

## **Battle of Britain Blenheim Squadrons.**

**Research by Mark Hillier**

**Focus Dates:- 10<sup>th</sup> July until October 31st 1940**

**Squadrons, 23,25,29,219,235,236,248,600,604, FIU and the other few 53,59!**

**23 SQUADRON:** Blenheims, Coded YP, Operated from Colyweston & Wittering

At the start of the war the squadron was equipped with the Blenheim IF, and it retained this barely adequate night fighter for the next year and a half. From the start of the war until December 1940 the squadron was used as a defensive night fighter squadron, although as its Blenheims were not yet equipped with radar they had very few successes No. 23 Squadron was based at the Colly Weston Satellite on the 16th of August 1940 and moved to Middle Wallop and Ford (Fleet Air Arm Station) 13th of September 1940.

### **Pilots and Crew**

W.N.Addison	C.R.Aindow	E.D.Ainge
S.Ainsworth	J.G.C.Angus	H.T.Archer
A.A.Atkinson	C.C.M. Baker	D.Bell
Bicknell	L.C.Bicknell	J.S.Brennan
J.J.Booth	C.G.Burton	K.Butterworth
D.B.Campbell	B.Capel	C.F.Cardnell
J.C.Cheetham	H.R.Cooke	R.W.Cullen
J.E.Dann	A.M.S.Dargie	S.S.Duff
C.R.Durrant	P.S.B.Ensor	W.T.Fletcher
C.L. M.Forsyth	J.Francis	W.D.Gaunt
A.A.Gawith	J.V.Gill	J.L.Gillespie
H.E.Grellis	G.J.Grogan	N.M.Harding
W.R.Hughes	Hunter-Tod	A.E.Johnson
G.B.Johnson	L.R.Karasek	R.A.L.Knight
L.Langley	H.I.MacRory	J.W.Mathers
K.L.Mathews	W.D.Mcadam	P.J.McAllister
J.McDermott	S.F.Miles	A.J.Miller

J.B.Mills	G.Mitchell	T.G.F.Nicholls
W.Nixen	R.R.J.Nute	G.D.Oliver
E.Orgias	E.Parry	E.E.Parsons
R.I.Payne	W.J.Pearce	V.W.R.Penfold
H.T.Perry	A.Pilkington	G.R.Pushman
C.C.Reilly	E.C.Roberts	J.S.Rose
W.S.Ruddock	A.Sampson	J.N.Senior
J.Smallman	G.Southall	W.R.Stevens
C.Stephens	M.Stuart	F.Sumner
W.Waring	K.R.Wood	A.J.Willans
H.J.Woodward	R.C.Young	

#### Combat Reports at NA:-

AIR 50/177/287 Pilot Officer Gawith 10<sup>th</sup> October

Air 50/11/14 Flt Sgt Burton 15<sup>th</sup> September 1940

AIR 50/177/304 Flying Officer Ensor 15<sup>th</sup> October 1940

#### ORB at NA

AIR 27/287/25 October 1940

AIR 27/287/21 August 1940

AIR27/287/20 summary of events August 1940

AIR 27/287/19 July 1940

AIR 27/287/18 summary

AIR 27/287/22 summary sept 1940

#### **Books:-**

#### **First Hand accounts**

#### **25 Squadron:- North Weald.**

No 25 Squadron was formed on the 25th of September 1915 at Montrose as Fighter/Bomber Squadron equipped with F.E.2b's.

The Squadron became a nightfighter unit in 1938 and re-equipped with

Blenheim If's. In 1940 they had a flight of Blenheim V's equipped with A1 radar. Bristol Beaufighters became available to them in September 1940 and became operational in the 10th of October 1940. Aircraft codes ZK.

