

AWM 65

[3176]

LEWIS, RICHARD LANCELOT

406166

AUTHORITY / ACQUISITION
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

SEE Press releases for Air Board
FILE 184/23/AIR-ENC.24^A

SEE MISC. UNITS FILE 57,58,59.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

- 77.
~~See 452 Sq. Enc. 24.~~ ✓

OFFICERS & AIR CREWS

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

SURNAME..... LEWIS NUMBER..... 406166
CHRISTIAN NAMES..... Richard Ramelow
AIR FORCE RANK AND MUSTERING..... P/O
DEGREES, DECORATIONS ETC..... M.D.A. (Dons), D.F.C. 16.6.44 (S.V.P.A.)
PRESENT APPOINTMENT AND LOCATION..... 602 Sqdn Redhill
DATE OF BIRTH..... Dec 10th 1914 PLACE..... India
EDUCATED..... St Peters College Adelaide
..... Munro Agricultural College N.A.
DATE OF ENTERING SERVICE..... Aug 17th 40
PREVIOUS SERVICE EXPERIENCE..... 18 months militia
.....
PLACES OF TRAINING..... Essendon, Somers, Dagea, Derton
CIVILIAN CAREER AND ACTIVITIES..... Sheep grazier
.....
SPORT (TEAMS REPRESENTED), RECREATIONS, CLUBS ETC. Polo Tennis
..... cricket
.....
FATHER..... Major G. Lewis Palgump, Mysore, India
WIFE.....
CHILDREN.....
HOME ADDRESS..... Palgump, Mysore, West Australia

SIGNATURE..... R. Lewis P/O

DATE..... 22nd Feb. 42

DATE EMBARKED.....
DESTINATION.....

(These forms are to be filled in and handed to the Adjutant of the Unit immediately after receipt).

Personal file - P/O. Lewis, R.L.

406166.

To: H.Q. F.C. INTELLIGENCE.
From: 11 GROUP INTELLIGENCE.
INT/148 2/1.142

Offensive Operation Rhubarb Preliminary and Composite Report Target
Appendix 2 No. 15.

4 aircraft Spitfires VB Red and Blue Sections of 602 Squadron took off from Kenley at 1320 hours with the object of attacking barges in the lock at St. Valerie-sur-mer.

When the Sections were approximately 20 miles north of Le Treport Red 2 P/O Lewis reported 2 enemy seaplanes ahead and flying in formation in a north westerly direction at about 50 feet, climbed above them and turned into them in a head on attack followed in succession by the other 3 pilots doing likewise one of the enemy aircraft was then seen to somersault 3 times and go straight into the sea. The section then attacked the second seaplane from behind which was taking violent evasive action and all 4 pilots in individual attacks saw strikes on the fuselage and wings. Red 2 reports that he saw this aircraft do a slow roll and dive into the sea. The sections having used up all their ammunition set course for Dungeness and when about 20 miles off the French coast blue 2 Captain Hertzberg (Norwegian) called over the R.T. that he was having engine trouble and that was the last the others saw or heard of him as he did not answer any R.T. calls 3 aircraft landed Kenley 1425 hrs.

Weather low cloud 7/10 Visibility good.

One cine-camera gun film exposed.

Enemy casualties 2 Heinkel 114 destroyed shared by F/Lt. Kempe

F/O Edsall P/O Lewis (RAAF) and Captain Hertzberg (Norwegian)

Our casualties one Spitfire VB Captain Hertzberg (Norwegian) not yet returned.

