



NEWS LETTER

Ser 4 May 94

INTRODUCTION

This News Letter will be rather shorter than normal since it is essential to get it out to you by mid-May and in time for the AGM on 18 June. Unfortunately, it could not be completed until after the April Committee Meeting.

Arrangements are now well under way for the AGM and associated events and we look forward to seeing and meeting you on the Saturday Morning. Also attending the event is our President, Air Cdre Martin Palmer of 91st entry. He is looking forward to the event in June and meeting many members. We are also pleased to announce the appointment of Gp Capt Ian Sloss, Station Commander of RAF Locking and No 1 Radio School Commandant as our Vice President.

Because it is a Constitutional requirement, a formal AGM calling notice and agenda is enclosed. Members wishing to put propositions are to submit them to the Secretary in reasonable time before the Meeting in order that sufficient preparation can be made. The Committee itself will be tabling its own propositions for discussion by the Meeting.

We are enclosing the AGM details again and have also included the proforma for the dinner dance for those who were unable to decide whether they could come or not earlier in the year. Please remember that you will be charged the £2-00 admission fee to enter RAF Locking on the 18 June this being the gate entry to the Flowerdown Fair.

We are also pleased to publish the latest list of the membership.

Should you wish to contact anyone please drop the Secretary a line and we will forward on letters to the persons concerned.

FIFTH COMMITTEE MEETING

The fifth Committee Meeting was held on the 28 of April and some of the more important items discussed are outlined below.

Most important, is the publication of our first Balance Sheet which you will find with the AGM agenda. It was decided last year, when the Constitution was finalised, that the Association's financial year would end on 31 January each year. The Balance Sheet for the period from the formation of the Association until this date is easily understood because our affairs are currently simple. Nevertheless, we have been had the figures formally scrutinised by an outside auditor and the RAFLAA is indebted to Sylvia Darby for the service and the helpful suggestions she has made.

The flow of funds through our accounts has given us a fair idea of how the future will develop and we will be able confidently to predict the expenditure for next year and therefore recommend a subscription to the AGM. Members will be invited to renew their membership each year during the month they joined the Association and as many of you have asked about making payments through direct debit or standing orders we will be looking into what is possible in this respect.

We are still looking into reducing the cost of the Apprentice video which will be shown at the AGM. Hopefully, we shall have copies

on sale and we are sure that, whenever you served, you will find the ancient images interesting. We are seeking to keep the cost to between £5 and £7 a copy but price depends on a number of factors the greatest of which is how many are produced in the production run. Currently, we are aiming to edit the footage to just less than half an hour and increase its saleability with suitable music and a narrative provided by Ian Ashcroft (70th entry) who is both a Cranwell and Locking Association member.

In line with the objectives of the Constitution, the Committee continued to discuss how Apprentice training at Locking could be recognised and whether this need might be coupled with our objective to recognise student merit and sporting prowess. No decisions were reached, it being felt that you should have a say in what the Association should do. There will therefore be a proposal at the AGM which will give you an opportunity to discuss the matter.

Some of our newest members have had to wait a considerable time before hearing from the Association and the Membership Secretary has asked that we apologise to everyone who has experienced this wait. He has also requested that we provide an explanation of what has been going on. Because of the quite rapid growth in the membership, the lack of computing power and storage capacity has meant a complete modification of our database. This has generated a lengthy task. Happily, the work is now complete and even the Secretary is happy with the information he has and the way in which it has been set out so there should not be any more delays in the future.

SECURITY

There have been questions from members and indeed a continuous debate in Committee about the policy we should adopt in the use of ranks and decorations on correspondence to members at their private addresses. The RAF Cranwell

Apprentice Association holds such information on their database and indeed sends out mail with members ranks included. However, since they started their organisation before the heightened security posture of June 88, this could be reasonably expected. We, on the other hand, have decided to follow the Ministry of Defence guidelines and avoid the use of ranks and other Service indicators on the grounds that it would be foolhardy to ignore the dangers. Hopefully, you will agree that this is the sensible course to follow; however, should terrorist activity cease then the policy would be reconsidered.

THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

The Association has been asked by the Membership Secretary of the Friends of the Imperial War Museum if he might use some space to gain publicity for what they do. The Museum itself and its outstations which include HMS Belfast, the Cabinet War Rooms and Duxford Airfield, exhibit and preserve records and artefacts from all the 20th Century conflicts in which Britain has been involved thus keeping alive the memory of all those who died or suffered during these times. The Friends, which was formed under the gracious patronage of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, has the objective of supporting the Museum both financially and by publicity. The Friends are always seeking new members and if anyone desires more information, John Solway (071-416-5255), would be delighted to hear from you. Alternatively you can write to:

The Membership Secretary
The Friends of the Imperial War Museum
Lambeth Road
London SE1 6HZ

AIR SHOWS

Just to hand is some information on this year's major air shows which will interest members. Here they are in date order:

18/19 June
Biggin Hill International Air Fair
Ring 0891 664423 for information and 0891 664517 for booking.

19 June
RAF Open Day Cosford.
Ring 0891 446877 for booking and information.

25 June
RAF St Athan At Home Day.
Ring 0891 664514 for information and 0891 446891 for booking.

16 July
RNAS Yeovilton International Air Day.
Ring 0891 664505 for information and 0891 664509.

30 July
RAF Leeming Air Fair.
Ring 0891 664421 for booking and information.

30/31 July
international Air Tatroo, Fairford.
Ring 0891 122999 for information and 0891 122997 for booking.

6 August
RAF Valley International Air Day.
Ring 0891 122917 for booking and information.

17 September
Finningly Air Show. Ring 0891 122961 for booking and information.

17 September
RAF Leuchars Airshow.
Ring 0891 446895 for information and 0334 839000 for booking.

PLACES TO STAY IN WESTON-SUPER-MARE

Some of you may find it helpful if we publish a few addresses of hotels and places where you may find accommodation. Firstly the Tourist Information Office address is Beach Lawns, Weston-super-Mare. It is situated

close to the Grand Pier and the Telephone No is (0934) 626838. They will advise and supply lists and even book accommodation for you.

Accommodation is still plentiful in the Town but there are fewer good quality small hotels now than there used to be since many have become nursing homes. Those that remain are highly competitive but are not providing discounts unless they receive a coach full of members! On the other hand, it is always worth haggling since many hotels exist on a coach a week.

Still top of the shop is the Grand Atlantic, AA 3 Star Tel (0934) 626543 but the Royal Pier, AA 3 Star, Bimbeck Road, has the better views.

Good accommodation is available at:

The Dorville, RAC 2 Star, Madeira Road, Tel (0934) 621139.

The Rozel, AA 2 Star, Madeira Cove, Tel (0934) 415268.

The Royal in the Town Centre, AA 2 Star, Tel (0934) 623601.

Probably the most competitive hotel strip in town is along the sea front in Knightstone Road (head toward the North of the Town when you reach the Grand Pier). Some names to look for are:

The Mentone Tel (0934) 626153

Midland Hotel Tel (0934) 621217

Monaco Hotel Tel (0934) 621910

The Old Colonial Tel (0934) 620739

FAMOUS FOR 15 MINUTES

Of some interest to Apprentices who were serving at Locking in 1966 was the confinement of Flt Lt David Lafferty in Gough's Cave, Cheddar, for a period of 127 days which broke the then World record and earned him fame in the Guinness Book of Records. David was the subject of the BBC Radio 4 Programme 'Famous for 15 Minutes' which was broadcast on the 7 April.

David was a flt cdr on the Apprentice Wing who, after finishing his service in March 1966, immediately took up the challenge to take part in the 'isolation experiment.' With neither watch nor calendar he took on the 4 month ordeal in the wet Boulder Chamber of the Cave some 400 yds beyond the Black Cat feature which is as far as the public are allowed. He did have some comforts; a tent, a foam mattress which remained constantly wet throughout the period in the 97% humidity, 1400 candles, uncountable tins of beans, powdered potato, golden syrup, sugar and mint cake.

