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Air Ministry News Service

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TYPHOON PIONEER FIGHTS AGAIN

Wing Commander D.E. Gillam, D.S.O., D.F.C. and Bar, A.F.C, the man who led the first Typhoon sweep over Northern France, is again flying on operations.

He has been appointed to command a Typhoon fighter-bomber wing at a south coast airfield and has already led his pilots in several attacks over military targets in France.

The Wing Commander, who was born in Tynemouth, destroyed seven enemy aircraft in the Battle of Britain. In 1941, while commanding another squadron, he initiated attacks by four-cannon Hurricanes on enemy shipping in the Channel.

Within a few weeks, his squadron had sunk a dozen ships and severely damaged many more. His splendid leadership in these sorties won him the Bar to his D.F.C. and the D.S.O, both awarded within two months.

In June 1942, Wing Commander Gillam led a wing of the then new Typhoon aircraft on their first operation.

In the Battle of Dieppe his Typhoon wing shot down a Dornier 217 and damaged three F.W.190s. "The fight showed", said Gillam afterwards, "that the Typhoon is a match for the F.W.190 and it is a really magnificent destroyer of the day bomber".

Wing Commander Gillam has flown 700 hours in single-seater aircraft.

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NOTE:- PHOTOGRAPH AVAILABLE AT P.N.A.