



LANDING CRAFT UNLOAD PART OF AN INVASION ON THE BEACH AT TANAHMERA BAY, WHERE WESTERN ARM OF THE U. S. PINCERS AGAINST HOLLANDIA AIRFIELDS WENT ASHORE

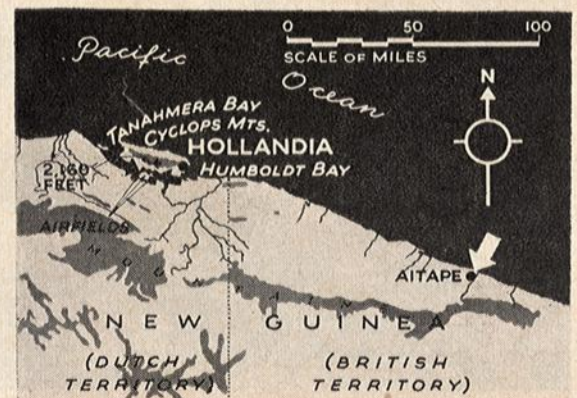
THE ALLIES ADVANCE IN NEW GUINEA

In one great bound last month the allies took control of 450 miles of New Guinea coastline. By seizing the Japanese airfields at Hollandia (see map at right), they gained as much ground as U. S. and Australian troops had taken in almost two years of slow misery in the jungle. There were still elements of six Japanese divisions and one brigade (about 60,000 men) strung along the coast to the rear, but this force received scant attention from the allied command. Cut off like the Japanese in the eastern Marshalls and on Bougainville, it will have little strength for offensive fighting. Allied plans turned to the north and west, using Hollandia as a new point of departure.

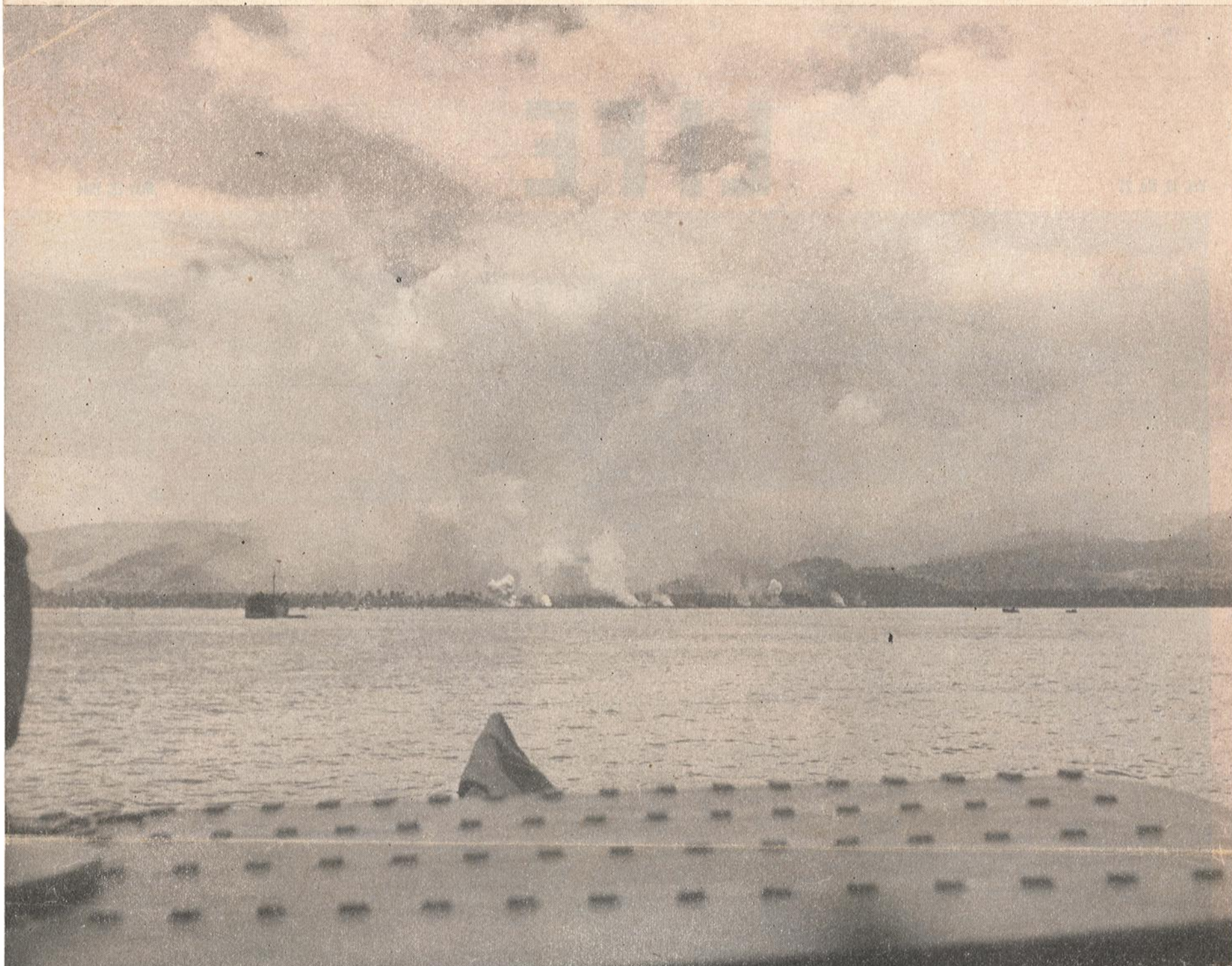
Hollandia was not a victory won in pitched battle. The airfields fell in six days of light skirmishing. It was, however, a victory for U. S. strength and brains.

