

THE 273 SQUADRON, RAF, LIST OF KEY CHARACTERS; AIRCRAFT MENTIONED; & OTHER SQUADRONS

Version 5

Tabulated below are the names of the key 273 Squadron characters mentioned in a combination of the Operational Record Books (ORBs) and Secret Squadron Diary (SSD) of the squadron. Links to some of these will go up on the revamped TorqAid website – www.torqaid.com/pips-war by the end of 2018.

- Pip' Piper in Burma, 273 Sqn RAF, 1944-45. Summary of his Wartime Log Book
- 273 Squadron Operational Record Books (ORBs), March 1944-August 1945
- The Secret Squadron Diary (SSD) of 273 Squadron, RAF, of its 1944/5 Burma campaign
- 272 Squadron details of Key Characters and Squadrons; as well as Aircraft Types mentioned in both SSD and ORBs
- Details of key 273 pilots over the period March 1944-August 1945
- 273 Squadron, RAF: Pip Piper's Memoires (recorded in 1981)

Key Characters mentioned in Squadron Diary

Whilst a large number of the squadron's flying personnel are mentioned, the following is a list of the main characters who make multiple, or particularly notable, appearances !

Air Officer Commanding 224 Group RAF

- Air Vice Marshall the Earl of Bandon, DSO

The Squadron Commanders (latest first)

- Squadron Leader Sylvester
- Squadron Leader Thorogood
- Squadron Leader Ian Norman Bayles
- Squadron Leader Robert Mayes

Squadron Aircrew and other key 273 characters (in no particular order)

- Flight Lieutenant Peter 'Keen' Kershaw
- Flight Lieutenant 'Spy' Groves (Intelligence Officer)
- Flight Lieutenant 'Doc' Gordon (Medical Officer)
- Flight Lieutenant 'Oly/Spam' Aspevig
- Flying Officer/Flight Lieutenant 'Pip' Piper
- Flying Officer/Flight Lieutenant 'Aggy' Agnes
- Flying Officer/Flight Lieutenant 'Earl/Brucey' Bruce
- Flying Officer 'Stinkin' End' McWatt

- Flying Officer 'Spanner' North (Engineering Officer)
- Flying Officer 'Toot' de Horne
- Flying Officer 'Hassie' Haswell
- Warrant Officer/Pilot Officer 'Doc' Morrice
- Warrant Officer 'Butch' Masters
- Warrant Officer Bob Dutneal
- Warrant Officer I.H.S. Pelling
- Warrant Officer M. 'Woody' Wood
- Flight Sergeant Galletly
- Capt A 'Paddle Foot' Barnes (Army Liaison Officer = ALO)
- LAC Chapman, S/L Bayles' long-suffering aircraft fitter

Squadrons mentioned in SSD & ORBs

Royal Air Force (RAF)

17, 22, 28, 30, 45, 67, 81, 89, 135, 152, 155, 230, 267, 273, 607, 615, 681

Royal Indian Air Force (RIAF)

2, 4, 8, 9, 10

United States Air force (USAF)

459

Aircraft types mentioned in both SSD and ORBs (in alphabetical order)

Allied

- Auster
- Avro Anson
- Avro York
- B-24 Liberator
- B-25 Mitchell
- B-29 Superfortress
- Beechcraft Model 18 (Twin Beech)
- Boulton Paul Defiant
- Bristol Beaufighter
- Bristol Beaufort
- Catalina
- Curtis P-40 Kittyhawk
- Douglas DC 3
- Fairey Barracuda
- Fairey Swordfish
- Grumann F4F Wildcat
- Grumann F6F Hellcat
- Harvard
- Hawker Hurricane IIC
- Miles Martinet

- North American
- P-38 Lightning
- P-51 Mustang
- P-47 Thunderbolt
- Shorts Sunderland
- Stinson L-5
- Supermarine Seafire
- Supermarine Sea Otter
- Supermarine Spitfire V
- Supermarine Spitfire VIII
- Supermarine Spitfire PR XI
- Supermarine Walrus
- Tiger Moth
- Vickers Warwick
- Vought F4U Corsair
- Vultee A-31 Vengeance

Japanese

- Kawasaki H6K (Mavis)
- Kawasaki Ki-48 (Lily)
- Mitsubishi A6M (Hamp/Zeke)
- Mitsubishi G4M (Betty)
- Mitsubishi Ki-46 (Dinah)
- Mitsubishi F1M (Pete)
- Nakajima Ki-44 (Tojo)
- Nakajima Ki-43 (Oscar)

Further Information

Chris & Philip Piper, two of the sons of one of the pilots of 273 Sqn, namely Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey 'Pip' Piper, are currently researching the history of the squadron. The purpose of this is to bring out a book about its 1944/5 Burma campaign, ideally in 2015, the seventieth anniversary of the end of World War Two.

For further information about this project, please contact Chris or Philip through the links given below:

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