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12 Oct 50 - 77SQN moved to Pohang, Korea, from Iwakuni, Japan



Tent lines, Pohang, 1950

On this day, No 77 Squadron moved its combat base to an airfield at Pohang, on the east coast of the Korean Peninsula. Up until then, the unit operated out of Iwakuni in Japan, which it had been using during Occupation duties even before the start of the Korean War. The move shortened the distance entailed for sorties flown by the Australians by nearly 500 nautical miles, enabling them to range far and wide across the peninsula in pursuit of targets. Two squadrons of the US 35th Fighter Interceptor Group had moved into Pohang the previous week, but conditions were still largely improvised. Tents and other equipment needed to establish a base camp were flown in on C-47 transports of the RAAF's No 30 Communications Flight. Several of the Australian pilots completed a mission before landing at Pohang, then proceeded to erect their tents in the freezing late autumn weather.

12 Oct 54 - 77SQN departed Korea



77SQN Meteors over Kimpo, Korea, Apr 52

At 1200 on this day, No 77 Squadron received a signal to withdraw from Kunsan, Korea, back to Iwakuni. The first section of six Meteors, led by the Commanding Officer, Wing Commander S. Royston, departed at 1300, arriving at Iwakuni at 1335. The number 2 of the first section, A77-139, undershot the end of the runway and, although the pilot escaped uninjured, the aircraft was destroyed on impact. The remaining 12 Meteors departed Kunsan, in three sections of four aircraft, at one-hourly intervals. The squadron subsequently departed Japan on 10 November 1954, on the aircraft carrier *Vengeance*, for Australia.

12 Oct 64 - Death of veteran RAAF Bomber Command pilot



On this day, veteran WW II Bomber Command pilot Group Captain William Lloyd Brill died of a heart attack in Canberra, aged 48. Enlisting in the Citizen Air Force on 11 November 1940, Brill completed Empire Air Training Scheme training in Australia and Canada before being posted to No 460 Squadron in January 1942. During his tour of 31 operations, Brill was awarded the DFC for courage and determination. Following a short tour with the RAF on instructional duties, Brill was posted to No 463 Squadron as a Flight Commander where he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in May 1943. That month, he took command of No 467 Squadron; during this tour he was awarded a Bar to his DFC. He returned to Australia in January 1945 having flown 58 operations with the three Australian Bomber Command Squadrons. Transferring to the Permanent Air Force in September 1948, Brill was to command four different RAAF Bases between that year and 1964. As a Wing Commander, he was Staff Officer to the Chief of the Air Staff between 1952-54 and Director of Personnel Services (DPS) in 1956-59; as a Group Captain, he was DPS between 1960-63. Exceptionally fair-minded, Brill endeavoured to make service life congenial, particularly for the airmen, and recognized -- more than many of his peers -- that aircrew and aircraft are useless without efficient and contented ground-staff. Dedicated to community service, he was a Freemason and was appointed in 1962 Boy Scouts' commissioner in charge of Canberra area development.