

Pacific Theatre

Part 10: Operation Hailstone & other Strange Tales “In which we find the Pacific war uneventful, as usual”

By Lestrade aka Unpopular Opinion



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“There’s no freedom of speech in the UK but I’ll type my samizdat anyway.”

A (belated) interlude before the bloated multi-battle study of Operation Forager, for some smaller matters. Don’t worry gentlemen (and ladies), I’ve not forgotten about Hong Kong and the Philippines either, we’ll get there... as my newborns sleep cycle allows...

Truk / Hailstone

If you’ve followed me along so far then you’ll recall since roughly around the time the Marine’s were goofing off in Guadalcanal (i.e. the Fiji rehearsal) we had a lot of talk about this place called Truk (or Truuk or Chuk or Chuuk depending on how pretentious the Wiki editor felt like being that day). I will call it Truk for arguments sake and this lagoon is the supposed top secret elite Japanese base for the South Pacific.

Honestly, writing these articles starts to feel a bit Ground-hog Day, with an endless number of super secret Japanese elite bases hiding on a tiny tropical island that the Americans cannot possibly defeat (until they do five minutes later with 10,000 good old boys from flyover states mob-rushing the enemy and hurling sticks of dynamite while dressed in what are effectively car mechanic jumpsuits).

[From Wikipedia:](#)

*“During World War II, Truk Lagoon was **the Empire of Japan's main base in the South Pacific theatre. Truk was a heavily fortified base for Japanese operations against Allied forces in New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, serving as the forward anchorage for the Japanese Imperial Fleet.**”*

Let me guess, 5 million Japanese hiding in underground bunkers made of solid steel equipped with germ bombs, laser rifles and robot dogs?

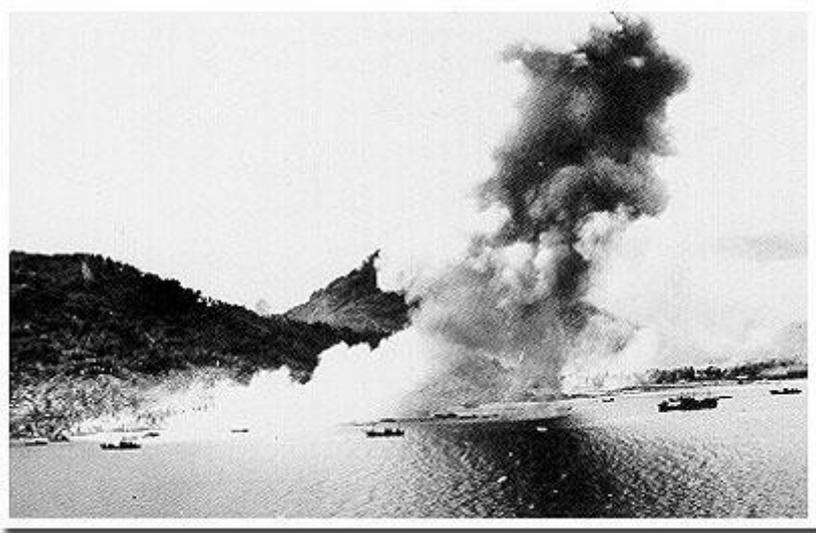
*“Truk Lagoon was considered **the most formidable of all Japanese strongholds in the Pacific. On the various islands, the Japanese Civil Engineering Department and Naval Construction Department had built roads, trenches, bunkers and caves. Five airstrips, seaplane bases, a torpedo boat station, submarine repair shops, a communications centre and a radar station were constructed during the war. Protecting these various facilities were coastal defence guns and mortar emplacements. The Japanese garrison consisted of 27,856 IJN men, under the command of Vice Admiral Masami Kobayashi, then Vice Admiral Chuichi Hara, and 16,737 IJA men, under the command of Major General Kanenobu Ishuin. Due to its heavy fortifications, both natural and man-made, the base at Truk was known to Allied forces as "the Gibraltar of the Pacific"**”*

Not far off then.

Let me take a swing at this – any photos of Truk?

(checks DuckDuckGo... nothing, just a bunch of shipwreck images)

(checks Google Images)



OK so that's not very helpful. A big smoke cloud rising from the coast that looks weirdly blurred and pasted in. The ships in the bay are flat black silhouettes as usual. We also have the usual artefacts of doctored images as seen previously: a bone white sky and a flat sea with a fractured landscape slotted in and then obscured by the pixillated smoke.



Truk base, allegedly. At least we can see some buildings and a pier, but then we're in the Pacific ocean and the people here tend to like a bit of fishing and sailing. Are those buildings barracks? Or is this simply a village? No way to tell. We must bear in mind that this whole string of islands was originally occupied by natives, then ruled by the Spanish (in that they set up trade posts and whatnot) before the Germans bought the island chain in 1899. The Germans then built on it until the Japanese seized the islands following World War 1. The point being: these islands having some buildings on them, of a military outpost / trade depot / docks is not an indication of "the Japanese military". The Americans could simply fly a few scout planes and photograph the normal landscape, entirely empty of Japanese, and still have similar pictures.

I'm unimpressed by photos like this:



“Strike photo taken from USS Intrepid aircraft showing fires at the seaplane base on the south side of Dublon Island inside the Truk Lagoon (now Chuuk), Caroline Islands, 16 Feb 1944. Note burning H6K “Mavis”” – Original [here](#).

Does this look like a facility for 45,000+ men? What about the multiple airstrips and radar facilities and defensive gun emplacements? Or the various supply depots you’d need to feed that number of personnel? There’s supposed to be a submarine base here also, believe it or not.

Or this:



“Aerial photo showing damage done to Japanese naval base at Dublon Island, Truk Atoll, Caroline Islands, 17-18 Feb 1944” – Original [here](#).

This is after they've bombed it to hell but again, I call nonsense on the idea this is some massive, impenetrable base that they just couldn't take until late in the war. Note how we've now got the Americans shifting the goal-posts and talking about multiple smaller bases on different parts of the archipelago (this being Dublon Island general base, the previous being the south side seaplane facility). But if they had multiple smaller facilities why couldn't the Americans chip away at them bit by bit? The idea of the “super base” only makes sense if you have one major, well guarded facility.

So then we read more about Truk on the [main Wiki page and find this](#):

*“In 1944, Truk's capacity as a naval base was destroyed through naval air attack. **Forewarned by intelligence a week before the US raid, the Japanese had withdrawn their larger warships (heavy cruisers and aircraft carriers) to Palau.** Once the American forces captured the Marshall Islands, they used them as a base from which to launch an early morning attack on February 17, 1944 against Truk Lagoon. **Operation Hailstone lasted for three days, as American carrier-based planes sank twelve smaller Japanese warships (light cruisers, destroyers, and auxiliaries) and thirty-two merchant ships, while destroying 275 aircraft, mainly on the ground. The consequences of the attack made "Truk lagoon the biggest graveyard of ships in the world".***

They had a week to withdraw their warships? So what was left? An empty port? Possibly. We don't get much in the way of a pushback from the Japanese during the attack. The Americans send in the carriers and bomb a bunch of small warships and merchant trading boats. Why didn't the Japanese

withdraw everything? Why would you leave part of your fleet undefended? Makes no sense. Target practice with native fishing boats to look good on film? I reckon.

We get greater context from [this article](#):

*“The Japanese, meanwhile, understood the weakness of their position at Truk. **The IJN had begun withdrawing fleet units from its anchorages as early as October 1943. The effective abandonment of Truk as a forward operating base accelerated during the first week of February 1944**”.*

When did Hailstone start? February 17th. So the Japanese didn't just start leaving that week, they had begun withdrawal five months earlier. By the time the Americans finally attack Truk the Japanese had ample time to set up operations elsewhere!



*“The attacks for the most part ended Truk as a major threat to Allied operations in the central Pacific. The Japanese garrison on Eniwetok was denied any realistic hope of reinforcement and support during the invasion that began on February 18, 1944, greatly assisting U.S. forces in their conquest of that island. Truk was isolated by Allied forces, as they continued their advance towards Japan, by invading other Pacific islands, such as **Guam, Saipan, Palau, and Iwo Jima**. It was attacked again from 12 to 16 June 1945 by part of the British Pacific Fleet during **Operation Inmate**. Cut off, the Japanese forces on Truk and other central Pacific islands **ran low on food and faced starvation before Japan surrendered in August 1945.**”*

We can also read about this on the page for [Operation Hailstone](#):

*“As a result, the Japanese Navy had to relocate the Combined Fleet's forward base **to the Palau Islands**, and eventually to Indonesia, and the Fleet had begun clearing its major warships – carriers, battleships, and heavy cruisers – out of Truk **before the Hailstone attack struck**.*

*Nevertheless, the Hailstone attack on Truk caught a good number of Japanese **auxiliary ships and cargo ships** in the harbour, as well as some smaller warships. Between the air attacks and surface ship attacks over the two days of Operation Hailstone, the worst blow against the Japanese was about **250 warplanes destroyed**, with the concurrent loss of irreplaceable experienced pilots, and **17,000 tons of stored fuel**. Also, about forty ships – two light cruisers, four destroyers, nine auxiliary ships, and about two dozen cargo vessels – were sunk.”*

If the Japanese were relocating to Palau since October the previous year and it's canon that the main fleet had already left then realistically how many troops would still be there? A couple hundred? If

that? Why were there any pilots/planes? Or thousands of tons of fuel? These are precious resources in war time and would be guarded and shipped out first.

Looking back at those photos: any idea where the thousands of tons of fuel was stored? Why no photographs of that blowing up – that would have been quite the sight, surely? You'd want that for the newsreels back home. Going further with the concept, are we not in similar territory of [the alleged Kiska occupation](#) during the Aleutians campaign? i.e. a location supposedly full of Japanese that is empty once the Americans show up, begging the question if any Japanese were there in the first place. Or with Rabaul where the Americans simply bomb tropical forest and call it a win.

Who was the guy in charge at Truk? That would be [Masami Kobayashi](#). As per Wikipedia:

“From December 1925 to April 1928, Kobayashi served as a naval attaché to the United States.”

Of course he did. And:

“He was promoted to captain on December 1, 1931. A week later, he was sent to Geneva as an attendant to the Geneva Conference. In November 1932, he returned to the United States as a naval attaché, remaining until June 1934.”

Definitely not a spook / asset for the Americans then. And:

“In November 1943, the Allies were victorious at the **Battle of Tarawa** and **Battle of Makin** in the Gilbert Islands, and in early February 1944 seized critically strategic positions in the Marshall Islands with the **Battle of Kwajalein** and the capture of Roi-Namur. Realizing that the major Japanese naval base in the South Pacific at Truk was endangered, Kobayashi ordered the naval assets there transferred to Palau. However, before the transfer could be complete, the United States launched Operation Hailstone, sinking a large number of Japanese warships and transports. The Imperial Japanese Navy General Staff blamed Kobayashi for the defeat and relieved him of his command two days later. On 30 May 1944, Kobayashi was forced from active service and on 31 May 1944, he went into the reserves.

After the surrender of Japan, Kobayashi was detained at Sugamo Prison in Tokyo by the SCAP authorities, and charged with command responsibility for the war crimes perpetrated by Admiral Shigematsu Sakaibara in the "Wake Island Massacre". His case never came to trial, and he was released from Sugamo Prison in 1952. In the post-war period, Kobayashi served as an advisor and instructor for the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force.”

Brilliant, so he gets blamed for the “defeat” of Truk, gets put in the reserves, is briefly detained at Sugamo Prison (allegedly, no proof given other than the US militaries say-so) and his case “never came to trial”. What!? So they held him... in jail... for seven years – I don't believe this but if we take it at face value – and then release him... no trial no punishment, time served? Or something? What does this even mean? He then gets to work in the modern Japanese Navy as an advisor.



Once again another deeply weird outcome for a high-ranking Japanese military figure.

Miles: Also funny that the Japanese—supposedly separated from the rest of the world for millennia—happen to have all the same military insignias as the Phoenicians.

Who was the US commander in charge of the Truk attack? That would be Admiral [Marc Mitscher](#). You can read his bio on Wikipedia, note the involvement in the Battle of Midway (which I've previously [shown was fake](#)), Guadalcanal (ditto) and Tarawa (again just American war propaganda). So we know this guy wasn't doing much in reality. Sorry, Marines. Don't punch me, I didn't make it up.

I will briefly touch on how he was involved postwar in the argument between the various factions of the US Military over who got to keep the most funding (aka the Revolt of the Admirals) which ended up with everyone using nuclear weapons to justify massive funding (Air Force got bombers, Navy got more carriers, etc.). We then have this:

*"He served briefly as commander 8th Fleet and on 26 September 1946 became **Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, with the rank of admiral.** While in that assignment, **Mitscher died on 3rd February 1947 at the age of 60 of a coronary thrombosis at Norfolk, Virginia.** He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery."*

Now I'm not saying he was a useful spook/operative who played his part and then got to retire in secret by faking his death at an unusually young age...

...but you know.



*“President Truman congratulates Mitscher during a ceremony in which **eight** U.S. carriers were awarded Presidential Unit Citations, July 16, 1946.” - original [here](#).*

Now let us watch the American feature on Hailstone, known as “Yanks Smash Truk” (no really, I didn’t invent this title).

You can watch it [here](#).

This is a still of the Americans attacking (one of several?) runways:



...really? This is Truk? I like how the planes are just sitting there.

What about this bit:



This is at 1:51. You can see a pier, but nothing else resembles the landscape of the photos we saw previously. There's no buildings, for example (or 17,000 ton fuel depot). Plus, it is so blurry it looks like it was taken from the Moon.

Or this, which looks like a small bomb being dropped on empty Midwest farmland:



Where's the jungle? If you watch the video you'll see what I mean: a series of quick cuts designed to confuse the viewer looking at different landscapes, none of which resemble Truk. They have some prop planes on an empty runway, some fields and a pier on a tropical beach that's too small to be this alleged fortress Truk is. During the "air battle" you see one plane dive into the sea, but the overall impression is not of a massive aerial battle, there are only one or two planes in the sky at any one time. There's no sense of danger/urgency. It's all theatre.

I won't do a blow by blow on Yanks Smash Truk but I recommend you watch it (it's not too long) and maybe replay the fast cuts a few times to look at what they are actually shooting at. Pay attention to the landscape in the background – half the time it looks like open countryside, not an island. Again this is all staged. The aerial dogfights are a few Americans standing around watching

one or two planes fly around, not a major battle. So why stage the footage? Presumably because there was no battle at Truk – and no Japanese either.

An interesting point [from Wikipedia](#) about the aerial response:

*“Japanese pilots scrambled into their cockpits just minutes before TF 58 planes arrived over Eten, Param, Moen and Dublon islands. **Though there were more than 300 Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service (IJNAS) and Imperial Japanese Army Air Service (IJAAS) planes present at Truk on the first day of attacks, only about half of them were operational** compared with over 500 operational aircraft among the carriers of TF 58. U.S. Navy fighter pilots in their Grumman F6F Hellcats, with the advantages of speed, altitude, armour, and surprise, achieved a one-sided victory against IJNAS pilots flying the outdated Mitsubishi A6M Zero. **As many as 30 of the 80 Zeros sent up in response to the fighter sweep were shot down, compared with four Hellcats reported lost. Only token aerial resistance was encountered for the rest of the morning; almost no Japanese aircraft were present by the afternoon.**”*

So: they had over 300 planes at Truk that morning, but only 150 are operational and of that only 80 Zeros take off. Of that, 30 are shot down leaving 50 planes in the air. This is a) not visible in the newsreel footage and b) makes no sense, why do they have 150 planes ready to go but only 80 planes go up? If the bulk of the air force are operational (i.e. 50 planes left to fly) then why do they basically give up immediately and are not even in the air after lunchtime?

*“Truk, like so many other Japanese bases, was left to itself without hope of resupply or reinforcement. Army forces which had arrived at the atoll before the U.S. attacks put increasing strain on available foodstuffs and medical supplies. **Dwindling ammunition even limited the ability of shore batteries to fend off intermittent attacks by Allied forces, including experimental raids by Boeing B-29 Superfortresses and attacks by Allied carrier aircraft.***

*Losses at Truk were severe. **Some 17,000 tons of stored fuel were destroyed by the strikes. Shipping losses totalled almost 200,000 tons including precious resources in fleet oilers. This represented almost one tenth of total Japanese shipping losses between 1 November 1943 and 30 June 1944. Moreover, the isolation of this whole area of operations by submarine and air attack began the effective severance of Japanese shipping lanes between empire waters and critical fuel supplies to the south. The ultimate effect of such a disconnect was later seen during the Battle of Leyte Gulf, when IJN forces had to sortie separately from Japan and Lingga Roads due to fuel constraints. The neutralization of Truk, and the seizure of Eniwetok, paved the way for the upcoming invasion of Saipan, which for the first time put U.S. land-based heavy bombers within range of the Japanese home islands.***

*Japan started to rebuild Truk as a bomber air base and increased its AA defenses. Spruance sent in carrier planes again on April 29, 1944, and destroyed AA and bombers parked at airports. **British forces attacked again in June 1945. However there was no significant naval build-up at Truk after Operation Hailstone.***

So Truk is the excuse as to why they can take Saipan / Leyte Gulf, ignoring the obvious question of “why would you pull out of Truk and abandon the base and relocate to Palau, but 4 months later you still have 17,000 tons of precious fuel and several dozen pilots sitting around undefended?” It’s all just gibberish. One minute the Japanese need fuel to keep the Empire going and literally go to war over access to fuel / rare materials, the next minute they abandon thousands of tons of fuel despite having a 5 month warning.

Then we have [Operation Inmate](#):

“Operation Inmate was an attack by the British Pacific Fleet against Japanese positions on Truk Atoll in the central Pacific Ocean during the Second World War. The attacks against the isolated islands on 14 and 15 June 1945 were conducted to provide combat experience for the aircraft carrier HMS Implacable and several of the fleet's cruisers and destroyers ahead of their involvement in more demanding operations off the Japanese home islands.

*On 14 June 1945 British aircraft conducted a series of raids against Japanese positions at Truk. The next morning, several islands were bombarded by British and Canadian cruisers, **though only one of the four warships involved achieved any success.** Further air strikes took place in the afternoon and night of 15 June before the Allied force returned to its base.”*

Yeah they're literally shooting at dummy targets and empty buildings, this is all training exercises. Nobody is going to be left alive on Truk, even if soldiers had been abandoned there they've been stuck on an atoll, then bombed, then left there for months.

“The attack on Truk was considered successful for the Allied force, with the ships and air units gaining useful experience while suffering two fatalities and the loss of seven aircraft to combat and accidents. The damage to the Japanese facilities in the atoll, which had been repeatedly attacked during 1944 and 1945, was modest.”

What on earth is left standing at Truk after the Americans engagement? How could they “rebuild”? The base was abandoned and resources reallocated to Palau. The British and Canadian troops are literally doing target practice at a ruined base (allegedly. Or just shooting at an empty island).

*“The Truk garrison received few shipments of reinforcements or supplies following the capture of the Palau islands by US forces in September 1944. Historian David Hobbs has stated that it had been “reduced to starving impotence” by the time of Operation Inmate. **The garrison's main activity from mid-1944 onwards was growing food to sustain itself.** The tropical conditions and damage caused by air attacks complicated this effort, and **most of the Japanese personnel were malnourished.** Nevertheless, the garrison also took extensive measures to protect the atoll from invasion and placed large stores of food and other supplies in reserve for such an eventuality. **Following the end of the war in August 1945, United States forces found that the garrison still held enough ammunition to supply its gun batteries for at least 30 days of combat.**”*

Make sense of that, if you will. They were half-starved and spending all their time trying to grow crops to stay alive but somehow they have large stores of food and enough ammo to fight for a month. Come off it.

Enough of Truk, it's stupid and ridiculous. Let us speak of more credible, historical things.

Japanese Hiding Out After The War Refusing to Surrender

Like the [Japanese Holdouts](#). As per Wikipedia:

*“After Japan officially surrendered in August 1945, Japanese holdouts in Southeast Asian countries and Pacific islands that had been part of the Japanese empire **continued to fight local police, government forces, and American and British forces stationed to assist the newly formed governments.** Many holdouts were discovered in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands over the following decades, with the last verified holdout, Private Teruo Nakamura, surrendering on Morotai Island in Indonesia in December 1974.*

*Newspapers throughout East Asia and Pacific islands reported more holdouts and searches for them were conducted until the late 1980s, but the evidence was too scant and no further holdouts were confirmed. Nevertheless, holdouts continued to be allegedly spotted until the late 1990s. **Investigators now believe that the last alleged sightings of Japanese holdouts were stories invented by local residents to attract tourists.***”

Quite so – as the last line says, this is a combination of boogeyman to justify western military occupation of these areas after World War 2 ended (“No dear boy we’re not going back to London the Japs are still hiding in the bushes!”) and local tourist traps. You’ll still get people talking about the “holdout soldiers” like it’s a real thing though, all part of the mythos of the fanatical, psychopathic Japanese soldiers who we needed to fight to the end.

Let’s look at some of these spooks:

[Masashi Ito](#) – Hid on Guam, for 16 years(!). No photos. Captured by woodsmen in 1960, who then took him to an American base nearby. By 1961 he was married. As per Wikipedia:

*“Itō married on January 7, 1961, and had a daughter. A movie was made about his life. He later worked as a watchman for the Toei **Motion Picture Company** in Tokyo. He wrote a book about his experiences entitled *The Emperor's Last Soldiers*, published in 1967.”*

As per [Time Magazine’s review of the book](#):

*“At first, Itō and his fellow stragglers ate **raw breadfruit and coconuts** and lived in a cave. **None of them was a woodsman, and none had gone through even a basic survival course in the Imperial Army.** (Itō was the son of a well-to-do farmer and had an eighth-grade education.) Slowly they learned to adapt themselves to jungle life, and their habits changed.*

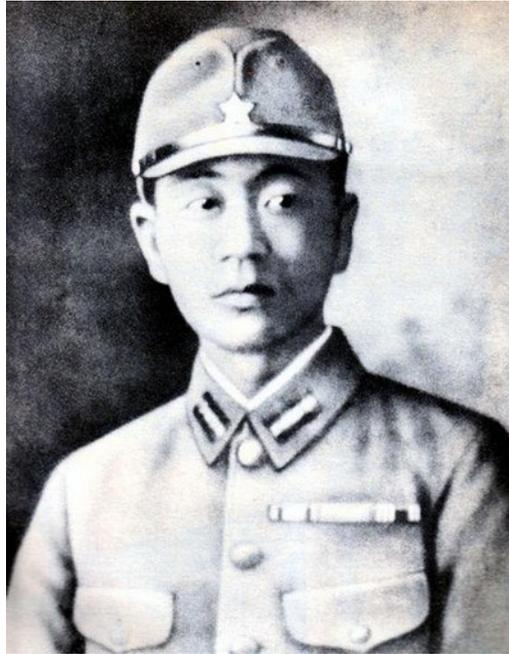
They figured out a way to make a cooking fire by rubbing a steel cord across a log and then pouring gunpowder on it. After months of experimenting, they discovered how to distil pure salt from sea water, then used the salt to preserve the meat of cows and wild pigs that they occasionally managed to kill. They kept an eye on the U.S. base – and on its garbage dump, which they sometimes raided for supplies. Using discarded tools and old tires, they fashioned round, oversized sandals that both protected their feet and ingeniously disguised their footprints. Deciding that a cave was too obvious a hiding place, they slept under rudimentary lean-tos in jungle thickets, constantly changing locations to avoid discovery by the one enemy who knew the jungles as well as they did: Guam's native Chamorro tribesmen, whom the Americans had assigned to clear the island of Japanese holdouts.

*Gradually, Itō says, **he began to acquire the instincts of an animal.** The slightest change in the jungle's normal sounds would send him scurrying from his shelter into the brush, **and he and his companions worked out a code of tongue clicks to warn each other of approaching danger.**”*

And so on.

Normies will read this and nod. I will roll my eyes and say “For God’s sake this is obviously fiction”. They will then stare at me blankly. What can you do? These people will believe anything.

[Shoichi Yokoi](#) - This one gives us a “photo” (not actually a photo, but a drawing):



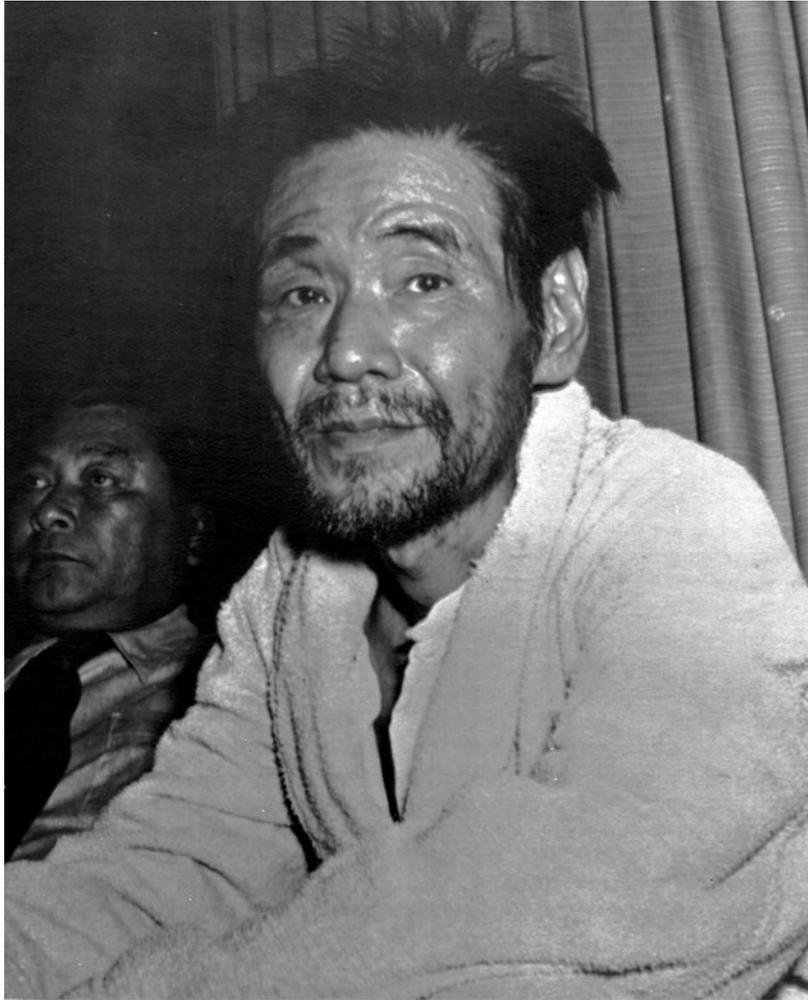
Original [here](#).

Yokoi allegedly survived on Guam for 28 years, until his capture in 1972. He hid in an underground cave he dug by hand and was eventually caught fishing by natives.

As per Wikipedia:

*“After a whirlwind **media tour** of Japan, **he married and settled down** in rural Aichi Prefecture. Yokoi **became a popular television personality** and an advocate of simple living. He was featured in a 1977 **documentary film** called *Yokoi and His Twenty-Eight Years of Secret Life on Guam*. He eventually received the **equivalent of US\$300 in back pay, and a small pension**. Although he never met Emperor Hirohito, while visiting the grounds of the Imperial Palace, Yokoi said, “Your Majesties, I have returned home... I deeply regret that I could not serve you well. The world has certainly changed, but my determination to serve you will never change.”*

So money, fame, pension, TV spots, a documentary. Here he is:



Looks pretty good for a guy who lived a primitive hunter-gatherer existence in complete isolation for over two decades. Never got really sick or injured. Didn't lose any fingers or toes. Googling also gives me this:



(United Press International Telephoto)

Shoichi Yokoi, 56, identified as a World War II Japanese army sergeant, talks to newsmen in Agana, Guam, Tuesday following his capture by hunters in heavily-wooded Talofoto River district, 28 years after Guam fell to victorious American forces. Yokoi said he survived on a diet of fish, roots and wild pigs. He's shown in left photo made in 1941.

If you find yourself in Guam on a bank holiday weekend family trip and want something to do, you might consider visiting [Yokoi's Cave](#), which is definitely True History for Good Citizens:

“Yokoi's Cave refers to the cave on the island of Guam in which Imperial Japanese Army Sergeant Shoichi Yokoi hid until he was discovered in 1972. Yokoi and several companions hid in the area for more than 25 years (since Japan's defeat in the 1944 Battle of Guam), two of them dying in the cave; their remains were found in the cave after Yokoi's surrender. The original cave was destroyed by a typhoon, so a replica was created near the original cave.”

We had all this proof but a typhoon happened and it's all gone, trust me. Although... a historical landmark... that is actually a replica... built after the fact... what am I reminded of...



...I just can't place it. Anyway:



Here's the cave entrance. Nicely lined with bamboo. Definitely not something that poisonous snakes, scorpions and spiders would nest in, or that would be uninhabitable during monsoon season due to heavy rain.

[Hiroo Onoda](#) – he lived secretly for **29 years** in the Philippines after the war ended.

Here's the chap:



Original [here](#).

Here is an interesting picture of him with his younger brother, taken in 1944:



What do we think, a paste-up? Original [here](#).

Wikipedia tells us:

“Onoda continued his campaign as a Japanese holdout, initially living in the mountains of Lubang Island in the Philippines, with three fellow soldiers (Private Yuichi Akatsu, Corporal Shōichi Shimada and Private First Class Kinshichi Kozuka). During his stay, Onoda and his companions carried out guerrilla activities and engaged in several shoot-outs with the local police.”

So not remotely stealthy then. Everyone would know he was there. Literally “oh yes there is this group of crazy Japanese bandits living up that mountain”. There’d be a police investigation, a manhunt and within a year their capture, surely?

“The first time they saw a leaflet announcing that Japan had surrendered was in October 1945; another cell had killed a cow and found a leaflet left behind by islanders which read: “The war ended on 15 August. Come down from the mountains!” However, they distrusted the leaflet. They concluded that it was Allied propaganda and also believed that they would not have been fired on if the war had indeed been over. Toward the end of 1945, leaflets were dropped by air with a surrender order printed on them from General Tomoyuki Yamashita of the Fourteenth Area Army. To the men who had been in hiding for over six months, this leaflet was the only evidence they had that the war was over. Onoda's group studied the leaflet closely to determine whether it was genuine, and decided it was not.”

I like how they thought the Americans had forged surrender leaflets written by the 14th Area Army General Yamashita. This is quite a lot of effort for four guys. So then it gets more ridiculous:

“One of the four soldiers, Yuichi Akatsu, walked away from the others in September 1949 and surrendered to Philippine forces in March 1950, after six months on his own. This seemed like a security problem to the others and they became even more cautious. In 1952, letters and family pictures were dropped from an aircraft urging them to surrender, but the three soldiers concluded that this was a trick. Shimada was shot in the leg during a shoot-out with local fishermen in June 1953, after which Onoda nursed him back to health. On 7 May 1954, Shimada was killed by a shot fired by a search party looking for the men. Kozuka was killed by two shots fired by local police on 19 October 1972 while he and Onoda, as part of their guerrilla activities, were burning rice that had been collected by farmers. Onoda was now alone.”

So the police are unable to find these bandits running around a mountainside for about thirty years. Completely plausible. So you’d be forgiven for thinking: “how does a man so good at hiding, so stubborn that he ignores direct orders from his old general and pleas from his family, that can survive in this wilderness unaided... get found?”

A good question reader.

This guy found him:



On the right, our boy Onoda. On the left: Norio Suzuki – gentleman explorer.

*“On 20 February 1974, Onoda met a Japanese man, **Norio Suzuki**, who was travelling around the world, looking for **“Lieutenant Onoda, a panda, and the Abominable Snowman, in that order”**. **Suzuki found Onoda after four days of searching.**”*

Four days of searching. Right. As [per Wikipedia](#):

*“Norio Suzuki (鈴木 紀夫, Suzuki Norio, April 1949 – November 1986) was a **Japanese explorer and adventurer**. In 1974 he searched for and found Hiroo Onoda, one of the last remaining Japanese holdouts who had refused to surrender after the end of World War II. Suzuki died in November 1986 in an avalanche while searching for the yeti.”*

Yep. Keep reading:

*“In 1974, **Suzuki encountered Onoda, who was wearing a tattered military uniform on Lubang Island in the Philippines**. He had survived a solitary life for two years after he lost the last of his two colleagues. When Onoda was first discovered, he was ready to shoot Suzuki at first sight, **but fortunately, Suzuki had read all about the fugitive and quickly said: “Onoda-san, the emperor and the people of Japan are worried about you.”** Onoda described this moment in a 2010 interview: **“This hippie boy Suzuki came to the island to listen to the feelings of a Japanese soldier. Suzuki asked me why I would not come out...”**”*

Surely Onoda (being a crazy paranoid hermit) would have either shot Suzuki and/or run away? Somehow Suzuki just rocks up and is like “Hey buddy how’s it going” and within minutes they’re having a relaxed conversation.

*“**Onoda would not be relieved of his duties unless officially ordered to do so. After extended conversations, Onoda agreed to wait for Suzuki to return with his former commanding officer (who was now an old man working in a book store) to give the order to surrender. Onoda said, “I am a soldier and remain true to my duties.”**”*

In March 1974, Suzuki returned with Onoda’s former commander, who officially relieved him of his duties. He turned over his sword, a functioning Arisaka Type 99 rifle, 500 rounds of

*ammunition and several hand grenades, as well as the dagger his mother had given him in 1944 to kill himself with if he was captured. **Then he surrendered, was pardoned by Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, and became free to return to Japan.***”

All very plausible. And:

*“After finding Onoda, **Suzuki quickly found a wild panda, and claimed to have spotted a yeti from a distance by July 1975, hiking in the Dhaulagiri range of the Himalayas.** He married in 1976 but did not give up his quest. Suzuki died in November 1986 in an avalanche while searching for the yeti. His remains were discovered a year later and returned to his family.”*

Unironically I find the concept of a yeti/sasquatch cryptid (i.e. rare hominid) living in the wilderness of the Earth more plausible than Onoda’s tale. Onoda did alright upon his return to Japan:

*“Onoda was very popular following his return to Japan and some people urged him to run for the Diet (Japan's bicameral legislature). He also **released an autobiography, No Surrender: My Thirty-Year War,** shortly after his return, detailing his life as a guerrilla fighter in a war that was long over... The Japanese government **offered him a large sum of money in back pay,** which he refused. When money was pressed on him by well-wishers, **he donated it to Yasukuni Shrine.***

*Onoda was reportedly unhappy being the subject of receiving much attention and troubled by what he saw as the withering of traditional Japanese values. **In April 1975, he followed the example of his elder brother Tadao and left Japan for Brazil, where he raised cattle.** He married in 1976 and assumed a leading role in the **Colônia Jamic (Jamic Colony), a Japanese community in Terenos, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil.** Onoda also allowed the Brazilian Air Force to conduct training sessions on the land that he owned. After reading about a Japanese teenager who had murdered his parents in 1980, Onoda returned to Japan in 1984 and established the **Onoda Shizen Juku ("Onoda Nature School") educational camp for young people, held at various locations in Japan.**”*

So that’s a weird life story.

[Teruo Nakamura](#) – this guy isn’t Japanese, he’s an Amis tribesman [from Taiwan](#), hence his original name being Attun Palalin.

*“Nakamura was an Amis aborigine, born **8 October** 1919. In November 1943, he enlisted in a Takasago Volunteer Unit of the Imperial Japanese Army. Nakamura was stationed on Morotai Island, in the Dutch East Indies, shortly before the Allies overran that island in the September 1944 Battle of Morotai. Allegedly, the Imperial Japanese Army declared Nakamura dead on **13** November 1944.”*

He then goes and lives in a hut... in a “fenced field”:

*“After the Allies captured the island, **it appears Nakamura remained there with other stragglers well into the 1950s,** though setting off for extended periods on his own. In **1956, apparently,** he relinquished his allegiance with his fellow holdouts, **and set off to construct a solitary camp consisting of a small hut in a 20 m × 30 m (66 ft × 98 ft) fenced field.**”*

What, a farmer’s field? Presumably owned by someone?

*“Nakamura's hut was **accidentally discovered by a pilot in mid-1974**. In November of that year, the Japanese Embassy in Jakarta requested assistance from the Indonesian government in organizing a search mission, which was conducted by the Indonesian Air Force on Morotai, leading to Nakamura's arrest by Indonesian soldiers on **18 December 1974**. He was flown to Jakarta and hospitalized there.”*

They then fly him to Taiwan and give him a new name:

*“News of his discovery reached Japan on the 27th. Nakamura **decided to be repatriated straight to Taiwan, bypassing Japan**. Upon his return, the Taiwanese press referred to him as Lee Kuang-hui (李光輝), a name he learned of only after his repatriation.”*

If this chain of events makes sense to you then you're doing better than me. They then give him a big cash payout:

*“As a private in a colonial unit in foreign soil, Nakamura was not entitled to a pension (due to a 1953 change in the law on pensions), thus received only the minimal sum of ¥68,000 (US \$227.59 at the time, US \$1,300 in 2021). **This caused a considerable outcry in the press, motivating the Taiwanese government and the public to donate a total of ¥4,250,000 to Nakamura.**”*

He then pockets the cash and “dies”:

“Five years after his repatriation, on 15 June 1979, Nakamura died of lung cancer.”

Unclear how you die of lung cancer when you've been living in remote countryside without cigarettes for pretty much your entire adult life. Here's the guy:



Original [here](#). Again with the supposed holdout looking extremely healthy given he's lived like a savage for decades.

That wasn't particularly difficult to unravel, eh? The "Japanese holdouts" thing turns out to be nonsense just like everything else. Hopefully we can now move on to look at some Proper History grounded in truth. Like... (checks notes)... the cannibalism.

Cannibalism

According to the Americans / historical canon the Japanese were big on eating their enemies. I remember my father telling me about how his dad (RAF in South East Asia) told him the Japanese would eat people and refer to them as "long pig" (human meat tasting like pork apparently). We can look at [this page on Wikipedia](#) to see an overview.

The gist is that the Japanese ate people, not merely for sustenance during wartime / cut off from supply lines but as a demonstration of their evil nature. They didn't NEED to do it, they WANTED to. That's the key thing here. They'd take prisoners and cut meat off of them or extract hearts and livers, then eat them up at a big meal. This is described mostly by "eye witnesses" and testimony of Australian army personnel. It's a hell of an accusation to bandy about so let's dig into it a little.

From Wikipedia's articles we mostly get quotes from Lord **Russell** of Liverpool's book [The Knights of Bushido](#) which is held up as solid historical record. I will present an extract from this scholarly work to impress you all with its reputable fact-based approach:

"There is evidence that at Khandok a prisoner of war, who was described by an eye-witness of the incident as unwounded and in perfect health, was treated as follows:

"...the prisoner was tied to a tree outside the Hiari Kikan office. A Japanese doctor and four Japanese medical students stood round him. They first removed his finger nails and then cut open his chest and removed his heart with which the doctor then proceeded to give a practical demonstration."

The following extract from the diary of a Japanese officer prisoner of war tells of another similar incident.

"Discovered and captured the two prisoners who escaped last night in the jungle. To prevent their escaping a second time pistols were fired at their feet, but it was difficult to hit them. The two prisoners were later dissected while still alive by Medical Officer Yamaji and their livers taken out, and for the first time I saw the internal organs of a human being. It was very informative."

A case of mutilation of a living captive is known to have occurred at Canangay, in the Philippines. The following is an eye-witness account of the atrocity.

"A young woman, about twenty years of age, was caught hiding in the grass. The officer in command of the Japanese patrol which discovered her tore off all her clothes whilst two soldiers held her. She was then taken to a small shelter without walls where the officer with his sabre cut off her breasts and cut open her womb. Soldiers held her while the officer did this. At first the girl screamed but finally lay silent and still... the Japanese then set fire to the shelter."

Another eye-witness has described how in Manila his house boy was tied to a pillar. While still alive the Japanese cut off his genitals and thrust his severed penis into his mouth.

Yet another instance of the mutilation of live prisoners of war was related **by an eye-witness**. This occurred at Balikpapan in Borneo.

*“I saw **a district officer and a police inspector**, both in uniform, in conversation with a Japanese Army officer. During the interview the officer had been continually ill-treating the district officer [a Dutchman], **slapping his face and hitting him all over the body with the scabbard of his sword**. Suddenly the officer drew his sword and **hacked off both the Dutchman’s arms just above the elbows, and then both his legs above the knees**. The trunk of his body was then tied to a coconut tree and bayoneted until life was extinct. The Japanese officer then turned his attention to the Dutch policeman, who had his arms and legs hewed off in like manner. The policeman struggled on to the stumps of his legs and managed to shout ‘God save the Queen’, he then fell dead, a bayonet through his heart.”*

- From Chapter 12: “Cannibalism, Vivisection and Mutilation” from The Knights of Bushido.

An eyewitness said. An eyewitness said. You can see the problem here. This is not evidence of anything, this is just hearsay. Not to mention logistically improbable (e.g. if the eyewitness to the woman’s death says she’s taken inside a building, how does he know what the soldiers did to her? Was he allowed to follow them inside? How?) or just ludicrous and amusing (the Dutch policeman saying “God Save the Queen” on stumps is like the [Black Knight skit](#) from Monty Python).

We also have the grand revelations of Yuki Tanaka, from his book [“Hidden Horrors: Japanese war crimes in World War 2”](#). He’s a big deal – you try reading about Japanese cannibalism in World War 2 and you’ll end up reading some Tanaka eventually.

I quote at length from Chapter 4: “Judge [Webb](#) and Japanese Cannibalism” (if you’ve used Libgen this would be pdf page 157 of 304):

*“The following testimony was given by **Hatam Ali, a Pakistani soldier** taken prisoner on February 15. His company was mobilized into forced labour in various places in Malaysia, and attempts were made to recruit members of the company into the Indian National Army, a pro-Japanese force that had been established to benefit from Indian anti-British sentiment. **Ali refused to join and was put into a labouring party of about 1,000 prisoners who were sent to Manokwari in New Guinea toward the end of 1943**. Soon after they arrived, they were put to work on the construction of an airfield, and in April 1944, **206 prisoners were sent to a new site 300 miles from Manokwari** under the supervision of S Unit, one of the construction units. Ali was one of these.*

*I was included in this number. We were taken to a place about 300 miles away, **we were employed for 12 hours daily on hard fatigues and were given very little to eat**. There was **no medical treatment and all prisoners who fell ill were immediately killed by the Japanese**. Later, due to Allied attacks and activity, the Japs also **ran out of rations**. We prisoners were **made to eat grass and leaves and due to starvation we even ate snakes, frogs and other insects**. At this stage the Japanese started selecting prisoners and everyday **1 prisoner was taken out and killed and eaten by the Japanese**. I personally saw this happen and about 100 prisoners were eaten at this place by the Japanese. The remainder of us were taken to another spot about 50 miles [away] where 10 prisoners died of sickness. At this place the Japanese again started selecting prisoners to eat. Those selected were taken to a hut where flesh was cut from their bodies while they were alive and they were then thrown into a ditch alive where they later died. When flesh was being cut from those selected terrible cries and shrieks came from them and also from the ditch where they were later thrown. These cries used to gradually dim down when the unfortunate individuals were*

dying. *We were not allowed to go near this ditch, no earth was thrown on the bodies and the smell was terrible.*

Eventually Ali's turn came. He was escorted by two soldiers toward this hut, but he ran away. He was chased by a Japanese soldier and was injured in the left ankle, but he finally escaped. He spent the next 15 days wandering the jungle and was rescued by Australian forces. Investigators located no other witnesses to corroborate his story, but if true it raises certain questions. Why did the Japanese soldiers find it necessary to cut flesh from the POWs while they were still living?"

So again, you can see the standard of proof here. "Oh, some Pakistani guy says this happened but we don't have any way to corroborate it. We don't know where he was exactly but he says he was going to be eaten by those evil Japanese. He ran away, somehow escaped pursuit, then survived for 15 days in a tropical rainforest without dying from dehydration / malnourishment / heat exhaustion / animal attack until some Australians found him."

Right. Sure. Question: why would they slice the prisoners up while alive? How incredibly awkward would that be to cut the meat – you wouldn't do that with a deer or a cow, why would you do that with a person? Because the Japanese are just mean, apparently. How would the victims not go into shock? Wouldn't their brain shut down due to the pain/trauma/blood loss? Why would they still be conscious and screaming / thrashing around when thrown in the corpse-ditch?

Yuki also writes about the Japanese killing and eating prisoners who were sick (not thinking through logically how if you were a cannibal you wouldn't eat the disease-ridden prisoners because you'd get sick yourself, you'd eat healthy specimens just like when any carnivore eats meat) and even injecting prisoners with poison, then eating the flesh (that they had just poisoned):

"there are cases in which army doctors would administer lethal injections to the sick prisoners. For example, on April 5, 1943, a Japanese army doctor T.T. administered lethal injections to two Indian army POWs and subsequently cut flesh from their thighs and removed their livers. He ordered another Indian POW— a cook, Rabi Lohar— to prepare the flesh and livers for consumption. But Lohar refused to do this, even after being beaten. Eventually, a Japanese soldier, N.Y., cooked the body parts. In May 1943 another Indian POW was killed by the same method and for the same purpose. T.T. was tried and executed on May 3, 1946, and three Japanese soldiers who participated in the consumption of the Indian POWs were sentenced to ten years' imprisonment."

It's just absolute bollocks, the lot of it. They write this fiction, nothing to substantiate it, present it as gospel and somehow this is held up as a valid academic study. They might as well say the Japanese wrapped their victims in seaweed and rice to make giant sushi rolls out of them. Or that the Japanese attempted to turn Indian captives into sake by fermenting them in enormous glass jars blown by Korean slave labour. I mean hey, if I told you "an eyewitness" saw that happen, you'd believe me right? This is what we're dealing with here.

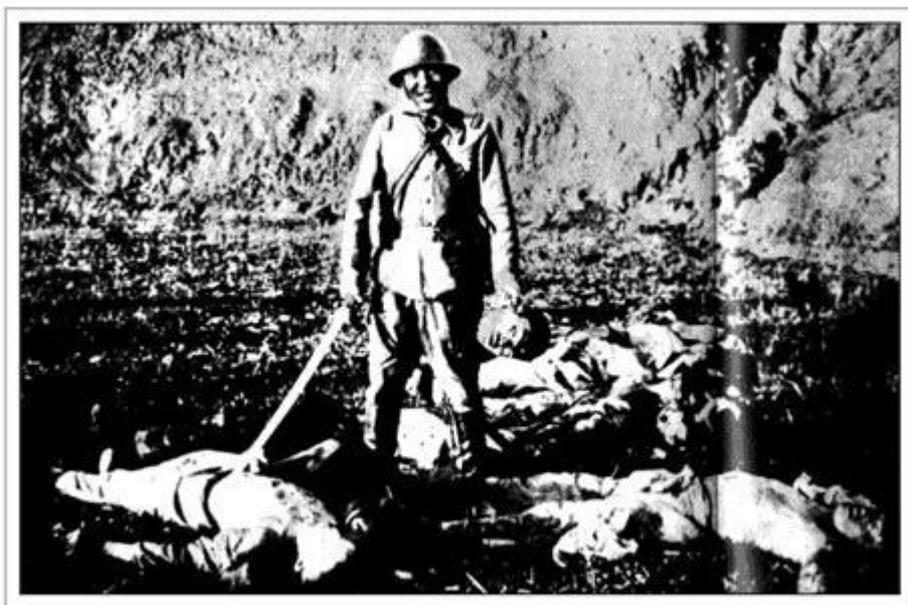
In terms of physical evidence I'm given this:



“Two Australian soldiers pose with human remains recovered from a Japanese encampment.” - original [here](#).

What is that? A bone? A bit of flesh or bone they've held up on a stick? Why are two men holding the same stick? Why does the guy on the left have such a small face and such an enormous head/helmet? What's going on with the resolution quality of the guy on the right being markedly different to the guy on the left? Even if two soldiers were holding up a chunk of meat what does this prove? Cannibals were here?

Or obvious paste-up's like this:



(found via DuckDuckGo Image search: “Japanese cannibalism WW2”)

The classic “white glow” artefact of a paste-up nice and visible in this one. That katana is now a lightsaber of white energy due to them messing around with the contrast/gamma (hence the pitch black ground).

Or [this blog page](#) which has a wealth of images:



Protip: the baby has a black outline, it's been rotated and pasted in. Pretty sure the top of the hat of the guy on the right would still be visible from that angle but they goofed and cropped it out. The sky is the usual void. Well done, Navy Intel. Well done.



A sort of Sgt. Pepper style paste-up of a death march where everyone is inserted separately.



A “British POW” where the face is slotted in to the image and the body/torso appears drawn in. Look at that collar-bone area. **Yes, that body was painted.**

And so on. How am I the one noticing this? I’m not special. How can nobody else have seen this?

Yuki Tanaka (now Toshiyuki Tanaka) made the news in 1992 with a grand reveal about the cannibalism. Here's [an article on it](#):

*“For six months, historian **Toshiyuki Tanaka** dug through Australian archives to tell his country that some Japanese soldiers were cannibals during the last desperate days of World War II. Allied forces have known this for years. But **Tanaka's account, published in the Tokyo media Tuesday, represents the first Japanese investigation into the reports and the most extensive study of the subject to date.** Tanaka, an associate professor of political science at the University of Melbourne, said **he uncovered more than 100 cases of Japanese Imperial Army soldiers eating the flesh of Australian troops, Asian labourers and indigenous people in Papua New Guinea.**”*

And:

““These documents clearly show that this cannibalism was done by a whole group of Japanese soldiers, and in some cases they were not even starving,” Tanaka said Tuesday.”

And:

*“Born after his country's defeat, the 43-year-old Tanaka wants to educate young Japanese “who are not told anything” about the war at a time when their leaders are considering erasing sections of its postwar constitution that prohibits sending troops overseas. **Tanaka said he tried several times to publish his work in Japan but it was deemed “too sensitive.”** His account didn't receive much attention Tuesday in Japanese TV and newspapers – the Mainichi newspaper placed it inside, on page six. **Tanaka's findings are based on Japanese army documents seized by Australian troops, plus the testimony of witnesses and the confessions of Japanese soldiers at war-crime trials.** An English translation of a secret Imperial Army order – issued Nov. 18, 1944 – warned troops that cannibalizing anyone not an enemy was punishable by death. The order described cannibalism as the **“worst human crime”** and blamed increases in murders and the possession of human flesh by soldiers on a “lack of thoroughness in moral training.”*

So the Japanese had to issue a secret order... which admits that cannibalism is the worst human crime... and discourages their troops from doing it as it's degenerate... but if you did it to the enemy that was fine. OK. Can we see this order? Can we see a copy of it? Nope. Can we read the text of it? Nope. In his book it's listed as:

*“**The Australian War Memorial (hereafter AWM) Collection, 54/1010/9/116.** Of all the Australian documents on Japanese cannibalism I have found, this 127-page document contains the largest number of cases on cannibalism, of which all the victims were Australian soldiers. It contains reports on over 80 cases and gives evidence that about 100 Australians were victims of this crime.”*

About 100? But it was widespread, in multiple countries? What!? How can it be this thing they were commonly doing all over the South Pacific and yet 100 men are eaten (allegedly)? If you want to take a look at the evidence then that would be [this](#) pdf, found [here](#). Have a look and see what you think, you'll forgive me if I don't wade through 153 pages of military interrogation in font size 5 to play “spot the hearsay statement”, allegedly given by captives held in confinement and (if it's anything like what was done to the Germans in the Nuremberg trials, being repeatedly tortured).

Bottom line: if there was some actual physical evidence of the Japanese eating people as a widespread war crime/atrocity it would have been presented in the post war trials and men like Judge Webb would have talked about it – you'd also be able to see copies of the various commands / memos / orders from Japanese high command. You wouldn't have some random guy

finding a cardboard box in Melbourne fifty years after the event and making out that it's a big deal that Australian troops were getting hopped up on their own war propaganda and making big claims.

You might wonder why this Toshiyuki chap was bringing up the matter in 1992. Well, by complete coincidence this was around the time of the 1992 Presidential Election in the US. Republican candidate George H W Bush was praised as a veteran from his experiences in World War 2...

(wait for it)

...and a key exploit of his was how he was the sole survivor of a famous incident involving Japanese cannibalism. Let's talk about Chichijima.

[From Wikipedia:](#)

*“The Chichijima incident (also known as the Ogasawara incident) occurred in late 1944. Japanese soldiers killed **eight** American airmen on Chichi Jima, in the Bonin Islands, and cannibalized four of the airmen.”*

And:

*“Nine airmen escaped from their planes after being shot down during bombing raids on Chichi Jima, a tiny island 700 miles (1,100 km) south of Tokyo, in September 1944. **Eight** of the airmen, Lloyd Woellhof, Grady York, James “Jimmy” Dye, Glenn Frazier Jr., Marvell “Marve” Mershon, Floyd Hall, Warren Earl Vaughn, and Warren Hindenlang were captured and eventually executed. The ninth, and only one to evade capture, was future U.S. President George H. W. Bush, then a 20-year-old pilot.”*

Aha, now it becomes clear. This is a cheap way to pad a resume and make someone a hard man. Here's Bush Senior being a pilot by the way:



A very legitimate photograph. Not a paste-up made up of three layers (plane, sky, pilot). I assume Bush was spending the war at a holiday home in Connecticut or Colorado playing golf and having a quiet smoke.

*“After the war, it was discovered that the captured airmen had been beaten and tortured before being executed. The airmen were beheaded on the orders of **Lt Gen. Yoshio Tachibana**. Japanese officers **then ate parts of the bodies of four of the men**.*

*...Because military and international law **did not specifically deal with cannibalism**, they were tried for murder and "prevention of honourable burial"*

I assume that last bit is true but it seems like a weird loophole. What, nobody had ever thought to have a law against eating your enemies? Really? Wouldn't it come under torture or inhumane treatment or something? You're telling me that if British troops ate a German soldier then they'd be done for "prevention of honourable burial"?

If we go onto the wiki page for Lt Gen. [Yoshio Tachibana](#) we learn:

*“At the end of the war, Tachibana and his staff were arrested by the American occupation authorities and **were deported to Guam**, where they stood trial for war crimes in connection with the Chichijima Incident in August 1946. However, as cannibalism was not covered under international law at the time, **Tachibana was charged with "prevention of honourable burial."** Tachibana was sentenced to **death by hanging** along with four other defendants. He and the other defendants executed **were buried in unmarked graves on Guam.**”*

Of course they were. What happened to this guy? They killed him. OK, any evidence of that? Nope. Where is his body? On Guam. Why was his corpse not returned to Japan? No idea. Saved on air miles. Why an unmarked grave? Cynical, tin-foil hat wearing readers will make wild accusations such as “Because they didn't hang him and the grave is unmarked so you can never find it to check”. Those damn paranoid conspiracy theorists.

Then of course the whole Chichijima incident becomes newsworthy again thanks to both Toshiyuki's efforts – as per [this article](#) for example – and also a decade later by [James Bradley](#). I've encountered Bradley before when I did my video on Iwo Jima as he was supposed to be the son of one of the men who raised the flag on Mt. Suribachi (possibly one of the most iconic photos of the entire Pacific campaign). He wrote *Flags of Our Fathers* (which became a film) and later learned that actually, no, his dad wasn't one of the guys raising the flag but he might have been around there at the time, maybe, probably. Whoops. Despite his interest in history he missed the bit where Iwo Jima was an empty volcanic island and the entire battle there was fake. Double whoops. In 2003 Bradley (now doing very well for himself as an author) wrote [Flyboys](#): a True Story of Courage. This is all about the amazing adventures of George H W Bush and cannibal Japs.

Anyway, the point being: I suspect the reason why we heard from Toshiyuki the cardboard box discoverer in '92 was to drum up “evidence” of old war atrocity lies to help Bush's rep.

American Desecration of Japanese Corpses

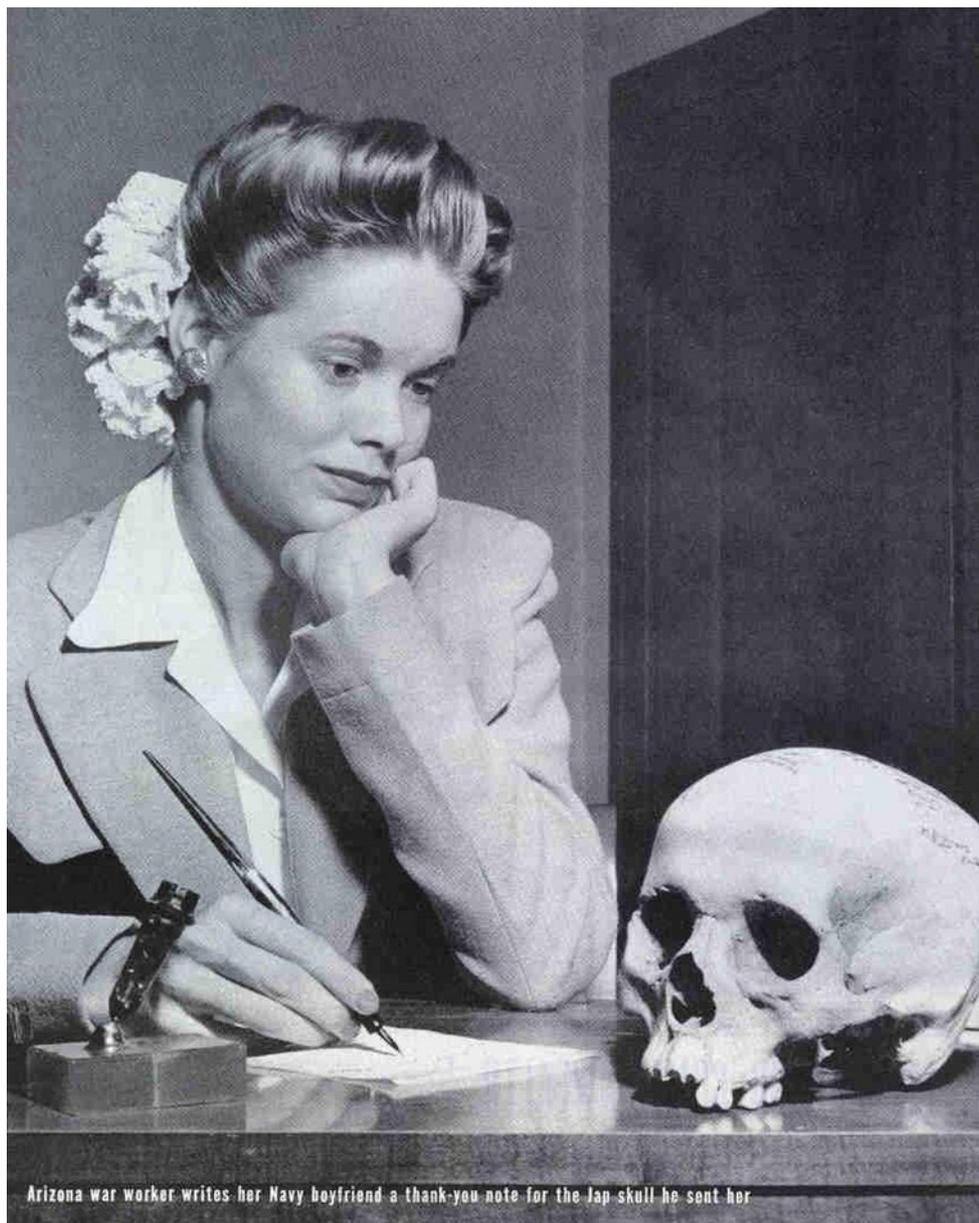
We then turn to look at [this article](#).

*“During World War II, some members of the United States military mutilated dead Japanese service personnel in the Pacific theatre. The mutilation of Japanese service personnel included the **taking of body parts as "war souvenirs" and "war trophies"**. Teeth and skulls were the most commonly taken "trophies", **although other body parts were also collected.**”*

Oho, what's this? The Americans stealing body parts?

“The phenomenon of "trophy-taking" was widespread enough that discussion of it featured prominently in magazines and newspapers. Franklin Roosevelt himself was reportedly given a gift of a letter-opener made of a Japanese soldier's arm by U.S. Representative Francis E. Walter in 1944, which Roosevelt later ordered to be returned, calling for its proper burial. The news was also widely reported to the Japanese public, where the Americans were portrayed as "deranged, primitive, racist and inhuman". This, compounded by a previous Life magazine picture of a young woman with a skull trophy, was reprinted in the Japanese media and presented as a symbol of American barbarism, causing national shock and outrage.”

The letter opener is talked about but we never see a photograph of it. The photo we do get is the cover of Life magazine, 22nd May 1944:



“Arizona war worker writes her Navy boyfriend a thank-you note for the Jap skull he sent her”

That doesn't look staged at all, does it? They just happened to have the prettiest blonde girl in Arizona as the girlfriend, and boy is she a great actress! Can you imagine a soldier hacking off a

Japanese soldiers head, boiling it in a pot until they get the skull, then shipping that home to his sweetheart? Paying for the postage, thinking “Ooh, she’ll LOVE this!”. Come on.

We also have:



“Skull stewing-Pacific War” – original [here](#).

