



ROYAL AIR FORCE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

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**ONLY SEVEN
MORE MONTHS
TO GO**



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.**

**YOU WILL HAVE NOTICED THE GRADUALLY
DIMINISHING SIZE OF MY NEWSLETTERS
FOR I AM WINDING DOWN MY WORK AS
YOUR BRANCH SECRETARY**

**I AM COUNTING DOWN – SEVEN MONTHS
UNTIL I RETIRE AS YOUR BRANCH
SECRETARY. A NEW SECRETARY IS
REQUIRED IF THE BRANCH IS TO CONTINUE.**

PLEASE GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT

**NEWSLETTER NO: 253
JULY 2010**

THE BIRMINGHAM BRANCH NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 253 JULY 2010

Dear Readers.

My Retirement as Your Secretary

No one has yet come forward to volunteer to stand as the Branch Secretary at the Branch AGM next February. Please would you all give it some thought for after three attempts to retire as your Secretary, this time I will be - so if the Branch is to continue to function efficiently, someone needs to volunteer their service.

The Branch President

Due to the serious illness of his wife Avril, Peter has stood down as our President and our Vice-President Dave Gooding has taken on the role. For many years Peter and Avril have given magnificent service to the Birmingham Branch particularly in fundraising and organizing social functions.

Avril organised the buffet at the NMA when we dedicated the RAF Regiment Memorial Garden and she has also organised many other social functions for the Birmingham Branch such as the annual "Sunday Lunch with the Branch President" at their home in Worcestershire and worked tirelessly at such events. Our thoughts and prayers are with Peter and Avril at this anxious time.

Goodies for our Injured Boys

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.

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 for we need much more money.

It is very much appreciated for it is a huge boost to the lads who are treated at Selly Oak to know that the general public offer the wounded lads and lassies such wonderful financial and moral support. It is difficult to work out just how much money we have raised so far, for as a result of our Appeal, many of you send money directly to the lads as the following letter from George Price, Treasurer of the Kent Branch shows.

But we from what I have been told we are well on our way to £5,000. It may be more. Well done lads.

George Price of Kent Branch

"Dear Malcolm. I thought I had better let you know that we have sent a cheque for £100.00 to the RCDM_PSS. This follows one we sent in March this year for £80.00. This is all thanks to our members, our host Kim and her patrons at the Bush pub at Aylesford and to Jeannie Reed who organises our raffles and mini-auctions. Kind regards, George".

My very grateful thanks George. I think that the best way I can respond to that splendid effort is to publish the latest letter that I have received from Major Ian Cheesman, Officer I/C Patient Support Services, RCDM, Selly Oak Hospital. No doubt you have receives similar letters too George.

Dear Mr. Baldwin.

Donation to RCDM Patient Welfare Fund Charity No 1131194

Once again I write on behalf of the soldiers, sailors and airman and women who have had the misfortune (due to wounding) to pass through Selly Oak, now and in the future, to offer my sincerest thanks to you and the Essex Women's Institute for their kind donation of £30.00 to the RCDM Patient Welfare Fund.

These donations are a fantastic gesture and will make a huge difference to those military personnel that have been wounded in action, and their families.

As you are aware, this money will be used in a myriad of different ways but you can be absolutely sure that every penny spent will be for the direct benefit the servicemen and women that find themselves as battle casualties here at Selly Oak Hospital.

Once again, thank you for this donation and for your support. It is a huge boost to the service personnel here to know that there is such wonderful public support. Regards. pp S Binnion.

If any of you would like to contribute items or cash directly for this appeal, as I have not

yet been notified of Warrant Officer "Stoney" Wanbon's successor as NCO I/C Patient Support Services, 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 - PSS.

