

GROSVENOR, John Prouse (442442 RAAN/AIF)



Name	GROSVENOR, John Prouse Warrant Officer RAAN, AIF,
Service Number	442442
Date of Birth	6th February 1922
Died	4th October 1985
Place of Birth	Victor Harbor SA
Resident	Victor Harbor SA
Cemetery	Victor Harbor Cemetery

Image 1 © Brenton GROSVENOR Family collection. 2020

Jack sat for this portrait whilst still undergoing training; air cadets were obliged to wear the cap with the white band until they had graduated in their mustering.

John (Jack) Prouse Grosvenor was born in Victor Harbor on 6 February 1922, the eldest of two children of James (Jim) Arthur Grosvenor and Annie Marguerite Grosvenor (nee Virgin). Jack, was educated at the Victor Harbor Primary and High Schools.

Jack's father Jim was a veteran of the First World War and had served as a driver on the Western Front with the 30th Artillery Brigade.

After leaving school, Jack joined the PMG Department. He was employed as a postal assistant. At the age of 19, Jack enlisted in the militia forces on 3 October 1941 and served with the 4th Lines of Communication Signals (PMG), holding the rank of signalman (S47648 Signalman J P Grosvenor). He remained with the militia until 22 January 1943 when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF (SX19110 PTE J P Grosvenor), serving with 34th Infantry Training Battalion at Watsonia (Vic) until the 1 August 1943 when he was discharged. The next day, Jack was enlisted into the Royal Australian Air Force.

When Jack joined the RAAF, his first preference was to be a pilot, and his second preference was to be a wireless operator-air gunner. Posted to No 4 Initial Training School (ITS), Jack successfully completed the course and was mustered for training as a wireless operator-air gunner. Immediately upon completion of his training, Jack had seven days pre-embarkation leave, and then entrained to No 2 Embarkation Depot (ED) at Bradfield Park (Sydney).

On 26 November 1943, It is believed that Jack boarded the SS Mariposa, one of the fast ships of the Matson Line. These converted cruise liners regularly sailed across the Pacific at speeds up to 20 knots (approximately 37 kilometres per hour), without escorts.

After his arrival in Canada on 10 December 1943, Jack and his fellow recruits underwent training at No 3 Wireless School (WS) RCAF in Montreal. Following completion of his training at 3 WS, on 15 July 1944 Jack posted to No. 8 Bombing & Gunnery School, at Lethbridge, Alberta. Two

months of training followed and on 17 September, he was transferred to No 1 General Depot at Lachine, Montreal, followed one month later by his transfer to No 3 Reserve Depot, Vancouver. At this time, Jack now held the rank of Sergeant, he had been promoted on 25 August 1944, the day he was awarded his Air Gunner's Badge.

Jack was to return to Australia as RAF Bomber Command in the United Kingdom had more than sufficient personnel to cover their operational squadrons. The Joint Chiefs of the Allied Command could foresee the defeat of Germany within the next 12 months, and the haste to return to Australia was shifted, to the impending defeat of Japan.

Disembarking in Australia on 3 December 1944 in Brisbane, Jack was granted 30 days leave. He reported to No 4 PD on 4 January 1945 and was held in transit until 1 March when he was posted as an instructor to No 1 Wireless & Air Gunnery School (WAGS) at Ballarat. Jack's promotion to Flight Sergeant had been authorised on 25 February. He remained with the School until 25 July 1945, when his posting to No 37 Squadron's detachment in Darwin came through.

No 37 (Transport) Squadron RAAF had been formed on 15 July 1943 at RAAF Station, Laverton. Allocated Lockheed C-60 Lodestar aircraft, the Squadron initially undertook regular courier flights across Australia. In mid-1944, the Squadron was doing ferry runs to New Guinea, initially Merauke, then Wewak, Noemfoor and Hollandia. In September 1944, 37 Squadron transferred to Essendon. In February 1945, the Squadron received its first three Douglas C-47 Dakotas. By March 1945, the Squadron had detachments based at Parafield (SA) and Morotai in the Dutch East Indies. Following the surrender of Japan, No 37 Squadron repatriated former prisoners of war from Singapore to Australia.

