

A Wirraway that never went to war

★ WIRRAWAY A20-652 would not have the most enviable record in RAAF history . . . In fact, you could say it took 20 years before THIS Wirraway could show its wings in public without wilting with shame.

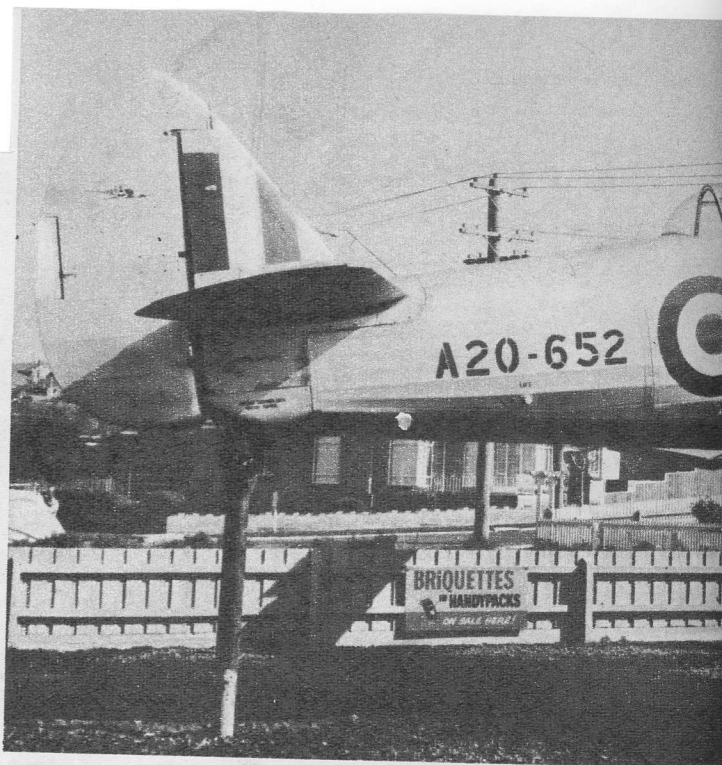
Built at the Commonwealth aircraft factory in Melbourne in 1944, No. A20-652 went to Laver-ton (V) for test pilot training.

Its career was brief and inglorious — two months later it taxied at high speed into a road grader at the end of the airfield. After a spell in aerial survey work, it was condemned to storage.

The man responsible for having it taken out of mothballs is Melbourne service station proprietor Fred Mueller.

Looking for a sales gimmick, Fred set out after an old DC3 that he could set up as a coffee lounge alongside his garage at suburban Pascoe Vale. He couldn't find what he wanted, so he settled for this gleaming, short-life Wirraway.

Fred has put the Wirraway on blocks at his service station. It has since become a talking point in the district and Fred has to tell dozens of motorists every day about the sad career of A20-652.



★ SMALL boy has a sympathetic pat for this service-station

AUSTRALASIAN POST 24.12.64

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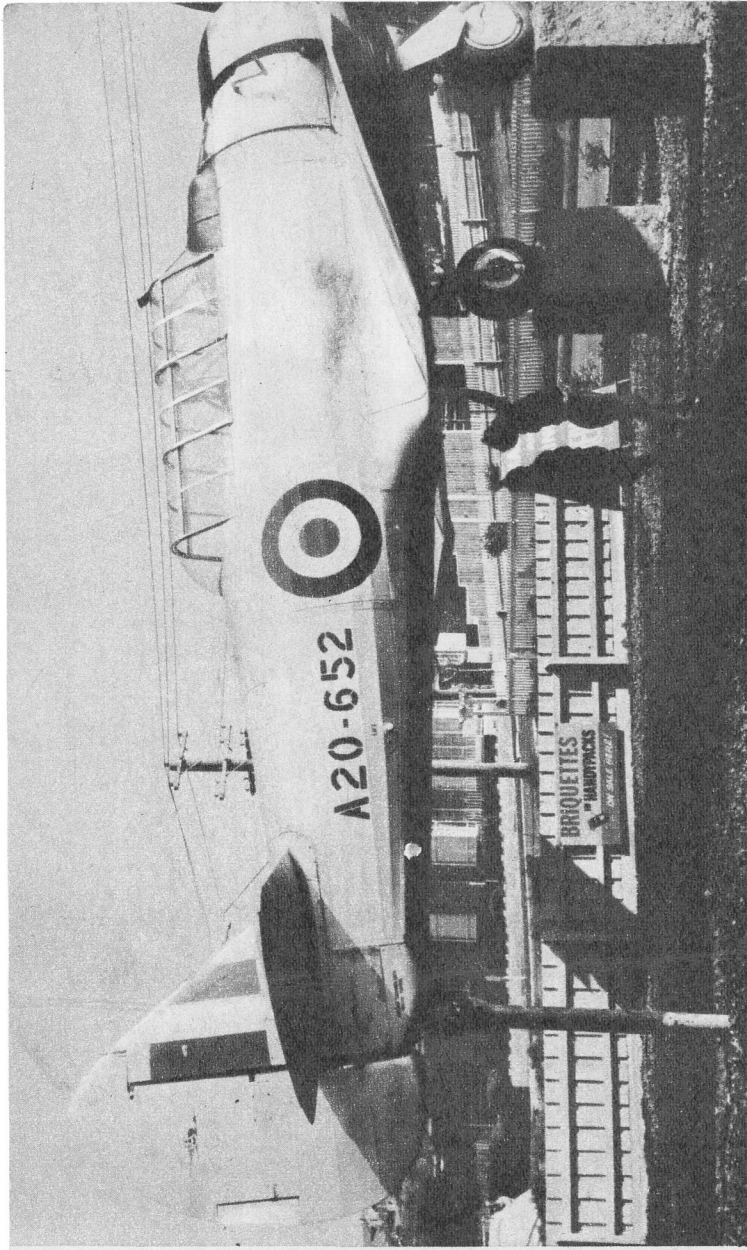
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