R. 1653

AIR FORCE MELBOURNE

A.L. 735

5/1/42

FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS BREAK

PILOT OFFICER R.L. LEWIS (AUST/406166) A WEST AUSTRALIAN SERVING WITH A NOTED BRITISH SPITFIRE SQUADRON SHARES WITH THREE R.A.F. PILOTS THE DISTINCTION OF HAVING DESTROYED TWO HEINKEL SEAPLANES. BREAK FLYING TOWARDS THE NORTH COAST OF FRANCE, PILOT OFFICER LEWIS OBSERVED THE TWO NAZI SEAPLANES FLYING IN FORMATION. HE COMMUNICATED WITH THE REST OF THE FLIGHT, CLIMBED ABOVE THE HEINKELS AND LAUNCHED A HEAD ON ATTACK. THE R.A.F. PILOTS FOLLOWED IN SUCCESSION. THE FIRST HEINKEL TO BE ENGAGED SHOOK VIOLENTLY BEFORE THE FIERCE FIRE OF THE SPITFIRES, SOMERSAULTED THREE TIMES AND CRASHED. DESPITE VIOLENT EVASIVE ACTION, THE SECOND NAZI AIRCRAFT WAS HIT IN MANY PLACES AND DIVED INTO THE SEA. BREAK.

IN A HEDGE HOPPING SHOOTING UP RAID OVER OCCUPIED FRANCE, FLIGHT LIEUTENANT THOROLD SMITH, SYDNEY, AND SERGEANT L.R. WILLIAMS (AUST/402675) OF NEW SOUTH WALES, BOTH PILOTS OF THE FAMOUS R.A.A.F. SPITFIRE SQUADRON BEAT UP A LARGE WORKS CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE.

Sgd.

W.B. TART
Squadron Leader,
SENIOR OFFICER PUBLIC RELATIONS

+ 2/6

SALISBURY.

10. 7. 46.

5/- Win Gaekwars Pride

5/- " Glendower

5/- " Misty Morning

5/- " Patience

5/- " Calash

J.M.Cook.

- 27/6
~~£~~

Chand - Froid 10/10

Shennington 20

Devaner 20

— 35

COPY

79

184/23/Air

602

AIR FORCE MELBOURNE

A.L. 735

5/1/42

FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS BREAK

PILOT OFFICER A.L. LEWIS (AUST/406166) A WEST AUSTRALIAN SERVING WITH A NOTED BRITISH SPITFIRE SQUADRON SHARES WITH THREE R.A.F. PILOTS THE DISTINCTION OF HAVING DESTROYED TWO HEINKEL SEAPLANES. BREAK
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Sgd.

W.B.TART,
Squadron Leader,
SENIOR OFFICER PUBLIC RELATI ONS

452

COPY

602sn

62

184/23/Air

AIR FORCE MELBOURNE

A.L. 735 5/1/42

FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS BREAK

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Sgd.

W.B.TART,
Squadron Leader,
SENIOR OFFICER PUBLIC RELATIONS

FINUCANE HIT IN AIR FIGHT

LIFE SAVED BY A FELLOW PILOT

Sqdn. Ldr. Brendan—"Paddy"—Finucane, the 21-year-old Spitfire pilot who won the D.S.O. and D.F.C. with two bars while leading an Australian squadron in the Battle of Britain, was wounded in a fight over the Channel yesterday.

He returned safely to his own aerodrome, however, and is now in hospital.

At the time of the engagement Sqdn. Ldr. Finucane was flying in company with an Australian, Pilot Off. Richard Lewis, who, states the Air Ministry, possibly saved his life.

After the two Spitfire pilots had attacked a ship near Dunkirk they were engaged in a head-on attack by two F.W. 190s. The squadron leader was wounded in the leg and thigh.

Over the radio-telephone he gave his companion the order to go home, but knowing that he had been wounded, Pilot Off. Lewis took up a guarding position a little behind and below his leader.

NAZI SHOT DOWN

The pilots of the German aircraft, realising that one Spitfire had been hit, gave chase. At least six times during the journey back Pilot Off. Lewis turned to beat off attacks, and he had the satisfaction of seeing one of the F.W. 190s crash into the sea.

Twice Sqdn. Ldr. Finucane turned to rejoin the fight, and by the time they reached the English coast he was weak from his wounds. His home base had been told of the fight and an ambulance was waiting in case he crashed on landing.

