



LAA Newsletter

Serial 40

November 2004

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COMMITTEE LIST

Minutes of the 32nd Committee Meeting on Wednesday 21st July 2004

Present:-

Tiny Kuhle	87 th	Chairman
Dave Gunby	72 nd	Secretary
Tony Horry	76 th	Treasurer
John Farmer	77 th	Membership Secretary
Charles Hart	71 st	AA Rep
Colin Ingram	88 th	Newsletter Editor
Joe Holroyd	85 th	Service Rep
Graham Beeston	209 th	Craft Rep

Absent:-

Andy Perkins	109 th	Tech Rep
Vic Gibbs	88 th	General Rep

ITEM 1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 13.15 with a greeting to all. There were two apologies for absence. The Committee reviewed the minutes of the AGM and found them acceptable.

ITEM 2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

It was proposed by John Farmer and seconded by Charles Hart that the minutes of the 31st Committee Meeting in February 2004 be accepted as a true record. All agreed.

ITEM 3 MATTERS ARISING.

The Chairman reviewed the action points from the previous committee meeting :-

- a) **Display Cabinet at RAFA Weston.** The Chairman proposed that a brass plaque be placed on the cabinet. Charles Hart and Tony Horry said they would provision one locally at modest cost and report back.

- b) **RAF Locking Site.** There had been press reports that the RAF Locking Church was to be demolished and also some commemorative trees removed. The Association has written a letter of protest and this has been copied to the Weston Mercury. Local committees have also protested.
The SWRDA has been reminded of its undertaking to discuss any memorial before demolition takes place. Tony Horry agrees to keep a very close eye on events as they unfold. Item retained.

- c) **Social Activities.** TV Studio visit. The visit has not yet taken place but the General Member was continuing his efforts and hoped soon to go ahead as a joint visit with the Uxbridge Bunker. Nothing further to report as the General Member was not present.

ITEM 4 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented a balance sheet for the period Feb 04 to July 04. The current balance in hand is £8465.88. The cost to the Association for this years AGM/Reunion was £256.12. Charles Hart proposed that the Treasurers report be accepted. John Farmer seconded and all agreed. A copy of the balance sheet is appended to the minutes on file.

ITEM 5 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

General

There has been a lot of movement in membership numbers since the AGM. Unfortunately this has been in the wrong direction.

The exercise concerning defaulters on subscriptions, started before the AGM, has been completed. This has resulted in an additional 10 names being removed from the 'active members' register. (6 of these were members who normally pay by S O Mandate). The total numbers of defaulters for the year 2003/2004 was 22, which means that our active membership has fallen to 368.

On the bright side several more members have decided to pay their subs by SOM.

There have been no more deaths (which is a relief)!

Unfortunately there have been no new life members or new members, although there are a couple of enquiries being processed.

Membership Reminders by E-mail

The response continues to be poor when compared with reminders by mail. I will finish the trial in September (1 year) but if things do not improve, it seems that we shall have to revert to mailed reminders.

Newsletters by E-mail

Several requests for back number by E-mail have been received and processed. The latest version (July) has been despatched to those wishing to receive it in this manner.

ITEM 6 SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary summarised all correspondence received since the last meeting. He also commented on his attendance at a recent Graduation ceremony at RAF Cosford and that he was honoured to be asked to present a Trophy to the best all-round student.

ITEM 7 NEWSLETTER INPUT

The Newsletter editor had expressed his uncertainty when receiving items for the Newsletter which might cause some members to be offended.

The Chairman reiterated that the Newsletter editor was the sole arbiter of the items submitted to him and that if he was in any doubt he could canvas opinion from the rest of the committee before deciding whether or not to publish. The Committee were in full agreement.

ITEM 8 AGM 2004 REVIEW

Although being low in attendance the Committee felt that the AGM/Reunion was a success. Valuable lessons had been learnt when organising functions without any local contact to monitor progress.

ITEM 9 AGM 2005 AGM PROPOSALS

Charles Hart presented his proposals for the 2005 event which would take the form of previous reunions at Dauncey's Hotel, Weston-Super-Mare. He proposed that a sum of £600 should be made available to cover deposits and Association subsidies. Joe Holroyd seconded and all agreed.

Charles would proceed to confirm the booking with Daunceys as soon as possible. In addition to Charles' proposals it was agreed that the recipient of the RAFLAA Trophy for 2005 would be invited to the reunion and also that an offer of reservation of accommodation be included.

ITEM 10 FUTURE AGM'S

The committee felt that the Association should continue to try to satisfy members wishes when organising future AGMs/Reunions. Now that strong links have been forged with No1 Radio School it was quite likely that further visits would be made to RAF Cosford. Making booking forms more available and rationalising accommodation options need to be improved.

