



Qualitas Non Quantitas

95th Entry Halton Apprentices

Newsletter

Number 19

October 2013

There have been a number of requests from individuals saying that they still wish to receive the Entry Newsletters. The problem is, that now there are no more formal reunions to arrange but only informal annual gatherings, it's difficult to see what can go into any future Entry Newsletters. Anyway, we'll give it a go and see what transpires - ergo, Number 19 for your delectation.

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Actually, there are now important changes in the arrangements for our next social gathering - not now as casual & laid-back as we first imagined. On September 21st, Alf & Roger secured a booking for 10 - 20 persons at the Bell, Aston Clinton, for our meal next April, with conditions. The changes are set out below. **See page 2**

Passwords & Wills. A bit of good advice from Roger on something we may not have considered. **See page 3**

Denise Dapre, wife of Tony, honoured by award of the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for services to the sport of Fencing. **See page 4**

STOP PRESS - EXCAVATION OF EX-RAF SERGEANT'S MESS HALTED
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Just a thought: If you cut off a Glow-worm's tail, would it be delighted?

NEXT 95th ENTRY SOCIAL GATHERING

We will meet for an informal meal, on **Saturday 12th April 2014** at:

The Bell in Aston Clinton (HP22 5HP) (Tel: +44 (0) 1296 632777)

7.00 pm for 7.30

We have booked tables for up to 20 provisionally and may have a room to ourselves. Consequently, we now need to confirm numbers nearer the time.

In due course there will be a menu forwarded by email for you to consider, as the staff at the Bell have recommended that you choose your meal from the options available to speed up the service when we sit down. Bear with us, please.

So, where we expected to just turn up on the day with no admin ... It is now necessary for YOU to tell US that you plan to attend (Hoh, Hum!!!)

We will send out a reply proforma with the menu for you to return to Alf or Roger by end February 2014.

YOUR CO-OPERATION IS APPRECIATED.

Everyone is welcome to join us; make your own accommodation bookings to suit your personal preference, but PLEASE REMEMBER to let us know you are coming to join the throng for the meal.

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RAFHAA Triennial Reunion - 21 September 2013

The Triennial Association Reunion this year was attended by Johnny Cormack, John Soothill, Robbie Johnson, Al Butler and Tony Eve with an appearance by Alf Banyard part-time (disappeared early afternoon for some shut-eye).

Johnny & Stephanie Cormack, Tony & Ann Eve and Alf were joined by Roger & his son, Matthew, for an evening meal at the Bell, Aston Clinton. Matthew kindly chauffeured Roger to the pub, which allowed Roger to have a drink or two prior to jetting off to Spain early on the Sunday morning. A splendid evening was had by all.

There are some snaps on the back page for interest, courtesy of Johnny & Stephanie Cormack. (if you read this comment, your ISP rejected the version with the pictures as too big at 15 mb. Will see about the photos later. RogerM)

Just a thought: ONE TEQUILA, TWO TEQUILA, THREE TEQUILA, FLOOR.

Passwords and Wills.

To most of us “User Names” and “Passwords” and “PIN numbers” are a common feature of daily life. Credit cards, mobile phones, banking, PCs, laptops, net-books, library cards, and the programmes and accounts many of us use all have such protection. In my case even my back door is “key pad entry” so I cannot get locked out if I forget my house keys.

I have had the misfortune of losing a good many friends over the last two or three years. I have been saddened further by the distress of the remaining partner and/or off-spring caused by lack of information on passwords. The inability to access family address lists, photos, correspondence and email causing particular concern. Even if the data is backed up more often or not it is password protected.

Whilst an IT person can almost certainly retrieve photos and word documents given access to the hardware, there is a far simpler and cost effective solution.

Sit down and list all your “User Names” and “Passwords and Pins” and place that list with the solicitor’s copy of your will. Oh and let your executor know where they are.