BRANCH BIRTHDAYS

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

1st July Terry Moyle Tredegar Gwent

5th July Peter Collier Burton on Trent Staffs

5th July John Goodwin Nuneaton Warwickshire

10th July Trevor Gardiner Hinckley Leicestershire

16th July Gordon (Jock) Melville Coleshill Wks

16th July Jack Stapleton Cardiff South Wales

26th July Ken Wadey Dersingham Norfolk

27th July Terence Willetts Birmingham W Mids

BRANCH DEATH NOTICES

I regret to inform you of the death of Anthony (Tony) Minns of Stretton, Burton on Trent. Tony passed away after a short illness on 25th May 2010 and after a church service at Stretton Methodist Church, was cremated at Bretby Crematorium, Burton on Trent.

Tony enlisted in November 1955 and after his Basic Training at RAF Padgate and Regiment Training at RAF Catterick, was then posted to RAF Watchet for Bofors Gun Training. He was then posted to 54 Squadron serving at RAF Wildenrath where he completed several detachments to RAF Gatow, Berlin, to Kiel and various ranges in the area.

On being posted back to the UK he was billeted at Earls Court to take part in the Royal Tournament. He also spent some time at RAF Felixstowe manning RAF MTB Rescue Launches.

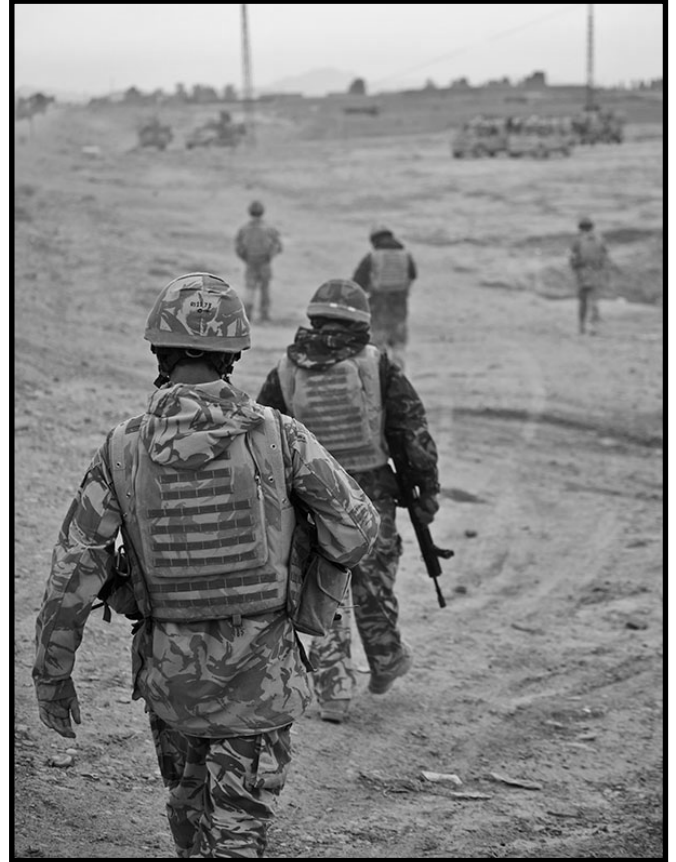
He completed his service there until his discharge in November 1958. He leaves his wife Cynthia to whom we send our sincere condolences.

RAF Regiment News

Members of B Flight, 27 Squadron, RAF Regiment, pictured below while dismounted from their WMIK Land Rovers, on a foot patrol in the area around Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan, 2010.

RAF Regiment forces have carried out regular operations 'outside the wire' of the Kandahar airfield, pushing out into the

surrounding environs in order to disrupt Taliban operations. Before the RAF Regiment's arrival, the Taliban was able to carry out numerous rockets attacks on the air base. The RAF Regiment's aggressive patrols, including the use of sniper teams, has significantly reduced the number of Taliban rocket attacks.