He also had a telephone on which he was allowed one call a day to his support team leader. He was allowed only to pass the information that he was still alive and fit and what he believed the date and time to be. The actual date time was, of course, kept from him. He took 200 books with him and found later that his team had included another 40 just in case and he spent most of the time either sleeping or reading; however he does admit to singing, playing the drums on an empty water can and playing the occasional game of darts. The temperature in the cave was a constant 53 degrees which is cold and being constantly wet his quality of life was at rock bottom. - Sorry!

He entered the cave on 27 Mar 66 and on the 7 Jul - his time - he was told that it was the 1 Aug and that he had broken the current World record. His reply, broadcast round the World, was, appropriately, "Bless my cotton socks." His natural body clock appeared to have been running at 25 hrs a day and was thought to have been caused, in part, by the amount of time he slept. When he finally emerged on the 4 Aug 66 he had missed the World Cup Final (England winners) and found it difficult to hold a conversation but in compensation he had a fine black beard. No doubt he found the experience more fulfilling than being an apprentice flt cdr.

THE INSTRUCTORS TALE

Here is a short tale from Mick Collier (76th Entry) that will surely bring back some memories and perhaps more information. He writes that:

After the inaugural meeting of the LAA and armed with enthusiasm and spare time in equal proportions, I decided to try and locate as many ex-apprentices of my entry as possible. As some 37 years had elapsed since passing out, this presented an interesting challenge. I tried various ideas, some of which have, no doubt, produced a certain degree of notoriety. The Post Office, by way of thanks, are probably going to have my portrait painted by a royal personage. The staff in my local public library are convinced that I am a telephone directory junkie and coach loads of BT share holders make regular pilgrimages to my home to worship at the shrine of one of their principle benefactors.

One of the less bizarre ideas, involved writing to the 'in house' newspapers of various companies. Whilst this produced no replies from ex-apprentices, it did generate a letter from an ex-Locking instructor from my era. This gentleman, a certain Dick Oliver, provided amusing recollections of some of the small triumphs of the oppressed over the oppressors. With his kind permission, I quote verbatim from his letter.

'I have no desire to muscle in on any reunion you may have in mind, but I thought I'd drop you a line because I taught you 'orrible lot - at least, I taught quite a number of entries - back about 40 years ago. I was an H2S 'king' up on the balcony of 2 block, with a sergeant, later senior tech, then chf tech whose first name was Don - I can't remember his family name - and a Cornish SAC mechanic called Davey - again no surname. Next door to H2S was AI-10 with FS Sandy Craigmyle and the GEE 3 lab just beyond that.'

'Forgive me, - whilst your entry number is graven on your heart -I cannot remember

which was which by numbers. Rather, I remember entries by what they did. So, was it your lot that;

had a FS App who fathered a child down in Weston and on promising decently to marry the girl as soon as he entered men's service, was allowed compassionate passes out at weekends proudly to push the baby in its pram? He was a GRF I think

or sawed the end off a hut one night when I was IC guard. I was damn near court martialled over that I'd like you to know,

or in night battle gear, kidnapped an unfortunate RAF police Cpl who was supposed to be curiously endowed. The team took him to Winscombe I think and stripped him to the buff. They were disappointed with what they found, so abandoned him stark naked in the village in the middle of the night and sent his clothes back to the guard room by parcel post. It took him a long time to live down turning up naked at the Guardroom with a £10 taxi bill,

or created a false scuffle to alert the fire piquet, again one night when I was IC guard. They came back to fetch me - you remember that ordinary airmen weren't allowed in the App lines (for whose protection I wonder?) - and off I went to investigate. As I went in through the bathhouse, the lights went out and my torch was knocked out of my hand. I grabbed something gleaming in the moonlight in one of the shower stalls only to be soaked by a couple of hundred gallons of cold water. Yes, someone had discovered that if you put a french letter over the shower head and allowed it to drip slowly the thing would eventually expand to fill the whole shower,

or once, when I was holding the fort in

the AI-10 lab for poor Sandy who had a hangover or whatever, turned all the scanner heads round to point at the least popular member of the class and provide him with some 3 cm microwave heating. I only spotted it when he'd stripped to shirt sleeves on what was a damn cold day. I just hope that he didn't end up with cataracts,

or painted f*** the RAF in weedkiller on the bank either side of the saluting base the night before passing out parade. The day dawned cloudless and hot, so that during the parade the message developed in 2m high capitals, brown against the bright green grass, with the SWO desperately trying to get someone to paint it out before the reviewing officer turned to leave the saluting base and saw it, or

when I was responsible for the colour hoisting parade, concealed a pair of frilly knickers inside the folded ensign. They broke beautifully at the masthead and as the old man said when bollocking me, 'it wouldn't have been so serious if the flag hadn't been upside down at the same time,

or ——. 'Well that's enough.

