

# OPERATION GALVANIC

20 - 23 NOVEMBER 1943

## “ISSUE REMAINS IN DOUBT”

ASK ABOUT PRE & POST TOURS WHICH VARY BY YEAR

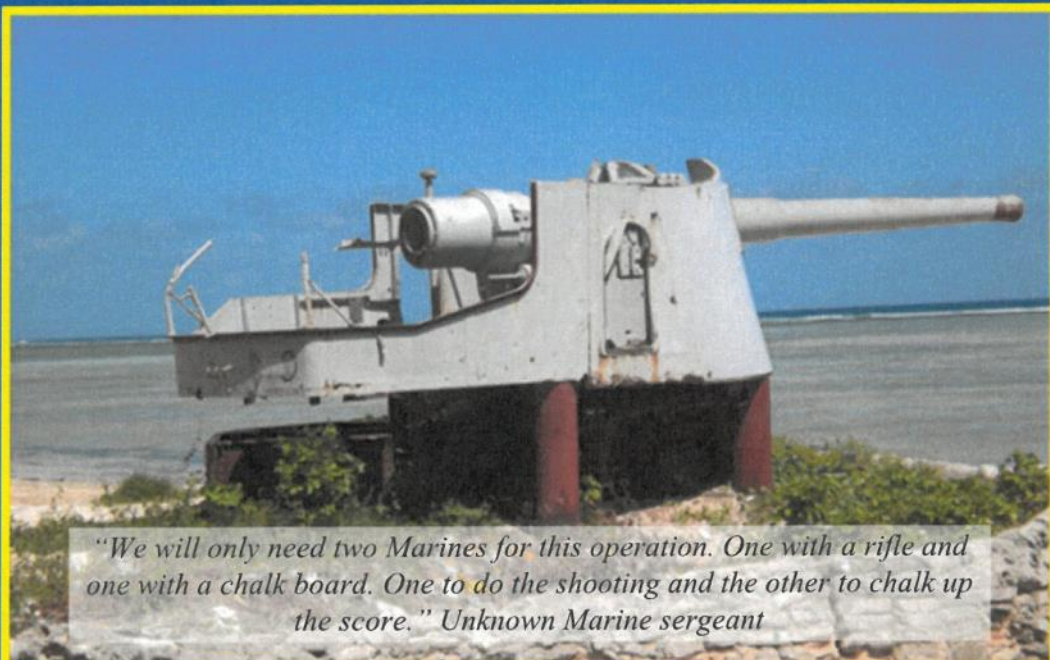
*“A million men cannot take Tarawa in  
100 years.”  
Rear Admiral Keiji Shibasaki (KIA)*

Includes  
breakfast, taxes  
and tips ... No  
hidden costs!

**TARAWA 81ST ANNIVERSARY**  
**15 AUGUST TO 19 AUGUST 2024**



*Schoolgirls play on CECILIA, the M4A2  
Sherman tank, Charlie Company, 2nd Marine  
Medium Tank Battalion.*



*“We will only need two Marines for this operation. One with a rifle and  
one with a chalk board. One to do the shooting and the other to chalk up  
the score.” Unknown Marine sergeant*

**MILITARY™**  
**HISTORICAL TOURS, INC**



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**Betio, Tarawa, 22 Nov 1943, 2nd MarDiv - Col. Evans Carlson (seated), 8<sup>th</sup> Marines; Col David Shoup, 2nd Marines; Col. Merrit Edson 6th Marines; Maj. Chas. McCoy (Tanks)**

## **MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS TARAWA CAMPAIGN BATTLEFIELD PRE-TOUR**

**DATES: 15 AUGUST – 19 AUGUST 2024**

**TOUR GUIDE(S):** Your tour guide(s) are some of the most knowledgeable subject matter experts (SME) on the Tarawa battle. They have been walking the battlefield and doing extensive research and conducted interviews with veterans of the campaign. Their knowledge is not limited to history and

**THEIR PRIMARY CONCERN IS TOUR SAFETY!**

**PRE & POST TOURS:** To be announced and covered in a separate brochure. Pre and Post-Tours vary from year to year and might include one or more of the following TARAWA, MUNDA, VANUATU and NOUMEA (dependent on number of participants).

**MAIN TOUR:** This tour (GUADALCANAL) is set up as an immersion battlefield study and focuses on group participation. There is walking and hiking involved, but as previously stated SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT. Those who elect not to participate in all activities will be able to remain with the vehicle in a safe area with local security.

### **SCHEDULE AND DAILY EVENTS**

The exact schedule depends on the participant's selection of air travel, and daily events can be modified at the tour leader's discretion due to weather conditions or safety constraints.

**DUE TO FLIGHT/ SCHEDULING CHANGES CONSULT TOUR GUIDE  
BEFORE FINALIZING ALL FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS**

**Day 1:** Arrival on Betio. Clear customs. After proceed to the hotel (TBD) and check in. Group meeting to discuss the battle and walking orientation to the “old pier” area. Meeting to discuss today's and tomorrow's events. Dinner. (Short walks will be included in this program)

**Day 2:** Breakfast. Depart Orientation on amphibious assault operations. Walking tour of Red Beaches and Green Beaches. Return to hotel. Meeting to discuss today's and tomorrow's events. Dinner. (Short walks will be included in this program)

**Day 3:** Breakfast. Orientation to airfield facilities, fortified positions and tank and landing craft. Return to hotel. Discuss today's and tomorrow's events. Dinner. (Moderate walks will be included in this program)

**Day 4:** Breakfast. All check out of the hotel. Depart for the airport. END OF TARA WA PRE-TOUR

**COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS:**

1: A small group tour like this is designed around a “staff ride” concept, and as such is designed to insure maximum interaction of tour participants and the tour guide(s).

