

Squadron Leader **Paul Richey**, who had written the best selling book 'Fighter Pilot' about his experiences in the Battle of France back in 1940, a 1941 edition of which John himself owned. Richey had previously been a Flight Commander with the squadron at Biggin Hill in 1941 when it was commanded by his brother-in-law, Squadron Leader **Michael 'Robbie' Robinson**, before Richey was posted as 'Squadron Leader Tactics' to RAF Fighter Command at Bentley Priory. Under Richey's command, 609 Squadron became a part of the first Typhoon Wing to operate along with No.'s 56 and 266 (Rhodesian) Squadrons, overall command residing with **Wing Commander Denys 'Kill 'em' Gillam**. On 12th October Squadron Leader Richey was officially posted to become Wing Commander Fighter Operations at Headquarters Bengal Command in India, subsequently taking over No. 165 Wing at Comilla with its Hawker Hurricanes before commanding No. 188 Wing at Palel in the Imphal Valley, which consisted of 4 squadrons of Hurricanes fitted with bombs.

RICHEY, Paul Henry Mills, from Chelsea, London, joined the RAF in 1937 and was posted to 1 Squadron, flying Furies. He converted to Hurricanes, and in September 1939 was posted to France. He shot down a Bf109 on 29th March 1940, and on 10th May shared a Do17 with four other pilots. He got at least seven more victories during May, including two Bf110's in one fight, after which he was hit and forced to bale out, another Bf110 and a probable on another occasion, having to bale out again, and three He111's on 16th May, following which he was badly wounded in the face and arm and had to crash-land. He spent the rest of the Battle of France in hospital, returning to the United Kingdom in June, and receiving a DFC. He was unfit for operational flying until summer 1941, when he joined 609 Squadron as a flight commander, under his brother-in-law, Squadron Leader Michael Lister Robinson. He damaged a Bf109 on 27th June and on the 30th destroyed one and shared in probably destroying a second. On 4th July he damaged two more, and damaged another on the 10th. On the 11th he probably destroyed one and damaged another two, and was awarded a Bar to his DFC. On the 23rd he shot down another Bf109, bringing his score to at least 10¹/₅. The following month he was posted to command 74 Squadron, but returned to 609 as Commanding Officer in May 1942, now flying Typhoons. In October he was promoted to Wing Commander and was posted to the Far East, serving in Burma. Here he suffered from jaundice and appendicitis, and then from a tropical disease. After a year he was invalided back to the United Kingdom, but did not return to operational flying. After the war he became a journalist, and joined the RAuxAF. In 1950, at the time of the Korean crisis, the members of this force were called up for three months, and at this time he commanded 601 Squadron.

RICHEY, Paul Henry Mills, S/L, DFC (39757) - Croix de Guerre, Belgium - awarded as per London Gazette dated 4 November 1941.

RICHEY, Paul Henry Mills, W/C, DFC (39757) - Officer, Order of the Crown (Belgium) - awarded as per London Gazette dated 6 May 1949.