

THE VERY FINE 1942 D.F.M. AWARDED TO A 203 SQUADRON PILOT FOR HIS DARING ATTACK UPON AN ENEMY CONVOY WHICH SAW AN ENEMY AIRCRAFT SILENCED AND A MERCHANT SHIP ATTACKED. COMMISSIONED SOON AFTER, IN 1944 HE PILOTED THE MIGHTY BRISTOL BEAUFIGHTER ON E-BOAT STRIKES WITHIN THE NAVAL CORRIDOR LINKING SOUTHERN ENGLAND TO THE D-DAY BEACHES IN NORMANDY AND WAS KILLED DURING A LARGE SCALE ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS ON 2 SEPTEMBER 1944



DISTINGUISHED FLYING MEDAL, G.V.I.R. '938357 F. SGT. G. BUTTERFIELD. R.A.F.'

D.F.M. *London Gazette* 7 June 1942, the original citation states:

'In March 1942, Flight Sergeant Butterfield attacked an enemy merchant ship which was escorted by a destroyer and an enemy aircraft. Flight Sergeant Butterfield's aircraft was engaged by the enemy aircraft and in the ensuing combat which lasted for 15 minutes, the enemy's front gunner was silenced. Although Flight Sergeant Butterfield's aircraft was hit, he pressed home his bombing attack. This airman has previously bombed an enemy destroyer and attacked a float plane. For shadowing enemy warships under difficult circumstances, he was commended by the Commanding Officer of his Wing.'

Guy Butterfield was born at Grimsby on 25 July 1916, the son of John and Helena Butterfield. He was

living at 36 Augusta Street, Grimsby on 11 July 1939 when he was awarded his aero club certificate (No. 19030). A Fish Buyer by trade, for Markham Cook Ltd, he enlisted into the Royal Air Force as an A.C. 2, on 9 October 1939 and mustered as ACH/Pilot that day. He married Joan Linda Smith at Grimsby Registry Office on 28 November 1939 and proceeded to train as a pilot. Promoted L.A.C. on 11 July 1940 and Sergeant on 13 November 1940, having passed his Flying Training Course in August, he continued advanced training at a number of establishments. On 5 May 1941 he joined 608 Squadron (Bristol Blenheim IV's) but on 31 May was posted to HQ Middle East, joining 203 Squadron 10 days later. 203 Squadron, based at Kabrit, Egypt, were again equipped with Blenheim IVs, a versatile aircraft used by both Fighter and Bomber Commands. Over the next 18 months, Butterfield would serve with this squadron which roles were variously of a reconnaissance, bomber, coastal patrol and anti-submarine nature, its main area of operations being the Eastern Mediterranean and Crete.



Promoted Temporary Flight Sergeant on 1 August 1941, Butterfield would initially fly as an Observer with the squadron, taking part in his first sortie on 23 June 1941. On 28 August, his aircraft attacked an enemy submarine, machine gunning it at a height of just 150 feet before swinging round to drop its bombs just in front of the sub as it crash dived. No explosions were noted. On 17 October 1941, Butterfield flew his first patrol as pilot and would remain in this role for the rest of his service (bar the odd sortie). During his service, Squadron operational logs note Butterfield's aircraft being involved in a large number of patrols and a number of attacks have been identified, including dive bombing Italian destroyers, a Strike on Italian MV and DS, whilst observer to his Wing Commander and a search to locate the Italian Fleet, as well as the actions for which he was recommended for the D.F.M. On 28 March 1942, his aircraft was intercepted by an R.A.F. Sunderland that clearly thought their Blenheim was a German aircraft. After showing their markings, the Sunderland continued its pursuit for 10 minutes until the gunner of Butterfield's aircraft fired several bursts at it!

Butterfield was Commissioned Pilot Officer on 6 June 1942, having started piloting Martin Maryland I's that month. However his last operational sortie with the squadron appears to have been on 16 of June, by which time he had flown in the region of 80 Operational sorties.

BRISTOL BEAUFIGHTER X'S OF 143 SQUADRON

On 28 July 1942, he was sent to A.D.U. and was further promoted Flying Officer on 6 December 1942. He briefly rejoined 203 Squadron in late January 1943 but on 24 February 1943 was posted as an instructor at 75 O.T.U. Advanced Flight Lieutenant on 6 June 1944, Butterfield joined 143 Coastal Strike Squadron on 21 June 1944.



