In 1942, **Archie**, the youngest of the surviving brothers, asked FDR for a military commission. During World War II Lieutenant Colonel Archie Roosevelt commanded a battalion of the 162nd Infantry, 41st Division in New Guinea through 1943 and into early 1944. Archie, a highly decorated war hero for the second time, received the Silver Star with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster.

Before American forces joined the fight, **Kermit**, a decorated World War I veteran, informed FDR of his intentions to assist British forces during their time of need. With the help of an old family friend, Winston Churchill, Kermit secured a commission as a Major in the Middlesex Regiment. After assisting Finnish refugees and participating in an ill-fated 1940 Norwegian expedition, Kermit was deployed to Egypt where he remained until his excessive drinking and failing health led to his military discharge in the spring of 1941. Following Kermit's return to the United States, Archie encouraged his troubled brother to seek treatment. Both Archie and Belle, Kermit's wife, hoping that military service would aid in Kermit's recovery, lobbied FDR to find a place for Kermit. After refusing a stateside post as an information officer, Major Kermit Roosevelt accepted an assignment to Fort Richardson, Alaska, where he helped organize a territorial militia to fight Japanese forces in the Aleutian Islands. Kermit, whose health continued to fail, returned to the United States on medical leave in early 1943. After discovering that Kermit was traveling the country with his mistress, Belle requested that he be returned to active duty at once. Physically unfit for duty and unable to control his drinking, a despondent Kermit committed suicide on June 4, 1943. Following family tradition, he was buried "where he fell," at Fort Richardson.

All of Theodore Roosevelt's four sons answered the call to military service. Sadly, three of them – Ted, Quentin, and Kermit – died as a result of their service. The only surviving son, Archie, a highly decorated combat veteran, sustained serious injuries in both world wars. Interestingly, Archie Roosevelt was the only United States soldier to receive 100 percent disability as a result of wounds sustained in each of the world wars.

History of Bougainville: In 1616, Dutch explorers Willem Schouten and Jacob Le Maire became the first Europeans to sight the islands. The main island was named after French admiral Louis Antoine de Bougainville, who reached it in 1768. The German Empire placed Bougainville under a protectorate in 1886, while the remainder of the Solomon Islands became part of the British Empire in 1893. The present-day boundaries between Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands were established by the Tripartite Convention of 1899.



The Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) occupied German New Guinea in 1914, following the outbreak of World War I. After the war ended, Bougainville and the other occupied territories were named a League of Nations mandate, which Australia administered as the Territory of New Guinea. During World War II, the Japanese invaded and occupied Bougainville to support their operations elsewhere in the Pacific. The subsequent Allied campaign to reclaim the islands resulted in heavy casualties and the eventual restoration of Australian control in 1945.

