

AIR MAIL

WE'RE HERE TO KEEP YOU INFORMED

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2017

 **ROYAL
AIR FORCES
Association**

The charity that supports the RAF family



Blast Off: Colour Chaos at RAF Wittering



Patron: Her Majesty The Queen
Registered Charity 226686 (England & Wales), SC037673 (Scotland).

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First RAF Association Colour Chaos Event

Photo: © Phil Greig

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The charity that supports the RAF family

From the editor

By the time you receive this issue of Air Mail, I will have passed the editorial responsibility over to the new Publications Manager based at RAF Association headquarters in Leicester. My successor, Annie O'Brian, takes over the editorial and management mantle for Air Mail and its future issues. I wish her every success in her new role.

I would like to take this opportunity to pass on our sincere thanks to all those members, branches, authors and others who have supported both Louise, as Branch News Coordinator and myself, as Editor through the last 17 years. In my opinion without such support Air Mail would not have been the success that I believe it to be. I can't hand on heart say we always got things right but we did our best and hope that we fulfilled our aim to keep you up-to-date and informed.

As Air Mail moves into pastures new, I would ask you all to give it your continued support and commitment in the same way that you have given in the past. Air Mail would not be the same without your support.

Colin Pullen
Editor Air Mail



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Message from the Secretary General

As a member-led organisation, it is crucial that we encourage our brightest, most energetic and most diverse to help lead us. As promised last issue we are now appealing to every member to consider applying to become one of our trustees. The article on page 12 outlines the skills we are looking for and gives the deadlines and the process for nominations. It is crucial that the whole Association is represented on Council and I sincerely hope to see a broad range of people recognising that their experience is useful to the organisation. We need you to help us keep up the impetus of growth in membership and to address the challenges of delivering increasing amounts of welfare exactly where it is needed.

It won't have escaped your notice that 2018 is the 100th anniversary of the RAF. Plans are already well underway for the Association's Centenary Service at the National Memorial Arboretum. The event will take place on Sunday 13 May, just after Conference finishes, to allow as many members the opportunity to attend as possible. Though not part of the official RAF100 celebrations, the Centenary Service is an important commemorative event for the Association. Please see more detail below, and put the date in your diary.

The service follows on directly from next year's Conference. If your branch has not been represented there in recent years, please do consider attending. It is very important that you have your say and take the opportunity to meet up with and be inspired by each other's achievements and ideas. Bookings are now open. More detail is below.



Photo: © Heidi Burton

For details of RAF100 itself, see the article on page 10 directly from the RAF. RAF100 will be an important fundraising event for us as well as an opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of our members while they were serving.

Also, in May next year the legislation for the General Data Protection Regulations comes into force. It may sound dull and distant but it could affect how we, your Association, can contact you. Please make sure you haven't forgotten to tell us how you want us to keep in touch.

Moving back to the present, I'm delighted that one of our most wide-ranging projects is now coming to fruition. To keep serving personnel strong and connected the installation of wi-fi at 16 RAF stations has been in progress for many months. We expect between one third and half of all serving personnel will benefit. As well as the welfare benefits of reducing isolation, we hope this will have an impact on our membership recruitment, events such as the Colour Chaos fundraising run, legacies and much more. Enjoy reading about them all in this edition.

Nick Bunting
Secretary General

Your 2018 conference and RAF centenary service

Registration is now open for the 2018 Annual Conference. The event takes place at Yarnfield Park Training and Conference Centre from 11 to 12 May 2018. This is your Conference and an excellent opportunity to catch up with friends and share experiences and expertise. It's also your chance to contribute to important debate on the future plans for the Royal Air Forces Association.

Yarnfield Park is in the heart of the Midlands in Stone, Staffordshire. It is within easy reach of the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) where we will be holding our Sunday Service on 13 May 2018. This service will also act as the Association's key commemoration of the Royal Air Force centenary and, as such, will be a significantly larger event than in normal years. We are planning for up to 3,000 people to be able to attend. Further details will be available shortly on how to register for the NMA Service on 13 May 2018.

continued on page 3

Armed Forces Day celebrations across the country

An impromptu visit from the Prime Minister, Theresa May, enlivened an already busy stand for the RAF Association at the national Armed Forces Day celebrations in Liverpool in June.

The event is the perfect opportunity to celebrate serving personnel of the past, present and future and publicly recognise the personal sacrifices they and their families make on a daily basis to keep our country safe.

Our team took their exhibition trailer and model Spitfire to the event's RAF village on Pier Head to promote both membership and the Association's welfare work.



Photo: © Phil Greig



Photo: © Phil Greig

Meanwhile in Cleethorpes the Grimsby and Cleethorpes Branch encouraged local people to show their appreciation of serving personnel during this year's local Armed Forces Day celebrations by joining up!

"But we didn't mean joining the RAF - though people would find it an amazing and rewarding career," said Graham Malster, Chairman: "We meant joining the Royal Air Forces Association". The branch encouraged visitors to show their support for RAF personnel all year round. They also offered access to the branch's newly refurbished club on Alexandra Road, and highlighted local member benefits – including this glossy quarterly magazine.

To book your place at Conference:

With an email account:

Please use this link to visit our online booking system: rafa.org.uk/annualconference. You can register delegate details for yourself and your guests. You will need an email account to do this.

By phone:

Please contact our reception team on 0116 268 8750. They will happily take your details over the phone.

To book your accommodation:

Accommodation is available within the conference venue and the Association has negotiated the same excellent rate as 2017. For a single room the price will be £55 a night and £75 a night for a double/twin room based on two people sharing. This price includes breakfast, lunch and dinner. Each room offers an en-suite bathroom, TV, hairdryer, tea/coffee and biscuits and wi-fi.

To book your accommodation please contact our reception team on 0116 268 8750. Please note, fully accessible rooms are limited and we would advise booking early to avoid disappointment.

Travel expenses:

All branch delegates are entitled to claim travel expenses through the pooled fares scheme. This includes standard rail fare or economy air fare which will be reimbursed accordingly after Conference. All claims are then totalled and divided by the number of branches attending, after which each branch is sent an invoice for the amount involved (£82.29 per branch in 2017).

If you are travelling by train, transport will be provided free of charge from and to the local rail stations.

Financial assistance:

If any branch is experiencing financial hardship, it should apply to its area for assistance.

No branch should be deterred from attending Conference because of financial issues.



Photo: © Heidi Burton

Childminding and employment pilot on six RAF stations

Two of the top issues facing current serving personnel identified in the 2017 RAF Community Needs Analysis were a lack of employment opportunities for partners of serving personnel and a lack of access to high quality, affordable childcare.

In response, the RAF Association is piloting a project to identify RAF partners, train them and provide ongoing support to become registered childminders.

Jenny Eaton, Welfare Project Development Officer at the Association's Leicester HQ said: "We hope this will help tackle both issues at once. Not only will this give partners a sustainable employment opportunity, but it should also have an impact on the availability of local child care for service personnel. There is already considerable interest.

"As a registered childminder, partners can run their own business from home, be their own boss, look after their own children and make a difference to the lives of other young children and their families, supporting them as they grow and develop."

The scheme is being piloted until summer 2018 at RAF Coningsby, RAF Waddington, RAF Cranwell, RAF Wittering, RAF Scampton and RAF Benson. After that it will be reviewed and considered for wider roll out.

All Good at Wings Breaks hotels

All three Wings Breaks hotels have retained their 'Good' ratings this year in Care Quality Commission inspections.

Inspection visits, which are usually unannounced, check how safe, effective, caring, responsive, and well-led each hotel is. All three were found to have well-established staff who were skilled at making new relationships with people as well as kind, caring and respectful of people's privacy. Management, procedures and care was good and guests and staff had no complaints.

The hotels are based on the sea front in Weston-super-Mare in Somerset, Lytham St Annes in Lancashire and in the countryside in Rothbury, Northumberland. They allow members of the RAF family a chance for a break with like-minded people in beautiful locations, with facilities available to cater for a range of needs.

More details how to book a break from rafa.org.uk/wingsbreaks or by calling 0800 018 2361. For more about the latest outings, trips and activities at each of the hotels, see Hotel news on page 29.



Photo: © Heidi Burton

Grand Draw 2017



Photo: © Heidi Burton

This is your final chance to enter this year's RAF Association Grand Draw, where the top prizes include a Toyota Aygo X-Play, a luxury cruise for two or a VIP day with the Red Arrows.

You can buy tickets online at rafa.org.uk/granddraw or by emailing jo.bray@rafa.org.uk.

Tickets must be returned by Monday 16 October 2017 and the winners will be drawn on Friday 20 October.

Don't delay and enter today.

Good luck everyone.

The Burning Sky - help sought for major new WWII film set in Malta

The producers of a major new film are appealing to members and historians with an interest in WWII air battles in Malta – and encouraging you to step forward to help development and production.

"The Burning Sky" is a war action drama set in 1942 during one of the most vicious sieges and aerial campaigns of WWII – as the RAF and Axis air forces battled for supremacy in the burning skies over Malta.

Based on real events, this rites of passage film tells the story of a young Canadian pilot who volunteers to join the RAF and, after training in England, is sent to join the beleaguered garrison of Malta. As the bombing campaign intensifies the

civilian population and its defenders face starvation and suffer mounting casualties. Talented, courageous, impatient and reckless, he gradually comes of age through friendship and love but also by living and flying through the most brutal air battle of WWII. The outcome of the Battle for Malta changed the course of the war and consequently that of European and world history. The authors are writer Ian Bishop and best-selling author, historian and broadcaster, James Holland.

The film is in early pre-production but already enjoys support from the Maltese government and film commission – with offers of access to many of the historic locations shown in the narrative, as well as the use of the WWII airfield in Gozo. The aerial coordination unit has assembled more than 20 vintage aircraft to be used in filming, including Spitfires, Hurricanes, Me109s and Buchons.

The producers have a passion for filmmaking, aviation and military history and want to tell this little-known but incredible story. It combines all the excitement and action of the very best war movies with historical realism, strong characters, and a powerful and moving love story. The attention to historical detail in this script is second-to-none. The producers believe their story will excite, enthrall and engage a global audience leaving a lasting impact.

Appealing for help from our members, the film's producer, Alec Mackenzie says: "We are keen to get this exactly right. We need advice on various issues, from what the ground camouflage for the aircraft was like, to the procedures and tactics employed at that time and the accuracy of equipment used. There may be opportunities for someone to be formally employed to help us with this. We will also be looking for script reviewers and acting extras. We are also very keen to see photographs and accounts from this period and to speak to owners of historical or representative equipment."

Motley Film Productions would also like to hear from anyone interested in a personal financial investment in the film. Alec explained that, "the main effort now is that of raising the development and production funds needed to make the movie. The production budget is driven by the planned 16-week shoot, the use of complex vintage aircraft, props and sets, supported by extensive visual effects. These funds will be raised through selling equity in the film production company, from grants and tax credits, from advance sales and, if needed, through commercial financing".

This will be the first major film to be set in and portray Malta since 1953. The producers plan to complete pre-production and the raising of finance by the end of 2017 and to film in Malta from mid 2018 onwards. Cinema release is planned for late 2019.

The development and production companies have generously committed to giving a proportion of the film's profits to support the RAF Association's work.

Think you can help or wish to learn more about the opportunity? Then please contact Motley Film Productions at RAFA@motleyfilmproductions.com marked for attention of Alec Mackenzie. All precious possessions shared with the company will be treated with the greatest care and respect.



'Malta Spitfire' by Keith Burns is the first of what will become a set of 12 paintings commissioned to illustrate the production 'look book' and used to convey concept, style and structure for the movie to potential crew, cast, partners and investors.

Colourful world first at RAF Wittering



Photo: © Phil Greig

Coloured powder, fluorescent wristbands and tutus were the order of the day at the Association's first ever Colour Chaos event at RAF Wittering on 20 August.

More than 200 people took part in the unique family challenge – a five kilometre 'run' to raise vital funds for the RAF Association. It was the first of its kind ever to be held on a serving RAF station and was open to members of the public as well as serving personnel.

RAF personnel Chris and Nicola Stafford reached the end of the course with Chris barely able to see out of his sunglasses. Nonetheless, they were both very happy indeed. Chris said: "It was a really, really good laugh, absolutely."



Photo: © Phil Greig



Photo: © Phil Greig

Every £1 raised will go towards projects that help members of the RAF family, particularly the Storybook Wings initiative, where serving parents record their children's favourite bedtime stories before going away on active service.

Station Commander Group Captain Tony Keeling and his son joined members of the public on the course and got into the spirit of the occasion. The air cadets who volunteered to support the event made sure everyone was thoroughly coated.

Group Captain Keeling said: "It's been fantastic fun today, we wouldn't

have missed this for anything. Sure, it's been a lot of work to organise and we've got some tidying up to do, but you look around and see all these smiling faces. It's been well worth it – and all for a great cause with the RAF Association."

Rachel Huxford, Director of Fundraising for the RAF Association, said: "Huge thanks to everyone at RAF Wittering and to the air cadets and Association employees who helped this first Colour Chaos come together so successfully.



Photo: © Phil Greig

We have already had interest from other stations in running their own Colour Chaos events, so watch this space for more of the same."

STOP PRESS:
Other exciting running challenges, including Santa Runs are planned for station personnel and their families this winter. Contact jules@rafa.org.uk for more information.



Photo: © Phil Greig

Sky-high fundraising effort raises more than £60k

In early July, 75 serving and veteran Royal Air Force women took part in a mass skydiving event to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the RAF Regiment. Their bravery and astonishing fundraising efforts have raised more than £60,000 for the Association's welfare work.

The jump weekend of 8 and 9 July saw most of the country blessed with good weather and the jumps went ahead on the same day from airfields in Peterlee, Langer, Tilstock, Beccles, Hinton and Dunkeswell. Jumps in Strathallen and Coleraine were delayed by bad weather.

The fundraiser was organised by former servicewoman and Association life member Donna Finlay, with the assistance of the RAF Sports Parachute Association, whose instructors and cameramen donated their time to assist the jumpers throughout the event.

Each jumper pledged to raise a minimum of £500 for the event with the aim of raising a grand total of £37,500. They surpassed their target by more than £20,000 – commissioning and selling beer and cakes, auctioning off possessions and badgering employers to match fund the money they raised.

Speaking in August, Donna said: "I thank everyone who came on this journey with me. As well as raising a phenomenal amount for the RAF Association, we have discovered something about ourselves: we've reconnected with old friends, discovered new friends and firmed up bonds we've already had with friends we speak to often."



Photo: © Adam Sorenson@leftfieldimages.com



Photo: © Adam Sorenson@leftfieldimages.com



Photo: © Adam Sorenson@leftfieldimages.com



Photo: © Adam Sorenson@leftfieldimages.com

Queen's Birthday Honours for three members

Congratulations to the three Association members who were recognised in June in the Queen's Birthday Honours. They are:

Squadron Leader Adrian Morris MBE

Squadron Leader Adrian Morris has served in the RAF for more than 29 years. He completed a wide range of tours as a personnel officer at stations in the UK and overseas including two operational tours in Afghanistan. He currently works at Headquarters Air in High Wycombe, helping serving personnel with their service allowances.

Ade has served as a RAF Association Liaison Officer (RAFALO) for more than 16 years and, as one of three RAF representatives on our Council, is an Association trustee. Through this role he helps to ensure the Association is in a position to provide excellent support to serving and veteran personnel and their dependants.

He was awarded an MBE as part of the appointments to the military division in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Barry Furness BEM

Barry 'Smokey' Furness was awarded a British Empire Medal in recognition of his work for the Association.

In 1984, Barry was awarded a Queen's Commendation for distinguished service during his time as a search and rescue helicopter winchman and, in 1987, he was given an Air Officer Commanding in Chief's Commendation for his outstanding contribution when serving at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus. There, he also had a major role in creating the Aphrodite Branch of the RAF Association and was later its secretary. He also ran the RAF station youth club there and was a RAFALO. On his retirement in the UK, Barry took on roles in both Chivenor and Fareham branches, working tirelessly to raise funds and deliver welfare support to those in need. These roles include branch chairman, secretary, Wings Appeal organiser, honorary welfare officer, branch delegate and standard bearer. Barry has also served on area and national councils. A former South East and Eastern Area Chairman, he is still a member of the Area Council.

Flight Lieutenant Lynsey Carveth

Flight Lieutenant Lynsey Carveth has been awarded a Deputy Commander's (DCom's) Commendation for her work at HQ Air Command, RAF High Wycombe. The RAF Association supports Lynsey as she competes worldwide for the RAF Triathlon team. This year she has raced in many age group races and elite events and is aiming to retain the RAF's title in the Inter Service Triathlon Championships 2017. Lynsey is also a member and supporter of the Association, encouraging others to join and fundraise for our welfare work wherever possible.



Ballot disappointment for London Marathon 2018?

If you or one of your friends has missed out in the ballot for the 2018 Virgin London Marathon, perhaps the Association can help.

The odds of getting in to the marathon by ballot are decreasing: there are just under 40,000 places available and a world record of more than a third of a million people applied for the 2018 event (specifically 386,050 hopeful runners). There was an increase of more than 29 per cent of UK applicants, and 58 per cent of applicants have never run a marathon before. But the Association has guaranteed places for people who can also fundraise for our welfare work.

Our runners will also particularly appreciate the special support the Association can give the people who put themselves through the gruelling 26.2 mile event – the luxury of showers with fluffy white towels, sports massages, refreshments and a place to meet your supporters at the RAF Club, just a few streets away from the finish line.