Curiously, the Japanese were pulled out of position by the enormous power which had been focused on small objectives like Kwajalein and Eniwetok. In New Guinea, the Japanese reasoned, such an attack would come at Wewak, only 175 miles from the allied lines. They concentrated their forces, including 3,000 marines withdrawn from Hollandia, at Wewak to meet this threat. It was a disastrous guess. Defended by disorganized service troops, Hollandia was taken with a loss of only 28 U. S. lives.

While the U. S. troops went ashore at Hollandia, another force made a secondary landing 125 miles down the coast at Aitape (pronounced Aytapay). Four days after this landing LIFE Senior Editor Noel F. Busch arrived at the beachhead. His eyewitness account on page 31 describes how things went there.



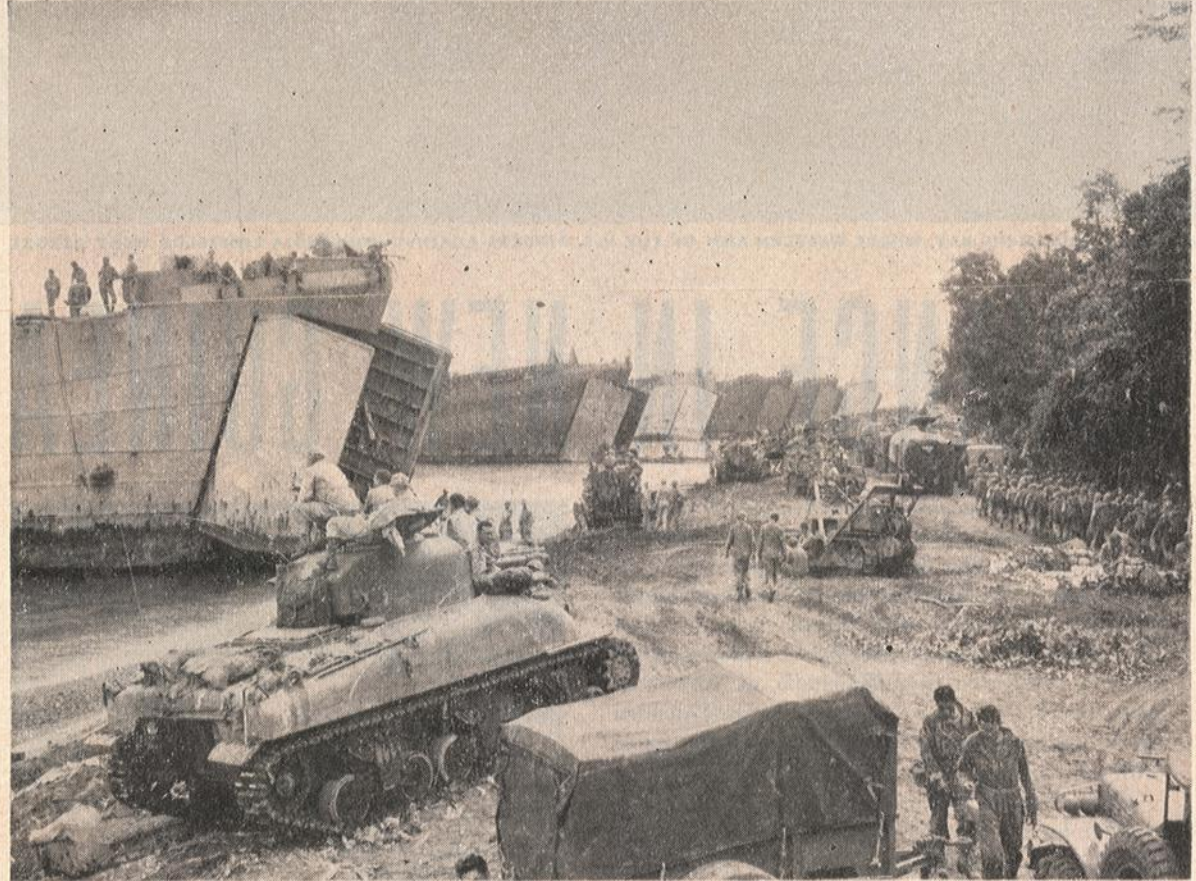
Troops landed at Tanahmera Bay, Humboldt Bay and Aitape on April 22. By April 28 Hollandia airfields were captured.



At Humboldt Bay naval shells land on shore while the first wave of landing boats moves in. Threat of this fire accom-

plished more than actual destruction. Japanese apparently took one look at the task force and retreated to the hills, al-

lowing troops to land unopposed. Objective at Humboldt Bay was road which curved around mountains to the airfields.



Loading for the landings, LST's line beach in eastern New Guinea. The coast at Hollandia and Aitape looks almost ex-

actly like this. The jungle grows down to the edge of the water, and beach, like this one, has to be cleared by bulldozers.



Hellcats on carrier warm up for prelanding attack on Hollandia. Man in cap at right is Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher