

Press Release

For immediate release:

Battle of Britain RAF Operations Record Books (ORBs) released on TheGenealogist

To mark the 80th anniversary of the start of the Battle of Britain (10 July 1940 - 31 October 1940) [TheGenealogist](#) is releasing over **2 million new RAF records**. These records not only cover this important fight for Britain's survival, but also encompass all of the Second World War period for a number of squadrons. This release brings the total **ORBs** records to 3.7 million and are part of TheGenealogist's extensive Military records collection.

The **ORBs** are fully searchable by name, aircraft, location and many other fields, making it easy for researchers to find their aviation ancestors. These **ORBs** are the latest release to join TheGenealogist's large military records collection which is always being expanded.



Hawker Hurricane I R4118 of No 605 Squadron, Image: Arpingstone / Public domain

The fascinating pages from these diary-like documents tell the stories of brave aircrew, including those at the time of the Battle of Britain, 10 July 1940 - 31 October 1940. Recording patrols flown, the daily journal records give insights into the everyday lives of the personnel on bases. Researchers can use the collection to follow an airman's war time

experiences from these fully searchable Air Ministry Operations Record Books which cover various Royal Air Force, dominion and Allied Air Force squadrons that came under British Command. Sourced from The National Archives the **AIR 27 records** allow the family history researcher an interesting insight into relatives who had served in air force units under wartime conditions.

The ORBs provide a summary of daily events. Some are ordinary entries, such as the names of new pilots posted to the squadron, entertainment on the base, or even noting the fact that an officer has become engaged. Sadly, these ORBs also record the death of pilots, crashes, or names of airmen that were missing in action. As names of personnel are recorded in these reports, for a family history researcher wanting to follow where an ancestor was posted to and what may have happened to them in the war, ORBs are often very enlightening documents.

Use these records to:

- Read the war movements of personnel in air force units
- Discover if a pilot, navigator, radio operator or gunner is mentioned in the action
- Find if an airman is listed for receiving an Honour or an Award
- Add colour to an aircrewman's story
- Note the names of squadron members wounded, killed, or did not return
- Easily search these National Archives records and images

Read TheGenealogist's article: *Ace in a day*

<https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/featuredarticles/2020/ace-in-a-day-1278/>

These records and many more are available to Diamond subscribers of TheGenealogist.co.uk

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For more information on TheGenealogist, please contact Nick at nick@thegenealogist.co.uk