"Land the Landing Force" ... "Send in the Marines" ... Fighting Words... words that for decades have sent the warriors of the United States Marine Corps

into bottle

Now you can join this unique fighting force as they take on the Imperial Japanese Army across the far-reaching Pacific battlefields from Guadalcanal to Okinawa. (LEATHERNECK features the United States Marine Corps in World War II.)



A baker's dozen (13) of ASL scenarios compatable with

(Adaptable to "Command Decision" ASL miniatures wargame system, and others.)

Produced by SS-BAR Enterprise Designed by: STEVEN C. SWANN BURNIE HEGDALH Distributed by CRITICAL HIT INC.

Notice: ASL is a game system published by The Avalon Hill Game Company. Ownership of ASL is necessary to play these scenarios using ASL.

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#### Designers Notes:

Two years in the making! When I first started with Bob McNamara in developing the USMC Module "GUNG HO", little did I realize that I would be getting so heavily involved with designing ASL scenarios.

While I playtested scenarios for the module and had a hand in developing the Marines, I was was not really satisfied with the selection that finally made it into the module. There were only five scenarios dealing with the Marines and one of them had to be shared with the US Army. Nothing against the Army, but they already had three modules dedicated to them, and did not really belong in the Marine module.

Later Bruce Rinehart, a excellent ASL player suggest that we create and publish scenarios suitable for ASL play that would deal exclusively with the Marines in World War Two After making the purchase of the official United States Marine Corps history of WW II, we agreed and got started.

After months of reading and research, thirteen scenarios finally arrived through the grist mill. While we realize that some situations have already been presented to the ASL community, we believe that these scenarios have a better variety and flavor to them that is their very own.

The scenarios are given in chronological order except for Scenario 13 SAITO'S FAREWELL ORDER. The first twelve scenarios are exclusively Marine versus Japanese. We start the action, just as the Marines did in 1942... at Guadalcanal ICHIKI'S MISTAKE and HELL'S CORNER are both concerned with fighting your way across a river, but for different reasons. One is in daylight and the other is at night. Both make use of many overlays, which we know many will protest without trying them. It is our personal belief that if you can force yourself pass the overlay setup, you will find two very enjoyable and tense scenarios.

Next are two Marine Baider scenanos, SEIZ-ING VIRU HARBOR and TEMPEST AT TOMBE, both located in the Central Solomons Islands. Both are quick playing and can easily fall one way or the other. MEETING OTTO is another small water crossing scenario that could easily fit into a quick tournament.

THE LAST ISLAND brings us to a small side action that many have never heard of since the big headlines were being made at Tarawa, but war is war, and many men died in little known actions across the Pacific.

SAIPAN'S TANKS is a scenario that pertrays the only large armor buttle between the Marines and Japanese. This scenario has been done in smaller versions before, but never in this scale (to my knowledge).

Many ASL ers have let themselves get scared out of amphibious operations in ASL because of the size and complexities of the two Seaborne assaults provided in the GUNG HO module. WHITE BEACH I was designed to provide a reasonably fan seaborne assault scenario without drugging out your playing time looking up rules.

The next three, DECEPTION AT RJ177, WRONG-WAY AT RJ177, and BREAK-THROUGH AT RJ177 are a trilogy of scenarios all dealing with combat action at a single road junction on Guam. A day and night battle and an armored ambush, can really spoil your day.

MIGHTMARE AT NAHA uses the delate mapboards and depict the Marines in one of their few city fighting battles. This is a very tight scenario where the original Japanese setup can make a difference in the balance.

Scenario 13, SAITO'S FAREWELL OR-DER, is a mixture of troops from the United States Army and the Marines who must survive a massive Japanese Banzai charge at night. This is a huge scenario, normally requiring at Jeaut two days (real time) to play. It can be very rewarding to play as the Special Rules changes the normal ASL play to better reflect the confused fighting that occurred during one of these overrun charges.

In any case, we wish to thank all of you for your faith in the ASL system and its suppli-

A WORD ABOUT THE SCENARIOS: Clip Art for ASL: The counter depictions for use in ASL contain the information required to choose the right piece to put into play. The graphic depictions are the property of CRITICAL HIT and are used with their permission, but the names of all ordnance and vehicles are the same found in Chapter H of your ASL Rulebook. All AFV's use standard armament; any optional (such as optional AAMG as listed in Chapter H) weaponry will be denoted on the counter and/or listed in the Scenario Rules. Otherwise, for 1/2" support weapons check the nomenclature ("MMG", "HMG") and the firepower and range values, and you will have no problem picking the right piece for that nationality. ers. We hope that you enjoy the hectic fighting across the wide Pacific reaches as a part of the...

#### UNITED STATES MARINES

#### LEATHERNECK SCENARIO RULES: 1. These Scenario Rules apply to all scenar-

ios in the LEATHERNECK Package

The Australian Balance System is used for all scenarios.

 Tropical Climatic Conditions [G16.] are used in any case where Weather needs to be determined.

 PTO Terrain is in effect, therefore Buildings are Huts unless specified otherwise on the scenario card. Roads are Paths unless specified otherwise. Kindling is NA in all scenarios.

 Prisoners DO NOT count as double VP in any scenario.

 All Marine Crews are the Marine 2-2-8 Infantry Crews except for the SFCP Party [G14.61] in LEATHERNECK 7, "SAIPAN'S TANKS". This applies even to vehicle crews.

 Cellars do not exist in any scenario.
Street Fighting is NA in all scenarios except LEATHERNECK 12.

LEATHERNELS is produced by SS-BAR Enterprise. RR1 Box 113 Bridgewater, SD 57319

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We want to extend our very special thanks to Vince Lewonski and his ASL thends for the extensive playtesting that they provided.