ITEM 11 ASSOCIATION WEB SITE

John Farmer presented printed articles of an historical nature which he proposed to upload to the association web-site. The committee thought it a good idea and approved. The secretary gave John a list of individual entry web sites he had been told about by a member of the 104th entry. This information will also appear on the Association web –site.

ITEM 12 FABEA AGM 2004.

The association was represented at this years meeting by our Chairman and Joe Holroyd. The meeting was hosted by the BRATS 192 organisation at the Bedford RAFA branch.

Reports from other Associations indicated stable or declining membership numbers, in particular the Polish Apprentice Association which will dissolve May 2005.

Following a proposal from Halton AA the 85th Anniversary of Apprentice training it was decided that FABEA would mark the occasion with a dinner and guest speaker. This will take place during Jan/Feb 2005 and 5 representatives will be invited from each Association. Details later in the year.

RAFLAA have been allocated 6 places at this years Cenotaph parade and anyone wishing to go should contact the Secretary.

The next FABEA meeting will be on July 15th 2005 and will be hosted by the Boy Entrant Association.

ITEM 13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

John Farmer announced that he had received an offer from Colin Hinson (89th) to upload the Newsletter to the Association web-site. The Committee felt this to be a good idea in principal but individual's privacy rights should be respected and the Newsletter should only be accessible to current members of the association.

Graham Beeston suggested that the Newsletter frequency should be stabilized. He suggested that a Newsletter in March and August would reflect the preceding months Committee meetings and that a further edition in Nov/Dec could reflect more festive items. The Committee agreed and the Editor was to be informed.

It was proposed by the Chairman that a sum of £25 be donated to RAFA Weston for their Wings Appeal together with our thanks for their hospitality. This was seconded by Tony Horry and all agreed. Charles Hart was to write a note of thanks to accompany the donation.

RAF Cosford Graduation 2005 Style

Dave Gunby (RAFLAA Secretary)

Taking up a recent invitation to attend a graduation ceremony at RAF Cosford I visited the base, the reason for the invitation was that it was the last graduation ceremony at which Sqn Ldr Greenway would officiate at before leaving the service.

The CAA were invited to send a representative and Tony Manners (70th) one of their committee also attended.

We were both surprised to be asked to present the Trophies to the recipients which we both did with great pride and pleasure. A short period of refreshments followed during which I took the opportunity to speak to some of the Graduates. There were only 10 in the passing out course and only 6 of them were original to the course. About half of them had family members present so I had a chat with those who had no guests.

Oh! how things have changed in 50 years.



Dave Gunby presenting Award to RAF Cosford Graduate
(Dave is the one on the left !)

The Fate RAF Locking Church

A battle is under way to save one of the last remaining buildings on RAF Locking - its church. The building is close to the hearts of many former servicemen and their families. It is one of only two buildings left standing on the former base and is home to plaques in memory of former airman and their relatives.

(The Weston Mercury 9th July 2004)

RAF church saved for now.

The church at RAF Locking has won a stay of execution, for the time being at least. English Partnerships and the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA), which own the former RAF Camp, had announced plans to demolish the building so the land could be developed. But North Somerset Council leader Michael Roe has asked the authority's officers to negotiate with the SWRDA.

He said: "The SWRDA has now agreed not to demolish the building until it has finalised the master plan for the whole of RAF Locking and until it has had discussions with the parish council to see if the building can be used for alternative purposes.

Sometimes organisations need to be reminded that they are working in a partnership with others. "We will keep an eye on things to make sure that promises are kept."

A statement from the SWRDA said: "The regeneration work on the RAF Locking site is part of the wider Weston Vision project to guide the long term development of the town. Plans are expected to be released for public consultation in the autumn. "This will lead to detailed master plans being prepared for individual sites such as RAF Locking. Community uses will be considered during this stage and demolition of the church will not take place until after all options have been consulted on."

The Weston Mercury 16th July 2004

Good Conduct Stripes ?

Currently, I have in my possession, the 76th "Entry Box", having borrowed it temporarily, from its normal guardian. I am attempting to put approximate dates on some of the photographs contained therein. I thought that the number of "good conduct" stripes we used to wear on the bottom of our sleeves might give me a clue. Unfortunately, I cannot remember at what point in the three years, they were awarded. I believe that the first came after one year.

This leads me to two questions. Does anyone recall:

- a. at what intervals were the *G.C's* awarded?
- b. were people who had been *F/T'd* allowed to put theirs up early. i.e. at the
- c. same time as those in their original Entry?

I have a photo with one member of the group sporting three G.C's, whilst the others only have two. The body in question, had come to us from the 75th.

If your memory is better than mine and you can offer any help, please call Mike Collier 01386 553298.

