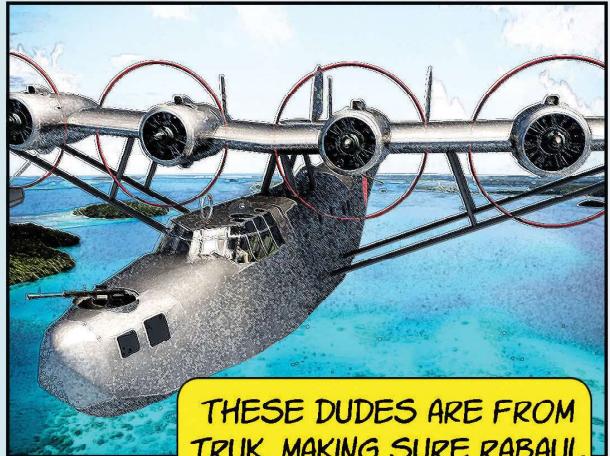
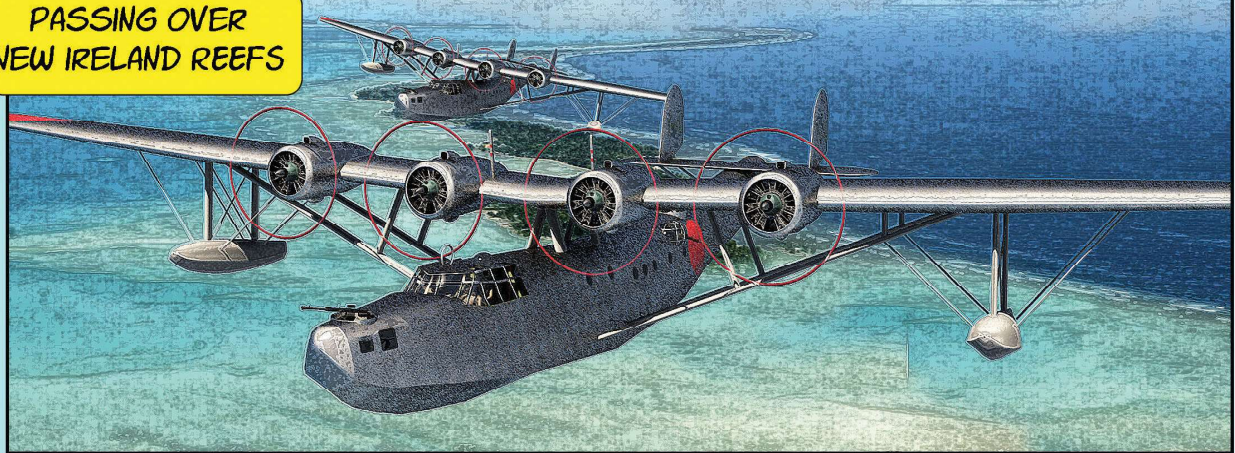


18 DECEMBER 1941 - A PAIR OF SNOOPERS HEAD FOR RABAU



THESE DUDES ARE FROM TRUK, MAKING SURE RABAU IS NOT BEING REINFORCED.

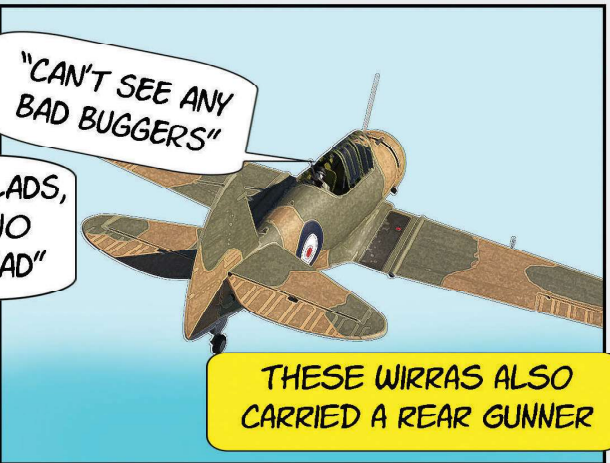
PASSING OVER NEW IRELAND REEFS



ON 18 DECEMBER SQN-LDR LEREW DIVIDED HIS WIRRAWAYS INTO TWO GROUPS, RETAINING 'B' FLIGHT AT VUNAKANAU AND MOVING 'A' FLIGHT TO LAKUNAI WHERE THE AIRCRAFT WERE DISPERSED AMONG COCONUT TREES TO HELP CONCEAL THEM. THAT SAME DAY TWO YOKOHAMA NAVAL AIR GROUP MAVIS APPEARED OVER RABAU.



"LOOK LIVELY LADS, I CAN SEE TWO BAD BOYS AHEAD"



"CAN'T SEE ANY BAD BUGGERS"

THESE WIRRAS ALSO CARRIED A REAR GUNNER

FOUR WIRRAWAYS SCRAMBLED BUT WERE UNABLE TO CATCH THE SNOOPERS "OWING TO LACK OF SPEED". THEY MUCH LAMENTED A SITUATION WHEREBY THEIR SO-CALLED "FIGHTERS" COULD NEITHER CATCH NOR OVERTAKE THE LUMBERING FLYING BOATS.