

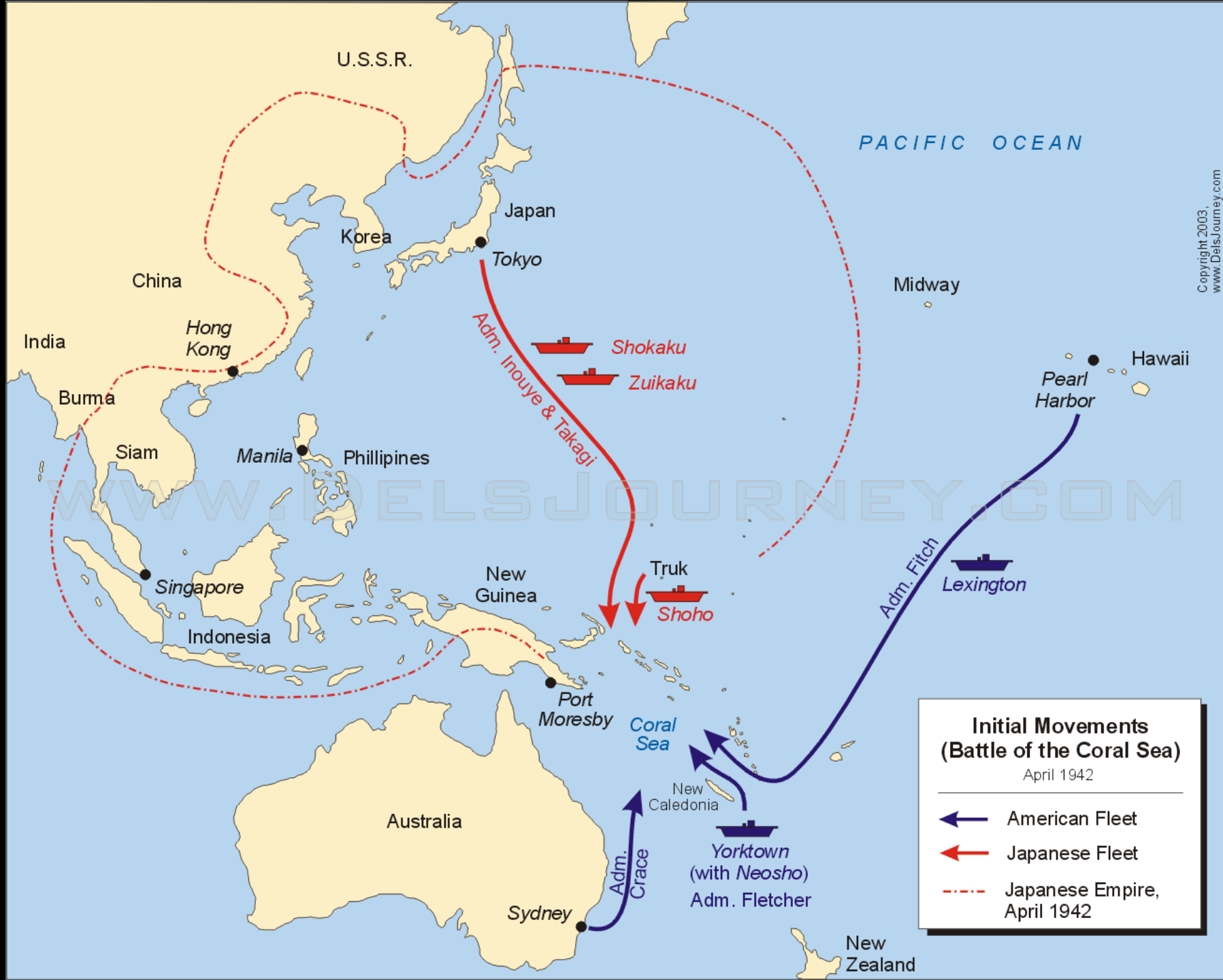
The Pacific Theater






Battle of Coral Sea

May 1942

- American fleet intercepts a Japanese strike force en route to Port Moresby in New
 - Control of this base makes Australia an easy target
- New kind of naval warfare
 - Ships did not fire a single shot.
 - Instead they used their air wings to attack one another



**Initial Movements
(Battle of the Coral Sea)**
April 1942

-  American Fleet
-  Japanese Fleet
-  Japanese Empire, April 1942

Battle of Midway

- Japanese target Midway Island
 - 1,500 miles west of Hawaii
- Allied code breakers were able to find out the Japanese plans
 - Allowed Admiral Chester Nimitz, commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific fleet to get ready



Sea of Japan

Japan

North
Pacific
Ocean



Midway
Islands

Wake Island



Hawaii







Admiral Yamamoto

- Remember his goal after Doolittle Raid?
 - Do destroy all of the Pacific fleet's aircraft carriers
- Hopes this attack will draw out all of the ships from Pearl Harbor to defend the island.

