Second World War – Warner landing accident at Hooton Park in 1939

The following is from the National Archives: Air 81/4758
LANDING ACCIDENT AT HOXTON PARK - HURRICANE L2115.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following report, Ref. K.R. & A.C.L.'s para 743 clause 5 and this unit's signal A.1. dated 17th. September 1939.

Acting on instructions from the Commanding Officer, the pilot, Flying Officer W.H.C. Warner, took off in the above mentioned aircraft at 14-40 on September 17th., for his first solo on this type. Having completed a left hand circuit he approached the aerodrome from the south, with wheels and flaps down. There was a slight easterly wind, 8 - 10 miles per hour, blowing at the time, and pilots had been ordered to land across wind owing to this aerodrome being too small to land Hurricanes from west to east. There was no appreciable drift when the aircraft touched down, but the pilot landed rather too near the western boundary of the aerodrome where the ground, although within the landing area, is very rough and uneven.

The aircraft did not bounce on landing, but after running about 50 yards, the port wheel struck a hole about nine inches deep and the undercarriage collapsed. The aircraft nosed over and skidded along on the bent propeller with its tail in the air at an angle of about 45 degrees until it came to rest.

The pilot was uninjured and was able to get out without assistance. He was examined by the doctor and later in the afternoon took off in another Hurricane which he landed without difficulty.

The aircraft was pushed into the hangar on the collapsed undercarriage, without incurring any further damage. Full details of the damage incurred will be forwarded as soon as it is ascertained.

Ref. para. 2310 clause 2 K.R. & A.C.L.'s. No court of Inquiry is being held.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Sgd. I.R. Parker.

Squadron Leader,
Commanding No. 610 Squad
CONFIDENTIAL.

From: - P/O W.H.C. Warner 610 Squadron.
To: - Officer Commanding 610 Squadron.
Date: - 17th. September 1939.
Ref: - 610S/42/Air.

Re Landing Accident at Hooton Park - 17.9.39.

Sir, have the honour to report the result of the damage to Hurricane L6115 and to report an accident while landing "Hurricane" L6115 at 1450 hours today.

At 1440 I took off in "Hurricane" L6115 for my first solo. I completed a circuit and approached the aerodrome from the south at an air speed of 85 m.p.h. with wheels and flaps down.

On reaching the aerodrome boundary I held off and touched down slightly, tail first and ran for about thirty yards. The port wheel then struck a rough patch on the aerodrome surface and folded back. The aircraft then went up on its nose and the starboard wheel folded back. The aircraft then slid along on the airscrew for about 150 yards and came to a standstill with the tailplane in the air.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W.H.C. Warner.

Flying Officer. 90544.
O.C. 610 Squadron,
Hooton Park,
Cheshire.

Date: 19/9/39.

Subject:- Extent of damage to Hurricane L3116 with R.R. Merlin MK 111 No. 3569/118960 installed.

Sir,

I have the honour to report the result of the damage to Hurricane L3116 and R.R. Merlin No. 3569/118960.

Hurricane L3116.

Undercarriage completely wrecked.
Centre section badly strained at undercarriage attachments 25AF/30490 and 25AF/30489 Bossa Bottom for the radius rod attachments for undercarriage badly distorted.

Recommended for repair at a maintenance unit or makers.

R.R. Merlin 111 No. 3569/118960

Owing to airscrew striking ground, the reduction gear requires stripping, checking and inspecting.
Workshop tool kit not available.
Engine inspected externally and found serviceable but requires further internal inspection.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Sgd. W. Bentall W.O.
Air Ministry, H.Q. Fighter Command, 
and No.12 Group.

No. 610 Squadron.

**IMMEDIATE** 

Received S.I.(Telegrams) 1759 hours, 
17.9.39.

Al 17/9 Ref KR and AC1 Para 743.

(A) Hurricane L2115

(B) 610 Squadron

(C) Hooton Park 17th September 1450 hours.

(D) P/O W.H.C. Warner 90544 not injured.

(E) N/A

(F) Flying practice cause of accident rough 
surface of aerodrome.

(G) N/A

(H) No

Time of Origin 1640 hours.

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RECEIVED 
18 SEP 1939
CASUALTY SECTION
CASUALTY ACTION SHEET

Name of officer  WARNER
  WILLIAM HENRY CHITWELL

Rank  F/O  Type of Commission  RAF  R.A.F.

Unit  4/0 Squadron

Date of casualty  17/9  Date and reference of report  17/9

Particulars of next-of-kin  SIR LIONEL A.P. WARNER
  YEW TREE
  POPULAR ROAD
  BIRKENHEAD
  CHESHIRE

Verification of particulars.

Telegram and/or letter to W/C.

Gas Card (a)
Gas Card (c)

D/3  in case of death

Air Council letter of sympathy.