

Costello Family Archive

The Costello Family owned Windsor Station near Charters Towers. Henry Hurle sold the station in 1914 to Patrick Maurice Costello of Charters Towers. The Costello and Bell Families were contemporaries and socialised together. See the Bell Family Archive at 341R. Maud Bell is mentioned in one of Andrew Costello's letters.

This collection consists of thirteen handwritten letters, one telegram, and four small photographs. Most of the letters were written by Andrew Costello who served as a pilot in the Royal Air Force in World War Two. The addresses on the envelopes indicate that family members, when not at Windsor Station, Charters Towers, would stay at Lowth's Hotel in Townsville. One letter written by a fellow-pilot of Andrew's to Andrew's mother, dated 3 July 1941, states, "It grieves me deeply to have to write to you today of the tragic passing of a well loved friend and comrade of ours - your son Andrew." There are several newspaper articles about Andrew Costello. See below:

FIRST CASUALTY IN R.A.A.F. SPITFIRE MEN

Sergeant-Pilot A. G. Costello, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Q. Costello, of Windsor Station, Charters Towers, was the first casualty in Australia's Spitfire squadron in England. He was killed when he crashed in Lincolnshire in a night fight with an enemy plane.

Formerly a member of the Royal Queensland Aero Club, holding an "A" pilot's licence, he joined the R.A.A.F. in July, 1940, and trained at Narromine and in Canada. He arrived in England in February, and was recommended for a commission in June. He is buried in Kirton Lindsey, Lincolnshire.



Sergeant-Pilot
Costello

"Mr. Andrew Costello, of Windsor Station, in the Charters Towers district, a member of the Townsville Aero Club, secured his A. license at Townsville on Sunday."¹

"Aircraftsman Andrew Costello, who has now completed his training and passed his examinations, will be returning to Charters Towers shortly to bid farewell to his parents and friends prior to his departure overseas. Andrew hopes to attend the Amateur races and renew acquaintances with his friends!"²

"Sergeant-Pilot A. G. Costello, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Q. Costello, of Windsor Station, Charters Towers, was the first casualty in Australia's Spitfire squadron in England. He was killed when he crashed in Lincolnshire in a night fight with an enemy plane."³

References:

1: "Personal," *Townsville Daily Bulletin*, 3 July 1939, p7,
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article62440811>.

2: "Gossip," *The Northern Miner* (Charters Towers, Qld), 21 September 1940, p 3,
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article81507704>.

3: "First Casualty in R.A.A.F. Spitfire Men," *Sunday Mail* (Brisbane), 7 September 1941, p3,
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article98250519>.

Archive Location: 102R

Detailed Listing

- CFL/1 Small photograph of a man with his hands on his hips. Caption on verso "Andrew – June 25th, 1941."
- CFL/2 Small photograph of a man and unidentified woman sitting on a porch step. Caption on verso "Andrew, June 25th, 1941."
- CFL/3 Small photograph of a teenage boy. No comments or date.
- CFL/4 Small photograph of a board titled "Senior Course Flying & Ground Instruction" with a list of pupils. Costello, A G appears to be written on the board.
- CFL/5 Telegram to Mrs. Costello of Charters Towers.
- CLF/6 Letter to Andrew Costello from the Commonwealth Department of Air, dated 26th March 1940.
- CLF/7 Letter to his mother from Andrew Costello, dated 27th March 1940.
- CLF/8 Letter to Mrs. Costello from Andrew Costello, dated 9th April, 1940.
- CLF/9 Letter to Mrs. Costello from Andrew Costello, envelope dated 27th May, 1940.
- CLF/10 Letter to Mr. and Mrs. Costello from Andrew Costello, date believed to be 29th August, 1940 as per note on document.
- CLF/11 Letter home to "Everybody" from Andrew Costello, envelope dated November 1940.
- CLF/12 Letter to Mr. and Mrs. Costello from Andrew Costello, envelope appears to be dated 26th December, 1940.
- CLF/13 Letter to Mr. and Mrs. Costello from Andrew Costello, dated 7th June 1941.
- CLF/14 Letter to Mr. and Mrs. Costello from Andrew Costello, dated 3rd July, sent by Gazzard 8th July 1941.

- CLF/15 Letter to Mrs. Costello from Sgt. Pilot Gazzard, dated 8th July 1941.
- CLF/16 Letter to Mrs. Costello, dated 18th July, 1941.
- CLF/17 Letter to Mrs. Costello, dated 13th January, 1944.
- CLF/18 Letter to Mrs. Costello from A. P. McAurry, dated May 26th 1956.
- CLF/19 Letter to Mrs. Costello from Andrew Costello, date unknown.