RAF Regt crew unharmed in Afghan blast

A RAF Regiment Gunner and his crew escaped with their lives after their patrol vehicle drove over an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Afghanistan. Lance Corporal Glen Adams was on a routine patrol near Bastion airfield in one of the new Mastiff vehicles along with seven fellow Gunners from 3 Squadron RAF Regiment when the vehicle struck the IED. L/Cpl Adams – one of the first to wear the new rank in the RAF – kept his head and took control of the situation to ensure the safety of those in the vehicle, some of whom were young Gunners on their first tour. L/Cpl Adams said:

“We hit a big IED on a routine patrol. My first thought was ‘are my guys ok?’ – that’s your main concern. Everyone in the Mastiff was checking that everyone else was OK. After that it was about getting out of the situation the way you have been trained before you get out to theatre.

There was damage to the vehicle but there were no casualties or injuries.”

Mastiff vehicles have been designed to deflect and absorb the blast of an IED to protect the occupants. The upgraded Mastiff 2 has recently been deployed to Afghanistan. During their six-month tour the Gunners of 3 Squadron RAF Regiment helped to save the lives of both local Afghanis and coalition troops after they discovered numerous IEDs.

During their patrols to protect coalition air assets flying into and taking off from Bastion airfield, four Mastiff vehicles struck IEDs including the one containing L/Cpl Adams and his patrol. Of the four IED strikes, there were no casualties apart from one Gunner suffering damage to his hearing. Officer Commanding 1 RAF FP Wing, Wing Commander Mike Smeath said:

“It is a real bonus to come back with everybody. The Gunners involved in the IED strikes did a brilliant job and those in charge kept a cool head. IEDs do constrain you a little in what you do but the vehicles are excellent and the Mastiffs did their job. We also have the new Jackal vehicle as well which was excellent.”

3 Squadron RAF Regiment, from RAF Wittering, were deployed as part of 1 Force Protection (FP) Wing to Bastion in December 2009. They returned to a heroes welcome, and waiting family and friends at RAF Wittering last May.

RAF COSFORD AIR SHOW

Tom Magee and Roy Thomas attended on behalf of the Branch and had a pretty good day as the following report from Roy shows.

Hi Malcolm. Overall the day went well, Tom and myself had set up the tent on a wide pitch with a good view of the airshow (as Tom said) it was a pity we could not be placed nearer the hanger where the RAF Regiment and the RA are set up as that would be a good people draw). The only distraction was one of those large lorry stands across and slightly to one side of us, where the vendors spent all day conning people into believing the giant fluffy toys were worth winning after spending out on lucky number pontoon tickets.

There was quite a bit of interest in our display, which attracted young and old alike. Tom set up a signing in log which came up with 27 names of ex-rocks, the oldest having been in

from the start in 1942. A couple of the names were by proxy so to speak by relatives of kin elsewhere on the day but were interested and promised to forward the new postcards to them.

There were two interesting visitors to the stand, one was from a very smartly dressed chap with camera and binos draped around his neck. It turned out after questioning that he was an ex-Bomber Command type (Lancasters). We had a chat but what made us laugh was that he said he had to go as he had lost his carer and should try and find ??him/her?? as they may be worried.

The next was amazing for me, a chap was just about to speak to Tom when he looked at me, (I sensed that he was familiar to me) and said along the lines of "hang on I know you" had a quick think then said "you're Plum Thomas from Germany, and at one time slept in the bunk above you". The last time I would have seen him was around 1976ish. He did say in front of witnesses that I looked better now than back then. Tom was in on it as well as they had common memories of other chaps.

The outcome of that one he is that he is going to give me a call taking one of the cards with contact details. The rain did put a damper on the proceedings although the planes kept flying and the attractions were still open, stands/tents did break camp and pull out from about 5 p.m. and we were no different. Tom has the job of drying out the tent while I will look after the models bits and bobs and the Standard.

Over the next few days from Thursday onwards, and once I have obtained some new cleaning materials, I will clean and polish where necessary the models and de-rust the standard baseplate. My main concern is the Standard's overall condition as there are two seam splits top and bottom against the pole that need machine stitching, and the gold tassels and ropes are looking a bit tatty. Tom said it may need a dry-clean. The obvious question is do we know of a company that can renovate it? I don't mind doing the donkey work on this, I just need those details.