Something weird going on with the lighting. Everything is so dark – no shadows though, just a jet black bush behind them. What is happening with the right foot of the guy crouched down? I can see his trouser leg just end... no foot. Dissolving into that Pacific mist. Why does his upper body have a thick black outline? Why are the eye sockets of the skull visible through the steam? It’s like it’s a 50% opacity image layered in. And so on. Another fake.

I won’t include the other images from the Wikipedia article – mostly a bunch of skulls (which may be genuine or may be theatrical props) stuck on signs at places like Tarawa. There’s a dodgy-looking severed head at the top of the Wiki page that’s supposed to be of a Japanese soldier... but if you look the ethnicity of the head looks more Pacific islander. Bear in mind that in places like Papua New Guinea / the South Pacific they had actual, native cannibals there. So you would quite likely find things like shrunken heads and so on by sailing around there and bartering with people.

With both the cannibalism (in the case of an isolated unit running out of supplies) and the trophy-taking (e.g. putting a skull on a stick to scare the enemy) I’m not saying it could never happen, but I just wanted to highlight how this stuff gets talked about as part of the war in the Pacific but when you look into it the evidence starts to shrivel up and the whole thing looks dodgy. Maybe some troops took gold teeth or were brutal because of all the propaganda they had been exposed to, but none of this is widespread or as big a deal as they’re making out.

After all, we're several years into the conflict now and we have yet to see a real battle between the Japanese and the Americans. From Pearl Harbour to the Aleutians to Midway to Guadalcanal it's all been phony. So who was dead to collect parts from?

Corpse Math Mysteries

Another weird aspect of the Pacific Campaign is how the Japanese population goes up instead of down. Obviously if millions of soldiers go to war and get decimated, then your home cities get firebombed to ash before undergoing brutal military occupation then you would expect a rather profound drop in the number of citizens. As per [this page at statista.com](#) we have a population of about 72.5 million Japanese in 1939 and a population of 77 million in 1945. So that's a solid increase in population despite the war. By 1955 they're at 89 million plus, so rationing or reconstruction of their blasted cities didn't slow them down one bit. That's pretty weird to think about by itself but lets dig into this more.

[This page](#) quotes from "Census Tables of the Showa Era, Toyo Keizaishinbunsha (Toyo Economic Newspaper Co.) p.23." and gives us a Japanese population of:

1930		64,450,005
1935		69,254,148
1940		73,075,071
1945		71,998,104
1950		83,199,637
1955		89,275,529

So the Japanese are tracking a dip of, what, 73 million in 1940 to 71.9 million in 1945? But that's only a drop of 1.1 million people due to World War 2! We've seen in battle after battle (or fake after fake) the narrative being that the Japanese are absolutely massacred by the Marines (losing tens of thousands of men every time an atoll is taken). **Then Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and the firebombing of Tokyo, etc.** It would have to be more than that, surely. **Also notice that our two statistics sites don't agree. They are off by fully 5 million in 1945, so one got the memo and one didn't.**

How many troops did the Japanese have? They're supposed to have about [6 million soldiers in their army as of 1945](#) and another [half million naval personnel](#). [This section](#) on Wikipedia makes out they have **8.4 million men** serving in their armed forces. A pretty big army, right?

They are said to lose 2.5-3.1 million people during the course of the war:

*"Although Japan was heavily involved in World War II, it is estimated that only **2.5-3.1 million Japanese were killed in the war, representing only 3.5% of its pre-war population.** Of the country's total casualties, about **2.1 million were military personnel while 500,000-800,000 were civilians.** About 326,000 civilians and military personnel were left wounded."*

- <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/wwii-casualties-by-country.html>

And from [this section of the IJA page](#):

World War II:

Deaths

- Between **2,120,000 and 2,190,000 Imperial Armed Forces dead** including non-combat deaths (includes **1,760,955** killed in action),
- KIA Breakdown by Theatre:
- Army 1931–1945: **1,569,661** [China: 435,600 KIA, Against U.S. Forces: 659,650 KIA, Burma Campaign: 163,000 KIA, Australian Combat Zone: 199,511 KIA, French Indochina: 7,900 KIA, U.S.S.R./Manchuria: 45,900 KIA, Others/Japan: 58,100 KIA]
- Navy: **473,800** KIA All Theatres.
- **672,000** known civilian dead,
- **810,000** missing in action and presumed dead.

The above bullet point list adds up to 3,525,461 by my count, so their idea of 2.5-3.1 million is off. Either way we've got a bit of a problem: Japan should have its population drop by a good 3 million. Instead it supposedly loses 1.1 million and then rockets up so that in a decade they have gained **18** million.

Further, if the military is still operating at over half strength (they have about 5 million soldiers left by '45 according to their own numbers) then why are they losing? The Americans are throwing everything they've got at the Japanese and mopping up isolated units on these atolls. What should have happened is that the Japanese would have redirected their energy at the "Eastern Front" (i.e. to the East / South-East where the Americans were coming from) and swarmed them. If they're fanatics ready to fight to the last man then having over 96% of your population still up and about is a great position to be in.

I don't really have an answer to the above, other than to point it out for your consideration. The numbers don't make much sense to me. It comes across that the population dipped a little bit and then skyrocketed, which shouldn't happen given the mass aerial bombardment, the cities being flattened and all the young men being killed atoll to atoll. **Women can't have babies without men, you know, so the population should have been decimated, with a drop of 5 or 6 million at the least.**

More to Come...

[Outro Music](#)



Addendum

Miles linked me to [this article](#) which I found... weird. For a start the story is nonsensical (a Marine goes to investigate a cave, gets killed by a sniper, then somehow loses all his ID and his entire squad and gets buried in a "mass grave", unidentified for decades, but then found and using DNA-magic they work out who he was). It's also a weird article given how the site editor is just copying a letter supposedly sent to the website without any real context or reason:

"On July 8, 1944, during the final days of WWII, while investigating a cave for fighters, my Great Uncle Jack was killed in action by a sniper.

Somehow his identification tag separated and his body was never identified. Last Saturday, after 78 years, Marine CPL Jack Shelton Brown was finally returned home to his family in Tidewater, Virginia. Those are the facts, but I believe his story is bigger than that.

It begins with a family and a nation that never forgot the sacrifice made by a 22-year-old Marine Corporal on a voluntary mission. I grew up proud of my Great Uncle Jack, who earned a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart during his military career.

A story where the efforts to identify Uncle Jack as well as the other 81,000+ MIA's is unending.

It is a story of anthropologists and deep sea divers and diplomats who work to return our honoured military to their families. Once recovered, remains are sent to Hickham Air Force Base in Hawaii, to the Defence POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) laboratory.

This is a story of the DPAA laboratory, the largest DNA matching Facility in the world. The people who work at the DPAA are actually spending their careers to help bring our heroes home. My daughter spent time with a man who has been working at the DPAA over 50 years. I consider him and the entire staff to be heroes.

These people are so caring the entire staff meet under a waterfall to pay their final respects when a hero has been identified and leaves during his/ her "departure day."

This is a story of the military who are so respectful that once recovered, never leave our honoured fallen alone. This is the story of Marine Gunnery Sergeant Joe who accompanied my Uncle Jack from Hawaii to Dallas to Norfolk International Airport and to the church and burial spot. CPL Brown was never alone.

It is a story of the Marine Honour Guards that met the plane at each stop. And it is the story of the Patriot Guard Riders that met and led the procession from Norfolk to the funeral home by motorcycle during one of the worst thunderstorms of the summer. The Patriot Guard Riders have a motto, "Standing for those who stood for US". Mission accomplished.

This is a story of the riders, and the police and the active duty servicemen and servicewomen who stood vigil outside the church and at the burial site.

Mostly though, this is a story for every military serviceman & servicewoman, for every first responder, for anyone putting their lives on the line for the rest of us. We love you, we honour your sacrifice, and we will never forget you."

That's it. That's the whole letter. To me, that doesn't read like a normal letter. It's more like something a writer has hammered out at great speed with no time for re-writes. There's the flourish

of “the worst thunderstorm of the summer” and “Mission accomplished” and the overly sentimental ending. The whole thing is just really corny and emotional. Miles suggested this was written as a response to my series, based on the timing of this “revelation”. I don’t know, I find it creepy to imagine some intel people care about what I’m writing (given that hardly anyone will read this and regardless the mainstream can literally just go “lol you’re not a historian” and ignore it) but yeah, it’s funny how it reads like someone hammered it out to a tight deadline. If any intel people are reading this... well I don’t think Miles cares for profanity (he’s a classy guy) so I’ll leave it to the reader’s imagination what I’m thinking.

Intel is definitely reading this, as are millions of other people worldwide. Which is what bothers Intel. If we were really cranks, making bad arguments, they could ignore us. But they don't ignore us. I see them responding all over the media every week to my papers, sometimes on the same day, sometimes a couple of years later. Hollywood is cranking out new movies just to answer my papers, and those movies take time to make. We're honored guys, we really are. Thousands of agents and billions of dollars to answer a guy living in a shack and his occasional guest writers. Not a fair fight, you say? I agree. I give you permission to hire more hacks and spend more money.