



Port Moresby harbour during the second half of 1942, crowded with supply ships and several moored RAAF flying boats. On 10 July the No. 4 Ku hikotaicho Lieutenant-Commander Tsusaki Naonobu led an attack against ships in the harbour but was shot down by AA fire.



Mitsubishi G4M1 Model 11 Betty F-313, No. 4 Ku, Vunakanau, July 1942.

Moresby the following day, 11 July. Once again 21 Bettys departed Vunakanau, this time led by Lieutenant-Commander Watanabe Hatsuhiko. The Bettys were followed by a dozen Tainan *Ku* Zeros 30 minutes later, who were due to rendezvous with the bombers over Cape Ward Hunt.

However, plans went awry when at 1015 the Zeros sighted six 19th BG Fortresses on a reverse heading about 100 miles north of Buna. These had departed Port Moresby and were on their way to bomb Rabaul. Lieutenant Sasai Jun'ichi led his half dozen No. 2 *Chutai* Zeros away from the Bettys to pursue the American bombers. The Fortresses jettisoned their bombs and turned for Horn Island, after which a running battle ensued for ten minutes. On this occasion