One of his companions said: "He made a perfect landing and he actually taxied up to 'dispersal' before he 'blacked out.' He was conscious again when we lifted him out of the cockpit, but he was obviously in great pain.

"It is probable that the second F.W. 190 was damaged, so on the whole it is a pretty fine effort that the squadron leader and the Australian put up."

Sqdn. Ldr. Finucane has shot down 21 enemy aircraft. His parents live at Richmond, Surrey. His 19-year-old brother is an air-gunner.

May after a distinguished career in
 Sir Montagu, who will be 69 in
 might have proved fatal. But for that the shock
 to hospital. But for that the shock
 an ambulance and took him straight
 skull fractures. Happily the car was
 suffered multiple injuries, including
 down in the black-out by a car and
 Early in December he was knocked
 may well be called miraculous.
 and in particular Fembroke College,
 Cambridge, of which he is Mayor.
 wonderful recovery has delighted

**SIR MONTAGU BUTLER'S
 Mayor and Master**

Museum.
 staff at the Victoria and Albert
 including Sir Eric Maclagan and his
 however, has baffled the experts, in-
 clearly a fine artist. His identity,
 contemporary sculptor who was
 Lord Fairhaven, is the work of a
 The bust, which is the gift of
 States,
 between Britain and the United
 commemorate a century of peace
 British committee before the war to
 Tudor house of Washington's ances-
 tors, which had been bought by a
 sponsored an appeal to endow the
 speaking countries. In 1919 it
 ship between the two great English-
 sonal interest in this shrine of friend-
 Sulgrave Manor by Lord Fairhaven.



**DAILY TELEGRAPH
 21 FEB 1942**

COPY

602 184/23/Air

AIR FORCE MELBOURNE

A.L. 985

21/2/42

FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS BREAK.

QUOTE HULLO I THOUGHT THAT SOME OF YOU BLOKES WOULD BE COMING OVER HERE
UNQUOTE BREAK

THIS WAS THE GREETING SQUADRON LEADER PADDY FINUCANE GAVE HIS TWO FLIGHT
COMMANDERS AND PILOT OFFICER R. LEWIS, HIS AUSTRALIAN COMRADE, YESTERDAY
WHEN THEY VISITED HIM IN HOSPITAL. LEWIS WHOSE HOME IS IN KOJONUP, WESTERN
AUSTRALIA, WAS THE PILOT WHO GUARDED THE WOUNDED SQUADRON LEADER'S AIRCRAFT
AS THE SPITFIRES WERE CHASED ACROSS THE CHANNEL BY TWO FW190's. IT WAS
LEWIS' FIRE WHICH PROBABLY DESTROYED THE GERMAN FIGHTER WHICH CRASHED INTO
THE SEA BUT IT WAS ESTABLISHED TODAY THAT SQUADRON LEADER FINUCANE DAMAGED
ONE OF THE GERMAN FIGHTERS IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THE FIGHT BEFORE HE WAS
WOUNDED. BREAK.

QUOTE HE WAS JUST THE SAME OED PADDY WHEN WE SAW HIM IN HOSPITAL SAID LEWIS
TODAY HE WAS IN BED OFNCOURSE AND WAS OBVIOUSLY SUFFERING SOME PAIN. BUT
THEY TOLD US HE WOULD BE UP IN ABOUT A WEEK AND AS FAR AS I CAN DISCOVER IT
WAS NOT A BULLET WHICH WOUNDED HIM BUT PIECES OF HIS AIRCRAFT WHICH WERE
KNOCKED OFF BY THE FOCKE WULF'S FIRE. WE ONLY HAD A FEW MINUTES TOGETHER
BEFORE THE DOCTOR ASKED US TO LEAVE, BUT PADDY WAS NOT ONE LITTLE BIT
DISMAYED THAT HE HAD BEEN WOUNDED IN THE AIR FOR THE FIRST TIME. INDEED HE
GAVE ME THE IMPRESSION THAT HE IS VERY ANXIOUS TO GIVE THE 190'S A BIT OF
THEIR OWN BACK WHEN HE IS WELL ENOUGH TO FLY AGAIN. IT WAS IN THE SECOND
HEAD ON ATTACK THAT HE WAS WOUNDED BUT HE HAD THE SATISFACTION OF SEEING
PIECES OF HUN AIRCRAFT FLY OFF UNDER HIS OWN FIRE. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE HOWEVER
TO SAY WHETHER IT WAS THIS HUN WHICH CRASHED INTO THE CHANNEL AS WE WERE
FLYING HOME. UNQUOTE.

