

ROYAL AIR FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE APPRENTICE

ASSOCIATION

"MULTUM A PARVO"

Web Address: www.rafadappassn.org



Newsletter No 102 June 2015



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ASSOCIATION NEWS

ASSOCIATION REUNION 2015

An Information Sheet on the 2015 Reunion and AGM at the Swindon Marriott Hotel on 12/13/14/15 June is enclosed.

MILITARY MEDALS REVIEW

The Government has recently undertaken a review of the policy governing the award of military medals. Part of the review re-examined previous decisions to award medals and as a result the following changes have been made:

Cyprus 1955-1959

Those who served in Cyprus between 1 April 1955 and 24 December 1959 should qualify for the GSM 1918-1962 with the clasp "Cyprus" if they served for 90 days or more - The qualifying period has been reduced from 120 days.

Cyprus 1963-1964

Personnel who served in Cyprus during the period 21 December 1963 to 26 March 1964 will be awarded the General Service Medal 1962 with the clasp "Cyprus 1963-1964".

South Atlantic

The qualifying period for the award of the South Atlantic Medal without the rosette has been extended from 12 July 1982 until 21 October 1982.

Anyone wishing to apply for a medal should submit an application to: MOD Medal Office, Innsworth House, Imjin Barracks, Gloucester, GL3 1HW (Email: DBS-Medals@mod.uk). The application will need to be supported by a copy of a 'Record of Service' obtainable from RAF Disclosures, Trenchard Hall, RAFC Cranwell, Sleaford, Lincs NG34 8HB.

NEW MEMBERS

593509 **Patrick G Bunn** (34th): Malvern, Worcs:
07947 006042: patrickbunn@talktalk.net

592293 **Paul B Holmes** (5th): Truro, Cornwall:
01298 890388: paul.holmes293@btinternet.com

594379 **Bruce H Gill** (301st): Newton Abbot, Devon:
07738 858458: brucegill@sky.com

AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERS' DETAILS

None notified

RESIGNATIONS

592945 **David Wood** (20th)
593089 **Joe Cope** (26th)

593670 **David Jones** (36th)

LAPSED MEMBERSHIP

592561 **Hugh (Taff) Lewis** (13th)

593739 **Chris Oliver** (37th)

8008843 **Ian Kingsnorth** (315th)

MISSING MEMBERS

We have lost contact with the following members who appear to have moved house and changed telephone numbers and Email addresses. If any member knows their whereabouts could they please contact the Association Chairman to enable him to recommence sending Newsletters to them:

Bob McEwen - 14th Entry (was Harrogate)

Ray Turner - 30th Entry (was Bordon)

Evan Davidge - 307th Entry (was Swindon)

R. I. P.

It is with sorrow that we have learned of the death of the following members:

592363 **John James** (7th)

592386 **Ray Harle** (8th)

and of the following non-members:

592500 **Anthony Mitchell** (11th)

592887 **Michael Gardiner** (20th)

593800 **Barry Kenneth** (38th)

595488 **Michael Mylchreest** (307th)

The Association extends its condolences to all family and friends.

OBITUARIES

JAMES (JIM) BUTCHER (44TH)

It was a cold sunny and breezy afternoon on Monday 23rd February 2015 when family and friends assembled at Woodlands Crematorium Scunthorpe to say farewell and celebrate the life of James "Jim" Butcher. Besides myself, there were other ex-Admin Apps present and I spoke to Gordon Gourdie and John Wells (44th) and Charlie Biggs (313th), all of whom I knew when working in the Middle East in the 1980s. Afterwards everyone

