

RAF COLLEGE CRANWELL

“3 (Coastal) Training Unit”



A Tribute to the Cranwellians KOAS at 3(C)TU

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Formation

3 (Coastal) Training Unit was formed at Chivenor on 27 November, as an element of No 1 (Coastal) Training Unit taking over the training of Anson and Beaufort crews from the parent unit. It had originally been planned that 3 (C) OTU would train Wellington and Whitley crews with Beaufort training moving to 5 (C) OTU, but failure to complete new airfields resulted in the Wellington/Whitley element to Kinloss and later to Silloth, with the Beauforts staying at Chivenor. On 29 July 1941, the Wellington/Whitley element moved to Cranwell as a lodger unit from Silloth formally becoming 3(C)TU on 6 August, whilst the Beaufort element was re-designated 5(C)TU.

Various airfields were used by the unit, including Skellingthorpe, Bottesford, Wellingore, Langham, Squires Gate, Barkston Heath, Steeple Morton and Templeton. The training of Whitley crews had ended by the end of April 1943, when its flights were reorganised - A Flt (Wellington Conversion), B Flt (Wellington Operational Training), C Flt (Anson Flt) and D Flt (Wellington Operational Training) and in June 1943 the unit moved to Haverfordwest. In November 1943, a Polish Flt moved in but in January 1944, the whole unit disbanded and its task being taken over by 6(C)TU.

Officers Commanding 3(C)TU were:

30 July 1941 Wg Cdr JBM Wallis (RAF College J24 Entry, RM Groves Prize Winner)

17 February 1942. Wg Cdr TB Cooper

29 May 1942. Wg Cdr MGL Foster (reverting to Chief Instructor on move to Haverfordwest)

30 June 1943. Gp Capt WHM Hurley (also CO RAF Haverfordwest)

OC 3(C)TU - Wg Cdr JMB Wallis J24 Entry

30 July 1941 to 17 February 1942



Prize Winners, Royal Air Force Cadet College, Cranwell
DECEMBER, 1925

F. C. H. D. Spreckley
Aeronautical Engineering Prize
F. C. Corporal J. C. Wallis
Queen Memorial Flying Prize
F. C. Corporal C. M. Heard
English and History Prize
U. O. E. R. Webb
Wood of Honor
F. C. H. G. Wisler
Miss Gertrude Holloway Memorial Prize



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ROYAL AIR FORCE CADET COLLEGE, CRANWELL.
PASSING OUT TERM, XMAS, 1925

F/C	F/C. Col	F/C	F/C	F/C. Col	F/C	F/C. Col	F/C	F/C	F/C	F/C	F/C	F/C	F/C
A. W. B. Hale	C. M. Heard	A. E. Lentin-Matthys	H. F. G. Searley	L. H. Asson	H. D. Brockley	A. P. Butt	G. W. Fisher	Z. V. Young	H. W. Charnock	F. G. C. Foster-Saunders	H. S. Walker		
F/C. Col	F/C. Col	F/C. Col	F/C. Col	F/C. Col	F/C. Col	F/C. Col	F/C. Col	F/C. Col	F/C. Col	F/C. Col	F/C. Col	F/C. Col	F/C. Col
R. E. Sheehan	W. H. Moxon	H. W. Pearson-Rogers	E. L. S. Ward	E. B. Wain	D. W. Biley	W. G. B. B. B.	V. D. East	J. C. Wallis	C. T. B. B.				

John Beresford Martin Wallis shown here with incorrect "JC" initials - verified against Flt Cadet Record

Aircraft

On 29 July 1941, the Whitleys and Wellingtons of 3(C)TU moved to RAF Cranwell and the Beaufort section became No. 5 Operational Training Unit RAF (5 OTU) when it re-formed at Chivenor on 1 August 1941.



Losses

Taken from the F540 for 3 (Coastal) Training Unit whilst lodging at RAF Cranwell from 29 July 1941 to 23 June 1943.

