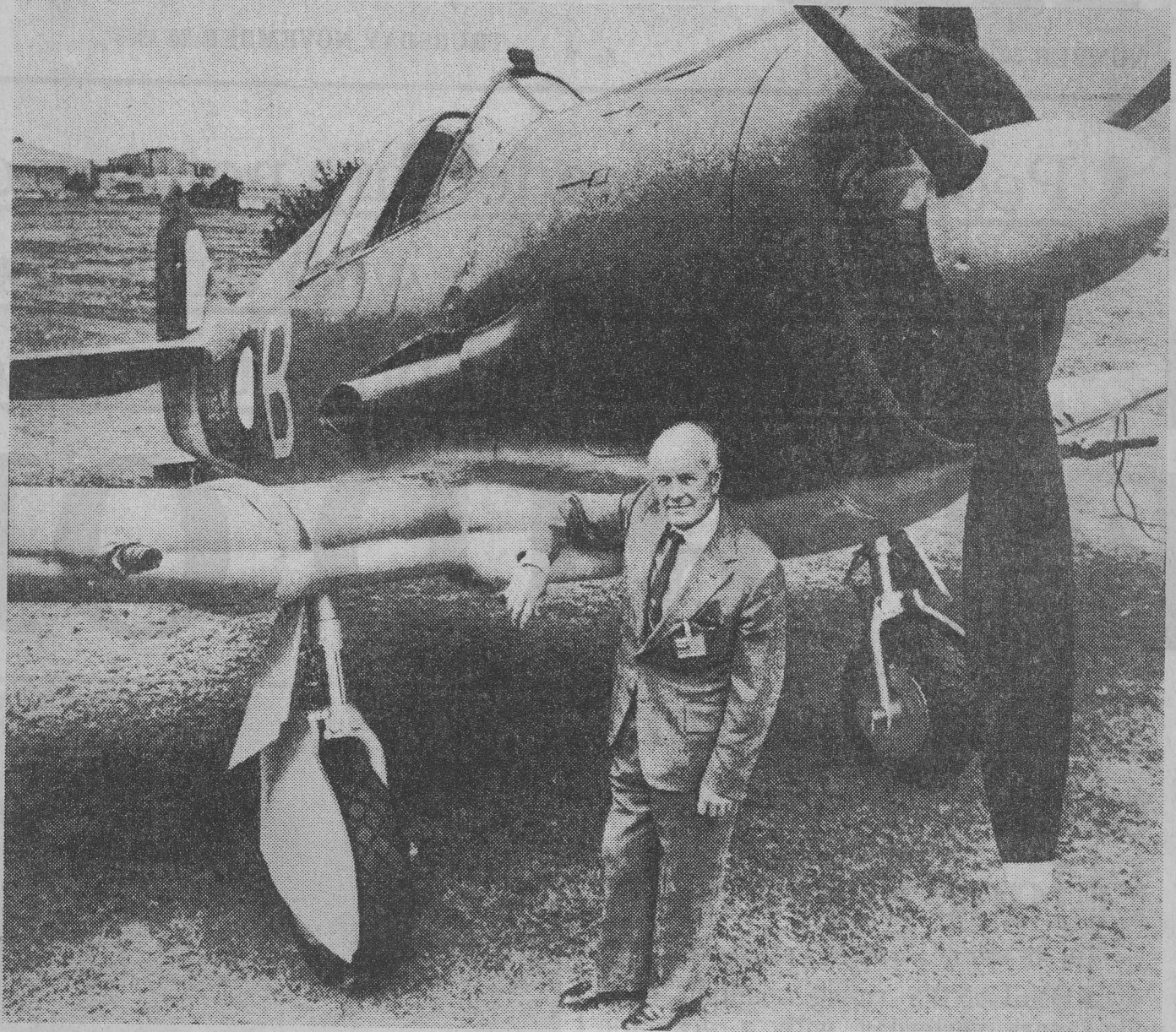


THE BOOMERANG THAT DID COME BACK



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A46-30

RETIRED Air Commodore Phil Ford with
the Boomerang that came back

RAAF takes over survivor

By PAUL LYNCH

AFTER 37 years as a fighter, movie prop and public exhibit, the last surviving CA-13 Boomerang aircraft has come back to the RAAF.

Despite its colorful career, Boomerang No A46-30 was never a killer.

It flew patrols off northern Australia during World War II, but No A46-30 recorded no kills against the Japanese, not even a possible victim.

Without being unkind to No A46-30, it may have seen more action when it was used in a film on the life of aviation pioneer Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith.

Following its film role, the aircraft was housed at the Richmond air base in NSW until three years ago when it was taken to the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation in Victoria where apprentices undertook restoration work.

It was accepted for the RAAF yesterday in Melbourne by Air Vice-Marshal H.A. Hughes.

Among those present at the handing over was retired Air Commodore Phil Ford, of Adelaide, the wartime commanding officer of the Boomerang squadron based on Horn