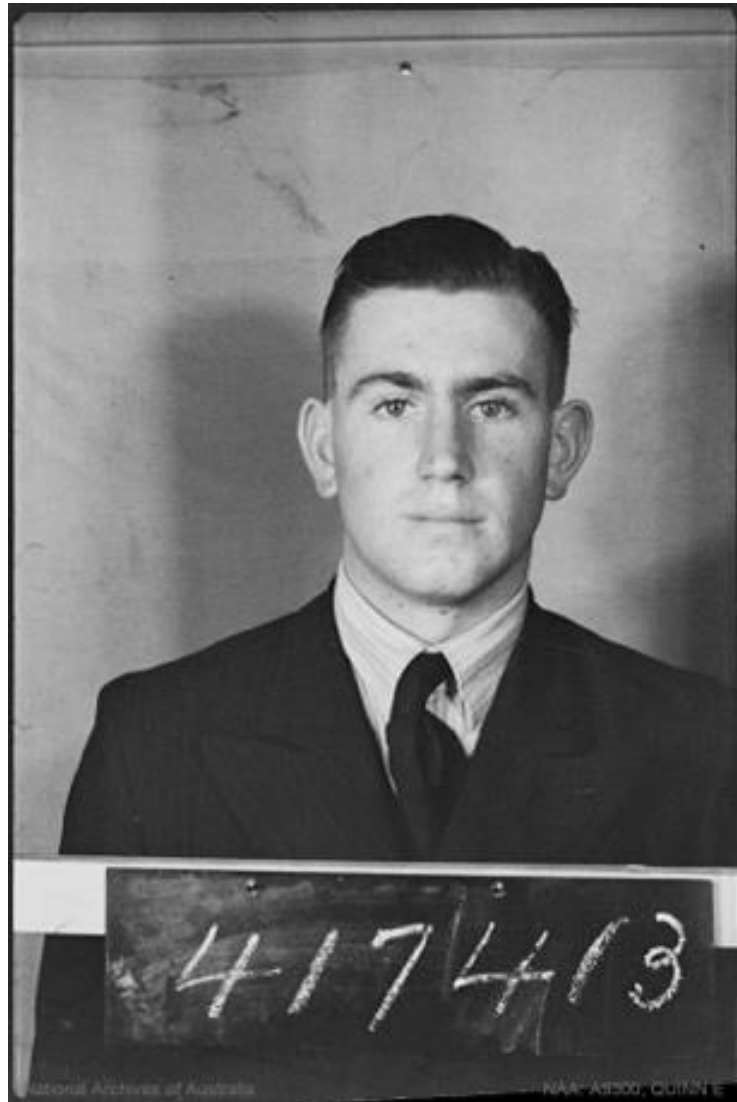


Eldred 'Ted' Quinn

1922 – 1945



WW2

Service Number: 417413

No. 80 Squadron

Duration of Service:

1942-1945

In 1939 the outbreak of World War II, triggered by the German invasion of Poland, set off a global conflict that resulted in the death of millions of people. Among them was Eldred Quinn, who was one of the many young soldiers thrust into the brutal and deadly race to victory.

Eldred 'Ted' Quinn, born on September 17, 1922, in Gumeracha, South Australia, was a true farm boy. He spent his early years growing up in Forreston, SA, with his father, ex-war veteran Albert John Quinn, his mother Evelyn Kate 'Kitty' Pannell, his grandmother Emma Pannell, and his sister Valerie Quinn (*Figure 1*). The family lived on Tollcross farm (*Figure 2*), a property that had been in their family for generations.

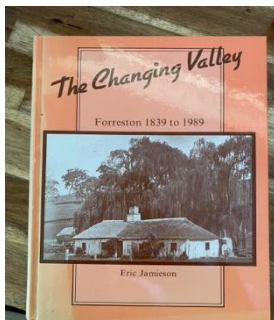


*Figure 1 - Young Eldred with his sister Valerie
Source: Family photo albums*

Like most children of his time, Eldred loved spending time outdoors and playing with his childhood friends, including Eric Jamieson, who lived just down the road. Eldred attended Forreston Primary School, where he formed close bonds with other children his age in their close-knit community. When he wasn't in school, he spent his free time shooting rabbits and foxes to sell for their meat and skin, swimming in dams/swimming holes, riding horses around the farm, and playing tennis for the Forreston tennis club (Jamieson, p. 206 – *Figure 3*).