Places start to be taken up quickly once the ballot results come through, so get in touch as soon as possible to see if we can help you fulfil your dream of taking part in this world famous event. Contact our Challenge Events Team on 0800 018 2361 or jules@rafa.org.uk.



The RAF tells us its plans for RAF100

"As the RAF moves into its centenary year, it will launch the RAF100 campaign with some fantastic opportunities to commemorate, celebrate and inspire."

"The RAF100 campaign aims to commemorate the service and sacrifice of those who have gone before; to celebrate the whole force of today and our part in the nation's first line of defence and to inspire the wider RAF family by building on the example of our predecessors and by demonstrating the skills, innovation and professionalism that will be needed for the future."

"RAF100 will showcase the very best of the RAF, through international, national, regional and local events and initiatives. It will encompass elements such as a centenary service in Westminster Abbey and a parade down The Mall. Additionally, it will involve key national and international sporting events and aerospace education packages for schools."

"As part of the RAF100, the Royal Air Forces Association and three other RAF associated charities will work together under the banner of the RAF100 Appeal, bringing together each charity's proud history of support, to fully realise the fundraising opportunities the centenary offers."

"As valued members of the Association family, you can play a part in making the centenary a special year. The RAF100 website has details of major events and how to get involved at a local, regional and national level. Help us to commemorate those that have gone before, celebrate the skills and talents of those currently in the service and inspire a future generation to help write the next chapter in our astonishing history."



Hear the very latest and sign up for email newsletters direct from the RAF here: raf.mod.uk/raf100

Emperor Rosko returns to ask people to remember charities in their will

For a week in September, the Association took part in Remember A Charity In Your Will Week. The project involved a collaboration of more than 180 charities who set out to do what no single charity could do alone: make legacy giving a social norm.

The overarching aim of the week was to raise awareness about charitable giving in wills, ultimately encouraging more people to consider leaving a gift in their will to charities - including the Association. Supporters were invited to #HaveYourSay on the world they want to pass on.

During the week, Radio Caroline's Emperor Rosko was brought back from retirement for one last tour. Rosko returned to the microphone to launch 'Last Pirate FM', a radio station that encourages people to have their say on the world they want to pass on.

We asked Mrs Vinny Manak, Legacy and Remembrance Manager at the Association's Leicester HQ what world she would like to pass on. She said: "I'd like to see a world where future generations proactively volunteer to give a little back to their communities and to charities. I think it would help them to see a wider picture of the world around them. I'd encourage them to support charities for people who put their lives on the line yesterday to help to secure the future of generations today - like the Association"



If you are interested in current and future generations of the RAF family benefiting from your will, please contact Vinny on vinny.manak@rafa.org.uk or on 0116 268 8791. The RAF Association recommends that you speak to a solicitor for advice on tax issues.

Veterans bid to sail around the British Isles

On Saturday 5 August, a team of military veterans set sail on a 2,000-mile voyage around the British Isles. The eight week trip on a tall ship left Falmouth and travelled clockwise, visiting Liverpool, Tobermory, Newcastle and Ipswich.

For seventeen crew members with little or no sailing experience, it was a wonderful opportunity to learn new skills and work together on board the 92-foot ship. On board was RAF veteran and Association member Gary Alleyne who has been supported by expedition organisers, Turn to Starboard, since 2015.



The Round Britain Challenge 2017 crew



The Spirit of Falmouth

The RAF Association sponsors Turn to Starboard, a charity that helps military personnel suffering with physical injuries or mental trauma. They provide sailing courses and family sailing trips in a supportive environment, helping people to build a different future for themselves and their family.

Next issue we hope to be able to provide you with news and pictures from the voyage.

Social media update

Our Twitter and Facebook pages have been busy sharing news with our members and supporters. Join in the conversation and follow us:



@RAFAssociation



@RAFAssociation



Would your skills and energy benefit your Association?

Nominations invited for Council trustees

Nominations are invited for suitably qualified members to fill the:

- Eight elected places on the Royal Air Forces Association's trustee body, the Council, and
- Three elected places on the Annual Conference Committee (ACC). Conference is the Association's Annual General Meeting and an important focus for networking, social events and discussion.

Those seeking election to Council and/or the ACC are required to:

- Set out their reasons for their suitability for the role for which they are applying, this needs to be matched against the guidance that will be provided with the nomination form(s);
- Identify how they will contribute to the development of the Association's strategic themes and objectives; and
- Provide a photograph.

These statements and the photographs will be included in the January 2018 edition of Air Mail.

For both elections and for those seeking re-election, the following apply:

- All Members of the Association are eligible for election.
- A reserve member will be elected for both the Council and the ACC.
- Election is for a period of three years, after which candidates may seek re-election (for a maximum of three terms of office).
- All nominations must be made on the official form which can be obtained from Kelly Brotherhood, Governance and Operations Manager, call 0116 268 8770 or email kelly.brotherhood@rafa.org.uk.

The forms also come with detailed guidance about their completion, the election process, the strategic aims of the Association, and the commitment needed for the roles.

Council is keen to broaden the skills and recruit new trustees to strengthen the existing board and drive the Association forward.

As a member of the Council, you will share responsibility for the overall direction, vision and strategic aims. As a trustee, you will be required to use your specific skills, knowledge or experience to help the Council and management reach sound decisions.

The Association is particularly interested in nominations from people with the skills listed below. The Association embraces the benefits of having a diverse membership and sees a wide-ranging diversity at Council level as an important element in achieving our purpose, vision and values. Council welcomes and would wish to encourage a greater diversity of its membership to reflect the increasing diversity of the members of the Association.

- Income generation/FR
- Social media/marketing/branding
- Investment
- Property/estate management
- CRM
- Relationship management
- Commercial acumen
- Change management
- Procurement/tendering
- Charity law/governance



The Election Process

- Nominations are to be returned to the Governance and Operations Manager at Headquarters in Leicester by 20 November 2017.
- All nominations must be submitted on the official form.
- All nominees must supply a recent photograph (less than one year old).
- All candidates seeking election will be featured in the January 2018 edition of Air Mail.
- If there is a contest for elected places there will be a postal or online ballot. Ballot papers will be distributed on 9 April 2018, to be returned to the Headquarters in Leicester, by 7 May 2018.
- The results will be announced by the Secretary General at Annual Conference in May 2018.

The closing date for nominations is 20 November 2017.

Nick Bunting
Secretary General

Association wi-fi project reduces isolation for thousands of RAF personnel



Photo: © MoD/Crown

A third of serving RAF personnel can now benefit from communal wi-fi provided by the RAF Association after we made a £1.2 million investment to keep airmen and women connected to their friends and loved ones.

Studies show that increased workplace loneliness leads to poorer performances in tasks and lesser contributions to team roles.

16 RAF stations and more than 11,000 personnel can now benefit from the free wi-fi. The project came about when the Association was told of the social isolation that many new recruits feel on commencing their service life.

Wing Commander Karen Moran, Officer Commanding Operations and Plans, RAF Halton said: "The project has significantly improved the welfare package and enables our whole force to stay in touch with families and friends."



Photo: © MoD/Crown

For those housed in single person accommodation, there is less opportunity to socialise and engage with peers. Parents are also affected if they are working away from their families. Our new wi-fi hotspots are set up in communal areas to encourage new bonds and help build up relationships that are key for the working environment. The wi-fi also helps personnel to stay in contact with their existing support networks – family, friends, partners and children at home.

Rory O'Connor, Director of Welfare and Policy, RAF Association says: "In this age, we are reliant on digital technology to stay in touch and also to manage our online presence and daily tasks. This is particularly true when it comes to the armed forces community, who are often away from loved ones and pressured to find time within the working day to manage personal affairs. It is vital that when personnel are away from home that they are able to stay connected and alleviate isolation".

Thanks to our air show volunteers

Fundraising events manager Chris Osborne has thanked branch members, air cadets, RAF personnel and other volunteers for their support at this summer's events: "It's been another great air show season for the RAF Association.

Without their support, we wouldn't be able to attend so many of the events on the calendar or raise important funds for the Association. A huge thank you to everyone involved for their hard work and dedication throughout the season. We look forward to seeing you all again at events next year."



Photo: © Phil Greig

Membership subscriptions 2018

We are delighted that subscriptions will remain the same for 2018 and are outlining the costs and renewal deadlines here to allow you to plan ahead. Thank you for your continued support of the Association. It's great to have you with us. You are one of 65,500 members who benefit from our network and camaraderie, and support our vital welfare work. Membership is growing each year: since January 2017 we have welcomed another 5,000 people. We hope to see you again in 2018 so we can continue our good work together and improve life for the RAF family.

Category	2018 Membership Fee
Ordinary Member – 1 Year	£20.50
Ordinary Member – 4 Year	£78.00 (Existing 4 Year members only)
Associate Member – 1 Year – Air Mail	£14.50
Associate Member – 1 Year – No Air Mail	£8.50
Associate Member – 4 Year -- Air Mail	£55.50 (Existing 4 Year members only)
Associate Member – 4 Year – No Air Mail	£30.50 (Existing 4 Year members only)
Give As You Earn (GAYE) Serving RAF (Gross payment before basic tax relief)	£25.68
(Net payment after basic tax relief)	£20.52

Cessation of membership

The grace period for the lapsing of a membership is one month. Byelaw 7 (4). Membership – Subscriptions. Therefore, at the expiration of the month, the membership will cease if the subscription has not been paid.

Annual / Anniversary memberships

Subsequent annual subscriptions of members who joined the Association prior to 1 Jan 2017 shall be due on the first day of January in each year; for members joining after 1 Jan 2017 subsequent Annual subscriptions shall be due on the anniversary of their joining (or on such other date as may be determined by the Council subject to subsequent approval by Annual Conference). See Byelaw 7, Membership – Subscriptions

Multiple branches

Members are only required to pay one annual subscription as prescribed, regardless of the number of branches with which they are registered. See Byelaw 7 (5) Membership. The secondary branches will be recorded on the Associations database and will take the same 12-month period from the primary membership.



A member registered with more than one branch shall have the full rights of a member in respect to each branch with which they are registered: see Byelaw 5 (5) Membership. The Association's database will record all members' primary and secondary branches.

The primary branch will receive the membership rebate and members will only receive a membership card for their primary branch.

Membership subscription rates will be reviewed from January 2019, if you wish to become a member of an additional branch (secondary) please notify the membership team stating branch name and number (0800 018 2361 / membership@rafa.org.uk).

Members' portal - have your say

Frustrated by the members' portal in the Association website? Now is your chance to make a difference.

The portal is being redesigned to make it more user friendly. If you would like to help by giving us your views on design and content, please contact Phil Sherwin, Chief Information Officer: phil.sherwin@rafa.org.uk.

Giving youth wings



Applications for the RAF Association's 2018 Flying Scholarships open in October to allow six exceptional young people to fulfil their passion to fly.

Our Flying Scholarship programme runs annually as a thank you to members of the RAF Air Cadets, which includes the Air Training Corps (ATC) and the Combined Cadet Force (RAF), Girls Venture Corps Air Cadets (GVCAC) and Air Scouts/Air Explorer Scouts for their continuous support to the Association.

This year the winning candidate will be rewarded with a course of 35 hours flight training in a light aircraft. Five runners-up will receive 12 hours training each.

All of the 2017 winners achieved solo flights by the end of their week of training. Cadet Sergeant Esmée Webley of 2522 (Bedlington) Squadron won the main scholarship and flew to France and Northamptonshire during her lessons: "As soon as you get up in the air, you have a whole new perspective of the world, it's quite a liberating feeling. You feel fully in control of yourself, just looking down on everything. I applied last year and wasn't successful, so I think the message is don't give up. The amount you can achieve in one year with the ATC can really push forward your application. Just keep trying."

Applicants must be at least 16 years old on 1 June 2018 and under 20 on 1 January 2018. Applicants must also have served at least 12 months with the RAF Air Cadets, GVCAC or Air (Explorer) Scouts on 1 June 2018.

Applications are invited from 1 October 2017 and must be in by 31 January 2018. So if you are a cadet with a burning ambition to fly, or know of anyone who is, please find out more. Full terms and conditions and application forms can be downloaded after 1 October from www.rafa.org.uk/flying-scholarships-application and www.rafayouth.org.uk.

Log on to the RAF Association website Flying Scholarships page for a four minute video of one of Cadet Sergeant Karol Kubic's 2017 flying lessons.

rafaYOUTH hits fourth birthday

RafaYOUTH has seen more than 7,548 cadets pass through its membership in its first four years. Set up as an online youth membership scheme for young flying enthusiasts in August 2013, it currently boasts more than 5,000 members – all aged between 13 and 17.

The suggestion to develop RAF Association involvement with young people was put forward by member Kris Cottier of 358 (Welling) Squadron Air Training Corps (ATC) and the launch took place in August 2013 with celebrations at RAF Brize Norton.

Since its launch its members have benefited from monthly prizes including iTunes vouchers, skydiving, gliding days and flying, giving members the chance to try all sorts of aviation.

rafaYOUTH also flies the flag for the RAF Association annual flying scholarships and has helped promote more than 60 scholarships. See page 14 for details on how to apply for 2018.

Helen Gibson, Youth Community Manager for rafaYOUTH, is soon to mark 12 years uniformed service with the RAF Air Cadets. She says: "The links between branches and cadets is strongest when it comes to the Wings Appeal. The top 15 units helped raise more than £15,000 last year with street collections and by organising fundraising events and walks such as the Three Peaks Challenge (pictured). 233 units are known to have supported the appeal each year since rafaYOUTH started up. Having cadets involved with the branches is great and of course, when the cadets reach their 18th birthday they can join as full members of the Association, helping to grow the next generation."

Last year a mobile Storybook Wings service was set up to support leaders of cadet units who can be away from home for more than 100 nights a year volunteering with or working for the air cadets.

Looking forward to the next year Helen says: "We are testing an idea for a Challenge 100 fundraising kit with 20 units at the moment. We are aiming to get 100 squadrons to raise £100 each with it. We aim to continue the growth of our membership as well as our Facebook and other social media pages."

rafaYOUTH's Facebook page has nearly 14,000 followers and can be followed @rafaYOUTH.



Invasion Madagascar

A veteran from WWII has asked the RAF Association to help highlight the contribution of the RAF to a little-known but important operation to secure the seas from the Japanese navy.

Tony Antoine served with the RAF on Madagascar off the east coast of the African continent in 1941 and 1942. British forces invaded the island, which was held by the Vichy French, to ensure that it did not fall into Japanese hands and become a base for their warships and submarines.

"A few years ago I visited the Imperial War Museum and asked to see records of the RAF's involvement in Madagascar. I was told that there weren't any – and that only the Fleet Air Arm and the South African Air Force took part", said Tony. "When people asked me what I did in the war, I said I was involved in the invasion of Madagascar. Most said they had never heard of it!"

Tony, now 95 and living near Macclesfield, was training to be a chef before call-up. Once in the RAF he was told to continue with the catering and, after some UK postings, he joined 100 other men on a troopship for South Africa. They were told they were a photographic flight and that some of the crates on board contained four Lysander aircraft. They were not told their final destination until just before they went ashore on Madagascar.

"When we docked at Diego Suarez port, we were told to stay on board until the morning. What a decision! That



night a two man Japanese mini-sub fired two torpedoes at our ships," said Tony. "The Vichy French surrendered quite quickly after the invasion and the locals were happy to work for us and sell us local food which we learnt to cook."

The men of 1433 Flight assembled the Lysanders which were used in support of the Army units pushing south. Apart from photo-reconnaissance, they were also directed onto ground strafing and light bombing sorties. Madagascar was captured and held – and the Japanese did not attempt to invade it. Tony and his colleagues kept the RAF contingent well fed, inventing different cooking appliances with items that they found in the area and establishing a kitchen and eating area.

Tony has many memories of Madagascar and took many photographs. He has written up his wartime memoirs and put the photographs into a booklet for his 11 grandchildren. He describes it as 'the other side of service life' and chronicles his wider wartime travels in East Africa, Egypt and Palestine. He now hopes that 1433 Flight of the RAF will get more credit for its role in 'Invasion Madagascar'.

Association hosts annual remembrance service at NMA



Photo: © Phil Greig

Members of the RAF family who are commemorated in the Association's Garden of Remembrance were honoured by relatives and friends on Friday 16 June 2017 when we held our annual remembrance service.

The ceremony at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire gave around 300 family members, friends and colleagues the opportunity to commemorate the contribution of relatives and friends, some of whom have no grave or last resting place.

After a special service, the congregation walked behind the Association's standards to our Garden of Remembrance for a wreath and cross-laying ceremony and flypasts by a Spitfire.



Photo: © Phil Greig

The remembrance garden was designed as part of the charity's pledge to remember with pride and gratitude the lives of all members of the Royal Air Force who devoted themselves to their country. During the service, the names of everyone commemorated in the garden were acknowledged.

The service was led by the Venerable (Air Vice-Marshal) Jonathan P M Chaffey, Chaplain in Chief of the Royal Air Force and the Reverend (Wing Commander) Alastair Bissell, Station Chaplain, RAF Shawbury. Music was provided by the RAF Association Concert Band under the musical direction of Peter Skellon BEM. Readings were delivered by our President, Air Marshal Sir Baz North and Secretary General, Nick Bunting. The RAF Association dedication was read by Wing Commander Tim Mason, from RAF Cosford.

Families, friends or colleagues wishing to celebrate the life of a person or organisation associated with the RAF may place a personalised remembrance cross or stone in the RAF Association Remembrance Garden. Donations given for these crosses and stones are used by us to help support serving and former RAF personnel and their families in times of need.

