

Why was the defence of the Kokoda track so important to Australia during World War Two? Explain the factors and conditions at Kokoda that caused this battle to become one of the most remembered in Australian military history.

When the Japanese invaded New Guinea in 1942 Australia was placed in a desperate position. Only a small handful of poorly trained Australian soldiers stood in the way of the previously undefeated Japanese army and defeat would mean Japan had a perfect staging post for an invasion of mainland Australia. The battle for the Kokoda track is important in Australian history, not just as a famous military victory that may have saved Australia, but because of the conditions of the fighting and the bravery of the men on both sides. The terror of jungle warfare with hand to hand combat, fought in huge mountain ranges where the Australians were outnumbered, underprepared, poorly supplied and even on the verge of starvation, makes this victory a true triumph of the ANZAC spirit.

By 1942 Japan had virtual control of the Pacific region and New Guinea became the last buffer between the Japanese army and Australia. Australia looked to be under serious threat as our allies had been destroyed

Singapore, Pearl Harbor, China, Japanese expansion, situation in Asia.....

The military importance of Kokoda had become very clear by the time of invasion in 1942. The Japanese began bombing Darwinthreat to Aust.....

The threat to Australia initially seemed even greater due to the Australian force that were sent to stop the Japanese advance.....

The importance of the track itself

A major factor that has led to Kokoda becoming a significant event in Australian history was that despite the odds, the Australian forces defeated a highly trained Japanese army.

(significant events, battles, turning points)

The conditions of the fighting paragraphs

Kokoda has become part of the Australian ANZAC because for the first time Australians were fighting on our doorstep to stop an invasion of our nation. if Kokoda was to fall.....

The bravery of men on the Kokoda track has also made this campaign a most revered moment in our history. The men fought in atrocious conditions.....yet.....