ADF Serials Newsletter

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

Hi everyone

Well it's been another busy month for everyone. The RAAF Richmond Air Show has been and gone – who was the organiser that forgot to order the nice weather for the weekend? Despite the inclement weather, the weekend proved a success.

On a personal note October was an extremely busy month for me as I changed jobs after 8 years and have joined the ranks of the Cityrail captives Mon-Fri ☺

The ADF-Serials message boards continue to be popular and increasingly the group is being asked family history questions. This month I have included a list of resources that can be used to research Australian military service and next month I will include some details about the different records that are held by NAA.

Till next month

Jan

Website news
We have had a new record for the number of visitors to our little part of the world wide web. We had an average of 1700 visitors per day for the month of October 2006.Thanks to all who took time to visit and particular thanks to the team who make this site what it is!
Darren

Link to RAAF site on Richmond Air Show
http://www.defence.gov.au/media/download/2006/Oct/20061023.cfm

Historical Aircraft Restoration Society

We are fortunate in Australia to have a number of groups who are actively preserving our aviation history. One such group is the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society located at the Illawarra Regional Airport.

The following information was taken from the HARS website:

http://www.hars.org.au/index.html

Australian Historical Flying Centre

In 2002 the Society made an important decision to relocate its activities out of the congested Sydney basin and into the beautiful Illawarra district south of Sydney, where the Illawarra Regional Airport nestles in pleasant seaside semi-rural splendour against a backdrop of spectacular sandstone cliffs that form the escarpment of a coastal mountain range. The airport sits adjacent Australian National Highway One with hundreds of thousands of passing vehicles each week, and is within easy walking distance of a rail connection with Sydney, nearby Wollongong and Port Kembla and the beautiful South Coast of New South Wales.

In partnership with one of Australia's biggest and most respected companies, BlueScope Steel, the Shellharbour Municipal Council and a host of other corporate and private sponsors, HARS is in the process of building a significant hangar and museum facility to house its collection of aircraft and an impressive array of associated memorabilia.

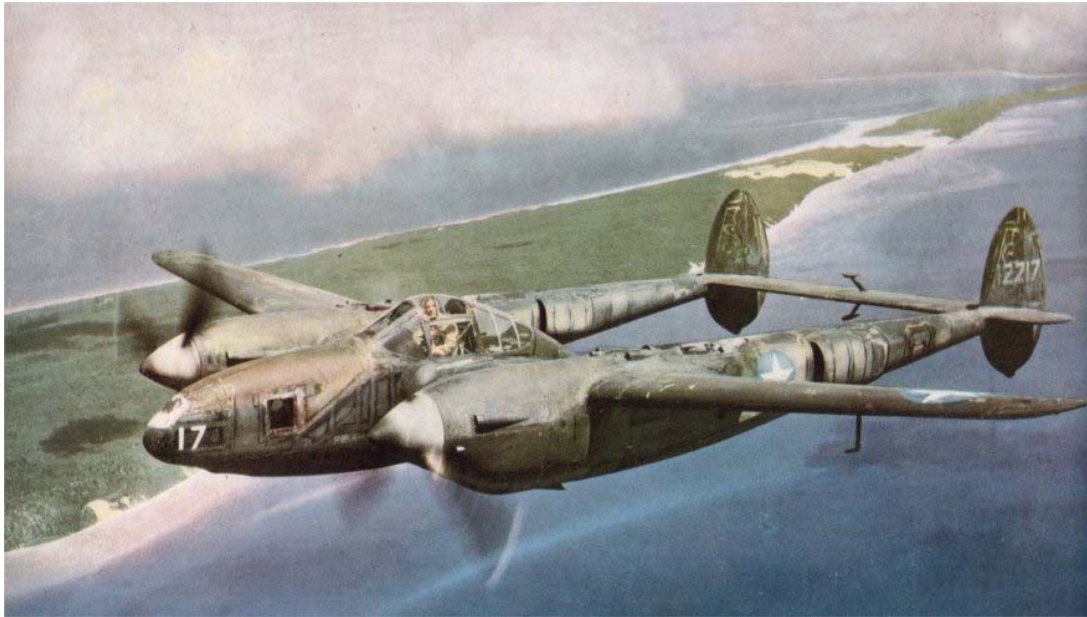**Details of the HARS fleet:**
http://www.hars.com.au/fleet/index.html

