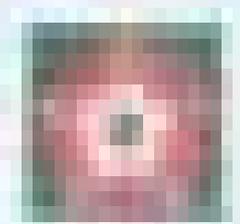


Catterick Garrison

RAF Catterick Garrison



FLASHPOINT



ROYAL AIR FORCE & DEFENCE FIRE SERVICES ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE

ROYAL AIR FORCE & DEFENCE FIRE SERVICES ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE

INSIDE THIS 24 PAGE ISSUE

RAF CATTERICK EVENT JUNE 2006 REPORT - SPOTLIGHT ON RAF CATTERICK FIRE SQUADRON PART 2 EX - RAF CATTERICK FIRE and RESCUE SQUADRON - 1982 & THE WOT1 - ASSOCIATION SHOP

REMEMBRANCE PARADE 2006 DETAILS - "DOES YOUR CHEWING GUM LOSE IT'S FLAVOUR ETC?" REMINDER THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE 1ST SEPTEMBER - STOP PRESS - MUSEUM SHOCK!



August 2006

www.fireservicesassociation.net

Brief History Of The Association

Formation of the Association

The formation of the Royal Air Force & Defence Fire Services Association took place at Shoreham Airport in East Sussex, on the 13th. May 1995, when 23 ex-service personnel got together to settle the question of why there wasn't an organisation relating to the trade of firefighter when most other trades had formed one of their own many years ago?

Inaugural Committee Formed

On that day, when those founder members turned up from all over the country, they went on to form the inaugural committee of the Association and elected the following Officers and Committee:-

		Member
President	Late John Arthur	11
Vice President	Ken Rimmel	20
Chairman	Keith Penfold	9
Vice Chairman	Mick Clark	2
Secretary	Dennis McCann	7
Treasurer	Late John Knight	21
Editor *	Late Alan Alsop	49

*The position of Editor first introduced in 1995, when the late Alan Alsop took post as founding editor, but after the formation of the Association in May of that year.

Area Coordinators Elected

Area Coordinators were subsequently elected to cover the U.K.

The Intervening Years

Many changes have taken place since then as the Association established itself over the intervening years and, with its formation, colleagues, past and present, now have a better chance of finding each other again, renewing old friendships and making new ones.

The Association publishes Flashpoint magazine 3 times per year with information, news, updates, articles, anecdotes, photos. and stories.

Association membership is made up of ex and serving firefighters and includes those personnel who made up the Air Force, Army and Royal Navy* Fire Service Departments, which became the Defence Fire Services. Together we are the Royal Air Force and Defence Fire Services Association.

Associate Membership is open to ex and serving personnel having a minimum of three months service with the Civilian Aviation Authority (CAA) Licenced Aerodrome Fire Services.

* Royal Navy have since founded their own Aircraft Handlers Association.



Photo shows 21 ex-RAF Firemen attending Shoreham Airport, East Sussex on Sunday the 13th May 1995 for the forming of the Association, but only 15 are named - Basil Cotton, Barry Poulton, Bob Good, Roger Brooks, John Knight, Joe Shackleton, Len Nightingale, John Arthur, 'Nobby' Clarke, Bob Hodgeson, Dennis McCann, Graham Kennedy, Keith Penfold, Bill Bennett & Tony Cullen (didn't join)! The photo was taken Sunday morning and several founder members were missing, for various reasons. They were, C Ayling, S Morley, F Hoxey, R Smallridge, A Watts, R Rideout, D Shields, J Dalton, G Bridges, Bob Westwood, Reg Silcock, Richard Callanan, 'Brummie Yates, Brian Wooldridge, Brian Ford, Ron Mason and, now, Charles Sharp. A grand total of 32 who started things off, for all those of us, who have followed on behind - Are there any more out there or, is that it? Ken Rimmel, D/Day Museum, and founding vice-president, member 20, took the photograph - Ed.

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Member, Mark Watson, volunteered as coordinator to cover Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - still awaiting details - Ed.

