

SPITFIRE A58-27

Visit the Spitfire Project website: <http://www.spitfireprojecta58-27.com/>

A58-27 began its first flight at Chattis Hill, England on 2nd of June 1942. This aircraft then proceeded to 6MU on the 4th of June 1942 then onto 47MU 17th July 1942. This aircraft was then transported by ship, the H.M.S. Eury on the 30th of July, Australia, arriving here on the 18th of October of 1942.

Arrived at 1AD on the 21st of October, being stated as awaiting assembly on the 23rd until proceeding on the 30th.

On the 2nd of November being allotted to Number 1 Fighter Wing. On the 9th of November Number 1 Fighter Wing received the aircraft, which it then allotted it to 54 Squadron Royal Air Force. Six days later on the 15th she was declared Unserviceable until the 22nd. A58-27 was in the hands of a young British pilot named Charles James (Jimmy) Wellsman, who undershot his landing, causing the aircraft to crash on the 16th of February 1943.

The Spitfire was sent on to 6AD Oakey, it received the aircraft on the 31st of January 1944, and it was made serviceable on the 10th of February 1944.

On the 24th of May allotted to 20TU it was then issued on the 2nd of July 1944. 20TU received the aircraft on the 11th of July 1944.

Three months later she progressed onto 80TU, being allotted on the 26th of October 1944. She was then issued on the 29th and received on the 1st of November. A58-27 had no category at this stage; this was on the 29th of October 1945. A58-27 was then noted as being back at 6AD at Oakey.

On the 18th of January 1946 she had her Merlin reconditioned till the 28th, then noted category "C" in storage on the 5th of February.

Then on the 12th of March she received Cat "E" status, then stored till she was authorised for write off on the 22nd of May 1946. She was noted as being stored as Cat "E" on the 1st of October. Finally being passed onto D.A.P. until she was noted as being scrapped on the 11th of November 1948. Her number being lost until January 2005.

The volunteers have decided to build a reproduction airframe with the remains of the many surviving parts that have been found in the Darling Downs area. Once completed this aircraft will be displayed at the Museum of Australian Army Flying.