For Mininture Players: The counters shown with three little men are squads; 2 little men are half-squads or crews; 1 man represents a "leader" or NCO. The weapons depicted in 1/2" squares are individual support weapons of the type denoted ("HMG" = heavy machinegun) and of the nationality in play unless otherwise noted. For any questions, please feel free to write us at SS-BAR Enterprises, Inc. (include a self-addressed, stamped envelope)

Playtested by: V. Lewonski, C. Welsh, J. Thompson, J.R. Van Mechelen, M. Malloy, R. Callen, M. De Vries, P. Sheiling, B. Hayward, M. Nixon, J. Ginnard, B. Rinehart, B. Hegdalh, S. Swann.



Ilu River, Guadalcanal, August 21, 1942. Outside of one skirmish on the Matanikau River, the Marines of the 1st MarDiv had not seen a Japanese soldier since the occupation of Lunga Point. Using this time to strengthen defenses, the Marines nevertheless kept patrols out beyond the perimeter to the East and West. On August 19 a Marine patrol ambushed a Japanese patrol and recovered documents giving amphibious landing orders. This was all the proof the Marines needed to prepare the eastern approach defenses for an attack. The Japanese Army troops that landed at Talvu Point on August 18 were known as the Johki Force, named after their commander Col. Kiyono Ichiki. This force of 933 men was the first echelon of the 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry and was reinforced by artillery, heavy weapons and engineers. Japanese intelligence stated that the Marine forces on Guadaicanal numbered only one thousand men, and Col. Ichiki had a low opinion of American fighting men. After his recon patrol was detected and killed, Col. Ichiki, decided to attack without waiting for his second echelon. On August 20, 1942 the Japanese troops lined the east bank of the Ilu River and prepared for the next day's attack. The 1st Company attempted to infiltrate the lines of Company G, 2/1 Marines during the night but were repelled with only slight loses to the Marines. Col. Ichiki then sent the 2nd Company into the attack, this time through the surf along the beach. And again the Marines chopped the Japanese with the use of machineguns and 37mm canister. After dawn, Col. Ichiki ordered the 3rd Infantry Company supported by the Battalion's engineers forward after a short artillery and mortar barrage by the battalion's artillery. The Marines offered artillery counter-fire by the Division's 75mm pack howitzers. While Company G, 2/1 Marines held the river bank, elements of 1/1 Marines came on the remnants of Col Ichiki's Force from the south and east. Fighting desperately, the Japanese attempted again to force the river to escape the onslaught of the Marines. Determined to finish the battle before dusk, the Marines brought in a platoon of canister firing tanks in support. While two tanks were disabled, one by an AT mine, the mopping-up of the Ichiki Force was completed by sundown. By 1700 hours, it was over. Of the approximately 933 men of the Ichiki Force, more than 800 of them were dead in the sands of the Ilu River.

#### BOARD CONFIGURATION:



2. PTO Terrain is in effect with Light Jungle. Stream is Shallow and at Level 0. All Huts are replaced with a Collapsed Hut counter. Kinding is NA. Place Overlays as follows: Be401-407 an 35A10-B9, Be501-507 an Be473-35M10, Be601-607 an Be566-572, Oc1001-1014 an Be402-408, Oc2001-2014 an Oc1145-Be508, Ef3 an Be648-642, Oc3001-3014 an Be606-

SCENARIO RULES: 1. EC are Moist with no wind at start. Beach Slope is Slight.

615, Ef1 on 35W6-X5, Ef2 on 35O2-P2 and O5 on 35AA5-AA4 The USMC 37mm AT Guns and three squads (with any SW/SMC) may set up using HIP. 3. The 37mm ATG has a Canister depletion number of 10 and is treated as IFE [C2 29]. The Radio represents one Pre-registered module of 75mm Pack howitzer OBA with Normal Ammo. Marines received 1 FB without bombs on a dr <= Turn Number.

Victory Conditions. The Japanese player wins immediately upon acquiring 50 VP. VP are earned by exiting Japanese units and/or inflicting casualties on the Marines (or any combination). Japanese exit areas are anywhere along the west board edge or between hexes CC1-GG4 (Prisoner VP are NA)

4. All Japanese units must setup adjacent to the river (EI1-3) on the east side and west of hexrow J. The following units are exempt from the previous restriction; all Hip units may setup anywhere east of the river and west of hexrow J and up to 3 Japanese squad equivalents and two SMC and two SW may begin play in beach/shallow ocean hexes East of the Effluent. Assault wading [G14.32] is in effect for these beach/ocean units. Japanese TH-Heroes are NA. Japanese units. may not move east of hexrow J until Turn 2.

5 After setup and prior to play, the Marine setup area west of the river undergoes a Bombardment [C1.8]



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THELL'S CORNER

# **LEATHERNECK 2**

Matanikau River west of Henderson Field, Guadaicanal 23 October, 1942. For two days the Leathernecks of Company I, 3/1st Marines had put up with sporadic artillery fire from the Japanese forces entrenched on the other side of the Matanikau River. Realizing that the incoming fire was a precursor to another attack, Company I had been reinforced with a section of 37mm AT guns. During the afternoon, various patrols of the Japanese 4th Bohal Rental (Infantry Regment) had been engaged along the river. As evening neared, the ominous sound of approaching tanks drifted across the river. At 2200 hours, nine tanks of the 1st Dokubitsu Sensha Chutai (Independent Tank Company) led an attack supported by infantry. Using a sandbar near the mouth of the river, the Japanese tanks could approach right up to the Marines position. The tanks came under immediate close-range AT fire from the 37mm AT Guns while mortans and artillery zeroed in on the masses of Japanese infantry across the river. In flickering flare light most of the tanks were destroyed by the AT Guns while the machine-guns of Company I raked the remaining enemy soldiers that had escaped the Marine interdiction fire. Even with the massive frepower of the Marines, some Japanese were able to break through the Marine lines almost to battalion HQ. Railying quickly, Marine reinforcements were of the attacking Japanese were wiped out, this attack was just the first of a week long offensive as the Japanese command tried desperately to drive the Marines back into the sea. The Marines refused to be driven!

