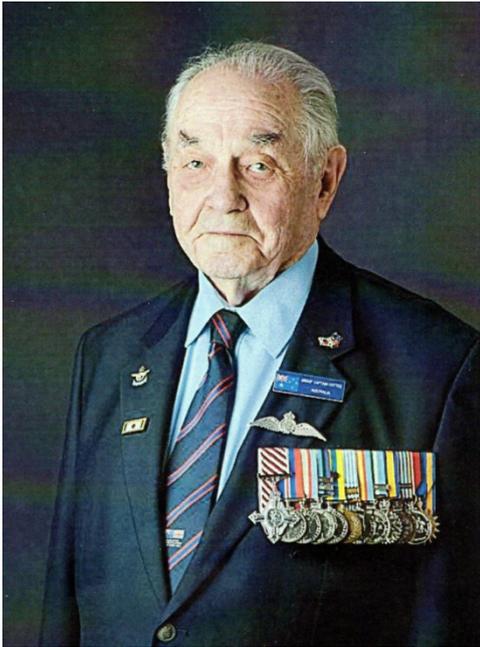


GP CAPT Milton James COTTEE AFC (Retd)

1926 - 2018



GPCAPT Milton Cottee passed away on 1 May 2018 after a courageous battle with cancer.

His final few months were restful. He was surrounded by family when he departed on his Last Flight. He attended this year's ANZAC Day, although he couldn't lead the RAAF World War II contingent as he had for so many years. Attendees at his final farewell included the Chief of Defence Force, the Korean Defence Attaché, senior officers and his veteran friends.

After completing initial training in the RAAF in 1945, Milt was discharged when the War finished. He rejoined the RAAF in 1948 and trained at Point Cook on the first post-war pilot training course. After graduation at East Sale, he converted to Mustang aircraft at No 21 Squadron before he was posted to No 77 Squadron in Iwakuni, Japan in 1949.

Milt flew P-51 Mustangs in the Korean War before returning to Australia to complete a flying instructors course, followed by a posting to No 22 Squadron CAF Squadron and then CFS as an instructor. He was then posted to Farnborough in 1955 to complete the RAF Test

Pilots Course before staying in the UK on an exchange posting at Boscombe Down with the RAF from 1956-57. He was a test pilot on the Vulcan programme, eventually flying all three V-bombers during his time at Boscombe Down.

Returning to Australia, he was posted to ARDU as test pilot, eventually becoming Chief Test Pilot in the early 1960s. Following completion of the RAAF Staff Course he spent a brief time at HQ Operational Command in 1968 before appointment as CO No 36 Squadron, flying C130s.

He was posted to RAAF Washington in 1969 as the F-111C Project Manager, replacing GPCAPT Sam Dallywater. By the time Milt arrived in USA, the RAAF had accepted one F-111C, on 4 September 1968, which was then handed back to the manufacturer, General Dynamics (GD). Milt and his team worked with the USAF, GD and DoD for four years to resolve the problems with the aircraft structure. The F-111s were ferried to Australia in 1973.

Following his retirement from the RAAF, he worked with OFEMA, the French Government Agency and General Dynamics when the F-16 was a finalist to replace the Mirage. Milt travelled to Korea on a number of occasions on Veterans Commemoration visits. He was a member of the Korean War MIA Working Party which meets in Canberra regularly; his last MIA meeting was on 6 March 2018.

Smooth landings, Milt.

Lance Havorson