Correspondence

From Jim Davies of Middlewich, Cheshire

Hi, Malcolm. On Sunday 6th June, Ray Penny and his wife Rita, with Sheila my wife went down to Norwich to a garden party at Henry and Nancy Linford's. Henry was in 22 Squadron with Ray and myself and he is a member of the Norfolk branch.

They made us very welcome and they were pleased to see members from another branch. Needless to say there was a lot of tales such as which squadron were you? And so you have known Henry since 1951, that's a long time. With the reply that that's the good thing about our Regiment, we're pals for ever.

The meal was very good with as much as one could eat. The weather was also good until about 16.30 p.m. then the rain came. Colin Clarke remembered Ray and I from when he was at the Birmingham branch and sends his regards.

It was a going to be long day so Sheila and I left Middlewich in Cheshire at 06.30 a.m. and picked Ray and Rita up at 07.45 a.m. then we made our way down to Norwich. We had a good run down and we agreed with Henry and Nancy to leave at about 8.30 p.m, so that we would have a good run home.

We dropped Ray and Rita and made for home and making good time we got home at 2.10 a. m. with us all having had a good day. We would like to say thank you to Henry and Nancy for the good meal and to the Norfolk Branch for inviting us. It was good to be with you. Best wishes Jim Davies.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM (NMA) UPDATE

Midlands' volunteers recognised by HM The Queen with prestigious Award

The volunteer group at The Royal British Legion's National Memorial Arboretum has been announced as one of 103 UK volunteering bodies to win this year's The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for volunteer groups.

The prestigious National Honour recognises outstanding contributions made to local communities by groups voluntarily devoting their time for the benefit of others. It sets the national benchmark for excellence in volunteering, with the work of those awarded being judged of the highest standard.

The volunteers at the Arboretum, who number nearly 140 people, have received the Award for providing an invaluable service to the operation of the site and for enhancing greatly the experience for its 300,000 visitors a year. Volunteers assist in all aspects of the Arboretum's activities, from welcoming and guiding visitors to gardening and stewarding major events.

Winners of this year's Award were selected from 341 groups nominated by members

of the public who have been helped personally or witnessed the benefits of a group's work in their community. The Arboretum's volunteer group will receive a certificate signed by the Queen and an exclusive commemorative crystal, presented by Her Majesty's representative in Staffordshire, James Hawley, at a special ceremony. The group has also received an invitation for representatives to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in the summer.

Speaking of their success, David Faul, the volunteer representative at the National Memorial Arboretum, said: "It was calculated that our volunteers' time is worth about £400,000 per annum. However, even a large figure like that undervalues the work that they do. Many have an Armed Forces background or other special connection with the Arboretum's memorials and, as a result, they have great empathy with the public."

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Main Award Committee Chair and former broadcast journalist Martyn Lewis CBE said:

"Outstanding volunteer groups across the UK all too often go without recognition for the truly amazing work they do, despite the vital part they play in helping bind our communities together. It's a great pleasure to celebrate the efforts of the National Memorial Arboretum's volunteers with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and help raise awareness of all they do for the benefit of others."

Future Events at the NMA

Saturday 24th July 2010

At 11.a.m. at the Ulster Special Constabulary obelisk, the Ulster Special Constabulary Association will hold their annual Service of Remembrance. This will be the 4th anniversary of the dedication of their obelisk. For further information contact Richard Scott by telephone on 028 9044 9937 or by email at <usc_1920@yahoo.co.uk>.

Sunday 25th July 2010

At 2.00 p.m. the British South Africa Police will unveil and dedicate their memorial. The service will include laying up their roll of honour. For further information contact Peter Phillips (Chairman, BSAP Association) on 01442 244919 or 07733 358692 or email <peterbp@lineone.net>.

Sunday 25th July 2010

At 10.00 a.m. in the Pavilion Marquee and at The Beat the Care of Police Survivors (COPS) will hold their annual service of Remembrance. For further information Abbie Clark (Office & Events Coordinator) on 0844 893 2055 or email <admin@ukcops.org>.