I can remember more, including one that had me thinking that I was going to have to write to the parents of a whole group of ARFs to be, to explain how their sons had been electrocuted whilst in my charge but those are some of the more memorable tricks. Anyway, I loved every minute of my time at Locking. Enjoy your reunion if you can fix it and give my love to any of my lots who may feel like paying me the compliment of remembering me.'

If anyone out there does remember Dick or is prepared to own up to any of these escapades, or provide the names of those he cannot remember, I am sure he would be pleased to know.

ROYAL AIR FORCE LOCKING APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Appointment	Name	Address	Tel	Entry
Chairman	Joe Holroyd	Well Cottage 36 High Street Guilden Morden Royston SG8 0JR	(0763) 853742	85
Secretary	Charles Hart	9 South Road Weston super Mare BS23 2HA	(0934) 621969	71
Treasurer	George Ring	9 Milburn Road Weston super Mare BS23 3BF	(0934) 633757	95
Membership Secretary	Neil Castle	30 Sandford Road Winscombe Avon BS25 1JA	(0934) 844140	76
RAF Locking Liaison	John Hall	494 Locking Road Weston-super-Mare BS24 8QY	(0934) 517649	212
Service Rep	Doug Cornford	12 Church View Bottesford Nottinghamshire NG13 0AE	(0734) 427911	97
General	Doug Reid	7 Cadbury Close Burnham-on-Sea Somerset TA8 2UL	(0278) 795240	86
General	Dave Rees	7 Mendip Road RAF Locking Weston-super-Mare BS24 7AE	(0934) 823488	100
AA Rep	Ben Cuming	Redcar House Gilling East York YO6 4JA	(0439) 3443	73
Craft Rep	John Leaper	7 Waterside Close Andoversford Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL54 4LG	(0242) 820137	223
Tech Rep	Andy Perkins	107 Balmoral Way Worle Weston Super Mare BS22 9BZ	(0934) 417323	109

RAFLAA MEMBERSHIP AS OF 1/May/94

Entry	Surname	Name	Initials
66	Rennison	Jack	J.H.
67	Kime	Allan	A.
68	Ludlow	Vic	V.J.
68	Street	Michael	M.J.
69	Caple	George	G.F.J
69	Mitchelson	Mitch	M.
69	Montgomery	Brian	B.
69	Thompson	Rocky	R.J.
70	Ashcroft	Ian	I.
70	Hitchins	Derek	D.
71	Harn	David	D.E.
71	Hart	Chas	C.M.
71	Restall	David	D.G.
72	Brown	Colin	C.J.
72	Gooch	Bob	G.R.
72	Smith	John M	J.M.
73	Cuming	Ben	B.W.
73	Kent	Rod	R.M.
73	Lewis	C.L.	C.L.
73	Martin	John	J.
73	Oultram	Kevin	K.
73	Painter	Dave	D.
73	Wright	John	J.
74	Stewart	Grant	G.
74	Towhill	John	J.
75	Beedham	Alan	A.
75	Carpenter	Brian	B.
75	Gentry	Mike	M.D.
75	Platt	Peter	P.
75	Scofield	Len	L.W.W.
75	Smith	Derek	D.V
75	Young	David	D.
76	Armstrong	Vic	C.V.
76	Bonser	Barry	B.
76	Brind	Neville	N.
76	Castle	Neil	D.N.
76	Collier	Mike	M.C
76	Cornforth	Pete	P.
76	Davies	John	D.G.
76	Ellis	Eric	E
76	Farrington	Rex	R.C.
76	Forbes	Bill	B.
76	Gale	Brian	B.
76	Grant	Ron	R.
76	Harris	Ken	K.M.
76	Hay	'Wee' Bert	D.R.
76	Hibbett	Chris	C.J.
76	Home	Mike	M.J.
76	Horry	Tony	A.
76	Jessup	Jess	N.
76	Johnson	Brian	B.
76	Kay	Peter	P.H.
76	Kendall	Terry	T.
76	Morley	John	J.R.
76	Swain	Art	A.
76	Vicary	Bob	R.F.
78	Hardy	Les	L.
78	Innes	Donald	D.G.
78	Jamieson	Bob	C.V.
79	Aldridge	Brian	B.
79	Davies	Bert	A.E.
79	Graham	Bruce	B.S.
79	Hill	Ray	R.
79	Longstaff	Les	L.
79	Nalton	Bud	E.B.
79	White	Dave	D.G.
79	Woods	Pete	P.R.