*Figure 2 - The Tollcross Farm property.
Source: Family photo albums*



*Figure 3 The book written that discusses earlier life for the Quinn family.
Source: Family photo albums*

Having finished primary school, Eldred entered Birdwood High school, finding himself with more responsibilities as he aged. Working on the farm was something that Eldred had always done, but as he got older, he was tasked with some of the more laborious aspects. This resulted in him naturally following the path to becoming a farmer after leaving school. Throughout this transition out of school, Eldred stayed close with Eric Jamieson, and as tension regarding the Japanese involvement in WWII grew, the two made a pledge to join the RAAF together. Eldred had always had a fascination with the concept of seeing the world and liked the idea of following in his father's footsteps and serving his country proudly.

Eldred Quinn enlisted in the RAAF on ANZAC Day, 25th April 1942, and begun training by attending No. 4 Initial Training School (ITS) (*Figure 4*), at Mount Breckan in Victor Harbor, South Australia. At ITS, the RAAF aircrew candidates began training with detailed screenings carried out to allocate them for aircrew roles (musterings) such as pilots, bomb aimers, navigators etc (VWMA, n.d.). Following completion of ITS, candidates were transferred to other schools in Australia or other Commonwealth countries to complete their



*Figure 4 - Eldred (second from right, back row) and his class at No. 4 ITS
Source: Australian War Memorial*

training under the Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS). Eldred attended No. 11 Elementary Flying Training School (11EFTS) in Benalla, Victoria, in 1943, before being admitted to No.2 RAAF Hospital on March 29th, 1943 (NAA, n.d.), for a reason unknown. He was discharged on November 26th, 1943, and completed his training at 11EFTS. Quinn then attended Deniliquin's No 7 SFTS, where he obtained his Flying Badge on June 28, 1944 (Weller, n.d.).

POSTING	DATE	REMARKS
11 EFTS	1943	Completed training
No. 2 RAAF Hospital	March 29 - Nov 26 1943	Admitted for unknown reason
Deniliquin No 7 SFTS	1944	Obtained Flying Badge June 28

Figure 5 - War documents listing Quinn's different postings.

Source: National

In July (4th-17th) 1944, during sick leave, Eldred piloted a DC3 from Borneo via Singapore to transfer sick people from a variety of hospitals to Adelaide (1944 Letter – Figure 6). After landing at Parafield Airport, Eldred borrowed a car to visit his family at Tollcross farm. He was only able to be there for an hour or so before being required to depart, never to see them again.

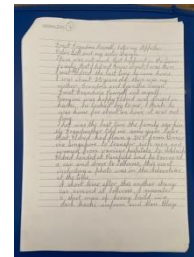


Figure 6 - A page of a letter written by Leon Pascoe, discussing Eldred and his war service. 1944. Source: Family records

Following his return to the war, Quinn attended No. 8 OTU, in Parkes for a short while before transferring to No. 2 OTU, Mildura, for Kittyhawk fighter conversion training. As a final source of training, in October 1944, Quinn completed 1RPP.

In November 1944 Eldred was posted to No. 80 Squadron, which had previously been designated a Kittyhawk squadron in September 1943. This squadron saw action in the Southwest Pacific theatre, and in 1944 it supported advancing allied forces by conducting operations in New Guinea from forward airstrips including Nadzab, Cape Gloucester, Tadjj and Hollandia.

Quinn went on to be appointed temporary Flight Sergeant on January 1st, 1945, and by later that month, the 80th Squadron had relocated to Morotai in support of the attacks taking place in the Dutch East Indies.

On the 15th of February 1945, Flight Sergeant Quinn was involved in a crash while piloting the A29-681. The aircraft's port tyre blew up during take-off, on Wama Strip Morotai, causing it to run off the strip (NAA, n.d.).



Figure 7 - Eldred standing next to the A29-1161 with the decorated nose.

Source: Virtual War Memorial Australia

Quinn took corrective measures but could not control the aircraft. He sustained no injuries; however, the aircraft was extensively damaged. Following this, Quinn received a new plane, the Kittyhawk A29-1161, which he dubbed the "US Feller's" and decorated with a caricature of Ginger Meggs (Figure 7).