was warmly invited to join the family for refreshments at Grange Park Golf Club, Messingham. I first met Jim in 1976 at RAF Binbrook where we were work colleagues and mixed socially in the Sergeants' Mess. I took Premature Voluntary Release in 1980 and in 1984 went to the Middle East. On my return in 1990 I worked alongside Charlie Biggs in BAE Systems General Training Department and whilst he and I were on a business trip to RAF Hereford and other Units, we met up with Jim. Shortly afterwards, Jim appeared on a Supply Course in preparation for a job in the Middle East. Charlie Biggs was his Course Training Officer which saw positions reversed as Jim had been Charlie's Trade Instructor at the AATS, Hereford in 1968-1969. Jim spent two years overseas as bachelor status then returned to the UK as the Company was unable to provide married accommodation. He then joined Debenhams where he remained gainfully employed until his retirement. It was only in the latter years that we renewed our friendship when I moved from Lancashire to Lincolnshire in 2009 and Jim had settled in nearby Nottinghamshire. Charlie Biggs put us in contact and we, sometimes with our wives, met approximately every 6-8 weeks for a couple of hours chat putting the world to rights and reminiscing re our service days and the characters we met. Our meetings were dependent on our other commitments such as general daily tasks and appointments, holidays and family visits. Jim and Denise would frequently travel south to see son David and daughter Diane and their families and then north to Geordieland where they both grew up to see other family members. Jim had a classic MG sports car which he purchased a few years ago, spending time cleaning, polishing and refurbishing the vehicle. He was also a member of a local MG Club and he and Denise spent time during the summer months at Classic Car Shows and Rallies. His dog, Jack, was his constant companion and in the village where he lived he was easily identified for his friendliness to all and a supply of treats for other dogs. Our last meeting was in December 2014 prior to seeing our respective families for the Christmas festivities. Jim had been in hospital and he and Denise had recently returned from a short break in Austria. Jim was readmitted to hospital in January 2015 and passed away on 2nd February. I found that Jim was a warm, sincere character and was a great believer in giving rather than taking, showing thoughtfulness and care for others. This combined with his relaxed nature and sense of humour made him a good friend and a pleasure to be with. I shall remember him always, with much affection ...always the gentleman.

Eddie Baker (28th)

SGT BRIAN FISHER

I have just learnt that Sgt Brian Fisher (GDT Instructor Bircham Newton, 1961/62) passed away on 11 April 2015. Brian left the RAF in 1974 as a Flight Sergeant. I left at the same time and we were near neighbours for a while in Darlington. Brian then took a small shop in Hurworth Place for some time, before retiring for good and moving back to Darlington.

Harry Gilbert (42nd)

REGIONAL GROUP NEWS

CYPRUS

The Cyprus Branch held the first meeting of 2015 at the Captains Bay Restaurant in Pissouri yesterday, March 2nd. It was a blustery sort of day so we sat inside and looked out at the beach. From the attached photo it looks very pleasant but the fleece jacket was necessary. There were only two of us in attendance as you can see. Dave had an unfortunate problem on the way to Pissouri when he acquired a puncture which made him late on parade. However he made it and we enjoyed a meal and some conversation about the 6-Nations rugby and other topics. We

touched on the subject of enlarging the group and I have been thinking of how to word an advert in the Air Mail magazine. I haven't done anything since our last meeting so must buckle down to the subject soon. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday June 8th and will be at The Kyrenia Restaurant at Avdimou Beach at the usual time of 1230 - 1300. If anyone is on holiday in Cyprus at that time and wishes to join us they will be more than welcome. We have had a pretty cold winter here with a lot of rain and the forecast is for some more rain today and then to get progressively warmer so with a bit of luck I'll be back in shorts by the end of this month!

Ray Burrow (29th)

Contact: raymondo@logosnet.cy.net / (00357) 99-303572 or (00357) 26 621662.



DORSET

The second meeting of the year of the Dorset Branch of the RAFAAA took place at the Half Moon Inn in Sherborne on Saturday 23 May 2015. Those attending were John White (13th), Tony Richards (14th), Peter Reed (30th), Tony Peters (34th) and Mike Hamill (40th). Apologies from Bob Mussard (330th) (work) and Shay Foley (46th) (detached duty at RAF Museum Hendon). The next meeting will be on 29th August 2015 at the Bournemouth Flying Club which is at Bournemouth International Airport - or Hurn Airport if you come from Poole! Time is 1230 for 1 pm - dress casual.

Shay Foley (46th)

Contact: heights73@talktalk.net / 01202 631652

GLOUCESTER AREA LUNCHEONS

On the 31 March 2015 the luncheon was held at our usual haunt, The Royal George at Birdlip. There were 22 diners including 6 ladies, an impressive response to my invitation. One, namely Peter Ralph, had heard how successful our get-togethers were he travelled all the way from Watford! Unfortunately, I was not able to attend due to a late request for me to 'entertain' our six year old granddaughter. My wife, Rosemary, had already committed to an excursion to London (to see Lionel Richie at the O2!) so Brian Kent kindly stepped in to act as host. He managed to get everyone seated in the same area, although not all of the meals were served together, which I think is understandable. Anyway he told me that they all seemed to enjoy the food and company. If you have not previously joined us and wish to be invited to future luncheons please contact me.

