

A Summary of  
**Edwin Day's**  
Record of Service in the  
Royal Australian Air Force  
1941-43



Edwin Atholwood Day was born in Adelaide in 1922 but later moved to Townsville, QLD where he did his schooling. After working as an insurance clerk in Sydney, he was enlisted in March 1941 to be trained as aircrew and underwent his initial training at RAAF Bradfield Park in Sydney. During this training he was selected to train as a wireless operator/air gunner. When his initial training was completed, he embarked on 13 June 1941 on a ship bound for Canada where his wireless operator training was conducted by the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) at Winnipeg, Manitoba. Following this, he commenced air gunner training at RCAF Paulson, Manitoba on 20 December.

With the completion of his air gunners course, Edwin was promoted to sergeant and awarded his air gunners brevet (wings) and his wireless operators badge. The RAAF did not have a wireless operator/air gunner brevet so members of this aircrew group wore the air gunners brevet on their left breast and a wireless operators badge on the sleeve.



*Air gunner brevet*



*Wireless operator badge*

Edwin departed Halifax, Nova Scotia on 25 January 1942 bound for wartime England. After doing some additional wireless training at RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire, he commenced training on Wellington bomber aircraft on 21 April 1942. On 19 July, he was promoted to flight sergeant. His posting to No 156 Squadron RAF based at RAF Warboys in Cambridgeshire on 24 August 1942 was the start of his flying operational missions over Europe.

When the role of No 156 Squadron changed, Edwin was no longer qualified to fly in this squadron so he was posted to No 460 Squadron at RAF Brighton in Yorkshire on 30 September 1942. Here, Edwin trained on Lancaster bomber aircraft which were the most important of the RAF's heavy bombers in the last three years of the war. He commenced flying operational missions with this squadron on 13 January 1943.

On the night of 26/27 January 1943, his aircraft was part of a major attack on the German submarine base at Lorient, France. His aircraft did not return from the bombing mission and was never found. Edwin Day and the other six members of the crew were all listed as 'missing-in-action' which was changed several months later to 'missing-presumed-dead'. Their names are listed, along with thousands of other aircrew that have no known grave, on the Air Forces Memorial at Runnymede, England.

His records show that Edwin was awarded the following medals for his service:

- 1939-1945 Star,
- Aircrew Europe Star, and
- Defence Medal.

## Lest We Forget