(sgd)

E.G.KNOX-KNIGHT,
Wing Commander, for
Air Commodore,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING

22 FEB 1942

**He guarded
'Paddy's'
plane home**



Pilot Officer Richard Lewis.

**'Hello blokes' says
wounded Finucane**

SQUADRON LEADER "PADDY" FINUCANE, lying in hospital with his first wounds received in the air, was visited by his two flight commanders and Pilot Officer R. Lewis, his Australian comrade.

This was Finucane's greeting: "Hello. I thought some of you blokes would be coming here."

It was Pilot Officer Lewis who guarded Finucane's plane as the Spitfires were chased across the Channel on Friday by two Focke-Wulf 190s—turning at least six times to beat off attacks. And it was Lewis's fire which probably destroyed the German fighter that crashed into the sea.

It was established yesterday that Finucane damaged a German fighter before he was wounded.

"He was just the same old 'Paddy' when we saw him in hospital," said Lewis. "They told us that he would be up in about a week, and as far as I could discover it was not a bullet that wounded him, but pieces of his aircraft which were knocked off by the Focke-Wulf fire."

INDICIA

The words freeze in my mouth. My tongue is still. Thank God this unspakable horror is bound to come to an end. "It's not the cold alone. There is the dark, misty veil of snow over the land and the internal noise of the perpetual easterly gale. You don't hear anything until suddenly a white-painted Russian tank is before you and, behind that monster, Russian infantry in their white snow-shirts are advancing. "Will the anti-tank guns work in this zero temperature? Will our fingers be too stiff to manipulate them? We have to set our teeth. We must have iron nerves. "The nights are worse than the days. You can't see your comrades by your side, and you feel alone and abandoned. You get frightened in this icy hell. Wing Commander H. P. Blathford, D.F.C., a Canadian pilot, who, as a night commander deputising for his commanding officer, led his squadron into battle against the Italians when they made their first raid on this country in November 1940, is also leading a wing on offensive patrols.

Some of these were...

Six victories
Two survivors from the aircraft-carrier Glorious are still flying against the enemy. One of them, a New Zealander, Wing Commander F. G. Jameson, D.F.C., leads a fighter wing from an East Coast station. His six victories include two at night. The other is Group Captain R. B. Cross, D.S.O., D.F.C., who won the D.S.O. for his work in the Libyan campaign.

Hid for 10 days
Now leading a Spitfire squadron in south-east England is a pilot who made a remarkable escape from the Germans during the fighting in France. This is Squadron Leader B. J. Wicks, D.F.C., who was shot down near the Belgian frontier on May 22, 1940, and hid from the Germans for ten days before he managed to cross into territory still held by the French.

seriously ill
By GRACE KINNEAR,
Sunday Express Correspondent
The Duke of Aosta, Italian Viceroy of Abyssinia until the British took that country last year, is seriously ill with an acute attack of tuberculosis, it was officially stated here today. He is in a Nairobi nursing home and is receiving expert attention. His condition gives rise to some anxiety.

Strangled woman in river riddle
SCOTLAND-YARD detectives investigating the discovery of an unknown woman's body on the fore-shore of the Thames near Waterloo Bridge have

Duke of Aosta seriously ill
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around towards Franco-German relations."

ay Express
FEB 1942