

**Barrie Gamack**  
**Aeronautical Engineer, Artist, and Aircraft Enthusiast.**

## **His Paintings**

**A Collection of RAAF Historical Paintings submitted to the Annual RAAF Heritage Awards** now on permanent exhibition in the Royal Australian Air Force Association Headquarters, Bullcreek, Western Australia, as well as many other paintings.



**“Demons” a very large oil painting presented to RAAF Base Pearce Officers’ Mess in 1981 by Mr Barrie Gamack.**

by  
**Leslie R. Jubbs**  
2003



**This painting:**

**Shows the arrival over RAAF Pearce, on the 10 March 1938, the first flight of Hawker Demons and an Avro Anson from Victoria.**

**FLTLT Wallace Kyle, led the flight, a Royal Air Force Exchange Officer, was born in Kalgoorlie, and later rose to an Air Vice Marshall, and returned to become Governor of Western Australia.**

**No.23 Squadron Ground Staff arrived in Perth by train and “Marched In” after a parade through Perth, the Capital of Western Australia, that co-incided with the formation of the Demons over the City.**

**On 6 February 1939 the Squadron was divided into No. 25 and No. 14 Squadrons.**

## Foreword

On my first visit to the Royal Australian Air Force Pearce Base Officers' Mess I was most impressed with the oil painting ( on the cover) that dominated the north wall, but was unable to discover its historical significance. No records were discovered through the Mess so it wasn't until I first met Mr Barrie Gamack, through a mutual friend that, I was informed.

When I set about researching a book about the history of the base I again sought out Mr Gamack to obtain his permission to use his "Demons" painting on the cover of my book.

Mr Barrie Gamack was the operations Manager of Hawker De Havilland, a Company with a very long association with the Royal Australian Air Force here in Western Australia by first servicing the Vampire jet aircraft, and later, the Macchi jets used at RAAF Base Pearce for training Australian Air Force and Navy Pilots.

For many years Barrie forwarded to the Royal Australian Air Force Heritage Council an oil painting of his, as an entry for the Annual Awards Competition. Years ago his paintings were located in the RAAF Point Cook Aviation Museum where he discovered they were not on view but languished in storage room.

Fortunately Barrie was able to retrieve his paintings and had them returned to Western Australia and placed them on loan with the [Royal Australian Air Force Association Bullcreek Aviation Heritage Museum](#). There they are on display and also some are on loan to the RAAFA Retirement Villages at Merriwa, and the RAAFA Village Meadow Springs, Mandurah.

## This collection

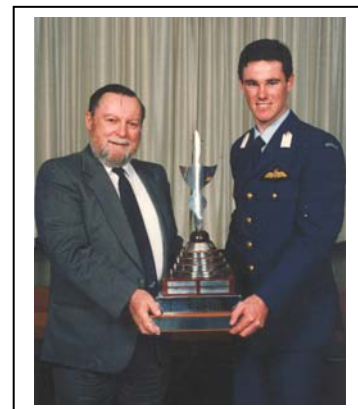
When Mr Gamack kindly handed me a set of photographic prints of his historical paintings, and captions five years ago, I mounted them in an album but it was only in July this year, 2003, that I considered the possibility of assembling this book to hand to him as a gesture to him for his kindness to me.

Leslie R. Jubbs.

**[Barrie Gamack has had a long association with RAAF Base Pearce Pilot Graduation Ceremony. He is now retired.](#)**



**At every Pilot Graduation at RAAF Base Pearce (W.A.) Mr Barrie Gamack had presented the deHavilland Trophy to the Dux of the Course. On this occasion to Officer Cadet S.Woodland, in June 1987.**



**No.159 Course Winner was OFFCDT M.Hall  
16 July 1992**

1.



**“Victoria Cross”– Rawdon Middleton 1942**

**Victoria Cross for Valour,  
Rawdon Middleton VC.**



**This painting depicts the return of the Short Stirling, commanded by Flight Sergeant Rawdon Middleton to the English coast after a raid across the Swiss Alps to Turin, Italy, 1942.**

**The Short Stirling was not designed for high altitude work and for this raid on Turin, Middleton and other squadron aircraft were forced to fly through the various passes over the Alps to reach their target.**

**Middleton was badly wounded by flak over the target and under dreadful conditions flew the aircraft back across the Alps to England.**

**Upon reaching the English coast and almost out of fuel, Middleton realizing he could not reach an airfield insisted his Crew bail out. The aircraft then turned out to sea and was lost.**



“Victoria Cross”- Rawdon Middleton 1942.

**This is another painting about this very brave Pilot.**



“Our Eagles” 1925. SE5A Fighters over RAAF Base Point Cook, Victoria 1925.

