

WAR TIME OVERSEAS ROYAL CANADIAN SQUADRONS: 1939-1945

FLYING INST. DONALD Mc KAY. N. VANCOUVER.  
(HAS SQUADRON RECORDS FOR #408,424,433,434).

VE day May 7<sup>th</sup> 1945

VJ day Aug 14<sup>th</sup> 1945

\*\*\*\*\*

NUMBER-400 SQUADRON

'CITY OF TORONTO' CODE LETTERS: SP  
FORMATION: MAR 1 1941 ODIHAM HANTS ENGLAND  
JUN 28 1943 DUNSFOLD SURREY  
DISBANDED: AUG 7 1945 LUNEBURG GERMANY  
LAST MISSION: MAY 8 1945  
AIRCRAFT: WESTLAND LYSANDER MK.III  
CURTISS TOMAHAWK MK.I, IIA, IIB.  
NA MUSTANG MK.I  
D'HAVILLAND MOSQUITO PR MK.XVI  
SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE PR MK.II

NUMBER-401 SQUADRON

'RAM' CODE LETTERS: YO  
FORMATION: MAR 1 1941 DIGBY LINCS ENGLAND  
DISBANDED JUL 10 1945 FASSBERG GERMANY  
LAST MISSION MAY 5 1945  
AIRCRAFT TYPES: HAWKER HURRICANE MK.I, MK.II  
SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE MK.IIA, MK.VB, MK.IX,  
SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE MK.IXB,MK.XIVE, MK.XVI.

NUMBER-402 SQUADRON

'CITY OF WINNIPEG' CODE LETTERS: AE  
HISTORY: MAR 1 1941 DIGBY LINCS ENGLAND  
DISBANDED JUL 10 1945 FASSBERG GERMANY  
LAST MISSION MAY 5 1945  
AIRCRAFT TYPES: HAWKER HURRICANE MK.I, MK.IIA, MK.IIB  
SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE MK.VB, MK.IX, MK.VC  
SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE MK.IXB,MK.XIVE, MK.XVI.

NUMBER-403 SQUADRON

'WOLF' UNIT CODE LETTERS: KH  
FORMATION HISTORY: MAR 1 1941 BAGINGTON WARWICK ENGLAND  
DISBANDED JUL 10 1945 FASSBERG GERMANY  
LAST MISSION MAY 8 1945  
AIRCRAFT TYPES: CURTISS TOMAHAWK MK.I, IIA, IIB.  
SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE MK.I, IIA, VB.  
SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE MK.VC,IXB,XVI.

NUMBER-404 SQUADRON

TITLE: 'BUFFALO' UNIT CODE LETTERS: EE  
FORMATION HISTORY: APR 15 1941 THORNEY ISLE HANTS ENG  
DISBANDED MAY 25 1945 BANFF SCOTLAND  
LAST MISSION MAY 4 1945  
AIRCRAFT TYPES: BRISTOL BLENHEIM MK.IV  
BRISTOL BEAUFIGHTER MK.IIF, XIC, TF MKC  
de HAVILLAND MOSQUITO PR MK.VIC

NUMBER-405 SQUADRON

TITLE: 'VANCOUVER' UNIT CODE LETTERS: LQ  
FORMATION HISTORY: APR 23 1941 DRIFFIELD YORKS ENGLAND  
DISBANDED SEP 5 1945 GREENWOOD NOVA SCOTIA  
LAST MISSION MAY 7 1945  
AIRCRAFT TYPES: VICKERS WELLINGTON MK.II  
HANDLEY PAGE HALIFAX B MK.IIB

AVRO LANCASTER B MK.I,III  
AVRO LANCASTER B MK.X

**NUMBER-406 SQUADRON**

TITLE: 'LYNX' UNIT CODE LETTERS: HU  
FORMATION HISTORY: MAY 10 1941 ACKLINGTON NORTHUMBERLAND  
NOV 27 1944 MANSTON KENT  
DISBANDED SEP 1 1945 PREDANNACK CORNWALL  
LAST MISSION MAY 9 1945  
AIRCRAFT TYPES: BRISTOL BLENHEIM MK.I, IV  
BRISTOL BEAUFIGHTER MK.IIF  
BRISTOL BEAUFIGHTER MK.VIF  
de HAVILLAND MOSQUITO MK.XII  
de HAVILLAND MOSQUITO FB MK.XXX

**NUMBER-407 SQUADRON**

TITLE: 'DEMON' UNIT CODE LETTERS: (41/43 RR) & (43/45 C1)  
FORMATION HISTORY: MAY 8 1941 THORNEY ISLE HANTS ENG  
JAN 29 1943 DOCKING NORFOLK ENG  
DISBANDED JUN 4 1945 CHIVENOR DEVON ENG  
LAST MISSION JUN 1 1945  
AIRCRAFT TYPES: BRISTOL BLENHEIM MK.IV  
LOCKHEED HUDSON MK.III  
VICKERS WELLINGTON MK.XI, XII, XIV.

