

Sir Richard Williams: Our Cornish Australian Hero

His family was from Cornwall,
He was born at Moonta Mine.
Richard Williams' heritage was humble
but for Australia he would shine.

Richard started work at Moonta's Post,
delivered cables on his bike.
Then joined Kadina's Union Bank
Studied hard at school at night.

He was clever and ambitious,
To serve his country was his aim.
He joined the local militia,
It was his road to fame.

Richard's rank it was Lieutenant.
He joined the permanent force.
He planned to join the Great War
but it wasn't on a horse.

Warned Mother "Don't go mining,
Work not at depth but height".
He took his mother's words to heart
And turned his mind to flight.

Point Cook was training pilots,
Richard he was the first.
Flew a primitive, flimsy Box-kite
though he never even cursed.

He led a team to Egypt,
And then on to Palestine.
His men revered their leader,
Squadron One gained world renown.

He rescued a downed pilot
behind the enemy's lines.
His courage it was fearless,
he was lauded to the nines.

Dickie made a hit with all his men,
Despite his lack of vice.
He was a keen photographer,
his administration so precise.

Post war he went to London
to prepare the Epic Flight.
Then home again to Australia
for by far his biggest fight.

He fought to make a separate power
of the army's flying men.
they became the Australian Air Force
Royal at stroke of the King's pen.

His manner it was forceful,
His intelligence made some quake.
So he was sent to London
at World War Two's outbreak.

His plan to protect Australia's North
was ignored by government hacks.
He took refuge in a concrete drain
the day of the Darwin attacks.

Then off again to the United States
to provide Australia's view.
So many times he left his wife
as 'cross the world he flew.

Post World War 2 he was made
Head of Civil Aviation.
Set standards for Australia's skies,
Service was his dedication.

The Queen recognized his service,
Added KBE to his fame.
Air Marshal was his final rank
and "Father" his nickname.

Sir Richard reached age 89,
a legend in the Force.
An honour guard and flypast
Graced his final resting place.

Richard's beloved Air Force
Still reveres his sacred word.
Air Chiefs symbolically receive
his legacy with his sword.

Sir Richard was courageous,
a man of humble birth,
a man of amazing intellect,
a man of outstanding worth.

By Robyn Knight ©
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