



Qualitas Non Quantitas

95th Entry Halton Apprentices

Newsletter

Number 15

June 2011

Hello again, Guys & Gals,

First, a final word about Australia. The April 2010 Audacious Social Event in Sydney, NSW, to celebrate 50 years from Attestation, was an unqualified success despite the ravaging effects of world recession, personal accidents and the Icelandic volcanic eruption ash cloud. By laying the Pavers in the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL), Forestville Sub-Branch Memorial Garden, it can be truly said that the 95th Entry have literally made their mark on Australia.

However, the real purpose of this newsletter is to advise you all about ongoing news and the Planning Team's deliberations for a Reunion to be held during April 2013 to celebrate the:

"50th ANNIVERSARY of GRADUATION"

Coincidentally, 1st April 2013 is also the **95th** Anniversary of the Royal Air Force; which gives us a double cause for celebration.

Our very first re-union in 1993 (marking 30 years) was a very special occasion and was very well attended. This one, marking 50 years, is considered to be equally as special.

N.B. It might transpire that this forthcoming 50th celebration in 2013 may possibly be the last re-union of the type we have previously enjoyed. Bearing this in mind, this is **the one** you and your wife/partner really should make every effort to attend.

ALF's SWAN SONG

This proposed 2013 50th Anniversary Reunion will be my personal Swan Song in an organising capacity as I shall be surrendering the alleged role of "Leader" (sic) of the Planning Team, after the function. I shall also withdraw from my position as representative for the 95th Entry at the RAFHAA.

Following our first bash in 1993, I voluntarily took on the task of organiser and subsequently feel as though I have done my bit. As my health is on the slippery slope I thought it was time I gave somebody else a chance.

I would love to maintain contact with you all and shall naturally do my utmost to attend any reunions in the future, health permitting.

BRYAN ROUGHT

I am very pleased to relate that Bryan Rought, after accessing our website (proving it's value once again), has contacted Roger Miller during August 2010 with an update on his life since leaving the RAF in 1973.

After a brief 6 year spell with Dan-Air, he moved to Muscat, Oman and employment with the Sultanate's Air force. He took this period as an opportunity to fish, windsurf, play golf and generally selfishly indulged himself, with occasional work breaks, in true 95th fashion. This was our last knowledge of his whereabouts and we subsequently lost track of him, consequently he was posted on the missing list.

With his contact to us we can now fill in some blanks; he left Oman in 2004 and lives in Thailand with his wife. We also now acknowledge the correct spelling of his name (with a y) and record his achievements at Halton by: 1) winning the Barrington Kennett Trophy medal (with 2 bars)(his words, not mine) and 2) beating the pole vault record by about 4 feet in the early rook days; pretty good going really as there were no flexible fibre-glass poles in those days. Like many of us he still feels grief by not qualifying for a service pension, leaving in 1973 (me too - I left in 1974). However, I take this opportunity to wish both Bryon & his wife a long and happy retirement.

Well done Bryon. We note your previous aversion to reunions but is there any chance we'll get to greet you both at this approaching golden re-union in 2013?

MIKE CHAMBERS

I received this information in mid February 2011 and it is with sadness that I announce the passing of Mike Chambers (Armourer) from Cancer in December 2008.

After retiring from the RAF and 2 further careers, Mike & his wife Jan decided to follow their dream and retired to Corfu, where, sadly, the Big C intervened and cut short their reverie; our sympathies are extended to Jan, son Paul, daughter Lisa and respective families.

Jan continues to live in their home on Corfu where she has a good circle of friends and has no current plans to return to UK. We are in contact with Jan and welcome her, Paul & Lisa into our "family". With her permission, Jan's contact details are added to the database. She has expressed a keen desire to receive newsletters etc for news of Mike's old colleagues etc and she would no doubt be pleased to hear from you.

Mike's name is added to our "In Memoriam" list and he will be remembered at all our functions.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM - HALTON GROVE

At the RAFHAAA Triennial Re-union on September 25th 2010, it was learnt that the Halton Grove at the National Memorial Arboretum was being refurbished with commemorative gates and a circular pathway using paver bricks similar to those used for the Forestville RSL Sub-Branch Memorial Garden in Sydney, NSW.

These pavers will be square shaped (2 brick size), which can accommodate up to four lines of maximum 16 characters/spaces per line. Entries are being invited to donate an Entry paver or, in certain circumstance, exceptionally note-worthy individuals. Roger & I took the view (in September 2010) that the 95th Entry should be permanently commemorated in this way and consequently we have commissioned a paver with the following markings.



Once again, the 95th Entry has made its mark - this time in England - look out for it when the Halton Grove refurbishment is finished.

There will be correspondence in "The Haltonian" or other medium providing fuller details and no doubt the necessary information regarding attendance at the Arboretum for the "Grand Event". Planned for **mid May 2012**, this will be to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Halton Apprentice scheme and the opening of the revitalised Grove. We will forward any relevant data; until then, another date for your diaries.

50th ANNIVERSARY of GRADUATION REUNION

The Planning Team held a preparatory meeting on 12th June 2011 with the remit to discuss, consider and plan the necessary steps in order to arrange a re-union to celebrate the 95th Entry "**50 Years From Graduation**" anniversary, to take place in April 2013. Coincidentally, 1st April 2013 is also the **95th** anniversary of the formation of the Royal Air Force, which provides for a double cause for celebration.

Thank you to all of you who responded to Roger's request in 2010 asking for suggestions of possible likely venues - all of these suggestions have been considered during the meeting.

