



CONFOUND & DESTROY

The magazine of RAF 100 Group Association

Winter 2011 



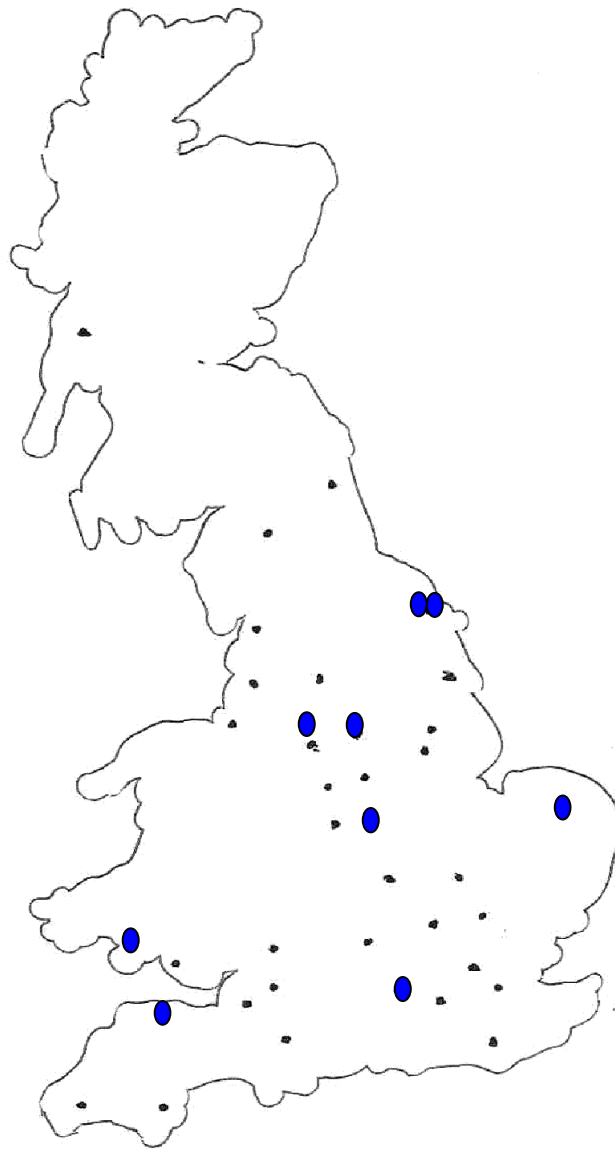
100 Group Association Chairman Wing Cdr John Stubbington: 

100 Group Association Secretary Janine Harrington: 

Home to RAF 100 Group Association
City of Norwich Aviation Museum
Old Norwich Road, Horsham St Faith, Norwich, Norfolk NR10 3JF
Telephone: 01603 893080
www.cnam.co.uk

RAF 100 Group Association

Membership Areas



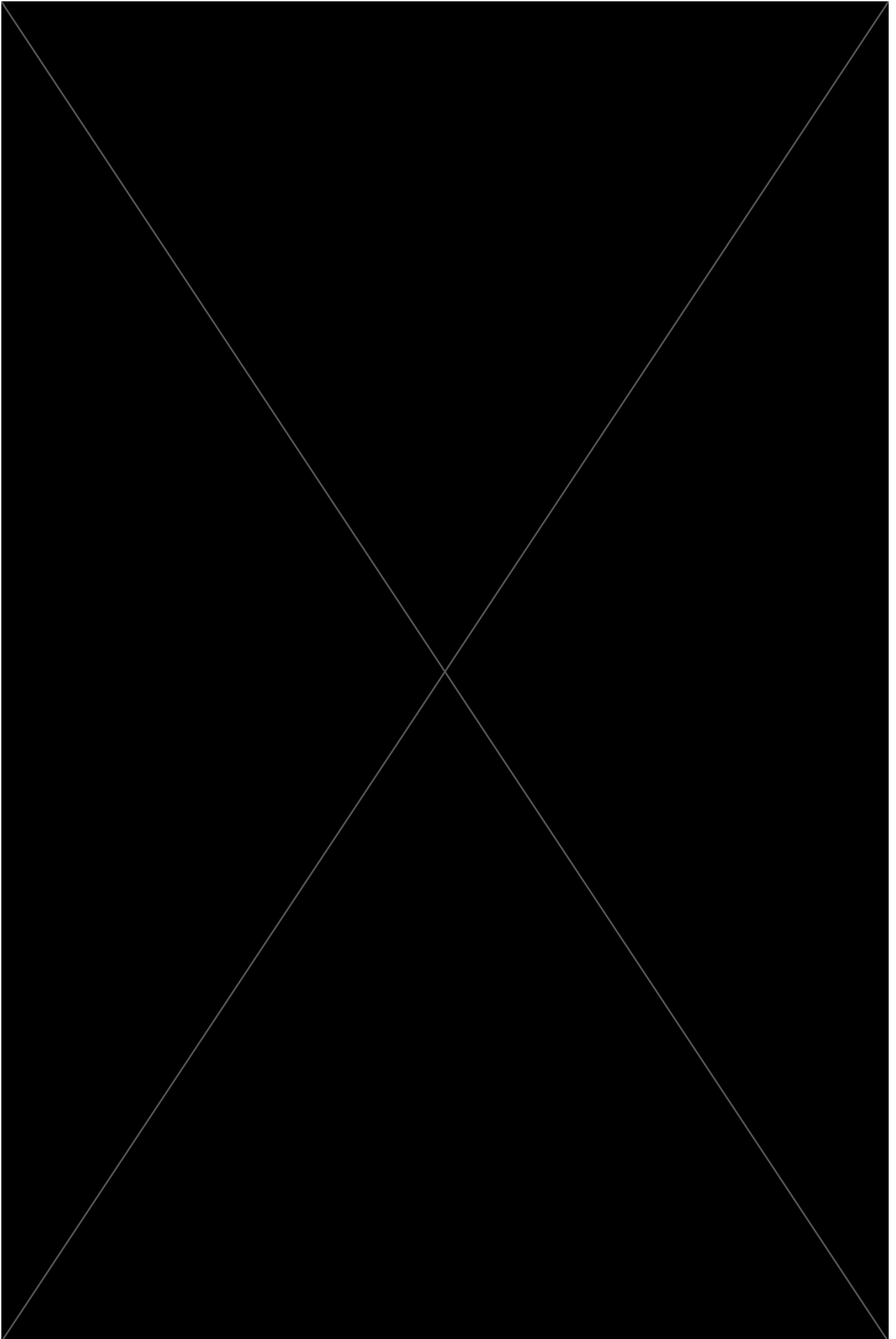
Each dot represents an area where there is a cluster of members
Big dots show where members of the RAF 100 Group Association Committee live

Members who live abroad are in the following countries:

Northern Ireland
Canada
Austria
China
Germany
Australia
USA
New Zealand
South Africa
Thailand

RAF 100 Group Association

Committee



Editor's Page



Dear Friends,

What makes the Association a family? It's a question I'm being asked more and more, especially by new members. And with the sad news of Peter Witts passing, I recall his words with fondness: *"Reunions are just like one big happy family coming together ... I LOVE them so very very much!"* His enthusiasm, his passion, his zest for life was infectious. He touched every heart. He made friends with everyone he met. I feel honoured to have known him and to call him a friend, sorely missed, never forgotten. He thought of members as part of his family, as no doubt he thought of the crews with which he served. A Tribute will follow in the Spring edition.

As a Family we are connected with the past and RAF 100 (Bomber Support) Group ... those who served, family, friends, remembering loved ones who never returned. But why after so long do we remain connected today? Once you open the box, questions keep coming from those who do not know. To me, it's the little things which become important and make us a family ... a family continuing to grow. Like reaching out and making contact when we feel alone or afraid. Knowing there's someone on the end of a phone. Recently, we've heard from you in a whole host of different situations ... whether it's the switchover to digital TV that's got you flummoxed, or wanting to know there are people who care when we're ill, vulnerable, recently diagnosed with cancer, or in the throes of a hurricane; or when you simply want to shout something from the rooftops, sharing news about a new enterprise, your book being published, the birth of a baby, becoming newly retired. It's lovely to hear from you any which way, through phone calls, letters, emails or texts, whichever is comfortable for you. That is the true essence of Family ... listening, supporting, enabling, trusting, sharing, feeling that warm hug of love surround you ... all key elements in keeping our Association alive and thriving and still taking on new members.

