



## ADF Serials Newsletter

For those interested in Australian Military Aircraft History  
and Serials  
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### Editor's Note:

Hi everyone,

Halfway through the year already! Lots happening in the aviation world this year and one of the biggest events will be the RAAF airshow at Richmond in October. This month there is an update on happenings at Temora and a schedule of flying dates for the remainder of 2006.

This month Gordon is looking at Spitfires in Australian service and Darren is keen to track down the location of all remaining Macchis.

Till next month,

Jan

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### Website News:

The website passed one million visitors on 10 June 2006! Congratulations to all who have contributed to such a great website over the years!

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### Profile Series #3: Spitfire MkVIII's in Australian Service GRBVers1/06

Here within this issue we present a 451Sqn Spitfire MkVIII RAAF in Italy 1944-1945. Spinner Colours need confirmation, as it seems to be yellow. These are accurate as can be made, but are open for constructive criticisms and feedback.

### Profile # 1 MT687 451 Squadron (RAAF) August 1944



Spitfire MkVIII MT687 with Kookaburra Emblem flown by F/O H J Bray of 451 Squadron (RAAF) August 1944

**Details: RAF Serial: MT687.** Model: LF.VIII.

Built to contract Aircraft/1877/C23©. Delivered 6MU on 21/06/44. Then delivered to 82MU on 28/06/44 for crating. Shipped on SS Samstu 30/06/44 to Casa 13/07/44.

Entered 451 Sqn RAAF squadron service early on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 1944 whilst based at Istres, and flown by F/O M A Kemp, F/O H J Bray, W/O C H Stubbes, F/O R T Milner, P/O G Jones, F/Sgt G Hill, P/O A H Davies, F/Sgt W Fields, F/O E James, F/O B McKenzie, F/O G Purdy, F/O B Sidney, F/Lt A J Robert, F/O R J Mercer, F/Sgt C Ball, and F/Sgt J F Vintner on operations almost daily until the 5<sup>th</sup> October 1944. *NB those underscored flew her more than once.*

The unit moved to Foggia, Italy some days later where they handed over their Mk VIII's to the resident MU and embarked by ship to Liverpool, England to convert to the Spitfire MkXVI model.

From there they would eventually link up with 453Sqn RAAF in 1945 at the end of the war in Germany.

As for Spitfire MkVIII MT687, she was struck-off the Air Ministry on the 29/02/45.

**Sources:** AWM Pics, 451 Sqn RAAF A50 History Sheets, and Personal Collection Pictures. GRB@2006

**News from the Temora Aviation Museum** – Taken from the Museum's website:

<http://www.aviationmuseum.com.au/>

Flying Weekends for 2006:

August	5th & 6th
September	16th & 17th
October	No Flying Days in Temora
November	4th & 5th
December	2nd & 3rd

## **NEW SPITFIRE**

The Museum has acquired a new Spitfire Mk XVI from Wanaka, New Zealand. The aircraft is currently being shipped from New Zealand to Australia, packaged in a container. Spitfire TB863 needed to be transported by ship as it cannot carry enough fuel to fly the distance from New Zealand to Australia. It was also considered to be an unwise choice to take the risk of flying this rare aircraft over a vast stretch of sea.

While the Museum was hoping that this new acquisition would make its public debut in August, it has been decided that there isn't enough time available for the assembly and test flying. At this stage, the Spitfire should make its debut in September.

Images of the new Spitfire:

<http://aviationmuseum.ayera.com/news/petewing.cfm>

<http://aviationmuseum.ayera.com/news/wing.cfm>

<http://aviationmuseum.ayera.com/news/spitfuse.cfm>

<http://aviationmuseum.ayera.com/news/engspit.cfm>

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## **Richmond Air Show**

***RAAF Base Richmond***

***Richmond NSW***

***21–22 October 2006***

The Richmond Air Show will feature a variety of exhibitions and ground displays to entertain the whole family and an exciting flying program featuring some of the Australia's best vintage warbirds through to jets and helicopters in service with the Australian Defence Force today. The airshow celebrates RAAF Richmond's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Further details are available at:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/raaf/airshow/index.htm>

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**Blayney commemorates WW2 servicemen** – From the Blayney Chronicle Friday 7 July 2006  
War dead will be remembered -Tim Kelly

Three new streets in Blayney township have been named after World War II servicemen who died on active service.

