

CONTENTS

Introduction	7
Chapter 1 – Airacobras Arrive: Port Moresby 30 April–4 May	15
Chapter 2 – Japanese Plans and Allied Response	25
Chapter 3 – Tulagi Invaded: 1–4 May	33
Chapter 4 – Land-based Air Activities: 1–4 May	49
Chapter 5 – Operation MO: the Moresby Invasion	61
Chapter 6 – Coral Sea Region: 5 and 6 May	69
Chapter 7 – Morning Carrier Strikes: 7 May	77
Chapter 8 – Crace’s Ordeal: 7 May	91
Chapter 9 – Hara’s High Stakes Gamble and Regional Operations: 7 May	101
Chapter 10 – USN Carrier Strike: 8 May	113
Chapter 11 – IJN Carrier Strike: 8 May	123
Chapter 12 – Operation RY and the Coral Sea Region: 9–14 May	137
Chapter 13 – Port Moresby and Horn Island: 8–14 May	145
Chapter 14 – Coral Sea Region: 15–31 May	151
Chapter 15 – Port Moresby: 15–31 May	165
Chapter 16 – The Grind Continues: 1–18 June	173
Chapter 17 – Defences of New Caledonia, the New Hebrides, Fiji and Townsville	189
Conclusion	193
Appendix 1 – Allied Aircraft Losses & Fatalities	198
Appendix 2 – Japanese Aircraft Losses & Fatalities	205
Appendix 3 – Cumulative Aircraft Losses & Fatalities	210
Appendix 4 – Aircraft Profiles – Three Way	211
Appendix 5 – Allied Aircraft Profiles – Side View	222
Appendix 6 – Japanese Aircraft Profiles – Side View	228
Sources & Acknowledgements	234
Index	238