

SHELDON, GEOFFREY CLIFFORD

420282

AWM 65

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

Surname SHELDON Number AUS. 420282  
Christian Names Geoffrey Clifford  
Air Force Rank and Mustering Sergeant - Airman Pilot  
Degrees, Decorations, etc.....  
Present Appointment and Location..... R.A.A.F. P.R.C. BOURNEMOUTH  
Date of Birth 16<sup>th</sup> Sept., 1921 Place Armidale, N.S.W.  
Educated Graded N.S.W. Leaving Certificate after 5 years at Sydney High School.  
Date of Entering Service 11<sup>th</sup> October, 1941.  
Previous Service Experience Nil.

Places of Training in R.A.A.F. 2 I.T.S. Bradfield Pk;  
8 E.F.T.S. Narrandera; 5 S.F.T.S. Manungui; } N.S.W.  
Civilian Career and Activities 2 years with N.S.W. State Public Service prior to enlistment;

Clubs, Recreations, etc. competition Tennis (N.S.W.L.T.A.),  
Swimming, Surfing, Table Tennis, Hiking; -  
Music, Motion Pictures.

Fathers name Capt. Eric George Sheldon D.C.M.  
Wifes name \_\_\_\_\_

Children \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address 45 Woodland St., Balgowlah, N.S.W.

Signature G. Sheldon

Date 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1943.

Date Embarked Australia 16<sup>th</sup> Jan., 1943.

Destination UNITED KINGDOM.

AUSTRALIAN PILOTS IN COPENHAGEN  
LUXURY AT MODERN AIRPORT

Eleven Australian fighter pilots are among the Royal Air Force squadron personnel chosen for 2nd Tactical Air Force's plum post-European war assignment, Copenhagen, where, in contrast to gloomy Germany, the people smile, wave, demand autographs and cover British vehicles in flowers.

The lucky Australians are Flying Officer Colin Kennedy, of Wairoonga, Sydney, Flying Officer D.J. Thompson, of Geraldton, Western Australia, <sup>420282</sup> Flying Officer G.C. Sheldon, <sup>127 Sm</sup> of Manly, NSW, Flying Officer H.A. Copeman, of East Brisbane, Flying Officer J.W.C. Collins, of Rose Bay, Sydney, Flying Officer Eric Gray, of Toowoomba, Queensland, Warrant Officer V.J. Rossow, of Brisbane, Warrant Officer C.N. Moyle, of Kingswood, South Australia, Warrant Officer E.L. James, of Newcastle, NSW, Warrant Officer N.D. Howard, of Morewell, Victoria, and Flight Sergeant L.J. Hodges, of Highton, Victoria.

These pilots are with a composite wing of Spitfires, Tempests and Typhoons which played a prominent part in the Battle for Germany and they are now enjoying luxury quarters among a liberated people who spare no efforts to show their joy and appreciation.

Untouched by war, the Copenhagen airport is a streamlined Hollywood film model of a modern aerodrome. Vast plate-glass windows make what is practically a continuous wall overlooking the strips and the control tower is a glass box with a clear view over all the field.

The pilots are housed in neat, new houses specially built by the Germans and provided with modern conveniences that work -- a rare virtue in war-torn Europe.

Large crowds of Danish people line the airfield fences daily to watch the British aircraft, and Saturday afternoons is guest day, when visitors are allowed on the aerodrome. On Saturdays, too, the squadrons put on flying displays for the visitors.

Gray, Rossow and Moyle are Spitfire pilots who have been with their squadron ever since Normandy. They had their most exciting battles in the last month of the war, when the Spitfire wing under which they operated shot down 90 German planes. In the last ten days of the war this wing accounted for 63 German machines. Of the month's total, Gray was credited with 2 1/2 and Rossow with a probable.

Australian Pilots in Copenhagen @ 2

Thompson, Kennedy and Howard are in a Tempest squadron which was kept busy during the last month of the war knocking holes in the German transport system. Although these Australian pilots had only been on the Continent a few weeks when the war ended, they had an exciting time while it lasted. Kennedy shot down an F.W.190, Howard shared in three kills and Thompson shared in one.

Sheldon, Copeman, Collins, James and Hodges are Typhoon pilots. Their squadron had a consistent record of achievement throughout the final phases of the war in Europe. Carrying rockets, their job was to destroy enemy transport and co-operate with the army in knocking out enemy strongpoints. In this sort of work they did not engage in aerial combat but earned a reputation for accuracy against their selected targets.

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