

AWM 65

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NEWTON, GORDON CHARLES
430483

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
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289

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

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

SURNAME NEWTON..... NUMBER 4.30.443.....

CHRISTIAN NAMES Gordon Charles.....

AIR FORCE RANK AND CUSTERING F/Sgt. Air Gunner.....

BELIEFS ETC. Mech. Engineer / Training.....

DATE OF BIRTH 6-10-24..... PLACE Morewell Vic. Aust......

EDUCATED Yallourn Tech School Vic.....

DATE OF ENTERING SERVICE 29-1-43.....

PREVIOUS SERVICE EXPERIENCE —.....

PLACES OF TRAINING № 1 I.T.S. № 2 W.F.A.S. № 2 B.R.G.S......

CIVILIAN CAREER AND ACTIVITIES Training for Mech. Engineer.....

SPORT (TEAMS REPRESENTED) CLUBS ETC. Cricket. Morewell C.C. and Rifle Shooting.....

FATHER William Gordon Newton.....

HOME ADDRESS 16 Hepburn Av., Morewell Vic. Australia.....

SIGNATURE S. Clouston.....

DATE 11/12/43.....

DATE OF EXPIRATION 4/1/43.....

HEADQUARTERS USE ONLY - DO NOT FILL IN

AWARDS D.F.M......

CATEGORY..... OTHERWISE.....

RADIO..... OTHER COMPETENCES.....

Copy of Citation of Non-Immediate Award of D.F.M.

Gazetted, 20-7-45

Aus. 430483 Flight Sergeant Gordon Charles NEWTON No. 626 Squadron.

Flight Sergeant Newton has participated in a large number of sorties against the enemy, as an air gunner. His targets have included the heavily defended towns of Stuttgart, Stettin, Frankfurt and Kiel. On several of these attacks, his aircraft has been engaged in combat with enemy fighters and, on each occasion, this airman's efforts have been largely responsible for the safe return of his aircraft. Once, while over Osterfeld in December, 1944, Flight Sergeant Newton sighted an enemy aircraft rapidly closing in to attack. With cool determination, he opened fire with a long burst, damaging the attacker which was seen to dive out of control to the ground. Throughout, Flight Sergeant Newton has handled his guns with great skill and accuracy and has displayed outstanding keenness to engage the enemy when possible.

Copy of Citation of Hon-Immediate Award of D.F.M.

Spare

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AIR MINISTRY NEWS SERVICE
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN PRESS

Air Ministry Bulletin No. 14800.

AUSTRALIAN CREWS OVER BELGIUM

Australian Lancaster and Halifax squadrons, operating from bases in Britain with Bomber Command, took part, last night, in the double attack on the railway key points in and near, Courtrai in Belgium.

Two Australian Lancaster squadrons attacked the railway yards at Courtrai, where there was little opposition except for a number of fighters. Experienced crews said that they had rarely seen more concentrated bombing. One Australian Halifax squadron, and one Australian Lancaster squadron attacked the adjacent railway triangle one hour later. Provoked, apparently, but the bombing of the railway yards, the defences of the triangle reacted much more strongly and the opposition was considerable.

^{51 Area 23187}
F/Sgt. J.C.C. Lafortest of Bondi, N.S.W., bomb aimer of a Lancaster, said of the attack on the yards: "The target was so well lighted that I could easily see streets and houses in the town. It was four minutes after zero hour when we got there, and already the bombing was well concentrated on the railway yards."

Large numbers of night fighters met the crews who took part in the second attack. Fighter flares were dropped on both sides of the bomber stream, especially on the return journey. Taking advantage of the illumination, these fighters operated in pairs.

Two Australian members of a bomber crew saw a rocket projectile fired from the ground to 10,000 feet where it burst with a yellow flare. Its yellow light fluctuated in intensity and descended only to flare up again as it hit the earth leaving thick black smoke behind it. Fires left burning by the first attack were seen by the crews taking part in the second attack as they came in over the coast.

^{12 Sqn.}
F/O. H.L. Tapp, a Lancaster bomb aimer, of Newcastle, N.S.W., described how they were attacked by a FW.190 which was in combat with another Lancaster. "Our bombing seemed very accurate," said Tapp. "We were attacked by a fighter with a white light in its nose a minute after we left the target. Both our gunners opened fire, and the fighter broke away without replying. By the way in which the fighter manoeuvred I think it was the same one which was fired at by another Lancaster in my squadron. Almost immediately afterwards, crews saw a fighter, which they identified as a FW.190, go down, and they think it was the one which attacked us."

^{626 Sqn}
F/Sgt. G.C. Newton, of Morwell, Victoria, rear-gunner of a Lancaster, who was also in the second attack said: "I saw plenty of fighters. Some of them followed our bombers so far out to sea on the return journey that they nearly reached the English coast."

During the night, some aircraft from the Australian Halifax squadron also attacked a flying bomb installation in Northern France.

21.7.44.

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