



## **No 2 Squadron**

2 Squadron, now under command of No 42 Wing, is the second oldest squadron in the RAAF, and the only one to have flown operations in four wars. It was formed at Kantara, Egypt in 1916 as part of the Australian Flying Corps and saw distinguished service during the First World War, destroying over 180 enemy aircraft. At the beginning of the Second World War, 2 Squadron operated Avro Ansons from Laverton, in a general reconnaissance role. In 7 December 1941, 2 Squadron deployed to Dutch Timor, and Darwin, in February 1942.

2 Squadron was re-equipped with Avro Lincolns, at Amberley, as part of 82 Wing and became, in December 1953, the first RAAF squadron to equip with jet bombers, in the form of the Canberra. It deployed to Butterworth, Malaysia in the 1960s to support action in Malaya. In April 1967, it moved to Phan Rang Airbase in Vietnam, establishing itself as a very effective bomber. Returning to Amberley, having flown almost 12,000 operational sorties for the loss of two aircraft, 2 Squadron was disbanded in July 1982.

No.2 Squadron was reformed on 18 January 2000 as a part of the Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) project, moving to Williamstown early in 2004. The AEW&C provides a platform that will gather information from a wide variety of sources, analyse it and distribute it for Defence, civil power and civil community use. The AEW&C airborne system combines the new high-performance Boeing 737-700 aircraft with the new technology Northrop Grumman Multi-role Electronically Scanned Array (MESA) radar. Included in the platform are an advanced Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) system; an expanded, passive electronic surveillance system; a flexible, open-system architecture and a highly effective self-defence capability.