#### Pilots and Crew

R.Ambrose	D.H.Baggeley	W.E.Barrett
A.A.Bennison	B.Bent	R.C.Berwick
J.Bignall	F.Blenkharn	P.W.Broom
A.W.Brown	C.H.Bull	Calthorpe
R.J.Candy	E.Cassidy	G.Charnock
J.W.Compton	Cory	G.Cottam
W.Cowen	R.G.Crossman	J.D.Culmer
F.W.Curtis	J.W.Ditzel	Draby
W.A.C.Emmett	F.Fildes	A.R.Friend
A.J.Gooderham	Gothotrpe	M.J.Herrick
A.M.Hill	W.H.Hobbs	W.H.Hodds
D.W.Hogg	E.J.Hollis	S.V.Holloway
K.B.Hollowell	G.Holmes	B.G.Hooper
B.Howe	J.McM.Hughes	C.A.Johnson
G.Kensall	H.M.S.Lambert	W.G.Lewis
J.G.Lingard	W.W.Loxton	H.S.Lusk
K.R.Lusty	A.McL.Lyall	J.Lynch
H.R.Main	J.B.McCormack	J.Medworth
T.H.Miller	H.M.Mitchell	E.W.L.Monk
E.R.Phillips	J.Phillips	R.R.C.Pound
W.Powell	J.S.Pugh	J.W.Pye
P.G.Rich	D.F.Roberts	B.J.Roff
A.L.Romanis	A.R.Ross	C.D.S.Smith
P.R.Smith	W.G.Snape	A.T.Sword-Daniels
A.J.Theasby	J.R.Thompson	R.N.Turnbull
J.P.Wyate		

Combat reports at NA:-

AIR 50/13/77 Medworth 20<sup>th</sup> July.

AIR 50/177/167 Pilot Officer Herrick 14<sup>th</sup> September 1940

AIR 50/177/168 Pilot Officer Brown 14<sup>th</sup> September 1940

ORB Records

AIR 27/305/10

AIR 27/305/8

AIR 27/305/11

AIR 27/305/9

### **Books:-**

### **First Hand Accounts:-**

IWM tapes interview with Victor Albert Hester catalogue number 12426

### **29 Squadron** Blenheims 1F, Coded RO, Operated from Debden, **Beaufighters Sept 1940**

On 1 April 1923, No 29 reformed as a fighter squadron at Duxford with Snipes, re-equipping with Grebes in January 1925. In turn, these were replaced by Siskins in March 1928 and Bulldogs in June 1932. In March 1935, No 29 became a two-seat fighter squadron with the arrival of Demons, which it took in October to Egypt during the Abyssinian crisis, a few Gordons being used for night patrols at this time. Returning to the UK a year later, it converted to Blenheims in December 1938. On At the outbreak of World War Two these were used for patrols over shipping and for early trials with airborne radar. When German night bombers began operating in strength in June 1940, No 29 became fully involved in night fighting, beginning to receive Beaufighters September,

#### Pilots and Crew

J.S.Adams	D.J.Anderson	J.Ashworth
A.T.Austin	E.H.Bee	C.A.Bell
J.R.D.Braham	J.Buchanan	P.Byng-Hall
A.M.Campbell	J.Cunningham	T.Cupitt
A.G.Dannatt	R.B.Davies	W.S.Dossett
Duncan	F.Edwards	G.C.Everitt

D.R.Fawcett	J.F.Fizell	P.F.Freer
L.Fox	R.R.Freeman	T.L.French
H.R.Gilheat	R.Gouldstone	W.J.Gregory
Hall	N.D.Harding	J.D.Humphreys
D.J.Hunter	D.W.Isherwood	A.Jackson
N.Jacobson	R.H.James	E.Jones
L.G.H.Kells	R.Lilley	Lloyd
Llewellyn	O.A.Logie	R.S.Mallett
J.W.Mathers	P.J.McAllister	R.C.Moss
W.S.Munn	Neer	E.F.Newton
T.N.Nenage	D.J.Parr	R.Pearce
P.E.Penfold	H.A.Pippard	J.Price
R.A.Rhodes	A.J.A.Roberts	D.L.Ryalls
A.Service	V.H.Skillen	O.K.Sly
R.E.Stevens	S.Stokoe	E.F.Taylor
K.Taylor	P.A.Tomlinson	G.A.Waller
L.G.Watson	A.A.Wilsdon	W.C.Wilson
V.Wingfield	C.V.Winn	

### **Combat Report at N/A**

Air/50/15/1 Flt Lt Adams 20<sup>th</sup> August 1940.

AIR 50/15/90 Sgt Gregory 18<sup>th</sup> August 1940

### **ORB Reports.**

AIR 27/341/16 July 1940 record

AIR 27/341/15 September Summary  
AIR 27/341/17 August 1940 summary  
AIR 27/341/18 August 1940 Record  
AIR 27/341/19 September 1940 record.