CO-ORDINATOR VACANCIES

EAST YORKSHIRE - LINCOLNSHIRE - MIDLANDS - SCOTLAND - SOUTH EAST

OTHER AREAS AS NECESSARY. IT'S NOT TOO ARDUOUS, JUST A MATTER OF KEEPING IN TOUCH, AND PROMOTING THE ASSOCIATION WHEN ABLE TO DO SO. IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER. WE ASSURE YOU OF A WARM WELCOME.

PROPOSED NEW BOOK – members will be aware from the April 2006 Flashpoint, that a book is in the process of being produced outlining the personnel, past and present, who have been members of the Royal Air Force Fire Service or Defence Fire Services, (now the Defence Fire and Rescue Services).

Many stories and anecdotes have already been received and each article, however short or long, is a unique contribution to the project. Please consider submitting an article as everyone has something to say and your contribution will be recorded for posterity. Contributions to myself please. Contact details as per the Who To Contact page.

George Edwards Secretary member 238

HOW TO JOIN - For more information about the Royal Air Force & Defence Fire Services Association and to request an application form contact :-

John Hanley, Membership Secretary,
17 Carnegie Road, Peterborough PE8 6AJ

Tel - 01780 784 964 or email - john@hanley7438.
freeserve.co.uk

or

Visit our website at - www.
fireservicesassociation.net

Readers will quickly note that this issue is chock full with ex RAF Catterick Fire Squadron items for which I make no apology. As a Sutton-on-Hull man, I'm honoured and delighted to present the information on Catterick for your enjoyment. I only hope that someone out there has similar items on Sutton, Manston or Teeside. If so, please dig them out and send them in.



THE FRONT COVER shows the Catterick Garrison Army Open Day held at Marne Barracks, on Saturday 24th June 2006, which was originally RAF Catterick until 1988, when the school moved to RAF Manston, Kent, and merged with the Defence Fire Services Training School, to form the Fire Services Central Training Establishment (FSCTE). The full colour centre spread gives a flavour of the Open Day event, which was a great success and pages 14/15, display Pt 2 of, Spotlight on Royal Air Force Catterick Fire Squadron – “Oh! You Didn't Go To Sutton Then?” as a follow up to Pt 1 in the April 2006 issue.

FULL COLOUR CENTRE SPREAD - Following the success of the December 2005 10th Anniversary full colour centrespread, your committee approved my request to include a full colour centre spread in future issues, whenever I have enough suitable material to do so. I hope you wholeheartedly approve, as I believe it's the least the membership deserve.

BACK COVER - Thanks to John Goupillot for his entertaining articles on ex RAF Catterick and the memorable photos, especially the full colour one of the ex - RAF Catterick Fire and Rescue Squadron 1982 featured on the back cover. This photo was used in the April article, but only in black and white, which didn't really do it justice. So, as it was in full colour, I decided to include it in the August edition, as it's quite rare to find a colour photograph of such quality from over 25 years ago! To carry on with the Catterick theme, I included a shot of the WOT1, taken from the archive, showing it in all it's pristine glory, after it had been renovated by the staff as mentioned in Pt2.

THANKS TO ARMY PERSONNEL - I must take this opportunity to give a personal thank you to Major Gareth Wright, Guardroom Staff, Logistics Corp and all other Army personnel I came into contact with over the Friday, Saturday and Sunday. I was there

early Friday and Sunday mornings to meet with 2MT Squadron when they delivered, and then uplifted, the WOT1, on our behalf. Saturday morning the WOT1 front nearside tyre was soft and Logistics were very helpful with advice to sort the matter.

'SKIFFLE' & RAF TERNHILL - In the last issue, I promised an item from member, Colin Nixon, on 'Skiffle' and hope you enjoy it. For those of you who haven't a clue what it's all about, prepare to be enlightened briefly on the subject! Colin would like your help in trying to identify a name from a photo taken at RAF Ternhill, Shropshire, between 1956 and 1961?

