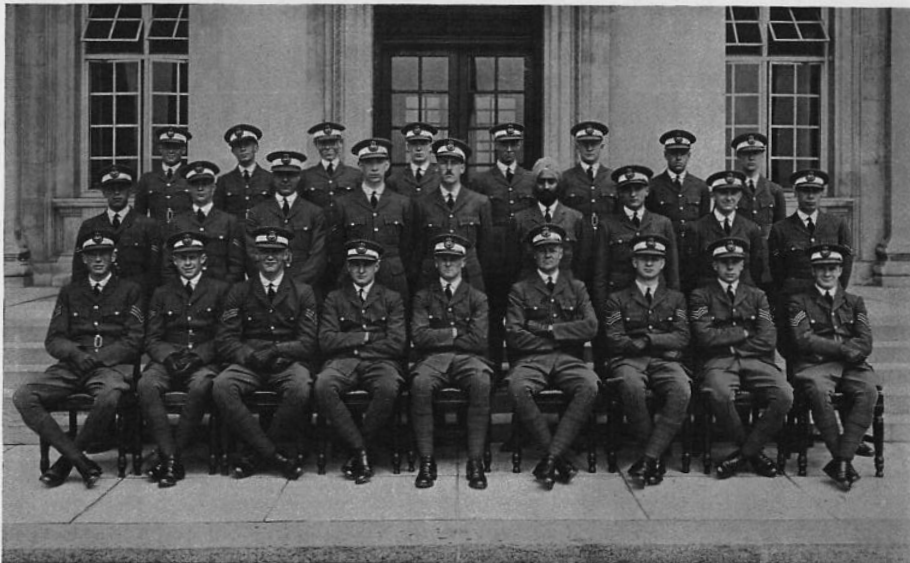


# Fewest of the Few Supplement



## S34 Entry Graduated July 1936

SURNAME	INITIS
POWELL	RPR
SMITH	CDS



IV PASSING-OUT TERM, SUMMER, 1936.

*Back Row*—F./C. J. W. Fordham. F./C. A. M. K. Phillips. F./C. C. D. S. Smith. F./C. P. M. Astley. F./C. J. B. Tait. F./C. H. R. Goodman. F./C. D. A. Kerr.  
F./C. E. Culverwell.

*Middle Row*—F./C. Cpl. R. P. M. Gibbs. F./C. Cpl. P. S. Jolliffe. F./C. R. J. M. Bangay. F./C. Cpl. W. I. C. Inness. F./C. O. J. M. Barron. F./C. Mehar Singh.  
F./C. G. Burgess. F./C. Cpl. W. H. Ingle. F./C. Cpl. W. P. Shand.

*Front Row*—F./C. Sergt. V. C. Darling. F./C. Sergt. J. R. Fishwick. F./C. Sergt. M. G. Stevenson. F./C. U./O. D. Greville-Bell. F./C. U./O. P. B. Chamberlain.  
F./C. U./O. A. M. Bentley. F./C. Sergt. P. E. Warcup. F./C. Sergt. R. P. R. Powell. F./C. Sergt. O. Godfrey.

*Absent*—F./C. A. A. T. Bulloch. F./C. Cpl. J. H. Humphis.



**POWELL, Robin Peter Reginald (S34 Entry)**



Born on 30 September 1916, Powell was educated at Charterhouse and entered the RAF College in September 1934, as a Flight Cadet.

Having graduated, Powell was posted to 111 Squadron based at Northolt on 1 August 1936. He moved to the newly formed 213 Squadron on 8 March 1937. Powell rejoined 111 Squadron and was 'A' Flight Commander by the outbreak of war.

On 13 January 1940, he shared the destruction of an He 111 near Farne Island and another on 10 April at Scapa Flow.

During the May blitzkrieg, 111 Squadron flew patrols over France from Northolt. Powell destroyed an unidentified enemy aircraft on 10 May, two more on the 11th, probably destroyed a Bf 110 on the 18th and he shared an He 111 and probably destroyed a Bf 109 on the 19th. He was awarded the DFC on 31 May.

Over Dunkirk on 31 May, Powell's oxygen failed at 19,000 feet and he fell to 5,000 feet before regaining consciousness. On the same day, he probably destroyed a Bf 109. On 2 June, he destroyed a Bf 109 and two more on the 7th. On 25 July, Powell damaged a Bf 109.

On 7 August, he was posted to 7 OTU, Harwarden, to take up instructor duties. He formed and took command of 121 Squadron at Kirton-in-Lindsey on 14 May 1941, the second of three Eagle Squadrons and probably destroyed a Bf 109 on 18 August.

On 17 January 1942, Powell was promoted to Wing Commander and appointed Leader of Hornchurch Wing. On 28 March, he probably destroyed a FW 190, damaged another on 24 April, destroyed another on 17 May and probably another on 2 June.

On a sweep over the French coast in June, he was wounded in the neck and head, fracturing the base of his skull. He did not return to the Wing and was awarded a Bar to his DFC on 24 July. Powell was to serve later in Tunisia.

Back in the UK, he claimed two V1 buzz bombs on 5 July 1944. On 10 October, he was injured in an accident, when his car collided with an Army lorry. His passenger was killed.

On recovery, he commanded 121 Typhoon Wing from April to August 1945.

He retired from the RAF on 6 November 1963, as a Group Captain. He died on 28 January 1970.



**Smith, Christopher Dermot Salmond  
(S34 Entry, C Squadron)**



Smith of Overy Staithe, Norfolk, was born in September 1916 at Bruton, Somerset and educated at Bradfield College. He entered RAF College Cranwell in September 1934 as a Flight Cadet.

After graduating in July 1936, he was posted to the School of Air Navigation, Manston for a course. He joined 220 (GR) Squadron at Bircham Newton on 29 November 1936.

On 1 June 1938, Smith was posted to A&AEE Martlesham Heath, where he was involved with the development of airborne radar. He flew operationally with the Special Duties Flight for which he was awarded the DFC (gazetted 7th May 1940).

On 12 May 1940, he was flying an early morning sortie in a Blenheim of the Special Duties Flight. He destroyed an He 111 thirty miles off the Dutch coast, the first ever radar-guided victory.

He joined 25 Squadron at North Weald on 20 September 1940 as a Flight Commander. On 16 January 1941, Smith damaged a Do 17 near Stowmarket in Beaufighter R2158.

In November 1941, Smith took command of 79 Squadron at Fairwood Common, Wales. He was killed on 22 December 1941, when his Hurricane IIB Z5255 collided with an He 115 that he had intercepted off Southern Ireland. Smith was 25 and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, panel 28.

[His only brother, Squadron Leader FM Smith, was killed aged 25 serving with 94 Squadron on 1st June 1940 when his Gladiator II N2291 crashed at Khormaksar during low level aerobatics. He is buried in Maala Cemetery, Aden (now Yemen).]