

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
RECORD OF SERVICE - OFFICER
EXTRACT FROM FORMS FP24 AND FP25

OUR REFERENCE: NSW 851/75

YOUR REFERENCE: MX 53520 - 59

NUMBER: 402444 RANK: 7th Lt

NAME: LIGHT. Kevin William D.F.M.

DATE OF BIRTH: 29.1.1921

DATE OF ENLISTMENT: 19.8.40 For the duration

AS AIRMAN:

DATE OF DISCHARGE 11.6.43 On Being granted a Commission

AS AIRMAN:

DATE OF APPOINTMENT 12.6.43

AS PILOT OFFICER:

APPOINTMENT

TERMINATED: 25.10.45 On Demob.

NATURE OF SERVICE:

Ditcher 19.8.40

Air Gunner 14.11.41

Gen Duties 12.6.43

PROMOTIONS:

ACTI	19.8.40	Pt Off	12.6.43
NAC	14.10.40	Flg Off	11.12.43
Sgt	14.11.41	7th Lt	11.6.45
Flt Sgt	14.10.41		
W. Off	14.10.42		

POSTINGS AND MOVEMENTS:

2 ITS	Bradfield Park	19.8.40
2 FD	Bradfield Park	9.11.40
Embarked	Sydney	24.11.40
Disembarked	Canada	23.12.40
2 AOS	Canada	24.12.40
2 "M" Depot	Canada	11.2.41
3 BAGS	Canada	14.3.41
1 "M" Depot	Canada	21.4.41
Embarked	Canada	19.5.41
Disembarked	UK	4.6.41
3 PRC	UK	4.6.41
142 SQN	UK	16.8.41
RAF Sqn (Brimstock)	UK	25.11.41
142 SQN	UK	13.1.42
460 SQN	UK	25.2.42
RAF Sqn (Whitechurch)	UK	9.9.42
24 CTU	UK	19.11.43

1661 B U	ltk	21. 8. 43
9 Sep.	ltk	15. 1. 44
Port.	Germany	18. 4. 44
11 P&RC	ltk	8. 5. 45
Embarked	ltk	9. 8. 45
Disembarked	Sydney	9. 9. 45
2PD	Bradfield Park	9. 9. 45
2 MRU	Jervis Bay	2. 10. 45
2PD (Disc)	Bradfield Park	25. 10. 45

POW. Germany 18. 4. 44 POW NO 8057
 Target:- Juvigny France.
 Shot Down by A/A Guns.
 Evader from 19. 4. 44 to 4. 7. 44.
 Captured by ~~Gestapo~~ Gestapo in "Paris"
 Held in Fresnes Prison "Paris" 4. 7. 44 - 23. 8. 44
 Buchenwald Concentration Camp. 8. 9. 44 - 9. 11. 44
 Stalag Luft III Germany. 12. 11. 44 - 2. 5. 45.

Honours & Awards: ~~1942~~ Distinguished Flying Medal London 903 29. 12. 42
 1939/45 Star = Aircrew Europe Star -
 Defence Medal = War Medal 1939/45
 Australian Service Medal 1939/45 = RAS Badge.

Certified that the above is a true and correct statement of the
 service of the abovenamed ex-member who in World War II
 served outside Australia

This member is a charge against the Imperial Government if,
 and only if, his disability is found to have arisen from an
 occurrence happening between 19. 5. 41 - 9. 9. 45

30 AUG 1975

OFFICER IN CHARGE OF RECORDS

POW Germany: 18-4-44

POW No: 8057

Target: Juvisy France

Shot Down by A/A Guns

Evader from 19-4-44 to 7-7-44

Captured by Gestapo in 'Paris'

Held in Fresnes Prison 'Paris' 7-7-44 - 23-8-44


Buchenwold Concentration Camp 8-9-44 - 9-11-44

Stalag Luft III Germany 12-11-44 - 2-5-45

Honours and Awards: Distinguished Flying Medal London Gaz 29-12-42, 1939-45 Star,
Aircrew Europe Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, Australia
Service Medal 1939-45, Returned from Active Service Badge.

Certified that the above is a true and correct statement of the service of the
abovenamed Veteran who in World War II served outside Australia.

This member is a charge against the Imperial Government if, and only if, his disability is
found to have arisen from an occurrence happening between 19-5-41 - 9-9-45.


