



Anzac Day 2026

Tribute to

Warrant Officer Gordon Evan Webb

Service No: 430232
No 6 Squadron, RAAF

7 October 1924 – 16 February 1996



ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

'I am the Resurrection and the Life', says the Lord; 'Those who believe in me, though they were dead, yet shall they live; and whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die.'

John chapter 11

Let us remember before God, and commend to his safe keeping, those who have died for their country in war; those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure; and all who have lived and died in the service of our country and Commonwealth, and the peoples of the world.

They went with songs to the battle.
They were young, straight of limb, true of eye.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted:
they fell with their faces to the foe.

Laurence Binyon (1869-1943), For the Fallen

THE ODE

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them: we will remember them.

Laurence Binyon (1869-1943), For the Fallen

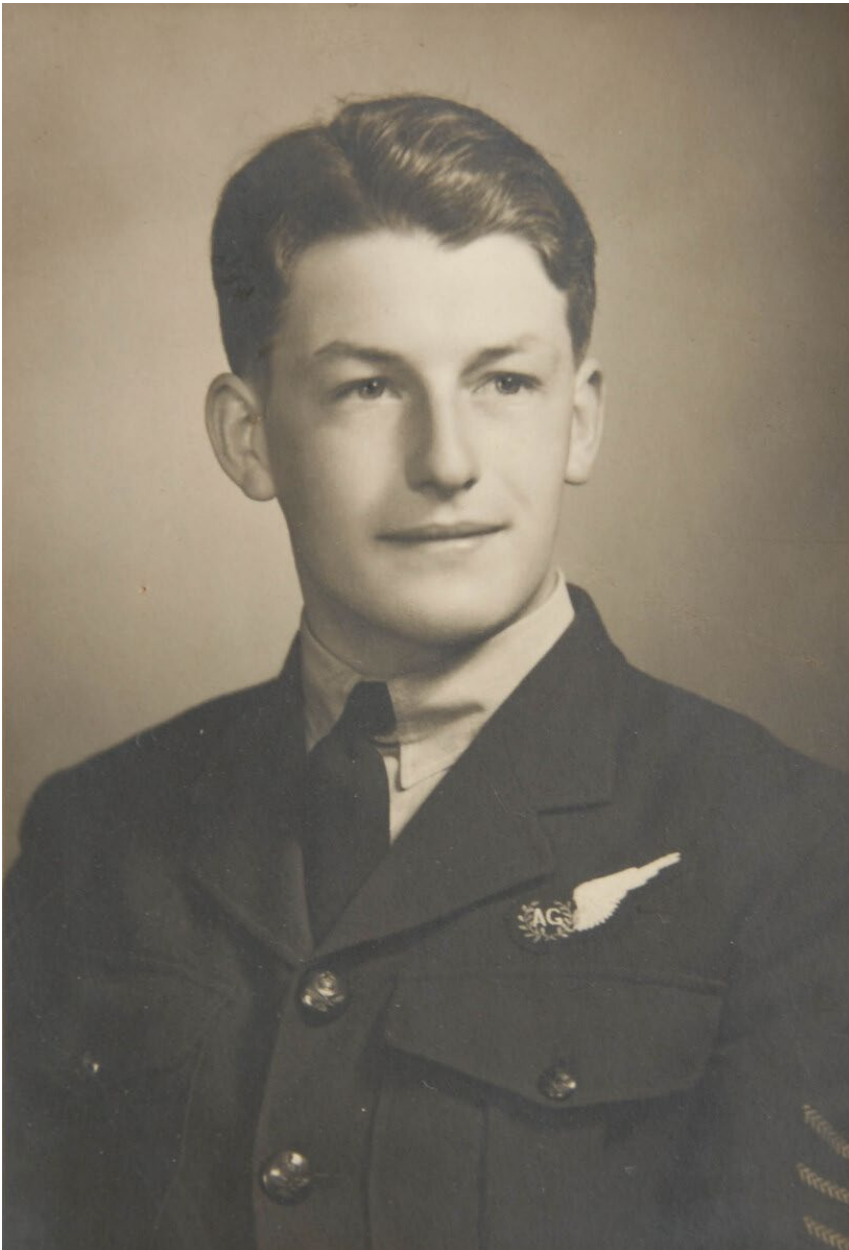
A PRAYER FOR ANZAC DAY

O God, our ruler and guide, in whose hands are the destinies of this and every nation, we give you thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in this land and for those who laid down their lives to defend them: we pray that we and all the people of Australia, gratefully remembering their courage and their sacrifice, may have grace to live in a spirit of justice, of generosity, and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Gordon Evan Webb Tribute

Warrant Officer Gordon Evan Webb
No. 6 Squadron RAAF

Motto:
Nous Reviendrons
We Shall Return



Warrant Officer Gordon Evan Webb was born on 7 October 1924.



