

## INTRODUCTION

To balance the ledger, Japanese fighter pilots made more generous claims against the Corsair than their Allied counterparts. These increased as the war progressed.

Nonetheless the Corsair was a revolutionary fighter as its performance enabled it to take the fight to the enemy as opposed to the defensive role taken beforehand mostly by the smaller but heroic F4F Wildcat. The breadth of involvement by the Corsair in the theatre is demonstrated by the eventual participation by 18 USMC squadrons (VMF-112, VMF-121, VMF-122, VMF-123, VMF-124, VMF-211, VMF-212, VMF-213, VMF-214, VMF-215, VMF-216, VMF-217, VMF-218, VMF-221, VMF-222, VMF-223, VMO-251 & VMF-321), 13 RNZAF squadrons and two USN squadrons (VF-17 and a night fighter squadron, VF(N)-75<sup>1</sup>). Additionally, Corsairs served with various USMC and RNZAF service units.

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<sup>1</sup> This volume includes a full list of USN and USMC Corsair squadrons by chapter, with the exception of VF(N)-75 for which there is a profile in Chapter 20 Miscellaneous.