



AUSTER MARK III

This little aircraft was the Army's re-introduction to flying.

From 1951, Army flying was performed by 16 Air Observation Post Flight, a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Unit.

General History

Painted silver, this fabric-covered aircraft differed little from the type seen at civilian aero clubs throughout Australia. The main role of the Army pilots was to act as forward observers for artillery. The Army pilots were drawn from the Royal Australian Artillery and Number 1 Aviation Company, an Army unit established to train Army pilots in chartered civilian aircraft. They operated out of RAAF Base Fairbairn, Canberra, and flew Auster Mk III aircraft. The aircraft were deployed as far south as the Antarctic, where RAAF pilots in support of the Australian Antarctica Research Division flew them.

History of A11-41

A11-41 was introduced into service with the RAAF in 1945 and was withdrawn from service on 24 July 1959.

A11-41 and A11-53 were flown from RAAF Fairbairn, Canberra, to Tocumwal for storage and subsequent disposal by Laurie Doyle and George Constable respectively.

Laurie Doyle became the #2 Possum Master in Vietnam with 161 (Indep) Recce Flt in 1966 while George Constable became the #3 Possum Master in 1967, both were RAA Corps.

From 15 June 1961 until 04 June 1975, A11-41 was registered as VH-CYH. The aircraft returned to the Civil Register on 09 August 1982.

In 1990, Auster A11-41 was purchased for the Museum as a serviceable aircraft and was flown on a number of occasions within the Oakey area.

The last recorded flight of A11-41 occurred on XXXX when XXXX flew the aircraft.



Laurie Doyle and George Constable at RAAF Base Fairbairn 24 Jul 59



Photograph provided by Laurie Doyle

A11-41 and A11-53 departing RAAF Fairbairn for Tocumwal on 24 Jul 59