

AWM 65

[3276]

MAC DONALD, NEIL GARD

403145

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

See Misc: Enc: 1062

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

OFFICERS AND AIRMEN

The following biographical details are required for use at

R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters, LONDON.

Surname: Mac Donald 1 Number: 403145

Christian Names: Neil Gordon

Air Force Rank and Mastering: SGT. A.C.

Degrees, Decorations, etc.

Present Appointment and Location: Bournemouth

Date of Birth: 13/1/14 Place: More (N.S.W) Aus

Education: East Maitland Boys High School

Date of Entering Service: 9th Dec 40

Previous Service Experience

Places of Training: No 1 TS Longfield

Civilian Career and Activities: Station Overseas

Clubs, Recreations, etc.

Father: Neil Mac Donald

Wife

Children

Home Address: Whiskey Burn Rd More NSW 705

Signature: Neil Mac Donald

Date: 2/12/62

Date Entered: 12/6/41

Destination: U.K.

Overseas Headquarters,
Kodak House,
KINGSWAY, W.C.2.PRO. FORM.
P/R. 5.SECRET & CONFIDENTIAL

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

Overseas Headquarters. These forms are to be filled in and handed to the
Adjutant of your unit immediately.

NAME..... MACDONALD Neil Gard..... NUMBER & ACQUIS.....
(In full)

RANK AND MUSTERING..... W/O..... 444.04444..... DECORATIONS..... D.F.M.....

NUMBER I.T.S. COURSE... 9. Course... Wrotham Park, Sydney.....

X DATE LEFT AUSTRALIA 13th June, 1941
CANADA about 30th Jan., 1942.....
S. AFRICA

DATE OF ARRIVAL UNITED KINGDOM... about 5th Feb., 1942.....

O.T.U. - A.F.U. etc. (approx. dates) 14. O.T.U. (S.S. 42-1, 7, 42) (approx. No. 7, 41, 42)
(21, 3, 42-21, 4, 42)

PRESENT UNIT... No. 15 O.T.U. Harwell..... AIRCRAFT FLOWN... Wellington.....

PREVIOUS UNITS (with dates) AND AIRCRAFT FLOWN... Hampden, Whitley, Lancaster.....
..... 1) No. 14 O.T.U. 2) A.O.S. No. 50 Harrow.....

DETAILS OF OPERATIONS (details of operations with dates to be given as fully as possible under the appropriate headings as shown)

- (a) Number Operational Hours (b) Number Operational Sorties, day-night
(c) Target bombed
(d) Attacks on enemy surface vessels - type size etc.
(e) Attacks on enemy submarines (f) Combats with enemy aircraft
(g) Other attacks and incidents. (h) Other Australians in crew.

(a) 197 hours 20 mins. (b) 31 sorties (30 night, 1 day).....

(c) 1. Dusseldorf 31st July.....	13. Dusseldorf 10th Sept.....
2. Gardening 5th Aug.....	14. Bremen 13th *.....
3. Duisberg 6th *.....	15. Wilhelmshaven 14th *.....
4. Genetrack 5th *.....	16. Gdansk 16th *.....
5. Gardening 10th *.....	17. Munich 19th *.....
6. Shipping search 20th Aug.....	18. Wismer 23rd *.....
7. Durnberg 26th Aug.....	19. Wismer 1st Oct.....
8. Saarpfücken 1st Sept.....	20. Genoa 22nd *.....
9. Werlebrube 2nd *.....	21. Wiles 24th * (Daylight).....
10. Bremen 4th *.....	22. Genoa 6th Nov.....
11. Duisberg 6th *.....	23. * 7th *.....
12. Frankfurt 8th *.....	24. * 12th *.....
	25. * 15th *.....
	26. Turin 9th Dec. <u>P.F.O.</u>

use other side if necessary.

27. Gardening 2nd Jan.
28. Nürnberg 25th Feb.
29. Cologne 26th "
30. St. Nazaire 28th "
31. Berlin 1st March

- (d) Nil
(e) Nil
(f) Nil
(g) Nil

7.8.43.

50 SQN
717

Aug. 1931 as W/O. R.A.F. Macdonald of name, N.S.E. - rearunner.

He was on No. 9 I.T.S. course at 2 I.T.S. Lindfield. He left Australia on 13.6.41. on the "Asatea" for Canada where he trained at No. 3. Wireless School Winnipeg and at No. 5. Bombing and Gunnery School, Taloo.

