

Leading Aircraftman William Clifford BRUTON
RAAF - 74159 8 Operational Training Unit



Biography:

William Clifford Bruton was born at Cumnock on 6 Jul 1914. His parents were Henrietta (nee Sloane) and William Bruton, who were married at Molong in 1911 and had four children: William Clifford; Robert Thomas; Merle Mary; and Patricia. Henrietta and William lived at Cumnock in 1930 and William's occupation was a farmer.

William Clifford Bruton, known as Cliff or Clifford, attended the Cumnock Catholic School for his Primary education. He commenced working for Black Bros General Store in 1929.

Newspaper articles in the *Wellington Times* and the *Molong Express & Western District Advertiser* reported during 1932, that Clifford was playing tennis, euchre, assisting in raising money for St Ita's Convent School, and was secretary of the Cumnock Rifle Club. He was living with his parents at "Emohruo," thought to be the name of their house.

Clifford, aged 23 years, married Marjorie Clair Downey, eldest daughter of Ida May (nee Durr) and Thomas Joseph Downey, of Cumnock. Marjorie had been working as a dressmaker prior to her marriage. They were married at St Dymphna's Church, Cumnock and the reception was held at the Whiworri Hall, Cumnock. The couple had two children - Arnold and Loretta.

Clifford, aged 28 years, enlisted in the RAAF on the 18 Dec 1942. On his enlistment papers, he stated that he had spent 7 years as an assistant in the Grocery and Hardware Departments for Black Bros, and 6 years as a lorry driver and shop assistant, and 5 months as a Grocery Manager. He had also passed a Junior Book Keeping Examination. He was married with two children. His medical examination listed him as being 5 feet 7½ inches tall, with brown hair, hazel eyes, a dark complexion, and of the Roman Catholic Religious denomination.

Aircraftman Bruton was sent from the Recruitment Centre to No 3 School of Technical Training (STT), Ultimo, from 3 Jan - 28 Mar 1943. He then transferred to No 1 Engineering School (ES), Melbourne, to complete a Trainee Flight Riggers Course, until 24 Jun 1943 and then moved to No 4 Operational Training Unit (OTU), Williamtown, Port Stephens, NSW.

On 27 Oct 1943, AC1 Fitter 11A Bruton moved back to No 1 ES, followed by a return to 4 OTU, Williamtown, on 29 Jan 1944. He spent leave in March 1944 with his wife and family in Cumnock and was then transferred to No 5 Service Flying Training School (SFTS), Uranquinty, near Wagga Wagga, on 26 Apr 1944. He was promoted to Leading Aircraftman (LAC) on 16 Jun 1944 and to Acting Corporal on 5 Apr 1945. After a long stay at Uranquinty, he moved to 8 OTU, Parkes, on 14 Aug 1945 and reverted back to the rank of LAC.

LAC Bruton applied for release from service from the RAAF in September 1945, with a letter from George Black also stating that he wished to re-employ Clifford as a Hardware Manager at Black Bros. He was discharged from the RAAF on 20 Feb 1946 and returned to Cumnock to work at Black Bros.

Clifford's father, William Bruton, died 64 years, at Cumnock, on 6 Sep 1946. William's wife, Henrietta died, aged 75 years, on 5th June 1962. They are buried in the Cumnock Cemetery.

Clifford and Marjorie moved to Condobolin to live around 1958 and worked as a shop assistant. Clifford died, aged 62 years, on 19 Dec 1976 at Condobolin.

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