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Praeter Sescentos

“THE RIGHT OF THE LINE”

*The (City of London) Squadron RAuxAF & No.1 (County of Hertford) Maritime Headquarters Unit
Association Newsletter*

Patron: The Viscount Trenchard of Wolfeton

Affiliated Members; 601 & 604 Squadron Associations.

Jun 2019

**King’s Day Reception at the Residence of the Netherlands Ambassador
25 APRIL 2019 - by Shobha Earl**

The Netherlands Ambassador - Simon J.H Smits and his wife Astrid hosted a reception to mark the occasion of King’s Day and I was delighted to accept an invitation to the Residence of the Netherlands Ambassador on Thursday 25 April 2019. Also in attendance were FS Vicky Bannister – 600 Sqn Adjutant and Cpl Rob T’ung 600 Sqn who has carried the Association Standard during Remembrance Day events at Mill Hill for the visit of the Dutch Band of Brothers – Wapenbroeders on the Friday before Remembrance Sunday.



We were well looked after by the Embassy staff during the Reception, held in the garden and inside the residence which was beautifully decorated in traditional colours and the many floral displays made for a stunning backdrop for the event. We spent some time chatting with the Assistant Defence Attaché Marian van Dijken who had not realised that



600 Sqn and Association representatives visited the Netherlands each year to participate in the Dutch annual act of commemoration on 4 May and the Dutch Liberation Day events on 5 May. We learnt that the NL Embassy hold a Dutch ceremony (open to the public) at Mill Hill Cemetery on 4 May and would welcome any 600 Sqn and Association members to join them for the ceremony in the future.

Spoiler alert - I have to report ***there were no platters of Ferrero Rocher chocolates*** at the Ambassador's residence but the Ambassador and his wife were gracious hosts and 'spoil' us with delicious nibbles and glasses of fizz. Diary note - 8 November 2019 - During the Wapenbroeders visit to Mill Hill there will also be a Maple tree planting ceremony, please save the date it would be super to see you there.



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We Will Remember Them – 10 MAY 1940 – by Shobha Earl

On the 10th May 1940, No 600 (City of London) Squadron RAuxAF was tasked with assisting in the defence of the Netherlands by attacking the airfield at Waalhaven, which had been captured by the Germans. German aircraft to the south of Rotterdam intercepted the attack and five of the six aircraft were shot down, resulting in the loss of seven of the 600 Sqn aircrew, including Sqn Ldr 'Jimmy Wells', the Commanding Officer. The aircrew are buried at 3 separate sites in the South Rotterdam area. Following the reformation of 600 Sqn in 1999, every year a contingent visits the graves and commemorate the event and other WWII sacrifices over the first weekend in May participating in the Netherlands annual act of commemoration representing the Ministry of Defence and the Royal Air Force.

This year representing the Association, I was joined by Kevin O'Shaughnessy who many of you will know, was a key player organising the first ever visit to the cemeteries in 1999. We met the 600 Sqn contingent at Harwich who were booked on the overnight ferry the Hook of Holland on 2 May 19.

We encountered some delays getting onto the ferry but a bit of banter with 501 Sqn who were also boarding made the time pass quickly. Once on board we were impressed with the standard and comfort of the cabins and a good night's sleep was appreciated by everyone. We arrived at 0630 on 3 May fully refreshed and ready for a busy few schedule over 3 days.



Day One – 3 May 19 On arrival at the Marine Barracks we quickly unpacked and went straight into rehearsals. By 1200 we were dressed in No 1s and en route to Waalhaven. We conducted a ceremony at Parmentier Square which is now an industrial estate but this is the site of the original Waalhaven airfield. We met our Dutch host Kees Stoutjesdijk and he kindly introduced us to the Charlois municipality VIPs who laid a floral wreath. At the end of each ceremony, Kevin O’Shaughnessy concluded with Binyon’s poem ‘For the fallen’... *They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old, Age shall not weary them, nor the years contemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning **We will remember them.***



Our next stop was Herkingen Harbour, here on the edge off the island of Goeree-Overflakke, two 600 Sqn aircrew had made a forced landing and survived.