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE IN LONDON ON SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2006 - On behalf of Ron Brown, I'd like to remind members that time is running out if you are thinking of attending the Remembrance Day Parade in London on the 12th November 2006. See the Remembrance Parade page in this issue for details of how to get tickets?

FLASHPOINT ITEMS - For those of you who've sent in items, I apologise if it's not yet been used, but I've had such a good response and I've built up quite a backlog, which will take time to clear. Please be patient and your turn will come.

'MUG-SHOT' - Some of you will note that I've updated my 'mug-shot', (taken at the recent Catterick Army Open Day), for the editorial page as someone said the last one didn't look like me?

FINALLY - my grateful thanks go to Major Gareth Wright and Christine Sykes, of Catterick Garrison, for their wholehearted cooperation, and assistance, in putting me in contact with Neil Bentley of **The Ark Design & Print Ltd, Pudsey, Leeds LS28 9BB,** for the original artwork for the front cover, and their kind approval to use it.

That's all for now except to say I hope you enjoy this edition.

Regards and best wishes,

Dave

Useful Contact Numbers

RAFBF - The Heart of the RAF Family:-
0800 169 2942

RAFA - The Royal Air Force Association:-
0800 018 2361

SSAFA Forces Help - The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association:- 020 7403 8783

The Royal British Legion - RBL -
08457 725 725

RAF Records and Medals Section - Building 248A, RAF Innsworth Gloucester GL3 1EZ

Public Records Office Kew Richmond Surrey TW9 4DU

VETERAN'S BADGE - 0800 169 2277

Congratulatory Messages from the Queen, for 60th, 65th, and 70th Wedding Anniversaries, and every anniversary following, and birthday congratulations to celebrate 100th, 105th and following birthdays, request an application form from: the Anniversaries Office,



Front cover is from the programme for Catterick Garrison Army Open Day event on Saturday 24 June 2006, at Marne Barracks and produced by; The Ark Design & Print Ltd, Pudsey, Leeds LS28 9BB; who kindly supplied the original artwork.

Marne Barracks is formerly the home of the RAF School of Firefighting known as the Catterick Fire Squadron, from 1958 to 1988, before moving to RAF Manston in 1988 to merge with the Defence Fire Services Training School to form the Central Fire Services Training Establishment (FSCTE) - Ed.

FLASHPOINT BACK COPIES are available from the Editor at a cost of £1.00 each including P&P. Issues available are: January 02 (1st full colour edition by Brodie Publishing, Liverpool), December 04, April, August & December 05, April 06. Send orders to the Editor, details on the Who To Contact page. PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO RAF&DFSA AND SEND WITH

Catterick Garrison Gala Day Saturday 24th June 2006



SECRETARY'S REPORT CATTERICK GARRISON GALA DAY 24 JUNE 2006

About this time last year I wrote to the Catterick Garrison Commander, Colonel Hackett, and asked about the possibility of an Association visit to Marne Barracks, formerly RAF Catterick. The Garrison Commander very kindly invited the Association to participate in the annual Garrison Gala Day held each year at Marne Barracks. After agreement from the committee, we went ahead and attended this year's event. At the time we had no idea what the event was all about but set about obtaining whatever fire vehicles and associated memorabilia we could. Wilf Longmire was able to obtain a 1942 WOT1, (photo1), (War Office Type 1, for those like me who have no idea what a WOT1 is). He also put me in touch with Phil Webb who brought his TACR2, (2), to the event; and arranged for 2 MT RAF Wittering to transport the WOT1, (1), to and from the event. Many thanks Wilf and I hope your big event (RIAT at RAF Fairford 15th & 16th July) went well?

