

AWM 65

3395

MC KENZIE, DARGIN

402802

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES  
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

Return to Sender

SEE MISC 503 ✓

264

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

See DAILY MAIL  
23. 3. 43

OFFICERS & AIR CREWS

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

SURNAME..... MCKENZIE ..... NUMBER..... Aus. 402802

CHRISTIAN NAMES..... DARGIN

AIR FORCE RANK AND MUSTERING..... ~~SERGEANT~~ PILOT MOSQUITO

DEGREES, DECORATIONS ETC..... NIL

PRESENT APPOINTMENT AND LOCATION..... NIGHT FIGHTING - 264 SQN. WEST MALING - GENT.

DATE OF BIRTH..... HUCKLAND. 12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 1919. PLACE..... HUCKLAND. NEW ZEALAND

EDUCATED..... NEW ZEALAND. HUCKLAND. AND INTERMEDIATE CERTIFICATE  
FINALLY IN CHAIRWOOD HIGH SCHOOL SYDNEY. N.S.W. AUSTR.

DATE OF ENTERING SERVICE..... 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 1940

PREVIOUS SERVICE EXPERIENCE..... NIL

PLACES OF TRAINING..... <sup>NO. 21 S.</sup> BRADFELD <sup>NO. 21 S.</sup> MARRANDERA. NO. 5 F15 UPLANDS OTTAWA. <sup>CO. OF U.</sup> EAST FORBES

CIVILIAN CAREER AND ACTIVITIES..... ASSISTANT MANAGER, MEDIA  
DEPT. ADVERTISING AGENCY

SPORT (TEAMS REPRESENTED), RECREATIONS, CLUBS ETC..... RIFLE SHOOTING  
SURFING & SWIMMING. SKATING

FATHER..... G. V. MCKENZIE

WIFE..... NIL

CHILDREN..... NIL

HOME ADDRESS..... 27<sup>th</sup> OLD SOUTH HEAD RD. BELLEVUE HILL SYDNEY. AUSTR.

SIGNATURE..... G. V. McKenzie Sgt.

DATE EMBARKED..... 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1941 DATE..... 31.1.42

DESTINATION..... Ottawa Ontario Canada

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

Personal file - Sgt. McKenzie

TO: H.Q. F.C. FROM 82 GROUP. REF. 85/30/1/42.

PRELIM. COMBAT REPORT.

- A. 504 Yellow Section took of Kirkistown 0943 hours landed 1052 hours,
- B. Nil.
- C. One Ju.88 damaged by Sgt. McKenzie (Australian)

TOR. 1343.

523

22/3/43 - No.24

Air Ministry News Service

Air Ministry Bulletin No.9700

MOSQUITO FIGHTERS' DOUBLE VICTORY IN BAY OF BISCAY

Fighter Command's latest long-range fighters - the twin-engined Mosquito - scored their first victory in daylight today when two of them destroyed two Ju.88s well out in the Bay of Biscay.

The two Mosquito pilots, accompanied by a third, took off from a South West of England airfield early this morning on an offensive patrol.

When they were 60 miles west of the Gironde estuary one of the Mosquitos navigators spotted some aircraft low above the water about two miles away.

The other aircraft were identified as Ju.88s, one of the Luftwaff's fastest twin-engined fighter types. Then the fight was on.

"When we got close to them they were about 100 ft. or so above the water," said the leader of the Mosquitos, F/Lt. W.G.Gibb, a 23 years-old pilot, who comes from Porthcawl, S. Wales.

"We had to turn to attack, and I dived down to give one a fairly long burst. White smoke from him spread over the sea almost immediately and his starboard engine stopped. Then my No.2 gave him another burst as I broke away.

"Strikes were seen to get home on the fuselage, and when I returned to the attack the Ju.88 was streaming petrol on to the sea. His starboard engine was now on fire, and all I had to do was to hit him from astern once more and watch him go into the 'drink.'"

F/Lt. Gibb's No.2 was 20 years-old P/O R.M. Muir, from New Milton, Hampshire.

The third Mosquito, which destroyed the other Ju.88, was flown by W/O D. McKenzie from Sydney, N.S.W. It was his first victory in air combat.

"I let mine have it well and truly with cannon shells," he said. "His hatch blew off and fire broke out in the fuselage just behind the rear-gunner.

"The gunner must have been getting singed, for he jumped out, his parachute did not open, and as he was only 100 ft. above the water he simply bounced. His aircraft followed him soon afterwards with terrific impact after my last burst of fire."

Two other Ju.88s appeared in the distance but on seeing the burning wreckage of their comrades they turned and made for the safety of the French coast.

The engagement lasted only a few minutes and very little return fire came from the enemy.

In all, the Mosquitos travelled nearly 1,000 miles - a tribute to the endurance of aircraft and men.

All three pilots paid high tribute to their aircraft. "It behaved magnificently," was W/O McKenzie's verdict.

264.30W