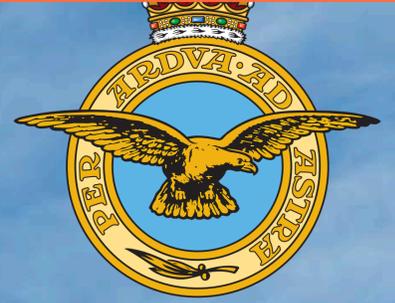


The Eric Lock Memorial

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Eric became the highest scoring British Battle of Britain pilot with a total of 26 aircraft destroyed, 8 probable.

Born at Bomere Farm, Bayston Hill on April 9th 1919, the youngest son of Charles and Dora Lock. He was educated at Clivedon School Church Stretton, The Old Boys High School Shrewsbury and Prestfelde School Shrewsbury. Eric joined the Air Volunteer Reserve in February 1939 and with the outbreak of the Second World War, he became a full timed commissioned officer with the rank of Pilot Officer.

In July 1940 Eric married Margaret Meyers (Peggy) at St. Julians Church, Shrewsbury.

He was posted to 41 Squadron at RAF Catterick, North Yorkshire, in June 1940. The Squadron was then moved to RAF Hornchurch in September of the same year and was now in 11 Group Fighter Command's area. 11 Group were at this time heavily involved in the Battle of Britain.

on the 1st October 1940 he received the Distinguished Flying Cross for destroying nine enemy aircraft, eight of these in a period of seven days. He later went on to receive the Bar to his DFC on October 22nd 1940.

Shot down and severely wounded on Sunday November 17th 1940, he brought his aircraft Spitfire P7554 to a forced landing at Buckanay Farm Alderton near Ipswich, and spent the next five months recovering from his injuries.

It was at this time he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and returned to flying in June 1941, now with 611 Squadron still at Hornchurch.

On the 3rd August 1941 Eric failed to return from a Rhubarb Operation (Crossing the English Channel then dropping below low cloud level and looking for targets of opportunity) to Boulogne.

With a total of 26 aircraft destroyed and 8 probables, Eric became the highest scoring British Battle of Britain Pilot.

He has no known Grave.

1940					
15th Aug	Bf110	Spitfire I	R6885	Bishop Auckland area	No. 41 Sqdn
5th Sept	Bf109E	"	N3162	West Malling-Ashford	"
	Bf109E probable	"	"	Kent	"
	Bf109E	"	"	Sheppey	"
	2 He111s (or Ju88s)	"	"	Sheppey	"
6th Sept	Ju88 (a)	"	"	20m behind Calais	"
9th Sept	2 Bf109Es	"	X4325	Maidstone-S. London	"
11th Sept	Ju88	"	R6610	Maidstone	"
	Bf110	"	"	Maidstone	"
14th Sept	2 Bf109Es	"	"	Hornchurch	"
15th Sept	Bf109E	"	X4409	London - France	"
	Do17	"	"	London - France	"
18th Sept	Bf109E probable	"	X4338	E. Kent	"
	Bf109E	"	"	Gravesend - Kent	"
	Bf109E probable	"	"	Gravesend - Kent	"
20th Sept	Bf109E	"	"	N.W. of Boulogne	"
	Hs126	"	"	N.W. of Boulogne	"
5th Oct	Bf109E	"	"	South of Maidstone	"
	Bf109E probable	"	"	South of Maidstone	"
	Bf109E probable	"	"	South of Dungeness	"
9th Oct	Bf109E	"	X4017	S.E. Kent	"
	2 Bf109Es probable	"	"	S.E. Kent	"
11th Oct.	Bf109E	"	X4589	5m off Dungeness	"
20th Oct	Bf109E	"	"	Nr. Biggin Hill	"
25th Oct	Bf109E probable	Spitfire II	P7314	S.E. Biggin Hill	"
17th Nov	2 Bf109Es	"	P7554	outer Thames Estuary	"
1941					
6th July	Bf109F	Spitfire V	W3247	N.E. St. Omer	No. 611 Sqdn
8th July	Bf109E	"	W3309	St. Omer	"
14th July	Bf109F	"	"	N.E. France	"
TOTAL: 26 destroyed, 8 probables.					
(a) Ju88 FI + DP, crashed at Evere, damaged.					