(Mike Collier 76th Entry)

Holiday Story

On holiday this year I was fortunate enough to be invited to the Battle of Britain Dinner at a Mess at one of the SBA Stations in Cyprus.

As well as celebrating the 'Few' the main tributes during the evening were the 'Many', so much normally, quite rightly, made of those whose deeds in the air are famous, little is made of the work of the ground support staff, civilians and contractors who also helped to achieve the success of the 'Battle of Britain'.

Although the Mess is Joint Service it was good to see the RAF taking the lead and showing the 'Senior Services' how to celebrate in style, the downside of the evening was the extra baggage, required to be taken on holiday, normal requirements shorts and tee shirt, we now had to take an extra suitcase for the additional accoutrements.

Our host at the table was ex-Locking technician, now Flt. Lt., so there were a few tales and some reminiscing done over the meal (the good old days etc)

The only real problem was when the holiday company went bankrupt just before our return to UK, but that is another story.

(Colin Ingram 88th)

NOTE – has anyone else any Holiday stories horror or otherwise.

76th Reunion

The 76th Entry held a belated "50th anniversary of joining" reunion at Daunceys in W -S-M on the 7th/8th October 2004. 43 Entry members attended, many with wives/partners. The meal on the Friday night was rounded off with a most entertaining impromptu cabaret starring Eric Ellis.

During the two days, many tales were recounted of illegal drinking sessions, civilian clothes (often stored behind the screen in the cinema) and mechanical transport. I also overheard a few other stories as I moved from group to group, which I thought might be worth recounting. Some may have been embroidered slightly by the teller, where memory has been eroded by the passage of time but I assume that at least in essence they are correct. In fact, I found it quite remarkable that different people's recollection of the same event could be so diverse. Even more surprising, was that some people had no memory at all of an episode in which they were, by majority opinion, the protagonist.

The first offering concerns Barry and John. John was a notorious snorer. An affliction that much annoyed Barry. One evening John was asleep. One arm supporting his head the other out flung. He was making his usual unmelodious but loud addition to the ambience. Barry filled his outstretched hand with shaving foam. He then tickled John's nose. The result was predictable.

Now Barry always slept with his fanlight window open. John was a few bed spaces further down the billet on the same side. In revenge for the above incident, John, while Barry was out, suspended a small piece of metal on a length of cotton, above Barry's window. Then via the outside of the hut and in through his own fanlight. When all was quiet, after "lights out", John lowered the piece of metal onto Barry's window and proceeded to tap. Much mystified, Barry got up and examined his window. As he could see nothing and the tapping had ceased, he climbed back into bed. On the third time of getting up, Barry reached outside the window and discovered the metal. He hauled on the cotton. Much to John's surprise the cotton did not break but he did not wish to release his end as Barry could work out how far down the billet the offender resided. This was a particular problem as Barry was a well respected member of "Percy Parkes pugilistic pioneers" and the retribution could have been dire. Unfortunately, I was called away at this point and did not hear the final outcome. I assume that eventually the cotton did break and that honour had been satisfied.

The second story occurred at a time when the 76th were "Senior Entry" and involved Neil and Barry. Returning late one evening from a sports meeting, they were told that sandwiches had been laid on for them in the mess. Having dumped their sports gear in the billet, the shortest distance to the mess was through a junior entry hut. So they took this route. The L.A.A. i/c the hut was much upset by this and promptly charged Neil and Barry. They subsequently each got 7 days jankers.

Now the L.A.A. had obviously not thought this through and had certainly not considered the fact that the 76th were a close knit family, endowed with more than their fair share of entry spirit. Perhaps he thought that the slim piece of tape on his sleeve would protect him or that it had magical powers (like Gollum's Ring) and would make him invisible.

A day or so later, ensuring that Neil and Barry were well and truly involved in their jankorial

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

duties, the L.A.A. was given an invitation he could not refuse, to attend a "Kangaroo Court". He was obviously guilty but the 76th were not an unjust entry. There was no doubt as to who his accusers were, as the judicial panel were backed by a large flag depicting Pegasus (purloined from a local Mobile garage) with 76 embossed on it. (We still have the flag) He was duly sentenced and lead away to the showers. His hair was first reduced to a state where he could have auditioned for a leading role in the King and I. The remaining stubble covered in some indelible noxious substance and he was released.

Of course it was not something which could be hidden and the entry was duly paraded.

Everyone confessed to doing the evil deed and everyone took the ensuing, relatively minor, group punishment. Strangely, the 76th were never again bothered by that particular L.A.A. or any other App. N.C.O., as far as I am aware, for the rest of their time at Locking.

I am fairly sure that this story is true, I have photographs which appear to confirm it.

