



ROYAL AIR FORCE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

www.rafregt.org.uk

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

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**ONLY ONEMORE
NEWSLETTER THEN
THERE WILL BE NO
MORE**



The Best of the Best

**The Best Fighters in the RAF
Operate on the Ground**

**The Royal Air Force Regiment.
Ground-based specialists,
protecting RAF assets from
enemy attack.**

**NO ONE HAS COME FORWARD TO SUCCEED
ME SO JANUARY'S NEWSLETTER WILL BE
MY LAST ONE AS IN FEBRUARY, I RETIRE AS
YOUR BRANCH SECRETARY.**

**THEN THERE WILL BE NO MORE
NEWSLETTERS UNLESS SOMEONE COMES
FORWARD AT THIS LATE STAGE,
THEREFORE POSSIBLY THER WILL BE NO
MORE BRANCH**

**NEWSLETTER NO: 258
DECEMBER 2010**

THE BIRMINGHAM BRANCH NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 258 DECEMBER 2010

Dear Readers.

At this time of the year when Christmas is almost upon us, we look forward to the festive season when we will gather together with family and friends to celebrate Christmas. Valerie and I wish everyone, members and their families – and all my readers who are not members – a wonderful, joyful and merry Christmas, and a happy and prosperous New Year. May the coming year bring peace to the world. May all your dreams come true and may good health and happiness be yours.

As we do on every Christmas Eve at 9.00 p.m., Valerie and I will raise a glass and drink a toast to “Absent Friends”. This includes each and every one of you for you’ll all be in our thoughts, particularly those who have lost someone this year. Christmas will be a very sad time for them for their loved ones will be sadly missed and will never be forgotten. Words cannot heal their pain but we hope that time will help to heal their loss.

My Retirement as Your Secretary

This is my penultimate newsletter as January’s newsletter will be my last. It will be a sad moment for me when I do compose my last newsletter, but no one should be indispensable and we can always hope that at this very last moment, someone will come forward to carry the Branch on.

From next February, would those members wishing to write to the branch, please address all financial enquiries to **the Branch Treasurer Tom Magee**, for all other correspondence please address them to **the Branch Chairman Ron Sharp**.

Goodies for our Injured Boys

In the same way, it is most important that we remember the dangers that our young men and women serving on operations are all facing, so please remember the appeal your Branch Committee have set up so please send any donations you may wish to make, to the Branch Treasurer Tom Magee and he will pass them on to the right place. With your help, we can continue to provide these small comforts and any other items that members of the military staff ask us for.

We can never get enough goodies for the lads, so in the mean time, your continued support is appreciated. If any of you would like to contribute items or cash directly for this appeal, you must contact Major Ian Cheesman, Officer I/C Patient Support Services, or post them to him at RCDM, Selly Oak Hospital, Raddlebarn Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6JD. If cash, please make your cheques out to RCDM – Patient Welfare Fund.

Airman killed in Cyprus boating incident

Senior Aircraftman Scott Hughes, 20, from Y Felinheli, Gwynedd, was swimming in the sea after six months in Afghanistan when the incident happened. He died after being hit by a power boat operated by the Military Training Wing at the Cyprus Sovereign Base Area.

On Tuesday 16th November, the body of the Gunner from 1 Squadron Royal Air Force Regiment was flown into RAF Lyneham, Wiltshire, where a private ceremony with his close family took place before his coffin was driven through nearby Wootton Bassett.

The cortege passed through Wootton Bassett, where it has become tradition for hundreds of people to gather in silence as each fallen serviceman is repatriated. His parents Emma and Michael and younger brother Adam placed white roses on top of the hearse as it paused for a two-minute silence.

SAC Hughes, who joined the RAF in January 2009, was named top student on a Squadron Mortar Cadre in November 2009. In Afghanistan, he was employed as top cover (machine gunner) on the lead patrol vehicle as well as a signaler on the medical emergency response team helicopter where he helped in the evacuation of casualties.

In a statement, SAC Hughes' family said: "Our beautiful, brave, fun-loving son has been cruelly taken away from us, but we know that Scott fulfilled his dreams by serving his regiment and his country. Words cannot express the loss we as a family are feeling at this time and a huge

void will be in our lives without Scott forever more."

