

TIMES
23-3-56

R.A.F. SQUADRON STANDARD

No. 56 Squadron, a famous R.A.F. fighter unit, will receive its squadron standard from the Duchess of Kent at the R.A.F. station at Waterbeach, Cambridge-shire, on April 27. During the two world wars it claimed the destruction of 576 enemy aircraft. The squadron now flies Hunters, and is unique in Fighter Command in being commanded by a Belgian Air Force Officer, who is serving with the R.A.F. under an exchange scheme.

To: Mr. Howard Es
OLYMPIC KING

~~Diary keep with other cuttings
and ask his ministry for 2 passes.
rest in the course.~~

MR Inigo

Remarks:-

- Mr. A. Stockwell. (Cutting)
- Mr. E. Hall. (Shipping)
- Mr. E. Hamler. (Labs)
- Mr. L. Pryor. (Labs)
- Mr. F. Ryan. (Labs)

NEWS EDITOR
I. INIGER

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DUCHESS WILL MEET A FAMOUS RAF SQUADRON

"Star" Reporter

ONE of the RAF's most famous fighter formations, No 56 Squadron, will receive their Squadron Standard from the Duchess of Kent at RAF Station, Waterbeach, Cambridge, on April 27.

The squadron have fought over the Western Front, Ypres, Somme, Dunkirk, the Battle of Britain, France, Germany, Normandy and Arnhem. They claim the destruction of 576 aircraft in the two wars.

The battle honours are embroidered on the standard.

When the second war started the squadron, equipped with Hurricanes, were stationed at North Weald, Essex.

After the German breakthrough in the Low Countries one fight, during a week-end spent in France, shot down 13 enemy planes.

Dieppe Raid

After helping to cover the evacuation from Dunkirk the squadron destroyed 13 aircraft between August 24 and September 2 during the height of the Battle of Britain in 1940.

They took part in offensive sweeps for the next 12 months when they started to re-arm with Typhoons, the first British squadron to fly the 400 mph fighters which they used with great effect on the Dieppe Raid.

For the next year the fighter pilots took part in many sweeps and raids over occupied France and by November, 1943, they flew their aircraft in the role of fighter-bombers.

D-Day Escort

The Typhoons carried rocket projectiles with which to attack ground targets.

Shortly afterwards the squadron converted to Spitfires and on D-Day helped to escort the airborne forces to their dropping zones.

By June, 1944, when the pilots changed over to Tempests, their main activity for a time was against flying bombs.

Then, during the Arnhem landings, the squadron were used to silence anti-aircraft posts.

The squadron were formed in June, 1916, and were the first to fly the S.E.5, one of the best fighters of the first war.

Two VCs

Two of the war's outstanding fighter "aces," Captains Albert Ball and James McCudden, who both won the VC for their achievements in the air, were members of No 56.

Ball, who destroyed 43 enemy aircraft, was one of the squadron's original flight commanders.

McCudden specialised in the destruction of high-flying reconnaissance aircraft using a modified S.E.5 with a high compression engine for better performance. Over 40 of his 57 victims were shot down while he was with 56 Squadron.

More than 20 pilots, including such names as Rhys-Davies, Bowman, Hoidge, Maybery and Maxwell, each destroyed five or more enemy aircraft.

DIARY

~~THE STAR~~

~~27-3~~

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MR. STAGG

Copies to: Mr. E. Cohen
Camera Room
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