

## Tom Berry's Resume, (for Oral History Coordinator of Engineering Heritage)

Born at Canley Vale on 30 December 1922.

Father wounded at age 19 at Gallipoli, was a TPI, and died age 57 in 1954.

Mother educated at Wey Wey and Fort Street High. Very bright. Died age 86 at Manly in 1989.

Schooled at Katoomba, then Sydney High after moving to Manly in 1937.

Then to Sydney University by the grace of the Repatriation Department. Graduated in Aeronautical Engineering in 1944 after being diverted from Civil Engineering in 1942.

Joined the RAAF in November 1943 and was the first Aeronautical Engineer as such to be in the RAAF.

Awarded Pilot's 'Wings' in July 1944.

1944-50 at Aircraft Research and Development Unit based at Laverton, Victoria as a performance engineer and spare pilot. This included many detachments on tropical trials at Darwin on various aircraft.

Met Pauline at Darwin in 1949 when she was a hostess with TAA. Caught in 1952. 1950 posted to Sydney to be the first CO of Sydney University Squadron. This lasted a year.

1951-52 at Woomera as the first Engineer Officer of ARDU Trials Flight and to be the co-ordinator for the first flights of Jindivic of which I was the skipper of the control team. Seven flights started before success. Then to UK for my sins!

Married to Pauline in 1952 and had our first home at Woomera.

1953 at Farnborough, UK, as the Australian at the 'Empire Test Pilot's School' which I survived (as you can see). Son, Andrew, born that year, 12000 miles away.

1954-58. Chief of the Flying Department at Aircraft Research and Development Unit at Laverton.

1954 broke sound barrier for the first time in NSW, Q'land and ACT in the then new Avon Sabre. Also set many point to point records.

1956 Young Tom was born.

1958 Joined the formation of No2 Canberra Squadron at Amberley, Q'land and took the first (and spare) aircraft to Butterworth, Malaya. Twins, Richard and Anne, were born there in 1960. Spent nearly three years there.

1961-64 Air Eng 2 (i.e. Mr. Engines, Fuels, and associated things), Dept. of Air, Canberra.

1964 Resigned from RAAF and joined DCA as Performance Engineer in NSW Region. Responsible for the performance and handling testing of new or modified light aircraft and some others.

Lived in Forestville / Killarney Heights area since 1964.

1969 Senior Airworthiness Engineer for DCA at Sydney Airport which included the introduction of the B747 into the Qantas fleet.

1987 Retired while still in that position having had many stints as Superintendent of Airworthiness in the regional headquarters.

In all flew 70-80 types of aircraft ranging from ultra light like Thorpe Sky Scooter to Boeing B29, Wirraway to Avro Lincoln, De Havilland Tiger Moth, Drovot, Vampire, Venom, and the Australian Avon Sabre and Canberra. Many others. Also was engaged in flight and ground testing of many other aircraft.