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Air Ministry News Service

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SPITFIRE PILOT LOST LEG: FIGHTS AGAIN

Flight Lt. T.R.Burne, A.F.C., of Amersham, Bucks, was born in Singapore, educated in England, helped to defend Singapore when the Japanese were attacking it - and now, after losing a leg in the far eastern fighting, is flying again in defence of England.

He has just joined an active Spitfire wing stationed in the south after taking a refresher training course. His leg was amputated early last year after his aircraft had been bombed by Japanese at Sumatra.

Burne, who is 23, was educated at Marlborough and the R.A.F.College, Cranwell. Since he joined the R.A.F. in January 1938, he has flown more than 1,300 hours.

He took part in the defence of Singapore, but left that base eleven days before its fall. From there he went to Sumatra, and flew Hudsons on coastal patrol duties. It was while landing one of these aircraft that he was wounded by Japanese bombs. The others in the crew escaped serious injury.

Flight Lt. Burne is now with the wing which scored the highest number of enemy aircraft destroyed in the whole of Fighter Command during September.

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