



Confound & Destroy

The magazine of RAF 100 Group Association

Summer Special 2017



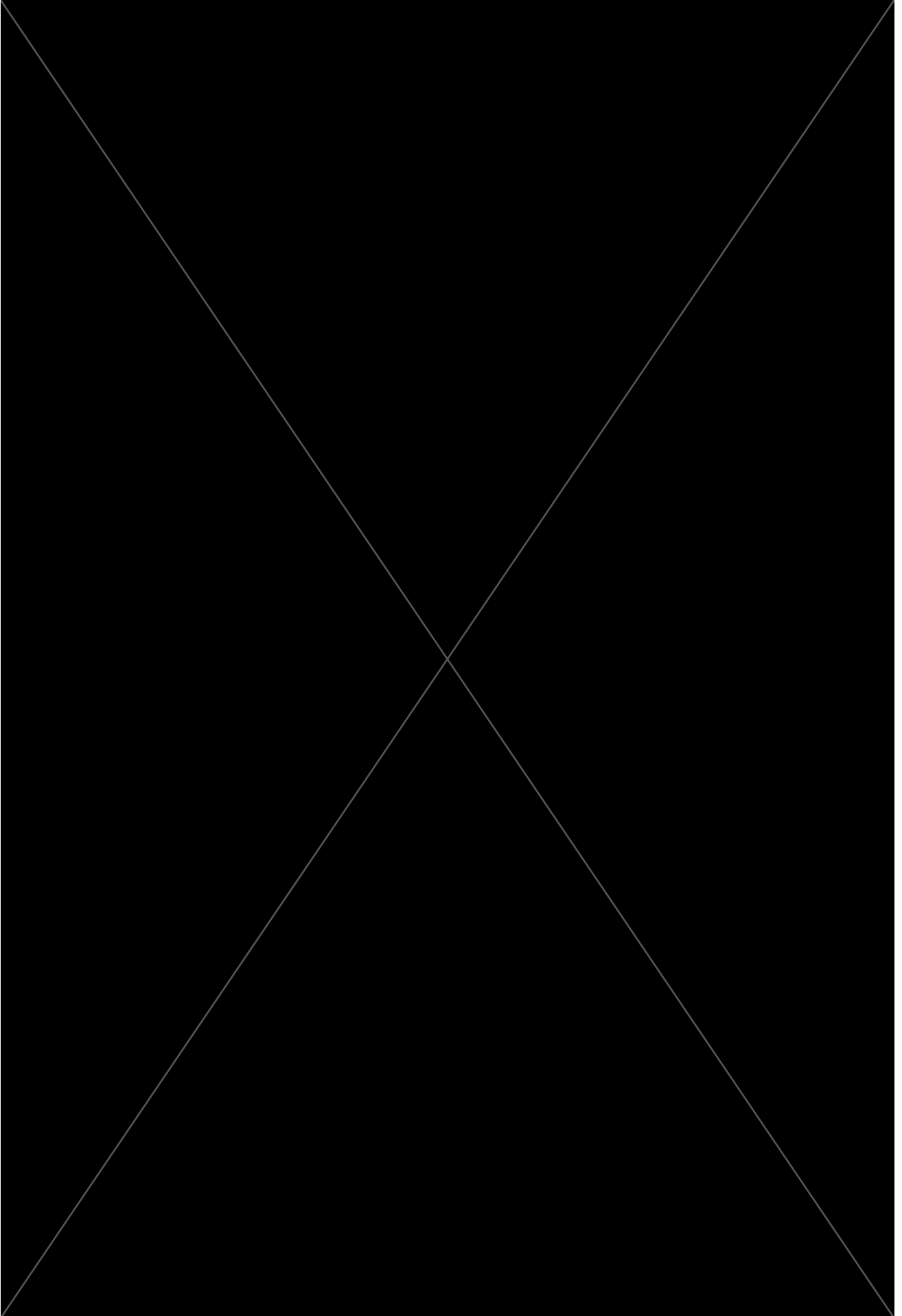
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RAF 100 Group Association



EDITOR'S PAGE



Dearest Kindred Spirits,

I cannot begin to describe the myriad of emotions which continue to spiral as memories overwhelm my senses about the Reunion ... everything we did, everywhere we went, everyone I met, talked with and shared. Oh, it was absolutely beyond anything you might imagine! It is being described by all those who attended as being THE BEST EVER! Now I have trouble settling to the idea that it's all over, everyone gone home.

Yet, having arrived home to over 200 emails, and a pile of postal letters on the mat, I know there's some way to go until I reach the end of this particular journey. Following the weekend Reunion bonanza, joined from the States by the present-day 36th Electronic Warfare Squadron, from Eglin Airfield, Florida; and veterans of the wartime 36th Bomb Squadron, Stuart and I had the privilege and pleasure of accompanying Kitty and Rafael (Major) Ramos around Norfolk, seeing the sights, and taking in the most incredible English cream tea. They were killing time before their flight. But then, once we'd made an emotional goodbye, Stuart and I were back on the road, driving around parts of the UK in a whirlwind tour of veterans, visiting and filming. We covered 1763 miles, to be precise; Stuart tells me that amounts to 2837 Kilometres. He says I'm entitled to still be buzzing ... But then, there's a whole lot more going on than 'buzzing'!!

It was an extraordinary and very special 20th Reunion, as well as an historic one, with the 36BS coming back for the first time since the war to stand shoulder to shoulder with veterans of RAF 100 Group. A proud precious moment! This magazine is packed with writings, pictures, stories, memories shared. I do hope you all enjoy the read ... whether you were there with us or not. My wish is that some of that loving spirit will shine through, and that you'll catch a handful or two in reliving it with us through these pages. From start to finish it was priceless and precious, just as it should be when kindred spirits come together, each just as passionate about preserving the history and stories of these very special people.

Thank you, Tom and Stephen for making this possible. I couldn't have done it without you, and of course Captain Amanda Farr who continues to promote and spread the word. Thank you Stuart Borlase, who came all the way from Australia, setting up two camera crews to film the entire happenings of the Reunion. His challenge now is to bring it together onto DVDs which people will be able to purchase from him ... whether as a keepsake, or to see what took place for real from the comfort of your sitting room if you couldn't attend in person. Thanks Martin and Matt, and those involved in the mechanics of filming. Also, a heartfelt THANK YOU to our superb 1940's Professional Singer Heather Marie and husband S/Ldr Matthew Little, Director of Music, Central Band of the Royal Air Force based at RAF Northolt for making dreams come true on the dance floor Saturday evening. I haven't yet come down from Cloud Nine!! Then again, David Nock who provided an outstanding Flypast lasting several minutes in his North American Harvard, was truly up there among the clouds putting on a wonderful display against an almost cloudless sky as we watched below in wonder. I would also thank the villagers, both at Foulsham, and Oulton, and Horsham St Faith who provide us with tea, cake and savouries and so much more. Volunteers at the City of Norwich Aviation Museum are also thanked for the buffet they provide, where we're surrounded by aircraft and exhibits, giving it an atmosphere of being in a time out of Time.

Thank you one and all!

*Love & Hugs,
Janine^{xx}*

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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

I am writing this on Polling Day 8th June 2017. I am old enough to remember the 1959 election when Harold MacMillan defeated Hugh Gaitskell. This election has been unlike any of those I have experienced in its surprises, never mind the tragic events in London and my home town of Manchester. For all the turmoil of the campaign, today will be another impressive demonstration of our democracy. In voting, we commemorate previous generations who served and died, including those of RAF 100 Group, so that we can exercise the right to vote.

Our 20th Reunion last month commenced with our normal service at Foulsham, followed by the unveiling of a Plaque at the adjacent Church Farm. This was the site of the crash of USAAF B17 'Eager Eagle', resulting from a collision with an RAF Beaufighter in August 1943. We were joined by members of RAF Marham and a contingent from the USAF 36th Electronic Warfare Squadron led by their Commanding Officer. Our American friends shared the weekend with us and were possibly a more important ingredient than the good weather in making this a memorable Reunion.

I can report that the AGM agreed our first Constitution, which may be helpful to us in achieving charitable status. I believe we are now making progress in developing a website, thanks to Peter Sluman volunteering to take on this task. The Aviation Museum generously provided one of their exhibits – a Handley Page Heron – as a venue for a Committee Meeting where we discussed the Association's finances. Whilst we continue to be solvent, I am concerned that, for two years, our expenditure has exceeded our income. We have decided on the following cost control measures:

1. **Membership cards.** We will no longer issue membership cards whose main purpose was to provide free access to members to the City of Norwich Aviation Museum. Instead, we will provide CNAM with a list of members so that members can still enjoy this facility.
2. **Reunion Dinners.** In future, we will plan to break even. The cost of guests will be incorporated in the overall ticket price.
3. **Magazine.** We recognise the importance of the magazine, which arguably is the life-blood of the Association. We will continue to produce four editions per year and make available hard copy to those members who prefer this format. However, we noted that a number of pages are currently included in every magazine (Committee details, Final Postings, Order of Battle). In future, we will include these in the Summer magazine only, saving some cost of printing and possibly postage.
4. **Charitable Status.** We will explore the possibility of achieving charitable status. This would have the benefit of allowing members to pay subscriptions via gift aid, which would increase our income.
5. **Subscriptions.** The current subscription of £15 has remained unchanged for many years – exactly how long I am trying to find out. Certainly, more than eight years. I believe that if we want to consider increasing subscriptions, this should be decided by the AGM. The earliest a change could be introduced would be 2019.

Finally, I had the honour of attending a delightful event at the RAF Club in Piccadilly in March, when our President Phil James MBE presented a 100 Group Plaque to the Club, represented by Air Commodore Rick Peacock-Edwards CBE, AFC, Vice Chairman. Two past Chairs of the Association were also present – Wing Commander John Stubbington (who organised the presentation) and Richard Forder.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Roger Dobson', with a horizontal line underneath.

Roger Dobson Tir A Môr Uchaf, Cemaes Bay, Isle of Anglesey

8th AIR FORCE REPRESENTATIVE

Stephen Hutton



Dear Friends,



In this issue, the news from the States is truly one of great elation. I, along with WWII 36th Bomb Squadron veterans Des Howarth, Rafael Ramos and 36th Electronic Warfare Squadron Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Tom 'Gosling' Moore and his party from Eglin AFB, Florida, so wonderfully enjoyed our May annual Reunion occasion. In a letter to me, Gosling reports the whirlwind trip was '*an amazing experience*'. What a whirlwind journey it was!

To start with, on Thursday before the Reunion, I met Gosling and his Squadron party, Rodney Dutton, Capt. Paul Bennett, Lt. Andrew Henderson, and S/Sgt Robert Padgett, at the farm of Chas and Irene Jellis in Cheddington. Once there, we all gazed upon my friend Chas's array of WWII vehicles and memorabilia. Next, Irene and Chas's girlfriend Heda guided us on a tour of my father's old airbase at Cheddington where we enjoyed lunch at the airfield café. From there, we were taken around to see the 36th Bomb Squadron Memorials in Long Marston and Ivinghoe that Chas had rallied the local villagers to create. It was obvious that Gosling and his men were moved by seeing the places where their WWII predecessors worked, flew, and sometimes sacrificed their lives toward Allied victory in Europe.



On Friday, Chas, Heda and I headed northeast toward Norwich, stopping along the way at the American Cemetery in Cambridge to pay our respects. To view the Wall of the Missing and all the crosses is always a sombre moment. Later, arriving at the Holiday Inn, Norwich, I was thrilled to see 36BS veterans Des Howarth and Rafael Ramos. To accompany Des, he brought along his grandson Ian, Chaplain in the Idaho Air National Guard, his wife Allyson, and friend David Watson, a Vietnam War pilot. Gremlin Rafael was accompanied by his lovely and cheerful wife Kitty. I was especially very happy to once again see my Welsh friends Brendan and Ann Maguire along with their winsome daughter Hayley, their sweet sweet granddaughter Lily May and Hayley's partner Guy Woosnam, who is in the Welsh Guard. What a better start to an upcoming fun-filled Reunion!