Name	Rank	Branch	Circumstances of Loss	Date
Angell	Fg Off	Pilot	KOAS with Sgts Bedell, Giles, Reardon, Kearney, and Barling, Wellington Z8708 "G" Exercise "DR5" nose dived over Skegness	19/12/42
Atkins	Flt Sgt	Pilot	KOAS with LAC Gilbert in Lysander V9797 when towing a drogue prior to Air Firing Ex was hit by Spitfire of 411 Sqn two miles East of Skeness	21/1/43
BH Bailey	Fg Off		KOAS with Sgt PV Jerome, Sgt CA Ravenette, Aus Sgt AD Lyon, Sgt FG Wilkinson, Sgt HJ Sterne and Sgt H Lowe in Wellington "F" DV927.	26/1/43
Booth	Plt Off	Captain	KOAS Whitley "W" searched for Whitley "Q" falling through hatch near Leconfield whilst taking a drift, Sgt Cooper at controls	14/3/42
Corrigan DV	Sgt	Pilot	KOAS with WO Cook, Sgts LW Simkiss, JA Wade, Mannering and NJ Madgett, Whitley "T" on Exercise "N3" failed to return	29/01/43
Ford KG	Sgt	Pilot	KOAS with Sgts G Overhill, SJ Lloyd, VJ Smith, EB Parr and LC Trent, Wellington LB222 "V", oil leak, SOS 20 minutes later then loss of contact	1/02/43
Gill	Plt Off	Pilot	KOAS with Sgts Mosey, Thompson, Auger and Galloway, Whitley "L" on Exercise "N4", lost W/T contact at 12:38 and failed to return to base	9/03/42
Gorham	Plt Off	Pilot	KOAS with Sgts Evans, Martin, Walker and Bell, Whitley "Q" on Exercise "N2" airborne at 1030 failed to return to base	13/03/42
Grove	Fg Off	Pilot	KOAS with Plt Offs Wade and Lane, Sgt Newman, 3 others injured, Wellington U2 on one engine crashed in field, Ewerby	12/04/43
Hutchinson	Sgt	Pilot	KOAS Whitley flying from Squires Gate over convoy in bad viz, fired upon	28/3/42
Ineson	Sgt	W.Op/AG	Killed RTA, knocked down by a bus near West Camp Gard Room, whilst returning from leave to resume Instructor duties, died one hour after admittance to Rauceby hospital	16/11/41
Maxwell WE	Fg Off		KOAS with Flt Sgt JL Owen and Sgt SO O'Neill crashed during night flying with landing Wellington "L" R1598 with one engine out; 3 (C) OTU ORB details differ	23/1/43
Rath	Plt Off	Pilot	KOAS with Sgt Meigel W.Op, Wellington "J" night flying exercise crashed near Rauceby	20/4/42
Sleight	Plt Off	Pupil	KOAS on No 5 Course, Whitley Z6960 bomb aimer on bombing exercise over Bassingham Range	25/11/41
Smith	Plt Off	Pilot	KOAS with Plt Offs Vernon and Fraser, Sgts White, Bispham and Russ, Wellington W5662 "S" Nav Ex "DR5", lost W/T contact 1751 failed to return	20/12/42
Snell	Flt Sgt	Instructor	KOAS with Sgts Nicholls and Ordish (Pupils) Wellington "E" spun into ground	28/05/43
Strachan	Plt Off	Pilot	KOAS with Sgts Balfour and Randall, Whitley "P" crashed into west of College Hall	18/03/42
U/K			KOAS Wellington "A" on Exercise "N5" last heard 1725, failed to return from Limavady	15/07/42
U/K		Duty Elec	KOAS whilst on Flare Path duty, died of injuries when struck by aircraft	22/08/42

WHITLEY (P) CRASHES INTO COLLEGE HALL



The Whitley Bomber which crashed at Cranwell on 18 March 1942 caused the only damage to College Hall throughout the war period. The three crew members of the aircraft were sadly killed in the accident, but the personnel who would have been sleeping in the building later that night were spared injury as they were at the cinema at the time of the crash. The pictures show the incident itself and the various stages of repair to the College buildings. The brass engine plate recovered from the wreckage of the aircraft is also displayed.

