

Photo # USMC 51822 Maj. Gen. Alexander A. Vandegrift, USMC, in his command tent on Guadalcanal, 1942



Guadalcanal Campaign

Objective:
Henderson Airfield

Location:
Solomon Islands, Guadalcanal

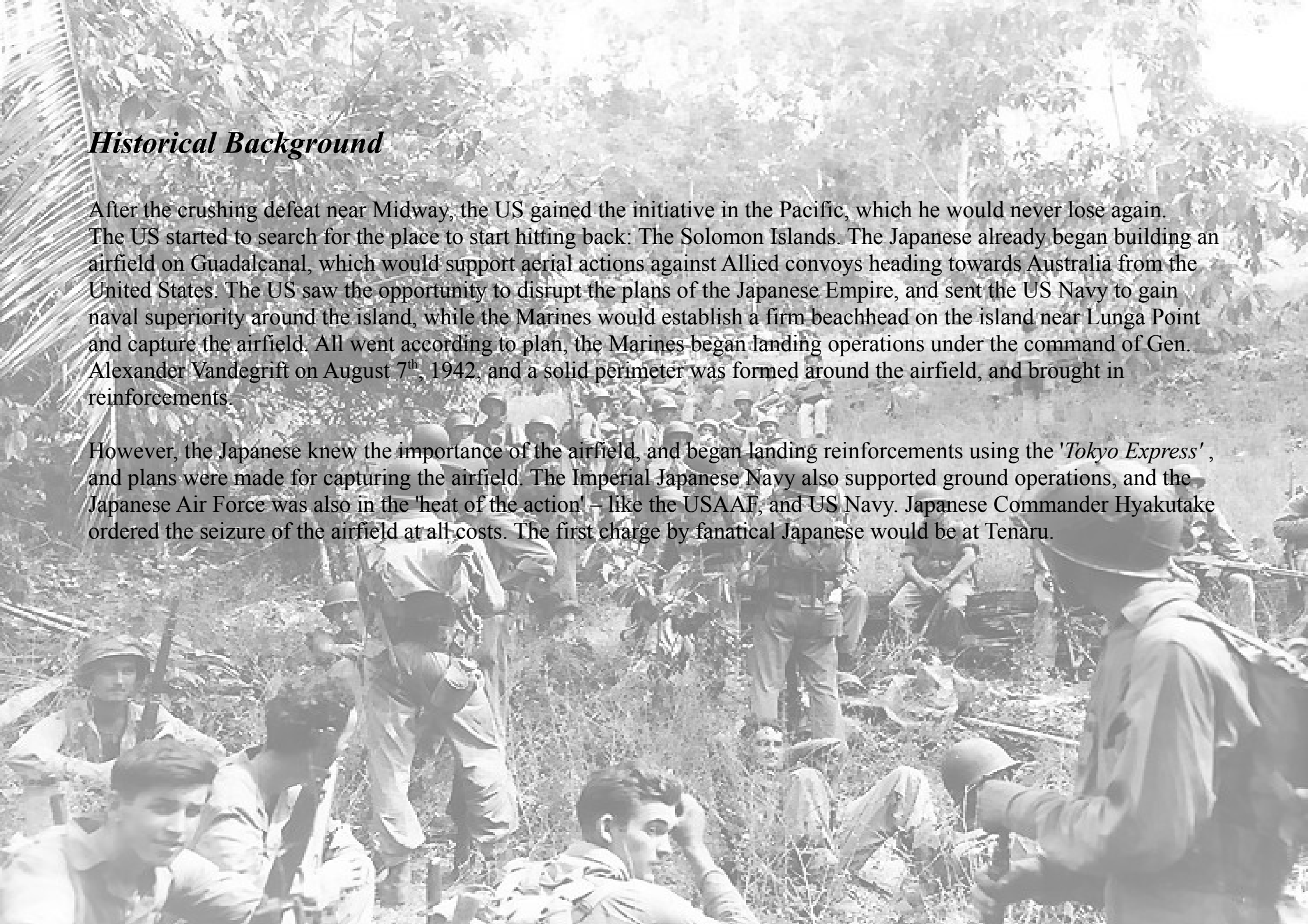
Commanders:
Lt. Gen. Harukichi Hyakutake
Gen. Alexander Vandegrift



