

Fewest of the Few Supplement



Unspecified SFTS Course

SURNAME	INITS
BACHELOR	GH
TIDMAN	AR

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

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

R.A.F. Form 540

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

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

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/Care Post). <u>Royal Air Force College becomes a Flying Training School, and is self-controlled.</u>	A.M.P.L. 319.



Batchelor, Gordon Herbert
(SFTS Course Unknown, Possibly Course 12)



Batchelor, of Higham, Kent, joined the RAFVR in June 1939, as an Airman u/t Pilot (748532). He was called up on 1 September and with his training completed at the SFTS , Cranwell, on 20 September 1940, he went on to 7 OTU, Harwarden, on the 23rd. (These dates are taken from Kenneth Wynn's manual *Men of the Battle of Britain*, and would suggest that Batchelor attended SFTS Course 12, but there is no record of him either on the College's archived listing of Course 12 or on the course photograph.)

After converting to Spitfires, he joined 54 Squadron at Catterick on 14 October.

On 27 October, he damaged a Ju 88. He was still with the Squadron when he was shutdown near Lens on a Circus operation - mass fighter escort to bomber operation - on 9 July 1941.

Batchelor died, as a PoW, on 15 April 1942. He is buried in Hamburg Cemetery, Ohlsdorf, Germany. He was 23.



Tidman, Alfred Roberts
(SFTS Course Unknown, Possibly Course 12)



Tidman, of Lincolnshire, joined the RAFVR around March 1939, as an Airman u/t Pilot (754484). Called up on 1 September, he completed his training at the SFTS at Cranwell on 20 September. (These dates are taken from Kenneth Wynn's manual *Men of the Battle of Britain*, and would suggest that Tidman attended SFTS Course 12, but there is no record of him either on the College's archived listing of Course 12 or on the course photograph.)

He was commissioned the next day and arrived at 7 OTU, Harwarden, and, after converting to Spitfires, he joined 64 Squadron at Leconfield on 6 October. Tidman flew his first sortie on the 11th.

He was posted to 123 Squadron, on its reformation at Turnhouse, on 10 May 1941. Later Tidman was posted to 602 Squadron at Kenley, to gain operational experience. He was shot down and killed on 17 September 1941, on his fourth flight with the squadron.

Tidman was 23. He is buried in Bergen-op-Zoom War Cemetery, Netherlands.