



THE KRIEGIE

NEWS-SHEET OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCES EX-P.O.W. ASSOCIATION

Volavimus
Vividimus
Vivimus

Editor: CAL YOUNGER

N° 44 JULY 1999

52 ATTEND THE AGM



Neville Northover's photograph, above, shows members at the AGM on 27th March listening attentively to President Charles Clarke's report on the Association's affairs during the year. Doug Endors gave a rundown on finances and the auditor, Bill Bloxham, made his report. The accounts were accepted. The Welfare Officer reported on the activities of the Association's two charities.

The Committee and its Officers were voted back en bloc. They are: Air Commodore Charles Clarke (President and Chairman), Wing Commander Dave Bernard (Vice Chairman), John Banfield (Secretary), Doug Endors (Treasurer), H.E. "Baich" Batchelder (Social Secretary) and Cal Younger (Welfare Officer).

The other members of the Committee are Squadron Leader Bob Ankersen, Maurice Butt (East Anglia), Graham Hall, Neville Northover (Bristol), Phil Potts, Eddie Scott-Jones (North West and North Wales), Peter Skinner (our standard bearer), Doug Smallbone and Bernard Warren (Bristol). Bill Bloxham remains the Association Auditor and Dee Younger is responsible for the Women's Liaison Group.

THE CHARITIES

The Trustees of the Royal Air Forces Ex-POW Association Charitable Fund (a registered charity) are Charles Clarke, Maurice Butt, Bill Bloxham and Cal Younger, but decisions are normally taken by the whole Committee. Grants are not restricted to members of the Association but may be given to any persons "who are or were members of the Royal Air Force or any of the Air Forces of the countries which were allied to the United Kingdom in August 1945 and who were taken prisoner by the enemies of His Late Majesty King George VI and the dependents or relatives of such persons who are in need." We do, in fact, receive applications through SSAFA or other service organizations and, in our turn, are able to call on them.

The Larry Slattery Memorial Fund (also a registered charity), which helps very talented young musicians, mostly children, has the same Trustees plus Gordon Hunt (son of Frank) and Ian Shepherd (son of Geoff), who were recently appointed so that the Fund will continue beyond the future of most of us.

GOOD TURNOUT

Last year we seemed to be losing momentum and we asked members to make an effort to take part in our activities. The response has been splendid. Visits to RAF Henlow and RAF Stafford were oversubscribed. Twenty marched on Remembrance Sunday, including Bob Ankerson, Robbie Stewart, John Peters and John Nichol (who, by the way, is rapidly making a name for himself as a thriller writer and TV commentator).

Unfortunately, their own Gulf Chapter reunion coincided with our AGM this year. Nevertheless, Bob Ankerson went out of his way to attend the AGM, though he could not stay for lunch.

The turnout for the AGM was up to 52 from 47 in each of the two previous years. Considering age, illness and in many cases distance, this was very pleasing. And, after trying out other venues, we were all glad to be "home" again at the RAF Club. Thirteen members were unable to stay for lunch and the Committee is especially grateful to them for making the effort to attend the AGM. Strangely, the number for lunch was also 52, guests (mostly wives) making up the numbers.

CARICATURE PRESENTED

One guest was Michael Maw, son of that redoubtable character, Wing Commander Roger Maw about whom there is an affectionate paragraph in *No Time for Fear*. Michael was found through Batch's 'Can You Help?' and at the lunch Charles Clarke presented him with a caricature of his father drawn by Henri Picard in Stalag Luft 3 in 1943. Batch has also located a daughter of F.L.L. Marcus Marsh, also caricatured by Picard. She, too, will be presented with the drawing on an appropriate occasion.

KEEPING THE LINES OPEN

In the last issue I suggested that there might not be another Kriegie, but once again I have chosen to use the format. Phil Potts has gamely volunteered to produce a News Sheet and already the first issue has gone out. This will be a regular means of keeping members informed of forthcoming events. Batch also sends out information about books and other matters and seeks information in his 'Can You Help?' leaflet. Our network of liaison officers - there are over thirty - is working well. They contact, sometimes visit, members who are poorly, identify need and keep the Committee informed. The Women's Liaison Group keeps in touch with those widows who wish to remain part of the Kriegie family. We would ask you all to let us know if you, or any other old kriegies or their families, need welfare support, financial or otherwise. In the early days of the Association our accounts (much simpler in those days) were published in *The Kriegie*, but for many years now only members attending AGMs have received copies of the accounts. The Committee has decided to enable all members to see exactly where we stand. The 1998 accounts appear in this issue. While we cannot emulate Vic's wonderfully regular Newsletter, we do feel we are keeping members in the picture; the lines are always open. C.Y.

THE KRIEGIE TROPHY

The 1998 Kriegie Trophy, awarded by the Association for the most outstanding ATC cadet, was won by Cadet Corporal James Jenkins of 1300 Squadron ATC, Sutton in Ashfield, Notts. Air Commodore Charles Clarke and Wing Commander Dave Bernard made the presentation.

The trophy is held for a year by the winner's squadron. Cadet Corporal Jenkins, who received a copy of Vic Gammon's *No Time for Fear*, is bent on a flying career - but with the Army.

CAMP COMMENTARY

In his *Daily Telegraph* column a few months back, the redoubtable W.F. Deedes mentioned that he had been sent a yellowing copy of *The Camp*, that infamous publication to which too many kriegies contributed. The issue was dated 24 May 1942. The contents are described, the weekly military survey, world and war news and home news such as the success of Leslie Henson, Stanley Holloway and Douglas Byng in *Fine and Dandy*. Lord Deedes comments, 'How eagerly a paper such as this must have been scanned for any hint of promising war news.' Somehow, I don't think so.

CAN YOU HELP?

Inquiries are really Batch's department these days. However, I have had a personal request from Phil Chinnery, Newsletter Editor, National Ex-Prisoner of War Association, which I should like to print. He is anxious to track down W/O Thomas Henry Arthur Sutton (1446557) of 620 Squadron, Bomber Command. Sutton left Stalag 4B on 27 April 1945 but did not get back to England until 27 January 1946. He had been taken eastward by Russians, finally escaped and walked back to Poland and the British Embassy in Warsaw. There is a seven-page file on his exploits in the Public Record Office. Does anyone have any idea of his whereabouts, if he is still alive?

Mr. Chinnery has located the son of Wing Commander Johnny Baldwin, shot down during the Korean War whilst flying an F-86 for the USAF. The MOD insist he was killed in the crash but a prisoner in a Chinese jail, who was repatriated in 1954, was told that he was alive. It is hoped to raise the matter, and others concerning missing men, with the Prime Minister.

RECCO REPORT

ALEX KERR of our West Australian branch has become President of Perth Legacy, an Australia-wide organization formed after World War 1 to care for widows of ex-servicemen. An economist of world renown, Alex is, in "retirement", Chairman of a pearling company and of a biotech company which "breeds beneficial bacteria which in turn eat the nasty bugs that are causing diseases in cultured prawns throughout the world." The company has also products which deal with a variety of pollution problems. Two other companies, one engaging in prawn culture, the other continuing biotech research, are on the drawing board. Alex travels widely in Asia but still manages golf a couple of times a week.

HERBERT WALTER BRADLEY - "Brad" to many - was 80 on 4 July 1997 and, having had a stroke the previous November, decided to give up the nursing home he has been running for some years and, more significantly, to retire from the post of Musical Director of the famous Leeds Girls Choir, one of many choirs he has conducted over countless years. In Germany Brad's musical activities were - it is not too much to claim - vital to our well-being. They are acknowledged in Vic Gammon's *No Time for Fear*. Several kriegie colleagues were among many friends who attended a party in Blackburn Hall, Rothwell, near Leeds and contributed to the computer presented to him on that occasion. Brad is able to produce musical arrangements through the computer. He is also writing a book.

