

**St. Mary's Churchyard,  
Watton, Norfolk, England**

**War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 2**



**414467 FLIGHT SERGEANT**

**D. J. CLARKE**

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.**

**2ND JUNE, 1943**

*In God's Care*

*R.I.P.*

## Daniel Joseph CLARKE

Daniel Joseph Clarke was born in Brisbane, Queensland on 12th August, 1922 to parents Patrick John & Katherine Clarke.

Daniel Joseph Clarke enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 11th October, 1941 as a trainee pilot. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Katherine Clarke. Daniel Clarke was a Civil Servant & his usual place of residence was listed as 61 Fifth Ave, Wilston, Brisbane, Australia.

Daniel Joseph Clarke was assigned a Service Number of 414467

Daniel Joseph Clarke graduated from R.A.A.F. Flying Training Schools in Australia & was posted to the United Kingdom.

Flight Sergeant Daniel Joseph Clarke was attached to 17 Advanced Flying Training Unit, R.A.F. Station Watton.

### R.A.F. Station Watton

*Royal Air Force Watton or more simply RAF Watton is a former Royal Air Force station located 9 mi (14 km) southwest of East Dereham, Norfolk, England.*

*Opened in 1937 it was used by both the Royal Air Force (RAF) and United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) during the Second World War. During the war it was used primarily as a bomber airfield, being the home of RAF Bomber Command squadrons until being used by the United States Army Air Forces Eighth Air Force as a major overhaul depot for Consolidated B-24 Liberator bombers and as a weather reconnaissance base.*

*After the war, it was returned to RAF use until being turned over to the British Army in the early 1990s. It was closed then put up for sale. (Wikipedia)*



### Information from History of Watton:

*The station was opened on the 4th. January 1939 under the command of Group Captain F.J. Vincent as a station of 2 Group, Bomber Command. It was built as part of the R.A.F. expansion programme of 1935 / 1936 on farmland that was well known locally as good mushroom land and under the right conditions mushrooms are still to be seen in quantity in the area.*

*The first two Squadrons to be based here were Nos. 21 and 34 flying mainly training flights until in August of 1939 No. 34 Squadron was posted to Egypt and replaced by No. 82 Squadron, who with 21 Squadron formed No. 79 Wing. These two Squadrons remained until mid 1942. 79 Wing operated from both Watton and Bodney flying from grass flying fields.*

*The roll of the Wing changed from Photo-Reconnaissance to Maritime-Reconnaissance during the "Cold War" but with the German invasion of Norway the missions became more aggressive and the Wing concentrated on targets in France and Belgium in support of the B.E.F. until Dunkirk and then focused their attention on the invasion ports and targets in Germany.*

*Twice during the summer of 1940 No.82 Squadron lost eleven out of twelve Blenheims dispatched on raids in daylight and it was not until the middle of 1941 that the fighter escorts were available for operations.*

*In 1942 No.21 Squadron exchanged their Blenheims for Mitchels although they did not fly any operations with these aircraft and in October of that year the Squadron moved to Methwold. At the same time No.82 Squadron transferred to the Middle East and Watton was occupied by No.17 Advanced Flying Unit. They were equipped with Miles Masters and performed advanced flying training. In July 1943 No.17 A.F.U. left and the Americans moved in.*

Flight Sergeant Daniel Joseph Clarke was piloting Miles Master Serial # DK 914 on 2nd June, 1943 when during a forced landing he crashed at Field Barn Farm, Greater Cressingham, Norfolk, England.

Flight Sergeant Daniel Joseph Clarke died on 2nd June, 1943 at Station Sick Quarters, Watton, Norfolk, England as a result of a flying accident.

A death for Daniel J. Clarke, aged 20, was registered in the June quarter, 1943 in the district of Wayland, Norfolk, England.

Flight Sergeant Daniel Joseph Clarke was buried in St Mary's Churchyard, Watton, Norfolk, England – Plot number Section A. Grave 63 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.