Describing the death as a "tragedy", Squadron Leader David Crook, Officer Commanding 1 Squadron Royal Air Force Regiment, said: "Scott was an extremely professional and brave young man, who spent his last six months risking his life to protect and save others. Scott was fiercely proud of his regiment and we are fiercely proud of him. He will be deeply missed and never forgotten."

DEATH OF MEMBER

DUKES RICHARD. I regret to inform you of the death of Richard Dukes of Cannock Staffordshire, who passed away on 18th November. Richard enlisted in 1957 and after his Basic Training at RAF Bridgnorth and his Regiment Training at RAF Catterick, he was posted to 27 LAA Squadron at RAF Akrotiri, Cyprus where he served until 1961. He was then posted to 37 LAA Squadron at RAF Sealand in the UK and later that same year to 16 Squadron at RAF Upwood, where he served until his discharge as a SAC in 1962.

His funeral was held on 1st December at St James Church, Norton Canes, Cannock. Family flowers only were requested but donations can be made to St Giles Hospice, Whittington, Lichfield. He leaves his wife Diane, a daughter and three grandchildren, to whom we extend our sincere condolences.

BRANCH BIRTHDAYS

A very Happy Birthday to the following Birmingham Branch members whose birthdays are this month, may you all have many more.

5th December **Albert Clarke** Newcastle under Lyme Staffordshire

10th December **Cyril Turner** Walsall West Mids

11th December **Colin Smith** Warwick Wkshire

15th December **John Bowen** Totten Hampshire

17th Dec **Rod Hancock** Burton on Trent Staffs

25th December **Peter Cole** Shifnal Shropshire

Our adopted ATC Squadron has been doing well again as the following information from their CO indicates.

From Flt Lt E D Hemes Officer Commanding 492 (Solihull) Squadron ATC

492 (Solihull) Squadron Air Cadets raised over £700 for the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association (BLESMA) by pulling a 3 tonne RAF VC10. They competed against RAF

and Police teams of 20 from across the country at RAF Brize Norton. The event was the 3rd annual Birmingham Airport Police Charity Day with a target of £20,000 towards a skiing trip for military amputees, helping with their physio rehab and also rebuilding their confidence. Flt Lt Elliot Hemes said:

"It was a bit of a shock when we arrived and were told the 34 tonne C-130 was unavailable! The team really had to put in an awesome effort just to get the VC10 moving. I was extremely proud of them. We all had a superb day competed against about 19 other teams and came 3rd from last, beating one adult team and the only other cadet team in attendance (Cosford Sqn). Our time was 46 seconds to pull approx 70metres. The winning team did it in 37 seconds. We had 5 staff and 15 cadets in our team. We are planning to hit the training hard next year and do much better next year".

NEWS OF THE RAF REGIMENT

Battle trucks arrive at RAF Leuchars

The Panther command and support vehicle

New combat vehicles that will soon be on the front line in Afghanistan have rolled into RAF Leuchars. 58 Squadron RAF Regiment and 603 (City of Edinburgh) Royal Auxiliary Air Force Squadron, are to deploy to Camp Bastion in the spring.

As training continues, 58 Squadron has been equipped with the Mastiff Two, a heavily-armoured 6x6-wheel drive patrol vehicle, the air transportable and armoured Panther command and liaison vehicle, the Jackal high-mobility weapons platform and the Vixen land rover. All have been specially configured for operations in Afghanistan. The officer commanding 6 FP Wing, Wing Commander Dave Tait, said the vehicles would provide a much sought-after capability in terms of mobility and protection. He added:

"The vehicles are well suited to the challenging terrain and the threat that we will be facing from improvised explosive devices. They will also play a pivotal role in enabling us to carry out our mission, which is to provide integrated force protection in support of the critical air operations in Afghanistan. The men of 58 Squadron RAF Regiment will be working alongside colleagues from the United States Marine Corps in the area surrounding Camp Bastion, which will also include interacting with

the people in the local settlements. In parallel, the staff from No 6 Force Protection Wing Headquarters will be co-ordinating the complex overall force protection effort at the large base. We are now heavily immersed in our pre-deployment training and every man is completely focused on the challenges that lie ahead."

