



# 600

*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.***

Mar 2020

**Dear Association Members,**

**Association AGM** – The AGM was due to be held on 21 March 2020 in the very fine setting of the RAF Club Presidents Room. Due to the uncertain times we are now experiencing created by COVID-19, the committee decided to cancel to AGM lunch. Members had previously been invited to lodge a postal vote / proxy voting form and so, the Committee decided to go ahead with the AGM via a Conference Call facility. This was ‘uncharted waters’ and a first for the AGM to be conducted over a phone line, but I am pleased to report the AGM went to plan. 10 committee, 2 members and OC 600 Sqn participated in the conference call which commenced at 1130 and the AGM was concluded 1155. Apologies were received and noted from 12 Association members.

**AGM Election of Committee** - The minutes are attached for your perusal. You will see in the main, the Committee has remained unchanged, but we have now voted in a new Chairman. I am sure Association members will join me to welcome **Vicky Bannister** who is the 600 Sqn Adjutant and is very familiar with the workings of the Association Committee in her role as the Sqn liaison Officer. The Committee have been a tremendous support to me in my tenure as Chairman and I commend them for their continued efforts volunteering for the various roles on the Committee.

**Newsletter** - Thanks to everyone who has produced articles for Andy Cameron to include in his splendid quarterly newsletter. Please do continue to support Andy and provide articles for the newsletter, members tell us they appreciate receiving and enjoy reading the various articles but without any inputs the Newsletter will quickly cease to exist.

**OC 600 Sqn Update** – Wg Cdr Steve Duddy briefed the members present at the AGM on recent Sqn activities, especially in the light of increased tasks to support COVID-19. His brief is included in this Newsletter.

**Events 2020** - The events list is attached but subject to change, all events are suspended until further notice and some may be cancelled so, please do check before you make any travel arrangements. The Events Co-ord - Peter Harris will maintain lists of those interested in attending events so, please do still send in your return and Peter will keep you informed if the event is to go ahead or cancelled.

**Central Fund** – Our Treasurer is also one of four Trustees of the Association Central Fund and Ian Walton has written a piece about the fund. If at any time but especially in the current situation, any members are facing challenges and need support, please contact the Association Welfare Officer for guidance.

**FLOCAS** – The Federation of London Old Comrades Associations (FLOCAS) AGM was held on 5 March 2020 at the Union Jack Club. It is with great sadness I have to inform you that the Federation after many years of service to the various London Associations will stand down. I thanked the Federation Committee on behalf of the City of London Sqn Association for the continued support to us over many years. Please see the attached precis of Col Richard Burford's notice to the Affiliated units and note the farewell and final Annual Parade is planned to be held on Sunday 7 June 2020 (COVID-19 restrictions permitting!). If the Parade goes ahead, a larger than normal RAF presence would be appreciated so, if possible, please do come along and support the Federation for one last event.

**Obituaries** – Sad to report we have heard that Roy Walker passed away in 2019. As a member of Comms Flight, Roy was well known and popular member of No 1 MHU who left the Sgt Mess to take a commission.

Keep safe and well and may we meet again very soon,

Shobha Earl (outgoing Chairman)

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### **OC 600 SQN UPDATE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AT THE AGM ON 21 MARCH 2020**

Since the last update, 600 Sqn has again been very busy in all areas of Reserve commitment. Morale remains exceptionally high and this is reflected in the number of mobilisations currently in place and the willingness of PTVRs to put themselves forward for mobilisation and opportunities utilising Reserve Support Days (RSDs) formerly known as Man Training Days (MTDs).

For Remembrance weekend 2019 - 600 Sqn contributed as follows:

- X 50 personnel participated in the Lord Mayors show.
- X 2 personnel participated in the City Hall service
- X 6 personnel supported the Dutch service at Mill Hill
- X 1 supported the Festival of Remembrance
- X 2 supported St Barts service
- X 2 supported Westminster Abbey Service
- X 5 supported St Pauls Cathedral service
- X 5 Supported the City Service
- X 6 supported other local events

On behalf of RAF Northolt The Sqn provided x 25 personnel to the Eastcote RBL Parade plus one driver to transport the RAF Northolt personnel to the Ruislip Parade.

For the third year in a row the Sqn is on target to fulfil over 25 mobilisations in this financial year and we currently have 11 personnel on Operations:

- Falklands
- HRR RAF Brize Norton
- RAF Shawbury
- 591 Digby
- RAF Benson
- Al Udeid
- RAF High Wycombe
- RAF Odiham
- RAF Northolt
- RAF Odiham
- RAF Halton

## Headlines

Flt Lt S R Littlejohn graduated with 64 ROIT on 12 Dec 19. At the parade the Reviewing Officer presented Sam with the McRoberts Award for Best Reservist.

Elements of the Sqn participated in joint training with the RNR and Coastguard in a Military Aid to Civil Authorities (MACA) themed Exercise. Both services recognised the value of these types of events and plans are in place to continue.

The Sqn hosted the annual Butchers' Dinner in the Newly re-opened and restored Butchers' Hall. In attendance was the new Commandant General of the RAuxAF, AVM Randal Munro, the HAC - Lord Trenchard, honoured guests from the Butchers' Guild and members of the Sqn. All attending appreciated the return to the Guild Hall after a 4-year absence. Fg Off Baig acted as Mr Vice and Rev (Flt Lt) Perry (Stn Padre) conducted grace.

In his last role before re-joining the regular force Flt Lt Needham, as ProjO, oversaw the installation of a 600 Sqn stained-glass window memorial on 5 Oct 19 into the RAF Northolt station church. This was followed on 19 Oct 19 by a service of dedication led by Rev (Sqn Ldr) Perry in the presence of Air Cdr The Right Honourable Viscount Trenchard DL, and the rest of the Sqn in attendance.

As we go to press on this publication the Sqn is preparing to play its part on the COVID-19 situation.

The first call out order has been received and 47 personnel have already volunteered for potential mobilisation. I am sure you will all join me in wishing them well.

Stay safe

Steve Duddy - OC 600 Sqn

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## **600 Squadron Stained Glass Window**

A church service took place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at St Christopher's Church at RAF Northolt to commemorate the new 600 Sqn stain glass window, coinciding with the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the reformation of the Sqn at RAF Northolt after being disbanded for many years.

The Officer Commanding 600 Sqn, Wg Cdr Steve Duddy and one of the Sqns members, Flt Lt Rich Needham brought together the initial design of the Squadron window. The design was then commissioned to Karen Newby, a stained-glass artist, with 33 years' experience, who has made over 100 different stain glass windows for the RAF.

It took Karen approximately 400 hours over 6 months to finish the piece, a long process with various complicated stages to it. The whole window was produced in 3 panels and only put together on the day of installation into the church. The final window contains approximately 10,000 pieces of cut glass, which are leaded in. The glass comes from all over the world; however, the background blue colour is recycled glass from Anglesey Fire Station which was rescued when it closed down, making this glass the only blue of its kind. The colour of the glass is achieved at source and will never fade, nor the glass deteriorate. Different colours are achieved using different elements, for example, the red glass will have Selenium and Gold in it and the blue, Cobalt and Copper. Karen produces stained glass windows as a hobby with help from her husband, AVM Brian Newby (ret'd). Brian helps significantly during the design phase on the computer, building a special frame for the windows, transporting and fitting them.

The window was installed on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019 into a removeable fixture by Brian and their son in-law, a delicate operation which took over 5 hours. The window panels are heavy and have to be carried vertically or the glass would collapse under its own weight. Luckily there were no breakages on this occasion, much to Karen's relief! She said, "It is an honour and a privilege in creating windows and being part of the history".



The concept of the window design has to be very accurate as when creating images such as crests no artist interpretation is required as the badges must be exact. 600 Sqn is the only Sqn in the Royal Air Force to have two official crests. The windows top panel shows the Sqns first crest, the City of London Corporation shield with the "dust-cart" badge. The middle panel of the window shows the Sqns battle honours. The bottom panel is the Sqns second crest with the crescent moon and sword, depicting the Sqns night-fighter activities and connection with the city of London. It also includes the Sqns logo "Praeter Sescentos" which means "More than 600". The whole design is bordered by red and white sharks' teeth which historically have been used as the Sqns badge on aeroplanes.

The window was shining bright at its commemoration service, led by the Reverend Mark Perry, Station Chaplain RAF Northolt and the Reverend David Norfield, College Chaplain RAF Cranwell who was invited to preach. The superb musicians from the Central Band of the Royal Air Force sang with SAC Anthony McCarthy on the organ. Air Commodore The Right Honourable Viscount Hugh Trenchard DL, Honorary Air Commodore 600 (City of London) Squadron was in attendance. A brass plaque will be commissioned and placed under the window inside the church to commemorate the artist and the organisations who donated towards the cost.