What gives *you* the feeling of being part of our family? Answers on a postcard please to ... Seriously, I'd really love to know, to hear what your answer might be to anyone who asks.

And a very warm welcome if you are a newbie and recently joined Our Family. We look forward to seeing you at next year's Reunion with the chance of putting a face to a name. A full programme of events is coming with the Spring 2012 edition of the magazine in February.

It was lovely to hear that so many of you appreciated the Memorial Tribute that went out in memory of Tom Anderson Smith of 23 Squadron, researched by his son Pete Smith. We are still sending out copies across the world. Pete is delighted with the response. Meanwhile, he continues to work on a book about his father's life including the history and exploits of 23 Squadron. And congratulations Richard Forder on the publication of your book about 223 Squadron out now!

Further news about Richard's new publication and other members can be found in the latter pages of this magazine. Can you also take time to complete the new 2012 Membership Renewal Form that comes with this magazine? And if you can receive it for the future through email let us know. It saves costs, and you get to see it in full colour!

A very Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year!

Janine & Tony xx

Items for Newsletter should be sent to:

Janine Harrington

7 Ashley Court, Filey, North Yorkshire YO14 9LS

Telephone: 01723 512544 raf100groupassociation@gmail.com



Chairmans's Report



THE 100 (BOMBER SUPPORT) GROUP ASSOCIATION

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN, WINTER 2011



Dear Members

It is really sad to start two letters in a row with news of the loss of another stalwart member. Peter Witts died on Saturday 12th November, after a short period in hospital. He had a peaceful end and just did not awake in the morning. We are very grateful to Len for keeping the Committee in close touch with events through Peter's time in hospital. Many of you who knew Peter well would not be surprised that he was a good patient and had established good friendships with the nursing staff. By all accounts, they did an excellent job in nursing Peter through to the end.



It is our intention to
commemorate both Alan
Thomsett and Peter Witts in
the next Newsletter.



Following my visit to Blickling Hall, which I mentioned in the last Newsletter, I would wish to assure members that there is a formal agreement with the National Trust to the effect that the Plaque is on loan to the Hall and that it can be recovered at our wish for future events.

With regard to the Reunion to be held over the weekend of Friday 11th through Sunday 13th May, 2012, we have had no response - except from Rod Vowler – regarding your wishes about an Association visit to the Radar Museum at Neatishead. The Committee has decided not to pursue this visit. For those of you who may wish to go to the Radar Museum, I note that it will be open on both Saturday and Sunday over the Reunion weekend.

Our guest speaker for the 2012 Reunion will be Wing Commander Garry Crosby, OC No.51 Squadron. You will recall that our own No.192 Squadron was re-badged as No.51 Squadron in 1958 during the time when it was at RAF Watton. I was the Engineer Officer with the Squadron in the early 1960s.

Those of you with longer memories will recall that the origins go back to 1940 with the creation of the Wireless Investigation Development Unit (WIDU), which soon became part of No.109 Squadron and re-named as No.1474 Flight. In January 1943 1474 Flight was renamed as No.192 (Special Duties) Squadron, under the command of Squadron Leader Willis, DFC; and joined No.100 Group in November 1943. No.51 Squadron has continued with the same basic role of airborne signals collection, equipped most recently with Nimrod-R aircraft at RAF Waddington. It is in the process of converting to the RC-135 'Rivet Joint' aircraft, to continue with the same basic role which began back in 1940.

With my most sincere best wishes to all members,

John Stubbington, Wing Commander, Chairman

Website Development Report



Dear Members,

This is an update to inform members on progress in establishing a website for the RAF 100 Group Association.

Discussions have taken place with the 214 Squadron Website managers, with contacts of mine in the industry and internet advertising to find the most efficient way of storing and maintaining the website content.

The overriding concern is that the website should be simple for members to use, but for those who have to support and manage it, it must also be easy to maintain, and should not lose any of the content, information and security that has always been envisaged.

The managers of the 214 Squadron website maintain their site in other software and have to upload all the content to the website on a relatively frequent basis. I am concerned that that is not the best way forward for the site being considered for the RAF 100 Group Association.

I would like to see both a Roll of Honour, along the lines of, but held in a different way, to the 214 Squadron Site, and a list of all surviving members. That would perhaps enable visitors to the site to identify their relatives, as I know how many enquiries we get through email and the post.

I am including John Stubbington's request for a Bibliography Section in the website and I would envisage holding information about each book, with ISBN numbers and links as to where a copy could be obtained.

I still think that the site should have a Members only area as well as Public Areas. The Members Areas should have functions available to enable them to start discussion, post photos, search and research stories etc.

The Public sections should perhaps have 'potted' histories of the Squadrons involved, details of the aircraft used and the achievements of the Group. This would hopefully inspire the interest of younger visitors to the website from both the public and the Association.

I would love to hear your comments on what is being proposed. Could I ask you to respond to either raf100groupassociation@gmail.com or to reply to me via Janine on phone or by mail.

In the next issue I shall attempt to draw out the pages I envisage so that everyone can see for themselves how the site is shaping up

Tony Bradley

Website Project Manager
RAF 100 Group Association

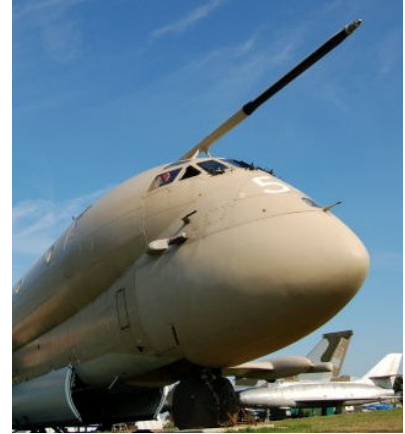
CNAM Update

CITY OF NORWICH AVIATION MUSEUM, NOVEMBER 2011



The Museum has enjoyed another very busy main visitor season. From the start of our full opening hours at the start of April, right up until the close of the season at the end of October, the Museum was extremely busy. Visitor numbers were at record levels, with most months producing our best ever visitor figures since the Museum opened.

2011 has given us the opportunity to provide visitors with a view of the interior of our Nimrod aircraft, giving us an additional source of income and allowing us to show how some of the electronic warfare pioneered by 100 Group was used by the Royal Air Force in modern times. Visitors have certainly enjoyed being able to view an aircraft which has only just been retired from active service and we are fortunate that we have a number of volunteer Museum members who are former Nimrod air and ground crew who have been able to provide expert guided tours and to brief their fellow members on the aircraft and its various systems.



Dealing with visitor numbers that are around 40% higher than we were receiving less than two years ago has needed great commitment from our volunteers and without their enthusiasm, the Museum would not have been able to achieve such a successful year. In addition to attending to a larger number of visitors, the increase in area of the site has meant that more maintenance time has been spent on the important tasks such as grass cutting. Again our members have stepped up to ensure that we have presented the Museum at its best.



To enable us to open for six days each week and for a full seven days in the main holiday season, we now have three employees: Nancy Poskett-Taylor, who we recruited when Jessica Lamothe left in the Spring and has worked with Daniel Bygrave. In addition, Daniel's brother Jamie joined us at the end of June to provide extra help over busy weekends and Monday openings in July and August. To give some idea of the numbers of visitors we have dealt with during the peak season this year, it has been equivalent to dealing with more than the number we welcome to

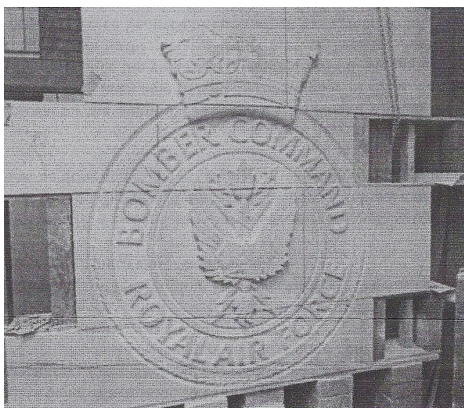
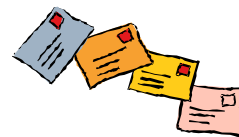
a 100 Group Reunion on each day of the week.

