

# Royal Air Force Administrative Apprentice Association

"MULTUM A PARVO"

Web Address: [www.rafadappassn.org](http://www.rafadappassn.org)



## Newsletter No 99 September 2014



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### ASSOCIATION NEWS

#### ASSOCIATION AGM AND REUNION 2014

**AGM Minutes and Annual Accounts.** The Minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association, held at Peterborough on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2014, plus the 2014 Annual Accounts as presented at the AGM, are enclosed.

**Reunion Feedback.** Please can I have your feedback about our annual reunion? Are you happy with the quality and location of chosen venues and does the hotel meet your expectations? Would you prefer a different time of year? Are you satisfied with the service provided by the hotel? Is the programme of events satisfactory? Should we continue with the Ladies outing? Can we improve the Reunion weekend in any way? I welcome your views on all aspects of the Reunion weekend. If you have any comments or suggestions would you please send them to me either by email to [chairman@rafadappassn.org](mailto:chairman@rafadappassn.org), by post to my home address (17 Bibury Close, Wellingborough, Northants, NN8 2JQ) or by telephone to 01933 443673.

**Bryan Schofield (33rd)**

**Reunion Photos.** So far we have only received one photograph taken at the Peterborough Reunion for inclusion on the website. If you have any photographs taken at the Reunion which you would like to share with the membership, please e-mail them to Alan Bell, [administrator@rafadappassn.org](mailto:administrator@rafadappassn.org) or send them by post to the Chairman at the address above. All photos sent by post will be returned.

#### ASSOCIATION AGM AND REUNION 2015

The 2015 AGM and Reunion will be held at the Swindon Marriott Hotel over the weekend 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Room half-board prices have been agreed at £67 per person per night with a £15 per night single occupancy supplement. In addition a discount of 35% has been negotiated on all bar prices throughout the weekend.

<b>ACCOMMODATION COSTS</b>	<b>DOUBLE</b>	<b>SINGLE</b>
<b>OPTION A</b> (Fri/Sat Nights)	<b>£268</b>	<b>£164</b>
<b>OPTION B</b> (Sat night only)	<b>£134</b>	<b>£82</b>
<b>OPTION C</b> (Fri/Sat/Sun Nights)	<b>£402</b>	<b>£246</b>
<b>OPTION D</b> (Reunion Dinner Only)	<b>£50</b>	<b>£25</b>

**N.B. The Booking Form is enclosed with this Newsletter.**

**Golf.** The Burnett Shield will, as usual, be competed for on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015 of our re-union weekend. It will take place at the Broome Manor Golf Complex which is just a two minute walk from the Swindon Marriott hotel. Tea or coffee with

a bacon roll on arrival followed by 18 holes of golf with the 1<sup>st</sup> tee off scheduled for 1.30 p.m. Cost will be £25.00 per head. Buggies are available to hire at a cost of £18.00 each. Our golf secretary (Tony Hammonds) would very much like to hear from Association members who do play golf but have not so far supported our Friday get together. For more information, contact [a.hammonds2020@btinternet.com](mailto:a.hammonds2020@btinternet.com) / 01983 754989 or 07752 700076 (Mobile)

#### ASSOCIATION GOLF - ELWORTHY SHIELD

Tony Hammonds (305<sup>th</sup>), Steve Sanders (307<sup>th</sup>), Alan Fray (46<sup>th</sup>), Arthur Rowland (19<sup>th</sup>) and Ian Thomson (19<sup>th</sup>) represented the Association in our annual match against the RAF Halton Apprentices at St Ives, Cambs on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014. The match was a bit closer this year but still resulted in a win for the Halton Apprentices by 150 points to our 139 points.