RAF Leuchars station commander Air Commodore Harry Atkinson said he was proud of the contribution Leuchars personnel were making at home and abroad.

"No 6 Force Protection Wing and 58 Squadron RAF Regiment are receiving all possible support as they prepare to deploy in the coming months. The units will fulfil a critical role in supporting UK defence operations in Afghanistan by enabling the air operations which represent a real advantage over the Taliban. The resilience and commitment of the RAF Leuchars personnel in delivering their missions, whether quick reaction alert operations to secure UK airspace or operations abroad, continues to be first-rate."

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM (NMA) UPDATE

An article in The Sunday Telegraph on 12th November 2010 by Prince William on the appeal for the National Memorial Arboretum.

Somebody once said that heroes have the whole earth for their tomb. This country, perhaps more than any other, knows the wisdom of these words. On war memorials up and down the land, on church walls and in school assembly rooms, we are reminded every day that men and women from the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth have laid down their lives for freedom and the values on which our society is based. The sacrifice they made – and continue to make – must never, ever be forgotten.

The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, which commemorates our fallen from all military campaigns and operations since the Second World War, along with the Cenotaph in London, ensures that this country will never forget. The supremely beautiful and tranquil surroundings at the NMA allow you to contemplate what each of those names inscribed upon its walls actually means. A life. A family. Duty and steadfastness. Sacrifice.

To reflect on these fundamentals at this time of year is particularly poignant and appropriate. Today, all over the world, British people and the Nations of the Commonwealth will be coming together to remember loved ones, friends, even strangers. We read sometimes about our Nation not being a united society, and that its old values have been forgotten. When I see the extraordinary response on this day, every instinct tells me that this is not true. Even after death, those who have paid the supreme sacrifice still serve us all by uniting us in a common realisation that, through their example, an overriding sense of duty and a willingness to defend freedom at any cost are the values which really count, the finer traits of humanity to which we should all aspire.

The country is as fervent in its support for our Armed Forces, and the sacrifices that they make, today as it has ever been. The national awareness of what young men and women are doing for us in the most extreme and hostile environments imaginable is striking and moving.

I find this remarkable and, frankly, humbling – particularly when one considers that, despite the level of sacrifice being made by individuals today, far fewer of us are likely to know someone in uniform than, say, was the case in our grandparents' day.

Nowadays, for the majority of families up and down Britain, the full impact of what it means to be at war is seen at several degrees removed. To me, I think, this makes the response of the British people even more remarkable.

In June 2008, I helped launch an appeal to improve and enlarge the visitors' facilities at the National Memorial Arboretum; so that this awakened awareness can have a focal point. The new buildings will include an education centre to allow many more school children to visit every year, and a new space where large-scale services of Remembrance can be held.

Major General Cordingley, the Chairman of the Appeal, described its purpose so simply and so well when he said that we must better honour our heroes and all that they stand for. The Appeal will ensure that we do this to the highest standards – the very least that our Servicemen and women deserve. We all know that we could not be as we are, collectively and individually, without their selfless duty.

I have no doubt that, with your support, the Appeal will succeed. And with the success of

the Appeal, our nation will have an invaluable site dedicated to remembering our fallen and wounded. I ask unreservedly for your support.

Armistice Day, 11th November 2010

The National Memorial Arboretum hosted a Service of Remembrance within the walls of the striking Armed Forces Memorial. HRH the Duke of Gloucester lead the congregation which included senior representatives of Her Majesty's Armed Forces and Government.

The Armed Forces Memorial is designed so that at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, when a two minute silence is called in Remembrance of the cessation of First World War hostilities, a shaft of sunlight dissects its inner and outer walls, hitting the central bronze wreath sculpture.

Despite inclement weather for much of the day, the sun burnt through the clouds just in time for the two minute silence, allowing the shaft of light to stream through - a wonderful and incredibly moving moment for all present.

The Remembrance Service included music from the band of HM Royal Marines and Lichfield Cathedral Chamber Voice Choir.