Last year, the Editor visited his native Australia, primarily to attend the 460 Squadron Reunion in Melbourne. Old kriegies who attended included CHAS LARK, KEVIN GROVES and GORDON LAKE. Gordon, many will remember, was singled out for a chat with the Duke of Edinburgh at the Buckingham Palace garden party during the 1995 reunion. GORDON STOOKE, whose excellent book *Flak and Barbed Wire* was recently published, was also there.

After the Reunion six old kriegies and their wives lunched at the Melbourne Cricket Club. DAVID WARDILL, an MCC member, hosted the gathering. JIM FALKINER, GEORGE KIRK, ALAN SCANLAN (who made the trip from Newcastle, New South Wales), LLOYD CLARK and CAL YOUNGER chewed over old times. David still puts in the morning at his stockbroker's office and Jim is still farming a few hundred acres at Moriac near Geelong. George has been in indifferent health for several years but manages, with the help of wife Jan, to get about.

In Sydney ALISTER BENN laid on another mini-reunion at his club. Present were GORDON LAKE (with whom Cal and Dee were staying), ALAN SCANLAN, REG SHANNON and DOUG HURDITCH. Reg, who suffered a stroke recently, was accompanied by his son, Doug Hurditch, shot down as a Sergeant, retired after a distinguished career in the RAAF with the rank of Air Vice Marshal. He now lives in Canberra.

In Adelaide Cal looked up FRED BROWN. A long-time member of the Association, Fred emigrated to Australia soon after the War, took part in the Woomera project then worked for the Weapons Research Establishment.

On a nostalgic trip to Belgium a few years ago, Fred visited a family who helped him after he was shot down. They presented him with one of the two wedding dresses made from his parachute. Two girls in the family had a double wedding and some passing Germans stopped to form a guard of honour, little knowing where the brides' gowns had come from.

RON and MARY DAMMAN offered their customary warm welcome to the travellers. Ron's health is so-soish and to his great regret - for he was a successful yachtsman - he has had to give up his boat. But he has lent the jetty, which runs almost to the backdoor of the Damman's lovely home on the Gold Coast, so the jetty does not look deserted. Near the jetty is a flagpole; Ron is meticulous in his use of the Australian flag. Ron and Mary have two adventurous daughters, Jane who runs an ostrich farm and Anna who makes and sells a range of her own seafood sauces which she delivers personally to restaurants and shops, travelling many miles up the Queensland coast. Mary sometimes accompanies her and is known to Anna's customers as Mother Mary. While Ron was guest of honour at a Rotary Lunch to mark Anzac Day, Mary took Cal and Dee to see GODFREY LODER. Neither Godfrey nor his wife Margaret enjoys good health - Margaret is virtually bedbound - but Godfrey's laugh is as infectious as ever and Margaret's cheerfulness an inspiration.

JACK CASSIDY died in April 1997 since when his daughter, Helen Tarry, of Birstall, Leicester has kept in touch. I scarcely remember Jack but, like myself, he was in the RAAF and trained in Australia. He, too, was on 460 (Australian) Squadron. The wireless operator of a Lancaster, Jack was on his eighth trip to Berlin on January 20/21 1944 when the Lanc was attacked by a nightfighter. The skipper held on long enough for the crew to bale out, but lost his own life. The flight engineer apparently hit part of the airframe and also was killed.

Jack studied accountancy in Germany and learned, some time after his return to Australia, that he had passed the Intermediate exam. He married in June 1945 and lived with his wife in Sydney for two years before returning to England and resuming his studies. He qualified as an accountant and after various appointments ultimately became Financial Director of a Leicester company. In his youth he played cricket and was a good golfer and tennis player. He played golf and tennis until his final illness.

Our auditor, BILL BLOXHAM, has just undergone surgery and has come out of it very well. Moreover, the tumour that could have become life-threatening has been dealt with in time and Bill is expected to make a good recovery. He has all our good wishes.



*After the lunch at the Melbourne Cricket Club
(Standing) Alan Scanlan and David Wardill (Seated) Jim Falkiner, Lloyd Clark and Cal Younger*

Included in the list of new members are CAPTAIN H.H.BRACKEN RN and LT.COL.P.SPOONER. Both have been made honorary members of the Association, to their delight and ours. With GROUP CAPTAIN ALEC INGLE and AIR COMMODORE CHARLES CLARKE, they have been in the forefront of the campaign to get justice for the officers who were assumed to have received some of their pay in Germany - and were taxed on it - though they were paid nothing. The campaign has gone on for a very long time and there will be no let-up.

BILL GOODMAN'S change of address, also listed here, has a story behind it. A former senior police officer, he has spent much of his time in Australia in the last fifteen years. With his companion since 1984, the widow of his Australian navigator, he has travelled a great deal. In 1997 the pair returned to England and were to have cruised to Australia on the Maiden voyage of the Arcadia in January 1998. While driving a rented car, Bill had a heart attack and crashed into five cars. Apparently dead, he was resuscitated by a detective sergeant and an amateur boxing coach. Bill was in a coma for several days and was not expected to live, but he survived. His seriously injured companion was repatriated to Australia after many months in hospital. Now, because of his heart condition, Bill cannot get a visa to enter Australia; his companion, Betty, is still not fit enough to travel to this country. Hence Bill's change of address. It is to be hoped that before too long, they will be together again.

VIC CUTTLE remembers the actor Donald Pleasence playing in "The Amazing Dr.Clutterhouse" at Stalag Luft 1. Barth in late 1944. "He then had a lot of wavy hair and was much slimmer," Vic writes. That could be said of a good many of us. Vic wonders if anyone else recalls the sinister actor.

The cartoon **Precision Bombing - 1939** is the work of TOM COOKSEY who says it is "a sample of my twisted sense of humour". It is not twisted in my book. Tom says he has always had a love of the old bi-planes. He became a flight engineer on Lancs, but he recalls earlier days when he used to swing the prop.

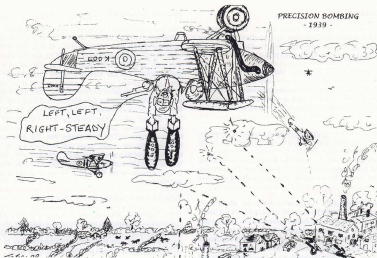
On one occasion, as he pulled down to get compression, the prop "kicked back" and sent him into a back flip. A wisecracking Chiefy told him, "Cooksey, you practise gymnastics in the gym, not on the airfield."

CAPTAIN G.E.MOULTON-BARRETT, one of our members, who lives at Hobe Sound, Florida, has sent cuttings about the opening of the National POW Museum on the site of the infamous Confederate Prison camp at Andersonville, Georgia. The Museum was opened on 9 April 1998 by Senator John McCain who was, for more than five years, a captive in Hanoi. "Some of the most terrible and difficult sacrifices undergone by fighting men and women have been as POWs," he said, with no thought of self. The Museum honours some 800,000 American prisoners of war from the Revolution to the Persian Gulf War.

JACK LYON has sent a page from the **Cornish Guardian**. The newspaper is helping to raise £4,000 so that 180 newly discovered names of wartime airmen killed while operating from St. Eval, near Newquay, can be recorded in a Book of Remembrance. A Book of Remembrance, compiled ten years ago and now in the ancient church of St. Eval, contains 820 names. The "forgotten" names were found by Frank Harper, an amateur historian who completed 35 Pathfinder Ops. On the same page is an article by Harper about Dennis Cochran, one of the fifty murdered after the Great Escape. Cochran was on a U Boat patrol in a Whitley from St. Eval when it was shot down by a JU88 on 8 October 1942.

