

Bonegi Two - Kinugawa Maru

beached Jap transport "Kinugawa Maru" in 1944



"Kinugawa Maru" (Bonegi II)- This 436 foot long Japanese transport ship still rests partly above water, with the stern in 27m. Excellent for snorkelers and divers.

The Japanese transport Kinugawa Maru was sunk in 1942 quite close to the beach near Bonegi Creek which is about 8 miles (13 km) west of Honiara, and is commonly referred to as "Bonegi II". The ship is 437 feet long with the bow emerging a few yards from the beach. The bow section is popular with snorkellers because there is an abundance of coral and fish life.

Planes from Henderson Airfield on Guadalcanal and the USS Enterprise attacked the convoy, sinking seven of the transports with another two damaged. The remaining four transports continued on towards Guadalcanal. At dawn on 15 November 1942, the four transports were found by the Americans to be on or near the beaches west of the now location of Honiara.

Planes from Henderson and the Enterprise attacked the two remaining ships. By noon, all four ships were on fire and sinking. Three were ashore and the fourth sank off shore.

Originally the ship was stranded right up on the reef but over the years it has broken up under the effects of storms, rust and some salvage work.



The stern lies at 100 feet (30 m) and is accessible to Advanced level recreational divers. The propellers were salvaged in the 1960's. You can dive straight down to the stern and examine the two propeller shafts and rudder. Then swim up the ship towards the bow through the various parts of the ship. Spend a delightful safety stop in the coral encrusted bow section with thousands of fish.