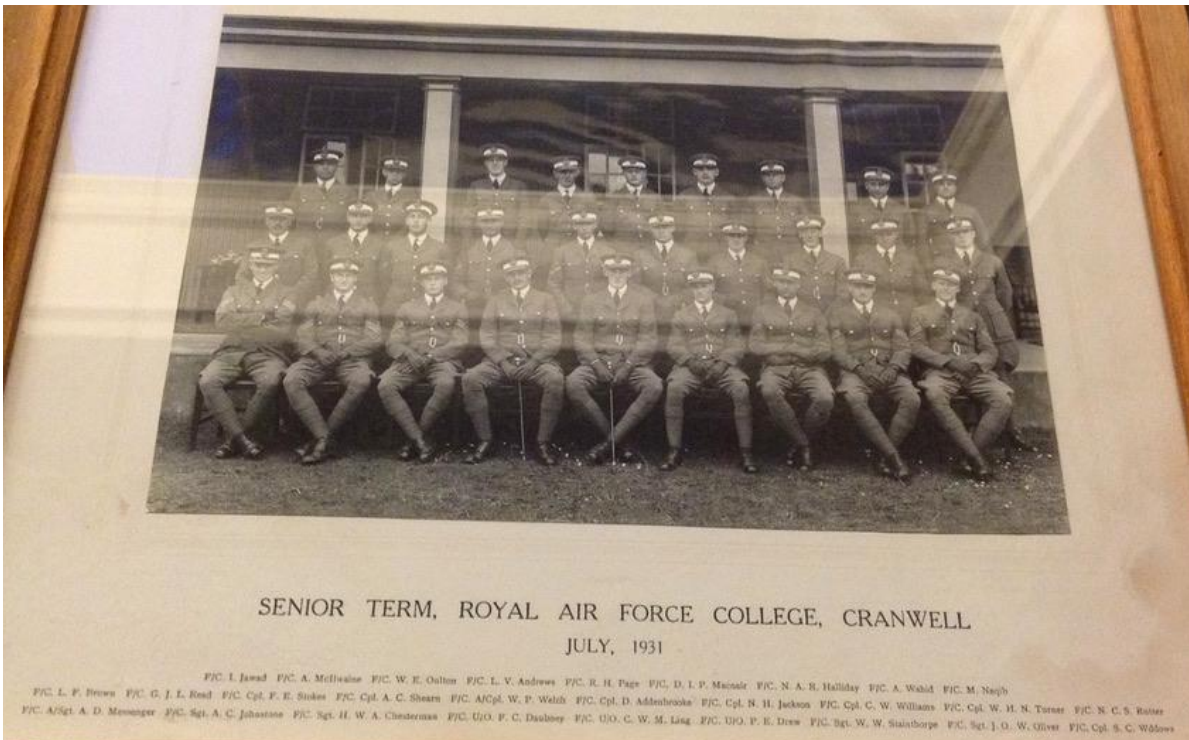


Fewest of the Few Supplement



S29 Entry Graduated July 1931

| SURNAME | INITIALS |
|----------|----------|
| DREW | PE |
| WIDDOWS | SC |
| WILLIAMS | CW |





Drew, Peter Edward (S29 Entry, A Squadron)



Peter Edward Drew, the son of Air Commodore HCH Drew, was born on 16th July 1910 and was at Marlborough College from 1924 to 1929. He entered the RAF College, Cranwell, as a flight cadet in September 1929 and on graduation joined 1 Squadron at Tangmere on 25 July 1931.

Drew was posted to the staff at SHQ Heliopolis, Egypt on 28 February 1933, returned to the UK in June 1935 and went to 6 FTS Netheravon on 30 March 1936 as an instructor.

He was posted to the staff of CFS Upavon on 24 March 1937 and in July 1940 was commanding 236 Squadron based at Thorney Island.

On 1 August 1940, Drew was shot down and killed in Blenheim IVf N3601 FA-K while escorting Blenheims of 59 Squadron that were attacking Querqueville aerodrome. He is buried in Biville churchyard, Cherbourg peninsula, France. The body of his crew member, Plt Off B Nokes-Cooper, was washed ashore further down the coast and is buried in Bayeux cemetery.



