

OBITUARY LESLIE ROBERT EDWARDS (1914-1986)

Last summer the sad news reached the Netherlands of the death of Leslie Robert Edwards, who before his retirement was Australia's Delegate to the International Civil Aviation Organization.

'Bob' Edwards was born in Brighton, Victoria on June 11th, 1914. He was educated at Brighton Primary School, from where he went on to High School at Hampton and Melbourne. He studied law at the Melbourne University and in November 1936 he was admitted to practice as a Barrister and Solicitor in the Supreme Court of Victoria. He was employed in private practice until the outbreak of war when he enlisted with the Australian Forces and served with the 2nd Australian Survey Battery, attaining the rank of Lieutenant. He then joined the Commonwealth Public Service with the Attorney General's Department before being seconded to the Department of Civil Aviation, where he attained the rank of Assistant Crown Solicitor, (Aviation). At the end of his career he represented Australia as a Delegate to numerous ICAO Assemblies and Conferences.

It was during my visit to Australia in 1965 that I met Bob Edwards for the first time. Ever since, especially during his ICAO period, we have always been in close touch, and I learnt to highly respect him as a dedicated expert in his field and a most conscientious worker. Retirement did not mean the end of Edwards' activities in the legal domain. He was a very active member of the Executive of the newly formed Aviation Law Association in Australia and continued writing extensively for various legal publications. What the Board of Editors was indebted to him for, in particular, were his valuable contributions to Air Law, in the form of interesting Australian case law. He was a true friend, who enjoyed a high reputation abroad, also in the Netherlands, and who will be sadly missed by all who were privileged to know him.

He leaves a wife, one son and three daughters.

I. H. Ph. Diederiks-Verschoor