June 4, 1942

- Nimitz sitting over the horizon allows the Japanese to start and attack on the island.
 - As the Japanese planes begin to take off...
 - American planes swoop in and attack while most of the planes are still sitting on the decks of the aircraft carriers.
- American's destroy 332 Japanese planes and ALL FOUR AIRCRAFT CARRIERS
- We lose one aircraft carrier → USS Yorktown



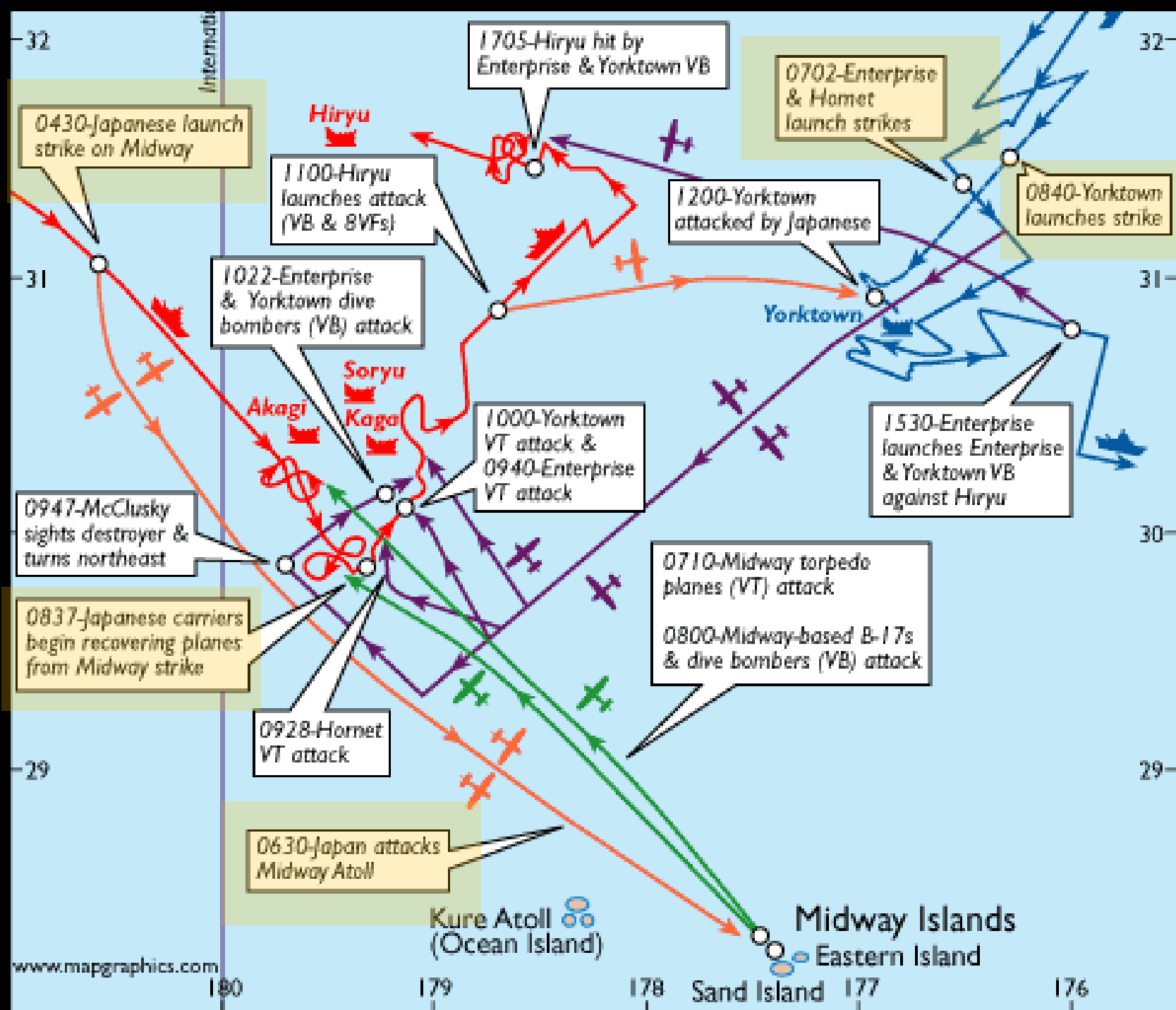




