

MR THATCHER

RAF Biggin Hill - 40th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Britain - Sunday 21st September 1980

1. You will remember that we had a word about this last week.
2. Herewith a copy of my letter to Ivor Stanbrook.
3. Also herewith original letter dated 18th July from Wing Commander Myers, to which is attached a copy of your letter to him dated 20th March 1980
4. Subject to your approval, I have in mind to reply to the Wing Commander that the position is as set out in your letter dated 20th March 1980.

Ian Gow

22nd July 1980

From Wing Commander J R Myers LLB RAF



Royal Air Force
Biggin Hill
Westerham
Kent TN16 3EJ

Biggin Hill 73201 ext 300

BH/1004/1/1/Org

Ian Gow Esq
PPS to the PM
10 Downing Street
London SW1

18 July 1980

Dear Mr Gow

RAF BIGGIN HILL 40TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION
OF THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN: SEPTEMBER 1980

Our local MP, Mr Ivor Stanbrook, has forwarded to me a copy of your note to him about Denis Thatcher's service at RAF Biggin Hill during 1940 with a detachment of the 34th Battalion of Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. I am enclosing a copy of a letter I received from Mr Thatcher 4 months ago, when he seemed to indicate that he did not serve here during the Battle of Britain.

If Mr Thatcher was at RAF Biggin Hill at any time from July to October 1940, of course, we would be highly delighted if he would accept an invitation to attend our Reunion on 21 September to mark the 40th anniversary of the Battle; I attach a summary of the provisional programme for the day.

Perhaps you would be good enough to advise me.

Yours sincerely
D. Stanbrook

RAF BIGGIN HILL REUNION

BATTLE OF BRITAIN SUNDAY - 21 SEPTEMBER 1980

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

1100 Hangar Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication
(Guest Preacher: Archbishop of Canterbury)

1230 approx Buffet Lunch

1350 Spitfire/Hurricane Flypast

1400-1730 Flying Display on Civil Airfield

1800 Beating of Retreat

1830-1930
approx RAF Gang Show Concert

*During the day an exhibition of photographs and other memorabilia will be on view in the hangar and a Festival of Flowers in St George's Chapel of Remembrance will display flowers from all the Allied countries participating in the Battle of Britain.

DENIS THATCHER
10 DOWNING STREET

E 12
A-D

20 March

My dear Brigadier Commander,

Thank you for your
letter of 13 March.

I must not fly
under false colours. I
was not at 'Boggy'
during the July - Oct 40
period. It is true
I was on the 'Army Board'
as a subaltern in the

—1.—

24th P.O. (R.B.K.) Bw.
around Jan - March of
40 but stayed no
part in the great
historic days of that
summer

I am most flattered
you should have
invited me but it
will be so personal
an occasion that

10 DOWNING STREET

those who did not
seem have with
claim as right
to see you - "Forty
Years on".

You will have a
wonderful day and
those of us who
remember will hear
again those immortal

words, " Never so
much was owed ...

With all good
wishes for your
great so-union and
my thanks

Yours sincerely,
D. H. H. H.

10th July, 1980

Many thanks for your letter of 23rd June.

I have had a word with Denis Thatcher.

He confirms that he was stationed at R.A.F. Biggin Hill for about six weeks during the War. Denis thinks that it was in 1940, but he cannot be absolutely certain about this.

I hope that this gives you the information that you need. If not, please let me know.

Ian Gow

Ivor Stanbrook, Esq., M.P.



14
23rd June 1980

Dear Ian

When I saw Denis Thatche at George Gardner's party recently I remembered that the Adjutant of RAF Station Biggin Hill, who is enquiring a re. union of everyone stationed at Biggin Hill during the War, had asked me whether a certain "Lieut Denis Thatche" served in one of their units as an Army officer attached to Biggin Hill was indeed our Denis.

I thought Denis said he was — rather that he had indeed seen an Army Band connected with RAF Station Biggin Hill in 1939-40.

I so informed the Adjutant, who however now tells me that he went to our Denis who went back, by hand, saying he had never been stationed at Biggin Hill.

If there is any chance, tactfully, of clearing the matter up I wonder if I could respectfully seek your good offices to do so?

Yours sincerely
Ivor

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A. Williamson.

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