On 25 February 1946, Jack received his commission to the rank of Warrant Officer. He remained with 37 Squadron until 14 April when he received his demobilisation orders and proceeded to No 4 PD in Adelaide. Jack was discharged from the RAAF on 13 May 1946.

Jack rejoined the PMG-Department and served with the Department until retirement in 1982. He married Iris Power and there were three children of the marriage.

Jack died on 4 October 1985. He is buried in the Victor Harbor Cemetery.

References:

Grosvenor B., “*Brenton Grosvenor family collection*”, Images., 2011

Terrace, V. (2026). *View digital copy*. [online] Naa.gov.au. [Accessed 09/08/2025].
<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=5550541>

Vwma.org.au. (2025). John Prouse GROSVENOR. [online] [Accessed 09/08/2025].
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Compiled by the Victor Harbor RSL History Research Team, January 2020. Updated by T. Young 09/08/2025

Appendix

AUSTRALIAN  MILITARY FORCES

Australian Imperial Force

Certificate of Discharge

Certificate No. 53260

(No.) SX19110 (Rank) Private
 (Name) GROSVENOR John Prouse
 (Regiment or Corps) 34th Tn. Battalion
 born in or near the Town of Victor Harbour in the State or Country
 of South Aust. on 6/24/1922
 Enlisted at Wayville on 2/2/1943 for 1/1943 (Regiment or Corps)
 the AIF
 He is discharged in consequence of Being required for ser-
NICE with the RAAF
 Period of Service 192 days
 including Medals and Decorations
 Active Service days
 This discharge was authorized by (a) Commandant S.A.L. of C Area
 and confirmed by (b) Part II R/o No. 14
 to take effect on (b) 1/8/1945
 Place Wayville R. Lindsay Lieut
 Date 31/7/1945
 Signature of Commanding Officer NO RECORD
 S.A.L. S.D. AREA

(a) Insert the appropriate authority under A.M.R. & O. 255.
 (b) See A.M.R. & O. 262 and 263.

TO BE RETAINED BY INDIVIDUAL WHEN INOCULATIONS COMPLETED.

NAME	DATE	NO TAKE	PRIMARY TAKE	EARLY REACTION	VACCINOID REACTION
<u>Grosvenor, J. P.</u>	<u>24/11/43</u>				
<u>DICK TEST</u>	<u>27-1-44</u>		<u>POSITIVE</u>		<u>NEGATIVE</u>
<u>S.F. TOXIN</u>					
<u>SCHICK TEST</u>	<u>27-1-44</u>		<u>POSITIVE</u>	<u>NEG. 1</u>	<u>NEG. 6</u>
<u>DIPHTHERIA TOXOID</u>					
<u>T. A. B. T. ANN</u>	<u>15-2-44</u>				
REMARKS: R.C.A.F. 23 100M-10-42 (2699) H.Q. 888-M-83					
T.O.S.					
S.O.S.					

15-8-44 #8891

Image 2 ©B Grosvenor Family Collection 2020
 Certificate of Discharge from the AIF issued to SX19110 PTE JP Grosvenor following his acceptance into the Royal Australian Air Force.



Image 3 ©B Grosvenor Family Collection 2020
 Graduating Class at No 4 Initial Training School, Mt Breckan, Victor Harbor of airmen mustered for Wireless & Airgunnery training; Jack is in the fourth row, far right.



Image 4 ©B Grosvenor Family Collection 2020

This photograph was most likely taken by Jack as he is not in the frame; it shows three Australian airmen cadets on leave in New York. They are atop the Empire State Building, a popular destination for the “tourist airmen”.