Anyone making a visit to the Arboretum at any time of year is encouraged to visit the Remembrance Garden to pay their respects. For further information on the garden and placing a remembrance stone or cross there please contact Mrs Vinny Manak: vinny.manak@rafa.org.uk or 0116 268 8791. Branches can be remembered as well as individuals.



Photo: © Phil Greig



Photo: © Phil Greig



Photo: © Phil Greig



Photo: © Phil Greig



Photo: © Phil Greig

Appeal for war photos to help preserve Middle Eastern archaeology



The city of Samarra in Iraq, photographed by a member of 55 Squadron RAF in the 1930s. The project is appealing for all kinds of images – even just ones of plain landscapes.

Archaeological sites in the Middle East are threatened by the expansion of agricultural areas and housing. Now a major archaeological mission to record and monitor heritage sites across the Middle East is asking for our help.

The Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa (EAMENA) project at Oxford University uses satellite imagery and aerial photographs to scan large areas for archaeological sites - and record possible threats to them.

"We are appealing for anybody who owns or has access to any historic aerial photographs from the Middle East and North Africa, particularly those taken by members of the RAF, to allow us to make high-resolution digital copies", explains Dr Fradley from Oxford University. "We are interested in all kinds of images. Even those that don't appear to include a visible archaeological site are still of major value to the project, as they allow us to assess whether any more subtle features may have existed, identify lost archaeological sites and understand how surrounding landscapes have changed since the images were captured."

Dr Fradley and his colleagues use scans of historic aerial photographs taken by the RAF, other air forces and private companies. He continues: "Originally these photographs may have been taken for military, mapping, or development purposes. They also have significant value to archaeologists like us working today".

The use of aerial photography expanded significantly during WWI, with photographs used for reconnaissance or map-making for use in military operations on the ground. The value of that aerial photography for archaeology was realised by people such as famous aerial archaeologist O.G.S. Crawford, who joined the Royal Flying Corps in 1917.



The Colossi of Memnon in Egypt surrounded by floodwaters from the Nile, photographed by a member of 55 Squadron RAF in the 1930s

Were your family deployed in the Middle East in WWI?

As the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Air Force, forces played major roles in the various British administrations active across many parts of the region, including Palestine, Trans-Jordan, Aden, and Egypt. In particular:

- 14 Squadron was involved in WWI campaigns into Palestine and Trans-Jordan, including a detachment ('C' Flight) operating alongside T.E. Lawrence and his colleagues in what is now Saudi Arabia. They undertook what may have been the earliest known aerial mapping operation in the vicinity of Mecca. The squadron was based in Palestine and Trans-Jordan until the late 1930s, and was responsible for much of the aerial photographic output of the RAF across this region
- 55 Squadron had a long association with Iraq
- 8 Squadron was stationed in Aden from the late 1920s until the outbreak of WWII

Personal mementos

Outside of their reconnaissance, mapping, or training missions, pilots would also take photographs of archaeological sites. Pictures of locations such as the Arch of Ctesiphon in Iraq or the pyramids of Giza in Egypt appear in many surviving collections. Dr Fradley explains: "These can be used to make detailed assessments of particular sites. And we can also use more general old photographs of Middle Eastern and North African landscapes to identify sites that may have been destroyed or lost beneath later developments."

New techniques

The RAF was involved in mapping with the Royal Engineers and the British Colonial Office. They took overlapping series of vertical photographs and applied rudimentary photogrammetric techniques to build detailed maps of large areas. In the early 1930s, pioneering missions of this type were carried out around the Suez Canal in Egypt, and along planned pipeline routes in Trans-Jordan. Similar techniques were used during WWII by RAF photography units working in partnership with the Geographical Section General Staff. They took photographs to update mapping in areas of French influence such as Syria, Lebanon, Tunisia, and Libya.

Where are they now?

The location of the many unique negatives and prints from these missions remains unknown. Many may have not survived. Because aerial photography was often done by the RAF for other parties, such as the Royal Engineers, it may not have been clear who was responsible for maintaining these collections, after they had fulfilled their primary military or cartographic uses. Dr Fradley says; "We know that O.G.S. Crawford was able to visit various RAF bases in 1929 and returned with images from as early as 1920 which are now at University College London. There is also some evidence that images taken around the world were also kept at RAF Farnborough alongside the original School of Photography. But no comprehensive lists of what pictures were taken, and if or when they were discarded, survive".

WWII – have you any pictures gathering dust in your attic?

Archiving of RAF photography improved during WWII and many pictures are in the National Collection of Aerial Photography in Edinburgh. But there are still gaps and there are no known surviving collections of the aerial photographs taken for the pioneering photogrammetric mapping projects in Egypt, Palestine, and Trans-Jordan from the 1930s. Many smaller collections of historic aerial photographs from the Middle East and North Africa have made their way into other museums, libraries, and archives, but

continued on next page



The Arch of Ctesiphon in Iraq, photographed by a member of 55 Squadron RAF in the 1930s. Your images don't have to be so spectacular to be useful.

it is possible that more photography may still be stored away in dusty attics and archives waiting to be rediscovered. Many former service personnel from the RAF, Royal Engineers, and other individuals involved may have retained prints or negatives and perhaps unwittingly, saved these unique records from destruction. This material could be of major importance to researchers working on the Middle East and North Africa today.

The EAMENA appeal

If you have aerial photography of the Middle East and North Africa in your possession, or have information about the fate of the photographic archives of the RAF, then please do contact us at the following address:

Dr Robert Bewley and Dr Michael Fradley
EAMENA, School of Archaeology
34-36 Beaumont Street
Oxford, OX1 3TG
Email: eamena@arch.ox.ac.uk
Tel +44 (0)1865 611660

- Nobody will be asked to donate original items to the project
- Photography that is still classified should obviously not be submitted
- The project will ask to make high quality digital copies
- Images will be preserved for future generations
- Sources of the images will be fully acknowledged on the project website and in any other places where the imagery might be reproduced
- The information gained from these photographs is recorded in the EAMENA database, which is available online and open-access and will be used by heritage professionals and archaeologists to help protect and preserve archaeological sites

For more details about the EAMENA project, see the website at: eamena.arch.ox.ac.uk

Culture Vultures

A rush of new books, films and CDs about aviators, the air force and military events has inspired the Air Mail editorial team to set up Culture Vultures.

If you love a good military film, book or band then take our quick quiz to tell us what you thought about it, what other members might like, and if anything really riled you.

You're welcome to tell us about anything you have seen, read or heard, but here are a few we are aware of to inspire you:

- The Women Who Flew For Hitler – book by Clare Mulley
- Dunkirk – film – 2017 starring Kenneth Branagh: Mark Rylance; Tom Hardy; Cillian Murphy; Harry Styles and others
- Dunkirk – DVD – remastered in 2017 from 1958 original starring John Mills; Richard Attenborough.



We hope this will grow and your reviews will become a regular feature in Air Mail. So get arty and pick over that culture, and inspire or warn off the rest of us.

Contact us at the addresses and emails inside the front cover and let us know:

What is the title?

Is it a film, book, computer video game, television show or CD?

How many roundels out of five would you give it?



What was the best thing about it? (20 words max)

What was the worst bit? (20 words max)

Was it historically/factually accurate? Yes / No / Not applicable

How many inaccuracies did you find?

Would you: Pay for it again? Borrow it? Bin it?

Your member number (for publication under the review):



Remembrance USA side

"The RAF flag flies in Albany, Georgia and our community still looks after your boys." Those were the words of retired U.S. Navy Commander Anthony Parr in an email to the headquarters of the Royal Air Forces Association this summer.

The flag is flying at Crown Hill cemetery in Albany above the graves of seven young airmen who were killed while undergoing flying training from nearby airfields in 1941 and 1942. The local community, led by Bob Drake, who was 14 when the cadets came to the USA, paid for the graves, a granite monument and a flagpole. It has maintained them over the years since 1991. Commander Parr, whose father and brother are buried nearby, has now taken on the voluntary responsibility of looking after the site and wrote to the Association for help with the protocol for a flag raising ceremony.

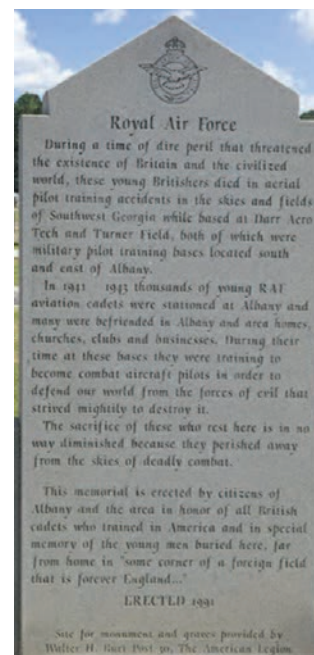
Many RAF pilots were trained in Commonwealth countries such as Canada and Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) where the weather was better and the skies were not crowded or hostile. Under what was called the Arnold Scheme, the United States agreed to a similar arrangement.

"The Army Air Corps set up a flight training detachment at Turner Field just north of Albany with PT-17 Stearman aircraft," says Commander Parr. "The first British RAF cadets arrived in June 1941 and for the next 14 months the classes were exclusively British. During the first year 86 British cadets were graduated, followed by 559 Americans. The last British class graduated in October 1942."

"There were fatal accidents during this intensive training and seven young men were buried in Crown Hill. I clean the flag pole and check on the site every time I visit our family graves, and place flowers on noted dates. I also visit the grave of another cadet at Americus, north of Albany. He had befriended a family in Americus and they wanted him to be buried in their family plot and so he is there. Like the other boys, he had visited their homes, churches, clubs and businesses, and in our South, strangers became family soon enough."

The seven cadets who are buried at Albany are Thomas Moseley, Robert Wilson, Harry D'Arcy Wilson, Jack Hartley, Eric Furze, Dennis Hope and Edward Headington. Clarence Johnson is buried at Americus.

The RAF Association has thanked Commander Parr for the continued support and responsibility that the local community has undertaken for the graves of the cadets. It has provided details of a ceremony used by the Association to remember those who gave their lives in the service of the RAF, including the Airman's Hymn.



Sports update

Raid 17 – final preparations

At the time of writing, the Raid '17 team are making their final preparations for their challenge to cycle through the Pyrenees. Starting on a beach by the Atlantic and finishing in the warm waters of the Mediterranean, it will test participants' mental and physical capabilities to the limit.

Since the last update, bicycles have been crashed and replaced, cyclists have injured and repaired themselves and there has been gradual progress through the team as they endeavour to conquer this huge task. The team have been getting fitter and stronger in preparation and learning about endurance. One element of this is ensuring the body stays hydrated, healthy and ensuring they get into a good post-ride recovery routine.

The support of the RAF Association for this ride is invaluable to the group. The final update will come next issue, where we will let you know how the team got on in their seven-day ride of endurance.

Fencing to victory with Becci Curwen

With the fencing season only just back underway after a break in May, Becci has been back to her winning ways.

She continued her excellent form in the recent British Cadet and Junior Championships; the first event of the new season and an essential first step in gaining qualification for the national teams. Despite struggling with a foot injury, Becci managed to produce a result good enough for GB Cadet Squad consideration as well as gaining a surprise 11th place at the higher junior level.

More good news was to come for Becci when she was picked to represent Great Britain at under 20 level at the upcoming Eden Cup. A great achievement considering she has only just turned 16.

Thanks to the RAF Association's continued support, Becci is able to continue chasing her dreams as a successful fencer.



RAF Boxing Association

This season has seen the RAF Association join forces with the RAF Boxing Association to provide support to boxers, station teams and the wider RAF family.

While a boxer may bravely step into the ring on their own, representing their club, station or service, they have an entire team behind them, willing them on to victory. Coaches, officials and volunteers give their time to support the sport they love. Every opportunity is given to train and develop whether as a boxer, coach or official. Station teams will often train together for many months, building camaraderie and teamwork.

This season has been a busy one, with six station shows, as well as the RAF 'Lord Wakefield' Championships, held at RAF Cranwell. The team has also competed against a group of Spanish national boxers in Murcia, Spain and entered a team in the highly competitive Haringey Box Cup.

There have been many highlights on a personal level for RAF Boxing. However, due to some unfortunately-timed injuries, the team has had limited success in terms of major awards.

Looking to the season ahead, the team will be travelling to Bermuda to compete against the Jamaican Defence Force. While closer to home, the team will be at RAF Brize Norton for the UK Armed Forces Development Boxing Championships.



The support of the Association enables these boxers, coaches and officials to concentrate on providing entertaining and professional shows throughout the country.

To keep up to date with RAF Boxing and their season ahead you can follow them on Twitter @RAFB boxing.

RAF Ladies Representative Football Team

This season the RAF Ladies Representative Football Team (LRT) played tough competition, ranging from Oxford United of the Women's Super League 2 to Gibraltar National Women's Team.

At the Inter-Service matches, first up for the RAF was the Army. Playing at Aldershot Town, it was a fast paced, end-to-end game. The RAF took control thanks to an excellent penalty from team captain Catherine Beaver. The RAF looked as if they would take the win, until the Army produced a frantic few minutes inside the RAF box to equal the score on the 93rd minute. A difficult draw for the RAF to swallow as the teams shared the Williamson Trophy.

The Army then went on to draw with the Royal Navy in their next match, meaning that either a win or a score draw would be enough for the RAF to capture the Inter-Service championship. The match against the Royal Navy got off to a cagey start, with both teams knowing what was at stake. Chances from both sides during the first half were not capitalised on and they entered the final 45 minutes still goal-less.

The Royal Navy broke the deadlock on 52 minutes thanks to a fantastic piece of play, before the RAF responded 20 minutes later thanks to a great strike from Griffiths. The RAF defence stood firm after a barrage of attack from the Royal Navy to see out the match 1-1. The RAF were crowned the RAF Inter-Service champions for the first time in seven years.

The improvements in the RAF LRT could not have happened without the help and support of the RAF Association and the team is extremely grateful to continue receiving this support.



Photo: © MoD/Crown

European success in Dusseldorf

Since their last update, RAF Association supporters Flight Lieutenants Lynsey Carveth and Ben Terry have continued with the busy triathlon season. In June they travelled to Dusseldorf, Germany to compete in their first European Age-Group Sprint Championships.



The short triathlon distance consisted of a 750m open water swim followed by a technical 21km bike leg that featured a number of bridge crossings and concluded with a two lap, 5km run in the business district of Dusseldorf. The exit from the swim also included climbing a gruelling 63 steps and a 500m run into transition.

Ben set off in a well-known field of athletes exiting the water in the first pack as they sprinted up the steps and out to their bikes. He worked hard on the bike and entering transition he moved into second place. Holding form on the run, he crossed the line as European silver medallist.

Lynsey started just ten minutes behind Ben and exited the water in what she described a shock second place. After tackling the challenging 63 steps and the demanding bike route, she came into transition two in third place. Digging deeper than ever Lynsey crossed the finish line in sixth. Her best age group performance to date and an excellent result.

Branch reinvigoration: next steps

Over recent years we have made huge strides in our combined efforts to rejuvenate our Association.

When Council's 2018 Operating Plan is published later this year, it will centre around the needs and desires of a growing membership that is deeply committed to the Association's welfare activities. It will also address the fast-increasing burden of legislation, charity regulation and governance that the Association faces at all levels, from branches and clubs to HQ.

Our branches continue to play a vital role in the success of our Association; branch members spend thousands of hours supporting the RAF family in many different ways. Council's key priority is to support our branch network in complying with current and future legislative and governance requirements.

Together, we must ensure that our activities attain the standards expected of us. But we must also protect the goodwill of our hardworking branch volunteers who, in many cases, are finding compliance increasingly complicated and confusing. Branch and club properties have to comply with 37 pieces of legislation and safety standards related to premises alone – not including new data protection and charity governance requirements.

As a key element of its strategy to support branches, Council has agreed an initiative to survey every property owned by the Association. The aim is to ensure that they are compliant with current and upcoming legislation and to help refresh and rejuvenate them so they reflect the renewed dynamism of the Association. Council has allocated a significant budget for these checks and for potential rectification work required as a result.

Council believes this is the next essential step to helping us continue our journey as an organisation recognised for excellence, achievement and responsibility. Branches and clubs whose property is owned by the Association will receive more detailed information in the near future.



All pictures show the Grimsby and Cleethorpes Branch which has doubled membership from 400 to 800 in the last three years. Graham Malster, Branch Chairman says: "The branch is growing and the club is growing and it's because of the environment we are creating"

Rebecca Davies, Corporate and Major Gifts Manager

Tell us a little about yourself

"My first charity fundraising job was with Cancer Research UK as an area fundraising manager, managing volunteer community fundraisers. I then moved to New Zealand and secured a role with the New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. I arranged many fundraising initiatives and always involved the animals, so anything from Dobermans to Chihuahuas and even llamas and helped to raise four million dollars for a new building through these events.

"After that, I moved back to the UK and started working for the Woodland Trust as a corporate fundraiser. I managed some key accounts including Ikea, Disney and Yorkshire Tea. I decided I wanted more of a challenge so moved into the Business Development department, bringing in new relationships and renewing existing partnerships. Then, earlier this year, the role at the RAF Association caught my eye and here I am."

What does a Corporate and Major Gifts Manager do?

"My team secures sustainable income from major donors, corporates and grant giving organisations. I cultivate partnerships with a broad range of people and explain to potential supporters how our work might fit with their strategic objectives. My job is to guide donors so that their donation or other support is not just a one off, but the start of a long-term partnership. I have some big targets to achieve."

