



Profile 76 Hurricane Mk IIB BE588, G

No. 232 Squadron received a batch of new Hurricane Mk IIBs in August 1941 in the UK, after which the unit embarked on the transport *Sussex* to join the Desert Air Force. At Cape Town the ship was diverted to Singapore where it arrived on 13 January 1942. The Hurricanes were delivered in the RAF desert camouflage scheme, each of which was allocated an alphabetical letter. The spinners, painted red in the UK were over-painted black prior to departure as it was considered that the red might be confused for a Japanese marking.

By 17 January the fighter was airworthy, and four days later it was flown by RAAF Pilot Officer John Gorton who force-landed at Kallang where a main gear collapsed, flipping the fighter. Several pilots had been allocated aircraft based on the first letter of their surname, and Gorton received BE588 "G". Years later Gorton became Australia's nineteenth Prime Minister from 1968 to 1971.

Profile 77 Hurricane Mk IIB Serial BE208, O

This No. 232 Squadron Hurricane operated during the defence of Singapore flown by Squadron Leader Richard "Ricky" Brooker. The circular marking in front of the windscreen is the No. 232 Squadron crest, and the the squadron commander's pennant was applied just under the cockpit.