

# Splendour Rock Memorial



Memorial installed in February 1948 for dedication at dawn of the following ANZAC Day.

## HONOUR ROLL

Surname	First name	Walking Club	Service
Elder	Bruce	Coast & Mountain Walkers	RAN
Grenfell	Kenneth	Rucksack Club	RAAF
Hewitt	Reg	Sydney Bush Walkers	AIF
Loder	George	Trampers Club	RAAF
McCormack	James	YMCA Ramblers	RAAF
Mannell	Gordon	Sydney Bush Walkers	RAAF
Nichols	Mac	YMCA Ramblers	AIF
Ray	Arnold	Coast & Mountain Walkers	RAAF
Roberts	Charles	Coast & Mountain Walkers	AIF

*Notes collated by Belinda Keir, Michael Keats O.A.M. and Keith Maxwell – August 2020*

Saill	Norman	Sydney Bush Walkers	RAAF
Smith	Gordon	Sydney Bush Walkers	AIF
Townend	Gordon	Coast & Mountain Walkers	RAAF
Wall	Jack	Campfire Club	RAAF

## NSW FEDERATION of BUSHWALKING CLUBS 1945

### Affiliated Clubs:

The Blaxland Bush-walkers' Club.  
 The Bush Club.  
 The Campfire Club.  
 The Coast and Mountain Walkers of N.S.W.  
 The Mountain Trails Club of N.S.W.  
 The River Canoe Club of N.S.W.  
 The Rover Ramblers' Club.  
 The Rucksack Club (Sydney, N.S.W.).  
 The S.T.C. Bushwalkers' Club.  
 The Sydney Bush Walkers.  
 The Trampers' Club of N.S.W.  
 The Warrigal Club of N.S.W.  
 The W.E.A. Ramblers.  
 The Y.M.C.A. Ramblers' Club.  
 The Y.W.C.A. Walking Club.

**COAST & MOUNTAIN WALKERS – (CMW)** is still an active Club of Bushwalking NSW (BNSW) in 2020

**SYDNEY BUSH WALKERS – (SBW)** is still an active Club in 2020.

**THE CAMP FIRE CLUB** affiliated with Federation in 1939 but around 1950 was struggling for members and is no longer in a Club List from 1952

**THE RUCKSACK CLUB** was an active Club for many years but was dissolved around Sept. 1973

**THE TRAMPERS CLUB** is no longer in a Club List from 1949

**YMCA RAMBLERS** left the YMCA in 1978 but had a final BBQ at Nielson Park on 20 October 2003.

The State Library of NSW contains archives of CMW, SBW, YMCA Ramblers and Rucksack Club.

**A.I.F.** – Australian Imperial Force: Australian Army in World War II that was the “second” A.I.F. after WWI. Hence, all Battalions numbers are 2<sup>nd</sup> / XX<sup>th</sup> or 2 / XX<sup>th</sup>

**R.A.A.F.** – Royal Australian Air Force

**R.A.F.** – Royal Air Force (of Great Britain)

**R.A.N.** – Royal Australian Navy

*Notes collated by Belinda Keir, Michael Keats O.A.M. and Keith Maxwell – August 2020*

**Bruce ELDER - R.A.N.** (Coast and Mountain Walkers).

(from *The Bushwalker* 1946)

‘The hand of war fell heavily on the youth of our country. **Bruce Elder** had been bushwalking for a short time only before he enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy. It was in 1938 that he joined the Coast and Mountain Walkers. His first trip was of a fortnight’s duration in the Clyde River district, which turned a leaning towards Nature into a positive fondness for all that our bush country had to offer, a fondness mingled with an energy of spirit which only youth can possess.

“Shattered my glass, ere half the sands had run.” What this early love for Nature would have produced we shall never know. He went down with his ship, H.M.A.S. “Sydney”.



On 19 November 1941, HMAS *Sydney II*, a light cruiser of the Royal Australian Navy, was lost following a battle with the German raider HSK *Kormoran* off the Western Australian coast. The loss of the *Sydney* with its 645 crew remains Australia’s worst naval disaster. The *Kormoran* was also sunk, but 317 of its crew of 397 were rescued.

*Sydney II* had an impressive record of war service. Celebrated for her successful battles in the Mediterranean, where she famously sank the Italian cruiser *Bartolomeo Colleoni*, the *Sydney II* and her crew of predominantly young men received a hero’s welcome on return to Australia in February 1941.

*Sydney II* was tasked with escorting troopships to South East Asia, following an Indian Ocean route along the coast of Western Australia. It was on the return of one of these voyages that she encountered the HSK *Kormoran*, on 19 November 1941. Disguised as a Dutch merchant vessel, the *Komoran* used the advantage of surprise and brought all its armament to bear on *Sydney II*.

*Notes collated by Belinda Keir, Michael Keats O.A.M. and Keith Maxwell – August 2020*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

301407

**Kenneth GRENFELL- R.A.A.F.** (The Rucksack Club)

(from *The Bushwalker 1946*)

‘**Ken Grenfell** was a member of the Rucksack Club<sup>1</sup> for only a short time before joining the Royal Australian Air Force. He lost his life in an air raid over Germany.

# World War Two Service



**FLIGHT LIEUTENANT  
KENNETH HUGH GRENFELL  
403735**

<b>SERVICE</b>	ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
<b>DATE OF BIRTH</b>	23 MAY 1914
<b>PLACE OF BIRTH</b>	OCEAN ISLAND, GILBERT ISLANDS
<b>DATE OF ENLISTMENT</b>	3 MARCH 1941
<b>PLACE OF ENLISTMENT</b>	SYDNEY, NSW
<b>NEXT OF KIN</b>	GRENFELL, M
<b>DATE OF DEATH</b>	30 MARCH 1943
<b>POSTING ON DEATH</b>	460 SQUADRON



**Australian Government  
Department of Veterans' Affairs**

Ken Grenfell was born 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1914 on Ocean Island in the Gilbert and Ellis Islands. We do not know when he and or his family moved to Australia. Hi service record shows that he was attached to the 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF from 1935 to 1938. He moved to the air force at his own request. At the time of enlistment into the RAAF, he was employed as a Land and Security Clerk and was a member of the Sydney based Rucksack Club<sup>1</sup> for a short time before joining the Air Force. Grenfell was seconded from the RAAF to the RAF. To reach the UK he travelled via Canada, disembarked 17/08/1941 and arrived in the UK 7/12/41<sup>2</sup>. He joined 460 Squadron 22/10/42.

