

Ron enlisted in the RAAF just after his 18th birthday in Perth. Wanting to be a fighter pilot, he was selected for aircrew training but was streamed into the Wireless Operator Air Gunner path.

Discharged in March 1946, Ron enlisted in the Army in June 1946. He was posted to the Army School of Signals and after completing training, became a signals instructor.

In early 1950, Ron was selected for Aircrew Training with the RAAF and completed Air Signaller training at RAAF Base East Sale.

He was posted to RAAF Base Richmond to fly C-47B Dakotas and served in Korea with No 86 Wing Transport Section operating from Iwakuni, Japan. He recalled transporting wounded Commonwealth personnel from Korea to Japan.

Returning to Australia, he was posted to No 11 Squadron at RAAF Base Pearce to fly the Lockheed P-2 Neptune in mid-1953. In 1954 Ron moved with 11SQN to RAAF Base Richmond.

Ron was posted in 1956 on exchange to the Royal Air Force to fly Hastings transport Aircraft with No 24 Squadron (RAF). He flew extensively around Africa and the Pacific including supporting the British Nuclear Test Program. Ron observed a nuclear detonation firsthand on Christmas Island.

In 1963, Ron returned to RAAF Richmond flying Neptunes at 11SQN as one of the units lead signallers.

In late 1967, Ron was selected to be one of the initial RAAF members involved in the transition to the new P-3B Orion. From January 1968, he completed P-3B ground training at San Diego and then P-3B flying training at Moffett Field, San Francisco.

Posted to RAAF Base Edinburgh with the first RAAF P-3B Orions, Ron was involved in training and in November 1969 tracking Soviet submarines off Australia's East Coast.

Ron was on Orions for 2.5 years completing 1,000 flying hours on the RAAF's first Orions.

Ron retired from the RAAF in 1971 after a long and varied career to live in Salisbury where he was active with mess life at Edinburgh for many years. He was a former member of the Air Force Association Elizabeth / Salisbury Branch.