



12. Group Captain Sir Douglas Bader (1910 – 1982), from the bronze statue by Kenneth Potts (2001). It stands facing the airfield at RAF West Hampnett, now Goodwood airfield and motor racing circuit. It is inscribed:

*WING COMMANDER DOUGLAS BADER, DSO & BAR, DFC, RAF, FLEW HIS
LAST MISSION FROM THIS AIRFIELD, 9TH AUGUST 1941*

Bader was a critic of Air Vice-Marshal Keith Park, commander of 11 Group, in the thick of it to the south, although Park himself was supported by the head of Fighter Command, Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh ‘Stuffy’ Dowding (later 1st Baron Dowding), GCB, GCVO, CMG (1882–1970). The controversy between Bader and Leigh-Mallory, who wanted to launch large formations of fighters north of the capital, and Keith Park, supported by Dowding, who favoured a more pragmatic approach, was unfortunate. The disagreement contributed to the departure of Park, who was replaced by Leigh-Mallory in November 1940. Dowding, who more than any other single man had led to victory in the Battle of Britain, was sidelined and sent to the USA in the same month.

Regulatory Days 167