Historical Background

After the crushing defeat near Midway, the US gained the initiative in the Pacific, which he would never lose again. The US started to search for the place to start hitting back: The Solomon Islands. The Japanese already began building an airfield on Guadalcanal, which would support aerial actions against Allied convoys heading towards Australia from the United States. The US saw the opportunity to disrupt the plans of the Japanese Empire, and sent the US Navy to gain naval superiority around the island, while the Marines would establish a firm beachhead on the island near Lunga Point and capture the airfield. All went according to plan, the Marines began landing operations under the command of Gen. Alexander Vandegrift on August 7th, 1942, and a solid perimeter was formed around the airfield, and brought in reinforcements.

However, the Japanese knew the importance of the airfield, and began landing reinforcements using the '*Tokyo Express*', and plans were made for capturing the airfield. The Imperial Japanese Navy also supported ground operations, and the Japanese Air Force was also in the 'heat of the action' – like the USAAF, and US Navy. Japanese Commander Hyakutake ordered the seizure of the airfield at all costs. The first charge by fanatical Japanese would be at Tenaru.



The Campaign

The campaign consists of overall 6 scenarios, created by:

-Tenaru – by RBorg (official scenario 61A)

-Bloody Ridge – by RBorg (official scenario 62A)

-Matanikau River – by RBorg (official scenario 50A)

-Slopes of Mount Austen – by Rborg (official scenario 51A)

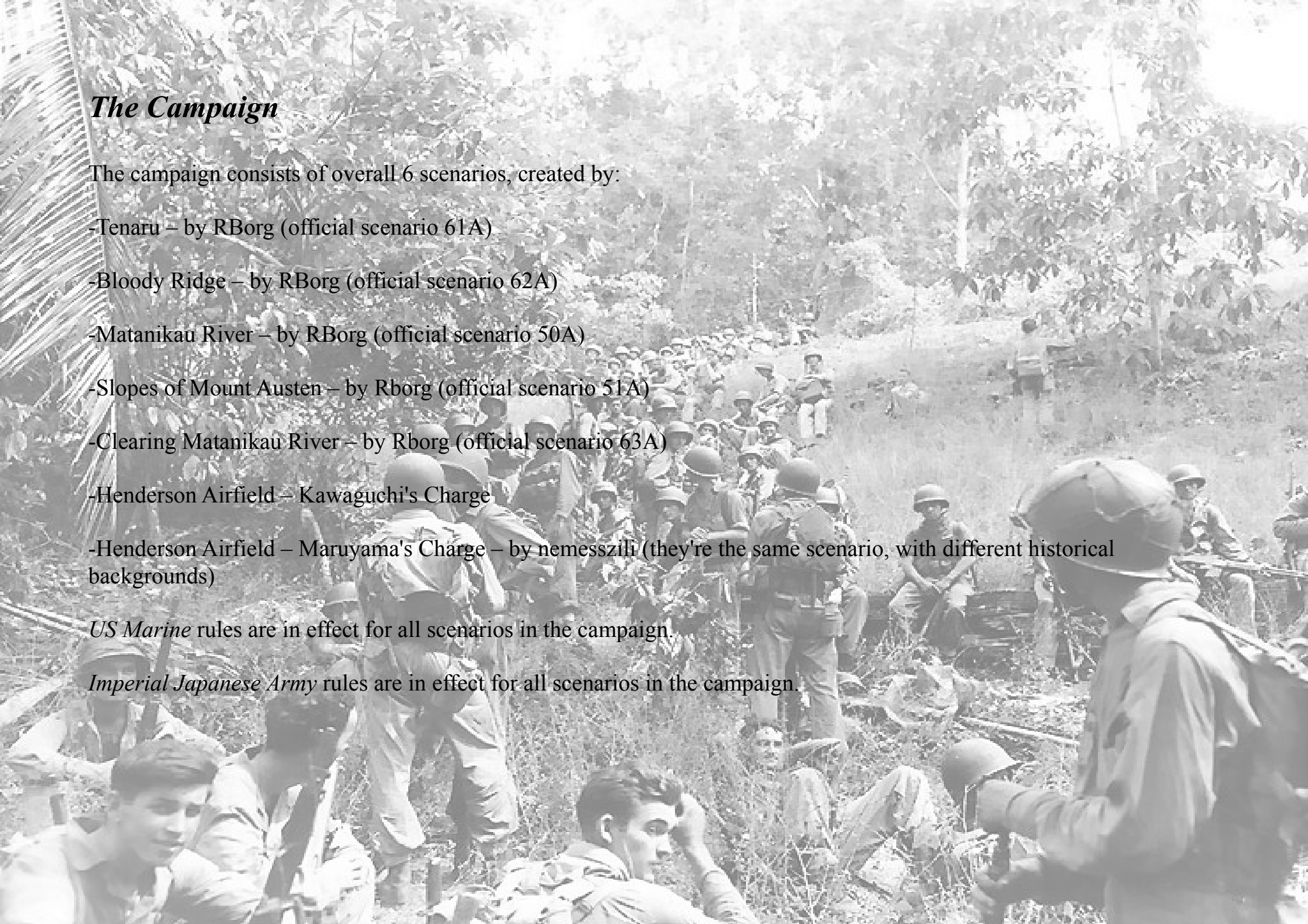
-Clearing Matanikau River – by Rborg (official scenario 63A)

