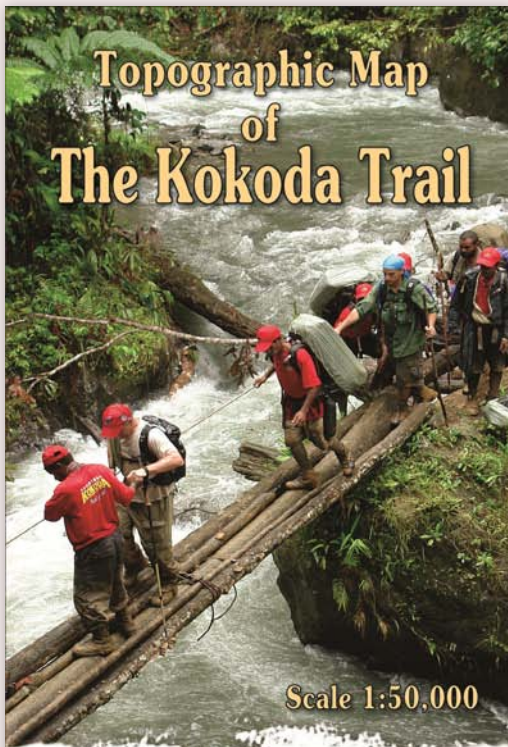


THE KOKODA TRAIL TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP



MAIN MAP FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Wartime trail with battle-sites and historic points of interest
- Contour lines with spot heights and GPS grids
- Trail cross-sections showing trail profiles
- Villages, campsites, lookouts, good water points
- Airfields and emergency helicopter landing zones



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The new 1:50,000 topographical map of the Kokoda Trail contains a detailed plot of the wartime tracks used during the Kokoda campaign together with details of today's eco-tracks. The map features:

- Contour lines with spot heights and Global Positioning System Grids
- Location of wartime villages, battle-sites, fire-support bases and logistic support areas
- Detailed map inserts for each major battle of the Kokoda campaign
- Airfields and emergency helicopter landing zones
- Villages, campsites, lookouts and water points
- Traditional and wartime names of mountains, rivers, creeks and significant features
- Bush tracks connecting villages off the main trail
- Trail cross sections showing track profiles
- A comprehensive narrative of the Kokoda campaign
- Map folds to show the topography of each day's trekking together with a cross profile illustrating ascents and descents for the day ahead.

Numerous mapping expeditions were conducted over a four year period to identify the original wartime routes across the Kokoda Trail. The expeditions were conducted by former military officers' accompanied by Koiari and Orokaiva guides familiar with the old wartime trails.

Expedition leaders utilised Garmin GPSMAPS 60 Global Positioning Systems with high sensitive antennae which allowed satellite signals to penetrate the overhead jungle canopy and provide accurate navigational plots. The information was downloaded to a cartographer at Map Illustrations who utilised sophisticated mapping software to compare the results with army survey maps, wartime sketches and descriptions from various battalion histories.

Local landowners and village elders assisted the expedition leaders to identify the wartime location of villages and local indigenous names of all mountains, rivers, creeks and features along the Kokoda Trail.

References for the compilation of the map include:

