

Reilly, Matthew (1974, -)

Hell Island, Pan McMillian, (2007)

[3] [...]

For this carrier was a long way from anywhere, docked at an old World War II refuelling station in the middle of the Pacific, a station attached to a small Island that had curiously ceased to appear on maps after the Americans had taken it by force from the Japanese in 1943.

Once known as Grant Island, it was a thousand kilometres south of the Bering Strait and five hundred from its nearest island neighbour. In the war it had seen fierce fighting as the Americans had wrested it – and its highly-prized airfield – from a suicidal Japanese garrison.

Because of the ferocity of the fighting and the heavy losses incurred there, Grant Island was given another name by the US Marines who'd fought there.

They called it Hell Island.

[7] [...]

This Combat Talon stayed high, very high, it was as if it was trying to avoid being seen by radar systems down at sea level. This was unusual, because there was nothing down there – according to the maps, the nearest land in this part of the Pacific was an atoll 500 clicks to the east.

[29] [...]

A wire-frame image of the *Nimitz* appeared on a big freestanding glass screen in the centre of the control room, a cross-section shown from the right-hand side. [...]

A veritable *river* of red dots was flowing out from the main hangar bay, heading toward the bow of the carrier... [...]

Each dot represented an individual moving at incredible speed, practically leap-frogging each other in their frenzy to get forward.

[78] [...]

He dispatched Mother and Astro to find any maps of Hell Island. They found some in a state-room, ever aware of the howls of the gorillas searching the ship for them.

When they returned, Schofield and his team pored over the maps. The most helpful one showed a network of underground tunnels running throughout the island.

“This used to be called Grant Island,” Schofield said. “Until we stormed it in 1943 and removed it from all maps, so it could be used as a secret staging post”.

Contribution created by Mazzotti Mattia on 19/10/2009

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