Equipped with the mighty Bristol Beaufighter (Mk X), flying out of Manston, Kent, the squadron were tasked with anti E-boat patrols on the eastern flanks of the naval corridor linking southern England to the D-Day beaches in Normandy. Flying his first sortie on 28 June 1944, the following day, Butterfield was involved in the strike on 8 enemy ships, all of which were reported to have been hit, despite intense flak. On 18 July, Operational logs reported him attacking enemy E-Boats and during an armed reconnaissance at the end of the month, being attacked by an enemy aircraft. On the night of 1/2 September 1944, with Flying Officer Tebb as his observer, Butterfield took part in a large operation against a convoy of at least 30 vessels which had left Boulogne at first light on 1 September. The Beaufighter's of 143 Squadron reported a large number of attacks during the night, which are best described by the large entry in the squadron's operational log (below). During these attacks Butterfield's Beaufighter was shot down.

Twenty-three anti - shipping sorties were flown, resulted in 18 attacks. The main target during the night was a convoy of at least 30 vessels which left Boulogne at last light on the 1st September, and which proceeded along the French Coast gradually splitting into several groups. The target continuously harassed by all three services in the form of Light Coastal Forces, Shore Batteries and Beaufighters, Avengers and Albacores until it was well past Dunkirk. Adverse weather curtailed further operations at 04.45 hours. F/O Carr and F/O Tilley attacked a vessel on the port side and in the centre of the C/V with unobserved results. At the moment of release a shell hit the port wing of the aircraft making it extremely difficult to control, but a successful belly - landing was made and neither of the crew were injured. F/S Johnstone and P/O Warriner attacked 6 probable T.L.C's with unobserved results. F/S Harvey and F/S Maddock attacked 6 T.L.C's scoring a near miss. F/S Barlow and F/S Maddison attacked 6 U/I vessels smoke was seen coming from target and one vessel seems to have disappeared after attack. F/O Gilchrist and P/Lt Bower attacked 15 U/C vessels scoring a near miss on one vessel and the flak ceased from it. On a second sortie the same crew attacked 3 U/I vessels. A near miss was observed by another aircraft. W/O Blake and F/S Knifton attacked 10 possible E/R boats scoring one near miss. F/O Davis and F/S Buckley attacked 5 E/R boats and one T.T.A. - results unobserved. F/O Gilchrist and P/O Knight attacked 1 possible E/R boat bombs were seen to explode and about 5 secs later another explosion and white flash were seen. White circle of disturbed water seen in former position of target. No flak after attack. Lt Cormack and P/O Stanners attacked 12 possible T.L.C's - results unobserved. S/Ldr Fritchard and P/O Hatherley attacked 3 U/I vessels but overshot considerably. P/O Hawkey and F/S Milloy attacked 3 or 4 U/I vessels and one near miss was observed by another aircraft. P/O Cameron and P/O Marwood attacked wakes of 3 u/i vessels results

unobserved but another aircraft saw the bombs fall in the centre of several sources of flak. F/O Cooch and F/O Holme attacked 3 E/R boats, another aircraft saw bombs fall 30 yards ahead of leading vessel. F/Lt Ivey and F/O Clayton attacked 4 possible E/R boats position of bombs explosions not observed, but heard another aircraft from another station say "Jolly good" and later investigation showed only 3 vessels left. F/Lt Butterfield and F/O Tebb failed to return. During the night another target was located off the Dutch island of WESKAPELLE probably composed of 1 minesweeper and 4 E/R boats. F/O Brown and F/O McLaren dropped bombs very close to the rear vessel and the formation stopped. Aircraft then made a cannon attack on leading vessel scoring many strikes with a resulting explosion. F/S Mansfield and F/O Fox scored a near miss on one of the vessels as a result of which all flak from the vessel ceased. Lt Dymek and F/O Barnes scored a near miss on 2 E/R boats one of the vessels was left smoking and detached itself from the formation. This is confirmed by one of the other aircraft.

At the time of his death, Butterfield had completed a further 20 Operational sorties with 143 Squadron. He is commemorated upon the Runnymede Memorial

