

AWM 65

[437]

BROOKS, W.D.

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

The following biographical details are required for use at
R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters, London.

SURNAME *Brooks* NUMBER

CHRISTIAN NAMES *H. J.*

AIR FORCE RANK AND MUSTERING *G./CAPT.*

DEGREES ETC.

DATE OF BIRTH PLACE

EDUCATED

DATE OF ENTERING SERVICE

PREVIOUS SERVICE EXPERIENCE

PLACES OF TRAINING

CIVILIAN CAREER AND ACTIVITIES

SPORT (TEAMS REPRESENTED) CLUBS ETC.

FATHER

WIFE

HOME ADDRESS *T. GOORAK* *M. ELBAURNE*

SIGNATURE

DATE

DATE OF EMBARKATION

HEADQUARTERS USE ONLY - DO NOT FILL IN

AWARDS

CATEGORY INTERVIEWS

RADIO OTHER REFERENCES

Sab Newsletter?

Personal File
G/Capt. W. J. Brooks

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DEPARTMENT OF AIR

Directorate of
Public Relations.
Bulletin 4684.

Melbourne
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MORNING PRESS RELEASE

R.A.A.F. KITTIES SCARE JAPS!

Japanese fighter pilots won't mix it with Australian Kittyhawks, even when they have the advantages of numbers and faster, more manoeuvrable planes, ^{said} according to Group Captain W. D. Brookes, of Toorak, Melbourne, ^{in a recent interview}

^{Group Captain} ~~Brookes~~ ^{an Australian} commanded a fighter wing which played an outstanding part in General MacArthur's leap to the Philippines via the north coast of New Guinea and the Halmaheras

~~said that Australian fighter pilots were disgusted at the prospect of the Japs to fight it out with patrolling Kittyhawks. The Japs used his speed and ceiling to get away.~~

"The Jap has run away from our boys so often that evidently he has convinced himself that the Australian fighter pilot is his master even in conditions which theoretically favour the Jap", said Group Captain Brookes. "For instance, on one occasion, a much smaller formation of Kitties encountered 25 to 30 Japanese planes near Wewak. They streaked away as soon as they saw the Australian formation. We got only one in that area."

^{Australian} "The present timidity of the once cocksure Jap is strikingly evidenced by the fact that in 13 months our wing was the only ^{Australian} fighter formation in this sector to engage the Jap in air combat. That happened twice over Bisk, when Kitties swooped on Jap planes attacking shipping and knocked them right and left. For the loss of only one Kitty in both engagements the enemy lost 10 destroyed and 2 damaged."

~~"This encounter was achieved by apparently the only method by which we can get air combat these days - complete surprise of the enemy".~~

Group Captain Brookes paid high tribute to the endurance and devotion to duty of ground staff and pilots. Their advance with the Americans had involved seven moves, with all the hardships attendant upon shifting camp and moving into country newly won from the enemy and subject to attack.

