



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Department of Defence, R1-6-C002, PO Box 7902, CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

MC21-001838

Mr Trevor Benneworth
Trev.radschool.org.au

Dear Mr Benneworth

ACCESS TO HISTORIC AIR FORCE PHOTOS AND THE USE OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE INITIALS

Thank you for your email of 25 May 2021 to the Minister for Defence, the Hon. Peter Dutton MP, regarding access to historic Air Force photos and your request for consent to use the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) initials. Your correspondence has been passed to Air Force for a response.

Air Force has an extensive collection of historic imagery, and other non-digital format archival materials, and is working with the National Archives of Australia (NAA) and the National Library of Australia (NLA) to preserve and facilitate public access to this important resource. Air Force's historic records and printed editions of Air Force News have been digitised and released through the NAA and NLA.

Scoping is now underway to determine the best approach to digitising and compiling metadata for the more than 6.5 million photographic negatives and other imagery held by the RAAF Museum. Due to the very fragile nature of these materials it is not possible to provide access to the physical collection. On completion, the Air Force Historical Imagery Digitisation and Accessibility project (AFHIDA) will make Air Force's historic imagery collection accessible to all via the National Archives of Australia or other suitable government agency.

With regard to your request for consent to use the Air Force initials, your application has been considered and formal refusal of consent is included at enclosure 1.

I recognise that this latter outcome will be disappointing for you and for the association, but I encourage you to continue the work of the association in maintaining connections between former Radschool trainees and Air Force.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SL Meredith', written in a cursive style.

SL Meredith, AM, DSM
Air Vice Marshal
Deputy Chief of Air Force

16 June 2021

Enclosure:

1. Refusal of Consent to use Prohibited Words or Letters.