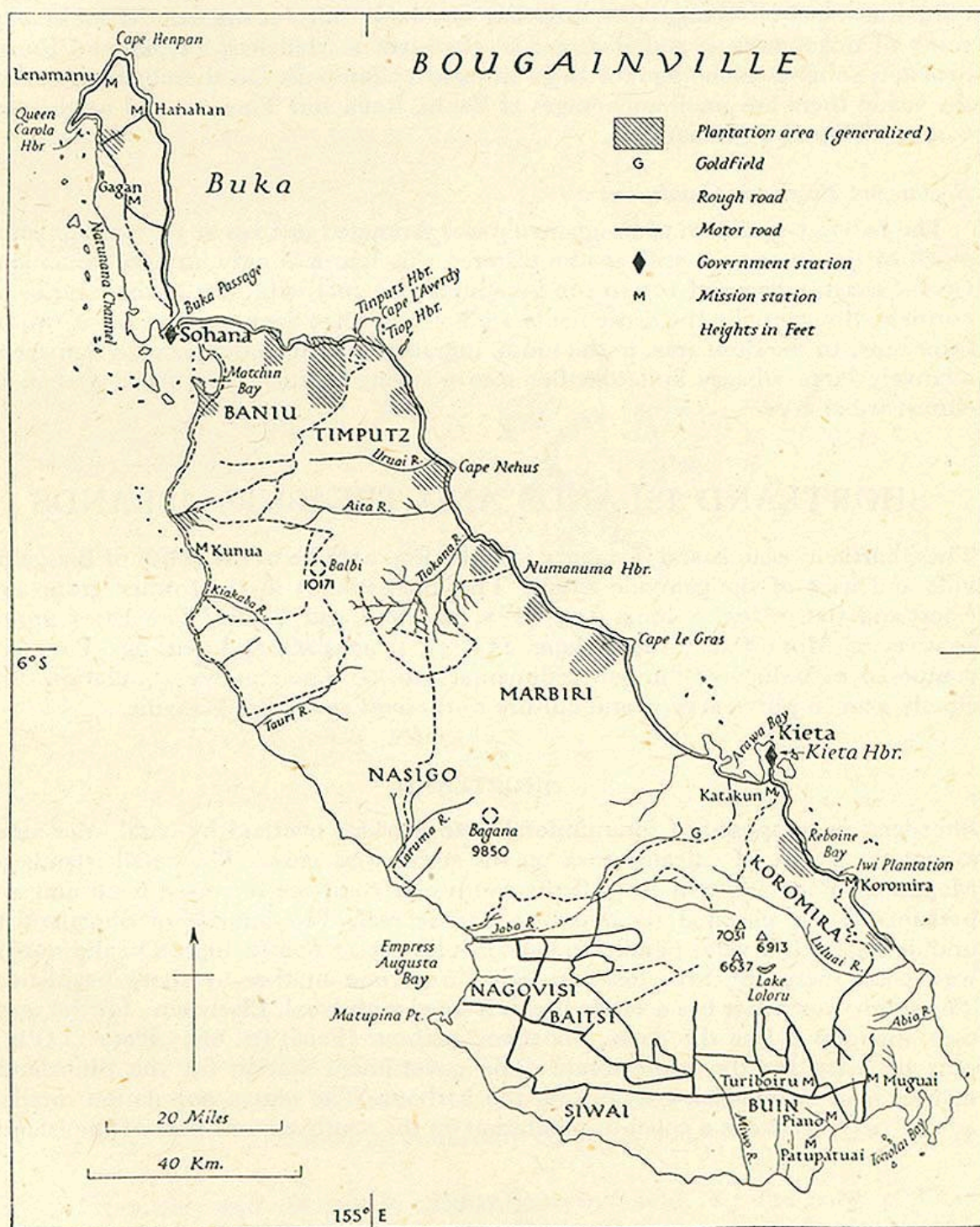


Fig. 215. Bougainville and Buka

Names in roman capitals show the main tribal districts. Based on: (1) G.S.G.S. map no. 4344; (2) other official sources.

ADMIRAL YAMAMOTO DIES ON BOUGAINVILLE

Operation Vengeance was the American military operation to kill Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto of the Imperial Japanese Navy on **18 April 1943**² during the Solomon Islands campaign in the Pacific Theater of World War II. Yamamoto, commander of the Combined Fleet of the Imperial Japanese Navy, was killed near Bougainville Island when his G4M1 transport aircraft was shot down by United States Army Air Forces fighter aircraft operating from Kukum Field on Guadalcanal.



The mission of the U.S. aircraft was specifically to kill Yamamoto, made possible because of the United States Navy's intelligence decoding transmissions about Yamamoto's travel itinerary through the Solomon Islands area. The death of Yamamoto reportedly damaged the morale of Japanese naval personnel, raised the morale of the Allied forces, and was intended as revenge by U.S. leaders, who blamed Yamamoto for the attack on Pearl Harbor that initiated the war between Imperial Japan and the United States.

Great Britain was upset by the operation; not having suffered the Pearl Harbor attack themselves, they did not have the same visceral feelings towards

² At this time the Americal would have just arrived in Fiji to begin a rest and training period.

Yamamoto and did not think that killing any one admiral was worth the risk to Allied codebreaking abilities against Japan. Indeed, Prime Minister Winston Churchill protested to Roosevelt against proceeding with the operation.



The World War II crash site of a military plane carrying Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto near Tokinotu in the southern part of the island

The Yamamoto killing has been the subject of extensive historical and legal discussion in military, political, and academic circles.

Following the 2020 killing of Iranian general Qasem Soleimani, the Yamamoto killing was cited by senior U.S. officials as a precedent. Various major media outlets and noted pundits also singled out the Yamamoto killing as the relevant comparison, including *The New York Times*, which reported that the Yamamoto killing was "the last time the United States killed a major military leader in a foreign country" prior to the Soleimani killing.

