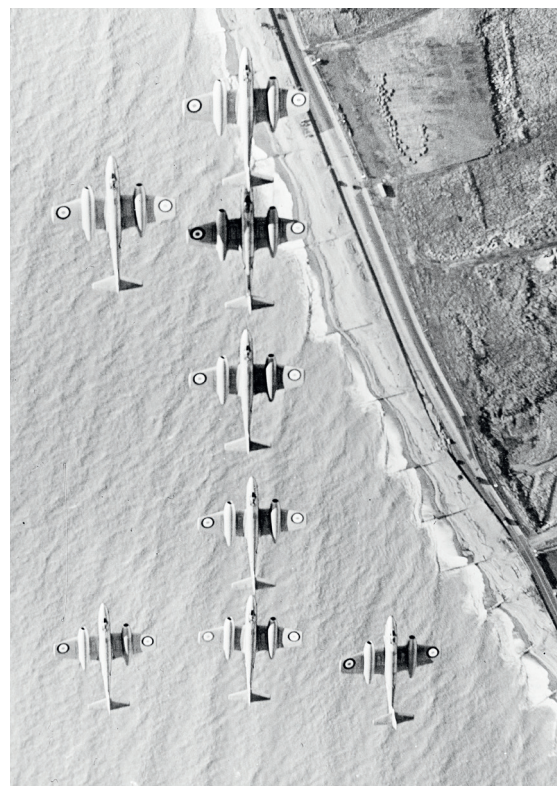


HERITAGE



Right: In May 1952 the squadron marked its 50th anniversary with this '1'-shaped formation of Meteor F8s. RAF (AHB)/© UK MoD Crown Copyright 2015

With the Fury the RAF had a fighter that for the first time could exceed 200mph. These aircraft have the red and white squadron markings worn today in slightly smaller form on 1(F)'s Typhoons. RAF (AHB)/© UK MoD Crown Copyright 2015



The build-up to D-Day was progressing rapidly when 1 Sqn stood down in March to take on the Supermarine Spitfire Mk IX. Briefly flying as a pure fighter unit, No. 1 was soon back attacking targets in France, dropping bombs from its Spitfires and working over and around the beachhead.

Germany had begun striking back at Britain with its V-1 flying bombs and 1 Sqn was also tasked with anti V-1 'diver' patrols. It flew them from late June until the end of August, accounting for 47 missiles. The remainder of the war was spent on fighter escort duties.

Post-War Changes

In May 1945 the Spitfire Mk IX gave way to the altogether more powerful Mk 21, but these served for little more than a year, because No. 1 Sqn became a jet unit from October 1946. Its initial Gloster Meteor F.Mk 3 equipment was briefly replaced by Harvards and Airspeed Oxfords as the squadron spent an uncharacteristic eight months on training duties, but it was back as a fighter squadron with Meteor F.Mk 4s in May 1948. It replaced them with Mk 8s from 1950.

The graceful Hawker Hunter F.Mk 5 followed from 1955 and 1 Sqn took these to Cyprus in 1956 for its part in the Suez Crisis. It returned home to Tangmere in December and business

continued as usual until June 23, 1958, when Tangmere closed and 1 Sqn disbanded.

It stood up again simultaneously at Stradishall, as Hunter F.Mk 6-equipped 263 Sqn renumbered, maintaining its fighter role until January 1960, when Hunter FGA.Mk 9 ground-attack jets began to arrive. These remained No. 1's equipment until January 1970, when the squadron lived up to its 'First In All Things' motto by becoming the world's first Hawker Siddeley Harrier unit.

Number 1(F)'s association with the Harrier lasted longer than its time with any other type. It took successive marks of the aircraft, including the GR.Mk 3 with which it went to war in the Falkland Islands in 1982, flying off Royal Navy carrier decks and providing air defence cover for the islands in the immediate aftermath of the conflict. The GR.Mk 5, first of the second generation Harriers, arrived on November 23, 1988 and in 1992 the unit converted onto the GR.Mk 7, equipped for night attack and with which it returned to carrier operations.

The squadron took its GR7s into action over northern Iraq and the Balkans in the 1990s and back to Iraq for Operation Telic in 2003, as part of a wider RAF Harrier force involved in the action. In 2004 it made its first deployment to Afghanistan under Operation Herrick, gradually re-equipping with upgraded GR.Mk 9 and 9A

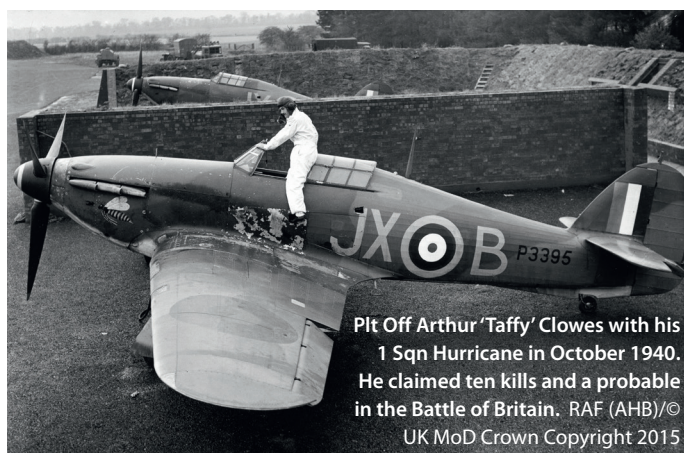
jets, and taking its turn on rotation back into Afghanistan until the Herrick mission passed to the Tornado Force in 2009. The Harrier was then rapidly withdrawn from service as a result of the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review, and 1(F) Sqn disbanded.

Typhoon... Again!

Reformed at RAF Leuchars on September 12, 2012, No. 1 (Fighter) Squadron became the RAF's fourth frontline Typhoon unit. It remained at the Fife station for almost two years, before moving across to RAF Lossiemouth, which was transitioning from a long history of maritime and attack flying.

According to 'Sooty' Sutton, the move has worked out well: "The Squadron is absolutely thriving at Lossiemouth. We have a superb team who set themselves extremely high standards, and are constantly striving to innovate and improve what we do. In recent months 1(F) Squadron has led the introduction of a major capability enhancement on the Typhoon (which has given us a significantly improved precision strike capability) and we have recently returned from Exercise Red Flag.

"We flew swing-role sorties involving air-air missions while simultaneously releasing high explosive laser/GPS-guided weapons



Plt Off Arthur 'Taffy' Clowes with his 1 Sqn Hurricane in October 1940. He claimed ten kills and a probable in the Battle of Britain. RAF (AHB)/© UK MoD Crown Copyright 2015



No. 1 was barely operational on the Hurricane when it deployed to France. This aircraft was being serviced at Vassincourt during April 1940. RAF (AHB)/© UK MoD Crown Copyright 2015