Work has also continued when time has allowed on displays, exhibits and the archive although understandably we have concentrated on dealing with the 'customer in front of us'. As we reduce our opening times for much quieter winter months, we will be able to spend more time dealing with new exhibits donated to the Museum during the year, cataloguing these into the collection and updating and improving exhibitions and displays. We also intend to replace the cover on the large building that houses our collection of aircraft cockpits in the next few months.

For the next 100 Group Newsletter, we will detail some of the new items that have been added to the Museum's collection in the past year. These include a unique replica cockpit section of a Westland Whirlwind fighter constructed by a member of the Museum and sections of the wings from a Douglas Havoc of RAF Fighter Command, an aircraft which carried out night intruder missions over occupied Europe in 1941/2, a role later to be undertaken with great success by 100 Group Mosquito aircraft.

If you are contacting the Museum during the period from 1 November 2011 to 31 March 2012, our opening times are: Wed, Friday and Saturday from 10.00am to 4.00pm, Sunday: 11.00am to 3.00pm.

Kelvin Sloper (Treasurer, CNAM)



Bomber Command Memorial – Good News!

A Memorial in London's Green Park to honour the 55,573 men of Bomber Command who lost their lives in World War II, is to go ahead as planned.

'So why hasn't work started? When will the Memorial be dedicated? Can I make my travel plans now? Where do I stay? Who do I contact?'

To begin to answer some of these questions, I (Bomber Command Association Chair: Malcolm White) write to you on 18 August 2011, the day the contractors Gilbert-Ash and S McConnell were at last authorised to start work on the Memorial in The Green Park. This is a day which has often seemed elusive and at times unachievable, and while by any measure it is late, we are now underway. Since the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony in May we have been immersed in some very complex negotiations with the planning authorities in London to include Westminster City Council, The Royal Parks and Transport for London. But, and as a result of extraordinary efforts on both sides, the Memorial received the go ahead today.

While immersed in the legal debate, the Association took the decision to crack on with the quarrying and the delivery of stone and indeed the initial engravings. Excellent progress has been made off site by Richard Kindersley; an example of his early work is above.

Meanwhile, Philip Jackson completed the 'Fifth Figure' of the Statue on 28 July and Gerald Howarth, the Minister for International Security Strategy, was able to visit to see the Figure before it was shipped to the foundry. The developing Statue is magnificent, take my word.

Overall, Bomber Command Association has done everything it can to keep the Project on time for completion in early 2012. And with the work on site about to begin, we have turned our attention to the run up to the Dedication Ceremony. Just like planning to build, this is going to require some dedicated work and attention. And this we will deliver. But you will have to be patient.

As a first step, the Bomber Command Association has appointed a new member to the Team – Sophy Gardner. Sophy left the Royal Air Force following a distinguished career culminating in the command of the Operations Wing at RAF Valley. In 4 weeks, Sophy has completed a quick fire study of our communications strategy over the next 10 to 12 months, with specific focus on the needs of our Veterans, the Association and its Members. One of her early initiatives will be to update the Bomber Command Association's Website, to include a section on the Dedication Ceremony ...

Having reviewed the construction programme, we consider that the Memorial will be finished in time for the Dedication Ceremony to be held in late May/June 2012. But this is only part of the story. We anticipate being in a position to go firm on the date for the Dedication in late September when timings are clearer. Even when we do, I would add a word of caution – there may yet be a surprise in store ranging from the discovery of an unexploded bomb (highly unlikely as we have done our homework) to a particularly cold winter. For those of you travelling from overseas for the event I would suggest that travel insurance, which covers delay, is essential. We will not hear

further about possible Royal attendance until the Autumn and, even then, we will not be commenting about VIP and senior attendance until much closer to the time.

Members from Australia, New Zealand and Canada have already been in touch and I know that some are planning to visit London this year in order to book hotels and make arrangements. We suggest that this would best be done sometime in October by which time the date for the Dedication will be set.

Securing final approval for the Memorial has been a struggle and without the dedicated support of so many we would not have been able to fund its construction in 2012. Perhaps more importantly, the requirement to pre-finance the enduring maintenance of the Memorial (and not for 33 years as originally agreed) could have further delayed the Project, perhaps for years. In this respect, we are indebted to the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund which has agreed to take on both the ownership and underwrite the maintenance of the Memorial in perpetuity. The Bomber Command Association has lodged some £500k in a dedicated account for this purpose, but further fundraising activities will continue as we seek to 'top up' this account over the coming year.

Finally, today represents an important milestone in the history of Bomber Command. But let me reassure you, my job will only be done when the Memorial is built. With the end in sight, we have reason to celebrate that at last there will be a Memorial in Central London to the brave men who lost their lives and ensure that their sacrifice will be remembered by generations to come.



Robin Gibb is President of the Heritage Foundation.

"This is the last truly great Memorial of the two World Wars that needs to be built – and it needs to be built before it's too late. We owe the courageous men a debt of gratitude, for without them we wouldn't be enjoying the freedom that we have today."



Malcolm White

Chairman

Bomber Command Association

Thanks Phil James for letting members have sight of this letter and for an update on news about the Bomber Command Memorial being erected in The Green Park, London. The official date still stands at May 2012 at this present moment in time.



Dear Janine,

I am trying to find out more information on a Bomb Disposal member of RAF No 100 Group Bomber Command. My mother was a WAAF and was friendly with him and his wife. I am interested to know if he ever received a DSO and if it can be proved, will explain the reason for my query. The name I am looking for is Bishop (known as BISH).

It is about time the Monument for Bomber Command was erected. It is a disgrace it has not been done before now. I still look up at a full moon and think of them as a Bombers Moon and I wasn't born until 1947, so it is my mother's memories I have inherited. She used to tell me about when the Yanks, as she called them, came to the adjoining camp and if their plane crash-landed in the British camp it was called a cuckoo and vice versa.

The reason I contacted you, and I got your details from the web, is that I have a puzzle to solve.

*My mother - whose name prior to her marriage at the end of the war was **Rita Audrey Mears** (above) from Low Fell in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear - was a WAAF with 100 Group based in Foulsham, I think. She mentions Swaffam as well and I know she sang in Norwich Cathedral.*

My mother was given an Honourable Discharge from the WAAFs on medical grounds as she was given an injection with a dirty needle and spent months lying on her front in a hospital down there. German prisoners of war on the ward below! As she was the only WAAF in the hospital during the Christmas period the nurses made her decorations and a hat made from 'Window'. Needless to say when her father went down to the camp the doctor had been mysteriously moved on!!

*My mother died in February of this year (nearly 90) and among her belongings I have found a **DSO** with two wings. I believe they belong to the man known as Bishop or Bish. I think he got two decorations, one says 1940 and the other 1942. In the middle of the medal it says JMC and underneath that DSO. My father was in the 8th Army so they are not his. I have his medals and am very proud of him. Unfortunately he died 5 years ago so can't help with this.*

My mother was, as I said, very close (in a purely platonic way) to a Bomb Disposal Officer by the surname of Bishop. Unfortunately I don't know his first name. He was simply known as 'Bish'. We visited him and his wife and child many years ago, but I would imagine he is probably dead by now. I remember her telling me the story of how an enemy bomb landed in the ammo hut and he took hours de-fusing it, surrounded by all the ammunition. Apparently he lost a few stone in weight with the stress and sweat of it all.

My mam's brother and sister think this DSO must have belonged to him. Perhaps he gave it to her when she had to be discharged. I don't know what to do with it. I feel it should go to either his daughter or someone connected with 100 Group. This is a piece of history. My mother's sister thinks his first name may have been David – David Bishop. Apparently he was buried underground at some stage in his life and asked the Lord for help and when his prayers were answered and he was saved he became a local preacher.

I really hope that someone in RAF 100 Group will know the man mentioned.

Kathryn x kathrynoliver@sky.com

Dear Janine,

Thank you for another excellent magazine, I don't know how you do it! All I can say is that joining the Association was one of the best things I have done.

If you are interested I can advise that the story of Halifax MZ806 DT-R (and Sgt R. B. Hales) appears in the October edition of Flypast Magazine. I am proposing to visit Germany again in November to coincide with the anniversary of the loss of this aircraft, which will include a visit to the CWGC in Durnbach, where those that perished are buried.