The RAF 100 Group and American participation in the two Foulsham Memorial events followed by one in Oulton on Friday and Saturday respectively, were truly a most memorable and a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me and all those in attendance. Seeing Gremlin Rafael Ramos along with fellow RAF partners Andrew Barron and Phil James MBE presenting memorial wreaths was particularly significant and meaningful. The Oulton AT-6 Harvard Flypast we all witnessed was simply spectacular! Being there with the Gremlins, both young and old, made for an historic occasion. Let me also say that the teas at Foulsham, the Norwich Aviation Museum, and at Oulton were delightful and quite tasty. Yes, the English villagers certainly treated us like Royalty!



*Lt Col Tom Moore w veteran
Major Rafael Ramos*

Then there was the Saturday Dinner! Heather Marie's splendid vocals of WWII period hits to entertain us was a grand opening with many attendees on the dance floor. My meal proved just delicious and, along with Stuart Borlase's film interviews of RAF 100 Group veterans; was quite interesting. What a Show! Next, Lt. Col. Moore spoke about the mission of today's Unit and how it compared so closely to the WWII Gremlins of old. He said: *'We stand on the shoulders of giants'*. He also acknowledged the efforts of Brendan and Chas in creating 36th Squadron Memorials in Great Britain. As a special treat, he presented both Janine and I with framed 'then and now' 36th Squadron pictures. How that swelled my heart in anticipation! Topping off the marvellous evening was more singing by Heather Marie, with me on the dance floor with Hayley, Lily May with her baby doll and many others. How very brave those ladies were to risk themselves with me and my two left feet! Yes, what a terrific evening!!

Before leaving the Holiday Inn on Sunday to return to the Jellis farm, it was swell seeing Des, Rafael, Janine, Gosling, his party and my friends the Maguires, in the Breakfast Room for some chat before hitting the road. What wonderful memories we had made! Then, heading south, Chas and Heda entertained me twice more, first by stopping to see the unique and beautiful 8th Air Force 96th Bomb Group Memorial at Snetterton Heath; then at Duxford for one last tour.



Des Howarth w Museum Tour Guide

There, to our surprise, we found Des Howarth and his travelling party at the American Air Museum. What an excellent Aviation Museum, with about every kind of historic aircraft imaginable. As I roamed around the Museum, I saw Des connect with a Museum Tour Guide. It wasn't long before Des had a captive audience, telling them about his WWII Gremlin days in the 36th!

Yes, the legacy of the Gremlins lives on!



Stephen Hutton & Chas Jellis at Heddingly

So then, my friends, I could go on with more about my fantastic time, but let me close in extending a big 'THANK YOU' to all for, as Gosling said: '*... making everything possible*'.

You certainly entertained us to the Max!!

Stephen Hutton

Author: '*Squadron of Deception*'

8th Air Force Historical Society Unit Contact

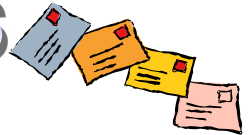
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LETTERS PAGES



Dear Janine,

What a bumper journal came through our letterbox for the Spring, and what a great read with plenty of new photographs. Thank you. I would like to comment, and hope you have room in your next edition ...

Our Chairman's letter was thoroughly enjoyed and I would like to add something on the Stirling bomber. I have always had a soft spot for this monster of an aircraft and still recall stories told me by an uncle when a schoolboy during the war. He was Ground Crew on this plane, also later on the Halifax. On hearing of an Association to build a full-size replica of the Stirling, this was some years ago; I joined and have continued to enjoy their Newsletters which come out a few times a year. The good news, they don't expect me to pay for membership, but I do send a few pounds once or twice a year. The Association is entitled: *'The Stirling Aircraft Project'*, the Secretary: Mr John Lathwell, 15 Kym Rd., St Neots, Cambs. PE19 7JT. I'm amazed at the help the builders get from Holland, for example, as wrecks are still found beneath their waters, any pieces of gear still in good condition are sent over. I just marvel at the attempt to build such a monster!

Still reading the Journal: page 15, etc. did you take up Ted Crudgington's offer of photos of 169 aircraft and the men on the ground? Photos of 169 Squadron planes are very rare. Looking at my card index, I haven't spotted a picture of one in all the books and magazines I've looked at from school days. If you have them, and Ted would like to share, could I ask to borrow them? They would be copied and returned, I promise.

Again, Philip Croft's story, page 20, with so much information – wonderful! The mention of the book: *'The Last Fling'*, I would like to buy a copy, and an address would be appreciated. The explosion over Kiel, was that the incident when my friend, Sgt. Bob Jones, got killed with his crew?

Sorry to be awkward, but the lovely photo of the Mosquito with the caption *'199 Squadron'*; the men might have belonged to that Unit, but 199 didn't have Mossies at that time ... did they? I didn't think 199 flew this one, and I just referred to my books to make sure.

Your content in the journal just had to be read page after page. Now at page 29, and I read about Branse Burbridge in our paper, but there was no mention he came from Dulwich, South London. That was my old stamping ground having been born there, and my schooling. So, I must correct the chap writing in the *'Telegraph'*. The school we both went to was Alleyn's School, no Grammar in the title. And MY spelling is the correct one! The school is situated in Townley Road, East Dulwich and we lived a road butting onto Townley. I would love to drive round there after all these years.

Phew, you must be fed up with my ramblings, but just had to correct facts as they will be copied again and again over the years. Now I had better stop ... Thanks for all you do. Only wish I could make the Reunion. Oh, to be younger and have more energy for such exciting happenings!

Sincerely,

Ron

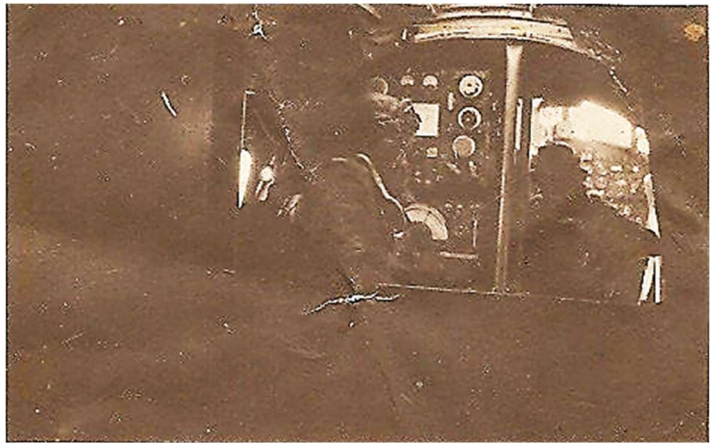
Ron Durand



Hello again Janine,

Thanks for your excellent letter, full of interest. You were kind enough to include the story of my half-brother Kenneth Norman Joseph Croft, in the Spring magazine. I'm wondering if any

Association veteran might be able to identify the aircraft showing 'Ken at work' which has puzzled me for years. The image is very small and not well lit. However, my thought is that many eyes increase the chance of some former aircrew member recognising this interior ... a long shot I know, but worth a try?



I have tried to find out where Ken was trained because, as a Birmingham lad (despite being born in Worcester) the nearest training base would have been RAF Hixon, just outside Stafford. A base for Night Bombing training, with many Wellingtons. It was a matter of family talk that Ken did fly Wellingtons as a Radio Operator and Gunner. So, I think he may have been sent there. But after that? No knowledge. Photographic evidence shows he was a Lancaster crew member somewhere, and of course later, he joined 100 Group at North Creake.

Ken's wife Irene joined the WAAFs and I expect that's how they met socially. I mention this because I thought Irene could reveal more about Ken's postings. But she said, although occasionally she would ask him, he would remind her not to because of wartime secrecy.

I have one further photograph which I would value the help of veteran members. I assume the picture below shows my brother Kenneth Croft's RAF Passing Out Group (*he is sat, bottom left as viewed*). No-one in the family can say where exactly this was taken. I have failed in all efforts to locate this place. I think the tall building behind the men is headed with the title: 'Battery Hotel', but despite Googling the name, none seem to match the age of this building. I am guessing that this was near an RAF training camp, and hopefully might be familiar to someone.

Thanks for your time, as always much appreciated,

Phil

Phil Croft

philip.croft@virgin.net



Hello,

Thank you for your letter, and I'm sorry how much your Mum was affected by the loss of her wartime fiancé. My hero was Sgt Russell Fuller, RAF Pilot on 77 Squadron, Beaconsfield. He came to our school and talked about the RAF when on Leave. His Dad was Station Master at Clench Warton Station. One day, I went with Mum to get on the train for King's Lynn. Mrs Fuller was crying. Mum told me her son was 'Missing'. My son traced his career and he was shot down over Berlin. It was his first Op as second dickie before taking his own crew.

Fred English has passed away, sadly. He was a bit sick about dropping WINDOW. He said the Jerries treated three Halifaxes as a large raid, so they got clobbered. He came home once with his chute on and the turret swung ready to jump, but they made it back okay, while my Uncle survived Dunkirk, then died in Singapore with the 4th Norfolks.

My son now does 'Norfolk Tours' and brought three Chinese ladies who wanted to see a Norfolk cottage. They came from Singapore and I said my Uncle died there. Sometime later, a photo came with a lady pointing to Uncle's name on the Singapore Memorial. How nice of them! My son has many Yanks touring 8th Air Force Bases, one was 92 and had done one tour on B17s, then onto B24s.

My granddaughter is married to a farmer on an Air Base and they live in a converted barn on the airfield – 'Liberator Barn'. This Yank flew B24s from there, and he was thrilled to see the name 'Liberator Barn' on the sign.

I've been to schools talking about being a schoolboy in the war, living in Norfolk. One little lad recently asked: 'What pocket money did you get then?' I told him: 'None'. Well, we couldn't spend money without coupons for sweets. Everything was rationed!

Bob Burrows

King's Lynn



Dear Janine,

I am undertaking some research on behalf of a descendent of someone who was part of 80 Signals Wing. His name was [Albert Edward Eaton](#). The Diaries of 80 Wing do not cover ORs and I've hit a bit of an archival dry well. As well as 80 Wing, he was shown at RAF North Creake in 1944, as well as RAF Oakington, which I appreciate was a Pathfinder 7 Group Base. He was also deployed with 80 Wing to Europe from March 1945.

Albert was both an AC1 and then an LAC during this period.

If anyone has any memories or information about Albert, it would be greatly appreciated if you could share them with his daughter, Katheryn Harnett at the email address given below.

Thank you,

Al Allen

Harnett@aol.com



Hi,

Having visited Foulsham today, we found out about the RAF 100 Group Association. My Grandfather, John Crotch DFC was stationed at Foulsham with 192 Squadron. My mother, her brother and I are interested in attending future RAF 100 Group Association events.

Kind regards,

Julia Read

juliaread21@gmail.com

Dear Janine,

My sister, Linda Read, my niece Julia Read and I were so pleased to attend the remembrance ceremony at Foulsham which I saw advertised in the Eastern Daily Press; and for me to meet you at the Reunion Dinner which was a great success. My late father John Crotch DFC who died in 1944, assisted Martin Bowman with obtaining vital information in connection with his book 'Confounding the Reich' – see pages 102/103 for crew photographs, which show my father very noticeable with a moustache!! Doc Elliott recalled for us that he had flown with father on a raid over Stuttgart in January 1945 – borne out by an entry in the Log Book.

Please liaise with my niece Julia who has emailed you regarding membership of the Association.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Crotch



Dear Janine,

It is with great sadness I am advising you that my father, Alastair McDermid, passed away on 23 February aged 92 at his Nursing Home with his family.

Alastair served in 214 Squadron at Oulton in 1944-1945 as Waist Gunner in Flying Fortresses, carrying out sorties over Germany and Poland. His plane was shot down by an intruder over Oulton on 3/4 March 1945 and he was one of only two survivors from a crew of nine. He was a regular attendee at your Reunions in Norfolk until about ten years ago when he became rather infirm.