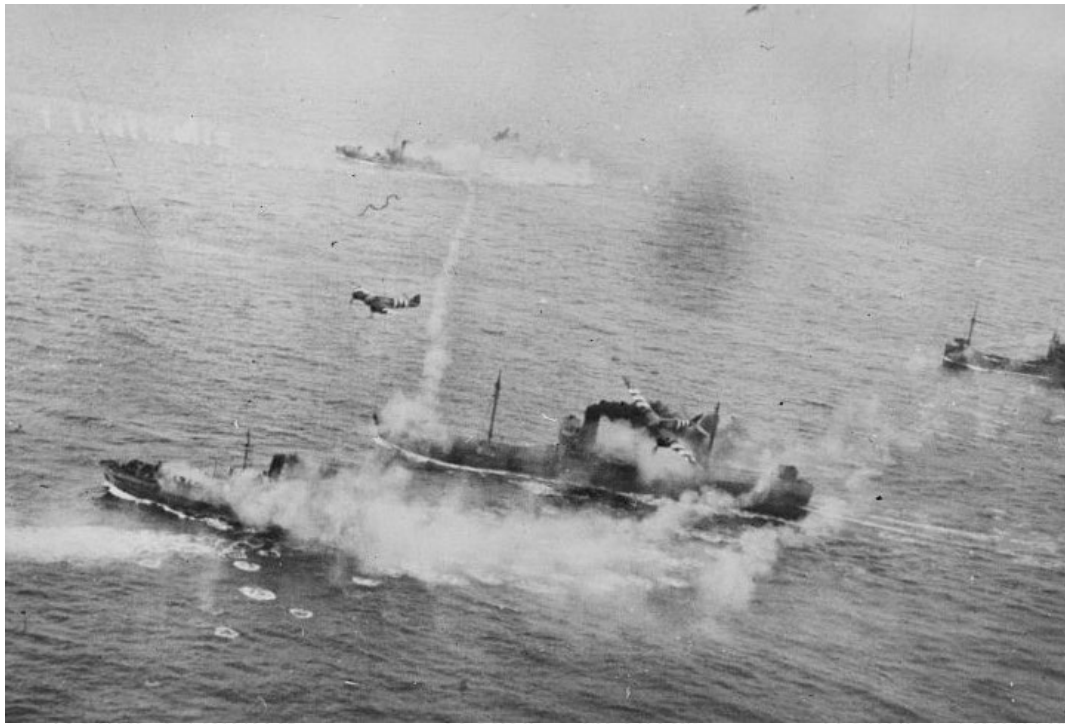


203 SQUADRON OPERATIONAL SORTIES

Sergeant Butterfield flew an Observer in 203 Squadron up until 17 October 1941 and bar a small number of ops, as pilot. 203 Squadron's Operational Records are extremely detailed and frequently give details of pilots, sightings, attacks etc. Other flights are noted but its not always clear if operational or not so below are the ones that appear to be operational and others have been left off. Flew in Bristol Blenheim IV's up until June 1942, then Martin Maryland I's. It would be worth looking at this squadron's Operational Records (digital copies with research) in detail to build up a better picture of what the sorties below involved as the brief details below are just taken from the aircraft/crew logs (same with 143 Squadron)

- 23 JUNE 1941 – SPECIAL PHOTO RECCE – MALENE-CAREA
- 10 JULY 1941 – OPERATIONS
- 11 JULY 1941 – SEARCH
- 19 JULY 1941 – SEARCH

12 AUGUST 1941 – PATROL
20 AUGUST 1941 – L.L. BOMBING
23 AUGUST 1941 – PATROL
26 AUGUST 1941 – L.L. BOMBING
26 AUGUST 1941 – L.L. BOMBING
28 AUGUST 1941 – PATROL
30 AUGUST 1941 – L.L. BOMBING
30 AUGUST 1941 – L.L. BOMBING
4 SEPTEMBER 1941 – PATROL – CRETE-LI BYAN
5 SEPTEMBER 1941 - PATROL
24 SEPTEMBER 1941 - PATROL– CRETE-LI BYAN
26 SEPTEMBER 1941 – EDCU – SEARCH BASE
27 SEPTEMBER 1941 - PATROL– CRETE-LI BYAN
29 SEPTEMBER 1941 - PATROL
6 OCTOBER 1941- PATROL
8 OCTOBER 1941- PATROL
11 OCTOBER 1941- TO AMYIYA SEARCH – V/P PT STAYED IN FIRE
11 OCTOBER 1941- PATROL (CUT SHORT)
17 OCTOBER 1941- PATROL – FIRST AS PILOT
18 OCTOBER 1941- SEARCH
19 OCTOBER 1941- PATROL
21 OCTOBER 1941- PATROL
23 OCTOBER 1941- PATROL – AS OBSERVER
25 OCTOBER 1941- PATROL– AS OBSERVER
30 OCTOBER 1941- PATROL
31 OCTOBER 1941- PATROL – RETURNED TO BASE
1 NOVEMBER 1941- PATROL
4 NOVEMBER 1941- PATROL
10 NOVEMBER 1941- PATROL
13 NOVEMBER 1941- PATROL
19 NOVEMBER 1941- PATROL
1 DECEMBER 1941- TRIDENT PATROL –
2 DECEMBER 1941- TRIDENT PATROL – SIGHTED 2 DESTROYERS AND DIVE BOMBED
LEADING ONE
8 DECEMBER 1941- TRIDENT PATROL – SIGHTED 4 UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT
19 DECEMBER 1941- SEARCH FOR MISSING AIRCRAFT – NO RESULTS
7 JANUARY 1942 – SIDI BARRENI
14 JANUARY 1942 – SEARCH TO TOBRUK
17 JANUARY 1942 – BLOCK PATROL
19 JANUARY 1942 – BLOCK PATROL
21 JANUARY 1942 – A/S SEARCH
22 JANUARY 1942 – A/S SEARCH
24 JANUARY 1942 – PATROL
25 JANUARY 1942 – TOBRUK TO BASE
30 JANUARY 1942 – NIGHT FLYING Q&B
16 FEBRUARY 1942 – TO A.L.G.
18 FEBRUARY 1942 - PATROL
19 FEBRUARY 1942 - PATROL
3 MARCH 1942 - TO LG.05.
5 MARCH 1942 – PATROL – TO HELIO AND RETURN
6 MARCH 1942 – TO LG.05.
8 MARCH 1942 – PATROL
10 MARCH 1942 – BU AMUD TO BASE
15 MARCH 1942 – BASE TO MERSA AND BACK CARRY PASSENGERS
17 MARCH 1942 - TO LG.05.



