The World War II Campaign

- Bougainville is an island in the Northern Solomons.

- During World War II, it was the site of a major campaign between forces of the Allies and Japan. Allied troops stormed ashore at Cape Torokina on November 1, 1943.

- During the early morning hours, a Japanese surface force composed of four cruisers and six destroyers tried unsuccessfully to break up the invasion in what became known as the Battle of Empress Augusta Bay.

- Enemy land forces remained active on Bougainville through the end of the war because the purpose of the assault was to secure air bases to isolate the large Japanese base at Rabaul on New Britain and not necessarily to occupy the entire island.

Transports unloading in Empress Augusta Bay, off the Bougainville beachhead, November 20, 1943. Photographed by T/Sgt. J. Sarno, USMC, from on board a PT boat, one of whose twin .50-caliber machine gun mounts is in the foreground. The Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel (LCVP) just beyond is from USS President Jackson (APA 18). A Patrol, Torpedo (PT) boat, two Attack Transports (APA) and a Landing Ship, Tank (LST) are in the distance. U.S. Marine Corps photograph.

Pictured above is the Amphibious Assault Ship USS America (LHA 6), which is very similar to the make up of USS Bougainville (LHA 8). Bougainville will be the first Flight I ship to reincorporate a well deck to increase operational flexibility. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Nathan Laird (RELEASED).

LHA Quick Facts:

Name:	USS Bougainville (LHA 8)
Class:	America
Mission:	Support the Marine Corps tenets of Operational Maneuver From the Sea (OMFTS) and Ship to Objective Maneuver (STOM)
Length:	855 feet
Speed:	20+ knots
Crew:	1,090 total

DID YOU KNOW?

The original USS Bougainville (CVE 100) was an escort carrier that was commissioned at Astoria, Ore., June 18, 1944. Unlike most of her sister ships, she did not operate in a direct combat role supporting amphibious assaults or conducting antisubmarine warfare. Rather, she performed logistical missions similar to that described above for both land bases and the fleet carriers.

CVE QUICK FACTS:

Name:	USS Bougainville (CVE 100)
Class:	Casablanca
Mission:	Carrier escort performing logistical missions
Length:	512 feet
Speed:	20 knots
Crew:	860 total