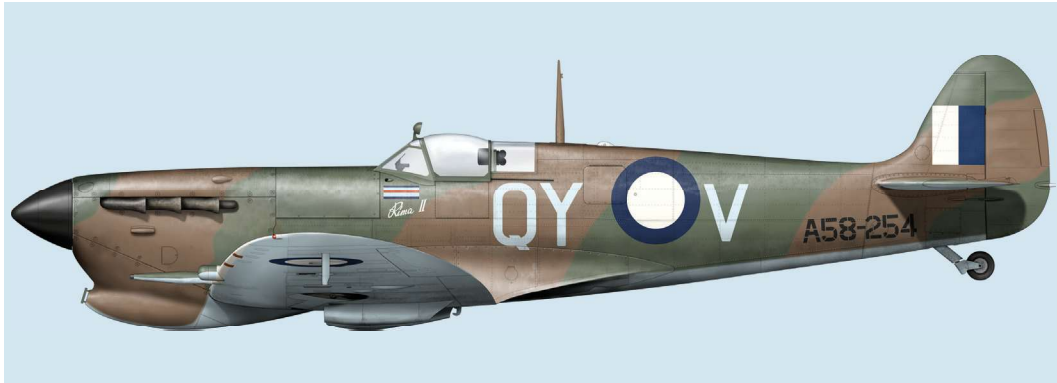


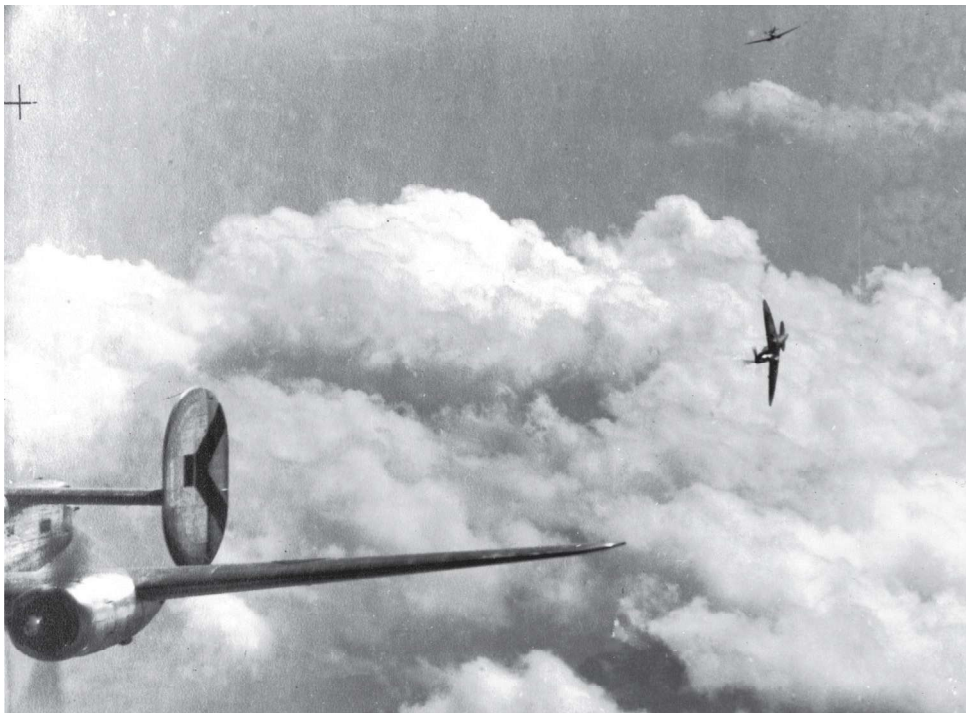
SWEEPING THE SKIES



Spitfire Mk VIII A58-254 Rima II as flown by Squadron Leader Lou Spence.

The early months of 1944 were uneventful. The Japanese raids had ceased and apart from detachments to Drysdale and Milngimbi, little serious flying was done. Boredom was relieved by making mock attacks on Liberators returning from their bombing missions. Morale was not helped by the heavy rains of the wet season which bred mosquitoes. A new arrival to take over B Flight, Flight Lieutenant Ron Cundy, recalled that “although we spent many hours every day on readiness (mostly playing cards) no action eventuated”. He continued:

The monotony of sitting around the flight hut in readiness waiting for the Japanese who never came was relieved from time to time with line-astern chases, battle climbs in squadron formation, shadow shooting and aerobatics.



No. 452 Squadron Spitfires make mock attacks on a returning RAAF Liberator bomber.