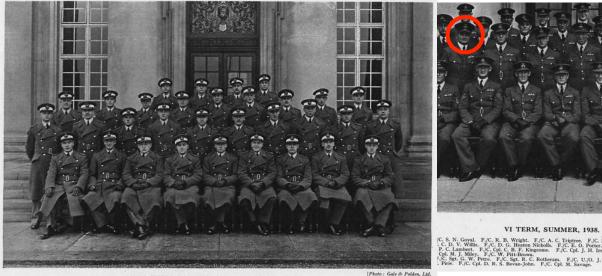
Fewest of the Few Supplement



J36 Entry Graduated December 1937

SURNAME	INITS
DONALD	IDG
ELSDON	TAF
KINGCOME	CBF
O'BRIAN	PGSStG



THE TERM PASSING OUT, DECEMBER, 1937. Back Rew.-F/C, J. R. Guthrie, F/C, L. M. Moore, F/C, G. O. L. Bird, F/C, H. G. Malodim, property and Rew.-F/C, J. R. Guthrie, F/C, M. L. Waton, F/C, C. D. Mainer, F/C, C. P. G. Jameson, F/C, T. J. Gesch, F/C, R. M. Burns, for Rew.-F/C, D. D. G. Maine, F/C, M. L. Waton, F/C, C. D. Mainer, F/C, C. A. F. Elsdon, F/C, H. F. G. Ede, F/C, E, T. Powell, F/C, GP, L. Gowen-Davies, F/C, T. I. Mathewson, F/C, C, D. Husther, F/C, T. A. F. Elsdon, F/C, H. F. G. Ede, F/C, E, T. Powell, F/C, C. D. C. Mowing-Davies, F/C, T. I. Mathewson, F/C, C, J. D. Mathemation, F/C, CD, P.D. Bird, James, F/C, N. Rei, T. J. Gesch, F/C, U/O, R. H. De Montimererey, F/C, Sergt, J. H. Lapsley, F/C, Sergt, R. Lloyd, F/C, U/O, A. D. Panton, F/C, V. Ress, R. H. De Montimererey, F/C, Sergt, J. D. Lewan, F/C, C, J. J. D. Mathema, F/C, D. Bird, James, F/C, N. Ress, D. S. Son, Serger, S. M. Serger, S. M. J. Serger, F/C, Serger, S. H. D. Seran, F/C, C, J. J. D. Mathema, F/C, D. Bird, James, F/C, N. Ress, P. S. Serger, J. M. Lapsley, F/C, Serger, S. H. D. Serger, F/C, Serger, S. H. D. Serger, F/C, C, J. J. D. Mathemation, F/C, C, D. D. Bird, James, F/C, N. Ress, F/C, N. Ress, Serger, J. M. James, F/C, Serger, S. H. D. Serger, F/C, Serger, S. H. D. Serger, F/C, Serger, S. H. Serger, F

Though a member of J36 intake, CBF Kingcome did not graduate till July 1938, not December 1937.



Donald, Ian David Grahame (J36 Entry, A Squadron)



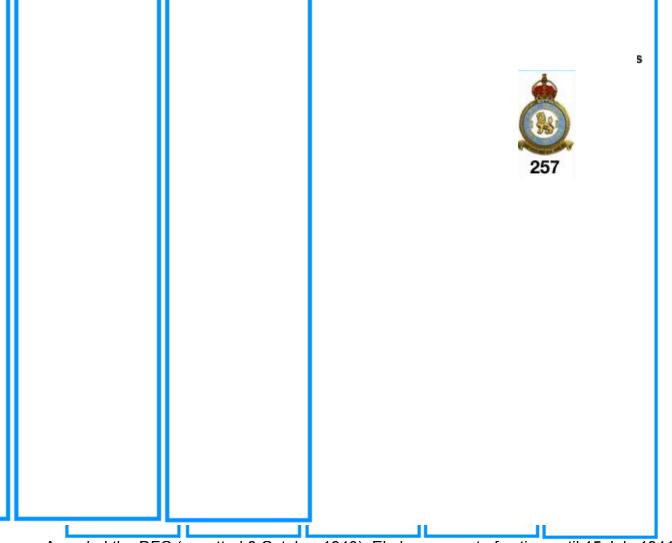
Donald was born on 3rd September 1917; his father was Air Marshal Sir DG Donald. He was at Dulwich College from 1931 to 1935 and entered RAF College Cranwell in January 1936 as an Honorary King's Cadet.