OFFICER IN CHARGE OF RECORDS

- 9 SEP 1975

NSW 851/75

MX 53520 - B9

402447

FLTLT

LIGHT Kevin William DFM

29-1-1921

19-8-40 For the duration of the war and for a period of twelve months thereafter.

11-6-43 On Being Granted a Commission

12-6-43

25-10-45 On Demobilization

Aircrew	19-8-40
Air Gunner	14-4-41
Gen Duties	12-6-43

ACII	19-8-40	PLTOFF	12-6-43
LAC	14-10-40	FLGOFF	11-12-43
SGT	14-4-41	FLTLT	11-6-45
FSGT	14-10-41		
WOFF	14-10-42		

POSTINGS AND
MOVEMENTS:

2 ITS	Bradfield Park	19-8-40
2 ED	Bradfield Park	9-11-40
Embarked	Sydney	27-11-40
Disembarked	Canada	23-12-40
2 AOS	Canada	24-12-40
2 'M' Depot	Canada	11-2-41
3 BACS	Canada	17-3-41
1 'M' Depot	Canada	21-4-41
Embarked	Canada	19-5-41
Disembarked	UK	7-6-41
3 PRC	UK	7-6-41
142 SQN	UK	16-8-41
RAF Stn (Binbrook)	UK	25-11-41
142 SQN	UK	13-1-42
460 SQN	UK	25-2-42
RAAF Stn (Whitechurch)	UK	9-5-42
27 OTU	UK	19-4-43
1661 CU	UK	21-8-43
9 SQN	UK	15-1-44
POW	Germany	18-4-44
11 PD&RC	UK	8-5-45
Embarked	UK	9-8-45
Disembarked	Sydney	9-9-45
2 PD	Bradfield Park	9-9-45
2 MRU	Jervis Bay	2-10-45
2 PD (Disc)	Bradfield Park	25-10-45

/ POW Germany



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
(AIR FORCE OFFICE)

PO Box E33
Queen Victoria Terrace
CANBERRA ACT 2600

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
RECORD OF SERVICE
EXTRACT FROM MEMBER'S SERVICE DOCUMENTS

OUR REFERENCE: DGPS-AF RECORDS/

YOUR REFERENCE:

NUMBER: 402447 RANK: FLIGHT LIEUTENANT NAME: KEVIN WILLIAM LIGHT, DFM

DATE OF BIRTH: 29 JANUARY 1921 CATEGORY/MUSTERING GENERAL DUTIES

DATE OF ENLISTMENT IN THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE: 18 AUGUST 1940

a. For the duration of the war and for a period of twelve months thereafter.

b. ~~For years in the Interim Air Force.~~

c. ~~For years continuous full time service.~~

DATE APPOINTED TO A COMMISSION: 12 JUNE 1943

DATE OF ENROLMENT IN THE WOMENS AUXILIARY AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE:

For a period not exceeding twelve months for service within the limits of Australia only.

DATE OF ENLISTMENT IN THE WOMENS AUXILIARY AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE:

For service within the limits of Australia (including the Territories of the Commonwealth) only, for the duration of the war and twelve months thereafter.

POSTINGS, ATTACHMENTS AND MOVEMENTS:

2 INITIAL TRAINING SCHOOL	BRADFELD PARK	19 AUGUST 1940
2 EMBARKATION DEPOT	BRADFELD PARK	9 NOVEMBER 1940
EMBARKED SYDNEY 27 NOVEMBER 1940. DISEMBARKED CANADA 23		
DECEMBER 1940		
2 AIR OBSERVER SCHOOL	CANADA	24 DECEMBER 1940
2 M DEPOT	CANADA	11 FEBRUARY 1941
3 BOTTING AND GUNNERY SCHOOL	CANADA	17 MARCH 1941
1 M DEPOT	CANADA	21 APRIL 1941

POSTINGS, ATTACHMENTS AND MOVEMENTS (continued):

