

# Fewest of the Few Supplement



## SFTS Course 8 Graduated 22 June 1940

| SURNAME        | INITS |
|----------------|-------|
| ANDREAE        | CJD   |
| NELSON-EDWARDS | GH    |
| PYMAN          | LL    |
| SCOTT          | AMW   |
| WHITTINGHAM    | CD    |
| WORRALL        | PA    |

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

R.A.F. Form 540

of (Unit or Formation)..... Station Headquarters, ...CRANWELL.

No. of pages used for day.....

| Place.    | Date.   | Time. | Summary of Events.  | References to Appendices.  |
|-----------|---------|-------|---|----------------------------|
| CRANWELL. | 1.9.39. |       | Lieutenant T.A. Tindle assumes the duties of Station Defence Officer.<br>Education Officers - members of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve - recalled for duty.<br>Aerodrome Council School closed owing to evacuation.                           | D.R.O. 170.<br>D.R.O. 168. |
|           | 2.9.39. |       | Lighting restrictions introduced, and guards posted at entrances to the Station.  |                            |
|           | 3.9.39. |       | Receipt of message stating that War has been declared on Germany by the Allied Powers.<br>Group Captain Strugnell, MC., posted to Command (A/Cadre Post).<br><u>Royal Air Force College becomes a Flying Training School, and is self-controlled.</u> | A.M.P.L. 319.              |



**Andreae, Christopher John Drake  
(SFTS Course 8, Squadron 2)**



A Londoner, Andreae was educated at Shrewsbury School from 1930 to 1935 and then went to Gonville and Gaius College, Cambridge, where he read Natural Science. He was with the UAS at Cambridge, was commissioned into Class 'AA' of the RAFO on 16 March 1937 and was commissioned into the RAFVR in January 1938.

Andreae was called to full-time service on 15 December 1939 and completed his training at the SFTS at Cranwell, attending Course 8, which ran from 6 March to 22 June 1940.

He went to 6 OTU, Sutton Bridge on 22 June, converted to Spitfires and joined 64 Squadron at Kenley on 20 July.



On 11 August, he returned to base in Spitfire N3293, with damage caused by cannon fire from an enemy fighter off Dover.

Four days later, Andreae failed to return from a combat with Bf 109s over the Channel. He was 23 years old. He was never heard of again and is remembered in the Runnymede Memorial, panel 5.



**Nelson-Edwards, George Hassall  
(SFTS Course 9, Squadron 1)**



Born in Stafford on March 8 1918, George Hassall Nelson-Edwards was educated at Shrewsbury School and Brasenose College, Oxford, where he read History. He learned to fly with the University Air Squadron at Abingdon and was called to full-time service in September 1939.

Nelson-Edwards was posted to No 1 ITW, Cambridge, later moved to 3 ITW Hastings, and on March 6 1940 he went to RAF College SFTS, Cranwell on No 2 War Course.

With training completed, Nelson-Edwards was posted to 6 OTU, Sutton Bridge on 22 June 1940 and after converting to Hurricanes, he joined 79 Squadron at Acklington on 20 July.

He shared in the destruction of an He111 on 9 August, which crashed into the sea off Sunderland. On the 15th, over the North Sea, Nelson-Edwards saw a Bf110 coming head-on at 2,000 yards. Before he could press his gun button, it blew up and was apparently never claimed by any pilot. On the 28th, Nelson-Edwards shared in the probable destruction of an He59, with Pilot Officer BR Noble and others and also he probably destroyed a Bf109 and an He111, on the 31st he damaged a Bf109, on 6 September he probably destroyed a Ju88, and on the 27th he shot down another He 111 into the sea, following it down until it struck the water. Two of the crew baled out and seconds before it hit the water, a Hurricane appeared and made a pass t the stricken Heinkel. Consequent to this, Nelson-Edwards was only credited with one share. On the same sortie, he also shared in the probable destruction of a second He111.

On 29 September, 79 intercepted a formation of He111s near the Irish Coast off Cork. Nelson-Edwards attacked one, setting both engines on fire, causing the bomb load to be jettisoned and one of the crew to bale out, He was then shot down himself by return fire, baled out and was picked up by the SS Dartford and landed at Milford Haven, unhurt. Before he rejoined the Squadron, all claims had already been submitted to HQ 10 Group.

Nelson-Edwards was posted to 504 Squadron at Fairwood Common on 27 July 1941, as a Flight Commander. Tour-expired, he went to 52 OTU, Aston Down as a Flight Commander Instructor. A return to operations came on 3 June, when Nelson-Edwards was given command of 93 Squadron, then re-forming at Andreas.

On 20 October 20 it went overseas, to take part in the Anglo-American invasion of North Africa, and he landed at Algiers on November 13 1942. Nelson-Edwards damaged two Fw190s on the 25th, shared a Ju88 on the 26th, damaged a Bf109 on 2 December, destroyed a Ju88 on the 4th and damaged Bf109s on the 5th, 20th and 5 January 1943. He was awarded the DFC (gazetted 26.2.43).

He was posted away to Combined Operations HQ on 12 March 1943, as an Air Planner. On 2 June Nelson-Edwards was sent on a course at the Army Staff College at Camberley.

Afterwards, he did a Mustang conversion course at 41 OTU, Hawarden and on 20 December 1943 he took command of 231 Squadron at Redhill. The unit was disbanded on 2 February 1944.

Nelson-Edwards was promoted to Acting 'Wing Commander and appointed RAF Fighter Operations Liaison Officer at HQ 9th USAF North-West Europe and remained there until the end of the war.

He held a series of appointments in the years before retiring from the 30 September 1960 as a Wing Commander.

He later moved to Cyprus and he died there on September 21 1994.