The escort party made up of members of the RAF and RAAF formed up on both sides of the road leading an RAF truck carrying the coffin of 414467 Flight Sergeant (Flt Sgt) Daniel Joseph Clarke, RAAF, away from RAF Station Watton, Norfolk, to St Mary's Church Watton.





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P09533.003

An RAF band leading the funeral party for 414467 Flight Sergeant (Flt Sgt) Daniel Joseph Clarke, through the gates of RAF Station Watton, Norfolk, on the way to St Mary's Church, Watton



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P09533.005

A minister leading the pall bearers carrying the coffin of 414467 Flight Sergeant (Flt Sgt) Daniel Joseph Clarke, RAAF, away from RAF Station Watton, Norfolk, to St Mary's Church Watton.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P09533.006

A minister leading the funeral party of 414467 Flight Sergeant (Flt Sgt) Daniel Joseph Clarke, RAAF, into the church yard at St Mary's Church Watton, Norfolk.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P09533.007

The pall bearers carry the coffin of 414467 Flight Sergeant (Flt Sgt) Daniel Joseph Clarke, RAAF, at St Mary's Church Watton, Norfolk.





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P09533.008

The coffin of 414467 Flight Sergeant Daniel Joseph Clarke, RAAF, set above his grave with the minister conducting the funeral service at St Mary's Church Watton, Norfolk, with the funeral party gathered around the grave.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P09533.010

A minister conducts the funeral service of 414467 Flight Sergeant (Flt Sgt) Daniel Joseph Clarke, RAAF, with members of the funeral party formed up around the grave at St Mary's Church Watton, Norfolk.





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P09533.011

The firing party fire a volley over the grave of 414467 Flight Sergeant (Flt Sgt) Daniel Joseph Clarke, RAAF, with members of the funeral party formed up around the grave at St Mary's Church Watton, Norfolk.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P09533.009

A member of an RAF band sounds The Last Post during the funeral of 414467 Flight Sergeant (Flt Sgt) Daniel Joseph Clarke, RAAF, with members of the funeral party formed up around the grave at St Mary's Church Watton, Norfolk.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Flight Sergeant Daniel Joseph Clarke – service number 414467, aged 20, of Royal Australian Air Force. He was the son Patrick John and Katherine Clarke, of Wilston, Queensland, Australia.

Flight Sergeant D. J. Clarke is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 120.



**Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra**







A Memorial to the memory of those of the Royal Air Force and Commonwealth Air Forces who lost their lives while serving at R.A.F. Watton and Bodney is located at the entrance to the former R.A.F. Watton, Canberra Road, Watton, Norfolk, England.



**R.A.F. Watton Memorial** (Photos from War Memorials Online)







(Flight Sergeant Daniel Joseph Clarke's Service records were not available for viewing at National Archives of Australia website at the time of research).

*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour) & Aviation Museum W.A*



**Connected to Flight Sergeant Daniel Joseph Clarke:**

Brother – QX17307 H. V. Clarke, A.I.F. – Malaya Missing

Brother – 23548 Sgt P. M. Clarke, R.A.A.F – Served in Rabaul, Horn Island and Milne Bay.



**QX17307 Bombardier Hugh Vincent Clarke**  
- 2/10th Field Regiment  
b. 1/7/1919 Brisbane, QLD  
Enlisted at the age of 21.  
Captured by the Japanese with the fall of Singapore, a  
POW at Singapore, Thailand & Japan.  
Oct 1945 boarded *HMS Formidable* at Nagasaki,  
for return home to Australia.



