

JOSEPH EDWARD BROWNE

Joseph Browne was born at Hines Hill on the 18th of December 1916. His father, George Browne was a Permanent Way Inspector with the West Australian Government Railways and at the time of enlistment, Joseph gave his father's address as that of 21 Barnfield Road Claremont.

Attained Junior Certificate November 1931 and Leaving certificate November 1933. Became an external student at the University of WA in 1935 and attended the Teachers training College at Claremont 1936.

Joseph was a schoolteacher at Cundinup and residing in Nannup.

He married Maisie Elvira Roberts on the 3rd of August 1940 at Bunbury. They had a son Neil Edmund, born 16th of July 1941.

Just over a month after the birth of his son, on the 29th of August 1941, Joseph enlisted in the R.A.A.F.

At the time of his enlistment, Joseph was 24 year and 8 months old. His medical report states that he was 6 feet and one-half inch tall, weighed 156 pounds, chest measurement of 33¹/₂ inches, right eye 6/6 left eye 5/6. Unfit for duty as a pilot and because of his height, unfit for air gunner.

Joseph enlisted at the No.4 Recruiting Centre in Perth and was given the No. 415395 with the rank of AC2 on enlistment, by the 31st of January 1942 he was an L.A.C. In 1942, Joseph had been posted to several locations, Mt. Gambier, Port Pirie, Nhill, Ascot vale, Bradfield Park. Joseph undertook an Air Observers course (Mt. Gambier) and later an Air Navigation Course.

Joseph was promoted to Sergeant, then Flight Sergeant and finally attained the rank of Warrant Officer.

Embarked for overseas on the 5th of May 1943, Joseph was posted to 466 Squadron RAAF. The 466 was a bomber squadron, formed at RAF Driffield, Yorkshire in the UK in October 1942, the squadron undertook combat operations until the end of the war, flying heavy bomber aircraft.

On or about the 28th of May 1944, Joseph was reported missing during air ops over Europe (Target Bourg, Leopold, Belgium.) Later reported as being Killed in Action.

The aircraft and crew were never recovered.

Joseph's widow and son were respectively granted a standard allotment pension of 119 and 35 shillings per fortnight.

