

Via Michael  
(Aubrook)  
This is a copy for you

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22<sup>nd</sup> September 2008-09-22

Dear *Simone*,

It was so nice to have met you on Sunday, I hope your return journey home was made without any problems.

The address to write to for tickets next year is:-  
Mrs Michelle Small  
SO3 RAF Ceremonial Events  
RAF Ceremonial Office,  
Building 824. RAF Northolt  
West End Road,  
Ruislip. Middlesex. HA4.6NG.

I have managed to find out a little more on your brother and his time with the RAF. As you know, he was a member of the University Air Squadron at Cambridge and was commissioned in the RAF in January 1939. He was called up in September at the outbreak of WW2 and he then went to the Flying Training School at RAF Cranwell. From there he went to No 6 Operational Training Unit at Sutton Bridge on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1940 where he learnt how to fly the Spitfire. He was posted to No 65 Squadron at Hornchurch on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August 1940 around noon, the *Luftwaffe* sent over the Channel about 160 aircraft, consisting of *Ju 87 Stuka Dive-Bombers* and *109E Messerschmitt* fighters to protect them. Their orders were to attack RAF airfields in Kent (as they had done the day previously, known as Eagle Day (*AdlerTag*)).

Air-Vice Marshal Keith Park ordered forty two Hurricanes and Spitfires (from 32, 65, 610, and 615 Squadrons) to take off at 11.50 hrs to engage them. The ensuing 'dog-fight' over Dover involved two hundred aircraft at one stage and must have resembled the classic picture you have of the Battle of Britain.

During this dog-fight, at around 1220hrs, your brother shot down a 109E Messerschmitt from *Jagdgeschwader 52* (Fighter Squadron) based at Coquelles France. Your brother was flying Spitfire number R6602 which suffered some damage, forcing him to land at Manston airfield which was under attack.

He was up flying the next day which was the *Luftwaffe* worst day of the Battle when the RAF shot down 75 of their aircraft.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August saw similar attacks being mounted by the *Luftwaffe* on airfields in the South-East, especially Manston again along with Tangmere and Westhampnett. At one stage over 300 enemy aircraft were plotted to be heading up the Thames Estuary. Thirty Spitfires and twenty one Hurricanes were ordered up by Park to engage them. Your brother was sadly killed during this engagement over the Channel, flying Spitfire K9915. His body was recovered by the Germans and buried alongside that of another pilot Sub-Lieutenant Henry La Fone Greenshields (from the Fleet Air Arm).

It was reported by French residents in Calais at the time, that the *Luftwaffe* paraded a Guard of Honour as they brought both pilots to the cemetery.

I hope these facts are not too painful for you to read, but show what a brave hero your brother was.

If you have a photo of him in RAF uniform I would like to have a copy please, I will of course pay for any expense incurred.

Hope to see you at Westminster next year?

Kind Regards,

PRIMROSE BUCKLE  
THE CROFT  
LIMES CLOSE  
LISS, HANTS.  
GU33 7DR  
TEL. 01730 893301

1st October

Dear Michael

No wonder I couldn't get hold of you... I gather you are in France! I enclose an extremely interesting (to me) letter I have had from the man I sat next to in Westminster Abbey. He is a chronicler and researcher of the RAF, particularly in the Battle of Britain, and seemed to know everything I wanted to know.

I wish my poor mother had known the story and particularly that the *Luftwaffe* mounted a Guard of Honour for the burial. I find that very moving. (She had been educated as a girl in Bonn.)

It was a great event for me

Certainly - no one of the family  
knew any of these details. 75 German  
aircraft shot down by 42 .....

Yours ever,  
P. Minson

P.S I don't know if Dennis (Dunys?)  
Haywood, ex RAF, would have any  
interest in this?