

AWM 65

4805

SPROTT, WILLIAM

402887

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

See P. G. Adams for
story of life in West Africa.
with R.A.F.

~~See MILITARY UNITS~~
200

Photo: U.K. 1201
Photo: U.K. 1200A

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

OFFICERS AND AIR CREWS

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

SURNAME.....**SPROTT**.....NUMBER.....**402887**.....
CHRISTIAN NAMES.....**WILLIAM**.....
AIR FORCE RANK AND MUSTERING.....**PILOT OFFICER**.....—.....**PILOT**.....
DEGREES, DECORATIONS ETC.....**M-1-D**.....
PRESENT APPOINTMENT AND LOCATION.....**95 SQUAD. — FREETOWN — WEST AFRICA.**.....
DATE OF BIRTH.....**29 JUNE 1918**.....PLACE.....**BLANTYRE — SCOTLAND**.....
EDUCATED.....**CANTERBURY BOYS HIGH SCHOOL — SYDNEY.**.....
.....
DATE OF ENTERING SERVICE.....**11 NOVEMBER 1940**.....
PREVIOUS SERVICE EXPERIENCE.....
.....
PLACES OF TRAINING.....**2 I.T.S. BRADFELD N.S.W. 31 GRS. CHARLOTTETOWN CANADA.**.....
3 S.F.T.S. NARRAMINE N.S.W......
CIVILIAN CAREER AND ACTIVITIES.....**4 O.T.U. INVERGORDON SCOTLAND**.....
.....
ACCOUNTANT.....
.....
SPORT (TEAMS REPRESENTED), RECREATIONS, CLUBS ETC.....
.....**SOCCER. CRICKET. ICE SKATING**.....
.....
FATHER.....**DANIEL FERGUSON SPROTT**.....
WIFE.....
CHILDREN.....
HOME ADDRESS.....**20 MYEE ST. LAKEMBA SYDNEY N.S.W.**.....
SIGNATURE.....*William P. Sprott*.....
DATE.....**11/2/42**.....
DATE EMBARKED.....**19/3/41**.....
DESTINATION.....**CANADA**.....

(These forms are to be filled in and handed to the Adjutant of the Unit

RTA

PRO. FORM. P/R. 5.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

Overseas Headquarters, Kodak House, Kingsway, W.C.2.

SECRET & CONFIDENTIAL.

The following biographical details are required for R.A.A.F.

Historical Records, Overseas Headquarters. These forms are to be filled in and returned to the Officer Commanding Repatriation Disposal Section, No.11 (R.A.A.F.) P.D.R.C.

NAME (in full) SPROTT WILLIAM NUMBER 402887

RANK AND BRANCH S/LDR. G.D. PILOT DECORATIONS NIL

NUMBER I.T.S. COURSE 8 O.T.U. - A.P.U. etc. # 5 E.F.T.S.
3 S.F.T.S.
4 C.O.T.U.

DATE LEFT AUSTRALIA 21.3.41
CANADA 12.11.41 (APPROX) DATE OF ARRIVAL U.K. 20.11.41 (APPROX)
Sth. AFRICA

SQUADRONS 95 & 204

AIRCRAFT FLOWN SUNDERLAND I II III V

COMMAND & TYPE OF ACTIVITY COASTAL - ANTI-SUB CONVOY ESCORT

OPERATIONS OR TRAINING WITH AMERICAN PERSONNEL, SQUADRONS, OR AIRCRAFT NIL

DETAILS OF OPERATIONS - with dates: to be given as fully as possible under the following applicable headings;

- (a) Number Operational Hours
- (c) Targets attacked.
- (d) Attacks on enemy submarines.
- (f) Combats with enemy aircraft.
- (h) Other Australians in crews.
- (b) Number Operational Sorties, Day-night.
- (d) Attacks on enemy surface vessels - type, size, etc.
- (g) Outstanding sorties or incidents.
- (i) Personnel in Photographic Reconnaissance Unit, Transport Command, etc., should give a brief report of their work.

joined 95 Squad in Execlon West Africa in April 42 with P/O Adams (now S/L Adams) & we were first Australians on Squad. Completed a tour of 800 hours operations on Oct. 43 & came back to England as instructor at 4 C.O.T.U. Went out to West Africa again on second tour in August 44 & became Flight Commander of 204 Squad. Left West Africa after D. Day & landed back in England on 15 June 45.

TOTAL OPS HRS 1100

TOTAL HRS 1982

Date 5.11.48

SIGNATURE W. Sprott S.LDR

(use other side, or attach extra sheets, if necessary)

SECRET

AUS402835 PILOT OFFICER P.G. ADAMS, PILOT

95 Squadron, 7/7/42

Freetown, W.M.F.

CORRIMAL, NEW SOUTH WALES

Pilot Officer Adams left Australia on 19/3/41 on the "Aorangi" via New Zealand, Suva, Christmas and Fanning Islands. He embarked at Halifax on November 12 on the "Christiaan Huygens" in a convoy of 12 huge ships in which was an entire Canadian division. They were escorted half way across by American battle ships, two cruisers and seven destroyers and were then picked up by four British destroyers.

After Bournemouth he was posted to No. 4 (c) O.T.U., at Invergordon where he trained on London Saroes and then Sunderlands - No. 8 course. With him was AUS402887 Pilot Officer W. Sprott of Lakemba, near Sydney. These two have been together right since being called up. Also on the course was AUS406357 Pilot Officer Charlie Hugall of Nedlands, West Australia.

Adams and Sprott were posted to No. 95 Squadron which at that time had been at least 12 months at Freetown, West Africa. They crossed by convoy from Greenock arriving at Freetown on April 3, 1942. Adams had returned with his crew, the captain of which was Flight Lieutenant J. Mountford, R.A.F., to pick up another Sunderland.

The station is near Jui and is still in the process of being built. It is commanded by Wing Commander Zwarensten, a South African in the Royal Air Force.

"Hot, humid, rough and tough" was how Adams described the life in West Africa. There are no social amenities and apart from an occasional swim when off duty the crews do nothing. Pictures are shown twice a week, probably being furnished by the E.N.S.A. Extensive mangrove swamps form most of the immediate environment.
