

PATRICK J. CASSIDY, Jr. *
and
HARRY E. CREAGEN

RELATED AIR ACES IN WORLD WARS I & II

Little has been written about related airmen who fought and flew in the last two major conflicts. Occasional mention in the war-time press concerning a decoration or award sometimes brought to light that a number of prominent aces and some lesser ones too were related. In some instances this relationship extended across both World War I and World War II.

In the latter case we have Major Keith Oxspring, 66 Sqd., RAF, credited with the destruction of 16 German aircraft in the first war, and his son Wing Commander Robert Oxspring, who served with the same unit in the second war scoring 16 victories also (12 aircraft, 4 Flying Bombs). On the German side there was Obltn. Gotthardt Sachsenberg, Marine J.G.1, victor in 31 combats in World War I, and his son in World War II, Ltn. Heinz Sachsenberg, who scored 104 aerial victories while flying with JG-52 in Russia. He survived the war, but died on June 17, 1952 as a result of wounds received during the war.

The first airman to win the Victoria Cross, Lt. W. B. Rhodes-Moorhouse, 2 Sqd., RFC (April 26, 1915 exploit; awarded May 22, 1915), could not foresee that in another world conflict his son, Flight-Lt. Wm. H. Rhodes-Moorhouse, would be awarded the DFC for action during the Battle of Britain serving with 601 Sqd., RAF. He was killed in action with a total score of 5 victories. Another V.C. winner, the famed Major James T. B. McCudden (awarded April 2, 1918) flew with great distinction during World War I. He was a member of the famous S.E.5 Sqd., No. 56 during 1917-18 and compiled a score of 57 victories before his untimely death in a plane crash July 8, 1918 when on the way to assume command of 66 Sqd., RAF. It is not generally known, but he had a brother who reached acesdom in France during 1917-18. Lt. Anthony J. McCudden flying with 18 Sqd., RAF, scored 11 victories, and was awarded the Military Cross before being killed in combat during April, 1918. Two other brothers also served in the RFC. Yet another VC winner, needing no introduction, Lt. Col. William A. Bishop (awarded August 8, 1917) destroyed 72 aircraft while serving with 60 Sqd., RFC and 85 Sqd., RAF dur-

*Authors Cassidy and Creagen have been working on air ace research for ten years. Mr. Creagen is a Sergeant in the Canadian Army and Mr. Cassidy resides in England. Though both have similar interests in air-ace history, they have never met personally.

ing 1917-18. 47 of this total were scored while serving with the former unit. His son, Flt./Lt. Arthur W. A. Bishop, scored 3 1/2 victories while serving with the 403 Sqd., RCAF in the last war. "Billie" Bishop passed away on September 11, 1956 in Florida, having served his country again in World War II, attaining the rank of Air Marshal. With 56 Sqd., RAF, in France Major Gerald C. Maxwell, MC, DFC served with distinction, destroying 27 enemy aircraft before being assigned to duty in the United Kingdom. During World War II his younger brother, Sqd./ Ldr. Michael C. Maxwell, DSO, DFC flew Mosquito's with the 604 Night Fighter Sqd. under the command of G/Capt. John Cunningham, DSO, DFC, the night-fighter ace with 20 "kills". Sqd./Ldr. Maxwell with his Radarman (F/Lt. John Quinton) recorded the 100th victory for the 604th in June, 1944.

During the 1939-45 war a number of brothers on both sides flew with amazing courage and skill. One of the most successful brother acts in World War II (on the allied side) was that of the Dundas' in the Royal Air Force. Flt./Lt. John C. Dundas, DFC, fought in the Battle of Britain as a member of 609 Squadron, and is best remembered for his victory over a Messerschmidt (Me. 109) over the Isle of Wight on November 28, 1940. The pilot of the enemy plane, who was killed, was reported to be the commander of JG-2 (Richthofen) unit, Major Helmuth Wick. Unfortunately, Dundas never lived to know who his victim was as Wick's two wing men shot him down a few seconds later. So died two "aces" - Wick with 56 victories and John Dundas with 13 to his credit. His brother, G/Captain Hugh S. L. Dundas, DSO, DFC, also flew in the Battle of Britain, and later served under the leadership of another famous fighter-pilot, G/Captain Douglas R.S. Bader, DSO, DFC. He was the youngest Group Captain in the RAF at the time he was transferred to the Middle East. He finished the war with 11 enemy aircraft destroyed.