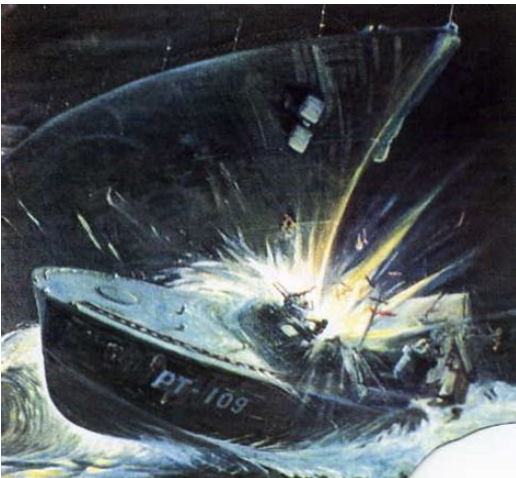


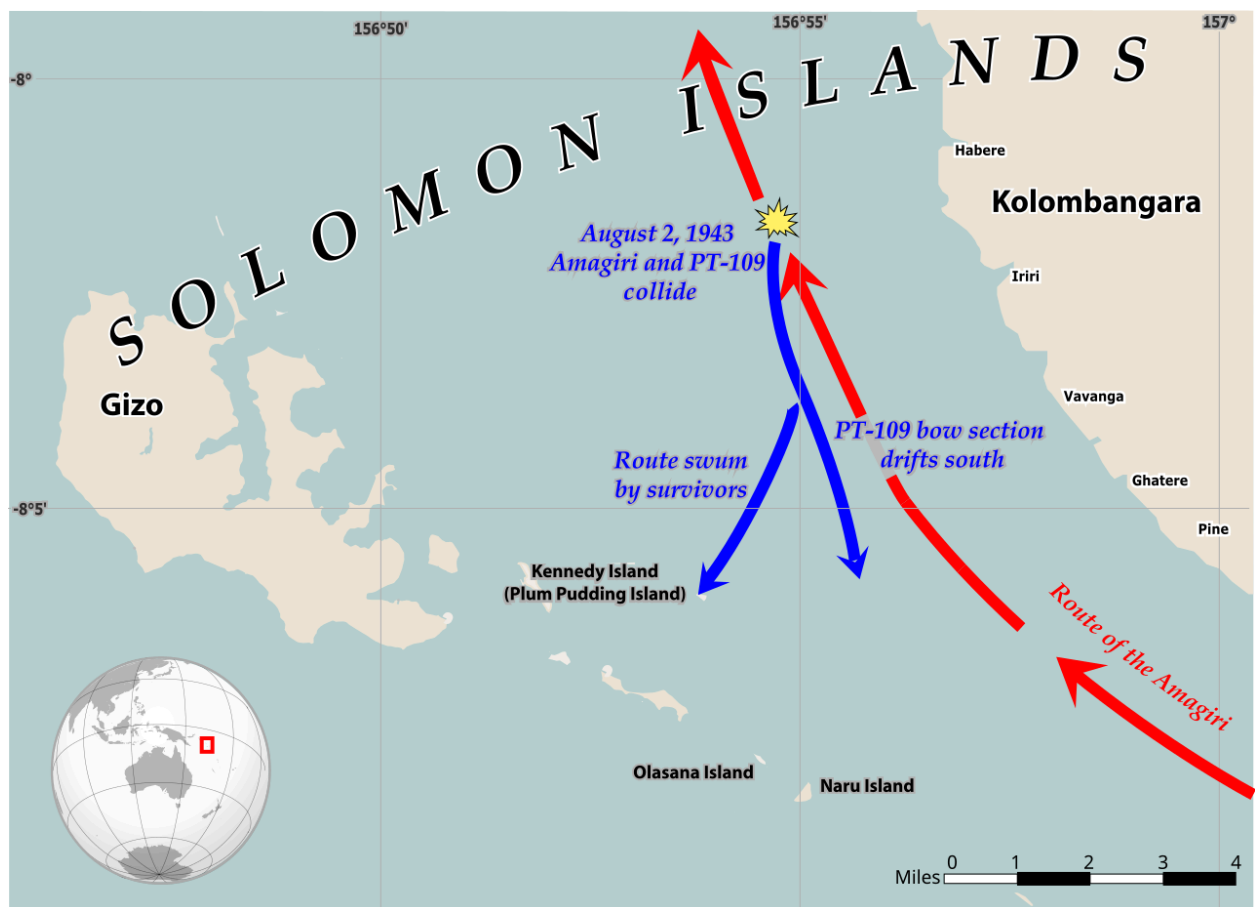
JFK and PT-109

PT-109 was an 80-foot (24 m) [Elco PT boat](#) (patrol torpedo boat) last commanded by [Lieutenant \(junior grade\) John F. Kennedy](#), future United States president, in the Solomon Islands campaign of the Pacific theater during World War II. Kennedy's actions in saving his surviving crew after *PT-109* was rammed and sunk by a Japanese destroyer earned him several commendations and made him a war hero. Back problems stemming from the incident required months of hospitalization at Chelsea Naval Hospital and plagued him the rest of his life. Kennedy's postwar campaigns for elected office frequently referenced his service on *PT-109*.



