An Australian war elegy: Don Charlwood's 'No Moon Tonight'

Citation metadata

Author: Denis Boak
Date: Winter 1998
From: Southerly (Vol. 58, Issue 2)
Publisher: English Association
Document Type: Article
Length: 3,875 words

Main content

Abstract:
Post-World War II Australian literature often serves not only as remembrance for lost comrades but also the loss of a way of life. Author Don Charlwood, who served as a bomber squad member in the war, acknowledges the passing of both in his book, 'No Moon Tonight.' Charlwood connects the death of his friends to the ending of a set of values and attitudes of Australia's pastoral history, which has been replaced by a suburban cultural framework on his return from the war.

Source Citation


Gale Document Number: GALE|A20989617

Explore

This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

Footer

- About
- Contact Us
- Terms of Use
- Privacy Policy
- Accessibility

The author, an Australian, uses his notes, diaries and memory to describe his time as a navigator in (for the most part) a Lancaster Bomber during WW2. Rather like films of that period and of that subject, the bravery of the aircrew is largely understated - indeed, it is simply expected. Don Charlwood's book is not without its humour and one account stands out when the crews were watching the on-base cinema and are told during a film about road accidents that at the present rate of road accidents one out of every ten in the audience would be killed. Don Charlwood, no less than Sassoon or Remarque, entered his war sure of the righteousness of the cause for which he had volunteered. No Moon Tonight is a World War II autobiographical book by Halifax/Lancaster/Wellington bomber navigator Don Charlwood. Born in Melbourne, Australia, in 1915 Charlwood joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 1940 and was trained in Canada via the Empire Air Training Scheme. The book covers his training and his experiences as part of the RAF's Bomber Command, and his crew's ordeal completing their tour of operations. The book's title is derived from a line in the song Tristesse that was often played Boak, Charles. / An Australian War Elegy: Don Charlwood's "No moon tonight". In: Southerly. 1998 ; Vol. 58, No. 2, pp. 201-210. 
No Moon Tonight by Don Charlwood (Paperback, 2000). 1 product rating

About this product. New (other): Lowest price. Don Charlwood was born in Melbourne in 1915. Accepted as a RAF navigator in 1940, he was posted to 103 Squadron at Elsham Wolds in the winter of 1942. There he crewed up with a pilot from Western Australia and a British crew to fly a Lancaster bomber. In No Moon Tonight he gives a profound insight into the inner lives of the men of Bomber Command and their hopes and fears. Don Charlwood was born in Melbourne in 1915. Accepted as a RAF navigator in 1940, he was posted to 103 Squadron at Elsham Wolds in the winter of 1942. There he crewed up with a pilot from Western Australia and a British crew.