## burial record (Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

<http://www.cwgc.org/search/SearchResults.aspx?surname=grenfell&initials=K&war=2&yearfrom=1940&yearto=1945&force=&nationality=1&send.x=49&send.y=16>

No	Surname	Rank	Service Number	Date Of Death	Age	Regiment/Service	Nationality	Grave/Memorial Ref.	Cemetery/Memorial Name
1	GRENFELL, KENNETH HUGH	Flight Lieutenant	403735	30/03/1943	28	Royal Australian Air Force	Australian	Row A. Grave 6.	HARDENBERG PROTESTANT CEMETERY

## Casualty Details

**Name:** GRENFELL, KENNETH HUGH

<sup>1</sup> The Rucksack Club (Sydney) N.S.W. was founded in 1931 as The Hikers Club of Sydney. The name was changed in 1937. It was run by a general committee and a social committee. Its objects were to encourage hiking and camping in the bush and to preserve the natural beauty and wildlife of our wilderness areas. The Club was affiliated with the N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs.

<sup>2</sup> Air Ministry file reference A 339808/41

**Initials:** K H  
**Nationality:** Australian  
**Rank:** Flight Lieutenant  
**Regiment/Service:** Royal Australian Air Force  
**Age:** 28  
**Date of Death:** 30/03/1943  
**Service No:** 403735  
**Additional information:** Son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Everett Grenfell, of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia; husband of Mabel Isabella Grenfell, of Durham, England.  
**Casualty Type:** Commonwealth War Dead  
**Grave/Memorial Reference:** Row A. Grave 6.  
**Cemetery:** **HARDENBERG PROTESTANT CEMETERY**


**Reg HEWITT – A.I.F.** (Sydney Bush Walkers)

(from *The Bushwalker 1946*)

‘As we go to press we learn of two more members of the Sydney Bushwalkers to whom our debt is immeasurable, namely **Reginald Hewitt** and **Norman Sall**. We regret that short notice precludes mention of their service records. They were bushwalkers, and their personalities live on in the hearts and minds of other bushwalkers.’

# World War Two Service

**PRIVATE**  
**REGINALD DICKER HEWITT**  
**NX58311**

	<p><b>SERVICE</b> AUSTRALIAN ARMY  <b>DATE OF BIRTH</b> 2 MARCH 1904  <b>PLACE OF BIRTH</b> ADELAIDE, SA  <b>DATE OF ENLISTMENT</b> 19 JULY 1940  <b>LOCALITY ON ENLISTMENT</b> NORTHBRIDGE, NSW  <b>PLACE OF ENLISTMENT</b> PADDINGTON, NSW  <b>NEXT OF KIN</b> HEWITT, MABEL  <b>DATE OF DEATH</b> 25 SEPTEMBER 1943  <b>POSTING ON DEATH</b> 2/30 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION  <b>PRISONER OF WAR</b> YES</p>	
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**Australian Government**  
**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

From the Australian War Memorial records we know that Reg Hewitt's Infantry Battalion was caught in the surrender of Singapore and along with many others was taken as a Prisoner of War (POW). On 15 February 1942, Hewitt along with many other members of the battalion was sent by train (Train 5, Truck 9) to Thailand. He died of unspecified illness on 25 September 1943 having been assigned to work on the infamous Burma Railway. He is buried in the Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery, Thanbyuzayat, Mon State, Myanmar

## **George LODER – R.A.A.F. (Trampers Club) .**

(from *The Bushwalker* 1946)

‘**George Bruce Loder** was a foundation member and first Secretary of the Trampers Club of N.S.W. He was well known as club delegate to the Federation Council, and as Federation Publicity Officer in 1940-41. Gorge Loder enlisted in the R.A.A.F. in May 1941 and trained as an Observer. After doing brilliantly at training schools in Canada he arrived in England and was posted to Lancasters. His work earned him selection for the Pathfinder Force, a commission in May 1943 the D.F.C. and a Flight Lieutenancy in October, 1943.

On 20<sup>th</sup> December 1943, he failed to return from operations against Frankfurt, and was later reported to be buried at Doornpuyk in Holland. This was to have been his last trip as he had completed two tours on Pathfinders.

In George the Federation had one of its strongest supporters, as he didn't mind how much work he did where Conservation and his beloved bush was concerned. The Walking Fraternity as a whole, lost a real friend in George Loder.’

# World War Two Service



**FLIGHT LIEUTENANT  
GEORGE BRUCE LODER DFC  
412160**

<b>SERVICE</b>	ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
<b>DATE OF BIRTH</b>	13 OCTOBER 1918
<b>PLACE OF BIRTH</b>	BURWOOD, NSW
<b>DATE OF ENLISTMENT</b>	22 JUNE 1941
<b>PLACE OF ENLISTMENT</b>	SYDNEY, NSW
<b>NEXT OF KIN</b>	LODER, BETTY
<b>DATE OF DEATH</b>	20 DECEMBER 1943
<b>POSTING ON DEATH</b>	156 SQUADRON
<b>WW2 HONOURS AND GALLANTRY</b>	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS



**Australian Government**  
Department of Veterans' Affairs



Twenty Thousand Australian airmen served with (the Bomber Command of the Royal Air Force during the 1939-45 War. These men had been recruited into the Royal Australian Air Force and remained members of the RAAF but after training in Australia and Canada were employed operationally within the RAF which assumed full financial responsibility for such service except where Australian rates of pay and pensions differed from the British.

The training of the RAAF airmen who flew with Bomber Command was through the Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS) which linked training organisations in Australia and Canada. The first ground instruction schools in Australia under the EATS scheme opened in April 1940 and were followed a month later by elementary flying courses. The first Australian EATS drafts from Canada reached England in December 1940 and by March 1941 individual RAAF men were joining Bomber Command squadrons.

When the Pathfinder Force (No. 8 Group) was formed in August 1942, No. 156 was one of the four squadrons selected to form the nucleus of the new force. It remained with the Pathfinder Force for the rest of the European war and still flying Wellingtons at first and then Lancasters played a major part in Bomber Command's offensive.

### **Betty Loder re-married**

### **James McCORMACK – R.A.A.F (Y.M.C.A. Ramblers)**

(from *The Bushwalker* 1946)

‘**James McCormack** was captain of the Y.M.C.A. Ramblers Club Basket Ball Team and a popular member of the staff of **Eveready** Batteries. Joining the R.A.A.F. he was attached for duty to H.M.A.S. “Canberra.” As a result of wounds received in action he died on the 9<sup>th</sup> August, 1942, aged 21 years.’



# World War Two Service

**CORPORAL**

**JAMES RONALD KENNETH MCCORMACK**

**20914**



<b>SERVICE</b>	ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
<b>DATE OF BIRTH</b>	8 FEBRUARY 1921
<b>PLACE OF BIRTH</b>	PADDINGTON, NSW
<b>DATE OF ENLISTMENT</b>	30 JANUARY 1941
<b>LOCALITY ON ENLISTMENT</b>	KINGSFORD
<b>PLACE OF ENLISTMENT</b>	SYDNEY, NSW
<b>NEXT OF KIN</b>	MCCORMACK, JAMES
<b>DATE OF DEATH</b>	9 AUGUST 1942
<b>POSTING ON DEATH</b>	9 SQN RATHMINES



**Australian Government**

**Department of Veterans' Affairs**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

137295

HMAS *Canberra* sinking following the battle of Savo Island 9 August 1942.

In the darkness of the early hours of the morning of 9 August 1942 the RAN heavy cruiser HMAS *Canberra* was severely damaged off Guadalcanal (Solomon Islands) in a surprise attack by a powerful Japanese naval force in an action that became known as the Battle of Savo Island. *Canberra* was hit 24 times in less than two minutes and 84 of her crew were killed including Captain Frank Getting. Following an order to abandon ship the *Canberra* was sunk the next day by a torpedo from a US destroyer.

At the time of the action the *Canberra* had formed part of a US Navy-RAN force screening American transports during the landing operations of US marines at Guadalcanal, which begun on 7 August 1942.

A failure of Allied intelligence and vigilance resulted in this screening force being surprised by a determined group of seven Japanese cruisers and a destroyer near Savo Island just before 2am on the morning of the 9 August 1942. The *Canberra* as the lead ship of the screening force was the first to be attacked and received the full force of the Japanese barrage. In the darkness and confusion the rampaging Japanese attackers wreaked havoc with other Allied vessels before withdrawing. However, despite this significant setback landing operations at Guadalcanal continued.

**Gordon MANNELL – R.A.A.F.** (Sydney Bush Walkers)

(from *The Bushwalker* 1946)

*Notes collated by Belinda Keir, Michael Keats O.A.M. and Keith Maxwell – August 2020*

'**Gordon Marshall Mannell** was admitted to membership of the Sydney Bush Walkers in March, 1934. those members who walked with him well remember his love of the bush, his friendliness, and at all times his consideration for others.

He was always eager to get away from the beaten track and visit areas not familiar to the majority of bushwalkers. He was a member of the first Sydney Bush Walker parties to climb Mount King George from Blue Gum Forest, descend Bonnum Pic, Wollondilly River, and cross the ranges from Moruya to follow the Deua River to Araluen. The Macleay River from Uralla, via Postman's Creed was also a trip pioneered by him.

Although the father of two young children, Gordon felt it his duty to enlist, and he left Australia for England to serve as an Air Gunner in the R.A.A.F. He was posted missing after a bombing raid on Germany early in 1945.'



Leslie Gordon Marshall Mannell was Rear Gunner of RAAF crew 32, 462<sup>3</sup> Squadron, Driffield and Foulsham, Yorkshire, UK.

At the time of his demise, Mannell was flying with Pilot Rohrlach<sup>4</sup> and Crew 48 in a Halifax III, MZ 469 Z5N. His was one of 12 Aircraft from 462 Squadron required for a Special Duties "Spoof Raid" for WINDOW Operations". WINDOW was released - no bombs were carried.

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<sup>3</sup> Source Wikipedia 462 Squadron is a Royal Australian Air Force squadron which forms part of the Information Warfare Directorate in the RAAF's Air Warfare Centre. The squadron was first formed in 1942 as a heavy bomber unit and saw combat in this role in the Mediterranean area until it was disbanded in March 1944 It was reformed in the United Kingdom in August 1944 to participate in the bombing campaign against Germany, and in December that year converted to a specialist electronic warfare unit. No. 462 Squadron continued in this role until the end of the European war in May 1945 and was disbanded in September that year.

In Pilot Rohrlach's crew, MANNELL was acting in Role of Special Duties, WINDOW Dispenser. Mannell is included with the Rohrlach crew on their Tribute Page because he died and is buried with them. His substantive role was Rear Gunner for Marchant Crew 32. He had carried out 21 Ops solely with that crew but died on his Op 22 with Rohrlach's crew. Mannell is listed with both Crews on the Tribute website<sup>5</sup> for 462 Squadron, on the Squadron Crews UK page with links to crew pages (perhaps add in the link or links here)

No	Surname	Rank	Service Number	Date Of Death	Age	Regiment/Service	Nationality	Grave/Memorial Ref.	Cemetery/Memorial Name
1	MANNELL, LESLIE GORDON MARSHALL	Flight Sergeant	429052	07/01/1945	31	Royal Australian Air Force	Australian	Joint grave VI. B. 3-4.	HOTTON WAR CEMETERY

## Casualty Details

**Name:** MANNELL, LESLIE GORDON MARSHALL

**Initials:** L G M

**Nationality:** Australian

**Rank:** Flight Sergeant

**Regiment/Service:** Royal Australian Air Force

**Unit Text:** 462 Sqdn.

**Age:** 31

**Date of Death:** 07/01/1945

**Service No:** 429052

**Additional information:** Son of Leslie Gordon Mannell and Letitia May Mannell; husband of Jeane Mannell, of Griffith, New South Wales, Australia.