The crew, all NCOs except Cochran, who was the Wop/Ag, took to their dinghy and were picked up by a German naval patrol. Harper is an interesting character who has a remarkable track record, Jack says. Since his retirement Harper has devoted all his time and energies, and a lot of money, to tracing the history of almost every plane and crew lost in World War II. He is "always ready to help relatives and others hoping to obtain news of men killed or missing," - to quote Jack. Harper began his research on the missing names about six years ago and initially received little help from the authorities.

Jack recalls that Jim Davies's idea for an airmen's memorial was realised in spite of lack of assistance or encouragement. It stands now on Plymouth Hoe.



RAF COSFORD AND ALBRIGHTON VILLAGE TWO BELLS FUND

In the 60 years since the opening of RAF Cosford many thousands of people have passed through both the Station and the village of Albrighton. The village community and the ever-changing RAF community have always enjoyed excellent relations. A Millennium commemoration in which both communities could participate was thought to be an appropriate way to celebrate RAF Cosford's diamond anniversary.

A commemorative book, to be contained in a specially built cabinet, is to be displayed in the church. It will record the names of service people and civilians, including residents of Albrighton, who have passed through Cosford. A special section of the book, it is hoped, will be reserved for ex-POWs repatriated through the Cosford 106 Personnel Reception Centre. That does depend on the degree of interest shown by ex-krigies or their relatives.

There is to be, also, a stained glass window incorporating the crest of RAF Cosford.

Finally, two bells, suitably inscribed, are to be added to the church tower - in time, it is hoped, to be rung on January 1st 2000.

A minimum donation of £2 will ensure that a person's name and details are recorded for posterity. Contributions should be sent to: "Two Bells Fund", Brackley, Shaw Lane, Albrighton, Shropshire WV7 3DS. Give your full name, title and address and details of your association (especially dates) with RAF Cosford/Albrighton. Please note that the Fund is a registered charity.

GREAT ESCAPE DOCUMENTARY PLANNED

Jacqui Mitchell, of United Productions - HTV West, writes: "I am keen to make contact with as many former POWs as possible who were in Stalag Luft III at the time of the so-called 'Great Escape' - i.e. in 1943/44.

"The programme we are planning will be an attempt to tell the real story about what happened there and also convey what it was like to be a POW. What were the men's attitudes and feelings towards being captured and towards trying to get home? Was escaping seen as one's duty? Was it much more dangerous to be a POW after the Great Escape? How much contact was there with MI9? What were the German guards like - were any of them friendly?"

"If anyone wants to talk to me about these subjects (even if they don't want to be in the final programme), their help would be very much appreciated."

The address is: The Factual Department, United Productions, The Television Centre, Bath Road, Bristol, BS4 3HG. Telephone is 0117972 2570. Ms Mitchell's extension is 2570

Note: A recent book, *The Men of the Great Escape* by Professor Jonathan Vance is obtainable from the Secretary of the Bomber Harris Trust, Don Elliott, QC, 14650 Chinguacousy Road, Cheltenham, Ontario, LOP 1C0 CANADA

BBC LOOKING FOR STORIES

Members will have received a BBC mailshot regarding a new series entitled *PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS*. The BBC will investigate a wide range of problems, issues or mysteries. They will find the German pilot who shot you down or discover the circumstances of a failure to return.

ALEX LEWIS

The Reverend Canon Alex Lewis died on 25 October last year. It was Alex who, ten years ago, conducted the funeral service of the incomparable Dixie Deans and later took part in his memorial service at St. Clement Danes.

After leaving school in Bangor, Alex became a printer's apprentice but joined the RAF shortly after war broke out and trained as a Wop/AG. On a gardening operation on 17/18 May 1942 the 149 Squadron Stirling in which he was flying crashed on a hillside in Denmark. The whole crew were taken prisoner.

In Germany Alex's printing experience was put to good use, both by the Escape Committee and, more legitimately, by the theatre entrepreneurs. He was persuaded to take part in a "beauty parade" and was voted Miss Heydekrug 1943. He had a good voice and his experience in kriegie showbiz stood him in good stead in his church life when he produced plays and musicals with young people and other local organizations.

From 1956 to 1989 Alex Lewis was vicar of St. Ann's Bethesda. A man of many parts, he was Rural Dean for fifteen years and was a Canon of Bangor Cathedral. For twenty years he did Meals on Wheels and, good citizen that he was, served on Caernarvonshire County Council. He was also Chaplain to the British Legion and the local RAFA. In recent years, in retirement at Culceth, his health was failing but he supported his wife Ceridwen in her charity work and his enthusiasm for helping people never waned. Their son Peter is Commanding Officer of RAF Station Benson.

PEGGY JENNER

Maurice Butt pays tribute to an "outstanding lady"

Peggy and Alfred Jenner faced Peggy's approaching death with simple gratitude for the sixty wonderful years of their marriage, for their two children and six grandchildren and for the friendships, especially among the kriegie family, they had enjoyed. Alfred and Peggy attended reunions in this country and in Canada and were active in the East Anglian branch of the Association.

Peggy died at the beginning of January and on the 5th January some hundred people attended a thanksgiving service at St. Matthew's, Thorpe, at which her vicar, the Reverend Canon Abraham, spoke of her many activities and attributes. She was an outstanding lady who lived by Christian principles, doing good for others without fuss, so that the pattern of her giving was recognized only at the end of her life. We kriegies were lucky to have known her, for her smile radiated strength and encouragement to us all.

TED CHAPMAN

Probably our oldest member, Ted Chapman has died in his 90s. He was not an aircrew kriegie but commanded an Air/Sea Rescue launch which, while searching for a downed Messerschmitt pilot on 7 May 1941, he took "nearly into Boulogne High Street". Ironically, the launch was spotted and shot to pieces by a flight of Messerschmitts, most of the crew were killed or badly wounded and Chapman was taken prisoner. His story appears in Vic Gammon's splendid *'Not All Glory'*

MARCEL ZILLESSEN

The son of a German businessman who owned a textile mill in Bradford, Marcel Zillesen, who died in January, became a Hurricane pilot in North Africa and was shot down on 6 April 1943. He had just returned from leave in Alexandria where he was wont to let his hair down, and was sent out as a last minute replacement still wearing a snappy khaki suit. He was interrogated several times and never let on that he spoke perfect German. In their efforts to get him to talk the Germans plied him with whisky, but he drank them under the table, then they sent in a naked blonde but he ignored her. In Stalag Luft 3 he was the consummate scrounger in the interest of the Escape Committee and provided the model for the James Garner character in The Great Escape film. Zillesen was in the queue for the tunnel when the balloon went up and managed to get back to his own room. Returning to the textile business after the war, Zillesen later set up a chain of take-away restaurants in the North East. He leaves a widow, Lyn, and Four sons.

PERCY CARRUTHERS DFM

Percy Carruthers, who died on 7 November 1998, was a charismatic character who was loved and admired by all who knew him. He was a founder member of "Kriegie Call", whose members initially were drawn from the kriegies forced to "run up the road". These days all old kriegies are welcome.

As Chairman, Percy was invariably at Sywell where, based on the Aviator Hotel, Kriegie Call has its annual reunion. In wartime there was an Elementary Flying Training School at Sywell. Percy also produced a newsletter, photocopied from his own script. His "Chairman's Chat" was eminently readable. Tony Johnson, now Chairman of the group, has begun a new newsletter entitled Kriegie Call in Touch. He reckons Percy is a hard act to follow.