-Henderson Airfield – Kawaguchi's Charge

-Henderson Airfield – Maruyama's Charge – by nemesszili (they're the same scenario, with different historical backgrounds)

US Marine rules are in effect for all scenarios in the campaign.

Imperial Japanese Army rules are in effect for all scenarios in the campaign.





Air rules are optional, but advised for good balance: If used, follow the scenarios' information.

The Marines may call in the F4U Corsair, P-38 Lightning Recon/Ground* attack plane and the P-40 Warhawk.

The Japanese may call in only the A6M Zero.

**Note: The Marine player may decide which type of the P-38 shall enter the battlefield:*

-P-38 Recon: Strafing + Recon (see Storch)

-P-38 GAP: Strafing + Ground Support.

Special Reserve Rolls:

Reserve rolls are carried out as explained in the campaign rules, except for these special rolls:

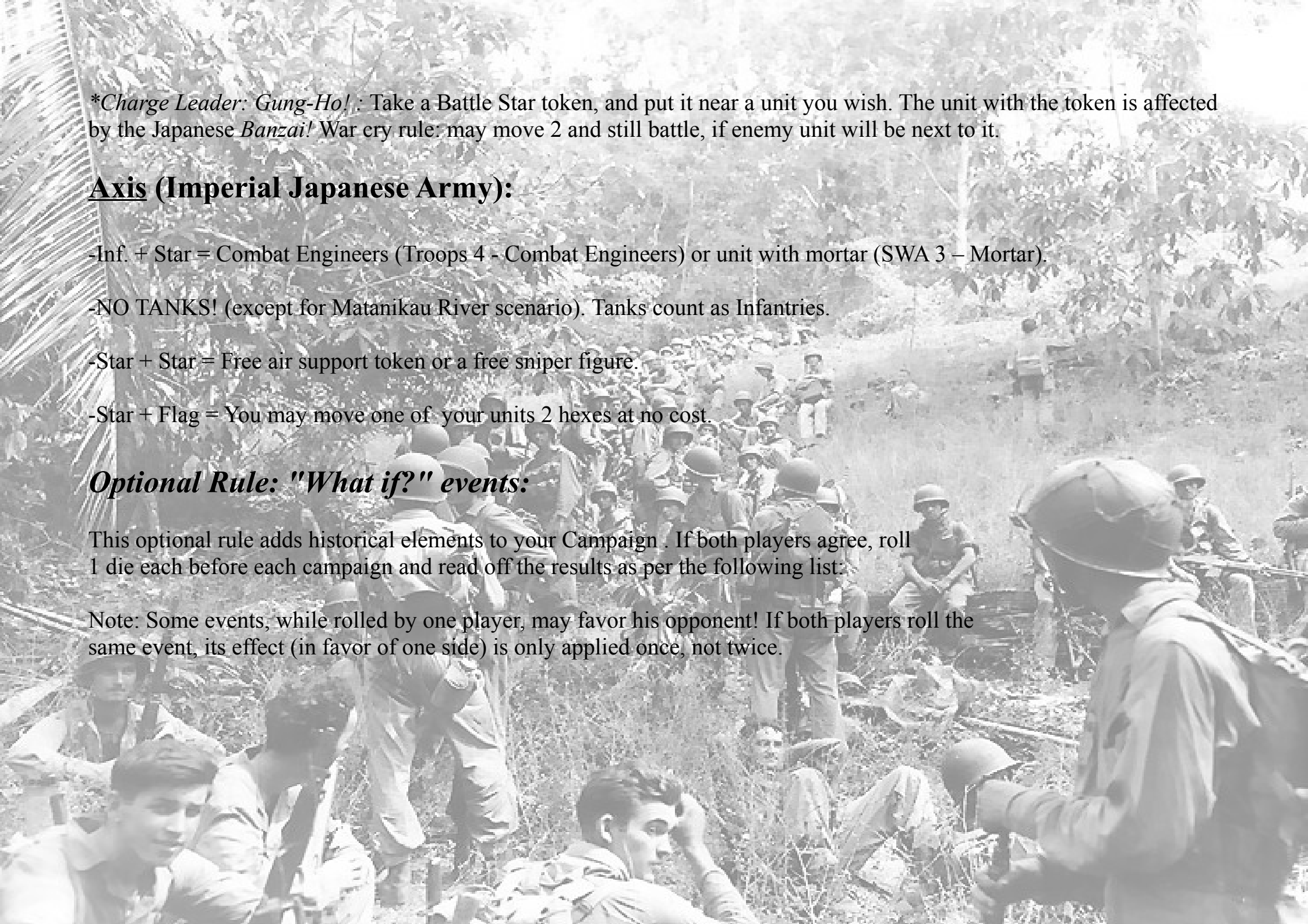
Allies (United States Marine Corps):

