

Pilot Officer Geoff Collins.

Jenny Rawlings, who before she was married was Jenny Collins, saw the story on her father, Geoffrey Anthony Collins, (right) that we had in [Vol 24, Page 8](#).

Jenny had some additional material that she would like us to publish and we're only too happy to oblige.

Geoff was born on the 10 August 1926 in Kew, a suburb of Melbourne and played football with the [Melbourne football club](#) (The Demons). In 1948, he was promoted to the "firsts" and that year the Demons took the flag. He had 'enlisted' into the RAAF and in December 1952, at the ripe old age of 26, he was posted to Korea and went on to fly the Gloster Meteor with 77 Squadron and eventually caught the freedom-bird home in August 1953.



On his return to Oz in 1954, he was made captain of the Demons and played under the legendary coach, Norm Smith (left) alongside another legend of the game, Ron Barassi (right). In total, he played 88 games for Melbourne in years 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, and was captain in the losing [1954 Grand Final](#) side.



He is mentioned in Melbourne FC's [top 150 players](#).



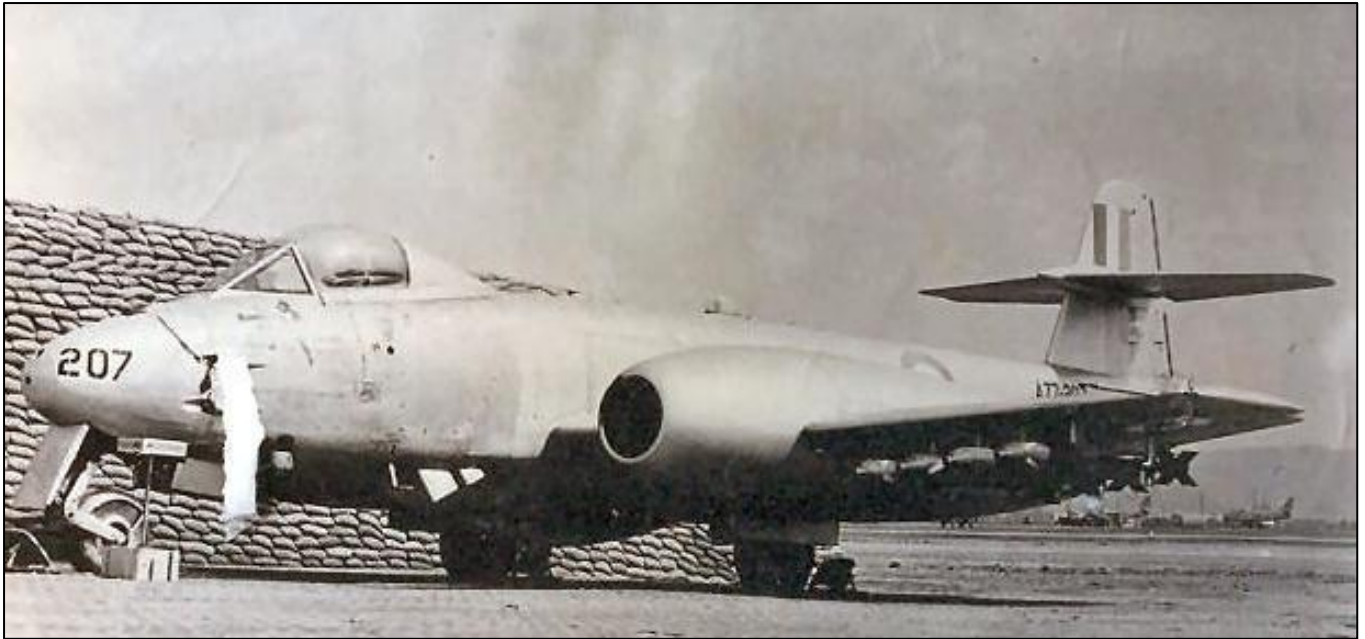
Jack McCarthy standing in front of Geoff's aircraft, A77-207, which suffered severe flack damage. The aircraft performed reasonably well on one engine.



Geoff standing in front of his aircraft - with the Melbourne Football Club's demon mascot at pride of place. (Now if that Demon had been a Tiger we could understand it....tb)



Two aircraft taking off on a rocket strike. It was customary to take off in pairs.



207 with a load of 8 armour piercing rockets and 4 cannons in the nose.



The tarmac area at Kimpo, after a strike, as aircraft return to base and taxi to their revetments.



These blokes were the pilots who flew the last mission with 77 Sqn in Korea. Geoff is on the left, unfortunately, as yet we don't have any other names.



Portion of the squadron fly past over Seoul to commemorate the cessation of hostilities (July 1953). Geoff was leading the second flight.

The photo below is of Jenny when she was on Miajima Island while visiting Japan in 2008. In the far background is Iwakuni where 77 Squadron went for R&R.



Twas Christmas Eve and in light of recent experiences and the fact Santa Claus was to bring much excitement to children around the World the CAA examiner of airman decided to do a check. In preparation, Santa had the elves wash the sled and bath all the reindeer, he then got his logbook out and made sure all his paperwork was in order. The examiner walked slowly around the sled. He checked the reindeer harnesses, the landing gear, and Rudolf's nose. He painstakingly reviewed Santa's weight and balance calculations for the sled's enormous payload. Finally, they were ready for the checkride. Santa got in, fastened his seatbelt and shoulder harness, and checked the compass. Then the examiner hopped in, carrying - to Santa's surprise - a shotgun. "What's that for?" said Santa. The examiner winked and said, "I'm not supposed to tell you this; but you're going to lose an engine on take-off".