



HISTORY

>> Historical Information

GUADALCANAL August 7, 1942 - February 21, 1943

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese forces made their way to the port of Rabaul located on New Britain Island in the Southwest Pacific. The enemy intended to strategically use the port to launch an operation against the United States. The [Allied](#) forces would be ready for them on the neighboring island of Guadalcanal in hopes of immobilizing the Japanese in the Southwest Pacific.

Guadalcanal was one of the first campaigns in which the newly formed [MIS](#) participated. From the first class of [MISLS](#) graduates, a small team of MIS soldiers, led by Captain John Burden made their way to Guadalcanal. The [linguists](#) gained first-hand experience interrogating POWs, translating documents, broadcasting and creating propaganda. The MIS was truly tested in its linguistic ability in the Guadalcanal campaign. Through its work, the U.S. obtained vital information about the enemy. Everyone immediately recognized the essential need and immeasurable value of the linguists, and soon after, the MIS came to be in high demand throughout the Pacific.

Until this campaign, Imperial Forces had initiated and dominated every move in the Pacific. But the tide turned after the Guadalcanal campaign. After six months of battle in Guadalcanal's dense jungles, the U.S. gained victory and halted the Japanese advances. The battle was the first step in taking the remainder of the Solomon Islands. Japanese forces could no longer expand in the Southwest Pacific. With successes later in the campaigns at [New Guinea](#) and the [Solomon Islands](#), the American and Allied forces were able to create a strong base at Guadalcanal from where they could attack Japanese forces.

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