Also in attendance were Admiral Sir John Dunt KCB, Chairman of the Armed Forces Memorial Trustees; Mr Nick Harvey, Minister of State for the Armed Forces; Colonel John Barkshire CBE TD JP DL, Chairman of Trustees of the National Memorial Arboretum and Right Reverend Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Manchester & Chaplain to The Royal British Legion.

After the service there was a Parade and March Past, with HRH taking the salute.

RAF Regiment Books

I am often asked for information about books about the RAF Regiment. The following list is of the books that I know of that I am regularly adding to. If anyone knows of any other books about the RAF Regiment, please let me know. All the books are listed by their date of publication.

Books about the RAF Regiment

"Khaki and Blue" the early ground defence of the RAF in WW2 by Colonel Ronald Sherbrooke-Walker TD DL. Published in **1952** by The Saint Catherine Press Ltd. Now out of print. No ISBN.

"A Brief History of the RAF Regiment 1942-1960" by Air Vice Marshall J. H. Harris, C.B.,

CBE. Published in **1960**. Now out of print. No ISBN.

"A Short History of the RAF Regiment" from 1942 to 1970 with a brief account of the approach to the problems of airfield defence in the RAF from 1918 to 1942 by Kingsley M Oliver. Printed by Thanet Printing Works in **1969**. No ISBN Number and now out of print.

"The Royal Air Force Regiment – A Short History". A 40th Anniversary edition. An updated short history of the RAF Regiment from 1942 to 1982 with a brief account of the approach to the problems of airfield defence in the Royal Air Force from 1918 until the formation of its own defence Corps in 1942. By Group Captain Kingsley Oliver and Wing Commander Keith Batt. Published in **1982** by Adlard and Son Ltd, Bartholomew Press, Dorking, Surrey. No ISBN Number and now out of print.

"No Tigers in our Jungle" about life in the RAF Regiment in South-East Asia Command 1943/45. By ex-Flight Lieutenant Harry Homer. Service number 127613. Published in **1982** ISBN 84 398 8656 X.

"The Edges of War" An RAF Regiment Story by Tim Hillyar. About 2804 Armoured Car Squadron, from landing in France at the end of June 1944, through the fighting in Europe to the British Victory Parade in Berlin on 21st July 1945. Privately published in **1992** by Tim Hillyar. In 1996, he lived at 36, Trefor Jones Court, Brookfield Avenue, Dover, Kent, CT16 2QP.

"The Blue and Khaki Hunters" Privately published in a Limited Edition of 500 copies in **1993** by D F Sampson through Newton Publishers. ISBN 1-872308-34-1. Can be obtained directly from Mr D F Sampson, 17 Shelley Close, Highcliffe on Sea, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 4HW. Telephone number 01425 279206.

"Below the Bottom Rung" the RAF Regiment in Palestine by Edward Grocott. Published in **1996** by J and K H Publishing. ISBN 1 900511 57 6.

"Through Adversity" the History of the RAF Regiment 1942 - 1992 by Kingsley M Oliver. Published in **1997** by Forces and Corporate Publishing Ltd. ISBN 0 9529597 0 4.

"In Adversity" Exploits of Gallantry and Awards to the RAF Regiment and its Associated Forces 1921 - 12995 by Nicholas G Tucker. Published in **1997** by Jade Publishing Limited. ISBN 1-900734-08-7.

With British Snipers to the Reich” by Captain Clifford Shore, first published in **1997** by Greenhill Books, London and Stackpole Books, Pennsylvania, USA. ISBN 1-85367-292-0. As a Flying Officer with 2834 AA Squadron, RAF Regiment, after landing in Normandy on 7th June, Clifford Shore served through France and Germany during World War Two.

"The RAF Regiment" History, Colours, uniforms and Equipment of the RAF Regiment. Edited by Stuart Asquith. Published in **2000** by Nexus Special Interests Ltd. Book Number 001772. Foreword by Air Commodore R C Moore, MBE, RAF, Commandant General, RAF Regiment. But now out of print.

"The RAF Regiment at War" 1942 - 1946 by Kingsley M Oliver. Published in **2002** by Pen and Sword Books Limited. ISBN 0-85052-852-6.