Percy Carruthers was a Baltimore (medium bomber) pilot with the Desert Air Force, operating in 1942 when Rommel was retreating. He was awarded the DFM for his many unescorted raids on targets like Benghazi but soon afterwards was jumped by a swarm of ME109s and had to bale out from a disintegrating aircraft. In December 1945 he was "Mentioned in a Dispatch for Distinguished Service." After a career in insurance Percy, with his wife Jean, ran a hotel for some years. Jean was also much involved in Kriegie Call and is bravely continuing as Treasurer.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 1998

Members responded to our pleas for a better attendance on parade at the Cenotaph. Twenty of us, led as usual by Dave Bernard (on this occasion, due to ill health, in a wheelchair), marched from Horse Guards Parade to the Cenotaph. We were delighted to have four Gulf War kriegies with us - Bob Ankersen, Robbie Stewart, John Peters and John Nichol. As usual, Batch handed our wreath to the British Legion officials at the Cenotaph as we marched past. And as usual, too, the BBC cameraman pointed his camera another way as we reached him. As the bands struck up, shoulders straightened and steps lightened. Despite the absence of Graham Hall, who ensures that we keep in step, we passed the saluting base in good order. Our Honorary Member, the Duke of Edinburgh, took the salute.

BOMBER HARRIS, THE MAN

Mention of the Bomber Harris Trust on another page reminded me of some interesting pieces in the vast amount of material I have accumulated over the years. Members may remember some newspaper articles early in 1998 in which it was revealed that The British Bombing Survey Unit's postwar report which argued that Harris's strategy was morally wrong and anyway ineffective was largely the work of the controversial zoologist, Solly (Lord) Zuckerman. Zuckerman was Scientific Adviser to the Allied Air Forces and was frequently at odds with Churchill, Harris and other commanders.

Although the Report had not been published, it had been available to historians, some of whom denigrated Harris and belittled the efforts of Bomber Command. Vic Gammon's masterpiece was largely prompted by his determination to set the record straight. Recent research has confirmed that, in fact, Bomber Command drastically reduced production in Germany and diverted one third of total output to anti-aircraft guns and, no doubt, night fighters. Harris's reputation, too, is deservedly on the mend.

In my files, also, was a letter from Peter Tomlinson, written nearly ten years ago following the BBC's showing of Bomber Harris. He wrote that he was probably "better qualified to throw light on this great man than anyone now living."

At the beginning of the war Peter Tomlinson was appointed Harris's pilot and personal assistant. "I was with him for two years," wrote Tomlinson, "and lived in his official residence with his family, so that I became part of it and was much pleased to be asked to be Godfather to their newly born daughter, Jacqueline Jill... Working with him all day and then being part of his home life gave me a very deep insight into this amazingly kind man, who had a great sense of humour and a liking for practical jokes. He was a wonderful raconteur and had a vast knowledge of life and what it was all about."

When Harris left 5 Group to become Deputy Chief of Air Staff, Tomlinson went on ops., was shot down and spent nearly four years in Germany. After the war he rejoined Harris and later they travelled together to South Africa where they founded a shipping company. From the age of 23 Tomlinson was closely associated with the great man until the death of Harris in 1984.

Tomlinson wrote of his delight and that of Harris's daughter, with the BBC film because "the albatross of Dresden has at last been hung round the necks of Churchill and Stalin, where it rightfully belonged." Although Churchill allowed him to "carry the can" for Dresden, Harris's loyalty to Churchill never allowed him to hit back.

Shortly before Harris died, Peter Tomlinson managed to get on tape these words: "I got the order to Bomb Dresden from Eisenhower. I checked with the Air Ministry and they confirmed that it was to be bombed. We bombed it and thereafter they all turned their backs on it."

Personally, I have always enjoyed the story of the Flight Lieutenant who had suffered a mauling over the Ruhr and asked on duty given at briefing. He rang HQ just as Harris hung up. His call went through to Harris who listened to a diatribe of complaint then interjected, "Do you know to whom you are speaking?" "No," responded the Flight Lieut. Harris told him, whereupon he asked Harris the same question. When Harris said he had no idea of the identity of his caller, the Flight Lieut. said "Thank God!" and hung up. Luckily, you could not dial 1471 in those days.

C. Y.

EAST ANGLIANS GET TOGETHER

Maurice Butt reports on the Branch's Spring Gathering

The East Anglian Branch gathering at the 14th Century Rose and Crown, Snettisham, on 3 March, enjoyed an excellent meal, thanks to some discerning planning by Joe Hill.

It was good to see "new" faces from "round the corner" - as Norfolk folk say of people living in Lincolnshire. Leslie and Betty Ford were warmly welcomed. We were all delighted that our President, Charles Clarke, escorted by Secretary John Banfield and Treasurer Dougie Endors, railed up to Kings Lynn from Kings Cross to join the throng. Each was presented with a gift-wrapped swede as an East Anglian token of our regard for their temerity. Altogether, twenty-four people attended.

From Cambridgeshire came Charles Dallas, Don and Marjorie Gray and the boomerang brigade, Henry Wagner and David and Barbara Denchfield, who have kept returning for more through the years. Alf Jenner and Len Bradfield represented Norwich, with many quips about kriegie life and tallish stories too. It was a change to see Deryk Polley not involved with his clarinet for our entertainment; both he and Margaret were enjoying a well-earned rest, having organized so many functions for the Branch in the past.

Our host, Anthony Goodrich, and his staff provided mouth-watering fare for this memorable mini-reunion.

NORTH WEST AND NORTH WALES BRANCH

Meeting at Barton Airport Eddie Scott Jones writes:

We were privileged to have as our guests at Barton Airport on 25 February, Air Commodore Charles Clarke and John Banfield, respectively President and Hon. Sec. of the parent Association.

Lunch was served at 12.30 during which Charles and John were able to meet the members, in many cases being able to fit faces to names. After a pleasant lunch and a few drinks it was time, all too soon, for our guests to leave. Our Hon. Sec. thanked them for taking the time and trouble to visit us.

In reply, Charles said it had been a pleasant occasion meeting everybody; he felt it had been a chance to bring members together. He added that we all seemed in good shape and wished us all good luck in the future. Our Vice Chairman, Norman Jones, presented the visitors with copies of *The History of Barton Airport*.

CATERPILLAR CLUB

In the last issue Batch gave an account of a visit by ten Association members to Irvin Aerospace Ltd. at Letchworth. Prices of Caterpillar Pin replacements were given but Batch has now been informed of new prices:-

Replacement gold pin £38

Replacement silver gilt pin £15

Pins are engraved with your name and the rank you held at the time you qualified for membership of the Caterpillar Club. If you are applying for a new pin, send a cheque for the appropriate amount, payable to Irvin Aerospace Ltd, to: Mrs. J. Adams, The Caterpillar Club, Irvin Aerospace Ltd, Icknield Way, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 1EU. Make sure you give the date that you saved your life by parachute.

Batch reports that the Irvin company can no longer entertain groups of visitors, so the ten members were lucky.

BOOKS

The Association is still able to obtain books at discounted prices and Batch recently circulated a note of available titles, with an order form. We have discontinued the title *The Interrogator* following criticism of the content.

