

Saving Port Moresby

by David Cameron

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Japanese

Major General Horii Tomitar, commanding the South Seas Force, was after taking Kokoda Plateau in late July tasked with entering the Owen Stanley Range to capture Port Moresby. After the battles for Deniki and Isurava, his troops were pushing south through the mountains. The Australians under Brigadier Arnold Potts, however, were not in rout, but were involved in a determined fighting withdraw. After fighting a delaying action at Templeton's Crossing, the Australians took up a position along Mission Ridge, just south of Efogi Village. Horii and his battalions attacked and after two days of bloody hand-to-hand fighting, the Australians were forced to again withdraw.

Price:	\$12.99
Stock:	Out Of Stock
Item Code:	9781922765611

ISBN:	9781922765611
Book Format:	Paperback
Pages:	545
Dimensions:	H 235mm x W 153mm x D 35mm
Weight:	664g