### BOARD CONFIGURATION:



VICTORY CONDITIONS: The Japanese must have => 35 VP ON/east of herrow 4 on Board 34 to win at scenario end. (Prisoner VP are N4.)

## SCENARIO RULES:

1. EC are Wet with no Wind at Start.

Night Rules [E1] are in effect with an NVR of 4 (EXC: No Move restrictions are NA). There is a half-moon and no cloud cover. Hexes north of Be Overlay hexrows x11-x21 do not exist.

 PTO Terrain is in effect. Buildings and Huts are Collapsed Huts. Paths are Tracks and Roads are Single Lane Roads. The River and Streams are treated as a Shallow Stream (*for Infantry only*) and is considered as Level-0 Terrain. Kindling is NA.

 Place Overlays as follows; Be1 101-102 on 32E10-E9, Be7 701-702 on 7E10-E9, Be2 201-202 on 34E10-E9, SD1 on 714-I5 and SD8 on 7H6-H5. There was a low tide that night uncovering a Sandbar, therefore treat all hexes of SD1 and SD8 as Sandbars with Hant Sand [G13.3 & F7.3] and no Sand Crest.

 Japanese are Scenario Attackers and are LAX. Japanese tanks must enter the Sandbar on Turn 1. Japanese Infantry units (EXC: Guns and Crews) may not Move Advance, or Rout during Game Turn 1.

 Marines are Scenario Defenders and are Normal. The 37mm AT Guns have unlimited Canister and two of the 37LL ATG must setup IN the Pilboxes. Canister is treated as IFE [C2.29]. Wire may be setup IN Sand hexes adjacent to a Hinterland Hex.

7. Marine Radio/ Phones (players choice) represent a module of 80+ MTR OBA and a module of 70+ ART OBA that has already been placed. Both modules may Pre-Register one hex. Radio/Phone Contact is already established. Remove one Black Chit from each draw pile. During the first USMC Defensive First Fire Phase a FFE1 must be placed on a target hex with Extent of Error halved. LOS is not required for this fire mission.



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SEIZING VIRU HARBOR

# **LEATHERNECK 3**

Tetemara Village, New Georgia 1 July, 1943 "Operation Toenails", the conquest of the Central Solomon Islands by Allied Forces, had started with the dispatch of two rifle companies and half the HQ company of the 4th Raider Battalion, commanded by LTC Currin. The Raider's objective was the seizure of Viru Harbor and its facilities, so that it could become a forward PT boat base and to relieve pressure on the local coastwatchers by eliminating the Japanese threat. The area around Viru Harbor was garrisoned by the 1st Battalion, 229th Infantry. After a grueing three day overland march, the Raiders finally arrived just north of the harbor's village, Tetemara, on the harbor's west shore. Just after 0900 another Raider patrol had struck another village on the opposite side of the harbor, just a few minutes prior to the Raider's planned attack. The sound of firing brought many Japanese out into the open to see what was going on. Just at that moment a flight of Navy dive bombers caught sight of the Japanese and attacked with bombs inflicting several casualties on the garrison. Before the Japanese could recover, LTC Currin ordered the Raiders to attack! A few Japanese outpost were overrun immediately, before the Raiders were forced to halt under intense Japanese fire. The advance then became slow and sporadic as the attack degenerated into a series of small and very localized firefights throughout the village. Finally, the Japanese, realizing that they were being bottled up against the sea, began withdrawing to the jungle to the northeast. Gathering themselves, the defenders made a Banzai charge against the advancing Marines trying to break out of the encirclement. Losing many of their comrades, about 100 Japanese soldiers succeeded in breaking through the Marine's caldron.

#### BOARD CONFIGURATION:



Victory Conditions: To win, the Marines must capture/eliminated/possess both AA guns without letting =>10 Japanese squad equivalents escape (SSR6) off the north edge.

#### SCENARIO RULES

1. EC is Moist with No Wind at start.

 PTO Terrain with Light Jungle is in effect. All Buildings are Huts. Place Village Overlay #1 on 3282-B1. Kindling is NA.

 The CA of the Japanese AA Guns must align with either the Southeast or South hexspine Japanese AA Guns must setup unconcealed and non-HIP

4. After the Japanese setup, but prior to commencing the scenario, the Marine player may make three FB Bomb attacks vs any Terrain Hex or Japanese Unit. Sighting TC vs Terrain is automatic, but any Japanese in the hex are attacked by Area Fire. Bombs may be HE or Smoke, If Smoke, place a +3 Smoke counter in the hex hit. If the To Hit DR misses, place Smoke in an ADJACENT hex determined by random dr. After these attacks, the FB are removed from the board and may not re-enter.

5. Marines are Raiders [G17.11].

Commencing with the Japanese player turn of Turn-3, the best Japanese SMC must make a NTC. Failure of the NTC allows the Japanese to attempt escape anywhere along the north edge.