Entry	Surname	Name	Initials
80	Hewitt	Robert	R.
81	Cheetham	Mike	M.J.
82	Dorey	Dennis	D.
82	Rosbottom	Paul	P.M.
83	Hollands	Dutch	D.W.G.
83	Horlock	Mike	M.
84	Armes	Chris	C.
84	Beard	Tony	A.J.
84	Cheeseman	Dick	R.
84	Mooney	Tony	T.
85	Barker	Michael	M.G.
85	Brooke	John	J.P.
85	Burns	Colin	C.
85	Fairchild	Bob	R.J.
85	Fell	Mick	M.J.
85	Girvan	Tom	T.
85	Harding	Roger	R.
85	Holroyd	Joe	J.
85	Littlejohns	Godfrey	G.A.
85	McLachlan	Alan	A.
85	Nanson		R.C.
85	O'Connell	Roy	R.
85	O'Keefe	John	J.M.
85	Price	Barry	B.
85	Sansom	Frank	F.
85	Scrivens	Taff	A.G.E.
85	Smith	Alex	A.
85	Sykes	Barry	B.
85	Tonepohl	Joe	J.
85	Wittamore	Mike	M.J.
86	Fisher	Dave	D.B.
86	Powell	Derek	D.
86	Reid	Doug	D.
87	Bryan	Chris	C.
87	Burkey	John	J.
87	Garratt	Brian	B.M.
87	Harvey	Dan	R.K.
87	Kühle	Tiny	H.
87	Locke	Colin	C.
87	Rush	Mike	J.M.
87	Scarlett	Will	K.
87	Trussler	Chas	J.D.
88	Chisholm	Chis	I.M.
88	Cross	John	J.
88	Ingram	Colin	C.W.
88	Thompson	Dave	D.
88	Watson	Michael	M.G.
88	Webster	Neil	G.N.
89	Bryant	Pete	A.P.
89	Dibben	Peter	P.
89	Hamiton-Irvine	Bill	W.D.
89	Harris	Mervyn	M.C.
89	Peddle	Clive	R.C.
90	Bell	Colin	C.
90	Cotton	Derick	W.F.
90	Grant	Neil	N.
90	Mills	Phil	J.P.M.
90	Mitchell	Mitch	T.
90	Standen	Jack	J.
90	Wharmby	Dick	R.J.
91	Barham	Eric	E.
91	Davis	Ian	I.
91	Elliott	Pete	P.J.B.
91	Hill	Mike	M.A.
91	Palmer	Martin	M.
91	Tanner	Roy	R.
91	Trueman	Dave	D.A.

