the Foreign Legion in France. He was seconded to the l’Armée de l’Air in September 1939, escaped to England after France fell and was posted to Duxford on the formation of the Czech 310 Squadron on 12 July 1940. He crashed accidentally on 1 August and landed after a collision at Upwood on 15 August; shot down a 110 on 26 August and a Dorner 215 on 31 August, in Hurricane V3889, which was damaged; and shot down a 110 on 3 September and a Dorner 215 on 18 September. He was awarded the DFC in October 1940, but was killed in a crash landing at Duxford on 29 October 1940, after a collision with Pilot Officer J. M. Maly. He was buried at Brookwood.

81945 Vilem Goth, Pilot Officer, Czech Squadrons 310 and 501, was born on 22 April 1915 and joined 310 Squadron at Duxford on 10 July 1940. He shot down two 110s over Southend on 7 September, but his Hurricane V6643 was damaged, forcing him to land at Whitmans Farm, Purleigh. He joined 501 Squadron at Kenley in October 1940, but was killed on 25 October in a collision with Pilot Officer K. W. Mackenzie during combat over Tenterden, crashing in Hurricane 2903 in Bridgehurst Wood, Marden. He is buried at Sittingbourne and Milton Cemetery, Kent.

787527 Oldrich Kestler, Sergeant Pilot, Czech 111 Squadron, was born in Cizice on 18 March 1920, joined 111 Squadron at Dyce on 19 October 1940, and later 605 Squadron. On 7 April 1941 he collided in Hurricane Z318 with Spitfire P8315, flown by Sergeant Martinec, who was Czech. Both were killed. He was awarded the Czech Military Cross and was buried at Market Drayton, Shropshire.

Supplementary information

Further to information already published, Joe Klein, a Flight Sergeant, joined 234 Squadron at St Eval on 6 August 1940 and was posted to Warmwell with 152 Squadron on 5 October 1940.

Addendum III

Since the publication of Martin Sugarmans’ article entitled ‘Lieutenant Marcus Bloom: A Jewish hero of the SOE’ in Jewish Historical Studies 39 (2004) 183–96, the author has discovered the following supplementary information.

75 Ibid 195.
76 Ibid 279. See also, for all three men, Erich Kulka, Zide v československém vojsku na zapade (Nase Vojsko, Praha, 1992).
Opposite to the approval expressed about Marcus Bloom’s suitability on page 186, and footnote 11, one finds ‘Roger de Wesselow (Major, Coldstream Guards),’ head of an F Section Training School at Wanborough, in an official training report, remarks that “physical effort seems to come hard to this pink yid”, and that Bloom ‘keeps under his shell the usual racial nimbleness’. In the same report, a Lt R. F. Turner describes Marcus as ‘slightly Jewish in his outlook and appearance’. Both reflect the prejudices of the writers’ class and time.

Marcus Bloom’s Paramilitary report from Majors Watt and Bush at Arisaig (Scotland) on 15 May 1942 stated that his physical training had improved greatly despite his size, but that rope, fieldcraft and close combat work were not too good (‘Cannot imagine him really getting tough with anyone’). However, with weapons, explosives and signalling he was very good, as was report writing, mapwork, tactics, boatwork and navigation. On a two-day course at Loughborough (21–2 August 1942), training Sergeants Stebbing–Allen and Fox reported to Captain Anglo and Hilton and Major Lee that Marcus had done remarkable work with complete mastery and that he was painstaking and intelligent. He had passed all the tests in Making Initial Contacts (‘natural manner, remembering the password in a crowded café’), Following Suspects (‘did not lose his man, good use of cover’), Boîtes aux Lettres (‘finding and retrieving messages, hiding messages’), Message Passing (‘did not arouse suspicion in a crowded café’), Verbal Messages (‘passed perfectly despite distracting deliberate interruptions’), Cover Conversations (‘perfectly arranged before questioning with another student’), Interrogation (‘had a false life history and documents all convincingly carried out’) and Security (‘discreet, always hiding his wireless and papers and keeping door locked’).

The author was fortunate to meet Dr Premysl (Prem) Dobias, aged ninety-four and living in London, who had been a clerk at Mauthausen Camp. Prem, a Doctor of Law from Charles University in Prague, had been a non-Jewish Czech political prisoner at Mauthausen and remembered Bloom well. He had been brought to Prem’s desk on his arrival in September 1944 to be registered as an inmate, on a small transport, suggesting they were prisoners deemed ‘dangerous to the Reich’. Marcus was ‘dressed in civilian clothes, looking haggard but still confident’. Prem related how his whole demeanour was that of an ‘honourable British Officer who clearly had open and courageous contempt for the SS’ who were standing around and

79 He spoke briefly to the audience after the film at a viewing of Rex Bloomstein’s documentary ‘KZ’ at the Jewish Film Festival, London, on 6 November 2006.
Martin Sugarman

bullying everyone into speeding up the clerical procedures. As a prisoner himself, Prem was not permitted to talk to him, but managed 'a few whispered words under his breath as he typed out Marcus's details'. He described Marcus as a true 'mensch', using the Yiddish word, and developed an immediate respect for him in those few minutes that they met. He never saw him again.