

CONTENTS

About the Authors	6
Introduction	9
Maps	10
Chapter 1 – Japanese Plans for the South Pacific.....	15
Chapter 2 – Allied Defences in the South Pacific.....	23
Chapter 3 – RAAF Pokes the Giant – December 1941.....	37
Chapter 4 – Fourth Fleet Turns South – January 1942.....	43
Chapter 5 – Colonel Scanlan’s Dilemma	55
Chapter 6 – Carrier Attack Day 1 – 20 January 1942.....	63
Chapter 7 – Carrier Attack Day 2 – 21 January 1942	75
Chapter 8 – Carrier Attack Day 3 – 22 January 1942.....	85
Chapter 9 – Rabaul on the Eve of Invasion.....	89
Chapter 10 – Invasion – 23 January 1942.....	99
Chapter 11 – Consolidation of Rabaul – Late January to early February 1942.....	111
Chapter 12 – Gasmata – Early February 1942.....	125
Chapter 13 – South Pacific Build-up – Mid-February 1942.....	135
Chapter 14 – Black Day for No. 4 <i>Ku</i> – 20 February 1942.....	147
Chapter 15 – USAAC Enters the Fray – Late February to Early March 1942.....	165
Chapter 16 – Landings at Lae and Salamaua – to 9 March 1942	179
Chapter 17 – Bougainville and the Solomons – to March 1942.....	187
Chapter 18 – Lark Force Postscript.....	193
Conclusion.....	196
Appendix 1 – Aircraft Losses and Fatalities	199
Appendix 2 – Aircraft Profiles – Three Way View.....	202
Appendix 3 – Japanese Aircraft Markings – Side View	232
Appendix 4 – Surviving Aircraft	239
Sources & Acknowledgements	240
Index	243