On the day, we had our own large marquee, in which, we were able to place an RAF wartime Willys Jeep, (3), and an RAF Austin Champ, (4), (another ex RAF fire vehicle). John Goupillot brought his very impressive collection of fire helmets, (5), along with John's better half, Vera, and ably assisted by John and Olive Arnold, the display attracted much interest and filled one corner of the marquee. Bob Feather and Jim Paterson set up the Association shop in another corner of the marquee. The WOT1 was strategically placed outside the marquee with the TACR2. The event organiser Major Gareth Wright was very impressed with our display and thanked us on the day and has since written a formal letter again thanking us for our impressive display and inviting us back next year.

We received many visitors to our marquee in fact over 10,000 people attended the show but the one visitor to our marquee, that most excited those of my generation, was the ex RAF Catterick Fire School Warrant Officer, Ron Shearn. What a pleasure it was to meet Ron after nearly forty years in my case. Bob Feather and I stood up straight, chests out, stomachs in (as best we could) as soon as 'Mr Shearn' walked into our marquee and despite the

passing of time he was instantly recognisable. It came as a pleasant surprise for Ron to see so many ex RAF firemen present and we were able to get a photograph of our group with the great man, (see centre spread – Ed). Another visitor to our marquee was Association member, Nick Harrison, (see article about Nick in the April 2005 edition of Flashpoint). Arrangements were made for Nick to visit the site where his friend and fellow RAF fireman was tragically killed and Nick severely burnt trying to save his friend's life. I am sure that was a very poignant moment for Nick and his ex SNCO supervisor at that time, John Goupillot, who accompanied Nick to the scene. After that sombre experience Nick came back to our marquee and proved to be a great help entertaining the visitors to our display, hope your available next year Nick?

Many Association members helped out on the day and many more members visited the display. Our grateful thanks go to all those who helped, and those of you who came along on the day and supported us.

I know that all present thoroughly enjoyed the day. There was much to see besides our display including military bands, free fall parachute displays, The Royal Signals motor cycle display team, an infantry battle scene and a brilliant display by the Ghurkhas. I am so glad those lads are on our side.

As already stated, the Association has received an invitation to attend next year's Gala Day, which is to take place on Saturday the 23 June 2007. Approval has to be obtained from the committee and the membership but, if we do attend next year, it is possible we could turn it into a weekend event with accommodation, a dinner, Church Service and possibly a trip to RAF Leeming on the Sunday. Going by this year's event it is well worth a visit and an ideal opportunity for a very entertaining and interesting family weekend away.

COMMITTEE VACANCY - Members will be aware that our Vice Chairman, Jim Paterson, notified the membership at Peterborough in March, that he wouldn't be standing for re-election at the forthcoming AGM at Coventry in October.

Any member interested in standing for the vacancy is required to notify the association secretary at least 28 days before the next meeting i.e. no later than the 22 September 2006. Nominees will need to be proposed and seconded by

Association full members, in accordance with the rules. That's all from me now and I look forward to seeing you at Coventry.

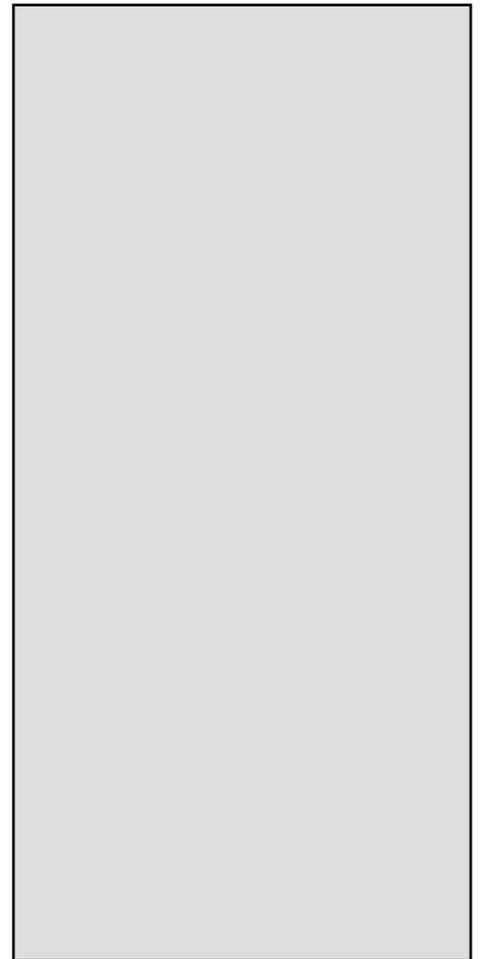
Best wishes,
George Edwards member 238



group of members - Ed.