A huge thank you to Karen Newby for her artistry and dedication, and without her hard work and generosity the window would have not been possible. Thank you also to the 600 Sqn Association for a £1000 donation (£750.00 from the Association Central Fund and £250 from members) and RAFCA (Royal Air Force Cadet Association) for their significant donations towards the funding for the window. It is now a vision for everyone to enjoy, marking moments in history.

*The cost of the window exceeded the expected £3500, and any further donations would still be welcomed, no matter how great or small. Please send cheques to The Adjutant, 600 Sqn, RAF Northolt, West End Road, Ruislip, Middx HA4 6NG. Please make out cheques to Service Funds RAF Northolt and write on back 'Stain Glass Window'*

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## **The City of London Squadron Central Fund by Ian Walton on behalf of the Trustees**

The City of London Squadron Central Fund was established in 1955, for charitable purposes, by members of the original Flying Squadron.

Its aims are:

- To maintain the efficiency of the Royal Air Force, its Reserves and Auxiliaries by promoting the physical efficiency of the personnel of the Squadron.
- To contribute towards projects within the scope of Air Force welfare (other than those that are normally a public commitment).
- To make grants for charitable purposes which benefit directly those serving, or having served, in the RAF, Reserves or Auxiliaries or their dependents.

Following the disbandment of the RAUXAF flying squadrons in 1957 it was envisaged that the fund would support those who had previously served in No 600 (City of London) Squadron.

After the Squadron was reformed in 1999, the fund extended its support to the former members of No1 (County of Hertford) Maritime Headquarters Unit as well as members of the reformed Squadron.

The fund is administered by four Managing Trustees, who include the Officer Commanding No 600 Squadron and the President of the City of London Squadron Association.

Requests for assistance should be made initially through the Welfare Officer of the Association. Donations are always gratefully received.

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### **RAF Hornchurch Heritage Centre to open in 2020**

When I visit my Mother, she will often save local newspaper cuttings for me of stories that she thinks might be of interest. The cutting she had saved for me last time sparked off a chance reunion.



The topic of the article was for a museum that would soon be opening on the site of the former RAF Hornchurch. I grew up on a housing estate situated on the perimeter of the ex-RAF Hornchurch airfield and also attended 1838 'Elm Park' ATC as a teenager. The closing comment of the news article said that anyone wanting more information should contact Jeff Skillman. I recognised that name from my 1838 ATC days.

I sent Jeff a text message on the number provided and soon established that it was in fact that same person who had been our Warrant Officer in the 1980's. Jeff, now Flight Lieutenant and still with the Squadron offered me a tour of the partially complete heritage centre and I jumped at the chance.

I went there one Friday afternoon, met with Jeff and we figured out it had been 24 years since the last time we had seen each other. I was surprised at how quickly we were at ease in each other's company having established our shared value system so many years prior. Jeff very kindly took the time to show me

round the exhibits in the RAF Hornchurch Heritage Centre and pointed out that

No600 Sqn had once been based there in our Blenheims.

Jeff explained that one item in the Heritage Centre came from an ex No600 Sqn member. The piece in question was a No600 Sqn badge, which was donated by Sid Bowen. Sadly, Sid is now deceased.

Did any of you serve with Sid? Do you have any stories to share for the newsletter or items to loan the heritage centre?

I remember when I was a cadet that we used to have lots of contact with the veterans from RAF Hornchurch and their association. They used to use our building to put on temporary exhibitions about the airfield. By this time most of the airfield had disappeared under a housing estate. The veterans had only one gripe with life; that there wasn't a permanent memorial to the sacrifices made there. One ex-Rigger from No222 Natal Sqn, Dave Davis told me "I knew the posting to RAF Hornchurch would be bad as they issued us with a tin hat as soon as we arrived."

A driving force in organising their association was Ted Exall, a name that reverberates through the years so much that even now I have no trouble remembering it. I was very pleased to hear from Jeff that Ted's name will live on in the Ted Exall Education centre, which is being built on the site. I hope readers of our newsletter will enjoy the story and the pictures. I look forward to the RAF Hornchurch Association opening later this year when social distancing measures are relaxed again. Perhaps a No600 Sqn association visit could be arranged if there is enough interest?

The following excerpt is from Jeff's newspaper article:

*"With the kind assistance of Bellway Homes who generously gifted Sutton's House to the Hornchurch Aerodrome Historical Trust, work is continuing at a rapid pace to convert the two former Administration houses, previously used by the RAF into the "RAF Hornchurch Heritage Centre" which is due to open later this year. With locally sourced funding and donations from many businesses and the public, the Heritage Centre has already benefited from new windows and doors, security measures and the purchase of display cabinets, mannequins and visual aids to exhibit the collection.*

*The centre piece of the Centre will be the 'Battle of Britain' room downstairs which will feature British and German artefacts, uniforms, photographs and models to tell the Hornchurch story, whilst upstairs will feature a replicated Officers Mess including the original Oak fireplace from the former Officers Mess in Astra Close. Other rooms will cover the First World War when the airfield operated as RFC Suttons Farm, the Inter war and Post war years, Bomber Command and a 'Home Front' room telling the story of civilian life during World War II. Finally, there will be a Remembrance room and a vintage tearoom and garden and it is anticipated that it will become a popular historical attraction in Havering.*

*The Trust is always on the lookout for historical artefacts and memorabilia, so if you have anything of interest to loan or donate, you would like to register an interest in volunteering or you just want to follow progress, contact details visit the Trust at [www.rafhornchurch.com](http://www.rafhornchurch.com) or on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/RAFHornchurchAerodrome/>. You can also contact Treasurer Jeff Skillman on 07773 267357."*





# FEDERATION OF O.C.A's. OF THE LONDON TERRITORIAL AND AUXILIARY UNITS

(Affiliated to the Royal British Legion)

To all Affiliated Units: -

## TIME TO STAND DOWN?

With the centenary of the end of the First World War 2 years ago and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe and the Far East, it is thought appropriate to consider the future of the Federation and its continued relevance in light of George Shadbolt's Main Objects:

Founded in 1934 by Captain G.G. Shadbolt OBE, TD.

Main Objects:

To discuss all problems confronting O.C.A's.

To provide a clearing house for information.

To consolidate the spirit of comradeship and uphold the Regimental tradition.

To promote an annual Parade and Service for all members from the three Services.

It is an indisputable fact that slowly but surely the number of units we represent has got less as the Armed Forces have reduced in size and with this the harsh reality of the demise of some of the stalwarts of the Federation over recent years including the shock of Terry Young's sudden death. It is thus proposed we discuss the Federation's future at next Thursday's AGM and seek opinions from those Members who are unable to attend this Meeting. Your Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Derrick Harwood met with the President last week and we all agreed the last thing any of us would want is for the Federation to just come to an end as it withered on the vine. We are determined that this year's Annual Parade and Lunch should be a celebration of the Federation's longevity and a commemoration of the end of the War in Europe. However, we also feel that the numbers and units represented attending the parade will continue to decline rapidly in future. This particular moment in time, commemorating the end of the Second World War, presents itself as an appropriate occasion for the Federation to wind up, allowing us to go out with a bang rather than a whimper, and for our members to "Stand Down".

This is not a matter that is taken lightly. We are also aware that the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association can act as a focus for passing on information relevant to our current constituent parts and act as a coordinating body, particularly for events such as the Remembrance Sunday service, which is still a well-attended occasion for our Members.

At the meeting on 5 March at the Union Jack Club we will be able to discuss this in detail. As a means of focussing the discussion, the following proposal will be tabled:

"The Federation will have its final Annual Parade on Sunday 7 June 2020, and arrangements will then be put in place to wind down the Federation. These arrangements will include a role for the RFCA to provide communications to our member units, so that activities in London can continue to be supported with proper representation from our constituent units".

We look forward to your contributions in this regard.

With thank & kind regards yours truly,

Richard Burford

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## **Operation Ruman SEP 18 - RAF, Royal Navy and Royal Marines deploy to the Caribbean on Disaster Relief Operations**

It was a complete accident.

The 90 RAF personnel that were deployed on 'Operation Ruman' were supposed to be on the 38 Expeditionary Air Wing, (EAW), High Readiness List. Legend has it that this is an important and high kudos list to be on and people like me do not get on it. But some extraordinary events collided to make the impossible - possible. A condition of inclusion on the list is that you must be good at what



you do and be ready to move anywhere in the World within 48 Hours. You must be medically and physically fit, in date with all sorts of exotic immunisations/vaccinations and current with core competencies such as weapons, CRBN and First Aid. With a civilian job it can be a tall order to have all these ducks lined up.

