



ANZAC DAY Saturday 25-Apr-2026

VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT

“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old”

What they did for us, the men & women of that generation, needs to be underlined again and again each year.

Hello and welcome to you all.

A hearty thankyou to the Executive Committee for all the work in the past year, and thank you to everyone for your support, in all the ways that you can, including your presence here today.

We honour our loved ones who served all those years ago, in order to win freedom against **insane ideologies** that just plain and simple DON'T work! Either then, now or ever!

It's an honour to pay tribute to one of these men. This year it is:

WOFF ROBERT (“BOB”) E. ELLIS, Service Number – 427457, WOA, Date of birth – 19 April 1914, Place of birth – Plympton, South Australia. Place of enlistment – Perth, WA.

Born in 1914 to British parents, John & Mabel Ellis, in Plympton, South Australia, a full year before the Gallipoli landings.

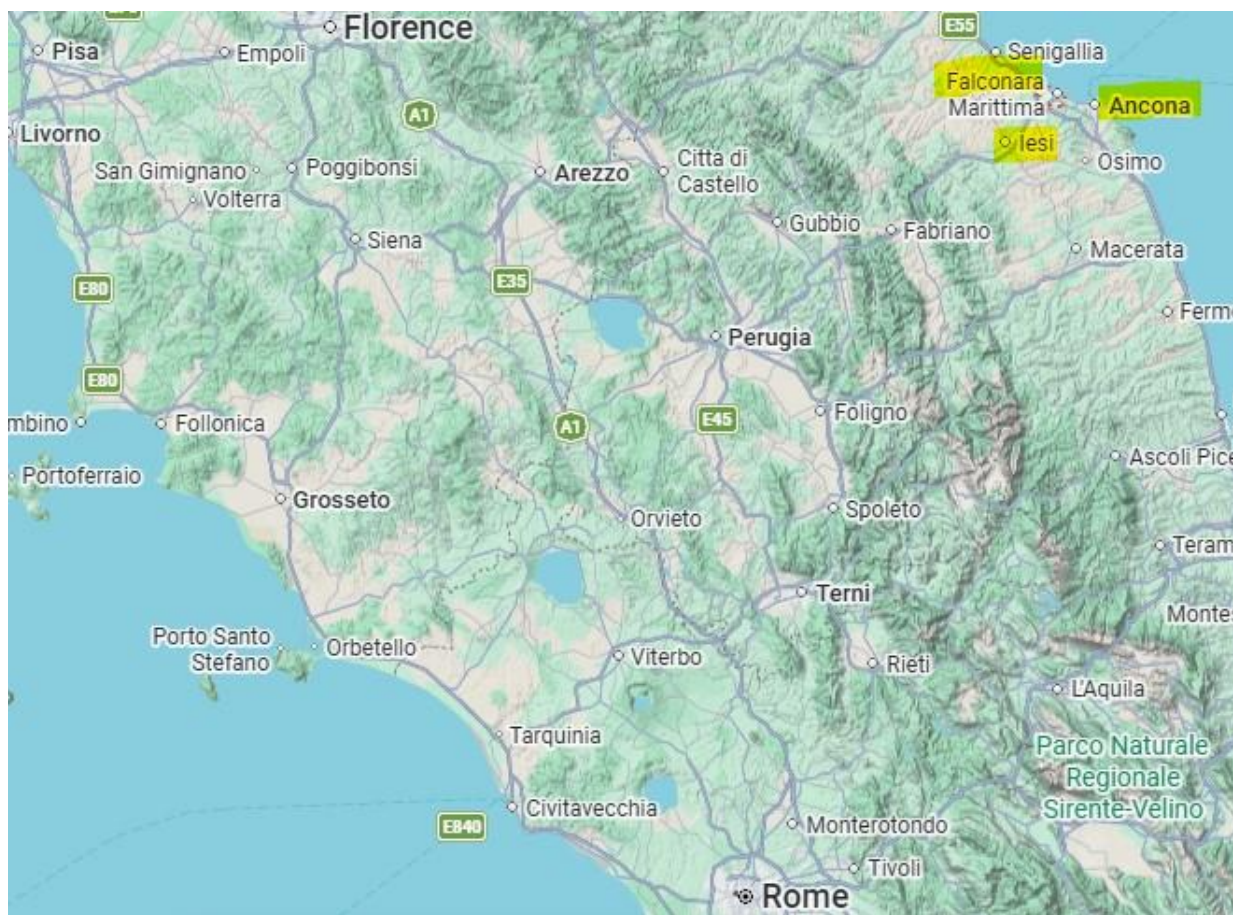


Bob's personnel file is available on the National Archives of Australia website. He enlisted on the 14th of July 1942 (age 28). This excerpt from page 13 shows the dates of his training and movements:



| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| 4 R.C. | 4 I.T.S. | 14/7/42 |
| 4 I.T.S. | 1 W.A.G.S. | 17.9.42. |
| 1 W.A.G.S. | 3 B.A.G.S. | 5.11.43 |
| 2 B.A.G.S. | 5 E.D. | 30/4/43 |
| 5 E.D. | 1 E.D. | 10/2/45 |
| 1 E.D. | RAF B. S.H.A. | 3/1/43 |
| | Emb. Quo. | 3.4.43 |
| | Disemb. U.K. | 11.8.43 |
| | 11 P.O.R.B. | 12.8.43 |
| 11 P.D.R.C. | 1 (0) A.F.U. | 19.10.43 |
| 1 (0) A.F.U. | 5 P.D.C. | 8.2.44. |
| UK | M.G. | |
| MT | J.M.E.A.R.C. | |
| | 1 A.P.C. | 3.5.44 |
| | Boxes forwarded to | 3.5.44 |
| | | 7.25.3 |
| No. 1 (M.E.) A.F.U. | Ein SHEMER. | 6.5.44 |
| Ein SHEMER. | 22 P.T.C. | 23.7.44. |
| 22 P.T.C. | No. 1 B.P.D. | 12.8.44 |
| 1 B.P.D. | 458. SQDN. | 20.8.44. |
| 458 SQDN | KILLED ON OPERATIONS | 14-12-44. |
| STRUCK OFF STRENGTH OF RAF on | | 14.12.44 |
| 458. SQDN FOR Quid 17/44 | | |

Bob arrived at 458 Squadron on 20-Aug-1944, only 5 days after the “second D-Day” Allied forces invasion through southern France. About 4 months after arriving, and part of a Detachment to Ancona, Italy, **Bob** and the crew’s tragic deaths occurred (refer second last paragraph at the bottom of page 170, of “We Find and Destroy”). He was just 30 years of age, and the other crew members even younger:





17-001-04 On the night of 13 December, an aircraft flown by WO G. Simons was lost near Falconara. He had been on a recce with five other crews (captained by W/Cdr Mackay and WOs Richards, Cameron, McCann and Drinnan) but they had no hostile sightings. However, the weather deteriorated during the operation and three of the Wellingtons, including Simons, were diverted to Falconara. Two crews landed safely at Falconara but Simons was not allowed to land and was again diverted – this time to Jesi, seven miles away. He over-shot Jesi and crashed into a hillside. His radar cannot have been working properly but he was heard speaking over his VHF transmitter up to moment of impact. Another aircraft, piloted by WO Shying, met a similar tragic end in the same period.

Christmas and New Year celebrations were missing several Squadron celebrities who had gone home but everything was organised in the usual hearty Australian way. Quite a few of those responsible for organising the food and drink and restraining the excess exuberance probably felt glad when it was over.

Messages were received and displayed on notice boards from various official quarters.

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From the [458 Unit History](#) on the National Archives of Australia website, pages 722, 735:



On the night of the 15/16th. December, six Wellingtons were despatched on Armed Recon. from Maestra Point coastwise to Salvo. The Captains were W/O. Richards, W/O. Cameron, W/O. Mackay, W/O. McGinn, W/O. Drinnan and W/O. Simons. There were no hostile sightings. The weather deteriorated during the patrols and three of the aircraft were diverted to Falconara. Two of them landed safely there. When W/O. Simons arrived over Falconara they were unable to permit him to land and at 0910 hours he was diverted to Jesi the next aerodrome which is about 7 miles away. It appears that the aircraft over-shot Jesi and crashed into a hillside. Later this aircraft was found burnt out 10 to 12 miles Southwest of Jesi. All the crew were killed. The names of the crew are as follows.

| | | | | | |
|----------|-------------------|------------|----------|--------------------|------------|
| A.413571 | W/O. G.G. Simons. | Captain. | A.425398 | W/O. J.H. Watson. | Navigator. |
| A.419785 | F/S. K.J. Leslie. | Pilot. | A.427008 | W/O. H.S. Shvinc. | W/Air/Asv. |
| A.427457 | F/S. R. Ellis. | W/Air/Asv. | A.427504 | F/S. P.J. Farrell. | W/Air/Asv. |

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|-----|----------|------|----------|------|---------|---|
| 15/16 Wellington | A.413571 | W/O | Simons, | G.G. | Capt. | 2831 | Crashed | Armed Recon. Maestro Pt. - G. Salvo. |
| NB 864 | A.425398 | W/O | Watson, | J.H. | Nav. | | | Diverted 0910 to Falconara. Contact lost 0945 |
| | A.419785 | F/S | Leslie, | J. | 2nd P11. | | | Crashed 10/12 miles S.W. Jesi. Crew killed. |
| | A.427008 | W/O | Shvinc, | H. | W/O. | | | |
| | A.427457 | W/O | Ellis, | R. | 2nd Cr. | | | |
| | A.427504 | W/O | Farrell, | P.J. | W/O. | | | |

The resting place for Bob Ellis and the crew of [Wellington NB864](#) is:

| | | | |
|--------|-----|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 427457 | W/O | R. Ellis | Ancona War Cemetery, Ancona, Italy |
|--------|-----|----------|---------------------------------------|



Ancona War Cemetery, Italy

W/O Robert Ellis, and all the crew of Wellington NB864 ... Rest in Peace ... Lest We Forget



Eric J. Jewell Award Submissions:

1. A submission from 3 Wing AAFC (NSW & ACT), located in with over 3,500 Cadets and 500 Staff. Their submission is to support the 85th Anniversary celebrations.



2. A submission from 412 AAFC Squadron, located at East Albury, NSW to support some of their cadets who have to travel from remote locations to/from weekly Squadron parades.





3. A submission from 309 AAFC Squadron, located at Holsworthy, NSW to support the purchase of banner, banner belt, pole and finial.



4. A submission from 234 AAFC Squadron, located at Caboolture, QLD to support the purchase of field rucksacks for multiple use on bivouacs.