Wg Cdr Duddy with host Kees, and Association members Kevin and Shobha at Herkingen information panel. The panel was erected and is maintained by the WO2GO organisation and tells the story of 600 Sqn’s PO Dick Haine and PO Marcus Kramer. Local people helped move them to the British Embassy and they were granted passage on HMS Hereward arriving back in the UK on 13 May 1940. Also on board HMS Hereward a Navy destroyer was Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands and Sgt Davis of 600 Sqn who had baled out of the CO, Sqn Ldr Wells’s aircraft. The CO’s aircraft was hit first, caught fire and came down, the bodies of



Sqn Ldr Wells and Cpl Basil Kidd were found in the wreckage. Personnel looking out to the shallow waters on the edge of the island of Overflakkee prior to wreath laying and vignette reading.

**Day Two – 4 May 2019
Dutch National Remembrance Day**

We were up, ready and on the road by 0830. Our first ceremony was at Korendijk Cemetery to pay respects to PO Bob Echlin. Rain did not deter the despite the from sunshine to Following the Alderman at and cake the OC presented gifts to hosts.



Our first ceremony was at Korendijk Cemetery to pay respects to PO Bob Echlin. Rain might 600 Sqn who marched on inclement weather which ranged rain and included hailstones too. ceremony we were hosted by the Piershil Town Hall and after coffee expressed our thanks and the Mayor and other municipality



Our next stop was at Crooswijk Cemetery. We participated in the main Dutch service and then joined the march to the Allied memorial where WO Don Meechan laid a Sqn wreath. We then conducted our own ceremony at the graves of the OC Sqn Ldr Jimmy Wells, FO Roger Moore, Cpl Basil Kidd and Cpl Laurie Isaacs.

The graves of Moore and Isaacs were unidentified until 1981 when following the painstaking work by Mr Hans Onderwater the author of 'Gentlemen in Blue' they were finally identified. They received

their headstones in 1982. In part for his work in tracing the identity of four aircrew downed on 10 May 1940, Hans was honoured in 2016 with an MBE. Kevin and I were fortunate to visit Hans and his lovely wife Marjoan during this visit. It was wonderful news when Hans was recognised for his well-deserved achievement, he is a true gentleman and friend not just to 600 Sqn but also to many other units and many, many RAF colleagues including 603 Sqn and 2 Sqn. *It's an honour to know Hans 'we salute you Sir'.*

The final ceremony of 4 May 2019 was at Spijkenisse where we participated in the Dorpskerk church service followed by a slow march through the town to the War Memorial at Vredenhofstraat for the main Act of Remembrance and 2 minutes silence at 8pm.



OC 600 Sqn laid a white floral display at the memorial and Kevin laid the Association wreath. Whilst local people laid individual flowers, the Sqn contingent marched onto the graves of PO Mike Anderson and LAC Bert Hawkins.

A third wreath is laid at the grave of an unknown Dutch soldier laid to rest in the same plot as Mike Anderson and Bert Hawkins. A poignant vignette summed up why it is so important to remember those who died for our freedom. ***Gone but not forgotten***

Day 3 – 5 May 2019 Wageningen Defile

The sun shone for the Dutch Liberation Day when 600 Sqn marched in the Wageningen Defile. This was a fitting end to 3 full-on days and everyone felt justifiably proud to participate in all the events in the NL.

It was wonderful to get to know new Sqn members and reacquaint with old



friends from my time on 600 Sqn, my thanks to the following for making myself and Kevin feel very welcome and including us in the event:

Wg Cdr Steve Duddy, Fg Off Mili Popova, Fg Off James Buckingham, WO Don Meechan, FS Vicky Bannister, Sgt Craig Cairn-Neeson, Sgt Clark Edgar, Sgt Brian Hallam, Sgt Derek Jelley, Cpl Tammy Blee, Cpl Doc Looseley, Cpl Anita Kelly, Cpl Gary Stevens, SAC Eddie Armstrong, SAC Ashleigh Ibrahim, SAC Tammi Rennie, SAC (T) Jon Rymel, SAC (T) Hannah Simmons, SAC Terence Winfield and not forgetting Sqn Ldr Ret'd Kevin O'Shaughnessy.