-Inf. + Star = Combat Engineers (Troops 4 - Combat Engineers) or unit with mortar (SWA 3 - Mortar).

-Tank + Star = *M5 General Stuart 'Satan' Flamethrower Tank* (Troops 13 - Flame Thrower Tanks).

-Star + Star = Free air support Token or special *Charge Leader: Gung-Ho!**

-Star + Flag = Counts as 2 flags = 2 free sandbags



**Charge Leader: Gung-Ho!* : Take a Battle Star token, and put it near a unit you wish. The unit with the token is affected by the Japanese *Banzai!* War cry rule: may move 2 and still battle, if enemy unit will be next to it.

Axis (Imperial Japanese Army):

-Inf. + Star = Combat Engineers (Troops 4 - Combat Engineers) or unit with mortar (SWA 3 – Mortar).

-NO TANKS! (except for Matanikau River scenario). Tanks count as Infantries.

-Star + Star = Free air support token or a free sniper figure.

-Star + Flag = You may move one of your units 2 hexes at no cost.

Optional Rule: "What if?" events:

This optional rule adds historical elements to your Campaign . If both players agree, roll 1 die each before each campaign and read off the results as per the following list.

Note: Some events, while rolled by one player, may favor his opponent! If both players roll the same event, its effect (in favor of one side) is only applied once, not twice.

Allies

Infantry :

Heavy Pacific Rain.

All aircrafts are forced to remain on their airfields.

Neither side may call up airplanes during the campaign, and airplanes on airfields are removed.

Tank:

Naval support.

US Navy grants fire support for the Marines.

Take a US medal token. It functions exactly as a Barrage card, and you may use it once.

Grenade:

Fatal accident.

General Vandegrift has an accident during the landing, and is badly hurt. He cannot lead his troops.

The Marine player loses one card in the first 2 scenarios, and the Vandegrift unit is removed from the 'Henderson Airfield' scenarios.

Flag:

Japanese surprise landing in Australia!

