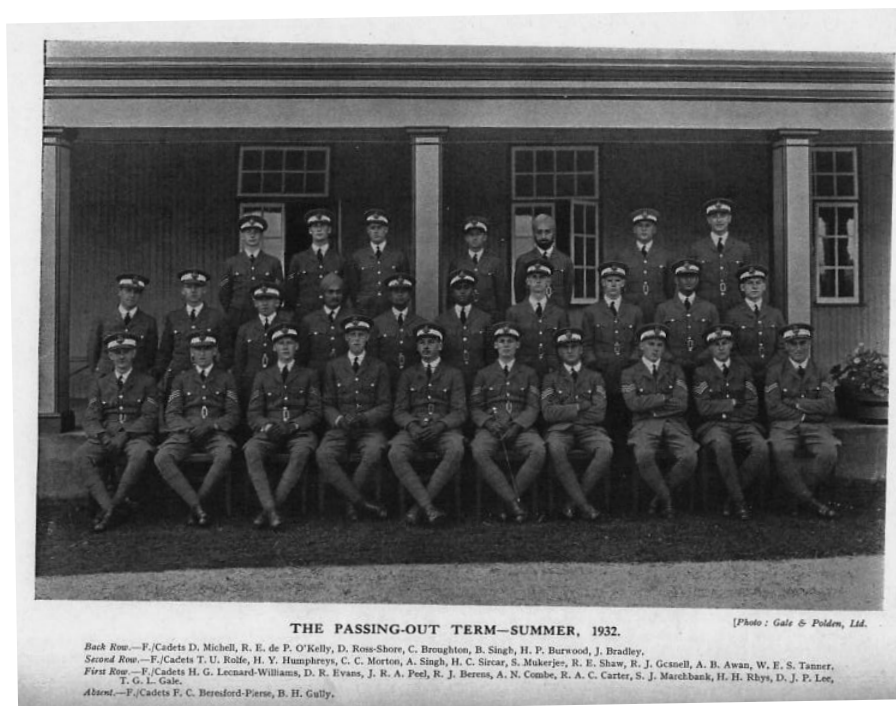


Fewest of the Few Supplement



S30 Entry Graduated July 1932

SURNAME	INITS
PEEL	JRA





Peel, John Ralph, Alexander (S30 Entry, A Squadron)



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Peel was born on 17 October 1911 at Boscombe, Hants, he son of Colonel Basil Peel DSO, of the Indian Army. Educated at Clifton, he entered the RAF College on S30 Entry and graduated on 22 July 1932.

After joining 19 Squadron, Duxford, he was posted to 801 (Fleet Fighter) Squadron on 5 January 1934, based at Upavon but at sea with HMS Furious.

On 21 September 1935, he joined the staff of 601 Squadron AAF as a flying instructor, returning back to the Squadron on 23 September after a short period on the staff at RAF Cranwell.

After a tour as a Postings Officer in the Air Ministry, he took command of 145 Squadron at Tangmere on 16 June 1940.

On 7 July, he shared the destruction of a Do 17, but was shot down over the Channel on the 11th and ditched off Selsey Bill in Hurricane P3400, rescued semi-conscious by the Selsey lifeboat crew. On 12 July, he damaged three Bf 109s and shared a probable Ju 88.

On 17 July, he returned to base damaged by return fire from Ju 88, which he had damaged over St Catherine's Point.

On 19 July, He shared the destruction of a Do 17, shared a Ju 88 on the 29th and, on 8 August, claimed the destruction of a Bf 109, a Ju 87 probable and a damaged Bf 109.

On 11 August, he had to make a forced landing slightly injured on the Isle of Wight, after being shot up by enemy fighters south of Swanage. He was awarded the DFC on 13 August.

On 16 September, he left only to return to the Squadron as its commander on 18 November.

In January 1941, he moved and in March was appointed Wing Leader at Kenley.

On 7 April, he damaged two Bf 109s as they were taking off from Berck Airfield.

Peel was shot down in July 1941 off the French coast, was picked up and led his Wing again the following morning. Posted in August, he received a DSO on the 5th, and appointed Wing Leader and Sector Commander at Debden.

In 1943, Peel became DD Fighter Ops at the Air Ministry, as an acting Group Captain. He was appointed Assistant Commandant of the College in 1947.

He retired on 20 January 1948, retaining his rank of Group Captain and died on 7 January 2004.