

# **TULAGI**

**PACIFIC OUTPOST OF  
BRITISH EMPIRE**



# TULAGI

PACIFIC OUTPOST OF  
BRITISH EMPIRE

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Front cover image: Painted by Brett Hilder in 1960, this depicts deputy commissioner Charles Woodford (soon to be the first Resident Commissioner) at Gavutu Island in 1897. He arrived on HMS *Rapid*, which rendezvoused with Burns Philp & Co.'s SS *Titus*. Brett Hilder (1911–81) joined Burns Philp & Co. as a midshipman in 1927 and served on its ships in Asia and the Pacific. During World War II, he taught navigation to Australian air crews and joined the Royal Australian Air Force. He became a ship's master and finally Burns Philp's Commodore of the Fleet, often sailing on the Sydney–Solomon Islands run. He began to paint as a hobby during the war and became an accomplished artist. The painting is housed in the Noel Butlin Archives Centre, The Australian National University. Burns Philp and Company (Sydney Office and Branches), N115-503, photograph of painting of SS *Titus* at Gavutu 1897, by Brett Hilder, 1960.

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