RAAF F4-1-LO Lightning's A55-4, 5, and 6 *Provisionally*

Some information has been recently uncovered supporting the notion that additional Lightnings were being earmarked and surveyed to augment the original RAAF F4 trio. By late 1943, the RAAF had been reduced to operating one airframe. **I am not initially referring to F4's 41-2220 or 41-2156** *(though more on this one later)* **that were used by 75Sqn in PNG towards late 1943 and early 1944. The RAAF did however, approach the 5th AAF to secure one or both of these in December 1943, but had that request refused.**

What has come to light is the intent to supply an additional three F4 airframes under local Lend-lease a few months later that had become surplus to requirements. It seems that when we were down to **A55-1** and a few Wirraways at 1 PRU in early 1944; discussions were started in obtaining more airframes considered surplus by the recent introduction in theatre of F5 Lightnings for the 5th AAF. Several surplus F4 airframes had now become available that were in storage at Port Moresby. Three were identified by the 5th AAF by serial and advised in writing, the RAAF, of their intent to supply during early February 1944.

Those earmarked originally were **F4-1-LO Lightnings: 41-2130, 41-2139** and **41-2217**

Lightning F4-1-LO 41-2217 in late 1942 above Moreton Island, Brisbane on a test flight.

A formal request by the RAAF, signed by Group Captain Gordon Grant, was forwarded on the 30th March 1944 for the supply of these aircraft. Approval by 5thAAF was given to hand these aircraft over to the RAAF under Lend-lease conditions soon after on the 31st March 1944.

They were rather war weary and were in need of a complete overhauling to both airframe and engines.
Plans to make the trio flyable at Port Moresby for ferrying on the 30th April 1944 to Amberley AFB for a complete overhaul by MAAF (USAAF) were made.

Lockheed Lightning F4-1-LO FY41-2217 Late 1942

Not surprisingly one of the three allocated F4s in the poorest material condition, **41-2139**, was replaced by another F4, **41-2156**, which had previously been flown by 75Sqn RAAF.

The 5th AAF advised on the 21st May 1944 that, following engine replacements, that the aircraft had departed Port Moresby earlier in the month, with only two reaching Amberley AFB by the 15th May 1944. Those two F4's were **41-2156** and **41-2217**.

The third F4, **41-2130**, only flew as far as Rockhampton, Queensland where it became unserviceable, either by a landing accident or by mechanical failure. It would be condemned on the 9th May 1944 at Rockhampton.

F4 41-2217 in faded Haze Paint in 1944 at Port Moresby prior to ferry flight

The original F4 trio member, **41-2139,** was then flown down from Port Moresby to replace this aircraft.

The 5th AAF, on surveying the three aircraft after their arrival at Amberley, it was considered that it was un-economical to overhaul these airframes due to the excessive corrosion and wear.

The arrangement to supply three airframes was terminated on the 25th May 1944 as a result of this.

A war weary and Haze painted F4 41-2217 over PNG in late 1943.

Those three remaining USAAF F4 airframes were to be condemned and salvaged on site at Amberley sometime during September 1944.

With **A55-1** leaving RAAF service in 1944, DH Mosquitoes would eventually replace the type in 1PRU service.

Gordon R Birkett @2006Vers2

www.adf-serials.com.au
Please Note: though every effort is made for accuracy per profiles, advice and comments are welcomed.

Research Military Ancestors in Australia – Jan Herivel

I recently gave a talk at a local family history society about researching Australian military personnel and focussed on the websites etc that are available. I have included the notes from my talk below:

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL   A one stop shop for information on Australia's involvement in various conflicts.