On **02 August 1943**, JFK's PT boat was cut in half by a Japanese Destroyer **Amagiri**, shown below.





David and his Signal Company would have been at Fiji at the time.

The **Black Sheep Squadron** was a group of Marine Pilots flying 4FU Corsairs. It was adapted into a TV series in the 1970s, based on the life of its leader, Major Pappy Boyington. As part of the Signal Corps, David and his group would listen to the dogfights and broadcast them to the encampment on their various islands.

<https://worldwarwings.com/black-sheep-squadron-f4u/>

In **November 1943**, Allied forces invaded Bougainville, northwest of Guadalcanal, in the Solomon Islands. The Allies battled Japanese defenders on the island, carved a perimeter in the jungle, and established airfields. Reinforcements were needed to hold the line against the heavy Japanese presence on the island.

On **15 December 1943**, the I Marine Amphibious Corps and General Geiger were replaced by the US Army's XIV Corps, led by Major General Oscar W. Griswold, the victor of the land campaign on New Georgia.

Plans to move the Americal Division to Bougainville were dispatched in early December. In the declassified report that follows, the destination of the units is referred to by its codename: **CHERRYBLOSSOM**. Just days before Christmas 1943, the men of the Americal once again found themselves on board a transport ship headed for a combat zone.

In the Movement Order #1, part of the 26th Signal Company, including 4 Officers and 80 Enlisted men, would board on **December 17, 1943**. This boarding was designated as the First Echelon.



It also included the 164th Infantry from the North Dakota National Guard—insignia at left.

In Order, part of the 26th Signal Company, including 4 Officers and 80 Enlisted men, would board on **December 17, 1943**. This boarding was designated the First Echelon, including the 164th Infantry with 141 Officers and 3159 Enlisted Men.

The remaining part of the 26th Signal Company, including 2 Officers and 55 Enlisted men, would board on **December 20, 1943**. This boarding was designated as the First Echelon. It also included the 182nd Infantry with 231 Officers and 3,076 Enlisted Men.

Based on his skill and experience from Guadalcanal, I estimate David was on the First Echelon, scoping out the terrain for their camp and laying commo wire.

They spent Christmas at sea and, on **28 December**, arrived at the place that would be their home for the next year. They landed at Empress Augusta Bay to relieve and reinforce the Marines.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAL DIVISION
APO 716

SECRET
Auth: CG Amer Div
Date: 10 Dec 43
Init: W.H.B. AG

10 December 1943

MOVEMENT ORDER)

NO.....1)

1. In compliance with instructions from higher headquarters, the Americal Division will proceed by GWT to CHERRYBLOSSOM.

a. First echelon begin embarkation 17 December 1943:

UNIT	Approximate	
	OFF	EM
(1) Det, Div Hq, Americal Div	21	48
(2) Det, Sp Tr to include:		
(a) Det, Hq Sp Tr	1	2
(b) Det, Hq Co, Americal Div	2	70
(c) Det, 26th Sig Co	4	80
(d) Det, 125th QM Co	2	65
(e) Det, 721st Ord Co	2	10
(f) Det, MP Plat, Americal Div	2	45
(3) 164th Inf	141	3159
(4) Co C, 57th Engr Combat Bn	5	170
(5) Co A, 121st Med Bn	5	97
(6) 1st Plat, Co D, 121st Med Bn	6	50
(7) Det, Americal Div Arty to include:		
(a) Det, Hq & Hq Btry, Americal Div Arty	7	70
(b) Det, 245th FA Bn	12	17
(8) Det, Hq & Hq & Sv Co, 57th Engr Combat Bn	2	50
(9) Det, Hq, 121st Med Bn	3	3
(10) Det, 182d Inf	8	12
TOTAL	223	3943

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:

CANCELLED

AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

William D. Top 17th AGO

WINGS ADJUTANT COMMITTEE 18 June 46

31 JAN 1944

Inch #6

300-3.18-Movement Order-Bougainville-Americal Div 10 Dec 43-4 Jan 44

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