The third tale also occurred during the time we were "Senior Entry". Mel Tonne was appearing at the Hippodrome in Bristol. An irresistible attraction for those who were devotee's of his type of music. Keith, who lived in Bristol at that time, got tickets for a very large number of the Entry. On the appointed night this large group in uniform took their seats in the Hippodrome. Apparently filling a number of rows and much to the surprise of the local population. The performance finished quite late and they just caught the last train back to W-S-M. By the time they got back to Locking, it was well after midnight. A debate then ensued as to how to get such a large number of people back into camp. It was decided that a bold approach might work. So they formed up in three's and our F.S.A.A., who was part of the group, marched them through the gates and past the guardroom. A number of astonished faces peered out at them. It is not known if they were "Snoops" or the Orderly Cpl. and the Fire Picket but they were either stunned by the audacity of the manoeuvre or with such a large group, the self preservation instinct kicked in. Whatever the reason, they did not interfere and everyone concerned got safely to bed.

The final offering involves Barry Bonser. On one of the Flight Commanders inspections, Barry did not have a mug.

The story goes like this.

Flt Lt Bobart ("*Humphrey*"), trailed by Flt Sgt Bettel ("*Beetle*") trundle up to Bonser's bed space. Bonser stands stiffly to attention.

Humphrey looks at Bonser, then at his kit and finally at his small locker.

Humphrey "Where's your mug Bonser?"

Bonser "Haven't got one sir"

Humphrey "Why not?"

Bonser (Not wishing to be charged for kit deficiency) "I've mislaid it sir"

Beetle by this time starting to simmer, has a "thinks" bubble coming out of the top of his head "Let me charge the cheeky little sod!"

Humphrey "How do you drink your tea in the mess then Bonser?"

Bonser "Don't drink mess tea sir"

Humphrey "Don't drink mess tea Bonser! Why not?"

Bonser "Haven't got a mug sir"

(Mike Collier 76th)

To Sign or Not To Sign ?

A while ago, it occurred to me to wonder if Apprentice training promoted a desire to spend the remainder of our working lives in the R.A.F. To provide some statistics, I analysed what happened to those who joined with my Entry. Ignoring our 3 Rhodesians, 94 people formed the original 76th. My first disturbing discovery was the quite alarming attrition rate over the 3 years.

For various reasons, we "lost" 15 (C.T. etc.). 21 transferred to men's service, 17 passed out with other Entries and only 41 made it to the passing out parade.

Of the 41 on that parade, only 12 did more than the statutory 12 years. This includes 5 who were commissioned, who I assume, had to sign on as a condition of their elevation. (Approx 29%).

Only 5 of the 17 that passed out with other Entries extended their service (Approx 29%). However, of the 21 who transferred direct to men's service, 9 did more than 12 years (Approx 43%).

The implication appears to be that early escape to men's service inspired greater loyalty to the R.A.F., than a 3 year sojourn at Locking. Of course, data from other Entries may prove me wrong

Pursuing the argument a little further, why did some decide to stay in the service, while others did their 12 and left? Was it a cumulative series of events or a single episode that prompted the decision? It would be interesting to know why people made their choice. It might also generate articles to make the life of our worthy magazine editor a little easier. Perhaps an explanation as to how I reached my decision could start the ball rolling.

Early in 1958, I was a 19 year old Cpl. Air Radio Fitter on the Canberra O.C.U. at RAF. Bassingbourn. Life was pretty good. I enjoyed the job and had been engaged for about a year to the girl I had been courting since before I joined the Apprentices. We had plans to marry in 1959. In March 58 a "bomb shell" dropped, I was put on P.W.R. We faced a dilemma; bring our wedding forward or wait until I had done my tour. Our principle difficulty was that we had no idea how soon I would be going. A fairly long period of indecision ended in October. I was to do a 12 month unaccompanied tour on Christmas Island. I had my embarkation leave and very unhappy sat and waited and waited and waited. At the end of November I was told that they had changed their minds. I was not going to Christmas Island after all. Despite regular enquiries, our Admin. people had no idea what was happening. By January 59 we were getting pretty fed up with the whole process. I had some strange notion that if you were on P.W.R. for longer than 9 months you automatically came off. I had already been on for 10 months.

So, we decided to go ahead and make plans for our wedding. A date was set, April 11th. All the preparations were duly made. I found a flat in Bassingbourn village where we would live initially. Our illustrious L.A.A. Treasurer, Tony Horry, agreed to be my best man. A reciprocal agreement, as I was scheduled to return the favour a few months later. Everything

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went very smoothly. A couple of days before the 11th, I started a period of annual leave. At 10 o'clock on the morning of the 10th, I received a telegram. "Report back to your unit 0800 20th April 59. Effective that date you are posted overseas for a one year unaccompanied tour". I was absolutely devastated. About one second later the decision not to sign on was made.

