

Contents

Preface	ix
Abbreviations	xxvii

PART I

THE PAPUAN CAMPAIGN

I Strategic Planning in 1943	3
1. Casablanca and the Pacific, January 1943	3
2. "Trident" and "Quadrant," May–August 1943	7
3. United States Planning in the Pacific	9
4. The Japanese Command and Planning System	15
5. Japan's "New Operational Policy" of September	22
22	
II Holding Papua, <i>May–September 1942</i>	27
1. Lay of the Land	27
2. "MacArthur's Navy"	30
3. Kokoda Trail and Milne Bay, 18 July–17 September	33
33	
III Naval Aspects of the Buna-Gona Campaign, <i>September 1942–January 1943</i>	41
1. Lining Up	41
2. "Toughest Fighting in the World"	45
IV Papuan Pause, <i>February 1943</i>	51
V The Battle of the Bismarck Sea, <i>2–5 March 1943</i>	54
1. Into the Jaws of the B-25s	54
2. The PTs Mop Up	60

VI	Southwest Pacific Submarines, 8 February 1943- 1 May 1944	66
	1. Patrols from Brisbane	66
	2. Patrols from Fremantle	75

PART II

THE CENTRAL SOLOMONS AND HUON GULF CAMPAIGNS

VII	Preparing an Offensive, February-May 1943	89
	1. Planes, Plans and Prospects	89
	2. Russell Islands Occupied	97
	3. Mainyard and Button	100
	4. Interim Actions	106
	<i>a.</i> "Tip" Bags Two "Bastards." <i>b.</i> Mining Of- fensives	
VIII	Yamamoto's Last Offensive, April-May 1943	117
	1. The "I" Operation	117
	<i>a.</i> In the Solomons. <i>b.</i> In New Guinea	
	2. Death of a Fleet Admiral, 18 April 1943	128
IX	MacArthur Moves Forward, 22 June-6 July 1943	130
X	The Invasion of New Georgia, 21 June-5 July 1943	138
	1. Plans and Preliminaries	138
	2. Task Organization	144
	3. "Musket-He-Fire-Up," 30 June	146
	4. Squaring Away for Munda, 1-5 July	153
XI	The Battles of Kula Gulf and Kolombangara, 5-16 July 1943	160
	1. The Battle of Kula Gulf	160
	2. Jungle Interlude, 6-12 July	175

Contents

	<i>Contents</i>	xvii
	3. The Battle of Kolombangara, 12-13 July	180
	4. Rescue Mission for <i>Helena</i> , 6-17 July	191
	5. Conclusion to Kula Gulf and Kolombangara	194
XII	Conclusion of the New Georgia Campaign, 13 July-20 September 1943	198
	1. The Siege of Munda, 13 July-5 August	198
	2. Air-Surface Actions, 17 July-3 August	206
	3. Motor Torpedo Boat Actions, 23 July-2 August	209
	4. The Battle of Vella Gulf, 6-7 August	212
	5. Mopping Up After Munda, 6 August-20 September	222
XIII	Vella Lavella, 15 August-7 October 1943	225
	1. Leapfrog to Barakoma, 15 August	225
	2. Securing the Island, August-September	233
	3. The Blockade of Kolombangara, 25 August-3 October	239
	4. The Battle of Vella Lavella, 6-7 October	243
XIV	Lae and Salamaua, 16 June-15 September 1943	254
	1. Vitiav and Dampier: the Vital Straits	254
	2. Lae Punched Out, 4-15 September	261
XV	Finschhafen and Beyond, 16 September-20 October 1943	269
	1. Finschhafen Falls, 2 October	269
	2. Tucking in the Pennants, 1-20 October	271

PART III

THE BOUGAINVILLE CAMPAIGN

XVI	The Seizure of Empress Augusta Bay, 12 October-2 November 1943	279
	1. Bougainville in Pacific Strategy	279



	2. Forces and Preparation, 12 October–2 November	288
	3. Treasuries and Choiseul, 27 October–6 November	293
	4. Cape Torokina Landing, 1 November	296
XVII	The Battle of Empress Augusta Bay, 2 November 1943	305
XVIII	Carrier Strikes on Rabaul, 5–18 November 1943	323
	1. Action of 5 November	323
	2. Action of 11 November	330
XIX	Securing the Beachhead, 2–13 November 1943	337
	1. LSTs and Second Echelon, 2–7 November	337
	2. Counter-landing and Koromokina, 7–8 November	341
	3. Three "Air Battles of Bougainville," 8–13 November	342
	4. Beachhead Secured	347
XX	Busy Thanksgiving, 15–25 November 1943	350
	1. Activities in and around the Perimeter	350
	2. The Battle of Cape St. George, 25 November	352
XXI	Perimeter Defense and Development, 26 November–27 December 1943	360

PART IV

RINGS AROUND RABAUL

XXII	Moving Into New Britain, December 1943–January 1944	369
	1. Problem, Objective and Strategy	369
	2. Arawe	373

Contents

	xix
3. Cape Gloucester	378
4. Saidor and Sio	389
XXIII Airsols' Assault on Rabaul, <i>17 December 1943-1 May 1944</i>	392
1. "Festung Rabaul"	392
2. New Year's Intensification	398
3. February Payoff	402
4. Rabaul Reduced to Impotence	405
XXIV Northabout, <i>25 December 1943-20 March 1944</i>	410
1. Holiday Express	410
2. Occupation of the Green Islands, <i>10 January-15 February</i>	412
3. Destroyer Raids, <i>17-29 February</i>	419
4. Occupation of Emirau, <i>20 March</i>	423
XXV The Battle of the Perimeter, <i>January-March 1944</i>	425
XXVI Admiralties Annexed, <i>29 February-1 May 1944</i>	432
1. "Reconnaissance in Force"	432
2. Momote and Los Negros	437
3. Seadler and Manus	444
Index	445