



NO 2 SQUADRON BRANCH
(AIR FORCE
ASSOCIATION VICTORIA)



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Newsletter – June 2020

My Dear Colleagues

CANCELLATION OF NO 2 SQUADRON (RAAF) ASSOCIATION INC. (A0043384X)

In line with the Special Resolution passed at the Branch's Annual General Meeting on the 4th May 2020, an application has been submitted to Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) for the cancellation of incorporation. CAV acknowledged receipt in a letter dated 3rd June 2020 and advised that it will process the cancellation, which involves the placement of a notice on the CAV's website and in the Victoria Government Gazette. CAV will write again once the cancellation has occurred.

The Branch bank account name has also been updated in line with the Special Resolution.

MEMBERS' STORIES AND PHOTOGRAPHS

In response to my call for members' stories, I was able to convince John Elliott to give me an article on why he joined the Air Force. I hope John's story will inspire other members to put pen to paper and relate their experiences with the Air Force or whilst serving in the Air Force. Here is John's story:

Why I joined the Air Force – John Elliott

Walter said to me the other day, how about a story of your life in the RAAF. My reply was, sorry Walter, not much to tell, I joined up in Sep 1963 and departed Sep 69. But he suggested there could be more to the story and he got me thinking.

Why did I join the Air Force? Although Dad had been in the Army in WW2 with the New Guinea Air Warning Wireless group (Coast watchers) and Mum had served in the WAAAF at MCG (Melbourne Cricket Ground), they didn't talk much about their time in the service, so after leaving school it was not on my want to do list. Then things changed.



I was working for OTC (Overseas Telecommunications Commission) in Sydney where all international Telegram traffic was handled from NSW to the rest of the world, as a message boy/acting Telegraphist, learning to type and read 5-unit code and CW (which came in the form of cable code and undulated code on tape), while studying at The Marconi School of Wireless to become a Commercial Operator.

I was working 18 hours a day to cover shifts for people that could not get into Sydney due to large scale flooding around the Penrith area. One day at Wynyard (underground) railway station I fell asleep at the platform. Waking up I asked a passing passenger, what the time was, he said 6 o'clock and I said was that am or pm. The guy gave me such a strange look as I struggled to remember if I was waiting for a train to go home or just got there. "If you don't like bulldust (word similar) then don't get off a train to go to work".

It is then I decided that I was too young to be in a state of confusion and that I should get out and see the world. So which to join? Army, Navy or Air Force. As there were quite a few ex WW2 people where I worked, I asked around. Within the group was an old navy telegraphist, who in my eyes was old enough to have gone to school with Marconi himself. He said join the Navy, they have been going for a 100 years and they certainly have a lot of Bulldust (words similar). If you don't like bush walking, living in tents or being passed by an empty army truck while you are doing a 30km forced march with a 30kg backpack, don't join the Army. So that just left the Air Force.

I went to Rushcutters Bay in Sydney to the recruiting office. Spoke to the Navy and said I wanted to be in communications. Their reply is that you do the recruit course and then they will decide what mustering you go in. That didn't impress me, the thought of ending up as a dishwasher or a coal shoveler in the bowels of a ship didn't excite me. The Army made similar comments. "We will decide what you will do based on mustering vacancies when you pass recruits". The Air force recruitment officer said "If you get through recruits then you will go to a communications mustering". So that's why I joined the Air Force.

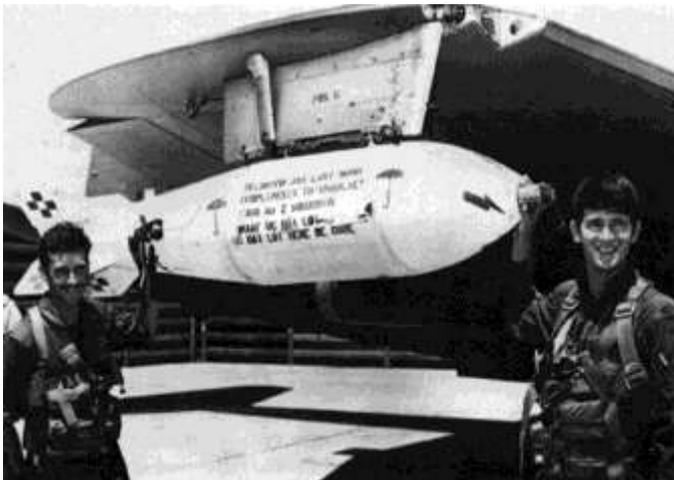
I'm sure other members of the 2SQN Branch can come up some interesting stories of why they signed that piece of paper that gave the Government of Australia to do what they wanted, when they wanted, where they wanted with you ...