At the age of 22, on August 9th, 1945, Quinn was a part of an attack consisting of 8 aircraft on Japanese forces in eastern Borneo, north of Balikpapan (Weller, n.d.). This was to be his final mission since he had just finished his operational tour with the 80th Squadron. He had been detailed to fly in

Blue Section as No.3 on a bombing and strafing attack on Japanese positions in the Sanga Sanga Louise area. The aircrafts attacked in line-astern formation, and Quinn dropped two 250-pound bombs before making his strafing attack with the Kittyhawk A29-1161, during which his rear engine cowling was hit. Flames could be spotted on the underside of the aircraft's cowling, but he was able to complete the attack and level to port (NAA, n.d.). At this point it was known that a forced landing would be required, and a belly landing was seen to be made by the Kittyhawk, but as it skidded along the ground it crashed into an oil-pumping installation, causing both to burst into flames. He was therefore reported 'missing, believed killed' prior to the final report, labelling him as 'killed' (NAA, n.d.). Close to one week after Eldred Quinn's death, on the 15th of August, Japan surrendered. Quinn's death is the last RAAF casualty recorded prior to the cancellation of all air operations against the Japanese.

Following his death, Quinn was posthumously promoted to Pilot Officer in October 1945. He received multiple honours for his service, including the 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, War medal 1939-45, and the Australian Service medal 1939-1945 (Figure 8)



Figure 8 - The medals received by Eldred, from left to right as listed in paragraph above.
Source: Australian Defence Force.

Eldred was first buried near the scene of the crash in Borneo, with a cross and memorial erected over his grave (Figure 9). However, his remains were later recovered and buried in the Balikpapan cemetery. He now lies in his final burial place, the Labuan War Cemetery with the words "UNDER THE SHADOW OF THY WINGS, HE RESTS LOVINGLY REMEMBERED" (Figure 10) inscribed on his gravestone (Division, n.d.).



Figure 9 - The cross placed over Eldred's first grave
Source: 'The War, The RAAF and



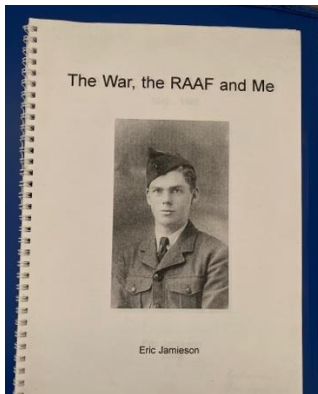
Figure 10 - The inscription on Eldred's current grave in Labuan War Cemetery.
Source: Virtual War Memorial

Quinn's name is enlisted in several memorials, further enabling people to reflect on and pay tribute to his service.

Eldred grew up in a household full of ANZAC spirit. His family were big on supporting their country, and they were all involved in the Second World War as much as possible. Both Eldred's father (WWI veteran) and his mother donated to support war efforts, and his sister served in the WATC. Upon joining the RAAF, Eldred demonstrated unwavering commitment by wholeheartedly dedicating himself to the extensive training required and forming strong bonds with those around him. Despite spending several months hospitalised, Eldred demonstrated the true perseverance and endurance of an ANZAC by returning to complete his training. He possessed a strong sense of mateship, which was reflected in his very social personality and his ability to form lasting friendships. These relationships helped to mitigate the mental impact of the negative aspects of war and keep things lighter through humour and joking around. Even after an unfortunate crash in February 1945, Eldred persevered with his service, fighting bravely in a number of missions, including a bombing and strafing attack on Japanese positions in Borneo that ultimately led to the loss of his life. At such a young age, Quinn served his country proud, paying the ultimate sacrifice, and maintaining the ANZAC spirit of those who came before him. Quinn displayed unfaltering loyalty in his service, and he had a keen sense of when to brighten the mood and have fun, such as when he decorated the nose of his plane with a caricature of the long-running comic strip character Ginger Meggs. Eldred also exhibited remarkable courage and bravery throughout his service. Regardless of the situation he was in, Quinn performed to the best of his ability, this was made apparent during the flight that resulted in his death. While under attack, he was presented with a dangerous and frightening situation, but with courage and his ingenuity enabling him to make quick paced strategic decisions, Quinn was able to level to port and complete his strafing attack prior to the unfortunate and tragic circumstances of his crash landing. Eldred's contribution to his country extended beyond his piloting skills, he was a courageous, enthusiastic, and committed individual, he is and forever will be honoured for his service. Quinn's willingness to fight for his country, and the attributes that he displayed throughout the duration of his service embody the ANZAC spirit. A true ANZAC he lived, and a true ANZAC he died.