Entry	Surname	Name	Initials
91	Tyler	Charles	C.
92	Buse	David	D.R.
92	Holland	Bob	R.
92	Kent	Colin	C.
92	Murray	Stan	S.
93	Boley	Pete	P.G.
93	Ellender	Barry	B.J.
93	Gibbon	Ian	R.M.
93	Krzyzanowski	Chiz	W.
93	MacPherson	Malcolm	M.
93	Stoves	Ron	R.
94	Austin	Rod	R.
94	Bates	John	J.J.
94	Clayton	Colin	C.
94	Davies	G.W Taff	G.W.
94	Edwards	Paul	P.G.
94	Holbrook	Graham	G.
94	Kirk	Dave	D.
94	Kitching	David	D.J.
94	Purdy	Pete	P.W.
94	Thomas	Al	A.J.
95	Cairns	John	J.
95	Crowe	Peter	P.
95	Fisher	John	J.P.
95	Higgins	Roland	R.
95	Ring	George	G.
95	Stoley	John	J.R.
95	Webster	Doug	D.A.
96	Allcock	Brian	B.
96	Branch	Stan	S.
96	Calvert	Dave	D.T.
96	Clark	Roger	R.W.
96	Collis	Dave	D.J.
96	Farrell	Brian	B.G.
96	Fullylove	Des	D.L.
96	Horner	Ric	E.
96	Hunter	Ian	I.
96	Hutchinson	Syd	S.
96	Kennett	Ron	R.
96	Marshall	Rod	R.J.
96	North	Harry	H.S.
96	O'Neill	Mike	M.
96	Robertson	Brian	B.
96	Rodgers	Trevor	T.
96	Rowland	Keith	K.
96	Scrivener	Dick	D.
96	Slingo	Guy	G.
96	Spain	Ron	R.A.
96	Turner	Malcolm	M.E.
96	Williams	Rod	R.G.
97	Cornford	Doug	D.
97	Shores	Gordon	G.
97	Sparshott	Martin	M.
98	Buttery	Doug	D.
98	Campbell	Jim	J.
98	Gray	Barry	B.
98	Palmer	Nick	N.R.
98	Rafferty	Mick	M.R.
99	Allen	Bob	R.P.
99	Armstrong	Bert	A.
99	Finlayson	Bob	R.A.
99	Hicks	Colin	C.
99	Jones	Bob	R.I.
99	Mullett	Terry	T.
99	West	Mike	M.A.
99	Williams	Ken	K.D.

Entry	Surname	Name	Initials
100	Dennett	Tony	A.
100	Gerken	Tom	T.
100	Jardine	'JJ'	J.
100	Reed	Ted	E.
100	Rees	David	D.
100	Regan	Ron	R.
100	Waller	C.J.N.	C.J.N.
100	Weston	Ken	K.J.
101	Heat	Ginge	M.A.R.
101	Thieme	Mick	M.D.
102	Darbyshire	Alan	A.
102	Every	Douglas	D.
102	Gambrell	Gordon	G.
102	Guy	Paul	P.R.
102	Hockley	Tim	T.G.
102	Miles	Pierre	P.
102	Price	Glyn	D.G.
102	Sanders	Mike	M.F.
102	Walker	Bill	B.
102	Weller	Derek	D.
103	Cain	Bruce	B.
103	Cann	John	J.
103	Chappell	Dave	D.
103	Kehoe	Dec	D.
103	Lines	'Plynt'	R.
103	Mayes	David	D.
103	Rees	Ron	R.J.
103	Scanlon	Bob	R.
104	Harry	Peter	P.
104	Kerr	Vince	V.
104	Oliver	Pete (Paddy)	P.I.
104	Strange	Mike	M.J.
104	Sutherland	John	J.
104	Toomer	John	J.
104	Ziegler	Nick	N.
105	Iddenden	Peter	P.
105	Pounds	Ted	E.W.
105	Reynaert	Trevor	T.
105	Russell	Chris	C.H.
107	Fryatt	John	P.J.C.
107	Jones	Graham	G.S.
107	Paterson	Graham	G.
108	Humphrey	Phil	P.
109	Perkins	Andy	A.
115	Mowat	Ian	I.
203	De Naeyer	J.	J.
207	Charlton	Jack	J.
207	O'Donnell	Mick	M.
208	Blackburn	Stewart	S.
208	Johnson	Simon	S.
212	Amos	Robin	R.
212	Hall	John	J.
213	Jones	Steve	S.A.
213	Steele	Pete	P.
214	Normile	John	J.
216	Gilbert	Boris	B.
216	Parker	Jeff	J.
218	Webber	Richard	R.J.
219	Cox	Barry	B.W.
219	Ferris	Dave	D.A.
221	Snape	Pete	P.J.
223	Leaper	John	J.
224	Doonan	Pete	P.L.
224	Guy	Roger	R.B.
226	Rodgers	John	J.S.C.
226	Shaw	Keith	K.W.
406	Foster	Neil	N.