

**Item details for: A9300, MARKS R W**[Request copy](#)

Title MARKS REGINALD WILLIAM : Service Number - 477 :  
Date of birth - 19 Sep 1916 : Place of birth - LONDON :  
Place of enlistment - POINT COOK VIC : Next of Kin -  
MARKS GLORIA

Contents date range 1939 - 1948

[A9300](#)

Series number Click to see which government agency or person created this item.

Control symbol MARKS R W

Item barcode 5260779

Location Canberra

Access status Open

Date of decision 12 Nov 2013

Physical format PAPER FILES AND DOCUMENTS (allocated at series level)

Records authority class 1010873 number

Date registered 19 Sep 2002

**Item details for: A705, 163/44/187**[Request copy](#)

Title MARKS Reginald William - (Flight Lieutenant); Service Number - 477; File type - Casualty - Repatriation; Aircraft - Walrus X9588; Place - Plymouth, England; Date - 18 December 1942

Contents date range 1929 - 1960

Accumulation start date 22 Dec 1942

[A705](#)

Series number Click to see which government agency or person created this item.

Control symbol 163/44/187

Item barcode 1055249

Location Canberra

Access status Open

Date of decision 19 Nov 2004

Physical format PAPER FILES AND DOCUMENTS (allocated at series level)

## Summary heading

MARKS Reginald William - (Flight Lieutenant); Service Number - 477

## Descriptive note

In addition to the file subject, the following servicemen are mentioned in this record:

### Item notes

NICHOLLS C E – (Sergeant); Service Number – 3344

FRY N E – (Flying Officer); Service Number – 407057

KEILY J K – (Sergeant); Service Number – 10118

WHITE H D – (Flying Officer); Service Number - 848

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[\(More\)](#)

## Item details for: AWM65, 3504

[Request copy](#)

Title	MARKS Reginald William 477
Contents date range	1941 - 1943
	<a href="#">AWM65</a>
Series number	Click to see which government agency or person created this item.
Control symbol	3504
Item barcode	519834
Location	Australian War Memorial
Access status	Open
Date of decision	21 Apr 1986
Physical format	PAPER FILES AND DOCUMENTS (allocated at series level)
Alternative series and control symbol	AWM65, NN
Date registered	31 May 1994

## Series details for: AWM65

Series number	AWM65
Title	RAAF biographical files
Accumulation dates	01 Jan 1940 - 31 Dec 1959
Contents dates	01 Jan 1940 - 31 Dec 1959

[4629](#)

Items in this series  
on RecordSearch

Click to see items listed on RecordSearch. Please contact the [National Reference Service](#) if you can't find the record you want as not all items from the series may be on RecordSearch.

Agency/person  
recording

- 01 Jan 1940 - 31 Dec 1959

Agency/person  
controlling

• [CA 35](#), Department of Air, Central Office

- 30 Nov 1973 -

• [CA 46](#), Department of Defence [III], Central Office

System of  
arrangement/  
control

[1] - [5540]

Range of control  
symbols

Abell, Roy Edward - Zwar, Ronald Frank

Predominant  
physical format

## PAPER FILES AND DOCUMENTS

This series consists of approximately 7700 dossiers of 1939-45 War RAAF officers and non-commissioned officers, mainly serving outside the South West Pacific area, who passed through No. 3 Personnel Reception Centre (PRC) and No. 11 Personnel Despatch and Reception Centre (PDRC) in England. The files were completed mainly in the period 1943-45. Their purpose was to collect historical information on those who achieved distinction through operational exploits in particular or, more generally, through their service career. The files may include a biographical proforma, an end of operational tour proforma, copies of citations, etc.

Series note

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

During early 1941 Australian airmen arriving in England were sent to Uxbridge, a peace time RAF station on the edge of London. On 1 March 1941 No 3 PRC (Personnel Reception Centre) was formed at Uxbridge to deal with the incoming airmen. On 1 July No 3 PRC was moved to less restricted space at Bournemouth. The Postings Section of No 3 PRC processed Australian aircrew under RAF arrangement, their main concern being to fill vacancies in operational training units. Australians were originally scattered through many

training units and  
squadrons in the RAF.

On 3 August 1941 the Australian Minister for Air appointed Air Marshal Sir Richard Williams to command an Overseas Headquarters for the RAAF. The headquarters was placed under the control of the High Commissioner and absorbed the existing RAAF liaison office in London.

It was not until 1 December that the headquarters officially opened at Kodak House, Kingsway, with a staff of 24 officers and 41 airmen. The duties of the headquarters are outlined in the Official History:

(a) Inspection and liaison in connection with the

Empire Training Scheme as projected in paragraph 10 of the April Memorandum of Agreement.

(b) Direct access to and from RAAF personnel assigned to

Air Ministry branches for duties of reception, postings, pay, accounting, records and promotions.

(c) Records of RAAF personnel employed in administration

duties associated with the Air Scheme, together with decisions on the employment, promotion, discipline and leave of this staff.

(d) To be the base for receiving and dealing with enquiries

from Australia on the location, condition and welfare of Australian airmen; for the oversight of hospital and other exceptional leave cases; for assistance in the organisation of comforts distribution; to supervise leave, entertainment, postal arrangements, historical records, and by arrangements with Air Ministry, all matters relating to reception and repatriation of personnel.

