

## NBHS 1942 - 1944 Leonard Laurence Deed RAAF (School Captain 1932)



Leonard Deed's School Captain badge and cufflinks

Melbourne Sun Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 1942  
Waltzing Matilda in New York  
Picture received in Melbourne, yesterday  
of members of the R. A. F. who, after  
completing six months training, were  
guests of the British - American Ambulance  
Corps. for the Christmas holidays.  
Here they are singing "Waltzing Matilda"  
in a New York hotel.  
Leonard Deed is playing the Piano



### Leonard Laurence Deed

Leonard was born in Newcastle, 15 November 1913, the youngest of Captain Ernest Deed, Master Mariner and Harbour Master of Newcastle till 1934, and Penelope Deed.

He attended Newcastle Boys' High School from 1928 until 1932, when he was School Captain. After leaving school he became a professional Studio Photographer.

Leonard enrolled in the RAAF in 1941 and was sent to a camp in Canada to train as a Navigator.

He was then sent to England and flew on the Lancaster Bombers. Having completed his compulsory 80 Operations, he then volunteered to do 80 optional Operations.

Sadly, on 13 August 1944, when on his last operation the plane was shot down over Frankfurt, Germany.. Leonard and three others of the crew were able to parachute from the plane but sadly they were shot in mid air by Germans.

Leonard was buried in Rheinberg Cemetery.

He was awarded a posthumous DFC which his mother received at Government House Sydney.

# Boys Write from Canada

## Mail Bag Brings Editor a Letter

### Bob Nielsen and Len. Deed Join in Greeting

Just a few lines, the first you will have received from us since leaving our sunny Australia, and we will let you know how we are making out.

As you know, Lennie Deed and I have been together since entering camp, and are still together here in Canada. We have been here for nearly six weeks, after a most interesting and educational voyage over. We were fortunate to see something of New Zealand, Panama

most interesting. Len has flown 44 hours, whilst my total is 41. This represents about 6,000 miles in the air, over some of the finest country in Canada. Talking of distances, it might interest you to know that in addition to our 6,000 by air, we have travelled 14,000 by sea, 1,200 by train and 1,500 by road—a total of 22,700 miles since leaving home—not a bad effort for less than three months' travel! Of course, the most inter-



and the West Indies, as well as the East Coast of Canada. During our two days' train trip to Toronto, we persuaded the engine-driver to allow us to remain in the engine cabin and drive the locomotive (Canadian National Railways)—and boy, are they great locos, the engine alone weighing 300 tons.

We were stationed at Malton Air Observers School, 18 miles from Toronto. It is recognised as the finest A.O.S. in the Empire. Toronto is a beautiful city, but we'll take Sydney. The work is very hard, but

esting trip we have had is to the famous Niagara Falls. We will not attempt to describe them—it is beyond us, but all you read about them is true—and then some! They will rank high amongst the most marvellous sights we have ever seen.

Our leave periods are spent at Oakville, the beauty spot of Ontario, on the shores of the lake. We are taken into private homes and nothing is left undone to make our stay as enjoyable as possible. Cars are placed at our disposal, and we NEVER rise before 10.30! The hospitality of the Canadians is really magnificent, and we only hope that some day we shall have a chance to reciprocate as fully as possible.

You might be pleased to know that we both did rather well in our Intermediate Exams, and with the final exams in three weeks we hope to do even better. The night lectures given to us while on the Reserve have proved of inestimable value, and our thanks are due to the Port Kembla Inst. of Civil Engineers.

The cold weather is fast approaching, and we expect falls of snow soon. So far the weather has been glorious, beautiful days and mild nights. The other night we were fortunate to see that wonderful phenomena known as the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis). The whole sky was aglow—the colors changing every moment—and long beams of intense light reminiscent of searchlights streaked across the sky in absolute symmetry. It was really awe inspiring and something wonderful to behold.

We have met several local lads over her. Harry Farley, of Bourke Street and A.I.C., spent a day with us; he is now a complete observer and will see service soon. We have also met Reg. Thomas, Jack Boland and J. Philpot, all from the South Coast.

Well, we have left so much out, Bob, but you'll understand as there is so much we can't tell you. So wishing you all the best, we'll say cheerio.

Yours Sincerely,

BOB NIELSEN,  
LEN DEED.

P.S.—We have received the "Advance" regularly from home since leaving, and it is much appreciated.

## **FLYING OFFICER LEONARD LAURENCE DEED D F C**

**Newcastle Morning Herald September 1944**

**An Award of the D f C to Flying Officer Leonard Laurence Deed for Meritorious Service and outstanding Attention to Duty has been announced**

**He is the son of Mrs Deed of Newcastle and the late Captain E S Deed He was reported missing six weeks ago on the 13<sup>th</sup> August following an Operational Flight over Frankfurt Germany**

**The award was made for previous Service while he was with the R A AF in England**

**Flying Officer Deed received his Education at the Dominican Convent Newcastle and at Newcastle Boys High where he was School Captain**

**In Memory of  
Flying Officer LEONARD LAURENCE DEED DFC**

**403983, Royal Australian Air Force  
who died age 30 on 13 August 1944  
Son of Ernest Snowdon Deed and Anne Deed, of  
Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia.**

**Remembered with honour  
RHEINBERG WAR CEMETERY**

**Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves  
Commission**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>DEED, LEONARD LAURENCE</b>
<b>Initials:</b>	<b>L L</b>
<b>Nationality:</b>	<b>Australian</b>
<b>Rank:</b>	<b>Flying Officer</b>
<b>Regiment:</b>	<b>Royal Australian Air Force</b>
<b>Age:</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Date of Death:</b>	<b>13/08/1944</b>
<b>Service No:</b>	<b>403983</b>
<b>Awards:</b>	<b>DFC</b>
<b>Additional information:</b>	<b>Son of Ernest Snowdon Deed and Anne Deed, of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia.</b>
<b>Casualty Type:</b>	<b>Commonwealth War Dead</b>
<b>Grave/Memorial Reference:</b>	<b>Coll. grave 8. H. 11- 13.</b>
<b>Cemetery:</b>	<b>RHEINBERG WAR CEMETERY</b>