(His funeral service was held on 9 March at 11.40 at Rawdon Crematorium, with refreshments afterwards.)

Linda McDermid, daughter



Hi,

I am writing on behalf of my late father, Kenneth Lionel Stone. I believe he was a member of the Association. He was a Tail Gunner in 223 Squadron, Liberators, during WW2. Date of birth: 7.2.1925. Dad's funeral was at Bournemouth Crematorium on 8 March at 12.45pm.

Please could you let members know.

Many thanks,

Roger Stone rogmstone@yahoo.com

Hello Janine,

Thank you for passing on the sad news of the death of Ken Stone. I am pretty sure that Ken was an Association member in the very early days and I believe he was a Founder member. I certainly remember speaking with him at the very first Reunion. He was one of the 38 Air Gunners posted in from 10 Air Gunnery School at RAF Walney Island. He flew 34 ops as the Rear Gunner in Flt/Lt John Briscoe's crew. He was a particular pal of Sgt Derek G Wilshaw, a Waist Gunner in the same crew and now the only surviving member. I have not had any contact with Derek, but the last time we spoke he was still a member of the Association.

Returning to Ken Stone, we last had contact about ten years ago when I was able to arrange a copy of my book '*Special Ops Liberators*' for him. Ken flew his last op with 223 Squadron in April 1945, and was still recorded as a Sgt at that time. Unfortunately, there was no further mention of him in the Squadron's ORB so I cannot confirm that it was his final rank in the RAF. Hopefully, his son will be able to clarify this.

Best wishes,

Richard Forder



F/Lt Briscoe's crew

Back left to right: Sgt Ken Stone, Rear Gunner; F/O Roxy Hart, 2nd Pilot; F/Lt J. L. C. Briscoe DFC, Pilot; F/O Alan Love, Navigator; F/S D. A. G. Anthony, Flight Engineer

Front left to right: Sgt Derek Wilshaw, Waist Gunner; F/S Bill Bowsher RCAF, Waist Gunner; PO D. F. Roberts, Mid-Upper Gunner

Missing: Special Operators F/O E. Chandler, F/O C. E. Payne

February 1945?

Photograph credited to: D. A. G. Anthony



Hi Janine,

This photo of Dad – Ted ‘Lofty’ Baumfield – was taken when he received his Commission. He did his training in Canada and had a great time there, finding the Canadians and Americans very friendly. For instance, he and some friends went to Spokane for Christmas. They had phoned the local Mayor to explain they were a group of New Zealanders and cheekily asked if he could arrange anything for them. In turn, the Mayor called together a group of prominent locals to provide hospitality. The group met the train and the New Zealanders were then divided up among them. Ted and the McBeath twins (John and Don) became guests of a lumber merchant. He not only drove them around in his automatic car (the first one they had seen), but let them drive it too.



On another occasion, Ted met a girl named Jean Richards at one of the Service Clubs. He went out with her a few times, particularly enjoying an outing in a horse-drawn sleigh; and corresponded with her once in England.

Sometimes, he struck cultural differences, as illustrated on an occasion he went into a Service Club in Edmonton, and ordered four sandwiches. The girl serving commented: *‘You must be very hungry!’* He soon found out what she meant. To a Canadian, a sandwich was two whole slices of bread!! But on a more serious note, he agreed to purchase some after-shave lotion for an elderly Indian who handed him some money. He did not find out until later that Indians were banned from such purchases as the stuff was almost pure alcohol and they drank it!

Other memories include his Leave in New York. The band playing at the Service Club there was Fred Waring and the Pennsylvanians. Afterwards, Fred invited the boys to go to the Waldorf Astoria Hotel with him. There were a number of Broadway stars there making one-off recordings, selling these for big sums to raise money for War Bonds. Among other entertainments, there was a lemon meringue-pie eating contest. Competitors only had to consume one pie, but had their hands tied behind their backs. Ted came second! The boys all had a bit much to drink, and Ted recalled sitting on an old man’s knee while singing: *‘A Letter Edged in Black’*.

The boys also visited the amusement park at Coney Island, particularly enjoying the roller coaster. The Bronx Zoo was another attraction. They also got invited to American’s homes. Some places were out of bounds, and they were actually issued with a list of cafes and clubs not to be visited by members of the RAF, RAAF and RNZAF. Looking at the document, it is somewhat surprising to note that these places were not only named, but their addresses provided.

However, aside from these and other entertainments, there was work to do. Ted did very well in his Air Force Courses, and was told he had gained the highest marks of any New Zealander who went through the bombing schools in Canada during the war. For instance, at No. 8 B and G (Bombing and Gunnery), Lethbridge; Ted got the highest marks for the Paper on the Theory of Bombing that the school had ever had from anyone. Because of these results, he topped this particular Course. However, there was also disappointment. Normally, the person who topped their Course received a ceremonial sword. Unfortunately, there were two men on the same Course who were already Officers, and the sword was given to the Officer with the best marks. He apologised to Ted after receiving the sword, saying: *‘This should have been yours’*, but nevertheless kept it. Very occasionally over the years, Ted thought about that sword, and said: *‘I wonder where my sword is’*. Otherwise, Ted greatly enjoyed his time in Canada and made good friends, some of whom would end up in 214 Squadron with him, and become lifelong friends.

Hi Janine,

I thought you and the Association might be interested in this link about the unveiling of a statue at Marsden Valley Cemetery in Nelson, New Zealand (in time for ANZAC Day), where Dad – Ted ‘Lofty’ Baumfield – and many of his mates lie. It also features John Beeching (*veteran of 169 Squadron, Great Massingham, Norfolk*). The Memorial was the brainchild of Royal New Zealand Air Force bugler Sgt Mason Robinson. Mason was the bugler at Dad’s funeral in 2000. Mason is also a cricketing mate of my son Glen.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/news/91601109/War-memorial-unveiled-at-Marsden-Valley>

For those who don’t have a computer to check the link, it tells the story of the day five New Zealand Air Force planes roared in a V-formation over the heads of people gathered at the Marsden Valley Returned Servicemen Cemetery to honour a new Memorial – a statue of Nelson’s J. H. ‘Jack’ Cock – 100 years on after he was killed in action. Jack’s Royal Flying Corps plane was shot down by Kurt Wolf, one of Germany’s highest-scoring ‘Air Aces’ of the First World War, on 15 April 1917.



John Beeching at the New Memorial
Courtesy: Martin de Ruyter/Fairfax, NZ

The Memorial and Statue took nine years to create, the brainchild of New Zealand Air Force Bugler Sergeant Mason Robinson. The idea came when he saw the unveiling of the New Zealand and Australian statues revealed on Sydney’s Anzac Bridge. A week later, at the service held at Marsden Valley, he realised there was no Memorial for the last resting place of veterans and soldiers. Funding was obtained to commission artist Don Paterson to build the statue, but when done, Robinson knew they also needed a Memorial. Two years on, the New Zealand Army Three Fields Squadron engineers began to build. Robinson’s motivation was to honour his father and servicemen of past and present, saying: ‘*They deserve the best!*’

Looking out over the crowd of at least 500 servicemen, ex-servicemen, cadets, dignitaries and members of the public gathered for the commemoration, Minister of Veterans’ Affairs, David Bennet, said it was a privilege to stand together to honour the sacrifice of veterans and servicemen, and that it was their contribution which led to the freedom, peace and security at home. The 100th Anniversary of WWI has provided a catalyst for many centenary commemorative events ... each project telling a story about the community affected by those events long ago.

Following a Flypast by the Royal New Zealand Air Force, Black Falcons team, it was Robinson who played ‘*The Last Post*’ on his bugle which veteran John Beeching said brought back old memories. He hopes the figure will resonate with youth for many Anzac ceremonies to come, just as it has done for its unveiling.



Dad with John Beeching, 1995

Incidentally, the cemetery is a lovely spot and has a great view of Tasman Bay where Dad spent many happy hours sitting in his aluminium dinghy (*or his 'tin tub' as he called it*), fishing for snapper. Recently, the cemetery was 'invaded' by a herd of deer. Rather than being upset, I know Dad would have had a huge smile on his face, as he was also a keen hunter and deer stalker.

In 1995, Dad and John Beeching (and one other) planted a Liquid Amber tree at the cemetery to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the ending of World War 2, on behalf of those who served in the Air Force.

Kind Regards

John & sister, Jennifer Baumfield

Nelson, New Zealand



Dear Janine,

Just to add to John's sharing of the ceremony held at the local Military cemetery attended by the Minister of Veterans' Affairs, the Mayor, and other local dignitaries, I would just add that this was followed by an elaborate nosh-up down at Port Nelson with lots of booze and grub. It restored my faith in democracy when the Minister, the Right Hon David Bennett, took off his jacket and went around with a tray of finger-food. Could you see that happening in the UK?

Meanwhile, at present, I have my own thing going on with the Dept. of Veteran's Affairs (DVA). This body has just issued an edict saying it will no longer pay for the customary bronze plaques on graves of ex-servicemen who served in Forces other than in New Zealand, and who died here. *Absolutely unacceptable!* I think the ramifications of this are pretty obvious, but sufficient to say, I had a long interview with a reporter from a local paper to ensure the matter is well publicised. I made it clear I wanted the name of the person who authorised it, and his reasons. It can't be financial as the New Zealand Government are talking about spending eight billion dollars on new aircraft for the RNZAF!!

How many British vets do they think still remain in New Zealand? Most are long gone and buried, complete with their appropriate well-designed plaques. *Crazy!* This, of course, is something of a follow-up from the Bomber Command Memorial unveiling held in Green Park, London, where these local bureaucrats would only pay for ex-New Zealand Bomber Command vets to attend the function, although they used an Air Force Boeing which was half empty. As it turned out, it was a bit of an ill-wind as the wonderful people of Nelson raised \$22,000 for Wendy and I to go to London in 2012. In turn, the support I have received about this plaque business has been overwhelming, after being interviewed on National Radio for a fairly short news item. Newspapers took up the cause, given that all ex-servicemen's graves are adorned with these plaques, regardless of what Allied Service they were in. The cost to the Government is miniscule, considering they just wasted \$26,000,000 on an abortive attempt to change our flag. *Bureaucracy at its worst!*

However, to round off the week, to commemorate my 30 years' service with the Cawthron Institute, I was presented with a bottle of Famous Grouse whisky and a \$120 voucher for a meal!

John Beeching, veteran 169 Squadron, Great Massingham

NOTE from Editor: I am pleased and proud to be able to say that, at least in the case of John Beeching versus the Dept. of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) perseverance and persistence does prevail!



Maj. (Rtd) Ian D. Martyn, JP, KLJ, OMLJ

'FLAXMORE' - 29 Bishopdale Avenue - Bishopdale - Nelson 7011 - NEW ZEALAND

Mr John B. Beeching
3/6 Shakespeare Walk
The Wood
NELSON 7047
03-546-9888
jaybeebee@clear.net.nz

24 May 2017

CC:
Mr Gregory Beeching
17 Sowman Street
The Wood
NELSON 7047
03-545-6996
janegreg1000@gmail.com

Veteran's Memorial Plaque

Salutations John,

As discussed with your son Greg, this letter formalizes my offer to donate (pay for) the cost of a standard VANZ Double Bronze (non-veteran spouse/partner) Memorial Plaque to bear yours and Wendy's names as may be required, for your grave site after your passing.

I have arranged with Greg for the invoice associated with this provision to be forwarded to me when it becomes available.

From your and my discussion, I have attached a layout of wording IAW the specified VANZ Memorial Plaque design for your approval. Please do not hesitate to advise me if you require any variation to the layout.

John, it is my very distinct pleasure and privilege as both a veteran and former RNZAF Warrant Officer to assume this responsibility on your behalf.