Well done all involved and thanks to the Project Officer - Fg Off Hassan Baig who was mobilised at short notice and was unable to participate this year and the adjutant - FS Vicky Bannister who stepped up to make it all happen. 4 May 2020 is not too far away so 'save the date' as we hope more Association members can participate next year.

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Annual Parade and Service of Homage at the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) – by Shobha Earl

The Federation of Old Comrades Associations of the London Territorial and Auxiliary units (FLOCAS), were all set to meet on Sunday 2nd June in London, for the annual parade and wreath laying to remember all members of the London Territorial and Auxiliary units, who gave their lives in the service of their country.

Unfortunately this year the wreath laying and march from the Royal Exchange to the HAC Armoury House was cancelled at short notice. As it was a very hot and muggy day, all involved breathed a sigh of relief that they did not have to march from the Royal Exchange via Threadneedle Street, Princes Street, Moorgate and Finsbury up to Armoury House. Cpl Gary Stevens had volunteered to carry the Association standard for this occasion and duly reported for standard duty direct to the Honourable Artillery Company Armoury House.



Wg Cdr Chris Owen and WO Shobha Earl were present to witness Col Burford inspect the Parade and take a few minutes to chat to the volunteer standard bearers representing Old



Comrades Associations (OCAs) of the Federation. Following the Inspection we attended a service conducted by the priest in charge - Fr. David Armstrong of St



Botolph's-without-Bishopsgate. The congregation participated in an Act of Remembrance with hymns and prayers, followed by the Last Post, Reveille and the Kohima Epitaph was read:



***'When you go home, tell them of us and say
For your tomorrow, we gave our today'***

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Sir Archibald Sinclair, Bt, Viscount Thurso, Hon Air Commodore of No.600 (City of London) Squadron, 1941 - 1949.¹

Archibald, Henry, Macdonald, Sinclair was born in Chelsea, London, on 22nd October 1890, to a Scottish father and an American mother. 'Archie Sinclair' was the great-great-grandson of Sir John Sinclair, the 1st Baronet of Ulbster (1754 - 1835) and succeeded his grandfather, Sir John Sinclair, the 3rd Baronet, in 1912. Young Archie was schooled at Eton College and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst and commissioned into the Life Guards in 1910.

During the First World War Archie served on the Western Front and in 1915 transferred to one of the four Guards Machine Gun Companies that were then forming within the Guard's Division and later brought together as the Guards Machine Gun Regiment. By then Archie had risen to the rank of major. By great good fortune as far as his future political career was concerned, Major Sinclair was posted in 1916 as the second-in-command to the 6th Battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, whose commanding officer was one Winston Churchill, the former First Lord of the Admiralty. During this time the



Sir Archibald Sinclair as Secretary of State for Air during World War 2 (Air Ministry).

Battalion was based in the Ploegsteert Wood, where other units were sent to recuperate and retrain after seeing heavy action and Churchill was learning to be a soldier once again. During their time in the Ploegsteert Wood the two struck up a lasting friendship.

Following David Lloyd George's succession to the Premiership in December 1916 and Churchill's appointment as Minister of Munitions and his rehabilitation into the Liberal Party, Sinclair was appointed as Churchill's Military Secretary, when he returned to the Cabinet as Secretary of State for War in 1919. In 1922, he followed Churchill to the Colonial Office as his Private Secretary. That same year Sinclair stood for Parliament as a pro-Lloyd George Liberal and was elected as MP for the Caithness & Sutherland seat. He remained the MP for this, the most northerly (mainland) and largest seat, until 1945, when he was defeated in the Post-War Labour landslide.

In 1918 Sinclair married Miss Marigold Forbes (1897 - 1975), the daughter of Lieutenant Colonel James Stewart Forbes and Lady Angel Forbes and they had four children - Catherine (1919 - 2007), Elizabeth (1921 - 1994), Robin (1922 - 1995) and Angus (1925). By the 1920s Sinclair owned an estate in Caithness of some 100,000 acres, making him one of the largest landowners in the UK. He was regarded as handsome and charming by his contemporaries and a bit of daredevil, but privately he was somewhat shy, reserved and anti-social. He also had a slight speech impediment.

¹ The account of Sir Samuel Hoare's life is taken from his entry in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography and the Liberal History (<https://liberalhistory.org.uk>).

