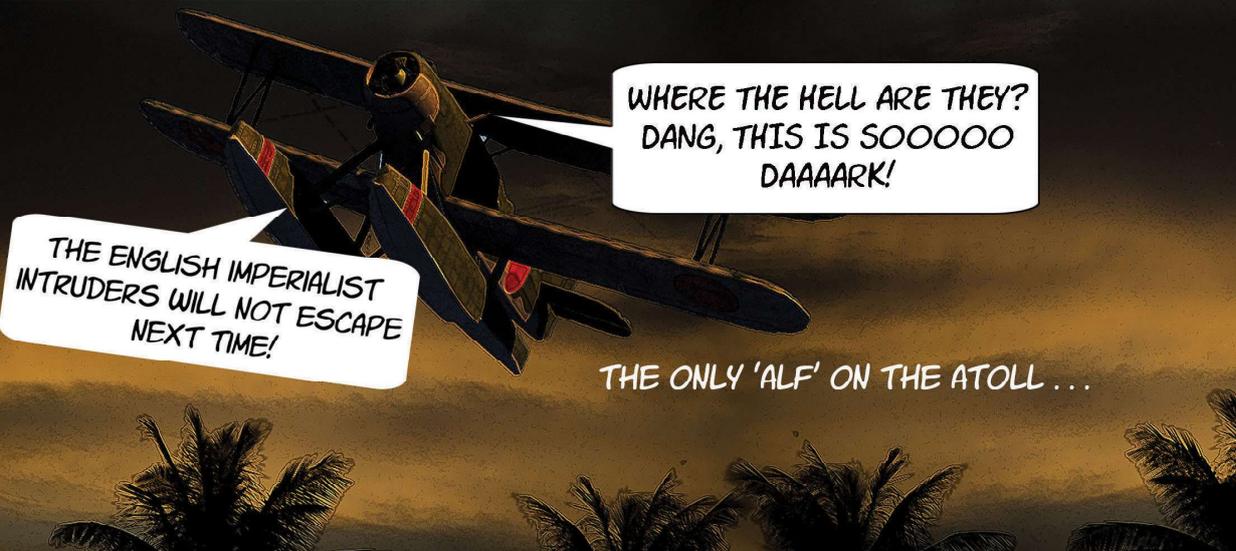


FOR SUCH A REMOTE ATOLL, THIS PICTURESQUE PIECE OF GEOGRAPHY WAS ABOUT TO RECEIVE LOTS OF ATTENTION. ON THE FIRST DAY OF 1942, SQUADRON LEADER LEREW RETURNED WITH FOUR HUDSONS & BOMBED THE FLEDGLING JAPANESE BASE.



HE REPORTED THAT A TALL COLUMN OF THICK, BLACK SMOKE INDICATED A FUEL DUMP HAD BEEN HIT. ALL HUDSONS RETURNED SAFELY TO RABAU AFTER A ROUND TRIP OF FIVE & A HALF HOURS.



WHERE THE HELL ARE THEY?
DANG, THIS IS SOOOOO
DAAAARK!

THE ENGLISH IMPERIALIST
INTRUDERS WILL NOT ESCAPE
NEXT TIME!

THE ONLY 'ALF' ON THE ATOLL ...

TWO DAYS LATER LEREW LED THREE HUDSONS BACK TO THE ATOLL DEPARTING RABAU IN THE DARK AT 0135 IN ORDER TO ARRIVE OVER TARGET BEFORE DAWN. THEY MADE LOW-LEVEL PASSES OVER THE NEW CEMENT SLIPWAYS. AT 0340 HOURS THE ONLY RESISTANCE WAS THE SOLE ALF LAUNCHED IN A FUTILE GESTURE OF DEFIANCE. THE HUDSON CREWS DID NOT EVEN SEE IT. THE ANTIQUATED BIPLANE FAILED TO CATCH THE RAIDERS, & TWO GROUND CREW WERE KILLED IN THE ATTACK.

"ANOTHER USEFUL
EXPLIQUÉ"

Did you know? Many IJN aeronautical terms were borrowed from English and transliterated in Katakana, like the term for 'float' rendered as 'furoto' フロート