**These aircraft were one of the outstanding fighter types used by Britain in World War 1. SE5A’s comprised part of an imperial gift of aircraft to Australia from the British Government, at the close of hostilities, to assist in the formation of the Royal Australian Air Force.**



“Into the Sunrise”  
Goble and McIntyre’s Flight around Australia in 1924.

**Wing Commander Goble and flight Lieutenant McIntyre take off from Darwin during the epic flight around Australia in a Fairey 111 seaplane A10-3 in 1924.**



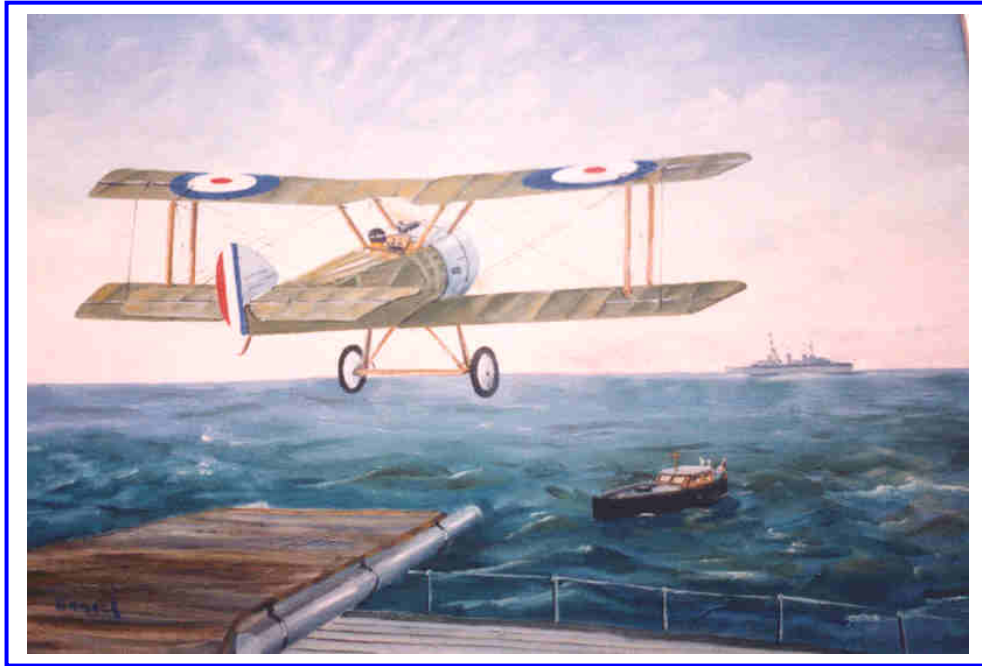
**“Wild and Free” Bristol Bulldog Fighter of the 1930’s.**

**Bristol Bulldog, the spirited fighter of the RAAF in the 1930’s.  
The Bulldog was a fine aerobatic machine and became famous for its displays at air pageants.**



**“Low level cross country” Hawker Demon Fighters 1930’s**

**The Hawker Demon was Australia’s general-purpose fighter in the mid 1930’s and came from the famous Hawker line that included, the Hart, Hind, Audax and the single seaters Fury and Nimrod.**



**“Nautical Pup” Sopwith Pup taking off from HMAS Sydney 1917.**

**Sopwith Pup taking off from HMAS Sydney in December, 1917, virtually starting Australian Naval Aviation. The take off was from a wooden platform using naval guns as a base. Landings were not possible of course.**



**“The U-Boat Hunter” Short Sunderland of No.10 Squadron 1940.**

**Short Sunderland of No.10 Squadron sinks a U-Boat in the Atlantic, 1940. No. 10 Squadron was the first Commonwealth Squadron in action in Europe in World War 11.**



**“Victoria Cross –Hughie Edwards 1941”**

**Victoria Cross – For Valour.  
Hughie Edwards V.C.DSO.DFC. OBE.**



**This painting depicts a low level attack on Bremen, Germany on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1941 led by Wing Commander H.I. Edwards flying a Bristol Blenheim 1V aircraft. The raid was performed in daylight with defences alerted and the aircraft flying at an altitude of 50 feet passing under high tension cables and passing through a balloon barrage.**

**Hughie Edwards rose to the rank of Air commodore before retiring in 1962.**

**In 1974 he was knighted and became the Governor of Western Australia from 1974 –75. He died in 1982.**



**“Victoria cross – Bill Newton” Douglas Boston of Flight Lieutenant W.E.Newton V.C.**

**Victoria Cross for Valour  
Bill Newton**



On march 16<sup>th</sup>, 1943 six Douglas Boston aircraft of No. 22 Squadron, led by FLTLT W.E.Newton attacked Japanese fuel installations at Salamaua, New Guinea. The anti-aircraft fire over the target was so intense that Newton’s aircraft was practically a write-off when he limped back to base.

Newton led a similar raid the following day and a further raid on the 18th March, 1943

On this last raid Newton bombed the target accurately and upon turning for Base his aircraft was hit and set on fire. Newton flew as far as possible from the Japanese then ditched the aircraft in the sea.

Bill Newton and Flight Sergeant Lyon managed to swim ashore but they were captured and later executed by the Japanese.



**“Three Musketeers” Supermarine Spitfire VB’s \_ United Kingdom.**

**A tribute to the Australian pilots, who flew Supermarine Spitfires in all theatres of World War 11.**



**“Heroes of Moresby and Milne Bay” Curtiss Kittyhawks of No.75 and No. 76 Squadrons.**

### **Heroes of Port Moresby and Milne Bay**

**In March, 1942, with the Japanese forces threatening mainland Australia, No. 75 Squadron flying Curtiss P-40 Kittyhawks successfully defended Port Moresby and checked the Japanese advance.**

**Later the same year, No.76 Squadron combined with No.76 Squadron to provide support, which resulted in Japan’s first land defeat at Milne Bay.**

**These battles set the seal on the combat superiority of the Kittyhawks over the Japanese Zero.**



**“The Hawk and his Prey” Curtiss Kittyhawk and Squadron Leader “Dickie” Creswell.**

### **The Hawk and his Prey.**

**On the night of 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1942, Squadron Leader “Dicky” Creswell won the first aerial victory over Australian soil when he shot down a Japanese “Betty” bomber over Darwin.**



**“Alone and Unarmed” De Havilland Mosquito PR XV1 of No. 87 Flight.**

### **Alone and Unarmed**

**This painting depicts a de Havilland Mosquito PR XV1 of No. 87 Photographic Reconnaissance Flight from Coomalie Creek, Northern Territory, 1944.**

**These aircraft ranged deep into Japanese held territory in World war 11 alone and unarmed to bring back valuable photographic information to the allies.**

**My flying Instructor in the 1950’s flew with this Flight. {Barrie Gamack}**



**“Berlin Airlift 1948” Douglas C-47**

### **Berlin Airlift 1948**

**A Douglas C-47 Dakota taxiing during the airlift to break the Russian blockade of Berlin in 1948.**



**“Surprise Victory” CAC Wirraway shoots down a Mitsubishi Zero fighter.**

### **Surprise Victory**

**C.A.C. Wirraway training aircraft were armed and pressed into front line service in the dark days of the Japanese advance on Australia.**

**No match for the agile Japanese Zeros the Wirraway squadrons suffered appalling losses before withdrawn from the front line.**

**On this occasion on Boxing Day, 1942, [Flight Lieutenant Jack Archer](#) shot down a Zero near Gona, New Guinea, in No.4 Squadron Wirraway A20-103.**



**“Racing for Melbourne 1934. Dehavilland Comet Racer- Winner of the 1934 Air Race England to Australia.**

### **Racing for Melbourne 1934**

**Although not a RAAF subject, this painting is included as a great aviation event in Australia.**

**The subject is a deHavilland DH88 Comet racer named “Grosvenor House”, the winner of the 1934 air race from Mildenhall, U.K. to Melbourne, Victoria.**

**Pilots were C.W.A. Scott and T. Campbell-Black.**

**The aircraft has just been fully restored in England and is now flying again.**



**“Smithy in Peril” Fokker Monoplane “SOUTHERN CROSS”  
over stormy seas.**

### **Smithy in Peril**

**During an historic airmail flight across the Tasman Sea to New Zealand in 1935 a cracked exhaust pipe on the centre engine of Smithy’s Southern Cross came adrift and smashed into the starboard propeller causing that engine to be shut down. With the extra power required on the remaining two engines to maintain flight, the oil pressure on the port engine began to fall.**

**Smithy’s co-pilot and navigator, P.G. (later Sir Gordon) Taylor climbed out on the struts to collect oil from the shut down starboard engine. That safely accomplished, he climbed out to the ailing port engine and topped up the oil tank. At times they were less than 200 feet above the stormy sea and this brave act enabled them to return safely to Sydney.**



“Victoria Cross” Frank McNamara 1917. BE2C Rescue of colleague under Turkish Cavalry Fire.



