



# 300th SQUADRON

## *Commanders*

1 July 1940 W. Makowski 19 July 1941 S. Cwynar 27 Jan 1942 R. Sulinski 9 July 1942 W. Dukszt 1 Nov 1942 A. Kropinski 4 May 1943 M. Kucharski 19 Nov 1943 K. Kuzian 19 Jan 1944 A. Kowalczyk 2 Apr 1944 T. Pozyczka 2 Feb 1945 B. Jarkowski

## *Locations*

1 July 1940 Bramcote (Wawick) 22 Aug 1940 Swinderby (Lincs.) 18 July 1941 Hemswell (Lincs.) 22 June 1943 Ingham (Lincs.) 1 Mar 1944 Faldingworth (Lincs.)

## *Aircraft*

July 1940 Fairey Battle Oct 1940 Wellington IC Nov 1941 Wellington IV Jan 1943 Wellington III Apr 1943 Wellington X Mar 1944 Avro Lancaster

## **No. 300 (Polish) Squadron**

No. 300 Squadron was formed at Bramcote, Warwickshire, on 1st July 1940, as a bomber squadron. It was the first Polish-manned bomber squadron to form in the RAF and, oddly enough, most of its original crews had previously served in Polish fighter units. British advisers were attached to the squadron and it also had a British adjutant co-operating with his Polish opposite number; a few British technical specialists and a clerical staff for English correspondence were also attached.

The squadron was originally in No.6 (Training) Group, but in August 1941, transferred to No.1 (Bomber) Group and simultaneously made the first of what proved to be several moves during its career to RAF Swinderby, Lincolnshire. Beginning operations in mid-September 1940, with Battle aircraft, No. 300 later converted to Wellington ICs, IVs, IIIs and Xs in turn, and finally to Lancaster Is and IIIs. Over a span of 4 1/2 years it logged 3,684 operational sorties and dropped nearly 10,000 tons of bombs on enemy objectives. It attacked 133 cities and major targets, invasion landing craft concentrations, ports and harbours, shipyards and U-boat building yards, airfields, industrial objectives, flying-bomb dumps and launching sites, fortifications, concentrations of troops and Panzer divisions; and it also laid more than 1,400 mines in enemy waters. The squadron won 107 decorations, comprising 1 OBE, 1 BEM, 1 DSO, 1 MC, 63 DFCs, 1 DCM, 1 CGM, 1 MM and 37 DFMs.

When it had finished its offensive against the enemy No. 300 took part in Operation Manna - the dropping of food supplies to the Dutch (152 tons); Exodus - repatriation of British ex-POWs to Great Britain; Dodge - the transport of British troops from Italy to Great Britain; and the carrying of Red Cross supplies for liberated Poles in German concentration camps.