**Casualty Type:** Commonwealth War Dead

**Grave/Memorial Reference:** Joint grave VI. B. 3-4.

## Cemetery Details

**Cemetery:** HOTTON WAR CEMETERY

**Country:** Belgium

**Historical Information:** The British Expeditionary Force was involved in the later stages of the defence of Belgium following the German invasion in

<sup>4</sup> Information about Mannell and Pilot Rohrlach<sup>4</sup> and Crew 48 in a Halifax III, MZ 469 Z5N is thanks to Ms Ms. E M A Hibberd (Jamie), website, [www.DOT462squadronDOTcom](http://www.DOT462squadronDOTcom)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.462squadron.com/>

May 1940 and suffered many casualties in covering the withdrawal to Dunkirk. Commonwealth forces did not return until September 1944, but in the intervening years, many airmen were shot down or crashed in raids on strategic objectives in Belgium, or while returning from missions over Germany. The village of Hotton was the western limit of the great German counter offensive in the Ardennes in January 1945. A great many of the burials in Hotton War Cemetery date from that time, although there are also some from May 1940. The cemetery contains 666 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 21 of them unidentified.

**No. of Identified :** 647

**Jeane Mannell re-married**

**MAC NICHOLS – A.I.F.** (YMCA Ramblers)

(from *The Bushwalker 1946*)

‘**Mac Nichols** joined the Y.M.C.A. Ramblers early in 1939, becoming Social Secretary and an enthusiastic member of the Ramblers Basket Ball Team. Leaving his position with the Commonwealth Bank, he enlisted in the A.I.F., being sent to Malaya. At the early age of 21 years he was tragically killed in action at Singapore during February, 1942.’

# World War Two Service

**CORPORAL**  
**MALCOLM ALAN MELMER NICHOLS**  
**NX73414**



<b>SERVICE</b>	AUSTRALIAN ARMY
<b>DATE OF BIRTH</b>	10 AUGUST 1921
<b>PLACE OF BIRTH</b>	DELORAIN, TAS
<b>DATE OF ENLISTMENT</b>	1 DECEMBER 1941
<b>LOCALITY ON ENLISTMENT</b>	DOVER HEIGHTS, NSW
<b>PLACE OF ENLISTMENT</b>	PADDINGTON, NSW
<b>NEXT OF KIN</b>	NICHOLS, ELEANOR
<b>DATE OF DEATH</b>	15 FEBRUARY 1942
<b>POSTING ON DEATH</b>	2/19 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION
<b>ADDITIONAL SERVICE NUMBERS</b>	N36385



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

Malcolm (Mac) Nichols was lucky to survive as long as he did in the difficult events of 8th – 15th February 1942 with the fall of the island of Singapore. Mac was a raw recruit who had only come “on strength” on 26 January. (see National Archives of Australia (NAA) Service Record) From the history of the 2/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Grim Glory of the 2/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion) we know some challenging events in the following notes.

On the evening of 8<sup>th</sup> February sappers were kept busy repairing broken communication lines from constant Japanese shelling. Radio silence by the Australians limited the ability to respond from their widely dispersed artillery. When requests did come they were so rapid that gunners could not keep up. (p. 321)

Later, in this confusion, four (4) Japanese Battalions crossed the strait to land against B Company with two (2) more at daylight. Poor communication persisted as Australian reinforcements were slow to move. Hence, the Australians were hopelessly outnumbered and were in danger of being outflanked plus over run. When they fell back to Tengah Airfield there was a lack of prepared defensive positions. (p. 322 – 323).

So, just after midday on 9<sup>th</sup> February the 2/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion ceased to exist. Survivors of several A.I.F. Battalions were organised into “X” (no number) Battalion. (p. 324)

Meanwhile the Japanese had landed many tanks on the island and but for vigorous opposition by the allies, Singapore could have fallen on 11<sup>th</sup> February. (p. 333)

“X” as a ‘scratch’ force was poorly equipped (p. 329) and was caught unprepared at 0300 (3am) on 11<sup>th</sup> February so, it too very soon ceased to exist. (p. 335). A withdrawal in heavy darkness had men holding onto the belt of the man in front. However, there was no respite. During rest their position was floodlit then hit with heavy enemy fire. “X” was being murdered. (p. 336)

Thus, by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February all hope had been lost in the defence of Singapore (p. 341) and the British looked to the terms of surrender. (p. 345).

The NAA record suggests that Malcolm (Mac) Nichols died on 15<sup>th</sup> February just as the surrender was being negotiated.

A great many of the survivors from this campaign died in captivity as did Gordon Smith (also of 2/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion), Reg Hewitt (2/30<sup>th</sup> Battalion) and Charles Roberts (8<sup>th</sup> Division Signals).

## **Arnold RAY – R.A.A.F.** (Coast and Mountain Walkers)

(from *The Bushwalker 1946*)

‘While still living in the country, **Arnold Ray** became a bushwalker with the C.M.W.’s and travelled many miles on his motor bike to join his city friends on their trips.

Arnold was a good mate and loved the comradeship of the camp fire, and gave his friendship without stint. His walking was largely done in the Blue Mountains country, although later a change of work gave him the opportunity of knowing something of our Alpine Country.

He was filled with the zest of living and it was not easy to imagine, when he joined the R.A.A.F. that any harm could come to him. He went overseas and shortly after arriving in England he gave his life during operations against Germany.’



Blenheim bombers arrived in January 1939 and these were taken to France in September for strategic reconnaissance duties. Following the German attack of May 1940, the squadron returned to the UK from it continued its operations as well as undertaking bombing missions.

The 53 Squadron RAF was transferred to Coastal Command on 3rd July 1940 in Detling Kent, and after a brief stay in Thorney Island moved to St Eval in Cornwall, from where it began both anti-submarine and anti-shipping operations. Its compliment of Blenheims being replaced by Hudsons in July that year. In July 1942 the squadron was transferred to the USA to assist the Americans in defence of the Eastern Seaboard of the USA and then in August it again moved to Trinidad where it remained until November

*Notes collated by Belinda Keir, Michael Keats O.A.M. and Keith Maxwell – August 2020*

Arnold's sister, Jean also served in the R.A.A.F. (no. 108933)

## **Charles ROBERTS – A.I.F.** (Coast and Mountain Walkers)

(from *The Bushwalker 1946*)

'The protection and preservation of the bushlands was the job which **Charles Roberts** adopted as his own particular contribution to the community and he threw all his energies and his genius for organisation into this work during the years he was associated with the Coast and Mountain Walkers and with the Federation as its Honorary Secretary.

