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Kiwi 'Drivers' and 'Lookers'

An Analysis and Examination of the Significant Contribution of New Zealand Fleet Air Arm Aircrew, of the British Pacific Fleet, to Allied Naval Operations 1944-1945

A thesis presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
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Abstract

This thesis addresses a neglected and under-researched area of New Zealand historiography in World War II: the contribution of New Zealand Fleet Air Arm aircrew serving with the British Pacific Fleet (BPF), from December 1944 to the end of hostilities with Japan in August 1945. The operational experiences, services and sacrifices of these airmen are examined within the wider context of New Zealand's diplomacy and strategy for the Pacific war. Three research questions are posited. First, what were New Zealand's different responses to Japanese military aggression in the Pacific, from 1941 to 1944, particularly in association with its allies? Second, what was the genesis of the British Pacific Fleet, and what were its structures and strategic functions? Third, in what ways did New Zealand aircrew contribute to the British Pacific Fleet's Air Arm operations from 1944 to 1945?

**In memory of my dearly loved eldest son,
James David Lyon Thomson - 15 July 1983 to
12 July 2011.
Rest In Peace**

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