

Fewest of the Few Supplement



SFTS Course 10 Graduated 16 August 1940

SURNAME	INITS
HOARE-SCOTT	JH
MELVILLE	JC
STRICKLAND	CD
WOODWARD	R

7000-1000 100 200-720 1000 200 T.A. 100

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.E. and A.C.I. and also 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/Care Post). <u>Royal Air Force College becomes a Flying Training School, and is self-controlled.</u>	A.M.P.L. 319.



**Hoare-Scott, James Hammond
(SFTS Course 10, Squadron 1)**



601

James Hammond Hoare-Scott, of Surrey, was educated at Marlborough College and Clare College, Cambridge, where he read Mechanical Sciences.

He was a member of the University Air Squadron from 1930 to 1933 and obtained his pilot's licence whilst with the squadron. He was destined for a career in ship-building, for which he had been most carefully trained.

Hoare-Scott abandoned this when he joined the RAF on a direct-entry commission in March 1940.



With training completed at the SFTS Cranwell, he arrived at 5 OTU, Aston Down on 17 August 1940. After converting to Hurricanes, he joined 601 Squadron at Debden on 1 September.

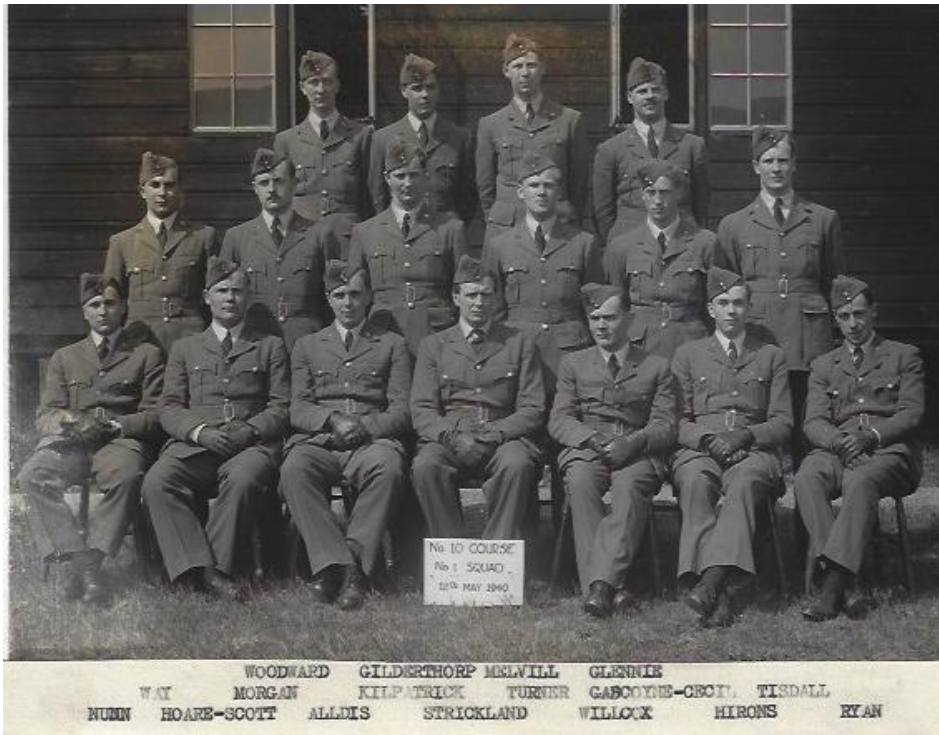
Hoare-Scott was killed on 20 November 1940, when his Hurricane crashed at Broadclyst, soon after taking off from Exeter. He was 29. Hoare-Scott is buried in St Mark's churchyard, Frensham.



Melville, James Cosmo
(SFTS Course 10, Squadron 1)



Born on 12 April 1920, James Cosmo Melville was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he read Mechanical Sciences. He learned to fly with the University Air Squadron and joined the RAFVR in June 1939, as an Airman u/t Pilot (754332). Called up on 1 September, he was commissioned in November.



