

Woolley Frank Geoffrey (RAF n°105174)

Distinguished Flying Cross with Bar, Air Force Cross,  
1939-1945 Star, Air Crew Europe Star, Defence Medal, War Medal,  
The recipient's King's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air Certificate,



(Picture Kindly provided by Juan Antonio Enrich from Roberto Muls Album)

Born in Ilkeston on 1 June 1922. Joined the RAFVR in Singapore in July 1940. Served briefly with 4 AACU. Posted to Iraq in September and started training with 4 SFTS in October 1940. Commissioned from Leading Aircraftsman as a Pilot Officer (on probation) wef 29 March 1941 he was confirmed as a PO and promoted FO (war substantive) wef 29 March 42 and to Flt Lt (war substantive) wef 29 March 1943. Earned first DFC for his posting with 244 Squadron flying Vickers Vincents in Iraq in May 1941. Left Iraq in April 1942, being posted to South Africa. Sent to the UK later in the year and attended 57 OTU. Posted to 132 Sqn in January 1943. Flew with 602 (City of Glasgow) Squadron, November 1943, posted briefly to HQ, ADGB, joining the Fighter Leaders School until October 1944 when he moved to 83 GSU. Posted to 41 Squadron on 13 January 1945, then, in the involuntary, absence of "Terry" Spencer, became CO of 350 (Belgian) Squadron between 27 February 1945 till 15 April 1945 and later the 130 (Punjab) Squadron that he commanded from 15 April 1945 till July 1946. A Bar to his DFC was announced on 24 July 1945 to Sqn Ldr F.G. Woolley, DFC, 130 (Punjab) Squadron. In February 1947 his rank was adjusted from Flt Lt (war substantive) to Flt Lt with seniority from 1 September 1945. Frank Woolley died in a plane crash on a flying course at Manby, 28 November 1959.

Awarded DFC on 15 July 41, citation as follows:

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Pilot Officer Frank Geoffrey WOOLLEY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 244 Squadron.

*"In May 1941, one of our aircraft crashed during an attack on an armoured train in enemy territory. In spite of difficult ground, Pilot Officer Woolley landed his aircraft beside the wreckage and picked up the injured pilot and airman. Enemy forces, who had detrained, came towards his aircraft but Pilot Officer Woolley took off over the bad ground with five injured crew and flew safely back to his base. By his prompt and gallant action, Pilot Officer Woolley undoubtedly prevented these airmen from falling into the hands of the enemy and enabled the pilot to receive the medical attention he*

*so urgently needed."*

Awarded a Bar to the DFC on 24 July 1945, citation as follows:

*"Since the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, this Officer has completed a large number of operational sorties including dive-bombing operations, fighter sweeps, escorts and armed reconnaissances, and has destroyed four enemy aircraft and damaged a further two in air combat. On ground attack sorties he has destroyed or damaged 77 assorted pieces of enemy transport often in spite of heavy opposition from enemy ground defences. Squadron Leader Woolley's courageous leadership and cheerful devotion to duty have contributed in no small way to the outstanding success of his Squadron."*

(source: Allan Hillman)

His claims are :

02/07/1944	1 FW-190 Damaged	(602 Sqn) 5m S Cabourg
14/02/1945	1 FW-190D Probable	(41 Sqn) Rheine Area
13/03/1945	1 ME-109	Rheine Area
22/04/1945	1 BF-108	(130 Sqn) Wismar
25/04/1945	1 SI-204	(130 Sqn)
30/04/1945	1 FW-190	(130 Sqn) Schweriner Meer

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