As the Liberal Party shrank in popularity and in Parliament, Sinclair rose within its ranks to become Chief Whip in November 1930. Prior to this appointment he served on the Opposition Benches and assisted Lloyd George in the drafting of a revision of Liberal policy from the mid-1920s. He was also a founder member of the Land Committee and the chairman of its Scottish equivalent, which proposed Scottish devolution! During his time as Chief Whip Sinclair sought to improve and maintain party discipline and create unity within its Parliamentary ranks. In 1931 he and Lloyd George and Sir Herbert Samuel entered talks with the Labour Party to review areas of mutual interest. His background in the talks made him an obvious choice to be nominated as one of the Liberal ministers in the National Government led by Ramsey MacDonald in 1931, in which he served as Secretary of State for Scotland from August 1931 and had a seat in the Cabinet from November. He stepped down as Chief Whip that same year.

The main struggle for the Liberals in the National Government related to free trade, with its Labour and the Conservative members disagreeing over tariffs. When 'extensive' tariffs were introduced by Labour and the Conservatives under the Ottawa Agreement² in 1932, Sir Herbert Samuel, who had replaced Lloyd George as leader of the Liberal Party in 1931, and Sinclair, resigned from the National Government. When Samuel lost his seat at the November 1935 General Election, Sinclair 'stepped up' to become leader of the Party, by which time it was down to twenty MPs.

With the Party now 'marginalised' and on the fringe of politics behind the Conservatives and Labour, Sinclair sought to re-establish it by making it independent and pushing through policies and viewpoints in Parliament and in the country that would, he thought, make it electable. Second, he tried to bring the Liberals behind a policy of opposition to the continental dictators - Hitler and Mussolini - by working closely with Churchill, who was then working outside the Conservative Party. This involved using the League of Nations to remedy some of Germany's grievances suffered at the end of World War One through the Armistice and the Versailles Peace Treaty of 1919, while at the same time maintaining the Allies' military force in order that they might negotiate from a position of strength. This approach was in opposition to the Government's policy of 'piecemeal concessions' to Hitler and Mussolini and was at odds with public opinion who regarded Sinclair, Churchill and Clement Attlee (the new leader of the Labour Party) as 'warmongers'. Nevertheless, Sinclair and Churchill worked closely together in the House of Commons to condemn the 1938 Munich Agreement signed by the Conservative Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain. They also urged Parliament and the Government to come to an understanding with Soviet Russia.

On the outbreak of war in September 1939, Chamberlain invited the Liberals to join the government - an offer that was refused by Sinclair. Indeed, in the crucial debate in the House of Commons in May 1940, following Britain and France's withdrawal from Norway in the face of the German invasion, Sinclair joined with Churchill and others to condemn Chamberlain. On Churchill's appointment as Prime Minister on 10th May, Sinclair was given the post of Secretary of State for Air - an office he was to hold until the War Coalition Government was abolished in May 1945. Because he was not at the centre of wartime politics - the weakness of the Liberal Party saw to that - the Air Ministry was stripped of much of its pre-war responsibilities and power, leaving Sinclair to spend a great deal of his time protecting his department from raids by Lord Beaverbrook's Ministry of Aircraft Production.

Sinclair also incurred the displeasure of Fighter Commanding's Air Officer Commanding (AOC), Air Chief Marshal Dowding, who held Sinclair responsible for not backing him over Churchill's deployment of fighter aircraft to France in 1939/40 and being a part of his forced retirement from active service in the RAF in November 1940. However, he had a better relationship with the new Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Charles Portal. Under Portal's guidance and influence, Sinclair was persuaded to withdraw his

² The Ottawa Conference of 1932 set out to establish a zone of limited tariffs within the British Empire. This abandonment of free trade is what upset the Liberal Party and caused them to leave the Government.

opposition to area bombing of Germany and in March 1942, he joined Portal and Air Marshal Sir Arthur Harris, the AOC Bomber Command, in blocking the transfer of bombers to Coastal Command to hunt U-boats. With regard to area bombing and the terrorising of the civilian German population, Sinclair was realistic enough to know that while he might be reluctant on moral grounds to continue the policy, he was savvy enough as politician to know that he would not last long in the face of opposition from the Air Marshals. Nevertheless, Sinclair thought it prudent not keep the real facts concerning the bombing from the public.