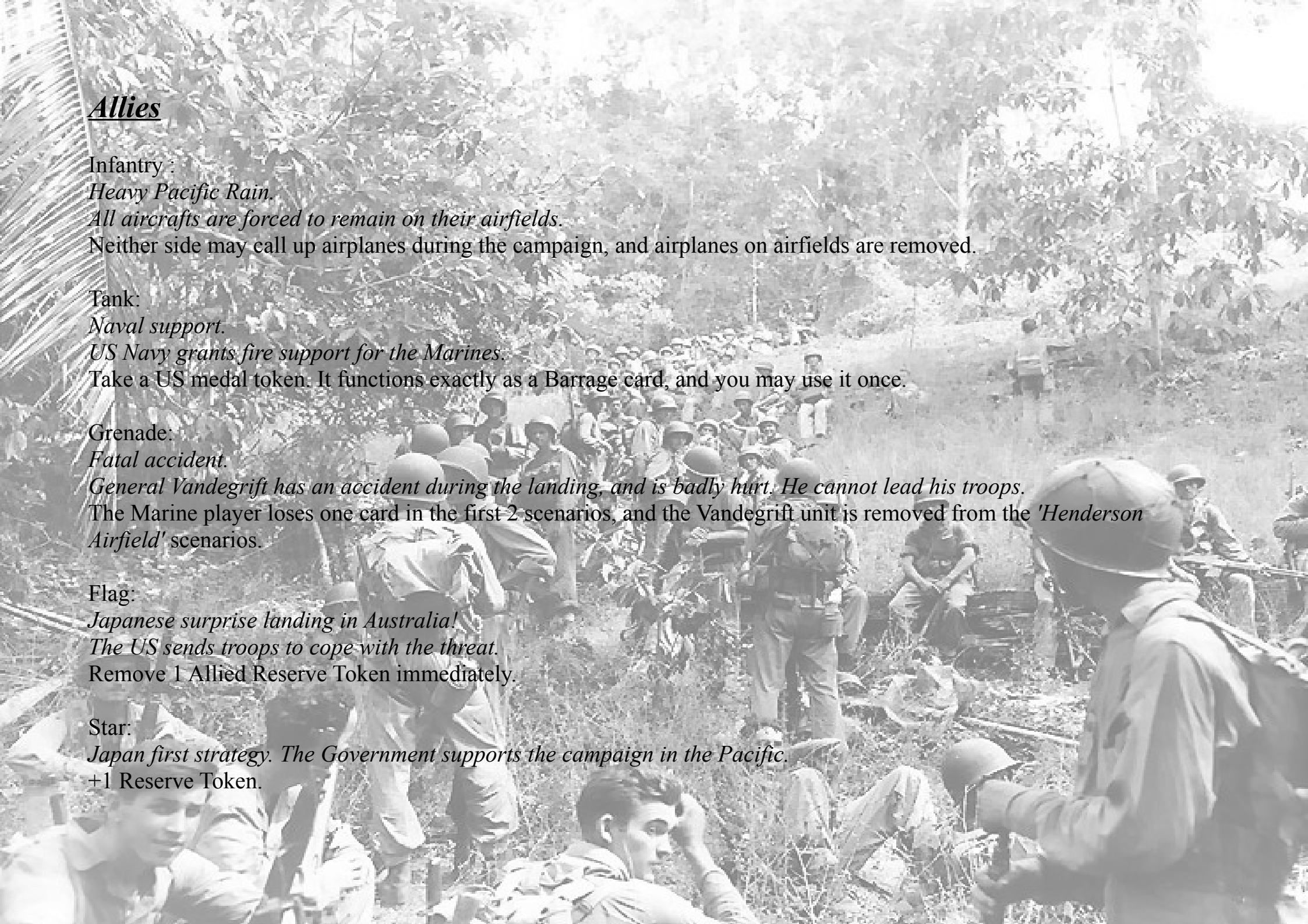
The US sends troops to cope with the threat.

Remove 1 Allied Reserve Token immediately.

Star:

Japan first strategy. The Government supports the campaign in the Pacific.

+1 Reserve Token.



Axis

Infantry :

Heavy Pacific Rain.

All aircrafts are forced to remain on their airfields.

Neither side may call up airplanes during the campaign, and airplanes on airfields are removed.

Tank:

Naval support.

Imperial Japanese Navy grants fire support for the Japanese Forces.

Take a Japanese medal token. It functions exactly as a Barrage card, and you may use it once.

Grenade:

Offensive in New Guinea!

'Tokio Express' detours to New Guinea to bring support.

The Japanese Player loses immediately 1 Reserve Token.

Flag:

US Navy raid.

'Tokio Express' is attacked by the US Navy.

The ship containing artillery is sunk.

Japanese Player may not call up artillery units during the campaign.

Star:

Tank doctrine. Japan sends tanks to battle on Guadalcanal.

The Japanese Player may call up tanks during the campaign.

