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622 SQUADRON RESEARCH PROJECT

My interest in 622 Squadron originates from the fact that my Uncle F/Lt John Gray DFC, was a Rear Gunner on the squadron serving in the crew of S/Ldr Richard Allen DFC. He completed a full tour from June 1944 to January 1945. He misplaced his logbook some years ago and initially I set out to compile an operational history specific to him. However, once I began to research the squadron, I became more and more fascinated and intrigued by the squadron's contribution to the war effort. A visit to the Public Records Office in Kew, London only added to my enthusiasm and I decided to research all aspects of the squadron during World War II. To date I have received some excellent information from veterans and their families and I have been able to supply operational histories to a few family members. I will continue to try and satisfy the growing interest in Bomber Command and so perpetuate the memory of 622 Squadron.

RESEARCH AIMS:

- To support and encourage research into 622 Squadron's Operational history, and to foster the collection and dissemination of this knowledge.
- To establish a dedicated 622 Squadron archive and database, providing a research service for families seeking information about airmen who served with the Squadron.
- To stimulate interest in, and to further the appreciation and understanding of, the influence of 622 Squadron during WWII.
- To encourage others to help in gathering information about the squadron.

622 SQUADRON OPERATIONAL HISTORY

SYNOPSIS OF SUGGESTED CONTENTS:

Front piece: Coloured Plate of Squadron Crest

Foreword: Either by former squadron members or RAF dignitary.

Photographs: To be included in research document at appropriate places to assist understanding and authenticity.

Core document(s): Whilst these will depend on the amount of material researched and received, it is intended that they will be factual and only contain quoted opinions. As far as possible the contents will be in chronological order. Ranks mentioned will be those applicable at the time.

If possible, it is intended to include in the text all the names of crews lost, where and how and any gallantry awards.

The project progresses steadily and I have been encouraged by the positive response I have received from former Squadron members and their families. A great many veterans and their families have passed on copies of documents, photographs and other material to add to the collection and to authenticate the research.

To make sure that any research work will be as accurate and complete as possible, I have acquired complete copies of the 622 Squadron Operations Record Books (ORBs) F540 & F541 and their appendices. These books contain a complete day to day diary of events on the Squadron. The F541 (Detail of Work Carried Out) contains details of all operations flown by the Squadron, including full crew lists and aircraft details. The F540 (The Squadron Diary) contains details of postings in and out, promotions and other information such as general Squadron administration information and the daily weather. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in any research work carried out is as accurate as possible, please remember that the Squadron records and ORBs do contain errors.