2: The tour is set up for 12 participants. It can expand up to 24, but that entails coordination for another tour guide, another vehicle and another boat plus an additional hotel. So it's 12 or less or 24 or less depending on actual number of participants. This tour is not a traditional battlefield tour. Having said that, there is no substitute for walking the terrain. Therefore there will be at a minimum moderate walking on the tour. Those unable to walk will remain with the safety vehicle and local security.

3: Participants should expect to be “in the field” for eight hours a day. Lunch is “on the run” to conserve time.

4: Breakfast is generally included in the cost of the lodging.

**PRICING AND PAYMENTS:** All tour costs and payments are handled through Military Historical Tours (MHT), 13198 Centerpointe Way, Suite 202, Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285 (703) 590-1295. They provide the breakdown for all tour aspects.

**TOUR GUIDE DOES NOT ENGAGE IN FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS OR AIR SCHEDULING.**

**LODGING:** Hotel(s) will be selected long before departure and will be selected based on price and comfort.

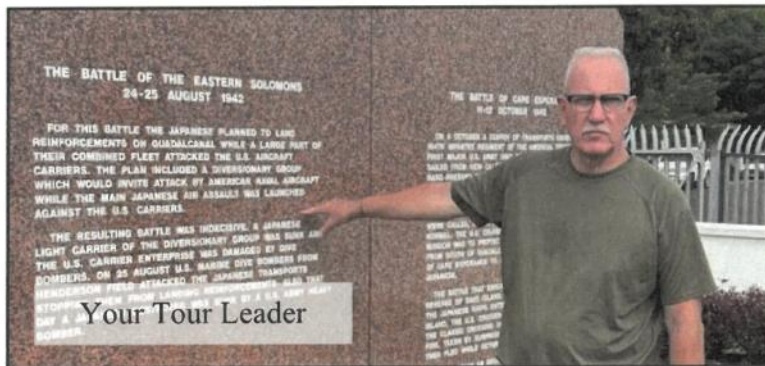
**MEDICAL:** Obtain a clean bill of health from your doctor before embarkation day. Guadalcanal is not the place you want a medical emergency. The tour guides can only stop the bleeding and start the breathing, treat for shock and get you to the local hospital.

**INSURANCE, REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS:** Check with MHT.

**FORMAT:** The tour is one tour designed for twelve participants, not twelve tours designed for one participant. Remember, you can always find a cheaper tour, but you can't find a better one, even if you pay three times the price.

**POINT OF CONTACT (POC):** Tour Guide, Joe Mueller (818) 815-8331; [jnm21213@yahoo.com](mailto:jnm21213@yahoo.com).

**OPERATION GALVANIC:** The Battle for Tarawa- (Betio) was fought between 20-23 November 1943. It was part of the invasion of the Gilbert Islands. It was the first American offensive in the Central Pacific Area. It was also the first opposed amphibious landing. Initially a regimental objective (2nd Marine Regiment) it quickly evolved into a 2nd Marine Division objective. The Japanese were well emplaced to repel the assault and died almost to the last man. When pictures of the dead were viewed at home it shocked the American public and demonstrated what the savagery of the war in the Pacific. The losses occurred over a 76 hour period.



**COL Joe Mueller, USMC (Ret.)** is one of the most knowledgeable subject matter expert on the Guadalcanal Campaign and has years of experience in the Solomon Islands. For 20+ years, he has been walking the battlefield, doing extensive research, and conducting interviews with campaign veterans of the campaign. His knowledge is not limited to history.

**His PRIMARY CONCERN IS YOUR SAFETY!**

Joe Mueller (818) 815-8331; jnm21213@yahoo.com.

**TOPICS COVERED**

- \* Pre-war Gilberts
- \* Post WW1 Japanese Mandate
- \* Two-prong Pacific Offensive
- \* Amphibious Doctrine / First Opposed Landing
- \* AMTRAC Shortage
- \* Fringing Reef
- \* Prelanding Bombardment
- \* Close Air Support
- \* Combined Arms Tactics
- \* Makin Island – Smith vs. Smith

**Tarawa Pre Tour Price:** \$ 2,300  
 Based on Double Occupancy (BoDO)  
**Single Room Supplement:** \$ 300  
**Post-Tour Munda Tour Price:** \$ 2,895  
**Post-Tour Single Supplement:** \$ 395

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**Tour Price Includes:**

- \* All breakfasts, taxes, & tips are included (No hidden costs!)
- \* 3-Star (Pacific Island) Hotel Accommodations
  - \* Air-conditioned motorcoach
- \* Trip Kit: tour ball cap, bag tags & name badge
- \* MHT "Field Book" information map packet
- \* All Admission fees to all sites, museums, and special attractions listed
- \* Services of experienced MHT Tour Leaders & English-speaking local guides



Adm. Shiba-saki was killed when he left the command bunker.



**AIR NOT INCLUDED OPTIONAL DISCOUNT AIRFARE AVAILABLE:** MHT can book a round trip from your home city to Guadalcanal via MHT's Airline Partners and save you domestic baggage fees! MHT's discount airfare is available upon request. A Business Class upgrade is also available upon request.