"On the Road to Mandalay" featuring the life of the author Randle Manwaring focussing particularly on his time with the RAF Regiment in the Burma Campaign. Published in **2006** by Pen and Sword Books Limited. ISBN 1844154971.

"Constant Vigilance" the RAF Regiment in the Burma Campaign by Nigel W M Warwick. Published in **2007** by Pen and Sword Books Limited. ISBN: 9781844155002.

"Gunner's Tales, Warts and All" by Ron Taylor. This is a collection of stories, myths and legends from the RAF Regiment. A cartoon book similar to the Giles cartoon books only all Regiment cartoons.

A Limited Edition book privately published in **2009** at £10.00. Copies can be obtained from Mr. R Taylor, 710A Hern Road, Pondersbridge, Ramsay St Mary's, PE26 2TL. Ron can also be contacted on 01733 844817.

Books containing references to the RAF Regiment

"The Lost Lady" all about the American Bomber "Lady Be Good". No publication date available. By Mario Martinez. Published by Leo Cooper at £19.95. Mentions 2926 Squadron RAF Regiment. **"Flugplatz Gutersloh"**. A Short History 1937/87 with references to the RAF Regiment. Published in **1987**. By Gerry Lewis. Published **1987**.

"The Battle of the Airfields 1st January 1945" by Norman L Franks. About "Operation Bodenplatte" when the Germans attempted to destroy the advanced Allied Airfields. First published in **1982**. ISBN 1 898697 15 9.

Republished by Grub Street in **1994** in an updated version.

"Britain's Modern Royal Air Force" which contains a complete chapter on the RAF Regiment. Published in **1994**. By Peter F Guiver. ISBN 1 85260 4328.

"The Autobiography" by Brian Clough. Mentions his service at RAF Watchet. Published in **1995**. ISBN 1 85225 198 0.

"The Royal Air Force" an Illustrated History by Michael Armitage. Published by Brockhampton Press in **1995**. ISBN 1 86019 8511. Contains several references to the RAF Regiment.

"Esprit de Corps" by Walter Archibald Elliott. A Scots Guards Officer on Active Service 1943 - 1945. Published in **1997**. In Chapter 7 it's about the Transfer of RAF Regiment Personnel to the Scots Guards. ISBN 085955 220 9.

"Sunset in the East" by John Hudson published by Leo Cooper in **2002**. ISBN 0 85052 846 1. It briefly mentions The RAF Regiment on page 43. Its main interest is the fact that to maintain order and to control the nationalist in Java, the author employed captured Japanese army personnel.

It also gives a lot of detail about the war in Burma.

"Joint Force Harrier" by Commander Adrian Orchard, with James Barrington. The true story of a Royal Navy Fighter squadron at war. Published in **2008** by Penguin Books and Micael Joseph. ISBN 9780718153991.

"One of the Few" by Johnny Kent. Mentions the RAF Regiment on page 184. Published in June **2008** by History Press, ISBN Number 0752446037.

Johnny Kent became the youngest licensed pilot in Canada at the age of 17. He grabbed experience and flying hours wherever and whenever he could and was constantly on the lookout for a career in flying.

His chance came when he was offered a short service commission with the RAF in the 1930s. He went on to become the leader of one of the most successful fighter squadrons in the Second World War.

Group Captain Johnny Kent's skilful leadership helped the famous 303 Squadron to play a decisive part in the Battle of Britain, and won him the highest Polish military award, the Virtuti Militari.

This is Group Captain Kent's own story of his life in the RAF, from his struggles as a boy in the wilds of Canada to get into the air through his experiences as a test pilot at Farnborough and his constant efforts to fly wherever the action was.