One of our members will supply copies of *Beware of the Dog at War* - a 558 page operational diary and history of 49 Squadron. Special prices quoted below include postage paid (normally £4) plus a donation of £4 to Association funds for every copy sold. The book was reviewed in the April 1998 Bomber Command Association Newsletter in which the editor thought it "possibly the best Squadron history I have seen." Orders for this book should be sent to Batch with a cheque for £22.95 (UK) £30 (Overseas) payable to the RAF's Ex-POW Association.

WALL, SHIELDS now cost £25 for dispatch in this country, £27 if they are going overseas.

WE ARE NOW ON THE INTERNET

The RAF Ex-POW Association now has a website on the internet. Anyone who has access to a computer linked to the Internet (family, friends and Kriegie net-surfers) can look at our website from anywhere in the world using the following address (it's apparently very important to get this exactly right): <http://freespace.virgin.net/frank.luslam/page19.html>

Our page has been produced free of charge by 207 Squadron RAF Association, and is dedicated to the 171 members of that 5 Group squadron who were POW. It was launched with our official approval during September. We hope that this venture will generate some attention among the many who use the Internet who have interests in aviation and the history of conflict in the air. It will also, we hope, be of interest to those who may have a POW in their family. 207 tell us that nearly 2500 visits have been made to their own website since they launched it on 5th March 1998 and they have had some interesting feedback.

Our page very simply explains how our Association came into being, what our objectives are, and what we do. It shows our Standard, the memorial to the 'Great Escapers' at Sagan and pays tribute to Dixie Deans, our first President. Visitors who wish to get in touch are given our Secretary's address or can send an email. We will keep you posted.

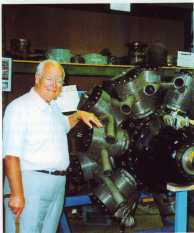
RCAF MEMORIAL MUSEUM, TRENTON

On a recent visit to our friend, Jean Morrison, at Don Mills, Ontario, Nina, Jean and I managed a trip to the splendid Museum which dedicated volunteers have created at the former RCAF base at Trenton.

Housed in roomy hangar space, the exhibits, mainly of World Wars 1 and 2 vintage, recall the outstanding exploits of Canadian airmen, among them the late Flight Lieutenant Don Morrison DFC, DFM, who is still greatly missed by kriegies on both sides of the Atlantic. Don's courageous activities with 401 Squadron Spitfires are well represented, his medals and memorabilia having been donated by Jean in memory of her life-long buddy. The aircraft types and the squadrons in which brave men flew are highlighted. Having flown in Halifaxes as a flight engineer, I was especially interested in the progress made in the restoration of the former 644 Squadron Halifax III which, with kriegie Tom Wightman the only survivor, was shot down and ditched in a Norwegian lake whilst dropping supplies to the Norwegian Resistance in 1945.

After fifty years, the Halifax was raised from a depth of 700 feet and is in a recoverable state, unlike the other wrecked Halifax, similarly raised from Norwegian waters, which has been for some years a feature at the RAF Hendon Museum. I was particularly impressed with the partially dismantled Bristol Hercules engine, which brought back memories of my Halton experience.

Bill Bloxham



Bill with the Bristol Hercules engine.

313 DAYS TO CHRISTMAS

A human record of war and imprisonment by Alan Mackay
Argyll Publishing - Glendaniel, Argyll PA22 3AE Scotland
(Price £16.99)

This is a stunning book, a triumph for both author and publisher. It has come late, for it was nearly published ten or twelve years ago, but the deal fell through. That explains why the Foreword was written by James A. G. Deans. It is a brilliant foreword in which Dixie, spot on as always, wrote: "The Prisoner of War camp is a kind of purgatory where men expiate the sin of being captured." He goes on to analyse government of a "besieged community which exists because of its military character and survives because it reverts to a civilian way of life".

In February 1943, Alan Mackay, a trainee journalist pre-war, decided to give the community a newspaper. His motive was partly to assuage his own boredom but, more importantly, to counter the rumour mongering that pervaded the NCOs' compound at Stalag Luft 3. On 15 February the first issue went up on a wall. It was 313 days to Christmas and from then *The Daily Recco*, as it was named, always carried on its masthead the number of days to Christmas "as a daily message of hope".

Fifty issues of *The Daily Recco* which survived (an intriguing story in itself) are reproduced in the book, the pages of which measure 11" by 9". No doubt these will appeal most to the original readership, but all old kriegies will find them fascinating and will wonder at the structure of the community in which they lived. For wives and families whose husbands and fathers have been reticent all these years, this book will fill in many gaps.

Alan Mackay weaves his own story with that of the *Recco*. The two are intertwined. Mackay spent most of his life in journalism and his professionalism is evident. His writing is a delight, clean and flowing, his descriptions of the camps and the life within them vivid and accurate. Many *Recco* stories not actually reproduced are printed and the immediacy is gripping, more even than a diary because less subjective.

There is a hilarious account of newspaper rivalry. Ron Mogg, also a journalist, started a Sunday paper, the *Weekly Brief*, which provoked Mackay to write an editorial headed DECEITFUL OUTRAGED, in which he attacked "the appalling standard of sensational journalism". Even in prison camp, the broad sheet and the tabloid were at odds. When reporting war news Mackay and his co-editor, Bill Butcher, had to tread carefully. German fuses were short and there could be no hint of sources other than legal ones.

It was not long before the *Recco* ran into trouble. The Commandant told Dixie Deans that a camp newspaper would be tolerated only if political stories, war news and relations with the German staff were eschewed and that each issue was censored. The offending issues which led to this pass, including war news and Dixie's conflict with the camp authorities, are reproduced. The transfer of the NCOs to Heydekrug brought about the revival of the *Recco*, though the first issue of the Heydekrug run did not appear until 31 January 1944.

It lasted until 1st May when, following the *Recco's* report of the funeral of T/Sgt. Walker, an American shot by a guard while attempting to escape - wearing only shorts and with a towel round his neck - the Germans axed it for good. There was a single special edition reporting the invasion of Normandy.

The *Recco* covered issues ranging from a spat with the Entertainments Committee, who denied the staff press facilities - but eventually gave in - to the statement concerning the Great Escape, and the deaths that followed, read by a German officer to the kriegies on *appell* at Heydekrug. There are stories of invalid food rackets, statistics of parcels and mail received, reports on camp entertainment, clubs and sport. A new kriegie, who had been a guard in a prison camp in Canada, gave an account of the cushy life led by German prisoners there. The execution of American airmen by the Japanese was published. One wonders how that got through - or was it a subtle threat.

There was a football "tipster" (Captain Victor), even weather reports, and "From the Mailbag" was full of fascinating items. A special edition of February 1943 gives an account of the attempted escape of Sergeants Saxton and Joyce. The latter was shot; his condition was said to be "not serious" but he died a few days later.

The "Wanted" column yields some gems: A new pair of khaki shorts (waist 32") was wanted in exchange for a pair (waist 36"). Did the man think he was the only one to lose weight? There is no aspect of camp life which is not covered and many will find their memories are astray. *313 Days To Christmas* is not an exercise in nostalgia, but it brings to life years of our own existence, the good and the bad, that resulted in the comradeship we enjoy today.

MY STORY

I Learned the Hard Way

By Ken Brown

Ken did not write his story for general publication, thinking only of family and friends. But he can supply copies to anyone interested for £7.50, cost price. It is worth the money.

Ken started out as a trainee pilot, knew it was not for him and scrubbed himself. He remustered as a navigator and his description of his training at Bridgnorth and West Freugh is interesting. Posted eventually to 207 Squadron, Spilsby, he made his operational debut on Berlin. His eighth trip to Berlin (out of ten ops.) was his swansong. This was on 30 January 1944. Ken tells some good stories about life on the squadron, spent mostly with his crew. After an occasional night out in Skegness, they would get the last train back to Firby Junction. The guard used to move away from the train to ensure the driver saw his signal to get going. He would hop into the guard's van as it moved past. One night someone unhooked the guard's van.