He was of the adventurous type who loved to break into new country; he was a good comrade and a good bushman and he did what was in his power to ensure that others would be able to find in the bush the same happiness as he himself had found.

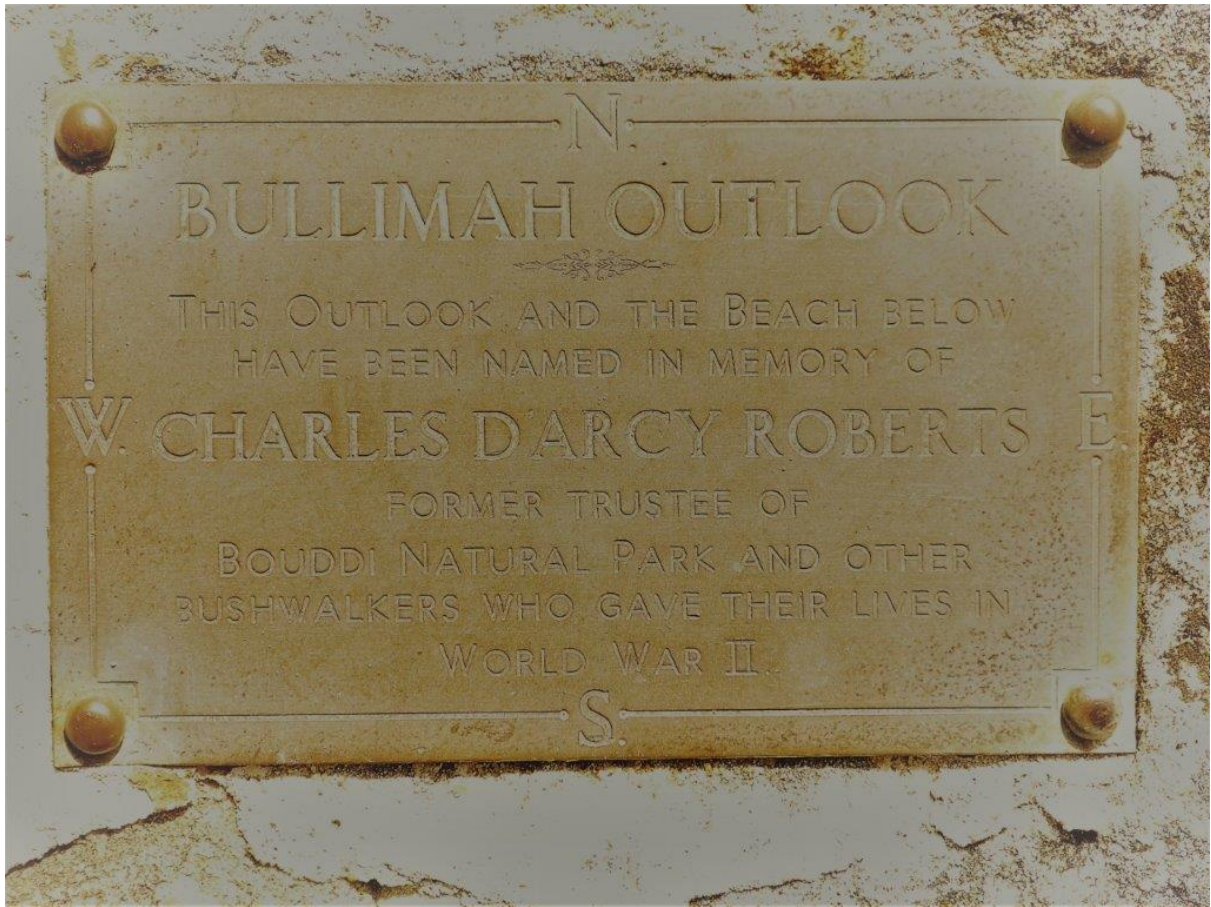
He resigned from the Honorary Secretaryship of the Federation to join the Army and gave his life in Malaya, and stories we have heard show that the same spirit of self-sacrifice and comradeship which we knew of old, still manifested itself during the time he was a Prisoner of War'



With the defeat of the allied forces at Singapore, he became a POW. His service record remains silent until 18 April 1943 where it is recorded that he was in Changi Camp. The record is incomplete from this point as we next learn on 3 July 1943 that Roberts was deceased and died of cerebral malaria in (Burma) Siam. He was initially buried at Karnu Soukrai, later exhumed, and reburied at Thanbyuzyat War Cemetery.



Charles D'Arcy Roberts is also remembered at Bullimah Lookout of Bouddi National Park not far from the Park Information Centre.



*The inscription reads, Bullimah Outlook*

*This outlook and the beach below have been named in memory of Charles D'Arcy Roberts former Trustee of Bouddi Natural Park and other bushwalkers who gave their lives in World War II.*

*Photo: Keith Maxwell*

**Norman SAILL – R.A.A.F.** (Sydney Bush Walkers)

(from *The Bushwalker* 1946)

‘As we go to press we learn of two more members of the Sydney Bushwalkers to whom our debt is immeasurable, namely **Reginald Hewitt** and **Norman Saill**. We regret that short notice precludes mention of their service records. They were bushwalkers, and their personalities live on in the hearts and minds of other bushwalkers.’

*Notes collated by Belinda Keir, Michael Keats O.A.M. and Keith Maxwell – August 2020*

# World War Two Service



**SERGEANT  
NORMAN HENRY SAILL  
33313**

<b>SERVICE</b>	ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
<b>DATE OF BIRTH</b>	3 MAY 1912
<b>PLACE OF BIRTH</b>	KOGARAH, NSW
<b>DATE OF ENLISTMENT</b>	20 AUGUST 1940
<b>LOCALITY ON ENLISTMENT</b>	PENSHURST
<b>PLACE OF ENLISTMENT</b>	SYDNEY, NSW
<b>NEXT OF KIN</b>	SAILL, ELIZABETH
<b>DATE OF DEATH</b>	1 JUNE 1943
<b>POSTING ON DEATH</b>	22 SQN RICHMOND



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

22 Squadron arrived in Port Moresby during October 1942 and began flying close-support missions for Allied troops battling the Japanese in the jungles of northern Papua. In March 1943 the unit participated in the decisive victory at the Battle of the Bismarck Sea. Saill, was very likely involved in support operations during this intense activity.