Biographical Databases: A range of databases can be accessed under this heading:

Roll of Honour: The Roll of Honour lists all soldiers, sailors and airmen who died as a direct result of active service with Australian forces (or while on secondment) and in war or warlike operations in which Australians were involved.
Contains: personal particulars, unit, date of death. Some records also include cause of death, cemetery details, next of kin and place of enlistment. Over half of the database records have digital images of the **Roll of Honour Circulars** sent to the families of WW1 soldiers. Photographs are progressively being added when available.
Search tip: Combining surname, conflict and date of death (DD/MM/YYYY) is the most effective way of searching the ROH. http://www.awm.gov.au/database/roh.asp

Commemorative Roll: This roll lists the details of Australians who died on active service with allied forces, the merchant navy, war correspondents or photographers. The roll was developed through appeals to the public for nominations, beginning in 1981. Criteria included: death caused by war and the person Australian born and last domiciled in Australia. Three WW1 Penrith soldiers are listed on this roll: Stephen Shadlow who served with the Wellington Battalion and was killed at Gallipoli, Richard Henry Beindge Baynes who served with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and was killed on the Somme in 1916 and his younger brother George Nepean Beindge Baynes, who served with the Rifle Brigade British Army and who was killed in 1917.

The following nominal rolls can be accessed via the AWM:
http://www.awm.gov.au/database/croll.asp
- Sudan War - Details of personnel serving in the NSW Contingent to the Sudan, 1885.
- Boer War - : Listing of those who took part in the Boer War 1899-1902.
- Boxer Rebellion (Uprising) Details of personnel serving in the Boxer Uprising, China, 1900-1901.

WORLD WAR 1 RESOURCES:

Nominal Roll: This roll is a single alphabetical listing of almost 324,000 names of the AIF who served overseas during WW1. It is believed to have been compiled in 1919 to assist in the repatriation of the AFI soldiers.
Contains: surname and first names in full, regimental number, rank last held, final unit and gives details of fate eg
RTA   Returned to Australia   DOW   Died of wounds
KIA   Killed in action
Note: WW1 army numbers were issued on a regimental basis and not from a central source. This resulted in many duplicated numbers being allocated so it is not a good idea to search simply by this number. From WW2 onwards, numbers were supposed to be unique and therefore it is often more efficient to search by service/serial number.
http://www.awm.gov.au/nominalrolls/ww1/

Embarkation rolls: The First World War Embarkation Roll consists of nominal rolls of some 330,000 personnel of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) and the military component of the Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) as they embarked for overseas service during the First World War. The AIF included the Australian Flying Corps (AFC) and the Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train (RANBT). The embarkation rolls do not include those who joined the AIF but did not serve overseas, nor reinforcements that were formed overseas. **The Unit Embarkation Rolls do not include those who joined the AIF but did not serve overseas.** http://www.awm.gov.au/nominalrolls/ww1/embarkation/

Ross Mallett's WW1 site is a must if you need information on Australia's involvement in WW1. http://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/~rmallett/index.html

Steve Conway is currently developing a comprehensive site including all battalion histories, information on conscription and a timeline detailing Australia's involvement in WW1. Http://web.archive.org/web/20010806070846/www.iol.net.au/~conway/ww1/index.html

Australian Red Cross Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau Files were created by the Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau of the Australian Red Cross, which was a branch of the British Red Cross. The Bureau, which commenced operation in October 1915, sought to identify, investigate and respond to enquiries made regarding the fate of Australian personnel. It investigated the majority of personnel posted as wounded and missing on official Army lists, as well as written enquiries from concerned relatives and friends. While the bulk of the records relate to those serving in the AIF, there are a few that relate to Australians wounded, missing or captured while serving with the merchant marine of as civilians in occupied countries. http://www.awm.gov.au/redcross/

Aboriginal Roll of Honour WW1, WW2 and Vietnam (Partial Roll of Honour) http://www.fortunecity.com/meltingpot/statuepark/620/honour.html

Penrith City Memories of War Website: Contains information on the soldiers and nurses who served during WW1 including:

