

R A F Fighter Squadrons in Essex

September 1939 – March 1958



Colin Ovens

Squadron	Airfield in Essex	Date(s)	Equipment
1	Hornchurch (<i>detachments at North Weald</i>)	8/40 - 9/40	Hurricane I
3	Stapleford Tawney	6/41 - 8/41	Hurricane I
	Bradwell Bay	3/44 - 4/44	Typhoon Ib
17	North Weald	to 9/39	Hurricane I
	Debden	9/39 - 5/40	
	Debden	6/40 - 8/40	
	Debden	9/40 - 10/40	
19	Hornchurch	5/40 - 6/40	Spitfire Ia
	Rochford	8/41	Spitfire Vb/Vc
	Fairlop	5/43	Spitfire Vc/IX
	Rochford	5/44	Mustang III
	Andrews Field	2/45 - 5/45	Mustang III/IV
	Bradwell Bay	5/45 - 8/45	Mustang IV
23	Bradwell Bay	8/42	Mosquito NF. II
	Bradwell Bay	9/42 - 12/42	
25	North Weald	1/40 - 5/40	Blenheim If
	North Weald	5/40 - 6/40	
	North Weald	9/40 - 10/40	
	Debden	10/40 - 11/40	Mosquito NF.XXX
	Bradwell Bay	7/45 - 8/45	
	Boxted	6/46 - 9/46	
29	Debden	11/39 - 6/40	Blenheim If
	Bradwell Bay	5/43 - 9/43	Beaufighter If / Mosquito NF.XII
33	North Weald	4/44 - 5/44	Spitfire IX
41	Hornchurch	4/40 - 6/40	Spitfire Ia
	Hornchurch	7/40 - 9/40	
	Hornchurch	9/40 - 2/41	Spitfire IIa
	Debden	7/40 - 8/42	Spitfire Vb
46	Stapleford Tawney	9/40 - 11/40	Hurricane I
	North Weald	11/40 - 12/40	
54	Hornchurch	to 11/39	Spitfire Ia
	Rochford	11/39 - 12/39	
	Hornchurch	12/39	
	Rochford	12/39 - 2/40	
	Hornchurch	2/40 - 3/40	
	Rochford	3/40 - 4/40	
	Hornchurch	4/40 - 5/40	
	Hornchurch	6/40	
	Rochford	6/40 - 7/40	
	Hornchurch	8/40 - 9/40	
	Hornchurch	2/41 - 3/41	Spitfire IIa
	Rochford	3/41 - 5/41	
Hornchurch	5/41 - 11/41		
56	North Weald	to 10/39	Hurricane I
	North Weald	2/40 - 5/40	
	North Weald	6/40 - 9/40	Hurricane I

	North Weald	12/40 – 1/41	Hurricane I/IIb
	Bradwell Bay	5/43 – 10/43	Typhoon Ib
	Boxted	4/46 – 11/46	Meteor F.3
64	Hornchurch	11/40 – 1/41	Spitfire Ia
	Rochford	1/41 – 3/41	Spitfire IIa
	Hornchurch	3/41 – 5/41	
	Hornchurch	11/41 – 3/42	Spitfire Vb
	Rochford	3/42 – 4/42	
	Hornchurch	4/42 – 9/42	Spitfire Vb + IX
	Fairlop	9/42 – 12/42	
	Fairlop	1/43 – 3/43	Spitfire IX
	Hornchurch	3/43	
	Bradwell Bay	8/44 – 12/44	Spitfire Vb/Mustang III
65	Hornchurch	to 10/39	Spitfire Ia
	Hornchurch	3/40 – 5/40	Spitfire Ia
	Debden	12/41 – 4/42	Spitfire IIb / Vb
	Great Sampford	4/42 – 6/42	Spitfire Vb
	Great Sampford	6/42	Spitfire Vb
	Great Sampford	7/42	Spitfire Vb
	Fairlop	5/43	Spitfire Vb
	Andrews Field	10/44 – 1/45	Mustang III
66	Hornchurch	11/43 – 2/44	Spitfire IX
	North Weald	3/44	
71	Hornchurch	6/41 – 12/41	Hurricane I/IIa
	Debden	5/42 – 8/42	Spitfire Vb
72	North Weald	3/50 – 7/53	Vampire FB.5/Meteor F.8
74	Hornchurch	11/39	Spitfire Ia
	Rochford	11/39	
	Hornchurch	11/39 – 12/39	
	Rochford	12/39	
	Hornchurch	12/39	
	Rochford	12/39 – 1/40	
	Hornchurch	1/40 – 2/40	
	Rochford	2/40 – 3/40	
	Hornchurch	3/40 – 5/40	
	Rochford	6/40	
	Hornchurch	6/40 – 8/40	
North Weald	4/44 – 5/44	Spitfire LF.IXe	
80	Hornchurch	5/44	Spitfire IX
81	Debden	7/41	Hurricane IIb
	Hornchurch	5/41 – 7/42	Spitfire Vc
	Fairlop	7/42 – 10/42	
85	Debden	9/39	Hurricane I
	Debden	5/40 – 6/40	
	Debden	8/40	
	Debden	1/41 – 5/41	Hurricane I/Havoc I
87	Debden	9/39	Hurricane I
	Debden	5/40	