**23548 Flight Sergeant Patrick Maurice Clarke**  
Personnel Depot, RAAF  
b. 26/1/1921 Brisbane, QLD  
12/9/1940 enlisted at the age of 20.  
served in 24 Squadron at Rabaul  
24/1/1946 discharged from service in AIF WWII



**414467 Flight Sergeant Daniel Joseph Clarke**  
b. 12/8/1922 Brisbane, QLD  
Enlisted at the age of 21.  
2/6/1943 killed in a flying accident  
at 17 Advanced Flying Unit, RAF.  
buried in: St Mary's Church & Cemetery,  
Watton, Norfolk, England

(Photo from VWMA – Julianna T. Ryan)

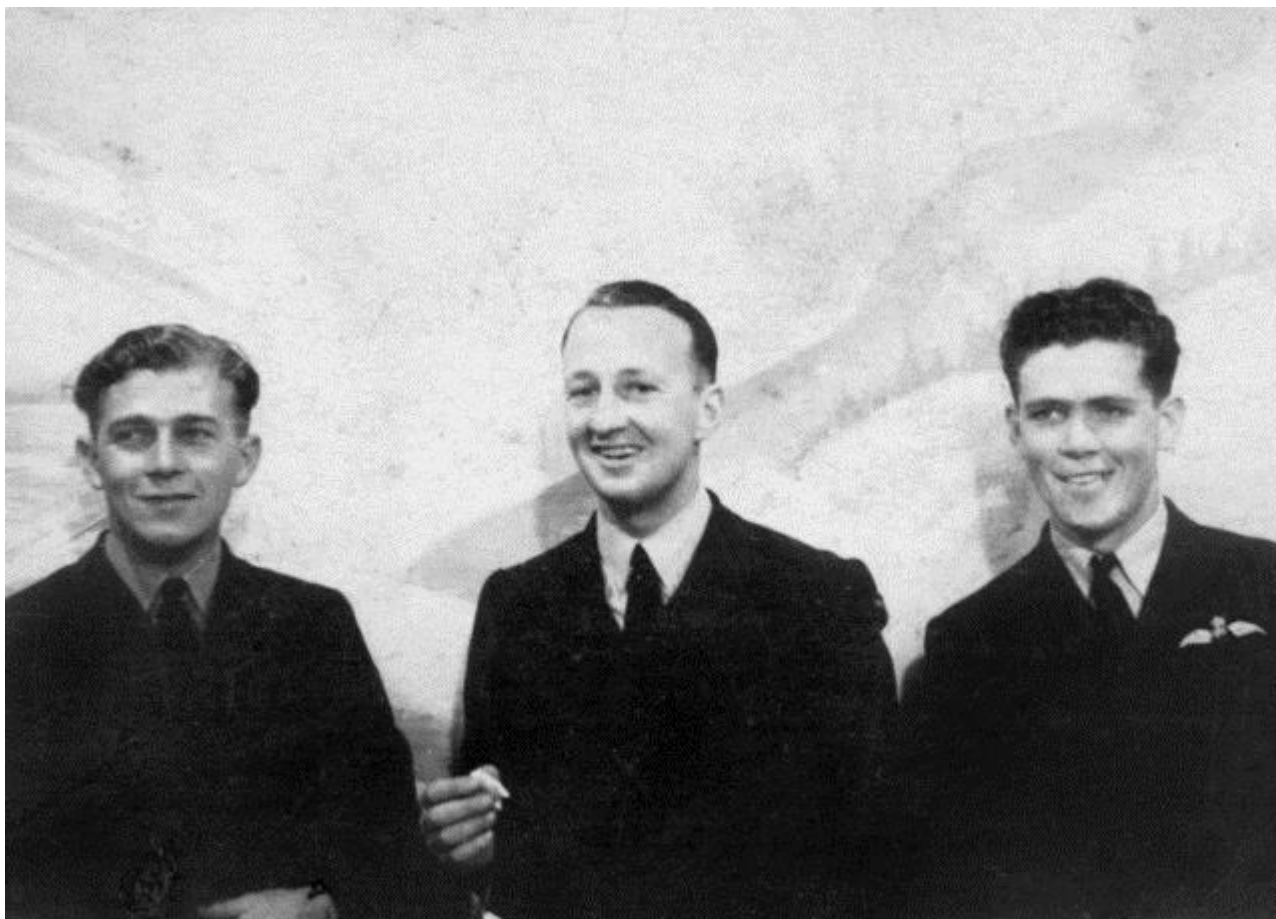


AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P09533.001

**Flight Sergeant Daniel Joseph Clarke**





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P09533.002

Informal group photograph of two brothers and a friend, all members of the RAAF,  
taken by a street photographer in Sydney.

