

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

The following biographical details are required for use at  
R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters, London.

SURNAME ..... PURDY. ..... NUMBER ..... 408519.

CHRISTIAN NAMES ..... GEORGE HERBERT. .....

AIR FORCE RANK AND MUSTERING ..... F/ST. .....

DEGREES ETC. ....

DATE OF BIRTH ..... PLACE .....

EDUCATED .....

DATE OF ENTERING SERVICE .....

PREVIOUS SERVICE EXPERIENCE .....

PLACES OF TRAINING .....

CIVILIAN CAREER AND ACTIVITIES .....

SPORT (TEAMS REPRESENTED) CLUBS ETC. ....

FATHER .....

WIFE .....

HOME ADDRESS .....

SIGNATURE .....

DATE .....

DATE OF ELABORATION .....

HEADQUARTERS USE ONLY - DO NOT FILL IN

AWARDS .....

CATEGORY ..... INTERVIEWS .....

RADIO ..... OTHER REFERENCES .....

Personal file - F/lt. G. Purdy

RAAF Release No 1238

10. 7.45 No. 15.

Air Ministry News Service.

L.M.B. No. 19240.

R.A.A.F. FIGHTER PILOTS MARRY ENGLISH SISTERS.

Two Australian fighter pilots who came to England with an R.A.A.F. Spitfire Squadron last December after operations in the Western Desert, Corsica and the South of France, and then were in the battle against the V.2., have married two English sisters whom they first met at a dance at the Overseas League Club in London.

Four months ago, <sup>408519</sup> Flight Lieutenant George Purdy, of Carnegie, Melbourne, married Sheila, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin, of Kenilworth Court, Putney. And now Flight Lieutenant Robert Mercer, of Perth, has married her younger sister, Jeanne. 451 53m

When Flight Lieutenant Purdy was married in March, the Squadron was too busy hunting out V.2 sites and communications for many of his fellow pilots to attend the wedding.

But Flight Lieutenant Mercer's wedding was a Squadron "show".

Pilots who had flown with the bridegroom on operations formed a guard of honour as he came out of St. Mary's Church, Putney, with his bride.

Flight Lieutenant Purdy is now home in Australia, and Flight Lieutenant Mercer hopes to be repatriated shortly.

But when their English wives go out to them, they will still be separated by nearly 2,000 miles, because one will be living in Melbourne, and the other in Perth.

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FROM MIDDLE EAST: 4/3/44

Two pilots of an Australian squadron which had been in the Middle East for nearly three years and is now flying Spitfires, recently intercepted and destroyed a Ju.88. They are F/Lt. W.W.B. Gale, of Geraldton, Western Australia, and F/O G.H. Purdy<sup>45759 D</sup> of Carnegie, Melbourne and they shared the victory between them. Gale followed the enemy aircraft down in its dive getting in one long burst. He then followed it in and out of cloud and got in two medium bursts. The Junkers then went above cloud where it was in turn attacked by Purdy who fired two bursts after which he saw big flash of fire from the cockpit. Both pilots made further attacks on the aircraft which crashed into the sea from about three hundred feet. Throughout the engagement the pilots observed no return fire from the enemy aircraft nor did they see any parachutes open. After it struck the sea they circled the position and saw partially inflated dinghy among the pieces of floating wreckage and oil patches.