

'Stirling to Essen' (The Story of the Godmanchester Stirling)

Fighting High Publications £19.99

(also available on Amazon and Waterstones websites)

This book tells the story of Matthew Drummond Henderson Wilson, a wealthy young man who enjoyed rallying cars in the 1930's, who joined the RAF and gained his wings in 1938. A man who served as a Ferry Pilot to front line Squadrons during the Battle of Britain, was a highly talented Flying Instructor, as well as a pilot on newly delivered American aircraft bound for the RAF and finally a test pilot on several aircraft adaptations.

In October 1941, he joined XV Squadron flying out of RAF Alconbury, the book covers in detail the work of XV from that point through to 11th April 1942, the morning of the Godmanchester crash. Describing in detail the raids they took part in, including the almost daily raids on the German Battleships moored at Brest, as well day to day activities.

Besides the bombs and bullets the story also reveals in depth the men behind the names, who they were, where they lived, their families and what became of them. Did they survive the turmoil of war, was fate kind to them, or did she turn her back?

In writing this book I have been constantly amazed at the stories that have come to light. The story of Drummond and his crew has connections with the Battle of Britain, the war in the Far East and even the Holocaust. The 250 pages tell this tale, the 60+ photographs enable us to connect with these men and their families.

Other chapters tell the story of an unarmed Avro Anson shot down over our town in 1944 and the crash of a Mosquito in January 1945, ensuring that those crews are also honoured.