

Commemorative 60th Anniversary Bulletin No 1.

Interest in the Aussie Mossies' commemorative visit to Coomalie Creek on 15 August 2005 is warming up. We've asked various people (including relevant government ministers, both federal and state) to help commemorate not only the sixtieth anniversary of the end of the war in the Pacific area on that date, but of the last operational flight by the RAAF from an Australian base during World War 2. If you haven't heard, that was by a Mosquito PR Mark XVI aircraft (A52-609) of 87 Squadron, from Coomalie Creek, crewed by Flt Lt Bill Maitland (pilot) and Flg Off Bill Reedy (navigator/wireless operator). Incidentally, the former base at Coomalie Creek is about 100km south-south-east of Darwin, is now known as Coomalie Farm, and is owned by noted Territorian, Richard Luxton.

Our Association is maintaining close contact with Richard to ensure we give him whatever help we can to make the sixtieth anniversary celebrations a success.

MAAA president Alan Middleton has also received some warm (unofficial) feedback from Canberra, but nothing more can be said at this stage until we have something in black and white. If you



The last aborted mission—photo courtesy of Richard Luxton

would like to be included on the mail out of the next update report, please fill in and return the slip below – there is no obligation to attend any function!

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RETURN SLIP

If you would like to receive more frequent updates on the 15 August 2005 Coomalie Creek commemorative event, please add your personal details, remove and return this slip to:

Mr. Terry Burke, 2 Bayside Crescent, HAMPTON, Vic 3188.

Name:.....Tel: (.....)

Email:.....

Complete other side also >>

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In the meantime, Alan is arranging to have two memorial plaques cast in bronze; they will have identical wording to commemorate 87 Squadron's part in the defence of Australia and the wider war in the Pacific. One will be placed on the Remembrance Wall in Darwin, and the other either added to the existing memorials at Coomalie Creek, or (more likely) permanently displayed near the cenotaph at Point Cook. We're also planning to hold a brief commemoration around A52-600 either on Monday 15 August 2005 or (more likely) on Sunday 14 August 2005 at the RAAF Museum, Point Cook. Once again, stand by for more info (don't forget to return the slip below!).

Finally, here's a quote from David Vincent's excellent book, "Mosquito Monograph", "...Flight Lieutenant Bill Maitland and Flying Officer Bill Reedy were briefed to fly to

Timor, even though an announcement of surrender had been heard on the radio. Despite this the flight had been planned and as no advice had been received to the contrary, the sortie went ahead. With great fanfare the crew set off on what everyone knew would be the last wartime operation. After only one hour they were recalled to base; the war had officially ended." The accompanying photographs (two of the finest Mossie action shots this writer has ever seen) show the huge send-off, and just about everyone in the Squadron out on the airstrip to welcome them home.



"THE LAST /ABORTIVE"

The last aborted mission—photo courtesy of Richard Luxton

Address:.....
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Area of special interest or suggestions (if any):
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