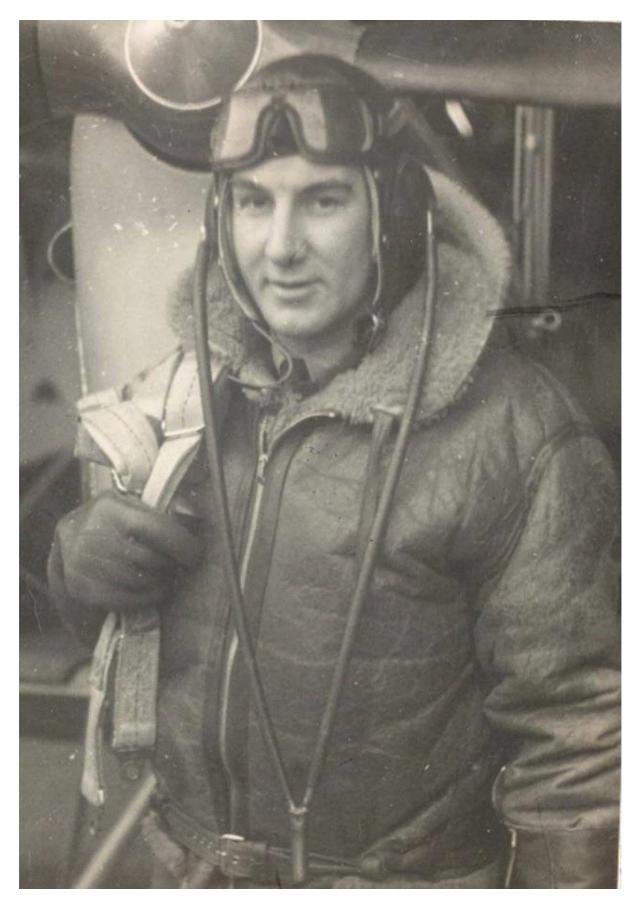
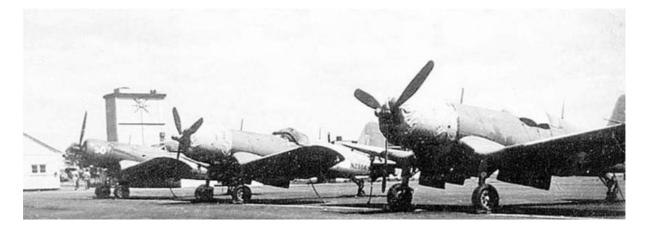
Gordon Hunt



Gordon Hunt served in No.14 (Fighter) Squadron of the New Zealand Air Force. Gordon served with J force, NZ contribution to the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan. Gordon survived a DC3 crash landing in the Philippines.



As part of New Zealand's contribution to the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan (commonly known in NZ as J Force). No.14 (Fighter) Squadron was reformed at Ardmore Air Base south of Auckland in December, 1945. They were to be a fully self-sufficient unit, reverting back to pre-war RNZAF practice.



The commanding officer was Squadron Leader J.J. De Willimof, DFC, who had served with distinction in the Pacific, firstly with No 15 Squadron, then after 5 tours of duty, had commanded No.23 Squadron from 1944 to 1945. The Squadron's ground training was put in the capable hands of

Squadron Leader J.E.Duncan (known to all and sundry as "The Bull" due to his voice!) who was the Chief disciplinarian of the Air Force. Training for all staff was carried out until early March, 1946.



(Gordon bottom left)

The Occupation: J Force

J Force, under Brigadier K. L. Stewart, reached Kure on 29 March 1946 and was quartered in and around Yamaguchi, with detachments at many points on the coast, supervising the repatriation of nearly 300,000 Japanese and checking illegal immigration. The first relief, 1,605 volunteers from New Zealand, arrived in June 1947. From March 1946 until November 1948, New Zealand was also represented by No. 14 Fighter Squadron, RNZAF, and some elements of it remained until March 1949. J Force withdrew in September 1948.

