

Name	TARRANT, DARCY ORMONDE
Service	Royal Australian Air Force
Service Number	34912
Date of Birth	24 May 1913
Place of Birth	COFFS HARBOUR, NSW
Date of Enlistment	20 Nov 1940
Locality on Enlistment	CUMNOCK
Place of Enlistment	SYDNEY, NSW
Next of Kin	TARRANT, FRANCES
Date of Discharge	31 Oct 1945
Rank	Warrant Officer
Posting at Discharge	AFHQ (PAD)



Brief Biography

D'Arcy Ormonde Tarrant was born on 24 May 1913 at Coffs Harbour, the eldest son of Francis Roy Conn Tarrant and Violet Victoria Tarrant (nee Walker).

Francis Tarrant was a postmaster and was transferred around New South Wales in this position. After being in Coffs Harbour for a time, the family lived in Woodstock, near Cowra, for a number of years (approx. 1930 - 1937) before moving to Warialda, North West Slopes of NSW, around 1940. Francis and Violet later moved to Annadale, inner west Sydney. Francis died on 29 Nov 1949 at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, aged 60yrs. Violet died at Sydney on 27 April 1969, aged 80 years.

The Sydney Morning Herald - 30 Nov 1949, p1, stated that Francis was the father of: D'Arcy, Enis, Joyce, Thomas, Eiver Francis, Noel, Dorothy, Nalda, Beryl, William and John.

D'Arcy attended Woodstock Public School for his primary school education and then to Cowra High School for intermediate school education. He commenced training as a junior mechanic for the Post Master General's Department in 1928 and attended Sydney Technical College for 2 years, becoming a telephone mechanic Grade 11 IN 1934. From 1934 to 1936 he worked on telephone and switchboard installation and maintenance.

In Sep 1936 D'Arcy was chosen as a member of the installation staff of the 10-kilowatt National Broadcasting Regional Station 2CR, at Cumnock. The station had a main building and a 658 foot antenna, the first of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. It also had three cottages alongside to house the technicians.

The Molong Express & Western District Advertiser (WDA) - 20 Aug 1938, p9, reported "the engagement of Miss Patricia Eggleston, only daughter of the late Mr WS Eggleston and of Mrs I Eggleston, of 'Clearview,' Cumnock, to Mr DO Tarrant, eldest son of Mr & Mrs FRC Tarrant, of Woodstock."



2CR Station & Antenna, Cumnock, 1939.

D'Arcy first started applying to join the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) in June 1940, and had to undertake a trades examination which he passed and was classified as an Electrical Fitter. His enlistment date was 20 Nov 1940 at No. 2 Recruit Dept., Richmond.

His medical examination on enlistment stated that he was 27 years and 5 months old, was 5 feet 8½ inches tall, had green eyes, brown hair, a dark complexion and was of the Church of England religious denomination. He stated that sports he played were tennis, golf, football and swimming.

Two of D'Arcy's brothers also served in WW2: Leading Sick Berth Attendant Thomas Tarrant - 21420 Royal Australian Navy (RAN), enlisted 22 Feb 1937, and was discharged 23 Mar 1949; and Cpl Noel Tarrant, 35947 - RAAF, 1 Flying Boat Maintenance Unit, enlisted 10 Apr 1941 and was discharged 22 Nov 1945. A third brother, William Tarrant, served in the RAN for 6 years between 1947-1953.

The Molong Express & WDA - 19 Apr 1941, p7, reported in part:

"Aircraftman D'Arcy Tarrant married Patricia Eggleston at the Presbyterian Church, Cumnock, in April 1941. His brother Francis, of Bathurst was best man, and another brother Noel, of Warialda, was a groomsman. As the bridal party left the Church, men of the 2CR Garrison formed a guard of honor."

D'Arcy Tarrant's Air Force Service details:

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Where Served</u>
20 Dec 1940	30 Jun 1941	Aircraftman Class 1	2nd, 3STT signals school	Richmond, Ultimo, Point Cook, NSW
28 Jul 1941	1 Oct 1941	Aircraftman Class 1	Station Headquarters	Darwin, NT
1 Oct 1941	1 Apr 1942	Leading Aircraftman	Station Headquarters	Darwin, NT
1 Apr 1942	9 Jul 1942	Corporal	Station Headquarters	Darwin, NT
9 Jul 1942	31 Oct 1942	Corporal	Station Headquarters	N. W. Area
8 Dec 1942	1 Jan 1943	Corporal	No. 1 Air Navigation School	Parkes
1 Jan 1943	16 Apr 1943	Sergeant	No. 1 Air Navigation School	Parkes
1 Apr 1944	1 Feb 1945	Flight Sergeant	Air Field Headquarters	Sydney
1 Feb 1945	29 Oct 1945	Warrant Officer	Air Field Headquarters	Sydney

When Japanese aircraft bombed Darwin on the morning of 19 Feb 1942, D'Arcy was serving at Station Headquarters in Darwin. For forty minutes the Japanese aircraft bombed and machine-gunned. They sank 8 of the 47 ships in the harbour and buildings and installations ashore came under attack. Darwin's defence was inadequate. The few anti-aircraft guns, though in constant action, were overwhelmed. Ten USA Kittyhawk fighters were all destroyed in the air or while taking off.

Eighty minutes later a second wave arrived to continue the attack, this time concentrating on the RAAF Station inland. The two raids killed about 250 people in and around Darwin. The RAAF Station Headquarters had 6 servicemen killed during the raids. These attacks were only the first of 64 raids made on Darwin between Feb 1942 and Nov 1943.

D'Arcy returned to Cumnock on leave during 1944 and 1945. Warrant Officer Tarrant was discharged from the RAAF on 29 Oct 1945. He was awarded the Defence Medal and the War Medal 1939-1945. *The Wellington Times* - 7 Jan 1946, p6, reported on a welcome-home that was given to service women and men at the Picture Theatre, Cumnock, on New Year's Eve. D'Arcy Tarrant was one of the service men present at the event.

D'Arcy returned to work as a technician at the 2CR Radio Station at Cumnock. Joan Marriott in her book, "The Crossroads - The History of Cumnock," states on p74, that Darcy "was employed until 1950 when he resigned to run his property "Clearview," on the opposite side of the road." D'Arcy and Pat Tarrant had 3 children: Lynette, Ian and Nalda.



D'Arcy was involved in many Cumnock community organisations, including the Memorial Park Committee, P. A. & H Society, the Dramatic Society, and the Tennis and Bowling Clubs. Mrs Pat Tarrant was involved with the Cumnock Branches of the Country Women's Association and the Red Cross.

D'Arcy Tarrant died, aged 56 years, in Cumnock on 4 Jan 1970. Pat Tarrant moved to Canberra to live after D'Arcy died and she died in 1996.

Photo: D'Arcy Tarrant , 1963.

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