



**William John "Jonnie" Waycott** was born on 10 June 1922 in Subiaco, an inner suburb of Perth, Western Australia. His father, Samuel Sherwill Waycott is a farmer's son from Smithleigh Farm near Plympton in Devon who emigrated to Australia on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1903 arriving in Melbourne 56 days later. He finds work as a bullock driver and marries Ethel May Barker Halliday in 1924 once her divorce is finalised. Ethel has a son from her first marriage, born in 1907, Jonnie's half brother William Lawrence Halliday.

After leaving school Jonnie works as a storeman in a shop in Perth before enlisting in the 16<sup>th</sup> Cameron Highlander's in 1940. Eight months later, he transfers to the RAAF, on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1941. Between 5<sup>th</sup> March and 24<sup>th</sup> August 1942, he is on training course 23 at 1 W.A.G.S Ballarat (the Wireless Air Gunners School). He goes AWOL for 36 hours on 14<sup>th</sup> June and is confined to barracks for 7 days and forfeits two days pay.

In August Jonnie is at 3 B.A.G.S (Bombing and Air Gunnery School) in Port Pirie, South Australia and, once the training is complete, is posted to 5 ED (Embarkation Depot) in Salvado Road, Subiaco on 18<sup>th</sup> September. He then moves to 1 ED in Ransford, Melbourne on 17<sup>th</sup> November. On 15<sup>th</sup> January 1943, Jonnie leaves Australia bound for the U.K.

He arrives at No. 11 (RAAF) Personnel Despatch and Reception Centre in Bournemouth, England on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1943. On 17<sup>th</sup> May he is posted to No. 1 (Observer) Advanced Flying Unit, RAF Wigtown, Dumfries and Galloway in Scotland. From there, he is posted on 15<sup>th</sup> June to 12 OTU. 12 OTU was formed in April 1940 as part of No. 1 Group RAF Bomber Command at RAF Benson to train light bomber aircrew.

On 8<sup>th</sup> September 1943, Jonnie is posted to 1678 HCU (Heavy Conversion Unit) at RAF Foulsham in Norfolk. From there he joins 115 Squadron at RAF Little Snoring in Norfolk on 16<sup>th</sup> October where he flies a couple of sorties with Fred Bruce, Stan Sayce and Henry Wilson.

LANCASTER Mk. II G.D.S.667	P/S. JAMES, G. Sgt. SAYCE, S. P/S. WAYCOTT, W. Sgt. HELL, A. Sgt. WILSON, H. Sgt. BRUCE, F. Sgt. TRAVILL, A.	Pilot (Capt.) Navigator W/T-Optr. Air Bomber N/A Upper Rear Gunner Flt. Engineer	18.00 20.10	A/G.C.D.S.667 (Captain P/S. JAMES, G.) dropped his mines in the allotted area by GEE fix from a height of 1,000 feet. A very quiet and uneventful trip.  12 aircraft had returned safely to base by 21.50 hours.
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On 7<sup>th</sup> January 1944, he is posted to 1657 HCU at 31 Base RAF Stradishall in Suffolk and then on 9<sup>th</sup> February to 51 Base, RAF Swinderby in Lincolnshire.

On 16<sup>th</sup> February he is posted to 207 Squadron, RAF Spilsby, Lincolnshire.

