

All-Australian crew brings home 'G for George'

Veteran bomber going to War Museum

"I could kiss Australia. I'm so happy to be home again," said Flying-Officer G. B. Young, when "G for George," the veteran Lancaster bomber, reached Brisbane.

All eight lads in the crew shared the excitement of F/O. Young when the great bomber touched down after its flight from England.

IN the 16 months of its operational life, "G for George" has been flown by 29 different crews.

With a great red G on its nose, and 90 tiny bombers painted on to signify the number of its attacks on Germany, "G for George" is named for the Australian War Museum at Canberra.

The present crew was assembled for this flight, which began on October 11. The plane made a leisurely crossing. Generator and radio breakdowns delayed its journey in America and across the Pacific.

The captain, Flight-Lieut. E. A. Hudson, D.F.C. and Bar, is 22.

His remark, "It's not as hot as I expected, but a bit dry," as he shook hands with the O/C. of the station, Group-Captain G. E. Douglas, was a typical Air Force masterpiece of understatement, for a raging dust-storm was in full force.

Modest and gallant

HUDSON has an infectious smile. A modest lad, he has a reputation for great gallantry and devotion to duty.

He has completed two tours of bombing operations, the first with an R.A.F. squadron, and the second with the original Australian Lancaster squadron.

"They're all doing well over there, and the end is in sight," he said.

His crew said, "Our pilot did a great job all the way over, and was very considerate to his men. He didn't let anything worry him at any stage of the game."

The second pilot, F/O. F. P. Smith, D.F.C., comes from Newcastle, and was a lorry driver in civil life.

He has made 25 trips over Germany and Italy, and was awarded

His main concern when he reached Australia was to get his laundry done. There had been no opportunity for laundry since they left Montreal, and they were only allowed to carry 50lb. of luggage.

F/O. W. C. Gordon, D.F.C., the navigator, has been overseas for three years.

Married, with two sons, Richard, aged six, and Alan, four, he was an accountant before the war. His home is in Raleigh, N.S.W.

As soon as possible after the war he wants to take his wife for a trip to England to show her all the places he visited.

F/O. T. V. McCarthy, D.F.C. and Bar, is one of the most experienced bomb-aimers in the R.A.A.F.

He has completed two tours in Lancasters. The second included 13 trips to Berlin.

It is said that his favorite song is "It's a hot time in the town of Berlin."

McCarthy is the only member of the crew to wear the golden eagle, the Pathfinder's badge, on his tunic breast-pocket.

He was one of "Bennett's boys," which gives him a special interest for Brisbane, for it is the home town of Air Vice-Marshal Donald Bennett, chief of Britain's squadrons of Pathfinders, youngest of Britain's air marshals.

Kept log

F/SGT. HARRY TICKLE, the fitter, feels that he has a personal affection for "G for George," for he has been in charge of the bomber's maintenance since it began operations in December, 1942.

He has kept a log-book recording details of all "G for George's" 90 trips.

His home is in Adelaide, where his wife and two daughters, Pat and Joan, live. He has brought them each a sleeping doll.

He doesn't know what he will do in civil life after the war, and said

with a grin, "I'd like to be a wing-commander, or something like that."



PILOT OF "G FOR GEORGE," F/Lt. E. A. Hudson, D.F.C. and Bar, at the controls. Hudson comes from Rockhampton, Qld.



SGT. K. A. OWER (left), with F/O. W. C. Gordon, of Raleigh, N.S.W., and F/Lt. Hudson (centre), the pilot, in Brisbane.

He has a wife and two sons, Terry, six, and Alan, four, and was waiting to come home when told he was going with F/Sgt. Tickle in "G for George."

None of the boys had much time for sightseeing on the trip out, for at each airport work came first.

Baby of the crew is F/O. G. H. Tindale, D.F.M., from Cremorne, Sydney, who is the wireless-operator-air-gunner. He was 21 in March.

He is the only member of the crew who made operational flights in "G for George." On one of those three flights over Europe he was awarded the D.F.M.

A bank clerk in peacetime, he was looking forward most to "a good surf at Newport." He was in the wilds of Scotland when he heard news that he was to return with the bomber.