



Quick User Guide

Squadron Aircrew and Operations Information – Web-Site Reports



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Introduction

Over the last few years some effort has been put into getting Squadron information available to a wider audience.

Summarising what has been, and is still being, done:

- The 550 Squadron Operations Record Book (ORB) is being digitised.
- The RAF North Killingholme Station ORB is also available and is being used to complement the Squadron ORB information.
- Photos, log books, personal recollections, etc, from family and friends of aircrew has been combined with the ORBs and is yielding a rich source of information about the Squadron.
- All available online from the Association web-site, as “reports” (on aircrew, operations or aircraft).
- This document outlines how to access that information easily, especially showing how it can be used to produce “tailored” results.

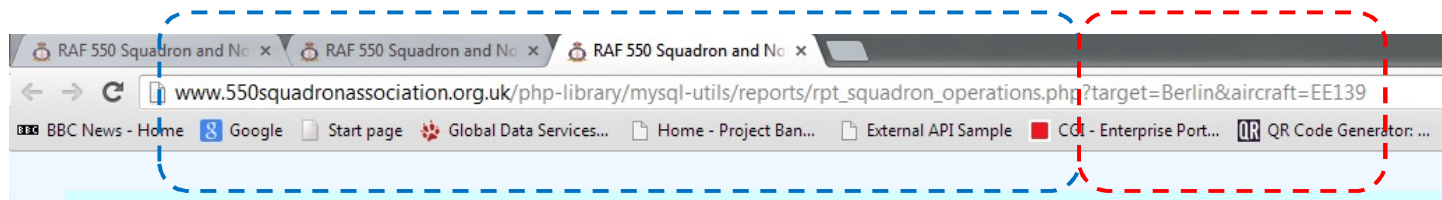
Two important points to note.

1. The user interface is fairly basic because priority is being given to getting the data entered. Nonetheless the web-page can still be used to produce “reports” on specific airmen, operations or aircraft. A future aspiration, once the bulk of the data is entered, is to make the user interface easier to use.
2. The process of entering all the information from the Squadron ORB is not yet complete. It is estimated that details of the majority of the air crew are now entered (at the time of writing ca. 1770 personnel). But the completion of operations details (including the linking of individual aircrew to specific aircraft on specific operations) is probably at the 50-60% mark. Therefore the reports displayed will still show gaps; but the task is on-going and hopefully will be completed in the not too distant future.

The Basics

Reports: The reports are run at the time the user clicks the link and they are reporting on data in a database (hidden “under the covers” so to speak); this means that the user always see the latest information. If the user were to come back the next day and select the same link again and information has been added in the interim then the report will automatically see that latest information. The web-page reports the last time the database was updated so it is always possible to know how fresh the data is.

URI: the web-page address in the line at the top of a web-page - as shown below.



[URI: Uniform Resource Identifier. Fancy name: a means to identify a web-resource, in this case a specific web-page.]

The section inside the blue dashed line (ending in “.php”): should not be altered – this is the name of the report to be run.

The section inside the red dashed line (i.e. after the “?”): can be altered by simply typing over to help you narrow down a database search. Simply type in text to change the name of the [target](#), or [aircraft](#), to whatever you wish to find out information about.

Some reports, as in the above example, can produce results on a combined search; reports with more than one possible search parameter will have an ‘&’ in the line as a “separator”.

The ‘?’ and the ‘&’ are important; do not type over them.

The user cannot (i.e. should not) change the words the search keywords [target](#), or [aircraft](#), but the actual target or aircraft can be changed [Berlin](#) to [Hamburg](#) (etc.) and [EE139](#) to [LM273](#) (etc.). Stick to these simple rules and the report will generate results pertinent to the query.