Left to right: 23548 Sergeant (Sgt) Patrick Maurice Clarke, thought to be Les Melbourne and 414467 Sgt Daniel Joseph Clarke.

Sgt P M Clarke served in 24 Squadron at Rabaul and managed to evade capture by the invading Japanese and make his way back to New Guinea.

Sgt D J Clarke was killed in a flying accident on 2 June 1943 at 17 Advanced Flying Unit at RAF Station Watton, Suffolk, United Kingdom.

A third brother, QX17307 Bombardier Hugh Vincent Clarke, 2/10th Field Regiment, was captured by the Japanese with the fall of Singapore.



## Newspaper Notices

### War Casualties

**War Casualties**

Flight Sergeant J. E. Jackson, eldest son of Mr and Mrs E. Jackson, 111 Latrobe Terrace, Paddington, is reported missing on an anti-submarine patrol in the Bay of Biscay. He was a member of the crew of a Coastal Command Sunderland flying boat, serving as wireless air gunner.



F.-Sgt. Jackson.



F.-Sgt. Williams. Sgt.-Pilot Clarke.

Flight Sergeant T. E. Williams, second son of Mr P. Williams, Hill End Terrace, Hill End, and of the late Mrs Williams, is reported missing in air operations. He served with the Air Force in the Middle East, Kenya, and Java.

Mr and Mrs P. J. Clarke, 61 5th Avenue, Wilston, have been notified that their third son, Sergeant Pilot D. J. Clarke, was killed in an aircraft accident in England on June 2.

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(*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Queensland – 11 June, 1943)

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### DEATHS

CLARKE – On June 2nd at Wotton, Norfolk, England, Sgt. Pilot Daniel Joseph Clarke, dearly beloved third Son of Sgt. & Mrs P. J. Clarke, 61 Fifth Ave., Wilston, aged 20 years 10 months.

R.I.P.

(*The Courier-Mail*, Brisbane, Queensland – 11 June, 1943)



## ROLL OF HONOUR

CLARKE, D. J. – A loving tribute to our dear Son & Brother, Sgt.-Pilot Daniel Joseph Clarke, killed on active service, June 2nd, 1943.

R.I.P.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning we shall remember him.

Inserted by his fond Parents, Brothers, & Sister, Rita.

(*The Courier-Mail*, Brisbane, Queensland – 2 June, 1944)

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## Roll of Honour

CLARKE – A loving tribute to our dear Son & Brother, Sgt. Pilot Daniel Joseph Clarke, killed on active service, June 2nd 1943.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning we shall remember him.

Inserted by his parents, brothers, Hugh (A.I.F., P.O.W., Japan), Pat (Pacific) John, Ray, Peter & sister Rita.

R.I.P.

(*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Queensland – 2 June, 1945) & a similar notice in (*The Courier-Mail*, Brisbane, Queensland – 2 June, 1945)

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

CLARKE, D. J. – A loving tribute to our dear Son & Brother, Sgt Pilot Daniel Joseph Clarke, killed on active service, June 2nd, 1943.

R.I.P.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning we shall remember him.

Inserted by his fond Parents, Brothers Hugh, Pat, John, Ray, Peter and Sister, Rita.

(*Sunday Mail*, Brisbane, Queensland – 2 June, 1946)

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

CLARKE, D. J. – A loving tribute to our dear Son and Brother, Sgt Pilot Daniel Joseph Clarke, killed on active service, June 2nd, 1943.

