

Found: New deadly triangle in Pacific

A MYSTERIOUS new "Pacific Triangle" — as deadly as the famed Bermuda Triangle — has swallowed 48 seagoing vessels in the last 10 months alone.

Located about 2,500 miles north of New Zealand, the deadly graveyard of ships lies in the area of the island of Tarawa, scene of one of the bloodiest battles of World War II.

Officials say most of the ships had set out from Tarawa, and simply disappeared, incredibly without even a trace.

"Incidents of this kind are far from rare," according to an official newsletter of the South Pacific Commission.

"Now the government of Kiribati is being assisted by New Zealand in trying to counter the problem."

Both governments, officials say, have spent tens of thousands of dollars searching the area for clues to the cause of the mysterious disappearances.

marines who died here," one native explained.

"They are luring our fisherman to their watery graves."

According to historians, thousands of U.S. Marines were killed on Tarawa when they wrested the island from its defenders, elite Imperial Japanese Marines, during a three-day re-creation of hell in which all the Japanese were slain.

"The invasion of Tarawa was one of the two bloodiest and most ferocious battles ever fought in the entire history of the Marine Corps," said one expert on the war.

"Only Iwo Jima exceeded it in violence."

Scientists have a more practical explanation for the seafaring disasters, however.

They suggest that the ships are drawn down into their watery graves as a result of underwater seismic disturbances which often cause volcanoes to appear above the waves and then vanish just as quickly.

— REGINALD DAMIEN



MAP shows area where ships have disappeared.

In 1983, the Kiribati government spent \$50,000 on fruitless searches, officials reveal.

"And it looks as if we could top that this year," said Marine superintendent Beiaiti Highland.

Natives of the coral atoll think it's a waste of money to go looking for the cause of the disappearances.

They insist they know the reason why the ships have been mysteriously vanishing: ghosts!

"It is the spirits of the Japanese and American