

The Institution of Engineers, Australia: Sydney Division
Engineering Heritage Committee
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEW TAPE LOG

INTERVIEWEE: Tom Berry **TAPE NUMBERS:** IEA SYD: FH7,FH8
 & FH9

INTERVIEWER: Frank HEIMANS

DATE: 23 December 1997

NUMBER OF TAPES: 3

RESTRICTIONS ON USE: Nil.

LOG PREPARATION: This log was prepared using a Sony TCM-5000 EV tape recorder

Tape: IEA SYD: FH7, Side A.

INTERVIEW TAPE LOG

TAPE COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
000	Start of Tape	
006	Gives date & place of birth (Canley Vale, NSW 30 December 1922) and describes his father's afflictions as TPI and injuries sustained in WWI.	Saratoga NSW Katoomba NSW Victor Horsley, doctor. Manly NSW
050	Describes living at Katoomba, Manly and his time at Sydney High School, including participation in sports	Sydney High School
064	Brief description of Mother.	
094	First interest in Engineering- steered to it by his mother - his first interest was to go to India or China and come back and do a degree in Economics but it didn't work out that way.	
137	Rode his bike from Katoomba to Maroubra, then Sydney High School and city life.	Sydney High School

183	Talks about teachers who had an influence on him at Manly Intermediate High School and Sydney High School.	Lennie Basser, Chemistry & Physics teacher at Sydney High School
220	Describes why he chose Civil Engineering at Sydney University from 1939 until he graduated, meeting fellow students.	Jim Rowland, Gov of NSW Malcolm King, Dir of CSR Rodney Noble Keith Busby
270	Talks about Radar having been invented and he applied for a Radar course, but was rejected. Joined and completed an Aeronautics course instead.	Rodney Noble Keith Busby
305	Describes family history of migraine which made him ineligible to enter a Tiger Moth flying course.	
323	Details how at the end of his aeronautics course he applied for the Air Force and was admitted as the first Aeronautical Engineer in the Air Force in 1943 at Laverton, Vic.	Laverton Vic
367	Recounts how he undertook his flying training at Laverton, Tamworth, Deniliquin, Woomera.	Laverton Deniliquin Dick Shaw Boomerangs Woomera Jindivik
431	Talks about the many types of aircraft he trained on and flew and where these were stationed.	Parafield Tamworth Laverton Tiger Moth Kitty Hawk Boomerang Spitfire Beaufort Canberra bombers Gil Cumming, chief of flying Dept at ARDU
478	End of Tape IEA SYD: FH7, Side A	

Tape: IEA SYD: FH7, Side B

TAPE COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
000	Start of Tape 1, Side B	
005	Recounts how after Laverton he was CO of Sydney University Squadron for a year in 1950 and in a send-off party to being posted to Woomera how he crashed through the plate glass window of 8th floor of Dymocks Building in Sydney	Gil Cumming Sydney University Squadron Woomera Dymocks Building
48	Recalls his experiences as a Performance Engineer and Spare Pilot at ARDU, Laverton, Vic, 1944-1950. His tasks included measuring altitudes, temperatures, air temperatures in atmosphere, scientific data collection.	Laverton Mustang Liberator
83	Recounts the faulty aircraft and engines that he found in his tests on aircraft.	Wright engines Constellation Vengeance Phil Graham
131	Describes tropical trials on aircraft in Darwin and northern tropics and effect of external temperatures at various altitudes on aircraft. Problems with engines as they 'flamed out' at high altitudes and effect on engines of shock waves caused by the firing of guns on the aircraft. This was ground-breaking research work.	Darwin Sabre jet aircraft J-47 engines Avon engine Rolls Royce Merlin engine
233	Tells in more detail about his appointment as CO of Sydney University Squadron and what was involved in that task.	George Baker, member of Oxford Uni Squadron, UK. Rod Noble Keith Busby DC-3 Richmond Air Base Rathmines Dean Foster 'Curly' Curlewis Bankstown

353	Recalls his posting to Woomera as officer-in-charge of technical development of 'Jindivik' aircraft. This involved carrying out bomb trials, testing Jindivik (ground-controlled, pilotless aircraft), testing automatic pilot and controls on the first seven Jindivik test flights. (Berry was first captain of the Jindivik).	Lincoln aircraft B-29 Aircraft Range 'A' Range 'E' Jindivik W.R.E. (Weapons Research Establishment).
430	Describes climatic and living conditions while officer at Woomera.	
475	End of Tape IEA SYD: FH 7, Side B	

Tape: IEA SYD: FH8, Side A.

