

AWM 65

[3802]

MURRAY, WILLIAM HENRY  
434046

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES  
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

Intake No 269

Missing 19-2-44

P.D 30.1.45

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.  
OFFICERS & AIRCREW

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

Surname... MURRAY ..... Number... 034406 .....

Christian Names... WILLIAM HENRY .....

Air Force Rank & Mustering... P/O. Air Jamaica .....

Degrees, Decorations, etc.....

Present Appointment & Location... R.A.A.F. 11 P.D.R.C. Brighton

Date of Birth... 2/2/25 ..... Place... Mayfield .....

Educated... New England University .....

Date of Entering Service... 27/10/42 .....

Previous Service Experience... 12 months Militia .....

Places of Training in R.A.A.F. .... No 1 BAGS .....

Civilian Career & Activities... Student (Science) .....

Clubs, Recreations, etc... N.E.C. Tennis, Cricket, Rannell Club .....

Father's Name... HENRY WILLIAM MURRAY .....

Wife's Name.....

Children.....

Home Address... No 4, Masama, 13/4 Astor Rd, A. Baroti .....

Signature... W.A. Murray .....

Date... 27/18/45 .....

Date Embarked Australia... 14/7/43 .....

Destination..... United Kingdom YES .....

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE OVERSEAS HEADQUARTERS

(For Australian Papers)

R.A.A.F. Bulletin No. 516February 10, 1944AUSTRALIAN HALIFAX'S MANY BRUISES WITH FIGHTERS

Having converted from Wellington to Halifax in time for the raids on Frankfurt on December 21 and Berlin on December 30, the new R.A.A.F. heavy bomber squadron under the command of Wing Commander R.T. Perayth had a busy operational period during the last four attacks on Germany this year. In the 10 days covered by those raids, the Halifax crew were attacked 18 times by night fighters.

Five of these attacks took place during the assault on Hagleburg on January 21 and six during one of the three Berlin attacks. Although several Halifaxes were hit, none was damaged seriously.

Four attacks were made on a Halifax piloted by Pilot Officer S.H. McDonald of Soons, New South Wales, during the Berlin attack of January 20, but the bomber escaped undamaged.

Pilot Officer R.T. Andrews, of Brisbane, and Flight Sergeant C. Tate of Camden, New South Wales, rear gunner and mid-upper gunner of another Halifax, fought off two attacks by Me. 110's during the Hagleburg attack on January 21, after the bomber had had cloud cover along most of the route. While their first combat was taking place, Pilot Officer W.H. Murray, of Sydney, mid-upper gunner in another Halifax, fired on an Me.109 which made no attempt to join combat.

Thick cloud covered most of the route to Berlin on January 20, but the night fighters flew above this to the path of the bombers in the clear sky above. Flying Officer W.H.T. Russell, of Ballarat, Victoria, pilot, was attacked twice in a few seconds. A Ju.88 came in first to attack from 400 yards. Both the rear-gunner, Flight Sergeant D.E.C. Quarta, of Gwalia, Western Australia, and the R.A.A.F. mid-upper gunner opened fire, and believe they hit the Ju. which broke away to port with a flaming port engine. Then a single engine fighter attacked, but broke away. Almost simultaneously another pilot, Flight Sergeant E. Schuman, of Brisbane, was taking violent action to avoid two night fighters who had picked his Halifax out. He successfully eluded both of them, after slight damage had been done to a flap and petrol tank by the fighters' fire.

Two nights later a Halifax captained by Flying Officer J.H. Stevens of Prospect, South Australia, was thrice attacked on the way home from Berlin. In the first attack, made by a Me.210 in bright moonlight, the bomber was slightly damaged. In the second attack, by a Me.109, the rear gunner, Flight Sergeant L.F. Harris, of Toowoomba, Queensland, and the mid-upper gunner, Flight Sergeant L.A. Kemp, of Cottonville, South Australia, opened fire, and believe they hit the enemy. Steven's evasive tactics made the final result uncertain. About an hour later, another Me.109 was hit by both gunners, and the Halifax in turn was hit again, but it returned safely to base.