

273 SQUADRON RAF, 1944-45, PILOT & OTHER CHARACTER DETAILS

Version # 8

Pilot Nationalities (other than British): **Canadian** **Australian** **Belgian** **NZ** **South African** **Burmese**

Other services : **Army** **RNVR/Fleet Air Arm:**

Surname	First Name	Nick-name	RAF or other number	Rank ¹	Nationality	Comments (eg flight, arrival, departure, killed in action [KIA] etc)
Agnes	Francis A.	Aggie	J.23520	F/O; F/Lt	Canadian	B flight. F/Lt 14/2/45 Takes over A flight (15/4). Repat 5/7/45
Allan		Ian		Sgt	Scots	A flight. Arrived 28/3/45
Allan	J.	Hamish		F/Sgt	Scots	B flight. Arrived 28/3/45
Ashmead	Reginald Walter	Ash	1330194	W/O		A flight. Arrived 5/12/44. Repat 5/7/45
Aspevig	A.	Spam/Oly	J.90461	P/O	Canadian	B flight
Astell	Howard Fred		1317758	W/O		B flight. Posted Poona 10/11/44
Barlow	James		1622923	Sgt		A flight. Injured (fractured arm in accident)1/2/45
Barnes	A.	Paddle-foot, Barney	Army	Capt (King's Regt)		Army Liaison Officer (ALO)
Barr	Errol James Nevin	Nev	A.402339	F/O	Australian	B flight. Posted VCP on 26/12/44 after 2.5 yrs with 273
Bayles	Ian Norman	Dimmy	74327	S/Ldr	British (but born	Squadron Commander . Arrived

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S/L = Squadron Leader; F/L = Flight Lieutenant; F/O = Flying Officer; P/O = Pilot Officer; W/O = Warrant Officer; F/S = Flight sergeant; Sgt = Sergeant

					in Melbourne)	16/12. Posted W/Cdr Flying 902 Wing, Cox's Bazaar, 15/4/45
Baily	M.M.	Bill	1381142	Sgt		A flight
Bigg-Wither	S.		FAA ²	Lt Cmdr		Arrived 17/12/44
Bohane	Brian Joseph			F/O	Australian	? flight. Killed in car accident 17/7/45
Brooks	Sydney Gordon		J.18837	F/O	Canadian	A flight. Posted 22/1/45
Bruce	E.P.	Earl/Brucey	J.22828	F/O; F/Lt	Canadian	A flight. Arrived 28/2/45. F/Lt 25/3/45, & new OC B flight. Repat 5/7/45
Buck	O.A.	Ossie		F/Lt	Australian	A flight. Arrived 5/3/45. Repat 5/7/45
Bullion	George Roy	Junior	R.101676	W/O	Canadian	A flight. Killed 11/12/44
Collard	Frank William		1320707	P/O		A flight. VCP 17/3/45
Constantine ³	Noel			S/Ldr	Australian	273 CO from May 1942. CO of 136 Sqn from June 1943. As W/Cdr killed in air crash over the Indonesia Republic on 29 July 1947 ⁴
Copeland	G.H.	Shorty	Army 154626V	Capt	South African	SAAF. Joined 273 on 17/7/45
Copp	Ronald William Joseph		1236134	F/Sgt; W/O		A flight.
Coupland	Rex Thursfield	Tex	912726	F/Sgt		A flight. Arrived 1/1/45. Repat 5/7/45
Crow	Stanley Gerald		157063	F/O		A flight. Killed 25/2/45

2. Fleet Air Arm

³ The amazing story of Noel Constantine's exploits with 273 and 136 Squadron during the war, who was then killed flying a C-47 Skytrain transport aircraft over the Indonesia Republic on July 1947 is highlighted in Bryn Evans book 'Air Battle for Burma: Allied Pilots' Fight for Supremacy'

⁴ Noel Constantine's remarkable story is also covered in Bryn Evan's book ' Air Battle for Burma....'