'Per Ardua Ad Astra'

With kindest regards,

Ian D. Martyn

Hi Janine,

Greetings from Australia! I drove into Kings Park last evening to attend the Bomber Command Commemoration/Memorial Service at the Flame of Remembrance, which burns twenty-four hours a day. Quite a number there, including three WWII Veterans, one of whom was John Lyall, ex-214 Squadron, Oulton. There are four services planned before ANZAC Day, one for Naval Battles, one for El Alamein and the Western Desert, and the last to commemorate Kokoda, where Australians stopped the Japanese advance in New Guinea. This shot shows a chap doing a Reading with a group of High School girls who sang the National Anthem.



Courtesy: Stuart Borlase

Stuart Borlase

Perth, Australia



Letter which appeared in the Western Mail on Monday, 27 March 2017

Two weeks ago, I had the pleasure of accompanying my 93-year-old father on a trip to London for him to present the 100 Group Badge into the hands of the RAF Club at Piccadilly for future safe-keeping.

My dad was with Bomber Command 192 Squadron during World War II and as President of 100 Group he had the honour of carrying out this important task.

During our visit, we were asked by two black cab drivers what we were in London for, and on both occasions when we left the cab and offered to pay the fare, we were told that there was no charge.

Both drivers said that it was a privilege, and it was them who owed him. Londoners have suffered and are still suffering, but they never forget, and I will never forget their kindness and respect shown to my father.

Barbara Richards

Port Talbot, Wales

Presentation of the Official 100 Group Badge to the Royal Air Force Club, London

by Richard Forder



*Left to Right: Phil Davies & Roger Hannaford (Directors of the AOC UK Chapter); Richard Forder; John Clifford, (President of the UK Chapter); **Phil James MBE** (President, RAF 100 Group Association) Air Commodore Rick Peacock-Edwards; Richard Barrow; Roger Dobson (Chairman, RAF 100 Group Association)*
Photograph credited to RAF Club photographer: Charlotte Gray

On the afternoon of Wednesday 16 March 2017, I was fortunate to be present at a small but important gathering at the RAF Club in London. The event had been organised by Wing Commander John Stubbington, Treasurer of the UK Chapter of the Association of Old Crows, an organisation devoted to the study and recording of the history and current developments of Electronic Warfare. John, a former Chairman of the RAF 100 Group Association, had discovered that the RAF Club's unique collection of RAF Command Group and flying Squadron badges did not include a copy of the one for 100 Group. He submitted a proposal to the Committee of the UK Chapter that the Old Crows should fund the production of a framed copy of the 100 Group Badge. With the approval of the UK Chapter and following a Consultation with the RAF Club, John arranged for the Badge to be produced and presented to the Club.

There is a laid down procedure for the design, submission and authorisation of official badges. The design of a badge is controlled by the Inspector of Royal Air Force Badges, who is a member of the College of Heralds, and he modifies and/or approves the designs submitted by RAF Units for authorisation. His role is carried out on behalf of the Ministry of Defence (Air). An official painting of the agreed design is forwarded to a Member of the Air Board for his endorsement before being submitted to the reigning Monarch for approval and signature. The 100 Group Badge was approved in September 1945. The badge features the Head of Medusa, a god taken from Greek mythology, and very appropriate for the Group's role. The severed head of the goddess not only confounded her enemies but also turned those who saw it into stone. This is aptly captured in the Group's motto: '*Confound and Destroy*'.

In addition to the members of the Association of Old Crows present, John had invited participation from the RAF 100 Group Association who were represented by our President Phil James MBE and his daughter Mrs Barbara Richards, Chairman Roger Dobson, and myself. Also present were the Vice-Chairman of the RAF Club, Air Commodore Rick Peacock-Edwards CBE, AFC; the Chief

Executive and Club Chairman Mike Pooley; and a senior representative from the Air Staff, Air Commodore Richard Barrow OBE. After introductions, the Vice-Chairman of the RAF Club gave a short speech of welcome, and spoke about the Club's collection of Badges before inviting John to give a short resume of the creation and role of 100 Group during WWII. Phil James was then asked by John to make the formal presentation of the Badge to the Club's Vice-Chairman.

That Phil was asked to present the Badge was a generous gesture by the Association of Old Crows; and was particularly appropriate as he was the only wartime member of 100 Group present. John presented Phil with a copy of the 50-Year Legacy Book which records the first 50 Years of the AOC's activities in Electronic Warfare. The Club had ensured a photographer was present to record the occasion, and some of the shots taken are included with this article. Phil then gave a short speech, including anecdotes of his wartime service as a Flight Engineer on Halifaxes with 192 Squadron, bringing the event to a close.



Phil James MBE, & Air Commodore Rick Peacock-Edwards

It might be of interest to know what is being presented and where it will be displayed.

On the first floor of the RAF Club there is a long corridor running from the front to the rear of the building. It is on the walls of this corridor that the Official Badges of the RAF are displayed, mainly confined to those authorised for flying Units, Groups and Commands. It will be a colour copy of the RAF 100 Group Badge that will be presented to the RAF Club behind glass in a wooden frame, as the above photograph shows.

I have spent many hours examining these striking designs in the Club, and they make a very impressive display. Some of the frames carry a small plaque identifying the Unit or individual that has presented the Badge. It remains to be seen if John's Society will add this to their presented item.

Richard Forder



creating an historic and very special



RAF 100 GROUP ASSOCIATION REUNION 2017

This year was our 20th Reunion, held over the weekend of **Friday 12th to Sunday 14th May**. Yet no-one could have had any idea about just how special it would be ... and not just special, but also unique ... as it proved a most extraordinary and historic occasion for all concerned. It brought back together two outstanding Groups who worked in partnership during the Second World War, achieving so much under impossible conditions.

My thanks to valued friend Stephen Hutton, author of: *'Squadron of Deception'*; who set this unique and historic Reunion in motion by passing on to Lt Col Tom Moore a copy of my book: *RAF 100 Group – Kindred Spirits: voices of RAF & USAAF on secret Norfolk airfields during WWII*.

This was the catalyst for an extraordinary turn of events.

Tom commands the 172-strong 36th Electronic Warfare Squadron (36EW) - descendent of the wartime 36th Bomb Squadron, their RAFU Gremlin insignia as above. However, in wartime, they carried no bombs, but instead, used the same secret electronic countermeasures equipment as RAF 100 Group, working together to identify and jam enemy Radar, acting as Guardian Angels of the skies, protecting the bombers; as well as getting involved in other clandestine operations.

It was in reading the weighty volume, including the history and stories of RAF 100 Group and Stephen's chapter on *'The Mighty Eighth'*, that Tom's desire to attend our Reunion 2017 grew, to speak and represent the U.S. Air Force and 36EWS, in combination with RAF representatives – *'renewing the past bonds and partnership with American's best and greatest ally – Great Britain and the RAF'*.

Today, the 36th Electronic Warfare Squadron (36EW), remains involved in operational testing and reprogramming of all Electronic Warfare systems in Combat Air Forces, continuing to carry out the WWII's Squadron's mission – to *'deny, deceive and defeat'* electronically, enemies of the liberty-loving people of the United States, Great Britain and its Allies.



It was against this background, as Tom contacted me last year, that our 20th historic and memorable Reunion was born! Thanks Tom for making this possible. It's positively amazing what we can achieve by working together!!

The Reunion Experience

Touchdown came on the evening of Thursday 11th May as the biggest Party of the Year began to descend on The Holiday Inn, Norwich North. We had a Purpose, a Plan, a Programme. We'd worked out timings and details copiously over past months, like any well-run Operation. What we needed now was the people ... and yes ... yes ... **YES** ... they came in droves, gathering for photo shoots even before we were off the starting line!



*Heda Kootz, veteran Des Howarth, Brendan Maguire
Courtesy: Stuart Borlase*

Veteran John 'Des' Howarth (centre) was a Navigator in Lt. McCarthy's crew, serving under the 36th Bomb Squadron in wartime. He travelled from the States with grandson Ian (Captain/Chaplain, US Air Force, Idaho Air National Guard) and wife Allyson, together with a personal friend, David Watson, veteran of the Vietnam War. Des and his family had worked with Chas and Heda to establish the Long Marston 36th Bomb Squadron Memorial honouring Des and the Lt. McCarthy crew. Brendan Maguire (right) looks after a Memorial to 'The Jigs Up', Stephen Hutton's father, Iredell Hutton's plane, the crew of which perished in the North Sea off the coast of Wales.

FRIDAY 12TH MAY



F/Lt Vic Vinnell, Spec/Op

There was already an incredible sense of anticipation and excitement as, in various modes of transport, we headed for Foulsham where two ceremonies had been organised. Already friends were gathering, old and new, and it was impossible not to feel inspired by the atmosphere. A whisper of wind blew names of those lost in wartime from RAF Foulsham, and it was easy to feel their presence, standing beside us in the main Square, in front of the village sign and Memorial. It doesn't matter how many times we come back, there is always that knowledge we are

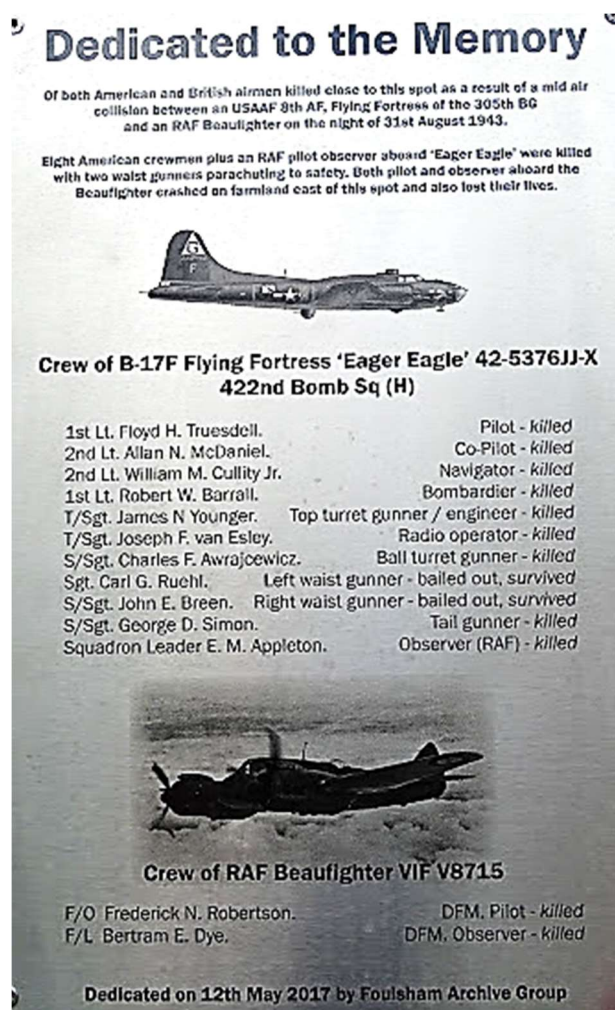


F/Lt Jack Fisher, Pilot

not alone. My mother Nina, her fiancé Vic Vinnell, and Canadian friend and pilot Jack Fisher, who was to have been Best Man at their wedding, came to mind as the ceremony of Remembrance unfolded. It is times such as this when you know they will never be forgotten. Despite having no known resting place or grave, their names come so readily to our lips, as we remember them.

Our second ceremony was held at Church Farm where a Plaque was unveiled to commemorate the crash of two wartime aircraft and crews – one USAF, the other RAF – all lives lost save two

men who survived. Again, a poignant moment. The evidence remains clearly etched on the building where the Plaque now resides. Richard Ravencroft, who has spent a considerable number of years researching the crash, spoke movingly of what happened. And because so much further evidence has now come to light, the full story will be shared in the Autumn magazine. It feels right to give it space to do it justice, in memory of those brave men who lost their lives.



*Listed names of the crews killed, as well as those who survived
Courtesy: Stuart Borlase*

That night, many of us shared dinner in *The Plough*, at Marsham, hosted by Val and Roger. Our chatter and laughter filled the venue as we shared journeys, lives, memories and thoughts about coming to this extraordinary weekend, knowing, even as we sat talking and sharing, we were a part of history in the making ... something which had never happened before, and which hopefully would highlight the work and accomplishments of both wartime Groups – RAF 100 Group and the 36th Bomb Squadron, serving under the 8th Air Force.