91	Debden	11/46 – 1/47	Meteor F.3
92	Hornchurch	6/40	Spitfire Ia
111	North Weald	5/40 – 6/40	Hurricane I
	Debden	8/40 – 9/40	
	Debden	11/40 – 12/41	Spitfire IIa/Vb
	North Weald	12/41	Spitfire Vb
	Debden	12/41 – 7/42	
	North Weald	12/53 – 3/58	Meteor F.4/Hunter F.4/F.6
121	North Weald	12/41 – 6/42	Spitfire IIb
	Rochford	6/42 – 9/42	Spitfire Vb
	Debden	9/42	
122	Hornchurch	4/42 – 6/42	Spitfire Vb
	Fairlop	6/42	
	Hornchurch	7/42 – 9/42	
	Hornchurch	10/42 – 11/42	Spitfire IX
	Fairlop	11/42 – 12/42	
	Hornchurch	12/42 – 5/43	
	Andrews Field	10/44 – 5/45	
			Mustang III
124	Debden	6/42 – 9/42	Spitfire HF.VI
	North Weald	11/42 – 12/42	
	North Weald	1/43 – 7/43	Spitfire HF.VI & Vb
	Bradwell Bay	4/44 – 7/44	Spitfire HF.VII & IX
	Bradwell Bay	7/45 – 8/45	Spitfire IX
126	Bradwell Bay	8/44 – 12/44	Spitfire IX
129	Debden	11/41 – 12/41	Spitfire IIa
	Hornchurch	6/43 – 1/44	Spitfire IX
	Andrews Field	10/44 – 12/44	Mustang III
132	Hornchurch	10/42 – 3/43	Spitfire Vb
133	Geat Sampford	9/42	Spitfire Vb
137	Rochford	6/43 – 8/43	Hurricane IV
151	North Weald	to 5/40	Hurricane I
	Stapleford Tawney	8/40 – 9/40	
	Bradwell Bay	3/45 – 5/45	Mosquito NF.XXX
154	Hornchurch	6/42 – 7/42	Spitfire Vb
	Fairlop	7/42 – 9/42	
157	Debden	12/41	<i>No aircraft allocated.</i>
	Bradwell Bay	3/43 – 5/43	Mosquito NF.II
164	Fairlop	9/43 – 3/44	Hurricane IV
182	Fairlop	4/43	Typhoon Ib
193	Fairlop	2/44 – 3/44	Typhoon Ib
195	Fairlop	9/43 – 2/44	Typhoon Ib
198	Bradwell Bay	8/43	Typhoon Ib
219	Bradwell bay	5/44 – 8/44	Mosquito NF.XVII
222	Hornchurch	5/40 – 11/40	Spitfire Ia
	North Weald	8/41 – 8/42	Spitfire Vb
	Rochford	3/43 – 4/43	Spitfire IX
	Hornchurch	3/44 – 4/44	
	Rochford	4/44	
229	Hornchurch	4/44 – 5/44	Spitfire IX
234	Hornchurch	7/43	Spitfire Vb

