

Solomon Islands and Bougainville: Operation Cherry Blossom



*Australian 25th Infantry Battalion Troops firing shells from Slater's Knoll, Bougainville, 5 April 1945.
(Courtesy Australian War Memorial 090347)*

By the end of 1943 Japan was on the back foot in the South Pacific and was facing increasing pressure from the United States and Commonwealth troops in Bougainville. On November 1 as part of Operation Cherry Blossom the United States landed troops at Cape Torokina to establish a beachhead for an airfield. Twelve months later in November 1944 Australian troops began an operation to drive the Japanese Army out of Bougainville totally.

Some leaders at the time felt that the Australians should simply isolate the island, where others hoped the more aggressive operation would give Australia a 'seat at the table' during peace negotiations at the end of the Second World War.

Join LTCOL Graeme Davis (Retd) from the Lane Cove R.S.L. Sub-Branch, and principal of Family Military History for a fascinating talk on this WWII operation.

Lane Cove Library

Tuesday 13 February 6:15pm-7:45pm

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Free event, bookings essential

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