Ingham, Kenneth Victor

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

From an office clerk to flying a large airplane – wartime roles could be very different to a volunteer's background



Memorial at Railway Workshops Midland (D.Graham/panoramio)

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways
Branch:	Chief Civil Engineer
Designation:	Clerk

Rail employment notes: Born 6/3/1918. Joined WAGR 18/10/1934 aged 16 as Junior Clerk, CCE Branch, Perth. Transferred to Geraldton 29/4/1938 and appointed Clerk 6/3/1939. The Chief Civil Engineer's branch was responsible for track and structures so carried out design, building and/or maintaining track, stations and smaller buildings, bridges, wooden culverts, etc.

Enlisted in RAAF 9/12/1940. Awarded the DFC. Squadron Leader, killed in action in Ceylon 28/11/1944.

Military service information

Conflict:	Second World War 1939-1945
Service:	Royal Australian Air Force
Military unit:	No.230 Squadron (RAF)
Service number:	406456
Date of death:	28 November 1944
Place of death:	Ceylon
Rank at time of death:	Squadron Leader
Age:	26

Buried/commemorated: Singapore Memorial, Singapore

Kenneth Ingham enlisted in Royal Australian Air force (RAAF) on 9 December 1940 and nominated his father Frederick Ingham as his next of kin. After an initial period he was transferred to the UK. There he was attached to Royal Air Force (RAF) No.230 Squadron, a specialised unit which flew the Sunderland flying boat made by Short Brothers in England. These were large aircraft designed for landing and takeoff from water and capable of bombing or reconnaissance patrols. They were also used for transport of people such as in the evacuation of Crete.

The Squadron flew actions in the Mediterranean and near the end of the war was involved around Burma and Ceylon (Sri Lanka). Ingham rose through the Air Force ranks and was a squadron leader by 1944 and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for his service.

The citation is quoted on the Virtual War Memorial at https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/633454

> Squadron Leader Ingham has served with his present unit for three years. He has taken part in operational missions in the Middle East, East Africa and South East Asia. Though considerable maintenance difficulties have been experienced, this officer has never failed to set a fine example to air crew and ground crew alike by his enthusiasm and interest in his allotted task

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> Squadron Leader Ingham air was also mentioned in Dispatches and in addition, gained the following service medals: 1939-1945 Star, Africa Star, Burma Star, Italy Star, War Medal 1939-1945, Australia Service Medal 1939-1945.

The Virtual War Memorial also notes that Kenneth Ingham and crewmates disappeared on an anti-submarine patrol off the coast of Sri Lanka (then called Ceylon) on 28 November 1944. Neither he nor the plan has been found. A photo of Squadron Leader Ingham may be see on the above web page.

He is remembered on the Singapore memorial.

Additional/personal information:

Kenneth Ingram was born on 6 March 1918 at Albany in the Great Southern region, a son of Frederick Ingham and Henrietta Ingham (nee Baker). Family notices would show that he was one of a large family.

When a plane was lost it was often some time before the family could have official confirmation, so it was common that they could only show their respects after the war, or on the anniversary.

> INGRAM (Squadron-Leader Kenneth Victor. R.A.A.F.. D.F.C.).- Missing. November 28. 1944, now presumed dead beloved youngest son of Frederick and Henrietta Ingham. of 56 Star-street Carlisle, W.A., and beloved brother of Selwyn (Kalgoorlle), Harold (Northam) Fred (Merredin). George (Gwalia), Noel (R.A.N. Sydney), Kay (Mrs. Les Wilson. Perth), Pat (Mrs. Edwin Proudlove, Albany); aged 26 years. 8 months. Inserted by his loving parents. *The West Australian* 29/07/1946p1

> INGHAM (S/Ldr. K.V., R.A.A.F, D.F.C.).-Missing, presumed dead, No1vembev 28, 1944, beloved youngest son of Frederick and Henrietta Ingham, Carlisle. and beloved brother of Selwyn (Kalgoorlie), Harold (Northam), Fred (Merredin), George (Gwalia), Noel (R.A.N., Sydney). Inserted by his parents. At the going down of the sun, And in the morning, We will remember. *The West Australian* 29/11/1946p1

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----------