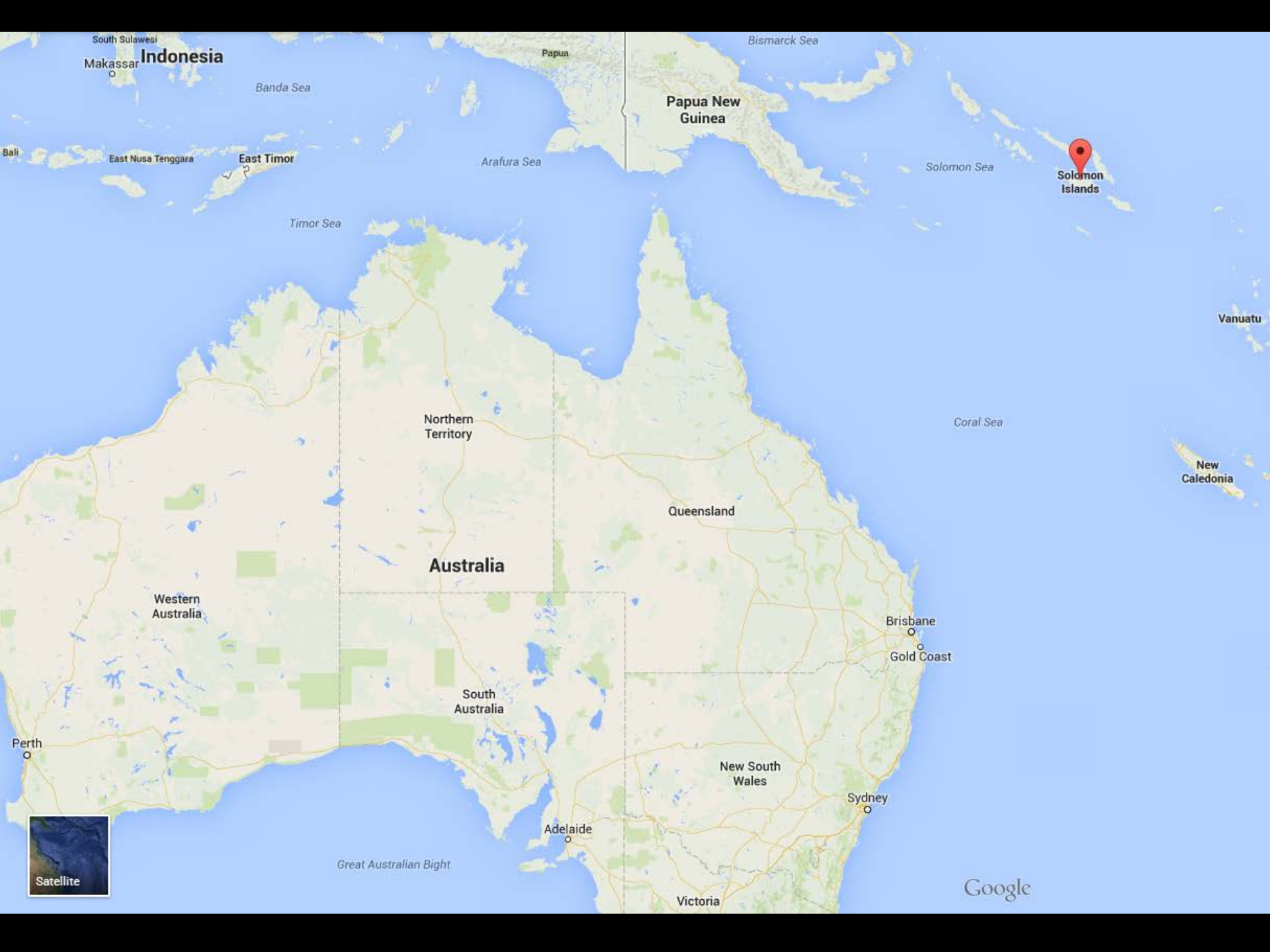


Photo # 80-G-312018 On board USS Yorktown after she was hit by dive bombers



Guadalcanal

- General MacArthur → Commander of allied land forces in the Pacific
 - Storming each island would take too long
 - “Island hop”- moving past Japanese strongholds and seizing island that were not well defended but closer to Japan
- Guadalcanal- first opportunity in Solomon Islands
 - August 7th, 1942- thousands of Marines land