#### CENOTAPH REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

We have some tickets remaining for attendance at the annual Remembrance parade being held at the Cenotaph on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November. Any member who would like to attend is requested to contact the Chairman on 01933 443673 or at [chairman@rafadappassn.org](mailto:chairman@rafadappassn.org)

#### ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Your committee will be meeting on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October at Boddington, near Cheltenham. If you have anything at all that you wish the Committee to discuss, please let us have your written request by 7<sup>th</sup> October, either by email to the Secretary at [edreilly1@ntlworld.com](mailto:edreilly1@ntlworld.com) or by post to the Chairman at 17 Bibury Close, Wellingborough, Northants, NN8 2JQ.

#### MID SUSSEX MILITARY PARADE

For members' information: to mark, inter alia, the signing of the Armed Forces Community Covenant between Mid Sussex District Council and the Armed Forces and ex-service community, there will be a military parade through Haywards Heath on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September. The parade will march off after the Tour of Britain cycle race passes through the town at around 1230.

#### NEW MEMBERS

595381 **Ashley P Hopkins** (307<sup>th</sup>): Flackwell Heath, Bucks:  
01628 850660: [hopkins\\_a@sky.com](mailto:hopkins_a@sky.com)

#### LAPSED MEMBERSHIP

595608 **David Tibbett** (308<sup>th</sup>)

## AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERS' DETAILS

**Peter Charnell** (40<sup>th</sup>): [pmcharnell@btinternet.com](mailto:pmcharnell@btinternet.com)  
**Mike Needham** (34<sup>th</sup>): [jrmandmj@outlook.com](mailto:jrmandmj@outlook.com)  
**Tony Peters** (34<sup>th</sup>): [ar.peters@btinternet.com](mailto:ar.peters@btinternet.com)  
**John (Eddie) Venn** (41<sup>st</sup>): [johnvenn031@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:johnvenn031@yahoo.co.uk)  
**John Turner** (313<sup>th</sup>): Plymouth: 01752 952726:  
[janet/john1b@outlook.com](mailto:janet/john1b@outlook.com)

## R.I.P.

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

592250 **Peter Bullick** (4<sup>th</sup>)

The Association extends its condolences to all family and friends.

## OBITUARIES

### Peter Bullick (4th)

Peter was initially a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> who I knew mainly through sport; he was a quiet, cheerful apprentice, totally reliable, and after he 'opted' to join the 5<sup>th</sup>, he became a valuable addition to our 7-a-side rugby team (we won the Wing Competition). Peter served at Abyad, Aden and around the UK, and in a long chat with his wife, I learned that she too served in Egypt as an Army Nurse. She was drafted for Nairobi, but ended up in Egypt! Most of us would have yelled at this, but she laughed about it - remarking that she wouldn't have met Peter without this detour! Peter had several heart attacks over the years but overcame them and recently he suffered severe abdominal troubles which necessitated an operation. He got through this and was recovering slowly until he succumbed to another heart attack. I hadn't realised that Peter was a Yorkshireman - if Hull counts as Yorkshire! He was evacuated to Newcastle during the war, and I was really pleased to meet up with him at one of our Reunions. A man of some judgment: moving from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup>, settling in West Yorkshire and marrying a Yorkshire lass. It was a pleasure to talk to his wife, for she too has an excellent sense of humour, getting over her loss after almost 60 years of marriage (she so regretted that Peter had missed Le Tour, which passed their road a couple of times).  
Vale Peter, you will be remembered.

**Skriber**

## REGIONAL GROUP NEWS

### CYPRUS

The Cyprus Group managed to have a meeting on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014 which took place at the Kyrenia Beach Restaurant at Avdimou Beach. It was a very blustery day although a very pleasant temperature but it certainly is strange weather for June in Cyprus. Not too many bikinis in evidence on the beach as the sand was being blown everywhere and we had to retire to the side of the dining area as the bit overlooking the beach was uninhabitable owing to the wind. Just Dave Pyant and myself this time as Ben Casey had relatives visiting and couldn't make it. Dave and I raised our glasses "To Absent Friends" and then had a very pleasant lunch accompanied by a couple of beers and a good chat. As you can imagine, the range of conversation did not cover as many subjects as before but we enjoyed the day. As I am leaving the island on the 11<sup>th</sup> June and won't be back here until 4<sup>th</sup> September, we all decided to have our next meeting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September at Avdimou Beach at the

usual time of 1230 - 1300. Hopefully we should all be able to attend and we extend a warm welcome to anyone else, who is on the island at that time, to join us.