As you know my personal interest lies with 192 Squadron and I have identified crews from 2 other aircraft that are also buried there (Halifax NA241 DT-O and Halifax MZ449 DT-Y). But I am also now aware that the entire crew of a 214 Squadron Fortress are also there (HB785 BU-A). When I visit I will specifically pay my respects, also on behalf of the Association, to all these crews.

Janine, one thing that has puzzled me in the magazine is the 100 Group 'Order of Battle'. It appears to refer to 192 Squadron losses at Foulsham as being only 5. I understand that losses far exceeded this level. The Squadron's losses overall were significant and I have attached a list of aircraft that I believe failed to return, with crew members designated KIA. The Squadron lost other aircraft, but I have not included in the attached list as these did not incur fatalities.

I may be missing something but if so please could you let me know.

Best Wishes,

David Hales

192 Squadron

Aircraft Designated "Failed to Return"
RAF Foulsham

19/03/1944	Wellington X	LN716 (DT-H)
26/03/1944	Halifax BIII	LW626 (DT-V)
26/04/1944	Halifax BIII	LW622 (DT-R)
03/05/1944	Halifax BIII	MZ570 (DT-V)
24/05/1944	Halifax BIII	MZ501 (DT-P)
04/07/1944	Halifax BIII	LW621 (DT-G)
26/08/1944	Mosquito BIV	DZ405 (DT-G)
21/11/1944	Halifax BIII	MZ806 (DT-R)
26/11/1944	Mosquito BIV	DK292 (DT-J)
08/02/1945	Halifax BIII	MZ342 (DT-B)
23/02/1945	Halifax BIII	MZ449 (DT-Y)
23/02/1945	Halifax BIII	NA241 (DT-C)

In addition, the following aircraft was attacked by intruder and crashed near Fakenham, Norfolk:-

03/03/1945	Halifax BIII	LV955 (DT-G)
------------	--------------	--------------

Dear Janine,

Your letter, the magazine and Pete Smith's tribute to his father all arrived last week, and I am most grateful to Pete for enrolling us as members of the RAF 100 Group Association.

The magazine was very interesting, and I look forward to future editions! And I am about to make myself a cup of tea and settle down to read Pete's Tribute. He's e-mailed me bits and pieces of it over the years, but it's wonderful to see it finally put together and in print.

Here's to a long and happy association!

Best regards,

Gail & Nic Hanekom

New members living in South Africa

Gail is daughter of 'Sticky' Murphy, mentioned in Pete Smith's Tribute to his father



Hi Dear Lady!!

I am sorry for the late reply to your very welcome email. 'Twice in one day ... aren't you lucky.' The arrival did indeed make me a lucky man! We returned yesterday from a visit with our daughter and family in Anchorage, Alaska for about twelve days.

I think you would be surprised to live for awhile in Anchorage. I love Alaska, but am not fond of living in a large city! However, Anchorage is very beautiful city, and the weather is not as much of a problem as many think.

Indeed it does get cold, but is not unlike the Northern tier of the United States and much of Canada. Anchorage now has a population approaching 300,000. It is a very busy city with an apparent healthy economy. The many magnificent homes indicate that there is wealth to be had if one knows how to obtain it. That was never my goal, attainment, nor desire.

I shot this photo of the "downtown" area of Anchorage earlier this week.

Now home, I am able to try to catch up with my mail.

With no more than a glance at your attachments, "Tommy Anderson Smith Story" and your "Autumn Magazine," make me anxious to read them. The Tommy Smith story seems almost miraculous! It is amazing that so much detailed information could be recovered from the past.



I appreciate very much your coverage of the recent 36th Bomb Squadron activities. I was privileged to meet Chas Jellis on one of his visits to the U.S to participate a reunion of the 36th survivors several years ago. He was a hit with all of us.

I have always thought that the Mosquito should be honored as the best airplane of World War II. When one flew over, I would rush to see it. It appeared to be something that *belonged in the sky*. The sound of the two inline engines was "music to my ears!" Its ability to carry a bomb load deep into Germany and return as a night fighter always impressed me very much. Perhaps Tommy saved *my* life as I flew night missions with the 100 Group ... who knows?

I hope things will return to normal for me so I can pursue my effort to record some more of my life.

Regards,
Jack Hope

Tail Gunner
B-24J 42-51230 nicknamed 'Li'l Pudge'
36th Bomb Squadron Radar Counter Measure Unit (RCM)
8th Air Force



Dear Janine,

... Thank you for the great reading matter in the form of the Autumn magazine and the Tribute by Pete Smith to his father. I found Dan's letter in the magazine particularly touching and wish him well with his metal detecting.

I share his thoughts, the curiosity of wanting to know everything about a loved one who we never knew, what were they like, all about them as a person, as though we need to know every tiny detail, however small and insignificant. How important it is to meet someone who knew them, the thirst for knowledge and pleasure in talking about them. Why do you think it matters so much to us, Janine? I used to talk to Ian about this and wonder what was driving me? He couldn't answer but understood and was as interested and curious as I was. It mattered to both of us and I loved to hear Ian say 'Uncle Jimmy' too.

Linda Fraser



Hello Janine,

Wow! Thank you for the Autumn RAF 100 Group Magazine! Again, it was received here with great excitement and anticipation. With Hurricane Irene bearing down on our State I've only been able to lightly peruse the issue. However, as always I look forward to reading it in depth. It's always comforting to read the wonderful input and interest of your Association members. You do such a splendid job in its production. And quite naturally I very much appreciate you posting my report and photographs on the 36th Squadron Memorial Ceremony and activities there in England.

Thank you also for your message and for your concern about our welfare and Hurricane Irene. Yes, last I heard there were seven people killed in North Carolina due to Irene. Over 40 people were killed nationally. Fortunately, Pam and I made out with no damage to our property. We just had some limb branches, sticks, and leaves down in our yard. I loaded up about three wheel

barrels to dump and that was about it. Our coastal regions along the outer banks suffered greater damage to properties and much erosion especially to the highways in and around Hatteras.

The good Lord spared us this time. It could have been much worse 'cause there's been very bad flooding up north in New York and Vermont. Another storm may be coming along soon and peak hurricane season is still two weeks away.

Thanks again for thinking of us!

Until next time then, thank you again. Do take good care. And please give my best regards to John Stubbington, Rob and Steff Walden, and Kelvin Sloper.

My best regards,
Stephen Hutton

8th Air Force Historical Society
Unit Contact 36th Bomb Squadron Radar Counter Measure Unit (RCM)
Author 'Squadron of Deception'



Dear Mr Stubbington

I was given your contact details from a lady named Karen Hambrook (an Association member) who said you may be able to help me. I am currently a third year student at The University of East Anglia undertaking a documentary film project on the Airfields of East Anglia.

I am seeking personal accounts of those who were based in East Anglia and have worked at RAF Foulsham during the War and would be willing to discuss their experiences & memories of East Anglia's airfields. These would be filmed as I would like to collate the memories you have from WW2 for the documentary.

Any assistance would be very much appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best Wishes

Miss Laura Ely

Ely Laura Miss (CMP) <L.Ely@uea.ac.uk>



Dear 100 Group Association,

I notice from a search on the internet that you regularly hold Reunions and I was hoping you may be interested in a suggestion we have. We recently purchased the control tower at former RAF North Creak, which, as I'm sure you know, was converted into a domestic residence sometime ago. We are keen to return the tower so that, externally, it looks similar to its wartime period and in this process we would like to learn as much as we can about the history of the tower and the people that served on the airfield. To this end we were wondering if you'd be interested in visiting the control tower as part of your next Reunion's itinerary and having a look round and sharing some of your experiences with us. We can promise you a warm welcome and make you as comfortable as we can with a promise of tea and cake!

Thanking you in anticipation

Nigel & Claire

Dear Janine,

Thank you so much for the flurry of emails; we're so pleased that you're enthusiastic about the idea and yes we're very interested in joining your organisation – please pass on details. If I'm honest I was a little embarrassed to make the suggestion as I was not sure it would suit and I'm now so pleased that I did. In terms of your organisation, I can clear those days off work (or at least working from home), and you can let us know what would best suit you – we are happy to accommodate your visit morning or afternoon. Your suggestion that members book through you is most welcome and if you let us know numbers we can ensure we have enough tea and cake!

