

STANLEY, JOHN

413099

4817

AWM 65

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES  
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

Missing 10-2-44  
P.O.N. 20-1-44.

The following Biographical details are requested for use at R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters, LONDON:-

Surname..... STANLEY..... 413099

Christian Names..... JOHN..... Conf. U.K. 21-5-45

Air Force Rank and Mustering..... SGT-PILOT.....

Degrees, Decorations, etc..... R.A.A.F......

Present Appointment and Location..... RAAF. PRC.....

Date of Birth..... 2/6/19..... Place..... MELBOURNE.....

Educated..... ~~.....~~.....

..... CRANBROOK SCHOOL, BELLEVUE HILL N.S.W.....

Date of Entering Service..... 15/8/41.....

Previous Service Experience..... ~~.....~~ ARMY (COMPULSORY SERVICE).....

Places of Training..... AUSTRALIA (52<sup>ND</sup> AA Coy).....

Civilian Career and Activities..... ACCOUNTANT/SECRETARY.....

Clubs, Recreations, etc..... FOOTBALL, SWIMMING, HUNTING,  
CRICKET, SQUASH, GOLF.....

Father..... JOHN STANLEY.....

Wife..... ..........

Children..... ..........

Home Address..... 120 CURLEWIS ST. BONDI N.S.W. AUST.....

Signature John Stanley  
Date 19/11/42

Date Embarked 24/8/42

Destination U.K.

See also: 942.  
          "      " 953.  
          "      " 1058.

(Filing: Australians from 609 Squadron R.A.F.)  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE OVERSEAS HEADQUARTERS.

Bulletin No.272 -"A".

3rd December, 1943.

R.A.A.F. TYPHOON MEN'S SUCCESS.

Two Australian Typhoon pilots scored when Typhoon fighters and Spitfires supporting American heavy bombers on their withdrawal from Western Germany on Wednesday engaged enemy fighters. The pilots were Flight Sergeant C.K.E. Martin, of Beverley Hills, New South Wales, who destroyed a Messerschmitt 109 F, and Flight Sergeant John Stanley, of Bondi, Sydney, who damaged a Pockewulf 190.

Martin's squadron was returning over Brussels when two ME. 109Fs, were seen 100ft. above. One vanished into cloud, and Martin opened fire on the second giving it first a short, then a very long burst. Flames and debris came from the ME, and it fell away to the ground.

Then the squadron descended through a gap in the cloud and flew at "zero" feet, attacking and damaging ten barges, two gun posts, a military hut and a staff car.

Stanley was flying in a formation of eight Typhoons which first attacked army vans and German troops parading on a military camp in Holland. The fighters attacked twice, scattering the troops and damaging the transport. Then they swooped on an enemy airfield just as one FW 190 had reached the end of the runway, while two more were circuiting. The leading Typhoon attacked one of the circuiting fighters and just as the opposing aircraft were 20ft. distant from each other the German dived vertically and crashed into some buildings.

Stanley closed in on the other fighter in the air, and hit it repeatedly with his fire. It slowed, then vanished between the trees with the undercarriage still up and thick black smoke pouring from the engine.

Spitfire pilots blew a Ju.88 to pieces at sea level north of Scotland yesterday. The pilots were Flight Lieutenant E.A.R. Esau, of South Brisbane, Queensland, and Flying Officer L. Macauliffe, of Boxley, New South Wales.

One of the two Spitfires hit the port wing, port engine and underside of the fuselage of the Junkers 88, and large pieces were seen to fly off. The Spitfires followed up the pursuit and <sup>when</sup> the second Spitfire pilot got within range and fired, striking more pieces off the enemy, the Ju. fell into the sea.

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TYPHOONS' GREATEST VICTORY

1058

R.A.F. Typhoons scored their greatest victory in one engagement over German F.W.190 fighters this afternoon, when one wing shot down twelve and damaged several others without loss to themselves over Northern France.

The Typhoons also shot up a number of enemy aircraft on the ground. One of the two squadrons which comprised the wing destroyed nine of the enemy.

The fight began when the wing was returning over Northern France after a sweep to the Paris area.

S/Ldr. J.R. Baldwin, D.F.C. and Bar, leader of the squadron which destroyed nine of the enemy, said "we were on our way home when Flying-Officer J.F. Williams, of Toronto, reported 'aircraft to port'. We swung round after them. I saw two of our chaps get one each and then noticed another Hun hitting one of our Typhoons. I shot him down and saw him hit the ground. Then four more got on my tail, but I came round behind the last one and shot him down.

"By this time the Huns were sending up reinforcements and I saw about 40 German fighters but we all got back safely."

Today's successes bring S/Ldr. Baldwin's total victories to 13 and a half - all shot down in the last twelve months. He was awarded the Bar to his D.F.C. earlier this month.

One of his flight commanders, F/Lt. R. Dall, from Christchurch, New Zealand, said: "The Huns were on my tail when the squadron-leader shot one down. I called back over the radio telephone 'Thanks very much, sir' - and I can tell you I meant it."

Flying Officer Williams, the Canadian who first reported the presence of the enemy, destroyed two of them. Two others were shot down by F/Lt. J. Niblett, of Esher, Surrey. He blew the starboard wing off one of the F.Ws and sent it crashing in flames into a wood.

"I was looking for some more when one got on my tail," he said. "I saw his gun twinkling at me: I pulled up in a steep turn and did a sort of dive. Then I came round and got him from behind - he went down in flames."

An Australian pilot of the same squadron, Warrant Officer J. Stanley, of Bondi N.S.W., also destroyed two F.W.190s.

Meanwhile about 20 miles away the other Typhoon squadron, the West Riding of Yorkshire, was engaged with other F.W.190s. One F.W. was shot down north of Paris by Flying Officer L.W.F. Stark, of Bolton, Lancs, who had destroyed three other enemy

aircraft since scoring his squadron's 200th victory four months ago.

"The F.W. flew across our formation," said Flying Officer Stark, "and we all went after him - but I got there first. The pilot baled out from 1500 feet."

A little later, while flying low to avoid flak, F/O Stark's Typhoon hit a tree and he returned home with branches still sticking into his radiator.

"I felt a jolt on hitting the tree," reported the pilot, "and could feel the branches brushing against my aircraft. Then my engine cut. I thought I would go into the ground, but the Typhoon picked up and brought me safely home. There are one or two cracks in it, but they are tough aircraft."

Both the West Riding Squadron's other victories were claimed by a 23-year-old Belgian.

The C.O. of the squadron, S/Ldr. J.C. Wells, of Sheringham, Norfolk, shot up an Me.110 and a Ju.88 on the ground when the German airfield was attacked, and the Belgian pilot and a Canadian attacked others.

Today's victory brings the wing's total of enemy aircraft shot down this month to 38. A fortnight ago S/Ldr Baldwin's squadron shot down eight enemy aircraft in the Paris area.

Last month the wing shot down 11 Dornier 217's in one engagement over Holland.

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(Filing: <sup>Martin</sup> ~~Australian~~ from 609 Squadron R.A.F.)  
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