BRIDAL GROUP AT THE MARRIAGE OF MR. A. E. GORDON WEBB AND MISS ELSIE E. DOERY
Celebrated at the Canterbury Baptist Church, and afterwards at "Highlow," Mount Albert-road, Dal 1924.
Mr. Stanley Webb, Mr. W. Harry Doery, Miss Mildred Dunstan, Miss Edna Doery, Mrs. Evan Webb, Mr. A. E. Gordon Webb, Miss Elsie E. Doery,
Photo by Sears, Collins & Co. Mr. Geo. H. Doery, Mrs. Geo. H. Doery, Miss Dorothy Webb.

His parents, Elsie and Arthur Ernest Gordon Webb, lived at 2 Daracombe Avenue, Kew, and the family attended Kew Baptist Church. Arthur was the proprietor of the Gordon Cardboard Box Company, which at that time was based in Fitzroy.

Gordon had three older siblings Colin, Edith, and Rowan. Colin was a foundation scholar at Carey, commencing in 1923. After completing his university studies in Agricultural Science, Colin was employed in the Wimmera Mallee region of Victoria with the Department of Agriculture at its research station and laboratory, established in 1932.



Gordon in the middle with his brothers, Rowan on the left and Colin on the right.

On 15 May 1943, Colin, the eldest, enlisted and was attached to the 21st Battalion. He served part-time in the Army Reserve and in 1945 attained the rank of Corporal. During this time, Colin worked with local farmers to produce up to one-third of Victoria's wheat crop. He also assisted in improving barley and oat yields and in enhancing sheep breeds. After the war, Colin undertook extended trips to Aleppo, Syria, as part of his professional work.

Edith went to Fintona and later became a physiotherapist. Rowan, after completing his studies at Carey, pursued medical training and in 1945 was appointed to the Royal Melbourne Hospital.



Carey Cricket team 1940

Gordon Webb is the third student standing in the back row

Gordon completed his education at Carey in 1942 and enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 1 January 1943. During his final year at Carey, the school community mourned the loss of former Grammarians Gordon Kitchen, Alex Marshall, Frank Pascoe, Percy Rowling, and Keith Wilson.



Gordon began his training at No. 1 Initial Training School, Somers, on 4 March 1943, where he was classified for training as a wireless operator and air gunner. Gordon completed his wireless training at Ballarat and his gunnery training at No. 3 Bombing and Gunnery School, West Sale, before being posted to No. 1 Air Observers School, Cootamundra, as a staff wireless operator. There, between August and December 1943, he flew in Avro Ansons.

Sadly, of the more than 150 graduates from the Ballarat course, 30 were later killed in action in Europe, most serving in Bomber Command squadrons.

In January 1944, Gordon commenced operational training at No. 1 Operational Training Unit (OTU) at East Sale, flying Ansons in initial exercises before beginning Beaufort training in February. It was there he joined the crew of Pilot Flight Sergeant Butler.

A Beaufort crew typically consisted of a pilot, a navigator/bomb aimer, and two wireless air gunners. The crewmen would often alternate duties during an operational sortie or op, one operating the turret on the outbound leg, then switching to wireless operator on the return.



Gunnery School, West Sale

Gordon's first flight in a Beaufort was on 2 February 1944 in aircraft A9-98, performing masthead and bombing practice during a one-hour flight an early and formative experience in turret handling.



After ground school wireless students at Ballarat gained experience in the air in Australian designed and built Wackett Trainers



Gordon on the left, then Arthur, Aunty Florence, Colin, Aunty Dorothy and Elsie taken at the family home in Kew



An Avro Anson of the Rescue and Communication Squadron, and a Beaufort (produced at Fishermen's Bend by the Department of Aircraft Production) of No. 100 Squadron, at Vivigani airfield on Goodenough Island, 21 July 1943