Membership News from new Mem. Sec. John Hanley

**SEE YOU AT COVENTRY
IN OCTOBER**



SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE 1ST SEPTEMBER - Just a quick reminder that it's that time of year again and, like many of us, you may have trouble remembering when subs are due and it's so easy to overlook paying your dues and miss out on our excellent Flashpoint magazine and Association activities.

Please consider using the Bankers Order procedure. It saves an awful lot of hassle for our treasurer, Geoff Varley, and ensures your membership won't lapse due to one of those 'Senior Moments' from which we can suffer from at times and it will save Association funds being spent sending reminders!

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO MEMBERS - Please ensure that any changes in personal particulars such as Bank or Building Society Account details, address and telephone changes are notified to the Membership Secretary, John Hanley or the Treasurer, Geoff Varley, without delay. This will ensure you will continue to receive your Flashpoint and correspondence such as, reunion details and any reminders about subscription oversights that may occur.

“ Does Your Chewing Gum Lose It’s Flavour etc. - - - - - ”

In 1952/56, I was a Cadet with 247 Squadron (Ashton - under - Lyne Grammar School) and had Chipmunk flights at RAF Woodvale, Southport and did a night flight, in a Hastings at RAF Summer Camp, from RAF Abingdon



(Berks) to RAF Dishforth (North Yorks) and return. I also gained my swimming Proficiency Certificate at RAF Abingdon. I enlisted in the RAF in October 1956 at 17 ½ years old and my number was 3523640. Any number starting with 352, denoted an ex Air Cadet. After Cardington, ‘square bashing’ was at Padgate, then on to the School of Firefighting and Rescue at RAF Sutton - on - Hull before going onto RAF Weeton, near Blackpool, for driver training.

The rest of my service was spent at No 6 FTS, RAF Ternhill, near Market Drayton, Shropshire, until my 5 years were completed in October 1961. Just a year before demob, I married my gorgeous wife, Doreen, from Stalybridge, Cheshire and, also, finally, sewed on my RAF Regiment flashes! On demob, I served a further 4 years in the ‘E’ Class Reserves. During my 4 years at Ternhill, I played for the Fire Section Football Team, and also captained the Station Table Tennis Team, in the Shrewsbury and District League, and the Inter Station League, (good old Wednesday afternoons sports day!! (Instead of ‘Egyptian P.T?’ - Ed)

I played in a ‘Skiffle’ Group in the ‘Star Inn,’ Market Drayton, called ‘The Gamblers’. We painted a tea chest black, then added white dots to represent a dice! (Hence, the ‘Gamblers’ were born)! For those of you not familiar with ‘Skiffle’ it was developed by such as, the King of ‘Skiffle’, Lonnie Donegan, Chas McDewitt, Wally Wyton and became popular with many amateur groups taking up the music. (Note - ‘Skiffle’ spawned the careers of Tommy Steele with the ‘The Cavemen’ and the hit, ‘Rock with the Caveman’ and, Adam Faith, who played under his real name of, Terry Nelhams with the ‘Worried Men’ before both became Rock and Pop Stars! (Source – YOURS Magazine, Sep/Oct 2005 - Ed).