Following the death of Lord Lloyd of Dolobran in 1941, Sinclair was appointed the Honorary Air Commodore to 600 Squadron. Unlike his predecessor, Sinclair was not able to play an active part in the Squadron's operations as his ministerial duties did not provide him with sufficient time. However, he did keep in touch with 600, for example when the Squadron was posted to participate in Operation Torch - the invasion of North Africa - Sir Archibald sent the following message to the CO, Wing Commander J.R. Watson. 'Good luck to you and 600 Squadron on your great adventure' and again in 1943, when 600 was based in Italy the Hon Air Commodore praised the Squadron for its air-to-air victories scored during that year.

With political campaigning suspended until the end of the war, Sinclair did not press hard for the social reforms contained in the Beveridge Report³, unlike his party and the country who adopted its principles with 'much enthusiasm' before it was put to one side until the war's end. Under pressure from his party, Sinclair committed the party to contest the first post-war general election as an independent party, although he favoured extending the wartime coalition for another year. To use modern parlance, the Liberal Party crashed at the July 1945 general election, with only twelve members being returned to the House of Commons and Sinclair losing his seat and leadership of the party.

Sinclair stood unsuccessfully in the 1950 general election and was made Viscount Thurso in 1952, with the intention that he would lead the Liberals in the House of Lords, but a stroke postponed that duty until 1954. He retired from the post of Hon Air Commodore in 1949, although he was present to see 600 Squadron reformed in the post-war Royal Auxiliary Air Force. A second stroke in 1959, resulted in severe debilitation and his retirement from public life. Archibald Sinclair, Viscount Thurso, Knight of the Thistle (KT) and a Companion of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint John (CMG) died at his home in Twickenham on 15th June 1970.

Acknowledgements: Mrs Emma Etteridge for her assistance in researching Sir Archibald Sinclair's biography.

³ The Beveridge Report that was first published in November 1942, influenced the founding of the welfare state in the UK. Drafted by the Liberal William Beveridge, the Report addressed reforms to social welfare to ease the burden of post-war recovery.

Operation Herrick, A Diary – by Lloyd Saxby

In early 2009 members of No 600 Sqn Coms flight deployed on Op Herrick to Kandahar Airbase in Afghanistan. During this time SAC (T) Saxby kept a monthly diary of his experience. With the 10th anniversary of the deployment falling this year, all the members of the flight from the deployment will be meeting in London for a reunion. SAC (T) Saxby considers this a suitable time to share excerpts of his diary with you. The diary is in four parts and this is part one.

Update from Kandahar



Nice beach but where's the sea?

Date - 08/03/2009

Dear Colleagues,

I've been in Afghanistan for just over a week now and have settled in enough to find time to write to you. We arrived from the UK after a 6 hour delay. The Airforce has a fleet of Tristar passenger jets that date from the 70's. They break down a lot and the saying goes "Time to spare? Fly RAF air." Coming in to land was spooky as it's a tactical approach with all lights off and the aircraft makes evasive manoeuvres. We arrived in the early hours of the morning and got to our beds at 6am. We had the morning off to recover, then after lunch we went to meet the people we will be working with.

The first week has been hard. There is a huge learning curve and a lot info is assumed rather than explained; such as the names, locations and functions of different departments (or cells in military speak). One of the biggest problems I had was finding my way around. The base is huge as it all looks pretty much the same, dusty roads, piles of rocks, compounds and prefabs. I eventually found someone who could give me a map and I'm starting to find my bearings now.

It's not much fun out here really. It's no holiday camp. There is a war on and that's something that hits home during the first few days. We are kept in relative luxury by Afghan standards but it is still a world away from life at home. The work is intensive, mistakes can mean someone gets hurt or killed and the hours are very long. All of this builds up to make a very tiring experience. Still, at least I'm not on the front line. I shouldn't complain but the pace is hard going. One of my colleagues summed it up when he said "every day feels like a week and every week a month." Apart from that there is a great sense of importance in what we do. We are supplying the IT systems that the war is planned, coordinated and executed on.

