

SP(BB)25 - Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey Stevens

After converting to Hurricanes, he joined 151 Squadron at North Weald on August 31. The squadron was about to move to Digby for a rest and Stevens volunteered for a squadron in the south. He was sent to Tangmere to join 213 Squadron. Stevens was shot down on October 17 and crashed just outside Ashford unhurt. In January 1941 213 was posted overseas but Stevens remained on the staff at RAF Castletown. He later went to No 1 AACU at Western Zoyland and then 2 AACU at Aberporth. In September 1942 he was posted to 59 OTU, Milfield as an instructor. Two months later he joined 609 Squadron. He went to North Africa in April and joined 253 Squadron at Jemappes. He was promoted and appointed 'A' Flight Commander. Stevens took command of 87 Squadron in Italy in September 1943.

Warrant Officer Geoff Stevens joined No. 151 Squadron at North Weald on 31st August 1940. When the squadron was due to be rested at RAF Digby, Stevens volunteered for a posting to No. 213 Squadron at Tangmere to stay in the fighting and on 17th October he was shot down near Ashford in Kent, luckily escaping injury. During the Battle of Britain he had shared in the destruction of one German aircraft and damaged another. Stevens remained on the staff at RAF Castletown, Caithness, Scotland, when 213 Squadron was sent overseas to Abu Sueir, Egypt on 11th May 1941, later joining No. 1 Anti Aircraft Cooperation Unit at Western Zoyland, Somerset, followed by No. 2 Anti Aircraft Co-Operation Unit at Aberporth in Wales. In September 1942 he was posted to No. 59 Operational Training Unit at RAF Milfield, Northumberland as an instructor. On 18th November 1942 he arrived on 609 Squadron with about 300 hours on Hurricanes, being posted in April 1943 to No. 253 Squadron in North Africa, where he was promoted and appointed 'A' Flight Commander, staying until September 1943 when he took command of 87 Squadron in Italy. The pair encountered mist, whereupon Stevens lost his way and landed with his wheels down in a clover field to the south of Sittingbourne in Kent, causing no damage at all to the new aircraft.

Stevens joined 151 Squadron in August 1940 and a few weeks later joined 213 Squadron and was shot down in October. He later served with 609 Squadron in 1942, and as a Flt Cdr with 253 Squadron in North Africa and went then Commanded 87 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey Stevens
Fighter Command Battle of Britain Hurricane Pilot

Born on August 21 1917, Stevens joined the RAFVR on July 5 1937 as an Airman u/t Pilot (740418). He did his elemental flying at 13 E&RFTS, White Waltham and later at 5 E&RFTS, Hanworth and 9 E&RFTS, Gatwick. Called to full-time service on September 1 1939, Stevens was posted to 8 FTS, Woodley for an instructor's course. In November he went to 3 ITW, Hastings and in mid-February 1940 moved to 15 FTS, Lossiemouth for a course on Harvards. On August 3 Stevens went to 6 OTU, Sutton Bridge and after converting to Hurricanes, he joined 151 Squadron at North Weald on August 31. The squadron was about to move to Digby for a rest and Stevens volunteered for a squadron in the south. He was sent to Tangmere to join 213 Squadron.

Stevens was shot down on October 17 and crashed just outside Ashford, in Hurricane V 6866, unhurt. In January 1941 213 was posted overseas but Stevens remained on

the staff at RAF Castletown. He later went to No 1 AACU at Western Zoyland and then 2 AACU at Aberporth. In September 1942 he was posted to 59 OTU, Milfield as an instructor. Two months later he joined 609 Squadron.

In January 1943 Stevens was commissioned from Warrant Officer. He went to North Africa in April and joined 253 Squadron at Jemappes. He was promoted and appointed 'A' Flight Commander. Stevens took command of 87 Squadron in Italy in September 1943. He was posted away in July 1944 and went to Egypt in October, eventually taking over the Fighter Affiliation Flight at Abu Sueir.

Stevens returned to the UK in December 1945 and was released from the RAF. He rejoined and was posted to 6 OTU, Keevil in March 1946. He was invalided out on May 4 1968, as a Flight Lieutenant.