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**75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF MILNE BAY**

Today marks 75 years since the beginning of the Battle of Milne Bay.

The Battle took place on the south-eastern tip of Papua, in harsh conditions, notably extreme humidity, voracious insects and topical diseases. Overcoming these conditions as well as the enemy was a hallmark of the efforts of Australian forces faced during World War II in our region.

The Battle of Milne Bay took place over 14 days for the vital garrison made up of 7,459 Australian and 1,365 U.S military personnel.

Australian and US forces held off numerous charges by the enemy over several days before the enemy completely withdrew by 7 September.

Although a relatively small scale battle, the Battle of Milne Bay was the first defeat of the Japanese on land during the Pacific War.

Australia suffered 167 deaths over the 14 days of battle.

Today we remember the contribution of all those involved in the Battle of Milne Bay and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

**FRIDAY, 25 AUGUST 2017**