- Penrith District Honor Roll lists soldiers born in Penrith or resident in Penrith at the time of enlistment, who were killed during the war.
- Local war memorials
- War Trophies
- Details on the nurses from the local area who served during WW1. http://www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/index.asp?id=610

WORLD WAR 2

Nominal Roll: The World War Two Nominal Roll was created to honour and commemorate some one million people who served in Australia's defence forces and the Merchant Navy during this conflict.   The Nominal Roll contains the service details of some one million individuals who served with Australia's defence forces and the Merchant Navy during the period 3 September 1939 to 2 September 1945. The number of individuals collected for the Nominal Roll includes some 50,600 members of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), 845,000 from the Australian Army, and 218,300 members of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) as well as approximately 3,500 merchant mariners.

A number of search options are available including name, service number, honours and place of birth, enlistment or residential locality at time of enlistment.   Once an individual service record has been accessed, a certificate of service can be printed. **WW2 Veterans were given the opportunity to have their service records excluded from the website prior to its**

launch. If the person is not listed on the WW2 nominal roll, check the National Archives of Australia database.

KOREAN WAR NOMINAL ROLL honours and commemorates the men and women who served in the Royal Australian Navy, Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force in Korea, or in the waters adjacent to Korea, during the conflict and after the ceasefire, between 27 June 1950 and 19 April 1956.   This site contains information from the service records of more than 17,000 individuals who served during the Korean War. **Korean War Veterans were given an opportunity to have their service records excluded from the website prior to its launch.** http://www.koreanroll.gov.au/ A certificate of service can be printed.

VIETNAM WAR NOMINAL ROLL honours and commemorates the men and women who served in the Royal Australian Navy, Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force in Vietnam, or in the waters adjacent to Vietnam, during the conflict between 23 May 1962 and 29 April 1975. The roll contains information from the Service records of more than 60 000 military members who served during the Vietnam War. This site also contains the names of more than 1 600 Australian civilians who had been awarded or were eligible to receive the Vietnam Logistics and Support Medal.

This version of the roll was compiled from data collected in the 1990's to support health studies. A more comprehensive roll with a wider range of data fields is being collated from Service records. The comprehensive roll will be published on the Internet in August 2007.

GULF WAR 1990-1991 NOMINAL ROLL: This Preliminary Gulf War Nominal Roll, prepared by the Department of Veterans' Affairs in Canberra, lists Australian Defence Force personnel involved in that conflict. It includes all personnel involved in the hostilities and associated operations in the Persian Gulf from August 1990 to September 1991. The roll can be accessed at: http://www.dva.gov.au/commmem/nomroll/gulf/index.htm

WHERE TO FIND SERVICE RECORDS:

The National Archives of Australia provides detailed information about where to find service records http://www.naa.gov.au/the_collection/family_history/armed_services.html

World War 1 Service Records are currently being digitised**. The NAA is currently not taking requests for digitisation of WW1 records.** However, you can still request a photocopy of these records. Current cost of photocopies is $25.

World War 2 Records: You can request these records to be digitised**. See NAA site for additional information. See NAA site for additional information.**

Post World War 2 Records: Check the NAA site above for additional information.

OTHER SITES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST:

Unit Histories/Operational Records

Check   the   NAA   for   official   unit   histories   and   operations   records: http://naa12.naa.gov.au/scripts/ResearcherScreen.asp Some unit histories have been written by defence personnel who served with the unit. A good place to check is Libraries Australia: http://naa12.naa.gov.au/scripts/ResearcherScreen.asp You may be able to access these at

the State Library or obtain them on inter-library loan through your local library (charges may apply for the inter-library loan service).

The Official War Histories

Official histories are 'official' in the sense that they are commissioned by government as the national record of Australia's involvement in particular conflicts, and the official historians have been granted unrestricted access to closed period and security-classified government records. All the Australian official war histories contain their author's own interpretations and judgements and do not follow any official or government line.