I've seen and heard a bit of the fighting. There was a contact near the base the other night which went on through the early hours. It was a bit surreal coming out of the Comms room to hear heavy weapons fire, artillery and air support going in. We have had one rocket attack since I got here. It was highly ineffective for reasons that I won't go into in case it helps the enemy. I just put my lid on and carried on working as I think the main effect of these attacks to stop the base from working whilst we take cover. I still don't think it is that dangerous as it's a huge base and you have to be really unlucky to be anywhere near some IDF (indirect fire) when it lands. There has been one KIA since I got here. A Romanian soldier was killed on patrol near the base last weekend. Also we have had some seriously wounded British soldiers coming back from Helmand but you won't hear about that in the news.

I don't tell you this to depress you but that is the reality of the situation out here. I think it was a bit of a shock to my system when I first arrived. At the same time I realise that we are doing something worthwhile. The Afghans really want us to be here and they need our help. They want to stand on their own two feet and they don't want the Taliban back. They are also prepared to fight for their own security. The other thing I noticed that isn't widely reported at home is how multinational the effort is. There is a real international community within the base made up of the armed forces from many different nations. Since I've been here I've seen French, German, Dutch, Belgian, Slovak, Danish, Romanian, Canadian, Australian, Polish, Irish and probably some others I have forgotten...oh yeh, and the yanks (just a few of them! Lol).

The good news? Well the food is edible. The chefs are from Pakistan and the only drawback is every dish they prepare is done with a foreign twist to it. They can't make

anything English without adding some extra spices to give it an Indian taste. Still there is plenty of variety in the mess which is a good thing because we will be seeing a lot of it. Obviously a choice of 3 or 4 different curries each meal! The weather has been spot on since I got here. It's been between 20 to 25 degrees and sunny each day which is ideal. I even managed to catch a few rays yesterday which gave my morale a boost. It's only going to get hotter though and I'm not looking forward to working in 40+ when the summer comes. The other good thing is they sell Cuban cigars at about half price the Dutch NAAFI, so game on.

That's all for now. I've written quite a lot and I'll write again in a month.

Regards

Lloyd

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30 Years on – The Presentation of the Sovereign's Colour – by Jon Byrne

Late 1987 brought two exciting pieces of news. One was that I had been successful in my application for a commission, but of much wider interest was the announcement that the RAuxAF would, for the first time, be honoured with the presentation of a Sovereign's Colour, by Her Majesty the Queen.

As June 1989 approached, drill became an ever more important part of training at 1 MHU and the 15 other RAuxAF units. Nonetheless, as we boarded the coaches from Valency House to RAF Benson on Saturday 10 June, many of us wondered exactly what was in store. We knew there would be two days of intensive parade practice, leading to the presentation on the Monday morning.

Things became clearer when, shortly after an address by the Honorary Inspector General, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Barraclough, two RAF Regiment warrant officers took over. The QCS WO told us that as auxiliaries we should not expect to be as good as regulars after two days training – we would be better! All very encouraging.

While the majority of the RAuxAF practiced and practiced their drill, the rest of us were briefed on our duties in looking after the numerous guests and manning the various unit and squadron stands that the Queen would tour after the parade. In between we were able to watch our colleague's progress, from bringing their basic drill up to scratch, to the complexities of marching on, inspection, the colour presentation, advance in review order and marching off. All looked good for the real thing on Monday.

No 1 MHU was triply honoured on the day.

As we were the senior unit of the RAuxAF, we were right of the line, leading the parade on and off as No 1 Flight. All depended on the OC, Wg Cdr David Bridgeman, giving the order to quick march at exactly the right moment.

The Parade Adjutant was Flt Lt Kevin O'Shaughnessy, preceded by the most impressive handlebar moustache, specially cultivated for the event.

The Colour Bearer, who had the honour of receiving the Colour from the Queen on behalf of the RAuxAF, was Fg Off John Easton. He had been the reserve for this job, and took over when the officer originally appointed had a problem with his leg.

By the Sunday evening all looked good. One or two of those on parade had had the embarrassment of fainting in the heat, and the Parade Warrant Officer had reminded all of the importance of not overdoing it in the bar that evening and having a good breakfast in the morning. Several junior officers, including me, had practiced their ushering duties. This

involved wearing a light blue waist sash with two very spectacular tassels. I thought we looked rather like curtains, but one of our corporals had a different view – ‘If I pull that sir, will you flush?’.

