

# Fewest of the Few Supplement



## J33 Entry Graduated December 1934

SURNAME	INITIS
BICKNELL	LC
SAWYER	HC



THE SENIOR TERM, WINTER, 1934.

[Photo: Gale & Polden, Ltd.]

Back Row.—F./C. L. Rose. F./C. H. R. Coventry. F./C. J. R. Stephenson. F./C. R. N. Batra.  
 Second Row.—F./C. Cpl. E. M. T. Howell. F./C. Cpl. H. C. Vickery. F./C. Cpl. D. H. S. Rusber. F./C. Cpl. D. B. Hatfield. F./C. L. C. Bicknell. F./C. Cpl. R. D. A. Wills.  
 F./C. Cpl. I. C. Jackson. F./C. G. J. Wright. F./C. F. M. Smith. F./C. B. A. C. Wood.  
 Front Row.—F./C. Cpl. E. L. F. Meynell. F./C. Sgt. D. F. Dixon. F./C. Sgt. J. L. Crosbie. F./C. U.O. H. D. Fraser. F./C. U.O. H. M. Styles. F./C. U.O. H. C. Sawyer.  
 F./C. Sgt. A. J. Whillier. F./C. Cpl. D. H. Lee. F./C. Cpl. J. K. L. Carstairs.



**Bicknell Leslie Charles  
(J33 Entry, A Squadron)**



Bicknell was born on 9th April 1913 and joined the RAF in January 1930 as an Apprentice. He signed an engagement for 12 years on 9 April 1931, his 18th birthday. Bicknell entered the RAF College Cranwell on a cadetship in January 1933. He graduated on 15 December 1934 with a permanent commission and joined 29 Squadron at North Weald on the same day.

He was posted to 65 Squadron at Hornchurch on 30 December 1936 as a Flight Commander.

In April 1938, Bicknell collided with Pilot Officer RRS Tuck whilst they were practising aerobatics and although his tail unit was sheared off, he managed to land safely.

Bicknell went to the School of Photography at Farnborough on 1 January 1939 as a supernumerary.

He joined 23 Squadron at Wittering from HQ 6 Group on 20 January 1940 and assumed command on the 23rd. He held the appointment until 12 August 1940, when he was posted to Fighter Sector Wick for Ops Room duties.

Bicknell later graduated from the RAF Staff College. He retired from the RAF on 20 June 1949 as a Wing Commander, retaining the rank of Group Captain. He later went to live in South Africa and died there in 1991.



**Sawyer, Henry Cecil (J33 Entry, C Squadron)**



Sawyer was educated at Dover College and entered the RAF College, Cranwell in January 1933 as a Flight Cadet.

After graduation in December 1934, he joined 142 Squadron at Andover.

He was posted to the staff of the Electrical and Wireless School at Cranwell on 30 May 1936 and moved to the staff of RAF College there on 16th July 1938.

In early 1940, Sawyer was on the staff of 9 BGS. He was posted from there to 6 OTU, Sutton Bridge, arriving on 27 May 1940 for a refresher course. After converting to Spitfires he went to 7 OTU, Hawarden on 15 June, the day the unit was formed, as OC 'B' Flight.

Sawyer was posted to 65 Squadron at Hornchurch on 2nd July 1940 and took command on the 8th.

He was killed on 2 August when he crashed on take-off from Hornchurch on a night patrol in Spitfire R6799, which burned out. Sawyer was 25 and was cremated at the City of London Crematorium, East Ham.