

AWM 65

[530]

BUTLER, NEVILLE EDWARD

14734

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

INTAKE 316
bearing 29-11-44
M.B.K. 18-6-45
P.D. 21-6-45

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

The following biographical details are required for use at Royal Air Force Overseas Headquarters, London.

SURNAME... BUTLER... NUMBER... A.I.S. 14734

CHRISTIAN NAMES... NEVILLE EDWARD

AIR FORCE RANK AND MUSTERING... P/O... NAVIGATOR

DEGREES ETC.....

DATE OF BIRTH... 6/8/19... PLACE... Tenterfield, N.S.W. Australia

EDUCATED AT... TENTERFIELD DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL, TENTERFIELD, N.S.W. Australia

DATE OF ENTERING SERVICE... 29/4/40

PREVIOUS SERVICE EXPERIENCE... 7/Sgt. A.I.S. General. Advanced (A.I.S. General)

PLACES OF TRAINING... No. 21 F.S. Sydney, N.S.W. Aust. No. 2 A.O.S. Edmonton Alberta, Canada

CIVILIAN CAREER AND ACTIVITIES... Law Clerk & Conveyancer

SPORT (TEAMS REPRESENTED) CLUBS ETC... Represented New South Wales Australia at Rugby League Foot Ball - Rep. Combined Country at Rugby League Football, Tennis & Cricket. Member of Mary & John Wood Hayes Sports Club & swimming club - Glen Sydney

FATHER... Edward BUTLER

WIFE... SINGLE

HOME ADDRESS... Rouse Street Tenterfield, N.S.W. Australia

SIGNATURE... E. Butler

DATE... 3/4/44

DATE OF EMBARKATION... 24/11/44

HEADQUARTERS USE ONLY - DO NOT FILL IN

AWARDS..... INTERVIEWS.....

CATEGORY..... OTHER REFERENCES.....

RADIO.....

Personal file: - P/O. M. Butler.

R.A.A.F. Make Rugby Change

Royal Australian Air Force Rugby team to meet South African Services at Murrayfield to-morrow has one change.

Pilot Officer N. Butler, centre-three-quarter, has dropped out, and is replaced by Flight-sergt. J. Cox, who played for Randwick, a New South Wales Club, as partner to C. H. Towers, who toured Great Britain with the Waratahs, in 1927-8.

Evening Standard.
27-10-44.

Murrayfield Change

R.A.A.F. Rugby Team to meet South African Services at Murrayfield to-morrow has one change. Pilot Officer N. Butler, Centre-three-quarter, has dropped out, and is replaced by Flt. Ssgt. J. Cox, who played for Randwick, a N.S.W. club, as partner to C. H. Towers, who toured Great Britain with Waratahs, in 1927-28.

Evening News.
27-10-44

McCarthy, mid-upper gunner, of Port Lincoln, South Australia; Dunstan comes from Mt. Eliza, Victoria.

During the raid on Kassel, just as the aircraft had dropped its bombs and turned for home the aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Cannon shells shot away the rudder controls and damaged one of the elevators and both rudder and elevator trims, and put the hydraulics out of action.

One shell smashed through the rear turret and exploded inside. As it passed through it tore the right sleeve out of Pilot Officer Dunstan's flying clothes as far through as his shirt but not even scratched him. The shell jammed the door of the turret as it exploded and other members of the crew had to cut the turret door away before Dunstan could be released before landing.

On the return journey the Lancaster encountered thick cloud and ice and the bomb aimer and flight engineer took turns at assisting the pilot to hold the controls as the aircraft continually began diving.

All the escape hatches were jettisoned and the crew were at their escape positions for the landing. The undercarriage had to be pumped down with the emergency gear. As they landed a tyre burst and the undercarriage collapsed. This was later found about 100 yards from where the Lancaster eventually came to rest. No member of the crew was harmed.

"Coming in on a Wing and a Prayer" is one of the most popular radio items today, but seldom has it been heard in more apposite surroundings than by this crew on the return journey, when the wireless operator picked up a snatch of a B.B.C. programme and the song was heard on the intercommunication system.