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Tombe Village, New Georgia, Solomons Islands 1 July, 1943 Originally the plans for the capture of Viru Harbor had called for Lt. Brown's platoon to attack the small village of Tombe on the east side of the harbor as a distraction while the main body under LTC Currin would then attack the village of Tetemara on the west side of the harbor. However, after the discovery of Lt. Brown's small force on 29 June, Currin decided that the Tombe force should be augmented with a second platoon under the command of Captain Walker. Making a stealthy approach, it turned out that the Japanese at Tombe were apparently unaware of the Marines, even after being warned just two days previously. At 0900 hours, Captain Walker opened the attack on Tombe with a bayonet assault by Lt. Brown's platoon followed by his own platoon acting as a second wave. The Japanese garnson at Tombe had been caught unaware of the Marine presence in their area until the first rush of the Raiders gave them a morning surprise. Covered by two 30 caliber machine-guns, most of the Raiders were able to move into the village in a single charge. Thirteen Japanese soldiers were killed outright, while the remainder of the garnson fied into the surrounding jungle after only a few minutes of resistance. Tombe Village was captured without the loss of a single Marine's life.

# BOARD CONFIGURATION:

Only hexrows A - P are playable



VICTORY CONDITIONS: To Win the Marines must control every non-burning Hut location East of the River on/between hexrows D and J at game end

#### SCENARIO RULES:

1. EC are Moist with No Wind at Start

 PTO Terrain [G.1] with Light Jungle is in effect. All Buildings are Huts. The River (Harbor) is Deep Ocean. Kindling is NA.

All Marine units are Raiders [G17.111].

4 Under the Set-up limits given in the OBs, it is possible that both Japanese and Marine units can be set-up in the same hex. If this occurs, a Melee marker is immediately placed in that hex by the Japanese player and all rules pertaining to Melee are in effect for and during the first turn. Ambush is NA, Marines are attackers. Melees must be played to conclusion at Game End.

#### ABS:

- J3: J2 + the Marines do not need to control the Hut in hexrow D.
- J2: J1 + add an 8-0 Leader to the Marine OB
- J1: Increase the Marine SAN to 4.
- M1: Japanese may HIP one additional squad.
- M2: M1 + all Second Line MMC are Stealthy.
- M3: M2 + Increase the number of 4-4-7 Japanese squads to 5



the Victory Hut Hexes and their adjacent hexes east of the River. (SSR 4). (EXC: May not setup in 7F2 and 7G2.) {SAN: 3}

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Apamama Atoll 23 November, 1943 Operation GALVANIC, a three pronged offensive included the Marines at Tarawa Atoll and the US Army at Makin Atoll. The third prong of GALVANIC was to be accomplished by the smallest unit available, the VAC (V Amphibious Corps) Reconnaissance Company. The VAC Company was transported to Apamama by the submarine USS Nautilus and reached the atoll on the afternoon of 20 November, 1943. On the 21st, the company made their landfall in rubber rafts without problems, except for drifting in a strong current, on a portion of the atoll code-named 'John'. On the 22nd, the patrol ran into a 3-man Japanese patrol and killed one. Moving on to another part of the island coded 'Orson', the Marines encountered a native who informed them that there was a 25-man guard unit entrenched on the next segment of the atoll; known as 'Otto'. Captain Jones decided that the unit would cross over to 'Otto' to investigate the following morning. On the morning of 23 November, Captain Jones attempted to put his Marines across the sandspit that connected 'Orson' and 'Otto' (at low tide). The fire of enemy rifles and light machineguns proved so intense that Jones decided to try an outflank the defenders. On the following morning while the Nautilus shelled the Japanese position, the Marines tried to disengage, so that they could enter the rubber rafts and out-flank the Japanese. This plan did not work, due to the Japanese firing steadily at the rubber rafts even while under the submarine's shellfire. Later that day a friendly Destroyer passed by and placed a few 5' shells into the position killing all the Japanese.

# BOARD CONFIGURATION:

Only hexrows A-P are playable.



VICTORY CONDITIONS: To Win the Marines must control the Pillbox hex and its ADJACENT land hexes at the end of the Game. (Swamp hexes are not considered ADJACENT for Victory Purposes.) SCENARIO RULES:

1. EC is Wet with No Wind at Start.

 PTO Terrain is in effect with Light Jungle. River and Ponds are Shallow and the River is at Level 0. All Buildings are Huts. Place Overlay S3 on 715-J5. Kindling is NA.

3. The Radio represents the direct fire capability of the USS Nautilus' 3" (75mm) deck gun. To use, Radio Contact must be made and maintained for Firing/Acquisition using either Area or Infantry Target Type at a Range of 13-18 hexes. All Spotting procedures and penalties [C9.3] are used just as if it was a mortar. HE and Smoke is available and the gun has a 2 ROF.

#### ABS:

- J3: J2 + Increase Marine SAN to 4
- J2: J1 + Lower Japanese ELR to 3.
- J1: Lower Japanese SAN to 3.
- M1: Lower Marine SAN to 2.
- M2: M1 + Exchange the Marine 8-1 SMC for a 8-0 SMC.
- M3: M2 + Increase Japanese San to 5.



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Buariki Island, Tarawa Atoll. 27 November, 1943. The occupation of the less important islands of the Tarawa Atoll began even while the Marine assault on Betio Island was raging. Elements of the 2/6 Marines, commanded by LTC Murray, had already passed through the undefended island of Bairiki when they were ordered to proceed along the Tarawa Atoll in a northerly direction. Murray's Marines encountered no resistance until the afternoon of 26 November, when the 2/6 Marines reached the northern island of Buariki. Stopped by unexpected Japanese resistance late in the day. Murray ordered the Marines into overnight positions. Early the next morning, LTC Murray planned his attack. Company F would hold the enemy in position from the front while Company G would out-flank the Japanese to the east. Support would be provided by the battalion's attached pack howitzer battery. As the Marines of Company F began their distraction, the Marines of Company G moved eastwards in their attempt to out-flank the Japanese. Trying to move up the coast in rubber rafts was unsuccessful due to heavy Japanese fire. While the battery of pack howitzers may have comforted the men, it proved to be of little assistance, providing only one concentration of fire due to the poor visibility in jungle and the extremely short range of the engagement. In spite of the lack of artillery support, the Marines quickly crushed the Japanese position killing 175 Japanese and taking two prisoners.

