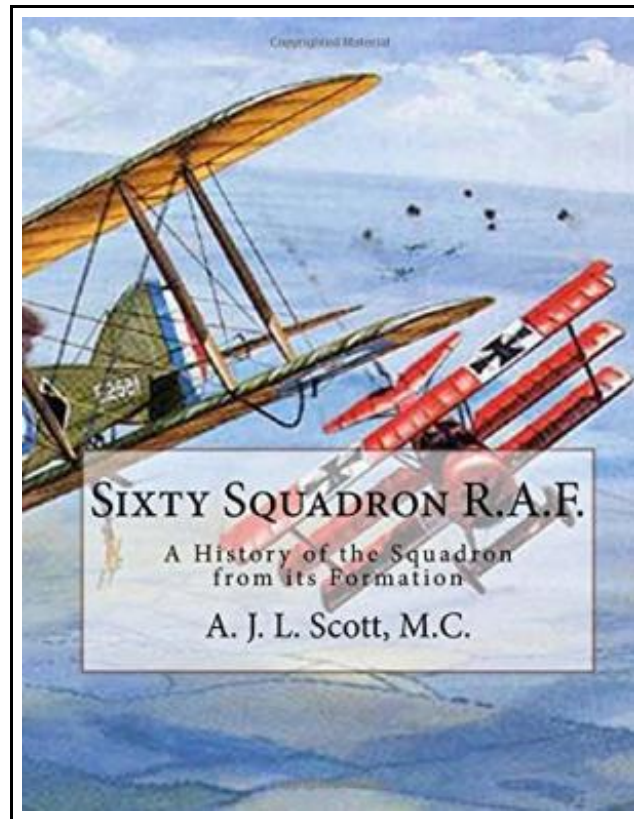


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SIXTY SQUADRON R.A.F.: A HISTORY OF THE SQUADRON FROM ITS FORMATION



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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2016. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 279 x 216 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.No. 60 (Reserve) Squadron of the Royal Air Force was formed in 1916 at Gosport. It is currently part of the Defence Helicopter Flying School based at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire. The Squadron crest is a markhor's head and was approved by King George VI in December 1937. Chosen to commemorate many years of service in North-West India, the markhor being a mountain goat frequenting the Khyber Pass. The horns of a markhor were presented to the Squadron in 1964. The Squadron motto is *Per ardua ad aethera tendo* - I strive through difficulties to the sky. Formed at Gosport on 30 April 1916, barely a month had passed before the unit and its Morane-Saulnier Ns were despatched to France. The squadron's initial pilot officers included Harold Balfour and Peter Portal, later Under-Secretary for Air and Chief of the Air Staff respectively, while Robert Smith-Barry, later to revolutionise British pilot training, was a flight commander and (from July to December 1916), the squadron's commanding officer. After suffering heavy losses during the Battle of the Somme, the Squadron re-equipped with Nieuport Scouts and soon acquired a first-class reputation for itself. On 2 June 1917, Captain WA Billy Bishop received the Victoria Cross for his solo attack on a German aerodrome destroying three enemy aircraft in the air and several probables on the ground before returning unhurt in a badly damaged aircraft. A month later, S.E.5 fighters arrived and these remained with the Squadron until it was disbanded on 22 January 1920. The squadron claimed 320 aerial victories. Twenty-six flying aces served in the squadron during the war; notable among them were: Albert Ball - Victoria Cross winner Alexander...



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