
TAYLOR, Geoffrey, author

PRG 996
Series List

Geoffrey Taylor was born in 1920 in England and came to Adelaide at the age of three. By the age of 14 he had won a cadetship and became the shipping reporter on the "Adelaide News". He went to Brighton in Victoria at the age of 19 and joined Goldberg Advertising.

When World War II was declared he joined the RAAF in 1939 and became a Lancaster pilot with Bomber Command. After being shot down by German ace night fighter pilot Felix Mueller in 1943, Geoff Taylor spent the rest of the war as a P.O.W. in the notorious Stalag 4B Prison Camp in Germany.

He was demobbed and returned to Australia in 1945, joining the "Age" as a reporter. His main interest was flying, and he also loved to sail. He was a member of the Royal Brighton Yacht Club from the end of the War to 1991.

Geoff Taylor loved to write and published 12 books including "Piece of Cake", (his autobiography) and a book for children. He completed the manuscript "Hours of Glory" of a biography of the young South Australian aviator Charles James ("Jimmy") Melrose (1913-1936) which was not published. It was awarded the Inaugural Alan Marshall Award for the best unpublished manuscript.

He suffered a severe stroke in 1991 and died at an East Brighton nursing home on 19 December 1992. His widow Mrs A. Taylor donated his papers relating to his research and book about "Jimmy" Melrose to the Mortlock Library in 1993.

Source:

Melbourne suburban newspaper article: "Farewell to a man of many talents after a life of adventure" cDecember 1992.

N.H.T., November 1993

- Literary manuscript : "Hours of Glory". 1
c.1965-c1991. 4cm. Photocopy, typescript.
[Geoff Taylor's typescript biography of aviator Charles James Melrose. Includes original typescript of pp26-64 with the author's corrections.]
- Correspondence. 2
1964-1978. 1cm. Manuscript, typescript.
[Letters written to, and copies of letters written by, Geoff Taylor, including his correspondence with Mrs H.W. Melrose, mother of C.J. Melrose, and Clive Hamer, a friend of Melrose.]

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- Papers relating to C.J. ("Jimmy") Melrose. 3
1936, 1968, 1984, n.d. 1cm. Photocopy, manuscript, typescript.
[Includes interview notes made by Geoff Taylor with Clive Hamer; a copy of the Air Accidents Investigation Committee report following the death of C.J. Melrose in July 1936; typescripts of newspaper tributes for Melrose; photocopies of photographs; newspaper articles about Melrose.]
- Notebooks. 4
c1970. 2cm. (2 items)
[1. Notebook containing names and addresses, subjects of films made by Melrose, and notes relevant to Geoff Taylor's research.
2. Index to Melrose material collected by Geoff Taylor.]
- Maps relating to the crashsite of C.J. Melrose's accident. 5
1938, c1970. Manuscript, printed. (2 items)
[1. Map drawn by Geoff Taylor of the crashsite, showing positions where the bodies of C.J. Melrose and his passenger Colonel Campbell were found.
2. Map of Sunbury, Victoria, showing Melton South and the site of Melrose's 1936 crash.]
- Literary Manuscripts by other authors. 6
c1954. 3cm. Typescript.
[1. Typescript by Rex Anthoney, "The Mercury", Hobart about C.J. Melrose's career intended for a newspaper series about the author. It was sent to Harry Plumridge, Editor of "The Sunday Advertiser", Adelaide in 1954. A letter from Plumridge to Anthoney accompanies the typescript. H. Plumridge had been a friend of Melrose.
2. Typescript in 32 chapters by Eric Gunton, South Australian author, about Melrose's career. Written in the 1950s, this manuscript was evidently among the papers of Mrs H.W. Melrose, mother of C.J. Melrose, but its author's name was not known to Geoff Taylor at the time of his own research on the aviator. It has since been established that this is a typescript for Mr Gunton's book which he self-published in 1990 as "The Jimmy Melrose Story".]
- Newspaper cutting. 7
c1992. 0.5cm.
[Article from a Melbourne suburban newspaper about Geoff Taylor, written after his death in 1992.]