Stuart Borlase from Perth, in Australia, had ensured two film crew be present to record events throughout the weekend, his intention being to create DVDs. Anyone wishing to obtain a DVD needs to contact myself (Janine) or Stuart using details at the end of this summary. Even as a Wordsmith, it is impossible to record what happened in words, however hard I work at it. Especially this year, when the whole atmosphere was electric, energised, a reaction to the sheer volume of people who had travelled from various parts of the world to be a part of it, and the excitement, enthusiasm and passion they brought with them. And all the time, there were these smart blue uniforms, a provocative reminder of how young airmen would have been in wartime, how much life was snatched away in a heartbeat.

SATURDAY MORNING 13TH MAY

Saturday is always our busiest day, crammed with places to be, people to see, new friends to make along the way. It starts with a tour of the City of Norwich Aviation Museum which cares for and displays our wartime memorabilia. There is always so much to absorb, both inside and out.



*Museum staff: Yvette left, Jane right, U.S. 36EW Squadron
Courtesy: Yvette*

It was then a matter of travelling out of the gates, down the road and around the corner, to the Mission Hall just across from the church for the Annual General Meeting, before returning to the Museum for a buffet lunch provided by volunteers.

RAF 100 GROUP ASSOCIATION REUNION 2017 Annual General Meeting

1. Welcome

A warm welcome was given by Roger Dobson, our Chairman, to all members, family and friends, and visitors, with special thanks extended to:

- Lt Col Tom Moore, Commander of the 36th Electronic Warfare Squadron, U.S. Eighth Air Force, and colleagues,
- All veterans both sides of The Pond!
- Stephen Hutton, our American representative,
- Those representatives from outside organisations, including the International Bomber Command Centre, Lincoln, and other guests attending,
- Stuart Borlase, from Australia, providing film footage throughout the Reunion weekend, and our Guest Speaker.

2. Apologies

- Arthur Newstead
- John Beeching
- Richard Forder
- Pam Hutton
- Julia Dobson
- Magee Family
- Fred Elliott, veteran 192 Squadron
- Vivien Williams, RAFA

3. Constitution

The Committee has been working on a Constitution for the Association over the past year, and prior to the Reunion, Roger sent a copy to all Association members, offering a chance for feedback. A note of thanks was given to Norman Eccles for his part in bringing the document together, and it was confirmed that feedback was supportive. However, comments were received about two important people having been neglected when stating how the Association began, with a view that they be included in honour of their valuable time and work. Eileen Boorman and brother Martin Staunton had been recognised as Founders of the Association. But Evelyn and Len Bartram worked alongside them. Living in Norfolk, their input proved immensely valuable. Their names have therefore been inserted at the start of the document, which Roger asked to be adopted if everyone was happy with it. It was unanimously accepted, with a few minor grammatical alternations. A copy of the newly adopted Constitution accompanies this magazine.

4. Treasurer's Report – Andrea Sluman

Andrea ensured everyone present had a copy of the current accounts covering the past year, showing a yearly income of £4,800.00, with expenditure for 2017 at £5,210.00. It means we are running at a current loss of £410.00 in 2017, as opposed to £689.87 the previous year; with the magazine being the biggest expenditure. Andrea pointed out to attendees that each year since 2014 our deficit has increased, and expressed concern, indicating that the Committee are currently investigating control measures to be introduced next year.

The Committee aimed to discuss this issue during their afternoon meeting at the Museum. It was intimated that raising of subscriptions was an option, which hadn't happened in a few years; but this would not be considered until 2018/19. However, it was crucial to look at potential sources of revenue rather than let the current trend continue, to ensure the Association has enough money *'to exist for years and years to come!'* (Andrea's words). The full outline of figures is presented by Andrea and accompanies the main magazine.

President, Phil James MBE, queried the number of guests who had not paid for the main Saturday evening dinner ... the consensus being that only the Speaker for the future (and companion) should receive their meal free. This would ensure that at least the cost of Reunion Dinners would break even. He emphasised this should be one cost control taken.

Rafael Ramos (Major, 36thBS) suggested that those in the States increase their level of payment as the cost of sending the magazine overseas cost so much more. The response was that all suggestions would be considered by the Committee, but no firm commitment could be made now.

5. Membership Update – Janine

Figures for membership can be confusing for many reasons. The most obvious being that some long-standing members who regularly renew their subscription, are now not in touch. Despite Reminders and letters sent, I'm just not hearing from them. This could be because they have died, and no-one thought to say ... often I get a letter from a family informing me an Association member died a few years ago. Otherwise, they could be ill, in hospital, living alone and unable to get out. On the other hand, there are people who put their contact details forward to become members, but never actually send in a subscription ... again, despite Reminders. There are only a certain number of times I can write or email. I wouldn't want to risk upsetting a family who has a loved one sick, in hospital, or passed away.

That said, current 2017 membership figures are as follows:

153 **Members** + 10 U.S. 36BS veterans/families = **163 total**

47 **veteran members** + 5 U.S. 36BS veterans = **52 total**

107 **non-veterans** + 4 U.S. 36BS non-veterans = **111 total**

101 + 7 U.S. 36BS veterans/families = **108 total paid up members**

Currently, 62 members have not paid their membership this year.

FIGURES RELATING TO MAGAZINE

84 printed magazines go out worldwide (often shared between families, couples)

114 receive magazines by email – this number includes honorary members/contacts, including Museums, The People's Mosquito, International Bomber Command, RAFA, etc.

A positive note to add, is that, during the Reunion, four people asked to become members, having a relative who served in RAF 100 Group. I have currently received subscription from one of them, with the assurance that monies are on their way from three others.

6. Membership subscription

This year, it was agreed that Membership Subscription of £15 per person remain, but we will revisit this at next year's AGM.

7. Association Website

There have been immense difficulties setting up a new website dedicated to RAF 100 Group Association. Roger has made several enquires over the past year, which all proved fruitless. The matter was discussed at last year's AGM where voluntary help was sought, but no-one came forward. The City of Norwich Aviation Museum gives space on their own website to RAF 100 Group activities, as does Stephen Hutton's website. We do now have a Facebook page, which Len Witt's nephew is running, and members are welcome to contribute. But nothing further. It is the reason why a Constitution is crucial to seek funding both for the magazine and a website. However, as this subject was being discussed among attendees, Peter Sluman put forward an offer to set up and maintain an Association website. His offer was accepted, and we await the outcome.

8. City of Norwich Aviation Museum Report – Derek Waters, Colin Kerrison

A warm welcome was offered to all attendees by Derek, especially to American visitors, and anyone else attending for the first time. It was in 1979 he had joined an enthusiast group about aviation leading to the setting up of the Museum, which, in time, received charity status. Derek has been Chairman of the Museum just short of 28 years, and will remain a Trustee for the future. However, he is now standing down as Chairman, and he introduced his successor Colin Kerrison. As the new Chairman of CNAM, Colin acknowledged the phenomenal amount of work Derek has put into the Museum through the years, and pledged to do his best for the future. To that end, he has already signed a new lease to ensure the site is secure, despite new road frustrations, and has a number of things planned which will involve a great deal of work. The Museum will remain open six days a week run by volunteers, who put in an incredible amount of time, commitment and enthusiasm. Their priority right now is re-accreditation, refurbishing the tearoom, enabling disabled access, workshops, and seeking grants for some of these new ventures. On a final note, he said that everyone *'mucks in, and we get it done one way or another'*.

Appreciation was given of the valued contributions made by Derek Waters during his time in office.

9. Oulton Tea - details from Oulton Representative: Chris Lambert

Chris noted that there were many more people arriving this year to share our very special 20th Reunion, and explained directions to Blickling Old School, where an impressive tea would be hosted by villagers at 3pm sharp. With no Village Hall in Oulton, there would be seating for 75 people, with a further 15 outside. Chris hoped everyone would join him there, where they could sample delights cooked up by locals, before coming together at Oulton Memorial a short distance away for an Act of Remembrance.

10. Reunion 2018/2019

Due to unforeseen circumstances at The Holiday Inn, despite having been booked by Janine as she left the hotel last year; sudden changes in staff and a revamping of the current interior, had caused confusion. The same dates as this year had been booked. However, The Halifax Suite where our main Saturday evening Reunion Dinner is held, already had a wedding party. It was agreed this matter would be discussed at our Committee Meeting, and members duly informed.

NOTE: Following discussion with the Hotel Events Manager, the following dates are now confirmed for the next two years, Dinner being held in The Halifax Suite, The Holiday Inn, Norwich North:

2018 REUNION: Friday 18th – Sunday 20th May

2019 Reunion: Friday 17th – Sunday 19th May

11. AOB

- **Committee Meeting:** moved to CNAM for 1.30pm due to a second ceremony at Foulsham.
- **Saturday Evening Dinner**
 - people were urged to arrive at 7pm prompt allowing time for Heather Marie, our 1940's singer, to begin her entertainment.
 - Both American & RAF 100 Group Standards would be presented at 7.15pm with the singing of both Anthems.
 - Dinner would be served prompt at 7.30pm (*with another large function at the same time as ours in the Hotel, timing was crucial*).
 - As requested by members, books of Janine and Stephen Hutton would be available to purchase during the Saturday evening Dinner.
 - Des Howarth, veteran of the 36th Bomb Squadron, 8th Air Force, was offering copies of his paintings with all proceeds to RAF 100 Group Association.

THANKS were offered to:

- **Peter Holness, his wife and helpers** for all arrangements relating to Horsham St Faith both Saturday and after Sunday morning worship,
- **City of Norwich Aviation Museum** for the buffet lunch provided by volunteers following the AGM.

FINAL TRIBUTE: Lt Col Tom Moore, Commander of the 36th Electronic Warfare Squadron

Tom expressed his gratitude on behalf of his Squadron for all the hospitality they had been shown since their arrival. He said: *'Everyone has been amazing! It is awesome to be here, in the birthplace of Electronic Warfare. I am the current Commander, and we continue on from wartime in the work we do. We remember the past, which inspires our future, and we cherish this time with veterans. We can be old rowdy boys when we get together, but then, both genders, we're like Family. We can't thank you enough, and you are always welcome at Eglin Base, Florida, in God's Chariot F15!*

SATURDAY AFTERNOON 13TH MAY

We returned to the City of Norwich Aviation Museum to partake of a wonderful buffet lunch, kindly provided by volunteers, giving us time to amble leisurely around the exhibits which, for many, was something very new and inspiring.



*Des Howarth & Rafael Ramos, veterans of 36BS, enjoy a quiet moment
Courtesy: Stephen Hutton*

We continued to be so lucky with the weather, the sun was certainly shining on our Parade! It matched the mood, the warmth of good company, so conducive for strangers becoming firm friends. In the afternoon, following visits locally to Blickling Hall where Officers in wartime were based, and WAAFs ... or WRAFs, as I understand they're now called ... were billeted in Nissen Huts; we wended our way down narrow country lanes to Blickling Old School where a '*death by chocolate*' experience opened eyes wide with so many tables heaving under a veritable delight of cakes and sandwiches, all home-made, hosted by villagers. It happens every year. People of Norfolk villages are very much a valued part of our Reunions, with many having had airmen stay with them in wartime, entertaining them for Sunday tea, remaining in touch through the years. However, this year, the building was all the more impressive, with bunting adorning the walls, tables laid out in regimental rows as if on parade, and American and British flags flying in honour of our visiting American Squadron, and a contingency from RAF Marham. It was a time to relax, talk and share, to get to know people we were meeting for the first time, and to catch up with those we hadn't met since the previous year.



*Blickling Old School
Courtesy: Ivan Thompson*



*A veritable feast of delights!
Courtesy: Ivan Thompson*



*The old school heaves w visitors, extending into other rooms, filled with chatter & noise
Courtesy: Ivan Thompson*

During the afternoon tea, Chris Lambert, our Oulton representative who arranges everything in the village for the Reunion, warmly welcomed veterans both sides of The Pond ... before Lt Col Tom Moore again spoke passionately of what it meant for he and the 36th Electronic Warfare Squadron to be present.