Monday 26th July 2010

At 2.00 p.m. the HMS Belfast Association will hold a Korean War Remembrance Service in the Millennium Chapel followed by wreath laying at the Armed Forces Memorial. For further information contact Cliff Le Quelenec (Membership Secretary) on 01923 776330 or by email at <caleq2@tiscali.co.uk>.

Tuesday 27th July 2010

At 11.30 a.m. in the Pavilion Marquee and BKVA Garden (admission to ticket holders only) for the concert, or at 12.00 p.m. for the service of thanksgiving, commemoration and Remembrance, the British Korean Veterans Association will hold a Commemoration Day for the 57th anniversary of the Armistice at the conclusion of hostilities in Korea. For further information contact Frank Ellison (Event Organiser) on 01457 763699 or email <frank.ellison@btinternet.com>.

Sunday 15th August 2010

At 2.00 p.m. in the Millennium Chapel and onsite at the Malayan Volunteers Group Garden, the Malayan Volunteers Group will hold a service of commemoration for VJ Day. Mrs Rosemary Fell (MVG Secretary) on 01297 33045 or email <dinraf-millbrook@tiscali.co.uk>.

Saturday 11th September 2010

At 12.00 noon the 1st Anniversary of the annual service of commemoration at the Polish Armed Forces Memorial will be celebrated at the Polish Armed Forces Memorial. For further information contact Chez Maryszczak on 020 8741 1911 or by email. At <spkwb@virgin.net>.

Saturday 11th September 2010

At 11.30 a.m. at the Greek Plot if weather fine, or if wet at 12.30pm in the Chapel, the Brotherhood of Veterans of the Greek Campaign will hold their annual Service of Commemoration. For further information contact Mrs Janet Buttery (Secretary) on 01279 657166 or email <graham.buttery@btinternet.com>.

Saturday 11th September 2010

At 11.30 a.m. in the Millennium Chapel and at the Ulster Ash Grove the Northern Ireland

Veterans' Association will hold their annual service of Remembrance. For further information contact David Langston on 07980 343759 or email <

davidlangston@theshed595.orangehome.co.uk>.

Thursday 16th September 2010

At 2.00 p.m. in the Millennium Chapel and later onsite the Ambulance Service Benevolent Fund will hold its bi-annual service to honour all ambulance personnel and especially those who have died in Service.

For further information contact Simon Fermor, National Secretary, by telephone on 01323 721150, or by e-mail at <asbf.enquiries@hotmail.co.uk>.

Thursday 30th September 2010

At 2.30 p.m. the Royal Anglian Regiment will hold a dedication of the memorial to the Royal Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Regiments. For further information contact Lieutenant Colonel Tony Slater on 01603 400290 or by email at <ahqbse@rhqroyalanglian.org.uk>.

Saturday 2nd October 2010

Ride to the Wall for 2010 organised by the Harley-Davidson Riders Club Great Britain (HDRCGB) will take place on Saturday 2nd October 2010 and is open to riders of all makes and models of motorcycles.

Participants are asked to pay a registration fee and all money raised after necessary expenses have been covered will be donated to the National Memorial Arboretum. Everyone who registers will receive a commemorative 2010 year bar.

Drayton Manor Theme Park, near Tamworth will once again be the assembly point for the 11 o'clock start of the official ride to the Armed Forces Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas Staffordshire.

Registration will open on 1st March 2010 and can be done by post with a cheque / postal order to HDRCGB, PO Box 62, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 2QE, or by telephone to their 24 hour answer phone 01179 600779.

Sunday 24th October 2010

The Vulcan Crew Chiefs Register has received a Big Lottery Fund grant and is installing a bench in the RAF section. At 11.00 a.m. MRAF Lord Craig of Radley, their President and Patron will unveil the memorial bench at a dedication service. There will also be a wreath laying ceremony. For further information Tony Regan on 01297 20280 or email <Turbo542@aol.com>.