What's the most exciting corporate relationship you've led in a previous role?

"I grew the relationship with Yorkshire Tea while at the Woodland Trust. Not only were we working with Yorkshire Tea, but we were able to use the Gruffalo and all of the appeal that brings. Yorkshire Tea had never changed the design of their tea caddy, but for this partnership, they did that. It made the item an instant collectible and gave the charity a huge amount of brand exposure as our logo was prominent."

Major giving is new for the Association, what does it bring to fundraising?

"I view fundraising as a web. It's all about building connections and establishing relationships and coming in with fresh eyes. I can use my contacts to help other teams (such as volunteering) and build up great partnerships and donors. Our work bolsters all streams of potential fundraising, from legacies to community fundraising. I see major giving as future-proofing the Association, building strong bonds to ensure a steady stream of income and support."



Rebecca (left) pictured with other competitors at the Colour Chaos Run held at RAF Wittering

What have been the challenges so far?

"A large part of my role is telling people about how we support the RAF family. I need a broad knowledge so my challenge when I first arrived was to absorb as much information about the Association as possible. My greatest fear is not doing full justice to our charity when trying to promote it, because we do so much for so many people."

What is the best part of your job?

"Meeting new people, whether it's members of the Association, people we support or potential new donors. We have some incredible people in our RAF family and it's inspiring to speak to them and find out about their experiences."

How has establishing major giving for the Association been going so far?

"It's a big challenge to tackle, but one that I'm really enjoying so far - and we have had some brilliant successes in the short time I've been in post. Trust income is looking to be really strong and we have some great things in the pipeline on the corporate side, including growing existing relationships and entering into new ones. But we still have a way to go. I would love to hear from our members on any ideas or contacts they have that may be of use to the Association to support the RAF family."

Tell us something interesting about you?

"When I'm not at work I'm looking after our new puppy, Bobby. He loves to chew socks! I've also completed the world's third highest bungee jump and the highest canyon swing so I'm a bit of an adrenaline junkie. I would love to do a wing walk in the future. The picture of me above is at the first ever Association Colour Chaos run at RAF Wittering."

Lisa Millar - RAFALO RAF Benson

Our team of RAF Association Liaison Officers (RAFALOs) raise thousands of pounds for the Association every year. They provide a link between serving personnel and our wider branch network. Here we speak to Lisa, station RAFALO for RAF Benson.

Tell me a bit about your RAF career.

"I joined the RAF in August 1997 so have just celebrated my 20 years in the service. I started my career at RAF Halton before moving to do my trade training at RAF St Athan. I have been on several overseas tours including, the Falkland Islands, Oman, Cyprus and Afghanistan."

"I am about to be deployed to Falkland Islands for a six month detachment. I signed on for 32 years and I'm currently a Chief Technician. As a mechanic I'm the first female that has reached this rank within my trade."

How long have you been a RAFALO?

"I've only been a RAFALO for three years. I spent the first 17 years of my career not knowing a lot about the RAF Association. Now that I know what you do and how you support RAF personnel I like to be involved and make sure others are as well."

Why did you decide to become a RAFALO?

"I was based at St Athan and the Area RAFALO and station RAFALO, Warrant Officer Vince Taylor headhunted me and encouraged me to be station RAFALO. I got a great introduction to the area from Vince and the Area Director Paul Baker."

"As a first time RAFALO it was daunting, having 16 branches to support in south Wales, but I was encouraged and supported by Paul and Vince. It made my job a lot easier."

What sort of events have you been involved with?

"I've been involved in almost everything that's expected of a RAFALO. I attend branch meetings, fundraisers and take part in Area and Annual Conference. I also organised a regional RAFALO conference in Wales."

"I also like to get involved in community projects. Bringing together serving personnel and branch members. One of these projects was taking a group of Phase 2 students to the Llandaff and Ely Branch and renovating their garden. It builds up the relationship between serving and veteran members and gives students a chance to see what the RAF Association does and how they can get involved in their local branches."

"Now I'm at RAF Benson and quickly became the RAFALO station committee chairman. We have three affiliated branches; Oxford, Wantage and Banbury branches. Banbury wasn't affiliated to any station and had not been active with Association headquarters for a long time either. We've taken them under our wing a little bit and



encouraged them to get more involved. They recognise that having serving personnel at their club helps them to move forward and they recently voted me in as branch president which was a huge honour."

What makes you so passionate about the Association?

"For 17 years I knew nothing about the Association. The past three years working with the Association has made me enjoy being in the RAF more."

"It's supporting the RAF family and, for the sake of a couple of hours a month, gives people some time and effort. Seeing them appreciate what we do means the world to me."

"It's not all about what I do for them though. I get so much out of it too. I feel like I make new family members with all of the members that I meet. The RAF is like a family and that includes veterans and those currently serving. Nobody asks us for a lot, they just want to be able to talk to people in uniform and know that you're listening to them."

What do you enjoy most about being a RAFALO?

"Being able to help others. It's simple things really, just letting them know they're not out on a limb on their own. It's important to push the welfare side of what we do. RAF personnel past and present are proud and we don't ask for help easily, even when we might need it. If I can support those that need extra support and point them in the right direction then that's great."

If you were running a Brew for the Few, what would your first choice of cake be?

"Lemon drizzle cake, it's my favourite. Either that or Victoria sponge."

Tea or coffee?

"Tea, I drink buckets of the stuff. The mug on my desk is a pint jug for tea and I take it on every deployment with me. I drink between ten and thirteen cups of tea a day."

Hotel news



Our Wings Break hotels have been making the most of the summer months, with fundraising, parades and garden parties at Buckingham Palace.

Rothbury House enjoyed a great day for their annual fundraising event, Tea on the Terrace.

There were performances from the Rothbury Folk Band and the Rothbury Highland Pipe Band on the lawns. Guests were also treated to a cookery demonstration from the chefs at RAF Leeming, before tucking in to the treats on offer.

Employees and guests from Flowerdown House and Richard Peck House were invited to attend The Not Forgotten Association garden party at Buckingham Palace. They were treated to high tea



and had the opportunity to mingle with various celebrities. Guest Kathlyn often visits Richard Peck House and told employees there about a picture of Lytham Windmill she has at home. Care Assistant, Victoria Lamb decided to offer to show Kathlyn the real Lytham Windmill, as she had never been. The pair went on a beautiful day trip and also took the opportunity to go down to the seafront.

Our hotels celebrated Armed Forces Day in style, with guests taking part in local parades, special memorial services and a VIP buffet. Guests and employees enjoyed the chance to reflect and give thanks to all those, past and present who had sacrificed so much for their country.

If you are a regular visitor to one of our three Wings Break hotels, you will have got to know the people who work there well. The Association is lucky to have such caring and dedicated staff and to reward those that have worked for us for a number of years we presented them with long service awards. Congratulations to them all.

Coming up in the next few months: There will be ghoulish goings on and ghoulish treats for Halloween, while Turkey and Tinsel week will give guests the opportunity to celebrate Christmas early: with pantomimes, festive dinners and a very special ho-ho-hotel visitor.



Iain Davison – befriender and caseworker

Iain has been a member of the RAF Association for just over a year. As well as being an active member of his local branch, he has taken on volunteering roles as a caseworker and befriender. We spoke to Iain to find out what volunteering for the Association means to him:

Why did you choose to support the RAF Association?

"The Association helped my mother following the death of my father.

"My father was in the RAF Volunteer Reserve during the Second World War (we think he was involved in some sort of special operations). He had an accident during the war and the injury stayed with him for the rest of his life.

"Fairly soon after my father passed away the Association appeared and kept an eye on mum. They made sure she was coping and not getting lonely. They supported her when she needed them. Through volunteering, I hope to repay some of the help the Association gave to my family."

What appealed to you about your volunteering role at the Association?

"I think the Association is incredibly well organised. In terms of friendship and support for those that need it, they just quietly get on with it and do so much good in the process.

"When I first joined, the branch welfare officer asked me if I had considered welfare volunteering. The next thing I knew I had been on a few training courses and was out visiting people."

What is the most interesting thing you have done, in your role for the Association?

"Meeting new people; those that I see often feel a little awkward in requesting charity. They're proud, but they realise things have gone awry for whatever reason. I try and put them at ease and tell them it's part of what I do to try and get the right level of support for them."

What skills have you learnt or developed as part of your role?

"I've learnt to listen and not to be judgemental. You never know to whom you are talking or what they have gone through. I'm only aware of what I can see and what they tell me.

"I was in the Royal Observer Corps for a couple of years and before that I was a cadet. Certainly, my experiences help me develop a rapport with people, but it's a small part of what we talk about."



What else would you like to achieve in your role as a volunteer?

"To gain experience and confidence, helping people as best I can. At present, I'm still learning the basics, so I have been going out on visits with the welfare officer. I will be ready to go out solo fairly soon and although I'm confident in my ability, it's daunting to be pushed to the forefront and be so trusted."

If you were to recommend volunteering for the Association to others, what would you tell them?

"You get out of it what you put in, so it's about going in with an open mind and committing to the role."

"The Association don't mind that you haven't served, they only ask that you help and support them as best you can."

P R E S E N T S

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Royal Air Force in Concert Tour 2017

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9 October	Royal Festival Hall	London
16 October	Colston Hall	Bristol
18 October	The Anvil	Basingstoke
20 October	Royal Hall	Harrogate
29 October	Lighthouse	Poole
18 November	Royal Concert Hall	Nottingham
22 November	Symphony Hall	Birmingham
26 November	Sage Gateshead	Gateshead
29 November	Bridgewater Hall	Manchester
1 December	Cliffs Pavilion	Southend
3 December	Theatre Royal	Norwich

For more information visit rafinconcert.com



The most help I have ever had – and it saved my life

When everything became unbearable for Chris Slack and he considered taking his own life, the RAF Association was there to support him through his darkest moments.

Chris Slack's mother moved in with him after the death of her sister in London, so that he could support her in her old age. He had his house adapted and she lived comfortably and independently with him for six years.

The pressure of being Ruth's primary carer was enormous

But when her health started to deteriorate there was no treatment - because of her age and frailty. All Chris could do was make his mum's daily life as comfortable as possible.

The pressure of being Ruth's primary carer was enormous. With his brother living in the United States and his sister not living close by, Chris had little support when he needed it. The carers came in daily to wash Ruth and check she was okay, but it was up to him to feed her and support her, a challenge he took on and did as best he could for the next four years.



Photo: © Phil Greig

She was a fussy eater and it was difficult for him to coax her into eating anything at all at mealtimes. She was also fiercely independent and would often try to walk unaided, tripping and falling - much to Chris's dismay. Though he felt frustrated, his love for his mum pulled him through. They were incredibly close and although it was Chris looking after Ruth physically, Ruth had provided Chris with a great deal of emotional support.

Ruth went in to hospital at the start of 2016, when her health deteriorated further. Chris sat with her every day, holding her hand and caring for her, as he had for the past 10 years. Despite the doctors advising him to prepare for the worst, he was not ready for Ruth's death. "If I had known she was nearing the end, I would have held her hand even more tightly and told her I loved her every day," he says.

When Ruth died, Chris spiralled into depression. With not enough money to pay for the most basic funeral and overwhelmed with

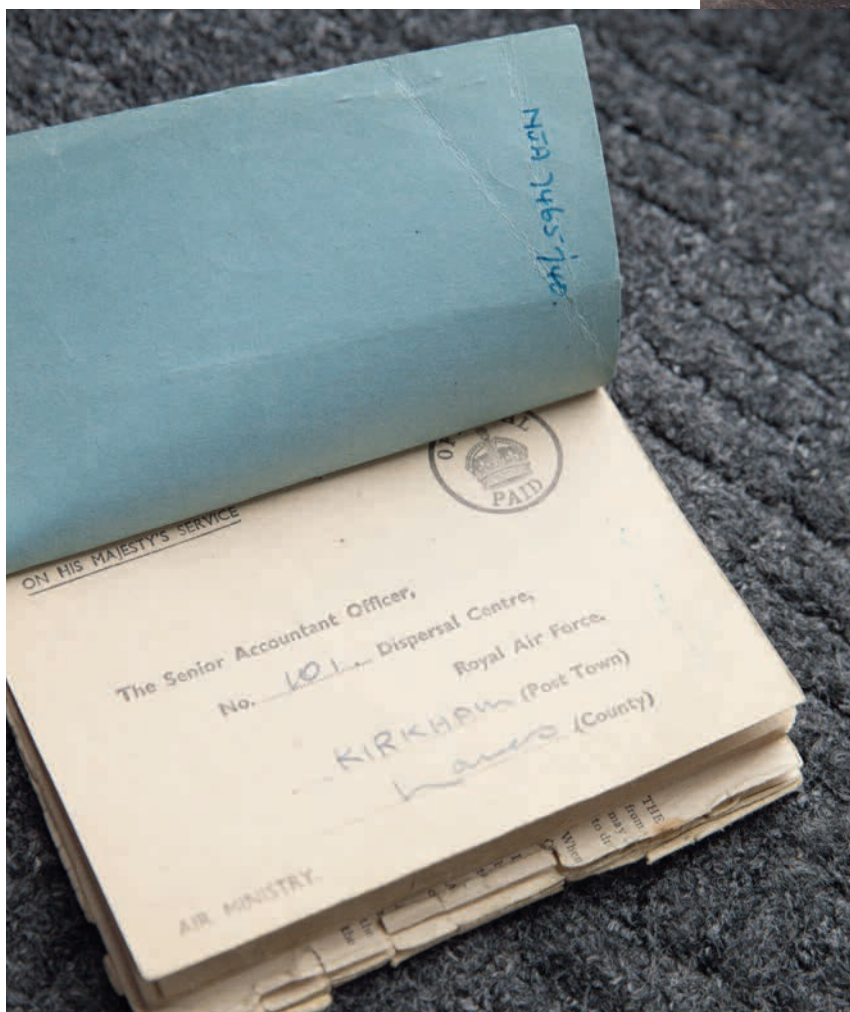


Photo: © Phil Greig

grief, he thought of taking his own life. He contacted the local authority, who suggested he speak to the RAF Association for some support for the funeral. The Northern Area office contacted Chris and visited him, to see how they could help.

Ruth had been in the WAAF during the Second World War - working as a steward in the officer's mess - and helped locally whenever there was an air raid. Because of her time in the air force, Ruth was entitled to help from the Association. It was life saving. The Association contacted the RAF Benevolent Fund and the Royal British Legion, who supplied grants to pay for Ruth's funeral. The day of the ceremony was emotionally draining for Chris but friends and family told him that the it was lovely and a real reflection of her.

After the funeral, we helped get Ruth's ashes back from the crematorium, as Chris had worried that he wouldn't be able to before the funeral was fully paid for. He says that the support from us has been: "the most help I've ever had and it saved my life."

Although dealing with his grief is a continuous struggle, Chris is trying to push through it every day. The little things are upsetting - seeing a television programme that they watched together, or making an additional cup of tea for Ruth without thinking. But with the support of the Association, the worst is behind him.

He says that the support from us has been: "the most help I've ever had and it saved my life"



Photo: © Phil Greig

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News from the RAF

RAF personnel take part in Exercise Mobility Guardian

An RAF Atlas aircraft and RAF movements personnel have been transporting US Military vehicles on Exercise Mobility Guardian. Operating from Joint Base Lewis McChord, and Moses Lake Airfield, they have transported Humvee ambulance variants (pictured) and Stryker Command Vehicles.

Hosted by the US Air Force's Air Mobility Command, over 50 aircraft and 3,000 personnel from over 30 nations gathered at Joint Base Lewis McChord near Seattle for an exercise designed to test and improve how international partners and allies conduct humanitarian relief operations.

Security for the airfield was provided by a team of Force Protection specialists led by No 2 Squadron, RAF Regiment supported by RAF Police, reservists from the RAuxAF Regiment and personnel from Australia and Belgium.



Photo: © MoD/Crown



A view of the RAF Atlas during loading. Photo: © MoD/Crown



A Humvee ambulance variant loaded and strapped down for transport. Photo: © MoD/Crown.

Typhoons arrive in Estonia

Two Royal Air Force Typhoon aircraft from 3 (Fighter) Squadron have arrived in Estonia to conduct operational training.

The aircraft have arrived to conduct Air Land integration training with the British Army Battlegroup currently deployed in Estonia as part of the NATO Enhanced Forward Presence Operation.

The Typhoons, having transitted from Romania where they have just completed their NATO Enhanced Air Policing mission, will be carrying out this training before returning to the UK.

Squadron Leader Paul Hanson, one of the pilots said: "This deployment proves our ability to move fast jets from NATO's south eastern flank to the Baltic region in a matter of hours, demonstrating the flexibility of airpower to reassure our allies that we can deploy at short notice when required to do so."



The Typhoons pictured arriving in Estonia. Photo: © MoD/Crown.

The rise and fall of the Griffin

by Chris Goss



Heinkel He 177. Photo: © Author

Conceived in 1938 as the Luftwaffe's true long-range heavy bomber and flying its maiden flight in November 1939, it would take another three years before the Heinkel He 177 made its operational debut.

From the start, the He 177 was plagued by political and military interference as well as considerable technical problems. For example, the decision for it to be a dive bomber meant that the fuselage had to be strengthened. The lack of a powerful engine capable of giving the He 177 the range, speed and altitude meant the pairing of two engines on each wing linked to a single aircrew. These paired engines ran hot and an attempt to solve this and reduce drag by not having radiators resulted in a revolutionary evaporative cooling system. But this was found to be insufficient, so radiators had to be fitted which then increased drag, which required more power from the engines - a vicious circle from the start.