We have done some digging around about the history of the airfield and control tower (which is how I found you), but there's huge holes in our knowledge as particularly, there seems to be very little written specifically about this airfield at North Creak – just mentions of it in other histories which is why we thought bringing you here might be a mutual pleasure! I do have to countenance some reserve, in that this building has not always been sympathetically treated. I cannot be too hard on previous owners as they have ensured the continued use and care of the building but their modifications are not ones I would have undertaken. Whilst we are making some changes to the tower before you come it may still be a 'work in progress' so whilst it may be clean and tidy, it won't be what we ultimately want and I hope you'll forgive us for that!



The building currently has cedar shingles on it (these are in the process of being removed), the pitched roof is also due to be removed next spring and the flat roof and railings reinstated (we hope this will be complete for your visit). However, the reinstatement of the middle windows at the front, the rendering and interior decoration may be some way behind – we'll do what we can. But by 2013? Who knows ...

If you excuse a little presumptiveness, I feel I'd like to explain a little of our background. I've always been fascinated by this period in history and I realised very young the enormous debt of gratitude that we owe the war generation for the defeat of fascism. Now, in my forties, I can't get over how young they all were when they risked their lives night after night. However, this doesn't necessarily explain the Control Tower ... Claire and I have been looking for an airfield building for many years now, after seeing an operations block in Cambridgeshire – we fell in love with the architecture ... an obscure love I know but there it is. Now this purchase combined with the aviation/wartime history (I also come from a family of aircraft builders – who worked on, among many others, the Mosquito) is a dream come true and we plan to honour both the memory of those who served here, their sacrifice and the integrity of the building. I should also let you know that we plan to make this a life-changing move now that we have found this wonderful building – we hope to open as a small B&B and tea gardens eventually (in a year or so) – but as we won't be ready by next May this will have no impact on your visit.

Thank you again for your interest in our suggestion we are tickled pink that you're thinking of joining us here and we hope this will just be the start ...



Warm Regards

Nigel & Claire Morter (nigel.morter@phonecoop.coop)

Hello All

I have done some checking in my library. North Creake Control Tower was constructed to Air Ministry Works Directorate Drawing 12779/41 as modified by the later Drawing 343/43, and would appear to have been constructed in 1943. I can send the couple a copy of this basic drawing which shows the layout of the two floors of the building and indicates what the individual rooms were used for. The Air Ministry had standard designs for airfields and their buildings, but these were subject to modification to suit local requirements, and could also involve variations in materials used. The drawings that survive are held by the RAF Museum at Hendon. I can also put them in touch with someone with specialist knowledge on RAF Control Towers.

Regards

Richard Forder



Dear Janine,

I would really like to find out more about the service of my father, Peter Nuttall, in the RAF. He never spoke much about his experiences, and he's no longer here to ask.

The period with 100 Group was relatively short. He was a navigator in 214 Squadron, B17s, his log showing the first flight with them being 29/11/44, the last 23/7/45. All bar one were in 'B' flight. I am unable to say whether he was based at Oulton or Sculthorpe. His pilot was almost always F/S later W/O Murray, who he was with from 11 OTU days. From August 1945 he was with 192 Squadron, later RWE. I believe that he stayed in the RAF until 1951, serving 12 years total.

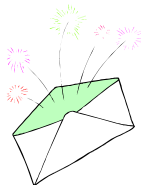


That is really about as much as I know. Any information from 100 Group Association members about his experiences during that time, and even post-war, would be much appreciated.

With thanks,

Phil Nuttall (philnuttall@ntlworld.com)

Tel: 07729 503770
20 Woodgarth Drive,
Swinton, Manchester, M27 5GG



Dear Janine,

My father Andrew Melvin Robertson was a Flight Engineer (519462) and transferred with his crew from 51 Sq at Snaith to North Creake to join 171 Sq. (100 Group - Special Duties). I have his full wartime logs and the names of his crew and would like to make contact with any of their relatives or surviving vets, plus further records or photos, if any. We attended a 51 Sq Reunion in May at Snaith (Pollington). My father died in 1998.

Regards,

Colin Robertson (0113 284 2859/07801 225700)

Dear Janine,

Evelyn Bartram told me about your Group. I have started reproducing her late husband's 6 wonderful booklets on RAF airfields in Norfolk, with kind permission of Evelyn, trying to raise profits for charitable needs.

Len Bartram wrote 6 separate booklets on RAF airfields in North Norfolk. I had thought of setting a price of £5 each to include postage in the UK, and £7 each to overseas. By their sale, we can also raise donations to RAF 100 Group Association after overhead costs have been paid. I have spoken with Evelyn and she is more than happy for this to happen. I am sure Len would be happy to know his outstanding work and effort is going forward with the group.

For those who didn't know Len, he was a Norfolk person from boy to man. His interest started in aircraft airfields as a boy watching the fighter and bombers at Foulsham and other bases in North Norfolk, too young to enlist, but called up for National Service in the RAF post war.

These 6 black and white photocopied booklets give a wonderful account of each airfield and information hardly seen before by the public, aircraft crashes and losses airfield layouts Squadrons aircraft based at these airfields and operational information, Each booklet is approximately 30-32 pages and what a great joy to read they are –

- NO 1 RAF MATLASKE 1940-1945
- NO 2 RAF FOULSHAM 1942-1954
- NO 3 RAF OULTON 1940-1947
- NO 4 RAF LANGHAM 1940 1958 WITH RAF WEYBOURNE
- NO 5 RAF NORTH CREAKE 1940-1947
- NO 100 GROUP (NORFOLK) R.A.F BOMBER COMMAND 1943-1945

Members who would like to purchase any or all of these booklets should contact me direct. I had also thought to market these booklets at Blickling Hall. Maybe something can be worked out for this so that RAF 100 Group Association can create more profit turnover etc.

My own interest is flying, and books on old R.A.F, U.S.S.A.F airfields in the UK. Looking into the future, I am thinking about starting a Tour Company for small groups to visit these wonderful old airfields etc.

Now as a member of your Association, I look forward to joining you at your next Reunion and very much look forward to meeting you all there. I wish you all at RAF 100 Group Association all the very best for the future, and look forward to the forthcoming copy of your magazine.

Lastly, I thank you Janine for your time in this matter, and hope the above information is off help, and please contact me if I can be off any further help.

Yours sincerely

Trevor J. Wise
trevorjameswise@tiscali.co.uk

1 Sidney Terrace
Wendover
Bucks HP22 6JU
01296 696421

Dear Ms Harrington,

I recently read with interest about the 100 Group Association so have a few comments since I was going through my late Father's effects some days ago. He served with 100 Group from December 1943 through October 1945 when he was posted to the CPE.

My father was Ronald Frost who passed away in 1996 (aged 86). He was the Senior Meteorological Officer at 100 Group for the above period when he held the rank of Wing Commander (his wartime rank). He spent his entire career in the Meteorological Office (outside the war years) and then the World Meteorological Office) having joined them after University in 1931 and from then until 1967 when he joined the WMO, spent almost his entire career in positions connected with the RAF, although outside of 1939-1945 he was a civilian. Amongst his papers I found a chronological list of his postings from 1932 through 1951 and the period after that until his retirement from the British Met Office is well known to me. Just pre-war and post-war, these were -

- October 1935 - November 1937: Opened and i/c of the Met Office in Gibraltar
- January 1938 - March 1940: Senior Met Officer, RAF Iraq (Habbaniyah)
- March 1940 - August 1941: SMO, No 2 Group Bomber Command
- September 1941 - November 1943: SMO 7 Group which then became 92 Group HQ (Operational Training Group, Bomber Command)
- **December 1943 - October 1945: SMO at 100 Group HQ**
- November 1945 - February 1948: SMO Central Photographic Establishment, RAF

(Incidentally, from March 1948 - 1951, he was the SMO for the RAF & CAA for the West Indies, based in Trinidad; from 1953 - 1956, the Chief Met Officer for the MEAF & CAA based in Luqa, Malta and from 1957- 1966, the CMO for the FEAF based in Changi, Singapore.)