**IWM taped records:-**

W.J Gregory 29 sqn ref no 11545

**219 Squadron Blenheim 1F, Catterick, codes FK**

On 4 October 1939, No 219 was reformed at Catterick with Blenheim fighters for shipping protection duties and became operational on 21 February 1940. It soon became fully employed on night patrols and based detachments at various points for night defence. In October 1940, the squadron moved south to protect London and began to convert to Beaufighters

**Pilots and Crew**

A.Aitkin	S.Austin	T.H.Banister
R.V.Baron	R.Bell	G.W.Benn
H.W.Berridge	C.Beverage	T.Birkett
D.C.Bunch	J.C.Carrier	C.E.P.Castle
J.A.Clandillon	W.T.M.Clark	R.V.Cook
E.Coomes	K.G.Cresty	H.K.Crook
H.R.Crowley	C.W.Dodge	J.H.Duart
O.A.Dupee	B.E.Dye	G.C.Gardiner

V.D.Gee	H.G.Goddard	C.Goodwin
A.E.Gregory	E.G.Grubb	H.F.Grubb
R.C.Hall	C.B.Hamilton	J.Hardcastle
T.P.Harnett	A.R.J.Harrison	G.M.Head
D.D.Hendry	D.O.Hobbis	A.J.Hodgkinson
H.Jacobs	J.Keatings	E.R.Lacey
D.M.Lake	W.G.M.Lambie	T.Le Dong
G.M.Leslie	W.Lowther	T.R.Marshall
J.P.McCaul	G.M.Mean	F.G.Nightingale
H.Owen	D.J.Pearcy	C.C.Pyne
R.E.B.Sargent	G.E.Shepperd	J.Sinclair
L.Smith	R.B.G.Summers	J.G.Topham
G.T.Williams	R.F.Willis	K.W.Worsdell
A.S.Worthington		

### **Combat Report:-**

AIR 50/84/72 Sgt Shefford 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1940

AIR 50/84/79 Sqn Ldr Topman 15<sup>th</sup> August 1940

AIR 50/84/91 Pilot Officer Worsdell 15<sup>th</sup> August 1940

AIR 50/84/ 41 pilot officer Head 15<sup>th</sup> August 1940

AIR 50/84/49 Pilot Officer Lake 15<sup>th</sup> August 1940

AIR 50/84/15 sergeant Birkett 5<sup>th</sup> September 1940

AIR 50/84/43 Sgt Shepperd 15<sup>th</sup> August

AIR 50/84/92 flying Officer Worthington 25<sup>th</sup> August 1940

AIR 50/84/51 Sqn Ldr Little 19<sup>th</sup> July 1940  
AIR 50/84/40 flying officer Hamett 15<sup>th</sup> August 1940  
AIR 50/84/42 Sgt Hodgkinson 15<sup>th</sup> August 1940  
AIR 50/84/50 Pilot Officer Lambie 15<sup>th</sup> August 1940  
AIR 50/84/58 Sgt Nightingale 15<sup>th</sup> August  
AIR 50/84/38 Flt Lt Goddard 15<sup>th</sup> August  
AIR 50/84/23 Flt Lt Croft 14<sup>th</sup> August  
AIR 50/84/52 Pilot Officer Crowley 19<sup>th</sup> July 1940.

### **ORB entries**

AIR 27/1360/12 July 40  
AIR 27/1360/14 August 1940  
AIR 27/1360/11 summary July  
AIR 27/1360/15 September 40 summary  
AIR 27/1360/18 October 1940  
AIR 27/1360/13 august summary

### **Other references\accounts**

**235 Squadron** Blenheims, Coded LA, Operated from Thorney Island & Bircham Newton

On 30 October 1939, No 235 reformed at Manston as a fighter squadron and received Battles for training purposes in December. In February 1940, it equipped with Blenheims and was transferred from Fighter to Coastal Command on 27 February 1940 for fighter-reconnaissance duties. When the German invasion of the Low Countries began in May 1940, the squadron flew patrols over Holland and during the Battle of Britain was engaged in convoy protection and reconnaissance missions over the North Sea.

