

**US Invasion Force  
Tarawa  
20 November 1943**

**Task Force 53**

Transport Group 4: Captain H.B.Knowles, USN

Transport Division 4:

- CT 2 (2nd Marines)
- APA Zeilin LT 2/2 (2nd Bn, 2nd Marines)
- APA Heywood LT 2/8 (2nd Bn, 8th Marines)
- APA Middleton LT 3/2 (3rd Bn, 2nd Marines)
- APA Biddle LT HQ/2nd Marines)
- APA LT 1/2 (1st Bn, 2nd Marines)
- APA Thuban (Detachments CT 8)

Transport Division 18:

- CT 8 (8th Marines)
- APA Monrovia LT 3/8 (3rd Bn, 8th Marines)
- APA Sheridan LT 1/8 (1st bn, 8th Marines)
- APA La Salle (Division Troops)
- APA Doyen (Division Troops)
- APA Virgo (Detachments CT 8)
- APA Ashland (medium tanks)

Transport Division 6:

- CT 6 (6th Marines)
- APA Harris LT 3/6 (3rd Bn, 6th Marines)
- APA Bell (LT 2/6 (2nd Bn, 6th Marines)
- APA Ormsby LT HQ/6th Marines)
- APA Feland LT 1/6 (1st Bn, 6th Marines)
- APA Bellatrix (Detachments CT 6)

Task Group TG53.4

Fire Support Section 1

- USS Tennessee (BB 43)
- USS Mobile (CL 63)
- USS Birmingham (CL 32)
- USS Bailey (DD 492)
- USS Frazer (DD 607)

Fire Support Section 2

- USS Maryland (BB 46)
- USS Santa Fe (CL 60)
- USS Ganesvoort (DD 608)
- USS Meade (DD 602)

Fire Support Section 3

- USS Colorado (BB 45)
- USS Portland (CA 33)
- USS Anderson (DD 411)
- USS Russell (DD 414)

Fire Support Section 4

- USS Ringgold (DD 500)
- USS Dashiell (DD 659)

Fire Support Section 5

- USS Indianapolis (CA 35)
- USS Schroeder (DD 501)

**V Amphibious Corps**: Major General H.M.Smith

V Corps HQ and Service Battalion : Major T.R.Wert  
2nd Amphibian Tractor Battalion: Major H.C.Drewes (KIA 11/20)  
2nd Tank Battalion: Major C.W.McCoy  
V Corps Reconnaissance Company: Capt. J.L.Jones  
2nd Aerodrome Battalion: Lt. Col. T.G.McFarland  
2nd Defense Battalion: Colonel N.E.True  
5th Defense Battalion: Colonel G.F.Good, JR  
8th Defense Battalion: Colonel L.L.Leech  
25th Replacement Battalion: Major J.H.McMillan

**2nd Marine Division**: Major General J.C.Smith

2nd Marine Regiment: Colonel D.M.Shoup  
    1st Battalion: Major W.B.Kyle  
    2nd Battalion: Lt. Col. H.R.Amey (KIA 11/20/43)  
    3rd Battalion: Major J.F.Schoettel  
6th Marine Regiment: Colonel M.G.Holmes  
    1st Battalion: Major W.K.Jones  
    2nd Battalion: Lt. Col. R.L.Murray  
    3rd Battalion: Lt. Col. K.F.McLeod  
8th Marine Regiment: Colonel E.E.Hall  
    1st Battalion: Major L.C.Hayes, Jr.  
    2nd Battalion: Major H.P.Crowe  
    3rd Battalion: Major R.H.Ruud  
10th Marine Regiment: Brigadier General T.E.Bourke  
    1st Battalion: Lt. Col. P.M.Rixey  
    2nd Battalion: Lt. Col. G.R.E.Shell  
    3rd Battalion: Lt. Col. M.L.Currey  
    4th Battalion: Lt. Col. K.A.Jorgensen  
    5th Battalion: Major H.V.Hiett  
18th Marine Regiment: Colonel C.W.Matyr  
    1st Battalion (Engineer): Major G.L.H.Cooper  
    2nd Battalion (Pioneer): Lt. Col. C.J.Salazar  
    3rd Battalion (18th US Naval Construction  
        Battalion): Commander L.E.Tull, USN  
Division Special and Service Troop: Colonel C.Thaxton  
2nd Anti-Tank Battalion: CaptailS.Glassman  
2nd Medical Battalion: LCDR J.J.Stein  
2nd Service Battalion: Col. C.H.Baldwin  
2nd Special Weapons Battalion: Major G.E.Tannyhill  
2nd Tank Battalion: Lt. Colonel A.B.Swenceski (WIA 11/20)

Stockman, J.R., The Battle For Tarawa, Historical Section Division of Public Information, Headquarters, USMC, 1947.

Shaw, Nalty & Turnbladh, Central Pacific Drive, History of the US Marine Corps Operations in WWII, Historeical Branch, G-3 Division, HQ, USMC, 1966

Copyright GFN 1992.