

AWM 65

[4050]

OSBORN, WILLIAM WARD

430047

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES  
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

Killed 9-11-44  
328

ROYAL AIR FORCE AIR FORCE

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

SURNAME..... OSBORNE..... NUMBER..... AUS 430047.....

CHRISTIAN NAME..... William Ward.....

AIR FORCE RANK AND NUMBER..... P.O. G.D. Pilot.....

DEGREE ETC..... Bachelor of Arts, Diploma of Education.....

DATE OF BIRTH..... 20/2/22..... PLACE..... Melbourne, AUSTRALIA.....

EDUCATED..... Melbourne University, 1939-1942.....

DATE OF ENTERING SERVICE..... 4-12-42.....

PREVIOUS SERVICE EXPERIENCE..... Australian Army (6 months).....

PLACES OF TRAINING..... I.I.T.S. Somers, II. E.F.T.S. Benalla (AUST), 14 S.F.T.S. Aylmer, I.O.T.U. & 36 O.F.U. Woodwood, CAN.

CIVILIAN CAREER AND ACTIVITIES..... Melbourne University 1939-1942  
Teaching, Maryborough High School 1942.....

SPORT (NAME REFERRED) GAMES ETC..... Tennis, Cricket, Golf.....

FATHER..... Harold Thomas Osborne.....

WIFE.....  
HOME ADDRESS..... 30 Jordan Street, Malvern S.E.4, Melbourne AUST.

SIGNATURE..... W. Ward Osborne P.O.

DATE..... 8/5/44

DATE OF EXPIRATION..... 28-4-44

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CATEGORY..... INTERVIEWS.....

RADIO..... OTHER REFERENCES.....

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FOR AUSTRALIAN PAPERS

21.10.44.

2nd TAF/FE/AIR. INF. 618

"TOMMIES" PRAISE TYPHOONS

Forced-landing in the midst of some British Tommies in Holland after helping to destroy what was believed to be a German staff headquarters, an Australian "rocket-typhoon" pilot received first-hand some idea of the Army's appreciation of the rocket-firing Typhoons.

The pilot, Flying Officer <sup>2130047 247 Sqd</sup> W.W. Osborne, of Malvern, Victoria, flew with his R.A.F. squadron to attack a small village where there were German troop concentrations and what was believed to be a German staff headquarters.

"We pranged the centre of the village good and hard", said Osborne. "We pressed home the attack in spite of intense light flak, and our rockets and cannon shells ripped through the buildings. The place was covered with smoke as I pulled out of my dive. I was just gaining height again when my aircraft was hit.

"The engine stopped, but then picked up again, and I just managed to get the aircraft a mile inside our own lines before I put her down in a belly landing.

"There were some British soldiers working in that place and they had to part to let my smoking aircraft touch down. Then they all came running up to me, to see if I was all right. Then I heard lots of things about rocket-firing Typhoons in general.

"From time to time the Wing has been congratulated by the Army, usually through some high officer, for its work, in attacking front-line targets, and we have appreciated those messages very much. But somehow it seemed to mean more when I heard these Tommies talking to each other about the R.A.F. Typhoons, and the things they had done.

"The front-line soldier sees a lot of the Typhoons, because so many of our targets are only a few hundred yards in front of our own troops. In fact they know more about what we have done than we know ourselves. We may "prang" a wood full of German troops and go back not knowing whether the raid was a success or a failure, but the Tommies know because they're into that wood almost as soon as we leave it.

"Every type of aircraft used by the R.A.F. is doing its job, but after that forced landing I think the rocket-firing Typhoons is tops with the British Tommy."

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