When he baled out, Ken landed in a built up area and was promptly dragged into an air raid shelter where he remained uncomfortably until the air cleared. The author's experiences as a kriegie are contained in five of the book's 17 chapters. He does not rely on memory but uses a diary which lends both accuracy and immediacy to the tale. The last three chapters of the book deal with Ken's return, in recent years, to Berlin, Fallingbomel and Dulag Luft. He includes photographs taken on those visits.

Ken Brown's address is: 25 Beechcroft Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 6BA

NO TIME FOR FEAR

By Victor F. Gammon

Arms and Armour (Cassell) Price: £16.99 (h.b.) £12.99 (p.b.)

This is not a sequel to *Not All Glory* but part of the same brilliant work. Vic was given a formidable task by the publishers: to take a complete, integrated manuscript and divide it into two parts, each part to run from 1939 to 1945. Vic teased out *Not All Glory* and by means of an ingenious colour code indicated how the other half of the book was to be reassembled. Alas, he did not live to complete the work himself. There were still problems to be solved but without that colour code it would have been a gigantic task to put the book together again.

I do not propose to review *No Time for Fear*, which Sylvia Gammon saw through to publication. Like the first volume, it is stuffed with fascinating stories of members' experiences and these are woven into the story of the air war and of the war itself. A remarkable achievement that testifies to the thoroughness of Vic's research. The sweep of history carries the book along, the characterization is vivid and the writing, as always, first rate. There are photographs which I have not seen before and a ration of Bob Anderson's cartoons from *Handle with Care*. The publishers have done an excellent job with the production; their one failing was to print a measly 1000 hardback copies which disappeared like frost before the sun. There are probably some paperbacks in the shops but you will be lucky to find a hardback. If you do find any, please buy them for the Association as we use them for presentations, eg to the winners of the Kriegie Trophy. Sylvia Gammon also has some paperbacks which she sells for the reduced price of £11.99. Her address is "Grangewood", 19 Colonel's Way, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 0SZ

THERE WE WERE

By B.J. Kemp - Self-published (Price £7, including P&P)

In a hundred compact pages Bernard Kemp tells the story of his life. He devotes a few pages to his youth in Pocklington and then describes his Observer training. Having trained in Australia, I found the comparison very interesting. The major part of the book concerns his kriegie experiences and Bernard has reserved some copies for kriegie buyers. He was posted to 58 Squadron, operating on Whitleys from Linton-on-Ouse. Shot down on a Berlin raid on 7 September 1941, he was captured by a farmer with a shotgun and was soon on his way to Dulag Luft. There followed sojourns at Lambsdorf, Sagan, Heydekrug and Barth. Liberated by the Russians, Bernard flew home in a Fortress. His story of kriegie days is economical and evocative but, perhaps because I have read so many kriegie books and manuscripts, for me the account of his postwar career is the most interesting part of the book.

He was more or less hijacked back into the Civil Service, which he had joined just before war was declared. In 1960, with his wife and three small children, he sailed from Liverpool to Aden from where they flew to Nairobi. Bernard was Assistant Trade Commissioner. These were the days of the Mau Mau.

His next posting was to Montreal, then for the sake of the children's education he returned to the UK and held a variety of posts until his retirement in 1977. For the next ten years, first in Croydon and then in Derby, he kept himself busy with voluntary work. In all a good life.

The author's style is unfussy and I particularly liked his description of testing the de-icers on a Whitley: "The leading edges of the wing puffed themselves out like a cockerel before a fight."

For good measure there are several poems at the end of the book, some his own, some not. The quality of the photographs is not brilliant but nevertheless they enhance a most agreeable book.

The book may be ordered from the author at 8 Carsington Mews, Allesree, Derby DE22 2XB (01332 557738).

BEWARE OF THE DOG AT WAR

By John Ward - ISBN 0953225208 JoTe Publications.

Price £22.95 (UK) £30 (O'seas). (See reference on page 8)

John Ward is one of those men born soon after the War who have been fascinated by the air war and studied it all their lives. Often they know more than we do. This is the Operational Diary of 49 Squadron from 1916 to 1965. It is a huge work, not an official history, though it could hardly be bettered, not just a monument of statistics, but a lively and inspirational story. Every op, in which 49 Squadron has taken part is recorded, from the first bomber raid in DH4s from La Bellevue in France on 26 November 1917 to the disbandment on 1 May 1965. The title derives from the Squadron crest - a leaping greyhound - and the motto *Cave Canem* "Beware of the Dog".

The publishers JoTe are John Ward and Ted Cachart whose computer wizardry brought this 558 page volume into being.

The author has also illustrated the book and the jacket is from one of his own paintings. There are scores of photographs, many a shade too small for sad old eyes.

In the eleven months of its existence in World War 1, 49 Squadron dropped 120 tons of bombs. In 1957 the Squadron, flying Valiants, took part in the Christmas Island thermonuclear tests, carrying rather more effective loads. In World War 2 the Squadron flew Hampdens, Manchesters and Lancasters. The author has done his research thoroughly and lovingly. All the familiar raids, the familiar targets, are here, all the vicissitudes that every squadron experienced are here, the highlights vividly described. There are monthly statistics - targets, sorties flown, losses and gongs. Bomber Command's first VC was won by Flight Lieut. R.A.B. (Babe) Learoyd and P/O E.D. Parker won a George Cross.

First published in 1997, the book has gone into a third edition and deserves many more. It is the story of one great RAF squadron and it is also the story of Bomber Command.

Also available shortly on CDROM (PC & Mac) with FND facilities - ideal for researchers. £12 (UK) £15 (O'seas) Prices include p&p



VISITS TO RAF STATIONS

Despite one previous failure to attract enough members to visit RAF Stafford (we limited the area on that occasion), visits to RAF stations are still the most popular outings for members. In September the annual autumn dinner was held at Henlow and on 4 December Stafford once again was generous with its hospitality.

Both visits, involving overnight stays, were over-subscribed and there were disappointments. We are always made much of by present RAF personnel and the opportunity to return "home", is greatly appreciated.

The photograph above, conveys much of the enjoyment that members and wives experienced at Henlow. The Station Commander, Air Commodore Jones, and the PMC, Wing Commander Walker, and their wives took the trouble to attend and they stayed late. We were grateful to them and to Bob Ankerson who suggested the evening in the first place and was responsible for the arrangements.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Batch has been to RAF Henlow to work out arrangements for the dinner on 30 July. This is now a near certainty and the costs are likely to be close to those set out in the April Newsletter, i.e. £30 per head for members, £33 for guests. Overnight accommodation will cost £10 per head. The occasion is already well-subscribed. Batch will be sending out full details, probably before you read this.

The Battle of Britain service at Westminster Abbey will be on 19 September. Unfortunately, we can no longer acquire a block of tickets. Applications must be sent direct to the Ministry of Defence.

Stafford has a special place in our affections. We have made several visits including that which was part of the Warwick reunion in 1991. Group Captain Bob Dixon, then the Station Commander, made the annexe to the Officers' Mess into a Kriegle Room and his successors have kept it in being and improved it. It is virtually a private museum with kriegle memorabilia and artifacts. We arrived at RAF Stafford in time for a splendid lunch in the Sergeants' Mess after which there was a presentation covering the Station's history and present functions. There followed a tour of the Station, which has one of the largest military stores depots in the world. It is highly sophisticated and in its vastness the tiniest screw can be located. The helicopter section, which is the Station's other *raison d'être*, had laid on a special exhibition of their ground forces support activities, which we saw in the twilight before changing for pre-dinner drinks and dinner in the Officers' Mess. Most visitors were accommodated in the Mess but there was an overflow which went to a nearby hotel.