### BOARD CONFIGURATION:



#### SCENARIO RULES:

1. EC are Moist with No Wind at Start.

2. PTO Terrain with Light Jungle is in effect. Kindling is NA.

 Japanese may utilize HIP for two additional squads. Each Pillbox and Foxhole must setup ADJACENT to another Foxhole even if HIP.

 The Marine Radio represents a 70+ OBA pack howitzer battery with Scarce Ammo. Remove one Black Chit from the draw pile - the first AR may be placed automatically without a chit draw.

VICTORY CONDITIONS: The Marines win immediately upon acquiring 38 CVP. Besides normal CVP gain, additional CVP may be earned for control of Japanese Fortifications at the rate of, Each Foxhole = 1 CVP per squad size, and the Pillbox = 3 CVP (Prisoner VP are NA.)

#### ABS:

- J3: J2 + Lower CVP to win to 35
- J2: J1 + Add a 60mm MTR to each Marine Company.
- J1: Change the Marine SAN to 5 and The Japanese SAN to 4.
- M1: Delete the "Whole Hex" requirement from the Japanese setup.
- M2: M1 + Japanese Fortifications do not have to be ADJACENT.

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M3: M2 + Exchange one Japanese MMG for a HMG

2

TARINES Move First

JAPANESE Setup First

Elements, Sasebo 7th Special Naval Landing Force [ELR: 4] Setup in any whole hex North of Path P5-GG5 and West of a line running from P5 to F10 (SAN: 5)



Elements, 2/6 Marines [ELR: 5] Setup as directed below. {SAN:4} Company F, 2/6 Marines. Setup South of Path P5-GG5 and West of Path P5-Q1.



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6th Marines Beachhead, Saipan 17 June, 1944 During daylight hours of 16 June, the 2nd MarDiv had not suffered in savage fighting as had the 4th MarDiv. Once darkness had fallen, General Saito, commanding the Saipan garrison, chose to switch his scene of action northward by attacking the 6th Marines in their flank. General Saito then ordered the 9th Tank Regiment, supported by the already decimated 136th Infantry Regiment to make the assault. Instead of ordering his troops to drive the Marines into the sea, Saito decided to first attempt recapturing Saipan's Radio Station, located just 400 yards behind the Marine's front lines. The 44 tank strong 9th Tank Rgt, mostly equipped with 47mm guns would spearhead the attack. At 0330 hours on the morning of June 17, the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines heard the roaring of tank engines just minutes prior to their bursting from the jungle, closely followed by screaming Japanese infantry. 'The battle evolved itself into a madhouse of noise, tracers, and flashing lights. As tanks were hit and set afire, they silhouetted other tanks coming out of the flickering shadows to the front or already on top of the squads.' was how the battle was described by Major J.A. Donovan Jr., the XO of 1/6 Marines. Marine bazookas, 37mm antitank guns, medium tanks, and self propelled 75mm guns shattered the enemy armor, while rife and machinegun fire joined mortar and artillery in cutting down the accompanying foot soldiers. By 0700, the din of battle had ended all along the front, except for occasional rife fire as the remaining Marines hunted Japanese survivors.





Tinian Island, Marianas Island Group 24 July, 1944 As a demonstration landing was in progress at Tinian Town to deceive the Japanese into thinking that the main invasion of Tinian was there, the actual assault on Tinian was made at a small beach just two miles from the northern tip of the Island. Covered by artillery smoke fired from nearby Saipan Island, Company E, 2nd Bn/24th Marines was embarked towards White Beach 1 in LVT, while the rest of the 2nd Bn was directed towards White Beach 2. As the assault waves approached the beach, a sudden wind shift obscured the beach with smoke and slowed the assault while directional corrections were made by low flying aircraft. Only scattered rifle and machinegun fire was received as the Marines approached the shore. At 0747, the eight tractors bearing Company E, 2/24 ground to a halt, and the Marines got their first good look at the small patch of White Beach 1. The beach was just wide enough to accept four of the LVTs, the others having to debark their troops on the ledges adjacent to to the beach. Surprise was not complete and a small beach defense detachment put up a spirited defense using rifles, grenades and machineguns. While some Marines had to climb from the waist deep water directly into solid ground, others had to avoid the mines planted by the Japanese on the beaches. During a brief but bitter fight, Company E destroyed the Japanese in their caves and then pushed inland. The attackers had to move swiftly, not only to clear the beaches for later arrivals, but to keep the Japanese defenders off-balance.

#### BOARD CONFIGURATION:

Only hoxrows A-Q are playable

Victory Conditions: To win, the Marines must Control [G11.94] two caves and exit two squad equivalents off the east edge on/between 40H10 and 40J10

#### SCENARIO RULES.

 EC is Moist with a Mild Wind from the East. Current is to the Northwest.
Terrain is PTO with Light Jungle. All Buildings are Huts. Roads are Roads. Stream is Dry. Walls/Hedges are Panjis [G9.] Any Water-Hintertand hexside is considered difficult terrain for movement purposes (including APh and Unloading).

