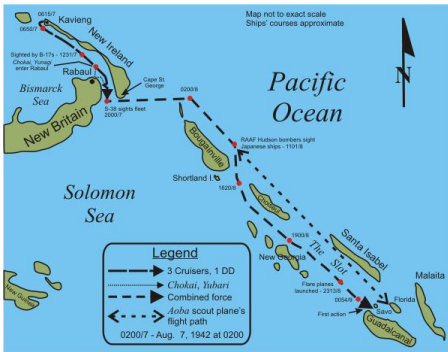


**RETIRE MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)**  
**invites you to attend its meeting, on Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013.**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Pl., Greenwich.**

**ARTHUR N. GOTTLIEB, HISTORIAN**

**THE BATTLE OF SAVO ISLAND: (GUADALCANAL, 1942)**



In the summer of 1942, the Japanese had to be stopped in their drive to cut off Australia by severing US shipping lanes. The southern advance on Australia by the Japanese via New Guinea had been blocked by Admiral Fletcher at the Battle of the Coral Sea, and the eastern Pacific was saved at the Battle of Midway. The Imperial Japanese Navy, even after Midway, still held numerical superiority (85% of American war supplies produced was being sent to the Atlantic theater) and continued to progress to isolate Australia. The Solomon Islands lay directly

on the sea route from the West Coast to Australia, and when the Japanese started to build an air base on Guadalcanal across Savo Sound from their base at Tulagi, the United States knew it had to act.

On August 7, 1942, the US committed to its first major offensive against Japan, a land-based attack in the Pacific, on Guadalcanal and Tulagi. In response, Japanese Vice Admiral Gunichi Mikawa brought his task force of seven cruisers and one destroyer to attack the Allied amphibious fleet and its screening force. The battle was joined on August 8-9, and the Japanese inflicted heavy damage. Four heavy cruisers were sunk and a heavy cruiser and destroyer badly damaged; 1,270 men were killed and 708 injured. The enemy had comparative scratches on three cruisers. Although the allies had lost a major fight, the purpose of the screening force was to protect the landing, and the Japanese did not get through. With the victory at Guadalcanal, the strategic initiative in the Pacific passed to the United States for the rest of the war.

Arthur Gottlieb, an RMA favorite, is an historian of political and military history. He was formerly a professional Curator of Naval History and Technical Director of Exhibits at the Intrepid Sea-Air Space Museum in New York City. He worked regularly with veterans of all services to create exhibits accurately illustrating the history of 20<sup>th</sup> century warfare. From 1989 to 1997, he coordinated with all branches of the National Guard to preserve historic ships, aircraft and armor from around the world. He is an Auxiliary Officer of the U.S. Coast Guard currently serving as Commander of Flotilla 7-2, Division I (Southern region), Sector Long Island Sound North. A certified Senior Advisor in Norwalk, he provides pro bono trauma counseling to soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

**RMA meetings are free and open to the public; no reservations are required. Please plan to arrive around 10:30 for our social break (coffee and cake), followed by our speaker at 10:45. Meetings are held at the First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich. For additional information, call Bernard Schneider, 203-698-2558; bgsesq@gmail.com.**