

AWM 65

[4150]

PEARSON, JAMES CHRISTOPHER

404941

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES  
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

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

SURNAME ..... PEARSON. ..... NUMBER ..... 404941. .....

CHRISTIAN NAMES ..... JAMES CHRISTOPHER. .....

AIR FORCE RANK AND MUSTERING ..... Sgt. ..... Pilot. .....

DEGREES ETC. ....

DATE OF BIRTH ..... 31-12-14. ..... PLACE ..... Hornsey N.S.W. .....

EDUCATED .....

DATE OF ENTERING SERVICE ..... 3/1/41. .....

PREVIOUS SERVICE EXPERIENCE .....

PLACES OF TRAINING ..... 27 OTU. 20 OTU. .....

CIVILIAN CAREER AND ACTIVITIES .....

SPORT (TEAMS REPRESENTED) CLUBS ETC. ....

FATHER .....

WIFE ..... GRACE PEARSON. 52 PALMER ST. .....

HOME ADDRESS ..... TOWNVILLE. QUEENSLAND. .....

SIGNATURE .....

DATE .....

DATE OF EMBARKATION ..... 13/6/41 .....

HEADQUARTERS USE ONLY - DO NOT FILL IN

AWARDS .....

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

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

OVERSEAS HEADQUARTERS, R.A.A.F. LONDON

8.8.42

WELLINGTON WAY TO GERMANY

R.A.A.F. Wellingtons took full share in the series of concentrated raids on Germany during July.

Opening the month with the Bremen blitz, the R.A.A.F. bombers were early over the target with a huge load of incendiaries. Widespread fires left burning guided the powerful force of four-engined Halifaxes, Stirlings and Lancasters to their targets. Flak was intensive, the defences in all probability having been strengthened after previous damaging raids on the submarine building yards and aircraft factories. Sgt. R.A. Brittingham, of Curlewis, N.S.W. saw the glare over the city from 50 miles away. As the observer Sergeant W.M. Matchett, Grenfell, N.S.W. dropped the bombs at about 2 a.m. flak hit the aircraft under the rudder. Brittingham took the plane to base without further damage. P/O J.F. Summers, of Aylmerton, N.S.W. captain of another Wellington reported on his return that the fires were to be seen all over Bremen and that his target was well plastered.

The reputation of the squadron for its summary treatment of night fighters was enhanced by Sgt. J.C. Pearson, of Queensland, and crew who shot down an Me.109 on a minor operation early in the month. The Me. banked up from under the port quarter and came almost astern still banking. However, a strong burst from the rear gunner turned it almost over in mid-air and it dived into the sea. The rest of the crew comprised: Sgt. L.M.J. Evans, of St. Leonards, South Australia; Sgt. A.L. Smith of Tasmania; Sgt. R.W. Lawton, of Perth, Western Australia; and Sgt. P. Ghoran-Henderson of Victoria.

The great naval base of Wilhelmshaven was the next target on a large scale. The light of flares helped them identify their targets and the crews consider it a most successful operation.

The nights of July 13, 21 and 25 were spent over the extreme west of the Ruhr basin at Duisburg, where the docks of the largest river port in the world made a splendid land mark. On the first visit the conditions were variable but of the captains reporting successful results were: Sgt. S. Solomons, of N.S.W.; and Sgt. C.G.R. Grant of N.S.W.

Vital heavy industries and other targets felt the full weight of the Wellingtons' bombs on the following two attacks. Aircraft captains included: Sgt. J.A. Bryden, Warwick, Queensland; P/O Summers; Sgt. Solomons; P/Sgt. D.T. Galt, Melbourne, Vic; Sgt. E.K.F. Brasher, of Brisbane; Sgt. P.S. Isaacson, Melbourne; P/Sgt. C.D. Graham, Wynnum, Queensland; Sgt. A.V. Willis, Victoria; P/O W.A. Clegg, Ballarat, Vic; Sgt. J.A. Finlay, Scone, N.S.W.; P/Sgt. J.A. Saint-Smith, Sydney; P/O W.L. Brill, D.F.C., of Matong, N.S.W.; Sgt. Grant; Sgt. W.T. Hornby, Queensland; and P/O A.W. Doubleday, of Wagga Wagga.

The Australian crews almost without exception reported "really good show" after dropping high explosives on Hamburg, which was attacked by an extremely powerful force on July 26, popularly regarded as one of the most successful attacks of the war. Despite intense flak the Australians watched their bombs fall accurately on some of the busiest submarine building yards on the Continent.

Saarbrücken, capital of the Saar and centre of large iron and steel works and focal point of many railways, was the objective on July 29. Breaks in the clouds over the target gave excellent visibility and landmarks were easily picked out. Typical of the reports was that of flight Sergeant P.R. Jackson, of Sale, Victoria, who said "It was a most successful operation. Fires were visible from 50-60 miles." Sgt. Graham made three runs over the target before releasing the bombs, which were seen to fall near the large marshalling yards. Violent evasive action by Sgt. Brittingham saved his aircraft from destruction by an Me.110. Hits from machine guns and cannon damaged the Wellington.

Night fighters were again troublesome in the concentrated raid on Dusseldorf on the last day of the month when the Australians dropped a massive weight of bombs on the vital steel and engineering works. A Junkers 88 attacked the aircraft piloted by P/O W.A. Clegg about 25 miles west of Dusseldorf. The enemy aircraft came in from above on the starboard quarter but meeting heavy fire broke off the attack and dived away. General damage was sustained by the aircraft captained by Sgt. Pearson and special mention was made of the plucky way the radio operator Sgt. A.L. Smith carried out his duties after being wounded.