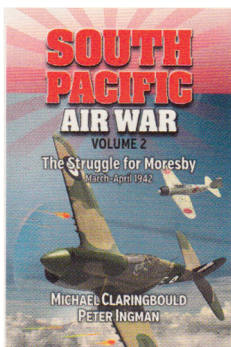


## South Pacific Air War: Volume 2

by Michael Claringbould  
and Peter Ingman

published by Avonmore Books

We didn't see the first book in what is planned as a trilogy, but — as is pointed out in the blurb on the back — this



latest volume can just as easily be read on its own. The battle for Port Moresby in what was then New Guinea during March-April 1942 was a crucial element of hostilities in the South Pacific, and the authors here tell

its story very comprehensively. Beginning with the US Navy's carrier-borne strike on Lae and Salamaua, they chronicle the subsequent Japanese attacks on Port Moresby, the arrival of Allied reinforcements, and the cut-and-thrust of the battle that followed. Archive sources from both sides have been mined, and very effectively. There are, for example, some very vivid impressions of P-40-versus-Zero dogfights — and, joy of joys, the whole thing is well-written.

Pleasing too are the high production values. The paper quality is excellent and image reproduction likewise. The selection of images deserves praise, too — there are very few 'generic image in lieu of anything unit- or theatre-specific' shots here. The multiple pages of colour three-views and side-views that form part of the appendices are superb, though the digital artworks of combat and other scenes are perhaps overused. A thoughtful addition for those buying the complete set of these books, meanwhile, is the list of amendments to volume 1. All in all, excellent. Part three will cover the Battle of the Coral Sea. **Ben Dunnell**

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softback; 232 pages, illustrated; **A\$44.95**

★★★★