R.I.P.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning we shall remember him.

Inserted by his fond Parents, Brothers and Sister, Fifth Ave., Wilston.

(*The Courier-Mail*, Brisbane, Queensland – 2 June, 1947)

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

CLARKE, D. J. – A loving tribute to our dear Son and Brother, Sgt. Pilot Daniel Joseph Clarke, killed on active service, June 2nd, 1943. R.I.P. Ever remembered.

Inserted by his fond Parents, Brothers & Sister, Fifth Ave., Wilston.

*(The Courier-Mail, Brisbane, Queensland – 2 June, 1948)*

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

CLARKE, D. J. – A loving tribute to our dear Son and Brother, Sgt. Pilot Daniel Joseph Clarke, killed on active service, June 2nd, 1943.

R.I.P. Ever remembered.

Inserted by his fond Parents, Brothers & Sister, Fifth Ave., Wilston.

*(The Courier-Mail, Brisbane, Queensland – 2 June, 1949)*

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

CLARKE, D. J. – A loving tribute to our beloved Son and Brother, Sgt.- Pilot Daniel Joseph Clarke, killed on active service, June 2nd, 1943.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning we shall remember him.

Inserted by his fond Parents, Brothers and Sister. Fifth Ave., Wilston.

*(The Courier-Mail, Brisbane, Queensland – 2 June, 1950)*

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

CLARKE, D. J. – A loving tribute to our beloved Son and Brother, Sgt. Pilot Daniel Joseph Clarke, R.A.A.F. killed on active service, June 2nd, 1943.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning we shall remember him.

Inserted by the Clarke Family, Gorman Street, Kalinga.

*(The Courier-Mail, Brisbane, Queensland – 2 June, 1951)*

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

CLARKE, D. J. – A loving tribute to our beloved Son and Brother, Sgt. Pilot Daniel Joseph Clarke, R.A.A.F., killed on active service, June 2nd, 1943.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning we shall remember him.

Inserted by the Clarke Family, Gorman St., Kalinga.

*(The Courier-Mail, Brisbane, Queensland – 2 June, 1952)*

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

CLARKE, D. J. – A loving tribute to our beloved Son and Brother, Flight Sgt. Pilot Daniel Joseph Clarke, R.A.A.F., killed on active service, June 2nd, 1943.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning we shall remember him.

Inserted by the Clarke Family, Gorman Street, Kalinga.

(*The Courier-Mail*, Brisbane, Queensland – 2 June, 1953)

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

CLARKE, D. J. – A loving tribute to our beloved Son and Brother, Flight-Sgt. Pilot Daniel Joseph Clarke, R.A.A.F., killed on active service, June 2nd, 1943.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning we shall remember him.

Inserted by the Clarke Family, Gorman Street, Kalinga.

(*The Courier-Mail*, Brisbane, Queensland – 2 June, 1954)

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## Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Flight Sergeant Daniel Joseph Clarke has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

***In God's Care***

***R.I.P.***



## St Mary's Churchyard, Watton, Norfolk, England

St Mary's Churchyard, Watton has 38 Commonwealth War Graves – 5 from World War 1 & 33 from World War 2. All 32 of the WW2 Graves belong to either Royal Air Force, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, Royal Australia Air Force, Royal New Zealand Air Force, Royal Canadian Air Force & 1 Coldstream Guards Soldier.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P09533.012



(Photo from Find a Grave – Nigel Battley)





*(Photo from Find a Grave – Len)*



**St Mary's Churchyard, Watton, Norfolk** *(Photos from CWGC)*





**St Mary's Churchyard, Watton, Norfolk** *(Photos from CWGC)*





Photo of Flight Sergeant Daniel Joseph Clarke's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St Mary's Churchyard, Watton, Norfolk, England



*(Photo from Find a Grave – Len – February, 2016)*