Thursday 11th November 2010

At 10.30 a.m. the annual Armistice Day Service of Remembrance will be held on the Armed Forces Memorial. There will be a limited number of tickets available for this service and application details will be publicised from 1 September.

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.



FROM THE RAF REGIMENT SECRETARY

DEATH NOTICES:

CLEMENTS THOMAS. Former WWII RAF Regt gnr Thomas (Tom) Clements has died. No further details are currently available; however, we are advised that the funeral took place at 12.45 on Fri 28 May 10 in the Roman Catholic Church in the centre of Caerphilly.

MEAD NEVILLE. Former RAF Regt Cpl and British Heavyweight Champion Neville Mead died on 13 Mar 10. He will best be remembered for his boxing prowess both in and out of the Service. He won five titles while serving, including the Commonwealth Games Heavyweight Championship Gold Medal in Australia in 1974.

On leaving the Service, he turned professional and settled in Wales where he secured the Welsh Boxing Title and later the British Heavyweight Championship. Boxing was not his only skill; he was also an accomplished golfer, rugby player and athlete, being particularly strong at 100metres, javelin and the shot-put.

On retirement from the ring in 1983, he worked with the Swansea Local authority and encouraged youngsters to participate in sport. The funeral was held in Swansea on 31 Mar 10, to which many RAF Regt friends and colleagues attended. No further details available at present.

MOYSE GEORGE. Former RAF Armoured Car Company FS George E Moyse, born 8 Apr 11, died on 10 Apr 10 aged 99 years. He enlisted in the RAF in 1938 and fought in WWII with 1 ACC in the Middle East. He achieved international fame last year by become the oldest person in the UK - at the age of 98 - to parachute out of an aircraft. The funeral was held on 22 Apr 10. He is survived by his grandson, Edward Brewer, of Quince Cottage, 22 Tilmore

Gardens, Petersfield, GU32 2JQ, to whom the Corps extends its sincere condolences.

OWEN J. Former RAF Regt Cpl J OWEN, born 10 Oct 35, died on 30 Apr 10 aged 74. He enlisted in Jan 54 and served on 55, 10 AC, 66 and 63 Sqns RAF Regt, including a tour in Aden between 55-57, before being discharged in Jan 58. He was a member of the Suffolk Branch of the RAF Regt Assoc. The funeral was held in Felixstowe on 19 May 10. He is survived by his wife, Molly, of 57 Roman Way Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 9NR, to whom the Corps extends its sincere condolences.

BRADSHAW DAVID. Former SAC RAF Regt Fireman David Bradshaw, born 28 Apr 44, died on 6 Jun 10 aged 68. He enlisted in Oct 59 and was discharged in Oct 71; no further Service details are known. He was a member of the Suffolk Branch of the RAF Regt Assoc.

The funeral took place at 1230 on Tue 22 Jun 10 at All Saints Church, Tinwell, Lincolnshire. Family flowers only were requested but donations may be made to the British Heart Foundation via the funeral directors, R J Scholes, St Georges Stt, Stamford (tel 01780 763092). He is survived by his wife, Pamela, of 9 Stuart Close, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 9SX, to whom the Corps extends its sincere condolences.

MINNS ANTHONY (TONY). Former RAF Regt SAC Anthony Minns, born 24 Oct 34, died on 25 May 10 aged 75. He enlisted at RAF Cardington in Nov 55 and served at RAF Stations Padgate, Catterick, Watchet, Wildenrath and in Berlin, before being discharged in Nov 58. He was a member of the Birmingham Branch of the RAF Regt Assoc. The funeral took place in Bretby, Burton on Trent, on 4 Jun 10. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia, of 6 Jackson Ave, Stretton, Burton on Trent, Staffordshire DE13 0DR, to whom the Corps extends its sincere condolences.

