

**400887 Warrant Officer Glen Samuel 'Pat' Ferrero.
40 Squadron RAAF Pilot.
Enlisted 10.11.1940. – Discharged 12.04.1946.
B: Brighton Vic. 22.07.1915. – D: 17.07.1957. Heidelberg Hospital Vic.
Parents:
Married 1940: Evelyn Wilhemina De Vincer.
B: Balwyn Vic. 1917 – D: Unley SA 02.04.1975.**

(Following transcription of newspaper items and RAAF records)

The Herald- Thursday 3 September 1942. "Pat" Ferrero Missing.

Sergeant Pilot Glen S. ("Pat") Ferrero (RAAF), South Melbourne First XI, cricketer, has been reported missing in air operations in Middle East, according to official advice received by his parents, Mr and Mrs G. N. Ferrero of 2 Glyndon Avenue Brighton.

Private information has also reached them that the last radio message picked up from him was that he was bailing out of his plane. Previously he had flown from England as captain of a bomber.

A workmanlike batsman, excelling in fighting knocks. "Pat" Ferrero was in his fourth season at South Melbourne.

In 1940-41 when Air Force duties prevented his playing further.

Before that he played cricket for V.C.A. Colts, followed by a short term with St. Kilda. At Brighton Grammar School he was a star bat in the school competition. Born in Brighton, he is 26. and enlisted early in the war under the Empire Air Training Scheme. (Canada.)

**The Record (Emerald Hill) Saturday 5 September 1942
S.M.CC. BATSMAN "Pat" Ferrero Missing.
No News Since He Bailed Out of his Plane.**

Splendid fighting batsman for South Melbourne First Eleven before the outbreak, of war, Sgt. Pilot Glen S. "Pat" Ferrero has been reported missing in air operations in the Middle East, according to advice received by relatives.

From private advice which has come to his parents, the last radio message received from him was that he was bailing out of his plane. On previous flights over enemy territory, he was captain of a bomber.

"Pat" was a fine back-to-the-wall batsman, and a grand club man, enjoying great popularity with everyone connected with the South Melbourne Cricket Club. He was with South for four years, his First Eleven figures in 1938-39 being 6 innings, 1f once not out, highest score 59 not out, a total of 108 runs at an average of 21.6.

In the following season, when he frequently opened the innings with Ian Lee, the missing airman in 15 innings totalled, 383 runs, highest score 61, at an average of 25.53.

A native of Brighton, "Pat" played for a while with the Colts, then St. Kilda, before South acquired his services. He is aged 26.

The Record (Emerald Hill) Saturday 3 October 1942
"Pat" Ferrero A Prisoner - At Dulag Luft in Germany

A few weeks ago South Melbourne Cricket Club officials, players and members were dispirited to read that Sgt. Pilot Glen S. ("Pat") Ferrero had been reported missing in air operations in the Middle East.

The last radio message received from him was that he was bailing out of his plane, and grave fears were entertained for his safety. He had made previous flights over enemy territory as captain of a bomber.

"Pat," a fine fighting batsman with South Melbourne for two years prior to his enlistment in the Air Force at the outbreak of war, made many friends here, and now they will be delighted to learn that he is safe, although a prisoner-of-war in Germany.

This information was forwarded to Mr. Frank Morton (S.M.C.C. secretary) by "Pat's" father, Mr. G. N. Ferrero of Glyndon Avenue, Brighton. The prison camp where the intrepid airman-athlete is quartered is Dulag Luft.

400887 Warrant Officer RAAF Glen Samuel Ferrero
Attached to RAF Squadron 40
(Excerpt RAAF Records)

Mustering 2nd Pilot in the crew of a Wellington Ic (Vickers twin engine long-range medium bomber) detailed to attack a target at Tobruk on 11 August 1942.

After leaving target, port engine gave trouble which was counteracted by reducing pitch and boost. Eventually, engine without altogether the pilot was unable to maintain height. Captain gave order to bail out, and I heard all members acknowledge. All bailed out, approximately 3,000 feet. Aircraft appeared to be partly out of control, and one engine u/s.

All the crew became POW's. Sergeants Hickman, Lloyd and Beasley – all RAF. Other two members not known both RAF.

