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a history of world war ii s operation cartwheel a major allied operation by us australian and new zealand forces to take the japanese base at rabaul prior to world war ii few americans had heard of rabaul a small harbor town in a far off corner of the pacific but it became a household name after the japanese captured rabaul in january 1942 and developed it into their most heavily defended fortress outside the home islands thereafter rabaul endured allied air attacks for a total of forty four months a span unmatched by any other locale during world war ii in target rabaul respected military historian bruce gamble concludes his critically acclaimed trilogy about japan s most notorious stronghold picking up where fortress rabaul left off gamble narrates the story of cartwheel the multiple operation plan that isolated rabaul through aerial and naval siege the effort involving all of the armed branches of the united states australia and new zealand resulted in some of the heaviest and most dramatic aerial combat of the pacific war with frequent clashes between hundreds of planes the culmination of an amazing story target rabaul profiles the resolve of the allied and japanese combatants in the horrific pacific battleground and provides the turbulent triumphant conclusion to the most comprehensive account of world war ii s longest battle bruce gamble has done it again an impeccable researcher and a master storyteller with a keen eye for details and characters gamble presents target rabaul a powerful conclusion to his must read trilogy on the battle over japan s southwest pacific stronghold the heart pounding stories of aerial combat read like a thriller and show why he is one of the finest writers working today james scott author of the war below and the attack on the liberty

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