## Victoria Cross – For Valor

**Frank McNamara V.C.**

**In March 1917, Lt. Frank McNamara landed his BE2c aircraft behind Turkish lines in the Middle East in World War 1.**

**In the face of an attack under intense fire by Turkish cavalry he rescued a stranded fellow Pilot. Lt McNamara had been severely wounded in the thigh prior to this rescue.**



**“Hudson at Rav”**

**On 31<sup>st</sup> March 1942 Lockheed Hudson A16-38 of No.32 Squadron RAAF was attacked by Mitsubishi “ZERO” fighters while on a photographic mission over Salamana, New Guinea. Heavily outnumbered the Hudson was thrown about like a fighter and shot down three Zeros in this engagement.**



**R.A.A.F. in Korea 1953. RAAF Meteor MK8 fighters of No 77 Squadron sweep in over the Korean coast on a strike mission.**



**“Spirit of Flying” The Legendary Supermarine Spitfire.**



**“The Tomorrow Hawks” No. 75 Squadron attacking Lae 1942.**

**Please note the following paintings were NOT entered in the RAAF Art Competition.**



**Guardian's of Gage Roads.**

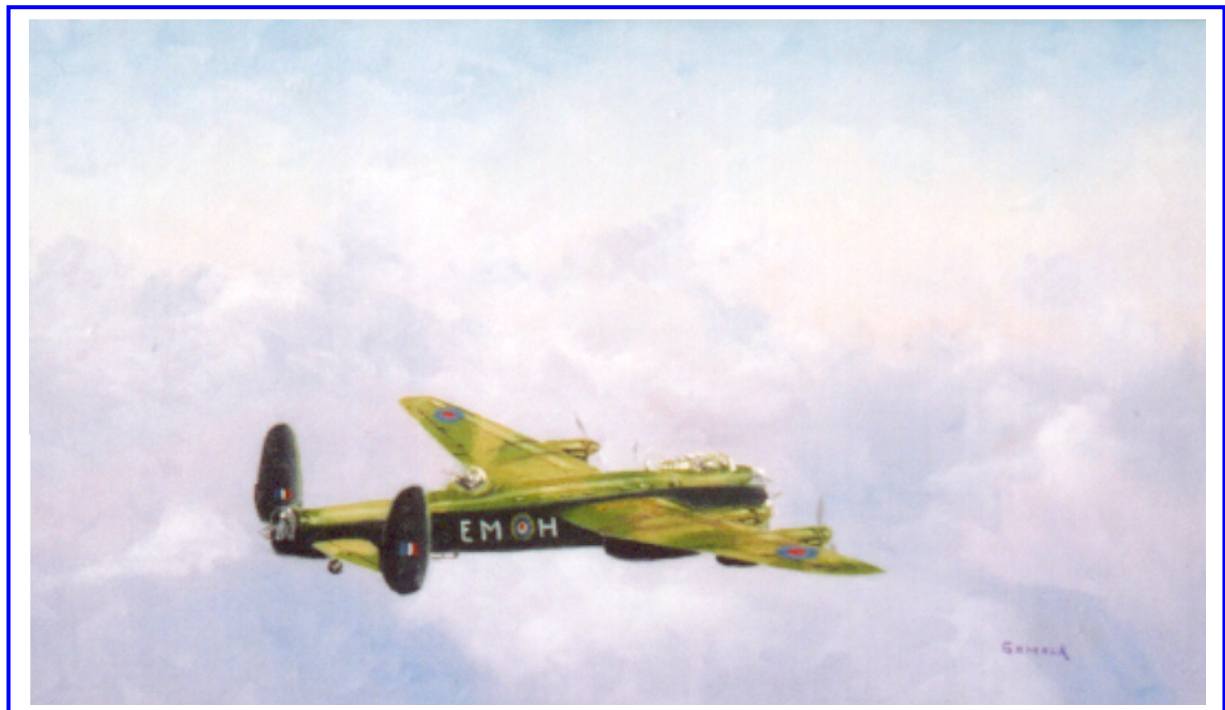
On the 17 March 1942, RAAF Pearce personnel were surprised by the unheralded arrival, by rail from Fremantle, of a number of aircraft packing cases. In the belief that the cases contained new Kittyhawk Fighters expectancy turned to dismay when the cases were opened to reveal six Fairy Swordfish torpedo bombers. Notwithstanding his disappointment Group Captain "Paddy" Heffernan gave instructions that the aircraft be assembled and pressed into service with No. 25 and No. 14 Squadrons. Thus began a short period of Swordfish anti-submarine patrols off Rottneest Island and Gage roads.

Communication flights to RAAF Cunderdin and Busselton were undertaken.

The inevitable paperwork caught up with the aircraft and they were consigned to their rightful owners, the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm in Ceylon.



**Fighters Scramble- RAAF No.25 Squadron Vampire single seat fighters.**



**One of the Famous Royal Air Force Lancaster, four engine bombers of WW2.**



“Landing On” a Royal Navy Scimitar.



Mark 111 Canberra, Royal Air Force.