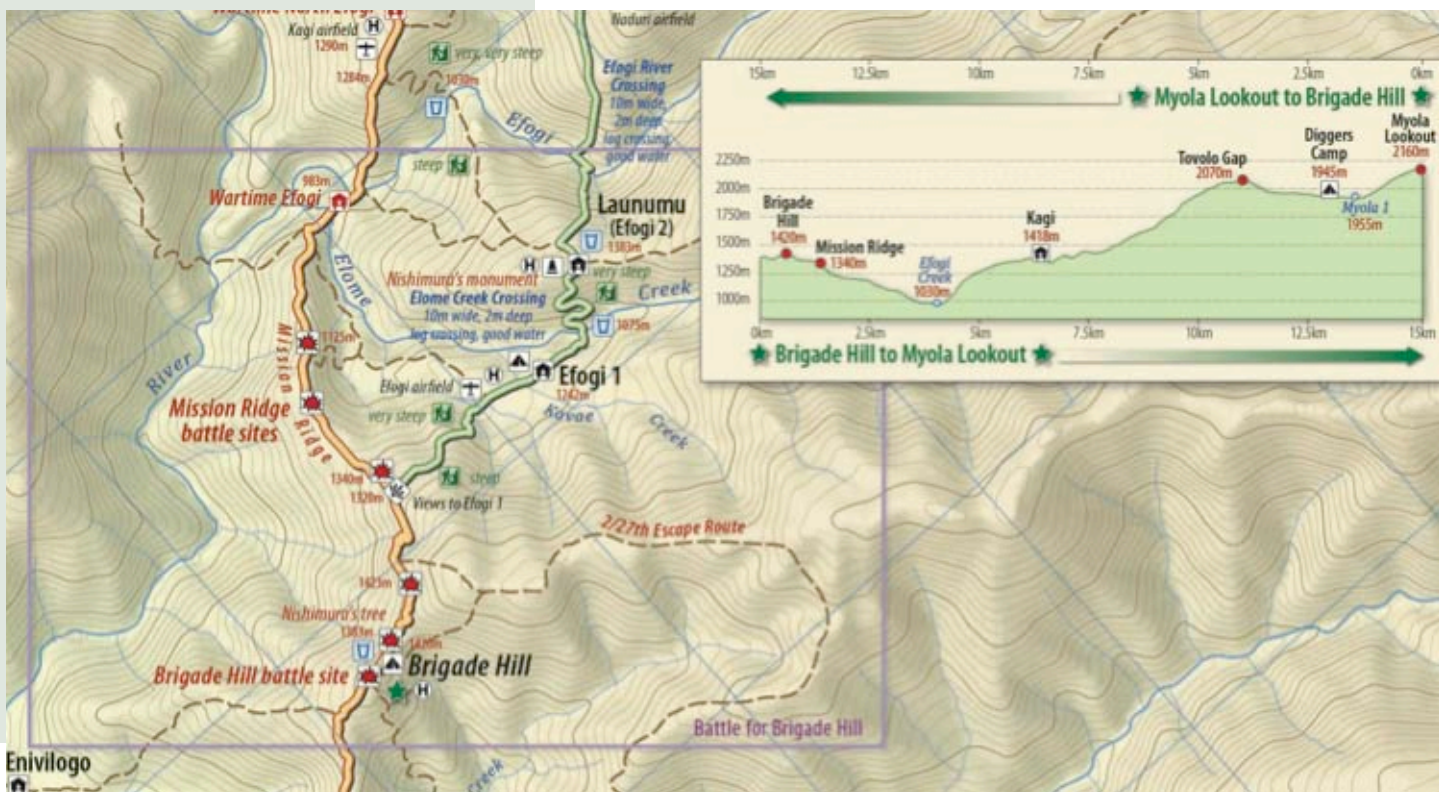
- KOKODA 1:100 000 Sheet 8379 (Edition 1) Series T683 1974 (Royal Australian Army Survey Corp)
- EFOGI: 1:100 000 Sheet 8479 (Edition 1) Series T683 1974 (Royal Australian Army Survey Corp)
- PORT MORESBY 1:100 000 Sheet 8379 (Edition 1) Series T601 1978 (Royal Australian Army Survey Corp)
- UBERI 1:63 360 Royal Australian Army Survey Corp 1943

- EFOGI-KOKODA 1: 73 170 New Guinea Sketch Map. Illustration of Operational Area of the 2/14 Australian Infantry Battalion A.I.F. Australian Survey Corps 1946
- The Kokoda Trail. PNG National Mapping Bureau 1982
- Wartime sketch maps and air photographs from the Australian War Memorial and the National Library of Australia
- Descriptions of the trail from wartime journalist, Osmar White (Green Armour, Angus and p.159)
- Village elders from the Koiairi and Orokaiva people who lived along the trail in 1942.

The PNG Accident Investigation Commission used the Kokoda Topographical Map for their official investigation into the aircraft crash in the Kokoda corridor on 11 August 2009.

Acknowledgements

Major Chad Sherrin MM, Major Charlie Lynn, Lieutenant Colonel Rowan Tracey, Lieutenant Colonel Ron Beattie, Commodore Simon Hart, John Nalder, Peter Davis, Bernie Rowell, Peter Morrison, David Sherry



A section of the map showing wartime tracks and villagers, today's eco-track and local hunting tracks. It includes current and wartime village locations, battlesites, airfields and helicopter landing zones, good-water points and a profile of the trail for each day's trekking.

