



SPEAKER INFORMATION

LES MILLGATE

<i>Speakers Name:</i>	Les Millgate		
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<i>Sp-E-mail address:</i>	les.millgate@ntlworld.com		
<i>Lecture Titles</i>	• History of Duxford Airfield		
<i>Lecture Cost</i>	Donation to Duxford		
<i>Travelling Distance</i>	negotiable	<i>Travel Expenses</i>	negotiable
<i>Availability</i>	Most		
<i>Equipment Needed</i>			
<i>Add-information:</i>	<p>Les is a very enthusiastic guide at IWM Duxford</p> <p>Les Millgate talks on the early days of Duxford, which was established as a flying training station for the Royal Flying Corps in 1917. Its establishment as a fighter base in the 1920's, with aircraft such as Bulldogs, was followed in the 1930's with a major building programme and, with the build-up to WW2, the formation of the first Spitfire Squadron in 1938.</p> <p>With the outbreak of WW2, Duxford was a sector station of 12 Group, defending the Midlands and the East Coast, with an assortment of aircraft including Hurricanes, Blenheim Mk 1F, and Spitfires. Duxford also played host to other units, such as the Radar Calibration unit and Air Fighting Development unit responsible for the assessment of aircraft such as the Mustang Mk1, as well as captured enemy aircraft. During the Battle of Britain 12 group went on to form</p>		



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the controversial “Big Wing” under Douglas Bader.

In 1943 Duxford was handed over to the USAAF as a home for their 78th Fighter Group.