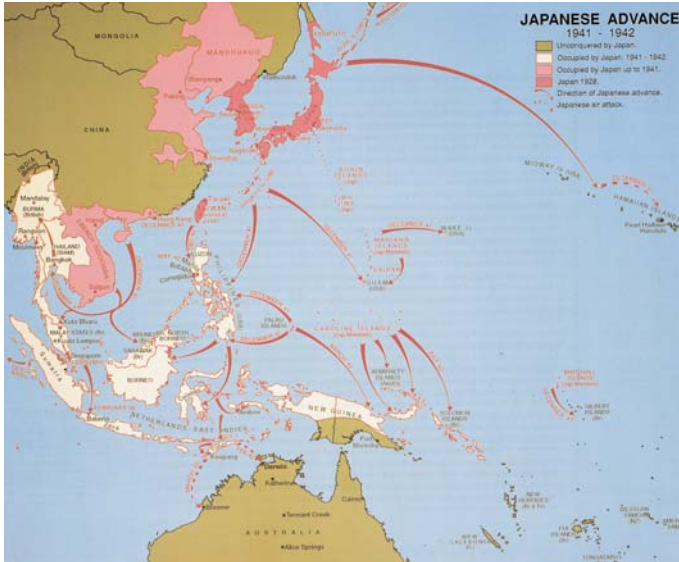


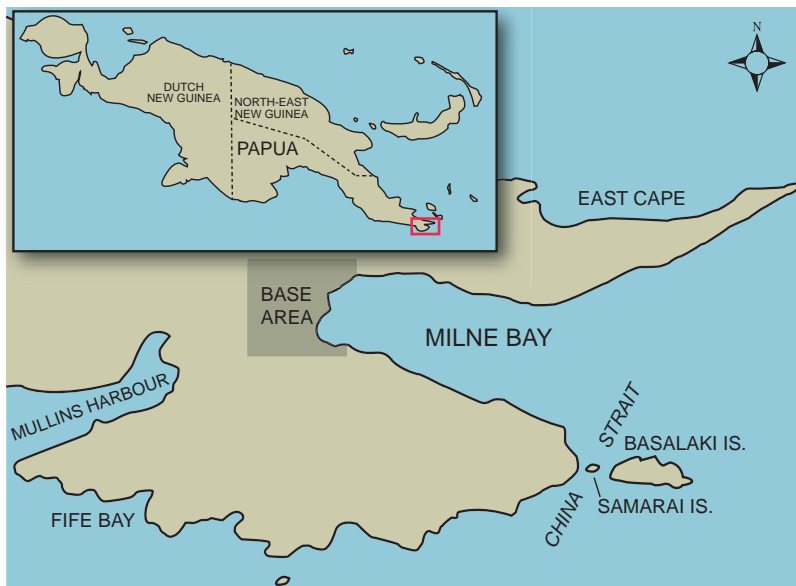
# Topic 1: Into battle

## Work Sheet 1D: Background to New Guinea, 1942–43

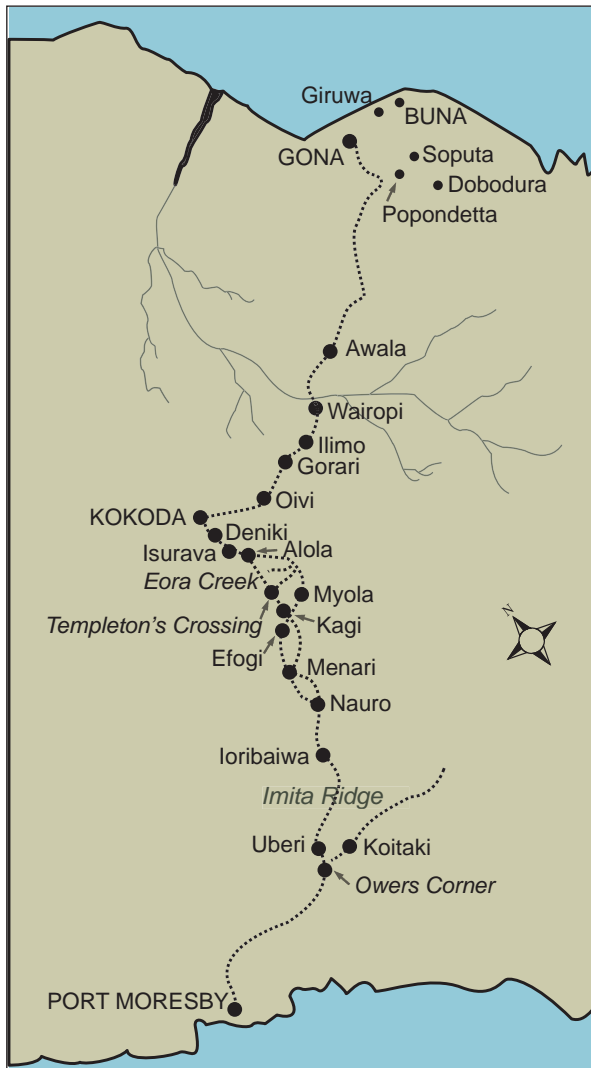
- 1 Japanese advance map at [www.wv2australia.gov.au/japadvance](http://www.wv2australia.gov.au/japadvance)  
Frank Alcorta, *Australia's Front Line: The Northern Territory's War*, Darwin, 1991



- 2 Inset map – Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea at [www.wv2australia.gov.au/asfaras/milnebay.html](http://www.wv2australia.gov.au/asfaras/milnebay.html)  
Map of Papua. Dotted line shows the Kokoda Track over the Owen Stanley Range from Owers Corner to Kokoda.



3 The Kokoda Track at [www.w2australia.gov.au/asfaras/kokoda.html](http://www.w2australia.gov.au/asfaras/kokoda.html)



**FACT FILE**

Place	Fact
Pearl Harbor	American naval base in the Pacific destroyed in a Japanese air raid on 7 December 1941.
Singapore	British Empire stronghold in south-east Asia captured by the Japanese on 15 February 1942.
Gona	Village on the north coast of Papua New Guinea. A Japanese force of 7000 men landed here in July 1942.
Milne Bay	Australian naval and air base on eastern tip of Papua New Guinea. The Japanese tried to capture it between August and September 1942 but were defeated by Australian troops. It was the first time a Japanese land force was defeated in World War II.
Kokoda Track	A single-file track, approximately 80 km long, crossing the rugged mountain jungle of the Owen Stanley Range between Port Moresby and the coastal town of Gona.
Kokoda	The largest village on the Kokoda Track. It was located on a small plateau 1200 feet above sea level and had the only airfield between Port Moresby and the north coast.
Port Moresby	Australian base. The largest and most important town in Papua New Guinea. It was the main objective of the Japanese invasion.
Darwin	Darwin in the Northern Territory suffered the first of many air raids by Japanese bombers on 19 February 1942.

# Questions

1 What was the significance for Australia of the Japanese actions against Pearl Harbor and Singapore?

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2 Why did the Japanese invade New Guinea?

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3 How did the Japanese invasion of New Guinea threaten Australia?

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4 Which town was the main objective of the Japanese invasion?

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5 Why did the Japanese wish to capture this town?

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6 At which two coastal towns did the Japanese land forces between July and August 1942? Find these two towns on the map. Can you suggest what the Japanese strategy was for the capture of Port Moresby?

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7 Why was it so important for the Australians to prevent the Japanese from capturing Port Moresby?

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8 What was the significance of the Australian victory against the Japanese at Milne Bay in the New Guinea campaign?

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9 Find the Kokoda Track on the map. Explain why it was so important in the New Guinea campaign for both the Australians and the Japanese.

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