



## Papua Marker

GPS S9 28.757 E147 8.882



*The Papua Marker is a bronze tablet displayed in the lobby of the U.S. Embassy in Papua New Guinea located on Douglas Street in downtown Port Moresby.*

## American Battle Monuments Commission

This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 26 American cemeteries and 29 memorials, monuments and markers in 16 countries. The Commission works to fulfill the vision of its first chairman, General of the Armies John J. Pershing. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I, promised that "time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

### American Battle Monuments Commission

2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 500  
Arlington, VA 22201 USA

### Manila American Cemetery

McKinley Road  
Global City, Taguig  
Republic of Philippines  
TEL 011-632-844-0212  
EMAIL [manila@abmc.gov](mailto:manila@abmc.gov)  
GPS N14 32.483 E121 03

### U.S. Embassy Port Moresby

Douglas Street, Port Moresby, N.C.D  
Papua New Guinea  
TEL (675) 321-1455  
EMAIL [ConsularPortMoresby@state.gov](mailto:ConsularPortMoresby@state.gov)

# Papua Marker

American Battle Monuments Commission



For more information on this site and other  
ABMC commemorative sites, please visit:

[www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov)

*"This monument is dedicated in humble tribute to the legacy of freedom secured for generations yet to come by those who fought for the allied cause."*

# The Papua and New Guinea Campaigns

The Papua Marker inscription reads:

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HONORS THE COURAGE AND SACRIFICE OF THE AMERICAN FIGHTING UNITS WHO WITH OUR AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ALLIES JOINED IN COMBAT AGAINST A DETERMINED FOE IN THIS LAND HALF A CENTURY AGO.

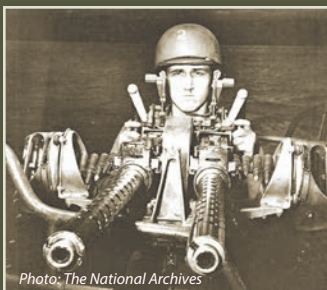
PAPUAN AND NEW GUINEAN SERVICE UNITS, THE ROYAL PAPUAN CONSTABULARY, SCOUTS, AND WAR-CARRIERS STOOD BRAVELY WITH THE ALLIES TO STEM THE TIDE OF MILITARISM IN THE PACIFIC. THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP FORGED HERE DURING WORLD WAR II ENDURE TO THIS DAY.

THIS MONUMENT IS DEDICATED IN HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO THE LEGACY OF FREEDOM SECURED FOR GENERATIONS YET TO COME BY THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR THE ALLIED CAUSE.

DEDICATED ON NOVEMBER 6, 1992  
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF GENERAL DOUGLAS  
MACARTHUR'S SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA COMMAND  
IN PORT MORESBY.

## The Papua and New Guinea Campaigns, 1942-1944

The Japanese, after defeats at the naval battles of the Coral Sea and Midway in early 1942, built up forces in northeastern New Guinea. The aim was to threaten Australia by marching south over the Owen Stanley Mountains to capture Port Moresby.



*Gunner on a U.S. Navy PT Boat aims his .50-caliber guns during patrol off the Papuan coast, July 8, 1943.*

*Photo: The National Archives*



*Visitors see the Papua Marker upon entering the U.S. Embassy at Port Moresby.*

*Photos: U.S. Embassy Port Moresby*

*Cover photo: U.S. 41st Infantry Division soldiers land on Wakde Island off the north coast of New Guinea, May 18, 1944.*

*Photo: The National Archives*

General Douglas MacArthur, commanding the Southwest Pacific Area (SWPA) force, began reinforcing Australian units around Port Moresby.

**AUGUST 13, 1942:** Japanese forces started south. U.S. and Australian forces, reinforced by Papuan and New Guinean units, countered by moving northward. Air supply helped the Allies survive in the jungles and mountains. Intense fighting in the Buna-Gona and Milne Bay areas defeated Japanese forces.

**JANUARY 23, 1943:** The Papua Campaign ended. Both sides suffered heavy casualties from combat and tropical diseases.

**JANUARY 24:** The New Guinea Campaign began. For almost two years, Allied ground, air, and naval forces advanced along the northern coast and nearby islands.

**DECEMBER 31, 1944:** The New Guinea Campaign ended.



*Papua New Guinean natives carry Red Cross blood plasma to front lines to treat wounded soldiers, sailors, and marines.*

*Photo: The National Archives*