Two brothers, born in India, later serving in the Royal Air Force, had almost parallel careers during 1940. Both gained 6 victories, and each received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his skill and bravery while fighting in the Battle of Britain. On September 2, 1940 tragedy struck in rather unique and coincidental circumstances, when, during a fierce air battle near London a Spitfire from 43 Sqd. fell in flames - to be followed by a Hurricane of 85 Sqd. In the falling Spitfire was P/Officer Charles A. Woods-Scawen, while the Hurricane carried Flt./Officer Patrick P. Woods-Scawen to his death. Unknown to each other they fought and died in the same dogfight.

Famous as sportsmen in pre-war days, and equally famous in war, the three Irish Beamish brothers, Francis, Charles and George rose to high rank in the Royal Air Force. G/Captain Frances V. Beamish, DSO, DFC was in command of North Weald aerodrome during the Battle of Britain, and fought in that conflict through 1941. He was killed in action on March 24, 1942 with a confirmed list of 8 victories with another 7 probables. G/Capt. Charles Beamish, DFC also fought in the Battle of Britain and later served as a night-fighter pilot. The third brother held high office and finished the

war as Air Vice Marshal George R. Beamish, CB, CBE.

Outstanding for their exploits during the second World War were the four Donaldson brothers. Each received the Distinguished Service Order for his leadership and fighting ability while in command of a squadron. Sqd/Ldr. John Wm. Donaldson commanded the 263rd Gladiator Squadron in Norway during the Spring of 1940. He was killed in action - his brothers, Sqd./Ldr. Edward M. Donaldson and G/Captain Arthur H. Donaldson fought in the Battle of Britain, and survived the war. The fourth brother was G/Capt. Oliver R. Donaldson.

In the Luftwaffe during the 1939-1945 conflict there were the four Galland brothers; all of whom served at one time or another in JG-26. Oberst (later Lt. General) Adolph Galland, who commanded the unit for a time, scored 103 victories against the RAF and the USAAF. Major Wilhelm F. Galland also commanded this group, and scored 55 victories prior to his death on August 17, 1943. Before falling in combat on October 31, 1942, Lt. Paul Galland gained 17 enemy kills. Another brother was Lt. Fritz Galland. Also, very well-known in Germany were the Harder brothers - Major Jurgen Harder of JG-52 scored 64 Victories and was awarded the Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves. Hauptmann Harro Harder, his brother, fought in Spain where he gained 11 victories. He was killed in action while serving with JG-53 on September 13, 1940.

In passing mention must be made of the famous brother team during World War I, namely, the Germans: Rittmeister Manfred von Richthofen, "The Red Knight of Germany" and his younger brother, Ltn. Lothar von Richthofen. Between the two of them they accounted for 120 confirmed victories (80 and 40 respectively). A cousin, Ltn. Wolfram von Richthofen, gained 8 victories late in the war while serving with Jagdstaffel 11. He became a Field Marshal (Air Inspection Section) in World War II, and was killed in May, 1945.

<u>Aviators</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Aerial</u> <u>Victories</u>		<u>Relation-</u> <u>ship.</u>
		<u>WWI.</u>	<u>WWII.</u>	
Capt. Albert Ball, VC.	England	44		Brother
Lieut. Cyril Ball.	"	"		"
G/Capt. Charles Beamish.	Ireland.		-	Brother
G/Capt. Francis Victor Beamish.	"		8	"
A/V/M. George R. Beamish.	"		"	"
Major Allan D. Bell-Irving.	Canada	6		Brother
Major M. McBean Bell-Irving.	"	1		"
Major Richard Bell-Irving.	"	"		"
A/V/M. Wm. Avery Bishop, VC.	"	72		Father
F/Lt. Arthur W. A. Bishop	"		3 1/2	Son

<u>Aviators</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Aerial</u> <u>Victories</u>		<u>Relation- ship.</u> <u>Brother</u>
		WWI.	WWII.	
Hptm. Oswald Boelcke.	Germany	40		
Ltn. Wilhelm Boelcke.	"	-		"
I/Lt. Howard Burdick.	U.S. A.	7		Father
I/Lt. Clinton D. Burdick.	"		9	Son
Capt. James M. Child.	England	3		Brother
Lieut. J. E. Child	"	-		"
G/Capt. Arthur H. Donaldson.	"		5	Brother
S/Ldr. Edward M. Donaldson.	"		4	"
S/Ldr. John W. Donaldson.	"		3	"
G/Capt. Oliver R. Donaldson.	"		-	"
G/Capt. Hugh S. L. Dundas.	"		11	Brother
F/Lt. John C. Dundas.	"		13	"
Oberst Adolph Galland.	Germany		103	Brother
Major Wilhelm F. Galland	"		55	"
Ltn. Paul Galland.	"		17	"
Ltn. Fritz Galland.	"		-	"
Col. Dmitri B. Glinka.	Russia		38	Brother
Major Boris F. Glinka.	"		26	"
Hptm. Hermann W. Goring.	Germany	22		Uncle.
Ltn. Peter Goring.	"		1	Nephew.
W/Cdr. Reginald J. C. Grant.	N-Zealand		8	Brother
F/Off. Ian A. C. Grant	"		1	"
Major Jürgen Harder.	Germany		64	Brother
Hptm. Harro Harder.	"		11	"
Col. Harold E. Hartney.	Canada	6		Father
I/Lt. Harold E. Hartney, Jr.	U.S. A.		-	Son.
Col. Edward M. Haight.	U.S. A.	5		Father
I/Lt. Edward L. Haight.	"		-	Son
Lieut. P. Forsyth Heppell.	England	-		Father
F/Lt. W. E. Heppell.	"		5	Son.
A/M Sir Roderick M. Hill	"	1		Brother.
Lieut. Geoffrey T. R. Hill.	"	1		"