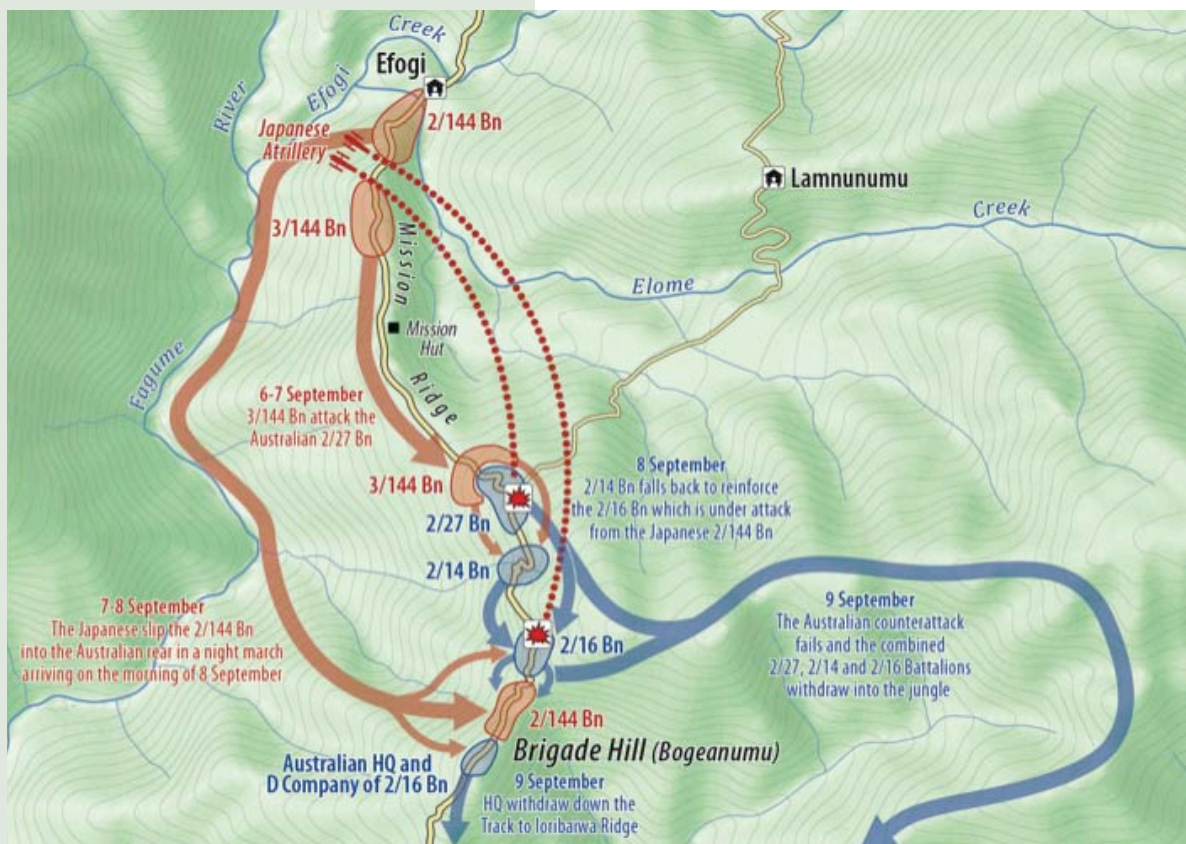
In the build up to the main battle Australian and Japanese patrols clashed continuously as they probed each others positions. It was a confusing baptism to jungle warfare which resulted in units from the 39th being cut-off in the jungle for days on end without food, communications or any chance of reinforcements. But they survived and *'the weaker they became the stronger and the fiercer was their resolution to hold on at all costs until the long-promised relief should become a reality.'*

Honner had chosen his defensive position with the keen eye of an experienced leader skilled in military appreciations. The trail itself was the ground of tactical importance. It had natural protection from the Eora valley to the east and the rugged Naro Ridge to the west. Unfortunately his troops were exhausted after constant patrolling and fighting under atrocious conditions. Honner wrote, *'physically, the pathetically young warriors of the 39th were in poor shape. Worn out by strenuous fighting and exhausting movement, and weakened by lack of food and sleep and shelter, many of them had literally come to a standstill. Practically every day torrential rains fell all through the afternoon and night, cascading into the cheerless weapon-pits and soaking the clothes they wore – the only ones they had. In these they shivered through the long chill vigil of the lonely nights when they were required to stand awake and alert but still and silent. Only the morning brought a gleam of comfort – a turn at sleeping and forgetting, a chance perhaps, to lie and dry in the warmth of the glowing day. But little light filtered through the leaf-roofed murk where Merritt's men guarded the front creek cliff, pale ghosts crouching in the dank-dripping half-dark hidden from the healing of the searching sun.'*