Basically, all you needed was an old tea chest, broom handle and cord to form a makeshift bass instrument. The broom handle was used to tension the ‘bass cord’
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and alter the pitch. An old corrugated washboard and thimble(s) were used to add a very odd scraping sound and a guitar completed the ensemble! The music was typically very lively and produced some unusual titles such as Rock Island Line, Battle Of New Orleans, Bring A Little Water Sylvie, My Old Man’s A Dustman, Cumberland Gap, Don’t You Rock Me Daddy-O, Does Your Chewing Gum Lose It’s Flavour On The Bedpost Overnight?, Wabash Cannonball, and many others.

Naturally, we played mostly ‘Skiffle’, but a local civvy, with a fantastic voice, joined us and sang the popular ballads of the day, specialising in Pat Boone numbers. We were paid £2 per week at the Star Inn plus drinks, (we were definitely over paid!!). We were then ‘poached’ by The Crown Inn for 6 months and ‘poached’ back again by Tom, the Landlord at the Star Inn. Both pubs used to be packed ‘wall to wall’, (it must have been the barmaids!!). The line up was: Jimmy Dunlop, (airframe mechanic), lead guitar and vocals, Tex, (military policeman), guitar and vocals, Don, (civvy), washboard and lead vocals, yours truly, Colin Nixon, (Fire section), drums and pint pot! Aah! Happy days. Tex always said to watch out for him because, quote, “Mark my words, I’m going to be famous!” We are still waiting with baited breath??

I went back to 247 ATC Squadron around 1966 as a civilian instructor then, after attending a selection board at RAF Sealand, I was appointed as adult Warrant Officer at 247 Squadron, Ashton-under-Lyne. My main duties were Drill, Basic Exam Instruction, assessor for the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme at every level and Sports Organiser. Sadly, after about 3 years, I resigned from what was almost equivalent to a full time job to do justice to my full time occupation as a dry cleaner, which led directly to my becoming self employed as a Carpet and Fabric Cleaner, (Domestic & Commercial), for some 30 years.

Around 1963 to 1966, I worked for Manchester Corporation as a firefighter at Manchester Airport Fire Brigade and, although I enjoyed the experience of working there, I moved to pastures new about 3 years later. I hope to take a tour of the new Fire Station in the not too distant future and will take some pics and send you details. My son, Paul, was born at 3.15am whilst I was on Watch Room Duty

at Manchester Airport on 14th February 1964. A Valentine’s Day Baby!!

Photo details - Fire Section Duty Billet



Seated – L/R - Ken ‘Taffy’ Chant, Caerphilly, SAC 3523640 Colin Nixon, Ashton-under-Lyne, SAC Malcolm Dudley, Chorlton, Manchester, Cpl? posted in from RAF Northolt.

Standing - LAC Tom Armistead, Lancaster.

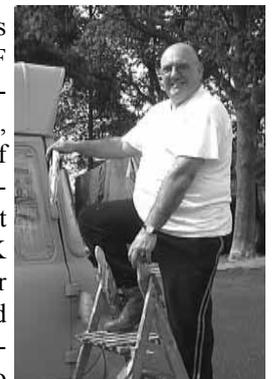
Note the bedpack!! Well, I was late for breakfast tha morning!! Hope your readers can fill in the missing name?

Kindest regards,

Colin Nixon, member

752

Photo right shows Colin at the RAF Fire Service Museum in July 06, helping Wilf Longmire, to prepare and repaint his Bedford TK Mini Angus for the RAF Fairford Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) Airshow on Friday/Saturday 15th & 16th July 2006



Footnote - Colin and I first met at an RAF Fire Service Museum working party held 29th September to the 3rd October 2005, and shared a caravan, (all in the best possible taste, of course!), and worked together stripping the cab of a DPI. See Flashpoint December 2005 for report and pictures of the weekend - Ed.