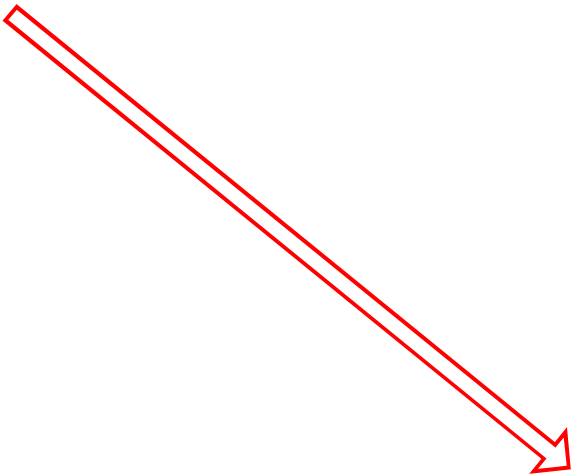
The added benefit of more targeted searches: a more restricted search returns data to the screen more quickly.

If you make a mess of it – no damage done! Just go back to the main reports page and try again.

On the following pages guidance for each report with details on what can be entered in the available places.

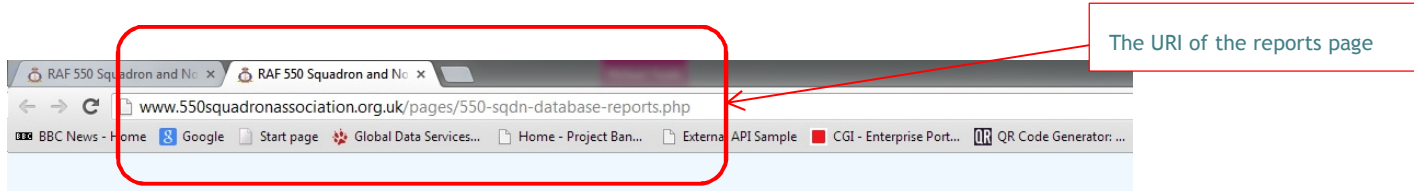
Main Page Link

The screenshot shows a website main page with a grid of links. A red box highlights the 'Service Men and Operations' link, which includes a photo of a group of men in uniform. Other links include '550 Squadron Reunions over the years', 'Remembrance Sunday 2011', 'Museum and Newsletter', 'St Denys' Church', 'Log Books', 'Photos', and 'The Phantom of the Ruhr - 2007 Unveiling'. On the right side, there is a 'Latest Site Updates' section with news items from 20/06/2013, including 'Operation Dodge aircrash 6th Oct 1945: Pomigliano' and 'This ops racket isn't so hot; I rather think there's no future in it personally.' by Jimmy Trayhorn (A/G) (KIA). There is also a handwritten note and a 'Bomber to swoop over the area' announcement.



Launches the “reports” web-page.
See next page.

Reports Page



550 SQUADRON INFORMATION

Squadron Records

Below are links to a number information reports about 550 Squadron operations, airmen and aircraft. The information used to build this page was taken in the first instance from the lists provided on the original Squadron Association web-site, but have been augmented by updated and new information collected since that time. The information about the men, and the operations they flew, is being migrated into a database in order to aid consistency checks of the information and make the generation of a wide variety of reports easier.

While every attempt has been made to present accurate and correct information there are undoubtedly omissions and errors. If you spot any such errors do please email in your observations, if possible providing the correction information if you know it. Many thanks in advance for your assistance in providing as accurate a record as possible of the Squadron activities and the men who served their country.

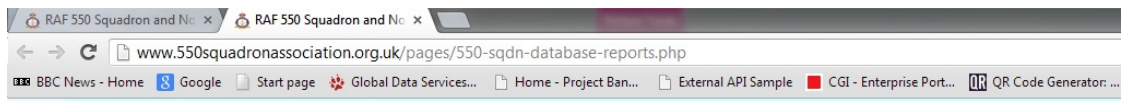
Information Available

There are now **1737** service men listed in the online record, and the numbers of aircrew and operations records in the database are growing.