NO 2 SQUADRON'S FINAL VIETNAM BOMBING MISSION



No. 2 Squadron Canberra during the Vietnam War in 1970

On 31 May 1971, No 2 Squadron flew its final bombing missions of the Vietnam War before withdrawing from its base at Phan Rang, in Ninh Thuan Province. The unit's B20 Canberra twin-engine jet bombers were called on to provide nine sorties over the north of South Vietnam, with the last of these taking off at 1410 to fly in support of American ground forces in the A Shau Valley. The last bomb was released at 1518. During nearly four years of operations, No 2 Squadron had dropped 76,389 bombs totaling 27,158 tons. The squadron's aircraft left Vietnam to return to Australia on 4 June 1971, and personnel and equipment progressively departed until mid-July.



A84-244 with Flying Officers David Smith and Peter Murphy and the last bomb dropped.

Australian War Memorial "No 2 Squadron RAAF Phan Rang bombing-up Canberra bombers", "Canberra bomber strike" and "No 2 Squadron RAAF last Magpie mission Vietnam" video links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6X29mUauoE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3pQmZQWeWc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bbmbHirdgg>



10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE E-7A WEDGETAIL INTO SERVICE

No 2 Squadron was re-formed in January 2000 to operate Boeing 737 Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) aircraft procured as part of *Project Wedgetail*, out of RAAF Base Williamstown and RAAF Base Tindal. On 26 November 2009, the RAAF accepted the first two of six Boeing 737s, and by the end of 2010, the squadron had begun training. In 2011, after a period of conversion training for its crews, it took part in Exercise Talisman Sabre with US and Australian forces. The squadron forms part of the Surveillance & Response Group's No. 42 Wing, which is responsible for the RAAF's AEW&C capability.



No. 2 Squadron RAAF Boeing 737 AEW&C aircraft

The Squadron now has six E-7A Wedgetail aircraft, which are based on the Boeing 737-700 and combines long-range surveillance radar, secondary radar, passive detection surveillance receivers and tactical/strategic voice and data communications systems. This provides the Australian Defence Force with the ability to survey, command, control and coordinate a joint air, sea and land battle in real time.

Royal Australian Air Force “RAAF E7-A Wedgetail tour” video link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYAk3fFacCE>

Here is the latest video product on the 10th anniversary of the E-7A Wedgetail into service:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zlGNgCe_Ww&feature=youtu.be

CORONAVIRUS

Notwithstanding the easing of restrictions, please keep safe as the majority of us are in the ‘vulnerable’ age group. Latest Coronavirus (COVID-19) Health Alert updates are available on Australian Government Department of Health website link:

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert#current-status>

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of No 2 Squadron Branch (Air Force Association Victorian) is open to all serving and former members of No 2 Squadron, all serving and former Air Force members, their dependants and all adults who have an aviation interest and support the aims and objects of the Air Force Association. Application forms can be downloaded directly from the Air Force Association Victoria website:

<https://afavic.org.au/index.php?action=join>

Warm regards and Stay Safe,

Walter Sherman

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President

No 2 Squadron Branch (Air Force Association Victoria)

<https://afavic.org.au/content/762/branch-2-squadron>

12th June 2020

2SQN RAAF Honours



[Presidential Citation WW2](#)



[Unit Citation, Vietnam](#)



[Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Vietnam](#)

Motto:
Consilio et Manu

(To Advise and to Strike)