EMBARKED CANADA 19 MAY 1941. DISEMBARKED UNITED KINGDOM
7 JUNE 1941

3 PERSONNEL RECEPTION CENTRE UNITED KINGDOM 7 JUNE 1941

142 SQUADRON UNITED KINGDOM 16 AUGUST 1941

RAF STATION BINGBROOK UNITED KINGDOM 25 NOVEMBER 1941

142 SQUADRON UNITED KINGDOM 13 JANUARY 1942

460 SQUADRON UNITED KINGDOM 25 FEBRUARY 1942

RAF STATION WHITECHURCH UNITED KINGDOM 9 SEPTEMBER 1942

27 OPERATIONAL TRAINING UNIT UNITED KINGDOM 19 APRIL 1943

1661 COMMUNICATION UNIT UNITED KINGDOM 21 AUGUST 1943

9 SQUADRON UNITED KINGDOM 15 JANUARY 1944

REPORTED MISSING 18 APRIL 1944. PRISONER OF WAR 7 JULY 1944

11 PERSONNEL RECEPTION CENTRE UNITED KINGDOM 8 MAY 1945

EMBARKED UNITED KINGDOM 9 AUGUST 1945. DISEMBARKED SYDNEY
9 SEPTEMBER 1945

2 PERSONNEL DEPOT SYDNEY 9 SEPTEMBER 1945

2 MEDICAL REHABILITATION UNIT JERVIS BAY 2 OCTOBER 1945

2 PERSONNEL DEPOT SYDNEY 25 OCTOBER 1945

INTERNEED BUCHENWALD CONCENTRATION CAMP 8 SEPTEMBER 1944
TO 9 NOVEMBER 1944

COPY OF STATEMENT BY RELEASED RAAF PRISONER OF WAR
ATTACHED.

1150
76A
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

Card entered
Statement by Repatriated or Released R.A.A.F. Prisoners of War, taken at Special Administrative Section, 11 P.D.R.C., R.A.F. Station, BRIGHTON on.....

Name in full... LIGHT KEVIN WILLIAM o.W. No... 8057
No. AUS/H.02447 Rank... F/O Squadron... 9 Sqn BARRNEY

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE.

(a) Date... 7.7.44 (b) Place... PARIS

(c) Events immediately prior to and leading up to capture

Shot down on 19 April 44. escaped & wandered around France till July 7th 44 when I was arrested by the Gestapo.

(d) If wounded or injured prior to capture, state nature thereof.

(e) Names of any others captured with you (RAAF particularly)

Two Americans captured with me.

Staff Sgt. John Hanson.

Flight Officer Jack Philcan.

(f) Names of any killed in the operation in which you were captured, and if so, can you state whether they were buried by the enemy and where (RAAF particularly)

Four killed & buried in a cemetery 20 miles south of Paris. Name of cemetery Mersy? (could be spelt wrong)
Killed Pilot. Sgt. Bates. Rear gunner. Sgt. Moss. Eng. Nav.
Sgt. Heath N/A English. Sgt. WILSON. English. Engineer.

EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO CAPTURE AND DURING INTERMENT.

(a) Camps of internment	Period	Approximate Dates
A <u>Presnes Prison Paris.</u>	<u>47 days</u>	<u>from 7.7.44 to 8.3.44.</u>
B <u>Buchenwald Concentration Camp</u>	<u>60 days</u>	<u>" 8.9.44 to 9.11.44.</u>
C <u>Stalag Luft III</u>		<u>" 12.11.44 to 2.5.45.</u>

(b) Describe general living conditions in camp

(i) Accommodation - (type, bedding, lighting and heating, crowding)

A
B
C
D
E

Very reasonable in Stalag Luft III

(ii) Rations - (quantity, quality, cooking facilities)

A
B
C
D
E

Not very much & not very good & consequently the cooking facilities were reasonable.

(iii) Clothing and footwear - (details of issue)

A
B
C
D
E

Anything you wanted you could get but footwear was a bit skim.

EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO CAPTURE AND DURING INTERNMENT.

2b continued.

(iv) Bathing, washing and sanitary facilities.

A

B

C

D

E

*Plenty of cold water for washing
or hot showers once a week.*

(v) Recreational facilities - (sport entertainment, reading, distribution of news)

A

B

C

D

E

Very good.

(vi) See para 5 (below)

3.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAY

(a) State nature of work, average hours worked per day

(b) Did you receive any remuneration? Give particulars (N.C.Os and O.Rs only)

(c) Pay - other than work - What pay, if any, was made available to you during your internment? (Give date thereof, frequency of payment and the use to which you applied it).

4.

COMFORTS AND MAILS.(a) Did you receive comforts (Red Cross or other) regularly? *Yail.*

(i) Food parcels

*... 1/2 ... parcel per week until ... April 4.5.**... 1 ... parcel per week until ... released in May.**..... parcel until released.....*

(ii) Clothing parcel

76.

5.