FROM THE RAF REGIMENT SECRETARY

DEATH NOTICES:

SAC SCOTT HUGHES. SAC Scott Hughes of 1 Sqn RAF Regt was very seriously injured in a water sports-related accident while undergoing unit 'decompression' in Cyprus, following its operational tour at Camp Bastion in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Sadly, he later died of his injuries on Sun 7 Nov 10. He was 20 years old. The Repatriation to RAF Lyneham took place on Tue 16 Nov 10, and the Military Funeral was held at 13.30 on Fri 19 Nov 10 in St Mary's Church, Y Felinheli, Gwynedd, LL56 4NJ, followed by the burial at Llanfairisgaer Cemetery, LL55 1UE. 1 Sqn RAF Regt provided the Bearer Party while 26 Sqn RAF Regt provided the Firing Party.

The National Standard of the RAF Regt Assoc was also paraded. Family flowers only were requested and the family has also requested that any donations be sent to 'Service Funds RAF Honington' with a covering note explaining it is in memory of SAC Hughes. A decision will then be taken as to which charitable organization benefits from the donations.

BURNELL HARRY. Former RAF Regt Gnr Harry Burnell, born 28 Jul 20, died on 12 Oct 10 aged 90. enlisted in the RAFVR on 5 Jul 40 and completed his basic training at RAF Wilmslow before being posted to RAF Wattisham, where he became a Ground Gunner, and was detached to the satellite RAF unit at Ipswich Airport. He initially manned the LAA gun-pits before graduating to 'armoured cars'.

In mid-1942, he was posted to India and travelled on the troopship SS CATHAY, arriving in Bombay. was posted to 313 MU at Kankinara, 35 miles from Calcutta. Transferring to the RAF Regt in 1943, he was posted to the RAF Regt Depot at Secunderabad. On completion of his

basic Regt field and jungle training, he was posted to 1 Sqn RAF Regt at Agatarla, near Chittagong, under the command of Sqn Ldr Forbes. He was medically evacuated back to the Depot and was eventually discharged from the Regt.

He returned to 313 MU, where he remustered as an MT Driver. was demobilized on 11 Apr 46 and went on to serve with the Malay Police Force, fighting the communist insurgents during the Malayan Campaign, where he was wounded several times in ambushes. At some stage he emigrated to Australia and lived near Adelaide. He was in the process of joining the RAF Regt Assoc when he died. The funeral was held on 20 Oct 10. He is survived by his daughter, Mrs Janet Firth, who may be contacted in Australia at firthk@bigpond.net.au. The Corps extends its sincere condolences to the family.

DUKES RICHARD. Former RAF Regt SAC Richard E Dukes, born 13 Feb 39, died on 18 Nov 11 aged 71. He enlisted in 1957 and served on 27, 37 and 16 Sqns RAF Regt before retiring in 1962. He was a member of the Birmingham Branch of the RAF Regt Assoc. The funeral wtook place at St James' Church in Norton Canes, Cannock on 1 Dec 10. He is survived by his wife, Diane, of 1A Norton Terrace, Norton Canes, Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 9RY, to whom the Corps extends its sincere condolences.

NEW NOTICES:

NEW RAF FP FORCE COMMANDER

Gp Capt Andy Hall MBE RAF will replace Gp Capt Nick Bray MA RAF as the RAF FP Force Comdr and Stn Cdr RAF Honington wef Fri 10 Dec 10. Gp Capt Bray will move to the Higher Command & Staff Course at Shrivenham as a student in Jan 11, after which he will deploy to Afghanistan for an operational tour there.

THE McFERRAN PRIZE FOR THE BEST TRAINEE GUNNER GRADUATE OF THE YEAR AWARD 2010

A new annual Corps award, The McFerran Prize for the Best Trainee Gunner Graduate of the Year, has been established in memory of SAC Peter McFerran, who was Killed in Action in Iraq in 2007 in Iraq, while serving on 1 Sqn RAF Regt.

The prize includes a flight in a Hawk training aircraft, courtesy of the Stn Cdr of RAF Valley, the local Stn that provided so much support to the McFerran family at the time of their son's death and, very recently, to the family of

SAC Scott Hughes, who was Killed on Operations on 7 Nov 10.

The recipient of the 2009-10 Award is LAC Jack Floyd of, coincidentally, 1 Sqn RAF Regt, and to whom the Corps extends its sincere congratulations. Details of the presentation will be announced in due course.

