

Royal Air Force Administrative Apprentice Association

MULTUM A PARVO

Web Address: www.rafadappassn.org



NEWSLETTER No 89 - April 2012



NOTES BY THE ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN

In response to the appeal for information regarding the Service numbers allocated from the 311th Entry onwards, I have been contacted by three members and have been able to attribute a further 20 names to numbers. Please let me have some more! What is very pleasing is that the appeal has prompted a wealth of photographs and information regarding these Entries; Alan has since posted these on the appropriate scrapbook pages on the website. Please look through your attic or old photo albums and keep sending us this supply of memorabilia.

Association membership has remained fairly constant for the last few years. However, disappointingly, despite reminders by Email, costly snail mail and also in the last two newsletters, 20 members have still to pay their 2012 subscriptions; it would be a shame to lose members who have yet to pay.

The appeal for future Committee members has received no response. If any member is considering joining the Committee, now or in the future, why not come along and sit in at the next Committee meeting and just see if it is for you. If you are interested please contact me as we need understudies now for every position on the Association Committee.

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Your committee will be meeting on Saturday 14th April at Boddington, near Cheltenham, and will cover, amongst other items, any propositions for the Annual General Meeting in June. If you have anything at all that you wish the Committee to discuss, please let the Secretary have your written request by 9th April.

Bob Wise's address: 3 Humphries Close, Carterton OXON. OX18 3HS. Email: rowise285@btinternet.com
The Secretary will acknowledge your request.

AGM 2012 – RESOLUTIONS AND AGENDA ITEMS

Resolutions for AGM 2012 (16th June) or any items for inclusion in the AGM agenda should be forwarded to the Secretary not later than 9th April so that the AGM agenda can be finalised at the committee meeting on 14th April and published in the June Newsletter. You do not have to attend the AGM to submit an item for consideration but it will require a proposer and seconder on the day.

46TH ENTRY REUNION

The 46th Entry (Clk Sec) will hold their 50th Reunion on 7/8/9 May at the Aylestone Hotel, Hereford. Anyone not yet registered and wishing to attend should contact Peter Ralph on 07901 551753 or at ralph82@ntlworld.com.

2012 ASSOCIATION REUNION

The 2012 Reunion and AGM will be held at the Preston Marriott Hotel over the weekend 15/16/17 June. There are still a small number of rooms available and any member who has not booked and would like to attend is asked to contact Bryan Hoare (socialsecretary@rafadappassn.org or 01403 581324) as soon as possible. Please remember the Hotel is providing a 50% discount on bitter, lager and whisky served at the bars throughout the weekend.

As at 25 March 2012, bookings to attend the Reunion have been received from the following members:

1st Entry - **J Green, J Robinson, K G Roost**
2nd Entry - **S Robathan**
4th Entry - **C A Dixon, P Bullick, D Kirby, R Wise**
5th Entry – **J Wilcox, P Pendlebury, D Burlingham, W Huggins**
11th Entry – **D W Gibson, M Heritage**
14th Entry – **R McEwan, B Richards**
15th Entry – **T Moore**
16th Entry – **G Singlehurst**
17th Entry – **B Bullivant, G Wright, R Blundell, R Holman, D Valentine**
18th Entry – **A Key, J Summers**
19th Entry – **D Hobden, A Cowan, J Evans, J Waltham**
20th Entry - **P Follett**
23rd Entry – **D Marshall, J Reynolds, W M Benn, P Bullock, R Shepherd**
24th Entry – **D Bulleid**
27th Entry - **A Martin**
28th Entry – **B Kent**
29th Entry – **A Bell, R Burrow, D Davies, R Pipe, H Trumbell, L H Croucher, G Masson**
30th Entry – **B Philpott, P Reed, P Williamson**
32nd Entry - **M Wilkinson**
33rd Entry – **R Danes, G Goddard, P M Hall, B Schofield, P Watson**
34th Entry – **K Hendry, M Needham, R Orr**
35th Entry – **R Dickinson**
36th Entry – **B Devecchis, L Porter, K Rossiter**
38th Entry – **A Burchell, J Nash, K Williams, P Dyer, D Linney, M Day**
40th Entry – **W Dean**
42nd Entry – **S Craycraft, H Gilbert, R Hedinburgh, B Hodgkinson, W J Hoggarth, J Taylor**
44th Entry – **B Morrison**
45th Entry – **I Hunter**
46th Entry – **P J Ralph**
305th Entry – **A Hammonds, B Collins, J Muirhead**
307th Entry – **B Hoare, S Sanders**
318th Entry – **T J Mcknight**
330th Entry – **G Hoyland**

ADMIN APP NMA MEMORIAL

The material for our memorial has now arrived with the Stonemason and a siting meeting will be held in early April to agree the precise location of stone within the grounds of the NMA. The site will then be prepared and final proofs of the memorial drawn up for our approval. Once these are agreed it is anticipated that the design work and manufacture will commence with a view to placing the stone in either late April or early May. Once these dates are known, arrangements will be made for the dedication ceremony.

