

Extracts from a pilot's logbook, August 1940

Catalogue ref: AIR 4/58

YEAR	AIRCRAFT		Duran	D. D. D.		SINGLE-ENGINE AIRCRAFT				MULTI-ENGINE AIRCRAFT						-	INSTR/CLOUD FLYING [Incl. in cols, (I) to (10)]	
1940	Type	No.	PILOT, OR 1ST PILOT	2ND PILOT, PUPIL OR PASSENGER	DUTY (INCLUDING RESULTS AND REMARKS)	DUAL	Pilot	DUAL	PROT	DUAL	DAY 1st Pnot	PiLOT	DUAL	NIGHT 1st Pilot	ZND PILOT	PASS- ENGER	DUAL) to (10)] Pitor
ONTH DAT	121/6	110.	181 1 11.01	OK LASSENGER		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(53)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(1:0)
	-	-		100	TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD				10 30				l ni					11:00
G.		0.00.0	- 00		nte u HO 4 11	43:30	725:00		49:25							-	100	
	Spitfore	R6919 R6919	self	-	Valvar Martin am Heart.		:10											
1		176719			Patrol Martislam Heath. 17. H. to Collisball Collisball - G. I.		:30		-				1	_				4
7		26919			Collistall - 6. 1.	+	:30		1	790								-
8		R6958			Test a/c. To Coltishall & valuer.		:10					1	10			991		1
11		R6919			To Colleshall of return.		1:00		-	1000	1							A
13		R6919			To Duxtord.		:10					/		13/				
15		R6919			To Duxtord. Patrol. 5/LT. Blake. Patrol.		: 35	DE N			1				7-			
15		R6919			Patrol.		1:00				1			1	1			
16		R6919			Returning from Collectel				14 2 75		T			1				
	The state of				Returning from Collistall investigated x raid above	-	-											
	The state of				cloud with Tale of A Flight. Tweed out to be about 150 Hurs! Wackel into		Land of		-					1				
				Year and	Turned out to be about								/					
					150 Hurs! Wackel into		1		-							-		
					escort of Me 110's but				-		La Copi		P/o	DOLEZA	L.			
Juk					rudaly commons stopped				The state of									
					on me. Unwin & Potter			100	1									
					each got one.		1:30											
17		R6919			"A Flight Patrol.	-	1:00				Ne 1							
18		R6923			escort of He 110's but mudely commons stoffed on me. Unwin + Poter each got one. A Flight Patrol. Ditto.		1:10	1000			(No. 1)				NEW			120
18		R6923			Ditto.		1:25							weet)				
19		R6833			Dito. Red Section-Patrol. Squadron took off 1545. Leading. Ren into a		1:35											
22		R6919			Red Section- Petrol.		1:10	1										LAC.
20		R6919			Squadron took of 1545		LAND TO L	Brank.		1000								
1		10 11			Leading. Ren into a		:55				- Langue							
191	# 10 Eng			ND TOTAL [Cols. (1) to	(10)]	43:30	737:40	-	49:25			10,500		1		787		K
			81	32 Hrs. 00 M	Totals Carried Forward	The second	(2)	1	(0)	diname.		(7)		1	(10)	(11)	U2)	-



WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

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EAR	AIRCRA	FT	PILOT, OR 1ST PILOT	2ND PILOT, PUPIL OR PASSENGER	DUTY (INCLUDING RESULTS AND REMARKS	SINGLE-ENGINE AIRCRAFT DAY NIGHT				MULTI-ENGINE							INSTR/CLOUD FLYING (Incl. in cols. (I) to (10)]	
40	Type	No.				Dean Dean	Pnor	Deat		DUAL	DAY Ist Puor	2ND Pitor	Deal	NIGHT 1st Pilot	Pilor	PASS- ENGER	Dean.	to (10)
DATE	2,10	210.	101 11101	- Car Caronicona		(1)	(9)	(10)	(4)	650	(u)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(10)	(177)	(1:0
-	-	-	-	-	TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD									1				
	, ,				0 0 0 11	43:30	737:40	_	49:25								***	
24	(cont.)				bunch of Huns over Estuary. Had a bang at 110 but had			en/s	1000					0		1 300	127	198
					Estucony. Had a bong	The same of											8 11	
					at Me 110 but had				100 00							9		248
					to break away as											181		161
		1			tracer was bearing				Mary						35	BY V		11
					over my head from another behind me.	100			5 -90									
		L. William			another bekind me.				-200									Military.
					He affeared to be										1.35			10
					Litting his fellow.				Oran A		Total	l A	Lugus	+ 194	0	0		W
9 24					of me but I didn't				1000				1					
					of me but I didn't				and !				20	las	350			in the
	The state of the s				evgit to see if he								=	1 4007.	00//			
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					4 shot his engine		8	11-13	100		W.			110		S/LR.		
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WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

What is this source?

These pages come from a logbook that a pilot used to record his flights.

One of the main aims of the logbook was to record the number of hours flown. It was a balance between gaining experience by flying many hours and becoming too tired to fight effectively.

What's the background to this source?

By the summer of 1940 Britain and its empire stood alone against Hitler's Germany. The Germans had serious plans to invade Britain. Their problem was crossing the English Channel against the Royal Navy. They thought that they might achieve this if they controlled the air and could attack Royal Navy ships. As a result, the first stage of the German invasion plan, Operation Sealion, was to try and destroy the Royal Air Force.

The first stage of the campaign was to try and destroy airfields and aircraft factories. This proved unsuccessful and so bombing raids then switched to important towns and cities. There is no definite beginning or end to the Battle of Britain but it is generally agreed that it ran from July to October 1940.

It's worth knowing that...

The pilots who fought in the Battle of Britain became known as 'The Few'. This was because of a speech by Winston Churchill who said: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

The RAF pilots did not just come from Britain. Out of about 2300 over 500 came from other parts of the world.

What conclusions can you draw from this source?

- 1. What proportion of time seems to be spent fighting enemy aircraft?
- 2. Which of the following factors are mentioned in the source: enemy aircraft; friendly aircraft; problems of cloud, weather; mechanical troubles?
- 3. Does this source give you a sense of the chaos and confusion of air battles during the Battle of Britain?
- 4. Consider the general tone of this log. What impression do you get of the pilot who wrote it?
- 5. Look at the plan for your TV documentary.
 - o Do you think you will give some time in the documentary to the experiences and qualities of the pilots?
 - o How much of the 30 minutes do you think you will give?

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