On Saturday, 5 December, there was a Remembrance Service in the Station Church then a buffet lunch in the Officers' Mess. Group Captain Whalley was our much appreciated host.

On 23 October the traditional autumn "do" will be lunch at the RAF Club. Cost is £20 per head.

Batch will have tickets for the Remembrance Sunday Parade. Write to him and do turn out if you possibly can. It is a moving occasion.

The Ottawa Reunion is scheduled for 24/29 September. You may just be able to squeeze in. (See page 12.)

THE EDITOR THANKS TED CACHART for his expertise, his time and his patience in preparing this issue of *The Kriegle* for the printer, the ever helpful Bob Baldwinson of Reflections Print Ltd.

THE FLYING STEWARTS

Squadron Leader Robbie Stewart's photograph appeared on the title page of the last *Kriegie* and we make no apology for printing his handsome countenance again. Robbie is one of our most supportive members. This time he is outshone by his lovely and very clever 21-year old daughter Kirsty, who is reading aeronautical engineering and German at Imperial College. An acting pilot officer with the London University Air Squadron, she will take up a cadetship when she completes her degree.



Navigator Robbie has done over 4500 hours in a variety of aircraft, 1500 of them in the Tornado. Towards the end of last year he completed his posting as an instructor at Cottesmore. His final flight in a Tornado was a tremendous thrill for him as Kirsty flew in the aircraft alongside. Since then Robbie has served four months in Saudi Arabia and run in the London Marathon for the RAFA. With three years service to complete, Robbie has been posted to Cranwell as an instructor. Kirsty may well join him. Robbie and his utterly charming wife Tange must be very proud parents.

OTTAWA REUNION - STILL TIME

Our Canadian friends are disappointed that so few of our members have put down their names for the big Reunion which is to take place in Ottawa from Friday 24 September to Wednesday 29 September. It may be that the cut-off date given in *The Kriegie* (No 43) seemed too close (it was 30 September) for people to make up their minds. The date was later extended to 30 January, but the organizers would be happy to accept applications from members even now. A deposit of 100 Canadian dollars is required, with the balance of \$350 per person to be paid later. Deposits will be repaid where people are forced to cancel. Hotel costs are extra.

The programme, on familiar lines - there is even a trip in a steam train - is attractive. The first day is set aside for registration and get-togethers with refreshments and piano entertainment. On the Saturday a bus tour of the city, with a packed lunch, is planned. After a free afternoon there will be dinner and a show at the National Arts Centre. A Memorial Service will be held on Sunday. Lunch will be taken at the City Hall. In the evening there will be dinner and entertainment at the Raddison Hotel on which the Reunion is based. On Monday, 27 September, there is to be a tour of the Air Museum, with lunch and a Flying Model Display to follow - no Snowbirds this time. Dinner will be in the hotel. The last full day is Tuesday, 28 September, the day of the steam train ride. The final dinner/dance will take place at the hotel. Checkout is on Wednesday.

The Reunion Committee have done a good deal with the Raddison. Single rooms will cost \$120 and doubles \$125 per night, breakfast included. Obviously it will pay to find a room-mate if you have not got one. The cost for a couple, in sterling, for the reunion plus accommodation would be approximately £450. Air fares would have to be added. For many members the cost is likely to be a deterrent, but this will almost certainly be the last international reunion. Our 1995 reunion was the last in this country. Since then the Canadians have had the Halifax reunion but Ottawa is to be the last.

Members who wish to book for Ottawa, or require further information, should write to Harold B. Hayes, 885 Plante Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1V 9E3.

Better still, give him a ring on (613)733-7429 or fax him on (613)523-1414.

CALLING ALL KRIEGIES

The following appeared in the Bomber Command Association Newsletter:

Would anyone who was taken prisoner whilst flying on Bomber Command operations 1939-45 please write to Oliver Clutton-Brock, East Hensford, Welcombe, Bideford, Devon EX39 6HE (Tel:01288 331734) with brief details of their capture and time at Dulag Luft, POW camps and *gefangenenlager*, and repatriation. He has compiled a comprehensive list of 10,800 names and intends to publish it with much other information, as soon as possible. Until recently, Oliver edited the Bomber Command Newsletter. He is also the author of *Massacre Over the Marne*, the story of the costly raids on Revigny of JULY 1944.



ATC Cadet of the Year: Corporal James Jenkins holds the Kriege Trophy presented by Dave Bernard (left) and Charles Clarke

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Captain H.H. BRACKEN, RN.
E.F. DUNN.
L. GOLDWYN.
B.A. GOTTO.
H.R. HOLMES.
T.M. KOWALSKI.
K. PHILLIPS.
Lt. Col. P. SPOONER.
D. WOOLFORD.

Hon. Member. 2 Bishopscroft, Campden Park, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5AA
3 Penfield Gardens, Dawlish, Devon, EX7 9NQ
13 Hawtrey Road, London, NW3 3SS
Willowhill House, Carigaline Co. Cork, S. Ireland
Lakeview, Judson Fold, Roughlee, Nr. Nelson, Lancashire, BB9 6NS
34 The Croft, South Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 0SE
146 Tulketh Brow, Ashton, Preston, Lancashire PR2 2JE
Hon. Member. 22 Broadwater Rise, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 2LA
101 Winchester Road, Feltham, Middlesex, TW13 5DT

CHANGES OF ADDRESS - FOR YOUR DIRECTORY

Cdr. P.D. ALLAN.
A. BARRINGTON.
Rev. R. BEATTIE. (Correction)
J.A. CHEESEMAN.
A.W. COLE.
R. COLES.
R.L. COLLIER.
J. ECCLES.
H.J. ELSOM.
E. EVANS.
W.M. GOODALL.
W.E. GOODMAN.
L.W. HOMARD.
W.V. HOOD.
J.E. HUGHES.
P.L. KEMP.
G.J. KIRKBY.
W. MERCER.
D.P.F. McCaig MBE AFC
D.C. SCHOFFIELD (Correction)
B.W. SUFFOLK.
E.A. WASS.
T. WETTON.
E.J. WINFIELD.

2/5 St Tarauna Terrace, St Helier, Auckland, New Zealand
"Top Flat", Quebec House, Quebec Square, Westerham, Kent TN16 1TD
158 Tudor Drive, Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey KT2 5QE
Mount Pleasant House, Honestone Street, Bideford, Devon EX39 2DH
Flat 12, Heathside, 27 Avalon, Lilliput, Poole, Dorset BH14 8HT
"Little Beck", 97 New Road, Brading, I.O.W. PO36 0AD
Fitzwilliam House, Rooks Street, Cottenham, Cambridgeshire CB4 8QZ
22 Bryn Lupus Drive, Llandudno, Gwynedd, Wales LL30 1SF
P.O. Box 1278, Bronkhorstspuit 1020, S. Africa
20 Martindale Road, Liverpool L18 3LQ
c/o 99 Shepherdess Road, London, N1 7QD
192 School Grove, Withington, Manchester M20 4RY
Highfield House, Carmel Hill, Carmel, Holywell, Flintshire CH8 8NZ
c/o 216 Whickham View, Denton Burn, Newcastle-on-Tyne NE15 7HQ
"Baregg", Boathouse Lane, Parkgate, South Wirral L64 3TB
Casa Blanca 36, La Xara, Denia 03700, Alicante, Spain
No.1 Apartment, 31 Ball Haye Street, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 6JN
72 Bondgate, Helmsley, Yorks. YO62 5BR
(Postcode) 99 Heathermount Drive, Crowthorpe, Berks. RG45 6HJ
48 Chiswick Place, Eastbourne, E. Sussex BN21 4BE
c/o 54 Curtis Hayward Drive, Quedgley, Gloucester GL2 4WL
61 Lady Lodge Drive, Orton Waterville, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE2 5EU
Call Miguel de Los Santos Oliver 9/6c, Mallorca, Balearics, Spain
48 Derby Road, Risley, Derbyshire DE27 3SU