RAF REGT TRAINS TONGAN TROOPS FOR AFGHANISTAN

The first contingent of troops from the Tonga Defence Services have joined the RAF Regt in Afghanistan are reaching the end of intensive pre-deployment training at RAF Honington in Suffolk. The Tongans, who will augment ISAF forces in Afghanistan, and in particular the RAF Regt, have been under the instruction of the RAF Regt's FP experts at Honington since their arrival in the UK in Oct 10. The RAF Regt will train a total of 220 Tongan troops, which is approximately half the total Tongan military strength. When the first troops deploy to Afghanistan they will be under the command of the RAF Regt's FP Wing at Camp Bastion.

The Tongan deployment, which will cover the next two years, will provide a welcome uplift in FP at Camp Bastion, the UK's largest military base in Afghanistan.

NEW RAF FP FORCE WARRANT OFFICER

WO Simon Rowlands, currently Sqn WO of II Sqn RAF Regt, will assume the appointment as RAF FP Force WO on 10 Jan 11, vice WO Tim Staples, who is retiring from the Service. appointment also brings with it Chairmanship of the RAF Regt WOs & SNCOs Assoc.

CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR THE DEPLOYED UNITS - APPEAL NOW CLOSED

Christmas Cheer for deployed Units Appeal for 2010 closed on 30 Nov 10. Any monies received subsequently will be placed in the General Purposes account of the RAF Regt Fund. A total of £745 was received and the Corps wishes to thank the following organizations and individuals for their generosity in donating money for the appeal: The RAF Regt Assoc; The RAF Regt Offrs' Dinner Club; Lincolnshire Branch, RAF Regt Assoc; Suffolk Branch, RAF Regt Assoc; Gp Capt S Brereton Martin; Sqn Ldr A Bastable and Mrs A Oliver.

ILLEGAL USE OF COPYRIGHT MILITARY EMBLEMS AND IMAGES

The uncontrolled use of the UK military's images, e.g. badges and crests etc is being brought under control by the MOD Marketing organization and, as such, the use of the RAF Regt badge, crest (the crossed-rifles motif), RAF Regt Flash et al, may no longer be used publicly by outside agencies, individuals and commercial companies without the expressed permission of RAF Marketing.

This is of particular note for those intending to commission commercial items utilizing the Corps motifs on their wares, or the use of RAF Regt emblems etc on notepaper, personal web-sites and web-pages. Further details will be issued shortly, but those currently using such imagery, or planning to commission items for resale, will need to check on the necessary permissions. The relevant issues involving the RAF Regt Assoc will be covered separately.

194 & 63 SQN RAF REGT REUNION 2011

A reunion of former members of 194 and 63 Sqns RAF Regt will take place at the Park House Hotel in Blackpool over the weekend 17-19 Jun 11. For further details, please contact Mr Taff Jones on (BT) 01244 815469.

CORPS OPERATIONAL REVIEW AND FORMATION DINNER 2011 - UPDATED

The Corps Operational Review and Formation Dinner 2011 (CFD11) will be held at RAF Honington on Fri 4 Feb 11. All RAF FP Force RAF Regt Officers not operationally deployed or on essential duty are to attend; all other serving RAF Regt officers are invited to attend, as are up to 25 retired officers.

The cost of the CFD will be £47.50 plus any B&B costs incurred. Those planning to attend should note that Offrs' Mess accommodation will be severely disrupted over the period with extensive building work being undertaken and accommodation is likely to be limited to barrack block rooms on base and at Barnham camp. However, contrary to earlier advice, there should be sufficient accommodation in the Gray-McCarthy Annex for the Retired element. Early booking is recommended, particularly if accommodation will be required.

The Calling Note / Application Form is available now. Applications, with payment, should be made as soon as possible and no later than 20 Jan 11 to ensure a place. Telephoned or Emailed reservations will not be accepted.

THE QUEEN'S COLOUR SQUADRON 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE DRILLSMAN PORT

To mark The Queen's Colour Squadron's 50th year, the Sqn is now stocking 50th Anniversary Commemorative Drillsman Port. Each bottle of Fine Regimental Tawny Port is fully engraved on both sides. The cost for each bottle is £25 and includes postage and packaging. If you are interested in purchasing a bottle from the Sqn, please contact Flt Lt Matt Bowerman via email on (Intranet) QCS 63FP-OC B Flt or (Internet) qcs63fp-ocbflt@northolt.raf.mod.uk or by phone on (GPTN) 95233 6087 or (BT) 0208842 6087.

