

## #17 Beginning of a Long Drive



*Japanese troops attack Edson's Ridge during the fighting on Guadalcanal.*

The Guadalcanal campaign was fought between 7 August 1942 and 9 February 1943 on and around the island of Guadalcanal in the Pacific theater of World War II. It was the first major land offensive by Allied forces against the Empire of Japan and the beginning of an island hopping campaign that would eventually lead to the defeat of Japan.

When the United States entered World War II on Dec. 8, 1941, Stratford was already on wartime footing. Since 1939 industrial production had been on the rise and in 1940 the Selective Service Act was put in place. In February 1942, the first 17 wartime draftees were inducted. Approximately 3,330 Stratford residents served in World War II.