19 MARCH 1942 - TO LG.05.
 20 MARCH 1942 - STRIKE ON ITALIAN M/V AND D/S- W/C JOHNSON PILOT
 22 MARCH 1942 - PATROL
 26 MARCH 1942 - PATROL
 28 MARCH 1942 - RECON PATROL
 29 MARCH 1942 - TO LG.05.
 15 APRIL 1942 - TO LG.05.
 16 APRIL 1942 - TO AND FROM HELIO
 23 APRIL 1942 - CONVOY ESCORT
 24 APRIL 1942 - 39 TO 05
 25 APRIL 1942 - RAKE 3 - SEARCH FOR ENEMY SHIPPING SW OF CRETE
 3 MAY 1942 - TO BALLAH AND BALLAH TO LG 121
 5 MAY 1942 - TO GAMBUT
 6 MAY 1942 - GAMBUT TO MALTA - ESCORTING 6 HURRICANES AND 1 BEAUFIGHTER
 7 MAY 1942 - MALTA TO BASE
 13 MAY 1942 - A.S. PATROL
 17 MAY 1942 - CRAB TO 05
 2 JUNE 1942 - A.S. PATROL - PILOTING MARYLAND
 15 JUNE 1942 - SEARCH FOR ITALIAN FLEET - PILOTING MARYLAND
 16 JUNE 1942 - A.S. PATROL - PILOTING MARYLAND

A number of other flights on Maryland's in June and July 1942 but appear to be non operational

In the region of 80 Operational sorties with 203 Squadron

143 SQUADRON OPERATIONAL SORTIES

Piloted Bristol Beaufighter X and XI's with 143 Squadron

28 JUNE 1944 - E-BOAT RECONNAISSANCE OFF FRENCH COAST
 29 JUNE 1944 - E-BOAT RECONNAISSANCE
 3 JULY 1944 - ANTI E-BOAT PATROL OFF FRENCH COAST



6 JULY 1944 – ARMED E-BOAT PATROL OFF FRENCH COAST
 7 JULY 1944 – ARMED E-BOAT PATROL OFF FRENCH COAST
 9 JULY 1944 – ANTI E-BOAT PATROL OFF FRENCH COAST
 10 JULY 1944 – ANTI E-BOAT PATROL OFF FRENCH COAST
 11 JULY 1944 – ANTI E-BOAT PATROL OFF FRENCH COAST
 15 JULY 1944 – ANTI E-BOAT PATROL OFF FRENCH COAST
 18 JULY 1944 – ANTI E-BOAT PATROL OFF FRENCH COAST
 20 JULY 1944 – ANTI E-BOAT PATROL OFF FRENCH COAST
 21 JULY 1944 – ANTI E-BOAT PATROL OFF FRENCH COAST
 24 JULY 1944 – ANTI E-BOAT PATROL OFF FRENCH COAST
 31 JULY 1944 – ARMED RECONNAISSANCE – ATTACKED BY E/A
 5 AUGUST 1944 – ANTI E-BOAT PATROL OFF FRENCH COAST
 18 AUGUST 1944 – ANTI E-BOAT PATROL OFF FRENCH COAST
 20 AUGUST 1944 – ANTI E-BOAT PATROL OFF FRENCH COAST
 24 AUGUST 1944 – ANTI E-BOAT PATROL OFF FRENCH COAST
 26 AUGUST 1944 – ANTI E-BOAT PATROL OFF FRENCH COAST
 1-2 (NIGHT) SEPTEMBER 1944 – SWINGATE PATROL KIA WITH F/O TEBB

Total of 20 Operational sorties with 143 Squadron



Condition GVF, sold together with copied research and digital copies of his service records and operational logs for both 203 and 143 Squadrons

An extremely fine D.F.M. to Blenheim and Beaufighter Strike pilot