

Albert Edwin GARDINER, 441317

Personal Information

Date of Birth: 18 May 1925

Place of Birth: Subiaco, Western Australia

Death: 2004

Place of Death: Perth, Western Australia

Age at Enlistment: 18 years 1 month

Description: 5'10½", auburn hair, brown eyes, fair complexion, scars on both shins and left lower chest

Occupation: Junior clerk, Western Australian Government Railways

Religion: Presbyterian

Address: 29 Neville Road, Claremont, Western Australia

Next of Kin: Father, Tom D Gardiner



Military Information

Reg Number: 441317

Date of Enlistment: 3 July 1943

Rank: Leading Aircraftman. Mustered as Aircrew V.

Trade: Air gunner

Unit/Formation: 467 Squadron, 463 Squadron

Post War Details

Fate: Discharged 22 February 1946 (Returned to Australia)

Medals: 1939/45 star – France and Germany Defence Medal. War Medal 1939/45.

Detailed biography

Pre War

Albert Edwin (Ted) GARDINER worked as a junior clerk at Western Australian Government Railways prior to enlistment.

War Service

Enlisted on 3 July 1943 at No. 4 RAAF Recruiting Centre

[https://www.birtwistlewiki.com.au/wiki/No._4_RAAF_Recruiting_Centre], Perth, on 3 July 1943. He was classified Aircrew V, under training.*

Posted to No. 5 Initial Training School RAAF

[https://www.birtwistlewiki.com.au/wiki/No._5_Initial_Training_School_RAAF] at Clontarf from 3 July 1943.

Re-mustered as Aircrew V (Gunner) on 7 September 1943.

Promoted to Leading Aircrewman, under training, on 11 September 1943.

Posted to No. 1 Wireless Air Gunners School RAAF[<https://www.1wags.org.au/>], Course 42 and Course 43 at Ballarat from 16 September 1943 to 9 February 1944.

On 31 December 1943 he received a trade classification as Aircrew V (Gunner).

Posted with the rank of Leading Aircrewman to No. 1 Embarkation Depot RAAF

[https://www.birtwistlewiki.com.au/wiki/No._1_Embarkation_Depot_RAAF] at Ransford on 3 February 1944.

Posted to Air Gunnery School at West Sale on 18 February 1944.

Re-mustered as Air Gunner, promoted to Sergeant, under training, and received the Air Gunner's badge on 30 March 1944.

Posted to No. 5 Embarkation Depot RAAF

[https://www.birtwistlewiki.com.au/wiki/No._5_Embarkation_Depot_RAAF] at Subiaco, Perth, on 13 April 1944.

Posted to No. 1 Embarkation Depot RAAF

[https://www.birtwistlewiki.com.au/wiki/No._1_Embarkation_Depot_RAAF] Ransford on 20 April 1944.

Embarked at Melbourne for the UK on 28 April 1944.

Disembarked in the UK on 13 June 1944 and was attached to the Royal Air Force.

Posted to No. 11 Personnel Despatch & Receiving Centre RAAF

[https://www.birtwistlewiki.com.au/wiki/No._11_Personnel_Despatch_%26_Receiving_Centre_RAAF] on 14 June 1944.

Posted to No. 27 Operational Training Unit RAF

[https://www.birtwistlewiki.com.au/wiki/No._27_Operational_Training_Unit_RAF] at Lichfield on 18 July 1944.

Promoted to Flight Sergeant, under training, on 30 September 1944.

Posted to No. 51 Base RAF[<https://www.rafweb.org/Organsation/Bases.htm>] at Swinderby on 11 October 1944 and promoted to Flight Sergeant. Attached to Aircraft School, Balderton station, on 11 October 1944.

Attached to No. 1654 Conversion Unit RAF

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_conversion_units_of_the_Royal_Air_Force#List_of_conversion_units] on 16 October 1944.

Posted from No. 75 Base RAF [<https://www.rafweb.org/Organsation/Bases.htm>] at Swinderby to No. 5 Lancaster Finishing School RAF [<https://www.61squadronraf.net/rafsyerston.html>] at Syerston on 4 December 1944.

Posted to No. 467 RAAF Squadron [<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U59451>] at Waddington on 21 January 1945.

