

“Archerfield @ War” - Archerfield Airfield during WWII

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The site for Archerfield Airport was chosen by Capt. Lester Brain in 1927. Commonwealth Govt bought 300 acres in 1929 & more land was bought in 1930, 1936, 1942 & Gods Acre in 1946, a total of 825 acres. Archerfield started operations on 1 April 1931.

Hangar 1, the Government hangar from Eagle Farm moved here in April 1931. Hangar 4, the Qantas hangar from Eagle Farm moved here in June 1931 & was demolished in Feb 2021.



Hangar 5 was first Hangar built at Archerfield in 1930 & became Qantas's Hangar No. 2



Terminal building was completed in 1941.



Maj. Gen. Brereton visited from the Philippines in his B-17 Flying Fortress on 20 Nov 1941 regarding Projects to build airfields & a large USAAF Air Depot.



Note the camouflage and splinter proof walls on the Terminal building in Aug 1943.

The following military units occupied Archerfield during WWII:-

- Royal Australian Air Force RAAF
- United States Army Air Forces USAAF
- United States Navy USN
- Netherlands East Indies Air Force NEI-AF
- Royal Air Force RAF
- Royal Navy RN

Plus a number of civilian organisations such as Qantas and ANA.

RAAF UNITS

23 Squadron moved from Richmond to Archerfield on 30 Aug 1939. They relocated to Amberley on 6 May 1942. Camp Archerfield was established in the SE corner as barracks for 23 Squadron.

2 Elementary Flying Training School was formed initially as 3 EFTS at Archerfield on 6 Nov 1939. Became 2 EFTS on 2 Jan 1940. Six RQAC aircraft commandeered on 13 July 1940. Squadron was disbanded on 31 Mar 1942.

RAAF Station Archerfield was established at Archerfield on 17 Jun 1940 and disbanded on 1 Jul 1942.

76 Squadron formed at Archerfield on 14 Mar 1942 with P-40 Kittyhawks. They relocated to Townsville on 16 April 1942.

No. 4 Communications Flight formed at Archerfield on 7 Sep 1942 operating a variety of aircraft. The unit was disbanded at Archerfield on 16 Apr 1946.

No. 2 Air Ambulance Unit – moved here from Kingaroy on 7 Sep 1944. Disbanded at Archerfield on 7 Jan 1946.

38 Squadron moved from Richmond to Archerfield on 27 Dec 1944. They flew operational transport missions to New Guinea.

USAAF UNITS

A number of crated USAAF aircraft were assembled at Archerfield in the early part of 1942.



Uncrating aircraft AC-5336 of 49th Fighter Group at Archerfield in early 1942.

Air Transport Command moved from Amberley to Archerfield on 4 Feb 1942. Captain Paul "Pappy" Gunn was placed in command on 8 Feb 1942.

21 Troop Carrier Squadron was activated at Archerfield on 3 April 1942.

39th Troop Carrier Squadron arrived at Archerfield on 31 Jan 1942 and setup camp at Camp Muckley. They moved to their new barracks at Archerfield Airfield on 22 Feb 1943. The 39th TCS moved to Port Moresby on 28 Sep 1943.

15th Weather Squadron Detachment was based at Archerfield Airfield during WWII

US NAVY

Aircraft Seventh Fleet Flag Utility Towing Unit was based at Archerfield. They relocated to Sentai Airfield, Hollandia on 16 Nov 1944.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES AIR FORCE

NEI – Transport Section, Brisbane was located at Archerfield early in the Pacific War.

NEI – Transport Squadron was formed from NEI-Transport Sections Brisbane & Melbourne in Nov 1944. It was renamed to **19 (NEI) Transport Squadron** on 15 August 1945.



Generals MacArthur and Kenney both parked their private B-17s "Bataan" & "Sally" at Archerfield



WWII Sketch of Archerfield Airfield

Royal Air Force

1315 (T) Flight relocated to Archerfield on 1 May 1945.

194 Staging Post arrived at Archerfield in Jul 1945 & moved into Camp Muckley. It was disbanded at Archerfield in Feb 1946.

Royal Navy

Transportable Aircraft Maintenance Yard No. 1 TAMY1 (HMS Nabsford) – advance party arrived in Feb 1945. They assembled Corsairs, Hellcats, Avengers & Seafires in Kerry Road hangars.

Mobile Naval Air Base VII or Monab VII arrived abt 8 Aug 1945 & had barracks at R.N. Camp Rocklea. Started working alongside TAMY 1 on 19 Aug 1945.