SPITFIRES OVER THE ARAKAN

NORMAN FRANKS



Contents

		Page
	Acknowledgements	9
1	The Spitfire arrives in India	13
2	Hurricane Autumn	30
3	Blinding the Enemy	40
4	Calcutta	60
5	Rats over Chittagong	78
6	The Woodpeckers' Day	94
7	The Battle for Air Supremacy	110
8	Before the Offensive	137
9	Dog-fights over the Arakan	146
10	The 'Ace of Spades' Arrive	166
11	The Battle is Won	187
12	Reflections	201
	Appendices	
	a) RAF Squadrons' Order of Battle 15 November	
	1943	212
	b) RAF Squadrons' Order of Battle 1 January 1943	213
	c) JAAF Squadrons' Order of Battle November 1943	214
	d) JAAF Squadrons and Bases, Arakan Operations,	
	1944	215
	e) Participating Japanese Squadrons – Calcutta Raid	216
	f) RAF pilots engaged in the Calcutta Raid	217
	g) RAF Fighter Claims 4 October 1943–29 February	
	1944	219
	h) RAF Losses 4 October 1943–29 February 1944	223
	Index	227

List of Illustrations

	Page
The Spitfire in India – a Mark VIII at Amarda Road.	1 age
(W.D. James)	23
Colin Doudy (C.T. Doudy) Wilf Goold (W.A. Goold)	23
258 Squadron (D.B.F. Nicholls)	32
F/L D.K. McDonald, 261 Squadron (S. deHorne)	32
Warrant Officer Johnnie Walker (New Zealand) 261	32
Squadron (S. deHorne)	32
Group Captain Frank Carey DFC DFM (W.D. James)	36
607 Squadron	36
	30
Flight Lieutenant Paul Louis DFC DFM of 615 Squadron	4.1
(A.G. Carroll)	41
Flight Sergeant Willie Hyde (A.G. Carroll)	41
Mitsubishi Ki-46 reconnaissance aircraft, code name	
'Dinah'	41
Flying Officer Bill Andrews of 615 Squadron	53
Flying Officer Hugh Leonard (A.G. Carroll)	53
Sergeant Ray Pointer, Senior Fitter, 136 Squadron	
(V.K. Jacobs)	53
Pilot Officer A.G. 'Nappy' Carroll, 615 Squadron	
(A.G. Carroll)	57
Three stills from Nappy Carroll's combat film for 29th	
November 1943 (A.G. Carroll)	57
Flight Lieutenant Doug Nicholls of 258 Squadron	
(D.B.F. Nicholls)	64
Flight Lieutenant Art Brown RCAF (D.B.F. Nicholls)	64
Warrant Officer P.I. 'Ginger' Hickes, 258 Squadron	
(D.B.F. Nicholls)	64
Sergeant Edward Griffiths of 146 Squadron	
(Dr E.R. Griffiths)	71
Flight Lieutenant Eric Brown of 136 Squadron (I. Adamson)	71
Flight Lieutenant Derrik Brocklehurst, 176 Squadron	, 1
(D. Brocklehuret)	71

Flying Officer Ken Bunting, 136 Squadron

Ground crews of 136 Squadron

Some of 136 Squadron

Colin Doudy's fitter, LAC Martin

Spitfire V taxying out at Ramu strip

Flight Sergeant Sid deHorne, 136 Squadron

607 Squadron's armourers and fitters at Chittagong

134

134

139

139

139 144

144

(F.E. Wilding)

(I. Adamson) (V.K. Jacobs)

(C.T. Doudy)

(via D. Barnett)

(P.H. Lee)





(Top) Pilots of 607 (County of Durham) Squadron AAF, at Ramu on the Arakan, January 1944. (Bottom) Spitfire VIII of 615 (County of Surrey) Squadron AAF. JG606 KW-M (M for Margaret) — the usual mount of Pilot Officer A.G. Carroll.

