

Air Commodore W (Bill) H Garing CBE DFC FAIM DSC (USA) RAAF Rtd.

26 July 1910 – 1 January 2004

Roll No.125



Air Commodore Bill Garing was born at Mount Elliot east of Corryong, Victoria, to George and Amy Garing. His mother died when he was fourteen.

His father eventually struck gold in the mine he operated with his brother called *Bread & Sugar* because that was all that was left in the pantry.

Bill attended Corryong Higher Elementary School before enrolling at RMIT studying Electrical & Mechanical Engineering. He was drawn to flying so joined the Citizen Air Force where the flying was free.

Life as a Wireless Operator/Air Gunner in a DH 9A convinced him to become an officer. He became one of two Air Cadets to gain entry to Duntroon in 1929. He graduated from Point Cook in 1930. He attended the Air Pilotage and Specialist Navigation School in the UK during 1934-35 returning to Point Cook in 1936 as Seaplane Flying Instructor and Chief Navigation Instructor and in 1938 he became commander of the Seaplane Squadron at Point Cook.

He was posted to the UK in 1939 serving with No. 10 Sunderland Squadron RAAF serving with Coastal Command in North Atlantic, France and the Mediterranean. He was awarded a DFC for aggressively flying his Sunderland to break up an attack by German Bombers on *SS Mooltan*.

During the Fall of France he received his Oak Leaf for Mention in Dispatches.

Bill returned to Australia as a Wing Commander in April 1941 and was posted to Townsville to set up Northern Area HQ, followed by command of No.9 Operations Group RAAF at Milne Bay during the attempted Japanese invasion in August 1942.

Bill next played a major part in the planning for the Allied victory in the Battle of the Bismarck Sea in March 1943.

General McArthur awarded Wing Commander Garing the DSC (USA) in January 1943, and in October 1943 the Australian Government awarded him a CBE. In 1944 he became Director of Operational Resources at RAAF HQ.

In 1951 Wing Commander Garing was appointed ADC to King George VI and promoted Air Commodore in 1954.

He retired from the RAAF on 29 July 1964 and was appointed Executive Director of Rothmans National Sports Foundation. From 1971 to 1975 he was Commercial Relations Manager at Arthur Dunhill LTD.