

## Allan Benjamin McBain



Allan Benjamin McBain, aged 26, enlisted in the Australian Army in Mount Gambier on 15 January 1942. For whatever reason, his enlistment was never formalised, and he was never allocated to an Army unit.

He did however subsequently enlist in the Royal Australian Air Force in Adelaide on 12 August 1943, where he was allocated Service No. 141026, and posted to No.1 Recruit Depot at Shepparton, Victoria, with the rank of Aircraftman Class I (ACI).

On 16 September 1943, he was posted to 67 Squadron at RAAF Laverton, Victoria. The squadron, which operated Avro Anson aircraft, escorted convoys and conducted anti-submarine patrols off the coast of southern Australia during the war.

On 22 November 1943, he was posted to the newly formed No. 2 Malarial Control Unit (2MCU) at Werribee, Victoria.

In January 1944, the unit left Australia and was based in Nadzab, New Guinea, where it operated Beaufort and Tiger Moth aircraft, specially fitted with DDT spray tanks, to control malaria and dengue fever outbreaks. They also conducted ground spraying and surveyed mosquito breeding grounds.

On 11 February 1944, ACI McBain was promoted to Leading Aircraftman (LAC) and a fortnight after that promoted to Acting Corporal (Cpl) on 27 February 1944.

By early August 1944, the unit had moved to Noemfoor Island, to the east New Guinea, where it remained until the end of the war. Cpl McBain reverted to the rank of LAC on 6 August 1945 and embarked for Australia three days later.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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*Above: New Guinea. Flt Lieutenant GF Gee examining mosquito pupae under a microscope to determine the species. A great deal of research work was done in the well-appointed laboratories on No.2 Malarial Control Unit, RAAF.*

He disembarked in Australia on 21 August 1945, where he was taken on strength of No.2 Air Observers School at Mount Gambier on 31 October 1945.

On 3 January 1946 he was transferred to No.4 Personnel Depot at Springbank, SA and on 11 January 1946 he was demobilised from the RAAF.



*Above: Post war photo of a DH.82 Tiger Moth spraying crops in WA*

Name: McBain, Allan Benjamin	
Service Number	141026
Date enlisted	12 August 1943
Place enlisted	Adelaide, SA
Rank on enlistment	Aircraftman Class I
Initial Unit	No. 1 Recruit Depot, RAAF, Shepparton, Vic
Previous military service or enlistment attempts?	Australian Army 12 January 1942
Stated age/DOB (if known)	25/11/1915
Place of birth	Naracoorte, SA
Marital status	Married
Occupation	Textile worker
Religion	Presbyterian
Next of kin and address	McBain, Mrs Sylvia, wife, John Street, Mount Gambier, SA
Permanent address in Australia	John Street, Mount Gambier, SA
Appearance	Dark complexion, brown hair, grey/green eyes, height – 5 feet 5 ½ inches, weight – 8 stone 10 lbs, chest measurement 35-37 inches
Final Rank	Leading Aircraftman
Final Unit	No.2 Air Observers School, RAAF
Theatres of war served in	New Guinea
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date embarked for Australia	9 August 1945
Date discharged	11 January 1946
Nature of discharge	Demobilisation
Honours/medals	1939-45 Star, War Medal 1939-45, Pacific Star