Monday 12 June 1989 was a beautiful sunny day, and those lucky enough to be at RAF Benson took part in or watched a faultless parade, after which the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh met RAuxAF members and their families.

The Boss gave the orders to march off with precision, Kevin ran the parade with style, and John received the Colour faultlessly. No-one fainted and I even learned to love the blue tassels.

It was a great event for the RAuxAF, recognising both the force’s recent expansion and the long-term contribution made by the Maritime Headquarters Units. Twenty-three years later, I was honoured to be invited to the laying-up of this original Colour at St Clement Danes Church. There was now a new Colour, units and squadrons had been renamed or disbanded, but the pride and precision I had witnessed in 1989 remained the same.

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Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting – a correction.

The minutes of the meeting, printed in the March edition of the Newsletter, were incorrect in stating that Tony Reynolds had stood down as Standard Bearer. He is still carrying out this duty, and it is in fact the post of Welfare Office which he has given up. Jim Bole has replaced him in this role.

The Honorary Secretary will remember to read his own notes more thoroughly in future.

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THE ASSOCIATION OF THE CITY OF LONDON SQUADRON

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2019

<p align="center">MONDAY 24 JUNE 2019</p>	<p>Armed Forces Day Flag Raising event – City Hall 1000 and Guildhall Yard 1530</p> <p>The Flag Raising Ceremony will be at 1000 outside City Hall. The event is open to the public to show support for the men and women of the Armed Forces Community who have previously served or currently serving including families, veterans and cadets.</p> <p>Flag raising in the Guildhall Yard is scheduled for 1530 and those attending are requested to arrive by 1430. Dress for non-service is Civilian suit etc with medals.</p> <p>The City of London RFCA encourages Association members to join the Federation of London Old Comrades Associations (FLOCAS) who participate in this event. Tea and light refreshments will be served in the Old Library after the flag raising. If you plan to attend, please inform the City Secretary gl-citysec@rfca.mod.uk, and Peter Harris to send you further detailed information.</p>
<p align="center">SUNDAY 12 JULY 2019</p>	<p><u>Battle of Britain 79th Anniversary Memorial Day - Capel-le-Ferne</u></p> <p>To commemorate the 79th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain, a Service and Parade will be held at the National Battle of Britain Memorial, Capel-le-Ferne, Folkestone, Kent, on Sunday 7 July 2019, at 13.30. 600 Sqn will provide a Colour Party to carry the Sovereign's Colour of the RAuxAF and the Association Standard will be paraded by Cpl Tony Reynolds 600 Sqn. The Parade is followed by a "Sunset Ceremony". Veterans and guests are welcome to attend but the event is self-funded and travel arrangements are to be made independently.</p>
<p align="center">SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2019</p>	<p>79th Battle of Britain Service at Westminster Abbey -</p> <p>Applications for Tickets direct to the RAF Ceremonial Office, RAF Northolt, West End Road, Ruislip, Middx HA4 6NG. Provide your full names, date of birth and address, plus a driving licence or passport number for security verification at the event.</p>
<p align="center">WEDNESDAY 9 OCTOBER 2019</p>	<p>The RAuxAF Foundation's Annual service held at the National Memorial Alrewas (NMA) will this year mark, to the day, the 95th anniversary of the Founding of the RAuxAF on 9th October 1924. Arrive 0930-1000 – assemble in the Visitor Centre restaurant area, 1015 – move to the RAuxAF Memorial 1030 - Memorial service, last post, laying of wreaths and tributes followed by the dedication of new memorial stones. 1100 – End of formal ceremony, photographs and time to look around the NMA site or depart as required from 1115 onwards. Associations, Veterans and guests are welcome to attend but the event is self-funded. Dress is No 1 HD with medals for serving personnel and suit, jacket and tie or equivalent for ladies. Please inform Peter Harris if you plan to attend and he will maintain a list of attendees.</p>
<p align="center">FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER 2019</p>	<p>600 Squadron's Annual All Ranks 'Butchers' Dinner – Butchers Hall</p> <p>Timings and Costs to follow with further instructions. We are advised the event will be back at the Butchers Hall following refurbishment. Association members are welcome to attend and places are allocated to Association members only, however, if the event is undersubscribed and spare places available then guests may be allowed. Inform Peter if you wish to attend and he will provide further details once confirmed.</p>
<p align="center">FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER 15.00 HRS</p>	<p>A Dutch Service of Remembrance Mill Hill Cemetery -</p> <p>Our friends from the Netherlands, Wapenbroeders, veterans, friends and family attend along with the Military attaché from the Dutch Embassy in London. The Service commences at 1500 followed by the laying of wreaths. The Embassy are also arranging for the planting of a maple tree and it is</p>