We only told immediate family and the wedding went ahead. After one week of honeymoon we returned home. I seriously considered deserting. However, the military moron created by 3 years at Locking kicked in and I reported back to Bassingbourn. My tour was to be at Hickham A.F.B. in Hawaii. I guess most people would have been delighted to have that posting. Less than a week at Innsworth, a couple of days as a guest of "Hunting Clan", with an overnight in Vancouver and two weeks after getting married I was in Honolulu, 10,000 miles away from my new wife.

The situation was certainly not improved, when I discovered that I was the third radio Cpl. there. Brian Barrett (78th) and an extended National Service Air Wireless Fitter were already in place. Brian, who was the nearest to going home, still had about 3 months of his tour to complete. The "job" was an after flight on one day and a pre-flight on the following day, on the Hastings that shuttled between Hickham and Christmas Island carrying fresh food and mail. Each job, assuming you did them in slow motion took about 5 minutes, including signing the 700. Effectively there were three of us to do 5 minutes work every other day.

Was I bitter? I was determined that I was not going to enjoy the overseas experience and was going to give everyone I could a hard time. In the latter case I probably succeeded. Some 8 months later on the way back from the unit Christmas party at an hotel on Waikiki Reach, an Air Movements S.A.C. staggered down the coach, clutching a camera. Stopping by my seat, he asked if he could take my photograph. He explained that he wanted to send a picture of the most miserable bloke on the detachment to his Mum. I obliged with a suitable scowl. He was obviously drunk, he would not have dared to do it sober.

I guess we all mellow with time and the brain tends to suppress bad memories but in September 1968 when I completed my 12, I had no qualms about leaving the R.A.F. Just to add one more imponderable to the equation. Did any of those who signed on, at some point wish they had not? Conversely, did any of those who did not sign on, eventually regret leaving the service? I most certainly did not.

(Mike Collier 76th Entry)

Apprentice Training

Some issues ago Dai Davies raised questions about some aspects of our training. I was tempted to reply but had too much else to do; read the paper, do the crossword etc. However, my interest was re-awakened by the points raised in the article by Mike Furness. I hope the following ramblings will be taken as they are intended - comments not criticisms

On passing out in '56 I was posted to the Circuit Control Section at Stanbridge, gateway to the Commonwealth Air Forces Network (CAFNET). I had no equipment to service and had to learn to use an odd language on the engineering channels e.g., 'LO OM UR ZGN. PSE QSY 14S. CHRS.' (There is nothing new in texting.) I found the cleaners knew more than I but I had been prepared for that by Ginger Ellis, our instructor. He warned us that this would happen but told us that within a very short time our superior training would tell and he took the trouble to write to the Chief Tech. at Stanbridge to warn him of the shower that was coming. Ginger was an excellent instructor and could explain most of the knotty problems with a few phasor diagrams. In '58 I was sent to Chicksands to be the servicing team. I knew that, in our final boards, I had done well on the brand new Marconi FSK receivers and it seemed that this information had been passed to my new bosses; they thought some of their problems were over. However, the FSK sets there were two AR88s with a diversity combining unit. Furthermore, the SSB sets were not what I expected; they were the forerunners to the sets we trained on and had Dollis Hill plates on them. I could go on but the point I am trying to make is that we could not possibly have been trained on everything in service but were given training that would enable us to cope with anything.

As to coils, yes, I did design one as part of an oscillator I designed for a special-to-type test rig. Of course, I did not do it from first principles but used nomographs for the diameter, turns etc. and experimentation to find the feedback tapping point.

Training in our sort of trade is not something that, once completed, is going to last for a whole lifetime as we all know. Think about the changes from CGS to MKS to SI, the coming of the transistor and integrated circuits and the changes to names, e.g. Hertz for c/s. We coped with all these because we were given a fairly good grounding.

What about AP's? John Smith will remember that his quotation goes on to say, 'Diversity reception consists of the multiplication of propagation paths with the reasonable expectation that at any given moment in time...', and that in the Regenerative Repeater, 'VT9(?) initiates the cessation of oscillations' and there was a circuit to 'obviate the ambiguity'. By the way, is Ohm's Law still restricted? In '57 I was working on SWB8 transmitters and we had Marconi handbooks. It seemed to me then that they were all that was required and could have been no more costly than having a vast bureaucracy producing other versions. Of course, there were certain equipments for which in-house handbook production was appropriate because of security considerations.

