

AWM 65

[4254]

PROCTER, DARRELL WILLIAM ALBERT

421853

RTA

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

I/R. FORM.
I/R. 5.

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

SECRET & CONFIDENTIAL.

The following biographical details are required for R.A.A.F.

Historical Records, Overseas Headquarters. These forms are to be filled in and returned to the Officer Commanding Repatriation Disposal Section, No.11 (R.A.A.F.) F.D.R.C.

NAME (in full) PROOSTER DARRELL WILLIAM ALBERT NUMBER AUS 421853

RANK AND MUSTERING F/O A.C. DECORATIONS —

NUMBER I.T.S. COURSE 26 27 O.T.U. - A.F.U. etc. 1660 Con Unit

DATE LEFT AUSTRALIA } 16 April 43
CANADA } DATE OF ARRIVAL U.K. June 44 3
S. AFRICA }

SQUADRONS 467 Sqn 463 Sqn

AIRCRAFT FLOWN Bombers

COMBAT & TYPE OF ACTIVITY Bombing (1) Main force (2) Photographic

OPERATIONS OR TRAINING WITH AMERICAN PERSONNEL, SQUADRONS, OR AIRCRAFT

DETAILS OF OPERATIONS - with Dates: to be given as fully as possible under the following applicable headings:-

- (a) Number Operational Hours
- (b) Number Operational Sorties, Day-night
- (c) Targets attacked
- (d) Attacks on enemy surface vessels - type, size, etc.
- (e) Attacks on enemy submarines
- (f) Outstanding sorties or incidents
- (g) Combats with enemy aircraft
- (h) Other Australians in crews
- (i) Personnel in Photographic Reconnaissance Unit, Transport Command, etc., should give a brief report of their work.

- (a) 267.15 hours
- (b) Frankfurt + 32
- (c) (1) Aachen (2) Frankfurt
- 3) Kassel 4) Düsseldorf 5) Berlin 6) Berlin 7) Berlin 8) Stuttgart
- 9) Mannheim 10) Frankfurt 11) Berlin 12) Bombing 13) Frankfurt
- 14) Berlin 15) Berlin 16) Stettin 17) Frankfurt 18) Bombing 19) Bombing
- 20) ST PIERRE DU MONTE 21) ARGENTAN 22) ORLEANS 23) AINY-SUR-ORDE
- 24) WATTEN 25) GELSENKIRCHEN 26) LIMOGES 27) PROVILLE 28) CRUEL 29) CRUEL
- 30) CONTRAI 31) SIRACOURT 32) BOIS DE CASAN 33) ST LEU DESSERENT 34) GIVON
- 35) QUESNAY 36) BRET 37) TURPITZ 38) PAS-DE-CALAIS 39) PUSHING
- 40) DUISBURG 41) BRUNSWICK 42) TIRPITZ 43) TIRPITZ 44) HELBORN 45) URFT DAM
- 46) GELSENKIRCHEN (D) - (E) - (F) Three (G) THAPZ (H) 5 (i)

DATE 20/2/45 SIGNATURE J.P. Prooster
(Use other side, or attach extra sheets, if necessary).

COPY OF CITATION OF NON IMMEDIATE AWARD
DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

F/O DARRELL WILLIAM ALBERT PROCTER(421853) 463 Squadron.
Gazetted 26.10.45.

This officer has completed in numerous operations against the enemy in the course of which he has displayed the utmost courage, fortitude and devotion to duty.

Personal file -
F/O D. W. Proctor

W
~~Handwritten~~
~~Handwritten~~
5.3.45.

FOR AUSTRALIAN PAPERS

R.A.A.F. RELEASE NO.988.

Air Ministry Bulletin No.17792.

CINE-LANCASTER CREW COMPLETES FOUR

Five members of the crew of the Australian Lancaster from which the R.A.F.'s great "knock-out" blow on the Tirpitz was filmed - a film which has now been seen in cinemas on both sides of the world - have completed their tour of operations in Britain, and are being posted back to Australia for duties there.

In Britain they served with an R.A.A.F. squadron of R.A.F. Bomber Command.

The cameramen flying with the crew filmed many targets, but best remembered are the records produced of the R.A.F.'s three heavy-bomber attacks on the German battleship Tirpitz.

On the third and last of these, in Tromso Fjord, Norway, it was the Lancaster's gunner F/Lt. E.H. Giersch, of Brunswick, Victoria, who first reported that the battleship had heeled over, mortally damaged by the bombs.

A quiet celebration was held in the mess recently in honour of the crew.

The crewmen returning to Australia are F/Lt. Bruce Buckham, D.F.C., of Penshurst, New South Wales; F/Lt. Giersch, F/O R.W. Board, D.F.C., of Rose Bay, N.S.W. navigator: F/O L.G. Manning, Air Bomber, of Nelson's Bay, N.S.W. and F/O D.W. Proctor, rear gunner, of Sydney.

F/O E.J. Holden, wireless operator air-gunner, of Glen Iris, Victoria, will remain for a time on duty in Britain.

The remaining member of the crew is a R.A.F. man.

The crew completed one period of duty, attacking mainly German targets as a normal Bomber Command crew, then volunteered to carry on with flying the specially-equipped R.A.A.F. Lancaster used by the R.A.F. Film Production Unit, which not only bomb their targets, but also, by flying low around the area, obtain photographic records of the attack.

Buckham has another claim to fame which he established on his first tour when he won the D.F.C.

This was his "one-man air-raid" on Berlin, when because of technical troubles he arrived and bombed the city alone 35 minutes after the main bomber force had left.

F/O Board, the navigator, was recently awarded a D.F.C. for his skill, particularly on such trips as one attack on the Tirpitz, when the force first flew to Russian bases, attacked and returned after 11½ and 14½ hour flights in poor weather conditions.

Buckham and his crew took over the Film Unit flying duties from F/Lt. F.L. Merrill, D.F.C. of Port Augusta, South Australia, of the same R.A.A.F. Lancaster squadron, and whose crew was the first to complete a double period of operations on these duties.

Two camera-aircraft fly with the R.A.A.F. squadron. The second was until a few months ago flown by F/Lt. Keith Schultz, of Evandale, South Australia, who has just received a Bar to the D.F.C. both awards being earned for similar flights.

Schultz's navigator, F/O E. Pickard, of Melbourne, and gunner, F/O K. Flute, of St. Lawrence, Queensland, also received D.F.C.'s

/Buckham's.....

