The Japanese threat was getting closer to home with the arrival of troops on New Guinea. Using the information given as well as research, describe Australian troop’s response on New Guinea, paying particular attention to the Kokoda campaign. Detail the Battle of Kokoda and highlight the significance of this campaign.

The Battle of Kokoda was an intense jungle fight between Japan and Australia, in an attempt to secure Australia’s main base, Port Moresby. This base was vital to defending Australia and in Japanese hands meant imminent bombings of northern Queensland. The struggle last four months starting in July of 1942. At the time, only two Australian brigades were stationed with Japanese troops landing at Buna and Gona on Papuan north coast. In late July, Japan marched towards Kokoda village, despite the aid of the Australian 39th Infantry Battalion and the Papuan Infantry Battalion, Kokoda fell to the Japanese. The remaining troops retreated back, but found the environment more challenging then fighting. During November, Aussie troops pursued the Japanese back along the Kokoda trail. Japanese troops retreated, weak and starving, the troops at Gona and Buna still fought to the death. Once the Australians had reached Kumusi River the battle was deemed over.

What happened to the Allied Troops who were part of the surrender in Singapore? Where were they transported to? In your response you must detail the prison camp of Changi and the infamous Thai-Burma Railway—what were they? What were the conditions like? In this response, outline the role played by the courageous, Sir Edward “Weary” Dunlop.