During his life, we didn't speak much about the war years so I never specifically asked him about 100 Group; a shame since it appears he was with the Group for almost all its operational life. But I do have a picture/drawing of him in uniform standing on the tarmac of one of the airfields of the Group which is dated July 1944. The drawing was done by Pat Rooney who was quite a famous RAF artist of the war years.

I was born at the end of 1945; my parents had a house in Thornborough, Bucks and they did tell me that in the Church in that village was a plaque with the name of all those from the village who had been in the service during the war with my father's name on it. Three years ago when my wife and I were in England we drove to Thornborough and sure enough, there was a beautifully kept memorial plaque and the top name on it was W/Cmdr R Frost RAF. It was a sort of roll of honour.

My father was a very interesting and extremely modest man. He was a mathematician of some note having got a double first in Maths from Imperial College London in 1930 and in later years was regarded as one of the foremost tropical Meteorologists in the world with many publications to his name. During the war he was mentioned in despatches twice.

Anyway, I hope you find these recollections of some interest

Kind regards

Richard Frost (Bangkok, Thailand)

richard.frost@tepandine.com

News & Views

Bletchley Park wins £4.6m Heritage Lottery Fund Grant



A landmark victory for the Bletchley Park Trust has been announced with a grant of £4.6 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) towards the regeneration of Bletchley Park. The investment will enable the restoration of iconic code breaking Huts 1, 3 and 6 and create a world-class visitor centre and exhibition in the currently derelict Block C as soon as £1.7 million in match funding has been raised.

Bletchley Park was the wartime home of the Government Code and Cypher School.

Carole Souter, Chief Executive of HLF, said: *"The complex story of Bletchley Park revolves around a group of dedicated men and women who quietly worked away with no expectation of public recognition. Now, more than 60 years later, the trust will bring to life fascinating tales of the ground-breaking work that took place in this sprawling country estate. I cannot think of a better use of Heritage Lottery Fund money than to support this project and, in so doing, honour the memory of all who were involved."*

A spokesman for the Bletchley Park Trust said: *"The ambition of the Bletchley Park Trust is to complete the restoration of the site, and to tell its story to the highest modern standards."*

Halls of Learning

A Degree in Military Intelligence Studies, highlighting the importance of Bletchley Park is to be offered by The University of Buckingham.

The course will look at intelligence history and Bletchley Park focusing on the World War II code breakers. Course Director, Professor Anthony Glees, said it was an opportunity to work with Bletchley's previously unresearched archives.

The Degree is the University's newest course run by the Centre for Security and Intelligence Studies. Professor Glees said: *"The course will reveal fresh insights into how the war was fought, which will be totally unique for students at this level."*

Gateway to the Past

Millions of documents stored at Bletchley Park are set to be digitised and made available online. Electronics Company Hewlett-Packard has donated a number of scanners to the centre in Milton Keynes so volunteers can begin the ground-breaking task. Many of the records at the once-secret centre have not been touched for years.

During the war, it was home to more than 10,000 men and women who decoded encrypted German messages. The Centre hopes that once the work starts previously untold stories about the role Bletchley Park played in the war will be revealed.

The first phase of the project is expected to take at least three years.

Simon Greenish, Chief Executive Officer of the Bletchley Park Trust, said the plan was for the centre's entire archive to be digitised.

He said: "We've been wanting to do this for a while. It was first discussed five years ago, but we have just never had the funds. If I ever manage to secure £10,000 then that goes towards buying a new roof as this project just has not had the attention it deserves. But for the first time we hope we will be able to put everything into the public domain. Since the archive is so big nobody knows exactly what each individual document stored there contains."

Information they expect to dig out will definitely include communication transcripts, communiques, memoranda, photographs, maps and other material relating to key events that took place during the war.

Simon Greenish went on to say: *"We have boxes full of index cards, with different messages. This will be our chance to follow a trail and put messages together so we can find what they really mean. We found a card talking about 4,400 tonnes of mercury being transferred from Spain - we will be searching for further messages explaining what happened and why this was done."*

The archive has tremendous potential. Once it is online, people can trace documents related to certain subjects within minutes - something that takes days to do now.

Pictures set to go online in the archive include ones of Adolf Hitler shortly after surviving an attempt to assassinate him, taken by his official photographer Heinrich Hoffmann.

Simon Greenish said: *"I'm looking forward to finding cards relating to rubber and ball bearings and how the Germans gathered these materials. The Germans developed synthetic rubber as they found it hard to get natural rubber. They also needed lots of ball bearings for the war effort, which is why the allied forces attacked a lot of ball bearing factories."*

He said there were records in the archive which showed countries such as Spain, Switzerland and Sweden were perhaps not as neutral as they were portrayed.

"It is quite clear there was a lot of correspondence going on between these countries," he said. "Volunteers have already unearthed records showing countries including Spain dealing in diamonds with the Japanese and other German allies."

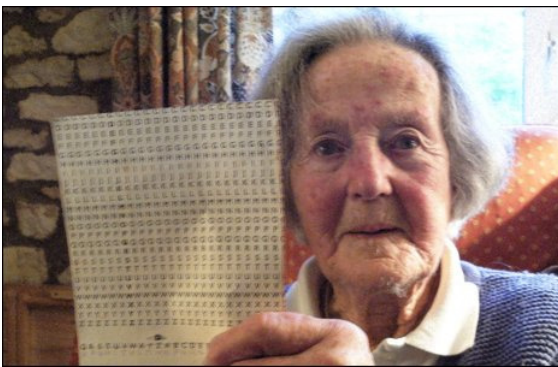
There is also more information about the double agent Garbo, a Spaniard whose real name was Juan Pujol Garcia - likely to come out once the work on the archive began. Garbo, described as World War II's 'greatest double agent', persuaded the Nazis that the allied forces were planning their D-Day operation in Calais rather than Normandy.

It is also expected that more information will come out about the fuel the Germans were discovered to be sending to Peenemuende, a small village close to the Baltic Sea. The hard copies of the documents are stored in a massive room. Simon Greenish said: "*We didn't know anything about it initially, but then, because of a message Bletchley Park decoded, allies sent a reconnaissance aircraft and they found out that rockets - weapons of terror - were being developed there. The RAF then attacked the site.*" He said the documents were all important as just one obscure message could have led to thousands of lives being saved.

Laura Seymour, from Hewlett-Packard, said her Company contacted Bletchley Park in September 2009 after learning of its plight. The Company donated a number of scanners and people to provide technical expertise to the charity. Ms Seymour estimated the cost to HP was in the tens of thousands, but said it was a project that was worth being involved in.

Mr Greenish believed the archive would be an important research tool and could even attract more people to the site. It would also ensure the preservation of the fragile hard copies. Currently most of the documents are too difficult to view or handle and few have access to them. But Bletchley Park hopes that its new archive will one day be a different type of gateway to the past.

Personal Experience



In the late summer of 1939 a team of code breakers arrived at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire to begin top secret work that was later credited with shortening World War II.

It also laid the foundations for today's Cheltenham-based intelligence centre GCHQ.

Pam Brewster, who is now 91 and lives near Tewkesbury, was among them. She still has vivid memories of working at Bletchley Park 70 years ago. She speaks of how she landed her job as a code-breaker, in 1939 at the age of 21.

"I was a Foreign Office civilian for all the war. My mother had got a job and it was through her in hearing that they were recruiting people in GCCS (Government Code and Cypher School) [whose successor is GCHQ in Cheltenham].

"I had an interview and was accepted. I started working in January 1939 in London. I was working on the very beginnings of the Enigma Code with a man called [Alfred] Dillwyn Knox."

How much did Pam know about the significance of the code-breaking work she was carrying out?

She said: *"I didn't speak German so I didn't know what the broken codes said, but we knew it was producing information about movements of troops and later on about movements of ships and convoys and submarines. I remember hovering around the hut at lunchtime to see if we'd broken any codes and we could get this out, as to what the target for that night's bombing was. You didn't know actual details of what was happening but you knew for instance when a convoy was on its way to Russia."*

Pam recognises that the work she was doing helped to speed up the ending of the war. *"They do reckon it shortened the war by three or four years."*

"There was a spell when we were sinking so many U-boats that Karl Dönitz, who was the big German Admiral, was suspecting that we must be reading them, but Hitler was supposed to be so absolutely adamant that his famous Enigma was safe that he wouldn't have it."

Can You Help?