WORD COUNT: 1512 (including image captions and referencing)

Appendices:



Appendix 1 The book written by Eldred's childhood best friend, Eric Jamieson, including a chapter dedicated to him.
Source: Family Records

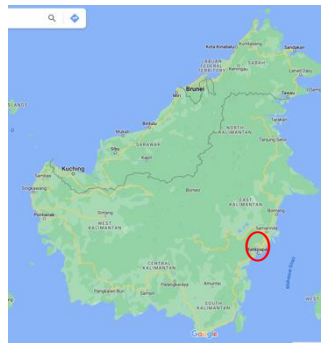
—MEMORIAL UNVEILED—
A very beautiful window, placed as a memorial to Robert Colbey, Howard Cornish, Colin Hanna and Eldred Quinn, all of whom had been associated with the Methodist Church, prior to paying the supreme sacrifice in World War II, was unveiled in the presence of relatives and friends on Sunday morning by the Rev. Davidson, of Adelaide. The window, which has been placed in entrance porch, is a very fitting tribute, and will at all times be a source of inspiration and pride, not only to the people whose subscriptions have made it possible, but also to the bereaved families. The unveiling was carried out with solemnity and dignity, and those attending entered the beautifully decorated church for divine worship. The presiding minister, Rev. Timberlake, read an appropriate lesson, and a very inspiring and helpful address was given by the Rev. Davidson. The choir under the baton of Mrs. K. Symonds, rendered suitable anthems. Mrs. M. Hanna presided at the organ. During the evening the porch of the church was illuminated for the benefit of

Appendix 2 A newspaper issue from Thurs 29th April 1948, regarding a memorial in Eldred's honour being unveiled.
Source: Trove

Appendix 3 Eldred's forms for enrolment in the RAAF.
Source: National Archives of Australia



Appendix 4 A image depicting a group of Kittyhawk planes during flight.
Source: ADF - Serials



Appendix 5 A map of Borneo, where Eldred Quinn lost his life. Balikpapan, close to the location of his death, is circled in red.
Source: Google Maps



Appendix 6 An image of Eldred and his sister Valerie at their home prior to him leaving for the war.
Source: Family photo albums



Appendix 7 The stained-glass memorial dedicated to him and other local soldiers in Gumeracha Methodist Church.
Source: Virtual War



Appendix 8 A picture of Eldred during the war.
Source: Family photo albums.

Appendix 9 Eldred (left) in uniform.
Source: Family photo albums



Appendix 10 Remembrance plaque at Forrestone Memorial Hall.
Source: Family photo albums

Part B:

When first given this task, I was provided with the name of my serviceman, Mervyn Dudley Austin. I spent much of my first few lessons dedicated to this task searching up his name, but I did not manage to find much information. It was at this point when I came across the name



Figure 12 A screenshot of the VWMA page where I was able to make the connection between Eldred and his Father.
Source: VWMA

of another serviceman, Eldred Quinn while on the Virtual War Memorial site. I knew that the Quinn name ran in my family, so I clicked onto his Virtual War Memorial profile where I was able to connect him to another serviceman, his father Albert Quinn, who I was sure was a relative. My Grandma assured me that Eldred was indeed her uncle, and fortunately she had a plentiful source of information for me, including photos, letters from relatives, books etc.

From here I switched my task onto Eldred, and I began my research by accessing the National Archives of Australia. Here I discovered his war enlistment documents, as well as accident reports for the aircrafts that he piloted during his service. After doing a few more searches of his name, I was soon overwhelmed with an abundance of information. I had discovered that Eldred was the last casualty recorded by the RAAF prior to the cancellation of all air operations against the Japanese, and had many tributes dedicated to him. Several obituaries were discovered from family members and servicemen, including a chapter dedicated to him in Eric Jamieson's book "The War, the RAAF, and me" (*refer to appendix 1*).



Figure 13 A screenshot of the NAA page where I was able to find his enlistment documents and the accidents that he was involved in.
Source: NAA

Following this discovery, I began collating all of this newfound information onto a word document. I collected a number of photographs of him, as well as newspaper articles from the Trove website regarding his death, all of which allowed me to grasp a better understanding of his involvement in the WWII. I continued my research by looking at the training he underwent and his service in the RAAF, including where he travelled and which aircrafts he piloted.

Although there seemed to be a copious amount of information regarding his service in WW2, I was lacking information about his life prior to war. I approached my grandma once again, asking if she had anything that might be useful, but seeing as though she was so young at the time that Eldred went off to war, she had little to add. I returned to the Virtual War Memorial website and looked at Eldred's father's profile. From here I was able to find more information regarding their family, and after a few general searches of the name 'Albert Quinn' I possessed enough information to progress with the task.

Throughout this assignment I found myself intrigued to be learning so much more about a person I had previously known not a thing about. It provides me with a sense of pride that by collating all the information that I discovered, I could make a tribute to such a loyal person who fought so bravely for our country.

WORD COUNT: 495 (excluding titles, image captions and referencing)

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