Thanks to the continuing generosity of the Association membership also former Apprentice Clerks and family members of former apprentices, the appeal fund now stands at £4,000. Our target is £6,000 therefore; please send any donations to the Treasurer, Garry Hoyland.

NEW MEMBERS

591472 **Clement Smith** (51st Ruislip): Weston-Super-Mare: 01934 510625

591502 **Maurice Hammond** (52nd Ruislip): Sonning Common, Reading: 01189 724383

591737 **Edwin Parker** (55th Ruislip): Royston, Barnsley

591767 **John Henry Beckett** (56th Ruislip): Glenfield, Leicester: 01162 874754

591802 **Gerard Cumiskey** (56th Ruislip): Consett: 01207 590673: hawkeye1776@btinternet.com

591313 **Kenneth Barker** (49th Ruislip): Hempsted, Gloucester: 01452 301125

Kathleen Cameron (Honorary): Harlow: 01279 428388: ken@kc592249.wanadoo.co.uk

Margaret Miller (Honorary): Gloucester: 01452 311741: margaret4@blueyonder.co.uk

AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERS DETAILS

Eric Burland (48th Ruislip): Dursley, Gloucs: 01453 545118

Roy Thomas (61st Ruislip): royandeve80@btinternet.com

John May (3rd): johnmay1931@tiscali.co.uk: Burnham on Sea, Somerset: 01278 238501

David Kirby (4th): cdkirby@btinternet.com

Don Burlingham (5th): donald.burlingham@btinternet.com

Ken Cox (11th): 01526 832114: topcat123@btinternet.com

Peter King (14th): peterking814@btinternet.com

Bob Mabbott (16th): bob.mabbott@live.co.uk

Dave Buley (22nd): DaveandJan@buley1937.freeserve.co.uk

Bill Seaby (24th): 01904 848798: York: tbseaby@onetel.com

Ken Newman (34th): kgn.info@virginmedia.com

Paul Dyer (38th): 01530 810188: Coalville, Leics: pauldyer185@btinternet.com

Keith Solly (38th): k.solly@hotmail.co.uk

Roger Browning (39th): rogbrowning@btinternet.com

John Grimwood (42nd): john.grimwood25@btinternet.com

Shay Foley (46th): heights73@talktalk.net

Ian Newman (301st): 07764 536863 (Mobile)

RESIGNATIONS

592472 **Jim Allan** (11th)

592745 **Brian H (Ned) Newman** (17th)

594045 **R H (Ross) Churchward** (42nd)

8000836 **Brian Marcham-Delve** (316th)

8001212 **Andrew G (Andy) Wait** (319th)



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

593649 **David Hill** (35th): 594043 **Dave Birt** (42nd):

Wally Prior (Affiliated): **Lily Walklett** (Honorary)

Sadly, we have also learned of the deaths of the following ex-Ruislip Apprentice Clerks:

Douglas Friend (42nd R): **Angus Pountney** (47th R):

George Falconer (57th R): **Jack Davenport** (58th R):

Carl Lightfoot (60th R)

OBITUARY – JEFF HOMERSLEY (53RD RUISLIP) (Reported in Newsletter No 88)

It is with sadness that we learnt of the death of Jeff Homersley. Born on 22nd April 1922, he joined the RAF at Ruislip as an Apprentice Clerk on 26th October 1938. By the time that he passed out of training the Second World War had started and, like many other apprentices before and after him, he was eager to “do his bit” and transferred to aircrew as an air gunner. Surviving the war despite this perilous occupation he remained an air gunner until, on 3rd February 1948, he was commissioned from FS into the RAF Regiment. After a short time in the Regiment, he was released as a Plt Off on 27th May 1949. During his service career, postings included 29 EFTS Clyffe Pypard Canada, the Cocos Islands and Amman. After leaving the service, he joined the Colonial Service and worked in Africa (Tanganyika) and Aden. His final 19 years of working life were spent in local government. He was a regular attendee at Ruislip apprentice reunions and attended every one from 1989 until the final reunion in 2005. He was also an active member of the Air Gunners Association. He joined our Association in October 2009 and remained a member until his death in Malmesbury Wilts on 26th September 2011.

