

RAAF's wartime history, in particular Douglas Gillison's *Royal Australian Air Force 1939-1942*, as a starting point, I then consulted RAAF records. The keeper of the major holdings of RAAF unit records is "RAAF Historical", or more formerly RAAF Historical and Archives Section of the Department of Defence. Here I always received willing assistance from Bob Piper, David Wilson and prior to his retirement, David "Jock" Ross. Other RAAF records are held by Australian Archives where I received dedicated assistance from Mrs Joy Wheatley. Not in all cases was I personally in a position to study certain unit records and assisting here were Alan Fraser and Neil Smith. No. 24 Squadron, based here in South Australia at RAAF Base Edinburgh, helped with access to a copy of their Operations Record Book whilst Group Capt R. G. Green of the RAAF's Aircraft Research & Development Unit, also at Edinburgh, declassified copies of wartime test reports involving Hudsons and kindly arranged for copies to be provided to me. Other important reports involving the crash of A16-38, together with photographs, were kindly provided by the Melbourne-based Aeronautical & Maritime Research Laboratory. The RAAF Museum situated at Point Cook, near Melbourne, assisted by the provision of other photos, whilst Wg Cdr Mark Lax, at the time CO of Base Squadron East Sale, assisted with information concerning No. 1 OTU. The "icing on the cake", so to speak, however, was the provision of a copy of the "Report on the Air Operations During the Campaigns in Malaya and the Netherland East Indies from 8th December, 1941 to 12th March, 1942" (the Third Supplement to *The London Gazette*, of 20th February 1948), and other material from the papers of former RAAF Chief of Staff Sir John McCauley which is held by Headquarters No. 303 Air Base Wing at RAAF Base Richmond. This material, which was provided by Wg Cdr G. S. Buggy, was of great assistance to the work which went into Chapter Two.

Readers will find that there are many references to personnel of the wartime RAAF including two appendices which list casualties of the Hudson units detailed in this volume and prisoners-of-war of Nos. 1 and 8 Squadrons. Every effort has been made to have these as correct as possible and here I wish to acknowledge the help of Bert Cookson who shares my own interest in documenting this sombre side of the RAAF's wartime history. Other assistance was provided by RAAF's Discharged Personnel Records Section, the Australian Army's Soldier Career Management Agency, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Deutsche Dienststelle (WASt), Office of Australian War Graves and the RAF Personnel Management Centre.

Before going any further, acknowledgement is also given to the Australian War Memorial for their faith in me which led to a Grant-in-Aid for this project in 1986. This grant provided me with an opportunity to undertake a research visit to Canberra where, in addition to the research, I selected many fine Hudson-related photographs from the Memorial's collection which readers will find gracing the pages of both Books One and Two.

One of the volunteers in the Photographic Section at the Australian War Memorial who I became acquainted with during visits to Canberra was famous aviation photographer John Harrison. John subsequently arranged for prints to be provided to me of some of the his stunning photos he had taken of Hudsons. Other former RAAF photographers who assisted with this work were D. K. "Gunner" Anderson, F. Halls, Wally Grundy, Kel Hartshorne, A. H. "Strawb" McEgan, R. P. "Ron" Nicholas and Phil Spielvogel. A number of the photos in this volume were taken by these men, and others will be found in Book Two.

To cast as wide a net as possible contact was made with various ex-servicemen's group and the following assisted in promoting my research, providing contacts and other help: Royal Australian Air Force Association, Royal Australian Air Force Association (WA Division) Inc Aviation Museum of Western Australia, RAAF Lockheed Hudson Squadrons Association, Sembawang Association, 13 Squadron Association, 24 Squadron Association - Victoria, 32 Squadron Association, Nos. 454/459 Squadrons Association, the 10th Battalion Association and Royal United Services Institute of South Australia.

Whilst I will attempt to name everyone who assisted me in some way with Book One (a similar listing will be found in Book Two) at the top of the list must go those whose assistance went above and beyond the call of duty. In this respect special thanks must go to Bob Piper and David Wilson whose assistance extended way past their ordinary working hours. Special thanks also go to my editor Bill Panckridge for the hours spent going over various drafts of the text. Others who assisted editorially were Alan Fraser and Sep Owen whilst David Stevens, Director Naval Historical Studies, Royal Australian Navy, took the time to read through and comment on Chapter Three. Any errors which remain are my own.