I believe that there must have been enough published literature on basic theory without the need for the services to write their own. I still have a copy of the third edition, first published

in 1947, of Emrys Williams's Thermionic Valve Circuits. It contains all we needed to know and includes an excellent summary of AC theory and mathematics required. If only I had found it when I was in training and not two years after passing out. I had other good books such as Scroggie but made the mistake of loaning them to others.

Mike Furness raises questions about transformers which seem to me to point to other aspects of our training that could have been improved. The first of these is mathematics. I am not a mathematician but can manage when shown a 'need to know'. I found that we started by some weeks of covering old ground, probably to ensure we were all at the same level. We then seemed to be constantly out of step with our coverage of basic theory. Next were those two phrases, 'it can be shown that' and 'which today we do not have'. Finally, there were the simplified explanations e.g. lines of force cutting things, etc. At school we were told to regard the lines of force we plotted round a bar magnet as merely something like contours on a map. If we look at the laws given by Ampere and Faraday we find fairly straightforward statements, albeit in vector notation, with no need to draw imaginary lines. A similar situation arises in describing the action of a loop aerial. Remind yourselves of how we were taught it, then look in a good textbook. Of course, vector analysis was probably a step too far for us; it is more suited to undergraduate studies.

Mike defines a 'perfect' transformer in an odd way. We ought to define an 'ideal' transformer as one in which there are no Joule or eddy current losses, the hysteresis loop of the core is a straight line through the origin and there is no leakage of flux.

As regards cornerstones of theories being blown away, we must be careful. The laws mentioned above are based on experiment and measurement. Of course theories are superseded from time to time; we have only to think of 'action at a distance', field theory, Newton's theories, relativity and quantum theory. I think Kant was on to something when he said we cannot know what things are in themselves.

Having never read any science fiction, I cannot comment on the Dean Drive. My choice of reading matter is more Wodehouse and Waugh (Evelyn).

Finally (at last) would I do the same again? The question seems to come up whenever two or three are gathered. It even arose when I met an ex-army apprentice in our local supermarket a few weeks ago. I think my answer is yes. I like to think that I should work harder and not yield to the lure of the Winter Gardens on Wednesday evenings or the 'Windsor Castle' on Saturdays but, having a somewhat lazy nature, I doubt it. 'Do enough to get through' was my way; my Certificate of Apprenticeship sums it up, 'Reached a satisfactory standard in all aspects of training'.

Mike Gentry 75th

Letters to the Editor

When I read that Alan Mills and David Penberthy had asked to be accommodated in the Henlow Officers Mess, I thought that they showed a lack of taste. Was Joe Holroyd's exclamation mark highlighting this?

Nice to see in the last Newsletter the possibility of holding some future reunions at hotels in various parts of the country. This would be an improvement on going to RAF stations. With a reunion at a station, we still have to travel there from a hotel. Why not cut out some unnecessary travel.

Apart from an excellent concert by the Central Band of the RAF last year, I am out of touch with the present day RAF (a situation I am very happy with). With all of the cut backs and deployments, do the current members really have time to arrange a full blown reunion for us on a weekend? Just a more than passing thought. No doubt this subject will again be fully discussed at the 2005 AGM in WSM (a fine venue for reunions) with regard to the 2006 reunion.

Mike (Bernie) Furness (93rd) called on members to recall the words of the songs we used to sing. Unfortunately I'm unable to oblige. Messrs. Gershwin, Porte and Berlin are more my style these days.

However, he did jog my memory. In the early 1960's I was instructing on Intercommand Receivers in NO.1(T) Block, along with Ned Gentry (75th) and Jeff Bradford (83rd). Around the corner in the Intercommand Transmitter Dept were more stalwarts namely John Harwood (75th) (sadly deceased) and Brian Davies and Vic Vickery (both 76th). This probably doesn't concern them, but as the ink was flowing freely I thought it would be nice to give them a mention.

My request. Also in the Tx Dept was Sgt John Packer from Bristol. He was quite an entertainer and had just come back from Siggiewi in Malta. He used to sing a song about Malta. It was a skit on the Harry Belafonte song "This is My Island in the Sun".

Does anybody know the words?

Mike was pondering about making his current (has there been more than one?) Moscovite lady friend a permanent fixture.

My Russian speaking friend has a friend in Belorechensk on the eastern shore of the Black Sea. She wrote about it on their English language web-site:

Vspomeenati! boodooshe mozhhet prinesti tozhe neozhidanniye oodiveetelneeeye i bolshoi syouprizee!!

In English

Remember! The future can also bring wonderful and big unexpected surprises! !

Seeing this convinced me I'll be better sticking with trying to learn German.

Regards to all until April 2005 and beyond

John M Smith (72nd)

RAF Museum

I am a member of the Society of Friends of the RAF Museum at Hendon and during my last visit I was reading the museum's log book on the Beaufighter TF.X serial RD253. To my surprise this aircraft was built at the Bristol Aircraft shadow factory situated behind Locking village during WW2, just across the road from the camp we all knew so well! !