OK, someone will point out that all passwords on one list is an Achilles heel even though afforded the same protection as your will. In my desk top contact manager I have recorded user names and passwords in a disguised manner. Four digit PIN numbers are difficult to disguise but you can always record them back to front or simply add “1” to each digit. Thus, PIN 1234 becomes “4321” or “2345” respectively. However for your “Will” this is probably taking paranoia too far.

The bottom line is: “Make sure you partner, off-spring or executors know your access codes to avoid much additional distress for those who remain”.

Roger Miller

Terry & Avril McCrum

Congratulations are due to Terry and Avril McCrum who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on 5th October 2013.

Furthermore, Avril has her 70th Birthday on 7th October closely followed by Terry on 11th November. Happy birthday, both - Qualitas non Quantitas.

Just a thought: ATHEISM IS A NON-PROPHET ORGANIZATION.

Denise Dapre, OAM.



Denise, the wife of one of our members, Tony Dapre, has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to the sport of Fencing.

The 95th Entry joins the RSL Forestville Sub-Branch in offering Denise our heartiest congratulations for a well deserved award.

Just a thought: IF MAN EVOLVED FROM MONKEYS AND APES, WHY DO WE STILL HAVE MONKEYS AND APES?

Actual Call Centre Conversation

Customer: I've been ringing 0800 2100 for two days and can't get through to enquiries, can you help?

Operator: Where did you get that number from, sir?

Customer: It was on the door to the Travel Centre.

Operator: Sir, those are our opening hours.

EXCAVATION OF EX-RAF SERGEANT'S MESS HALTED

92nd Mole reveals interesting Histerical (sic) Document



Bill's service record would indicate that the RAF was his only way of life, but as you may have heard, the Public Prosecution Office has been handed a dossier on former Nazi agents living under cover in Britain. According to information received, some of these agents have been known to be high ranking officials blending in to service life almost perfectly. They are often trained proficiently in a sport. Golf appears to be prominent due to the fact that on most camps access from the golf course to the airfield is unrestricted.

Some of the agents are a result of experiments at Josef Mengele's Clinic and have the deformity of being three feet shorter than the average adult.

I have obtained some information and a newspaper clip on one of the agents who was last spotted in the Gutersloh area in 1990 - a certain Villy Vittaker.

Villy survived the war by escaping from the Berlin bunker inside an American Soldier's kidney pouch. He was thrown out of the Waffen SS for cruelty after beating to death a Chihuahua because it threw Villy off it's back, causing him to fall and break his glasses.

Hitler saw in Villy the makings of a great man and recruited him into his growing band of Klingons. He was heard to say to Himmler, "This Villy will come in handy as a shaving brush." Within 6 months Villy's luscious head of thick black hair was reduced to glass-like proportions.

So, we must ask ourselves. Is Bill taking the redundancy because of a desire to retire early or is the infamous Villy Vittaker keeping one step ahead of the Public Prosecutors' Office and returning to his old job with the German Gas Works.

Bill always tried to increase his stature and is very proud of his record of "Firsts" that he attained over the years:

- a) He was the first Apprentice to be issued with a step to help him get in and out of bed and to help him reach the top of his bed-pack.
- b) His wearing of KD inspired the Air Force to issue KD Longs to all other airmen.
- c) He was the first airman to be issued with an eye level grill in his Quarter.

For Your Information ...

At the end of January 2013, those of us who retain membership of The Returned and Services League (RSL) of Australia, Forestville RSL Sub-Branch in Sydney, were advised that the Sub-Branch would pay our annual Capitation Fees to the State Branch of the RSL.

There was also a request that it would be rather nice if one of us was to act as our UK correspondent (taken up by Roger) and send something for the (RSL) Newsletter from time to time, perhaps 100 to 150 words. This seems to be a fair exchange and Roger & Alf came up with the following article after our 50th Graduation Reunion in York.

This was subsequently submitted in June 2013 to the President, Bill Hardman, and Newsletter Editor, Mike Falconer-Flint, for their consideration. They kindly thought it worthy and it was printed in the July Issue of the RSL Forestville Sub-Branch newsletter.