**Ray Burrow** (29<sup>th</sup>)

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



### DORSET

The quarterly meeting of the Dorset Branch of the RAFAAA took place at The Ship in Christchurch on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Aug 2014. Then the barmaid informed us that the beer pumps had failed and there was no draught beer. Cue Slim Dusty singing 'The Pub's got no Beer'. So we repaired to the Old George Inn and enjoyed a good lunch and a convivial chat. Those present in order of seniority were John White (13<sup>th</sup>) Tony Richards (14<sup>th</sup>) Peter Reed (30<sup>th</sup>) Tony Peters (34<sup>th</sup>) and Shay Foley (46<sup>th</sup>). Apologies from Mike Hamill (40<sup>th</sup>) who was buying a dog! The next meeting will be on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2014 at the RNLI HQ, West Quay Road, Poole, BH 15 - 1230 for 1300 - casual dress. The Café Bar has a light snack menu and you are guaranteed a brilliant view of Back Water Channel in Holes Bay. I've been assured that parking is not an issue at weekends.

**Shay Foley** (46<sup>th</sup>)

Contact: [heights73@talktalk.net](mailto:heights73@talktalk.net) / 01202 631652

### GLOUCESTER

No meeting since the April gathering. No firm date yet for the next one but possibly around October time. Please make contact if you wish to be included on future luncheons.

**Mike Day** (38<sup>th</sup>)

Contact: [mikeday28@hotmail.com](mailto:mikeday28@hotmail.com) / 01993 841026

### SOUTH-WEST HERTS

The well-established and much enjoyed quarterly SW Herts reunion took place at the Three Crowns, Bushey Heath, Herts on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2014. We continue to attract attenders from beyond our original boundary. In the picture this time (L to R): Jack Marshall (56R), Phil Gough (31<sup>st</sup>), Peter Ralph (46<sup>th</sup>), Ken Roost (1<sup>st</sup>), Tom Price-Rees (40<sup>th</sup>), Haydn Illingworth (21<sup>st</sup>), welcome guest John Dick (Chairman of the RAF Changi Assn), Brian Scott (32<sup>nd</sup>) and John Summers (18<sup>th</sup>). Unable to come but sending apologies were George Masson (29<sup>th</sup>), Tony Parsons (19<sup>th</sup>), Gerry Singlehurst (15<sup>th</sup>), Noel Hayes (31<sup>st</sup>) and willing but not made it yet, John Bell (31<sup>st</sup>). Also, Derek Hobden (19<sup>th</sup>) sent his good wishes. Our thanks to Katherine from the Three Crowns for being our photographer once more. The next



meeting is on 1<sup>st</sup> November when we hope to do something a bit different - details nearer the day. Put the date in your diaries!

**Phil Gough (31<sup>st</sup>)**

Contact: [pgough@ntlworld.com](mailto:pgough@ntlworld.com) / 01923 466956



## SPAIN

No meeting since the April gathering. No firm date yet for the next one but possibly last week September / first week October. Please make contact if you wish to attend.

**Frank Carroll (38<sup>th</sup>)**

Contact: [notreve@sharjah.org.uk](mailto:notreve@sharjah.org.uk)

## ARTICLES

### OCTOGENARIANS



27th MAY, 1949 : The S.of S. for Air takes the MARCH PAST SALUTE at the 2nd ENTRY PASS OUT PARADE.