### **Pilots and crew**

A.T.R.Aslet

C.F.S.Beer

K.L.O.Blow



O.V.Burns	A.R.Cain	W.J.Carr
C.Crystall	J.T.R.Chamberlain	R.N.Clarke
D.C.Cooper	N.D.Copeland	J.Coggins
H.H.Crawford	A.S.Davis	Davison
T.Dawson	O.J.Dee	R.Demoulin
A.S.Dredge	W.H.Dulwich	I.L.Dunn
C.R.Evans	A.D.Everitt	J.Farthing
J.L.Feather	J.O.Fenton	H.W.Ficketts
A.W.Fletcher	F.W.Flood	W.B.Goddard
H.Gonay	S.Gordon	G.L.Gould
Graves	A.W.V.Green	R.V.Gridley
Hall	G.S.Hebron	L.Heimes
R.W.Hillman	Howard	S.J.Hobbs
D.C.Howe	B.F.R.Hubbard	L.Javaux
J.A.Keard	G.E.Keel	R.D.Kent
J.C.Kirkpatrick	J.H.Laughlin	Lawrence
O.Lejeune	A.G.Little	A.R.D.MacConochie
G.S.M.MacLeod	T.B.Marshall	A.W.Martin
T.A.Maslen	W.Mason	J.P.McCarthy
T.F.McCarthy	McMahon	J.C.Merrett
A.Michiels	W.Middlemiss	K.E.Naish

H.T.Naughtin	D.Nelson	E.A.Newham
D.V.Newport	T.W.Oaks	W.G.Owen
F.G.Paisley	J.G.Parsons	R.L.Patterson
Pavitt	R.J.Peacock	W.Peebles
S.G.Preater	L.Prevot	Priestley
P.R.Prosser	B.H.Quelch	J.S.Ramsay
C.A.Ream	L.H.M.Reece	W.C.Richards
H.W.Ricketts	L.P.V.J.Ricks	N.A.Sadler
B.R.Sharp	N.B.Shorrocks	N.H.J.Smith
E.A.Sobbey	G.A.Southorn	J.H.Spires
R.M.Steele	P.A.M.Stickney	N.M.Stranger
R.R.Stretch	H.R.Sutton	R.F.Tatnell
R.Taylor	R.C.Thomas	D.F.Touch
R.Y.Tucker	J.W.Unett	F.Venesoen
D.S.Wallis	R.D.H.Watts	R.F.Watts
W.H.J.Westcott	R.D.Westlake	R.White
P.C.Wickings-Smith	W.Wilson	D.N.Woodger
D.K.A.Wordsworth	D.L.Wright	

**Combat Reports at N\A**

None

**Other references:-**

IWM Tapes

William Middlemiss ref 12153

**Books:-**

Last of the Few, Britain at War, Firsthand account of Owen Burns.

**236 Squadron Blenheim IVF coded FA, bases** Middle Wallop 14 June 1940

Thorney Island 4 July 1940, St Eval 8 August 1940

On 31 October 1939, No 236 Squadron reformed at Stradishall in Fighter Command and received Blenheim fighters in December. It moved to North Coates at the end of February 1940 to join Coastal Command, but reverted to Fighter Command in April on arrival at Speke. During May and June the squadron flew defensive patrols over shipping in the English Channel and on 4 July rejoined Coastal Command for fighter and reconnaissance duties.

E.A.Alexander	S.Archer
N.G.P.Barron	C.Boyle
C.W.D.Brown	W.R.Burns
G.L.Campbell	H.Capstick
D.W.E.Chapple	C.F.J.Cole
G.P.Cox	D.V.C.Cotes-Preedy
P.E.Davis	L.Dejace
D.A.Denton	J.M.Derbyshire
P.E.Drew	H.D.B.Elsdon
H.A.C.Evans	E.Gant
C.M.Gibbons	I.E.Goldsmith
G.G.Green	R.A.Haylock
F.A.P.Head	B.H.Herrick

G.A.Holder	A.R.deH.Inniss
H.J.Jeffcoat	H.R.Jeffery-Cridge
R.R.G.Keeler	W.H.Kellit
W.L.King	H.Lascot
A.F.Y.Lees	F.T.Lerway
Long	J.Lowe
M.R.MacArthur	D.D.Mackinnon
D.E.Mansfield	W.C.Marsh
R.I.McChesney	B.M.McDonough
R.H.R.Meyer	E.E.Miles
W.S.Moore	B.Nokes-Cooper
C.B.G.Peachment	W.J.Pearce
D.E.Pearson	W.D.Penfold
A.H.Piper	R.M.Power
N.A.J.J.Price	W.G.V.Puxley
J.D.Riddell-Hannam	R.H.Rigby
R.A.L.Robb	Ch Roman
G.H.Russell	R.J.Sharp
Sheppard	S.Sheridan
P.R.Smith	R.C.Smith
H.G.Stewart	J.E.Symonds

Thomas	C.R.D.Thomas
J.R.Toombs	F.D.Tucker
L.W.Viles	S.Walker
A.Van Wayenberghe	J.Watters
A.D.Whitsun	N.N.Woodland