There were however two random reasons that made my deployment possible.

Firstly, I recently had been mobilised to back fill the job of a colleague who had been short notice deployed to Erbil, Iraq in support of Operation Shader.

Secondly, my other colleague was on the High Readiness List. A super fit, elite athlete that represents the RAF Number 1 Football Team had some critical fixtures to play which conflicted with the potentially three months that he could be expected to be away in the Caribbean.

The Squadron Leader who was doing the late-night phone around was not impressed with my colleagues' story. These commanders do not expect resistance from personnel, (especially junior personnel), that are on the High Readiness List. The idea is that if you are not ready and available, you should not be on the list.

In the modern military though we love our Athletes who contribute positive PR for the Armed Forces. I eagerly volunteered to replace him.

I was current with all the required military competencies, mainly because of my recent mobilisation process. My past deployments to Africa and Afghanistan also meant that I was in date for the required vaccinations. The clincher was that they were 'desperate'. There was little time to do all the checking which would have uncovered the fact that I'm not that good!

My colleague got to play his key football matches and join his family for a previously booked and paid for holiday and I got away from my Mission Support desk job at RAF Brize Norton to go on an adventure I will never forget.

Just over 48 Hours later I was on a Voyager with other military personnel, Police and Prison Officers, bound for Barbados.



The heat hit me like a wall on arrival at Barbados. After collecting kit, we were bussed to the Barbados Defence Force Barracks which was to become our home for the indefinite period. Each day and night more military arrived. I didn't grumble at the sparse barrack room bunk bed and cold showers because the Royal Marines were sleeping under the Stars due to a chronic lack of beds and cot bed space under cover. My first assignment was Joint Force Headquarters and with very

little technology I was responsible for facilitating and annotating the Flying Programme and flight following on a White Board, Satellite Phone, with very limited mobile phone coverage. On some Islands, communication with our Tactical Air Traffic Controllers who can lay down temporary landing

strips, was difficult as these Islands had lost all infrastructure including mobile masts and network coverage.

The shifts were long, but water and mess food was in good supply, unlike many of the affected Islands.

Everything from communications from Downing Street, Whitehall, Command and Control and deployment of Air Assets to deliver Personnel, Food, Water, Medical Equipment and Shelter Packs was coordinated from Joint Force H.Q.

Our Aircraft fleet included A330 Voyager, C-130 Hercules, C-17 Globemaster, Chinook, Puma and the first ever A400 Atlas to be deployed on Operations.

After some weeks at H.Q. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work out of the Operational Hanger at Barbados Airport, our logistical hub for the duration of Op Ruman. We were joined by both the Canadian and U.S. Air Forces.

Duties were varied and not always 'in trade' but included vital bin emptying and driving around the Island, a real 'eye opener'. Then, a completely random, duck out of water job – Mechanical Transport Officer, (MTO), missing the Officer/Commission bit, but with a strong mandate from the Detachment Wing Commander to "sort it out".

I can tell you; this was one of the trickiest, slippiest and most demanding tasks I have done in the RAF. Controlling a fleet of 27 vehicles with some personnel believing these were their own personal vehicles to use at will and disappear without a trace in was a test of my usual friendly, fluffy manner and was akin to herding cats.

The Royal Marines had 3 NCO's to do the same job and so I had to drop the dim but nice but chatty Tony persona and go 'Napoleon'. I surprised myself at becoming a raving autocrat and so very military. My Detention and Custody training at Colchester came in helpful here as did my ability to wear people down, (Dictionary definition of *wear down*; "*To be gradually damaged, diminished, eroded, or consumed by long or hard exposure, e.g, verbal assault, to make someone gradually lose their energy or confidence. To fatigue, weary, or exhaust someone or something*"). I was advised that many offenders were beaten into submission and simply lost the will to drive unnecessary or superfluous journeys, or hog vehicles.

I ran a tight ship and my performance at this unfamiliar job was rewarded with flying.

By far the supreme highlight of my deployment was a special mission to deliver Shelter Packs in one of the C130's from 47 Sqn. An emotional but highly rewarding experience.

I saw devastation on the ground and witnessed extraordinary courage, hard work and determination from the Army, Royal Navy, Royal Marine, Pilots, and Airman/Airwomen. Police and Prison Officers and specialist civilians were present to keep law and order and to ensure a duty of care and safe custody of Island prisoners, which included recapturing a few!

As Flying Officer West, Watch Keeper at the Hanger Operations Control commented, "Every day we can see the impact that it makes getting the aid, personnel and aid to the right places at the right time"

I considered it a privilege to have played, albeit a minor part in the Disaster and Emergency Relief Operation. A happy accident for me.

#### Key Facts: -

- RAF and Royal Navy were deployed to support the effort to British Overseas Territories that had been stricken by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria in the Caribbean.
- 2,000 strong military and specialist civilian force initially deployed to join the Department for International Development mission to deliver disaster relief in the areas.
- The hurricanes struck British Overseas Territories causing catastrophic devastation and the loss of life. Buildings were damaged, vital resources cut off and mass evacuations had to take place.
- Op Ruman was the fastest tempo of air movements since Operation Herrick in Afghanistan.
- RAF 38 EAW enabled the delivery of 75 tonnes of humanitarian aid plus an additional 1,400 tonnes of other essential equipment.
- Royal Navy Units deployed were HMS Ocean, RFA Mounts Bay, 820 and 815 Naval Air Squadron, 1700 Naval Air Squadron
- More than 20 Royal Marines from C Company, 40 Commando, deployed to support Her Majesty's Governor of the Turks & Caicos Islands.

- Army Units involved included elements from the UK's High-Readiness Reaction Force, the 3rd (UK) Division, and 170 (Infrastructure Support) Engineer Group, a specialised, hybrid Army Regular and Reserves unit, 24 Commando Engineer Regiment and the Royal Logistic Corps.
- More than 200 Royal Marines from 40 Commando and 3 Commando Brigade supported DfID's urgent humanitarian work in the British Virgin Islands.
- More than 50 officers from the UK's International Police Response Cadre, were sworn in as British Virgin Island police officers to support the territory with community and public order policing.
- Water filtration equipment and search and rescue kits for UK were supplied by NGOs 'Serve On' and 'Team Rubicon'.
- More than 90 regular and reserve RAF personnel were assigned to 38 EAW, including logisticians, RAF Police, administrative staff, engineers and operations personnel, principally from RAF Brize Norton and RAF Northolt.



*Me on top of the Flying Programme*



*En-Route to Islands*





*Our C-130 Landed*



*Delivered.*





*Joint Force Head Quarters, Barbados Defence Force Barracks*



*R&R, a 'social moment', getting to know the local military*

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## AIRFIELDS OF THE LONDON AUXILIARIES - No.1 NORTHOLT - PART 2 BY IAN WHITE

### The Inter-War Years



**Bristol Bulldog K2184 of No.41 Squadron is seen here during a sortie from Northolt. Note the camera gun on the upper mainplane and the Squadron's 'crown & cross' motif on the fin.**

The rapid contraction of the RAF in the post-war period brought about the closure of many of the former Royal Flying Corps and Royal Naval Air Service bases and airfields and significant reductions in military personnel. With there being very little in the way of a threat to the UK, there was no need for the stationing of large numbers of RAF units at home, consequently the old World War One 'London Defence Area' was gradually dismantled and run down. This policy applied to Northolt, which apart from the stationing of the Inland Area Communications Flight on the airfield to serve the London Metropolitan area, had no operational squadrons until Nos.12 and 41 Squadrons were reformed there on 1st April 1923. 12 Squadron was a bomber unit equipped with the de Havilland D.H.9A, while 41 flew Sopwith Snipes in the fighter/home defence role, albeit with just a single flight. This situation was rectified the following year with the conversion of the Squadron to Armstrong Whitworth Siskin Mk.III and an increase in its establishment to two full flights - later increased to three. That same year (1924) 12 Squadron moved in March to Andover.

Post-war the airfield suffered waterlogging following a few wet winters, during which the runways were closed to flying. This situation was rectified in 1925 with the construction of proper drainage and the grassing over of a number of clinker patches. The accommodation was also improved with the demolition of the pre-war wooden flight sheds and the building of an 'A' Type hanger, new barrack blocks and messes. The landing area was also increased.