Mike Day (38th)

Contact: mikeday28@hotmail.com / 01993 841026

BIRCHAM NEWTON NEWS

RAF Heritage Centre

10th Anniversary Celebration

The 10th Anniversary will take place on Sunday 26 July. Exhibitors include Tony Nelson's Norfolk Model Air Force - worth a visit on its own merit; RAF National Services Association and hopefully a fly-past (weather permitting). I will be attending as our Association Rep so hope to see some of you there.

Apprentice Display Material

Good quality photographs of Entries 32nd to 46th, especially those with names appended, are still needed to improve the Apprentice Display in the Heritage Centre (HC). You may be surprised to know many people take an interest in our display area. By way of example, the following visitors sought information during recent visits to the Centre. Former Flt Sgt Apprentice (FSAA) Gordon Gray, 43rd Entry, visited on 30 April. Gordon was in charge of his Entry's graduation parade held on 18 December 1962 - the day the station closed. The reviewing officer was AVM Chacksfield, Commandant General of the RAF Regiment. Gordon's father also served at BN as a Sgt pilot flying DH9As with no 11 (Bomber) Sqn. Richard Pelluet visited in early May and was able to discover a photograph of the 39th Entry which also included his father Sgt Norman A Pelluet who was one of the instructors. (Also, see John Wells' article below.)

Static Aircraft

Mike Hamill asked in the March newsletter about the static aircraft which were at BN: a Javelin, Fiesler Storch, Spitfire and Vampire. Javelin - a prototype (Tail No WT830), first flew on 14 Jan 1954. Was used as a ground trainer at RAF Halton but was unsuitable and transferred to BN, later SOC. Scrapped on 11 Dec 1962. Spitfire - used as a gate guardian at a number of stations, latterly RAF Wattisham, and then stored at St Athan pending disposal. Subsequently purchased by a private company and restored to flying condition. A static in the 'Battle of Britain' film and flew in the 'Pearl Harbour' film of 2000. Still airworthy and based at Duxford: civil registration G-LFVB AEA (EP 120). Fiesler Storch - currently on display at RAF Cosford Museum. Vampire - whereabouts not known. Does anyone have a photo with the Tail number??

Dixie Dean (40th) - Bircham Newton Liaison Rep

01728 747878: williamdean907@sky.com

DENIS ECKERSLEY (32ND)

I am a volunteer curator at the Heritage Centre at RAF Bircham Newton and, whilst on duty on Sunday 5th April this year, I met a lady by the name of Wendy Eckersley. Whilst chatting she told me that her late husband, Denis Eckersley, had been an apprentice at Bircham Newton in the 1950s. I carried out some research and discovered that Denis had been a Leading Apprentice with the 32nd Entry. The 32nd had done most of their apprenticeship at Hereford but moved to Bircham Newton in January 1959, passing out in April the same year. With Wendy was her grandson Charlie, aged 9 years old, who has never met his grandfather Denis as he died in 2001. I was able to supply some photographs and copies from the 32nd Entry magazine but I wondered if any of the members of the Association might have memories of Denis that they might share with Charlie and Wendy.

John Wells (44th)

01553 673278: js.wells@sky.com



This is a picture quiz (!) as not every face is known to me, so those attending were:

Jim Wilcox (5th)(President), Ian Clark (53R), Bob Wise (4th), Bill Huggins and Tom Worsfold (5th), Shaun Barbour (6th), Dave Buley and Brian Yost (22nd), David Spicer (27th), Brian Kent (29th), Patrick Bunn and Chris Morgan (34th), Michael Dobel (38th), Peter Hoyle (42nd), Phil Flavell (45th), Peter Ralph (46th)

SOUTH-WEST HERTS

The SW Herts Flight paraded for the regular quarterly meeting on 2nd May 15 at the Three Crowns, Bushey Heath WD23 1GE. A good turnout with 10 of us enjoying a good lunch and catching up on news. There was something of a mini 31st reunion as we welcomed for the first time John Bell to join with Phil and Noel. It was good also to welcome Terry Waive and Peter Moir. Thanks to Debbie of the bar staff for taking the picture below. Apologies from Bob Wise (4th), Tony Parsons (19th), John Forshaw (20th), David Marshall (24th), Ron Anders (29th), George Masson (29th), and Peter Ralph (46th). Our thoughts and good wishes go with Haydn Illingworth as he undergoes surgery in June. Next meeting is Saturday 1st August 2015.

