



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Department of Defence, R1-6-C001, PO Box 7902, CANBERRA BC ACT 2610, AUSTRALIA

BP52662883

Mr Rob Wilkinson
458 Squadron Association
36 Finch Avenue
EAST RYDE NSW 2113

Dear Mr Wilkinson

On behalf of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), I extend my warmest regards and heartfelt congratulations to the 458 Squadron Association as you gather in Malta to commemorate the 80th Anniversary.

The legacy of No. 458 Squadron RAAF is one of courage, resilience, and unwavering dedication. Formed in 1941 and operating Wellington bombers across the Mediterranean theatre, the Squadron played a vital role in Allied operations from bases in Malta, Alghero, Foggia, Gibraltar, and beyond. Their service in regions including Egypt, Palestine, Sicily, Corsica, Algeria, and Tunisia stands as a testament to the global reach and impact of the RAAF during the war.

It is deeply moving to see descendants of 458 Squadron members; spanning Australia, the United Kingdom, and Canada come together to honour the memory of their forebears. Your collective efforts over the past two decades to preserve and promote the Squadron's history through reunions, Anzac Day participation, and the outstanding website are commendable and greatly appreciated.

As you walk the same ground your relatives once did, may this reunion be filled with reflection, pride, and camaraderie. The nation remains forever grateful for the service and sacrifice of 458 Squadron, and we salute your commitment to keeping their banner flying.

With best wishes for a memorable and meaningful gathering in Malta.

Yours sincerely

SG Chappell
Air Marshal
Chief of Air Force

3 October 2025