*Lt Col Tom Moore
Courtesy: Stuart Borlase*



*Proud veteran Stan Forsyth DFC flanked by RAF Marham representatives
Courtesy: Ivan Thompson*

As it approached time for us to congregate at our next rendezvous where a new programme of events awaited us, we proceeded in convoy in a variety of vehicles to Oulton, and the first Memorial we placed 23 years ago. It was dedicated in 1994 to honour all who served and died at Oulton during the Second World War.



*Veteran Andrew Barron, 223 Sqn, Oulton, at the Memorial
Courtesy: Ivan Thompson*

Chris Lambert welcomed everyone, reminding us that 306 lives were lost whilst serving at RAF Oulton, asking that we remember all who gave their lives to keep us free.

Lt Col Tom Moore, USAF, then shared his thoughts, finishing with mindful words – *'Freedom does not come free ... some gave all, and all gave some'*.

Two Readings were then read by Kysnia on behalf of Oulton village:

Louise MacNeice
Poems written between 1941 – 1944

SWING SONG

I'm only a wartime working girl
The machine shop makes me deaf,
I have no prospects after the war
And *my* young man is in the R.A.F.
K for Kitty calling P for Prue ...
Bomb Doors Open ...
Over to You.

Night after night as he passes by
I wonder what he's gone to bomb
And I fancy in the jabber of the mad machines
That I heard him talking on the intercom:
K for Kitty calling P for Prue ...
Bomb Doors Open ...
Over to You.

So, there's no-one in the world, I sometimes think,
Such a wall flower as I
For I must talk to myself on the ground
While he is talking to his friends in the sky:
K for Kitty calling P for Prue ...
Bomb Doors Open ...
Over to You.

May Hill (1891 – 1944)

May Hill was a modest Lincolnshire seaside villager who wrote comprehensive thoughts and prayers in poetry. The war touched the life of country folk in many ways. One of the major themes running through May Hill's writing was her care and concern for her only son Ron who joined the R.A.F just before his 20th birthday in November 1940. Ron had been exposed to danger even during his local training as an aircraft instrument mechanic before being posted abroad. This was the first poem showing a mother's sentiments:

The Click of the Garden Gate

I hear the click of the garden gate
But it is not he
He comes no more either early or late
To his dinner or tea.
He is far away in an Air Force Camp
Learning to fight.
(I wonder if his blankets are damp
And if he sleeps well at night).

Not twenty years when he went away,
Just a boy
He may never again come back to stay

To delight and annoy.
Will what he has gained balance what he has lost?
He will change.
Will his growth to manhood improve him most?
Or make him change?

I open the casement into his room
So tidy and neat
And the sun shines in and chases the gloom
And the wind blows sweet
Ready for him when, early or late,
He comes back home to the sea.
I hear the click of the garden gate
But it is not he.

May Hill, December 1940

It was veteran Major Rafael Ramos of the 36th Bomb Squadron, 8th Air Force, who spoke the telling words:

*'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.'*

As the final strains of *'The Last Post'* blew hauntingly into the air, played by John Landimore of Aylsham Town Band, all was quiet and still, as if the world around us were holding its breath. For two minutes, we retained that silence in quiet contemplation and remembrance, voices of those past both known and not known echoing around us, while the two Standards were lowered, and RAF and USAF came to attention.



*Major Rafael Ramos & Chris Lambert (centre)
Courtesy: Stuart Borlase*

The familiar notes of *Reveille* came like a wake-up call on the bugle, as indeed it used to wake personnel in the Armed Forces. These were followed by words attributed to the *Kohima Epitaph* spoken for us by veteran Andrew Barron, 223 Squadron, seen in the picture above, right:

*'When you go home
Tell them of us
And say
For Your Tomorrow
We gave Our Today'*

Association President Phil James MBE then laid flowers on behalf of RAF 100 Group Association at the Memorial, followed by a procession of wreaths ... by the USAF and RAF side by side, Paul Killingback, (*current Chairman of Oulton Parish Council*) on behalf of the village; Rosa Dunford for the children of Oulton, and the Witts family in memory of their father Peter Witts, an Air Gunner, and only veteran to serve in three separate RAF 100 Group Squadrons: 223, 214, 462 RAAF.

Phil James MBE then read words as an apt reminder, given the occasion:

*'In friendship and in service one to another,
we are pledged to keep alive the memory
of those of all nations who died in the
Royal Air Force, the Air Forces of the Commonwealth,
and the United States Air Force.
In their name, we give ourselves to this noble cause.
Proudly and thankfully we will remember them.'*

Finally, Chris Lambert closed the ceremony and photos were taken, before a Flypast at 1700 hours.



*Four veterans stand side by side (front), surrounded by RAF & USAF,
with Standard Bearers either side*

Left to Right:

Major Rafael Ramos, served with the 36th Bomb Squadron, 8th Air Force
Andrew Barron, served in 223 Squadron, RAF Oulton, Norfolk
Stan Forsyth won his DFC for identifying where *The Tirpitz* was hidden
Phil James MBE, served with Stan in 192 Squadron, RAF Foulsham

The Flypast had been agreed between Phil James MBE and David Nock (pilot) who fly together on *Project Propeller* – an annual Reunion for 150+ WWII aircrew, to which they are flown from all over the UK in light aircraft by current volunteer pilots. I spoke to David earlier in the day, asking if he could put on a five-minute show to mark this historic occasion, with RAF, USAF, and veterans standing shoulder to shoulder. Coming in from the west, he circled fields in his approach, while excitement grew among the watchers. His Harvard aircraft continued to fly away, before returning, coming in closer and lower, as we waved like crazy, shouting and cheering him on, delighted with the performance he was giving ... not something you see every day!



Harvard over Norfolk
Courtesy: David Nock

Pilot David Nock explains more about his aircraft:

'My aircraft is a North American Harvard, built in 1944, and painted in the colours of the 353rd Fighter Group which were based at Raydon in Suffolk during 1944-1945. Although the Harvard was only used as an advanced training aircraft, many Fighter Groups utilised aircraft of this type as a station 'hack'. I shall be flying from my base at Gloucester to either Shipdham or Old Buckenham to position and refuel early Saturday afternoon, then departing around 4.45pm to be overhead at Oulton for 5pm. It will be a great honour for me to do this for the Association, not least for my long-standing friend Phil James and 192 Squadron who were based nearby at Foulsham.'



Left: This is RAF Foulsham disused airfield from the air on the day of the 100 Group Reunion Flypast. I held overhead before running in on Oulton at 1700. The outline of the old runways is clearly evident, together with a few hangars.' Right: Pilot David Nock, with his North American Harvard.

Thanks David for giving us a truly memorable display! Much appreciated, and very emotive.

SATURDAY EVENING

Now it was time to don our 'glad rags', and we hadn't to be late for our very important date! Heather Marie would be singing at 7pm sharp, with the presentation of the RAF 100 Group Standard and Heritage flag of *'The Gremlins'*. In a whirl, we made a rapid change for the evening, and took our seats in The Halifax Suite where music was already transporting us to a bygone age. The cover had been lifted to reveal the dance floor, and I knew then this was going to prove a momentous occasion ... one which people would remember.

Events moved rapidly forward.

Following a wonderful three-course meal, our Speaker for the evening, Stuart Borlase, Director of Living History Film, all the way from Australia; gave a talk which provided priceless cameos of film taken last year of veterans in their own homes, sharing wartime experiences. He remains as passionate as I about preserving the history and stories of both RAF 100 Group and the 36th Bomb Squadron who flew in partnership with them. It truly was captivating to watch, bringing so many images to mind of these people in their youth, entering the Service as boys, coming out as men.

There's always the chance of something unexpected happening during one of these evenings, and this was surely the point it would come. Lt Col Tom Moore spoke briefly about how much he and his colleagues appreciated the welcome they received, and just how much it meant for the 36th EWS contingent to be standing with 36th Bomb Squadron and RAF 100 Group veterans as they stood side by side for the first time since WWII. To honour the occasion, he had brought two framed plaques ... one for Stephen Hutton, the other for Janine Harrington for the challenging work and time they put into making this possible.



Courtesy: Pam Hutton



Heather Marie came highly recommended by Nicky, Director of the International Bomber Command Centre in Lincoln. A professional singer, she had sung with the Syd Lawrence orchestra, and she certainly turned up the heat and set the 'stage' on fire as she began her main performance!! People were soon rising to their feet, and taking to the dance floor to show off their moves ... me among them!!

I need to say at this point that I have never in my life been on a dance floor, nor danced. In early childhood, my parents were told I wouldn't walk, much less dance. Yet here I was ... while Heather and husband Matthew (*Director of Music for the Central Band of the RAF based at RAF Northolt*) challenged me by saying they would sing for as long as I stayed on the dance floor! This was turning into a truly magical evening, for me at least, and did I take up their challenge? *Oh yes!!!* It was a dream come true! Right outside my comfort zone, but heck, it was only going to be for this one night. Throwing caution to the winds, trying to overlook the pain, I was determined to make the most of this special sparkly evening. Besides, veterans would surely be gentle with me, taking only small shaky steps? Then again ... *I was wrong!* There were some nifty moves coming my way, even as I took my first partner for the evening – introducing Star of the Ballroom: Stan Forsyth DFC. *Thanks Stan ... miss you already!*



Dancing with sweetheart Stan Forsyth, in the background, American Des Howarth

A stunning performance by Heather Marie filled the hall with warmth and vibrant energy, reminding me of wartime songs I'd played on the piano hour after hour after hour in my growing years. Even then I was addicted to them, to this era ... Glen Miller, Acker Bilk, Fats Waller, Louis Armstrong, the Inkspots. *Anyone remember?* I was transported to a time out of Time. The air was filled with the charm of the music, and any moment I expected to hear the throb of Merlin engines overhead as I 'danced' my feet into a blur of pain, reaching up my back, and on into my head. But regardless: *'the band played on'* and ... *'I could have danced all night ... and still come back for more. I could have spread my wings, and done a thousand things I've never done before ...'*

I 'danced' every single song sung that evening. I never once left the dance floor, apart from going to grab another partner, coaxing him up and out there with me. It was well past midnight and I was still there 'dancing', little steps for sure, but I was 'dancing' nonetheless, dancing my little heart out.

Finally, we came together, everyone on the dance floor, to sing *'We'll meet again ... don't know where, don't know when, but I know we'll meet again one sunny day ...'* The words echo in my heart, even now as I write this. The memories of that time will always remain.

SUNDAY 14TH MAY



Aylsham Town Band

Next morning, I could hardly move, never mind get out of bed! Was it worth the agony? Oh yes, yes, yes ... and again **YES!!!** A dream fulfilled. I hobbled to breakfast, then on into Stuart's car to 'get me to the church on time'. It was a special service in honour of the veterans, with the presentation of our RAF 100 Group Standard, and Aylsham Town Band playing songs from way back when. I felt my feet move in rhythm, and had to stop myself getting up to dance in the aisle, past the pews, and on into the past from whence this music came. They certainly knew back then how to treat one another with friendship, respect, love, to make a lady feel special!

The church service was as moving as ever, with Roger Dobson doing a Reading and lighting a candle. Veterans stood proud, showing their medals, and it was just wonderful to feel part of something so much greater than ourselves. This was what Reunions are all about - coming together, not just to remember, to honour, but also to offer thanks for each new day.

It's always hard saying goodbye for another year. Difficult to imagine leaving this throng to live my life alone. But then again, not quite yet, as it became our privilege and pleasure to show Rafael and Kitty Ramos around the quaint little villages of Norfolk, and more than anything, to introduce them to an English Cream Tea which they'd never heard of never mind tasted! We were fortunate finally to find one at a lovely place in Holt which went over and above anything I have ever seen ... our table was heaving with two large three-tier plates filled with sandwiches, cake and scones with the requisite jam and cream; followed by two cheese-boards and a selection of savouries - scotch eggs, sausage rolls, quiche, and more - all hot from the oven. We attracted attention with our different accents, and when told the story of who we were, what we were doing there, and introduced staff to Major Rafael Ramos, veteran of the 36th Bomb Squadron, 8th Air Force ... they went that extra mile and halved our bill!!!!!!