	Rochford	9/43 – 10/43	
	North Weald	8/44 – 12/44	Spitfire Vb/Vc
	Boxted	3/46 – 9/46	Meteor F.3
242	Stapleford Tawney	4/41 – 5/41	Hurricane IIC
	North Weald	5/41 – 7/41	
245	Fairlop	5/43 – 6/43	Typhoon Ib
247	Fairlop	4/43 – 5/43	Typhoon Ib
	Bradwell Bay	6/43 – 7/43	
249	North Weald	9/40 – 5/41	Hurricane I
257	Debden	8/40 – 9/40	Hurricane I
	North Weald	10/40 – 12/40	Hurricane I
263	Boxted	6/46 – 9/46	Meteor F.III
264	Hornchurch	8/40	Defiant I
	Rochford	10/40 – 11/40	
	Debden	11/40 – 12/40	
266	Hornchurch	8/40	Spitfire Ia
	Boxted	9/46	Meteor F.III
274	Hornchurch	4/44 – 5/44	Hurricane IIC
303	Debden	3/43	Spitfire Vb
	Andrews Field	4/45 – 5/45	Mustang IV
	Andrews Field	8/45 – 12/45	
306	Andrews Field	10/44 – 5/45	Mustang III
	Andrews Field	8/45 – 12/45	
309	Andrews Field	11/44 – 2/45	Mustang III
310	Bradwell Bay	12/44 – 2/45	Spitfire IX
312	North Weald	8/44 – 10/44	Spitfire IX
	Bradwell Bay	10/44 – 2/45	
313	Hornchurch	12/41 – 6/42	Spitfire Vb
	North Weald	10/44 – 12/44	Spitfire IX
	Bradwell Bay	12/44 – 2/45	
315	Andrews Field	10/44	Mustang III
	Andrews Field	1/45 – 8/45	
316	Andrews Field	10/44 – 5/45	Mustang III
	Andrews Field	8/45 – 11/45	
317	Fairlop	8/43 – 9/43	Spitfire IX
	Rochford	12/43	
322	Hornchurch	7/43 – 12/43	Spitfire Vb
331	North Weald	5/42 – 1/44	Spitfire Vb & IX
332	North Weald	6/42 – 4/44	Spitfire Vb & IX
340	Hornchurch	7/42 – 9/42	Spitfire Vb
349	Hornchurch	3/44 – 4/44	Spitfire IX
350	Debden	4/42 – 6/42	Spitfire Vb
	Rochford	9/42 – 12/42	
	Hornchurch	12/42 – 3/43	
	Fairlop	3/43	
	Rochford	10/43	
	Hornchurch	12/43 – 3/44	Spitfire IX
402	Rochford	8/41 – 11/41	Hurricane IIa
403	Hornchurch	8/41	Spitfire IIa
	Debden	8/41 – 10/41	Spitfire Vb

	North Weald	12/41 – 5/42	
	Rochford	5/42 – 6/42	
411	Hornchurch	11/41 – 3/41	Spitfire Vb
412	North Weald	6/42	Spitfire Vb
418	Debden	11/41 – 4/42	Boston III
	Bradwell Bay	4/42 – 3/43	
451	Hornchurch	9/45	Spitfire XIV
453	Hornchurch	9/42 – 11/42	Spitfire Vb
	Rochford	12/42 – 3/43	
	Hornchurch	3/43 – 6/43	Spitfire IX
456	Bradwell Bay	3/45 – 6/45	Mosquito NF.XXX
485	Hornchurch	10/43 – 11/43	Spitfire IX
	Hornchurch	3/44 – 4/44	
486	North Weald	9/42 – 10/42	Typhoon Ib
488	Bradwell Bay	9/43 – 5/44	Beaufighter VI f
501	Bradwell Bay	9/44 – 3/45	Tempest V
504	Debden	10/39 – 5/40	Hurricane I
	Hornchurch	1/44 – 2/44	Spitfire IX
531	Debden	10/42	Boston (Turbinlite) & Hurricane IIc
600	Hornchurch	8/40 – 9/40	Blenheim If
601	Debden	8/40 – 9/40	Hurricane I
	North Weald	3/49 – 3/57	Vampire F.3/Meteor F.8
603	Hornchurch	8/40 – 12/40	Spitfire Ia
	Hornchurch	5/41 – 6/41	Spitfire IIa
	Rochford	6/41 – 7/41	Spitfire Va
	Hornchurch	7/41 – 12/41	Spitfire Vb
604	North Weald	9/39 – 1/40	Blenheim If
	North Weald	3/49 – 2/57	Spitfire LF.16e/ Vampire F.3/ Meteor F.8
611	Rochford	12/40 – 1/41	Spitfire Ia
	Hornchurch	1/41 – 5/41	Spitfire IIa
	Rochford	5/41 – 6/41	Spitfire Vb
	Hornchurch	6/41 – 11/41	
616	Rochford	5/40 – 6/40	Spitfire Ia
	Great Sampford	7/42 – 9/42	Spitfire VI
	Andrews Field	3/45 – 4/45	Meteor III

Note

Where a succession of changes of airfield is shown between the same two locations, or there is a series of what appear to be successive allocations to the same airfield, (for examples, in the entries against Nos.54, 74, and 85 Squadrons), brief transfers to other bases have occurred. For example, in the case of No.74 Squadron there occurred a number of transfers each of less than a couple of weeks duration to Catterick during the Battle of Britain for re-equipment (of both pilots and aircraft), and to allow a brief respite from the intensity of the action; this was a frequent practice throughout the period of hostilities, as was the detaching of flights, or even whole squadrons, away from the home airfield for short periods.