

AWM 65

[4121]

PATTEN, EVAN CHARLES

409437

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

OFFICERS AND AIRCRAFT

460 file enc. 40
464 file enc. 40

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

MISSINA 3-3-45

P.O.

Number 31-09437

Surname..... PATTEN.....
Christian Names..... EVAN CHARLES.....
Air Force Rank and Mustering..... SGT. W.A.G......
Degrees, Decorations, etc..... D.F.C......
Present Appointment and Location..... R.A.A.F. PRC.....
Date of Birth..... 15/2/22..... Place..... WINDSOR.....
Educated..... BOX HILL HIGH SCHOOL.....
Date of Entering Service..... 15th August 1941.....
Previous Service Experience.....
Places of Training..... NO. 1 ITS SOMERS. NO. 1 WAGS RALPHAT
..... NO. 3. BAGS SALE.....
Civilian Career and Activities..... CLERK.....
Clubs, Recreations, etc..... YMCA. P/T INSTRUCTOR
..... NIGHT TENNIS ASSOCIATION. COMPETITION
..... TENNIS TRACK CYCLING.....
Father..... JOHN A. PATTEN (DECEASED).....
Wife.....
Children.....
Home Address..... 15 SELBOURNE ST. HAWTHORN VIC
..... HUST

Signature

Date

[Signature]
20/11/42

Date Embarked

24/8/42

Destination

18/11/42 U.K.

Copy of Citation of Non-immediate award D.F.C.

Spare

Flying Officer Evan Charles PATTEN (Aus.409437) R.A.A.F. No.467 (R.A.A.F) Squadron.

Flying Officer Patten is now on his second tour of operations. He has participated in attacks against such heavily defended targets as Dortmund, Bremen and Hamburg. Throughout he has displayed outstanding initiative, skill and devotion to duty. On one occasion, during an attack against Konigsberg his wireless set became unserviceable. In difficult circumstances Flying Officer Patten located an intricate failure and speedily effected a repair. The successful conclusion of the mission was largely due to this officer's resourcefulness and skill.

Copy of Citation of Non-immediate award D.F.C.

Layetted, 23-3-45

Flying Officer Evan Charles PATTEN (Aug. 409437) R.A.A.F. No. 467 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

AUSTRALIANS IN RAID ON BERLIN ON NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 3, 1943

(Matter supplied by F/Sgt. M. Williams of P.R. Branch to Bomber Command
for use in A.M. Bulletin issued 4.9.43)

Less fighters and more ground defences were reported by crews of the first R.A.A.F. Lancaster Squadron after last night's raid on Germany. They flew through clouds practically all the way to the target and came into a clear sky just before reaching Berlin. Large numbers of search lights were reported. All the crews said that the target area was well alight when they left for England.

Flight Sergeant E.C. Patten, wireless operator/air gunner, of Hawthorn, Victoria, who was on his second trip to Berlin said that the bombs dropped dead on the target. There were large numbers of searchlights and a fair amount of anti-aircraft fire. There were practically no fighters.

"We were caught by a searchlight once over the target, but managed to get away by evading violently" he concluded.

"It was much easier than when I was there last time" said Flight Sergeant H.K. Cheslin, a flight engineer, from Kew, Victoria, who was also on his second trip to Berlin. "We went in early and there were large fires then. I saw several large explosions as we arrived. Even with the thick clouds we could see the glow of fires about 70 - 80 miles away on the way home".

F/Sgt. W.R. Harper, bomb aimer, of Fremantle, W. Australia, who had

/been

been to Berlin twice previously said it was "a good prang" : "We had an easy trip" he said. "We just 'stooged' in, dropped the bombs and out again. It was nowhere near as frightening as the last time I was there. We went in about the middle of the attack and the fires were well under way".

Biv. Tolders

(Hansen are men from 460 Sqdn.
4.9.43)

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