

LUSH, Douglas Harry (26746 RAAF)



Image 1 © Victor.gov.au 2014
Studio portrait

Name	LUSH, Douglas Harry Corporal
Service Number	26746 RAAF
Date of Birth	16th April 1909
Died	31st May 1993
Place of Birth	West Adelaide SA
Resident	McLaren Vale SA
Cemetery	Victor Harbor Cemetery

Douglas (Doug) Harry Lush was born at West Adelaide on 16 April 1909, the eldest child of John Harry Lush and Carrie Francis Lush (nee Douglas). His father had served on the Western Front as 2636 Sapper J.H. Lush with the 5th Pioneer Battalion during World War One. His younger brother Arthur (SX16222 Private A.E. Lush) served in the 2nd AIF from 1942 until he was discharged in 1945. Doug married Hilda (nee Cocking Strout) and lived in Waitpinga.

Soon after war was declared, Doug, applied for enlistment in the Royal Australian Air Force in September 1939. However, farming was regarded as an essential industry, so Doug continued farming sheep at Waitpinga and delayed his enlistment until 11 June 1940. Once Doug was satisfied that air force pay would be sufficient to support his wife Hilda, he went to enlist.

Following recruit training at Laverton in Victoria; Doug completed a flight mechanic's course at No. 1 Engineering School located in the Melbourne Showgrounds, Ascot Vale. On completion of the aircraft engine maintenance course, on the 25 October 1940, Doug was posted to No 1 Service Flying Training School (SFTS), at Point Cook in Victoria.

In September 1941, he was transferred to Mallala, but soon returned to Ascot Vale in December for training to be upgraded to a Fitter. In March 1942, Doug applied for an officer's commission but after extensive testing and interviews, his application was not approved. The reason he was given was due to "*insufficient background experience*".

Following the fitter's course, he was re-mustered as a Fitter IIE (engine) and transferred back to Point Cook on 18 April 1942. In July 1942, Doug was promoted to Leading Aircraftman (LAC), which was followed by a transfer to No 1 Elementary Flying Training School (EFTS) in December 1943, also at Point Cook.

Now with considerable experience in maintaining the engines of training aircraft, Doug was transferred in May 1944 to No 6 Service Flying Training School (SFTS) at Mallala, South Australia. He was promoted to Corporal in July 1945. He remained there until his completion of service.

Like his brother, Doug did not serve overseas. However, he, and many other RAAF members who saw service in Australia, provided crucial services and support, which enabled flying schools to successfully train pilots.

Corporal Douglas Harry Lush was discharged from the RAAF in South Australia on 12 November 1945 and he took up residence at McLaren Vale.

Doug Lush died on 31 May 1993 and is interred in the Victor Harbor Cemetery (Rose Bed 6 area). He was survived by his widow Hilda and their five children.

References:

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Service file of 26746 Douglas Harry Lush purchased from the National Archives of Australia. The purchase of the service files of men and women listed on the Waitpinga Honour Roll Boards was made possible through a grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Compiled by the Victor Harbor RSL History Research Team, February 2010. Updated by T.Young 02/08/2025

Appendix



Image 2 © Victor.gov.au 2014
The Waitpinga Honour Roll board is displayed in the Waitpinga Community Hall.



Image 3 © Victor.gov.au 2014
One of the three pictorial Waitpinga Honour Roll boards; Douglas Lush is shown at the top, centre.



Image 4 & 5 © naa.gov.au 2025
Identification Photographs





Image 6© Ian Milnes 2014

The plaque for Douglas Harry Lush in the Rose Garden of the Victor Harbor Cemetery.