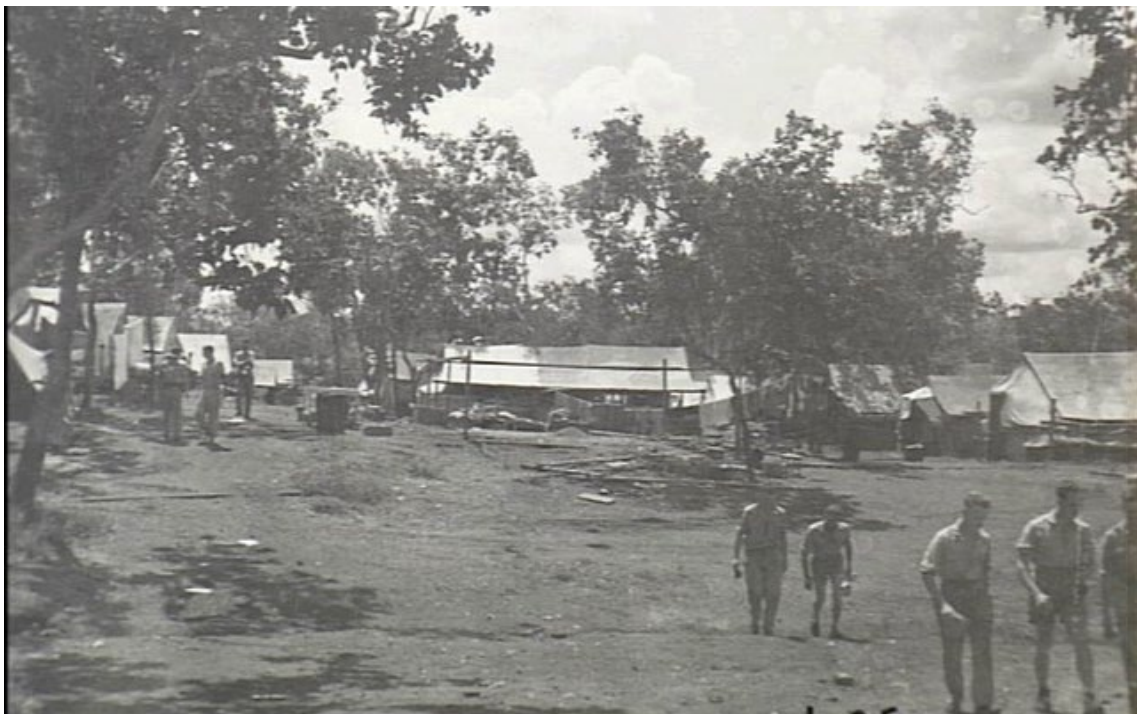
Gordon completed his training at No. 1 OTU at the end of March 1944 and was posted to No. 6 Squadron, operating from Vivigani Airstrip on Goodenough Island, north of New Guinea.

During his two months there, most of his flights involved practice of operational sorties and searches for shipping.



*No. 6 Squadron Beauforts on Vivigani Airstrip
on Goodenough Island*

In mid-July 1944, he and his crew were posted to No. 15 Aircraft Repair Depot at Port Moresby, where Gordon flew in a variety of aircraft including the Beaufort, Beaufighter, Wirraway, Vengeance, Tiger Moth, and Boston serving as wireless operator on any aircraft that required one.



The RAAF aircraft repair depot Port Moresby

Most of these flights were operational test flights following servicing or repair work.

Gordon's final RAAF flight took place in June 1945, and he was discharged in September of that year with the rank of Warrant Officer. He contracted malaria during his overseas service, though fortunately it caused no lasting disability.

While in New Guinea, Gordon took a textbook on architecture with him, intending to study in that field upon his return to Australia. However, when his father's business partner crashed his Vanguard motor vehicle after skidding on wet tramlines, Gordon stepped in to help and eventually took over the business.



Gordon with son Keith Webb

In January 1950, Gordon married his childhood sweetheart, Lois Wathen. Together they had three children — Keith, Peter, and Melissa. In the early 1950s, they purchased a double block on what had once been an orchard in North Box Hill, where Gordon almost single-handedly built a two-storey, four-bedroom family home.

In the early 1970s, Gordon retired from the cardboard box business and took on renovation work for clients. He and Lois also purchased a 200-acre property in South Gippsland, becoming part-time farmers and dividing their time between Box Hill and Gippsland.



**Warrant Officer
Gordon Evan Webb
No. 6 Squadron RAAF
Motto
Nous Reviendrons
We Shall Return**

Gordon passed away on 16 February 1996 following complications from an operation, aged 71.

He was a gentle, capable man, gifted in many areas — from building and mechanics to art and cooking.

**Animo et Fide
Lest we forget**

*Tribute provided by
Keith Webb and Scott Bramley*



Carey Cadet Corps Officers 1941

Standing (back): L/Cpl. Grigg, L/Cpl. Ratcliff, L/Cpl. Dimmick

*Standing (centre): L/Cpl. Hodgetts, Cpl. Wilcox, Cpl. Piesse, Cpl. N. Gadsden, **Cpl. Gordon Evan Webb**, L/Cpl. Bird, L/Cpl. Reynolds, Cpl. Martin, L/Cpl. Gutch, L/Cpl. Weller*

Sitting: Cpl. Bevan, Sgt. Hudson, C/Lieut. Williamson, Lieut. Bennett (O.C.), C.Q.M.S. Robertson, Sgt. McLaren, Sgt. Mercy

Images courtesy of Keith Webb, Carey Archives, State Library Victoria and the Australian War Memorial,

A note of thanks to Katrine Bramley for assisting with the layout of this tribute.