He arrived in the U.K. in February 1942 and from Bournemouth was posted to No. 7. Air Gunners School Stoney Down, then to 14. O.T.U. Colchester.

On 15.7.42. he was posted to No. 50 Lancaster Squadron.

Macdonald completed a tour of 31 operations with 50 Squadron and describes it as "the perfect tour". He was never in an engagement with enemy fighters and never in an aircraft badly damaged by flak. "It was in fact really quite boring" he said. He puts this comparatively peaceful tour down primarily to extraordinarily good luck and secondly to good pilots and good crews.

The first 19 operations he did with F/Lt. R.S. Wiseman, D.F.C. of New Zealand as captain (see interview Wiseman). Other Australians in this crew were F/O. J. Farrelly, D.F.M. (Now P.O.N.) and F/O. J. Lewton, D.F.M.

This crew were screened at the end of September 42 and Macdonald flew with various other pilots including the Commanding Officer and the Flight Commander. S/Mr. P.S. Moore, D.F.C. of Pyramid Hill, Vic.

His tour includes raids on Genoa (4) Milan (daylight), Cologne, Duisburg, Dusseldorf, Wilhelmshaven, Munich, Muenzburg, Turin Orient (2) St. Nazaire (2) Rostock and Wismar.

His last raid, and he considers the best, was on Berlin (for details see PRO FORMA 5)

He was screened on 14.3.43. and was posted to 15. O.T.U. Harwell as a gunnery instructor.

Warrant Officer Neil Gerd MacDonald

D.F.M. awarded 13 July, 1943, when he was a Sergeant.

Citation: "This airman has completed a fine tour of operational duty which has included attacks on such centres as Cologne, Berlin, Bremen and Essen, where most vigorous opposition is usually encountered. He also took part as air gunner in the daylight raid on Milan. His keenness and enthusiasm to engage the enemy have, at all times, been outstanding, and his courage and devotion to duty have been an inspiration to his crew."

Warrant Officer MacDonald was born on 13 January, 1914, at Scene, New South Wales, where his home is. In civil life, he was a station overseer. He joined the R.A.A.F. on 9 December, 1940, and arrived in the United Kingdom in February, 1942.

.....oOo.....
(Not to be published before the Investiture. Please verify before publication that personnel cited actually attended the ceremony).

DFM

13/9/43.

490A.

Aus. 403145 Sergeant Neil Gard McDONALD, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 50 Squadron. This airman has completed a fine tour of operational duty which has included attacks on such centres as Cologne, Berlin, Bremen and Essen where most vigorous opposition is usually encountered. He also took part as air gunner in the daylight raid on Milan. His keenness and enthusiasm to engage the enemy have, at all times, been outstanding, and his courage and devotion to duty have been an inspiration to his crew.

COPY

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184/23/Air

Air Force, MELBOURNE

A.L. 138

13/10/42

Implicit faith in British Lancaster bomber was expressed by AUS402953 Pilot Officer R.C.Wiseman of Wee Waa N.S.W. who has just concluded tour operations which includes 19 trips as captain in Lancaster. quote they are wonderful he said. I reckon that if you're reasonably careful in Lancaster and have bit luck nothing will get you unquote. Wiseman was lucky in his Lancaster. Never had come back on anything less than full engine power. Aircraft not holed once. In first three weeks September did 11 operations including raid on Munich which describes as particularly successful. Flew with Australian bombe aimer AUS407504 Flight Sergeant L.H.Lawton of Renmark South Australia and Australian rear gunner AUS403145 Sergeant N.G.MacDonald of Coone N.S.W. Wiseman did nine raids on Hampdens and several on Manchesters before transferred to Lancasters. Only once did he have what he describes as quote really ropey trip ~~xxx~~ unquote. This was coming back from Essen in a Hampden. Heavy flak burst close to the aircraft blowing shrapnel into the engine and shattering observer's perspex. One motor cut and Wiseman dived to get speed and engine started up again. Eventually made base with S.O.S. fix. quote we were shot at all the way home Wiseman said. At times I didn't think we'd make it. unquote. He flew in squadron in which first Australian air award of war won by Flying Officer (now squadron leader) D.J.French of Melbourne for attack German cruiser near Bergen. Other Australians in the R.A.F. who won D.F.C's with the squadron were Flying Officer G.R.Taylor and Pilot Officer P.B.Moore of Victoria who has since become flight commander. Number of Australians has grown steadily until it has now reached around 50 per cent.

Sgd W.B.TART,
Squadron Leader, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING