

NWM 65

[4247]

PRIEST, EDWARD CRAWFORD

421458

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

OFFICERS AND AIRCREW.

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

Surname. PRIEST 421458.....

Christian Names. Edward Bradford.....

Air Force Rank and Mustering. Sergeant A.C. (air crew).....

Degrees, Decorations, etc. DFC

Present Appointment and Location. R.P.R.C. Bournemouth.....

Date of Birth. 9th August 1920 .. Place Glen Innes N.S.W. Australia

Educated. High School Glen Innes.....

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Date of Entering Service. 1st Feb. 1942.....

Previous Service Experience. 3 years Militia (Volunteers).....

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Places of Training. N.S.W. Australia.....

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Civilian Career and Activities. Draftsman.....

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Clubs, Recreations, etc. Football Tennis Hockey ..

Swimming.....

.....

Father. PRIEST Charles.....

Wife.

Children.

Home Address. 97 Basmbe St Glen Innes N.S.W. Australia.....

Signature E. Priest

Date 28th November 1942

Date Embarked 17 Oct. 1942

Destination England

Personal File (copy)

57 SN

SECRET

G.I.E.H.

421458 R/O R.C. Priest D.F.C. of Glenn Innes, N.S.W. - Air Gunner
He was on No. 24 ITS Course at Brodfield and trained in Australia at
3 W/Ags Maryborough and No. 1 B.N.G.S. Evans Head. He left Australia 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.K. on 26.11.42.
From Bournemouth Priest went to 7 A.G.S. Stompy Down then to O.T.U. Abingdon,
then to 1652 Conversion Unit at Marston Moor.

In July, 1943, Priest joined No. 51 Halifax Squadron and did twenty-seven
operational sorties with this unit. On the formation of No. 578 Squadron he
transferred with the same crew and completed three more sorties. On this
tour he bombed Berlin seven times, Hanover three times, Milan, Munich,
Frankfurt twice, Leipzig, Kassel twice, Mannheim twice, Nuremberg twice,
Aachen, Munchen-gladbach, Modane, Montbelliard, Mont Lucan.

He won a non immediate award at the end of his tour. Priest who is a
rear-gunner has only made one claim - a DO/217 damaged on a raid on Frankfurt
in ^{11/10} 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 aimer 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, Priest 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 had no combats on this tour.

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SECRET

8.12.44

SI 8N

Aus. 421458 F/O E.C. Priest D.F.C. of Glenn Innes, N.S.W. - Air Gunner
He was on No. 24 ITS Course at Bradfield and trained in Australia at
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108A.

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 file

SECRET

8.12.44

51 SN

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