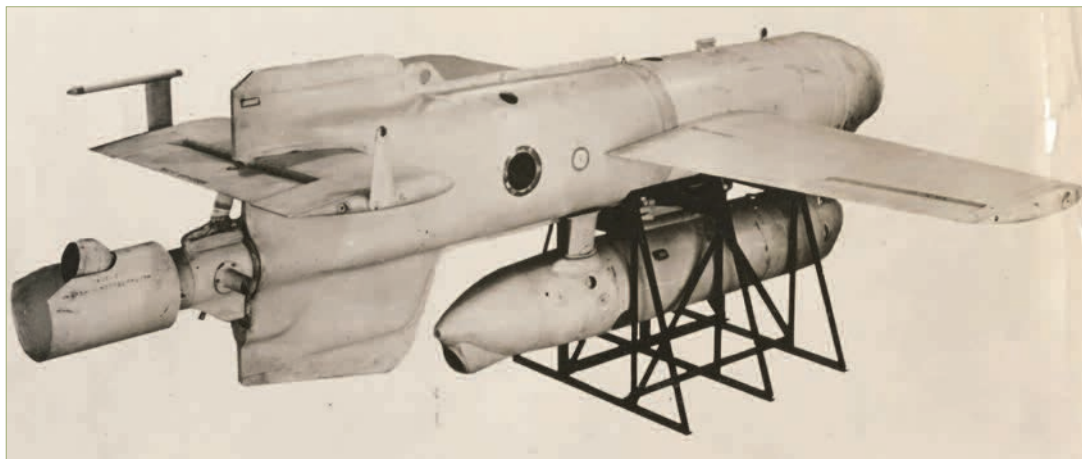
On the first flight, the engines were noted to be overheating. Together with a myriad of other problems which included the crash of a number of prototypes, this meant that it was not until early 1941 that the first production aircraft, the He 177A, began flight testing. Even then, the shortage of defensive armament, engine failures and delivery delays took another year to sort out only for another problem to raise its head in early 1942.

As flight testing continued, the spectre of engine fires began to increase. Con rod breakages were resulting in

holes in the crank case through which oil flowed which would then catch fire. This was found to be due to softer aluminium rivets being used instead of harder duralumin rivets. When this was sorted, manufacturing faults in the propeller pitch change mechanism arose, which again could result in engine fires. It is not surprising that the He 177 quickly earned the nickname *Reichsfeuerzeug* - the Reich's Lighter.



An unidentified crashed HE 177A showing its size. Photo: © Author



Henschel Hs 293 anti-shiping glider bomb. Photo: © Author

However, in July 1942, I Gruppe/Kampfgeschwader 50 (I/KG 50) was formed at Brandenburg-Briest by Major (Squadron Leader) Kurt Schede. I/KG 50 would be the first operational unit to receive the new bomber but continued to be modified. In December 1942, this unit moved to Zaporozhye in the Soviet Union with seven aircraft for winter trials, but quickly became involved in resupplying Stalingrad. Schede was killed on one of the first missions on 16 January 1943. It then returned to Germany at the end of January 1943 (having lost five aircraft, 28 aircrew killed and four wounded). I/KG 50 would resume bombing and then anti-shiping trials and training, including training and development of the Henschel Hs 293 anti-shiping glider bomb. The Hs 293 carried a 1,100 lb warhead and a small rocket motor accelerated the missile to about 370 mph. This cut out after 12 seconds and the bomb coasted into its target in a shallow glide, guided by a bomb aimer who was also aided by a small flare in the tail of the bomb.

Despite the setbacks, it was clear that the Luftwaffe wanted the He 177 combat ready. In September 1942, I./KG 40 had moved to Fassberg to start training on the He 177 and were followed by 8./KG 40 in March 1943. The He 177 was intended as the replacement for the Focke Wulf 200 Condor for maritime operations but it was not until 25 October 1943 that I./KG 50 was re-designated II./KG 40; at long last, it looked as if the He 177 was ready for battle and that came on 21 November 1943.

In November 1941, Oberleutnant (Flying Officer) Rudolf Mons left KG 40 for the German Air Ministry's Technical Office as a long-range bomber specialist after which he became responsible for the Heinkel 177 trials unit. He was therefore the ideal person to command the new He 177-equipped II/KG 40. However, his tenure in command would last just one month and one day.

The He 177 first went into action with the Hs 293 in the afternoon of 21 November 1943. Convoy SL139 had rendezvoused with MKS 30G on 16 November 1943 and was now headed north from Gibraltar. The convoy had first been detected by Condors of KG 40 at 1015 hrs and accordingly, 25 He 177s from II/KG 40 led by Maj Mons took off from Bordeaux-Mérignac each armed with two Hs 293s. At 1700 hrs when the convoy was 420 miles north-east of Cape Finisterre, 20 aircraft, (five having returned with technical problems), approached the 73 ships and attacked.

Using the 6/10th cloud, the missiles were launched from between 400 and 600m altitude predominantly against two stragglers, namely the merchantmen Marsa and Delius. Both were hit by the missiles launched by Hauptmann (Flight Lieutenant) Alfred Nuss – the Marsa was set on fire and was last

seen afloat the following day, one crew member losing his life.

On the Delius, the master, second officer, bosun, chief steward and three crew were all killed, but the badly damaged ship managed to make it to Liverpool, the convoy arriving on 26 November 1943. Other crews noted near misses on another three ships

while the frigates HMS Calder and HMS Drury managed to avoid being hit by high speed manoeuvres and firing off flares to confuse the missile operators.

The majority of He 177s landed safely, but they had suffered a number of casualties. One failed to return, its crew of six being reported missing and another crash-landed just south of the Gironde Estuary south of Bordeaux. The aircraft burst into flames with five of the crew killed and just the gunner surviving. A final He 177 ran out of fuel and the crew baled out, the bomber crashing between Poitiers and Cholet. A further four aircraft were damaged by anti-aircraft fire.

Five days later, the target was a convoy in the Mediterranean. Not only would II/KG 40 have to contend with flak but this time Allied

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fighters and although there would be one spectacular success, the cost to II/KG 40 would be dreadfully high.

On 26 November 1943, a reconnaissance aircraft reported convoy KMF 26 (22 merchant ships and 15 escorts headed for Alexandria) off the African coast. The convoy consisted of 15 ships with an escort of four destroyers and two corvettes, as well as a single Bristol Beaufighter flying overhead. Another aircraft then reported the convoy as being 25 ships, one of which was a troop transporter, and also reported that in addition to the Beaufighters a Wellington and a number of single-engined fighters were giving air cover. As the day progressed, a number of reconnaissance aircraft reported the progress of the convoy so an attack was planned. 18 Heinkel 111s and 15 Junkers 88s would attack with torpedoes but would be preceded by 20 He 177s from II/KG 40 led by Rudolf Mons which would attack in the first wave, each aircraft carrying two Hs 293s. The attack would take place north of Djidjelli as the sun was starting to set. For one crew, the mission started badly. Just after take off, one aircraft was seen to have flames coming from the starboard engine. The Reich Lighter was living up to its name and, laden with full fuel and bomb loads, the pilot tried to get back to Bordeaux-Mérignac but crashed south of Bordeaux and burst into flames. All the crew got away from the inferno except the flight engineer who later died in hospital. The cause for the fire was found to have been a broken crank shaft.

Of the 53 German aircraft tasked to attack the convoy, only about half actually attacked and of those, 13 would be either shot down or destroyed on landing back in France. Rudolf Mons



The He 177 rear gunner position. Photo: © Author

attacked with just six He 177s. One He 177 reported sinking a destroyer while a second damaged another. A third He 177 reported hits on a 10,000 ton transporter and a fourth reported hitting another destroyer which sank six minutes later. The fifth He 177 suffered a technical problem with the Hs 293 while the final bomber reported damaging another destroyer. In reality, just one ship (the 8,600 ton troopship Rohna which was credited to Hauptmann Hans Dochtermann and resulted in the deaths of 1,138 military personnel and crew) was sunk; American pilot Captain Joe Bogart was a passenger on the Rohna:



An underside view of captured He 177 in RAF colours being test flown. Photo: © Author

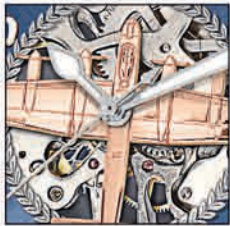


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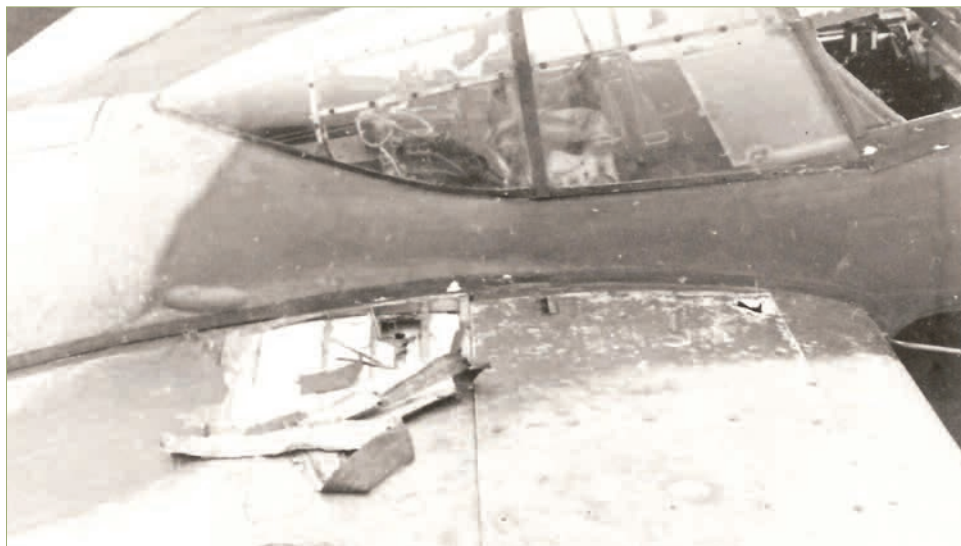
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"..I watched the action from the deck beginning with the intensive bombing of our escorting warships and the air-to-air combat. Next, I was transfixed by what I thought was a He 177 flying at a low altitude of 2,000 feet and close enough for me to see the swastika on the tail. Seconds later I saw a small aircraft below it which was streaming smoke and making a 90° left turn towards the convoy. At a terrific speed, it flashed just above the Rohna's bow where AA fire stitched the left wing causing it to fold and hit the sea and blew up very close to a nearby troop transport. I turned around to see a second vehicle making that same 90° left turn only this time it was not just heading for the Rohna but for me. For a second I thought it was going to hit the sea and then the nose came up and at that moment I thought I saw a huge nut on its nose. It then penetrated the Rohna's port side just above the waterline, blowing a huge hole there and a second hole on the starboard side..."



Squadron Leader Tappin's damaged Mosquito. Photo: © Author

It was now that the Allied aircraft intervened. Spitfires of Groupe de Chasse I/7 (GC I/7) claimed a mix of aircraft, misidentifying the He 177s for Fw 200s and even Dornier Do 217s with them claiming four Fw 200/Do 217 destroyed, a Fw 200 probable, a Do 217 probable and finally claiming five He 177s/Fw 200s/Do 217s damaged. Beaufighters of 153 Squadron claimed three destroyed and two damaged as their Operations Record Book relates:

"Early in the day we received information that an attack was expected on Convoy Annex of Djidjelli. Four aircraft were despatched from Reghaia to Tabor. At approximately 1700hrs, the attack developed and our four aircraft were scrambled. Flying Officer Tom Froggatt and Sergeant J S Williams got busy in a big way and destroyed two He 177s. These are the first 177s we have encountered. Flight Sergeant Ken Boulton and Warrant Officer Reg Hoille also had joy; they destroyed one He 177 and damaged two others. Their aircraft was rather badly mauled by return fire and to get it back to Tabor was a very fine feat of airmanship..."

A Beaufighter of 414th Night Fighter Squadron also claimed to have destroyed another He 177 while P-39s of 347th Fighter Squadron/350th Fighter Group claimed to have damaged another. The Germans claimed to have shot down two Mosquitoes and four Spitfires, three by the crew of Hauptmann Bernhard Eidhoff. In reality, the only other Allied casualty was a Beaufighter flown by Wing Commander Ian Stephenson/Sergeant Cyril Sherbrooke of 153 Squadron - they were last heard when going to intercom and about to attack a German aircraft 80 to 90 miles north of Bougie. Their demise was reported by Leutnant De Bellfont of GC I/7, who saw a He 177 shoot down a Beaufighter.

In comparison, the losses suffered by II/KG 40 were appalling. Rudolf Mons and his crew of five failed to return as did another five crews. Furthermore, another He 177 crashed on returning to Bordeaux with the deaths of the pilot and three crew, another ditched off Montpellier with the death of the Flight Engineer and another returned with a wounded gunner. In respect of the human cost, 35 aircrew were reported missing, six killed and eight wounded or injured. Added to that, the second wave from KG 26 suffered casualties, two He 111s were reported missing, a Ju 88 ditched off Palma with no crew casualties and a final Ju 88

was also reported missing, another 12 aircrew killed. The battered formation returned to France and had to recuperate for future missions. Leadership of II/KG 40 went to Hauptmann Walter Rieder and the next few weeks were quiet for obvious reasons, the next incident did not occur until 24 December 1943. At 0630 hrs, six He 177s took off in pairs on an armed reconnaissance of the Bay of Biscay which, due to the poor weather, was uneventful until 1330hrs when four Bristol Beaufighters were spotted.

At 0950hrs, the Beaufighters from 143 Squadron had taken off from Portreath in Cornwall on an interceptor patrol. Leading the patrol was Australian Squadron Leader Bill Moore, a Battle of Britain veteran who was waiting on his promotion to Wing Commander. At 1250hrs, two He 177s were spotted and Bill Moore lead the attack, closing in to 200 yds and opening fire. However, he had got too close to the defensive armament of the He 177 A-3 flown by Leutnant Richard Kranz of 4/KG 40 and, to the horror of the other three RAF crews, there was a 'vivid flash in front which caused Moore's aircraft to disintegrate': Bill Moore and his navigator Pilot Officer Phil Froment were killed instantly. The remaining Beaufighters then attacked which set the starboard engine on fire after which the bomber glided down, hit the sea, disintegrated and burst into flames. There were no survivors.

To add to their woes, the remaining five He 177s had to divert to Lorient, because of bad weather, and could not return to Bordeaux until the afternoon of the next day. A He 177 flown by Oberfeldwebel (Warrant Officer) Johann Behr only just made it airborne before disaster struck, as the combat report of Squadron Leader Walter Dring of 183 Squadron relates:

"I observed an enemy aircraft taxiing on the runway and preparing to take off. I made an orbit of the aerodrome and saw that the aircraft was airborne. I gave the order to my section (Flight Lieutenant R Hartley and Flying Officer C N Wally) to go into line astern and doing a half roll, I dived on the aircraft which was at a height of about 500 feet, closing in rapidly. At about 400 yds, I gave a short burst following this with another at about 300 yds and giving a final burst from about 200 to 150 yds. I saw strikes in front of the aircraft and on the port engine which was set on fire. Return fire was experienced from the dorsal turret ahead of the tail. After the attack, I broke away to port to avoid hitting the aircraft and looking over my shoulder, saw my numbers 2 and 3 had delivered their attacks and that the aircraft was going down in flames in a 45 degree dive. I saw no one get out and later saw it burning on the ground, smoke rising to a height of 500 feet."

Four of the German crew were killed in the crash.

From 21 December 1943, the German Navy had requested maximum reconnaissance sorties in support of German blockade breakers returning to the Bay of Biscay, something that had not been missed by the Royal Navy and Coastal Command. HMSs Enterprise, Glasgow, Gambia, Penelope and Ariadne together with French warships Le Fantasque and Le Malin were all involved, even though the Alsterufer had already been crippled by a Liberator of 311 Squadron on the afternoon of 27 December 1943 and later abandoned. The following day, warships of 8 Zerstörer Flottille and 4 Torpedo Flottille which had been sent into the bay to escort both blockade breakers, were intercepted by American PB5 Y-1s (B-24 Liberator) Fleet Air Wing 7 and then by HMS Glasgow and HMS Enterprise, which resulted in the sinking of three of their number and the lives of just over 400 German sailors.

It was the afternoon of 28 December 1943 that saw II/KG 40 at last making an appearance when 16 He 177s took off looking for the Royal Navy. Due to the poor weather, six He 177s returned having seen nothing to attack and one more returned early with engine problems. Nine He 177s reported seeing the British warships but could not attack as the cloud base was too low and visibility too poor to launch the Hs 293. Four He 177s reported bumping into a Liberator which was in fact a PB4Y-1. All five aircraft quickly disappeared into the gloom but not before one of the German crews noted an explosion in the water after which two crews saw evidence of an aircraft crash.

Earlier that afternoon, eight Mosquitoes of 157 Squadron had got airborne from Predannack to give fighter cover for the Royal Navy. They met up with a number of warships but started back for base just before 1800hrs. Seven minutes later, the leader, Squadron Leader Henry 'Taps' Tappin spotted a lone He 177

ahead while at the same time spotted the He 177s and PB4Y-1 off to port. The eight Mosquitoes now concentrated on the lone He 177 as the Combat Report relates:

"The He 177 on sighting our aircraft opened up and started violent evasive action, mainly up and down, and opened fire with rear armament. The leader closed in to 600 yds and fired a short burst from port and then making another attack from starboard. Flying Officer D W Davison was seen to attack after this with unobserved results. Squadron Leader Tappin's aircraft was hit by return fire and with the cockpit filling with smoke, a quick check was made. This revealed no oil pressure or temperature on starboard engine and strike by an explosive bullet on starboard wing. A further attack was made from 10 degrees starboard range 400 yds and strikes were seen mid-fuselage and a large white glow appeared, the aircraft catching fire in the fuselage, gradually losing height and attempting to ditch but on contact with the sea, it blew up".

