

Glossary

A5M – the Japanese navy Mitsubishi Type 96 carrier fighter (preceding the Zero into service), later given the Allied reporting name ‘Claude’

A-20 – the USAAF’s Douglas twin-engined attack bomber, known in the RAF & RAAF as the ‘Boston’

A-24 – the USAAF’s Douglas single-engined dive bomber, the same aircraft as the US Navy’s SBD Dauntless

AA – anti aircraft (usually in reference to AA artillery or AA gunfire)

AAF – Allied Air Forces i.e. MacArthur’s air force, comprised of both USAAF and RAAF units – see the organisational diagram p.xx

Adron – ‘Advanced Echelon’ i.e. General Kenney’s USAAF operational HQ at Moresby, commanded by General Whitehead

ANGAU – Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit, the organisation responsible for administering native affairs during wartime, and for organising and administering the Papuan porters

AOB – An RAAF ‘Advanced Operational Base’ i.e. one of the numerous wartime airbases set up in a hurry both on the Australian continent and in the islands to the north

AOC – Air Officer Commanding, i.e. the air force general commanding a particular organisation

AP – anti-personnel i.e. fragmentation bombs

ASI – air speed indicator

ATC – Air Transport Command i.e. the organisation running all US transport aircraft in SWPA

B-17 – the ‘Flying Fortress’, one of the USAAF’s four-engined heavy bomber types, designed by Boeing

B-25 – the ‘Mitchell’, one of the USAAF’s twin-engined medium bomber types, designed by North American Aviation

B-26 – the ‘Marauder’, one of the USAAF’s twin-engined medium bomber types, designed by Martin

C5M – the Japanese navy’s Mitsubishi single-engined reconnaissance aircraft, later given the Allied reporting name of ‘Babs’

Catalina – the RAF/RAAF term for the US Navy’s Consolidated PBY patrol bomber, a long-range flying boat

CO – commanding officer

D3A – the Japanese navy’s Aichi Type 99 single-engined carrier dive bomber, later given the Allied reporting name of ‘Val’

D-ring – the handle at the end of the parachute rip cord, which the aircrew member grasps and pulls to deploy the parachute canopy after bailing out

DFC – Distinguished Flying Cross, a highly prestigious British gallantry award for officer airmen (there was also an American DFC, but this was regarded as being of lesser prestige value)

DFM – Distinguished Flying Medal, a British gallantry award for non-commissioned airmen, broadly equivalent to the DFC

Dispersals – aircraft parking and servicing areas, positioned away from the runway, generally around or beyond the airfield perimeter

Dominion – a self-governing autonomous nation within the British Empire, formerly a colony, e.g. Australia, Canada, New Zealand

DSO – Distinguished Service Order, a prestigious British decoration awarded to unit leaders for outstanding leadership in action

DZ – drop zone, the cleared area used for parachute drops and supply dropping

EATS – Empire Air Training Scheme, the UK/Canada/Australia/New Zealand training organisation by which the dominion air forces trained airmen for service with the RAF

Eighth Fleet - the Rabaul-based Japanese Navy command organisation responsible for conducting the Guadalcanal and Milne Bay operations from August 1942

Fourth Fleet – the Rabaul-based Japanese Navy command organisation responsible for conducting the Coral Sea operation in May 1942

G3M – Japanese navy Mitsubishi Type 96 twin-engined land-based bomber (the earlier design), later given the Allied reporting name of ‘Nell’

G4M - Japanese navy Mitsubishi Type 01 twin-engined land-based bomber (the later design), later given the Allied reporting name of ‘Betty’

GHQ – General Headquarters i.e. MacArthur’s HQ, running SWPA Command

H6K – the Japanese navy’s Kawanishi Type 97 four-engined flying boat (the earlier design), later given the Allied reporting name of ‘Mavis’

H8K - the Japanese navy’s Kawanishi Type 2 four-engined flying boat (the later design), later given the Allied reporting name of ‘Emily’

HE – high explosive bombs i.e. primarily blast effect, secondarily shrapnel effect

HF – high frequency radio; the aircraft sets in this era were characterised by short range, loud background noise, & unreliability (in contrast to VHF)

HMAS – His Majesty’s Australian Ship i.e. an Australian warship

HQ – headquarters

Kanga Force – the Australian army force occupying the Wau and Bulolo area, in the high country above Lae and Salamaua, commanded by NGF, supplied from Moresby

LAC – Leading Aircraftsman, a junior RAF/RAAF non-commissioned rank

Lark Force – the Australian army force defending Rabaul in January 1942

Liberator – a US four-engined heavy bomber, designed by Consolidated, and covering both the early LB-30 version supplied to the RAF and the B-24 versions produced for the USAAF

Mae West – the term given to RAF-issue aircrew life preservers

Maroubra Force - the Australian army formation operating on the Kokoda track, under the operational control of NGF

Milne Force - the Australian army formation defending Milne Bay, under the operational control of NGF

MO – medical officer (equivalent to flight surgeon in USAAF)

NEA – North Eastern Area, the operational command headquartered in Townsville (its only equivalent was NWA, headquartered in Darwin)

NGF – New Guinea Force, the Moresby-based Australian Army command organisation that ran Kanga Force, Maroubra Force & Milne Force

NGVR – New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, the volunteer force of part-time soldiers recruited prewar from the expatriate community

NWA – North Western Area, the operational command headquartered in Darwin

Operation MO – the Japanese invasion operation against Moresby in May 1942

OTU – Operational Training Unit i.e. the RAF/RAAF advanced flying schools that trained aircrew to fly and fight in operational aircraft types

Parafrag – the USAAF's 20 pound parachute-retarded fragmentation bomb, developed prewar and introduced to SWPA by General Kenney

POW – prisoner of war

QANTAS – ‘Queensland and Northern Territory Air Services’, i.e. QANTAS Empire Airways, Australia’s prewar national airline

RAF – Royal Air Force i.e. the British air force

RAAF – Royal Australian Air Force

R/T – radio telephony i.e. voice radio

SASO – Senior Air Staff Officer, i.e. the AOC’s executive officer

SNLF – Japanese ‘Special Naval Landing Forces’ i.e. naval infantry units

SOPAC – South Pacific Area Command i.e. the US Navy-led command organisation that fought the war in competition with MacArthur

South Seas Force – the Japanese army formation that conducted offensive operations at Rabaul, Lae, Salamaua, Buna and along the Kokoda track

SWPA – South West Pacific Area i.e. MacArthur’s command

Tainan Air Group – the Tainan Air Group i.e. the Japanese naval fighter unit deployed to Rabaul, named after its home base on Formosa (Taiwan)

USAAF – United States Army Air Forces i.e. the US Army’s air force

USAAS – United States Army Air Services i.e. the USAAF logistics organisation in Australia

USAFIA – United States Army Forces in Australia i.e. the US Army’s administrative organisation in Australia, covering both ground and air units

USN – United States Navy

USS – United States Ship i.e. an American warship

VHF – very high frequency radio (which replaced HF and delivered much longer range, much better clarity of reception, and much greater reliability)

W/T – wireless telegraphy i.e. Morse code radio

Zero – Japanese navy Mitsubishi Type 0 carrier fighter, later given the Allied reporting name of ‘Zeke’