Stuart Borlase w Stan Forsyth DFC

Didn't we do well!



Introducing Rafie & Kitty to a gi-normous English Cream Tea at Holt, Norfolk



Dear Rafie (Major Rafael Ramos) w lovely wife Kitty at Blickling Hall

We left Rafael and Kitty, now two very dear and valued kindred spirits; at the Hotel a few days later, preparing to take a flight shortly after. Meanwhile, Stuart and I headed for the open road where, over the ensuing two weeks, we travelled in excess of 1700 miles, visiting veterans as far afield as Wales and Southport, collecting further film footage of their inspiring wartime exploits.

Now home, I am presented with the herculean task of answering 200+ emails and letters, plus bringing together this Summer magazine packed with writings and photos of our weekend shared. I keep being asked the question: *'What was the Reunion like?' 'How did it go?'* It's impossible to answer. You really had to be there to know. Even then, it passed like a dream. I'm sitting here, still recovering from the dancing and travel, wondering if it all really happened. But then again, something triggers those wonderful treasures I have stored in my mind. And as I open them up, like gifts of the heart, they come spilling out, just waiting to be shared.

Everyone seems agreed:
A wonderful time was had by all ...
It was a phenomenal success!!

Let's come together and do it all again next year!!

Photographs courtesy of:

Stuart Borlase
Ivan Thompson
Stephen Hutton
Yvette: City of Norwich Aviation Museum



Stephen Hutton, Lily May 5yrs & Mum



Chas Jellis & Heda Kootz



Felicity Dobson-Anzures, 5yrs



*Nicky Barr & Maarten van der Drift
International Bomber Command Centre*



Rob & Jill Histed

*Thanks for all your help and support setting
up for the evening ... much appreciated!*

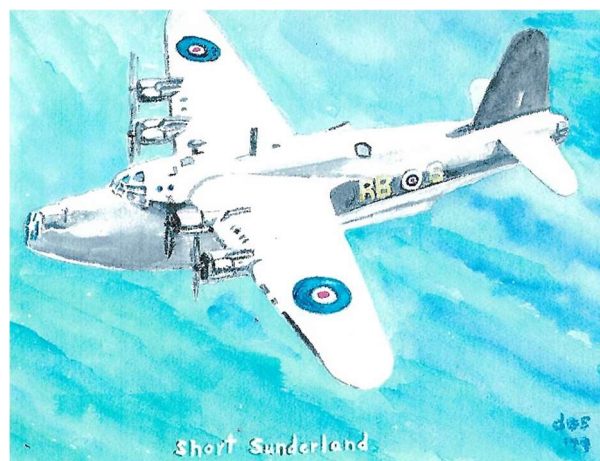


*Captain Paul Bennet & Lt Andrew Henderson
36th Electronic Warfare Squadron*



Thanks Cameraman Matt for all your work!

Des Howarth (1st Lt. John 'Des' Howarth, serving under the 36th Bombardment Squadron in wartime) brought to the Reunion a considerable number of prints of his paintings. A few went during the course of Saturday evening. However, we do have quite a few which, if anyone is interested in purchasing one for £10, perhaps they could contact Janine or Roger Dobson – details are at the front of this magazine). All contributions will go to Association funds. Des has indicated that he is happy for monies to go as a voluntary donation to RAF 100 Group Association. A couple of examples of his work as an artist are shown here, however, there are many more kinds of aircraft in his collection:



* * * * *

There are so many emails and letters which have arrived in the aftermath of the Reunion of interest to members that I will include them in the Autumn edition, out in September. However, I did feel I should include the following, with the breaking news that on the 6th June, an article came out with photographs at Eglin Air Force Base by Captain Amanda Farr, 53rd Wing Public Affairs, who I have been in contact with throughout the planning of this Reunion together with Tom Moore. This article I will include in full in the next edition also, together with other articles which came out in the local press. Meanwhile, I feel it fitting to end with the words of Lt Col Tom Moore:

Janine,

Greetings from the other side of the Pond!

Still recovering from the amazing whirlwind Reunion experience. What an honor to meet you and all members of the RAF 100 Group Association! The Gremlins will forever be in your debt for keeping the history alive on both sides for generations to come.

I held a Commander's Call last week and briefed the entire Squadron on our trip with pictures as well. They were impressed to say the least!

Thanks again for all your efforts and helping me arrange our trip.

It was a lifetime experience that will never be forgotten.

Cheers,

Thomas R. Moore, Lt. Col. USAF 'Gosling'

DENY ♦ DECEIVE ♦ DEFEAT



REFLECTIONS AT RUNNYMEDE

Marble file index of stone white panels,
Number, name, initials clean printed,
As on visiting cards
Proffered from the unknown grave.

Cold, austere, remote, those styles record
The warm blemished humanity of beings
Now labelled and deep frozen in time.
Why am I here, remembering, rather than amongst them?

Our Flight Commander, Banks; quiet Ronnie Frost,
He joined with me; young Naylor lost
In the North Sea. Was he twenty
When he came into my room and cried

Like a child the night Geoff Hewitt died
Leaving a pregnant wife?
Three weeks later I cleared his room
And found his Bible by his bed.

Butler was his pilot, he'd been there too.
Pale, quiet, reserved; who else was in that crew?
Is that Nicholson from OTU
Shot down on his first sortie, over Lorient?

And there is Jack, rear gunner, friend,
Married five days after me and wed
Six weeks; then reported 'Missing'
Over Brest. Now presumed dead.

Why was their promised fruit laid waste,
As blossom is destroyed in the orchard
By bullfinches? Did random chance
Snuff out the Genesis of greatness?

Seed and pollen, wantonly expended
In part-payment of debts incurred by others
Now they are the creditors.
Their monuments, promissory notes claiming redemption.

When we, who survived, are dead, will others comprehend
The profound meaning behind those inscriptions
Or, like lexicographers studying ancient tablets,
Grove merely for an approximate significance?

R.C.D (*author unknown*)



Final Postings

Death will be but a pause...

Martin Albert Staunton, Eileen Boorman (nee Staunton), Len Bartram

Founders of RAF 100 Group Association – remembered in love

- 192 Squadron** George Ward DFC Sqd/Ldr; Phil James' Canadian pilot
- 192 Squadron** Kenneth 'Paddy' Passmore: DFC Flt/Lt; Canadian, died 2005
- 192 Squadron** John Cooke left memorabilia to the Museum archive collection
- 192 Squadron** Ron Phillips died late 2005
- 192 Squadron** Ted Gomersall died 30 November 2004
- 192 Squadron** Hank Cooper DSO, DFC died 2005.
- 192 Squadron** Michael Simpson W/Op & F/O died on the Isle of Man
- 192 Squadron** Richie' Richards Rear Airgunner, flew Wellingtons. Son, F L Richards, died August 2009.
- 192 Squadron** Air Commodore Vic Willis, C.O, RAF Foulsham, died 30 July 2006.
- 192 Squadron** Group Captain Jack Short died December 2006. Association Chairman till 1996
- 192 Squadron** W.O (later P/O) A G McEachern RCAF died 15 August 2007, Saskatchewan aged 85
- 192 Squadron** LAC Harris, Ground Crew died 15 August 2007. Grandson James Kerslake: Association member.
- 192 Squadron** Wing Commander David Donaldson, DSO*DFC died 15 January 2004
- 192 Squadron** Wilhelmson, F/O Sander Willie Raymond (J10026). DFC Home: Elbow, Saskatchewan
- 192 Squadron** F/Lt Richard (*Dick or Dobbie*) William Dobson, died 1996, remembered with love by son, Roger & daughter Susan. Roger Dobson – Association Chairman from May 2014.
- 192 Squadron** W/O John Rhys Powell, Rear Gunner flying Wellingtons, died 1992
- 192 Squadron** Sgt George Richards, Tail Gunner, posted missing 4/5 July 1944. Remembered by niece Cheryl Cairns nee Colgan & sister Agnes Colgan.
- 192 Squadron** F/Lt Henry Victor Vinnell (*Vic*) posted missing 26/27 Nov 1944. Remembered by wartime fiancée Nina Chessall & daughter Janine Harrington, Association Secretary.
- 192 Squadron** P/O Jack Glen Millan Fisher, Royal Canadian Air Force, posted missing 26/27 Nov 1944. Remembered by sisters Audrey, Gloria and family.
- 192 Squadron** Flt/Lt Albert Victor (*Vic*) Parker died November 14 2010. Remembered by daughter Ann Felsky.
- 192 Squadron** Spec/Op (Wop) John Henry BALL, Association member for many years, died 23 April 2009. Remembered by daughter, Susan Lawford.
- 192 Squadron** George Lowe, originally 1473 Flight before becoming 192 Squadron, Special Signals, Foulsham. Died 24 March 2011.
- 192 Squadron** F/O Alan Thomsett died 27 May 2011. Flew with 1473 Flight during Battle of the Beams, 1941, then as part of No. 80 Wing. Missed by daughter Anne, and Association members.
- 192 Squadron** Eric Clarkson, Wireless Operator/Navigator, died beginning of 2012. Remembered by daughter Jenny Bentley & friend Dennis Wildman.
- 192 Squadron** Sqn/Ldr Cecil William Cornish, died 19 August 2011. Flt/Sgt at Foulsham. Initially with 98 Squadron, he was a survivor of the sinking of TS Lancastria.
- 192 Squadron** Flt/Sgt John Eggert (2202199) aka '*Shorty*'. Died 28 April 2006
- 192 Squadron** Sgt Hugh Holm, Radio Mechanic, remembered with love by Phil & Vera James, especially for kindness to them while holidaying in Canada.
- 192 Squadron** Macdonald, Kenneth Wynne CD, Colonel, Stan Forsyth's Skipper; died 12 February 2014. Missed by family and all who served with him.
- 192 Squadron** F/Sgt Earl Skjonsberg, mid-upper gunner on DT.O, in crew of Phil James MBE and remembered by him. Died October 2014.