The following is a brief resume of deliberations/decisions:

- There will be a reunion function, in a style commensurate with the occasion.
- on or about April 10th 2013, Mid-week or weekend, dependant on costs - specific date TBA
- A meet/greet will be established
- YORK is the elected venue area - specific venue TBA
- open to family members as well as widows & families of our deceased members
- Dress code: Gentlemen - Lounge Suit minimum (Black Tie optional)
 Ladies - Posh Frocks & crown jewels

A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE FAMILIES OF DECEASED MEMBERS

The 95th Entry has always been special, due largely to the calibre of its members and the bonds of friendship that formed in their early years together.

As this is likely to be the last centrally organised reunion, the Planning Team would like to emphasize and extend a very warm invitation to the widows and families of members who sadly are no longer with us.

Please come along and join us in April 2013, with or without a companion, to help us celebrate this unique occasion. You would be very welcome and we would truly love to see you.

kindest regards from the Planning Team.

ATTENDANCE ENCOURAGEMENT

Could you all please actively encourage those members and the widows/families of deceased members who are known to you, to attend this reunion.

Let us all try to make this occasion the best yet.

Thank you.

WORRIED ABOUT COSTS?

Now that you are aware of the planned reunion, it makes sense to start saving for the anticipated cost involved. However, if you have concerns that the costs for this reunion, when they are known, may be a bit on the high side - we may be able to offer a little help.

Whereas accommodation and travel would be your own responsibility, we may be able to assist with the dinner costs. We have limited funds available which we intend to use at this function and which could be used to help out in this way.

Please privately contact Alf or Roger by mail or email - Discretion is assured.

WHAT ABOUT AFTER 2013 ?

What happens after the reunion function in 2013? The Planning Team are considering this question, earnestly.

It might transpire that an annual event could be introduced with a defined date and at a defined location. More news to follow.

ENTRY BADGE SHIELDS

Anyone desirous of obtaining an Entry Badge Wall Shield (6" x 7") should contact the manufacturer who have the design on their records (95th Entry - see header of this newsletter for an example).

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In Memoriam

*Colleagues and Friends who are known to have passed on.
Always in our thoughts and prayers.*

Michael McColl Young	Roland Bath	Keith Burdass
Clive Wilson	Rod Pritchard	Jerry Padgen
Colin Pollard	Bob Jupp	Mike Thatcher
Mike Frankling	RL (Bob) Horsham	Glyn Bolderson
Chris Harris	Mike Chambers	

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On behalf of the Planning Team,

Best & Warm Regards,

Alf

POSTSCRIPT

The following postscript is copied from the RAFHAAA website from July 2010. It does make interesting reading and really says a lot about the benefits of being a member of the Brats association. Please read.

Why should I join the brats association?

Posted by Stuart Morgan (202/203 Entries), New Editor of The Haltonian

Over the years many brats have not bothered with Halton after their passing out parade. Most of these colleagues don't even know that there is a very active Halton Apprentices Assⁿ and occasionally, the younger brats feel that the Association represents only the Aircraft Apprentice Entries.

I joined the Halton Apprentices Association soon after it began in 1980. I decided at that time to become a Life Member, which if I did it today would cost me £100. Annual membership

currently stands at £10 per annum. For that subscription, I received a list of other brats from my entry, who are current members of the association; invitations to attend the triennial reunions (which are absolutely fantastic events); and a twice yearly copy of the Haltonian magazine. That was enough for me at that time.

For me providing the chance to reconnect with members of my entry is the biggest thrill of belonging to the association. To meet up with old colleagues and to chat as though not a day has passed since we were teenagers is an unbelievable experience that one cannot describe unless you have done it. However, with the advent of the internet it is now possible for entry associations to start and to survive without the association. Nevertheless the association provides ready-made and additional services which enable branch and entry associations to grow and to flourish. For example, the association can provide association members with copies of their brat records and other pertinent historical data and photos.

I have attended only two of the Triennial reunions at Halton (2001 and 2004), mainly because I work abroad for much of the year. However, I must admit to being near to tears on both occasions when parading with up to 1000 other brats of all entries. The comradeship was fantastic and indescribable. On 25th September 2010, the office anticipated a record number of brats to attend this the 10th Triennial.

So what about the Haltonian magazine. Well I find it to be full of the history of Halton, and the stories in there are written by brats who feel that Halton was the best university in the world, yes university! Indeed the magazine describes tales of valour and courage by brats, who have served in many conflicts. On the other hand it demonstrates the courage of ordinary young men, who left home at 15 or 16 years of age, to face a strict training and disciplinary regime that would over a few short months turn them into men. Men who could do things with confidence that ordinary airmen would not attempt. Words like those of Alex Smith (53rd) "...but I doubt it is too difficult. My God we are Trenchard Brats" seem to sum up what Halton gave to us all.

I believe that without Halton I would have not have done a fraction of the things that I have done in my life and I would certainly not have made life-long friends of the like that others can only imagine.

Such is my commitment to Halton that I have decided to put something back into the fold. As you know I manage this network site that I created last August. It is wonderful to be making so many new brat friends through this network, and to be sharing content. And as of one week ago, I was given the honorable task to edit our wonderful Haltonian magazine. I shall try to fill the shoes of Bill Kelley, but how to do that I do not know yet. If you want to know how I do in the job then you'll have to join the association to find out, because the magazine is available only to members of the association.

Finally, during the 2010 AGM on 24 July, the Association recommended a name change of the association to "Old Haltonians". As a Craft Apprentice, I fully support that motion.

For those of you who are not yet members of this honorable and historic society of brats then I would encourage you most warmly and wholeheartedly to join us.

*Haltonian Editor and webmaster, Stuart Morgan @ email: Stuart Morgan
(haltonian@stuartmorgan.eu)*