CORPS ON-LINE NETWORKING FACILITY - UPDATE

The Corps is represented in the global professional networking website, LinkedIn. LinkedIn has some 63,000,000 members worldwide and is growing rapidly. It has, among many others, Gunners' and RAF Regt Officers' Groups, the latter of which is designed to provide, eventually, a comprehensive biographical archive of all Regt offrs - both serving and retired - and also powerful networking, discussion and even job opportunities.

The Gunners' Group (entitled the RAF Regiment (Networking Group) is more focussed at providing contacts and job-finding. There are also other relevant groups, including CBRN, NATO FP, NATO School etc, which should be of interest to many Corps members. To view the site, visit www.Linkedin.com and register.

Once registered, search in the Groups for 'RAF Regiment Officers' or 'RAF Regiment (Networking Group)', apply to join and take it from there. You can cancel and withdraw from LinkedIn at any time, and also restrict who you link up with and what is presented publicly.

All serving and past members of the Corps are encouraged to become members and increase their contact and networking abilities. Those who have already joined are asked to encourage their Regt friends and colleagues to join.

CORPS DIARY DATES:

22 Jan RAF Regt Assoc NEC Mtg (RAF Scampton).

1 Feb 69th Anniversary of the Formation of the RAF Regt.

4 Feb RAF Regt Op Review and Corps Formation Dinner 2011 (RAF Honington).

7-14 Feb Lord Wakefield Boxing Championships (RAFC Cranwell)

27 Feb Laying up of 63 Sqn RAF Regt's Old Standard (St Andrews Church, RAF Uxbridge)

8 Apr RAF Regt Assoc Spring Social - Bodelwydden Castle Hotel, N Wales).

23 Apr II Sqn Reunion (Constitution Club, Colerne).

28-29 Apr RAF Armd Car Assoc Spring Reunion (Morley Hayes, Derby)

8-20 May RAF Regt Small Arms Meet 2011 (Pirbright/Bisley)

14 May Annual RAF Regt Chapel Commemoration (Catterick).

4 Jun Naming Ceremony (for those killed in 2010) at the National Armed Forces' Memorial (NMA Alrewas)

6 Jun RAF Regt Offrs' Dinner Club Annual Reception 2011 (Lunch at Belton House, Grantham).

25 Jun UK Veterans' Day + RAF Regt Annual Memorial Commemoration (NMA Alrewas).

15 Jun Centurion 2011 (Issue 30) Article copy deadline.

1 Aug Centurion Journal 2011 - Article Deadline

1 Sep CG Commendations Nominations due date.

30 Sep- 3 Oct - RAF Regt Assoc AGM and Annual Reunion (Charlton Kings, Cheltenham)

20-21 Oct RAF Armd Car Assoc Autumn Reunion (Morley Hayes, Derby)

2012

1 Feb 70th Anniversary of the Formation of the RAF Regt.

3 Feb RAF Regt Op Review and Corps Formation Dinner 2012 (venue tbc).

11-14 May RAF Regt Assoc Spring Social (Nidd Hall, Nr Harrogate)

12 May Annual RAF Regt Chapel Commemoration (Catterick).

30 Jun UK Veterans' Day + RAF Regt Annual Memorial Commemoration (NMA Alrewas)

1 Aug Centurion Journal 2012 - Article Deadline

Well that's all for now, keep smiling if you can and stay happy.

Malcolm

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES



Thursday 13th January 2011 Branch Night
Thursday 10th February 2011 Branch AGM Night

**IT'S VERY SAD BUT AS NO ONE
IS WILLING TO TAKE ON THE
RESPONSIBILITIES OF A
BRANCH SECRETARY, WHEN I
RETIRE THERE WILL BE NO
MORE NEWSLETTERS AND
THEREFORE POSSIBLY NO
MORE BRANCH**

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