**Operational record Books.**

August 1940 record air 27/1445/6  
August summary air 27/1445/5  
July record of events air 27/1445/4  
July summary 27/1445/3  
September record 27/1445/8  
September summary 27/1445/7  
October summary 27/1445/9  
Record October 27/1445/10

**Combat reports**

**Air 50/311 date of combat 11<sup>th</sup> july (no names)**

**First hand accounts**

IWM John Toombs 28633  
IWM Geoff Garside 12196  
IWM Norman Price 13201

**248 Squadron, Coastal. IVF code RK**

Dyce 22 May 1940

Sumburgh (A) 20 July 1940

Sumburgh (G) 31 July 1940

On 30 October 1939, No 248 reformed at Hendon with an establishment of eighteen Blenheim 1fs for night defence duties and received its first operational aircraft early in December. Lacking any form of radar, its initial night flying was ineffective and at the end of February 1940 it was transferred to Coastal Command, equipped with seven Blenheim Mk.IVFs. It moved to North Coates and later to Thorney Island and Gosport, where it acquired its full number of Blenheims. On 22 May the squadron returned to Fighter Command on its movement to Dyce, a detachment being based at Montrose to extend the coverage of its patrols over the coastal waters of eastern Scotland. On 20 June, it was once more transferred to Coastal for reconnaissance flights off the Norwegian coast and attacks on enemy shipping from the Shetlands, where it had moved at the end of July. In January 1941 it deployed further south to Dyce and flew escort patrols over coastal convoys and reconnaissance missions, using Wick as a detached base. In June 1941, No.248 moved to Bircham Newton to re-equip with Beaufighters and began operations with these on 14 August. Apart from protecting coastal convoys, the Beaufighters were also used for attacks on enemy shipping off the Dutch coast and from September to December a detachment covered the Western Approaches to the Channel from Cornwall

#### Pilots

C.J.Arthur	G.B.Atkinson	G.M.Baird
H.Bashford	E.J.Bayliss	C.G.Bennet
G.B.Brash	L.Burton	G.S.Clarke
R.Copcutt	R.C.R.Cox	F.S.Day
M.P.Digby-Worsley	J.D.Dodd	D.A.Easton
H.H.Edwards	F.R.C.Elger	C.F.Fenn
H.L.Flower	A.L.Fowler	L.H.Fripp
S.R.Gane	W.J.Garfield	A.H.H.Garrard
E.Gillam	M.D.Green	R.H.Haviland

W.C.Hall	A.L.Hamilton	J.S.Hamilton
A.E.Hill	E.L.Holmes	A.Hook
R.Ivey	R.S.S.James	S.F.Jeffreson
A.H.E.Kahn	A.Kay	E.G.C.Leatham
J.C.Lumsden	K.Massey	E.N.McHardy
E.J.McKike	B.W.Mesner	R.E.G.Morewood
J.Morris	R.I.Mowat	H.F.J.Moynham
N.N.Palmer	A.W.Pennington-Leigh	A.H.Pettet
R.J.Powell	D.H.Proudman	D.N.Rains
V.A.Ricketts	E.A.Ringwood	J.H.Round
J.Rourke	W.G.Sharratt	E.C.Schollar
H.R.Sarman	I.R.Sims	N.J.Stocks
F.N.Thompson	J.Till	W.H.Want
H.W.Warmsley	D.A.P.Warren	E.L.Watts
M.L.Wells	J.White	C.Wilcock
S.V.Wood	R.R.Wright	G.Yates

**First hand accounts:-**

None

**Combat Reports**

**None**

**Operational Record Books**

August 1940 AIR 27/1495/4 record

September AIR 27/1495/6 record

September Summary AIR 27/1495/5

October AIR 27/1495/8 record

October Summary AIR 27/1495/7

July to august Summary AIR 27/1495/3

**600 Squadron "City of London"** Auxiliary Air Force

Blenheims, Coded BQ, Operated from Northolt, 1F Blenheim

January 1939 they were replaced by Blenheims. On the outbreak of war day and night patrols were flown, experiments with airborne radar beginning in December 1939. When the Germans invaded Holland, the squadron flew patrols over the Low Countries but in view of the inadequacy of Blenheims for daylight operations, No 600 was allocated to night defence only a few days later and in September 1940 the first Beaufighter was received.

