



## 417 Fighter Squadron RCAF

Squadron Badge: Fasces and Sword Crossed in Front of Palm Trees

Motto: 'Supporting Liberty and Justice' Authority King George VI, Oct 1945

The Squadron operated with the 8<sup>th</sup> Army in North Africa, in the Sicilian landings, and in Italy in close support of the army. The palm tree suggests the desert, the sword air support to the army, and the fasces the fighting in Italy.

\*The fasces were a symbol of the power by the magistrates over the lives and liberties of the people in ancient Rome. (A bundle of rods with an axe included in the bundle) Revived in the 20<sup>th</sup> century as a symbol of fascism.

Aircraft used:

Nov 1941- Feb 1942	Vickers Supermarine Spitfire Mk IIa	
Feb 1942- Mar 1942	Vickers Supermarine Spitfire Mk Vb	
Sep 1942- Oct 1942	Hawker Hurricane IIb	
Sep 1942- Jan 1943	Hawker Hurricane IIc	
Oct 1942- Sep 1943	Vickers Supermarine Spitfire Mk Vb	
Nov 1942- Sep 1943	Vickers Supermarine Spitfire Mk Vc	
Aug 1943- Apr 1945	Vickers Supermarine Spitfire Mk VIII	JF-526
Apr 1945- Jul 1945	Vickers Supermarine Spitfire Mk IX	
July 1 <sup>st</sup> 1945	Disbanded, Treviso Italy	

History:

The 'City of Windsor Squadron' formed November 27<sup>th</sup> 1941 at Charny Down a satellite for Colerne Wiltshire.

Overseas to:

Egypt, Cyprus, Western Desert (Goubrine), Tunisia, Malta, covered the invasion of Sicily (Pachino) Permanently based in Sicily at Cassibile, then onto mainland Italy. To Adriatic coast settling at Foggia Covered landing at Anzio Low level strike attack duties and bomber escorts in 8<sup>th</sup> Army areas. Dropped 1080 tons of bombs. 27 confirmed destroyed aircraft.

	Destroyed/Damaged
Locomotives	11/111
Freight Cars	64/261
Passenger cars	14/27
Motor Vehicles	79/137
Tanks	7/11
Barges	6/18
Misc Targets	many

Operational Casualties: 32 Aircraft. 28 Pilots of whom 7 were killed, 11 presumed dead, 8 POW, 2 evaded capture

Non-Operational Casualties: 4 Personnel of whom 1 killed, 3 died.

Squadron Ace S/L A.U.Houle DFC & bar

Honors & Awards 1 DSO, 1 bar to DFC. 9 DFC's 5 MiD's

Battle Honors. Defence of Britain 1942

Egypt & Libya 1942-43

North Africa 1943

Mr Bexton returned to Canada did not go with Sqn to Italy

Sicily 1943

Italy 1943-45

Salerno, Anzio & Nettuno, Gustav Line, Gothic Line.

Aircraft Insignia: Coded "AN" throughout the Squadron's existence

## POST WAR SERVICE

417 Squadron reformed as a fighter recon unit at Rivers Manitoba 1<sup>st</sup> June 1947

Squadron flew Mustangs in close support with army units until disbanded 1<sup>st</sup> August 1948

Aircraft Insignia: Coded "AT"

Base: North West Air Command, Rivers. Man. 1<sup>st</sup> June 1947 till 1<sup>st</sup> August 1948

North American Harvard Mk II. Jul 47-Jul 48. Rep aircraft, 3063 AT-W

North American Mustang Mk IV. Jul 47-Jul 48. Rep aircraft, 9567 AT-F, 9573, 9577, 9580 AT-B

## War-time Squadron Locations:

Charmy Down

Colerne Wilts

Tain, Ross. Scotland

Egypt transit

## **MIDDLE-EAST COMMAND**

AIR HEADQUARTERS. EGYPT

Kasfareet Egypt

Deversoir Egypt

Shandur Egypt

Idku Egypt

Alexandria Egypt

Transit to Tripoli, Libya

Castel Benito, Tripoli, Libya

Mellaha, Tripoli, Libya

Ben Gardane, Tunisia