

PRE-GREECE

Alec Bowditch, Royal Air Force, 33 Squadron

No specific data ref. A/C? Bowditch. Some “parallel” clues may be found in the Archives of fellow 33 Squadron members Trevor Tilman and Matthew Marley. The Squadron history on Wikipedia states:

“Second World War

Equipped initially with the Gloster Gladiators they had used in Palestine, the Squadron claimed its first victories of the Second World War on 14 June 1940 while supporting the British army's operations for the capture of Fort Capuzzo (Lybia) when the squadron shot down an Italian Caproni Ca 310 and a Fiat CR 32. It suffered its first losses of the war five days later in a combat with Fiat CR 42s, with one Gladiator being shot down in exchange for two Fiats. The squadron re-equipped with Hurricanes in October 1940, allowing it to intercept the Italian SM 79 bombers, which were faster than the Gladiators. It was withdrawn from the desert fighting in January 1941, in order to help resist the Italian invasion of Greece.”



33 Squadron pilots and their Gladiators



Caproni Ca 310



Fiat CR 32



Fiat CR 42



Savoia Marchetti
SM 79