

GLOSTER

METEOR F.8

This shoot was another chapter for 'Beneath Southern Skies' the book that co author Tom Allibone and I wrote. We wanted to portray a jet aircraft that was in service with the RAAF during the early 1950's, so we settled on the Meteor based at the Temora Aviation Museum in NSW. Owner David Lowy kindly granted us an A2A session. The problem when we got there however there was a heavy overcast and rain, so what's new?....The entire area was covered in cloud. So I figured at worst we could do a dramatic black and white rendering of the Meteor, but for now we will wait and see what transpires, who knows, sometimes magic happens.

But we only had this one chance to shoot the Meteor - the Wirraway cameraship and its pilot Guy Bourke, plus the Meteor and its pilot Darren Crabb, - were both here today. So the day passed by with everyones eyes to the skies hoping. Darren did a quick test flight in the Meteor just to let us know how high the cloud tops were and if it was worth doing a photo shoot above it.

He landed, in the rain, and he was grinning, *'There's a big hole opening up over Temora so lets do it!'* Luckily Guy showed me how to spin the rear seat in the Wirraway, so I could do it once we took off to face aft which was a godsend. Darren was spot on, there was a massive circular hole in the state-wide cloud cover centred on Temora. The Meteor, behind us, looked magnificent with the golden sun bouncing off the fuselage.

Shooting a jet like the Meteor from an aft facing position showed the Meteor's wing mounted open engine intakes to good effect. Darren was so close that I could just use hand signals to help position him. The aerial orchestration between these two experineced pilots was a privelige to see. Guy had done this many times before and knew how to position the Wirraway as a camera, which is not easy.







**BEHIND
THE SCENES**

*My point of view
facing aft from the
Wirraway to Darren
in the Meteor
approaching from our
6 O'Clock position
and pulling up
alongside.*

