

CROSSMAN, John Dallas – WWII RAF Fighter Pilot

20/3/1918 – 30/9/1940



John Dallas Crossman was born on 20 March 1918, in Mossman, North Queensland, to George Leslie Crossman and Gladys Allyne Dallas.

John was a great swimmer, enjoyed music, collected stamps and was a voracious reader, but his greatest enthusiasm was for flying.

John started at NBHS in 1930, after attending Cooks Hill Primary. From our records it seems he repeated a year (he was only 12 in first year) and completed the Intermediate Certificate in 1934 with 1A and 5Bs.

Unfortunately, we have no Novocastrians for 1935 or 1936 to see if he completed his Leaving Certificate.

The stories about, and tributes to, John are many. Some can be found below.

Briefly, in 1939 he went to England and joined firstly the No. 32, then the No. 46 Squadron of the RAF, where he had the rank of Pilot Officer.

He first saw action as a fighter pilot on 14 September, then again on 15 September (Battle of Britain Day). Thereafter he flew 2 or 3 times a day till 30th September, when his 46 Squadron was jumped by Me109's and Crossman was shot down and killed, his Hurricane V6748 crashing in flames at Tablehurst Farm, Forest Row. He was 22 years old, and the 11th Australian to die in the Battle of Britain.

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1430025>

<http://www.bbm.org.uk/airmen/CrossmanJD.htm>

<https://www.battleofbritainmemorial.org/squadron-logbook/australias-few-and-the-battle-of-britain/>

<http://ww2talk.com/index.php?threads/battle-of-britain-j-d-crossman-r-a-f-46-squadron.24690/>

<http://kristenalexanderauthor.blogspot.com/search?q=crossman>

[https://www.pinterest.de/pin/311100286741511618/?amp_client_id=CLIENT_ID\(\)&mweb_unauth_id=%7B%7Bdefault.session%7D%7D&from_amp_pin_page=true](https://www.pinterest.de/pin/311100286741511618/?amp_client_id=CLIENT_ID()&mweb_unauth_id=%7B%7Bdefault.session%7D%7D&from_amp_pin_page=true)

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/hurricane-fighter-flies-again-as-tribute-to-australian-pilot-who-died-in-battle-of-britain/news-story/4b819afa9a80bc08b0868aa5f1529042>

<https://www.sconeadvocate.com.au/story/4248048/historic-hurricane-ready-for-take-off/>

