



RAAF ASSOCIATION (N.S.W. DIVISION) INC



Honour the Past – Support the Present – Act for the Future

THE RADAR BRANCH BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2017

Website: <http://www.raafradar.org.au>

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CHRISTMAS WISHES

Patrons	Air Commodore D. Bowden AM (Ret'd) Air Vice Marshal R.B. Treloar AO (Ret'd) Group Captain Don MacPherson (Ret'd)
President	Bruce Niblett
Senior RAAF Member	GPCAPT Lyle Holt
Correspondence	Secretary, WgCdr Ian Gibson (Ret'd) Email: secretary@raafradar.org.au

Best wishes from the Branch for a safe and happy Christmas

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members will soon receive a 2018 membership renewal form in the mail. Annual membership is \$30 with an option to pay for five years.

2018 A SIGNIFICANT YEAR

F-35A Arrival



2018 is shaping up to be a significant year for the RAAF with the planned arrival of the first two F-35A aircraft at RAAF Base Williamtown in December 2018. In early November, the third Australian F-35A, designated AU-03, came off the Lockheed Martin production line at Fort Worth, Texas with No 3 SQN livery. AU-03 will join the other two Australian F-35A aircraft (AU-01 and AU-02) at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona where RAAF instructors, pilots and maintainers are undergoing training at the international F-35 Pilot Training Centre.

Since 2014, AU-01 and AU-02 have flown a combined total of more than 1000 hours for pilot training. The next 8 Australian aircraft are in production and are scheduled for arrival at RAAF Williamtown in 2020.

The third Australian F-35A rolls off the production line: ***One step closer for Williamtown in 2018!!***

No 44 Wing RAAF

75th Anniversary Dec 2017



No. 44 Wing, known initially as No.44 Radar Direction Finding (RDF) Wing, was formed on 14 December 1942 in Adelaide River, 100 kilometres south of Darwin, Northern Territory. Coming under the control of North-Western Area Command, the wing was responsible for controlling the radar stations that acted as an early warning system for Japanese air raids. The North Western Area Campaign was, in the words of the official history of the RAAF in the Pacific theatre, "almost entirely an air war, with raid and counter-raid". The wing was commanded by Flight Lieutenant Hannam, and by March 1943 had a staff of 77 officers and other ranks.

On formation, No.44 Wing controlled six radar stations in the Darwin area. Over the next two years it established seventeen new stations throughout the North-Western Area, relocated ten, and disbanded two others, and also set up twelve homing beacons. It further established supply, maintenance and repair facilities, as well as communications with No. 5 Fighter Sector Headquarters to coordinate air defence in the region. Hannam was mentioned in despatches for his achievements. After the fighting in New Guinea had ceased, the threat of air raids on mainland Australia eased, and No.44 Wing was disbanded on 22 August 1944.

No 44 Wing was reformed on 22 November 2000 at RAAF Williamtown responsible for providing Air Traffic Services at RAAF, Army and Navy bases all across Australia. No 44WG also commands the ATC Technical Ground Electronic Services (GES) workforce.

Today, No 44 Wing Joint Battlefield Airspace Control (JBAC) Officers provide air traffic services for all aircraft, civil and military, in the airspace surrounding RAAF air bases and designated military airfields. Joint Battlefield Airspace Controllers hold the same qualifications as civilian air traffic controllers, and are also trained to provide safe, efficient and flexible airspace control in combat environments, such as the Middle East Region, and in support of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

Air traffic control in military airspace is particularly complex because of the differences between military and civilian aircraft performance and their purpose for flying. The Australian Defence Force Air Traffic Control workforce provides air traffic control services for approximately 500,000 aircraft movements per year, including around 230,000 civilian aircraft movements through military-controlled airspace. When controlling civilian aircraft, RAAF applies the same air traffic control standards and procedures as those of Airservices, as determined by the national aviation regulator, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.



No 44 Wing commands two squadrons (452 Squadron and 453 Squadron) which in turn command 11 air traffic control Flights located across Australia at nine bases, the Perth Terminal Control Unit at Perth International Airport, HMAS Albatross at Nowra, New South Wales and the Army Aviation Centre at Oakey, Queensland. The Headquarters of No 44 Wing is located at RAAF Base Williamtown and forms part of Surveillance and Response Group.

Since its re-establishment in 2000, No 44 Wing detachments have deployed to Afghanistan, Sudan, East Timor, Iraq, the Solomon Islands, and Indonesia.

2018 Air Power Conference

The Royal Australian Air Force will be conducting its biennial Air Power Conference on the theme of Air Power in a Disruptive World over the period 20-21 March 2018 at the National Convention Centre in Canberra.

The 2018 Conference will provide another opportunity for the defence and security community to come together to explore how air forces are able to fully shape and exploit strategy, tactics and technology within joint military, national

security and coalition operations in the emergent security environment. Themes for the 2018 Air Power Conference viewed through the lens of air power, military and national strategy include:

Artificial Intelligence, Cyber, Simulation, Energy, Climate and Nuclear Security, Geo-Political Interests and security policy, Space and Uninhabited Aerial Systems' Industry Collaboration, People, the military in the digital age.

Registrations are now open for the 2018 RAAF Air Power Conference: email airpower@defence.gov.au for information

DID YOU KNOW!!

Air Force Victoria Cross Recipients

The Victoria Cross (VC) is a military decoration awarded for valour "in the presence of the enemy to members of the Australia Armed Forces. It may be awarded to a person of any rank in any service, and to civilians under military command. Being the highest award in the Australian Honours Order of Wearing, the Victoria Cross takes precedence over all other post nominals and Australian orders and decorations.



Air Vice Marshal Frank McNamara VC, CB, CBE. McNamara was the first Australian aviator—and the only one in World War I—to receive the **Victoria Cross**. He later became a senior commander in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).



Wing Commander Hughie Edwards VC, DSO, OBE, DFC was a senior officer in the Royal Air Force, Governor of Western Australia. Serving as a bomber pilot in the Royal Air Force (RAF), Edwards was decorated with the Victoria Cross in 1941 for his efforts in leading a bombing raid against the port of Bremen, one of the most heavily defended towns in Germany. He became the most highly decorated Australian serviceman of the Second World War



Flight Lieutenant William Newton VC He was honoured for his actions as a bomber pilot in Papua New Guinea during March 1943 when, despite intense anti-aircraft fire, he pressed home a series of attacks on the Salamaua Isthmus, the last of which saw him forced to ditch his aircraft in the sea. Newton was still officially posted as missing when the award was made in October 1943. It later emerged that he had been taken captive by the Japanese, and executed by beheading on 29 March.



Pilot Officer Rawdon Middleton VC On 28 November 1942, Middleton was captain of Stirling BF372 detailed to bomb the Fiat aircraft works at Turin. It was his twenty-ninth combat sortie, one short of the thirty required for completion of a 'tour' and mandatory rotation off combat operations. The last line of his Victoria Cross citation reads: "His devotion to duty in the face of overwhelming odds is unsurpassed in the annals of the Royal Air Force"