The creation of the Auxiliary Air Force (AAF) in 1925, saw the creation of a number of bomber squadrons, amongst which was No.600 (City of London) Squadron, that formed at Northolt on 14th October under the command of Wing Commander A.W.H.James, MC, alongside No.601 (County of London) Squadron under Squadron Leader Lord Edward Grosvenor. Being bomber units both Squadrons received supplies of the ubiquitous

D.H.9A. Regarded at the time as the 'elite weekend flyers,' both squadrons adopted the usual auxiliary practice of training weekends at Northolt, annual summer camps at Tangmere and the occasional participation in the RAF Display at Hendon! Both squadrons remained at Northolt until January 1927, when they were moved to Hendon to operate with No.604 (County of Middlesex) Squadron.



**Three Hawker Demons K1952, K1955 & K1951 of No.23 Squadron. These aircraft were amongst the first batch of Demons delivered to the RAF.**

Prior to May 1926, Northolt was under the command of Inland Area, otherwise known as 'Fighting Area', which in turn became the Air Defence of Great Britain on 1st June.

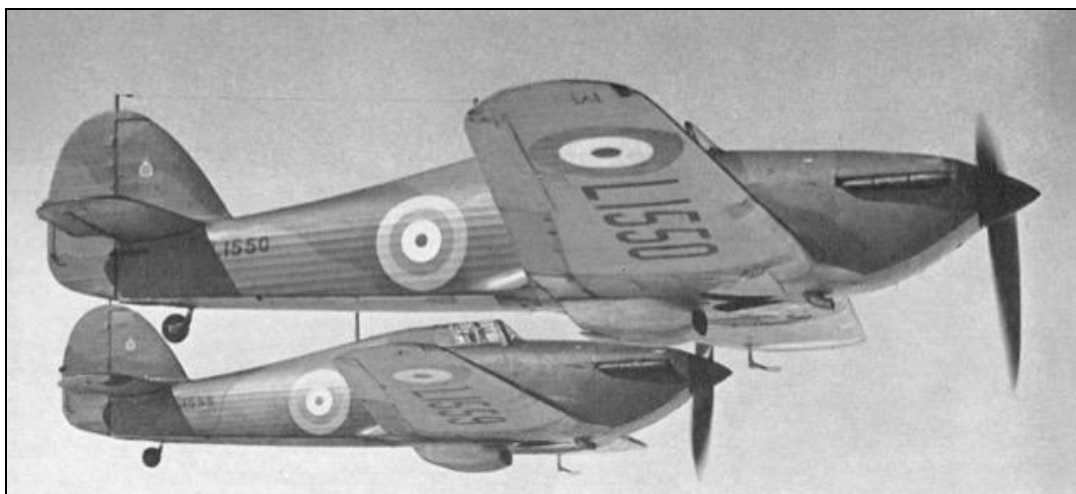
Two minor units; the Cape to Cairo Flight, which formed at Northolt during November 1925, before transferring to Heliopolis, Egypt, later that month and the Parachute Training School which moved to Henlow in December 1926. A new front-line unit, No.24 (Communications) Squadron, was moved from Kenley to Northolt in January 1927 to take over some of the duties of the Inland Area Communications Flight, which was redesignated the Home Communications Flight and retained at Northolt until April 1928. 24 Squadron undertook the provision of communications flying for the government, heads of state and the senior officers of all three services, for which it was equipped with a variety of aircraft that included D.H.9As, Avro 504Ks, Fairey IIIFs, de Havilland Moths and Vickers Vimys. The Squadron also provided flying instruction for HRH the Prince of Wales (later the Duke of Windsor) and Prince George (formerly the Duke of Kent) under the tutelage of Squadron Leader D.S.Don, 24's commanding officer (CO). RAF offices serving in the Air Ministry in London also used 24 Squadron's aircraft to maintain their flying status and no doubt their pay!

Fairey Aviation maintained its presence at Northolt, from where the Fairey Long Range Monoplane was tested during November 1928, followed by the Firefly 11M's (G-ABCN) first flight and that of the and that of the Fleetwind on 16th May 1929. Fairey's moved their testing to the Great West Aerodrome (later London Heathrow) during 1930.

The Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm (FAA) gained a presence at Northolt with the arrival of No.405 (Fleet Fighter) Flight and its Fairey Flycatchers on 14th June 1928. However, their stay was transitory before moving to the Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) at Gosport, Hants, on 3rd July. During August No.1 Squadron and its Siskin IIAs spent a few days detached to Northolt, before returning to their home airfield at Tangmere on the 17th. By this time 41 Squadron was also equipped with the Siskin IIIA. The FAA detached a second



Fleet Fighter Flight, No.407, to Northolt, which flew in its Flycatchers from the deck of the aircraft carrier, HMS *Courageous*, on 30th May 1931 and departed for RNAS Lee-on-Solent on 5th June. Northolt was given a training function, when it was confirmed as an Armament Practice Station (APS) on 26th October 1931 and allocated Avro Tutor trainers. However, this status did not last for long, before it was withdrawn and disbanded in April of the following year. The Royal Navy put in another of its fleeting appearances (no pun intended) on 6th July 1933, when Hawker Nimrods and Ospreys of No.800 Naval Air Squadron (NAS) flew in from *Courageous*, only to depart four days later for a practice camp at Sutton Bridge. Likewise, 24 Squadron departed for Hendon on the 9th July.



**Hawker Hurricane Mk.Is L1550 & L1559 of No.111 Squadron, over Northolt some time in 1938. Note the Watts two-bladed propellers and the fabric covered wings of the earlier production Hurricanes.**

A second permanent fighter squadron, No.111, moved from Hornchurch, Essex, to Northolt on 12th July 1934, bringing with it its Bristol Bulldog Mk.IIAs and its CO, Squadron Leader M.B.Frew, DSO, MC, AFC. The training function was re-established at Northolt in 1935, with the formation of the London University Air Squadron (UAS), comprising a staff of ground and flying instructors who were accommodated on the airfield and in Kensington, West London. The Squadron's Chief Flying Instructor (CFI) was also responsible for Northolt's Station Flight which formed on 6th January 1936, in addition to its Avro Tutors and Hawker Harts.

41 Squadron left Northolt in October 1935 on a posting to Aden in the Middle East, leaving 111 Squadron as the station's representative fighter unit. With the creation of Fighter Command in July 1936, Northolt was subordinated to its No.11 Group and reinforced with the transfer of No.23 Squadron and its Hawker Harts and Demons from Biggin Hill in December. With the RAF in the throes of an expansion programme in 1937, No.213 Squadron was reformed at Northolt in March and equipped with Gloster Gauntlets, before moving north to Church Fenton in July.

History was made at Northolt in January 1938 with the arrival of Mk.I Hawker Hurricanes for 111 Squadron, making it the first squadron in the RAF to receive the new monoplane fighter. A working-up training programme began as soon as sufficient numbers of Hurricanes were available, but this was not without its problems as the aircraft was more complex than the unit's earlier equipment - retractable undercarriage, flaps, enclosed cockpit and heavy armament. Accidents were inevitable. The first fatal crash concerned the loss of L1556 flown by Flying Officer Mervyn Bocquet, whose aircraft was seen to dive into the ground close to the Western Avenue between Hillingdon and Ickenham on 1st



February. On the 19th March, L1551 force landed at Ickenham and on 18th July, L1550 made a similar landing at Colnbrook, followed two days later by L1549 which crashed on the approach to the airfield. According to one account, 'the crash tenders were kept busy'. 23 Squadron's Demons left Northolt in May 1938, for Wittering, while No.25 Squadron flew in a detachment of Gladiators from Hawkinge on 12th September 1938, before leaving a month later to return to their home airfield.

1939 brought improvements to Northolt with the erection of a 'C' Type hanger - one of the first to be built - and five 'H' Type barrack blocks in the north-east corner of the airfield. The opportunity was also taken to build two short concrete runways of 2,400 feet, thus making Northolt one of the few to be so equipped before the outbreak of war. 25 Squadron returned to Northolt 22nd August, followed a few days later by 600 Squadron from Hendon. Both were equipped with the fighter version of the Bristol Blenheim Mk.I.

Therefore, shortly before the outbreak of war on 3rd September 1939, Northolt played host to 25 (Blenheim If), 111 (Hurricane I) and 600 (Blenheim If) Squadrons, the London UAS and the Station Flight.