The three streets in the Highlands subdivision off Athol Street will be known as Lovejoy, Meek and St Vincent-Walsh Streets. Blayney Council continues, with this decision, its policy of naming new streets after local service people who were killed in action.

Lovejoy Street is named after Sergeant Douglas John Lovejoy who crashed his RAAF aeroplane accidentally near Tallow Beach on the north coast of NSW while returning from an operational flight. He was 21 at the time of his death. He was the son of Blayney residents Stanley and Margery Lovejoy.

Private Douglas Rupert Meek died as a prisoner of war during the Sandakan death march across Borneo. He was 26 at the time of his death in March 1945 and a corporal in 2/20th Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force.

Another RAAF member Pilot Officer Standish Locksley St Vincent-Walsh was killed in action over Germany while flying with the Royal Air Force's 149 Squadron in July 1941. Prior to the war he worked as a jackaroo in the Blayney district.

Thanks to Brendan Cowan for posting this on the message board,

Dean Norman was able to provide some additional information on Sgt Douglas John Lovejoy:

Sgt Douglas John Lovejoy was a member of 32SQN flying Hudson A16-198 on 7 Jul 42 when they failed to return. The crew were:

Flt Lt Robert Thomas Trigg 467 (Pilot)  
Sgt Douglas John Lovejoy 403752  
Sgt Gavin Athol Laurie McLaren 406859  
Sgt Gordon William George Ridge 416231  
Sgt David Leslie Bradley 30650  
LAC Edward George Kimmins 22537  
LAC William Edwards Evans 24493  
LAC Harold Wilmot Johnstone 24775  
LAC Frederick Albert Charles Wood 24672  
AC1 Edward George Merefieid 25767

Their aircraft crashed into the sea off Tallow Beach between Broken Head and Byron Bay, NSW.

Thanks to Brendan Cowan for posting this on the adf-serials message boards and to Dean for the additional information.

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### Looking for Macchis...

Darren is putting together a list of all current locations of ex RAAF Macchi's.

The following have been sighted and noted:

This engine-less aircraft (A7-030 and one other - sorry, didn't get the serial) is located at Port Wakefield (JPEU) and used for 'indirect' DSTO testing - i.e. the aircraft (with removed wings/tail section for storage) is remarkably complete (saw it last Tuesday)."

There is one at the Port Adelaide Aviation Museum(in a crate) and there is one at AMOF, this one is also an ex Navy aircraft..the others are no doubt far and wide..

Classic jets has A7-025 in storage awaiting restoration

Macchis A7-028 and A7-089 were purchased by Ron Schnieder. They left Wagga by road on 13/01/2005

Thanks to Dave Masterton, Rod Farquhar and Martin Edwards.

If you can add to this list, please email Darren via the contact line.

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## **Can you help?**

I am researching a relative, George Donaldson JEKYLL who was a Pilot Officer in the RAAF, assigned to the RAF. He was shot down & killed over Hornsea on 9 Jun 1944. Other men possibly with him were: Sidney Bolter, Vincent Hillrich, Thomas Rodger, Sid Merrin, Stan Ward, Richard Cottew. Any info much appreciated. The RAF Sqn was 102 (Ceylon) Squadron.

Dave Masterton is looking for the whereabouts of Wessex 833 N7-223. Records show that it was purchased by the Australian Naval Aviation Museum in 1992, but now it has disappeared!

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## **Feedback:**

### **Cyprus Safari**

Ivan has provided the following information:

Re the enquiry from Sean Strang regarding the book "Cyprus Safari". This was a private production by Pete Ingram and was never published as such. A small number of copies were printed for RNZAF reunions. Pete later wrote a follow up "Safari Postscript." I was lucky enough to be able to purchase the last copy of a small combined reprint a few years ago. I don't know if Pete has had any more reprints done. You could try to contact Pete directly. The last address that I have for him is Pete Ingram, 265 Grahams Road, Christchurch 8005, New Zealand.

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**If you have something for the newsletter or would like to submit an article, query or image, please use the following links:**

<http://www.adf-serials.com/contact>