 Place Overlays as follows, Be401-402 on 40G4-H3; Oc1040-1053 on 4001-40N1; and Oc2001-2002 on 40A6-B5. Kindling is NA.

 Seaborne Assault rules are in effect. Beach Slope is Moderate. LVT may not cross any Water-Hinterland hexside. Passenger LVT must unload their passengers within two hexes of a beach or ocean hex.

 Cave Complexes are NA. Caves must be placed where they have a LOS to any Ocean hex. The Japanese player may place one Tunnel. Japanese AT Mines are AB Mines [G14 53].

Marine SAN is 0 until at least two good order Marine Squads have been unloaded in or entered (on foot) a Hinterland hex, then the Marine SAN is raised to 3.

Marines receive one module of 120mm+ NOBA with HE only using a Shipboard Observer.



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# **DECEPTION AT RJ177**

# **LEATHERNECK 9**

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Road Junction 177, Guam 3 August, 1944 The battle to retake Guam had moved into its final phase as the Marines pushed the stubborn Japanese defenders into the northern portion of Guam. The 3rd Marine Division renewed its advance on August 3rd, with the 3rd and 9th Marines. While the 3rd Marines had easy going, the 9th Marines were brought to a halt just two hours later as they approached RJ177. As the leading elements approached RJ177, just west of Finegayan village, an estimated platoon of Japanese opened fire on Company B, 1/9 Marines across a wide expanse of open ground south of the junction. The Japanese were dug-in on either side of the road across an open area that gave excellent fields of fire to the defenders. Braving the intense Japanese fire, a platoon of Marines supported by armor and company supporting fire rushed across the open ground and overran the enemy's strongpoint, where they immediately found that there was a company defending the junction instead of a platoon. After the half hour action, the men counted 105 dead Japanese soldiers from the *Japanese 322nd Infantry Battalion*.

ABS:

#### BOARD CONFIGURATION:

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NA

SCENARIO RULES:

1. EC are Moist with no Wind at start.

PTO Terrain is in effect with Light Jungle. Roads are Roads. All Buildings are Wood Rubble. Kindling is NA.

 Prior to play the Japanese player makes a secret dr to determine his HIP units, SMC, SW, Fortifications, and any setup conditions allowed, using the table below.

Victory Conditions: The Marines win instantly when there are no non-broken Japanese MMC within 6 hexes of 19X2. (HIP units are considered as broken for VC purposes.)

#### : J3: J2 + Japanese OB given Concealed Units may not Conceal. J2: J1 + Exchange the Marine 9-1 SMC for a 9-2 SMC.

- J1: Increase the Marine SAN to 4.
- M1: Add a ATR and Japanese 2-2-8 Crew to every Japanese HIP dr unit. M2: M1 + Increase the Japanese SAN to 5.

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M3: M2 + ALL Japanese units may use HIP

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MARINES Move First

JAPANESE Set Up First

Elements, 322nd Infantry Battalion [ELR: 3] Setup Concealed (not HIP) within 6 hexes of 19X2. {SAN: 4}

F	4		Using HIP anywhere on B	card 19 north of hexrow 4.		
dr	#/type MMC	SMC	sw	Fortifications	Setup Conditions	Notes
1	6x 4-4-8	10-1, 10-0	HMG <sup>1</sup> , MMG <sup>1</sup> , 2x LMG 2x 50mm MTR	1-3-5 Pillbox <sup>2-3</sup> , Trench <sup>4</sup> 4x Foxholes	Boresighting OK	<sup>1</sup> Receives a 2-2-8 Crew.
2	7x 4-4-8	10-1, 9-1	MMG <sup>1</sup> 2x LMG 2x 50mm MTR	1-3-5 Pillbox <sup>2.5</sup> 3x Foxholes	Boresighting OK	<sup>2</sup> Worth 2 CVi
3	8x 4-4-7	9-1, 9-0	MMG <sup>1</sup> , 2x LMG 2x 50mm MTR	Trench <sup>4</sup> , 6 AP Mines 4x Foxholes	Boresighting NA	<sup>3</sup> Includes Tunnel
4	9x 4-4-7	9-1, 8-0	3x LMG 2x 50mm MTR	6x Panjis, 6 AP Mines 4x Foxholes	Boresighting NA	<sup>4</sup> Worth 1 CVF
5	10x 4-4-7	9-0, 2x 8-0	3x LMG 2x 50mm MTR	6x Panjis 3x Foxholes	Boresighting NA	<sup>5</sup> Tunnel is NA
6	8x 4-4-7 3x 3-4-7	9-0, 8-0, 8+1	3x LMG 2x 50mm MTR	6x Panjis 3x Foxholes	Boresighting NA	

Company B, 1/9 Marines [ELR: 5] Enter anywhere along the south edge of Board 19. [SAN: 3



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East of Road Junction 177, Guam 3 August, 1944 Later in the afternoon after RJ177 was secured, companies A and C passed through to bivouac near Finegayan. Company B was ordered to occupy RJ177 and was digging in as a convoy of jeeps, tanks and trucks rumbled through the junction. This convoy was a Armored Recon Group based around a company from 3/21 Marines, one section of the Reconnaissance Company with some tanks from the 3rd Battalion. Hastily organized from miscellaneous units, the Recon Group was unfamiliar with each other and the various tactics used by each component. As the Recon Group sped pass RJ177, and unknown to anyone present, it headed towards the small village of Yigo, THE WRONG WAY! After traveling just over 400 yards from RJ177, the group ran head-on into a Japanese machinegun ambush supported by guns and a tank. The Armored Recon Group had been assembled while Company B was gaining control of RJ177 and was to make a daylight recon patrol after the junction had been secured. Roaring by, the limited vision of the lead half-track caused the patrol to miss the left fork at RJ177 and it continued onward in a easterly direction. Only the point had passed beyond the road junction when the Japanese made their presence known with the accurate fire of their guns. Surprise was complete, as Japanese machineguns opened up on the truck borne infantry. Before the point elements could break contact, one half-track had been destroyed, one truck damaged and a tank had received only slight damage.