## Pilots

A.V.Alertini	R.Atkinson	D.H.Ayers
Baker	G.L.Barker	E.C.Barnard
J.G.C.Barnes	C.E.Blair	J.J.Booth
B.H.Bowring	A.D.M.Boyd	J.W.Brown
J.C.Bull	A.G.Burdekin	P.S.Burley
A.W.Canham	J.G.Cave	D.L.Clackson
D.Clark	R.J.Coombs	C.F.Cooper
L.E.M.Coote	H.R.Crowley	J.N.Davis
G.A.Denby	Dermott	L.Dixon
Dyer	K.C.Edwards	E.J.Egan
J.L.Frost	A.J.Glegg	K.A.G.Graham
E.J.F.Grant	F.W.W.Green	D.N.Grice



R.C.Haine	W.R.H.Hardwick	T.N.Hayes
F.G.Hindrup	C.A.Hobson	R.M.Holland
G.H.Holmes	B.W.Hopton	H.B.L.Hough
P.E.Huckin	D.E.Hughes	Hunter
P.R.S.Hurst	H.S.Imray	H.Jacobs
S.F.F.Johnson	J.R.Juleff	F.J.Keast
M.Kramer	R.L.Lamb	B.D.Larbalestier
C.S.Lewis	A.L.Lipscombe	Little
H.L.Maxwell	E.W.Moulton	A.E.Owen
P.G.Pearce	C.A.Pritchard	A.J.Rawlence
H.Reed	A.H.Risely	J.R.Ritchie
S.P. le Rougetel	F.H.Schumer	G.E.T.Scrase
B.Senior	A.Smith	E.C.Smith
E.S.Smith	St. James Smith	E.F.Taylor
F.J.Tearle	T.W.Townshend	A.Walker
J.I.B.Walker	J.B.W.Warren	P.Whitwell
N.J.Wheeler	Willis	W.D.Wiseman
R.S.Woodward		

**First hand accounts.**

15747 George Burdekin IWM

**Combat Reports:-**

AIR 50/164/4 Flt Lt Pritchard 16<sup>th</sup> Sept

**ORB entries:**

AIR 27/2059/17 summary Sep

AIR 27/2059/19 Summary October

AIR 27/2059/20 record October

AIR 27/2059/13 Summary July

AIR 27/2059/15 summary Aug

AIR 27/2059/18 record September

AIR 27/2059/16 record august

AIR 27/2059/14 record july

**604 "County of Middlesex" Auxiliary Air Force Squadron coded NG, 1Fs, bases  
Gravesend 3 July 1940, Middle Wallop 26 July 1940**

Shortly before the outbreak of war, it converted to Blenheims with which it flew defensive patrols and undertook early experiments with airborne radar.

When Germany invaded the Low Countries in May 1940, No 604 flew sweeps over the battle areas, but reverted to night patrols in July and became a full-time night fighter squadron, with Beaufighters beginning to arrive in September.

Pilots

A.L.Austin	J.D.Anderson	D.Bayliss
W.H.Blane	R.S.Brown	G.O.Budd
J.D.Cameron	B.Cannon	R.E.Chisholm
G.P.Clark	A.W.Cook	E.O.Crewe
J.Cunningham	R.W.Dalton	J.A.Davies
G.W.Dutton	Edwards	G.J.Evans

Fenton	J.G.B.Fletcher	J.H.Folliard
K.I.Geddes	T.Genney	M.V.Goodman
N.H.Guthrie	C.Haig	Hatton
S.N.Hawke	P.W.D.Heal	L.Hird
Hunter	A.S.Hunter	P.F.Jackson
I.K.S.Joll	R.W.Kennedy	E.S.Lawler
P.C.F.Lawton	A.C.MacLaren	J.H.M.Rabone
A.C.Metcalf	A.C.Miller	D.G.Moody
A.A.O'Leary	M.E.Parry	A.G.Patson
A.Phillips	J.R.Phillipson	J.T.Pickford
E.R.L.Poole	C.F.Rawnsley	W.G.Ripley
P.Ruston	A.K.Sandifer	R.H.Scott
S.H.J.Shirley	J.B.Selway	C.D.E.Skinner
S.H.Skinner	E.L.Smith	F.Smith
H.Speke	C.N.D.Stewart	E.Stock
C.H.S.Sumpter	Tate	R.H.W.Taylor
G.S.Thomas	D.S.Wallen	W.B.Ward
J.G.Watson	E.Welch	N.R.Wheatcroft
White	H.G.Whittick	A.Williams
W.Wright	W.Yates	

### **First hand accounts**

10729 John Cunningham

### **Combat reports**

AIR 50/168/158 J Cunningham

AIR 50/168/86 Shirley

AIR 50/177/293 Joll

AIR 50/168/87 Speke

### **ORB entries**

AIR 27/2082/19 July Summary

AIR 27/2082/20 July record

AIR 27/2082/23 summary Sept\Oct

AIR 27/2082/25 record Oct

AIR 27/2082/24 Record sept

AIR 27/2082/22 record August

AIR 27/2082/21 Summary August

### **Books:-**

Rawnsley Night Fighter.

