Everatt, Frank Edgar

A West Australian railway employee killed while on military service for their country



Emblem of 467 Squadron (preserved at Aviation Heritage Museum in WA)

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways
Branch:	Chief mechanical Engineer
Designation:	Junior Clerk

Rail employment notes: Mr Everatt's detailed employment record has not been located however when he left to enlist he was working as a Junior Clerk in the Office at the Midland workshops.

Military service information:

Conflict:	Second World War 1939-1945
Service:	Royal Australian Air Force
Military unit:	No. 467 Squadron
Service number:	427311
Date of death:	2 February 1945
Place of death:	Germany
Age:	20
Rank at time of loss:	Flight Sergeant
Memorialised:	Durnbach War Cemetery, Bavaria, Germany Peace Monument at former Railway Workshops, Midland, Western Australia.

Frank Edgar Everatt enlisted in the Royal Australian Air force on 21 June 1942, then aged 18. He nominated his mother Jane Hobbs Plumb as his next of kin (his father had died earlier and his mother remarried).

After initial training he was transferred to England and posted in No.467 Squadron. This was nominally an Australian squadron, although including airmen from other commonwealth countries. It was formed to fly the Lancaster heavy 4-engoine bomber made by the Avro Company which was introduced in 1942 and proved a very successful aircraft. The Lancaster was designed with long-range night bombing requirements and that was the major role of No.467 Squadron. Wikipedia states that more than 7000 Lancasters were built.

The Squadron carried out raids under the overall requirements of Britain's Bomber Command, particularly over the industrial production areas of Germany. Such flights were naturally very dangerous and many planes and crew were lost.

Australian War Memorial and other records show Frank Everatt to have been lost in a night Flying operation over Germany on 2 February 1945. At this time 467 Squadron was flying out of RAF Base Waddington located near the city of Lincoln. His remains were recovered after the war and he was buried in the Durnbach War Cemetery.

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Additional/personal information:

Frank Everatt was born in 1924 in Narrogin, in the Great Southern farming district, a son of Edgar Everatt and Jane Hobbs Everatt. His father died in 1932 and his mother later remarried, becoming Jane Hobbs Plumb. Frank had at least two siblings, both older sisters.

When aircraft were lost over enemy territory it took some time before the family could receive official confirmation. In this case it appears to have only come after Germany surrendered:

> EVERATT (Flight-Sgt Frank Edgar. R.A.A.F.).--A tribute to the memory of Frank Edgar Everatt. killed in aircraft operations over Europe, February 2, 1945. Inserted by the C.M.E. Office Staff, W.A.G.R. Midland junction. *The West Australian* 18/12/1945p1
>
> EVERATT.--In loving memory of Frank Edgar. dearly loved son of Mr and Mrs Plumb (Bassendean). missing in air operations over Germany, February 2, 1945. now presumed killed; darling brother of Gladys (Mrs Whitmore). Monica (Mrs Thomas); aged 20 years. Deeply mourned and sadly missed. *The West Australian* 19/12/45p1
>
> EVERATT. F/S F. E. (Digger, ex-Stud., A.H.S., presumed killed in aircraft operations over Germany. February 2 1945. Remembered always by R. T. Dickinson (York). *The West Australian* 21/12/1945p1
>
> EVERATT (F/Sgt F. E., Wireless-Air Gunner).-In ever-loving memory of Frank. missing in air operations over Karlsruhe, Germany, February 23, 1945, now presumed to have been killed on that date, dear brother and pal of Monica (Mrs Thomas. 53 Garratt-road. Bayswater), brother-In-law of Don. and uncle of Ruth. *The West Australian* 22/12/1945p1

The date of February 23 shown in the last notice is believed to be an error – the other notices agree with the official sources date of 2 February 1945.

His mother, his nominated next of kin, died in 1964 aged 75.

Frank's tombstone in the Durnbach War Cemetery carries the inscription "LOVED, REMEMBERED, LONGED FOR ALWAYS".

Further information and/or photos may be added as available. Information may also be found on the Australian War Memorial website: *https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people*

Abbreviations: WAGR= Western Australian Government Railways (& Tramways at some periods); MRWA= Midland Railway of Western Australia; BDM=Western Australian Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages website; AWM=Australian War Memorial (Canberra and website); CWGC= Commonwealth War Graves Commission (including website). DVA=Department of Veterans' Affairs (including website)

Acknowledgements: Rail employment notes from WAGR Honour Roll and WAGR records held by State Records Office, Perth, transcribed by J.Austin 2019. Family information and collation by G.Higham.

----------Lest we forget----------

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