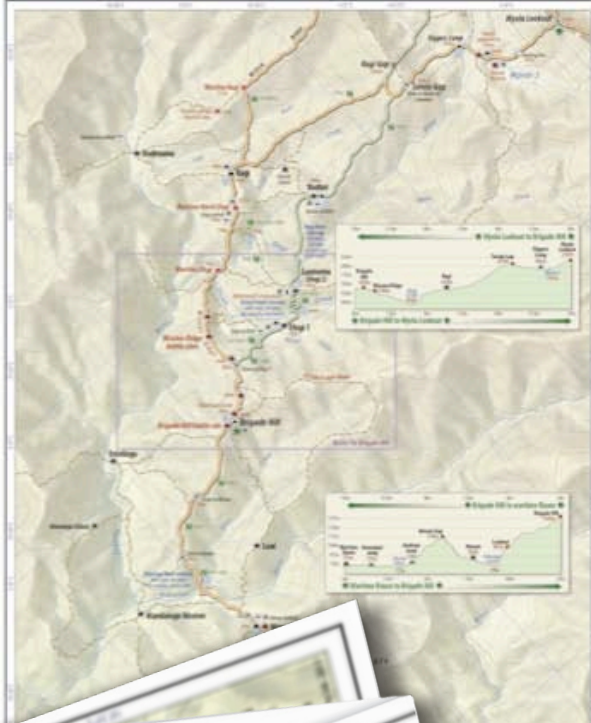
The Japanese launched their offensive on the 26th August – a co-ordinated attack on the 39th Battalion at Isurava and a seaborne invasion against the Australian brigade at Milne Bay. Their strategic objective was Port Moresby but the impact of their advance reverberated throughout the Australian mainland. General Horrii drove his forces relentlessly against the 39th. Frontal attacks utilising human waves of 100 Japanese soldiers were cut to shreds as the diggers stood their ground in desperate wait for the promised support from the 21st Brigade. Horrii sent his men in wide flanking movements to the west on Naro Ridge and Eora Valley to the East. These were met with rifle, bayonet, grenade and fist and sent reeling back into the jungle. After 48 hours of continuous fighting the men of the 39th were beyond exhaustion and dangerously low on ammunition. As the Japanese formed up for the kill, familiar Australian voices were heard back down the trail. The 2/14th AIF Battalion had arrived! Pleasantries were brief as they shook hands with the gaunt figures of the 39th. *'Where do you want us to go clobber?' 'How are you mate?' 'Where are the bastards?'*



The Topographical Map of the Kokoda Trail has a comprehensive narrative of the Kokoda campaign which includes a strategic overview and a chronological description of all battles that took place between July and December 1942.



The map contains a detailed map of each battle of the Kokoda campaign. The maps show Japanese and Australian dispositions and axis of attacks. Each battle is described in the narrative.



The Battle of Brigade Hill: 7 - 9 September, 1942

First class Japanese troops to be observed by the troops at Brigade Hill, a dominating feature on the western side of the ridge from Elogi and Kagi. A massive force was positioned on a high ridge running down near western Elogi. It became known as Mission Ridge. The feature was destined to witness the biggest battle of the Kokoda campaign. Their third formation, the 27th was ordered from Port Moresby where it had been held in reserve, ready for the commencement of the battle. They planned their attack from the ridge with the Mission line and positioned themselves 27th and 27th battalions to the rear on the major feature near known as Brigade Hill.

General Horii considered his 6000 combat troops at Kagi in preparation for the decisive battle for the Owen Stanley Range. On the night of 6 September they began their penetration down the mountain below Kagi - 4000 lighted line were ordered and flanking tactics gave the waiting battalions an indication of the attack against them. Unbeknown to the Australian a group of natives led a run of force up the valley towards Brigade Hill.

Virtually the first shot of the battle killed Brigade Force as he walked towards his HQ. The Japanese cut-off force emerged and launched an immediate attack on Brigade Hill. Force and his Brigade HQ staff - officers, clerks and medical team were all killed along with 70 of the men that only a lone force was left.



Forward of Mission Ridge: the Japanese used fire and movement to penetrate the 27th Battalion. They pushed the 27th Battalion into inoperative positions and attacked the 27th and 27th Battalions. Every element of the 1st Brigade was now engaged in the battle. Force had conducted a great operation of his deliberate position and the Japanese were now able to exploit the vulnerable area. The battalions therefore were unable to provide mutual support to each other as each brigade force had to be reformed.

Captain Charles Nye and First (Left) Langridge of the 27th and 27th Battalions were ordered to fight through the Japanese force that infiltrated between the battalions and Brigade Hill. Both were aged 24 years and were already veterans of the Middle East campaign. Both were highly respected and courageous leaders. They knew the price they would have to pay to accomplish their mission. On the 7th they had fought against the Japanese infiltration, only a few got through. Nye and Langridge and Corporal Charles Lee of the 27th were killed along with 70 of the men that only a lone force was left.

