

No. 603 Squadron, R. Aux. A. F.,

Royal Air Force, Turnhouse,

Edinburgh, 12.,

Presentation of The Standard to No. 603 Squadron, R. Aux. A. F.

at Holyroodhouse on 30th June, 1955, at 11.30 a.m.

1. Her Majesty the Queen, Honorary Air Commodore of No. 603 Squadron, will present the Standard to the Squadron at the Palace of Holyroodhouse on Thursday, 30th June, at 11.30 a.m.
2. The award of this Standard was approved by His late Majesty King George VI on 15th January, 1952. The Standard is a ceremonial flag, awarded by order of the Monarch in each instance, to operational squadrons of the Royal Air Force, and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, with twenty five years continuous service.
3. Each Standard is hand-embroidered, the Squadron crest is surrounded by the battle honours of the unit concerned, on a pale background with a border of intricately worked national emblems of the British Isles. The Standard has a blue and gold fringe and is attached to a staff which is surmounted by a golden eagle.

No. 603 Squadron Battle honours are as follows: -

Home Defence, 1940 - 1942.
Battle of Britain, 1940.
Channel and North Sea, 1941.
Fortress Europe, 1941.
Malta, 1942.
Mediterranean, 1943.
Sicily, 1943.
South East Europe, 1943 - 1944.
France and Germany, 1945.

The last battle honour does not appear on the Standard as there is a limit of eight.

4. No. 603 Squadron was first formed in 1925, under the command of Squadron Leader J. A. McKelvie, A.F.C. Originally a day bomber squadron, the unit operated a wide variety of aircraft until it became a fighter Squadron in 1938. The unit was re-equipped with Spitfires, and on 16th October, 1939, shot down the first enemy aircraft of the war at Port Seton. The Squadron took part in the Battle of Britain, the defence of Malta, invasion of Sicily and other campaigns throughout the war. The Squadron shot down 250 enemy aircraft, and another 300 were probably destroyed or damaged.

The Squadron was reformed after the war initially with Spitfires, under the command of Squadron Leader G. K. Gilroy, D.S.O., D.F.C. Later, in 1952 when the R. Aux. A. F., was re-equipped with jet aircraft, No. 603 Squadron received Vampires which are the aircraft in current use.

5. Her Majesty the Queen, when Princess Elizabeth, accepted the appointment as Honary Air Commodore in June, 1951, she retained this appointment on her accession to the Throne. The Queen last visited the Squadron in 1951 when she presented the Lord Esher Trophy (an annual award to the best all-round auxiliary Squadron).

After the actual presentation of the Standard, the Squadron Commander, Squadron Leader R. A. Schofield will reply to the Queens' speech and present her/...

her with a jewelled brooch. The brooch is in the form of the old Squadron badge - that is a shield surmounted by an eagle, and is set in rubies and diamonds. Both past and present members contributed towards the cost of the brooch.

6. The Parade Arrangements: -

a). Fine weather.

i) The Queen will leave the Palace of Holyroodhouse at 11.30 a.m. (via the Equerries Corridor) and be escorted to the dais by the C. in C., Fighter Command, Air Marshal Sir Dermot A. Boyle, K.C.V.O., K.B.E., C.B., A.F.C.

ii) She will be received by the Royal Salute, i.e. National Anthem and present arms.

iii) The Consecration Service and the Blessing is then carried out by the Chaplains.

iv) The Queen will then present the Standard to the Standard Bearer, Flying Officer, J.D.A. Henshaw, and return from the piled drums to the dais for her speech, to which the Squadron Commander will reply and present the brooch.

v) The Standard is then marched back to the Squadron and received with a General Salute.

vi) The Squadron will then advance in Review Order and give a Royal Salute, followed by three cheers for H.M. Queen; the Squadron will then march off.

come and to meet the Royal Party.

vii) Spectators and Press members are requested not to leave their places until the Queen has entered the Royal Pavilion on completion of the parade.

viii) After the Queen has met the Royal Party, other members of the Squadron will be presented to the Queen in a circle formed by the High Constables of Holyrood.

ix) It is also possible that the Queen will be photographed with the Squadron personnel and this will take place after the presentations.

7. Time-Table (approximate)

i) All spectators and press to be seated or in position by 11.00 a.m.

ii) The Squadron will march on at 11.20 a.m.

iii) The Queen will arrive at the dais at 11.30 and the inspection, after the Royal Salute, will take approx. 8 - 10 mins.

iv) The Consecration and blessing of The Standard will occupy 10 minutes; the presentation which follows, and the two speeches will take 8 - 10 mins.

v) The whole parade from the arrival of Her Majesty until the march-past, will therefore take approx. 30 minutes.

8. The Press is also requested to abide by the briefing which will be given by the Air Ministry Information Office, Edinburgh. Especially the arrangements for circulating among guests etc., after the parade.

Rev.