**Pyman, Laurence Lee**  
**(SFTS Course 8, Squadron 1)**



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Laurence Lee Pyman was born on 13 March 1917, the son of an Australian mother and an English father, who was killed in action in France on 3 May 1917, as a Lieutenant in the 15th Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment.

Pyman's mother married again after the War and set up home in England, firstly at Nottingham, moving later to Ash, near Aldershot and subsequently to Deddington, Buckinghamshire.

Pyman was educated at West Downs Preparatory School in Winchester and Stowe School. He went on to Jesus College, Cambridge, where he read Engineering. He was a member of the University Air Squadron and was commissioned in the RAFVR in January 1939. He was then working at British Thomson Houston at Rugby.



Called up in September, Pyman completed his training at RAF College SFTS, Cranwell on No 8 Course, which ran from 6 March to 22 June 1940. He arrived at 6 OTU, Sutton Bridge on 22 June. After converting to Spitfires, he was posted to 65 Squadron at Hornchurch on July 20.

He destroyed a Bf109 on 14 August and probably damaged another. His own aircraft was severely damaged in the combat over the Channel and he made a forced-landing at Mansion.

Pyman failed to return from an action over Deal on 16 August 1940. His Spitfire, K 9915, crashed into the sea and he was killed.

His body was recovered from the Channel. Pyman and another pilot, Sub-Lieutenant H la F Greenshields of 266 Squadron, were accorded a military funeral by the Luftwaffe, with a Guard of Honour at the adjoining gravesides.

Pyman was 23. He is buried in Calais Southern Cemetery, France.



**Scott, Alec Maxstone Wright  
(SFTS Course 8, Squadron 1)**



Alec Maxstone Wright Scott, of Glasgow, was at Brasenose College, Oxford and learned to fly with the University Air Squadron. Called to full-time service in November 1939, he was commissioned in the RAFVR and completed his training at RAF College SFTS, Cranwell on No 8 Course, which ran from March 6 to June 22 1940.

He arrived at 6 OTU, Sutton Bridge on June 22 and after converting to Hurricanes, Scott was posted to 3 Squadron at Wick on 20 July.

He moved to 607 Squadron at Tangmere on 27 September and then to 605 Squadron at Croydon on 15 October 1940.



He was killed on 2 January 1941, with 605. Scott was 29 and is buried in St Mary's churchyard. Black Bourton, Oxfordshire.



**Whittingham, Charles Derek  
(SFTS Course 8, Squadron 2)**



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Charles Derek Whittingham was commissioned in Class 'AA' (section ii) of the RAFO in June 1931 and relinquished this commission on transferring to the RAFVR in January 1938.

He went into full-time service on 6 March 1940 and after completing his training at RAF College SFTS, Cranwell, he arrived at 6 OTU, Sutton Bridge on 22 June.

After converting to Hurricanes, Whittingham was posted to 151 Squadron at North Weald on 22 July. He made a forced-landing there on the 29th, with bullet wounds. He returned to the squadron from sick leave on 16 October.



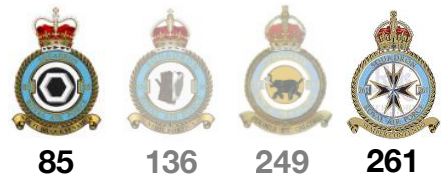
He was posted away to the Middle East on 13 December 1940. On 29 January 1941, he led six Hurricanes from Egypt to Hal Far, Malta and they joined 261 Squadron at Ta Kali. On 1 February, Whittingham claimed a CR 42 destroyed.

He was appointed 'B' Flight Commander on the 23rd and destroyed a Do 17 on the 25th and damaged a Ju88 on 5 March. He took command of 261 Squadron in early May 1941 and was credited with an He111 destroyed, a Ju88 probably destroyed and another damaged on the 6th. 261 Squadron was disbanded on 21 May and Whittingham returned to the Middle East.

One source states that he was over 40 when he commanded 261 Squadron in Malta. It is believed that Whittingham did not return to operational flying. He was released from the RAF in 1945, as a Squadron Leader. He died on April 8 1958.



**Worrall, Pyers Arthur  
(SFTS Course 8, Squadron 2)**



Pyers Arthur Worrall joined the RAF on a short service commission and began his ab initio course on 1 May 1939, as a pupil pilot. Worrall went to 10 FTS, Temhill for No 12 Course, which ran from 10 July to December 9 1939.

He seems to have completed his training at RAF College SFTS, Cranwell, and may have stayed there, as an instructor.

Worrall arrived at 6 OTU, Sutton Bridge on 22 June 1940. After converting to Hurricanes, he joined 85 Squadron at Debden on 20 July.

He destroyed a Do17 on 26 August and destroyed a Bf110 on the 31st. In this combat over Tunbridge Wells, he was himself shot down, baled out, slightly wounded in the thigh, and was admitted to Croydon Hospital. His Hurricane, V 6581, crashed on Court Lane, Newenden.



On 13 September, Worrall was posted to 249 Squadron at North Weald. He claimed a Bf109 destroyed on 25 October and another probably destroyed on 8 November.

Worrall was posted from 249 on December 17 1940, on an overseas 'Monsoon' draft. He went to the Middle East and then flew to Malta in a Sunderland on 20 January 20. He joined 261 Squadron at Hal Far.

He returned to the Middle East in May and in 1942 he was in Burma with 136 Squadron, as a Flight Commander, flying Hurricane IIBs.

Worrall was killed in a flying accident on June 8 1942. Taking off on a sortie, his engine cut and he crashed into a pillbox beside the runway. He was 21. Worrall is buried in Bhowanipore Cemetery, Calcutta.