Posted to No. 463 RAAF Squadron [<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U59448>] at Waddington on 8 February 1945.

Posted to No. 53 Base RAF [<https://www.rafweb.org/Organsation/Bases.htm>] at Waddington on 20 March 1945.

Court-martialed on 21 March 1945.

At the court-martial he was charged with three offences.

The first charge under section 5.5(8) of the Air Force Act was for 'Failing to use his utmost exertions to carry such orders into effect'. It was alleged that 'he at Royal Air Force Station, Waddington, on the night of 19/20th February, 1945, when under orders to carry out a warlike operation in the air, namely to act as air gunner in His Majesty's aircraft Lancaster PD.330, on an operational flight for the purpose of bombing BOHLEN through default failed to use his utmost exertions to carry such orders into effect by failing to present himself at the said aircraft in sufficient time for take off for such flight.'

The second charge, as an alternative to the first charge, under section 15(1) of the Air Force Act was for 'absenting himself without leave'. It was alleged that 'he at Royal Air Force Station, Waddington on the night of the 19/20th February, 1945, failed to report for duty at 22.42 hours as air gunner in His Majesty's aircraft Lancaster PD.330 as it was his duty to do and remained absent without leave until approximately 23.00 hours on the same night.'

The third charge, under section 8(2) of the Air Force Act was for 'Using insubordinate language to his superior officer'. It was alleged that 'he at Royal Air Force Station, Waddington, on the night of the 19/20th February, 1945, when ordered by Squadron Leader D.J. SULLIVAN, DFC. NO.463 Squadron, to fly with his crew on operations that night replied to the said Squadron Leader SULLIVAN "I refuse to fly" or words to that effect.'

He was found guilty of the first and third charges, and reduced to ranks. He was re-mustered to the rank of Leading Aircrewman (General Hand) and relinquished his Air Gunner's badge.

He was sentenced to 18 months detention, with 12 months of the sentence remitted by Air Vice Marshal HA Constantine, Air Officer Commanding, Headquarters, No. 5 Group RAF [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No._5_Group_RAF], on 10 April 1945, and forfeited 30 days pay. Subsequently he received a further remission of 61 days under the 'Rules for Detention Barracks and Voluntary Prisons'.

At No. 53 Base RAF [<https://www.rafweb.org/Organsation/Bases.htm>] he was released from the detention barracks at Sowerby Bridge on 21 July 1945.

Attached to No. 54 Base RAF[<https://www.rafweb.org/Organsation/Bases.htm>] from 26 August to 3 September 1945.

Posted from No. 53 Base RAF[<https://www.rafweb.org/Organsation/Bases.htm>] to No. 11 Personnel Despatch & Receiving Centre RAAF

[https://www.birtwistlewiki.com.au/wiki/No._11_Personnel_Despatch_%26_Receiving_Centre_RAAF] on 4 September 1945.

Embarked from UK for Australia on 17 September 1945.

Disembarked at Perth on 11 October 1945.

Posted to No. 5 Personnel Depot RAAF

[https://www.birtwistlewiki.com.au/wiki/No._5_Personnel_Depot_RAAF] on 11 October 1945.

Posted to No. 4 Transport & Movement Office RAAF

[https://www.birtwistlewiki.com.au/wiki/No._4_Transport_%26_Movements_Office_RAAF] on 18 January 1946.

Posted to No. 5 Personnel Depot RAAF

[https://www.birtwistlewiki.com.au/wiki/No._5_Personnel_Depot_RAAF] on 11 February 1946.

Discharged on demobilisation by No. 4 Transport & Movement Office RAAF

[https://www.birtwistlewiki.com.au/wiki/No._4_Transport_%26_Movements_Office_RAAF] on 22 February 1946.

Post War

Married Margaret (Margot) Patricia MAHER on 8 November 1945, Perth, Western Australia.

Appointed as Clerk, Third Division, with Repatriation Department, Perth, Western Australia, June 1958.**

Notes

* GARDINER ALBERT EDWIN : Service Number – 441317, National Archives of Australia: A9301, 441317. <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=5535833>

** Commonwealth of Australia, Gazette, 12 June 1958, p. 1955.