

WM 65

[738]

COATE, ERNEST EDWARD
400695

AUSTRALIAN WAR ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

Return to Sender

AW 1939 (D.F.C)
BAR.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

OFFICERS & AIR CREWS

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

SURNAME..... COATE. NUMBER..... 400695
CHRISTIAN NAMES..... ERNEST EDWARD
AIR FORCE RANK AND MUSTERING..... PILOT OFFICER (PILOT)
DEGREES, DECORATIONS ETC..... D.F.C. BAR. M.M.C.H. ENGINEERING
PRESENT APPOINTMENT AND LOCATION..... 2.C.O.T.U. RAF STATION CATFOSS
DATE OF BIRTH..... 13-8-1908 PLACE..... LAKES ENTRANCE VICTORIA
EDUCATED..... BAIRNSDALE SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY
..... SWINBOURNE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
DATE OF ENTERING SERVICE..... 13-8-1940
PREVIOUS SERVICE EXPERIENCE..... N/C
PLACES OF TRAINING..... N.C.I.T.S. Bradfield Park Sydney. N.C.E.T.S. Alexandra
N.C.S.T.S. Highlands Ottawa. N.S.W. Electrical
CIVILIAN CAREER AND ACTIVITIES
Garage Prop'ty. Laboratories Victorian State Electricity Commission
SPORT (TEAMS REPRESENTED), RECREATIONS, CLUBS ETC.
Schools - football, cricket - swimming
Football Victorian Country Club team for East Gippsland
FATHER..... DAVID COATE
WIFE..... SINGLE
CHILDREN..... N/C
HOME ADDRESS..... "Katherlea" 27 Riverine St. Bairnsdale
Victoria Australia

SIGNATURE..... E.E. Coate. Pte.

DATE EMBARKED..... 21-2-41.

DATE..... 9-2-41.

DESTINATION..... England Canada.

(These forms are to be filled in and handed to the Adjutant of the Unit
immediately after receipt).

DFC.

5/2/43.

929

Flying Officer Edward Ernest COATE, R.A.A.F., No. 272 Squadron. Flying Officer Coate, who has been engaged in operations both in the Western Desert and from Malta, has destroyed numerous enemy aircraft both in the air and on

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross. 21/4/43. 193A.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Edward Ernest COATE, D.F.C. R.A.A.F., No. 272 Squadron
This officer is an extremely efficient and fearless flight commander. He invariably executes his tasks with great determination, setting a most inspiring example. In attacks on shipping in the harbour at Sousse and in attacks on road and rail transport, Flight Lieutenant Coate has achieved success. In air combat he has destroyed at least 9 and damaged several more enemy aircraft. His services have been of great value.

detailed to attack Essen. Whilst over the target area the aircraft was under heavy anti-aircraft fire. The navigator was killed instantaneously. Flight Sergeant Keen, who was in the astro-dome, had his right foot blown off and received cuts on both legs. Disregarding his wounds, Flight Sergeant Keen regained his seat in the wireless cabin. For over two hours he laboured to repair the damaged apparatus. He could not speak to other members of the crew owing to damage to the inter-communication apparatus. Another airman spoke to him, however, on at least a dozen occasions and found him still conscious and working at his self-imposed task or directing the manipulation of various installations. He also offered assistance in navigating the aircraft and

DAILY EXPRESS

28 NOV 1942

BV222 looked like
a ship

CAIRO, Friday.—The Australian fighter pilot who shot down the German Blohm and Voss 222, world's largest plane, on Wednesday, said today that when he first saw it he thought it was a ship.

He chased it 20 miles before he could attack. After he got his bursts in, two engines caught fire, the plane lost height, struck the water, and bounced 60ft.—Reuter.

F/b
Coate