FRONT ROW (L to R) : Air Commodore H.E. Forrow, CB, OBE (Base Commander RAF St. ATHAN);  
Air Chief Marshal Sir John Whitworth-Jones, KCB, CBE (AOC-in-C Maintenance Command)  
The Right Honourable Arthur Henderson, KC, MP (H. M. Secretary of State for Air);  
Wing Commander D.A. Reddick, DFC, AFC (O.C. Administrative Apprentice Training School) &  
Air Vice Marshal P.E. Maitland, CB, MVO, AFC (Air Officer Commanding No 40 Group Headquarters).

In the last week of May, two celebrations were in order for those octogenarians who survived to witness the 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Entry signing-on at RAF North Weald (31<sup>st</sup> May 1947), and the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Entry 'passing-out' at RAF St Athan (27<sup>th</sup> May 1949). The top-dog on all RAF matters was the Air Minister (Secretary of State for Air) who was the Reviewing Officer at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Entry 'pass-out' parade. As you can see from the picture, there was a lot of scrambled egg accompanying those who had come to give the 2<sup>nd</sup> Entry a welcome send-off into the RAF's big, wild world. Anyway, it was in times long gone by - unlike the RAF of today. The number of airmen at St Athan in 1947 was 7000. RAF strength forecast for next year is 35,000. Looking back on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 1949, it appears odd that 20 of us from the original 58 of the 1<sup>st</sup> Entry should have been re-coursed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Entry. Another half dozen had fallen by the wayside. We couldn't have all been that bad, so I kid myself that as we were the first entry to be tested, nobody knew what the

benchmark pass results should be set at. Surely, no other entry could possibly have had that many 'retreads', and if that's the case, it must be a record in the history of all RAF apprenticeships.

**Sam Mold (1<sup>st</sup>)**

### COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Des Skinner attended the official opening last week of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in his capacity as President Australian Bowls. Des is an ex-41<sup>st</sup> Entry (Supplier) who eventually trained as a Navigator operating mainly on RAF Andovers. As for a number of navigators at the time, their career path disappeared with the axing of the Transport Fleet in the 1970s and the premature retirement of the Belfast. Consequently, Des left the RAF and has lived in Australia for a number of years. He is a member of the Association (see below).  
**Dixie Dean (40<sup>th</sup>)**

### THE 41ST ENTRY GATHERING

The 41<sup>st</sup> Entry held their bi-annual reunion at Nidd Hall (near Harrogate) from Friday 16<sup>th</sup> to Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May. Present were Brian Allan, Dave Angood, Peter Bylett, Corrin Carlin, Bryan Cross, Mick Franks, Dave Gilbody, Colin Hodnett, Bill Jefferson, Dave King, Barrie Loftus, Phil Oakley, Des Skinner, Eddie Venn, Dave White and Bob Wise (instructor). We were blessed with excellent weather and the accommodation, food and entertainment were first class. We were very pleased to welcome Colin Hodnett and Corrin Carlin who somehow had managed to avoid our earlier reunions - but we got them this time! After dinner on the first evening we all met again in the Pavilion Bar where the staff were quite amused to watch our attempts at re-arranging the furniture! A beautiful day dawned on Saturday and everyone split up and did their own thing. That evening we had dinner, followed by the Elaine Paige show. She was OK but personally I prefer AC/DC! On Sunday, we were blessed again with a beautiful day and the sun terrace and grounds were well populated with the less energetic ex-apps (that's most of us)! At dinner that night we listened to the delightful strains of the Aussie accented Des Skinner. He is improving - no interpreter needed on this occasion! To be serious for a moment, Des did pay tribute to Ian Dennis, so recently departed, who had always been a great supporter of our reunions. His presence and enthusiasm were missed. **RIP, Ian** Eddie Venn was great as our MC but the highlight of the evening was Phil Oakley, whose recitations, stories and undoubted acting ability should really have a wider audience. If he could sing he could have replaced Elaine Paige - and made a better job of it!! Yet another lovely day on Monday as we got ourselves packed up and departed to all corners of the United Kingdom. Despite our advancing years Dave, Bill and I succumbed to the blandishments of all those ex-brats who assured us they want to do this again. So looking ahead, we'll probably be seeing you again in Nidd Hall in 2016 - God willing. Check your diaries now and put a marker in for May - we are thinking of trying to trace a few ex-staff members - no doubt you would all love to see Ginge Turner again!!!