During a recent visit to the Locking area, a local gentleman explained to me why the road after Banwell, passed the camp and down the hill, was so wide, it was all down to this shadow factory. Being where it was the finished aircraft were brought out to the road and towed down to the airfield at the bottom of the hill, hence why the hedges either side of the road were set back so far.

RAF Locking may have gone, but there is still some form of a link for any ex 'Brat' visiting Hendon in the Beaufighter on display there. This may be old news to some, but if you think this information would be of interest to others and you feel it is worthy of a small space in a Newsletter, so be it. If not place this letter in 'File 13'.

Yours sincerely

John Birch 81st Entry

Secretaries Snippets

WARNING !

C-NILE VIRUS

This virus cannot be detected by any known anti-virus programme.

It appears mainly, to affect users born before 1940, though it can affect others.

The symptoms are as follows :-

- You send some e-mails twice.
- You send blank e-mails.
- You send to the wrong person.
- You send it back to the person who sent it to you.
- You send to the same people who were on the original distribution list.
- You forget to attach attachments.
- You hit send before you have finished the

AGM 2005

Our 2005 annual reunion and AGM is to be held on 23rd April next in Weston-super-Mare and again at Daunceys Hotel which, for those who have not been before, lies on the seafront to the North of the town. The hotel is family run and offers a good standard of accommodation with many rooms offering a view over Weston Bay and Brean Down. We have reserved a number of rooms at a special price of £34 per person for a night's bed and breakfast booked through the Association Early. booking is advised

The cost of the Dinner Dance, the AGM finger buffet and tea after the meeting will cost you about £24 each with all the events taking place in the hotel. Should you wish to attend just the AGM the buffet will be £7 and those of you who wish to attend the dinner-dance without the preliminary events the cost is £18.00. Again we have decided to subsidise drinks purchased from the bar by charging just £1-00 a glass whatever its content.

The provisional timetable of events is:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 22 Apr 05 | Informal Meet and Greet; 8-00pm, Dauncey's Bar |
| 23 Apr 05 | 10-30am Members commence arrival at AGM venue – Dauncey's Hotel. |
| 11-00pm | Bar facility open. |
| 12-30pm | Finger Buffet commences. |
| 1-30pm | AGM Commences with Trophy presentation. |
| 3-00pm | AGM complete. Tea served. |
| 3-30pm | Members disperse |
| 7-00 for 7-30 | Dinner Dance |

AGM 2005 Booking Form

APPLICATION FOR AGM – 23rd April 2005

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION, DINNER DANCE AND FINGER BUFFET

Name: Entry No:

Address:

I will be attending the 2005 AGM and wish to stay at Dauncey's Hotel on the Friday and Saturday nights (22nd and 23rd April). Please specify any special needs

Please book a double/single room for me at £34 per person per night for the nights of 22nd & 23rd April 05:

Total cost £

I wish to book both lunch and dinner (dinner includes wine and disco to follow):

Please provide tickets @ £24pp £

I wish to attend the dinner dance (includes wine and disco to follow) only:

Please provide tickets @ 18.00pp £

I wish to attend the finger buffet lunch only:

Please provide tickets @ £7-00pp £

Total

Please delete as appropriate. Cheques to be crossed account payee and made out to the RAF Locking Apprentice Association

Please post your application to: Mr A Horry, Hillside Cottage, Kewstoke Road, Kewstoke, Weston-super-Mare, BS232 9YD Tel: 01934 628383: E-mail: horrycorp@aol.com

For direct application for accommodation, stating requirements, please contact:

Dauncey's Hotel, Claremont Crescent, Weston-s-Mare, Somerset, BS23 2ED

Tel: 01934 – 410180; Fax 01934 – 410181:

E-mail: reservations@daunceyshotel.fsnet.co.uk

Rooms are available at the agreed prices for both 23rd and 24th April.

Please quote '**RAFLAA**' when making reservations. Accounts must be settled with the hotel

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association



The Apprentice Prayer

Teach us good Lord, to be thankful
For all the good times we had,
The skills we have learned,
The friendships we have shared
And the companionship we have enjoyed.
May all who have served the apprenticeship of the Wheel
Be ever mindful of the needs of one another.

Amen

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

RAF Locking
Apprentice Association
Application for membership of the
Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

Name..... Serving member HM forces. Yes/No

Address..... Entry Number.....
.....
.....

Post Code.....

Do you object to your details being disclosed to other organisations? Yes/No

Telephone No.

E-Mail Address

Name for Identity Badge..... Membership Fee: - £10.00

Do you require an LAA tie? (*Cost £7.50 per tie - max 2 ties*) (Qty) £.....

