

164 (Argentine/British) Squadron

Fighter Command records state at Fairlop

22 September 1943 to 7 March 1944*

ORB's State:

- (i) 22 September 1943 to 4 January 1944
5 to 13 January 1944 at Twinwood Farm.
- (ii) 14 January to 11 February 1944 (from ORB)

* ORB States that on 7 March 1944, 164 were at Twinwood Farm



Aircraft Hurricane IV

K5702, KW919, KW919, KW919, KX413, KX414, KX536, KX537, KX540, KX541, KX542, KX566, KX582, KX696, KX702, KX879, KX912, KZ405, KZ406, KZ409, KZ552, KZ609, KZ609, KZ708, KZ798, KZ912,

Pilots

Bignall, LE	F/Sgt	
Bishop, JH	W/O	
Black, JRK	F/Sgt	
Brandon, JE	F/Sgt	
Brownrigg, HA	F/O	
Carrick, ML	F/O	
Cook, W	W/O	DFC (awarded 20 November 1943)
Crowther, R	F/Sgt	
Deas, GCT	F/O	
Dennehey, JR	F/Lt	DFC (awarded 20 November 1943)
Dennison, Francis Hurst	F/O J/13466 RCAF age 22	Died 30 December 1943 Buried Brookwood Military Cemetery
Endacott, SJ	F/Sgt	
Greene, FA	F/Sgt	
Howarth, DM	F/Lt	
Hughes, RGR	F/Sgt	
Hurt		
King, WC	F/O	
Kirsh, LV	F/O	
La Delli, ME	F/Sgt	
Lawson, WT	F/Sgt	
London, J	F/O	
McDonnell, JF	F/Sgt	
McKeown, Desmond Papworth	S/Ldr AFC 32176 RAFVR	Died 2 September 1943 Buried Flushing (Vlissingen) Northern Cemetery
Moore, IAS	F/Sgt	
Pigden, SC	F/Sgt	
Plows, L	F/Sgt	
Quinlan, DW	W/O	
Roberts, AE	P/O	
Russell, HAR	S/Ldr	A newly appointed officer, replacing S/Ldr DP McKeown who crashed after being hit by Flak over Holland 2 September 1943

Sheward, REG	F/O
Thomas, HW	F/Sgt
Todd, AG	F/Lt
Trafford, GR	P/O
Unwin, PHB	F/Lt
West, PG	F/O
Wilson, RJM	F/Sgt
Young, IA	F/O

Notes.

22 to 30 September 1943. Local flying only due to bad weather.

1 to 25 October. Formation flying. Ground firing at the Goodwins.
(Goodwin Sands, six miles east of Deal, Kent).

26 October. Squadron Badge presented to CO by HRH Duke of Gloucester.

1 to 15 November. Low flying and firing on the Goodwins. Night flying practice. 'A' flight attacked a minesweeper in Boulogne Harbour at night. Encounter Flak and searchlights.

28 November. Squadron visit Asylum AA Battery – with Bofors guns.



3.7 inch AA Gun and crew of Asylum Battery at Fairlop
(Janet Blundell)

5 December. Eight aircraft attack special targets in Hesdin area. (these targets were most probably V1 sites in Hesdin Forest).

13 December. F/O Dennison to Manston at night.

30 December. Eight aircraft to attack 'Crossbow' No. 24. Attack made from 13/8,000 feet – hits observed. Two Escorting Typhoons (possibly from 137 or 198 Squadron) collide over target. F/O Dennison of 'A' Flight on armed sortie, bailed out from 1,000 feet crashed into the sea. ASR found him within 20 minutes and found his dead body.

164 Appendix entry

Campaign to Hesdin – "NoBall" target – attacked this afternoon by 8 A/C led by F/L Howarth. The undoubted success of the operation was marred by the loss of F/O Dennison who crashed into the sea on the way back some 20 miles SE of Dungeness. A naval launch was on the spot twenty

minutes later and recovered his body. No one knows quite what happened to "Denny". He may have been hit by flak – or it may have been engine failure. It is said that he made an attempt to bale out before his A/C landed on the water. No Matter – he's gone and the boys have lost a good pal and the Squadron a good pilot.



Left **Francis at Fairlop – the strain clearly on his face**
Right **In happier times with his fiancé Maureen Harvey**
(David Kolody)



Funeral of F/O Francis Hurst Dennison at Brookwood Military Cemetery

(David Kolody)

2 January 1944. Aircraft attempted Rhubarb, but cloud over target prevented target being located. No 4 in formation machine gunned flak position and claims destruction of gun post and 4 guns.

5 to 13 January. At Twinwood Farm airfield, Bedfordshire.

14 January. Back to Fairlop.

21 January. Firing in the morning on the Goodwins.

25 January. 8 A/C attempted to prang a 'Noball' target but 10/10ths cloud prevented the attack.

(No Ball target category was against enemy missile launchers, bivouac areas, field headquarters, enemy supply/logistic points in support of field operations and concentrated areas of troop and weapon marshalling).



Pilots of 164 Squadron
(David Kolody)

1 to 5 February. Typhoon practice flying.

8 February. More Typhoon flying with a beat up by 8 Hurricanes on Army gun positions thrown in for good measure. At night two pilots did armed shipping recce. One pilot observed and fired at a light, thought to be from a ship, 5 miles west of Dunkirk (Dunkerque). Results not observed.

9 February. Weather pretty poor.

11 February. Fairly decent weather. 12 Typhoons and 1 Hurricane II flew from Fairlop to Twinwood Farm for a practice camp. 164 Leave Fairlop.

25 March 1944. Entry in 164 appendix states – Fairlop aerodrome attacked using ground strafing tactics as per Milfield Fighters Leaders Course. (authors note: it is assumed this was practice!)

FACT FILE



A shell of a 3.7inch AA Gun at Purfleet Heritage Museum, as used by IAZ – E3 Asylum Battery at Fairlop. Equipped with AA guns and Bofors

(David Martin)

Gun weight:	9.7 tons
Effective range	10,000 feet
Max range:	25,000 feet