INDICATE BEHAVIOUR OF INTERNMENT CAMP STAFFS

A

B

C

D

E

Very Good.

3.
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

STATEMENT by Repatriated or Released R.A.A.F. Prisoners of War continued.

NAME... LIGHT... KEVIN WILLIAM.

6. NAMES OF ANY OTHER AUSTRALIAN SEEN WHILE YOU WERE A PRISONER OF WAR.

(This applies particularly to any Australian seen during the last two or three months before arrival at this Unit. If nominal roll of RAAF personnel in all camps is available to refresh your memory. If you know of any RAAF member not on this nominal roll, give all particulars in the space below.

All the Australians I know are now in this country.

7

MEDICAL TREATMENT.

(a) Did you receive any medical treatment during your internment?

Na.-----If so,

(b) Give names of hospitals or places where treated, and periods with approximate dates

G

H

(c) For what were you treated?

G

H

(d) Do you think that quality of treatment was affected by shortage of personnel, dressing and drugs &c. If so, give some particulars

G

H

QUESTIONNAIRE for completion by repatriated personnel.

Number Aus... H.0.3.4.4.7. Rank... F/O. Name... LIGHT. K.W. (see over)

QUESTION 1. Approximately where did the aircraft crash?

The A/C. crashed on the railway lines about 1 mile outside
LONGJUMEAU. Which is a town 20 miles south of PARIS.

QUESTION 2. Did you bale out? Yes. so state (a) the number and, if possible, the identity of any other occupants of the aircraft whom you know, to have baled out before you. Have you any evidence direct or hearsay of what happened to, them subsequently? (b) the number and, if possible, identity of any other occupants whom you know to have still been in the aircraft when you left it. Give any details which may have a bearing on the probable fate of these men.

My Bomb Aimer Sgt. Martin English also baled out. My pilot
F/O. SMITH. A/C. also baled out. Some Frenchmen told
me that these two boys were in hiding with some French
people round about the Longjumeau area. I learnt later
that they both arrived safely in England. F/Sgt. Bates. And A/C.
Sgt. Moss. English Nav. Sgt. Heath. Eng. W/HG. Sgt. WILKINSON.
English Engineer all failed to abandon A/C.

QUESTION 3. Have you any other information touching on what happened or what probably happened to the other occupants?

I have often tried to think as to why my four
unfortunate comrades failed to abandon A/C. but
the whole thing appears to be very mysterious to me.

QUESTION 4. Have you information of any Royal Air Force personnel other than members of your own crew?

76.

STATEMENT OF ESCAPED, EX-INTERNEE, REPATRIATED P.O.W., RELEASED P.O.W.

Number. Aus/ 4024447 Rank... F/O Name... LIGHT, K. W.
Squadron... 9 Sqn. Bardney Mustering... M/A

1. Particulars of operation on which engaged.

I was the... R/C... (mustering) in the crew of a LANCASTER (type aircraft) detailed to attack a target at... JUVISY... FRANCE (name of target) on the... 19. 4. 44... (date)

2. Circumstances of loss of aircraft.

Give details of what occurred paying particular attention to (i) Cause of damage to aircraft (ii) Orders given by captain to abandon A/C and if acknowledged by crew. (iii) Details of injuries to any members, and if so whether unable to bale out. (iv) The identity of members who baled out up to time of your leaving aircraft. (v) The number and identity of any members of crew whom you know to have still been in the aircraft when you left it. (vi) Height at which you baled out. (vii) Whether or not aircraft was in control at that time, and its condition whether on fire etc. (viii) Approx where and aircraft crash.

Just as the last bomb left the racks of our A/C we were hit by anti A/C fire. The two inboard motors were ablaze with fire. My pilot turned out of the target & made every effort to put the flames out. I believe that he was losing height rapidly. He then called up all members of the crew & as far as I know everyone was unhurt. He then gave the order to prepare to abandon A/C. Then he ordered us to abandon A/C. I immediately baled out at a height of about 2000 feet. The A/C crashed on the railway line just outside LONGJumeau which is a village 20 miles south of PARIS.

3. Probable fate of other members of crew.

(Including whether saw parachutes in the air, made contact with other members on the ground, or received any information regarding them from any source whatever; any details of burials etc.)