	<p>requested Association members attend in greater numbers (sadly our numbers have dwindled in recent years), your support would be appreciated. Mulled wine, refreshments and mince pies provided for those who are able to stay and chat with the visitors.</p> <p>Association Standard Paraded by Rob T'ung and Association wreath to be laid.</p>
<p>SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER 1100 HRS</p>	<p>The Lord Mayors Parade takes place in the City and 600 Sqn will march in the parade. The Association Standard will be on parade. Members are welcome to attend.</p> <p>Association Standard Paraded by Rob T'ung (required from 1000)</p>
<p>SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER ARRIVE BY 1000</p>	<p>Remembrance Service at St Paul's Cathedral - Service starts at 1015 hours, followed by wreath laying and a parade at the Royal Exchange, followed by lunch at the Mansion House. This is a ticketed event for members who are expected to participate in the march to the Royal Exchange and onto Mansion House. Association Standard Paraded by Rob T'ung + 2 volunteer escorts are required for a rehearsal at 9am.</p>

Association members who wish to attend any of the events are requested to complete personal contact information and return either via post to:

The Events Co-Ordinator – Peter Harris,

2 Viscount Way, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK2 2QF

Mobile: 07591 924812

Or email to the Association of the City of London Squadron

600sqnassociation@gmail.com

From:

Full Name _____

I am interested in attending and request further information on:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Date _____

Signed _____

Contact Tel No _____

Email _____

Editors Footnote

A reminder. This is YOUR newsletter, and I hope you will both enjoy reading it, and find the content interesting. I would of course welcome your feedback.

The newsletter depends largely on YOUR contributions. Please forward any & all contributions to me (no matter how small). Photographs, articles, memories, funny stories etc. – all welcome and appreciated, especially from our older members who may like to share memories, thoughts records, pictures etc. that they may wish to share with our younger members of perhaps your War time experiences?

I will endeavour to use all material provided albeit I reserve the right to edit as required. Please also note that I may not use your material in the current newsletter period but may hold it back for a later issue.

If anyone ever spots an innocent faux-pas or technical inaccuracy, please do let me know so I can correct it.

Please send your material via the contact information below. If you require any originals returned, copies and will be taken and sent back, although please ensure you provide your name & address. If you wish to kindly donate any material to the archive, please do specify this and it will of course be very gratefully received!

If at all possible, electronic copies are preferred either by email or disc. Please where possible save your file to word format as it makes it quicker and easier for me to simply format and insert.

Hand written or typed are fine too!

And one final reminder – can I please ask that those of you who have e-mail drop me a quick contact message with your name so that I can keep our records up to date.

Remember all members on email will be sent an electronic copy of the Newsletters now instead of a paper copy – unless specifically request otherwise! ☺ The objective is for you to receive the newsletter faster and at the same time save the Association money in printing, paper, envelopes and postage.

And finally, if anyone has any photos or records specific to the Bristol's Blenheim & Beaufighter, I would be very grateful for a copy. The records would be primarily for the archive, but also for my own personal interest.

Andy

Newsletter contact;



Donation Slip – One-off Payment

To help us please print off a copy of this form then complete and return it, along with your donation (in pounds sterling only) to the address below. Please note we do not recommend sending cash through the post and would advise the safer option of a cheque, postal order or Bankers Order. Unfortunately, we cannot accept credit card donations. **Cheques payable please to; the City of London Squadron Association.**

"I would like to make a voluntary donation to The City of London Squadron Association,

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