SERVICEMEN: 1737 OPERATIONS/RAIDS: 235 OPERATIONAL FLIGHTS: 3013

(Last updated: 23 June 2013 @ 08:35:10)

The last time the database was updated is noted



Squadron Operations

Link	Description
Squadron Operations	List of operations flown by 550 Squadron. Where available additional information and links to other sites. This list continues to grow and generates a very large report - you may want to consider one of the options below to produce a more manageable, smaller, list.
Squadron Operations (specific target)	List of operations flown by 550 Squadron to a specific target (e.g. Bremen). Where available additional information and links to other sites. To generate an alternative list just replace the text in the web-browser address line after the "target=" (Bremen) to the target of your choice.
Squadron Operations (specific aircraft)	List of operations flown by a specific 550 Squadron aircraft (e.g. DV306). Where available additional information and links to other sites. To generate an alternative list just replace the text in the web-browser address line after "aircraft=" to the aircraft service number of your choice.
Squadron Operations (specific target and specific aircraft)	List of the operations flown by a single aircraft to a specific target (e.g. operations by EE139 against Berlin). Where available additional information and links to other sites. To generate an alternative list just replace the text in the web-browser address line after "target=" and after "aircraft=" to the target and aircraft service number of your choice. Target and aircraft can be in any order but the "?" and "=" are important!

Lower half of web-page with different reports in each sub-section.

With examples of how to use to get more "targeted" result.

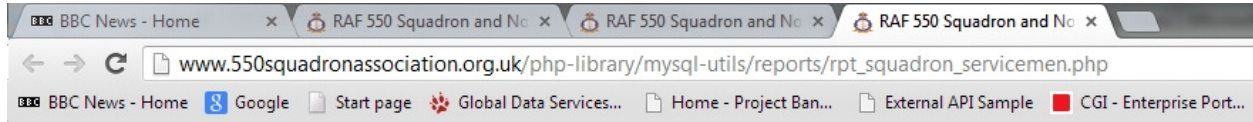
The following page will show examples.

Squadron Personnel

Link	Description
Squadron Servicemen	List of servicemen that flew with 550 Squadron. Where available additional information and links to other sites.
Squadron Servicemen (with specified service/air force)	NEW 01/06/2011 List of servicemen that flew with 550 Squadron, by service (e.g. RNZAF). To generate an alternative list just replace the text in the web-browser address line after the "service=" to the service of your choice (use one of RAF, RAAF, RCAF, RNZAF, USAF, WAAF). Where available additional information and links to other sites.
Squadron Servicemen (with specified surname)	NEW 01/06/2011 List of servicemen that flew with 550 Squadron, by surname.

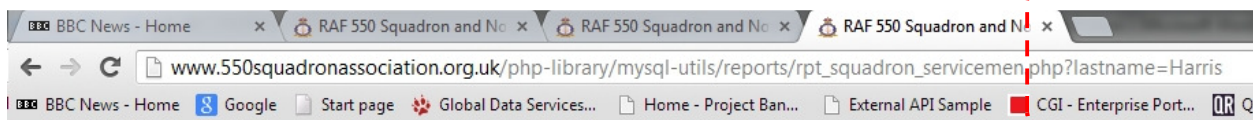
Squadron Service Men Report

Main (full report) – The complete list of service personnel currently in the database. Takes a while to load now because more than 1800 service personnel are now listed in the database.

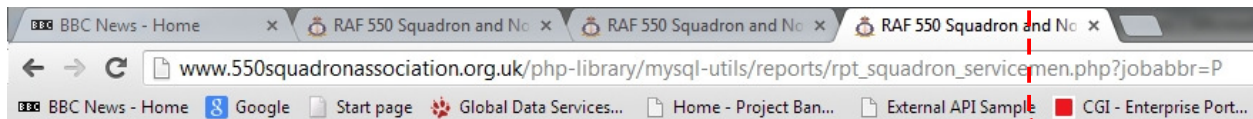


Reduce the report to manageable portions by searching on **lastname**, **service** (RAF, RAAF, etc) or **jobabbr** (P, Nav, F/Eng, etc)), or by using combinations of two. As shown below:

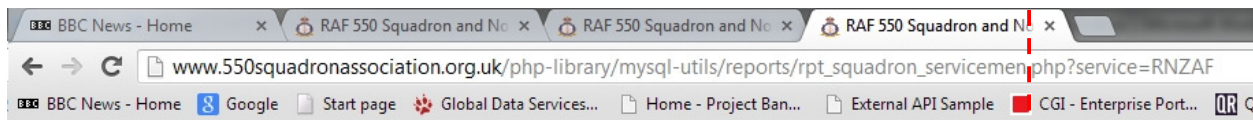
Return all the service personal with the surname “Harris”



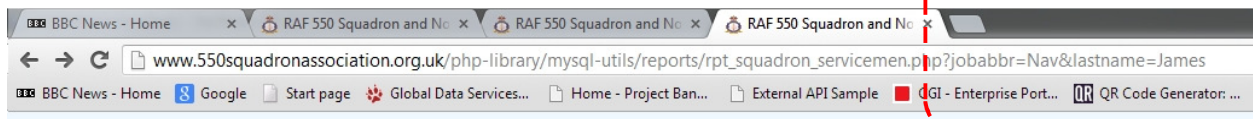
Return all the Pilots (or use Nav, F/Eng, A/B, W/Op, MU/AG, R/AG, A/G):



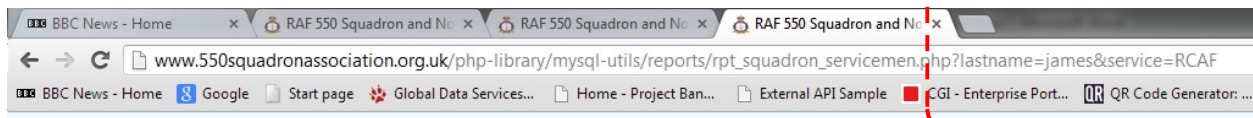
Return all the service personal in the RNZAF (or use RAF, RAAF, RCAF, USAAF, WAAF, TAVR):



Return all the service personal with the surname “James”, and who were Navigators:



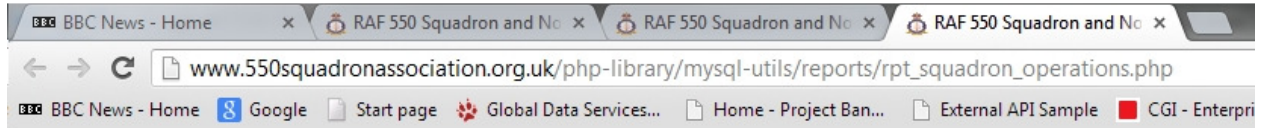
Return all the service personal with the surname “James”, and who were in the RCAF:



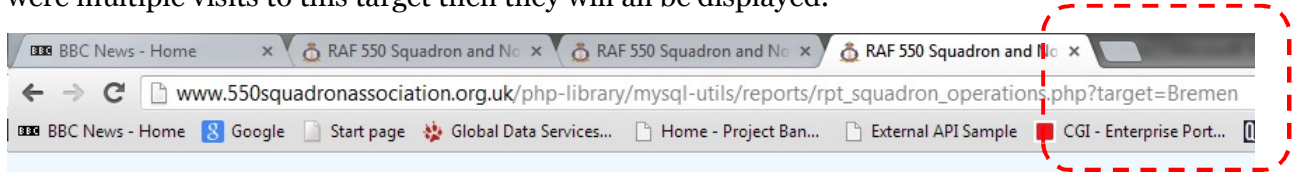
Key search words: **lastname**, **service** and **jobabbr**

Squadron Operations Report

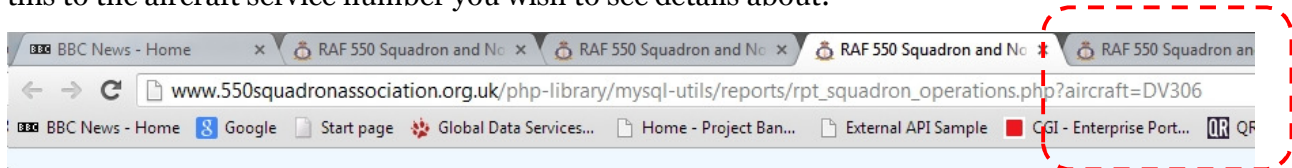
Main (full report) – The complete list of operations currently in the database. This takes a while to load now because a very large number of operations are retrieved along with their associated aircraft and crews.