A French family at Longjumeau took me into their house & I later learnt from Frenchmen that my Bomb Aimer Sgt Martin English & my pilot P/O Smith both had parachuted safely. I was also informed by the French that four bodies were still in the crashed A/C & that the Germans were taking them out & later I was told that they were buried at a cemetery called Morsay but I am not certain about this cemetery. I have no reason to give as to why my four comrades were killed but just as I reached the rear escape hatch the A/C seemed to go into a peculiar out of control attitude.

4. Have you any information whatever of any R.A.F., R.N.Z.A.F., R.C.A.F., or personnel other than members of your crew.

5. Were you at any times in the hands of the enemy as a P.O.W.; If so state circumstances and details of any subsequent escape or release.

I was shot down on the 19th April 44 but I evaded capture until the 7 July 44. when I was captured by the Gestapo. A nice set of boys who are very handy with their fists.

6. If you were identified by the enemy as being in enemy occupied territory, state details of identification.

I was caught in civilian clothes & I had no means of identifying myself for I was without my identification discs. The Gestapo told me I was everything but a Christian so I just had to do as I was told.

7. Did you injure or kill an enemy at anytime. *P.K. No.*

8. How many operational trips or hours have you completed. *47 trips. 290 hrs.*
Is this your first or second tour? *Second*

9. Do you require repatriation to Australia as soon as possible after your leave?

(a) I was married in this country & I would like

(b) to stay here for a few weeks so that I may see my wife & also to make enquiries as to what the authorities are going to do to us. (So far things are very discouraging.)

Dated the *19* day of *June* 1945.

K. Light F/16

N. W. Adley F/16

Signature of Officer before whom statement is made.

4. Have you any information whatever of any R.A.F., R.N.Z.A.F., R.C.A.F., or personnel other than members of your crew.

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Dated the *19* day of *June* 1945.

K. Light F/10

N. W. Adley F/11

Signature of Officer before whom statement is made.

HONOURS AND AWARDS.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING MEDAL

to

402447 FLIGHT SERGEANT KEVIN WILLIAM LIGHT.

CITATION.

As wireless operator air gunner flight
Sergeant Light has participated attacks targets both
Germany and German occupied territory. Has at all times
displayed commendable courage devotion duty whilst high
skill has made him valuable member of aircraft crew.

1401/1150/P.4. (62A)

24th January, 1945.

P.4. Cas (Miss Catley),
Air Ministry,
73-77 Oxford Street,
LONDON W.1.

Flying Officer K.W. Light D.F.M. Aus. 402447

With reference to your letter P.416059/44/P.4.Cas.B. of the 23rd January, 1945, the following information is supplied to assist you in answering the letter received from Mr. Moss.

2. Flying Officer J.A. Smith Aus. 413909 the Pilot of the aircraft on returning to this country made the following statement concerning the loss of his aircraft:-

"They had just left the target when a loud explosion was heard and it was presumed that the aircraft had been hit by flak. The Pilot called up the crew on the intercom receiving acknowledgment from all members except Sergeant Bates. Two inboard motors were on fire and the Pilot attempted to extinguish the fire without success. He then instructed the crew to bale out receiving acknowledgment from the navigator and the bomb aimer before the intercom became unserviceable. The Pilot held the aircraft for approximately three minutes when he himself abandoned at a height of 3,000 feet. The aircraft was losing height but was still under control up to the time he left. He saw no members of the crew after he landed and heard no news of their fate from any source."

3. 1315761 Flight Sergeant Martin C.H.T. in his statement given to A.I.1 a P/W stated that he jumped from 4,000 feet and ten seconds later before he reached the ground the aircraft crashed in flames. He expressed doubt as to whether all the members of the crew got out of the aircraft before it crashed.

4. Flight Sergeant Martin in an interview at this Headquarters stated that he had heard from a reliable source that Flying Officer Light had been picked up by the underground movement shortly after baling out and was reported to be safe in Paris on the 6th June. That information is as yet unconfirmed, but may be the information referred to by Mr. Moss in his letter where he states that he has learnt definitely that Flying Officer Light was not taken a prisoner on the 18th April 1944.

5. It is further noted that Mrs. Light has received a letter from a Frenchman who befriended Flying Officer Light in which the Frenchman states that he looked after Flying Officer Light in April.

6. No statement has yet been received from Flying Officer Light, but should you consider it desirable this Headquarters will endeavour to obtain a statement from him to give any information which he can concerning the fate of Sergeant Moss and the other members of the crew who were reported killed.

W.M.
(W.M. MELVILLE),
Squadron Leader,
for Air Vice Marshal,
Officer Commanding.