

APPENDIX VII THE GUERNSEY AFFILIATION

On the 5th May 1939, while the shadow of war spread over Europe, the new airport at La Villiaze on Guernsey, was opened by the Air Minister, Sir Kingsley Wood, in the presence of the Governor, the Bailiff, and one of the largest gatherings of people ever seen on the island. During his speech, Sir Kingsley Wood announced that as part of the Municipal Liaison Scheme, 201 Squadron RAF would henceforth be affiliated to the Island:

" You will know that there has been a movement to associate various districts in England with a unit of the RAF. It is therefore an immense pleasure to me to be able to announce, on behalf of the Government, that a squadron of the Air Force shall be associated with Guernsey. It will be 201 Flying Boat Squadron and will be affiliated to Guernsey. I am particularly happy about this because this year marks the 21st anniversary of the RAF."

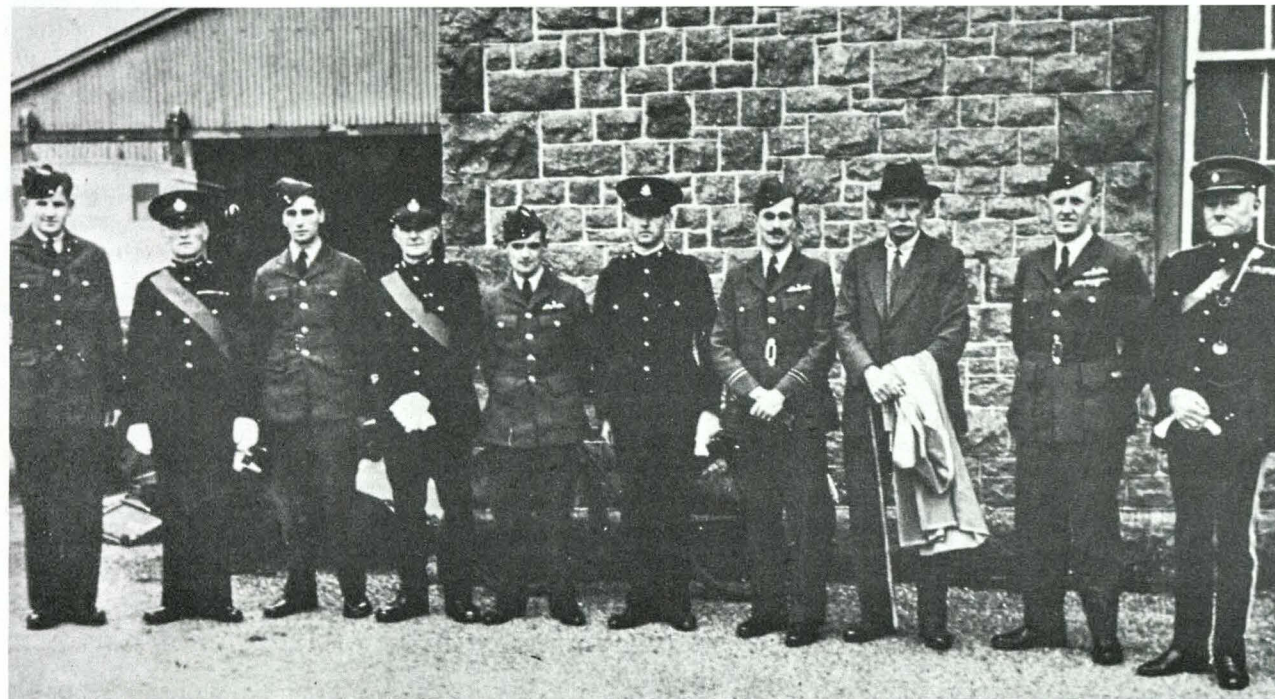
The affiliation was officially inaugurated on 26th May 1939 when Wg Cdr Cahill, the CO,

accompanied Flt Lt Kendrick's crew in a London flying boat on a visit to St Peter Port. During this visit, the Squadron presented two of its most prized possessions to the Royal Court for custody: Flt Sub-Lt Warneford's official report of the destruction of a German Zeppelin over Belgium in 1915, and the Admiralty telegram advising him that HM The King had awarded him the Victoria Cross.

