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## RAF Staff College - Student Accounts of War Experiences An Index to These 1920s Reports Across Squadrons and Content

Compiled by Trevor Henshaw

Just west of the town of Andover, in Hampshire, the year 1922 saw the establishment of the Royal Air Force Staff College. This was indeed a grand and extensive complex.

With the RAF formed in April 1918, and then with the War's end, there was a determination to maintain the Air Force as an independent service. The RAF Staff College was thus formed to stand alongside the Army Staff College and the Royal Naval Staff College. It would train officers in the administrative, staff and policy aspects of running an air force. Its first Commandant was Air Commodore Robert Brooke-Popham, and through the 1920s, and beyond, the RAF Staff College provided training to a group of carefully selected officers. Amongst them were some very talented men, notably bringing to the course a very high level of much-varied aerial war experience.

One of the tasks assigned to each man attending the Staff College was for him to prepare and submit a personal document, which came to be known as Accounts by Course Students of War Experiences. It is wonderful to know, that around 180 of these survive in the AIR1 Files at The National Archives at Kew, London. They sit between AIR1/2386 and AIR1/2392. They are a goldmine of information, about everyday air fighting, strategy, and reminiscence, across all Fronts, in WWI.

The problem for researchers is that, in TNA Indexes and Search Engines, they are only listed by the name of the individual who wrote them. There is nothing at all about which unit(s) or front(s) he served on, nor any clue as to dates or content.

Some years ago, I would sit out at TNA, often alongside my friend Mike O'Connor. We would research together, when we could. I remember him getting dozens of these reports out, to read and note a little about the content of each, on a pad. I would help him on some days. Mostly this is Mike's work – but I've added about 50 more records, and structured the list into 255 entries, which begins below, and which the CCI Journal now offers its members.

This list gives the Squadron, unit or location of every one of those individual Staff College Reports, that can be established. The key order is by Squadron number of RFC, RAF, RNAS or AFC, and many men therefore have multiple entries, having served across different squadrons. It also gives dates, where we could work them out, and the occasional credit for real quality or uniqueness. This will enable any of you, now, to find vital new information about a Squadron or theatre you have a passion about – written by airmen who were right there, in the sky, and on the Allied aerodromes, and that you've probably never read.

RAF Staff College – Student Accounts of War Experiences			
Unit	Known Content	Airman	AIR1 File Reference
1	WF	Fullard, FLT PF.	1/2387/228/11/41
1	1915	Lock, SqLdr HGW.	1/2392/228/11/188
1	WF	Mercer, FLT GA.	1/2392/228/11/166
2	16.09 - 17.02 2-seaters	Bailey, GC.	1/2388/228/11/71
2	15.12 - 16.07	Mackay, SqLdr CJ.	1/2387/228/11/46
2	1916 Obs	Pirie, SqLdr GC.	1/2387/228/11/52
2	WF	Sholto Douglas, SqLdr WS.	1/2386/228/11/13
3	15.08 - 15.10 POW	Collier, SqLdr AC.	1/2392/228/11/181
3	1916	Pollard, FLT EM.	1/2387/228/11/51
3	WF	Portal, SqLdr CFA.	1/2386/228/11/15
4	17.10 - 18.05	Baker, FLT JW.	1/2392/228/11/173
4	15.07 - 15.11	Brock, WgCdr HLeM.	1/2387/228/11/34
4	16.12 - 17.07	Gould, WgCdr LTN.	1/2390/228/11/123
4	16.07 - 16.12	Mackay, SqLdr CJ.	1/2387/228/11/46
4	14.08 - 15.02	Mulcahy Morgan, WgCdr TW.	1/2387/228/11/48
4	18.03 - 18.06	Stevenson, FLT DE.	1/2386/228/11/21
4	16.03 - 16.12 v good	Walser, SqLdr AA.	1/2386/228/11/23
5	1915 Obs	Andrews, SqLdr JO.	1/2388/228/11/91
5	14.08 - 15.01	Brock, WgCdr HLeM.	1/2387/228/11/34
5	15.10 - 16.05 Obs	Glenny, SqLdr ANF.	1/2389/228/11/119
5	WF	Gordon Dean, SqLdr H.	1/2388/228/11/94
5	WF	Leigh-Mallory, WgCdr T.	1/2388/228/11/80
5	16.07 - 17.05	Sanders, FLT APM.	1/2389/228/11/105

5	1916 - not much	Scott, WgCdr JS.	1/2386/228/11/18
5	1917	Slessor, FLT JC.	1/2387/228/11/50
6	1916	Beulah, SqLdr EA.	1/2388/228/11/70
6	1916	Bond, FLT AG.	1/2388/228/11/95
6	16.08 - 17.03	Farrington, FLT WB.	1/2386/228/11/6
6	16.02 - 16.08	Hebbert, FLT FLB.	1/2392/228/11/172
6	15.06 - 15.09 POW Esc	Mulcahy Morgan, WgCdr TW.	1/2387/228/11/48
6	CO	Pirie, SqLdr GC.	1/2387/228/11/52
6	1916 - not much	Scott, WgCdr JS.	1/2386/228/11/18
6	17.04 - 17.10 hit by shell twice	Wadham, FLT NW.	1/2386/228/11/12
7	18.01 - 18.10	Glenny, SqLdr ANF.	1/2389/228/11/119
7	WF	Leigh-Mallory, WgCdr T.	1/2388/228/11/80
7	WF	Quinnell, SqLdr JC.	1/2386/228/11/28
8	1918	Leigh-Mallory, WgCdr T.	1/2388/228/11/80
8	17.01 - saw Leefe Rob fight	MacDonald, FLT JA.	1/2390/228/11/136
8	WF	Sholto Douglas, SqLdr WS.	1/2386/228/11/13
8	VC AW's	West, FLT FMF.	1/2386/228/11/16
9	17.05 - 17.08	Glenny, SqLdr ANF.	1/2389/228/11/119
9	16.09 - 17.08	Howard-Williams, SqLdr EL.	1/2390/228/11/129
9	17.08 - 17.12	Mackay, SqLdr CJ.	1/2387/228/11/46
9	1917	Warburton, FLT P.	1/2388/228/11/92
10	10 Sqn Obs, Chocques	Godfrey, SqLdr AE.	1/2388/228/11/73
10	15.07 - 16.07 WIA	Quinnell, SqLdr JC.	1/2386/228/11/28
11	17.11 - 18.06	Chick, FLT JS.	1/2392/228/11/165