Furthermore, we also forwarded to the RSL the Lesson in Politics, which also appears below.

At this time, it is thought that something similar may be created for future years. Anybody having anything suitable for future articles; stories, anecdotes, jokes, etc; please advise Alf & Roger.

To The RSL Forestville Sub Branch Newsletter Editor (Mike Falconer-Flint):

The 95th Entry of RAF Halton Celebrate 50 years from Graduation

On Wednesday 10th April 2013, 50 years exactly to the day and date, 54 members, partners and guests of the 95th Entry of "Trenchard's Brats" gathered at the Park Inn Hotel in York, UK, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their Graduation from the RAF's Aircraft Apprentice Training Establishment at RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire. This reunion also celebrated the coincidental 95th anniversary of the formation of the RAF on 1st April 1918.

The attendees came from the length and breadth of the UK and throughout the world, including France, Australia & New Zealand. There were also a great many other members who acknowledged the occasion but, sadly, tendered apologies and regrets due mainly to illnesses which prevented their travel from, not only areas of the UK but also countries such as South Africa, Turkey, USA, Canada, Norway, Germany and Europe.

Of the 121 boys who formed the 95th Entry of Aircraft Apprentices in May 1960, approx 115 survivors' successfully graduated on 10th April 1963 and dispersed to initial postings to fulfil their careers in the RAF and beyond.

After 30 years, an initial Reunion was organised in 1993 with roughly 90% of the Entry being found. A good time, as they say, was had by all, with friendships renewed and conversations picking up from 1963 as though the intervening years hadn't happened - a rather phenomenal occurrence which history has shown is common to such gatherings amongst all military groups. Thanks to email we are still in touch with 72 members, 83% of the Entry.

There followed a series of further lively reunions in the intervening years. Additionally we commissioned a stained glass window in St. Georges Church, RAF Halton, as a permanent marker of our collective pride. Our reunion in celebration of 50 years from Attestation took place in Sydney, NSW in April 2010, which coincided with the 95th anniversary of Gallipoli.

The Entry is very grateful to the Forestville RSL Branch for the warm welcome and support given during our visit in 2010. We were very pleased to be permitted to lay two pavers in your excellent memorial garden.

We felt that our Entry "Qualitas non Quantitas" (Quality not be applied to Australian forces. In 2010 we let it be memorial pavers are who stood up to be forces. In particular we and those wounded families. Another 95th has since been laid in the National Memorial Staffordshire.



motto of "Qualitas non Quantity) could equally and New Zealand known that our dedicated to all those counted in the armed remember those killed together with their Entry memorial paver Halton Grove of the UK Arboretum at Alrewas,

We are proud to be associated with the Forestville RSL and wish to convey to you all our best wishes for the future.

A Lesson in Politics (from an email sent by Tony Bradley)

A florist went to a barber for a haircut. After the cut, he asked how much he owed, and the barber replied, 'I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week.' The florist was pleased and left the shop. When the barber went to open his shop the next morning, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen yellow roses waiting for him at his door.

The next week, the butcher comes in for a haircut, and when he asks how much he owes, the barber again replies, 'I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week.' The butcher was happy and left the shop. The next morning when the barber went to open up, there was a 'thank you' card and a leg of lamb, waiting for him at his door.

The following week, a Member of Parliament came in for a haircut, and when he went to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I cannot accept money from you. I'm doing community service this week.' The Member of Parliament was very happy and left the shop.

The next morning, when the barber went to open up, there were a dozen Members of Parliament lined up waiting for a free haircut. And that, my friends, illustrates the fundamental difference between the citizens of our country and the politicians who run it. They also would claim travel expenses.

REMEMBER POLITICIANS AND NAPPIES SHOULD BE CHANGED OFTEN AND FOR THE SAME REASON!

Tony B.