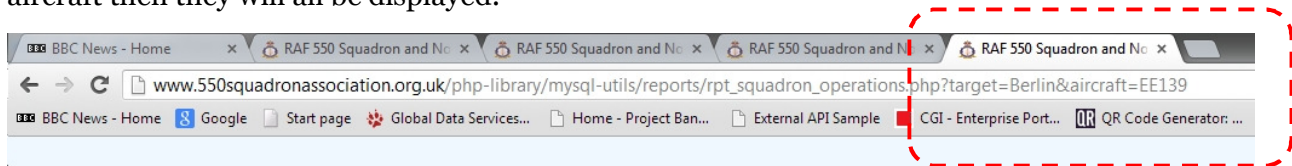
Return information only about specific target. The [target=Bremen](#) generates this list. Adjust this to the target (Berlin, Hamburg, Maily, etc etc) you wish to see details about. Note that if there were multiple visits to this target then they will all be displayed:



Return information only about a specific aircraft. The [aircraft=DV306](#) generates this list. Adjust this to the aircraft service number you wish to see details about:



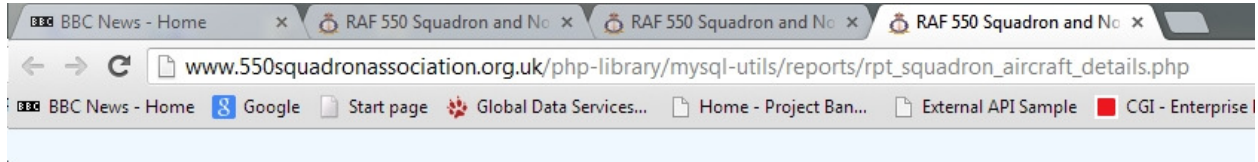
Return information about specific target and a specific aircraft. The [target=Berlin](#) and [aircraft=EE139](#) combination generates this list. Adjust these to the target and aircraft service number you wish to see details about. Note that if there were multiple visits to this target by this aircraft then they will all be displayed:



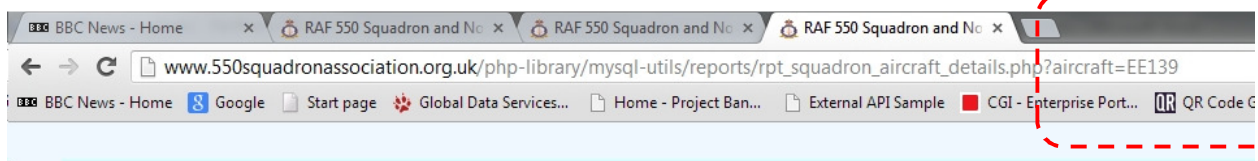
Key search words: [target](#) and [aircraft](#)

Squadron Aircraft Report

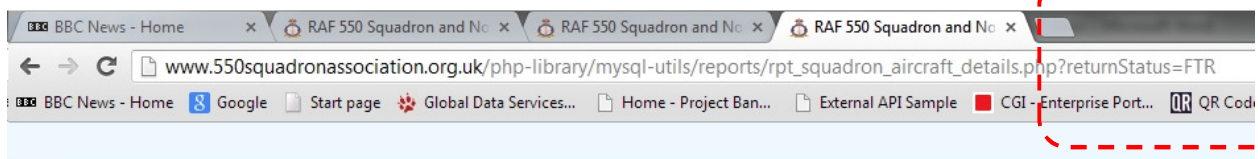
Main (full report) – return information on all 550 Squadron aircraft.



