

**Japanese Troop Convoys Transporting
17th Division to Rabaul
September-October 1943**

1 Convoy Group (Departed Shanghai 9/24/43, arrived 10/5/43)
Main body of 17th Division (200 men)
53rd Infantry Regiment (3,400)
3rd Bn, 54th Infantry Regiment (750)
1st Bn, 23rd Field Artillery Regiment (800)
3rd Co, 17th Engineer Regiment (250)
1st Co, 17th Transport Regiment & 1 motor transport plat (250)
1 Platoon, Divisional Signal Unit (45)
1/3rd Medical Unit (50)

2nd Convoy Group (Departed Shanghai 10/20/43, arrived 11/5-12/43)
17th Infantry Group Headquarters (150)
81st Infantry Regiment (3,500)
23rd Field Artillery Regiment (-1st & 2nd Bn)
(1,000)
Main Body, Divisional Signal Unit (170)
Det/1st Field Hospital (90)
Main Body 2nd Field Hospital (117)

3rd Convoy Group (Departed Shanghai 10/21/43, arrived 11/5-12/43)
Part of 17th Division Headquarters (100)
54th Infantry Regiment (-3rd Bn) (2,500)
2nd Bn, 23rd Field Artillery Regiment (800)
17th Engineer Regiment (-3rd Co) (800)
Det/17th Transport Regiment Headquarters (8)
Main Body, 1st Field Hospital (130)
Det/2nd Field Hospital (110)

Units remaining in Shanghai

2nd, 3rd, & 4th Cos, 17th Transportation Regiment (600)
Replacements, Division Infantry Units (3,000)
Main Body, Division Ordnance Duty Unit (30)
3rd & 4th Field Hospital (300)
17th Division Veterinary Depot (100)
Medical Unit (- 1/3rd) (200)
Closing-out Personnel for each headquarters & unit (300)
Patients released from hospital (200)

The Kurita Maru of 2nd Convoy Group, was sunk by US submarines on 22 October. Units aboard were 1st Bn, 81st Infantry Regiment; HQ & 6th co, 23rd Field Artillery Regiment; det/Divisional Signal Unit; 1/2 of 2nd Field Hospital.

The Hie Maru of 3rd Convoy Group attacked by B-24 bombers, but reached Rabaul on 12 November.

Kiyozumi Maru, 2nd Convoy Group, struck a mine off Kavieng Harbor and became unseaworthy. Units were landed at Kavieng and later transported to Rabaul and Talena on Bouganville. Units involved included 2 cos, 81st Infantry Regiment, 3rd Bn, 23rd Field Artillery Regiment (-8th Co). All units assembled on Rabaul in early December.

Japanese Monograph No. 128, Southeast Area Operations Record, Part IV, Supplement 1: 17th Divisions Operations in Western New Britain, Prepared for Military History Section, HQ, Army Forces Far East.

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