Samsung Electronics

- Caller: Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?
- Operator: I'm sorry, sir, I don't understand who you are talking about.
- Caller: On page 1, section 5, of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning. Now, can you give me the number for Jack?
- Operator: I think you mean the telephone point on the wall'.

RAC Motoring Services

- Caller: Does your European Breakdown Policy cover me when I am travelling in Australia ?
- Operator: Doesn't the product name give you a clue?

Caller (enquiring about legal requirements while travelling in France):
If I register my car in France, do I have to change the steering wheel to the other side of the car?

Directory Enquiries

- Caller: I'd like the number of the Argoed Fish Bar in Cardiff please.
- Operator: I'm sorry, there's no listing. Is the spelling correct?
- Caller: Well, it used to be called the Bargoed Fish Bar but the 'B' fell off'.

Then there was the caller who asked for a knitwear company in Woven

- Operator: Woven? Are you sure?
- Caller: Yes. That's what it says on the label; Woven in Scotland.

On another occasion, a man making heavy breathing sounds from a phone box told a worried operator:

"I haven't got a pen, so I'm steaming up the window to write the number on."

SOMETHING ELSE I PICKED UP ON MY TRAVELS

The Desiderata

Go placidly amid the noise and haste and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery; but let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ordeals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune; but do not distress yourself with imaginings; many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore, be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world.

Be careful. Strive to be happy.

(From Old Saint Paul's Church, Baltimore. Dated 1692)

Obituary

JOHN SWASH

It is with sadness that I advise the passing of John Swash, Armourer, in 2012. There is a minor conflict on the date as we were advised it happened on August 6th but the obituary notice below (courtesy of John Pollock) states April 5th; nevertheless, another one of our old friends has joined the "In Memoriam" list and will be remembered at all future Entry gatherings.

SWASH John : Obituary [*Published in the Bristol Evening Post on 24th April 2012*]
(*Distributed in Bristol*)

SWASH John. Age 69 years. Passed away on 5th April very suddenly at Frenchay Hospital. Sadly missed by wife, Marilyn and sons James, Richard and Christopher. He was a wonderful husband, father and friend. Also a much loved granddad of Oliver and Poppy. The service will be held at Westerleigh Crematorium on Thursday 26th April 1.30pm. Family flowers only donations to the RAF Benevolent Fund c/o R. Davies & Son, 63 Westbury Hill, Westbury on Trym BS9 3AD.

The following messages of condolence have been received after Roger circulated the news of John's death.

Sad news indeed. I remember going to Bristol with him one Easter leave.
Condolences to his family and friends.

John Pollock

Farewell to a good mate. Dusty, please send my condolences to Johnnie's family. He leaves us with many wonderful memories.

Best wishes, Alistair Allcroft

Rog, Thank you for that. I suspected this may have been the case when I lost contact with John on email and considered dropping into the house after York (*Reunion in April 2013*) but, not being sure, was reluctant to do so. I spent quite a lot of time in Bristol with John and the family whilst at Halton and after leaving the RRAF worked at Filton for a short while where his dad Stan worked. John had heart problems for some years plus one of his boys had bad health which was his reason for leaving the RAF. Fond memories of a lovable rogue but a bloody good mate !!

Regards Bob Harris

Dear Roger, So sorry to hear the sad news about Johnny Swash. As a fellow armourer I shared a room with him for three years, a very nice chap and very much part of the "Plumbers" family. I shall always remember his rich Bristolian accent. Please send my condolences to his family too. Like Reg Apps it seems like the ladies weren't always au-fait with mysteries of their husbands' e-mails.

Very best wishes, David Kennett

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

Bob Horsham

Glyn Bolderson

Chris Harris

Mike Chambers

Steve Urwin-Mann

Reg Apps

John Swash

Qualitas Non Quantitas

Alf & Roger

on behalf of

Your Planning Team

Just a thought: If you can keep your head when all around you are losing theirs you don't fully understand the situation!