There were no survivors from the He 177 flown by Hauptmann Bernhard Eidhoff of 5/KG 40. Proof that the He 177s were carrying and had not launched their missiles is also given in the Combat Report, the RAF crews noting:

"One large object cylindrical in shape was seen under each wing outboard of engines".

Before the year was out, II/KG 40 would fly just one more sortie, a reconnaissance of the Bay of Biscay in the morning of 31 December 1943. Ironically, there were countless sorties flown by Fw 200s, which should have been replaced by the He 177, from 28 December 1943 onwards. It had not been a good operational start for the Griffon after countless months of technical problems; 1944 would prove to be equally challenging by which time it was too late for the He 177 to make any noticeable impact on the air war.

Maralinga Man

Tales of the Squadron Leader

Sir Arthur Lawrence



This collection of humorous anecdotes is set in the nuclear missile testing Range at Maralinga, South Australia during the 1959 to 1960 test series.

The central character is Squadron Leader Folly, a five foot 30 stone ex Second World War hero. The Squadron Leader's only friend is Johnny Walker Black Label whisky, of which he consumes more than a bottle a day.

The stories are told by the Squadron Leader's long suffering young second in command Flight Lieutenant Gooner, who hates the Squadron Leader but is destined to become his best friend.

Some very strange Royal Air Force personnel appear and disappear. Farce and chaos reign. Through it all the Squadron Leader, with his strict discipline and wicked humour, looms very large indeed.

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Branch news

including region, area and overseas news



1. Balderton Branch was formed by Mick Scatcherd who was the founder chairman and master fundraiser until declining health forced him to stand down at the last Annual General Meeting.

Mick was thanked for the vast number of hours he devoted to arranging parades, collecting and forming a link with the local residential nursing home at Lancaster House – once known as RAF Balderton, the home of the Royal Canadian Air Force and United States Air Force and the Royal Air Force. An annual parade and service organised by Mick remembered those who served there and were lost. Photo shows Mick accepting the Certificate of Appointment to 'Life Vice President' which was presented by new Chairman, Wing Commander Nigel Branston MBE.

2. North Weald and Ongar Branch held a summer lunch at the Squadron NAAFI bar and café, in a 1940s Nissen hut on North Weald Airfield. 30 members and friends attended in this unique meeting place.



One member present was Doris Holden, ex-WRAF at RAF North Weald who danced with Douglas Bader when he was Station Commander there. She said he danced very well despite his artificial legs. Another member, Grace Thomas, told of her late husband Len Thomas DFM. He was a bomb aimer/gunner in Lancaster "Queenie" which is now on show at the RAF Museum, Hendon. The photo was taken by Bill Lewis, Branch Treasurer and shows members and friends enjoying their meal.

3. Trowbridge and West Wilts Branch attended Armed Forces weekend at the park in Trowbridge. The event was well attended with a flypast by a Spitfire from the BBMF on Saturday. There was a lot of interest in the stand. In a very short time ducks and small bears had sold out despite the secretary ordering the maximum. "The Name Me Claim Me" bears also went very well with three being won. A big thank you to all members who worked so hard to make it such a successful weekend. Photo shows (l-r) Ralph Badcock, Mike Sale (Secretary), Peter Ford (Chairman), Barry Gladman (public relations officer and standard bearer) and Phil Logg MBE (Vice Chairman).



4. South Fylde Branch had a busy Armed Forces week. Members were present at a parade and memorial service in Blackpool, with the Scots Guards to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Falklands Battle of Tumbledown. Photo (l-r) Deb Wills (Vice Chairman), Geoff Wills (Webmaster), Peter Duke (Standard Bearer) and Denise Duke (Secretary).



Members also attended the Armed Forces flag raising ceremony at St Annes Town Hall followed by a reception. Later, members attended Music for Heroes. The evening concluded with sunset and the parading of local standards. A veterans gala dinner at the Norbreck Castle Hotel with entertainment and dancing was enjoyed by all.

Later in the week members attended the cinema where school children were shown war time news reels and a Laurel and Hardy film. Serving and former serving military personnel answered their questions afterwards.

The branch had a stall in the local gardens at the end of the week, raising money for Wings Appeal.

Branch news

including region, area and overseas news

5. Northern Region Branch. As part of a Station RAF Association Committee initiative, region members were invited to visit RAF Leeming in June. Arranged and hosted by Sergeant Gaz Kane and Senior Aircraftsman Mase Preston (both Motor Transport), the visit started at Mountain Rescue and members were shown specialist vehicles and equipment. The enthusiasm of the presenter, Senior Aircraftsman 'Dobby' Dobson and the fact he too is part of the RAF Association committee, made the visit especially interesting.

Next, Sergeant Al Waring was on hand to meet the group who were marched over to the Historical Training Facility much to the amusement of passers-by. A very informative presentation on the history of RAF Leeming was delivered by Warrant Officer McDonough before a tour of the facility.

After lunch the group headed for 100 Squadron where they were met and hosted by Bedale and RAF Leeming RAF Association Branch Chairman, Wing Commander Thorpe. An informative presentation on the role and history of the Squadron from Flight Lieutenant Harris was followed by a tour around the Ops Room and Squadron Historical Room. For many, this was the highlight of the day.

A fantastically successful day, none of which would have been possible without the kind support of personnel above. Further visits will be co-ordinated later in the year and information will be released in due course.

6. Downham Market Branch. At its July meeting, the branch met to say farewell to its President, Group Captain Rich Davies, on his departure from RAF Marham and to welcome the incoming Station Commander and Branch President, Group Captain Ian Townsend.

Members presented Group Captain Davies with mementoes of his association with the branch and in return, accepted a signed print featuring the three Marham Tornado Squadrons. He is wished a long and successful future in the RAF. Group Captain Townsend was formally welcomed to the branch and members expressed their thanks to him for assuming the Branch Presidency. Members and guests then enjoyed a drink and buffet reception. Photo shows Branch Chairman Len Algar and Group Captain Davies.

7. Witham and Rivenhall Branch. At the branch meeting, the club committee and past committee members asked Terry Ridley if he would like to take over the position of branch President. He willingly accepted. Terry has been associated with the branch for over 35 years and held many posts within it. He had been the driving force behind the Wings Appeal and for the past 16 years the branch have received a certificate for surpassing £10,000 p.a. He was also Branch Chairman for a good many years.

8. Morecambe and Lancaster Branch ran a stall during Armed Forces Day in Morecambe's Winter Gardens. The lighting wasn't very good – one of the many jobs still to be done as part of the extensive programme to restore this iconic building to its former glory – but it didn't prevent the raising of £196.18 for the Wings Appeal. Cadets from 455 (Morecambe & Heysham) Squadron Air Training Corps assisted by running the 'Name the Bear' competition, in which Civilian Instructor Dawn Wells chose the names Amy and Joseph after her two children – as she has done for several years. When all the squares were filled we asked her son Joseph, a cadet with the squadron, to open the envelope. To their delight it said that the bear's name was "Joseph – of course!" Photo shows Dawn with her bear and Joseph holding the winning name.



Branch news

including region, area and overseas news



1. Sheringham and District Branch. In preparation for the launch of this year's Wings Appeal the branch recently held its Annual Reception in Cley, north Norfolk. As guests of Mrs Pamela Keys MBE, 34 members and others attended and to start the appeal £205 was raised during the evening.

The branch has been working to increase its membership, not only socially but importantly with more people available to help with collecting for Wings Appeal. There has been a local campaign of posters (supermarkets, libraries, clubs etc) plus advertising in the local press and a PR project to increase visibility; with so many competitors in the charity sector you have to work hard!



2. Mablethorpe and Sutton-on-Sea Branch. At its July meeting the branch received an unexpected visit from the recently appointed South East and Eastern Area Director Ailsa Gough. At the end of the formal business of the evening Ailsa spoke briefly about her career in the RAF and her plans to support the 160 branches in the area.

Socially for the evening those present enjoyed a quiz set by President Brian Cooke. Ailsa showed herself to be adept at finding obscure answers.

Photo shows (l-r): 93 year old George Green, Ailsa Gough, Keith Gardiner and standard bearers Bernie and Ruth Barker.



3. Worcester and District Branch made its annual trip to the old RAF base at RAF Kemble; now operating as Cotswold Airport and under private ownership. The trip, in June, gave members the chance to see the restoration work being undertaken by a dedicated team on the last RAF Britannia to be withdrawn from service, XM496, although sadly the aircraft will never fly again.

The visit also included a tour of the working control tower and a specially escorted visit to the work of 'Air Salvage International', the main operator on the airport who dismantle aircraft at the end of their flying days and recycle sound components for re-use where possible.

Photo shows a group from the branch posing with the XM496. All considered this a fantastic trip and the opportunity of a lifetime.



4. Lincoln Branch recently attended Armed Forces Day celebrations on the high street of Lincoln city centre to collect donations and sell various pieces of RAF memorabilia.

Fantastic support from the local community and traders alike helped to create a great atmosphere where the branch were able to advertise the Association brand.

Support provided by serving personnel from nearby units helped to make the event a resounding success with takings in excess £1,200; one of the most profitable occasions in recent years.

Photo from Sergeant Mike Jones (RAFALO and RAF Photographer).

Branch news

including region, area and overseas news

5. Bodmin Branch. Cadets from 2533 (Bodmin) Squadron Air Training Corps and the Bodmin Branch joined forces at the recent Bodmin Riding and Heritage Day. The event celebrates Bodmin's history as far back as the Prayer Book Rebellion and includes 'Hunting the Beast of Bodmin Moor', which when caught is paraded through the town by the young men of the borough. Sergeant Derek Coad, who led the cadet contingent, said: "We were delighted to team up with our RAF Association friends to represent the RAF family at such a popular event".

Photo (Crown Copyright) shows Sergeant Coad and the cadets of 2533 (Bodmin) Squadron Air Training Corps with members of the branch.

6. Mansfield and District Branch celebrated Armed Forces Day in the Market Square. This event opened with a march past led by the local Bugle and Drum Corps. Later, all present were treated to a Hurricane flypast. The branch, along with several others, visited RAF Waddington for Veterans Day and were treated to a tour of the station and lunch in the Warrant Officers Mess.

Over £2,000 has already been raised for Wings Appeal this year and there are several more collections booked.

7. Melton Mowbray Branch held a successful open day on 1 July to promote the Association, as well as keeping the branch's profile to the fore within the surrounding area.

The event was opened by the Mayor, Tejpal Bains supported by the Senior Town Warden, Dinah Hickling and Branch President Hadge Jarvis. The Mayor spent a couple of hours at the event and is very supportive. He presented Brenda Cox, Vice Chairman and Branch/Club Secretary, with the town's "Citizen of the Year" award and the Mayor's Award of Merit for long service to the branch. There were many stalls, as well as a barbecue and refreshments. 1279 (Melton Mowbray) Squadron Air Training Corps were present with a flight simulator and the Defence Animal Training Regiment was represented by Corporal Mick Lauchlan and his dog "Sparky" who got lots of attention.

Photo shows Brenda Cox receiving the Citizen of the Year award from the Mayor.

8. Ryedale Branch. More than 50 members met for its 18th anniversary celebration at the Mallyan Spout Hotel. Special guests included Commanding Officer RAF Fylingdales, Wing Commander Darren Whiteley and Squadron Leader Dean Gibson, RAF Association Council and serving at RAF Halton.

Following a most convivial lunch, members were entertained by "Warm Memories of the Cold War" from those members who served 1947-1991. Each gave an insight to each decade showing a wide variety of experience from air gunners to Lightning, Meteor and Vulcan pilots, administrators and Princess Mary nurses. To conclude the afternoon, Wing Commander Whiteley and Squadron Leader Gibson shared some of their thoughts on the RAF and the Association today. Both have enjoyed long and successful careers with the service and expressed their appreciation of the support given by members to both serving and retired personnel.

Photo: Back row (l-r) Malcolm Barnard, Mike Baker (1960s), Andrew Sollitt (1980s), Trevor Schofield (1950s). Seated: Christine Barnard, Norman Appleton (1940s and 1970s) and Wendy Baker (1960s).

Please submit branch news to BranchNews@rafatrad.co.uk or via Royal Mail. The address can be found under Air Mail contacts on inside front cover. Wording should ideally be around 100 words, accompanied by one supporting photograph (min 300 dpi).

Please give as much information as possible about those shown in photograph and any copyright information relating to it. Due to space limitations, submission does not guarantee publication.



Branch news

including region, area and overseas news



1. West Bromwich Branch. Flight Sergeant Stacy Jones, born in the town, was shot down on 5 May 1942 in the town of Dranouter, Belgium in WWII. He was escorting a bombing raid, codenamed Circus 157 targeting Nazi territory over Lille. Now, 75 years on, a monument has finally been unveiled on the spot he crashed his Spitfire by the Mayor of Poperinge, Christof Dejaegher and the British Ambassador for Belgium, Alison Rose. The monument features a picture of Flight Sergeant Jones and the wreckage of his plane, along with a message recognising his service. He was one of several who lost their lives in the dogfight. Memorials to other pilots have already been unveiled.

Fred Rackham, Branch Publicity Officer said: "I'm delighted the monument has been unveiled. Flight Sergeant Jones is someone we have researched for many years. To have a monument commemorating his service feels like an achievement for me and the branch." (see also Air Mail Branch news October - December 2007)



2. St. Neots Branch. No 4 Squadron 309 Entry RAF Hereford held its 50th Anniversary Reunion in May at the Green Dragon Hotel Hereford. In attendance were 18 members, along with members of 308/310 entry with special guests including the former Station Commander of RAF Hereford Air Vice Marshal T B Sherrington CB OBE and his wife and the Reverend Frank Walker Minister emeritus Cambridge Unitarian Church.

The formal dinner was held in the ballroom with a short film from the RAF archives of the RAF apprentices and the School of Technical Training. The raffle raised £77 and there was 60s music and of course a special 50th cake with the RAF colours and emblem. A fantastic weekend with visits to local haunts including the market and Hereford County Fair. Several members attended Hereford Cathedral for a special performance by local choirs set in the magnificent cathedral and gardens. All are already looking forward to next year's reunion.



3. Beccles and Southwold Area Branch held a Wings Appeal collection in Southwold in August. Mayor Councillor Matthew Horwood was presented with the "Plastic Duck Award" by President Brian Vousden for his help in supporting the branch.

Photo (l-r) shows President Brian Vousden presenting the Mayor Councillor Matthew Horwood with the "Plastic Duck Award". Councillor Sue Doy, Life Vice-President Eddie Earl, member Brain Sillick and member Jon Randall also present.



4. Kettering Branch. Eleven members of the branch visited the "Home of the Harrier" RAF Wittering in Cambridgeshire for a briefing on the station's history from 1916 to date. The group looked around the station Heritage Centre to view the many displays that tell the station's long history in the First and Second World Wars, and subsequent conflicts. The visit finished in the heritage centre's aircraft hangar where several versions of the Harrier aircraft are on display. A great visit for any aviation or history enthusiast.

Branch news

including region, area and overseas news

5. Shrewsbury and District Branch members showed their appreciation to local stores and customers for their long and continuing support of the Wings Appeal. Certificates of appreciation were presented by Alex Madeley, Wings Appeal organiser, to representatives from three stores; Tesco, Morrisons and Co-Op.

6. Rotherham Branch. John Watkins, oldest member at 93, raised the Armed Forces flag on Armed Forces Day outside Rotherham Minster over All Saints Square. He was later handed the memento by Danielle Hosier of 218 (Rotherham) Squadron Air Training Corps during a sunset ceremony marking the end of Armed Forces week.

John was the first man in Rotherham to join the Air Training Corps and went on to serve as a warrant officer and wireless operator/air gunner from 1942 to 1946.

Also present were service members, Mayor of Rotherham, Councillor Eve Rose Keenan and Councillor Ian Jones.

Photo courtesy of Rotherham Advertiser.

7. Haywards Heath Branch announce the passing of former President Dave Fellowes. He was also a member of Bomber Command Veterans group better known as the 'Bomber Boys', raising money for the Bomber Command Memorial and its support.

He appeared in many TV aviation documentaries with many friends and admirers in the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight who volunteered as pall bearers at his funeral in June. A 'Poem to absent friends of 460 Squadron' was read by Group Captain Antony Martin RAAF. Tributes were also given by Cherry Greveson, Bomber Veterans Group, Steve Darlow and Squadron Leader Andrew Millikin Officer Commanding BBMF. After the funeral family and mourners met at the Wings WWII Museum in Balcombe, West Sussex.

Photo shows Warrant Officer Dave Fellowes with a model of his Lancaster ND968 AR-O, 460 Squadron RAAF.

8. Coningsby and District Branch. John and Brenda Noble collected for the Association at the 40s weekend at Woodhall Spa.

17 (Coningsby) Squadron Air Training Corps recently held its awards and trophies presentation evening. The awards were presented by Wing Commander Claire O'Grady who said: "It was a tremendous honour to present awards to the Coningsby Air Cadets of 17 Squadron. The evening recognised their individual talents and hard work over the past year and to see these efforts rewarded in front of family and friends was fantastic. All of the cadets can be justifiably proud of all of their achievements. Well done to all."