Davis	Victor Gilbert	Horace	1586320	F/Sgt		B flight
De Horne	Sidney Percy	Toot	173369	F/O	Dutch/S.African?	A flight. Joined 15/4/45. Was previously with 273 in 1943
Downey	L.P.			F/Sgt		A flight. Arrived 28/5/45
Dutneall	Robert Norman	Bob	410045	W/O	Australian (Kew, Victoria)	B flight. Arrived 3/6/44. Repat 5/7/45
Elder		Adj		F/O		Arrived 4/1/45. Posted 25/6/45
Ettinger	Everett Embert		J/21148	F/Lt	Canadian	Killed 3/4/45
Fairless	Alan Richardson		173370	P/O		
Forster	Frank					Joined 7/8/45. Was one of original Fulmar pilots back in 1942
Foster	W.B.			F/Sgt		B flight. Arrived 28/5/45. . Repat 5/7/45
Gellatly ⁵	R.S.	Jock		F/Sgt		A flight. Joined 18/4/45. C
Gaukroger	E.		1315111	F/Sgt W/O	Belgian ?	B flight A flight
Goode	William Bruce		1198767	W/O		Posted Poona 30/11/44
Gordon	Paddy	Doc		F/Lt		Medical Officer. Last departing Officer's Mess member who saw out whole India/Burma campaign. Departed 20/8/45
Graham	Edward Patrick		1528609	F/Sgt		Killed in flying accident collision over Colombo, 28/4/44
Groves	Bill	Spy		F/O		Intelligence Officer
Gunderson	J.G.			F/O; F/Lt (19/4)	Canadian ?	A flight. Arrived 28/2/45. Posted Jungle School 25/5/45
Gurdon	Philip Frederick		1339585	F/Sgt		B flight. Arrived 1/1/45. Crashes

⁵ F/Sgt Gellatly ditched in the River Sittang during operations on the 28th May 1945, and was later dramatically rescued

						plane on 4/8/45
Gurdoli				F/Sgt		B flight. Sick leave
Hardy	M.J.	Mike		F/Sgt		A flight. Arrived 28/5/45. Shot down 13/7/45 (but walked back)
Haswell	Alfred Evans	Hassie	137397	F/O	Canadian	A flight. Posted 12/2/45 for M/East

Hayes	Robert			S/Ldr		Squadron Commander
Hayes	Bill			F/O		Joined 273 on 3/7/45/ Previously flown in N.Africa, Sicily, Italy. Crashes plane on 4/8/45
Hughes	H.	Hughsey	657331	W/O		B flight. Arrived 1/12/44
Hutchings	R.C.		NZ 413075	F/Sgt	New Zealander	Posted Poona 30/11/14
Jackson	F.G. .		J.6209	F/Lt	Canadian	Killed in crash in India (in Dakota) – reported on 6/8/44
Juzak	E.		J.134088	P/O	Canadian	B flight. VCP 17/3/45
Kershaw	Peter Oswald	'Keen'	104553	F/Lt		B flight Flt Cmdr. Arrived 10/12/44
Knight	Clifford William		1584077	Sgt		A flight. Killed 2/6/45
Laughton	Leonard Stanley		119209	F/Lt		
Lawler				F/Sgt	New Zealander	B flight. Arrived 22/4/45
Lemaire	A.	Lemmie	2791066	W/O	Belgian	B flight. Arrived 16/11/44
Lester	N.		RNVR	Lt/Commander		Arrived 5/4/45
Liffiton				F/O		
Lilburn	Paddy			F/O		Joined 273 on 17/7/45
Lumley	Barnett		1475327	F/Sgt	Canadian	B flight. Posted 28/2 to M/East
Lynn	Ronald		1451341	F/Sgt		Killed in flying accident collision over Colombo, 28/4/44

Macfarlane	Hamish Duncan		NZ 412707	F/Sgt	New Zealander	Arrived 23/10/42
Martin	J.D.P.		J.19822	F/Lt	Canadian	
Masters	Leslie James	Butch	412991	W/O	Australian (Swansea, NSW)	A flight. Arrived 16/11/44. Giant of a man ! Repatriated 5/7/45
Mayes	Robert	Robert	61249	S/Lt		Squadron Commander. Left 16/12/44. Became CO of 67 Sqn (Akyab)
McCarthy	J.D.	Mac		F/Sgt	Manxman	B flight. Arrived 28/3/45
McGuire	Andrew Clarkson		173368	P/O		
McIntyre	Kiwi			F/Sgt	New Zealander	B flight. Joined 22/4/45
McNish	R.J.		1585595	F/Sgt		A flight. Posted 28/2 to M/East
McWatt	Frank	Stinkin'End	146145	F/O		A flight
Misra	Codes			F/O		Wrist broken in mess party (7/4/45)
Monish	R.J.			F/Sgt		
Morrice	C.W.	Doc	R.137290	W/O; P/O	Canadian	A flight. Commissioned 26/5/45
Motion	Douglas Patrick	Doug		W/O		A flight. Arrived late June 1945.
North		Spanner		F/O		Engineering Officer. Arrived 13/11/44
Nunn	John James		162323	P/O	(Scottish)	B flight. Killed 8/2/45
Oliver	T.		1577682	W/O		A flight. Posted 11/1/45
Osborne				Sgt		
Pelling	Ian Hedley Stewart	Joe	1196411	W/O		B flight. Posted 12/2/45. It was Ian Pelling's sister, Jane, who was the key person, following the end of WWII, who kept in contact with squadron members, and succeeded in

