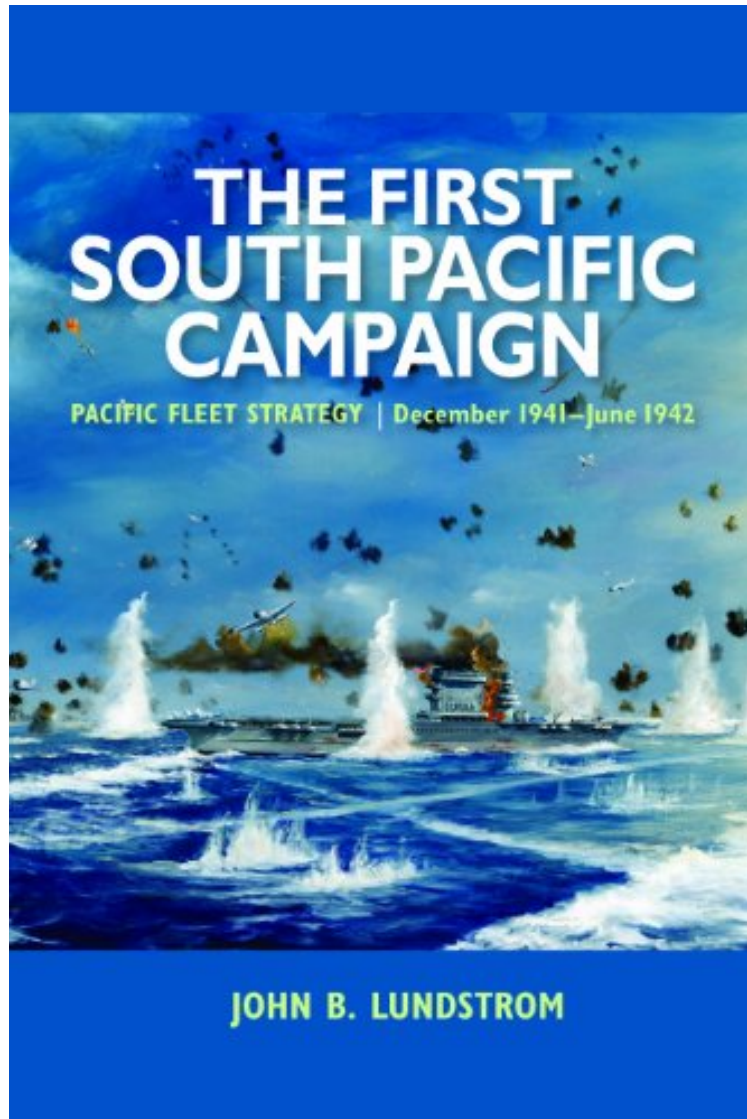


(Ebook pdf) The First South Pacific Campaign: Pacific Fleet Strategy December 1941 - June 1942

The First South Pacific Campaign: Pacific Fleet Strategy December 1941 - June 1942

John B. Lundstrom

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John B. Lundstrom : The First South Pacific Campaign: Pacific Fleet Strategy December 1941 - June 1942 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The First South Pacific Campaign: Pacific Fleet Strategy December 1941 - June 1942:

23 of 23 people found the following review helpful. Essential for the serious Pacific War reader or researcher By William S. Grass This is the first book by respected historian and author of the Pacific War, John Lundstrom, published

