



# Ministry of Defence

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Ref. FOI2014/04317  
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You have requested, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the names and ranks of the 133 flyers who took part in the Dambusters attack of 1943. Your request has been handled in accordance with FOIA procedures.

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence has this information but that it is withheld from release under Section 21 of FOIA as it is already freely available in the public domain. Section 21 permits us to withhold information which is already readily accessible to the public. Two sources of the information you have requested are:

1. The Operations Record Book of 617 Squadron held by the National Archives and available on line at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk). The ORBs document the activities of the units concerned including flying sorties by aircrew (who are listed as crews) together with the aircraft involved. It is also possible to order copies of documents or employ private researchers who can undertake the work. A list of these researchers is available on the National Archives website by following the link through Records or on request from their Search Department. Fees will be charged by the researchers.
2. Commercial publications such as *Operation Chastise* by John Sweetman.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.