

Paddy Dalzell



Association member Paddy Dalzell has died aged 89. Paddy flew with the Tigers in 1944 and 1945. D Day was relatively uneventful for the squadron flying as they did a series of unopposed sorties in concert with many other squadrons over the invasion beaches. Patrols over the beach-heads after D Day in their invasion striped Spitfires were often lengthy and at least one Tiger force landed due to lack of fuel. Of all the squadron's pilots at this time Paddy came off worst when he was hit by flak over Caen whilst providing air cover for friendly troops. He managed to glide back over the Allied lines but crash landed between posts set up to stop glider landings. His aircraft was written off and Paddy was injured and after a few days he was returned to England by American LST. Back on the squadron towards the end of 1944 Paddy proved himself adept at V1 hunting, claiming three destroyed in the air whilst 74 were operating from Duerne.

Photo: Taken at Schijndel in 1945, On the back row, left to right, are Paddy Dalzell, Dave Davis and Len Preston and on the front Pat Peet and Hugh Murland.