

AWM 65

3804

MURTHA, JAMES DEWAR

23409

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

OFFICERS AND AIRCREW

The following Biographical details are requested for use
at R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters, LONDON;-

Surname.....M. U. R. T. H. A......No: 23409.
 Christian Names.....James Lewis
 Air Force Rank and Mustering.....S. Sgt. Pilot. No. Aircrew
 Degrees, Decorations, etc.....D.F.C.
 Present Appointment and Location.....R.A.A.F. P.R.C. BOURNEMOUTH
 Date of Birth.....18-10-1920 Place.....Brisbane Queensland Aust
 Educated.....Haamba State School Queensland
 Date of Entering Service.....1-10-1940
 Previous Service Experience.....17 months Militia Service
Infantry
 Places of Training in R.A.A.F.....No 3. I.T.S. Brisbane Qld. No 2. E.F.T.S
Brisbane Qld. No 1. S.F.T.S. Point Cook Victoria
 Civilian Career and Activities.....Farming
 Clubs, Recreations, etc.....Rowing Bicycle Riding
 Fathers name.....John Henry Murtha
 Wifes name.....
 Children.....
 Home Address.....51. Bay View Terrace Clayfield Queensland Aust
 Signature.....J. J. Murtha
 Date.....8-2-43.
 Date Embarked Australia.....12-12-42
 Destination.....UNITED KINGDOM. 8-2-43.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

RTA

PRO FORMA
P/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.) P.D.R.C.

NAME (in full) MURTHA, JAMES DEWAR NUMBER 23409

RANK & MUSTERING F/O R.F.A.T. P.I.A.O.T. DECORATIONS R.F.C.

NUMBER I.T.S. COURSE 21 O.T.U.-A.F.U. etc.

DATE LEFT AUSTRALIA } 10/11/42
CANADA }
S. AMERICA } DATE OF ARRIVAL U.K. 2/2/43

SQUADRONS.....

AIRCRAFT FLOWN ~~J.F.1~~ O.H.82 OXFORD HARIFAX WELLINGTON

COMMAND AND TYPE OF ACTIVITY Bomber Command

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

7 34 operations 167 hrs 3 daylight 31 night
(Kororua 8/10/43 5:30) (Frankfurt 20/12/43 6:40)
(Berlin 29/12/43 8:00 hrs) (Berlin 28/1/44 8:55 hrs)
(Munich 2/2/44 6:50 hrs) (Berlin 15/2/44 7:10 hrs)
(Mendelsb. Munk. Mureaux 2/3/44 5:30 hrs) (Munich 3/3/44 7:00)
(St. Mans 7/3/44 5:42 hrs) (Frankfurt 22/3/44 5:45 hrs)
(Lille 9/4/44 4:30 hrs) (Bergum 10/4/44 5:20)
(Munich 11/4/44 5:40) (Bergum 18/4/44 4:30)
(Attigny 20/4/44 4:30 hrs) (Dusseldorf 22/4/44 5:00 hrs)

DATE 26/9/45 SIGNATURE J. Murtha F/O

Use other side, or attach extra sheets if necessary.

- (23/4/44 Mining 6.05-hrs) (Dorbarruhe 24/4/44 6.50)
(Essen 26/4/44 4.40-hrs) (Auloyne 27/4/44 4.00-hrs)
(Mining 1/5/44 6.10-hrs) (Mining 19/5/44 5.30-hrs)
(Mining 22/5/44 5.10) (Mining 24/5/44 5.05)
(Mining 26/5/44 5.05) (Mining 3/6/44 2.40)
(Mining 27/6/44 4.40) (St. Martin's Le Harthier 1/7/44. 3.20)
(St. Martin's Le Harthier 4/7/44 4.00)
(St. Martin's Le Harthier 5/7/44 3.25)
(Croix Blanche 6/7/44 3.50)
(Mining 12/7/44 3.55)
(Vaires 18/7/44 4.05)
(Bothrop 20/7/44 4.15).

D.F.C.

Pilot Officer James Dewar MURTHA (Aus. 25/09) No. 10 Squadron.

*Now Immediate Gazetteed,
17-11-44*

This officer has proved himself an outstanding captain of aircraft and has set a praiseworthy example of leadership, coolness and courage in all circumstances. During sorties on Berlin and Frankfurt, his aircraft was damaged by anti-aircraft fire. Undeterred, Pilot Officer Murtha pressed home his attack with the utmost determination. Another time in June, 1944, when on a mission to MULHRE, his bomber was attacked by a Dornier 217, shortly after leaving the target area. By skilful airmanship he successfully evaded the enemy fighter. During a minelaying operation, one engine of his aircraft caught fire; again, the efficient handling of his aircraft played a large part in enabling the fire to be put out and a safe landing was accomplished.

D.F.C

Pilot Officer James Dewar MURTHA (Aus. 25/09) No. 10 Squadron.

Spain

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