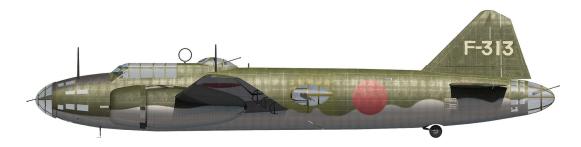


Port Moresby harbour during the second half of 1942, crowded with supply ships and several moored RAAF flying boats. On 10 July the No. 4 Ku hikotaicho Lieutenant-Commander Tsusaki Naonobu led an attack against ships in the harbour but was shot down by AA fire.



Mitsubishi G4M1 Model 11 Betty F-313, No. 4 Ku, Vunakanau, July 1942.

Moresby the following day, 11 July. Once again 21 Bettys departed Vunakanau, this time led by Lieutenant-Commander Watanabe Hatsuhiko. The Bettys were followed by a dozen Tainan *Ku* Zeros 30 minutes later, who were due to rendezvous with the bombers over Cape Ward Hunt.

However, plans went awry when at 1015 the Zeros sighted six 19<sup>th</sup> BG Fortresses on a reverse heading about 100 miles north of Buna. These had departed Port Moresby and were on their way to bomb Rabaul. Lieutenant Sasai Jun'ichi led his half dozen No. 2 *Chutai* Zeros away from the Bettys to pursue the American bombers. The Fortresses jettisoned their bombs and turned for Horn Island, after which a running battle ensued for ten minutes. On this occasion