Cunningham.

### **53 Squadron Blenheims Mk IV Codes PZ Bases June-July 1940: Gatwick July-November 1940: Detling November 1940-February 1941: Thorney Island**

In January 1939 the Squadron received Blenheims and soon after the outbreak of war No. 53 moved to France to undertake strategic reconnaissance duties. The Squadron returned to the UK in May 1940 to fly reconnaissance missions from south-east England and in July began bombing sorties. In 1940 it was transferred from RAF Fighter Command to RAF Coastal Command, thereafter alternating between No. 16 Group RAF and No. 19 Group RAF.

## **IWM media**

**10472** Smith, William Henry Halfhide (IWM interview)

## **Combat Reports:-**

**None**

## **ORB Records:-**

AIR 27/503/22 record of events August

AIR 27/503/21 summary august.

AIR 27/503/20 record July

AIR 27/503/19 summary July

AIR 27/503/26 record October

AIR 27/503/23 summary September

AIR 27/503/24 record September

AIR 27/503/25 summary October

## **Other Sources:-**

**59 Squadron Blenheim mk IV coded PJ**      **Bases** July 1940-February 1941: Thorney Island

re-equipped with Blenheims in May 1939. The Squadron was moved to France in October and undertook reconnaissance missions before being forced out of their airfields by the advancing Germans. Withdrawn to southern England it continued to operate over France from British bases. In July 1940 the Squadron started bombing raids on the Channel ports and anti-submarine patrols and continued night attacks during the winter.

## **IWM interviews None**

## **ORB**

AIR 27/554/19 summary august

AIR 27/554/21 Summary sept

AIR 27/554/22 record sept

AIR 27/554/17 july Summary

AIR 27/554/26 Record October

AIR 27/554/25 summary October

AIR 27/554/20 record August

AIR 27/554/18 July record

Other sources:

FIU:-

### THE AMO of 1945 and 1960

5 A.M.O. A.741/1945

(viii) Personnel posted for duty at sea in H.M. ships, C.A.M. ships, air/sea rescue marine craft, seagoing vessels flying barrage balloons or other seagoing craft and permanent staffs of troopships, provided they have completed six months' (183 days) service afloat in the undermentioned waters:—

(a) From 3rd September, 1939.—The Atlantic Ocean, including home waters and the North Sea; the Baltic; the Arctic Ocean between Greenland and longitude 70°E., and that part of the Indian Ocean lying south of 15°S. and west of 55°E.

(b) From 1st June, 1940.—As in sub-para. (a) above, with the addition of the Pacific Ocean and the rest of the Indian Ocean.

(c) From 10th June, 1940.—Anywhere at sea.

"Service afloat" means service while borne on the books of a seagoing vessel which goes to sea. Service in stationary depot ships, in non-seagoing balloon barrage vessels and at shore bases may not be reckoned. Personnel with less than six months' qualifying service under this heading will qualify, provided their qualifying service was terminated by wounds or other disability due to service or if they received an honour, decoration, mention in despatches or commendation for that service.

Details as under must be inserted in line 1 of the claim form in respect of claimants under this heading:—

(a) Unit and place.

(b) Period of qualifying service.

(c) Name or number of vessel.

(d) Particulars of one voyage during qualifying service.

(e) Particulars of casualty or decoration (when applicable).

(ix) Personnel who have completed six months' service on special operations inside enemy-occupied territory. Claims under this heading are to be notified to the Director of Intelligence (S), Air Ministry, who will initiate the necessary action.

(x) Senior officers bearing responsibility for operational decisions, such as A.Os. C-in-C. and other commanders, who are not qualified under sub-para. (i) to (ix) above. Details regarding the method of application will be promulgated later. Meanwhile, no awards of the ribbon are to be made under this heading.

