

Fewest of the Few Supplement



S24 Entry Graduated July 1926

SURNAME	INITS
HAMBLIN	RK
ROBERTS	DN





Hamblin, Richard Kaye (S24 Entry, A Squadron)



Hamblin was born on 16 December 1906 at Fyzabad in India. By the time of the 1910 Census of Lymington in Hampshire, he was a four-year-old living with his grandfather a retired Indian civil servant.

Hamblin joined the Royal Air Force in September 1924, as a flight cadet.

On 30 July 1926, he was posted to No. 56 Squadron RAF as a pilot.

In 1930, he attended the Electrical and Wireless School to train as a signals officer.

In October 1932, he was posted to 31 Squadron in India, eventually becoming a flight commander with 5 Squadron and promoted to Squadron Leader before leaving India.

In 1938, he was appointed OC 142 Squadron, operating the Fairey Battle. This was followed by a staff appointment in the Deputy Directorate of War Organisation.

During the Battle of Britain, he flew one operational sortie with No. 17 Squadron, thereby qualifying him for the Battle of Britain clasp.

In November 1941, he was appointed OC 85 Squadron, operating the Douglas Havoc.

Hamblin was Mentioned in Despatches four times during the war and was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1946. After the war, he was back to staff duties, including Officer Commanding AHQ West Africa, AOA at 2 Group and Director of Personnel from 1954 until he retired in 1956 as an Air Commodore.

Hamblin died on 30 August 1988 in Hampshire.



Roberts, David Neal (S24 Entry, B Squadron)



Roberts joined the College in 1924. After graduating in July 1926, he joined 39 squadron at Grantham, flying DH9's and Westland Wapitis.

He was sent to CFS, Wittering, in September 1928 and then became an instructor at 2 FTS, Digby, on 19 December 19.

He was posted to 504 squadron at Hucknall in August 1930 as a flying instructor, then in October 1931, was posted to Kings College London University for a course on Russian language, followed by a special language leave for one year in Estonia. He passed out as a Russian interpreter.

After a refresher course in early 1933, he joined 41 squadron at Northolt in March, as 'A' Flight Commander. In early 1935, he was sent to RAF Amman as Station Adjutant, and on 24 July was sent to 4 FTS, Abu Sueir, as a Flying Instructor and Flight Commander.

Whilst on leave from Egypt in 1938, he was posted to Air Staff at HQ Fighter Command.

In June 1940 he was invited to form and command the Fighter Station and sector at Middle Wallop. During the Battle of Britain, he flew with 609 squadron & 238 squadrons.

In November 1941, he was posted to become OC of a fighter wing for special operations in North Africa. When the war with Japan started, he was sent to Dutch East Indies. He was evacuated to India in early 1942, where he commanded the fighter defence for Calcutta and Eastern India, later becoming CO RAF Assam.

In 1943, he was posted to Moscow as Air Attache and Head of the UK Air Mission. He returned to the UK in 1945 and became SASO at HQ Transport Command, then later that year joined 45 Group, Dorval in Canada.

He retired from the RAF in 1958; Air Commodore David Neal Roberts CBE OBE AFC passed away in 2000.