After graduation, Donald joined 64 Squadron at Church Fenton on 18th December 1937. During the 1938 Air Exercises, he was pilot of one of a formation of 64 Squadron Hawker Demons that were caught in a dense fog, which had descended suddenly over a wide area of England on 7th August. They were routed over Digby and then all pilots and air gunners were ordered to bale out.

Donald joined 141 Squadron when it was reformed at Turnhouse, with Defiants, on 4 October 1939. On 29 November, he was promoted to Acting Flight Lieutenant and appointed a Flight Commander.

On 12 July 1940, the squadron moved south to West Malling. Donald was flying one of nine Defiants attacked by Me 109's of III/JG51 off Dover on the 19th. He was killed in the aircraft while his gunner, Pilot Officer AC Hamilton, baled out but was drowned in the sea. Their aircraft, L7009, crashed at Elmsvale Road, Dover.

Donald is buried in All Saints' churchyard, Tilford, Surrey.



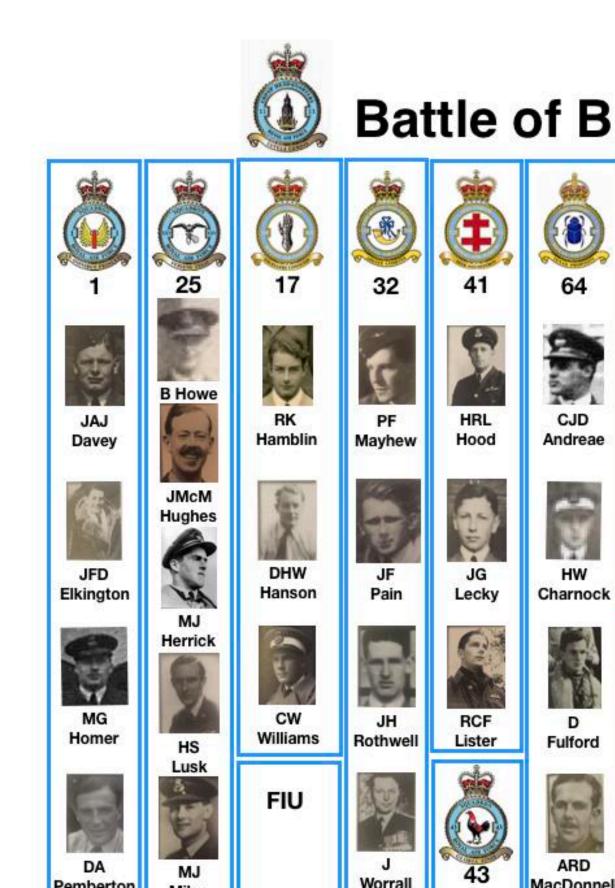
Awarded the DFC (gazetted 8 October 1940), Elsdon was out of action until 15 July 1941.

He joined 257 Squadron at Coltishall and claimed an Me 109 destroyed on 24 July; he was again wounded, but not seriously.

On 25 August 1941, Elsdon was posted to Kirton-in-Lindsey to form and command 136 Squadron. It became operational in September and in November left the UK for India. 'A' Flight was detached to Singapore and Elsdon and a dozen or so pilots picked up Hurricanes in Cairo and flew them out to Rangoon to fight the Japanese on the retreat through Burma. The rest of the squadron went to Colombo. The squadron came together again in Calcutta in April 1942. It later saw action in Akyab, Calcutta, Chittagong, Imphal and Arakan before disbanding in the Cocos Islands.

