## RAF PETERBOROUGH (WESTWOOD)

## Local civilians identified as being employed at RAF Peterborough in September 1939 through the 1939 Register.

I thought it would be interesting to look beyond the glamour of the RAF and see what local civilians were doing at the outbreak of war at our own Station. It did take all sorts to run an efficient Station.

With personnel at RAF Peterborough numbering around 800 to 1000 then you can see these names are just a tiny proportion of those numbers.

There is, of course, the caveat that it cannot be guaranteed that they are all Peterborough people. They could be here for a few reasons including being billeted for some reason. Further research will, no doubt, result in some names being removed while others may be added.

The 1939 Register provides the recording of the civilian population of England and Wales just after the outbreak of the Second World War.

The 1931 census for England and Wales was destroyed by fire during the Second World War and no census was taken in 1941, therefore the Register provides the most complete survey of the population of England and Wales between 1921 and 1951, making it a valuable resource for historians.

The 1939 Register was taken on 29 September 1939. The information was used to produce identity cards and, once rationing was introduced in January 1940, to issue ration books. Information in the Register was also used to administer conscription and the direction of labour, and to monitor and control the movement of the population caused by military mobilisation and evacuation.

Name	Birth	Address	Occupation given
Douglas T. W. BIRCHELL	14/08/1896	24 Abbey Road	Waiter
Horace BOYER	08/07/1908	584 Fulbridge Road	Officers Batman
William BROWNLEE	07/07/1900	26 Kent Road	Batman Officers Mess
Frederick CONWAY	25/09/1904	29 Kent Road	Senior Civilian Electrician
Albert Gordon CLOSE	03/09/1912	114 Peveril Road	Civilian Motor Driver
John T. DALTON	03/04/1915	31 Cromwell Road	Civilian Aero Engine Fitter
Harold DOWNARD	26/04/1898	121 Peveril Road	Head Steward &

			Caterer in the
			Officers Mess
Alfred GUBBINS	09/01/1898	64 Walpole Street	Waiter Officers
			Mess
Frederick HODGESS -	19/05/1904	55 Park Road	Chaplain to RAF
ROPER			Westwood
Leslie JOHNSON	19/04/1897	?	Civilian
			Draughtsman
James KETTLE	06/11/1882	13 South Parade	RAF Gate Warden
Arthur PLUMBLEY	23/01/1895	213 Lincoln	Civilian Aero
		Road, Werrington	Engine Fitter
Harry F. RICHARDSON	22/11/1899	15 Craig Street	Batman Officers
			Mess
Arthur RISELEY	16/05/1914	109 Gt Northern	Officers Batman
		Cottages	
Victor ROTHERY	11/05/1915	248 ?	Aircraft Rigger
Clement SANDERSON	13/05/1906	160 Newark	Building
		Avenue	Contractor
			engaged in
			extensive RAF
			expansion
Russell SCOTTER	23/05/1916		Aircraft Rigger
Thomas SHARPE	31/08/1902	69 Elmfield Road	Civilian Transport
			Driver
Frank SMITH	09/08/1914	193 Cromwell	Batman
		Road	
Harold THOMPSON	18/09/1897	190 Lincoln	Batman
		Road, Walton	
Samuel H. WATSON	25/09/1912	24 Fitzwilliam	Civilian Aero
		Street	Engine Fitter
Horace WHITELEY	15/08/1895	41 Stone Lane	Batman Officers
			Mess
David WILLIAMS	30/07/1909	45 Brook Street	Transport Driver

Hopefully more research to follow.

Below is a photo of my RAF Peterborough at Home - Battle of Britain day programme from the 15<sup>th</sup> September 1945.

## R.A.F. AT HOME AT PETERBOROUGH.

Saturday, 15th September,

2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

## SOUVENIR