#### Northolt Flying Units 1920 - August 1939

Unit	From	To	Aircraft
No.12 Squadron	April 1923	March 1924	D.H.9A.
No.41 Squadron	April 1923	Oct 1935	Snipe, Siskin, Bulldog & Demon.
No.600 Squadron	Oct 1925	Jan 1927	D.H.9A.
No.601 Squadron	Oct 1925	Jan 1927	D.H.9A & Avro 504.
Cape-Cairo Flight	Nov 1925	Nov 1925	Fairey IID & IIIF.
Para Trg School	Nov 1925	Dec 1926	None.
No.24 Squadron	Jan 1927	July 1933	Various.
Home Comms Flight	Feb 1927	April 1928	Various.
405 (FF) Flight	June 1928	July 1928	Flycatcher.
No.1 Squadron	Aug 1928	Aug 1928	Siskin.
407 (FF) Flight	May 1931	June 1931	Flycatcher.
Arm Practice School	Oct 1931	April 1932	Tutor.
No.800 Nav Air Sqn	July 1933	July 1933	Nimrod & Osprey.
No.111 Squadron*	July 1934	Oct 1939	Bulldog, Gauntlet & Hurricane.
London UAS**	Oct 1935	Aug 1939	Tutor, Hart, Audax & Hind.
Northolt Stn Flight	Jan 1936	Aug 1939	Various.
No.23 Squadron	Dec 1936	May 1938	Hart & Demon.
No.213 Squadron	March 1937	July 1937	Gauntlet.
No.25 Squadron	Sept 1938	Oct 1938	Gladiator.
No.25 Squadron	Aug 1939	Aug 1939	Gladiator.
No.600 Squadron****	Aug 1939	Aug 1939	Blenheim If.

\* 111 Squadron moved to Acklington in October 1939.

\*\* The London UAS was disbanded at Northolt on 5th September 1939.

\*\*\* 25 Squadron departed Northolt for Filton on 15th September 1939.

\*\*\*\* 600 Squadron left Northolt for Hornchurch on 20th October 1939.

The author would wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Steve Page in the cleaning the Hurricane picture. The deployment of the aircraft and squadrons at Northolt was taken from Air Britain's CD-ROM of RAF Airfields.

### **Update from Kandahar - Part Three**



*One of the rockets that are fired at the base by the Taliban.*

#### **It Ain't Half Hot Mum** **Date - 22/05/2009**

Firstly, I would like to say how nice it was to see you all when I came to visit during my R+R. I have to apologise to anyone that I didn't get time to say hello to. The trip home went as follows. I checked into the PHF (Passenger Handling Facility). There was an infantry company passing through at the same time as me who were on their way home after a 6-month tour. I have never seen such a bunch of ragged, hairy looking individuals in my life. Some of them had the 1000-yard stare and I did my best to keep out of their way. I felt far too clean and freshly turned out to be standing anywhere near them. I didn't want to become the target for their mickey taking, what with me being in the RAF and all. There were some very tough looking individuals in their group, and I considered that if I were in a fight, they looked like a good bunch of people to have around. We got airborne and our first stop was in the middle east. It looked great from the air at night with what looked like hotels, a palace and holiday resorts. It was the first time I had I had been away from Afghanistan in

2 months and it was quite a sight to behold. Next stop was Cyprus to drop off the Army for decompression. They would spend 24 hours there having a BBQ and a beer on the beach. Their idea is to let them unwind before going home so that they don't take the stress out on their families. Then we were off on the final leg back to Brize Norton in Cambridgeshire. It was just getting light as we left Cyprus and the mountains looked beautiful.

The RAF comes in for a bit of stick these days but on the flight home I experienced something quite incredible. There we were at 30+ thousand feet and I was served one of the best full English breakfasts I have ever had. The staff who man these flights are saints. They are ever aware of the stressful situations that some of the passengers would have been in just hours earlier and conduct themselves impeccably. There were some walking wounded on the flight and a few medics were busying themselves tending to their needs. These might not all have been from enemy action but could be any of the myriad of ailments that can happen to the human body whilst working in such arduous conditions. I was very glad to see England's green pastures and have never felt so glad to be home.

After a few essentials such as a bath, some food eaten off a real plate with a metal knife and fork, a beer and some sleep in a comfortable bed, I felt like brand new. You only get 7 days for R+R including travelling so all too soon it was time to be heading back. I was not too keen to be going back I can tell you. There was a marked contrast in the mood on the flight back to Afghanistan. Coming home it was all smiles and jubilant celebration. On the way back it was more sombre. Everyone was keeping their thoughts to themselves and avoiding conversation or eye contact. I couldn't help looking round the cabin of the aircraft thinking "I wonder who is not going to be coming back in the same condition as they are now?" The landing was even worse than the first time as now you know what you are letting yourself in for. There was one moment sitting in the dark with the blinds down that I got the sensation that the aircraft was upside down. It was just my mind playing tricks due to the lack of horizontal reference, but it was slightly unnerving.

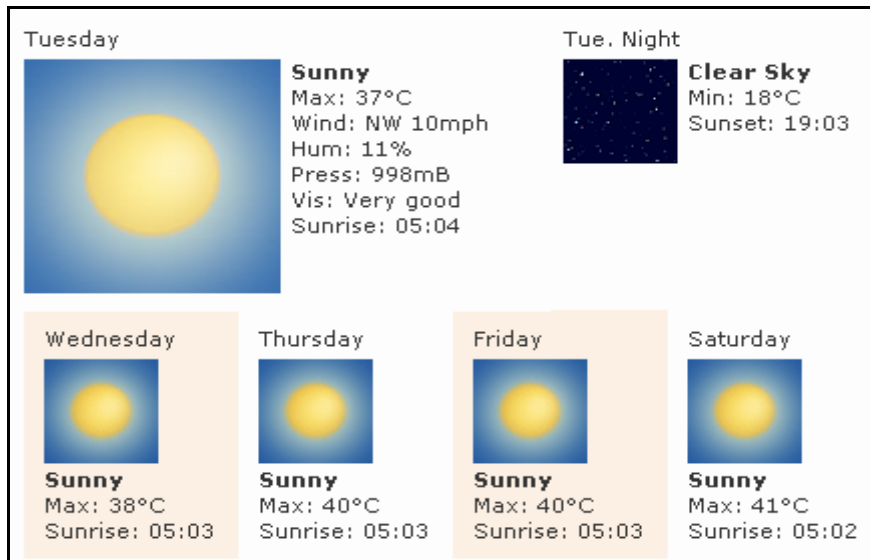
I had missed some fun whilst I had been away. There had been a few rocket attacks and my comrades had some stories to tell. One of our buildings had been peppered by shrapnel one evening. Some of the guys had been visiting another location when the alarm went off. They hit the deck and some shrapnel came in through the roof. Again, the luck was on our side. I told them I was sad I had missed the fun and I had probably been in the garden having a BBQ and a beer at the time. They all swore at me. I was bit depressed to be back and then I was down in the dumps for the first few days. It didn't take long to get used to it again though and I would say that I am now back in the swing of things. I keep thinking about going home though which is bad because that makes the time go slower. I have a "Chuff Chart" which is a military term for a calendar that counts down your time. It's a bit like prisoners have for marking off the days until they are released. This is more up to date though as it is in Microsoft Excel. My "Donut of Doom" (That's a pie chart to you) says I have 32% remaining, not that I am counting.

Since I have been back, I have attended a repatriation ceremony. This is where the remains of the fallen are loaded onto an aircraft for the journey home. It's the last thing that we do for them and we try to give them a fitting send off. The one I attended was for a Canadian service person. It was a very sombre and surreal occasion. I almost felt like I wasn't really there, and it wasn't happening to me. It looked like a scene from a film, a transport aircraft with the loading door open, Canadian flags draped from the wings, many thousands of us from all contributing nations on parade. The weirdest thing was the airfield carries on operating whilst all this is going on so there are flights of all sorts of aircraft coming and going at the same time.

Now on to some more lighthearted news. The system we are looking after is running a lot better now, so we have been finding time to devote to the time-honoured tradition of taking the p1\$\$ and practical jokes. For example, one of the lads was due to make a trip to Camp Bastion and he looked a bit nervous about it. To help put his mind at rest we loaded his webbing with stones and rocks whilst he was away drawing his ammo. Then we got a copy of Heat magazine and hid it under the chest plate of his body armour so that he would have something to read on the way there. One of the guys was going with him and didn't tell him until they were airborne. That was just our little way of showing him that we care.

## Weather

As you can see from the picture below its bloody hot. You might think that is nice but remember we are not in our shorts round the pool with a cocktail. If we were it might be enjoyable but working, moving and operating in this heat is uncomfortable and it is only going to get worse. The godsend is I have 3 air-conditioning units in the server room. It's to keep the servers cool they tell me. I've noticed quite a few people popping in and finding an excuse to stay there. It must be a coincidence. Maybe we should start charging?



Some of the new US vehicles. To gauge the size of these beasts the little thing in the middle is a Humvee.