Jim Wilcox (5th)

OBITUARY – BRIAN MILLER (1ST) (Reported in Newsletter No 88)

I didn't know Brian after our apprentice days, but I remember him so well at St Athan – he was such a humorous and entertaining chap. There were his funny voices, his cacophonous impromptu on the NAAFI piano

and his great performance on the stage. When the 1st Entry passed out in early 1949, the comedy "The Middle Watch" was put on in the Station Cinema and Brian's starring role brought the house down. The play, apart from providing a great role for Brian, was much enjoyed by the audience (perhaps even more by the cast and stage crew) and it gave us a rare chance of mingling with the opposite sex – rare indeed in those almost monastic days! Anyway, I remember Brian with great affection and with gratitude for the many chuckles with which he brightened those sometimes quite stressful times.

John Saban (2nd)

OBITUARY – KEN CAMERON (4TH)
(Reported in Newsletter No 88)

It was with great concern that we heard of Ken's illness in the latter months of 2011 and even greater was our sadness when we learned of his death in January. Ken was in the 4th Entry and although we trained as apprentices at St Athan at the same time for some 14 months, I did not get to know him other than by name. Neither, to the best of my knowledge, did we serve together in subsequent years although I believe that we were both stationed in the Pacific at about the same time – he at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, me at Christmas Island! In January 2001 Ken, having learned of the RAF Admin Apprentices Association, became a member and at the 2001 AGM volunteered to join the Association Committee, taking on the Editorship of the Association Newsletter, a post that he filled at the time of his death. Ken was not only a dedicated Committee member but was also a staunch supporter of the Association attending annual reunions, regional social gatherings and one-off Association events. With his passing, the Association has lost a dedicated and supportive member and the Association Committee has lost a close colleague and friend. Our condolences go to his widow Kath and to his family. We will miss him.

Jim Wilcox (5th)

SOUTH WEST HERTS GROUP

Saturday 4th February reflected a good attendance of 10 members on a cold day, but we still managed to be outside in the garden for the usual photo call having partaken of lunch and some good ales. One of our original Group members, Ken Cameron (4th), sadly passed away in January. Well known within the Association as the Newsletter editor, he was a stalwart supporter of our meetings at RAF Bentley Priory and then at our present venue. Our next meet is the 10th Anniversary Special Reunion on **Saturday 5th May** at the Three Crowns pub in Bushey Heath. All regular Group members have been contacted by letter – please let me know if you intend to attend or otherwise, unless you have already done so. We meet at 1100 onwards with food available at 1200. We look forward to meeting old friends and new members who are within travelling distance to the area. Pub details and directions at www.three-crowns.com. For any queries, including travel, please contact Trevor Moore on 01923 232686 or at babstrevem@btinternet.com. Trevor Moore (14th)



Front Row: Jack Marshall (56th Ruislip); Trevor Moore (15th); John Forshaw (20th); Ken Roost (1st); Phil Gough (31st); John Summers (18th); Noel Hayes (31st)
Lurking at the Back (dying to go in for another pint):
 Gerry Singlehurst (15th); David Marshall (23rd); Peter Ralph (46th)

GLOUCESTER AREA LUNCHEONS

On **7th March** we tried another venue which was at The Cotswold Hills Golf Club. As Ian Clark is a social member there he was able to invite us all as guests. The 'usual suspects' attended with a company of 14 including wives. The staff had set up tables so we could sit together. After ordering our meals and drinks at the bar we sat down for a pleasant afternoon. Because it was a rather wet day the 'duty' photo was taken inside. I think I can safely say that everyone enjoyed the food and the ambience so it is likely we shall return here again. We are always looking for new faces so if you do not get invitations and wish to come to future events please contact me at mikeday28@hotmail.com or 01993 841026 to be added to the list.