On 21 August, he damaged a Japanese aircraft in the Bay of Bengal.

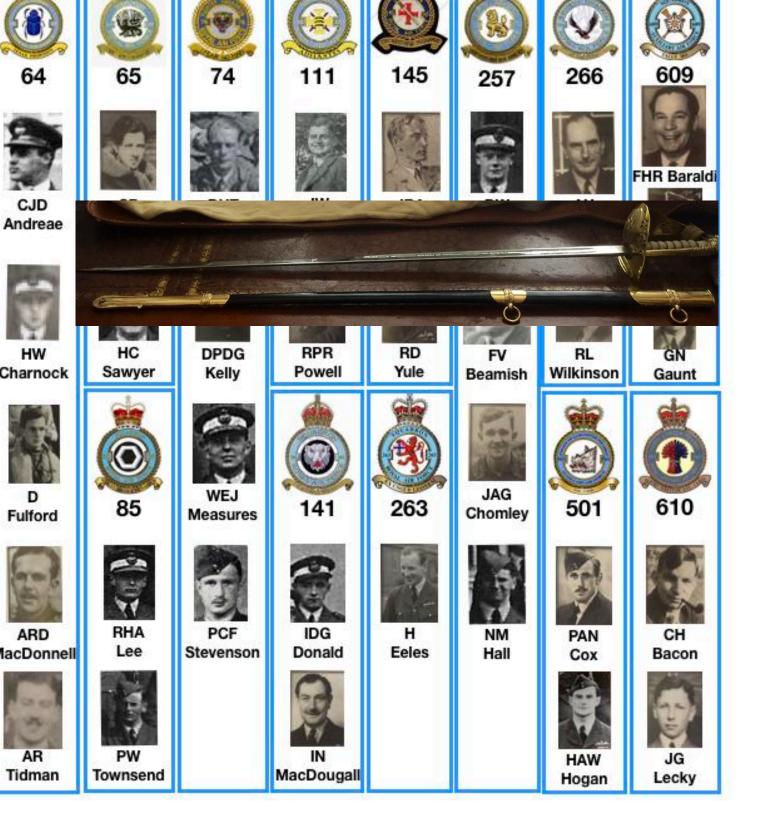
Elsdon was made Wing Leader of 165 Wing, Dum Dum on 8th September 1942. He moved to Alipore on 10 October to lead 293 Wing, took command of 169 Wing, Agartala on 10 February 1943, was posted to 185 Wing, Feni on 8 October and returned to command 165 Wing, then at Arakan, on 22 November 1943. Elsdon was posted to HQ Eastern Air Command, Calcutta on 12th July 1944. He returned to the UK in September.



In mid-1946, he returned to the UK and the Staff College for two years.

Kingcome flew Spitfires in combat continually until the end of 1944, his tally finishing at 8 and 3 shared destroyed, plus a score of probables and damaged. One of the prewar Cranwell elite, Kingcome was to become one of the Second World War's great fighter leaders, alongside Douglas Bader, Robert Stanford Tuck and Johnnie Johnson.

He, with other Cranwellians, featured as himself in the film *<u>First of the Few</u>*, a public tribute to 'The Few'.



d at RAF Tangmere, the Fighter Interception Unit was hamberlain, following his pioneering development work les is also unique in that he is one Cranwellian who ritain Clasp, despite having earned it as OC 263 Sqn aircraft. Charles Bacon, Ferdinand Baraldi and David rticipants who received their flying training from the In May 1944, O'Brian joined the Strategic Section of the Joint Planning Staff in London. He stayed on in the RAF, was made an OBE (gazetted 1 January 1954), served as ADC to HM The Queen in 1958 and retired on 18 July 1959 as a Group Captain.

O'Brian returned to Canada and became vice-president of a publishing company before retiring in 1982. He died on 15 April 2007.