*Flags flying at half-mast outside the JAG (Joint Air Group) for British personnel killed in action.*

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### **The history of Member No 1 of the 600 (City of London) Squadron Association – Flight Sergeant 236478 Oscar Francis (Frank) Pritchard**

I am the granddaughter of Frank Pritchard and thought that this might be of interest to present-day members.

Oscar Francis Pritchard or 'Frank' as he was known was born on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1891 in Leyton, Essex, the son of Francis Alexander Pritchard and Jane Maria Costin. Francis senior had been orphaned aged 10 and was sent to the residential school section of the workhouse in Limehouse, London. Here he was taught to read and write, to march and play music so, aged 14, he joined the Royal Marines in Chatham as a boy bugler. After 13 years in the marines he bought himself out to get married to Jane and along came Oscar Francis in 1891. Following in his father's footsteps, Oscar Francis /Frank junior also joined the marines at Deal, Kent in 1909, aged 18 years. He served on HMS Implacable, Essex and Dreadnought and somewhere along the line became a motor engineer. In 1917 Frank opted to join the Royal Naval Air Service and was based at HMS Daedalus at Lee on Solent. However, on 1st April 1918, the RNAS combined with the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) to form the Royal Air Force (RAF) and the Lee-on-Solent Naval Seaplane Training School became an RAF station. Naval aviation training continued throughout the 1920s under the RAF with both Calshot and Lee-on-Solent providing training in operating seaplanes.

Frank was then posted to the Handley Page Squadron at RAF Manston followed by attachment to the Pool of Pilots in Joyce Green and the dispersion centre in Ponders End. The next 6 years were spent out in India, firstly with the 31 Squadron in Risalpur, then at Khow, Cawnpore, Peshawar, Tank, Miram Shah, Dardoni and Kohat, including spells with the 28<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Squadrons. He was mentioned in dispatches from Lord Rawlinson for gallant and distinguished service at Waziristan 1922-23. Frank was posted home in 1925 to the 111 Squadron at Duxford and then to the 600 City of London Squadron at Finsbury Barracks and Hendon.

At this point Frank was involved in the setting up of the Squadron as is shown by an article in the 1965 *Battle of Britain* issue newsletter that was written by him when he became President and voted as **MEMBER No 1**.

*'I am the only survivor of the original formation. S/Ldr, the Hon J H B Rodney and I took over the old hospital block at Finsbury Barracks on 15 October 1925. He then went on to Northolt to organise the flying training side of the activities (later at Hendon) leaving me (Frank) to organise the recruiting, documentation etc in addition to ordering workshop equipment and tools, compiling initial training syllabuses for the various trades and arranging the social side of the Squadron. Recruitment was scheduled to open up in Dec 1925. it was decided to concentrate on the highest type recruits only, so recruitment was relatively slow, but as events showed the Squadron covered itself in glory largely due to the esprit de corps engendered in the early days. In the first 7 years I insisted on the running the social side on Club principles instead of the usual Service type of Messes and with the support of my wife and the most valuable backing of Peter Stewart, this was successful. Words and praise cannot be found to fully appreciate what Peter Stewart has done to keep the Squadron alive. Between us we ran a Rugger Fifteen and cricket club, there were monthly dances and midweek PT and gym evenings.'*

Frank retired in 1933 but kept close contact with the Association over the following years and served on the Committee. On the 16 May 1953 he was presented with the Squadron Standard by HM the Queen Mother at Buckingham Palace. The Standard was laid up at The Priory Church, St Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield on the 10 Mar 1957.

Frank lost his first wife Florrie in 1947 but remarried and with his second wife moved from Devizes, Wiltshire (where he ran the Black Swan Hotel) to Epping, Essex. They remained there until his death in 1973. (His great grandson was born shortly afterwards.)

In the 600 Association newsletter of that year (1973) the following was written...

*'Oscar Francis (Frank) Pritchard died at his home on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 1973. Frank Moody represented the Squadron at his funeral and the following recollections by one of his old colleagues W/Cdr 'Nick' Nicholson are a fitting tribute*

*When intending recruits to 600 Squadron presented themselves at Town Headquarters in the late 20's and early 30's the first person they saw was F/Sergeant Pritchard who combined in those days the jobs of NCO i/c Recruiting, Admin, Canteen, Entertainment and for good measure, part time instructor on aero engines. His pleasant personality, quiet sense of humour and an aura of underlying efficiency made a recruit feel that he was really welcome in the Squadron.*

*Frank was a man one could always approach with a query and irrespective of one's rank, be sure of a helpful and friendly response. Many of us have happy memories of Parade Nights with supper afterwards in the Canteen - cooked and served by his charming first wife Florence (Florrie) and his lovely daughter Vera, followed by Kimo or snooker etc with Frank. He was a tower of strength to the Squadron in its formative years and it was a great loss to us all when his 24 years were up and he left THQ. But we never lost touch for he and Florrie took over the Coach and Horses pub in Bruton Street, WC and the boys soon found they were as welcome there as ever! We were always delighted to see Frank at any of the Squadrons gatherings and the last time many of us saw him was at the reception to the Queen Mother in 1972 to whom he was presented.'*

*'Vera' – my Mother - died on the Isle of Wight aged 96 in 2013.*

I try my best to attend the AGM each year to continue this connection.

Written by Linda Fair  
Granddaughter of Frank Pritchard  
January 2020

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**The City of London Squadron Association – Minutes of Annual General Meeting 21 Mar 2020**  
**Held via Dial-in**

**Present:**

Jane Drew	President
Shobha Earl	Chairman
Jon Byrne	Secretary
Ian Walton	Treasurer
Wg Cdr Steve Duddy	OC 600 Sqn
FS Vicky Bannister	Adjut 600 Sqn and Squadron Liaison with Association
Aidy Durran	Webmaster
Peter Harris	Events Co-ordinator
Terry Lynn	Member
Sean Murphy	Committee Member
Bill Oscroft	Member
Chris Owen	City of London Liaison Officer
Lloyd Saxby	Welfare Officer

Apologies were received from: Viscount Trenchard (Association Patron), Jacqui Ashby, Andy Cameron, Stuart Edwards, Linda Fair, Shane Guy, Janet Jarvis, Angie Luddington, Kevin O'Shaughnessy, Rowena Purdy, Tony Reynolds, Gary Stevens, Ian White.

**Item 1 – Minutes of last AGM held on 16 March 2019**

The motion that the minutes be accepted was proposed by Terry Lynn, seconded by Jane Drew, and unanimously accepted.

**Item 2 – Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**Item 3 – Proxy Votes**

The Secretary reported that three members had returned proxy voting forms. None had expressed any objections with the proposals for elections, changes to rules and acceptance of accounts. One had proposed some further changes to the Association Rules, see Item 11.

**Item 4 – Election of President**

The re-election of Jane Drew as President was proposed by Vicky Bannister, seconded by Jon Byrne, and unanimously accepted.

**Item 5 – Election of Chairman**

The election of Vicky Bannister as Chairman was proposed by Terry Lynn, seconded by Ian Walton, and unanimously accepted.

**Item 6 – Election of Honorary Secretary**

The re-election of Jonathan Byrne as Honorary Secretary was proposed by Ian Walton, seconded by Sean Murphy, and unanimously accepted.

**Item 7 – Election of Honorary Treasurer**

The re-election of Ian Walton as Honorary Treasurer was proposed by Vicky Bannister, seconded by Peter Harris, and unanimously accepted.

**Item 8 – Election of Auditor**

The re-election of Mrs C Kempton as Auditor was proposed by Terry Lynn, seconded by Sean Murphy, and unanimously accepted.

**Item 9 – Election of various Committee positions**

Re-election of the following Committee members was proposed by Jane Drew, seconded by Ian Walton, and unanimously accepted:

Newsletter Editor – Andy Cameron

Events Co-ordinator – Peter Harris

Membership Secretary – Angie Luddington

Webmaster – Aidy Durran

City of London Liaison Officer – Chris Owen

600 Sqn Liaison Officer – Vicky Bannister

Welfare Officer – Lloyd Saxby

Welfare Officer – Jim Bole

Ordinary Member – Jo Everest

Ordinary Member – Sean Murphy

Greg Macaree had advised the Chairman that he wished to step down from the Committee.

#### **Item 10 - Election of new Committee Members**

The election of Shobha Earl as an Ordinary Member was proposed by Jane Drew, seconded by Jon Byrne, and unanimously accepted.

#### **Item 11 – Change to Association Rules**

The following amendments were outlined by the Secretary:

Rule 3(a) – add 'full' before 'member'.

Rule 3(b) – add 'full' before 'membership'.

- To clarify different types of membership.

Rule 3(b) – delete '1 MHQ Unit', insert No '1 MHU'.

- Janet Jarvis had pointed out the correct short form of No 1 Maritime Headquarters Unit's title.

