

UNCLASSIFIED

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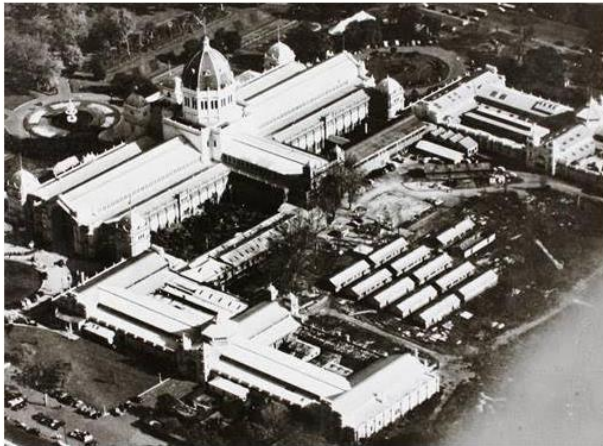
8 Oct 17 – 1SQN AFC recovered downed German scout aircraft



On this day, several RAF No 111 Squadron Bristol fighters engaged two German Albatros scouts in Palestine. One Albatros, flown by Oberleutnant Gustav Adolf Dittmar of Fliegerabteilung 300, was forced down practically intact into Australian Light Horse Lines at Beersheba, by a Canadian pilot, Lieutenant R. Steele. The Albatros was recovered to the No 1 Squadron Australian Flying Corps base at Weli Sheikh Nuran where the aircraft was restored to flying condition by squadron mechanics who, according to the Official History, 'greatly admired' the 'perfect running of its engine'.

More unofficial history here: <http://www.adf-gallery.com.au/afccaptured.htm>

8 Oct 46 – RAAF relinquished wartime occupation of Melbourne’s Exhibition Building



1947 photo showing RAAF huts still on the grounds

RAAF staff, 1942

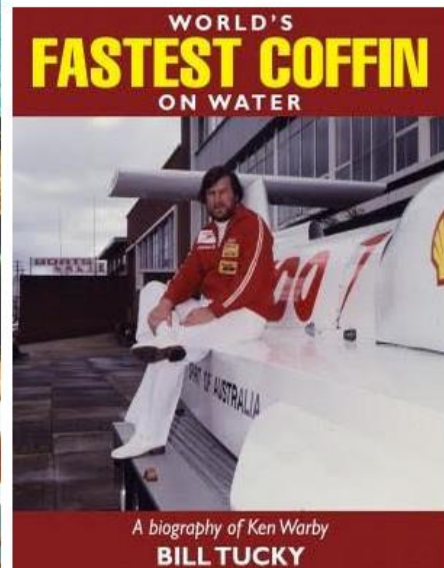
The formal wartime occupation of the Exhibition Building began in October 1940, when the RAAF officially requisitioned the Building under the National Security (General) Regulations) for use as a barracks and training facility. After some minor modifications and partitioning in January 1941, No 1 School of Technical Training was relocated from West Melbourne Technical School and occupied the Building and Carlton Gardens between 1941-1946 under the command of Wing Commander R.G. Francis (17 March 1941 - 8 October 1945) and Flight Lieutenant B.H. Pascoe (13 October - 22 November 1945). The RAAF occupation of the site continued after the war with No 1 Personnel Depot, under the command of Wing Comander R.K. Bazley (27 October 1945 - 8 October 1946), being based at the Building. About 500 to 700 men lived in for varying periods of time during the RAAF’s occupation of the building.

8 Oct 46 – Missing wartime 2SQN aircrew buried at Adelaide River War Cemetery



On this day, the remains of five No 2 Squadron Hudson aircrew -- missing since April 1944 -- were buried at the Adelaide River War Cemetery. No 2 Squadron Hudson A16-203 departed Hughes Airfield at 0352 on 3 April 1944 to provide air cover for a convoy in the Arafura Sea. The crew -- Pilot Officer Brockhurst, Pilot Officer Philpot, Pilot Officer Black, Pilot Officer Gillies and Flight Sergeant Frew -- were reported missing and an ensuing three-day search failed to find the aircraft. The remains of the aircraft were eventually discovered in a dense mangrove swamp near the mouth of the Adelaide River by a crocodile shooter in 1946 and an RAAF party recovered the crew's remains on 28 September 1946.

8 Oct 78 - RAAF support helped water speed record



When Ken Warby set a new water speed record on Blowering Dam near Tumut, New South Wales, in 1978, his success was achieved with the assistance and support of staff and apprentices from the RAAF School of Technical Training at Wagga Wagga. His boat 'Spirit of Australia' was powered by a J34 Westinghouse engine (the type used in RAAF Neptune aircraft before these went out of service) which had been taken out of storage at Wagga, then overhauled and tested by a course of trainee RAAF engine fitters. Apprentices from the School also joined Warby's maintenance team at Blowering for the attempt on the world record, which came on this day when Spirit of Australia achieved an average speed of 464.4 km/h. On 20 November Warby established an even faster speed of 511.11 km/h, which remained unbroken as the world record for the next 30 years.

An Australian National Maritime Museum article on the Spirit of Australia is here: http://www.anmm.gov.au/~media/Files/Whats%20on/Spirit_of_Australia.pdf

8 Oct 06 – Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition demonstrated outside RAAF Base Richmond



The Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition (AABCC) -- claiming that RAAF Base Richmond has a 'direct connection with the US Spybase at Pine Gap near Alice Springs' by 'hosting a detachment of USAF Air Mobility Support Squadron its precise designation is Det. 1, 635th Air Mobility Support Squadron (sic)' -- conducted a rally outside the Base on this day. The AABCC claimed that the protest was 'successful' but did not elaborate on how this assessment was reached.