

# Peace Conference and War Council

Captain Elgie Jefferson (OKW 1906-12) was a 'ferry pilot' in 1919 making journeys from London to Paris in connection with the Peace Conference. He regularly carried dispatches to the British Ministers in France as well as passengers of 'considerable importance', including Bonar Law.

He set what was then a world record when he flew from London to Paris in 75 minutes, an average speed of 183 miles per hour.

On the 11th January 1919 he succeeded in becoming the first Manxman to land in the Isle of Man from England. He attended College at the same time as Gilbert Mapplebeck, another OKW who achieved great fame during the war as a pilot.



The De Havilland 4A, a passenger and mail carrier similar to that flown by Jefferson.



A Bristol Type 142L, Blenheim Mk.IV similar to that flown by Pilling.

Squadron Leader Herbert Pilling RAF (OKW 1917-23) flew Neville Chamberlain, Winston Churchill, Paul Reynaud and Edouard Daladier to and from London and Paris for meetings of the Supreme Allied War Council whose purpose it was to agree on the co-ordination of British and French war production in the early months of the Second World War.

Pilling almost certainly flew a De Havilland 95 Flamingo, a high performance medium size air liner. It is likely that Pilling was flying the troop-carrier version adapted to carry 22 passengers. However, the Blenheim above was used in every operational command and could also have been the plane of choice.

Pilling was shot down by German anti-aircraft fire in June 1940 near St-Omer in France.

Unfortunately Pilling was killed when he crash landed his Blenheim Mk.IV.



The De Havilland 95 Flamingo.