CLASP TO THE 1939-45 STAR

7. Issues of silver-gilt rose emblems denoting a clasp to the 1939-45 Star may be made to air crew personnel who flew in fighter aircraft engaged in the Battle of Britain between 10th July, 1940, and 31st October, 1940. Issues are to be confined to those who operated with the undermentioned squadrons:—

Nos. 1, 17, 19, 23, 25, 29, 32, 41, 43, 46, 53, 54, 56, 59, 64, 65, 66, 72, 73, 74, 79, 85, 87, 92, 111, 141, 145, 151, 152, 213, 219, 222, 229, 234, 235, 236, 238, 242, 249, 253, 257, 264, 266, 302, 303, 310, 312, 401 (No. 1 R.C.A.F. Squadron), 501, 504, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 607, 609, 610, 611, 615 and 616.

Details as under must be inserted in line 2 of the claim form for claimants for this emblem:—

(i) Squadron and station.

(ii) Dates of qualifying service.

(iii) Date of one sortie during (ii).

2.Os. are not to admit claims for this highly-prized emblem which are open to any possible doubt. The clasp is not available for personnel who flew in aircraft other than fighters, notwithstanding that they may have been engaged with the enemy in the air during the qualifying period.

**RESTRICTED**  
SECTION I.—PERSONNEL—SERVICE N.848—851 1960.

**N.848.—FLYING INSTRUCTOR CATEGORIES—WITHDRAWAL**  
(C.122413/59/Pt. II/D.T.F.—9th November, 1960.)

The flying instructor's category previously held by the undermentioned officer is now withdrawn under the provisions of A.M.O. A.319/58, as amended:—  
Flying Officer P. T. Taylor (2380634)

**N.849.—COURSES OF INSTRUCTION—DEFENCE SERVICES STAFF COLLEGE, INDIA—RESULT**  
(C.122367/60/P. (Pol.) 3c.—9th November, 1960.)

The undermentioned officer successfully completed the 1959-60 course at the Defence Services Staff College, India, and is granted the symbol "q.s.":—  
Wing Commander S. J. Hubbard, D.F.C., A.F.C. (179943)

**N.850.—BATTLE OF BRITAIN** (A.344696/60/S.7c.—9th November, 1960.)

1. The 20th anniversary of the Battle of Britain has prompted the publication of the following list of operational units which took part in the battle between 10th July, 1940, and 31st October, 1940:—  
Squadrons Nos. 1, 3, 17, 19, 23, 25, 29, 32, 41, 43, 46, 54, 56, 64, 65, 66, 72, 73, 74, 79, 85, 87, 92, 111, 141, 145, 151, 152, 213, 219, 222, 229, 234, 235, 236, 238, 242, 249, 253, 257, 264, 266, 302, 303, 310, 312, 401 (No. 1 R.C.A.F. Squadron), 501, 504, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 607, 609, 610, 611, 615 and 616.  
Flight Nos. 421 and 422.  
Flight Interception Unit.

2. Aircrew who flew at least one operational sortie in fighter aircraft of these units during the period shown in paragraph 1, above, may submit a claim for a silver-gilt rose emblem denoting a Clasp to the 1939-45 Star. The Clasp will not be issued to aircrew who did not fly in fighters even though they may have been engaged with the enemy in the air during the qualifying period.

**N.851.—THE GORDON SHEPARD MEMORIAL PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION FOR 1961** (C.130384/60/S.T.1a.—9th November, 1960.)

1. The subject for the 1961 Gordon Shephard Memorial Prize Essay Competition is as follows:—  
"There is a growing body of opinion which suggests that the offensive strategic forces of the Western Powers are larger than is necessary to deter global war, yet at the same time the conventional forces required by the West to suppress limited wars are insufficient for this task. Discuss the validity of this opinion and describe how the structure of the United Kingdom Defence should be modified to conform to this opinion."

2. The competition is open only to serving members of the Royal Air Force, and has as its object the encouragement of original thought and good writing.

3. Essays are not to exceed 4,000 words, and should be typewritten, in triplicate. They should be sent direct to the Under-Secretary of State for Air, Air Ministry (S.T.1a), London, S.W.1, to arrive not later than 28th April, 1961.

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**RESTRICTED**

✓ 66 RAF Sqdn (including one R.C.A.F.)  
 ✓ 2 RAF Sqdn  
 ✓ 1 RAF F.I.U.  
 ✓ F.H.A. Sqdn (Nos. 804 & 808)  
 (H.D.)

