



### **3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division on Bougainville (Operation Cherry Blossom)**

1st November 1943, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division, main unit of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Amphibious Corps (IMAC), landed on Bougainville Island as part of the reconquest of the Salomons. Named « Cherry Blossom », the operation consisted to establish a solid beach head on the west coast of the island, to secure it against Japanese attacks and to build two airstrips in the jungle in order to dispose of an important air support in this area of the Pacific theater. But the Japanese thought differently and the soldiers of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment resisted tooth and nail during two months, launching several counter attacks against the beach head, in spite of their limited means. For the Marines, the battle in the swampy jungle was particularly distressing. They had to fight in an hostile environment (mosquitos, leechs, snakes) and against a relentless enemy using snipers, camouflaged positions for machine-guns and « banzaï » charges unexpected.

This campaign composed of 10 scenarios describes the jungle battles of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division on Bougainville Island in the Salomons, from the initial landing to its relief by units of the Army. This is, once again, a not well-known campaign of the World War II, but the men who were involved in deserved to be known and recognized by History as well as those of Tarawa, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Jdrommel.



## Campaign notes

### Expansions needed to play with the base game :

- One « Terrain Pack » expansion;
- One « Pacific Theater » expansion;
- One « Equipment Pack » expansion for some figures as snipers and materials.

### Gaming

This campaign is simply played in the chronological order of the scenarios. There are no advanced rules.

### Chronological order of the scenarios:

- 16746 – Landing at Cape Torokina – 01/11/1943
- 16774 – Battle of Koromokina Lagoon - 07/11/1943
- 16790 – The roadblock – Action 1 - 07/11/1943
- 17063 – The roadblock – Action 2 – 09/11/1943
- 17074 – Battle of Coconut Grove – 13/09/1943
- 17086 – The Piva Forks – 19/11/1943
- 17089 – Battle of Cibik Ridge - 22/11/1943
- 17088 – Koiari Beach – 29/11/1943
- 17091 - Hellzapoppin Ridge – 18/12/1943
- 17092 - Hill 600A – 23/12/1943



## Who wins the Bougainville campaign?

In accordance with history, the US Marines won the campaign by establishing a strong beach head and securing two new airstrips, although the Japanese army stayed on Bougainville until the end of war. However, during the jungle fighting, Japanese troops had showed their courage and their contempt of the death. The Marines were well-trained and had the superiority in armaments, even though they had some difficulties to win the enemy. But in this campaign, each scenario is well-balanced to give a chance to win to the two players. The winner will be the one who implements the better strategy (or who have the best fortune with dices).

Counting up the Victory points:

- 1 VP by full ENY unit destroyed,
- 1 additional VP by medal token gained,
- 1 VP by scenario won.

### Victory Points Counter Sheet (available VP).

<i>SCENARIO</i>	<i>ALLIES</i>	<i>AXE</i>
<b>Landing at Cape Torokina</b>	(6+1+1)	(6+1)
<b>Battle of Koromokina Lagoon</b>	(6+1)	(6+1)
<b>The roadblock – Action 1</b>	(6+1)	(6+1+1)
<b>The roadblock – Action 2</b>	(6+1+1)	(6+1)
<b>Battle of Coconut Grove</b>	(6+1+1)	(6+1)
<b>The Piva Forks</b>	(6+1)	(6+1)
<b>Battle of Cibik Ridge</b>	(6+1)	(6+1)
<b>Koiari Beach</b>	(5+1+1)	(5+1)
<b>Hellzapoppin Ridge</b>	(6+1+1)	(6+1)
<b>Hill 600A</b>	(5+1+1)	(5+1)
<b>Total</b>	(74)	<b>PV</b> (69)

### Bibliography:

- Hyperwar USMC Monograph – The Marines in Northern Salomons.



