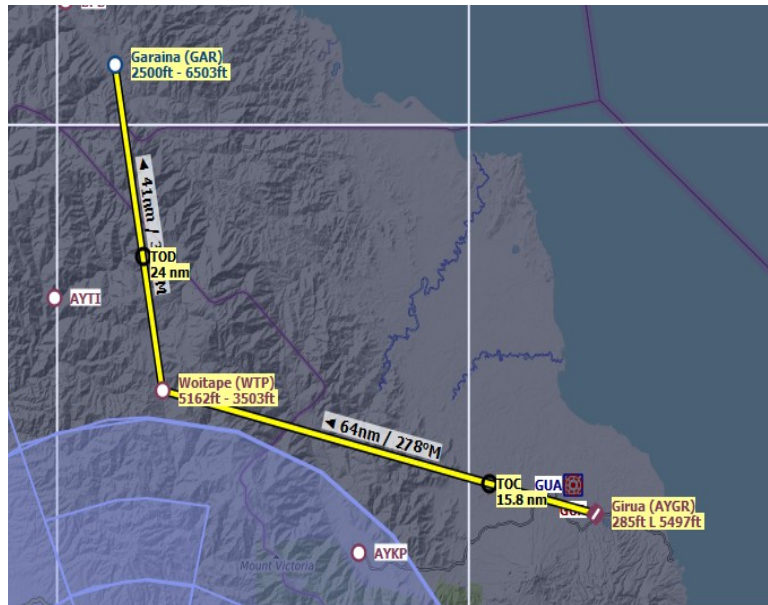


The CIX VFR Club

Christmas Caper – 2019

Day 5 - Girua to Geraina via Waitape



This airfield remained in use providing air service to Popondetta and Oro Province. In 1968, renamed "Girua Airport", for nearby Girua village and Girua River. A terminal building and parking area was built on the side of the main road. Several World War II aircraft wrecks found in the area were displayed outside the terminal including a P-47D Thunderbolt 42-27608 (until removed in 1999) and a B-25D "Bar-Fly 41-30593.

During 2014-2016, an Asia Development Bank funded the repair and expansion of the runway and construction of a new airport terminal building. The new terminal was officially opened during a visit by Prime Minister Peter O'Neill in March 2018.

Several aircraft were setup as a war memorial on the side of the Air Niugini terminal in the 1970's by the Oro Province Works Department. Today only the B-25 and the wing from an A-20 near the gate remains, the others have been removed by private restorers. Many earth horseshoe shaped fighter revetments for the 58th Fighter Group's P-47s are still visible from the air.

Source: <https://www.pacificwrecks.com/airfields/png/girua/index.html>

The Route

| | | |
|-------|--------------------|--------|
| Leg 1 | Girua to Waitape | 64 nms |
| Leg 2 | Waitape to Geraina | 41 nms |

This days flying is 105 nms; the major challenges being the altitude of the airfields. You might well need to fly in excess of 12 000 ft!