**NUMBER-408 SQUADRON**

TITLE: 'GOOSE' UNIT CODE LETTERS: EQ  
FORMATION HISTORY: JUN 24 1941 LINDHOLME YORKS ENG  
DISBANDED SEP 5 1945 GREENWOOD NS  
LAST MISSION APR 25 1945  
AIRCRAFT TYPES: HANDLEY PAGE HAMPDEN MK.I  
HANDLEY PAGE HALIFAX MK.II  
AVRO LANCASTER B MK.II  
HANDLEY PAGE HALIFAX B.MK.III  
AVRO LANCASTER B MK.X

**NUMBER-409 SQUADRON**

TITLE: 'NIGHTHAWK' UNIT CODE LETTERS: KP  
FORMATION HISTORY: JUN 17 1941 DIGBY LINCS ENG  
DISBANDED JUL 1 1945 TWENTE NETHERLANDS  
LAST MISSION MAY 2 1945  
AIRCRAFT TYPES: BOULTON PAUL DEFIANT MK.I  
BRISTOL BEAUFIGHTER MK.IIF  
BRISTOL BEAUFIGHTER MK.VIF  
de HAVILLAND MOSQUITO N.F. MK.XIII

**NUMBER-410 SQUADRON**

TITLE: 'COUGAR' UNIT CODE LETTERS: RA  
FORMATION HISTORY: JUN 30 1941 AYR SCOTLAND  
DISBANDED JUN 9 1945 GLIZE-REJEN NETHERLAND  
LAST MISSION MAY 3 1945  
AIRCRAFT TYPES: BOULTON PAUL DEFIANT MK.IF  
BRISTOL BEAUFIGHTER MK.IIF  
de HAVILLAND MOSQUITO N.F. MK.II  
de HAVILLAND MOSQUITO F.B. MK.VI  
de HAVILLAND MOSQUITO N.F. MK.XIII  
de HAVILLAND MOSQUITO N.F. MK.XXX

**NUMBER-411 SQUADRON**

TITLE: 'GRIZZLY BEAR' UNIT CODE LETTERS: DB  
FORMATION HISTORY: JUN 16 1941 DIGBY LINCS ENGLAND  
DISBANDED MAR 21 1946 UTERSEN GERMANY  
LAST MISSION MAY 4 1945  
AIRCRAFT TYPES: SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE MK.IA, IIA, VB.  
SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE MK.IXB, IXE, LF.IX,

SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE MK. XVI,XIV.

**NUMBER-412 SQUADRON**

TITLE: 'FALCON' UNIT CODE LETTERS: VZ  
 FORMATION HISTORY: JUN 30 1941 DIGBY LINCS ENG  
 DISBANDED MAR 21 1946 UTERSEN GER  
 LAST MISSION MAY 4 1945  
 AIRCRAFT TYPES: SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE MK.IIA, VB.  
 SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE MK.IXB, IXE.  
 SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE MK. XVI,XIVE.

**NUMBER-413 SQUADRON**

TITLE: 'TUSKER' UNIT CODE LETTERS: QL  
 FORMATION HISTORY: JUL 1 1941 STRANRAER SCOTLAND  
 DISBANDED FEB 23 1945 BOURNEMOUTH HANTS  
 LAST MISSION DEC 3/4 1944  
 AIRCRAFT TYPES: CONSOLIDATED CATALINA MK.I, IB, IV.

**NUMBER-414 SQUADRON**

TITLE 'SARNIA IMPERIALS' UNIT CODE LETTERS: RU  
 FORMATION HISTORY: AUG 13 1941 CROYDON SURREY  
 JUN 23 1943 DUNSFOLD SURREY  
 DISBANDED AUG 7 1945 LUNEBURG GERMANY  
 LAST MISSION MAY 5 1945  
 AIRCRAFT TYPES: WESTLAND LYSANDER MK. III  
 CURTISS TOMAHAWK MK.I, II.  
 NORTH AMERICAN MUSTANG MK.I  
 SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE L.F.MK.IX, F.R.MK.XIV.

**OVERSEAS CODES BY SQUADRON 1939-1945**

SQN	CODE	NAME
*****		
2	AE	
415	GU,GX	SWORDFISH
416	DN	CITY OF OSHAWA
417	AN	CITY OF WINDSOR
418	TH	CITY OF EDMONTON
419	VR	MOOSE
420	PT	SNOWY OWL
421	AU	RED INDIAN
422	DG,2	FLYING YACHTSMEN
423	AB,3	
424	QB	TIGER, CITY OF HAMILTON
425	KW	ALOUETTE
426	OW	THUNDERBIRD
427	ZL	LION
428	NA	GHOST
429	AL	BISON
430	G9	CITY OF SUDBURY
431	SE	IROQUOIS
432	QO	LEASIDE
433	BM	PORCUPINE
434	WL	BLUENOSE
435	ODM	CHINTHE
436	ODN	ELEPHANT
437	Z2,ODO	HUSKY
438	F3	
439	5V	WESTMOUNT
440	I8	CITY OF OTTAWA
441	9G	SILVERFOX
442	Y2	CARIBOU
443	2I	HORNET
664	AW	
666	BX	
1659	FD,RV	
1664	DH,ZU	



1666 ND,QY  
1679 SW

**Canadian Production Centres**

Canadian Car Foundry, Amherst & McDonald Bros Aircraft, Winnipeg  
Victory Aircraft, Malton On  
Fairchild Aircraft PQ  
Canadian Car & Foundry, Fort William  
Aircraft Division of National Steel Corp.

**Aircraft**

Avro Anson  
Avro Lancaster  
Bristol Bolingbroke IVs (Blenheims)  
Hawker Hurricane  
Westland Lysander

**RCAF Ranks**

Commissioned Officers

Pilot officer  
Flying Officer  
Flight Lieutenant  
Squadron Leader  
Group Captain  
Air Commodore  
Air Vice Marshall  
Air Marshall  
Air Chief Marshall

Non Commissioned Ranks

Leading Aircraftman  
Corporal  
Sergeant  
Flight Sergeant  
Sergeant Officer  
Station Sergeant Officer

## 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. 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

Sicily 1943

Italy 1943-45

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

Aircraft Insignia: Coded AN throughout.

#### 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

Westland Whirlwinds