NEW NOTICES:

NEW REGT UNIT DESIGNATIONS

The Air Force Board Standing Committee (AFBSC) has directed that CBRN Operations Sqn (the OC is Sqn Ldr Barry Moss, based at RAF Honington) is to be numbered 26 Sqn RAF Regt with effect from 24 May 10.

The AFBSC has further directed that the recently formed 8th Force Protection (FP) Force Elements are to be designated 8 FP Wg HQ (the OC will be Wg Cdr Greg Burchill, based at RAF

Waddington) and 58 Sqn RAF Regt (the OC is Sqn Ldr David Stelliatano, based at RAF Leuchars); both of these designations are backdated to 1 Mar 10. Further details of reformation and ceremonial issues, including the presentation of Standards to 26 and 58 Sqns RAF Regt, will follow in due course.

MEMORIAL STONES FACILITY IN RAF REGIMENT MEMORIAL GARDEN

The RAF Regt Memorial Garden's new block paving in late-2009 enabled the establishment of individual and personalized Memorial Stones in the pathway. The Memorial Stones, manufactured in honed light grey granite and available in several distinct styles, may be ordered by anyone who may wish to commemorate a Corps individual, unit or event. A bespoke order form is now available in hard-copy and electronic formats from the Regtl Sec and will shortly be downloadable from the RAF Regt Assoc website at www.rafregt.org.uk.

RAF REGIMENT ANNUAL RECEPTION 2010

The Annual Reception of the RAF Regt Offr's Dinner Club took place on Fri 11 Jun 10 at the House of Lords, courtesy of the Baroness Harris of Richmond, Companion of the RAF Regt. The Guest of Honour was Gen David Petraeus, US Army - Commander US Central Command and Mrs Petraeus. Also in attendance were: Air Chf Mshl Sir Richard Johns - HAC RAF Regt; Air Chf Mshl Sir Stephen Dalton - CAS, and Lady Dalton; VAdm Richard Gallagher, US Navy - US Military Representative to NATO, and Mrs Gallagher; Air Mshl Sir Stuart Peach - CJO, and Lady Peach. The function was kindly supported by Cobham Surveillance and 156 Corps members and their guests attended.

CORPS DIARY DATES:

24 Jul Assoc NEC meeting (RAF Scampton)

14-15 Aug RAF Living History Event - RAF Regt at Belton Park (Grantham)

1-4 Oct Assoc AGM and Annual Reunion

29 Oct RAF Regt Officers' Dinner Club Annual Dinner (RAF Club, London)

11 Nov Garden of Remembrance - Westminster Abbey

14 Nov Remembrance Sunday - Cenotaph, London, and nationwide

15 Dec Centurion 30 Article copy deadline

2011

4 Feb RAF Regt Op Review and Corps Formation
Dinner (RAF Honington)
25 Jun RAF Regt Annual Memorial
Commemoration (NMA Alrewas)

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

Malcolm

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES



Saturday 24th July 2010 Ass NEC Meeting
 Thursday 12th August 2010 Branch Night
 Thursday 9th Sept 2010 Branch Night
 Sunday 3rd October 2010 Merchant Navy Day
 Fri 1st-Mon 4th October 2010 Ass AGM and Reunion
 Thursday 14th October 2010 Branch Night
 Thursday 21st October 2010 Battle of Trafalgar
 Sunday 7th November 2010 Midlands Fest of Rem
 Thursday 11th Nov 2010 Remembrance Day

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Thursday 11th November 10 Westminster Abbey
 Thursday 11th Nov 2010 Branch Night
 Saturday 13th Nov 2010 B'ham Poppy Ball
 Sunday 14th November 2010 Remembrance Sunday
 Sat 27th-Sun 28th Nov 2010 B'ham Int Tattoo
 Tuesday 30th November 2010 St Andrew's Day
 Thursday 9th December 2010 Branch Night
 Thursday 13th January 2011 Branch Night
 Thursday 10th February 2011 Branch AGM Night

THURSDAY 10th FEBRUARY – MY RETIREMENT

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