(J Herington, "Australia in the War of 1939-45, Series 3 (Air) Vol III, Air War Against Germany and Italy 1939-43", p.119).

The headquarters controlled all operational and record keeping matters concerning Australians in Europe and the Middle East. It also controlled record keeping for Australian air units serving in the Far East.

While the headquarters was being established, Wing Commander Thomas White was acting as the liaison officer at No 3 PRC in Bournemouth. He was creating an Australian base depot within No 3 PRC to improve Australian reception, training and postings procedures. On 2 June 1942 it was decided that the Australian and Canadian aircrews should have separate reception centres from those of the RAF. The Australian unit began as an unnumbered personnel reception centre on 1 October, and was controlled by RAAF Overseas Headquarters. General and domestic administration remained within No 54 Group Flying Training Command and conformed to British training requirements. The object of the unit was to organise reception of RAAF personnel ex-EATS (Empire Training Scheme) and to select RAAF personnel for posting from the centre to training and operational units. On 28 December this unit became No 11 PDRC (Personnel Dispatch and Reception Centre) located at Brighton, and was used for reception and repatriation of Australian airmen.

Prior to the formation of RAAF Overseas Headquarters and No 11 PDRC, record keeping for the service details of Australian airmen posted overseas was unsatisfactory, especially for those serving in the Middle East. One of the duties of Overseas Headquarters was to supervise historical records. Only one officer and two airmen were allocated to this section and from the beginning their main task was publicity and not record keeping. It was not until 1943 that an officer was appointed to concentrate on historical records duties.

#### SERIES DESCRIPTION

This series consists of approximately 7,700 files containing

biographical details of RAAF personnel who served during the 1939-45 War. The files are arranged in alphabetical order and mainly relate to RAAF officers and non-commissioned officers who passed through No 3 PRC and No 11 PDRC. They are predominantly of RAAF aircrew serving outside the South West Pacific Area. Some files for ground crew are included. Files are also included for Australians serving in the RAF, SAAF, RANVR, RAFVR and RCAF (see list of abbreviations).

The files were compiled for use at the RAAF Overseas Headquarters in London. Their purpose was to collect historical information on Australians serving in the RAAF, RAF and RAFVR who achieved distinction from their operational exploits or distinguished service career (AWM93 item 211/2/2) and they were to be used by the RAAF Historical Records Section. Most of the files contain biographical proforma's issued by RAAF Overseas Headquarters through No 3 PRC and No 11 PDRC. The majority of these forms appear to have been issued and compiled between 1943 and 1945. This date range corresponds with the 1943 appointment of an officer to undertake historical records duties at Overseas Headquarters suggesting these forms may be the result of an active campaign to obtain accurate details of service from RAAF personnel to supplement the previously unsatisfactory record keeping.

After the war the files were retained by the Department of Air in Melbourne. The series was transferred to the Australian War Memorial on 21 January 1963 together with a packing list of the files (AWM93 item 211/2/2, letter of 25 January 1963). The covering letter lists a number of files retained by the Department of Air Historical Sub-section at the time of transfer:

Group Captain C R Caldwell  
Air Commodore A H Cobby  
Flight Lieutenant A P Goldsmith  
Group Captain A B McFarlane  
Wing Commander W J McLean  
Flying Officer R H Middleton VC

Flight Lieutenant W E Newton VC  
Squadron Leader A A N D Pentland  
Squadron Leader K W Truscott and  
Group Captain J L Waddy.

These files are still retained by the RAAF Historical Section. The composition of each file varies according to the completeness of the information entered on the various forms. Some files contain very detailed information on the forms and various attachments relating to the individual's service career. Other files contain incomplete forms and no attachments. In general the files contain the following information:

(a) A biographical proforma of personal details completed by the subject upon arrival in the United Kingdom recording name, number, rank, degrees, decorations, present appointment and location, previous service experience, places of training, civilian career and activities, family, address, date embarked and destination.

(b) An end of operational tour proforma completed by the subject recording name, number, rank, ITS (Initial Training School) course, date left Australia, date of arrival in United Kingdom, OTU (Operational Training Unit) -AFU (Advanced Flying Unit) etc, present unit, previous units and details of operations. By 1945 this form also included details of squadrons, aircraft flown, command and type of activity and operations or training with American personnel, squadrons or aircraft.

(c) A copy of decoration citations for awards.

Also included as attachments are press releases and newspaper cuttings, debriefs, transcripts of interviews and any form of publicity relating to the member such as Air Ministry or RAAF bulletins, scripts of BBC "Calling Australia" broadcasts and newspaper reports of death in action, operational

exploits, sporting  
activities, marriages etc. There are also some  
RAAF Directorate of  
Public Relations bulletins released in Australia.

At the time of transfer the Department of Air  
issued instructions  
that the files should retain a grading of  
"restricted" (AWM93 item  
211/2/2, letter of 25 January 1963). The series  
was access examined  
in 1984 and all the items are open.

**Quantity in agency  
custody**

10.8m held by CA 616, Australian War Memorial

[\(Less\)](#)