

AWM 65

[474]

BRYDON, A.H. (CURLY)

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES  
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

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

SURNAME ..... BRYDAN ..... NUMBER .....  
CHRISTIAN NAMES ..... A. H. ("CURRY") .....  
AIR FORCE RANK AND MUSTERING ..... S/DR .....  
DECREES 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 ..... ARMIDALE N.S.W.

SIGNATURE .....

DATE .....

DATE OF EMBARKATION .....

HEADQUARTERS USE ONLY - DO NOT FILL IN

AWARDS .....

CATEGORY ..... INTERVIEWS .....

RADIO ..... OTHER REFERENCES .....

*DATE*

## Japs Bowed To Pilot Of Kittyhawk

*Evening Standard Reporter*

Japanese soldiers on the beach near Dagua saluted, bowed and waved to an Australian Kittyhawk pilot who flew past them at tree-top level, preparatory to a strafing run.

The pilot was Squadron Leader A. H. ("Curly") Brydon, Armidale, New South Wales, who, as a Hudson pilot in Malaya, helped to eliminate 15,000 Japanese at the Kohta Baru landing. He also sank a 10,000-ton ship.

Brydon said: "I was flying over the surf about level with the tree tops when I saw a head pop out of a hole on the beach. I turned back to have another look, and by this time several heads were above ground. I circled around again, and saw that seven or eight Japanese had clambered out of the hole and were waving to me, saluting and putting their hands together and bowing Japanese fashion.

"When I came round again there were 14 Japs on the beach bowing and scraping.

"I don't know whether they expected me to get out and take them prisoners. They could hardly mistake my airplane for one of their own."

Brydon scattered the gathering of bowing Japanese by making a strafing run along the beach.

*Personal file:*

*Evening Standard -  
11-9-44.*

the town of Ranos, 12 miles southwest of Argentan, where the Germans attempted a stand against American armoured forces.

"The tanks were south of Ranos," said Capt. Ray O. Langford, Hillsboro, who led the assault. "They told us they were being held up by German stuff right in the town. We hit the square and the buildings round it with 500-pounders, starting seven big fires with gushes of black smoke. When we came back to strafe, the tanks said: 'O.K. We're moving.'"

Another Thunderbolt squadron, patrolling in the same area, between Ranos and Flers, destroyed 15 out of 20 to 25 enemy tanks which they spotted hidden in a wood.

Lightnings strafed hogstrows and gun positions in the battle area, destroyed the approach to a bridge at Bryeux, and started big fires in an ammunition dump west of Rarney. They accounted for a large number of the enemy tanks and vehicles destroyed.

One Thunderbolt pilot, Capt. Thomas J. Weller, 221 Park Lane Avenue, Decatur, Ga., was patrolling northwest of Ranos, and saw German troops withdrawing from the area. "I saw five Germans trying to climb into one motorcycle side-car. I strafed and got them all," he said.