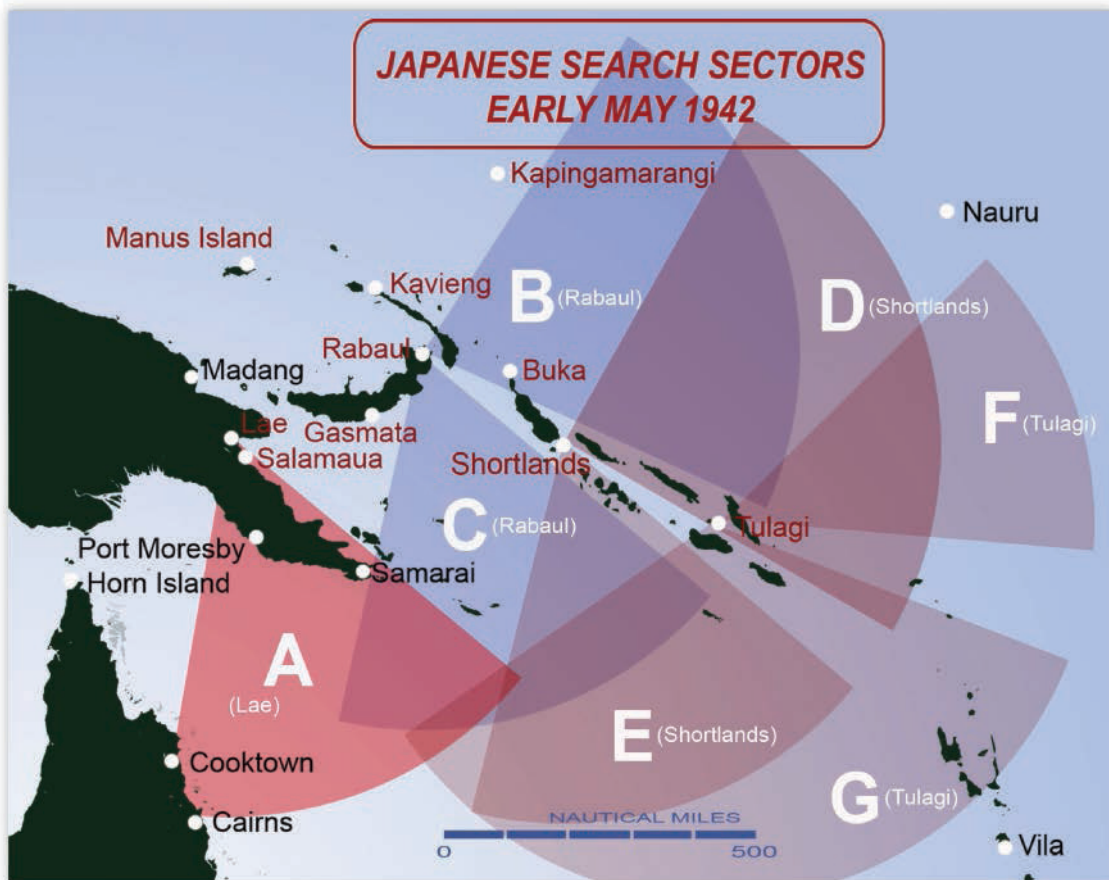


CORAL SEA REGION: 15-31 MAY

only minor injuries. Badly damaged, it was later written off. All three Hudsons lost were virtually brand new and had been issued to No. 32 Squadron on 11 May.

The arrival of the 14<sup>th</sup> Brigade at Moresby on 27 May effectively closed a window of opportunity when the town could have been captured relatively easily. This underscores the argument that the Japanese had erred badly in abandoning Operation MO following the Coral Sea battle on 8 May.



*Japanese search sectors utilised from early May. The use of seaplane bases in the Shortlands and at Tulagi greatly expanded the areas covered and made it very difficult for USN carriers to lurk undetected in the Coral Sea, as had happened in March and April.*