South Sulawesi
Makassar
Indonesia

Papua New Guinea

Solomon Islands

Australia

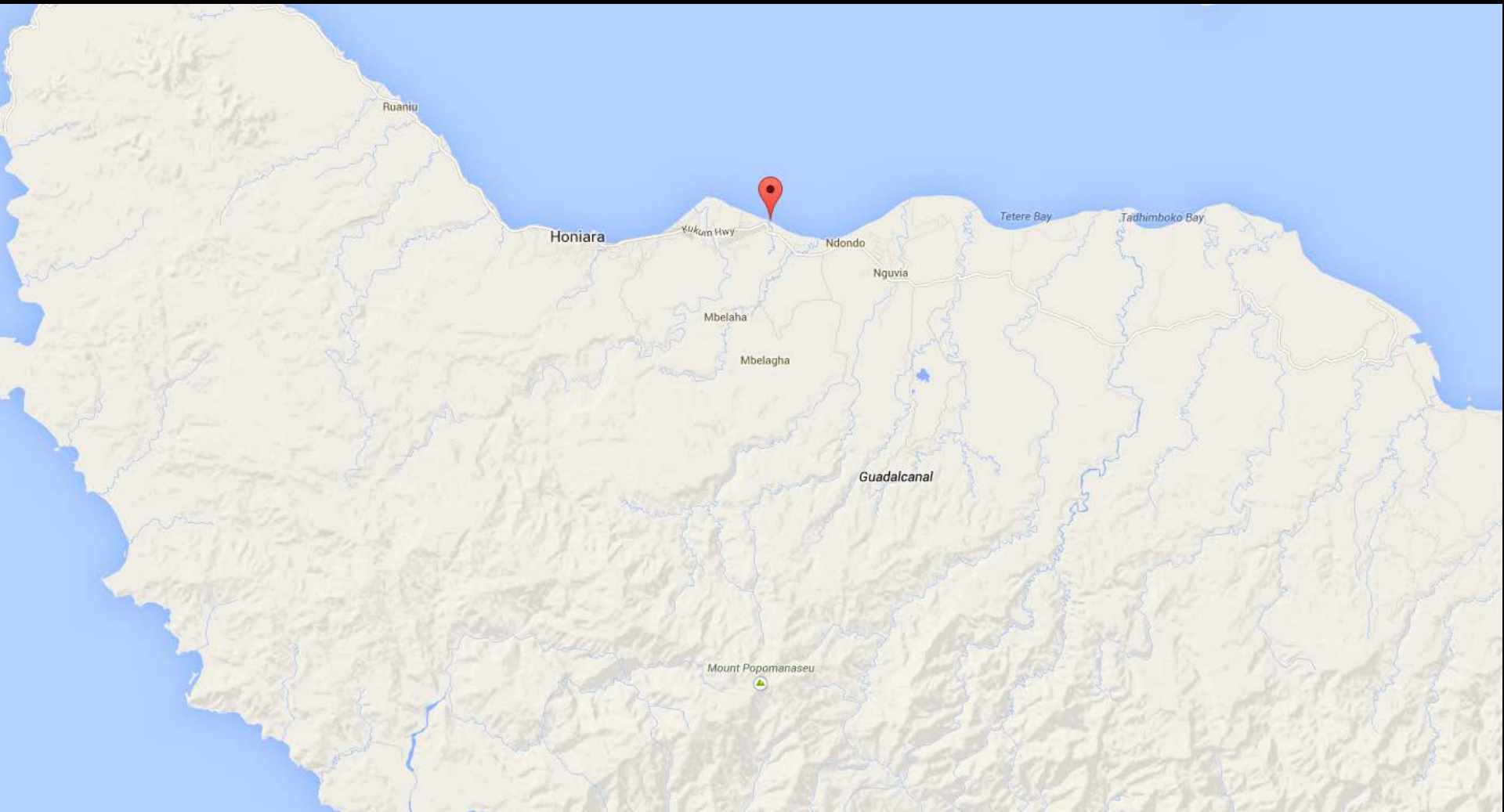
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Guadalcanal (cont.)

August 7th, 1942

- Japanese building huge airfield
 - Allies → strike fast to keep from it becoming a Japanese stronghold
- Trouble seizing the airfield
 - Extremely savage
- February 1943 → Six months of fighting end
- Japanese lose 24,000 out of 36,000 men
 - Became known as the “Island of Death”





Solomon Islands College of Higher Education

King George VI National High School

Honiara International Airport

Holy Name of Mary Seminary

Red Beach Japan War Memorial

The Pacific- Guadalcanal



Kamikazes

- Japanese tactic used after disastrous losses in the Battle of Leyte Gulf in October 1942.
- Kamikaze → Japanese suicide pilots that would crash their planes into ships.



Iwo Jima

March 1945



- 760 miles from Tokyo
- 2 months of bitter fighting
- Tunnels everywhere



Photo # 80-G-346162 Iwo Jima, looking toward Mt. Suribachi, 26 May 1945







Okinawa

April 1, 1945

- One of the bloodiest battles of World War II.
- Japanese losses → 100,000
- American losses → 12,000