

# Fewest of the Few Supplement



## J24 Entry Graduated December 1925

SURNAME	INITIS
CHARNOCK	HW





## **Charnock, Harry Walpole (J24 Entry)**



Born 1905, educated at Harrow, Charnock entered the RAF College in January 1924 and graduated in December the following year, joining 32 Squadron at Kenley on the 16 January.

On 18 August 1930, he was posted to 1 Squadron and in December was cashiered by General Courts Martial for a low-flying offence.

On 5 September 1939, he rejoined the RAF and, after training, he joined 64 Squadron at Church Fenton as a Sergeant-Pilot.

On his first operational sortie with 64 Squadron on 6 September 1940, he crashed his Spitfire K9903 during a routine patrol, writing off the aircraft but emerging unscathed.

He was posted to 19 Squadron, Fowlmere, on 12 September and scored his first victory on 5 November, when he claimed a Bf 109. He made further claims on Bf 109s destroyed on 21 July and 7 August 1941. He was awarded the DFM (7 April A942), when he ended his tour with 19 Squadron.

Following his posting to 72 Squadron in August 1942, he moved to Gibraltar in November and later Algiers, conducting patrols. From 25 November to 18 December, he claimed a FW 190, four Bf 109s and another probable Bf 109.

On 18 December, he landed in enemy territory, after being shot down, and bribed an Arab to lead him to British lines, whence he was admitted to hospital.

Commissioned from Warrant Officer in January 1943, he received the DFC on 26 February and rejoined his squadron on 17 March.

Charnock returned to the UK to join 57 OTU, Eshot, in November. After a stint at 61 OTU, Rednal, he went to AFDU Wittering in January 1944 and then joined 222 Squadron in July.

Two days after joining them, he had an RTA and did not return to Ops until 1945, when he joined 41 Squadron at Volkel as a Flight Commander.

He left the RAF on 24 November 1945, as a Flight Lieutenant, was awarded the Croix de Guerre and created a Chevalier of the Order of Leopold II avec Palme by the Belgians.

He died on 24 May 1974.