

1,500 Italian POWs, 811 British passengers and 180 Polish troops.

Sep 13—British Marines attempting night raid on Tobruk ends in disaster; British lose 19 out of 21 landing craft, 2 destroyers, one cruiser and some 500 men.

Sep 14—11,000 Marines hold on against 10,000 fierce Japanese on Guadalcanal after 2-day battle. Japanese forces reach a ridgeline only 30 miles from Port Moresby. Technicolor documentary *The Battle of Midway* is released.

Sep 15—U.S. infantry land at Port Moresby. U.S. carrier *Wasp* and a destroyer plunge beneath the seas while protecting U.S. troop transports off Guadalcanal. USS *Helena* rescues 400 survivors. U.S. Navy is having a hard time combatting Imperial Fleet. New battleship *North Carolina* is torpedoed off Guadalcanal, but limps to Pearl Harbor. *North Carolina* would receive 15 battle stars, more than any other U.S. battleship in WW II. Farm machinery rationed at home. *London Daily Mail*, copied by papers stateside, reports in a speculative news piece how an invasion of No. Africa would be conducted. Aleutians now protected by 30 AF fighters.

Sep 16—Gen. Mark Clark informs Maj. Joe Phillips, former editor of *Newsweek*, he is to be new boss of Public Relations of the Allied Force Headquarters, in North Africa. WASPS are established. Japan secretly evacuates Attu Island.

Sep 17—Pres. Roosevelt begins a 15-day 8,500 mile nationwide inspection of war industries and training facilities. British movie *In Which We Serve* released in UK.

Sep 18—War Dept. in Washington DC intercepts a message in plain English from a news editor of United Press in London, stating UP should prepare to cover landings at Casablanca sometime in the future. Thirteen merchantmen are lost as convoy operations resume to Murmansk; protected by the U.S. carrier



U.S. Marines on Guadalcanal.



to secret agent Robert D. Murphy in North Africa via Darlan--note German and Japanese agents suspect U.S. operation will target either Casablanca or Dakar, but are unsure which one. 100,000 Axis troops are rumored to be amassing on Tunisian border. Germans with French passports reported to be infiltrating into northern Africa. Darlan hints he will join Allied cause. A French general named Mast, a chief of staff of French forces in N. Africa, advocates a secret rendezvous with 5 U.S. officers of Eisenhower.

Oct 18—Adm. Halsey named commander of operations in Solomons campaign.

Oct 19—Gen. Clark proceeds by U.S. submarine for secret rendezvous in French North Africa to seek French cooperation.

Oct 21—Famed Rickenbacker is lost in the South Pacific. A whopping \$9 billion tax bill is signed by F.D.R.

Oct 21/22—Clark meets representatives of Fr Morocco to discuss the plan for invasion without detailing any dates; tipped off by Arabs, the meeting is raided by local police but they escape; paddling offshore their boat overturns and Clark's party of commandoes swim back to the beach; Clark wears absolutely nothing but a cap. They lose several thousand dollars in gold coins to the sea. Party heads back to secret house.

Clark finds large tablecloth and wraps up like a sheik.

They hide in the woods.

In the UK, draft age is lowered to 18.

Oct 23—In the Second Battle of El Alamein (Oct-23-Nov4), Gen. Montgomery launches giant offensive with 195,000 Allied troops, 1,029 tanks and 750 aircraft vs