Rule 6(c) – insert 'Affiliate,' after 'paid by'.

- Rules previously did not make clear that Affiliate members do not pay a membership fee.

Rules 13(b) and 14(c) – delete 'his', insert 'his/her'.

- Janet Jarvis had pointed out that the use of 'his' was inconsistent with usage elsewhere in the rules.

Rule 15(c) – to read: 'Affiliate, Honorary and Associate members shall not be entitled to vote at any General Meeting.'

Rule 15(d) – to read: 'Each full member of the Association as defined at Para 3(a) and 3(b) shall have one vote on each proposition put to the meeting. Voting by proxy allowed.'

- To clarify the voting rights of various categories of member.

Bill Oscroft suggested a sentence at the start of the Rules to say where 'his or he' is mentioned this is taken to mean her or she. After a brief discussion it was decided that it was less labour intensive to include Janet's suggestion to make one change rather than remove all references to his/her and he/she in the rules.

The amendments were proposed by Peter Harris, seconded by Terry Lynn, and unanimously accepted.

#### **Item 12 – Accounts and balance sheet for the year ended 30 September 2019**

##### Treasurer's Report - Income

Donations received were substantially lower as final payment from Caspar (An Association Member who wishes to remain anonymous) was received in year ending 30 September 2018.

We sold five prints of the painting 'Destination Waalhaven' at £35 each. I believe that there are still three copies available.

##### Expenditure

We made donations of £50 each in memory of John Wilding and Bruce Blanche. There was a requirement for additional wreaths from Royal British Legion for which we donate £25 each.

The Association paid the up-front costs of £600 for the replacement badge at the RAF Club. The Committee had agreed that £150 would be paid by the Association. Donations from



past and serving members of the Squadron amounted to £455 resulting in a reduced payment of £145 by the Association.

AGM/Lunch 2019 deficit. The cost per head was £46.50 (including pre-AGM tea/Coffee). However, we only charged £45. The Committee had agreed that the cost of three guests would be borne by the Association. 21 Covers were booked however due to a misunderstanding over payments received only 20 were actually needed. The Committee offered the spare place to WO Campbell as an additional guest.

Jane Drew added that as a result of the cancellation of the Lunch this year there will not be a shortfall in the next accounts.

The President thanked Ian Walton for his hard work as Treasurer.

**Item 13 – Report on the Central Fund**

The Chair advised that in the absence of the Trust Fund Treasurer any questions on the Trust fund may be directed to Kevin O'Shaughnessy after the AGM. There were no matters arising.

The President noted that looking after the Central Fund took a lot of time and she was very grateful to Kevin for his support.

**Item 14 – Notification of Events**

The Chairman reminded members that all events were suspended while the COVID 19 crisis continued.

**Item 15 – Any Other Business**

Vicky Bannister thanked the Association for the cheque, from the Central Fund, that had been received at the Squadron for £750 towards the stained-glass window.

Peter Harris asked if the 600 Squadron enamel lapel badges would be available to buy soon. Vicky explained that there was currently skeleton manning of the Squadron at RAF Northolt and she was working from home, so it was likely to be some time before badges could be sold.

Terry Lynn proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to Catherine Kempton for her work as auditor, Jane Drew seconded, and this was unanimously accepted.

Wg Cdr Steve Duddy gave a short update on Squadron activities:

- 45 Squadron members had volunteered for COVID 19-related duties; this was in addition to the 12 already mobilised for operations.
- The presentation of a new Squadron standard had been postponed to 2021.
- The annual trip to Holland and the St Bartholomew's service had been cancelled.
- No events would be held at the Squadron until at least the end of July.

The President thanked everyone for taking part in the dial-in AGM, which had proved very effective. She thanked Shobha Earl for the great job she had done as Chairman over the past two years and welcomed Vicky Bannister to the role.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 1155.

Jonathan Byrne  
Honorary Secretary

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## THE CITY OF LONDON SQUADRON ASSOCIATION RULES

- 1     Name  
The name of the Association shall be: "The City of London Squadron Association".
- 2     Principles and Policy  
The objects of the Association shall be to:
  - (a)     Support by collective or individual endeavour all undertakings of the Squadron.
  - (b)     Honour the memory and carry on the work of those who die in the service of their Country.
  - (c)     Encourage the bond between present and past and maintain the traditions of the Squadron.
  - (d)     Promote the welfare of all members, or their spouses, widows, widowers, children or other dependants.
- 3     Membership
  - (a)     Every Officer, NCO and Airman serving on the posted strength of the Squadron will *ipso facto* be a full member of the Association.
  - (b)     An Officer, NCO or Airman of the Regular, Reserve or Auxiliary Air Forces who served on the posted strength of the Squadron or its sisters, 2600 Sqn and No 1 MHU is eligible for full membership.
  - (c)     An Officer, NCO or Airman of the Regular, Reserve or Auxiliary Air Forces who served on the posted strength of 601 (County of London) or 604 (County of Middlesex) Squadrons is eligible for Affiliate Membership.
  - (d)     The Committee by majority may invite as an Associate Member (or for particular merit, an Honorary Member) a civilian or member of the services.
  - (e)     The numbers of Associate and Honorary Members shall not be limited.
- 4     Election of Members
  - (a)     Each candidate for election to membership shall apply to the Hon. Secretary on the approved nomination form.
  - (b)     The election of members is vested in the majority vote of the Committee whose decision shall be final and who shall not disclose their deliberations.
- 5     Date of Membership  
The effective date of membership shall be the date on which a member is elected or invited to membership by the Committee.
- 6     Subscriptions
  - (a)     Annual membership subscriptions shall be £5. Members granted Life Membership under previous superseded rules shall not be liable to pay an annual subscription. Donations are always welcome and will be faithfully applied.
  - (b)     Serving members of the Squadron are not liable to pay annual subscriptions but may do so if they wish by completing an Application Form. This will ensure that they receive all communications sent to other (previously served) members.
  - (c)     No subscription shall be paid by Affiliate, Associate or Honorary Members
- 7     Officers
  - (a)     There shall be a Patron, President and Vice-Presidents of the Association and such other officers as may be prescribed at a General Meeting. As a mark of gratitude for past service, the Committee may in its sole discretion appoint as Life Vice-President a retiring President or Chairman.
  - (b)     The President and Vice-Presidents of the Association (excepting Life Vice-Presidents) shall be elected or re-elected yearly at the Annual General Meeting.
  - (c)     The Patron shall be elected for life or until he/she resigns or is removed. Both election and removal shall take place at a General Meeting of the Association and shall require a majority of three-fourths of those present at the meeting.
  - (d)     The Association shall be managed by a Committee which shall consist of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and at least six members.

- 8 Rules of the Committee
- (a) The affairs of the Association shall be managed and administered by the Committee whose duty it shall be to decide all administrative business connected with the Association and to determine any question whereto the Rules of the Association do not apply.
  - (b) The Committee shall be elected or re-elected yearly at the Annual General Meeting.
  - (c) The Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancies occurring during its year of office, subject to confirmation at the next Extraordinary General Meeting, should one be held.
  - (d) The Committee may co-opt additional members for any specific purpose, but such co-opted members shall not have a vote in committee.
  - (e) The Committee shall meet periodically as necessary, five to form a quorum.
  - (f) On matters in dispute by the Committee the decision shall be taken on a majority vote.
  - (g) The Committee may appoint sub-committees for special purposes subject to such rules and conditions as the Committee shall deem fit.
  - (h) The Committee shall meet at such times and places and in such manner as it may decide.
  - (i) All correspondence and the business of the Association shall be conducted in the name of the Association or Committee as appropriate.
- 9 Honorary Secretary
- The Hon. Secretary, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting shall, in virtue of his/her office, be a member of the Committee. He/she is to:
- (a) Keep a complete record of the Association, its activities and its members
  - (b) Prepare a resumé of the activities of the Association for presentation to the Annual General Meeting and for the Committee at any time.
- 10 Honorary Treasurer
- The Hon. Treasurer, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting shall, in virtue of his/her office, be a member of the Committee. He/she is to:
- (a) Keep the accounts of the Association in a proper recognised form.
  - (b) Prepare the accounts for audit once a year or as required by the Hon. Auditor.
- 11 Honorary Auditor
- (a) The Hon. Auditor shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. He/she will not be a member of the Committee.
  - (b) The Hon. Auditor will audit the accounts as necessary and prepare a Balance Sheet and Statement of Account as at 30<sup>th</sup> September each year for presentation to the Annual General Meeting.
  - (c) The Hon. Auditor will report on the affairs of the Association to the Committee as necessary.
- 12 Finance
- (a) The financial year of the Association shall be from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> September.
  - (b) The bank account of the Association shall be at the Westminster Bank Ltd., Lloyds Building Branch, 12 Leadenhall Street, London EC3, and/or other banks as decided by the Committee.
  - (c) All monies received on behalf of the Association whether in cash or by cheque shall forthwith be paid into the bank account.
  - (d) The Hon. Treasurer shall be entitled to hold not more than £50 in petty cash at any one time for disbursement by him/herself or by the Hon. Secretary.
  - (e) The Committee have the power to authorise for a special function an amount in excess of £50 for petty cash and will ensure that reasonable precautions for its safety are taken.
  - (f) All payments shall be made by bank transfer or cheque as far as shall be practicable.
  - (g) All cheques and orders for payment of money out of the bank account shall be signed by the Hon Treasurer and one other member of the Committee. The

specimen signatures of four members of the Committee shall be supplied to the bank.