Bletchley Park is also keen to capture the memories of other people who worked there.

They reckon that of the 12,000 people who worked at Bletchley Park during WWII, around a thousand are still alive, most of whom have never told their stories, but cannot be tracked down because records were destroyed due to the secret nature of the work.

So if you worked there during the war, in whatever capacity, The Bletchley Park Trust would love to hear from you.

Bletchley Park Ltd

*The Mansion
Sherwood Drive
Bletchley Park
Milton Keynes
MK3 6EB*

Telephone: **+44 (0) 1908 640404**

Bletchley Park Shop: **+44 (0) 1908 272684**

Fax: **+44 (0) 1908 274381**

email: info@bletchleypark.org.uk

Registered charity 1012743

NOTE: Don't miss seeing a whole range of different programmes about Bletchley Park and its work showing on television now.

New Publication

SPECIAL OPS LIBERATORS - 223 (Bomber Support) Squadron, 100 Group and the Electronic War

by Steve Bond & Richard Forder



The launch of our book took place at the 2011 International Plastic Modellers Society's Scale Model World Show held at The Telford International Centre on the 12th and 13th November.

The launch was managed by John Davies, our Grub Street publisher, and hosted by Simon Watson on the Aviation Bookshop Stand. The IPMS Show is a major event and all three of the International Centre's Halls were filled with numerous stands covering every aspect of plastic scale modelling.

Despite the specialist nature of our book we generated a surprising degree of interest helped by the presence of Andrew Barron of 223 Squadron, and John Deacon, 550 Squadron. The photograph taken by John Davies shows from left to right Andrew, self, John and co-author Dr Steve Bond taking part in the signing session. Additional support was provided by my wife Janice and Andrew's wife Dorothea. Dorothea is of course a regular attendee with Andrew at our annual Reunions.

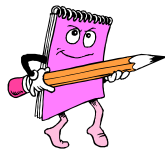
Richard Forder

'SPECIAL OPS LIBERATORS: 223 (Bomber Support) Squadron and the Electronic War'

By Steve Bond & Richard Forder

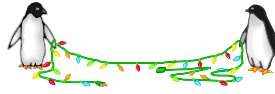
Published by Grub Street, ISBN: 978-1-908117-14-4

£25 Hardback



NOTICEBOARD

A place where members can keep in touch



Peter Witts: 223/214/462 RAAF Airgunner in 100 Group

passed away at 5am on 12th November 2011. He was in hospital for a hernia operation but had not been well for some time. He was well known and well loved by us all and he will be missed so much ... especially when we come together at Reunions. Rod Vowler (Standard Bearer) was at Norfolk as a part of the Remembrance gathering at Oulton Memorial. Thanks, Kelvin, for sharing that with us.



Len Witts would like to give a huge THANK YOU for all the support and cards, messages of condolence, etc from everyone. The family are deeply moved at the response.



CONGRATULATIONS Richard Forder on the publication of your book, written in co-authorship with Steve Bond. Entitled: "Special Ops Liberators - 223 (Bomber Support) Squadron, RAF 100 Group, and the Electronic War", it is published by Grub Street and launched on 12 November at The Scale Model World 2011. The authors were joined in book signing by former RAF Liberator Aircrews – Flight Officer Andrew Barron, Flight Officer John Elliott.



CONGRATULATIONS David Hales on getting an article published in the October 2011 issue of Flypast about your uncle. The article together with letters and photographs capture the story well and goes on for some pages. Entitled: 'Terrible Retribution' it makes compulsive reading.



CONGRATULATIONS Phil James, who spent the afternoon of his birthday at a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. He says: 'Where better to have a birthday party!'



Andrew Barron sent in this lovely photograph of his two grandsons to share with members (see right).



 **CONGRATULATIONS Bob & Jill Histed** on the birth of your second great granddaughter, born to granddaughter April; on September 5th in New Zealand.

 **David McDermott** we wish you well on your retirement.

 **Dan Foster** has recently moved house and we wish him well. Dan, we hope your 'Dig' at your great uncle's crash site in Oulton went well and look forward to hearing about your adventures in the next edition.

 **WELCOME** to all new members – **Gail and Nic Hanekom** in South Africa. It was Gail's father, 'Sticky' Murphy, of 23 Squadron, Little Snoring; that Pete Smith's Memorial Tribute to his father referred to which went out with our last Autumn magazine. **Trevor Wise**, who is involved in reprinting the writings of Len Bartram about Norfolk airfields. **Nigel Morter and Claire Nugent** who we look forward to meeting in person at our May Reunion when they show us their newly revamped North Creak Control Tower. **Richard Frost** living in Bangkok, Thailand, whose father, Wing Commander Ronald Frost was Senior Meteorological Officer at 100 Group. Shirley Peek, Intelligence Officer with 100 Group HQ at Bylaugh Hall 1944/45.

 **CONGRATULATIONS Linda Fraser** who, together with daughter Jane, have gone into a completely new enterprise. With the birth of their shop: 'Freya and Jonah', a Children's Boutique; they are now selling baby clothes and children's wear with an exciting range of possibilities for the future.



It was Linda and granddaughter Freya, now nine months old, who conducted the Grand Opening on 1st October by cutting a ribbon on the front door. The shop sits on the corner of 151 King St, Dukinfield, Cheshire, opposite the Town Hall. Visitors are always welcome.

 **PLEASE REMEMBER** to send in to Association Secretary, Janine Harrington, your Membership subscriptions to continue to be a part of our wonderful family and to keep involved and informed in all Association news.

We look forward to seeing you all at our RAF 100 Group Association Reunion
May 11th – 13th 2012

A Quiet Corner



Thoughts at a War Grave

Were thoughts in your mind on that very last flight,
That you'd never again see the morning's light?
Flying into hostile enemy terrain,
Never to see your homeland again.

Did death come fast or painfully slow?
Questions unanswered for we'll never know.
A stark telegram in a buff envelope,
Then long days of waiting hope against hope.

But hoping and praying were all in vain,
In foreign fields now your body is lain.
One of so many not of 'The Few':
So many hundreds lie here with you.

A simple white stone with just name and number,
Here with your comrades in endless number.
We never said 'Goodbye' and yet,
Your young shining face we'll never forget.

Pat Gooding

'The Poems We Wrote: An Anthology of Air Force Poems'
Compiled by Eddy A Coward



Final Postings

*Death is but crossing the world as friends do the seas
- they live in one another still.*

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

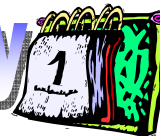
Founders of RAF 100 Group Association – remembered with love.

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 passed away late 2005
192 Squadron	Ted Gomersall passed away 30 th November 2004,
192 Squadron	Hank Cooper DSO, DFC passed away 2005.
192 Squadron	Michael Simpson W/Op & F/O passed away on the Isle of Man.
192 Squadron	Richie' Richards Rear Airgunner, flew Wellingtons. His son, F L Richards, passed on in August 2009, both members of the Association.
192 Squadron	Air Commodore Vic Willis, C.O, RAF Foulsham, passed away 30.7.06
192 Squadron	Group Captain Jack Short passed away December 2006. Chair of RAF 100 Group Association until 1996.
192 Squadron	W.O (later P/O) A G McEachern RCAF died 15th August 2007 at home in Lanigan, Saskatchewan aged 85.
192 Squadron	LAC Harris, Ground Crew passed away 15 th August 2007. His grandson James Kerslake is a member of the Association.
192 Squadron	Wing Commander David Donaldson, DSO*DFC passed away 15.1.2004.
192 Squadron	Wilhelmson, F/O Sander Willie Raymond (J10026). Distinguished Flying Cross. Home in Elbow, Saskatchewan.
192 Squadron	F/Lt Richard (Dick or Dobbie) William Dobson, died 1996, remembered by son, Roger & daughter Susan, both members.
192 Squadron	W/O John Rhys Powell, rear gunner flying Wellingtons, died 1992 remembered by son John Powell.
192 Squadron	Sgt George Richards, tail gunner, posted missing 4th/5th July 1944. Remembered by niece Cheryl Cairns nee Colgan & sister Agnes Colgan.
192 Squadron	F/Lt Henry Victor Vinnell (Vic), posted missing 26/27 th Nov 1944. Remembered by fiancée Nina Chessall always & her daughter Janine H.
192 Squadron	Jack Glen Millan Fisher, Pilot Officer with Royal Canadian Air Force, posted missing 26/27 th Nov 1944. Remembered by sister Audrey.