Phil Gough (31st)

Contact: pgough@ntlworld.com / 01923 466956



(L to R) (Back row) Phil Gough (31st), Brian Scott (32nd), Peter Forster (29th), Haydn Illingworth (21st), Peter Moir (17th), Terry Waive (35th). (Front row) Noel Hayes (31st), John Bell (31st), Ken Roost (1st) and Jack Marshall (56th R).

WEB LINKS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

Aerobatic Team Formation Landing

<http://www.chonday.com/Videos/laformajet3>

Amazing Ride in RAF Typhoon

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/sjvgC1cKQGA>

Inflight Video of a B-2 Refueling in Flight

http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=0bc_1428285879

Last Two Flying Lancasters Together

<https://www.youtube.com/v/5OI2rem6d3g&autoplay=1&rel=0>

Flight in One of the Only Two Surviving Mosquitos

<https://vimeo.com/115546043>

The 65 Most Perfectly Timed Military Photos

<http://www.rsvlts.com/2015/03/31/perfect-timed-military-photos/#.VR43gm8VBLY.facebook>

NATURE STUDY CORNER

I may not be great at bird identification but I do know that there are four females and one male.....



AND

When a male bird can't stand it anymore..!



THE STATION BARBER (2)

Mention was made in the Newsletter of a Station barber. Many readers will have served at RAF Coltishall and had a short-back-and-sides in the station barber's shop on the 1st floor of the Naafi. Although never an Association member, they'll recall "character" Ted "Ginger" Cawdron who cut hair in the 60s/70s. Indeed most only knew his name was Ted when an obituary appeared in local newspapers. Sadly at the grand age of 94 Ted passed-on. He was ex-RAF having joined in 1940. He became a fitter/armourer and entered France on D-Day + 6. Ginger was loaned to the Royal Canadian Air Force, participants in the advance into mainland Europe, as they were short-handed in fitter/armourers. He reached Sergeant and ended his service on bomb disposal duties. He also ran a pub, the King Edward in Aylsham Lane, Norwich and worked until aged 83. He left behind a widow Fran to whom he'd been married for 37 years, 9 children (4 from a 1st marriage/5 from his 2nd), 12 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. In later years he had a leg amputated and his family's chosen charity upon Ginger's death was the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association. His funeral at Norwich's St.Faith's Crematorium was well attended. Like so many RAF station barbers, Ginger had his yarns!

Dave Ainsworth (304th)

READING MATERIAL

Hi All,

Just read a book called "Going to War with today's Dambusters - 617" by Tim Bouquet published by Orion Press with an ISBN number 978-1-4091-4415-1. It is about how 617 deployed to Afghanistan in 2011 and the training prior to deployment and the missions they undertook to support ISAF troops. I felt it was well written and gave an up to date understanding of how today's RAF Squadrons operate. Two things that struck me was, firstly, the length of time that the techies took to reach their ranks. One guy had served for 20 years and was still a Sgt. What happened to the old 3, 4 and 5 years to get to Ch Tech? Secondly was that there were 4 lassies trained as Navigators on the GR4 but when they got married, they left the service to become Service wives. This smacks of a waste of Service money and training when more deserving youngsters were denied a place on the training schedule. I could say the same about William and Harry and possibly Andrew and Charles before them!!! What does everybody think?

Shay Foley (46th)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - VALEDICTION

As this is my last Newsletter as Editor, I think it appropriate to include a short valedictory statement. Many thanks go to our Chairman who, understanding my relative ignorance of modern technology (in particular Email) actually issues the Email editions. I have enjoyed compiling the Newsletter and, on my retirement, would like to thank everyone who contributed (and, I hope, will contribute) articles for publication. **On this theme, I have no stockpile of material to pass on to my successor and urge all members to assist him by contributing in the future.** All the best to him and to all Association members. Lastly, I urge members to volunteer for a period of service on the Committee – especially members of the 300 series of Entries – the young bloods!