Cadet Elliot Griffiths was awarded the Coningsby and District Branch award for Best Sporting Achievement for his efforts on the Wing Sports Day where he won the bronze medal in the 1,500 metres.



Branch news

including region, area and overseas news



1. Cranwell Branch has had a good year, with outings to Ruddington Framework Museum, Anglesey Abbey, Mablethorpe, Market Rasen, visiting a nearby farm ice cream parlour, Stamford and Barnsdale Gardens and has had a full range of speakers at branch meetings, which included Nick Bunting, Secretary General of the Association.

In addition there has been considerable effort towards the Wings Appeal, where it is hoped that the branch will repeat the award of a £10k+ certificate of last year. Having had problems in attending one of the local supermarkets in September, the manager agreed that members could collect on a Saturday in February, which proved to be worth the effort. This was followed by a concert at one of the Sleaford educational academies, which was so well received that it is envisaged this may well become an annual event. During the April/May bank holiday the branch had a stall at the Metheringham Airfield Wartime Weekend. This went well and, unlike the previous year, did not have to be abandoned during the second afternoon because of adverse weather.

Nick Bunting presented Gordon Watson's National Presidential Certificate to Gordon's recent widow Mary. Gordon stood down as Branch Chairman last year having served since 2000. Also presented was the £10k+ certificate to the branch for its Wings effort last year. The majority of the small team of branch Wings volunteers, excluding the 2160 (Sleaford) Squadron Air Training Corps are in the photograph.



2. Dover Branch. Three members collected for the Wings Appeal at Pencaster Gardens on Hell-fire Corner Day as well as Armed Forces Day in July.

Photo shows Secretary Roy Lacy, committee member Roy Huckle and Branch Support Officer Andy Pegler.



3. Sud-Ouest Branch. July and August in France are very much considered to be a national summer holiday. However, branch members view it somewhat differently. In July, 121 people met for the annual hog roast in the Charente Maritime to raise welfare funds for the branch. Members enjoyed good food and refreshment coupled with friendship and music. Over €1,000 was raised via a raffle, name the bear, guess the number of sweets and a round the Isle of Wight Schneider Trophy race! After enjoyment comes responsibility and duty as during July and August, the branch attended seven commemorations in South West France to remember fallen RAF airmen buried throughout the region of Nouvelle Aquitaine. The airmen died on missions involving Havoc, Stirling, Halifax and Mosquito aircraft. Photo shows Chairman, Beryl Dennett Stannard, saying a few words at the monument to the downed crew of a Mosquito of 151 Squadron supported by local French firemen and standard bearers.



4. Aphrodite Branch. Members were delighted when RAF Akrotiri's Commanding Officer, Group Captain Blackburn agreed to reinstate the Akrotiri House Garden Party. In June, Group Captain and Mrs Blackburn hosted 125 members, their families and friends to a very social evening, when the major part was to raise valuable funds, and led to €1,560 being raised. The amount was shared between the Aphrodite Branch and other local organisations, selected by Group Captain Blackburn, namely the Army Benevolent Fund, RAF Akrotiri Military Wives Choir and the RAF Akrotiri Voluntary Band.

The branch was very grateful to No1 (Overseas) Squadron Air Training Corps for the assistance they gave on the evening; they will receive the personal thanks of the branch and a financial donation to assist them with their future plans.

Branch news

including region, area and overseas news

5. TCW and 90SU Branch. Members together with current and past members honoured their departed colleagues with their annual service of remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Family, friends and colleagues stood in quiet reflection in the peaceful surroundings as the names of all personnel listed on the memorial were read out. The stone stands as a permanent reminder to those who lost their lives while being part of TCW and/or 90SU.

Group Captain Andrew Cooksley, Commanding Officer 90 Signals Unit said: "The Unit Memorial is an important part of our identity and this commemoration connects those serving at 90 Signals Unit today with past members who are no longer with us. It's a chance to reflect with pride on their service and to reinforce our ties with their families and loved ones."

Air Commodore Chris Moore, Branch President and a former Officer Commanding of 90 Signals Unit, attended the service and said: "This event is a wonderful occasion for colleagues, families and friends to come together and remember those who are no longer with us, those who have made and will always be part of our history."

6. Solihull Branch. On 11 July, members of the branch arranged for 99 year old Ken Wilkinson, one of 'the Few', to attend the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight at RAF Coningsby. Here you can see HRH Prince William talking to Ken. WWII veteran Spitfire and Hurricane pilots and Lancaster crew members attended the event together with the current Battle of Britain Memorial Flight aircrew. Sadly after returning to Solihull Ken died peacefully in a local nursing home on 31 July.

7. Haverfordwest Branch. Pictured are members in front of their stall at the Wings over Carew event.

A memorial service was held on both days at Carew which was operational in both world wars. An Avro Anson is now in the purpose-built hangar and will be repaired/refurbished. Volunteers are needed for this project.

8. Hythe and Romney Marsh Branch. In July a Brew for the Few was held at Bob and Jenny's residence in Dymchurch.

The weather was fine and approximately 50 people called in for a cup of tea or coffee. The branch managed to raise £1,013.85 for the Wings Appeal.

The branch has a regular collection at the Channel Tunnel. In June, collectors John, Freda, Bob and Jen were suddenly surrounded by Japanese visitors, all wanting selfies with John and the collection that day raised £404.40 for the Wing Appeal.

Gloucester Branch. On 5 July the branch formally adopted 181(City of Gloucester) Squadron Air Training Corps. Branch Chairman Ian Beaton presented the adoption certificate to Squadron Officer Commanding Flight Lieutenant Dave Middleton.



Branch news

including region, area and overseas news



1. City and Central London Branch attended the unveiling ceremony of a memorial to honour two million African and Caribbean servicemen and women who served in WWI and WWII. Erected in Windrush Square, Brixton the event in June was attended by Sir Michael Fallon Defence Secretary, London Mayor Sadiq Khan and a wide range of community and civic dignitaries.

Branch Chairman Peter Ramrayka and member Alvin Chy Quene presented commemorative medals and were joined by Branch Secretary Mike Saunders in the laying of wreaths. The branch's adopted squadron, 1921 (Lewisham) Squadron Air Training Corps, took part in the march past. Peter also helped release 100 white doves to mark the occasion.



2. RAF Association Concert Band. 6 August was the band's first sortie to the Keynsham Bandstand, Keynsham, Bristol. A varied and entertaining programme of music with shouts of encore resounding around the park with the public singing and dancing along. Some of the band's engagements included Battle of Britain Sunset and Dinners; concerts in Teignmouth; South West Children's Hospice; The Galleries, Bristol with Armistice/Remembrance and Christmas concerts to follow.

Next year's diary includes RAF100 events, 100 years since the end of WWI and the band's 20th anniversary. For further details go to www.rafaconcertband.org or ring 01934 820205.



3. York Branch members were among families and guests attending the annual memorial service at Sutton-on-the-Forest honouring personnel from the Royal Canadian Air Force lost during WWII while flying at nearby RAF East Moor. Everyone gathered at the sundial memorial which is dedicated to the airmen of 415 and 429 squadrons who operated Halifax bombers.

The service included a flypast by three Grob Tutor training aircraft from nearby RAF Linton-on-Ouse. Ten year old Oliver Mennell and his grandfather Brian (Branch Chairman) laid a wreath on behalf of the branch.

In August, members were met by John Allison BEM (Station Civilian RAFALO) at RAF Linton-on-Ouse. Taken by minibus, the group visited the Air Traffic Control building. After lunch was a visit to No. 72(R) Squadron's Aircraft Engineering hangar, where several Tucano were undergoing depth servicing. Two student pilots were at hand to answer questions. Then followed a visit to the Operations Wings where several 'had a go' in the Tucano simulators. The final visit was to Halifax Block (originally the Airmens Mess) housing the Station Memorial Room showing exhibits and memorabilia covering 1939 to 1945.

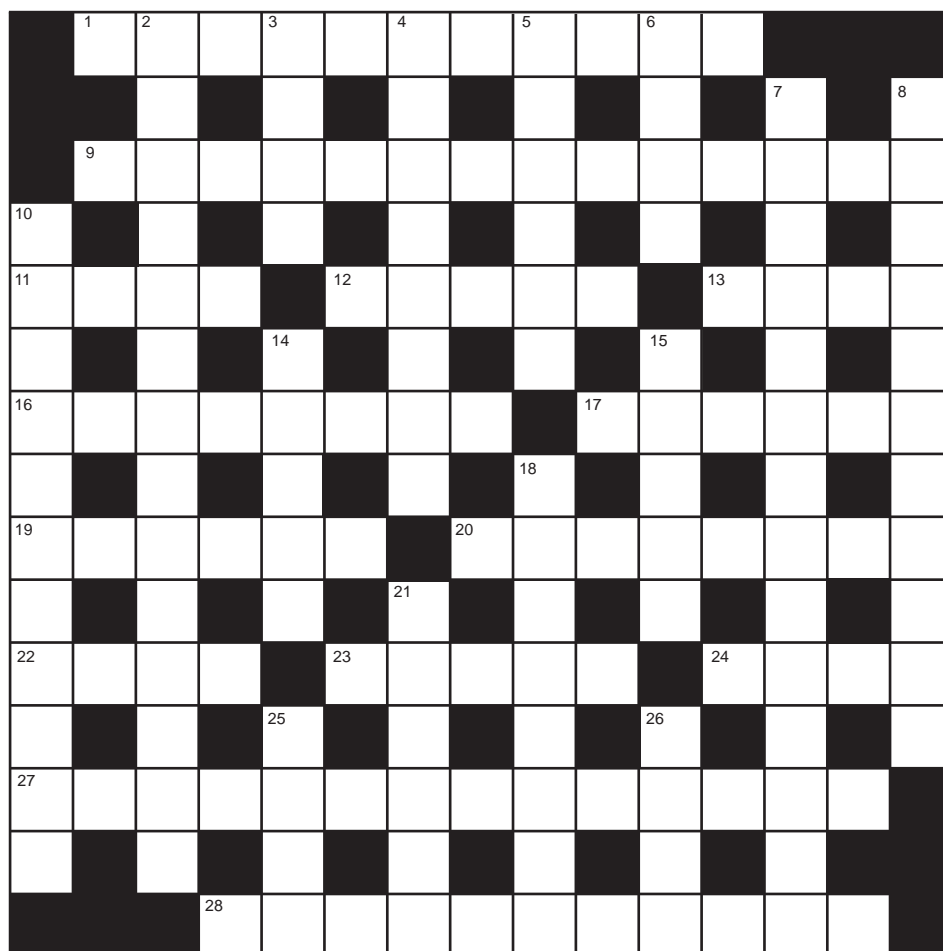


4. Rothbury House had a Yorkshire themed visit in August when members of Skipton Branch visited, with two bunches of white roses to celebrate Yorkshire Day. They also kindly brought a £500 branch donation and £1,000 from the Yorkshire region which is sadly in the process of being disbanded.

Photo shows Rothbury House Manager Colin Lee accepting the cheques from Pat and Heather Hearn and Arlene Dowson representing Yorkshire region along with her husband Harry.

WINTER 2017 FUN CROSSWORD

by Enigma



Across

- 1 Carol for a noisy day? Surely not! (6,5)
- 9 Nose cloths (14)
- 11 The first A in AAA (ack-ack) (4)
- 12 Third-grade radiation! (5)
- 13 Space in the far East (4)
- 16 Most items are this to be identified (8)
- 17 Teach a shoal of fish (6)
- 19 Advantageous (6)
- 20 Against trips along lines on map (8)
- 22 The French start hot roasting oven (4)
- 23 Company's 8 down workers (5)
- 24 Two groups of army personnel are scarce (4)
- 24 Hindu woman's garment (4)
- 27 State of person in charge of all commercial transactions on a voyage (14)
- 28 Shane doubts frenzied dog (6-5)

Down

- 2 Noticed small part of the navy? Sing (1,3,5,5)
- 3 Is he in a whirlpool? (4)
- 4 Green tea brewed for youngster (8)
- 5 Arrival of revenue (6)
- 6 Greet the frozen rain (4)
- 7 Too many people (14)
- 8 Settled (11)
- 10 Boats with nowhere to shelter (11)
- 14 Fashion in popular favour (5)
- 15 Sharp angle (5)
- 18 Two (or more) aircraft having a scrap (8)
- 21 Wanders (6)
- 25 Solo melody (4)
- 26 Capital of Norway (4)

Notes

The solution to this crossword can be found on page 63

In a foreign field

by Chris Goss



The wreckage of a Spitfire, north of Monchaux. Photo: © Author

The photographs show German airmen inspecting the wreckage of a Spitfire in a French cornfield. Research has now shown that the date of this was 18 July 1943 and sadly, the 22 year-old pilot didn't survive.

He was Rycherde Henry Wilshire Hogarth and he was born in Oxford on 29 October 1921. He was educated at Dean Close School in Cheltenham and then went to Christ Church College, Oxford to study medicine. His time at university was short, as on 18 October 1940 he joined the RAF. After basic training he went to the USA for pilot training during which time he was commissioned. He returned to the UK in January 1942 and after a series of courses, Dickie Hogarth was posted to 41 Squadron on 24 June 1942 at RAF Martlesham Heath. He was promoted to Flying Officer in October 1942 and then on 17 April 1943 he shot down a Junkers Ju 88 D-1 of the reconnaissance unit 3 Staffel (Fern)/Aukklärungsgruppe 122 off Ostend. Sadly, his time as a pilot would last three months and one day more.

On the evening of 18 July 1943, 12 Spitfires of 41 Squadron took off from RAF Westhampnett in West Sussex as part of the escort for Ramrod 148, an attack on Abbeville Drucat airfield by 15 Hawker Typhoons of 175 and 182 Squadron. The Typhoons met up with their escort over Rye and then crossed the Channel at 500 feet for their target. Five Typhoons of 175 Squadron bombed first from north to south, their bombs overshooting and hitting a factory and marshalling yards as well as the airfield. The eight Typhoons of 182 Squadron were more successful flying south to north hitting the runways and dispersals. The Typhoon pilots



Hauptmann Kurt Bühligen pictured in his aircraft. Photo: © Author



Oberfeldwebel Kurt Goltzsch can be seen in the photograph above in the forage cap and pale jacket, inspecting the crashed aircraft. Photo: © Author

reported moderate heavy accurate flak over the airfield (which hit Sergeant Leonard Clark's Typhoon of 197 Squadron after which he ditched off Newhaven but was rescued) but that the Luftwaffe was not seen.

The reasons why the Luftwaffe was not seen was that it was tangling with the Spitfire escort. Squadron Leader Ray Harries of 91 Squadron claimed three Messerschmitt 109 Gs (two were lost by the Germans with one pilot killed and one wounded with another aircraft 'crash-landing damaged in combat') but it was 41 Squadron that came off worse when it met the German fighters. Three German claims were filed for Spitfires - Unteroffizier Günther Jahn of 5 Staffel/Jagdgeschwader 2 (5/JG 2) at 1828 hrs, Hauptmann Kurt Bühligien commander of II Gruppe/JG 2 at Foucaucourt-en-Santerre at 1835 hrs and Oberfeldwebel Kurt Goltzsch of 5/JG 2 15 km west of Abbeville at 1838 hrs (his 33rd kill of 43). Flight Sergeant Douglas Fisher was wounded in combat, Flying Officer Tom Slack baled out and landed at Foucaucourt-Hors-Nesle (after which he managed to evade capture and was back in the UK just over a month later) and these two losses would match with the claims of the first two German pilots. Sadly, it was Dickie Hogarth who was killed when his Spitfire serial EN235 coded EB-S was shot down by 30 year-old Goltzsch north of Monchaux and who, with the forage cap and pale jacket, can be seen inspecting the crashed aircraft in the photographs.

Dickie Hogarth was initially buried at Notre Dame de La Chapelle cemetery, Abbeville six days later, but now lies in the Abbeville Communal cemetery extension. Kurt Goltzsch's flying career didn't last much longer. He was shot down and badly injured on 4 September 1943 only to succumb to his injuries in September 1944.

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Austria



Austria is to phase out its fifteen-strong fleet of early Eurofighter Typhoons from 2020 because of problems with ongoing costs and the limited capability of this version of the aircraft. They plan to replace these aircraft, and their ageing fleet of some seventeen Saab 105s, with 18 new aircraft of one type, including a small number of two-seaters.

India



The Indian Air Force is to receive the very last Boeing C-17 Globemaster III to bring its fleet to eleven aircraft with No 81 Squadron at Hindon Air Force Station near Delhi. This aircraft remained unsold for some time after the C-17 production line closed down as several countries negotiated for its purchase.

Israel



The air forces of France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Poland and the United States are to take part in a 'Blue Flag' exercise being held by the Israeli Air Force at Ovda air base near Eilat in the south of the country in November this year. This is an increase from the four nations who took part in the last exercise and will make it the largest multinational gathering to be staged in Israel. Some seventy fighter aircraft will take part in the two-week event.

Norway



Norway has now placed its order for five Boeing P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft to replace its air force's current fleet of six Lockheed Orions and three Dassault Falcons. The Poseidons will be delivered in 2022 and 2023.

Oman



OMAN - Royal Air Force of Oman Typhoon. Photo: © BAe Systems.

Oman has received its first two Eurofighter Typhoons from the BAe System's factory at Warton in Lancashire. They arrived in the country on 21 June and were both two-seaters. They will be followed by another two-seater and nine single-seaters over the next couple of years. Oman is also due to receive a fleet of new BAe Systems Hawks to complement the Typhoons.

