

MAURICE PETER WELLS

Pilot

20th October, 1930 to 26th August, 2013

38 Sqn Jan 1969 to Aug 1972 and 35 Sqn: later Air Traffic Control.

I am not sure that Maurice would fully agree with this gathering to say farewell – however, I know that all of us would have liked to farewell Maurice in a manner that befits his standing as a true gentleman and a great mate of all the “bloody boggies who seemed to plague” our senior officers at the time.

I cannot actually remember first meeting Maurice – he just seemed to appear. I believe he had a somewhat moderating effect on our behaviour – to a point. He was too polite to interfere much.

We all have, I am sure, personal memories of Maurice and his behaviour, which I remember to be very different from ours as youngsters. I remember him apologising in Papua New Guinea when R² made him aircraft captain instead of me at Wewak – he did not touch the controls for 2⁺ days!

I also remember him shaking the Worcestershire Sauce bottle to put on his eggs at brekky at Vung Tau. The top was loose and splattered his drab shirt and he got the shits and rushed off to change it.

The only thing I recall Maurice not being good at was “speaking Australian”. He understood it perfectly but was just not good with speaking with the correct accent!

Gentlemen; I/We could speak for ages with stories of our friendship/mateship/comradeship with Maurice. May we have a few moments silence for Maurice before Chuck lays the wreath. We will have more than a few beers/gins for Maurie after the March.

John Millsom