192 Squadron	Flight Lieutenant Albert Victor (Vic) Parker passed away November 14 th 2010. Daughter Ann Felsky says: <i>'We were lucky to have him 95 years and take care of him until the end.'</i>
192 Squadron	Spec/Op (Wop) John Henry BALL , Association member for many years, passed away 23 April 2009. Remembered by daughter, Susan Lawford.
192 Squadron	George Lowe , originally 1473 Flight before becoming 192 Squadron, Special Signals, Foulsham. Died 24 th March 2011.
192 Squadron	F/O Alan Thomsett passed away 27 th May 2011. Initially flew ops with 1473 Flight during Battle of the Beams, 1941, then as part of No. 80 Wing. He is sadly missed by so many. A valued friend. A very special man.
199 Squadron	F/O Ed Emmerson , Navigator to Flt/Lt Paddy Passmore DFC, Canadian
199 Squadron	Arthur Fitch , former RAF Bomber, passed away July 2006
199/171 Sqdn	Group Captain George Cubby, MBE, FRMets passed away 2005. Remembered by Roy Smith, only surviving member of his crew.
171 Squadron	Joe Brogan , Halifax pilot, finished the war at North Creake; passed away 2004, remembered by widow Sheila.
171 Squadron	Arthur Adcock passed away February 2008 & Syd Love, Canadian crew member, passed away April 2008. <i>'Friends to the end!'</i>
171 Squadron	Len Fanstone passed away 13 th January 2010. Greatly missed by Harry Freegard & wife, in touch since his return to Canada in 1946.
171/102 Squadron	Ken Ratcliffe Nav/Bomb Aimer passed away March 8 th 2010 age 86. He flew Halifax & Lancasters, in touch with his crew all their lives.
157 Squadron	Bryan Gale Flt/Lt passed away 2 nd January 2009. Remembered by daughter Valerie & son Chris.
214 Squadron	Geoff Liles , pilot, passed away 4 March 2006.
214 Squadron	Mr J Creech passed away April 2006.
214 Squadron	Don Austin , remembered by Les Bostock.
214 Squadron	Air Vice Marshall Jack Furner passed away 1 st Jan 2007.
214 Squadron	Sqdn Leader/Flight Commander Bob Davies passed away June 2007.
214 Squadron	Bill Howard passed away October 2007.
214 Squadron	Flt Lt Blair passed away Sept 2007.
214 Squadron	John Hereford, Spec Op.
214 Squadron	Robert Moorby W/Op passed on January 2008. Remembered by sons, Michael and Robin. Also Shirley Whitlock.
214 Squadron	Ft/Sg Hadder , Air Gunner in Fortress III HB815, bearing code letters "BU-J" killed 3/4 th March 1945, remembered by nephew Leslie Barker.

214 Squadron	Alan Mercer passed away 6 th June 2009.
214 Squadron	Warrant Officer Gordon Wing , 'Howie' (character out of Australian newspaper cartoon page) passed away Nov 2009 age 87. Rear Gunner in Eric Morrison's crew in Stirlings & Fortresses; Founder member of Airgunners Association.
214 Squadron	Robert Louie William Darracott , navigator, died May 8 th 2010, 94 years. Sadly missed by family & friends.
214 Squadron	Flying Officer Reginald Coates completed whole of 2 nd tour of operations as Bomber Pilot with 214 (FMS) in March 1945. Died at home 10 th November 1963. Remembered by son, R I Coates
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	Mr George V Cox has recently passed away.
214 Squadron	Peter Witts 223/214/462 RAAF Airgunner in 100 Group , commissioned after the war as P/Officer. 1925 – 2011. Well known, well loved ... missed by his family and remains in our hearts, a Legend.
223 Squadron	Flt Lt A E L Morris (Tony) died June 2005. Remembered by Andrew Barron, his 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, passed away May 13 th 2006.
223 Squadron	F/Lt Jack Brigham DFC passed away 2008. Original Captain when 223 reformed. Flew mainly Liberator TS 524, 6G-0; 36 ops. Remembered by Len Davies, Waste Gunner, only surviving member of crew.
223 Squadron	F/L/Sir John Briscoe passed on a few years ago has been identified as one of 223 Squadron.
223 Squadron	2nd Pilot Mervyn Utas , Canadian in late Tony Morris's crew, passed away 8 Nov 2010. News came from Andrew Barron, the crews' Nav.
223 Squadron	James Edward Bratten : 26.11.1922 - 16.11.2001. Andrew Barron's crew.
88 Squadron	F/Lt Len Dellow passed away Christmas/New Year 2006-7; veteran of 88 Squadron, 2 Group & rear gunner/wireless operator on Bostons.
49 Squadron	Len Bradfield passed away Nov 2005. Len & pilot Johnny Moss survived as war prisoners when their Lancaster ED625 was shot. Returned to Britain and nursed back to health by Nora, who he married.
462 RAAF Sqdn	F/O H .R. Anderson DFC 'Andy' passed away 6 th April 2008 at home in New South Wales with family around him.
462 Squadron	Donald Hulbert passed away October 2009.

Dates for your Diary



2011 - 2012

Birmingham Military Spectacular

Whether you prefer massed marching bands, exciting displays or the spectacular Grand Finale there is something for everyone at the 2011 Christmas Birmingham International Tattoo at The NIA, Birmingham on Saturday 10th December at 6pm and Sunday 11th December at 2pm.



Led by the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, 1,000 performers will take part, including bands from Holland, Norway and the UK; the parade of massed standards, gymnastic and dog display teams, RAF Cosford's Queen's Colour, field gun race and much more.

Tickets from £14.50 from NIA Box Office on 0844-338-8000

More information at <http://www.birminghamtattoo.co.uk>

* * * *

JANUARY

1st

Membership subscriptions due - £15

Please send a cheque made out to: [RAF 100 Group Association](#)

Addressed to Janine Harrington together with the form enclosed with this copy of the magazine. A membership card will be sent to you on receipt of your monies.

If you are able to receive this magazine through email please let Janine know immediately as this will go a long way to saving costs for the future.

Thank you.

MAY

11th – 13th

2012 RAF 100 Group Association Reunion

Put this date in your diary now. We look forward to seeing you there!

A full programme will be posted out with the Spring magazine coming out Feb 2012. The weekend will include a visit to the Control Tower at North Creake, now home to Nigel and Claire Morter.

Members with memories or photos of North Creake Control Tower not attending the Reunion can make contact direct with the couple concerned who will be very happy to hear from you.

100 Group Order of Battle

SQD	AIRCRAFT	1st 100 GROUP OPERATION	BASE	SORTIES, LOSSES ROLL
192	Mosquito, Halifax Wellington Lightnings	Dec 1943	Foulsham	2171/5 Losses Electronic Intel/Elint
141	Beaufighters, Mosquito	Dec 1943	West Raynham	1214/11 Losses 80 EA, 58 Trains, 7 Ships Dest
219/239	Mosquito	Jan 1944	West Raynham	1394/9 Losses 51 En AC Dest
515	Mosquito	March 1944	Little Snoring	1366/21 losses 29 En AC Dest
169	Mosquito	Jan 1944	Little Snoring, Great Massingham	1247/13 Losses 25 En AC + 1 V1 Dest
214	Fortress	April 1944	Sculthorpe, Oulton	1225/13 Losses Electronic Jamming
199	Stirling, Halifax	May 1944	North Creak	1707/6 Losses Electronic Jamming
157	Mosquito	May 1944	Swannington West Malling	1336/6 Losses 37 En AC +39 V1 Dest
85	Mosquito	June 1944	Swannington West Malling	1190/7 Losses 71 En AC+30 V1 Dest
23	Mosquito	July 1944	Little Snoring	1067/8 Losses 18 En AC Dest
223	Liberator Fortress	Sept 1944	Oulton	625/3 Losses Electronic Jamming
171	Stirling, Halifax	Sept 1944	North Creak	1583/4 Losses Electronic Jamming
462 RAAF	Halifax	Jan 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

Produced by
Janine Harrington/Tony Bradley