



# NEWS LETTER

Ser 8 May 95

## INTRODUCTION

This News Letter will be rather shorter than the last one since it is essential to get it out to you by mid-May and in time for the AGM on 17 June. As last year, its production had to await the April Committee Meeting decisions before completion.

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 and we are also pleased that Gp Capt Ian Sloss, Station Commander of RAF Locking, will be attending to receive the RAF Locking Apprentice Trophy. Ian, is of course, also 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. Wives are welcome to attend the AGM and Reunion so don't leave them at home wondering what you are getting up to. Please remember that you will be charged the £2-00 admission fee to enter RAF Locking on the 17 June, this being the entry fee to the Flowerdown Fair which you will be enjoying in the afternoon. As usual, an excellent air display has been assembled and there will be something for everyone around the Arena area.

We shall issue only an update of the membership with this issue; therefore, if any member wishes to have a full list or wants to contact another member whose address is unknown then please drop the Secretary a line. We will forward on letters to the persons concerned.

We again include our standing order proforma to make subscription payment less painful and will continue to include it in all future Newsletters. Please remember that the current subscription for renewal is £7-50 and will remain at this level for a considerable time even if the AGM decides to up it or even reduce it. Also, it is essential that when you have completed it you send it back to the Treasurer so that he will know that your subscription is to be paid by the bank. He will take the necessary action to inform your branch manager of your instruction.

Finally, our thanks to the members who have put pen to paper and have produced copy which will be included in future Newsletters. It is always good to hear from you especially when you want something included. Lots more please especially ideas for extending and empowering the Association.

## SAD DEATH OF IAIN TEDFORD (96TH)

It is with regret that we record the untimely death of Iain Tedford (96th) on 5th Mar 95. Iain whose full name was Iain John Hayman Tedford attended last year's 96th reunion and looked forward to attending the AGM this year at Locking. He was cremated on the 13 March at Mason Hill in Ayr close to where he lived. On behalf of you all, the Association provided a wreath. Iain is survived by his wife Margaret and 3 children from a former marriage.

## TENTH COMMITTEE MEETING

The tenth Committee Meeting was held on the 11th of April and some of the more important items discussed are outlined below.

Foremost, was the publication of our annual Balance Sheet which you will find with the AGM agenda. It was decided early on, when the Constitution was finalised, that the Association's financial year would end on 31 January. The Balance Sheet is therefore for the period 1 February 1994 to 31 January 1995 and is easily understood because our affairs are relatively simple and can be compared to last year's figures that we have printed alongside. We have had the figures formally scrutinised by an outside auditor and the RAFLAA is indebted to the Non-public audit board at RAF Locking for the service.

Also discussed was the presentation of the RAF Locking Apprentice Association Trophy which is just receiving its finishing touches. Members will be able to admire the workmanship of the trophy since it will be on display before the AGM.

So far we have not received any proposals from the membership to put to the AGM but there is still sufficient time to raise them if you act immediately.

The Committee will be proposing the rules for Associates that we promised to formulate last year and which will be included in the Constitution.

In our discussions on the AGM it was decided to up the subsidy this year since it is evident that funds will allow it. Also we are hoping to extend the opportunity started last year of viewing some of the training developments including the Museum in 2(T) Block. We are also still trying to liberate some archived apprentice recruiting film for display.

We are still supportive of the idea of holding a regional social event. Provided that there is sufficient interest and someone keen enough to take charge of the arrangements, the Committee agreed to fund the hire of a suitable location thereby offsetting the cost of a function. If there anyone who would like to investigate this possibility we would be pleased to hear from you.

#### **AGM PROGRAMME**

The programme for the AGM weekend is included with the Newsletter along with the customary application for Dinner Dance tickets. Please bring with you the pass printed with the programme; it will ease your entry through the barrier allowing access to

3(T) Block which is not open to the general public. Security measures are still in operation on the Station although the profile is at a considerably lower state than formerly.

Nevertheless, members should still be aware of the requirements.