**Barrie Loftus (41<sup>st</sup>)**

### PERSONAL MEMORIES OF HEREFORD

Parading Outside GST Hut. Junior Entry May 1955. Gawping at the immaculate figure of Cpl Drinkwater. Mirror like boots, knife edge creased trousers, sun glinting on peak of slashed bull hat, steely blue eyes. **Bull Nights.** Trying to get a shine on new boots as well as new lino. Bumpers and cloth pads. A few tears. **Dark Cold Winter Mornings.** Warm bed. Footsteps on the gravel. Light snapping on. Duty NCO yelling, banging,

rattling. Wet footmarks on our bulled floor. **Breakfasts.** Square plastic fried eggs, funny tasting tea, scalding hot water trough, losing your irons. **Bed Tipping by Senior Entry.** On fatigues. Being sworn at for failing to light the S/A's stove. **First Drills.** Getting bawled out. Running around the square. Blisters. **Full Kit and Hut Inspection.** Jankers for a dirty mug. Some b\*\*\*\*\*d swapped. Mine was new. **Hay Fever.** Report 3 times a day to Sick Quarters for a pill. No, you can't have a daily or weekly supply. **Summer Camp** at Porthcawl. On pee buckets with Dave East. Sentry duty. Someone challenges a cow. **Football.** Hereford and District League 1955/56. Great contests with Lads Club and Pegasus. Bad tempered brawl at Ewyas Harold, on or near the Welsh border. Sheep being cleared from the pitch before the kickoff. **Pay Parade.** Some of us try the sliding halt. Get a bollocking from Dinky. We did know he was there! **Fourth Term.** Getting it all together. Fatherly advice from Joe Salter. Some hard lessons on the square from Dinky and in the Trade room from a new instructor. **Rifle Shoot at Woebly.** Torrential rain. Wars don't stop for the weather lad, that's why you have a cape and groundsheet! **Dislocate Finger** playing basketball. PTI clicks it back. Excused rifle drill? Not on your life. MO just straps it up. **End of Term Reports.** Borderline twice for a re-course. Somehow make it to Senior Entry. **We Queue-bash** and persecute the Junior Entry. Not nearly as badly as we got from the 21<sup>st</sup>. **Football.** Home defeat by Locking Apprentices in a so called two-leg Friendly. Quite a crowd turned out. Quite a disappointment. We played OK but the ball just would not run for us. Away match at Cosford in the Apprentices and Boy Entrants Cup. We leave camp, without permission, early on Saturday and see Wolves v Sunderland at Molineux. Arrive late evening at Cosford. Lose match the next day. As Captain I expect to cop it. So does Johnnie Wills - Vice Captain. We accept this. Whole team suspended and scratch eleven put out in Herefordshire Cup. They lose 15-0. Johnnie Wills and I resign in protest. Nobody cares. We will be gone in a few weeks. However, we both feel justified! **PassOut Parade Rehearsals.** First full rehearsal. We lose step at March Past. Everyone blames someone else. The second rehearsal goes off OK. Even Dinky cannot find fault. We are ready! **Final Exams.** Get minimum required marks in trade and education. My classmates claim I was pushed. Maybe they were right, but why me? **25<sup>th</sup> Entry Pass out Parade.** Very foggy. Great sense of relief. Some of us slope off to Hereford to celebrate. Get ejected from cinema. Find a pub. Later we are rounded up by SPs. No recollection whatsoever of any of the evening events. **Next Day.** Still foggy. Feel awful. Throw up twice. Told I rode a bike around our hut and had a set to with Dick Smedley. Apparently it was his bike! There was also talk of tins of polish being kicked around. Have nothing but sweet tea and aspirins. Parents are not very impressed. We all say hasty goodbyes. Parents drive me home. I lie on the back seat. Raging headache. It's all over.

