

AWM 65

[229]

BASKERVILLE, RONALD WILLIAM
425479

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

The following Biographical details are requested for use at
R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters, LONDON, -

Photo UK 806 ~~912~~

Surname BASKERVILLE Number 425479

Christain Names Ronald Williams

Air Force Rank and Mustering Sgt. W.H.G.

Degrees, Decorations, etc. -

Present Appointment and Location R.A.A.F. F.R.C. BOURNE MOUTH

Date of Birth 1/4/1921 Place Tacoville, Queensland

Educated Tacoville Grammar School, Qld.

Date of Entering Service March 1943 ~~reached at the~~

Previous Service Experience nil

Places of Training in R.A.A.F. No 2 G.T.S. No 3 W.H.G.S. No 1 B.H.G.S.

Civilian Career and Activities Bank officer

Clubs, Recreations, etc. -

Fathers name J.W. Baskerville

Wifes Name -

Children -

Home address 86 Lenth Avenue Tacoville, Queensland

Signature B Baskerville

Date 20/3/43

Date Embarked Australia 15/1/43 reached UK 16/3/43

Destination UNITED KINGDOM

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE OVERSEAS HEADQUARTERS.

(For Historical purposes only pending Change in A16 policy)

Many Australians are among the crews of British aircraft fitted with the latest anti-U boat device, the Leigh Light.

One of them, Pilot Officer M.H. Paynter of Prospect, South Australia, came under public notice yesterday, 17th November, with the report of his attack on a submarine in the Bay of Biscay. *Squadron 6/2*

Another Australian on this work, who has just arrived in England is Flight Lieutenant R.W. Baskerville, now in London, who was the sole Australian survivor rescued after a Royal Air Force Wellington, captained by Flight Sergeant J. Shepherd, R.A.F. (179 Squadron R.A.F.), dived into the sea during a practice flight on October 23rd, using the Leigh Light, which is an airborne searchlight.

The aircraft was using the searchlight to illuminate a launch when it failed to come out of a dive and crashed into the sea.

Baskerville, who is an air gunner, was knocked unconscious. He came to as he was being taken aboard a Royal Air Force rescue launch, the crew of which had seen its searchlight dive into the sea. Baskerville was in the water for 20 minutes, and had to spend a week in hospital. The only other survivor was Sergeant A. White of London.

Baskerville, who was a bank clerk in civil life, arrived in England from Australia last March. He was associated, while on Leigh Light work, with several other Australians, including Flight Sergeants Bell, Bohanna, Brockman, Crozier, D. Clifford and Donoghue.

(At 407 Squadron R.A.F. are (as date of writing) Sgt. Phil Denaher (old), Sgt. D. Stewart (N.S.W.) and Sgt. Phil Hoff of N.S.W., all friends of Baskerville).

PRO. FORM.
P/R. 5.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

RTH
Overseas Headquarters,
Kodak House
Kingman, W.C.2.

SECRET & CONFIDENTIAL.

The following biographical details are required for R.A.A.F.

Historical Records, Overseas Headquarters. These forms are to be filled in and returned to the Officer Commanding Repatriation Disposal Section, No.11 (R.A.A.F.) P.D.R.C.

NAMES (in full) *BASKERVILLE, Ronald William* *11 425479*

RANK AND MUSTERING *W/O* *1007/A* DECORATIONS *NIL*

NUMBER I.T.S. COURSE *26* O.T.U. - A.P.U. etc.

DATE LEFT AUSTRALIA *15.1.42*
CANADA *-* DATE OF ARRIVAL U.K. *17.5.42*
Sth. AFRICA *-*

SQUADRONS *179 LGN* *517 SQN* *518 SQN*

AIRCRAFT FLOWN *Wellington* *Halifax III 407*

COMMAND & TYPE OF ACTIVITY *Coastal - a/s 9 Met*

OPERATIONS OR TRAINING WITH AMERICAN PERSONNEL, SQUADRONS, OR AIRCRAFT

DETAILS OF OPERATIONS - with dates: to be given as fully as possible under the following applicable headings;

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| (a) Number Operational Hours | (b) Number Operational Sorties, Day-night. |
| (c) Targets attacked. | (d) Attacks on enemy surface vessels - type, size, etc. |
| (e) Attacks on enemy submarines. | (e) Outstanding sorties or incidents. |
| (f) Combats with enemy aircraft. | (f) Personnel in Photographic Reconnaissance Unit, Transport Command, etc., should give a brief report of their work. |
| (g) Other Australians in crews. | |

(2) *400* (4) *DAY 20 NIGHT 25* (5) *N/A* (6) *N/A* (7) *N/A*
(8) *N/A* (9) *N/A* (10) *N/A* (11) *-*

Date *22.1.43* SIGNATURE *R. Baskerville*
(use other side, or attach extra sheets, if necessary)

Secret

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE OVERSEAS HEADQUARTERS.

911

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(Squadron 612)

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE OVERSEAS HEADQUARTERS

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