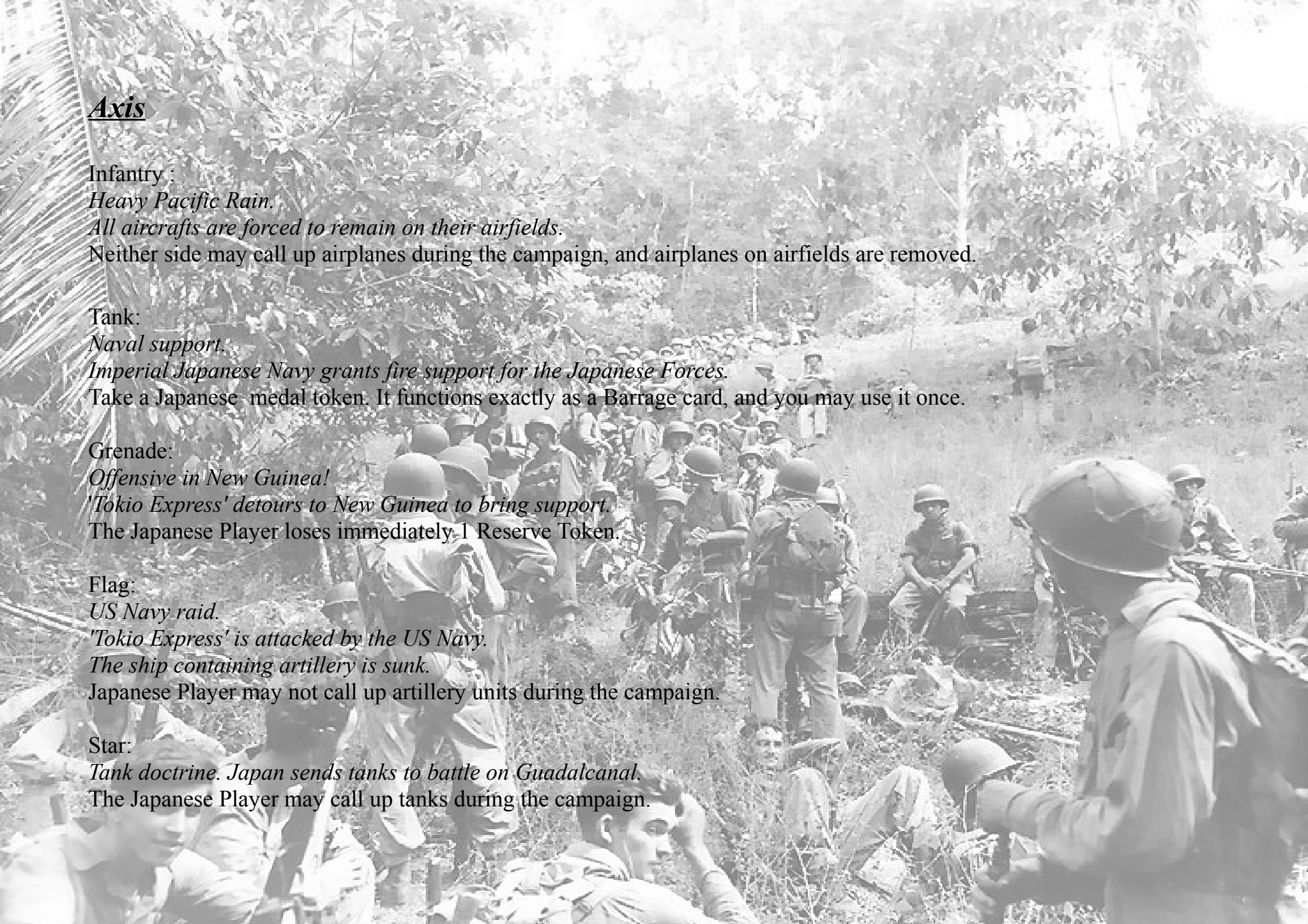


Photo # USMC 51822 Maj.Gen. Alexander A. Vandegrift, USMC, in his command tent on Guadalcanal, 1942



This is it, men. Our boys have established a firm beachhead on Guadalcanal, and have captured the airport still under construction, and have established a perimeter around it. The airfield's construction was successfully finished, and it has got the name of one of our former aviator: Henderson Airfield.