Image 5 ©B Grosvenor Family Collection 2020

A rare photo of the barracks of the airmen in Canada; it is either No 3 Wireless School (WS) RCAF in Montreal or No. 8 Bombing & Gunnery School, at Lethbridge, Alberta.

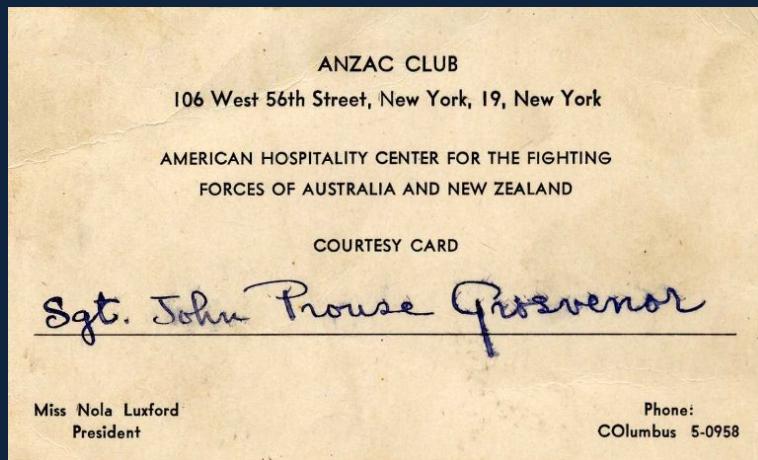


Image 6 ©B Grosvenor Family Collection 2020

Another favourite destination for Australian airmen training in Canada was the ANZAC Club in New York.



Image 8 ©B Grosvenor Family Collection 2020

Meal card issued to 431486 LAC Herbert Andrew WILLIS, later Flight Sergeant WILLIS who finished the war at No 1 Gunnery School in Australia. Jack obviously was given it as a souvenir as he was a prolific collector of memorabilia like this.

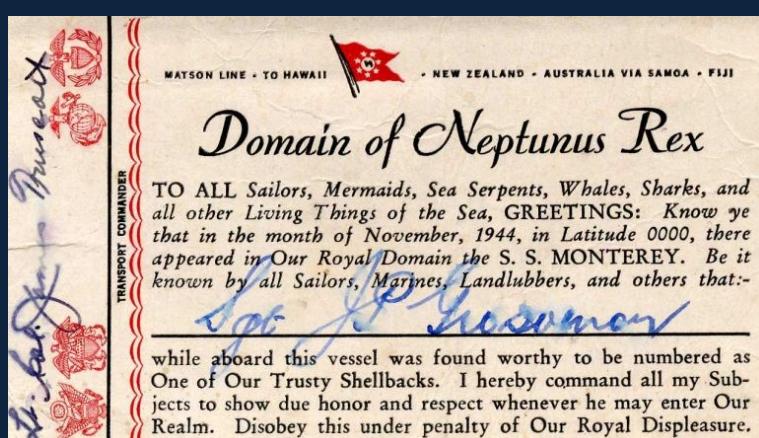


Image 11 ©B Grosvenor Family Collection 2020

This is a souvenir from the sea journey home across the Pacific in November 1944. The ship is one of the Matson Line, a fast liner. The officer's name on the left side 'Lt Col James Truscott', 'Transport Commander' – is generally referred to as "OC Troops", that is an officer appointed in charge of all servicemen and women aboard the ship. He is most likely an American officer as there is no officer holding that rank listed on the Australian WW2 nominal roll.



Image 9 ©B Grosvenor Family Collection 2020

The graduating class from No 3 Wireless School; Jack is in the back row, eighth from the left.



Image 10 ©B Grosvenor Family Collection 2020

Jack is shown here with fellow Australian airmen; they are wearing their Air Gunners badges and are on leave, most likely in New York. Jack is in the centre, front row.



Image 10 ©naa.gov.au 2020
Enlistment Photo for the RAAF