

AIR VICE-MARSHAL J.H.FLEMMING

As a 16 year old, Jim joined the RAAF in 1943, graduated from the Empire Air Training Scheme and saw service in New Guinea and Darwin. In 1948 he flew Mustangs with No 77 Squadron in Japan and Korea. For his service in Korea he was awarded the US DFC, the American Air Medal and was mentioned in dispatches.

On return to Australia in 1951, he spent four years as a flying instructor. In 1956, as CO No 75 Squadron he formed and led the Meteorites aerobatic team, flying meteors. On exchange with the USAF in 1958, Jim flew F-100 and F-104 aircraft becoming the first RAAF pilot to fly at Mach 2. After a posting as CFI No2(Fighter) Operational Conversion Unit he commanded N076 Squadron Flying Sabres. Converting to Mirage aircraft in 1966, he was appointed CO No 75 Squadron. In 1968 he was appointed OC Ubon and in 1973 as an Air Commodore he was OC RAAF Williamtown.

Promoted to Air Vice-Marshal in 1978 Jim was appointed Commander IADS, Malaysia. In 1982 he was elevated to be an officer of the Order of Australia. After 40 years of service and many flying and command and staff positions he left the RAAF to become the Director of the Australian War Memorial. In 1987 Jim left the AWM to enter private enterprise.