Don't think, that the Japs are just watching us, I'm sure, they'll try to eliminate the beachhead, thus securing the Airfield for themselves, and using it to disrupt Australia's supply chain, and to use it against our own Navy.

Men, stay strong, and if the Japanese should succeed, then make them pay many lives for this airfield!

– General Alexander Vandegrift, Commander of US Forces on Guadalcanal



After the glorious air raid on Pearl Harbor, our Army and Navy quickly occupied key positions in the Pacific, and captured much-needed resources for our Empire. However, the US showed the white of it's teeth at Midway, but our Navy can still fight back.

We planned to build an airfield on Guadalcanal, with which we can harass supply lines of the Allies in the South Pacific. The Americans noticed these preparations, and have landed a force on Guadalcanal, which is poised to seize the Island, and hurt our Great Empire.

Commander, we have landed reinforcements using our '*Tokio Express*', and with these forces you must gain control of the Airfield, and dislodge the Americans from their beachhead. Banzai!

Objectives	0	1	2	3	4	5
Points	-1	0	1	1	2	3

JAPANESE COUNTEROFFENSIVE

23-26 October 1942

Axis Player:
2 Reserves

Clearing the
Matanikau

End Campaign

Matanikau River

Henderson
Airfield -
Maruyama's
Charge

*Starting
Scenario:*
Tenaru

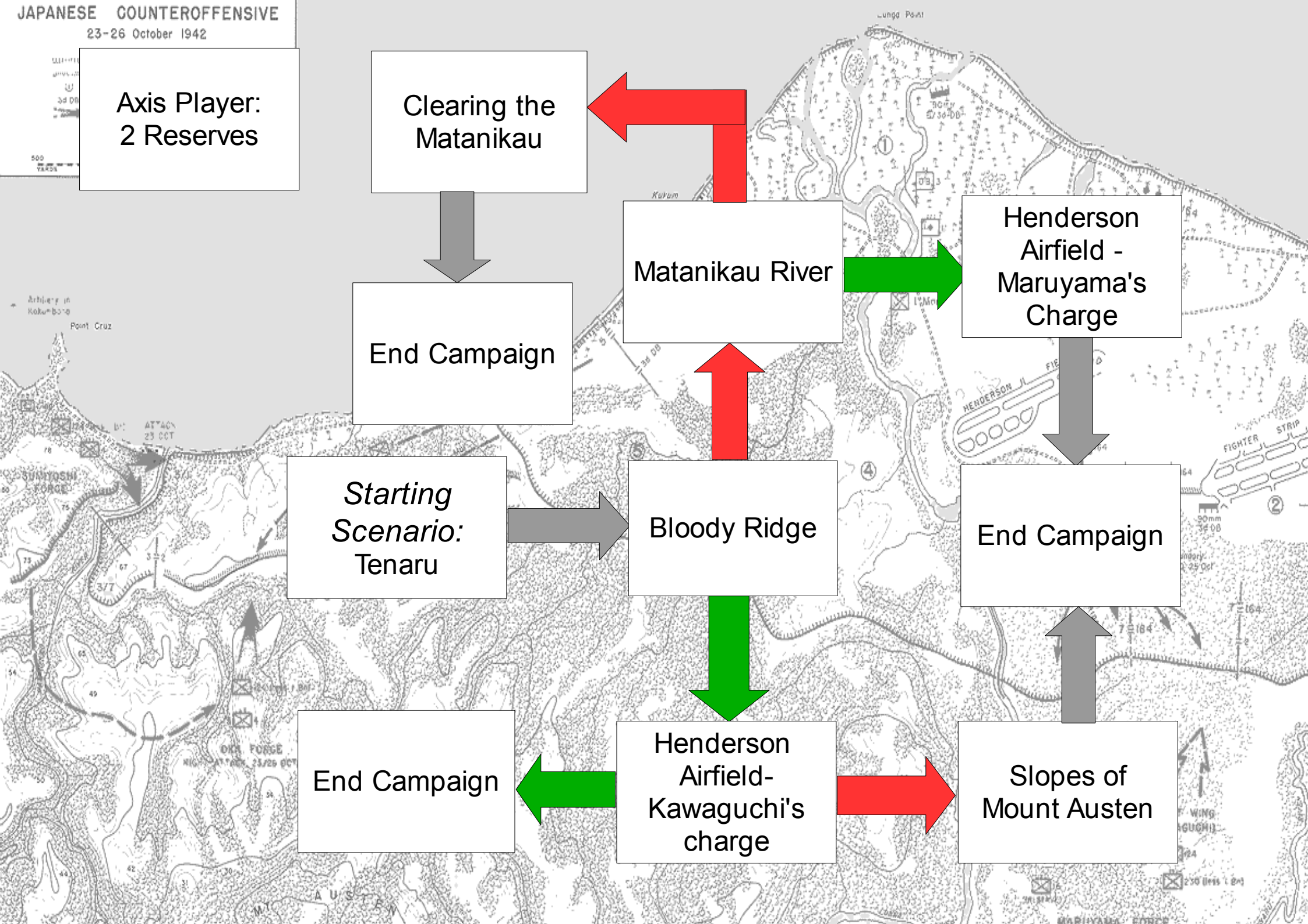
Bloody Ridge

End Campaign

End Campaign

Henderson
Airfield-
Kawaguchi's
charge

Slopes of
Mount Austen





Japanese Victories

Tenaru:

Our units have successfully broken through, but the Americans saved the situation by sending reinforcements, and re-establishing the line! Better luck next time!

Bloody Ridge (Edson Ridge):

Wonderful! Victorious Japanese soldiers are marching towards the Airfield, despite heavy resistance put up by the Marines at this Ridge. Just drive on, and recapture the Airfield! Banzai!

Unable to hold the Ridge, the Marines' morale drops:
+1 Victory Event die for the next scenario.

Henderson Airfield – Kawaguchi's Charge:

Outstanding! Your counterattack's news has reached even the Emperor's ear, and it's sure you will get your well deserved promotion!

Slopes of Mount Austen:

The Americans' stiff resistance at the Airfield prevented us from full victory, but at least you've prohibited the Americans from capturing the whole Island! You were close to your goal, so you deserve to lead the crushing counterattack after we receive reinforcements in April... You might get a medal then! Dismissed!