**Grahame May (25<sup>th</sup>)**

#### **Addendum**

A few newsletters ago (**Nitr 89 – Ed**) I sent in an article entitled "Naive or What?" about the 1955 Train Strike and posed the question "was I the only silly so and so who went to his local RAF station to get transport back to Hereford? Perhaps somebody out there would care to answer that?" No-one has so far! Any response, please?!

**Grahame**

### **ADEN IN QUIETER TIMES**

I was twice in Aden in times that were not so troubled. First via Canal Zone in late 1954 where they asked for 3 corporals to go to Aden for Movements. Next afternoon at Khormaksar I was told I was to go to APL (the levies) at Singapore Lines to EPAS!

Of others, one went to ASD (food supplies depot in Maala) and the other actually went to movements at Eastleigh. In the first week I explored and visited the Lido at Steamer Point (No 2 in the Editor's Picture Quiz in a previous Newsletter!) where my mate was in huts in Sheba Camp (just behind 114MU). I took ten days to 'arrive' and as I took my card back to orderly room they said "where have you been?" "Now clear as you're posted to Khartoum and have to be at Khormaksar tomorrow to fly." So I did finally get into Air Movements. 10 months later back to Khormaksar (Khartoum closed!) and stayed in Movements rest of tour. Then 12 months at Topcliffe (EPAS) and again to Aden, this time on HMT Nevasa. This time I had no choice but 114MU, which I stuck for 8 months including 6 weeks at our sub-site adjacent to X Group (we stored major aircraft parts there). Then I arranged an exchange posting to Air Movements Khormaksar once again.

**Peter King (14<sup>th</sup>)**

### **NEW FORCES TV CHANNEL**

"Forces TV" commenced broadcasting on 10th June. This new service focuses on the work of the Armed Forces with news, live events and documentaries about all aspects of Armed Forces life. It comes free on Channel 299 (Sky), 244 (Virgin) and 652 (Freesat). It's aimed at 12 million potential viewers, as it includes programmes for serving personnel, families, friends, reservists, cadets, veterans, dependents, those who work alongside our Forces and charity fundraisers. There's plenty of scope for news items to be aired. Full details of this station are on: [www.forces.tv](http://www.forces.tv)

**Dave Ainsworth (304<sup>th</sup>)**

Publicity Officer

### **THE GRACE SPITFIRE**

I am proud and privileged to live close to RAF Bentwaters, home of the Grace Spitfire. There is nothing to beat the joy of sitting in the garden watching and listening to the spit performing aerobatics on a glorious summer's day. There is a move afoot to ban flying from Bentwaters. I would be grateful if you could forward this email to the other ex apps so that they can sign our petition to keep the spitfire flying. Just go to: <http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/d-c-admin-suffolkcoastal-gov-uk-ref-c10-3239-keep-bentwaters-flying>

Thanks in advance for your co-operation.

**Jeff Short (37<sup>th</sup>)**

### **FLYING DISPLAY – AND HOW!**

Thanks to John Dyer (46th) for alerting me to a most amazing flying display on line. How do you fly a fixed wing aeroplane sideways? If you are able to access a computer, find it on: [www.youtube.com/embed/Bu535PZzysE](http://www.youtube.com/embed/Bu535PZzysE). (**Editor**)

### **EDITOR'S NOTES**

I have recently changed my computer suite and, during switch to the new one and upgrading from Windows XP to Windows 7, unfortunately may have lost some of my stored Association e-mails. Should anyone have sent me an article via e-mail that has not yet been published, I'd be grateful if it could be re-sent to [ralph82@ntlworld.com](mailto:ralph82@ntlworld.com). Many thanks.

I'm getting short of material for the Newsletter again. Please contribute if you can. Thanks in anticipation!

If you can receive the Newsletter by e-mail rather than by post, please let me know.

**Pete Ralph (46<sup>th</sup>)**