Pakistan



The Pakistan Navy has acquired seven former Royal Navy Sea King troop carrying helicopters. They will be delivered later this year after servicing at Fleetlands in Hampshire, to join Pakistan's earlier Sea King fleet.

Poland



The Polish Air Force is to receive three Boeing 737s for use as VIP transports by the President and senior government officials. The aircraft will all be delivered by 2020 after suitable fitting-out.

Portugal



The Portuguese Air Force is to receive at least five Embraer KC-390 tanker/transporters to replace its current fleet of Hercules. The delivery timescale has not yet been announced but is likely to be delivered by the early 2020s.

Qatar



The Qatar government has ordered 36 advanced versions of the Boeing F-15 Strike Eagle, a two-seat multi-role aircraft in widespread service with the US Air Force and other nations. Delivery and basing details have yet to be revealed.

Saudi Arabia



Saudi Arabia is set to become another P-8A Poseidon customer. Details of the purchase of this anti-submarine aircraft are not yet available. The kingdom is also to acquire some forty-eight Chinook heavy-lift helicopters over the next few years.

United Kingdom



Two Royal Navy troop-carrying Merlin helicopters from 845 Squadron have been operating for six months on the French warship Mistral in the Far East. This is the first deployment for these helicopters since they were transferred from the Royal Air Force last year.

Three historic RAF squadrons are to be resurrected over the next few years:

No 207 Squadron will become the F-35B Lightning II operational conversion unit at RAF Marham. It will re-form on 1 July 2019 and will train both Royal Air Force and Royal Navy pilots. It was originally a Royal Naval Air Service squadron during the First World War and is thus well-suited to its new joint-service role.

Nos 120 and 201 Squadrons will re-form to operate the P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft at RAF Lossiemouth; it is likely that 120 will be the operational squadron while 201 will be the Operational

Conversion Unit. The former will reform in April next year while the latter will rejoin the RAF's order of battle in 2021. Both squadrons operated the Nimrod at RAF Kinloss until this aircraft was taken out of service in March 2010.

United States



The United States Air Force has decided to retain the Lockheed U-2 high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft and the Fairchild A-10 Thunderbolt II close-air support machine in service for the foreseeable future, although the latter may be in reduced numbers. Both long-serving aircraft have been threatened with retirement for some time despite the essential service that they provide to the US Government and Armed Forces. This has now



UK - Royal Navy Merlin on board the FNS Mistral. Photo: © Mod/Crown

been recognised by the service hierarchy in the Trump Administration's first budget request.

In what has become almost an annual event, three types of heavy bomber in service with the United States Air Force (USAF) deployed to RAF Fairford for varying periods in June this year. Three B-1 Lancers from Ellsworth Air Force Base (AFB), South Dakota; two B-2 Spirits from Whiteman AFB, Missouri and three B-52 Stratofortresses from Barksdale AFB, Louisiana were involved. The B-1s and B-52s took part in NATO's annual Baltop and Saber Strike exercises, whilst the B-2s were here on US-specific training.

The seventieth anniversary of the United States Air Force was

celebrated at the Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford in July, with the appearance of the USAF's aerial demonstration team, the Thunderbirds. They were making their first visit to RIAT in ten years. The USAF was also well represented in both the flying and static displays; the former included a flyby by a number of European-based aircraft as well as a demonstration by an F-22 Raptor, while the latter included a number of fighter, bomber, transport and special forces aircraft.

The United States Air Force is preparing plans to base some RC-135 reconnaissance aircraft at RAF Fairford from early in the next decade when their current base, RAF Mildenhall, closes. These aircraft, based on the Boeing 707, require a significant number of air and ground crew and, therefore, RAF Fairford's infrastructure will likely see some significant development over the next few years.



USA - An example of the Lockheed U2. Photo: © USAF



USA - Boeing RC 135. Photo: © USAF

Images of War

Punjab No 29 'Rawalpindi'



FE2b serial 6937 of 18 Squadron. Photo: © Author

Punjab No. 29 'Rawalpindi' was an FE2b serial 6937 of 18 Squadron. On 22 September 1916 the crew of Sergeant Thomas Jones and Second Lieutenant Francis Hewson were reported missing after their aircraft force-landed near Bapaume in France and the crew was taken prisoner. They had been involved a combat with two German aircraft near Ervilliers - Sergeant Jones had been injured, but died of his wounds on 29 September 1916, while Hewson was also wounded but taken prisoner.

The FE2b had been shot down by Oberleutnant Hans-Joachim Buddecke of Jagstaffel (Jasta) 4 near Combles, Buddecke later, he wrote to his mother stating that he landed nearby, that both members were wounded, but he managed to talk to one of them. Thomas Jones is buried at St Souplet Cemetery south-east of Cambrai. He was born in Walton-Le-Dale in 1879, and aged 38 years and 162 days, joined the Royal Flying Corps on 21 March 1916 at South Farnborough obviously having previous flying experience as he described himself as an aviator. On 9 September 1916, he was graded first class flyer and promoted to sergeant but 20 days later he was dead. His mother was the sole beneficiary from his will and she received £13 3s. 7d. with a further payment of 4s. and a war gratuity of £6. Francis Hewson survived the war, leaving the army on 17 April 1917.

Buddecke was born in Berlin 22 August 1890 and followed his father into the Army in 1904, receiving his commission as Leutnant in the 115th Life Guards Infantry Regiment. However, he

left the Army in 1913 due to his social life and an enthusiasm for flying, after which he moved to the USA. He flew for a time from the airfield at Cicero, a suburb of Chicago and then worked as a mechanic at a car factory in Indianapolis. He then bought a Nieuport monoplane and taught himself to fly but on the day Buddecke started his own aircraft production company, the First World War was declared and he returned to Germany to join the German Flying Service.

Buddecke was sent to the Western Front in September 1914 as an observer but soon became a single-seater fighter pilot with FFA 23. Because of his previous experience on monoplanes, he was the first to fly a Fokker Eindecker fighter and was a member of a Kampfstaffel within the unit, intercepting British reconnaissance aircraft.

Buddecke scored his and the unit's first victory on 19 September 1915, a BE2C of 8 Squadron crewed by pilot Lieutenant W H Nixon and observer Captain J N S Stott. Opening fire from 200 metres, the German pilot disabled the observer's machine gun although Stott then returned fire with a pistol which was shot out of his hands at a range of 10 metres and Nixon was mortally hit. Buddecke's gun then jammed when its cartridge belt tore in the slipstream and as he struggled to clear the gun, Stott clambered onto the shoulders of his dying pilot, set his heels on the pilot's knees to operate the rudder and bent forward to grab the controls. Buddecke cleared his gun and aimed at Stott's yellow leather coat but shortly after, the BE2C crash landed near

St Quentin. Buddecke drove to the wreck where the uninjured Stott showed him the bullet holes in his coat.

Buddecke then had confirmed claims on 23 October 1915 - a BE2 of 13 Squadron crewed by Captain Cecil Marks and Lieutenant William Lawrence, (the brother of Lawrence of Arabia), both were killed on 11 November (a BE 2C of 8 Squadron) and an unconfirmed victory on 6 December 1915.

He was then sent to Gallipoli to join Ottoman FA 6 achieving with four confirmed victories and seven unconfirmed. He was personally awarded the Gold Likat Medal by Enver Pasha but was

recalled to the Western Front in late August 1916 as leader of the newly formed Jasta 4. He had by this time been awarded the Pour le Mérite (Blue Max) in April 1916.

After three kills during September 1916, he again left for Turkey to fly with Ottoman FA 5 getting two more victories but by early 1918 he was back in France with Jasta 30 before moving to Jasta 18. However, soon after shooting down a Sopwith Camel on 19 February 1918 (his 13th confirmed victory), Buddecke was killed in combat with Camels of 3 Squadron Royal Naval Air Squadron over Lens on 10 March 1918. His body now lies in the Invalidenfriedhof in Berlin.

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Help

For family history research if anyone with knowledge/information of **Edward Guthrie Davison RAFVR** 745988/1282450 1939-1946 Cornwall, Fairwood Common, Bahrain, please contact syncopator2014@sky.com or call 01743 359506.

Seeking any video footage from passing out parade **RAF Swinderby 17.7.85**. Any costs will be covered. Contact M Hulme on 02893 364013, 07935083079 or marilyn_hulme@yahoo.co.uk

Old colleagues

The RAF Locking Apprentices Association welcomes contact from apprentices who trained at RAF Locking or RAF Cranwell and wish to renew comradeship. www.raflaa.org.uk or tel 01933 317357.

102 Squadron Association Remembrance Day Service Sunday 12 November 2017. All welcome. Meeting at St. Catherine's Church, Barnby Moor 10 am for 10.15 service and wreath laying. Followed by service at Pocklington Airfield Memorial for further service and wreath laying. Contact Hon Sec email: mikeparish1918@gmail.com or tel 01923 711818.

RAF Administrative Apprentice Association. Did you train as a Supplier or Clerk at either RAF St. Athan, Bircham Newton, Halton or Hereford? Please contact www.rafadappasn.org or call 01425 511378 for details of your association.

A warm welcome extended to anyone who served at **RAF Changi, including HQ FEAF between 1946 and 1971**. See www.rafchangi.co.uk for joining information or apply to Malcolm Flack, Membership Secretary 01494 728562, memsecchangi@telco4u.net for free enquiry pack.

No. 2 ANS Winnipeg Canada Course 30WB June 1952/Jan 1953. Contact Rayne (Paddy) Orr on portballintrae@btinternet.com

Any ex member of **683 Squadron** out there? Please contact John Clubb on 01480 433099 or email johnclubb@hotmail.co.uk

41st Boy Entrant Photographers, Cosford 1960. We are missing two of our number and would appreciate any contact/knowledge of: 1942938 Ian D McMurray (Wallasey), 1942742 Jerry C Edwards (Oswestry). Contact 07528 476831 or e-mail johnfraser@elginmoray.scot

3GRSS RAF Norton 1957/58. 740 JT John Sparrow would like to contact 804 JT Bill Tweedle. Please contact 01823 337691.

Remembering **Harold Corbin CGM** Legion d'Honneur, Caterpillar Club (1923-2017). Extraordinary Mosquito pilot 248 Squadron Portreath, later Banff Strike Wing. From his grateful Navigator Maurice Webb.

986070 Sgt John Hazzlewood RAF(VR) writing memoirs requests post war information about **Wireless Ops Frank West and Cyril Tatham**, colleagues at Central Wireless Station Ambala, Punjab and Signals HQ, New Delhi, India Command (later SEAC) 1941-1946. Call 01654 710426 or write to 2 Ffordd Eglwys Bach, Tywyn LL36 9DJ.

RAF Cosford 114 T/A Entry. Let's meet up at RAF Cosford to celebrate ,10 June 2018, over airshow weekend. Interested? Contact Mel Dougan on mjd8530@gmail.com or 07809 730747.

Seeking information on **Flt Lt Frank Herbert Townsend MBE AE RAFVR**. Served 1951-1992 possibly Intelligence Branch. Some connection to RAF Waddington. Contact pdoorbar795@gmail.com

Reunions

RAF Seletar Association including RAF Tengah annual Reunion October 20 - 23 2017 at Hallmark Hotel, Derby. For more info contact Christine Mackie (Membership Secretary) on 01623 407136 or email chrismonteban@hotmail.co.uk

No 214 (FMS) Squadron Association will celebrate formation centenary of 4 Squadron RNAS/214 Squadron over weekend 7/8 October 2017 to include Reunion dinner in Derby and memorial wreath-laying at Alrewas Arboretum. Former Squadron members/families/friends welcome. Details at www.214squadron.org.uk or contact John Gulliver 01983 873248 or no214fms@btinternet.com

The Royal Air Force and Defence Fire Services Association Reunion will be held at the Aztec Hotel, Bristol on weekend of Friday 13 October 2017. For details contact Chairman Neil Slade 01252 492111 or e-mail crashmarksix@sky.com

230 Squadron Reunion. Calling all existing and ex-230 Squadron members. Annual all ranks reunion 22-24 September 2017 in Grantham. Contact Rod for details: rodgoodier@btinternet.com

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22 Lehr; 23 Staff; 24 Rare;
27 Supercargoship;
28 Basset-hound.
Down:
2 I Saw Three Ships; 3 Eddy;
4 Teenager; 5 Income; 6 Hall;
7 Overpopulation;
8 Established; 10 Harbourless;
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Beret exc eyelets and cap badge (see B24 above)	S19A	18.00
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Magnet - 3D Live Life - Red Arrows	3DLLMRR	3.00
Magnet - 3D Live Life - Spitfire	3DLLMSR	3.00
Notebook & Pen - Red Arrows Diamond Nine	RAFATNPR	4.50
Pen "Ace Pilot" boxed	PEN1	15.00
Pen "Clear for Take Off" boxed	PEN2	15.00
Pennant - RAF Crest gold wired (as B19)	P3	36.00
Pennant Sqn/Station to order 6/8 wks gold wired	P1	36.00
Purse - Soft Black	RAF367R	15.00
Ribbon RAF 1 1/4" wide price per metre	R4	9.00
Sweetheart Silver/Marcasite Brooch boxed	R3	110.00
Table flag with 10" pin RAF	M5	6.00
Tankard one pint Pewter - RAF boxed	T3RAF	38.50
Tea towel - Battle of Britain	T23	4.50
Tea towel - Bomber Command	T24	4.50
Tea towel - Coastal Command	T22	4.50
Tea towel - Help the RAF, Join the WAAF	T33	7.00

	Order Code	Price £
Tea towel - RAF (red - aircraft)	T31	4.50
Tea towel - RAF Ensign & Lancaster	T43	4.50
Tea towel - Spitfire and Hurricane	T32	4.50
Tea towel - Union flag	T34	4.50
Teddy Fit Lt Uniformed with kit bag	TED2	36.00
Teddy Red Arrows Flying Suit	RAFATBFS	20.00
Teddy Veteran with kit bag,	TED3	36.00
Tie Slide - Red Arrows Hawk boxed	RAF269R	12.00
Wallet Leather - RAF Logo boxed	RAF203R	18.00
Wallet Leather - RAF Wings boxed	RAF202R	18.00
Wallet - Red Arrows Silhouette	RAF259R	18.00
Wallet - Red Arrows Crest	RAF260R	18.00
Wall shield - RAF Crest boxed	S12	48.50
Wall shield - Sqn/Unit/Station - made to order boxed	S99	71.50
Watchstrap nylon - RAF colours	W1	9.00

Lapel and stud badges

Bomber Command stud badge boxed	LB1	5.00
Coastal Command stud badge boxed	LB2	5.00
Fighter Command stud badge boxed	LB3	5.00
Maintenance Command stud badge boxed	LB4	5.00
"My Daughter is Serving" Badge boxed	R7	13.50
"My Son is Serving" Badge boxed	R6	13.50
RAF Ensign Badge boxed	B31	4.00
RAF Medical stud badge boxed	LB13	5.00
RAF Per Ardua/Poppy label badge	LB40	10.00
RAF Police stud badge boxed	LB14	5.00
RAF Regiment stud badge boxed	LB15	5.00
RAF Wings pin badge Silver Plated boxed	RAF188R	12.00
Strike Command stud badge boxed	LB6	5.00
Support Command stud badge boxed	LB7	5.00
Transport Command stud badge boxed	LB8	5.00
Wings - Gold/Blue Enamel Kings Crown boxed	LB10	7.00
Wings - Gold/Blue Enamel, Queens Crown boxed	LB12	7.00
Wings - Gold effect Queens Crown boxed	LB16	7.00
Wings - Silver/Blue Enamel Kings Crown boxed	LB9	7.00
Wings - Silv/Blue Enamel Queens Crown boxed	LB11	7.00
WAAF brooch badge boxed	LR2	5.00
WRAF brooch badge boxed	LR1	5.00

Prints

Air Sea Rescue Launch Ltd Edition print	P25	23.50
Bob Doe signed prints - call for designs & availability	P30	10.00
Come into My Parlour WWI Ltd Edition print	P28	10.00
The Drop 1917 46 Sqn WWI Ltd Edition print	P26	10.00
The Drop 54 Sqn WWI Ltd Edition print	P27	10.00

MISCELLANEOUS**Gifts**

Apron Cotton - Union Flag	U2	10.50
Double Oven Glove - Union flag	U3	8.00
Medal Holder - plastic - takes 5 mounted medals	M10	6.50
Napkins pk 12 - Union flag when folded	U4	3.50
Table Flag with 10" pin Union 6" x 3"	M4	6.00
Wooden Base for Table Flags	M7	5.00

Glassware: UK only

RAF or RAF Association crest. Lancashire Crystal. Phone for details.
Made to order - 2 to 4 weeks. Wording can be added to some items at cost.
Most items presentation boxed. Despatch to UK only.

Wine, Champagne, Hi-Ball, Whisky - pairs or sixes	£66.00 / £159.50
Whisky, Wine or Ships Decanter	£152.50
Scalloped Optical Clock	£42.50, Paperweight £31.50, Vase £96.00
Tankard - 1 pt	£79.00.

Prices are subject to change

POSTAGE AND PACKING:

UK - add cost below to order	
Up to £4.99	Add £1.80
£5.00 to £19.99	Add £3.80
£20.00 to £49.99	Add £5.00
£50.00 and over	Add £6.50

Overseas - add cost below to order

Europe	Add £8.75
Rest of World	Add £15.00

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