Mike Day (38th)



Back Row: Bill Huggins (5th); Mike Day (38th); Ian Clark (53rd Ruislip); David Spicer (23rd)
Front Row: Dave Buley (22nd); Shaun Barbour (6th); Jim Wilcox (5th); Bob White (5th); Brian Kent (28th)

CYPRUS GROUP

Meeting number 8 was held on **Monday 12th March** at the Captain's Bay Restaurant in Pissouri on a blustery and dull day. No seaside balcony this time but the company, as ever, was enjoyable and the food, beer and chat was as good as usual. Only three of us turned out, which is 50% of the membership. There was Ray Burrow, Ian Dennis and David Pyant. Brian Granville was in Australia, Phil Tobutt was preparing for a trip to the UK and Ben Casey is heavily involved in physiotherapy for his damaged shoulder. They all hope to meet up with us at the Kyrenia Beach Restaurant, Avdimou Bay on **Monday 4th June** when it should be a lot warmer than it has been recently. This has been the coldest, wettest winter in Cyprus since I've been here and the worst winter for 30 years according to the locals. As ever, we invite any ex-Apprentices who are in Cyprus at the time of the next meeting to join us if they wish. Either give me a call or turn up at the Kyrenia Restaurant between 1230 and 1300. You will be made very welcome.

Ray Burrow (29th)



ARTICLES FROM MEMBERS

Naive or what?!

Does anyone remember the national rail strike of May 1955? I recall that we of the 25th had just completed four traumatic weeks as Junior Entry when ten days leave was announced and I am sure we were advised to contact the nearest RAF station if the strike came about and we could not get back by any other means. Home for me was County Durham and the nearest station was Middleton St George – a former WW2 bomber base but now home to squadrons of Meteors, Vampires and a few newly arrived Hunters. I believe the strike began with only a few days of leave left so I duly (and naively!) cycled nine miles to Middleton St George where a sardonic Guardroom Sergeant addressed me as "BOY"!!! After establishing my credentials and listening (with unconcealed amusement) to my reason for being there, he directed me to SHQ. I recall being concerned about the rules of saluting whilst on a bicycle, but fortunately I made it without having to find out. (As a matter of fact I do not think I ever did, nor did my cousin who was at Locking at roughly the same time.) A veteran FS escorted me down a highly polished corridor to a spartan office where a

bored Sqn Ldr lolled back in a well-worn chair and acknowledged my parade ground salute with a rather limp-wristed kind of waggle. His only solution was a vague reference to there being a transport centre at RAF Rufforth near York – some fifty miles away! (Talk about taking the you-know-what!) Another salute and a dismissive waggle and I was down the shiny corridor again (was that a burst of laughter from the office I had just left?). I remember thinking that Middleton St George would be the last place on earth to which I would want to be posted. (Needless to say, nineteen months later I WAS!!) The sardonic Guardroom Sergeant checked me out of the camp and made some snide remark about the MT Section being put on special standby. I eventually got back to Hereford well before midnight on the last day of leave (courtesy of my parents) but I do not recall that the train strike was a great talking point in the hut, even after the last of the 25th and 24th Entries finally straggled in. I certainly did NOT say anything – but was I the only silly so-and-so who actually thought the RAF would ferry young apprentices the length and breadth of the UK? Perhaps somebody out there would care to answer that?

From Grahame May (25th), Bicester, Oxon

The New Men

RAF Film No 68 was a 1964 RAF film aimed at recruiting young men into the Air Force. If you have computer access, you might find the film interesting. See:

http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=fd1_1322690339

It was forwarded to me by Jim Butcher (ex 44th) who in turn had received it from another colleague. After a recent discussion with Jim, we thought that it may appeal to other ex Admin Apps. I was at AATS Hereford from May 1956 to December 1957 and I enjoyed viewing the 20 minute film even though it was filmed in the 60's.

From Eddie Baker(28th), Gainsborough, Lincs

Have a Good Day!

Two British traffic patrol officers from North Berwick were involved in an unusual incident while checking for speeding motorists on the Great North Road. One of the officers used a hand-held radar device to check the speed of a vehicle approaching over the crest of a hill and was surprised when the speed was recorded at over 300 mph! Their radar then suddenly stopped working and the officers were not able to reset it. Just then, a deafening roar over the treetops revealed that the radar had, in fact, latched on to an RAF Tornado jet fighter, which was engaged in a low-flying exercise over the Border district, approaching from the North Sea. Back at police headquarters the chief constable fired off a stiff complaint about the wrecked radar equipment to the RAF Liaison Office. Back came the reply in true laconic RAF style: "Thank you for your message, which allows us to complete the file on this incident. You may be interested to know that the tactical computer in the Tornado detected the presence of, and subsequently locked onto, your radar equipment and automatically sent a jamming signal back to it. Furthermore, an air-to-ground missile aboard the fully-armed aircraft also automatically locked onto your equipment. Fortunately the pilot flying the Tornado recognized the situation and was able to override the automated defense system before the missile was launched. Have a good day."

From David Cartwright (38th), Chiang Mai, Thailand