TAPE COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
004	Describes test flights of the Jindivik and associated problems discovered as a result.	Jindivik
029	Recounts how he met Pauline, his wife, a TAA air hostess.	Bill Scott (colleague) Pauline Catalina flying boat Larrakiya Barracks ARDU
075	Describes the design, purpose, history and operation of the Jindivik - flew at 0.9 Mach, then modified to make it supersonic. Flew for 50 years, was totally Australian-built except for the engine.	Jindivik Ian Fleming, aircraft designer
149	Describes how Jindivik was controlled from the ground or the air by radar and monitored by ship or aircraft. Use of Jindivik by Navy.	
236	Tells of his posting and experiences in 1953 to the Empire Test Pilot's School at Farnborough, UK - hazardous nature of the job. Recounts how manuals and instruction manuals for aircraft were not issued.	Farnborough, UK Peter Fisher Markovics Cyril Stark Gil Cumming Air Commodore Wackett Lincoln aircraft Andy Riggs (pilot) Varsity aircraft Valetta aircraft Vampire aircraft Ben Frykland (pilot) De Haviland aircraft Canberra aircraft Vixen aircraft Hastings aircraft
408	Tells how Australians were regarded in UK by other nationalities. How Tom learnt from other nationalities. Describes academic side of the School.	ARDU
457	End of Tape IEA SYD: FH8, Side A	

Tape: IEA SYD: FH8, Side B.

TAPE COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
004	Tells of technical problems with surging of engines experienced in Sabre jet aircraft at Laverton 1944-1950 and how these problems were overcome.	Sabre aircraft
065	Describes his position as Chief of the Flying Department at ARDU, Laverton, Vic. Projects involved in were solving problems of waxing and freezing of fuel.	Canberra aircraft
120	Talks about benefits which were discovered for commercial aviation as a result of ARDU testing programs	Avon engines Comet aircraft Swift aircraft Sycamore helicopter Bristol aircraft Woomera Ken Robertson Keith Busby Sikorski S51 helicopter Mosquito
182	Recounts his 1954 attempt at breaking the sound barrier over the city of Melbourne, reaching a speed of 1.6 Mach	Bill Scott Commonwealth Aircraft Factory Avon Sabre Gil Cumming Ted Shaw Werribee Laverton
268	Describes his role and the technical challenges in the record breaking attempt on the sound barrier and the resulting publicity resulting from that feat.	Menzies, PM Athol Townley, Minister for Air
406	Describes how he joined the No 2 Canberra bomber Squadron as Engineer Officer during the Malaya insurgency. Describes the Canberra aircraft	Butterworth, Malaya Canberra aircraft
478	End of Tape IEA SYD: FH8, Side B.	

Tape: IEA SYD: FH9, Side A.

TAPE COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
006	Describes the Canberra aircraft's features.	English Electric Avalon Fishermens Bend, Vic
026	Recounts his time with the Australian Air Force (Squadron Leader at Butterworth, Malaya, 1958-1961). Includes a reference to bombing missions against Communists carried out and political situation in Malaya at the time. Gives his own evaluation of the effectiveness of air missions.	Butterworth Air Force Base, Malaya Lee Kwan Yew
108	Talks about his children (twins) born in Malaya and some of the people in the support group.	
136	Talks about his duties in Malaya- support of maintenance, engineering aspect, some of the duties of other staff members.	
164	Talks of his return to Australia by ship to take up a post with the Department of Air in 1961 as 'Mr Engines'. He was put in charge of engines and associated equipment.	Johan van Oldenbarnevelt (ship) Jim Rowland Mirage aircraft Sabre aircraft
235	Describes the attitudes of the French, British and Americans towards aircraft design and equipment.	
270	Evaluates his career in the Air Force.	
282	Discusses the reasons for his resignation from the Air Force.	
304	Talks about obtaining his job as Performance Engineer with the Department of Civil Aviation, NSW. Problems with some personnel at DCA. Describes the nature of his job at DCA.	John Thorpe, Chief Engineer, DCA Bill Scott, Vic Walton, test pilot, Victor Aviation.
395	Discusses the challenges of dealing with disparate aircraft types. Talks about his problems with maintenance engineers at Mascot and criticism of some of the methods used by DCA and DCA personnel.	
471	End of Tape IEA SYD: FH9, Side A	

Tape: IEA SYD: FH9, Side B.

TAPE COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
002	Continues his criticism of DCA.	
037	Talks about risks involved in flying Beaver and Nomad aircraft due to technical problems and the ethical responsibility of the notification of defects to pilots, the relevant authorities and aircraft manufacturers.	Beaver aircraft Nomad aircraft
109	Discusses his appointment as Senior Airworthiness Engineer at Sydney Airport from 1969.	
144	Gives his (negative) opinion of Dick Smith's role in being in charge of Aircraft Safety.	Dick Smith
151	Details his job as Senior Airworthiness Engineer-to approve modifications. Criticises some maintenance methods used by Qantas.	Qantas Airways 747 Aircraft
186	Discusses some of the defects, maintenance problems and failures of the 747 aircraft and the reaction to those reports from Boeing.	Boeing company 747, 707, aircraft Lockheed Hudson aircraft. Flying boats
256	Talks about a trip to the US for three months to visit the Boeing company HQ. Discusses aspects of road construction; witnessed the social deprivation of poor and Black persons in US.	Sky Harbour Rendon Everett 737 Aircraft
307	Discusses his retirement from active work in 1987 and activities he has been involved in since then.	Saratoga
331	Talks about his interest in Aeronautics and life since his retirement.	Jim Rowland Malcolm King.
370	Gives his opinion on aviation and aviation development in general and in the future.	
412	End of Tape IEA SYD: FH9, Side B and interview with Tom Berry	