As such, these works are the first published official record of Australia's involvement in War. They are a detailed chronological record of all services and all theatres of conflict. They comprise an invaluable resource for researchers at all levels, from the scholar to the general reader. The official war histories are our enduring national record providing a comprehensive, authoritative, and accessible account of the Australian experience   The AWM has digitised the official histories from WW1 and WW2 which are available online: http://www.awm.gov.au/histories/volume.asp?conflict=1 **NB These are large files and take considerable time to download!**

Commonwealth War Graves Commission pays tribute to the 1,700,000 men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the two world wars. The Commission has constructed 2,500 war cemeteries and plots, erecting headstones over graves and, in instances where the remains are missing, inscribing the names of the dead on permanent memorials. Over one million casualties are now commemorated at military and civil sites in some 150 countries. http://www.cwgc.org/

LISTSERVS: (ROOTSWEB)

AUS-AIF A mailing list for anyone who is researching family members who served in the Australian Imperial Forces from 1914- 1919.

AUS-MILITARY A general list with emphasis on Australian military history and the research of Australian military ancestors from 1788 to the present.

AUSTRALIAN-POWS A mailing list for anyone with a genealogical interest in Australian soldiers in prisoner-of-war (POW) camps.

AUS-WAR-GRAVES A mailing list for the volunteers who are assisting with the photographing of Australian War Graves, throughout the world, for inclusion in Australia's largest on-line database, and others interested in the project. Theatres of war include WW1, WW2, Korea, Malayan Conflict, Borneo, and Vietnam.

Can you Help?

Alex is wondering if anyone can help I'm doing some research into the Hawker Hind biplane of the 30's. I understand that about 63 Hinds were shipped to New Zealand from the UK in 1940. Does anyone have any details of the camouflage and markings they wore while in Kiwi service? Any help would be appreciated. (From ADF-Serials Message Board)

On This Day:

3 Oct 1942   Beaufort A9-49 1OTU Crew: SGT P.K. Crombie, SGT B.W. Morrow, SGT P. Cribb and SGT A.J. Carl missing over sea.

3 Oct 1992   Dedication of he Australian Vietnam Veterans' National Memorial, ANZAC Parade, Canberra, was opened by the Prime Minister, the Hon. Paul Keating, MP, and honours those Australians who served and died in the war in Vietnam.

4 Oct 1943   Anson W2039 GRS Crew: SGT F.M. Howship, PLTOFF K.P. Murphy, FSGT B.F. Duffy and LAC H.E.W. Ball crashed at East Sale, Vic.

6 Oct 1971   Mirage IIID A3-109   2OCU FLGOFF Kenneth Dale crashed into the sea off Sydney.

8 Oct 1941   Buffalo W8208 453SQN PLTOFF Max Irvine-Brown 404736. PLTOFF Irvine-Brown became the first fatality of 453SQN after he attempted a forced landing on Pulau Buntang 70kms south east of Singapore after becoming lost while flying radio trials for Kallang.

11 Oct 1967   Vampire A79-837 724SQN? SBLT M. Lynch (Pilot) and FLGOFF S. Barkley (passenger) crashed at Laverton, Victoria, on take off for Fleet support mission.

27 Oct 1927   DH-9 A6-3 1FTS Pilot: Cdt Clarence Seach stalled after attempting a forced landing at Healesville, Victoria and aircraft was completely destroyed by fire.

29 Oct 91   B707 A20-103 33SQN Crew**:**SQNLDR Mark E. Lewin, FLTLT Timothy R. Ellis, FLTLT Mark I. Duncan, WOFF Allan G. Gwynne and WOFF Jonathan M. Fawcett. The RAAF's worst peace-time loss in nearly 20 years.

31 Oct 1943   Wirraway A20-307 7SFTS. LAC M.J.F. Foley 430205, a trainee pilot with 92.25 hours on the Wirraway, was leading another student pilot, E.D. Millikin, in a fighter pairs formation when LAC Foley turned sharply in front of Millikin's Wirraway A20-363.

Thank you to Dean and his aircrew losses research, the Australian War Memorial's "This Month" and the RSL Diary for dates for this month's On this Day segment- Jan

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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