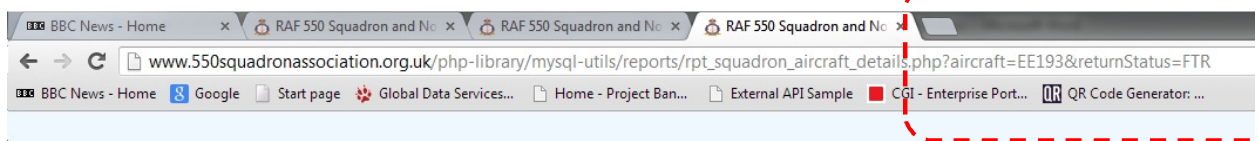
Return information on a specific aircraft, e.g. EE139:



Return information only on aircraft that Failed To Return. The `returnStatus=FTR` generates this list:



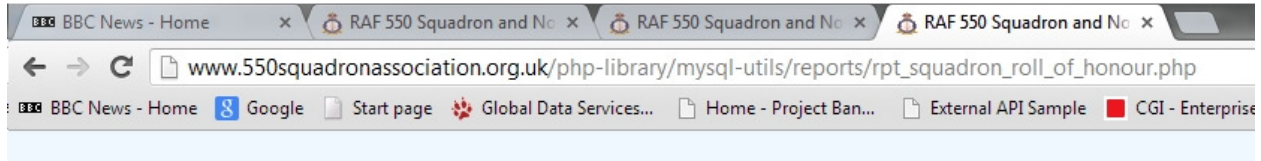
Return information on a specific aircraft that Failed To Return, e.g. EE193. The `aircraft=EE193` and `returnStatus=FTR` combination generates this list:



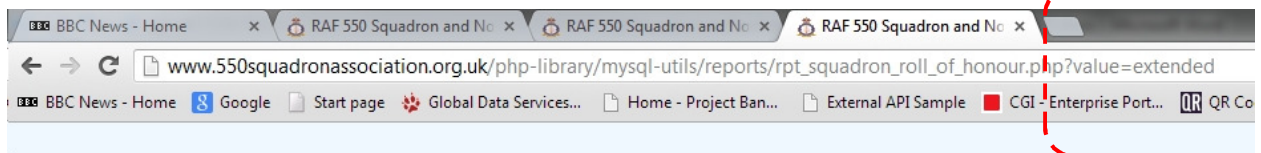
Key search words: `target` and `returnStatus`

Roll of Honour

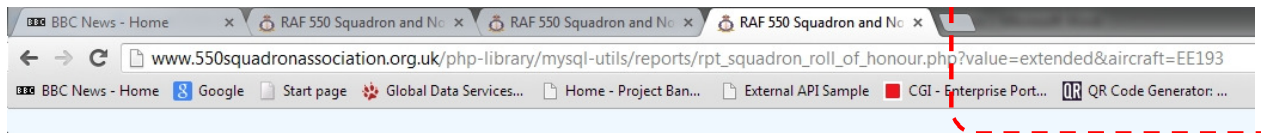
Main (full report) – returns the full list of aircrew lost on operations.



The same list as above but with more detailed information about each service man. The `value=extended` generates this list.



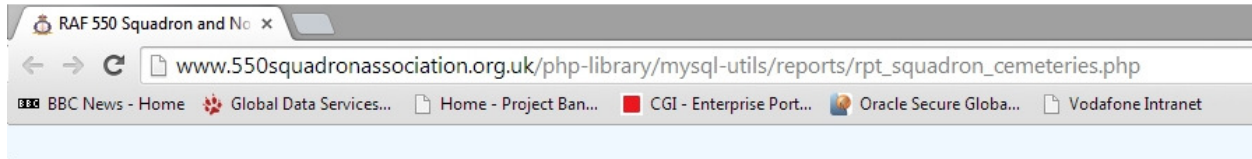
Return the detailed service man information for a specific lost aircraft. Uses the `value=extended` along with the `aircraft=<service number>`:



Key search words: `value` and `aircraft`

Cemeteries Report

Main (full report) - contains the alphabetical list of cemeteries, and other sites (e.g. Runnymede), where the aircrew of No. 550 Squadron who gave their lives while the Squadron was on operations are buried or remembered.



Association Newsletter Report

Main (full report) - contains the list of all of the Association Newsletters since formation of the Association.

NB: that online only this summarized version of the newsletters is available, as the actual documents contain private information such as contact names and addresses of members which is not made publically available.