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Letters to the Editor

**THE DAILY MAIL, FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18, 1953**

**TOURING HULL YESTERDAY, was
this fire-fighting tender from the Royal
Air Force Station, Sutton, where the**



**Battle of Britain display will take place
tomorrow afternoon.** (Text from Hull
Daily Mail - Ed)

Hi Dave,

Found this one of me on top of a MK5 outside the Hull Daily Mail and thought I'd lost it? I've also sent two photos of duty crash crew and vehicles. The WOT1 was on loan whilst the 45 Monitor was U/S, (unserviceable). If they are useful, please use them and return to me. Thanks.

Frank Smith member 593



Photo details: Crash line-up of WOT1, ACRT & CO2 Gas Truck. ACRT Crash 1 – LAC John Hodges from Bristol, (I was on the Gas Truck).



Hiya Dave,
Marvellous Flashpoint, (Dec 05 issue & VE/VJ Day report – Ed). If you were paid for it you would be a rich man now. I think you will have made me famous with 13 mentions and 10 photos. You will be getting phone calls and Emails asking, “Who the hell is that person?”

First of all, the 2 photos on page 16 of the Cenotaph march past, were they taken by ordinary camera or off the BBC video, I have the video but we were not as close as that. Is it possible to get a copy of both for my archive, something for others to look at when I'm gone?

On page 9 you printed a letter from Ron Ridout, he originally wrote to me when the Assoc. was first formed, he was told by John Arthur, that I was at Fassburg previous to their arrival. That was in my heady days as AC1, (Aircraftman 1st Class), in charge Fire Section with about 12 German Firemen. I missed John by about 2 weeks. Anyhow I kept up the correspondence until about 2 years ago when I heard no more from him, by then he was getting hard of hearing, so it was no good phoning him, he told me at the time he was not very well so when the letters stopped I assumed the worst.

I did not like to write to the family in case there was a problem but, funny enough, I was on the point of asking our membership secretary if he was still a member, when he popped up in the Flashpoint. So, now I can go ahead and write to him. I think he appreciated the bits and pieces I passed on about our meetings etc.

The little story you printed from me about the Wing Commander in July 2005, reminded me of another laugh from last Nov after the Cenotaph Parade and at the same taxi rank! A very interested taxi driver who wanted to know all about my day picked me up and, on the way to Liverpool Street, he received a phone call from his son and from what I heard of the one side of the conversation he was not very happy.

On arrival at the station I asked for platform 9 which is partly underground but the barrier was down, and the attendant, who was a young Asian boy, was insistent that we could not go through because of all the buses down there to haul passengers away because of some lines being worked on.

This really set my driver off and, amongst a lot of things, I heard him say “I have a man in my cab who fought in the war to let people like you work in

this country” and he went on like this for some time. I'm sure the boy was turning white, (not literally, of course); anyhow he lifted the barrier and when we got to the bottom there were buses everywhere, and 2 policemen. The driver got out of the cab and went over to the policemen, and I saw them all looking my way, and, lo and behold, they got the buses to shunt around to let us through and we got right to the edge of the platform.

I asked the driver what his magic was, and he said with a smile “You asked for platform 9 and you got it!” When I got out I did limp a bit more than usual! He even knocked £5 off the fare. See you.

Steve Doran member 41

Hi Dave,
A word of appreciation to you, and all involved, for the excellent content and quality of the April Flashpoint, and for your presentation of the article about RAF Hendon. I was pleased the photographs reproduced so well.

You will have heard about the RAF C130 that caught fire on landing in Afghanistan last week. I wonder if there will be any reports regarding the RAF Fire & Rescue Service involvement, in what must have been an incredible fire, far in excess of anything experienced during routine training? It would also be interesting to know how well the appliances performed. Thank goodness there was no loss of life. I look forward to the next edition of Flashpoint.

Best wishes,

Dave Edgerton member 187

Footnote: There's a follow up to your article on Hendon re the MK6 23AG81 at Abingdon. At the time of going to press, I don't have any info on the Afghanistan incident, unless any of our members have any details? – Ed.

LETTER FROM A FRIEND & NEIGHBOUR!

