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at a variety of jobs around Australia. He had a range of skills, including carpentry, and, importantly, he started repairing and making guitars, banjos, and dulcimers.

On a trip to Brisbane in 1961, Henderson met Geoffrey and Nancy Wills, founding members of the Brisbane Union Singers. Although never a member of any political party, Henderson had joined the Builders Labourers Federation when he first arrived in Sydney and he spent his lifetime committed to the cause and struggles of working men and women. He and Geoffrey Wills travelled to Mount Isa, Queensland, during the strike of 1965 at the request of the local Trades and Labour Council; there Henderson wrote, and together they performed, a number of songs including 'Isa', 'Who Put the W in AWU', and 'Talking Mt Isa', before being run out of town by the police.

The first recording of Henderson's singing was an album, *The Ballad of Women*, a record he made in 1964 with the Brisbane Union Singers that featured his songs 'Talking Carpenter', 'The Happy Song', and 'Wittenoom Gorge'. The album *Basic Wage Dream* (1964), released by the Australian Council of Salaried and Professional Associations featured his songs 'The Basic Wage Dream' and 'Talking Basic Wage', and formed part of the 1964 basic wage campaign. In 1966 Henderson and the Brisbane Union Singers released *One Out*, featuring thirteen of his songs including 'Hooker Rex', the anti-war song, 'Boonaroo', and 'Peace Is Union Business'. On 28 April 1967 at the registrar general's office, Sydney, Henderson married Sally Watson, an English-born nurse.

In 1970 Henderson released a songbook, *I Can Sing*, which contained twenty-seven songs and a poem. In the introduction he wrote, 'I have seen a few things and met a few people ... they are my life, and no man wants his life to go for nothing'. His album *Ton of Steel* (containing thirteen original songs), released in 1971, featured 'The Westgate Bridge Disaster', written by Henderson at union request as a memorial to the thirty-five men who died when the bridge collapsed during construction.

Henderson moved with his family to England in 1971, living in London and in Sussex where he wrote, performed, and continued to make and repair guitars. Together

with Craig McGregor and John ('Poli') Palmer, he co-wrote songs for the rock opera *Hero*, which was performed by the Australian Opera in Sydney in 1976—extracts of two of the songs were included in the compilation *The Songs of Don Henderson*, released posthumously in 2009. The Hendersons returned to Australia in 1979 and after a brief stay in Melbourne they moved to Brisbane, where Don became actively involved in the Queensland Folk Federation. He continued to organise folk concerts and perform at clubs, including the 291 Folk Club, and he contributed to the 1979 album *Flames of Discontent*. In 1986 he released *In My Time*, containing songs he had written between 1961 and 1979. Henderson's music is difficult to categorise; many considered him to be an Australian Woody Guthrie. In his own words he was 'a rake and a rambling man and an anarchist' (Lowenstein 1992, 21).

Survived by his wife and two children, Henderson died of hypercalcaemia and lung carcinoma at Wesley Private Hospital, Auchenflower, Brisbane, on 20 August 1991 and was cremated.

Australian Tradition (Box Hill). 'Don Henderson – Not Just a Coffee Shop Protester.' July 1965, 21; Henderson, Don. *I Can Sing*. North Sydney: Horwitz Publications, 1970; Henderson, Don. *A Quiet Century: 100 Songs and Poems*. Nambour: Queensland Folk Federation, 1994; Lowenstein, Wendy. 'It's My Time Mister. And My Price.' *Overland*, no. 129 (1992): 19–22; McGregor, Adrian. 'Don's Songs of Struggle.' *National Times* (Sydney), 9–15 March 1980, 51; McGregor, Craig. *People, Politics and Pop*. Sydney: Ure Smith, 1968.

IAN DEARDEN

HENDERSON, JAMES ROBERT (BOB) (1916–1991), air force officer and business executive, was born on 24 September 1916 at Mosman, Sydney, son of English-born James Henderson, company managing director, and his German-born (of Australian parentage) wife Ella Madeline, née Maurice. Educated at Sydney Church of England Grammar School (Shore), in 1934 Bob became a factory student (intern) with W. D. & H. O. Wills (Australia) Ltd, a subsidiary of the British Tobacco Co. (Australia) Ltd. He played first-grade cricket for Mosman, which won the Sydney competition in the 1938–39 season.