Matanikau River:

Kawaguchi has failed in September to take the Airfield, but now the seizure of the Airfield is not a dream anymore!
Lead the victorious charge against the Airfield!

Our tanks, which fought at Matanikau River, were sent to your support.
They were ambushed, so only a fragment of the tanks arrive.
You get a free 2-figure armor unit, which you may put up on the left flank.

Henderson Airfield – Maruyama's Charge:

With support from Maruyama's weary troops, who fought on the same Ridge, where Kawaguchi fought last month,
we were able to achieve victory! You receive the order of the Golden Kite!

Clearing the Matanikau:

You are a shame of the Empire! Not only you failed your counterattack, but you have lost key positions on Guadalcanal!
We have to evacuate the remainder of our force. But because the Americans were held up here, you may enter a transport
ship leaving the Island... Dismissed!

American Victories:

Tenaru:

Excellent! Now the Japs won't be trying crazy charges like this one...

Bloody Ridge (Edson Ridge):

General Edson's Marines successfully repulsed the Japanese charge, causing much trouble for them. Let's hope they won't attack again. And if they do, stop'em!

Your Marines' courage gives inspiration to other units:
in the next scenario Infantry units next to another Infantry may ignore 1 flag.
This bonus is NOT cumulative.

Matanikau River:

How many are these fanatics?! How many times do we have to repulse them again?
We must launch a counter strike and finally dislodge them from the Island. Charge!

Clearing the Matanikau:

Great! You've sent'em back to Tokio, and the Island is finally ours! MacArthur awards you the Medal of Honor!
Congratulations! (For fun: put an American victory medal on your shirt: that's just the Medal of Honor! :D)

Henderson Airfield – Maruyama's Charge:

The Japanese fanaticism brought an unexpected victory for them at the Matanikau River. However, your courageous defense held off the Japanese. Well done! You are promoted!

Henderson Airfield – Kawaguchi's Charge:

General Edson's troops failed to stop the Japs, but you've halted their advance!
Prepare to dislodge the Japanese from the Mountain near the Airfield: Mount Austen.

Your troops are ready for revenge! You get a free Charge Leader: Gung-Ho! Marker.

Slopes of Mount Austen:

At last, the Airfield is finally secure! You were unable to hold the Japanese off at all places, but I'm sure you'll get a medal soon!

