



**AIR VICE MARSHAL DOUGLAS DAVID
HURDITCH CBE AE(RAF)
1921 - 2018**

Douglas Hurditch was a foundation member of No 460 Squadron, completing 16 operational missions as a Wellington pilot over Europe in World War II, before being shot down over North Holland. He was a prisoner of war for 1000 days before escaping on one of the long marches.

Following the war, he undertook a specialist navigators course and was the co-pilot of "Aries", a specially modified Lancaster which gained a number of flight records between England and New Zealand in 1946

including one from RAF Blackbushe UK to Ohakea NZ of 59hours 50mins flight time.

He served in 78 Wing at Malta on Vampires and Meteors, followed by a posting in the RAAF Staff London. On his return to Australia, he served as Commanding Officer No 22 Squadron at RAAF Base Richmond, flying Vampires and Meteors. On appointment as Officer Commanding RAAF Base Townsville in 1965, he flew the Neptune on many occasions over two years he was OC. He then attended the Imperial Defence College Course in 1967, before holding a number of senior RAAF staff appointments. He became DCAS in 1974 and resigned from the RAAF and the last Air Board on 19 Mar75.

AVM Hurditch Certificate of Service lists the following courses he completed:

- No 123 Navigation course UK 1946
- No 1 Specialist Navigation Conversion Course UK 1947
- No 8 Intermediate Air Support Course 1948
- No 5 RAAF Staff College Course 1952
- No 18 General Duties Officer Guided Weapons Course 1955
- No 18 Air Support Course 1956
- Imperial Defence College Course (UK) 1967

AVM Douglas Hurditch was farewelled at a funeral service in Canberra on 18 June 2018.