

# Fewest of the Few Supplement



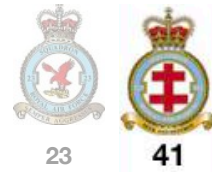
## S27 Entry Graduated July 1929

SURNAME	INITS
HOOD	HRL





**Hood, Hilary Richard Lionel (S27 Entry, B Squadron)**



Hood was born on 13 May 1908, the younger son of a theatre manager. While he attended Oxted Preparatory School, his father took his own life. His mother remarried and moved to South Africa. Hood had a guardian appointed for him and went on to Tonbridge School, studying there from 1923 to 1927.

Hood entered the College in September 1927. He represented the College at rowing and hockey, a fellow athlete being Douglas Bader. He graduated from Cranwell on 28 July 1929 and joined 23 Squadron at Kenley.

In May 1931, he was posted to RAF Leuchars for a course in naval aviation, more training being carried out with HMS Courageous at Gosport. On 9 October 1931, Hood was posted to 403 (Fleet Fighter) Flight on HMS Hermes in the Far East. This deployment took in China, Shanghai and the Philippines until 1933 when he returned to the UK, arriving at CFS Wittering for an instructors course on 22 August 1933.

He then joined the staff at RAF Leuchars to train FAA pilots. Hood was posted to the staff of 11 FTS Wittering on 1 October 1935, returned to 23 Squadron at Biggin Hill on 26 October 1936, went to the staff at 5 FTS Sealand on 15 March 1937 and took command of the Station Flight at Northolt on 27 June 1938.

Further postings to 5 FTS Sealand and 10 Squadron at Ternhill followed until Hood took command of 41 Squadron at Catterick in April 1940.

During the Dunkirk evacuation, he came upon a German bomber at sea level but had no ammunition and very little fuel. He made a feint attack and the enemy aircraft dived into the sea.

On 29 July, Hood claimed a Me109 and a Ju87 destroyed.

He was killed on 5 September during an engagement Do17's and Me109's over the Thames Estuary. Several aircraft came down around Wickford, Essex within a short space of time and it has not been possible to ascertain what happened. One account records that he bailed out, but his parachute became entangled with his Spitfire, P9428 EB-R, which may be the aircraft seen to disintegrate over Wickford.

In any case, his remains were not found or perhaps not correctly identified and he was declared Missing.

Hood was 32 years old and is remembered on the Runnymede Memorial, panel 4. He was awarded the DFC (gazetted 27th May 1941 with effect from 11th August 1940).