

THE KOKODA TRAIL TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP



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.

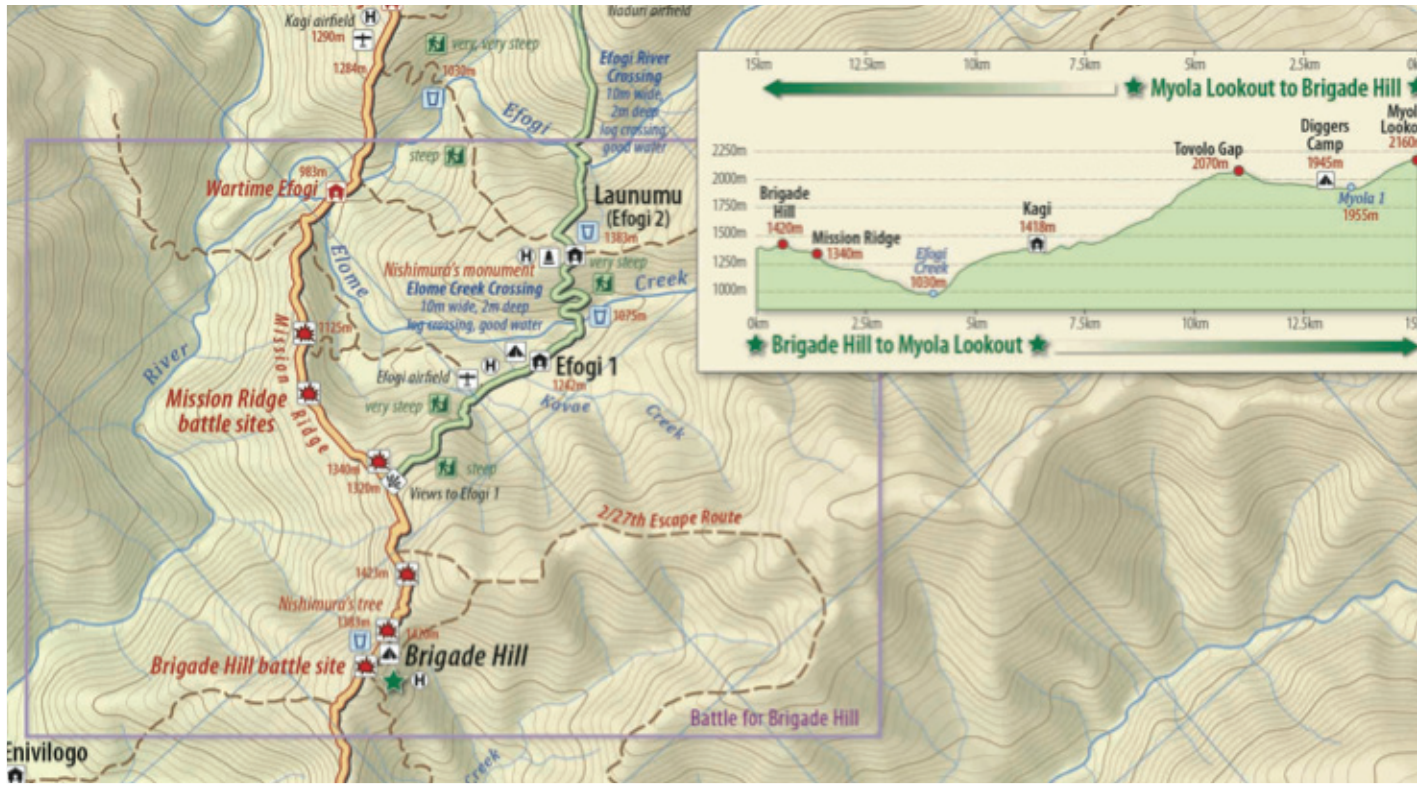
Numerous mapping expeditions were conducted over a four year period to identify the original wartime routes across the Kokoda Trail. The expeditions were conducted by former military officers' accompanied by Koiari and Orokaiva guides familiar with the old wartime trails.

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



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.

- 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 Koiari 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

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 the 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.