Norman Saill was trained as an aircraft mechanic and worked on the Douglas A20 series Boston aircraft. The specific plane in which Saill was killed was a Boston aircraft, A/28/13; RAAF Serial number A L367, call sign DU-O. There were 4 men on board at the time of this aircraft test.

From 1<sup>st</sup> June 1943 to 7<sup>th</sup> June 1943 there were no combat duties for 22 Squadron and concentrated aircraft maintenance work was undertaken.

As well as a widow, Norman Saill left a three-year-old daughter, Judith.

**Gordon SMITH – A.I.F.** (Sydney Bush Walkers).

(from *The Bushwalker* 1946)

‘It was sad news for the many bushwalkers who had known **Gordon Smith** to hear that he had died in a Japanese prison camp in Borneo during the last stages of the war.

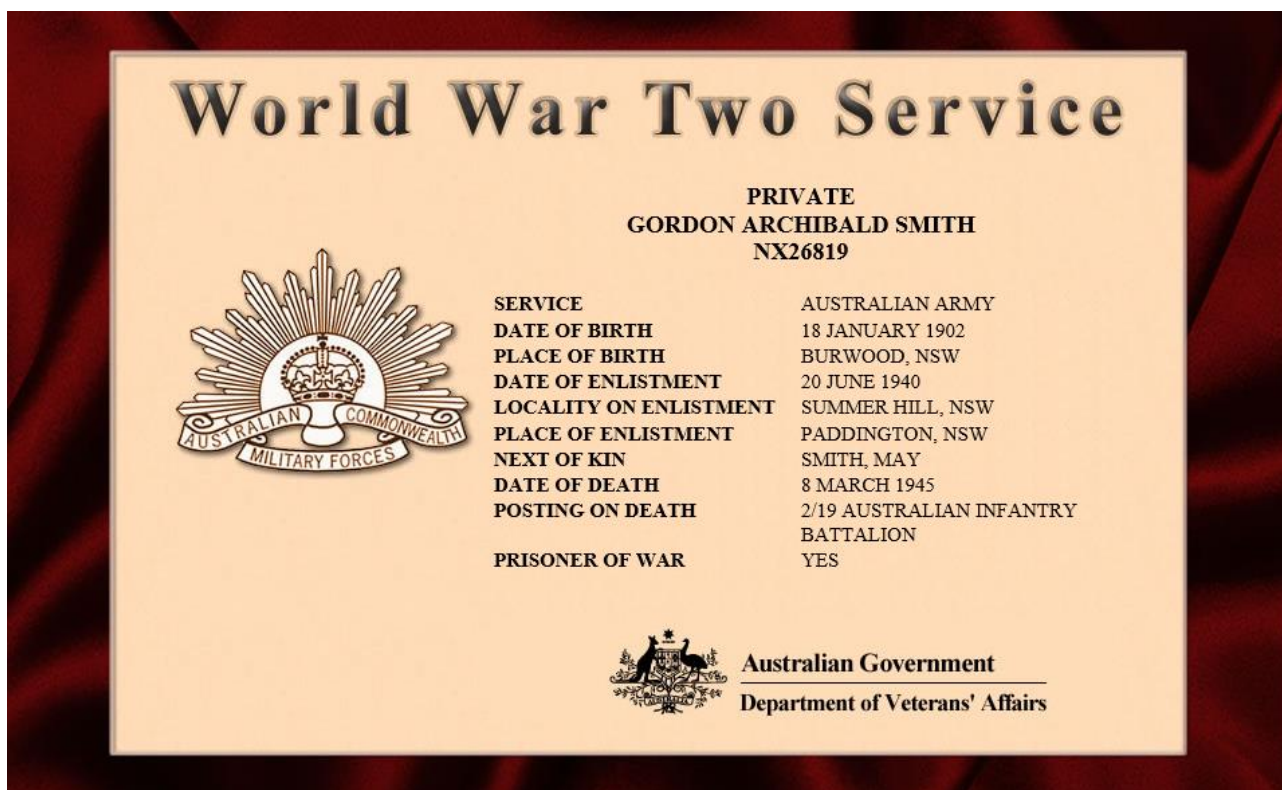
Gordon started walking as a track walker in 1921 and had an outstanding athletic career. Before he enlisted he held nearly all the Australian long distance records.

*Notes collated by Belinda Keir, Michael Keats O.A.M. and Keith Maxwell – August 2020*

As a result of long training walks, mainly on roads, he became interested in bush walking, and joined the Sydney Bush Walkers as a foundation member in 1928. In these early days of the Club, he pioneered, with fellow club members, a number of routes, some of which are now popular walks. They included the first traverse of the Gangerang, where his name was given to the pass leading to the range from Kanangra; and the first trip down the Colo River. In later years he led a number of large parties over some of the roughest of the mountain country.

He enlisted in the A.I.F. early in 1940 and was taken prisoner in Malaya early in 1942. Little is known of his subsequent movements as most of his comrades perished in Borneo.

He used his knowledge and experience of walking, together with a capacity for detailed planning, to organise a number of very enjoyable trips for his club mates. It would have been much easier for him to go on long walks with a few strong walkers, but he usually preferred to take a large party of average, or even weak members. By good team work they were enabled to enjoy walks they could never have done on their own. He led his parties by his quiet guidance and encouragement, never by assertion: which capacity is perhaps the measure of true leadership. His unassuming manner, and quiet persuasiveness, endeared him to all who knew him.'



See photo below from the Australian War Memorial which shows Gordon Smith at the rear of a group of soldiers.