#### **WELLESBOURNE WARTIME MUSEUM**

The following article is from Derek Powell (86th) who has produced a few lines seeking help with an interesting project with which he is associated. He is a member of the Wellesbourne Aviation Group and writes:

"For several years now much of my spare time has been spent helping to run a small voluntary aviation museum located on the old wartime bomber base at Wellesbourne Mountford in Warwickshire. Two years ago we noticed that airborne electronics was an area almost totally ignored by the majority of museums throughout the Country. To try, in a small way, to put this to rights, we created a display of mainly WWII electronic equipment. (The fact that I

was an ARF'B may also have influenced this decision)."

"We were pleased indeed when the display generated a good deal of interest and favourable comment from our visitors. Moreover, several people returned lugging a varied assortment of airborne electronic kit retrieved from basements, attics and garages. (No questions asked)."

"Spurred by this interest, we have decided to go the whole hog and assemble a representative collection of airborne electronic hardware. Complementary to the hardware collection we hope to build up with help a library of technical information. The less durable notebooks and APs etc are often the first casualty of poor storage and periodic cupboard blitzes by the wife. In addition, we will also need to build up a stock of odds and sods to repair items which are showing the effects of time (sounds familiar). Components, valves (remember those?), nuts and bolts especially BA sizes are among the many items needed to do the job properly."

"If anyone thinks they may be able to help, I will be very pleased to hear from you." Derek's address is:

167 Colebourne Road  
Kings Heath  
Birmingham B13 0HB Telephone 0121  
777 3518

and he would be very pleased to hear from you even if its only to request a pamphlet on the group.

#### **THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM**

The Association has been asked again 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 artifacts 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:

Fairford	22/23 July
Biggin Hill	10/11 June
RAF Cosford	18 June
RAF Halton	18 June
RAF St Athan	24 June
RNAS Yeovilton	15 July
RAF St Mawgan	2 August
RAF Leucahrs	16 September

## PLACES TO STAY IN WESTON-SUPER-MARE

We have had a few enquiries on where to stay in Weston so again here is some information on hotels and places where you may find accommodation.

Firstly the Tourist Information Office address is:

Beach Lawns, Weston-super-Mare.  
Telephone (01934) 626838.

It is situated close to the Grand Pier and they are an extremely helpful office who 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 (01934) 626543 but the Royal Pier, AA 3 Star, Birbeck Road, has the better views.

Good accommodation is available at:

The Dorville, RAC 2 Star,  
Madeira Road, Tel (01934) 621139.

The Rozel, AA 2 Star,  
Madeira Cove, Tel (01934) 415268.

The Royal in the Town Centre, AA 2 Star,  
Tel (01934) 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 (01934) 626153

Midland Hotel Tel (01934) 621217  
Monaco Hotel Tel (01934) 621910  
The Old Colonial Tel (01934) 620739

## GOODBYE TO BEN CUMING

Ben Cuming (73rd), the AA Representative on our Committee, has with reluctance had to resign because of family commitments and so leaves a gap in our number which, hopefully, we will be able to fill when someone volunteers at the AGM. Ben was a most enthusiastic committee member who, despite living in the York area, always managed his business affairs so that he could attend meetings at Locking. He will certainly be missed and Joe our Chairman and the rest of the Committee wish to record their thanks publicly for his sage contribution and good humour in our lengthy discussions on the formation of the Association.

## LOCKING'S CLOSURE ANNOUNCED

The long awaited official announcement of Locking's closure as an RAF Station appeared last month. As expected the Station will cease to exist from April 1988 and No 1 Radio School will move to RAF Cosford which has become the centre for engineering training in the RAF, administrative training being located at RAF Halton. Sadly, the title No 1 Radio School will come to an end as the school will be subsumed into No 2 School of Technical Training.

The Station therefore runs for a further 3 years which means that in total, RAF Locking will have been operational for just 59 years; however, the building of the Station took place during the latter half of 1938 so all in all it will have achieved a round 60 years. Interest is now centred on what the camp's disposal will be; holiday camp, open prison or perhaps an army barracks. Currently, its conversion to a holiday centre is being actively studied. We await the decision with interest.

