MYVM 65

[4247]

PRIEST, EDWARD CRAWFORD 421458

ACCESS STATUS
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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

## OFFICERS AND ALRCREW.

The following Biograp use at R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters,	hical details are requested for LONDON:-
Surname. PRIEST. Christian Names. 4 dov	421458
Christian Names & dovard . Logarif	ord.
Air Porce Rank and Mustering.	A.G. (air brew)
Degrees, Decorations, etc	
Present Appointment and Location. 8. P.	R.C. Bournetworth
Date of Birth. 9th dugust . 1920.	Place Steen Inne N.S.W. australia
Present Appointment and Location. A.P. Date of Birth 9th August 1970. Educated. High Nelsol 1	len Innes.
Date of Entering Service. A 15t 7.4	militia (Val. tras)
Places of Training, N. S. W. aus	tralia
Civilian Carcer and Activies. Justin	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
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Clubs, Recreations, etc Fourball.	Zennis Hockey
Clubs, Recreations, etc. Fastball.	
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Father. PRIEST. Shale.	
Wife	•••••
Ghildren	
Home Address. 77 Bank. 17. glen.	mits M. S. J. Australia
	Signature & Bried Date 1921 November 1922
	Date was 160 - 1911
Date Embarked 17 00. 1942	
Destination England.	

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

Overseas Headquarters, Kodak House, KINGSWAY, W.C.2.

PRO. FORMA. 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. PRIEST. Edward, Crawford. NUMBER 421459. (In full)
RANK AND MUSTERING. F/Sgt. Air Gunner. DECORATIONS N41.
NUMBER I.T.S. COURSE24.
X DATE LEFT AUSTRALIA Austrelia 17.10.42.
DATE OF ARRIVAL UNITED KINGDOM. 27.11.42.
O.T.U A.F.U. etc. 10. 0.F.U. 6.3.43 1.6.43.
PRESENT UNIT. No. 51. Squadron. AIRCRAFT FLOWN. Helifex.
PREVIOUS UNITS (with dates) AND AIRCRAFT HAGEN
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 Sortion, day-night (c) Target bombod (d) Attacks on enery surface vecasels - type size etc. (e) Attacks on enery submarines (f) Committee with energy surveyet (e) Other attacks and incidents, (h) Other Australians in erew.
126 Hours. 30 Mins. 2 Day (Sea Searches). 17 Night Operations. 13.7.43. Aachen.
15.7.43. Montebelsird. 9.8.43. Mennheim. 10.8.43. Muraburg. 12.8.43. Milan.
22.8.43. Leverkusen. 23.8.43. Berlin. 27.8.43. Nurnberg. 30.8.43. Munchen-Gledbach.
31.8.43. Berlin. 6.9.43. Munich. 15.9.43. Montlucon. 16.9.43. Modene. 22.9.43.
Henover, 29.9.43. Bochum. 3.10.43. Kassel. 4.10.43. Frankfurt.
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wee other side if negessary.

421458 F/O E.C. Priest D.F.C. of Clenn Innes, N.S.W. - Air Gunner He was on No. 24 ITS Course at Bradfield and trained in Australia at 3 W/Ags Heryborough and No. 1 B.N.G.S. Evens Head. He left Austrelia on 17 October, 42 on the Mount Vernon transferring in the U.S. to a small liner the name of which he did not remember. He arrived in the U.R. on 28.11.42. From Bournemouth Priest went to 7 A.G.S. Stormy Down then to G.T.U. Abingson, then to 1652 Conversion Unit at Marston Moor.

In July, 1943, Priest joined No. 51 Halifax squadron and did twenty-seven operational sortics with this unit. On the formation of No. 578 squadron he transferred with the same crow and completed three more sorties. On this tour he bombed Berlin seven times, Henover three times, Milan, Munich, Frenkfurt twice, Leipzig, Ressel twice, Manhein twice, Nuremburg twice, Aschen, Munchen-gladbach, Modane, Montbeliard, Mont Lucon.

He won a non immediate award at the end of his tour. Friest who is a rear-gunner has only made one claim - a PO/217 damaged on a raid on Frankfurt in November 43. The enemy bomber was dropping flares.

The Halifax was coming out of the target when Priest sighted it coming up behind about a hundred feet below, on the same track and overtaking. The Dornier was dropping flares in a laneway out of the target. "It dropped one flare directly on top of a cloud and was suddenly lit up itself beautifully" Priest said. "I could see the whole outline very clearly and at about 400 yards range opened up. The bomb almer reported strikes on the fuselage but it did violent evasive action and dropped away into cloud and disappeared, so I didn't see what happened".

In the spring Priest was screened and posted to 43 Base Driffield, then to 4 Group A.T.S. Acastel Malvis, near York.

on 19 September, Friest joined No. 462 R.A.A.F. Squadron on his second tour. He has since completed eleven more operational sorties all on targets in the Ruhr except two which were attacks on enemy positions at West Kapelle and Domburg. He has hed no combats on this tour.

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R.A.A.F.H.Q.

IMPORTANT PL. 573 P 16 MAY

FOLLOWING NON-IMMEDIATE AWARD WILL BE GAZETTED 23 MAY(.)

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS PILOT OFFICER EDWARD CRAWFORD PRIEST
(421458) NO. 578 SQUADRON(.)

THIS OFFICER HAS COMPLETED, IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES, MANY SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS AGAINST THE ENEMY, IN WHICH HE HAS DISPLAYED HIGH SKILL, FORTITUDE AND DEVOTION TO DUTY(.)

## Personal Pile

Aus. 421458 F/O E.C. Friest D.F.C. of Glenn Innes, N.S.W. - Air Gunner
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