in 1976. Since then, Lundstrom has gone on to produce the acclaimed First Team series on naval aviation in the first year of the Pacific War, as well as a book on Admiral Fletcher at Coral Sea, Midway and Guadalcanal. The First South Pacific Campaign covers more than its subtitle, "Pacific Fleet Strategy December 1941-June 1942," suggests. It also covers in thorough detail the Japanese strategy and planning of that same period. The First South Pacific Campaign first came to my attention when I ran into repeated references to it in Frank's Guadalcanal, Spector's Eagle Against the Sun, and Willmott's The Barrier and the Javelin. Since all of these works are highly regarded, and they in turn have high regard for Lundstrom's book, I decided I must have it, even if it is out of print and available copies are expensive. The first months of the Pacific War went exactly the way Japan had wished. The Philippines, Burma, Singapore, Rabaul, the northeast New Guinea coast and the Dutch East Indies were all in Japanese hands, or soon would be. The Japanese then had to ask themselves, "What now?" It is when the Japanese wanted to expand even further, to capture Port Moresby on the southeast New Guinea coast, and Tulagi in the lower Solomons, and the U.S. began to take steps to counter this action, that the first South Pacific campaign began in earnest. The main part of Lundstrom's analysis begins here, in what resulted in the Battle of the Coral Sea. Lundstrom then goes on to demonstrate that the South Pacific problem facing the Americans was not entirely resolved until a Central Pacific battle, Midway, was fought, and the loss of four fleet carriers by the IJN tipped the scales for dominance in the South Pacific toward the U.S. The main primary source for U.S. planning used here by Lundstrom is the CincPac "greybook," which consists of daily diary entries for the Pacific Fleet, as well as text of messages and operational plans. The main primary source from the Japanese side consists of the "Senshi Soshu," which is the official history put together by the Japanese Defense Agency in the decades after the war. Senshi Soshu eventually ran to more than one hundred volumes and consists of documents, interviews, diaries and other relevant sources from the Japanese side. Two other authors I've read have made great use of Senshi Soshu in their own highly regarded works: Paul S. Dull in his Battle History of the Imperial Japanese Navy, and Richard Frank in his book on Guadalcanal. Use of this Japanese language source, although difficult, seems to yield great rewards to those who can take up the challenge. Lundstrom's book is for the serious scholar or aficionado of the Pacific War. It will have little appeal for those seeking "greatest generation" type history. However, if a reader wants a full understanding of the strategic picture up to the Battle of Midway, then you need to track down a copy, spend the money and reserve a spot on your shelf for The First South Pacific Campaign.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Dry Stuff, But Not Boring
By Chekk
This is a book about strategy, policy, options, goals, deception and mistakes. Read step by step how the Pacific theater unfolded immediately after pearl harbour, and how the Japanese ultimately lost the war to a numerically inferior opponent. Great book, I highly recommend it. The Japanese side of the contest is why I wanted to read this, and the author delivers their point of view as it happened.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting but a bit tedious.
By Doc's Son
Good topic but really worthy of an entire book? I did enjoy that to me at least, it was a new area of study. Overall, I recommend the book to the serious student of US Naval operations in WWII.

On May 7 and 8, 1942, fast carrier task forces from the United States and Imperial Japanese met in combat for the first time in the Battle of the Coral Sea. A strategic victory for the U.S. despite the loss of the carrier Lexington, the battle blunted the Japanese drive on Port Moresby, a valuable Allied air base on the island of New Guinea. Lundstrom offers a detailed analysis of the fundamental strategies employed by Japan and the U.S. in the South Pacific from January to June 1942, the efforts of Adm. Ernest J. King to reinforce the area in spite of Roosevelt's Europe First grand strategy and Adm. Chester Nimitz's aggressive plans to fight in the Coral Sea. Now in paperback, The First Pacific Campaign provides a superb overview of the crucial first six months of the naval war in the South Pacific.

From the Back Cover
On May 7 and 8, 1942, fast-carrier task forces from U.S. and Imperial Japanese navies met in combat for the first time in the Battle of the Coral Sea. A strategic victory for the United States in spite of the loss of the carrier Lexington, the destroyer Sims, and the fleet oiler Neosho, the battle blunted the Japanese drive on Port Moresby, a valuable Allied air and naval base controlling the western Coral Sea and northern Australia. John B. Lundstrom offers a detailed analysis of the fundamental strategies employed by Japan and the United States in the South Pacific from January to June 1942, including Japanese equivocation regarding advances in the South Pacific and the vigorous actions of Adm. Ernest J. King to reinforce the area in spite of the presidential decision to concentrate American efforts in Europe to defeat Germany. Writing in a clear, concise, and readable style, Lundstrom combines strategic insight and careful scholarship with previously untapped source materials to present a book that provides a superb overview of the first six months of the naval war in the South Pacific. First published in 1976, The First South Pacific Campaign is essential reading for a full understanding the Pacific Fleet's strategy before the Battle of Midway. John B. Lundstrom is the author of several books, including Black Shoe Carrier Admiral, The First Team, and The First Team and the Guadalcanal Campaign. He is the recipient of the Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature, the Hook Contributor's Award, and the Admiral Arthur W. Radford Award by the National Museum of Naval Aviation. About the Author John B. Lundstrom is Curator Emeritus of History at the Milwaukee Public Museum where he has worked since 1967. He is the author of five books, including Black Shoe Carrier Admiral, The First

Team and the Guadalcanal Campaign and coauthor of *Fateful Rendezvous: The Life of Butch O'Hare*.