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## Tenterfield F-111C Memorial – Fallon & Pike (A8-128)

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On 2 April 1987, an F-111 on a night training mission crashed into a paddock in Tenterfield, New South Wales, killing the pilot, Flight Lieutenant Mark Fallon, 24, and navigator, Flying Officer William Pike, 22. The plane ploughed across the road and into a paddock, narrowly missing a house and leaving a trail of flames behind it. Just seconds before impact it had swooped low over houses in Tenterfield. Residents up to five kilometres from the crash site felt the impact.

An [F-111 Memorial](#), erected and maintained by the citizens of Tenterfield, is located 300m northeast of the intersection of Mount Lindesay and Old Ballandean Road on the western side of the highway, 3.5km from the town's centre.



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### Lindsay Boyd, CO 6SQN 1982/83 Pays Tribute to Tenterfield Locals

**F-111 Presentation at Tenterfield Golf Club – 27 Oct 14.** Evening all; before we go into dinner I would like to say a few words. I will try to keep it brief. Firstly a warm welcome to Anne and Trevor Austin, Andrew and Michelle Bates, and John and Barbara Brown who have joined us for drinks and dinner this evening.

On 2nd April 1987 at about 8pm a F-111 crashed here in Tenterfield and the pilot, Mark Fallon and the navigator Bill Pike were killed. People here in this Golf Club that night heard the aircraft fly over, heard the impact and could see the fireball just down from here on the east side of town. John and Barbara Brown were closer than anyone with wreckage in their backyard and all the windows and glass doors on one side of their house sucked out. Broken glass destroyed Barbara's efforts in preparation for a dinner party.

My connection to this accident was that I was appointed President of the Board of Inquiry to investigate and report on causes and make recommendations.

Earlier this year I was driving back through Tenterfield on our way back to Brisbane and stopped to show my wife the memorial. A lady was busy mowing the area and I found out that her name was Anne Austin and that she had been keeping the memorial area tidy for some 25 years. A local service club had undertaken the task initially, but Anne (who drove past every day) was not happy with their standards and took it upon herself to do the job. I subsequently found out that two other locals also assisted with the maintenance on a regular basis. Barbara Brown helped with the mowing, particularly on the edge of the road leading up to the memorial and Andrew Bates, again of his own accord, added shrubs and trees and replaced them as necessary.

Back in Brisbane and talking to some F-111 mates we thought that we should show our appreciation for their efforts and one of our group, Gp Capt Mike (Boggy) Smith, organized the Amberley Photographic section to produce a photo for each of you. We know that you have been voluntarily helping to maintain the site and do not seek recognition. Maybe you might even feel a bit embarrassed about this attention. Too late! The photo is of an F-111 doing what it did best, going fast and low. The inscription on the photos says from Commanding Officer 6 Squadron but it is also presented to each of you in appreciation for what you have been doing on behalf of all ex-F111 crew especially those that knew Mark Fallon and Bill Pike. In our group here tonight three of us flew the F-111, myself, Al Curr and Col Patching. Al and I knew Mark and regarded him as a friend.



*Lindsay Boyd presents F-111 framed photos to: Anne, Barbara and Andrew*

**Tenterfield Wreath Laying Ceremony - 30th Anniversary.** Sunday, 2 April 2017 marked 30 years since the F-111 accident at Tenterfield, NSW in which Mark Fallon and Bill Pike lost their lives. Lindsay Boyd and John Brown arranged a wreath-laying ceremony at the memorial site to commemorate the occasion. The families of Fallon/Pike attended, as well as many F-111 friends and members of the local Tenterfield community. 82 Wing and No 6 Squadron Service representatives also supported the ceremony.

[Tenterfield Star News Article](#)



*In Memory of  
FLTLT Mark 'Speed' Fallon, Pilot  
FLGOFF William Pike, Navigator*



*Who tragically lost their lives  
in the crash of a  
Royal Australian Air Force  
F-111C, A8-128  
Callsign 'Falcon Sabre 1'  
on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1987*



*'May they rest in peace'*



**F-111C WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY  
TENTERFIELD, NSW  
30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of F-111C Accident**

**2 April 2017**



*'They made the ultimate sacrifice  
serving their country'*



*Phil 'Gringo' Griggs pays his respects enroute to A8-142 transit to Wagga*



*Fallon & Pikes names inscribed on the Wall of Remembrance @ RAAF Base Amberley*