We walked about 120 miles towards our own lines, but fourteen days later we walked over the top of a hill and found ourselves at an Italian outpost. We were fatigued to make any further attempt to escape.

We were captured on 25 August 1942 at El Alemein Egypt. Spent 13 days in Stalag 344. (Poland). The rest of the war was spent interned at Dulag Luft Germany. Released by American Army 17 April 1945.

POW Camp living conditions:

Accommodation: Bad Bedding: Bad Lighting and Heating: Overcrowding.

Clothing and footwear: None. Bathing, washing and sanitation: Fair.

Sports, recreation, entertainment, reading: Fair. Behaviour of Internment staff: Unbearable.

The Record (Emerald Hill) Saturday 13 November 1943
Pat Ferrero Makes Runs in Germany.

News of 'Pat' Ferrero, the South Melbourne cricketer, is contained in a letter received by Mrs. F. O'Brien, Smith St., South Melbourne, from her husband Private F. O'Brien, who is a prisoner of war in Germany. Pte. O'Brien, who is a son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. W. Beacall, of Bank Street, went through the Libyan campaign.

He was captured in Greece, having been wounded in both legs. A foot was amputated in Greece, and a later operation in Germany necessitated the amputation of his leg below the knee.

In his letter Pte. O'Brien writes: —The Aussies met New Zealand in a cricket match yesterday, and we won by four wickets and 150 runs. 'Pat' Ferrero, the South Melbourne batsman, who was in the R.A.A.F., made 46. We play an English eleven next week, and if we win, well give them hell. Pte. O'Brien was on the first list of repatriated soldiers about 18 months ago when a hitch occurred in negotiations.

News has now been received that his name appears on the latest list to be released, and his return home is expected to follow soon.

The Record (Emerald Hill) Saturday 18 December 1943
Pat Ferrero's 9 wickets in German Prison Camp

Repatriated Soldier Tells of South Cricketer's Feat. The first batch of Australian Army prisoners who have been in German camps or hospitals for nearly three years, have arrived back in Australia under the P.O.W. repatriation agreement made with Germany.

Three South Melbourne men— Privates J. J. Hurrell and F. J. O'Brien and Gnr. J. Dunn— were amongst the repatriates who have varied opinions of Germans and of conditions in prisons spread over Europe.

The men paid high tribute to the Red Cross, and the opinion was general that 70 per cent, of the prisoners would have succumbed if Red Cross had not provided comforts regularly.

Pte. O'Brien, who resides in Smith St., had a leg amputated, during his period of captivity, the result of battle wounds.

He brought a message from "Pat" Ferrero, the pre-war South Melbourne batsman, to Mr. Frank Morton S.M.C.C. secretary). A member of the R.A.A.F., Ferrero was 'brought down' over Europe.

The repatriate related how in a cricket match between R.A.A.F. and Army elevens, Ferrero (captain) was unable to break an opening partnership. After his bowlers had failed Ferrero, himself took a turn at the bowling crease, and tagged nine wickets.

It was disclosed also that Ferrero almost succeeded in making a daring getaway from Germany. Effecting a disguise, he was about to board a Dutch boat when he was detected and returned to camp.

In a series of test matches played between Australian, English and New Zealand teams of prisoners, Australia won the mythical 'ashes,' helped along by the vociferous barracking of 'Digger' supporters. Pte. O'Brien added that so keen was the barracking that the majority of

the Australian supporters had sore throats for days after, and as in the good old days, the English team failed to relish the 'Aussies' style of verbal encouragement and disparagement.

Pte. O'Brien bought 30 messages from imprisoned comrades to relatives in various parts of Melbourne.

So secretly did the German prison authorities act that the repatriated men barely had time to effect handshakes with their less fortunate companions before they were on the first stage of the homeward journey to Australia.

The unexpected provision of amenities at all Allied ports following release, was another happy thought of the Red Cross.

Glen's Parents

Glen Norman Ferrero B: 15.05.1885 – D: 31.03.1952.

Married: 10.01.1912.

Isabella Bertha (nee Barter) Ferrero B: 1888 – D: 1954.

End