

The Eric J. JEWELL Award



Through the generosity of Eric’s family, we have dedicated the **Eric J. Jewell Award** page to be a take-off point for telling his story and offering financial support to Australian youth, and specifically Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC). Commanding Officers of Air Force Cadet Squadrons can apply for support from 2019 onwards via the submission process detailed further below.

Eric Jewell’s Life and War Service

Flying Officer (FLGOFF) Eric John Jewell (service no. 410161) was second pilot in the Vickers Wellington aircraft with 458 Squadron. Please read his life story, which is found on the [Servicemen’s Stories](http://www.458raafsqadron.org/honour-roll/servicemens-stories) page of the 458 website: www.458raafsqadron.org/honour-roll/servicemens-stories



Photos of Eric with crew members, Bone (Algeria) early 1944 & Alghero (Sardinia) mid-1944

Eric took part in a number of operations, and of notable significance is his and 458 Squadron’s involvements in **Operation Dragoon**, starting the 15th of August, 1944. This Operation, which came to be known as the “**second D-Day landings**”, was spearheaded from the Mediterranean Sea in southern France into Nazi-occupied French ports. Page 611 of the 458 RAAF Squadron Unit History confirms the Squadron’s involvement in stating, “*This has been a momentous week. The Squadron is really in the “front line” of the invasion.*” The operation Eric and his crew flew on 16th of August 1944 in aircraft with serial no. **HF360** is the same Mk. X (“Mark 10”) variant of the Wellington as aircraft **HF344** shown on the next page.

16th	Wellington	A.420047	P/O. J. J. Aitken; Capt. Q105. 0715	Recco. Sète-Toulon. Attacked camp South of
	HP.360.	A.425124	/O. G. G. Connors, Nav.	Port St. Louis. Firets seen and explosion seen by
		A.410161	/O. Jewell, E. J. 2nd Pilot.	rear gunner. Weather 5-6/10 at 1,000 feet
		A.424187	P/O. F. B. James. W/ain/Asst.	vis. good.
		A.422397	P/O. Brain, O.S. do.	
		A.424257	P/O. Anderson, D.S. do.	

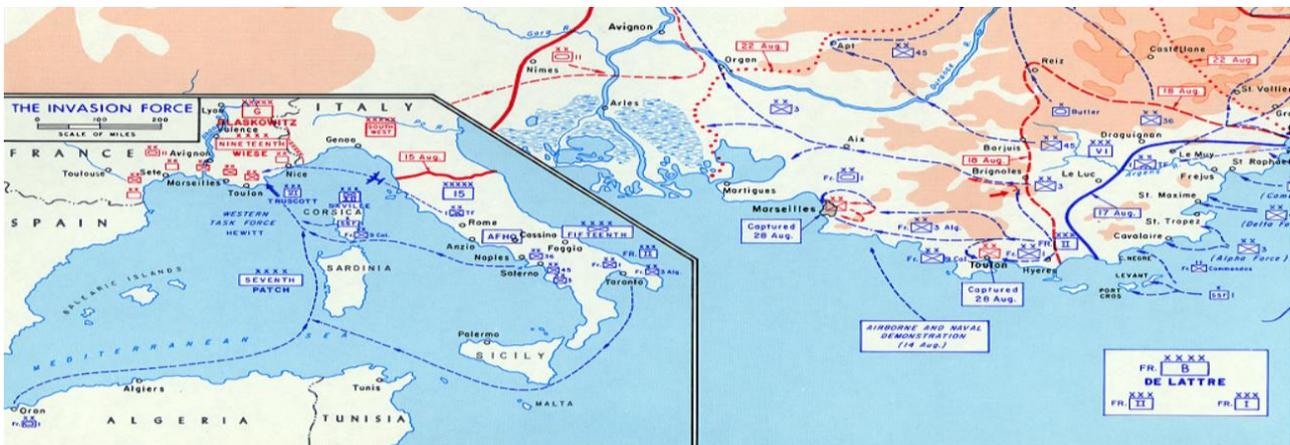
Extract of 458 Unit History, page 632, operation on 16-Aug-1944. Note the flight details, and the ports of Sète, Toulon and Port-Saint-Louis(-du-Rhone)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ME11884

Two Mk. X Vickers Wellingtons at Alghero, Sardinia. Aircraft with serial no. **HF344** is in the foreground



The invasion vectors, Southern France, Aug 1944. Note the ports of Sète and Toulon, and the Rhone river's entry point to the Mediterranean Sea (Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhone). **Operation Dragoon: "2nd D-Day landings"**

The Inaugural Eric J. Jewell Award Recipient

The inaugural Eric J. Jewell Award was presented to the AAFC 3 Wing's upcoming **2018 Western Front Tour** of France and Belgium. This tour will notably mark the centennial year since the signing of the Armistice in 1918 to end WWI. Fifteen Cadets and ten AAFC adult staff are taking part from 14 to 26-Apr-2018. The tour will trace a number of the significant battlefields, cemeteries, and memorials of WWI, and also the site of the Normandy D-DAY Landings of WWII. ANZAC DAY 2018 will be held at Villers-Bretonneux, with Flight Lieutenant (AAFC) Sharon O'Donnell and 4 Cadets taking part in official ceremonial proceedings.

AAFC Squadron representatives are invited to submit an application for funding for new or current Cadets or Cadet programs before Anzac Day each year. A new webpage at the 458 website will include an application form for downloading.



With compliments, 458 Squadron Association, www.458raafsqadron.org/contact-us (March, 2018). 458 Motto: 'We Find and Destroy' (*Invenimus et Delemus*)