**Widdows, Stanley Charles
(S29 Entry, A Squadron)**



Stanley Charles Widdows was born at Bradfield, Berkshire on 4 October 1909 and educated at St Bartholomew's School, Newbury. He joined the RAF in September 1926 as an Aircraft Apprentice and passed out in August 1929 as a Fitter.

He was awarded a cadetship at the RAF College, Cranwell and entered as a Flight Cadet there on 20th September 1929. He had initially failed the required medical examination, due to hearing loss, but subsequent investigation revealed a piece of cotton wool embedded in one ear since his childhood. On graduation on 24th July 1931, Widdows was posted to 43 Squadron at Tangmere.

In 1932, he served with 29 Squadron at North Weald.

On 28 February 1933, he went to 45 Squadron at Helwan, Egypt moving in November to 47 Squadron at Khartoum. Widdows was then posted to RAF Ramleh, Palestine on 14 August 1936. He returned to the UK in 1937 and on 1 September went as a test pilot to A&AEE, Martlesham Heath, where he carried out extensive performance tests on the first production Hurricane, L1547, and the first production Spitfire, K9787.

Widdows arrived at 6 OTU, Sutton Bridge on 6 July 1940 from A&AEE for a refresher course. He moved to 5 OTU, Aston Down on the 14th, converted to Blenheims and was posted to 29 Squadron at Digby on the 15th, taking command next day.

He destroyed a Ju 88 at night on 13 March 1941, which crashed at Smiths Farm, Dovedale near Louth, Lincolnshire. He was awarded the DFC (gazetted 4th April 1941).

In the early hours of 7 May 1941, Widdows encountered a Ju 88 over the English Channel. His Beaufighter was badly damaged by return fire and Widdows ordered his radar operator, Sergeant B Ryall, to bale out. He managed to get the aircraft back to base, but a search found no trace of Ryall.

Widdows was posted in June 1941 to command RAF West Malling.

In 1942, he became Group Captain Night Ops at HQ 11 Group and 12 Group. He was SASO 85 Group in 1943/44 and Group Captain Organisation at Supreme HQ Allied Expeditionary Forces later in 1944.

Widdows held a series of appointments and commands in the post-war years. He was made a CB in 1959 and retired from the RAF on 29th December 1958, as an Air Commodore.

He and his family later settled in Guernsey. His 100th birthday on 4 October 2009 was marked by his family presenting him with a bronze statue commissioned from the sculptor Paul Day. The figurine is a scale replica of Paul Day's central section of the London Battle of Britain Monument unveiled in September 2005 on Victoria Embankment in London. Mr & Mrs Widdows attended the unveiling which was carried out by Prince Charles. It was

revealed on his birthday that Charles Widdows was the oldest surviving pilot from the Battle of Britain. His reply - 'Well, it goes to show what a drop of whisky every day can do'.



Williams, Cedric Watcyn
(S29 Entry, B Squadron)



17

32

84

Cedric Watkin Williams was born in South Wales and educated at Maesydderwen County School.

He joined the RAF in September 1926 as an Aircraft Apprentice and passed out in August 1929 as a Fitter. He was awarded a cadetship at RAF College Cranwell and entered there as a Flight Cadet in September 1929. On graduation in July 1931, he joined 32 Squadron at Kenley.

He was posted to 84 Squadron at Shaibah, Iraq on 28 February 1933. Williams returned to the UK in early 1935 and on 20 February, he joined the staff at 3 Armament Training Camp at Sutton Bridge. On 30 March 1936 Williams was posted on to the staff at RAF College, Cranwell and moved to the Deputy Directorate of Intelligence at Air Ministry on 14 July 1938.

He arrived at 5 OTU Aston Down on 23 June 1940 for a refresher course. After converting to Hurricanes, Williams took command of 17 Squadron at Debden on 18 July.

He claimed a Do17 destroyed on 18th August, shared two Ju88's on the 21st, shared a He111 on the 24th and destroyed an Me Bf110 on the 25th. In this last engagement, Williams was killed when his port mainplane was shot off in a head-on attack by a Me Bf110. His Hurricane, R4199, crashed into the sea.

Williams, who was 30, was not found and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Panel 4.