13 Annual General Meeting

- (a) An Annual General Meeting shall be held as soon after 30<sup>th</sup> September as is practicable. Association accounts FY ends 30 September and Central Fund FY ends 31 December. March AGMs allow for both sets of accounts to be presented /audited and inclement winter weather will also have passed.
- (b) A notice sent by post (or, in the case of a member having previously signified his/her acceptance of electronic communication, by e-mail) to the last recorded address at least fourteen days prior to the date of the meeting shall be sufficient notice.
- (c) A member having an item for discussion at the Annual General Meeting shall submit full details in writing to reach the Hon. Secretary at least seven days prior to the date of the meeting, who will inform the Committee and include it in the agenda for the meeting.

14 Extraordinary General Meeting

- (a) The Committee or not less than ten members acting through the Committee are empowered to call an Extraordinary General Meeting.
- (b) The date for an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be decided by the Committee and shall be as soon as practicable after the request for such meeting.
- (c) A notice convening an Extraordinary General Meeting shall include the agenda for that meeting with a detailed explanation and shall be sent by post (or, in the case of a member having previously signified his/her acceptance of electronic communication, by e-mail) to each member of the Association at his/her last recorded address at least fourteen days prior to the date of the meeting.

15 Voting

- (a) On matters in dispute at a General Meeting the decision shall be taken by a majority vote.
- (b) The voting at a General Meeting shall be by a show of hands or by whatever means deemed appropriate by the Committee and notified to the members in advance of the meeting.
- (c) Affiliate, Honorary and Associate members shall not be entitled to vote at any General Meeting.
- (d) Each full member of the Association as defined at Para 3(a) and 3(b) shall have one vote on each proposition put to the meeting. Voting by proxy allowed.

16 Reunion

An annual reunion of the Association shall be held at a place and in a form to be decided by the Committee.

17 Alteration to the Rules

- (a) Alteration, amendment or addition to these rules shall be made only by a General Meeting of the Association.
- (b) Included in the notice convening a General Meeting sent to each member shall be a draft of any new rule and if to replace an existing rule then the existing rule will also be quoted in full.

Original Version Approved by the General Meeting at  
Headquarters, No 600 (City of London) Squadron,  
Finsbury Barracks, City Road, London EC1 on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1953  
Revisions Approved at General Meetings as follows:  
General Meeting at Finsbury Barracks on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1959  
Annual General Meeting in March 1991  
Annual General Meeting in March 2007  
Annual General Meeting at the RAF Club on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
Annual General Meeting at the RAF Club on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018  
Annual General Meeting at the RAF Club on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
Annual General Meeting via dial-in on 21 March 2020



## THE ASSOCIATION OF THE CITY OF LONDON SQUADRON

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2019-2020

<b>19 APRIL 20 TO BE CONFIRMED</b>	<b>Annual Church Service to Commemorate the Formation of the RAF –</b> to be held on Sunday 19 April 2020 in St Clement Danes Church. Members who wish to bid for available (limited) tickets, write to the RAF Ceremonial Office, RAF Northolt, West End Road, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 6NG.
<b>2-6 MAY 20 CANCELLED</b>	Rotterdam Remembrance – Self funded event for Association members. If you wish to join in with the 600 Sqn programme please liaise with Vicky.
<b>8 MAY 20 TO BE CONFIRMED</b>	<b>Save the date – VE DAY 75<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary –</b> No information received thus far but if the committee are advised of any events we will circulate.
<b>SUNDAY 17 MAY 20 ARRIVE 1030</b>	<b>St Bart's – Lady Chapel</b> - 600 Sqn Service of Homage is at 1045 and matins at 1100 followed by Procession and Solemn Eucharist until 1215
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>Final Old Comrades Parade – Last event of the Federation of London OCAs. If the event goes ahead it would be appreciated to have a larger RAF Association presence than in previous years. Please attend.</b> Parade assembles in Lothbury, City of London and marches to the Royal Exchange where wreaths are laid. After this the parade marches to Armoury House, HAC Barracks for Parade Inspection. Volunteers required - <b>Standard Bearer and Association rep to lay wreath.</b> Lunch may be booked for those wishing to stay after the service. Please inform Peter if you wish to attend.
<b>22 JUNE</b>	<b>Armed Forces Flag Raising GLA, City Hall –</b> Arrive 10.00 - 10.30pm for general public viewing, unfortunately there will not be tickets to reception.
<b>22 JUNE</b>	<b>Armed Forces Flag Raising in Guildhall Yard –</b> Arrive 14.30pm for Flag Raising at 1530. <b>Volunteer required for Standard Bearer duty</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2020</b>	<b>RAuxAF Battle of Britain Ceremony at the National Memorial Arboretum – NMA,</b> Alrewas to commemorate the Auxiliary Air Force (AAF). <b>Volunteer required to lay the Association wreath.</b>
<b>13 SEP 20</b>	<b>Battle of Britain 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service at Westminster Abbey.</b> Announced in the Daily Telegraph first week in June. Apply for tickets via RAF Ceremonial Office, RAF Northolt, West End Road, Ruislip, Middx, HA4 6NG
<b>16 OCT 20</b>	<b>600 Squadron's Annual All Ranks 'Butchers' Dinner –</b> Butchers Hall limited places are allocated to Association members only, however, if the event is undersubscribed and spare places become available then guests <b>may</b> be allowed. Timings and Costs to follow with further instructions. Inform Peter if you wish to attend, further details to be confirmed by 600 Sqn Proj Off.
<b>FRIDAY 6 NOV 20  1400 HOURS</b>	<b>A Dutch Service of Remembrance Mill Hill Cemetery -</b> 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 1400 followed by the laying of wreaths. our Numbers attending have dwindled in recent years so, support is appreciated. Mulled wine, refreshments and mince pies will be provided for those who are able to stay and chat with the visitors. <b>Volunteer Required for Association Standard and wreath to be laid.</b>
<b>SUNDAY 8 NOV 20 ARRIVE 0945</b>	<b>Remembrance Service at St Paul's Cathedral -</b> Service starts at 1015 hours, march to Royal Exchange for wreath laying and a parade / march to Mansion House. This is a ticketed event for members who are expected to participate in the march to the Royal Exchange and onto lunch at the Mansion House. <b>Association Standard Bearer volunteer required+ 2 volunteer escorts and 1 assistant to Standard Party – all required for a rehearsal at 0915. Please advise the Events Co-ordinator if you wish to volunteer /attend.</b>
<b>SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER 1100 HRS</b>	The Lord Mayors Parade takes place in the City and 600 Sqn will march in the parade. The Association Standard will be on parade. Anyone welcome to attend but it will be on a self-help basis for Association members. Members may congregate at St Clement Danes <b>prior</b> to the parade start time of 1100 (once security barriers in place 1000-1030 access without ID may be denied), 600 Sqn plus RAF personnel break for lunch in SCD, so, a good opportunity to chat. <b>Volunteer Association Standard Bearer will join FLOCAs standard bearers.</b>

**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](mailto:600sqnassociation@gmail.com)

From:

Full Name\_\_\_\_\_

**I am interested in attending and request further information on:**

1.

2.

3.

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.

Handwritten 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;*

*Andy Cameron*



### ***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.**

Andy Cameron, [REDACTED]

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

<b>Title</b>	<b>Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other</b> _____ <i>(Please circle, as appropriate)</i>		
<b>First Name(s)</b>		<b>Surname</b>	
<b>Full Address</b>			
<b>City &amp; Country</b>			
<b>Telephone No. (including area codes)</b>			
<b>Email Address</b>			
<b>Date of Birth</b>			
<b>Amount Donated</b>			
<b>Payment Method</b>	Cheque    Postal Order    Cash <i>(Please circle as appropriate)</i>		