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BREAK-THROUGH AT RJ177 LEATHERNECK 11

Road Junction 177, Guam 3 August, 1944 With the exception of the action at RJ177, the 3rd MarDiv had advanced all day against only moderate resistance. The left flank had moved about 3000 yards ahead of the right, which had stopped at noon when contact with the U.S. Army's 77th Division was lost. As evening fell, contact had not been re-established so the 3rd MarDiv stopped where it was, leaving Company B, 1/9 Marines holding the open ground just south of RJ177. The early hours were quiet, but the Marines started receiving mortar fire about 2100 hours. Just a short time later a Japanese 8-man patrol was spotted approaching the Marine perimeter. As the Japanese patrol neared the Marines' positions, the last member fired a red rocket. This rocket was evidently a signal because in just minutes two Japanese medium tanks burst into action and charged the Marines' lines. Both tanks cruised down the road, and through the Marines' positions, seemingly impervious to Marine fire, including the fire from a couple of 37mm anti-tank guns. During this tank action the Marines were tied down when attacked by an unknown number of Japanese infantry supported by 90mm mortars. While the Marines resisted the attacking Japanese infantry, artillery was used to silence the Japanese mortars. The Japanese tanks had penetrated the Marines lines to the rear areas, where one of them fired and hit a Sherman tank before withdrawing, fortunately, the 57mm round failed to explode.

SCENARIO RULES:

#### BOARD CONFIGURATION:

#### 1. EC are Moist with no Wind at start. 2. PTO Terrain is in effect with Light Jungle. Roads are roads. All Buildings are Wood Rubble. Kindling is NA. Night Rules [E1.] are in effect. NVR is 3 hexes. Weather is Partly Cloudy with 3 a half-moon 4. Marines are Scenario Defenders and Japanese are Scenario Attackers. Both are Normal. Ch 5. Every Marine MMC may be placed in a Foxhole (number as required). Marine Canister is treated as IFE [C2.29]. The Japanese Radio represents a Pre-registered 90mm Battalion MTR OBA 6 with Normal Ammo that has already been placed. Remove one Black Chit from the Japanese draw pile. Radio Contact is considered established. Prior to setup, the Japanese player may secretly designate one hex as having a Spotting Round (SR) placed. During the first PFPh the SR must be converted to a FFE1 with normal accuracy and one-half extent of error dr. Victory Conditions: To win the Japanese must exit at least 20 VP on/between hexes ABS: 19A10 and 19K10. J3: J2 + USMC Canister Depletion is 12. (Prisoners are NA for VP.) J2: J1 + Exchange one 8-0 SMC for a second 8-1 SMC. J1: Marines can set up in Open Ground and Kunal M1: Increase the Japanese SAN to 3 M2: M1 + Japanese only need to exit 18 points to win. M3: M2 + Increase the number of Japanese 4-4-7 to 22. ð MARINES Set Up First 3 5 6 2 Δ JAPANESE Move First Company B, 1/9 Marines [ELR: 4] Setup in any Open Ground hex of board 19 south of hexrow 4. (SAN: 4) AT 4 **C**4. PAR. W u12 a Ξ 1 2.2.8 [2] MMC &10 60\* 7-5-8 34-6 WG 5-12 **p+q** 84744 8-5 37LI 2 泉 2 2 2 2 2 Elements, 322nd Infantry Battalion [ELR: 3] Setup or Enter as directed. [SAN: 2] Setup unconcealed and non-HIP within 3 hexes and in LOS of any Marine unit after the Marines have setup.



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# **LEATHERNECK 12**

The Northern Suburbs of Naha, Okinawa 13 May, 1945. The newly created 6th MarDiv was thought by some to be too inexperienced to be placed in an assault position at Okinawa. Fortunately the core of the 6th MarDiv was the veteran 4th Marines, composed of former Raiders, and the 22nd Marines who underwent their baptism under fire at Guam in 1944. On 13 May, 1945 the 22nd Marines sent a combat reconnaissance patrol into the northern suburbs of Naha. This first patrol was turned back after taking heavy fire from a Japanese fortified area that had been deserted just the day before. In an effort to reduce this outpost of the *Japanese 12th Independent Battalion* an arbitry barrage was laid on these newly discovered positions. After the barrage was completed, Company L. 3/22 Marines supported by armor was ordered back into the suburbs to finish destroying any remaining Japanese resistance. One tank was destroyed by a suicide tank hunter with a satchel charge even as the Marine. 'Grunts' were held up by heavy Japanese MG fire that had some how survived the American artillery. Unable to continue unassisted, Company K, 3/22 Marines was ordered into Naha. These additional Marines were not able to penetrate the Japanese defenses any better than those from L/3/22. After four hours of intense street fighting, the Marines returned to their lines at 1830 hours. The next day the 22 Marines were shipped back to the rear for rest and refitting after losing more than 800 casuatties since landing on Okinawa.