<u>Aviators</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Aerial</u> <u>Victories</u>		<u>Relation-</u> <u>ship.</u>
		WWI.	WWII	
S/Ldr. Francis Howard-Williams	England		4	Brother
S/Ldr. Peter I. Howard-Williams	"		4	"
Capt. Paul Thayer Iaccaci.	U.S. A.	18		Brother
Lieut. August Thayer Iaccaci.	"	11		"
Obltn. Max Immelmann.	Germany	15		Brother
Ltn. Franz Immelmann.	"	-		"
Lt. Hans Immelmann.	"	6		Cousin
F/Off. Edgar J. Kain	N-Zealand		14	Brother
S/Ldr. D. Kain	"		I	"
Hptm. Bruno Loerzer.	Germany	45		Brother
Ltn. Fritz Loerzer.	"	11		"
Lieut. George Madaets.	Belgium	2		Brother
Lieut. Maurice Madaets.	"	2		"
G/Capt. Adolph G. Malan.	S. Africa		32	Brother
P/Off. Francis Malan.	"		-	"
Major Gerald J. C. Maxwell.	England.	27		Brother
W/Cdr. Michael C. Maxwell.	"		3	"
CDR David S. McCampbell, CMH.	U.S. A.		34	Uncle.
CDR. Bert De Wayne Morris.	"		7	Nephew
Major James T. B. McCudden, VC.	England	57		Brother
Lieut. Anthony J. McCudden.	"	11		"
Major Keith Oxspring	England	16		Father
W/Cdr. Robert W. Oxspring.	"		12	Son
2/Lt. Norman Prince.	U.S. A.	5		Brother
Cpl. Frederick H. Prince, Jr.	"	-		"
Lt/Col. C. E. C. Rabagliati.	S. Africa	1		Uncle.
W/Cdr. Alexander C. Rabagliati.	"		5	Nephew
I/Lt. W. B. Rhodes-Moorhouse, VC.	England	-		Father
F/Lt. W. H. Rhodes-Moorhouse	"		5	Son

<u>Aviators</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Aerial Victories</u>		<u>Relation- ship.</u>
		WWI.	WWII	
Rittm. Manfred Frhr. von Richthofen.	Germany	80		Brother
Obltn. Lothar Frhr. von Richthofen.	"	40		"
Ltn. Wolfram Frhr. von Richthofen.	"	8		Cousin
Obltn. Gotthardt Sachsenberg.	Germany	31		Father.
Ltn. Heinz Sachsenberg.	"		104	Son.
Obstlt. Johannes Seifert.	"		54	Brother.
Ltn. Gerhard Seifert.	"		I	"
Ltn. Karl Emil Schäfer.	"	30		Brother.
Ltn. Hugh Schäfer.	"	11		Brother.
Capt. Sir R. M. R. Smith.	Australia.	9		Brother.
Capt. Keith Smith.	"	-		"
Major Frederick Sowrey	England	1 1/2		Father
W/Cdr. F. B. Sowrey	"		-	Son
Lt. John Sowrey	England	-		Father.
P/Off. J. A. F. Sowrey	"		-	Son.
S/Ldr. J. A. Sowrey	"		-	Son.
Capt. William Sowrey	"	-		Brother (J. Sowrey)
W/Cdr. Maurice M. Stephens	"		21	Brother.
F/Lt. John W. Stephens.	"		-	"
Lieut. L. P. Watkins.	"	I		Brother.
Capt. E. J. Watkins.	"	-		"
P/Off. Charles A. Woods-Scawen.	India		6	Brother.
F/Off. Patrick P. Woods-Scawen.	"		6	"
S/Lt. Maurice Challe.	France		10	Brother.
Capt. René Challe.	"		8	"