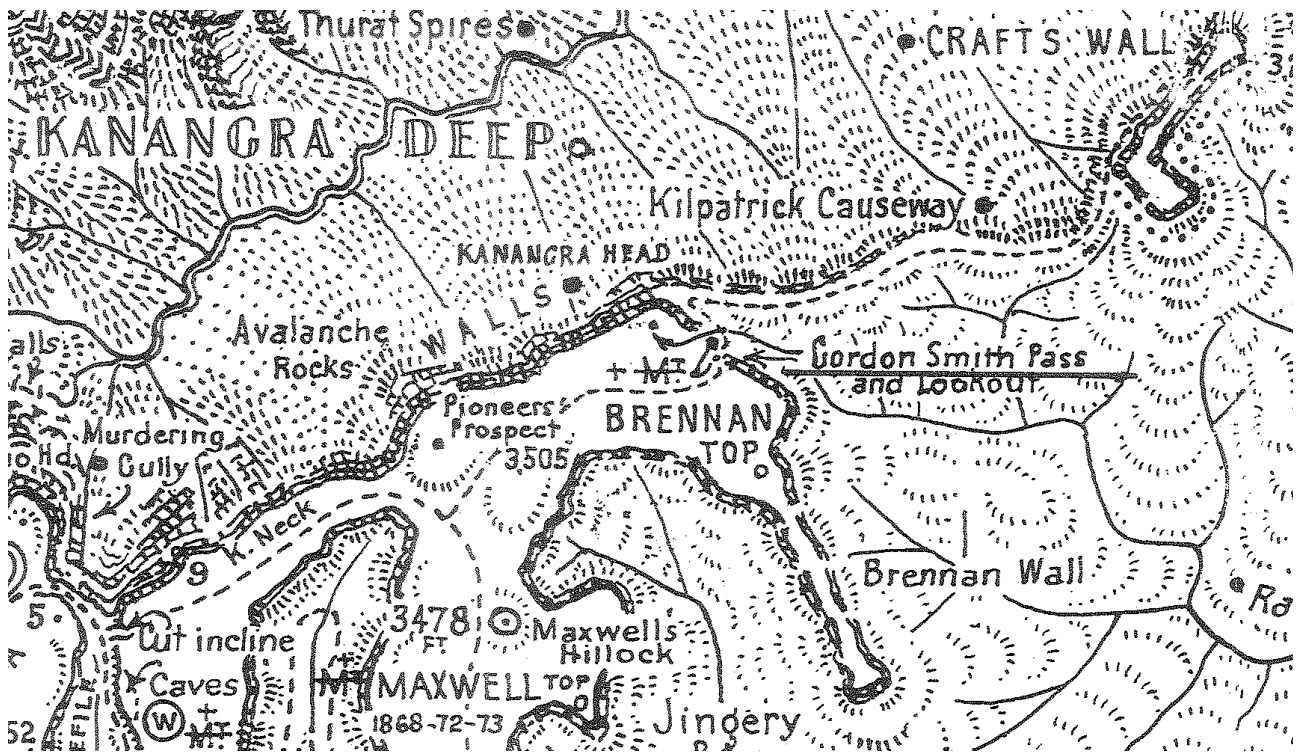
From Keith Maxwell 28 April 2009:

‘Gordon Smith was one of the "Tiger Walkers" of Sydney Bush Walkers (SBW) that included Dot Butler and Max (Maxwell) Gentle (among others).

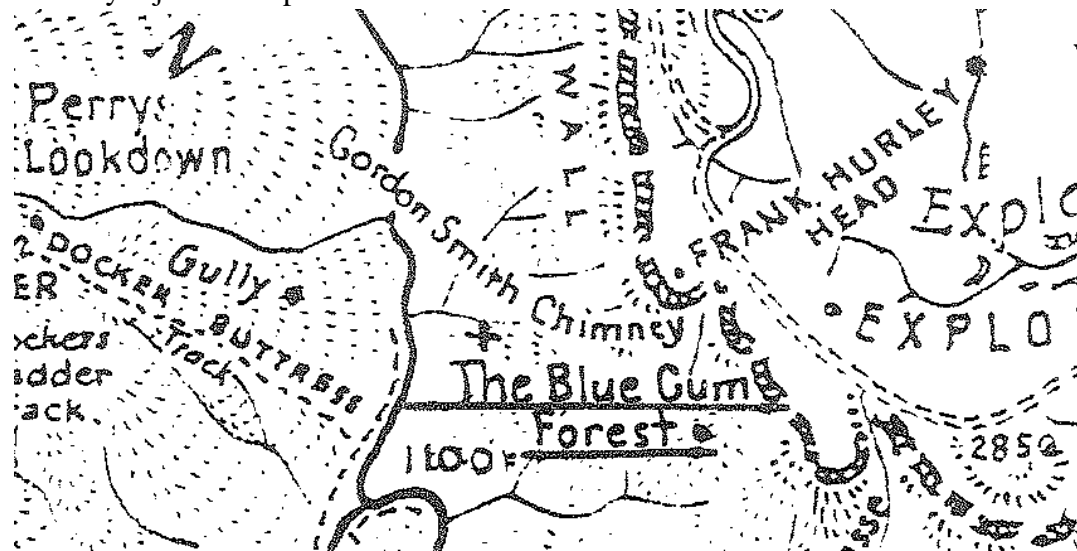
When SBW was formed in 1927 vast areas of now well know bushwalking country such as Kanangra Boyd National Park was still unexplored.

The Tiger Walkers travelled light and fast in their explorations of new areas. Topographic maps were yet to be made of many areas. They were among the many who assembled information for the several Myles Dunphy sketch maps of the Blue Mountains.

Gordon's name appears on two localities. When you venture towards Mt Cloudmaker from Kanangra Walls you descend Gordon Smith Pass off Mt Brennan as the last plateau of the Kanangra Walls massif.



The Gordon Smith Chimney is a difficult pass to ascend from Blue Gum Forest up Banks Walls onto Mt Banks. Thus it is a pass through the high cliffs of the Grose Valley. The pass goes up between the Grose Walls and a tall separate block (to make the chimney). There may have been a rock fall so that this pass is now far less easy than when discovered. In January 1971 a schoolboy died from a fall while attempting to descend this pass at night. It was a difficult task to rescue his seriously injured companion.



WWII was a near death experience for Australia. Australia changed from an agricultural society to an industrialised society to meet the challenge. In 1945 most bushwalkers in Sydney would have known many (if not all) of those that died in WWII. The bushwalking movement had barely gotten onto its feet after the formation of the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs in 1932 to save Blue Gum when WWII came along. There would have been no question that a memorial was required to remember the fallen.

Further information on Gordon Smith's long distance walking achievements can be found on the website of the Australian Centurion Walkers.



