

25.9.43 - No. 10

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1943

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Air Ministry News Service

Air Ministry Bulletin No. 11563

FIGHTER PILOT HAS FOUGHT IN THREE CONTINENTS

The distinction of having shot down a German, two Italian and two Japanese aircraft goes to W/Cdr. Robert T.P. DAVIDSON, a Canadian member of the R.A.F., who has recently been promoted from squadron leader to command a Typhoon fighter-bomber wing.

Davidson left his home in Vancouver in 1936 to join the R.A.F. His battlefields include Greece, Crete, the Western Desert, Ceylon and, more recently, France and the Low Countries.

Originally flying Blenheim bombers his squadron was the first in and the last out of Greece. During the later stages of the Crete battle he flew a Hurricane until it was destroyed. He escaped from the island in an over-loaded Sunderland. Next he was posted to the Far East but was diverted to Ceylon and got there two weeks ahead of the Japanese air and sea armada. That was the famous attack of Easter Sunday, 1942. He was one of the few Hurricane pilots who that day faced overpowering Jap numbers and took the edge off their attack. He made five interceptions and destroyed at least two.

"I will never forget that day"; admits Davidson. "Things happened so fast. There were 50 Jap bombers over the airfield when we took off. We kept attacking and nipping back into the cloud."

The war has taken him to South Africa, South America and North America. A call at New York enabled him to get a brief leave and visit his family in Vancouver; it was his first time home in seven years.

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NOTE: PHOTO AVAILABLE AT P.N.A.  
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