- 192 Squadron** F/O Bryan Helme, Navigator on Wellington Flight & Halifax IV A/C, Aug 44-Feb45, completing 24 Ops, 8 Ops on Halifax w F/Lt Bob Gray. Died 22 May 2015. Remembered by daughter Sally.
- 192 Squadron** Sergeant Fitter IIA, William James 'Bill' REES, 1473 (Special Duties) Flight and 'B' Flight. Co-Author of *'Espionage in the Ether'* and *'The Final Fling'*. Remembered by John, Lynne & family.
- 199 Squadron** F/O Ed Emmerson, Navigator to Flt/Lt Paddy Passmore DFC, Canadian
- 199 Squadron** Arthur Fitch, former RAF Bomber, died July 2006
- 199/171 Sqn** Group Captain George Cubby, MBE, FRMets died 2005. Remembered by wife Betty and Roy Smith, only surviving member of his crew.
- 171 Squadron** Joe Brogan, Halifax pilot died 2004, remembered by widow Sheila
- 171 Squadron** Arthur Adcock died February 2008 & Syd Love, Canadian crew member, died April 2008. *'Friends to the end!'*
- 171 Squadron** Len Fanstone died 13 January 2010. Missed by Harry Freegard & wife, in touch since his return to Canada in 1946.
- 171/102 Sqn** Ken Ratcliffe Nav/Bomb Aimer died March 8 2010 age 86. Flew Halifax & Lancasters, in touch with crew all their lives.
- 171 Squadron** Flight Engineer Andrew Melvin Robertson died 1998. Remembered by son Colin Robertson.
- 171 Squadron** Wop/Ag Wilf Thompson died 1991. Remembered by son Peter, Association member.
- 171 Squadron** Warrant Officer Edwin Moore died 15 May 2014. Remembered by son Ian & family.
- 171 Squadron** F/Lt Charles 'Chuck' Warner, Edwin Moore's pilot, died 6 July 1965.
- 157 Squadron** Bryan Gale Flt/Lt died 2 January 2009. Missed by daughter Valerie & son Chris
- 169 Squadron** Fred Herbert, Navigator/Radar, died 15.10.2010, remembered by friend, & pilot John Beeching
- 169 Squadron** Flt/Lt Bert Vine, former Navigator of Sqn/Ldr. James A. Wright, 'A' Flight Commander, both no longer with us, remembered by 169 pilot John Beeching
- 214 Squadron** Geoff Liles, Pilot, died 4 March 2006
- 214 Squadron** Mr J Creech died April 2006
- 214 Squadron** Don Austin, remembered by Les Bostock
- 214 Squadron** Air Vice Marshall Jack Furner died 1 Jan 2007
- 214 Squadron** Sqn Leader/Flight Commander Bob Davies died June 2007
- 214 Squadron** Bill Howard died October 2007
- 214 Squadron** Flt/Lt Blair died Sept 2007
- 214 Squadron** John Hereford, Spec Op.
- 214 Squadron** Robert Moorby W/Op died Jan 2008. Remembered by sons, Michael, Robin & Shirley Whitlock.
- 214 Squadron** Ft/Sgt Hadder, Air Gunner in Fortress III HB815, bearing code letters 'BU-J' killed 3/4 March 1945, remembered by nephew Leslie Barker.
- 214 Squadron** Alan Mercer died 6 June 2009
- 214 Squadron** Warrant Officer Gordon Wing, 'Howie', died Nov 2009 age 87. Rear Gunner, Eric Morrison's crew, Stirlings/Fortresses; Founder member of Airgunners' Association.
- 214 Squadron** Robert Louie William Darracott, Navigator, died May 8 2010, 94 years
- 214 Squadron** Flying Officer Reginald Coates completed 2nd Tour of Ops as Bomber Pilot in March 1945. Died 10 Nov 1963. Remembered by son.
- 214 Squadron** Bomb Aimer Les Bostock in Don Austin's crew died just before Christmas 2010. Remembered by M/U Gunner C. A. Piper, 'Pip'.
- 214 Squadron** Flt/Sgt George V Cox died 21 July 2011. Flight Engineer in crew of S/Ldr Miller DFC.
- 214 Squadron** Squadron Leader William 'Bill' Doy DFC died 28 November 2011.

- 214 Squadron** P/O Peter Witts 223/214/462 RAAF, Air Gunner, commissioned after the war. 1925 – 2011. Missed by family and friends, remains in our hearts, a Legend.
- 214 Squadron** George Fisher, Navigator with No.214 REM & No.206 Squadrons 1942-1946, died 25 Sept 2012
- 214 Squadron** Flying Officer William 'Bill' Foskett died 21 December 2011. Missed by wife Pauline, 2 sons, 4 grandchildren, good friend Tony Cooper.
- 214 Squadron** Russell Owen Douglas, Tail Gunner on Fortresses, ex-PoW, died in Nelson, New Zealand, 2013.
- 214 Squadron** Sgt Gerhard Heilig, Pilot Officer in post-war RAFVR; died 24 October 2014 in Austria. Loved and missed by wife Sissy, together with all who knew him. A true Gentleman!
- 214 Squadron** Allan Chappell DFC, Navigator, flew more than 30 missions. Died 22 April 2016 aged 94 at the Austenwood Nursing Home, Gerrards Cross. Remembered by sons Peter and Stephen
- 214 Squadron** Steve Nessner died the latter end of 2016, remembered with love by wife and family
- 214 Squadron** Sgt F. Alan Wilkes died on 15 November 2016 aged 92 years. Missed by son Robert Wilkes
- 214 Squadron** W/O Archibald 'Jim' Mitchell Navigator DFC died 5th April 2013 aged 92, Eric Morrison's crew Stirlings/Fortresses. Missed by daughters Judith and Angela
- 214 Squadron** Alistair McDermid, Waist Gunner in Flying Fortresses, died 23.2.2017 aged 92. 1 of only 2 survivors when intruder shot down plane over Oulton on 3/4 March 1945. Remembered by daughter Linda and family. Attended Reunions until 10 years ago.
- 223 Squadron** Flt/Lt A E L Morris (Tony) died June 2005. Andrew Barron's skipper: Oct 44 – 1945.
- 223 Squadron** Tom Butler 'Bishop'.
- 223 Squadron** C. L. Matthews (Les) Rear Gunner, Peter Witts Nose Gunner in Flt/L Stan Woodward DFC crew before Peter went on to 214 Squadron.
- 223 Squadron** Arthur Anthony, Flight Engineer, died 13 May 2006.
- 223 Squadron** F/Lt Jack Brigham DFC died 2008. Original Captain as 223 reformed. Flew Liberator TS524/6G-0; 36 ops. Remembered by Len Davies, Waist Gunner, only surviving member of crew.
- 223 Squadron** F/L Sir John Briscoe died a few years ago.
- 223 Squadron** 2nd Pilot Mervyn Utah, Canadian in late Tony Morris's crew, died 8 Nov 2010.
- 223 Squadron** James Edward Bratten: 26.11.1922 – 6.11.2001. Andrew Barron's crew.
- 223 Squadron** Mick Stirrop died March 2012.
- 223 Squadron** Flying Officer Reggie Wade, Navigator, died Christmas Eve 2012. Reggie served in the crew of Squadron Leader Carrington, Commander of 'B' Flight.
- 223 Squadron** Air Gunner John McLaren died 31.3.2013, leaving wife Margaret and son Graham.
- 223 Squadron** F/Lt Navigator Ron Johnson died August 2013. Missed by wife Betty & Richard Forder.
- 223 Squadron** W/Mechanic Desmond Pye, Ground Crew, B Flight died 3/4 May 2014, remembered by daughter Virginia Cranfield & family.
- 223 Squadron** Flt/Lt John R. Maunsell DFC, Navigator with Flt/Lt Allnutt crew, died beginning of 2015.
- 223 Squadron** Flt/Lt Robert Oliver Belton, Pilot died 11 January 2015. Remembered by family with love.
- 223 Squadron** Kenneth Lionel Stone, Tail Gunner on Liberators. Died early 2017. Remembered by son Roger
- 23 Squadron** Flt/Lt Johnny Rivas, died 2 January 2013.
- 23 Squadron** Wing Commander Phil Russell died November 2012.
- 23 Squadron** 'Bud' Badley, died beginning of 2013
- 141 Squadron** Flt/Lt Doug Gregory DFC, Pilot died 2015 aged 92 yrs. Missed by wife Liz, son & daughter.
- 141 Squadron** F/Lt G D Bates, known as 'Charlie', served with F/O W S Field, his Navigator/Radio Operator.

- 157 Squadron** W/Cdr K. H. P. Beauchamp DSO*, DFC, Commanding Officer 157 Squadron, Swannington, died 1996 aged 80 yrs. Missed by son Paul, Association member.
- 515 Squadron** Flt/Sgt Reg Fidler, Navigator w Townsley crew on Mosquito died 4 August 2015. Remembered with love by daughter Jenny & husband Martin, with stepsons David & Laurie.
- 88 Squadron** F/Lt Len Dellow died Christmas/New Year 2006-7; veteran of 88 Squadron, 2 Group & Rear Gunner/Wireless Operator on Bostons.
- 85 Squadron** Wing Commander Branse Burbridge died 1 November 2016, missed by son and daughter.
- 49 Squadron** Len Bradfield died Nov 2005. PoW w pilot Johnny Moss, shot down in Lancaster ED625. Nursed to health by Nora, who he married.
- 462 RAAF Sqn** F/O H. R. Anderson DFC 'Andy' died 6 April 2008 in New South Wales.
- 462 Squadron** Donald Hulbert died October 2009.
- 462 Squadron** Pilot Bruce Drinkwater died 2 May 2010. Peter Witt's Skipper.
- 462 Squadron** Warrant Officer Ken Spriggs died peacefully at home 20 January 2016. Loved and remembered by Wendy, his daughter, his family, and by all who knew him in RAF 100 Group
- ?** Flt/Lt Eric Atkins DFC* KW* died 22.11.2011. Blenheim pilot with 139 Sqn flying from Horsham St Faith & Oulton in 1940/1. Flew Mosquitoes with 2 Group.
- ?** Corporal Charles 'Fred' Savage died 18 Dec 2011 - Wireless Operator, serving in No. 2 Heavy Mobile W/T Section in France, 1940.
- USAAF 36th BS** Sergeant Aubrey 'Bill' Whitworth, Nose-Gunner for Lt Soderstrom crew died 11 August 2015. Missed and loved by daughter Kim and family & all who knew him.

Dates for your Diary



2018 REUNION : Friday 18 – Sunday 20 May

2019 REUNION : Friday 17 – Sunday 19 May

Be sure to put these important dates in your diary.



Autumn 2017 magazine will be out in October. Deadline for writings/photos beginning September.

Winter 2017 magazine will be out beginning of December. Deadline for material, start of Nov.

11 November 2017: St Peter's Church in Haveringland, will be hosting a ceremony in commemoration of RAF Swannington's closure 70 years ago. Mike Hillier is the person to contact about anything relating to this event. He would welcome as many people as possible to join them – Mike Hillier, Norwich 870609, email: m.hillier091@hotmail.com

ADVANCE WARNING: I have just received news from Gary Thompson of McAully Flying Group about a **Stone Remembrance Marker being placed at Little Snoring Airfield** by the Airfields of Britain Trust, in memory of all who were based there and flew operations during World War Two. It appears it might be placed to one side of the private access road leading to St Andrews Church where most people would have sight of it. Negotiations are in progress, and I will keep members up to date.

100 Group Order of Battle

SQD	AIRCRAFT	1st 100 GROUP OPERATION	BASE	SORTIES, LOSSES ROLL
192 USAAF 7 th PRG	Mosquito II, B.IV, B.XVI, Halifax IV Wellington B.III Lightnings P-38	Dec 1943 Aug 44 – March 45	Foulsham	2171/5 Losses Electronic Intel/Elint
141	Beaufighters VI, Mosquito II, VI, XXX	Dec 1943	West Raynham	1214/11 Losses 80 EA, 58 Trains, 7 Ships Dest
219/239	Mosquito II, VI, XXX	20 Jan 1944	West Raynham	1394/9 Losses 51 En AC Dest
515	Mosquito II, VI	3 March 1944	Little Snoring	1366/21 losses 29 En AC Dest
169	Mosquito II, VI, XIX	20 Jan 1944	Little Snoring, Great Massingham	1247/13 Losses 25 En AC + 1 V1 Dest
214	Fortress II, III	20/21 April 1944	Sculthorpe, Oulton	1225/13 Losses Electronic Jamming
199	Stirling III, Halifax III	1 May 1944	North Creak	1707/6 Losses Electronic Jamming
157	Mosquito XIX, XXX	May 1944	Swannington West Malling	1336/6 Losses 37 En AC +39 V1 Dest
85	Mosquito XII, XVII	5/6 June 1944	Swannington West Malling	1190/7 Losses 71 En AC+30 V1 Dest
23	Mosquito VI	5/6 July 1944	Little Snoring	1067/8 Losses 18 En AC Dest
223	Liberator VI, Fortress II, III	Sept 1944	Oulton	625/3 Losses Electronic Jamming
171	Stirling II, Halifax III	15 Sept 1944	North Creak	1583/4 Losses Electronic Jamming
462 RAAF	Halifax III	1 January 1945	Foulsham	621/7 Losses Jamming/Windows
36 & 803 BS	Boeing B-17F P38	Jan 1944	Sculthorpe, Oulton	1211/0 Losses Electronic Jamming
857 & 858 BS	Consolidated B-24G	Jan 1944	Oulton	280/2 Losses Electronic Jamming

Created by Janine Harrington

My heartfelt thanks to David & Tracey Mortimer and their team
for continuing to support our Association in the printing of this magazine:
Prontaprint, Scarborough, North Yorkshire