After World War II broke out in September 1939, Henderson joined the Citizen Military Forces and soldiered part time with the 1st Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Sydney. In November 1940 he volunteered for service under the Empire Air Training Scheme and on 20 July 1941 enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force. He was recorded as being 5 feet 6 inches (168 cm) tall and having blue eyes and brown hair. Awarded his pilot's badge ('wings') on 27 February 1942 and commissioned in April, he sailed for Britain in June. He became the skipper and only Australian member of a seven-man crew training for the Royal Air Force's Bomber Command. In April 1943 the airmen were posted to No. 460 Squadron, RAAF, based at Brighton, Yorkshire, and shortly afterwards, Binbrook, Lincolnshire.

Henderson aborted two sorties because of mechanical failures before he undertook his first mission, bombing Dortmund, Germany, on the night of 4–5 May 1943. Being allotted a 'lucky' aircraft, the famous Lancaster *G for George*, proved a mixed blessing, as he considered the battle-worn *George* a 'dreadful bloody aircraft' (Henderson 1988), difficult to handle. In July, following seventeen sorties, including twelve in *George*, he was selected to play services cricket. He was saddened to learn that, during his absence, two of his crew members were shot down while on loan to another crew. At month's end he resumed operations, in time for the bombing of Hamburg, and encountered the strongest searchlight, anti-aircraft artillery, and night-fighter defences to date. With sound teamwork and luck, he and his crew completed their tour of thirty sorties, their final mission being a raid against Stuttgart on the night of 7–8 October. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for 'high skill, fortitude and devotion to duty' (NAA A9300).

During a year as an instructor, Henderson was promoted to flight lieutenant. In October 1944 he commenced another tour with No. 460 Squadron. Promoted to acting squadron leader in November, he commanded 'B' Flight and carried out seventeen bombing sorties. The 'exceedingly loyal and efficient' officer, possessing 'marked qualities of leadership' (NAA A9300), motivated his subordinates to give of their best. His final mission, on 3 May 1945, was a food drop

to Dutch civilians. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (1945) in recognition of his cool and fearless conduct in a large number of operations.

Demobilised on 1 April 1946 in Sydney, Henderson returned to W. D. & H. O. Wills. He managed tobacco factories at Forbes and, for the parent company from 1951, in Melbourne, then returned to Sydney, where he headed the manufacturing branch (1958–72) and the manufacturing and development section (1972–81). On 20 April 1950 at the district registrar's office, Chatswood, he had married Evangeline (Ena) Mary Wade, née Ditton, a trained nurse and a divorcee. Predeceased by her, and survived by his son and daughter, he died on 4 November 1991 at Narrabeen and was cremated.

Australian War Memorial. AWM64, 1/293 and 1/295; British American Tobacco Australia Ltd. Staff Employee's History Card, Henderson, James Robert; Henderson, James Robert. Interview by Laurence Field, 30 March 1988. Transcript. Australian War Memorial; Herington, John. *Air War Against Germany and Italy 1939–1943*. Vol. III of Series 3 (Air) of *Australia in the War of 1939–1945*. Canberra: Australian War Memorial, 1954; National Archives of Australia. A9300, HENDERSON J. R.

JOHN MOREMON

HENDERSON, RONALD FRANK

(1917–1994), economist and social reformer, was born on 27 May 1917 at Dundee, Scotland, only child of Charles Frederick Henderson, jute manufacturer, and his Australian-born wife Janet Alice Millar, née Steel. The Henderson family owned and managed a spinning and weaving factory in Dundee and were active in financial investments. His mother was born in Melbourne and he visited Australia three times as a child. Educated at home by a governess until the age of nine, Ronald then boarded at the Cargilfield School near Edinburgh and, from the age of twelve, at Trinity College, Glenalmond, an Anglican school in the Perthshire Hills. His father gave serious thought to 'the condition of the people' (Ironmonger and Perkins 1995, 284), devoting both time and money to charitable organisations such as the Dundee Royal Infirmary, and Ronald followed in this tradition of philanthropy.

"Henderson, James Robert (Bob)", entry in Australian Dictionary of Biography

Moremon, J

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