WIDOWS' CHANGE OF ADDRESS:-

Mrs. M.S.CARPENTER
Mrs. E.LEWIS
Mrs. E.M.LINDRIDGE
Mrs. D.B.SPENCER

Flat 2, Mounton Heights, Mounton Close, Chertsey, Monmouthshire NP6 5EG
42 Peterswell Road, Barry, S. Glamorgan CF62 7NA
5 Teal Close, Isle of Grain, Rochester, Kent ME3 0DL
Route de Saint Jean, Mont Martel 26340, Saillans, France

GONE AWAY

H.R.BEWLEY
Mrs. J.BROOKER
Mrs. B.GANNON
S/Ldr J.W. GLOVER RAF
Mrs. P.A.HADDOCK
A.A.MORTIMER

Sutton Coldfield
Hitchin
Stockport
Brise Norton
Grimsby
Worthing

G.BUSBY
R.DAY
E.GIBBS
W.S.GRACZYK
J.W.HENDERSON
D.E.WARD

Workshop
Weshpool
Vancouver, Canada
Lincoln
Gosforth
Braunton

A SAD FAREWELL TO

J.O.ACKROYD
S.A.BOOKER
BILL.BOWHILL
A.T.BUDINGER
A.R.CHAPMAN
G.E.CLAY
C.HEDGHILL
W.H.FEATHERSTONE
P.D.GOODOURNE
A.O.LANCASTER
Rev. Canon A.T.LEWIS
B.W.MARSHALL
V.MUNNINGS
R.W.F.PAINTER
N.L.PEARCE
D.PETERKIN
R.G.PURCELL
R.S.CARTH
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E.W.WALKER
W.R.WILLIAMS

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W.R.FAIREY
J.H.GIDDINGS
A.S.HATT
A.H.LAW
L.W.LUDLAM
J.W.MARTIN
A. NESBITT
J.PARSONS
R.PERRY
J.N.PRENDERGRAST MBE DFM
A.J.SARGENT
A.SIDEBOTHAM
H.SODERBERG (YMCA)
K.A.I.WARWOOD
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Eastbourne
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Bristol
Gt. Bookham
Ramsgate
Edgbaston
Edinburgh
Teignmouth
Great Malvern
Applecross, Australia
Overstone
Manitoba, Canada
Conwy
Sweden
Nottingham
Whitby

AND TO LATE MEMBERS WIDOWS

Mrs. J.BARLOW
Mrs. P. PARKS

Lowestoft
Derby

Mrs. N.MURRAY

Dunedin, New Zealand

GERMAN PRISONER OF WAR RECORDS

(We are indebted to Mr. Phil Chinnery, Editor of The National Ex-Prisoner of War Association's Newsletter, for the following piece, which appeared in the spring issue.)

We have been trying to determine exactly what happened to the records of the German Prisoner of War Information Bureau that were captured at the end of the war. Apparently, each prisoner had a record card held by the Bureau, which recorded such things as medical information, wounds when captured, which camps the man passed through etc.

This is in addition to any record cards held in the individual Stalags. We have been advised these cards were used by the various services' casualty branches to reconcile their records at the end of the war and then transferred by the War office to the then Ministry of Pensions.

The cards were then added to individual personal records as appropriate. We have recently contacted the War Pensions Agency and they have confirmed that the German record cards have been included in the files of anyone claiming a disability pension; the rest are stored in their archives at Harwood in case the person concerned makes a claim in the future.

If you would like a copy of your record card, write to Mrs. Val Clarke, Customer Services Manager, War Pensions Agency, Room 6202, Norcross, Blackpool, FY5 3WP. Make sure you include your national insurance number.

ROYAL AIR FORCES EX-POW ASSOCIATION

Abbreviated accounts for the year to 31 December 1998

INCOME	1998	1997
Annual subscriptions	166	187
Life membership (Proportion)	264	529
Functions and activities	6686	3158
Surplus on sales (books, ties etc)	194	623
Donations and raffle	2726	5085
Interest received	311	323
TOTAL	<u>10347</u>	<u>9905</u>
OUTGOINGS		
Functions and activities	8138	3930
Printing	2985	2930
Stationery and postage	2238	903
Telephone and sundries	522	500
Donations and raffle	874	576
Wreaths and flowers	637	292
Depreciation (Office equipment)	116	117
TOTAL	<u>15510</u>	<u>9248</u>
Surplus/Deficit for year	(5163)	657

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 1998

	1998	1997
Tangible assets	116	232
Current assets		
Investments		8000
(Market Value £24170)	8000	
Bank balances	8808	14861
Stock of books etc.	2165	413
Sundry debtor	20	250
Current assets	<u>18993</u>	<u>23532</u>
Less sundry creditor	<u>3180</u>	<u>2580</u>
	<u>15813</u>	<u>20944</u>
	<u>15929</u>	<u>21176</u>
Represented by		
Accumulated funds b/f	21092	20435
less(deficit)/surplus	<u>(5163)</u>	<u>15929</u>
		<u>21092</u>
Life membership b/f	84	433
Received in year	180	180
	<u>264</u>	<u>613</u>
Amortised	<u>(264)</u>	<u>84</u>
	<u>15929</u>	<u>21176</u>

THE LARRY SLATTERY MEMORIAL FUND

Abbreviated accounts for the year ended 31 December 1998

INCOME	1998	1997
Donations received	312	99
Interest received	159	152
Dividends received	<u>820</u>	<u>820</u>
	1291	1071
Less: grants made	(1800)	(1370)
Deficit for year	<u>(509)</u>	<u>(299)</u>

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 1998

Current Assets		
Investments at cost (MV £12440)	8241	8241
Cash at Building Society	5202	5988
Income tax recoverable	<u>820</u>	<u>871</u>
Sundry Debtor	328	
Net Assets	<u>14591</u>	<u>15100</u>
Representing		
Accumulated funds: Brought forward	15100	15399
Deficit for year	<u>(509)</u>	<u>(299)</u>
Balance carried forward	<u>14591</u>	<u>15100</u>

THE ROYAL AIR FORCES EX-POW ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE FUND

Abbreviated accounts for the year ended 31 December 1998

INCOME	1998	1997
Donations received	519	254
Interest received	476	469
Dividends received	<u>2050</u>	<u>2050</u>
	3045	2773
Less: Grants made	(3915)	(3355)
Deficit for year	<u>(870)</u>	<u>(582)</u>

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 1998

Current Assets		
Investments at cost (MV £31100)	20542	20542
Cash at Building Society	13717	15264
Income tax recoverable	<u>2050</u>	<u>2193</u>
Sundry debtor	820	
Net Assets	<u>37129</u>	<u>37999</u>
Representing		
Accumulated funds:brought- forward	37999	38581
Less deficit for year	<u>(870)</u>	<u>(582)</u>
Balance carried forward	<u>37129</u>	<u>37999</u>