

# Fewest of the Few Supplement



## SFTS Course 9 Graduated 14 July 1940

SURNAME	INITS
GAUNT	GN
PAIN	JF

7000-1000 WE 2007-724 5122 201 T.A. 118

**OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK**

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.E. and A.C.I. and notes in R.A.F. Field Service Pocket Book.

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. Education Officers - members of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve - recalled for duty. Aerodrome Council School closed owing to evacuation.	D.R.O. 170. D.R.O. 166.
	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. Group Captain Strugnell, MC., posted to Command (A/Cadre Post). <u>Royal Air Force College becomes a Flying Training School, and is self-controlled.</u>	A.M.P.L. 319.



**Gaunt, Geoffrey Norman (SFTS Course 9, Squadron 1)**



Gaunt was educated at The Leys School, Cambridge. He was the cousin of James mason, the actor.

He was with 609 Squadron before the war and was a civilian pilot, when he was placed on the strength of RAF Yeoman on 27 August 1939.



Gaunt resumed his elementary flying training at 9 EFTS, Ansty, on 30 October and with that complete, he arrived at the SFTS at Cranwell on 10 April 1940 to attend Course 9, and was commissioned in the Auxiliary Air Force on that day. The course ended on 14 July and Gaunt arrived at 7 OTU, Harwarden, on the 15th.

After converting to Spitfires, he rejoined 609 Squadron at Warmwell on 10 August and flew his first operational sortie on the 18th.

He shared the destruction of a Bf 110 on the 25th, with Pilot Officer N le C Agazarian.

Gaunt was killed on 15 September, when he was shot down during an attack on German bombers over London. His Spitfire, R6690, crashed and burned out near Kenley. Gaunt was 24 years old. He is buried in Salendine Nook, Baptist Chapel Yard, Huddersfield.





**Pain, John Francis (SFTS Course 9, Squadron 2)**



It is suggested that pain was born a Scot and taken to Australia as a child. His mother married Sir Alan Mansfield, Governor of Queensland from 1966 to 1972.

Accepted as a candidate for an RAF short service commission, Pain sailed for England on 30 August 1939 in the SS Orama.

He arrived at 9 EFTS, Ansty, on 16 October for his ab initial course. He moved to the SFTS at Cranwell to attend No 9 Course, which ran from 10 April to 14 July. Flying training completed, Pain arrived at 7 OTU, Harwarden, on 15 July, to convert to Hurricanes.



He joined 32 Squadron at Biggin Hill on 29 July.

Pain claimed a Bf 109 probably destroyed and a Ju 88 damaged on 15 August, destroyed a Ju 88 on the 16th and on the 18th he destroyed a Do 17 and probably another. On the day, Ian an engagement over Biggin Hill, Pain was shot down in flames by Bf 109s, in Hurricane P3147. He baled out, wounded, landed near Horsmonden and was admitted to hospital.. He did not return to his squadron until 31 October.

Pain was posted to 249 Squadron at North Weald on 29 November, but on 18 December, he left and soon after ember on the aircraft carrier HMS Furious. He flew off to Takoradi and then flew a Hurricane to Malta on 29 January and joined 261 Squadron at Ta Kali.

On 1 February, he claimed a Ju 88 destroyed, on the 4th probably another, on the 12th a probable Bf 109 and a Ju 88 damaged, on 5 March a Bf 110 probably destroyed and a Do 17 shared, on 18 March a CR 42 destroyed and a probable another, on 20 April another CR 42 destroyed and probably a second and at night on 15 may an He 111 destroyed.

In early May 1941, Pain returned to the Middle East and was posted to ADU, Takoradi. He was with 73 Squadron in the Western Desert in 1942. On 3 July, he destroyed a Bf 109, probably a Ju 87 and damaged another, and on the 10th he damaged a CR 42. After a short spell with 123 Squadron in Persia, Pain returned to England, commanded 26 ACUU in 1943 and later in the yea he was at 20 MU.

In late March 1944, Pain resigned his commission and returned to Australia. He changed his name to Booker-Pain in 1972. He died on 12 September 1980.