Total Enclosed £.....

(Please make cheques payable to: - Locking Apprentice Association)

Return this form together with your remittance to: -

Mr A. Horry (RAFLAA Treasurer)

Hillside Cottage

Kewstoke Road,

Kewstoke,

Weston-super-Mare

North Somerset. BS22 9YD

Tel. No. 01934 628383

e-mail horrycorp@aol.com

For Committee use

Comments

Membership Paid/...../.....

Database Updated/...../.....

Acknowledged/...../.....

Tie/...../.....

Badge/...../.....

Secretary –

Mr. Dave Gunby

23 Toynton Close

Gregg Hall Estate, Lincoln,

Lincolnshire. LN6 8AL

RAFLAA AGM 2005

Finally can I ask members to put the next AGM/Reunion date in their diaries.

It is April 23rd 2005 at Daunceys Hotel,
Weston-Super-Mare.

The weekend format will be as for previous events.

Display Cabinet

RAFA Club Weston Super Mare

The Display Cabinet
is now installed in the RAFA Club at Weston Super Mare
all donations or loans of Apprentice Memorabilia would be appreciated.

Please contact any member of the Committee.

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

RAFLAA COMMITTEE

Appointment	Name	Address	Tel/e-mail	Re-Election	Entry
President	Martin Palmer				91 st
Chairman	“Tiny” Kühle	22 Tavistock Clse Woburn Sands Milton Keynes Bucks MK17 8UY	(01908) 583784 Hans.Kuhle@t-mobile.co.uk	April 06	87 th
Secretary	Dave Gunby	23 Toynton Clse Gregg Hall Estate Lincoln Lincolnshire# LN6 8AL	(01522) 525484 dpgraf72@btinternet.com	April 06	72 nd
Treasurer	Tony Horry	Hillside Cottage Kewstoke Road Kewstoke Weston-s-Mare BS22 9YD	(01934) 628383 horrycorp@aol.com	Apr 06	76 th
Membership Secretary	John Farmer	8 Glenmore Rd Minehead Somerset TA24 5BQ	(01643) 705443 RAFLAAMS@aol.com	Apr 06	77 th
Service Rep	Joe Holroyd	Well Cottage 36 High Street Guilden Morden Royston SG8 0JR	(01763) 853742 patandjoeholroyd@tesco.net	Sep 05	85 th
AA Rep	Charles Hart	9 South Road Weston-s-Mare BS23 2HA	(01934) 621969 charhart@supanet.com	Sep 05	71 st
General	Vic Gibbs	8 Old School Rd Royal Lane Hillingdon Middlesex UB8 3WE	(01895) 235 076 Gibbsvic@aol.com	Mar 04	88 th
Craft Rep	Graham Beeston	87 Hornbeam Rd Havant PO9 2UT	(023) 92346242 Work 0778 8795358 mapleoak@newnet.co.uk (home) graham@mapleoak.co.uk (work)	Sep 05	209 th
Tech Rep	Andy Perkins	107Balmoral Way Worle Weston-s-Mare BS22 9BZ	(01934) 417323 aperkins@schaffner.com	Sep 05	109 th
Newsletter Editor	Colin Ingram	Fairhaven Gooseham Morwenstow Bude Cornwall EX23 9PG	(01288) 331629 cwingram@aol.com	Sep 05	88 th

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To Bank						STANDING ORDER MANDATE							
Postal Address													
		Bank		Branch Title (not address)				Sorting Code Number					
Please pay		HSBC		WESTON-SUPER-MARE				40		- 46		- 18	
		Beneficiary's Name				Account Number				Quoting Reference			
for the credit of		RAF LOCKING APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION				4 1 3 6 8 8 7 7							
		Amount		Amount in words									
The sum of		£											
		Date of first payment		And		Due date and frequency		until		Date of last payment		and debit my/our	
commencing				thereafter every				further notice in writing or				account accordingly	
PLEASE CANCEL ALL PREVIOUS STANDING ORDER/DIRECT DEBITING MANDATES													
IN FAVOUR OF:		RAF LOCKING APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION				Account to be debited				Account Number			
UNDER REFERENCE No.													
Special instructions													
		Signature(s)											
						Date							
<p>Note: The bank will not undertake to</p> <p>a) make reference to Value Added Tax or pay a stated sum plus V.A.T., or other indeterminate element.</p> <p>b) advise remitter's address to beneficiary. c) advise beneficiary of inability to pay d) request beneficiary's banker to advise beneficiary of receipt.</p> <p>e) accept instructions to pay as soon after the specified date as there are funds to meet the payment, if funds are not available on the specified date.</p>													