

AWM 65

[3991]

O'CONNELL, BERNARD JOSEPH

405496

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

OFFICERS AND AIR CREW

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

Surname. O'CONNELL.....Number. AUS. 405496.
Christian Names. BARNARD JOSEPH.....
Air Force Rank and Mustering. SERGEANT PILOT.....
Degrees, Decorations etc. D.F.C......
Present Appointment and Location. 3. PRC. BOURNEMOUTH
Date of Birth. 11th JUNY. ~~1921~~ Place. SANDGATE QLD, AUSTRALIA.
Educated. ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE. GREGORY TCE BRISBANE, AUST.
.....
Date of Entering Service. 31st March 1941.
Previous Service Experience. NIL.
.....
Places of Training. ITS. - SANDGATE QD AUST. - EFTS. - ARCHERFIELD AUST.
S. K. S. CAMP BORDEN ONTARIO. CANADA
Civilian Career and Activities. CLERK. IN OFFICE OF MESSRS EVANS DRAYKIN & Co Ltd
BRISBANE, BRISBANE, AUST.
.....
Clubs, Recreations etc.....
.....
Father. DANIEL JOSEPH O'CONNELL CREMORNE FINDERS PARADE,
SANDGATE, QLD, AUSTRALIA
Wife.
.....
Children.
Home Address. "CREMORNE", FINDERS PARADE, SANDGATE, QUEENSLAND, AUST.
.....
Signature. [Signature]
Date. 21. 1. 42.
.....
Date Embarked. 8. 1. 42. EX. CANADA.
Destination. H. H.

Copy of Citation of Award of D.F.C.

Flying Officer Bernard Joseph O'CONNELL (Aus. 405496) No. 682 (N.A.A.F.) Sqdn.

Flying Officer O'Connell has completed a most successful tour of operations, accomplished in the North African, Sicilian and Italian battle areas. On one occasion, after bombing his target in very adverse weather, he endeavoured to fly through thick cloud. The aircraft iced up and went into a spin and Flying Officer O'Connell lost consciousness temporarily but recovered and managed to nurse his aircraft back to base 350 miles distant. He made a crash landing without further damage. This officer is an exceptionally able pilot who has never failed to complete his attacks effectively.

XXXXXXXXXXXX plain language:-

R. A. A. F. H. Q.

IMPORTANT FL. 576 P 17 MAY.

RESTRICTED(.) THIS SIGNAL IS MY PL. 576 P DATED 17 MAY AND INCLUDES FOUR D.F.C.'S(.) FOLLOWING NON-IMMEDIATE AWARDS WILL BE GAZETTED 23 MAY (.) DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS(.) FLYING OFFICER BERNARD JOSEPH O'CONNELL (405496) No. 682 SQUADRON(.) O'CONNELL HAS COMPLETED MOST SUCCESSFUL TOUR OF OPERATIONS, ACCOMPLISHED IN NORTH AFRICAN, SICILIAN AND ITALIAN BATTLE AREAS(.) ON ONE OCCASION AFTER BOMBING HIS TARGET IN VERY ADVERSE WEATHER ENDEAVOURED TO FLY THROUGH THICK CLOUD(.) AIRCRAFT ICED UP AND WENT INTO SPIN AND O'CONNELL LOST CONSCIOUSNESS TEMPORARILY BUT RECOVERED AND MANAGED TO NURSE AIRCRAFT BACK TO BASE 350 MILES DISTANT(.) MADE CRASH LANDING WITHOUT FURTHER DAMAGE(.) THIS OFFICER IS EXCEPTIONALLY ABLE PILOT WHO HAS NEVER FAILED TO COMPLETE HIS ATTACKS EFFECTIVELY(.)