

INTRODUCTION

in particular being a beneficiary. The role of the type in the Pacific is incomparable to other theatres due to the harshness of the climate and the fearsome geography of New Guinea and the Solomons. Many Lightnings were swallowed in this tropical maw, and many are still missing today. Its unique design warranted unique markings, which I hope you enjoy, happily obliged to us courtesy of the Fifth and Thirteenth Air Forces.

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A map showing key airbases used by Fifth Air Force P-38s in the New Guinea area of the South West Pacific Area command during 1942-1944. Note that some of these locations had several airfields. For example Port Moresby hosted six sizeable airfields: Three-Mile (Kila), Five-Mile (Wards), Seven-Mile (Jacksons), 12-Mile (Berry), 14-Mile (Schwimmer) and 17-Mile (Durand).