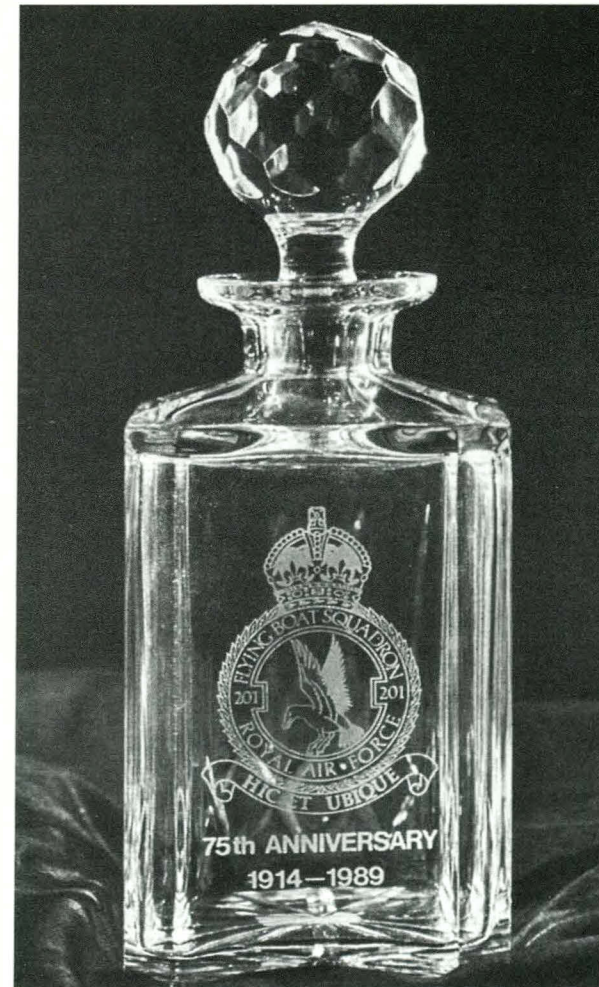
Sixty four years on from the inauguration, the affiliation is as strong as it has ever been. The original Squadron Standard is laid up in the Town Church, on view to the public, and the Squadron has its own museum in Castle Cornet in St Peter Port.

Every year Squadron personnel renew these strong bonds by visiting the Island during the Battle of Britain celebrations.

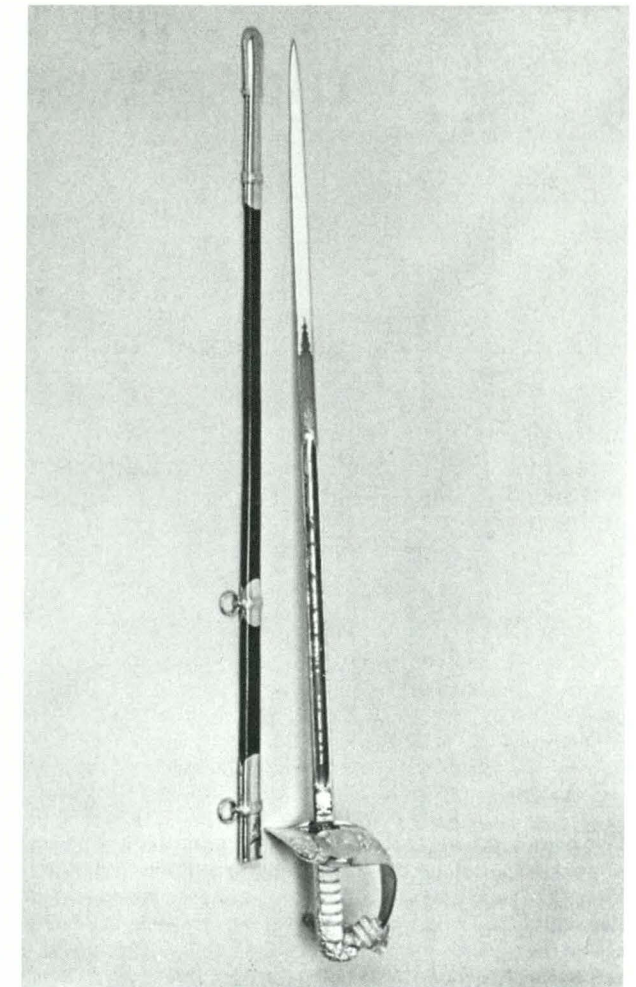
The photograph shows members of the Squadron who made the first visit to Guernsey after the affiliation in 1939.



From left to right they are: AC Corbin (W Op and a Guernseyman), Unknown, LAC Bennet (Eng Fitter), Unknown, Sgt Balfour (Pilot), Unknown, Flt Lt Kendrick (Pilot/Captain), Col du Putron, Wg Cdr Cahill (OC 201 Squadron), Col Carey.



201 Squadron engraved decanter presented to the States of Guernsey.



The Guernsey Sword.

1989 marked, not only the 75th anniversary of the Squadron, but also the 50th anniversary of the affiliation with Guernsey.

During September 1989, the entire Squadron paraded in Guernsey at celebrations to mark the event. During the visit the States were presented with an engraved decanter, and in return the Bailiff, Sir Charles Frossard presented 201 with a magnificent sword and scabbard on behalf of the Island. The sword is for the use of the officer who bears the Squadron Standard when on parade and bears the inscription "Presented by the States of Guernsey to No 201 Squadron RAF to commemorate their liaison".