

RAF PETERBOROUGH (WESTWOOD)

Local civilians identified as being employed at RAF Peterborough in September 1939 through the 1939 Register.

I thought it would be interesting to look beyond the glamour of the RAF and see what local civilians were doing at the outbreak of war at our own Station. It did take all sorts to run an efficient Station.

With personnel at RAF Peterborough numbering around 800 to 1000 then you can see these names are just a tiny proportion of those numbers.

There is, of course, the caveat that it cannot be guaranteed that they are all Peterborough people. They could be here for a few reasons including being billeted for some reason. Further research will, no doubt, result in some names being removed while others may be added.

The 1939 Register provides the recording of the civilian population of England and Wales just after the outbreak of the Second World War.

The 1931 census for England and Wales was destroyed by fire during the Second World War and no census was taken in 1941, therefore the Register provides the most complete survey of the population of England and Wales between 1921 and 1951, making it a valuable resource for historians.

The 1939 Register was taken on 29 September 1939. The information was used to produce identity cards and, once rationing was introduced in January 1940, to issue ration books. Information in the Register was also used to administer conscription and the direction of labour, and to monitor and control the movement of the population caused by military mobilisation and evacuation.

Name	Birth	Address	Occupation given
Douglas T. W. BIRCHELL	14/08/1896	24 Abbey Road	Waiter
Horace BOYER	08/07/1908	584 Fulbridge Road	Officers Batman
William BROWNLEE	07/07/1900	26 Kent Road	Batman Officers Mess
Frederick CONWAY	25/09/1904	29 Kent Road	Senior Civilian Electrician
Albert Gordon CLOSE	03/09/1912	114 Peveril Road	Civilian Motor Driver
John T. DALTON	03/04/1915	31 Cromwell Road	Civilian Aero Engine Fitter
Harold DOWNARD	26/04/1898	121 Peveril Road	Head Steward &

			Caterer in the Officers Mess
Alfred GUBBINS	09/01/1898	64 Walpole Street	Waiter Officers Mess
Frederick HODGESS – ROPER	19/05/1904	55 Park Road	Chaplain to RAF Westwood
Leslie JOHNSON	19/04/1897	?	Civilian Draughtsman
James KETTLE	06/11/1882	13 South Parade	RAF Gate Warden
Arthur PLUMBLEY	23/01/1895	213 Lincoln Road, Werrington	Civilian Aero Engine Fitter
Harry F. RICHARDSON	22/11/1899	15 Craig Street	Batman Officers Mess
Arthur RISELEY	16/05/1914	109 Gt Northern Cottages	Officers Batman
Victor ROTHERY	11/05/1915	248 ?	Aircraft Rigger
Clement SANDERSON	13/05/1906	160 Newark Avenue	Building Contractor engaged in extensive RAF expansion
Russell SCOTTER	23/05/1916	?	Aircraft Rigger
Thomas SHARPE	31/08/1902	69 Elmfield Road	Civilian Transport Driver
Frank SMITH	09/08/1914	193 Cromwell Road	Batman
Harold THOMPSON	18/09/1897	190 Lincoln Road, Walton	Batman
Samuel H. WATSON	25/09/1912	24 Fitzwilliam Street	Civilian Aero Engine Fitter
Horace WHITELEY	15/08/1895	41 Stone Lane	Batman Officers Mess
David WILLIAMS	30/07/1909	45 Brook Street	Transport Driver

Hopefully more research to follow.

On the next page are two photos of my RAF Peterborough at Home - Battle of Britain day programme from the 15th September 1945.

R.A.F. AT HOME
AT PETERBOROUGH.

Saturday, 15th September,

2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

SOUVENIR
PROGRAMME

SPECIAL NOTE.

The Public are asked to take special precaution against fire, especially when inspecting aircraft. They should bear in mind that severe damage can easily be caused if handled incorrectly.

THE PILOT'S LIFE MAY DEPEND ON YOU

Do not attempt to enter or handle any part of the aircraft unless invited to do so by the Aircrew in charge.

The Public are asked, for their own safety, not to venture on the Airfield itself, as their presence may involve their own lives and those of pilots landing and taking off.

This Programme will be subject to alterations in case of bad weather. These will be announced over loud speakers.

W. H. Patches & Son, Ltd., 44-45, Market Street, Peterborough.

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME.

- 2.15 p.m. March by A.T.C. Cadets from Guard Room, headed by Band.
- 2.30 p.m. onwards. A.T.C. Cadets being flown in two Ansons.
- 2.30—3.30 p.m. Gliding Display by visiting A.T.C. Squadrons.
- 3.0—3.20 p.m. (approx.) A Gloucester Meteor Jet-propelled Aircraft will fly over the Airfield.
- 3.30—4.30 p.m. (1) French pupils given dual instruction on formation. *The leader of the formation will broadcast from the air and this will be relayed by loudspeakers.*
- (2) Pupil given dual instruction in air gunnery. Harvard attacking Anson aircraft. *Pilot will broadcast.*
- (3) Aerobatic Display by Harvard aircraft. *Pilot will broadcast.*
- (4) Demonstration of Harvard take-off, showing precautions to prevent excessive noise.
- (5) Demonstration of Auster aircraft.
- (6) Aerobatic Display by Hurricane aircraft.
- 5.0 p.m. (approx.) Fly Past by visiting aircraft.
- 5.30 p.m. (approx.) Fire Fighting Demonstration on airfield.

The following types of
AIRCRAFT WILL BE ON DISPLAY

during the afternoon :—

Avro. Lancaster.	North American Mustang.
„ Anson.	„ „ Harvard.
Hawker Tempest.	De Haviland Mosquito.
„ Hurricane.	„ Tiger Moth.
Supermarine Spitfire.	Bristol Beaufighter.
Taylorcraft Auster.	Airspeed Oxford.
	Douglas Dakota.

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There will also be a Display of Bombs, Guns, Dinghies, Radar and Signals Equipment in Shed 15. The Link Trainer, Fisher Trainer and Hunt Trainer will be on view.

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FILMS will be on show continuously in Shed 14.

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The following places will also be open for inspection :—
Officers' Mess. Sergeants' Mess. Airmen's Mess.
N.A.A.F.I. Institute. Airwomen's & Airmen's Barrack Huts.