

Francis Bennion's 1941 RAF Training Course at St. Andrews University

by Francis Bennion

I was on the same 1941 RAF aircrew course at the University of St Andrews as Fred Parrott's school friend (see letter 5 August 2011). The courses were for six months rather than a year, and they were not degree courses. At the end I received two Second Class Certificates of Merit in what was described by the University as the Air Force Training Scheme, 1941. The subjects were "Electricity & Magnetism" and "Junior R. A. F. Mathematics".

I was recently informed by the authorities that of the 55 aircrew cadets on my course (the first) only 29 apart from me survived the war. The survivors would have been far fewer if we had been doing the course a year earlier.¹

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References:

¹ Published in *The Times Literary Supplement* (TLS) 12 August 2011.