## A NICE EVENING OUT

They were crossing hallowed ground, - the Wing cricket wicket in the centre of the sports arena. It was fenced off of course, but only with a token piece of tape supported at irregular intervals by thin white posts. They were well aware that they should not be there, but it was the shortest way from the guardroom to their hut at the far end of the arena and since it was darker there than around the road bordering the sports field where street lamps cast their cones of pale light they had decided that it was worth the risk, - and what could go wrong now?

They were in buoyant mood, helped considerably by a fair number of pints of Bitter. They hadn't been caught by any permanent staff in the pub, and had managed to re-enter the camp unchallenged. It was well after 'lights out' with the huts in darkness. All in all a good evening out.

Over to the left someone was coming up 'Cardiac Rise' - the road from No. 2 Tech. block that runs past the parade square, the sports field they were now standing on, and eventually to the guardroom they had just negotiated.

Whoever it was, was pushing a bicycle. The thin beam from the front lamp swept erratically across the misty night air as the person breasted the rise and rested.

"Keep still!". hissed Eric out the side of his mouth. "He can't see us".

The question was, *who* was it? Permanent staff - definitely, it was too late for Apps, but if a Corporal PTI or even a 'Discip.' they might be OK.

The bike pusher moved to the edge of the road paused, and peered into the gloom at the centre of the arena. Could he see something out there?

He was unsure and decided to walk down the road toward the Apprentice huts where he might see

"Run for it!". shouted Barry and took off.

'Shit!' thought Eric, 'this is no way to end a perfect evening', and set of in close pursuit.

They cleared the tape about the same time Snowdrop realised his authority was about to be disregarded and this was going to be no easy 'collar'.

Surprised, the Snoop missed his pedal in his haste lost valuable seconds getting on the bike.

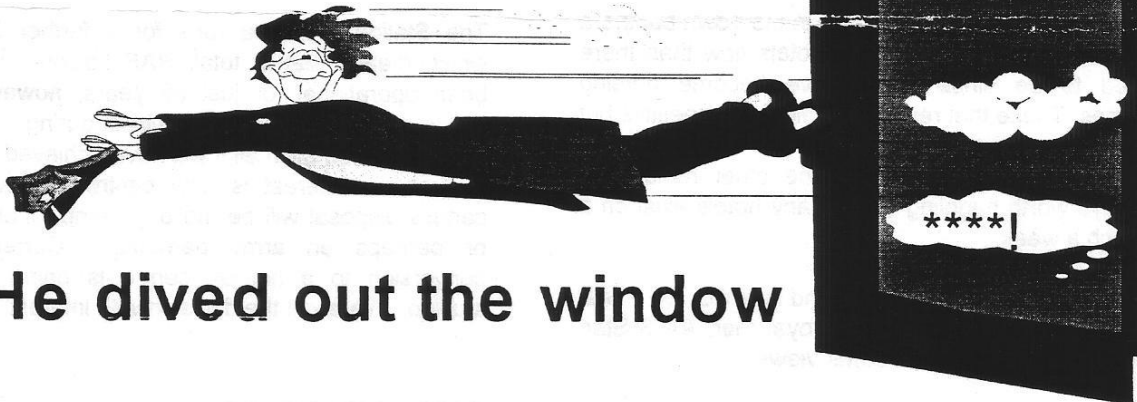
Barry and Eric were doing well but the greatcoats didn't help and they dare not drop their bull-hats. It would be a close run thing!

Snowdrop was pedalling like hell now - just rounding 'Cookhouse Corner' and menacingly close.

They reached the entrance of the corridor from which all the huts were connected just as Snowdrop leapt from his bike at the end of the path.

Their hut (and 'home') was the first on the right and beyond the 'bogs'.

Barry grabbed at the wall and managed to swing round the corner into the toilet area, but behind him Eric, at full speed with bull-boots on and Barr, blocking the way stood no chance. He hurtled past,



## He dived out the window

more clearly, and in doing so passed beneath a street lamp.