Gordon Smith was survived by his wife, May and son, Gordon

May Smith died at Caringbah on 14/7/1976, aged 75

### **Gordon TOWNEND – R.A.A.F.** (Coast and Mountain Walkers)

(from *The Bushwalker* 1946)

‘Although deeply imbued with a love for the green fields of his English home, Gordon Townend soon succumbed to the charm of the brown and blue Australian landscape. His wide appreciation of

*Notes collated by Belinda Keir, Michael Keats O.A.M. and Keith Maxwell – August 2020*

Nature and his tolerant manner drew him into bushwalking as a member of the C.M.W.'s and for the short time allowed, he tramped in the Blue Mountains and National Park, finding in these rugged lands a complement to the rolling landscapes of home.

In July 1942, he joined the R.A.A.F. hoping to be transferred to Britain. His desire to join in the defence of England was fulfilled. Two years later he was reported missing while on an operational flight over Germany.'



Source: 115 Squadron Roll of Honour by D. Bruce, W. R. Chorley, J. G. J. de Haan.

*On 13 June 1944 aircraft of RAF Squadron 115 were part of 303 aircraft - 286 Lancasters and 17 Mosquitos of Nos 1, 3 and 8 Groups, (which) carried out the first raid of the new oil campaign; the target was the Nordstern synthetic-oil plant at Gelsenkirchen (the Germans called the plant Gelsenberg AG).*

The attack opened with exceptional accuracy owing to good work by the Pathfinders and to improved versions of Oboe sets now available. Later phases of the bombing were spoiled by the clouds of smoke from the burning target and by a rogue target indicator which fell 10 miles short of the target and was bombed by 35 aircraft. A German industrial report shows that all production at the oil plant ceased, with a loss of 1,000 tons of aviation fuel a day for several weeks, as well as the loss of other fuels. 17 Lancasters were lost, 6.1 per cent of the Lancaster force.



115 Squadron Lancaster HK545 KO-E



Townend Gordon Christopher - BA

F/O - Service No 422765

Age: 32

RAAF

Son of Sherwood and Elizabeth Mary Townend, of Banbury, Oxfordshire, England.

Reichswald Forest Cemetery - grave 19. G. 14.

Source: CWGC - Photo via [online-begraafplaatsen.nl](http://online-begraafplaatsen.nl)

No	Surname	Rank	Service Number	Date Of Death	Age	Regiment/Service	Nationality	Grave/Memorial Ref.	Cemetery/Memorial Name
1	TOWNEND, GORDON CHRISTOPHER	Flying Officer	422765	13/06/1944	32	Royal Australian Air Force	Australian	19. G. 14.	REICHSWALD FOREST WAR CEMETERY

## Casualty Details

**Name:** TOWNEND, GORDON CHRISTOPHER

**Initials:** G C

**Nationality:** Australian

*Notes collated by Belinda Keir, Michael Keats O.A.M. and Keith Maxwell – August 2020*



**Rank:** Flying Officer  
**Regiment/Service:** Royal Australian Air Force  
**Age:** 32  
**Date of Death:** 13/06/1944  
**Service No:** 422765  
**Additional information:** Son of Sherwood and Elizabeth Mary Townend, of Banbury, Oxfordshire, England.  
**Casualty Type:** Commonwealth War Dead  
**Grave/Memorial Reference:** 19. G. 14.

## Cemetery Details

**Cemetery:** REICHSWALD FOREST WAR CEMETERY  
**Country:** Germany  
**Locality:** unspecified  
**Visiting Information:** Visitors should be aware that the parking area is on the opposite side of a busy road and care should be taken when crossing. Wheelchair access to the cemetery is possible via the main entrance. For further information regarding wheelchair access, please contact our Enquiries Section on 01628 507200.  
**Location Information:** The town of Kleve lies in the west of Germany close to the Dutch border.  
**Historical Information:** Reichswald Forest War Cemetery was created after the Second World War when burials were brought in from all over western Germany and is the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the country. Some of those members of the land forces buried there died in the advance through Reichswald Forest in February 1945. Others died crossing the Rhine, among them members of the airborne forces whose bodies were brought from Hamminkeln, where landings were made by the 6th Airborne Division from bases in England. Some of the airmen buried in the cemetery lost their lives in supporting the advance into Germany, but most died earlier in the war in the intensive air attacks over Germany. Their graves were brought in from cemeteries and isolated sites in the surrounding area. There are now 7,594 Commonwealth servicemen of the Second World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery. 176 of the burials are unidentified. There are also 78 war graves of other nationalities, most of them Polish. Special Memorials to 9 airmen are located at the East boundary wall, near Plot 10. Further Special Memorials to 7 airmen are located within Plot 31, near the Cross of Sacrifice.  
**No. of Identified Casualties:** 7495

## Jack WALL – R.A.A.F. (Campfire Club)

(from *The Bushwalker* 1946)

‘**Jack Wall** was a likeable personality who carried out his duties as Treasurer of the Campfire Club with keenness and zest. A foundation member of the club, he early answered the call to arms. After aircrew training in Australia and England as a radio man, he was posted to Wellingtons in the Middle East. Flying Officer Jack Wall was lost while returning from a mission over the Adriatic Sea on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 1944.’



The planes flown in by Pilot Officer Wall were the Martin B-26 Marauder, an American twin-engine medium bomber. The B-26 was built by the Glenn L. Martin Company. (later Lockheed Martin)

The planes were first used in the Pacific Theatre of World War II in early 1942, it was also used in the Mediterranean Theatre and in Western Europe.

After entering service with the United States Army aviation units, the aircraft quickly received the reputation of a "widowmaker" due to the early models' high accident rate during takeoff and landing. This was due to the fact that the Marauder had to be flown at precise airspeeds, particularly on final runway approach or when one engine was out. The unusually high 150 mph (241 km/h) speed on short final runway approach was intimidating to many pilots who were used to much slower approach speeds, and whenever they slowed down to speeds below those stipulated in the manual, the aircraft would often stall and crash.

The B-26 became a safer aircraft once crews were re-trained, and after aerodynamics modifications (an increase of wingspan and wing angle-of-incidence to give better take-off performance and a larger vertical stabilizer and rudder).