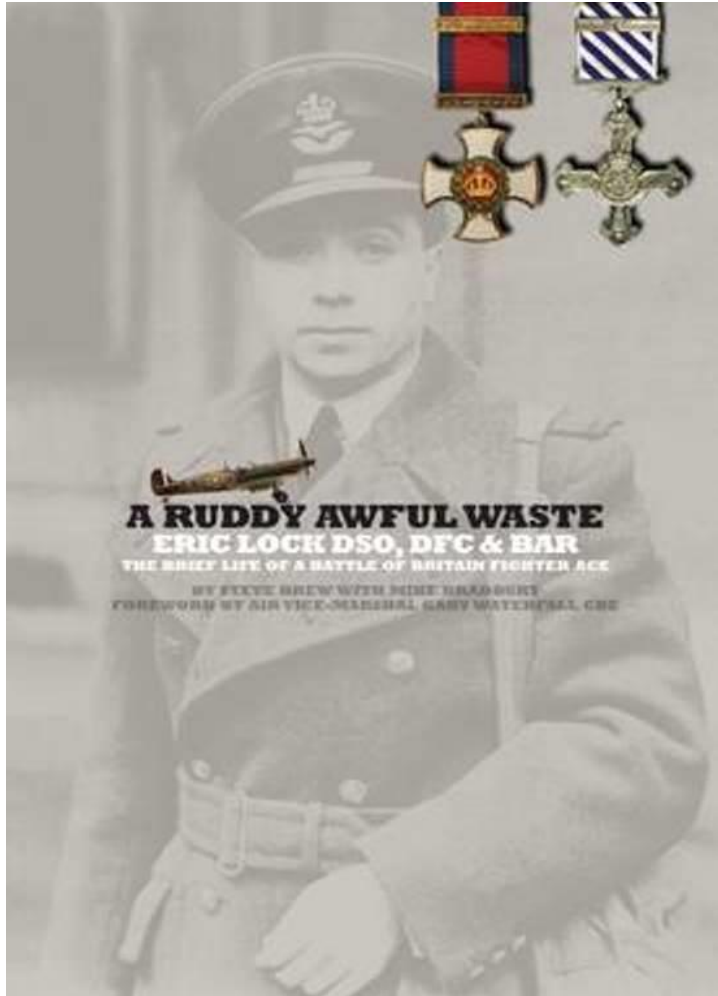


## “A Ruddy Awful Waste”



“A Ruddy Awful Waste” - so reads the entry in 611 Sqn ORB on 14 July 1941

In early 1939, 19-year-old Salopian Eric Lock joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve to fulfil his dream of flying. Within eighteen months, he was pitted against one of the largest air forces in the world, fighting for the survival of his homeland in a pivotal battle that, if lost, would change the course of world history. He was posted to his first operational unit, 41 Squadron, in late June 1940, just prior to the Battle of Britain. Lock became an Ace within four weeks of his first operational sortie. During September 1940, he even maintained a 100 per cent strike rate: one victory for every operational sortie flown.

He was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross in September 1940, a second in October, and a Distinguished Service Order in November. He claimed 20 confirmed victories during the Battle of Britain, and was the top-scoring RAF Ace of the campaign.

Lock was seriously wounded in action in November 1940. Hit in three limbs by rounds fired from a German fighter, he spent the ensuing six months recuperating, and underwent three skin grafting operations performed by gifted plastic surgeon Sir Archibald McIndoe.

He returned to front line operations with 611 Squadron in summer 1941, but sadly failed to return from a routine patrol to France just six weeks later. “A Ruddy Awful Waste” is the definitive account of the short life of this very brave young man, and cements his place as one of Britain's true national heroes.

ISBN: 9780993415234

Publisher: Fighting High Ltd

In July 2016, the book will be available from Waterstones and proceeds will be donated to the Shrewsbury RAFA Branch