

AWM 65

MAITLAND, MAITLAND-HEAD, KEITH

[3473]

ALSTRALIAN ARCHIVES  
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

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

SURNAME ..... MAITLAND - HEAD ..... NUMBER .....

CHRISTIAN NAMES ..... KEITH .....

AIR FORCE RANK AND MUSTERING ..... S/LDR .....

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 EMBARKATION .....

HEADQUARTERS USE ONLY - DO NOT FILL IN

AWARDS .....

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

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

July 10, 1944

Not issued in Middle East

AUSTRALIAN COMMANDS R.A.F. REGIMENT

Squadrons of the Royal Air Force Regiment advancing in Italy to take over the defence of newly-captured airfields include one commanded by an Australian -- the only Royal Australian Air Force officer now in command of a R.A.F. Regiment squadron in the Mediterranean theatre.

He is Squadron Leader Keith Mailland Head, whose home is at Neutral Bay, Sydney. He served in the Australian Militia, and came back to the service in the 1st. Sydney Battalion of the Australian Imperial Forces early in the war, rising to acting R.S.M.

Transferring to the R.A.A.F., he was commissioned and became a signals officer in the Middle East. Then he joined the R.A.F. Regiment, with eight other officers.

During the Allied activity in the Dodecanese Islands, after the Italian surrender, Squadron Leader Head, then a flight lieutenant, had charge of R.A.F. details on the tiny island of Castelrosso,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the coast of Turkey.

Castelrosso was held as a re-fuelling base. During the eight weeks' occupation the British troops and airmen were bombed daily by German aircraft --- this on a rocky island on which it was almost impossible to hack out a satisfactory trench. Royal Air Force men loaded wounded and sick on to Sunderland flying-boats, which arrived in darkness and left before dawn.

Finally, the island had to be given up. Many of the R.A.F. personnel got out on caiques, one of which sailed as far as Haifa.

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