						having (in 1996) the squadron's modified emblem officially recognised.
Phillips	Walter	Jesse		Sqn Ldr		Last CO of 273. Received (with others) Japanese surrender in Saigon, 11 th December 1945. Later became President of 273 Squadron Association, RAF.
Piper	Geoffrey Roy	Pip	151209	F/O; F/Lt		A flight. Joined 6/5/44. Posted 24/7/45
Price	Trevor John		1338833	F/Sgt		B flight. Killed in accident 15/1/45
Renton	John		A.402881	F/O		Arrived 27/4/42
Roberts	Robert Richard Killin	Robbie	173350 or 1078207	P/O		Aircraft MD 242 somersaulted and landed on back 12/11/44. Roberts slightly injured.
Scoltock	Lesley Stephen		1386394	W/O		B flight. Posted 28/2 to M/East
Scott	C.M.	Scottie		W/O		B flight. July 1945
Saw Shi-Sho		Sammy	Burmese Air Force (BAF) 1020	P/O & later Flt Lt with 273 squadron	Burmese	Wing Commander Shi-Sho later became the first Commander in Chief and Chief of Air Staff of the Burmese Air Force (BAF) ⁶
Shenton				F/Sgt		July 1945
Sills	M.M.			F/O; F/Lt 19/4		B flight. Arrived 5/3/45. Posted 224 Com Flt 21/5/45
Simon	G.	Sim	1316983	F/Sgt		B flight. Posted 8/7/45
Shenton	G.			Sgt		A flight. July 1945
Smith				W/Commander		Wing Commander

⁶ This was re-named the Myanmar Air Force in 1989

Smith ⁷	Gerald Wallis	Gerry	404471	F/Lt	New Zealander	Flight Commander. Left Sqn on 22/11/44. Rejoined 273 in July 1945.
Smither	Geoffrey Buxton		41484	F/Lt		CO A flight. Posted 15/4/45 to 223 Gp as S/Ldr Tng.
St John	Cap		Army	Capt		Joined 273 Sqn in July 1945
Sylvester	G.B.			S/Ldr		Squadron Commander from July 1945
Thomlinson	J.		1683243	Sgt		A flight. Posted 11/1/45
Thorogood	Laurence Arthur	Rubber		S/Ldr		Squadron Commander. Arrived 11/4/45. Posted Fighter Leaders 10/6/45
Trusler	Thomas Holland	Dutch		W/O	New Zealander	A flight. Arrived 22/4/45
Vidal	John Furse Cunliffe		119214	F/O		
Welsh	James Anthony		1671652	F/Sgt		Ex 615 sqn. Joined 273 in July 1945
Winstanley	R.N.		FAA	Lt		Arrived 21/12/44. Left 16/1/45 to join his Sqn in S.Africa
Wood ⁸	Mark	Woody	Aus 420095	F/Sgt & W/O	Australian (Fairfield West, NSW)	A flight. Arrived 26/11/44. Posted Jungle School 25/5/45.

For more information contact:

⁷ The story of Gerry Smith's wartime service is also recorded in Bryn Evan's book 'Air Battle for Burma. Allied Pilot's Fight for Supremacy' (www.pen-and-sword.co.uk)

⁸ Prone to adventures & accidents - shot in hand in Calcutta by would-be robbers. Hit in face by flying bath during riotous Christmas 1944 celebrations .

Chris Piper, Geelong, Australia on pipercm@iprimus.com.au and + 61 412 497 317 or
Lt Col Phil Piper (ret'd), Poulshot, UK, on pipers2poulshot@gmail.com and + 44 1380 828236

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