

# "A Medal for Munro"



## Guadalcanal — September 27th, 1942

Following the Battle of the Ridge, US General Vandegrift began to realize that Kawaguchi's main body of troops had withdrawn west of the Matanikau River. As Japanese stragglers continued to move towards the Matanikau, Vandegrift sought to close up the Marines' defensive perimeter. Lacking the troops for a concerted effort, he instead opted for a series of small operations designed to expel the remaining Japanese and prevent larger forces of Japanese from concentrating near the defensive perimeter. The 7th Marines under Chesty Puller were fresh and given the task explore up to the Matanikau and northern slopes of Mount Austen and establish a temporary patrol base. Japanese Colonel Oka watched and had his 124th Infantry ready to receive and destroy the Americans. As the Americans explored the mouth of the Matanikau, they encountered resistance and Companies A, Bc and D of the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines under Major Otho Rogers landed near Point Cruz and immediately moved inland. Almost immediately the Marines came under mortar fire which killed Rogers and wounded a company commander. Captain Charles W. Kelly would assume command and realized that his command was in dire straits as the Japanese boiled out the jungle all around them.

**VICTORY CONDITIONS:** The Player with the most Victory Points at game end is declared the winner. The Americans gain EVP for each MMC (Good Order of Broken) loaded onto a mobile LCV at game end. The Japanese gain CVP normally.

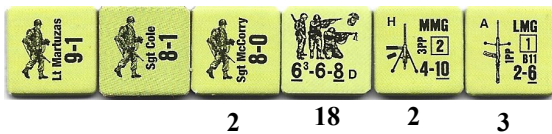


**Board 73**  
Overlay OB1 placed on Row I

Japanese Player moves First	1	2	3	4	5	6
American Player sets up First						

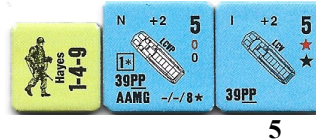


Elements of 1st Battalion, 7th Marines (ELR 4) (SAN 3) (Set up: between Rows T & Y)



2 18 2 3

"Chesty" Puller's Rescue Landing Craft (Setup: In motion on Overlay Row 5000)



5



Elements of 2nd Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment (ELR 5) (SAN 4) (Set up: On or south of Hex Row CC)



2 2 25 4 2

## Special Rules/Notes:

- EC are Wet with no Wind at start. PTO (G.1) Terrain is in effect.
- Bore Sighting (C6.4) is N.A. Kindling ( B25.11) is N.A.
- Place Overlay OB1 on the I Row.
- Concealment (A12) is N.A.
- No Quarter (A20.3) in effect.
- The American 9-1 begins the game Wounded (A17) and represents Captain Charles W. Kelly.
- The American 1-4-9 Hero Ken represents Coast Guard Petty Officer Douglas A. Munro. He is placed on the LCV with the 8 Factor AAMG. Munro's position on the LCV gun mount is treated as Level 2.

**Aftermath:** Upon realizing the danger to the Kelly's men, Chesty Puller boarded the USS Monssen and gathered several LCV's to go the rescue of the beleaguered Marine. As the flotilla neared shore, Lt. Leslie quickly assessed the situation and guided the boat to the direction of the retreating Marines. The Marines were in a race to the beach as the Japanese relentlessly pursued them to destroy them as commanded by Colonel Oka. Desperate hand to hand fighting occurred as Kelly's Marines attempted to slow the Japanese and extricate themselves from the beach. Lt. Leslie herded the boat crews to the beach despite some reluctance on their part. The Japanese put down heavy fire on the LCV's as they dropped ramps to receive the Marines. One of the LCV's armed with an AAMG, crewed by Coast Guard Petty Officer Douglas A. Munro moved to shield the other LCV's from Japanese fire and put down withering covering fire for the retreating Marines. This successful effort came at cost as Munro was hit in the neck and knocked unconscious. He would briefly come to as the LCV's departed the beach with the surviving Marines. He would ask if they had gotten the Marines off the beach and then passed away. Munro would be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. He would be the only member of U.S. Coast Guard to receive his nation's highest award during World War II.