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Tanapag Plain, Northern Saipan 7 July, 1944 On 15 June, 1944, Saipan was assaulted by elements of the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions. After gaining a beachhead, the Marines were followed by the 27th Infantry Division of the United States Army. On June 18, Saipan was out into two zones, the northern under attack by the Marines and the southern portion slowly being closed by the Army's 27th Infantry Division. By 2 July, the remaining Japanese forces had been forced northward into their last defensive line, a ever decreasing ring of shot, steel, and death. After suffering five days of unremitting combat, General Sato, Commanding Officer of all Japanese forces on Saipan, was in the depths of despair. On the night of 6 July, General Sato consulted with his few remaining staff officers and then ordered a last 'grand' Banzai charge against the Americans by his surviving troops at dawn on July 7th. Collecting almost all of his remaining able-bodied troops, General Sato addressed them with his last situation summary. "Whether we attack, or whether we stay where we are, there is only death." In repayment to the Empire for the loss of Saipan, he exhorted each Japanese soldier to claim seven American lives for each Japanese death. While General Saito went off to commit the ritualized suicide required by his failure to the Emperor, about 3000 troops, remnants of every unit on Salpan, gathered for their last attack. Just before sunrise, like some medieval barbaric horde, the Japanese broke out of their fortress on Mount Makunsha and descended down onto the Tanapag Plain. In their drive southward, Saito's horde found a small gap between the 1st and 2nd Battalions, U.S. 105th Infantry Regiment. At 0530 hours, while some Japanese assaulted the two flank companies holding the shoulders of the gap, hundreds of Japanese soldiers and saliors moved through the gap in an effort to attack all American units in the rear areas. The American soldiers fought for their lives as masses of Japanese soldiers flooded into and through the 300 yard gap between the two infantry companies. Overwhelmed by the sheer mass of Japanese, both companies were soon overrun, and the Japanese horde continued southward chasing the few remaining Americans before it. The remnants of the 1st and 2nd Battalions took refuge in the small vitage of Tanapag, where they would remain, surrounded for the rest of the battle. 500 yards southwest of Tanapag. was located portions of the 3/10 Marines, an artillery battalion. Even as the soldiers of the 105th were taking refuge in Tanapag, other segments of the Japanese horde broke upon the Marine artillerymen of the most forward battery, Battery H. Only Battery H was in position to fire its guns as there were still Americans in front of the other batteries. Cutting their fuses to four-lenths of a second, the rounds were exploding less than 50 yards in front of their positions. Finally an enemy breakthrough left of the battery forced the Marine artillerymen to vacate their positions and fail back to a old Japanese junk pile where they established an all-around position until releved later that same day. The Marines of the Headquarters and Service Battery, 3/10 Marines, located behind Battery H, was next in the Japanese list of targets, being overrun and forced to fall back to Battery G's position. There the two batteries stood their ground until relieved in the afternoon by the 106th Infantry Regiment. Southeast of 3/10 were elements of 4/10 Marines, who secured the eastern flank of the Japanese onslaught and forced the Japanese to veer westward, into the regimental Command Post of the 105th Infantry Regiment, about 800 yards south of Tanapag. Here, with their energy spent, the last 100 or so Japanese soldiers were at last stopped. Throughout the rest of the morning, the once advancing horde fought a series of small battles all across the Tanapag Plain with the isolated groups of Marines and soldiers of the 105th Infantry. Fighting then dragged on into the afternoon, when the arriving 106th Infantry moved across the Tanapag Plain mopping up scattered Japanese resistance centers.



Victory Conditions: To Win the Japanese must Control at least 4 of the following five hexes, 18/8, 18Y7, 43N8, 33/4, 33W5 and their ADJACENT hexes at the end of at least one Game Turn and control all Locations of hex 35CC5 and its ADJACENT Locations at the end of the Game.



#### SPECIAL RULES:

1. EC are Moist with no Wind at start.

 Terrain is PTO with Dense Jungle. Roads are roads. All *buildings* are Wood Buildings otherwise Huts are Huts. All Water Obstacles are Shallow and may be crossed. Place Wood Rubble Counters in hexes 33F3, G3, H3 and G4. Kindling is NA. Place the following Building Overlays; X9 on 33C3, X10 on 33D3, X13 on 33B3-B2, X15 on 33C5-C4 and X18 on 33C8-C7

3. Night Rules [E1] are in effect with an NVR of 2 hexes at start. To represent the dawn there is an increasing NVR. Initially, when any Japanese unit enters a whole hex of the next board in a North to South sequence, the NVR increases by 2 hexes. Straying and Jitter Fire are NA.

4. American MMC are the Scenario Defenders and are Normal. Dummy Stacks are NA. The American Radios represent Naval IR only. Marine artillery may not fire Canister into a hex with any known American unit in that hex. Boresighting is NA. American units on each board may not move until a Japanese unit has entered that board and an American unit has a LOS to a Japanese unit. American units may not re-gain Concealment once it is lost.

Japanese are the Scenario Attackers and are Lax. All Japanese units have an inherent 6 MF for the first turn. Japanese may not gain Concealment at any time

 Anytime that a un-Broken unit Moves/Advances into a hex with a Broken unit, the Broken unit may attempt to self-rally (HoB rules apply to self-rally attempts). After the self-rally attempt is completed, normal CC, Ambush, Melee rules are in force AI/CC is Hand-to-Hand [J2.31].

Elimination for 'Failure to Rout' and 'Disruption' is NA for both sides. Each side can attempt Self-Rally for two units each Player Turn.

8. Prior to play the American player can designate one hex along the East edge of boards 43 or 33 as an off-board, Leader (8-0) directed .50 caliber HMG emplacement at Level-2. Any unit in LOS and range may be targeted by this HMG. The Japanese may not damage this HMG in any way. Breakdown and ROF apply normally.

 The American player receives two 60mm MTR OBA with off-board Observers at level three anywhere along the East side of boards 43, 33 or 35.
The Japanese Sniper may only attack units on boards that have activated American units. There are no restrictions on the American Sniper





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