With training completed at the SFTS Cranwell, he arrived at 5 OTU, Aston Down on 17 August 1940. After converting to Defiants, Melville joined 264 Squadron at Kirton-in-Lindsey on 2 September 1940.

After being damaged in an engagement at night over London on 8 March 1941, Melville landed back at Luton. Instead of turning off the flarepath, he taxied down it and was struck by a Defiant taking off. Both he and his gunner, Sergeant WL Butler, were injured. At some time, Melville was treated at Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead and became a member of the Guinea Pig Club.

From May 1942 until August 1943, Melville commanded 247 Squadron. He was instructing in 1944 and received the AFC (gazetted 1.9.44). He commanded 174 Squadron from August 1944 until January 1945. Melville was released in 1946 as a Squadron Leader.



Strickland, Claud Dobree
(SFTS Course 10, Squadron 1)



615

Claud Dobree Strickland joined 615 Squadron, AAF in 1939. He was called to full-time service on 1 September and commissioned. He was attached to RAF Kenley from 615 Squadron on 5 February 1940. He was posted from there to 6 EFTS, Swell on 7 March, for elementary flying training.

Wynn states that "Strickland moved on to 15 FTS, Lossiemouth for No 8 Course, which ran from 6 May to 12 August 1940". This contradicts RAF College records which clearly show him attending SFTS Course 10 which graduated on 17 August 1940, before arriving at 5 OTU, Aston Down.



WOODWARD GILBERTHOP MELVILL GLENNIE
WAY MORGAN KILPATRICK TURNER GABOYNE-OBENT TISDALL
NUMN HOARE-SCOTT ALLDIS STRICKLAND WILCOX HIRONS RYAN

After converting to Hurricanes, Strickland rejoined 615 Squadron at Prestwick on 18 September 1940.

Strickland was posted from 615 on 9 December, on appointment to the staff of the Chief of Air Staff at the Air Ministry.

He was killed on 27 October 1941, as a Flying Officer with 615. He was shot down by flak during an attack on ground targets along the Dutch/Belgian coast.

Strickland is buried in Bredene churchyard, Belgium.



**Woodward, Robert Sinclair
(SFTS Course 10, Squadron 1)**



263



600

Robert Sinclair Woodward, of Goring-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, was educated at Lancing College and Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he read History. He learned to fly with the University Air Squadron and joined the RAFVR in June 1939, as an Airman u/t Pilot (754304).

Called to full-time service after the outbreak of war, Woodward was commissioned in early October 1939 and after completing his training at the SFTS, Cranwell, he arrived at 5 OTU, Aston Down on 17 August 1940.

After converting to Blenheims, he joined 600 Squadron at Hornchurch on September 10. He made his first flight with it on the 12th.



In early 1941, Woodward teamed up with Sergeant AJ Lipscombe, as his radar operator. In the late evening of 3 May 1941, they destroyed a Ju88 near Shepton Mallet, which crashed at Moons Hill Farm, Stoke St Michael, Somerset.

On the night of 7/8 May, they destroyed an He111. During the night of 9/10 May, their Beaufighter was attacked by Flying Officer RA Chisholm of 604 Squadron, when far out at sea. Woodward flew the burning aircraft back to Britain before he and Lipscombe baled out. On 8/9 July, Woodward shot down an He111 near Abergavenny, again assisted by Lipscombe. He was awarded the DFC (gazetted 29.8.41).

They were flying on September 20 1941 when their Beaufighter went into a spin. Woodward ordered Upscombe to bale out. He did so and was killed. Woodward got away with a broken leg.

In March 1942, Woodward was given command of 263 Squadron, operating Whirlwind aircraft from Fairwood Common. He led the squadron until reported 'Missing' on 7

December 1942. His aircraft was shot down by flak on a 'Roadstead' sortie SW of Jersey and he ditched in the sea. His body was not recovered.

He was 23. His name is on the Runnymede Memorial, Panel 65. A memorial plaque unveiled at Lancing College in 2014 includes his name.