

RAF COLLEGE CRANWELL

“Our Ukrainian Cranwellians”



A Tribute to Seven Cranwellians from IOTCs 40, 43 & 46

In its electronic form, this document contains underlined, hypertext links to additional material, including alternative source data and archived video/audio clips.
[To open these links in a separate browser tab and thus not lose your place in this e-document, press control+click (Windows) or command+click (Apple Mac) on the underlined word or image]

Training International Students

(Excluding British Nationals born abroad or granted British citizenship, who served in the RAF)

This booklet is an extract from the second of two albums created to pay tribute to Overseas students trained at the RAF College during its first 100 years of operation. In light of events in Ukraine, we have compiled this extract to pay tribute to the seven Ukrainians who underwent training on IOTCs 40 and 45. We start by repeating the 'Introduction' to the two parent albums, to set the context, before paying tribute to our Ukrainian Cranwellians. One, Micha Leshchenko of IOTC 40, won the Overseas Student Prize and we include in the electronic version of this booklet a link to a video of the prize winning ceremony.

The RAF College has a proud record of training cadets from overseas, almost from its inception in 1920. This album attempts to pay tribute to the College's international alumni, identifying each cadet by name and, where practicable, providing a photograph of their time at the College. There are three distinct eras covered in the two volumes to this album, the pre-WWII flight cadet system, the College Service Flying Training School (SFTS) of the war years and the post-WWII era of several Single Gate Initial Officer Training (SGIOT) systems.

The international story starts in September 1921 with the induction of two cadets from Siam (now Thailand), although we have been unable to identify the background to this relationship between our two nations. The next international cadets were from Iraq during the period 1927 to 1931 and the connection almost certainly stems from British involvement in the Middle East since WWI, and indirectly the 'game changing' contribution of at least three other Cranwellians, our Founders Sir Winston Churchill and MRAF Viscount Trenchard, and TE Lawrence (aka AC Shaw and "Lawrence of Arabia"). In the 1930s, the College trained some 17 cadets from India. Each was a pioneer of the Indian Air Force and, in the case of AR Awan, also a pioneer of the Pakistan Air Force after 'Partition' in 1947. Our page covering this Indian contingent includes hypertext links to accounts of Awan and Arjan Singh, the latter becoming the first Marshal of the Indian Air Force and who was to revisit the College as a Reviewing Officer on several occasions.

College historians will assert that the RAF College closed the day war broke out; it did for the formal, two year academic and flying training of officer cadets. However, for the majority of the war, the iconic College Hall was used and accommodated by SFTS staff and students, many of whom were trainee aircrew from no fewer than 16 different countries. The first trainee in January 1942 was from the Netherlands and the last, Turkish pilots, graduated in 9 April 1945, just one month before VE Day. Many of the Commonwealth trainee pilots attended the College SFTS as part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) or the Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS) - "The Plan" - which combined global resources to train aircrew from most "Dominions" (i.e. UK, Canada, Newfoundland, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Irish Free State/Eire (non-participant), India and Ceylon), and Bermuda and the USA. But the reader will note that other European countries such as Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Lithuania, Norway and Turkey, and two Middle East countries (Persia/Iran and Iraq) drew on SFTS expertise. The College SFTS and RAF Station Cranwell ORBs of the time make reference to visits by delegations from other countries (e.g. China, Soviet Union) as the College SFTS developed a reputation as the 'go to' place for basic and advanced flying training.

After the war, the College reverted to a flight cadet system similar to pre-WWII years. In the 1970s, the flight cadet system was phased out and replaced by a Graduate Entry (GE) scheme to provide Initial Officer Training (IOT) and specialist (flying, engineering, admin and supply) training to university graduates. When Henlow was closed and all IOT centralised at Cranwell under the SGIOT scheme, significant numbers of overseas students began to appear in the new intakes starting with nine students in 43 IOT. By 2020, the College had trained nearly 2,000 students from international air and defence forces.

Volume 1 covers the pre-WWII and WWII eras; Volume 2 covers the post-WWII era. Source documents included definitive flight cadet records of the pre-WWII and immediate post-WWII eras, which have enabled us to match cadet names (and photos) readily to nationalities. The WWII source data was contained in F540 ORB entries detailing numbers by nationality and separate student listings and photos discovered in the College archive; it has not been possible to establish precise matches between names and nationalities. Our post-WWII analysis relied on cadet listings, graduation photos and some videos; not all the listings declared the cadets' nationalities. That said, we believe we have captured sufficient data to produce a worthy tribute to all International students who attended training at the College.

The Seven Ukrainian Cranwellians



2015 - 2016
Ukraine



Chymbaha
IOTC 40



Komlin
IOTC 43



Kalimulin
IOTC 46



Petelin
IOTC 40

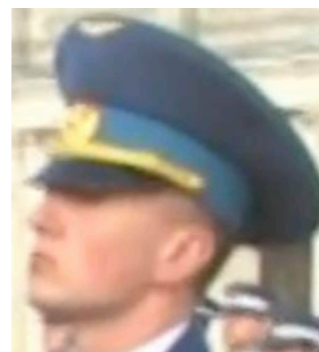


Konchenko
IOTC 43



Polianski
IOTC 46

Course	Name	Initials	Graduated
IOTC 40	Chymbanha	EK	September 2015
	*Leshchenko	MY	
	Petelin	A	
IOTC 43	Komlin	R	May 2016
	Konchenko	A	
IOTC 46	Kalimulin	T	December 2016
	Polianska	AD	



Leshchenko
IOTC 40
Overseas Student Prize
WATCH HIM HERE



CHS - INTERNATIONAL CRANWELLIANS

Over 1,900 Foreign Students from 59 Different Countries

Click of the 'i' button next to a flag to reveal how many cadets from that country were trained by the College
These numbers are best estimates. There are also a number of cadets (41) whose nationality we are unable to place at the moment.