Battle of Isaribama Ridge 14 - 16 September, 1942

Earlier planned to give the Japanese on Isaribama Ridge and conduct flanking attacks to the east and west of the position. A lack of supply, poor communications and rugged jungle terrain compounded the difficulty of movement and control for this movement. The Japanese were intent on maintaining the momentum of their advance and planned another flanking movement to the rear line. The new battalions climbed and became involved in a bitter fight on the western flank while a Japanese force broke through a gap in the Australian defence on the eastern flank.

Infiltrated from the Japanese mountain guns were decisive and forced Father to withdraw his units from Isaribama Ridge to a mountainous ridge in the distance. Then he would launch an aggressive forward program to identify the Japanese disposition in preparation for the next major attack.

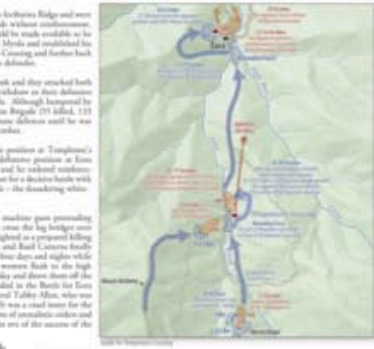


Unbeknown to Father, the Japanese had been ordered to withdraw to the beach-head at Buna and Gona to deal with the Japanese advance against the 27th Battalion. The 27th Brigade lost 49 killed and 121 wounded on Isaribama Ridge. The Japanese lost 40 killed and 120 wounded. When Father began the advance against the Japanese positions he found they had withdrawn to the rear.

Battle for Tomponah's Crossing: 11 - 28 October

General Horii's force had a heavy gun for their advance to Isaribama Ridge and were now not capable of holding the line forward of the beach-heads without reinforcement. Horii had orders to believe the 27th Battalion was killed or wounded in the battle. He had to defend the north coast of Kagi and south-west of Lake Munda and established his defensive positions on the ridge overlooking Tomponah's Crossing and further back on the ridge overlooking East Creek. The general launched the advance.

The 11th Cavalry Father advanced with a battalion on each flank and they attacked both forward positions on 15 October and forced the Japanese to withdraw to their defensive position at Tomponah's Crossing after an intense 24 hour battle. Although hampered by a total lack of supplies and a heavy rain on the strength of his Brigade 27th killed 121 wounded and 700 were killed. Father kept the pressure on the Japanese defence until he was ordered by the 10th Brigade under Brigade Lyle on 17th October.



The following day the Australian broke through the Japanese position at Tomponah's Crossing and pushed the Japanese back towards their main defensive position at East Creek. General Horii was unprepared for the breakthrough and he ordered reinforcements from the Kokoda line. The 22nd Cavalry the next day set for a decisive battle with the Japanese day in a high ridge dominating the area above - the drinking water near of East Creek.

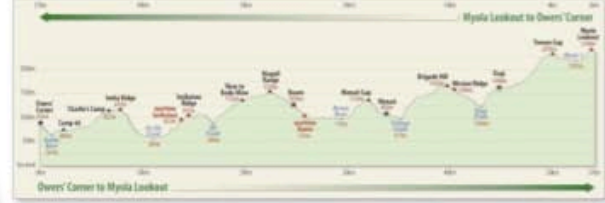
The Japanese defensive position frontal with heavy and light machine gun providing fire mutually supporting camouflage bunkers. Attempts to cross the big bridge over East Creek were not with heavy fire as the area had been well sighted as a prepared killing ground. A small Australian unit led by Captain Paul Carter and Staff Sergeant Bealby had the attack and returned the Japanese advance from the beach-heads while Brigade Lyle sent a tank battalion, the 3rd along the western flank to the high ground on the 26th. They attacked the Japanese the following day and drove them off the position on the 26th. The Australian lost 291 killed or wounded in the Battle for East Creek. Here also lost their commanding officer, Major General Faldy Allen, who was replaced by General Blomley the day before the battle was over. It was a real time for the state who had generated his battlefield commander from various of paratrooper units and structures from Germany. It informed attacks generally on the way of the success of the Kokoda campaign.

Australian Advance to Gona and Buna Beach Heads

The Australian advanced through the Isaribama battalions and several battalions by 2nd November 1942. They visited the Australian flag on the plains the following day then re-occupied their position of the Japanese lines stretching towards their beach-head at Buna and Gona.

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The Australian advance through the Isaribama battalions and several battalions by 2nd November 1942. They visited the Australian flag on the plains the following day then re-occupied their position of the Japanese lines stretching towards their beach-head at Buna and Gona.



The Battle of Brigade Hill: 7 - 9 September, 1942
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Topographic Map of The Kokoda Trail

Scale 1:50,000

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