Now there was no doubt who it was, the white cap confirmed their worst fears. It was The Flt.Sgt. 'Snowdrop'. The biggest trouble they could have thought of!

They stood their ground, swaying slightly under the influence of wind and beer.

Snowdrop stopped again, leaned on his bike and stared hard in their direction.

"Come 'ere you two". he bellowed. His voice cutting across the night air.

Barry looked at the distance to the hut entrance - about the same for Snowdrop, but he had a bike. Still, they had greatcoats bull-hats bull-boots and beer!

only able to take the next available right turn as Snowdrop entered the corridor.

The snoop had missed Barry's flying right turn and only saw Eric's exit some yards ahead of him. This bastard wasn't going to get away!

Snowdrop careered past Barry's temporary refuge and Barry seized his chance to slip out of the ablutions, round the corner and into his billet. He charged through the door ran to his bed and dived under the covers - complete with greatcoat and bull-boots!

The remainder of the billet, aroused from various states of slumber wanted to know 'What the bloody hell was going on!'

"Shut up and stay quiet"! called Barry from beneath his bedding "The snoops are after us!"

Everyone lapsed into mystified silence listening to the pounding of boots in a nearby billet.

This was Eric with the snoop in close pursuit. In fact as close as the length of the darkened hut Eric had chosen in desperation to seek refuge in, for, as he reached the end of the open section of the billet Snowdrop appeared at the door only 30 or 40 yards behind.

At the end of each billet behind an internal door and on opposite sides were a store room and a room normally allocated to unmarried permanent staff corporals or Apprentice NCO's.

Eric paused between the doors, - he had a 50-50 chance of a store room. He burst through the door into the darkened room. Tuff luck it was Cpl. PTI Bloggs's bunk! The corporal woke up with a start.

Eric threw open the window and dived out to lie winded on the grass below.

Cpl. Bloggs who was, by this time gathering his wits and not a little indignation, had got out of bed, when Snowdrop came hurtling through the door wrestling him to the floor.

"Gotchya!" yelled Snowdrop triumphantly.

"What the f\*\*\*'s going on!" challenged Cpl. Bloggs

and hit out!

Eric picked himself up and made off, not wanting to remain around to listen to the punch-up taking place. He ran round the end of the billets eventually entering his from the outer end between bunk and store room and like Barry leapt into bed with all his gear on.

There were hushed exchanges in the hut with everyone wanting to know what was going on and what they had done for by now all were wide awake. This was all cut short by the sound of footsteps approaching the billet.

The door opened. Heavy breathing was stifled.

Snowdrop stalked the length of the hut looking at each bed in turn. No one stirred.

He turned on his heel and strutted from the hut. Sounds of muffled laughter followed him down the corridor, but he couldn't be sure which hut they came from. Still, never mind there would be other days.

Eric stripped off his clothes and lay back in bed smiling. - It hadn't been a bad evening out after all!

This tale is true and although I have taken a writers licence in embellishments it did take place, and at a time when Apprentices were NOT allowed civilian clothes, alcohol, or to be off camp Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays.

The characters may be recognisable to persons living or drunk and I hope they will forgive me for relating their tale. Maybe it will galvanise others to relate first hand some of what must be a wealth of stories from apprentice days at RAF Locking.

'Cas' January 1995.

### New Members as of 26-Apr-95

ENTRY	SURNAME	INITIALS
71	Armitage	B.
75	Fowler	A.
76	Cole	R.
76	Dawson	M.J.
76	Parsons	R.T.
76	Rennolds	K.
78	Hibbin	D.
x 82	Pritchard	B.
90	Gunn	J.
91	Evison	J.

ENTRY	SURNAME	INITIALS
92	Lewis	C.
93	Beer	G.
97	Peachey	A.
98	Thirlwell	C.
100	Prior	A.S.
101	Doye	C.C.
103	Bate	L.C.
104	Elkin	A.F.G.
201	Jerry	D.
210	Meachem	I.L.