Dear Mr. Kenyon,

I was a friend and neighbour of the late Peter Parritt. We had served on Gan together although I didn't know him at the time. I was a Cox'n Marine Craft. His widow Stella passed on the Flashpoint for me to read his obituary, (Flashpoint – April 2006). Pete used to come round

Letters to the Editor

most mornings for a brew and a natter, and we used to swap the Flashpoint and my Marine Craft Newsletter. He has left a big gap in my life.

In the Flashback I read an article on Kai Tak by John Dicks, he included a photo of a Fire Float. Our Club, is always on the lookout for launch pictures for our archives and I wondered if we could "poach" some copies from him, also if any other members have any stashed away, we would be most grateful.

I also saw a mention of Mickey Beggs who became "one of us" No doubt a lot of us must have met, especially on Gan, where the Fire Service and MCU, (Marine Craft Unit), worked together on reef rescue. Happy Days! I hope you will visit our web site @ www.asrmcs-club.com and I will be grateful for any help.

Best regards,

Norman (Norrie)
Sergeant.

Footnote: Thanks very much for your letter, which I'm pleased to print in Flashpoint. He showed me copies of your Marine Craft Newsletter, which I did enjoy. Like you, those members who knew Pete, will miss him. I've forwarded a copy of your email to John Dicks - Ed.

'A RIGHT GOOD READ'

Dear Dave,

Having just finished reading, and enjoying a thoroughly good new book pertaining to the Royal Air Force, I thought other members may be interested. The book is the true story of the Vulcan bombing raid on the Falkland Islands. The story is told in chronological order from all sides involved including the islanders themselves. Should anyone be interested, the book is called "Vulcan 607" and was written by Rowland White. It is published by Bantam Press and has the ISBN 0-593-05391-5. Recommended retail price is £16.99. Of course members could ask their local library to obtain a copy if they preferred. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Coventry in October, Best wishes,

Ray Wood member 118

Footnote: Many thanks for the info Ray. I hope other members take note and follow it up? Anyone else read any good books lately, that others might enjoy – Ed?

KHORMAKSAR ADEN 1967

Dave,

This photograph was taken during the last weeks of occupation in Aden



during the early hours of the morning at the runway overshoot of RAF Khormaksar. The previous night at approximately 2300 hrs an RAF Britannia attempting to land with no runway lights (because of the threat of terrorist fire) overshoot the runway, crash landing in the sea between the perimeter fence and the causeway road, clearing the barbed wire in doing so.

On arriving at the scene, the crash crew led by Sgt Munger set up search lights and cut through the fence before wading waist deep in mud and water in order to carry out rescue from the aircraft. When the RAF firemen entered the aircraft they found that all the 28 passengers and 4 crew had made an escape from the other side exit and were making their way, in the dark, through the mud and water towards the headlights of the fire tenders.

All photography was banned at what turned out to be the last major aircraft incident attended by RAF firemen in Aden; hence this picture was taken secretly (like many others) through the rear of the crash rescue land rover. (ACRT). Initially set up as a British Imperial Base to protect shipping in 1839, Aden ceased to exist as a protectorate only weeks later when the final withdrawal of the British forces took place on November 29th 1967.

Here are a few of the RAF firemen's names that served during those final months in Aden: Sgt Dougie Seaton, Cpl Pat Fenner, Cpl Bill (Dinger) Bell, Cpl Jenkins, Cpl Paddy Shields, Jerry Sloan, Taff Lewis, Pete Todd, Jock McVey, Johnny Irwin, Jim Baxter, Graham Hampson, Moses Byno, Taff Jones, Archie Moore, Benny (?) from Yorkshire and Mick Roberts who flew out with me to cover the withdrawal. All of these firemen, that is, those that I can still remember were members of the same crew, 17 in total. However, there were two more crews of roughly the same

number. One under the management of Flt Sgt Bill Slattery and the other led by Sgt Johnny Munger. Quite a large Fire Section you might think but it is interesting to know that less than a year prior to this the full compliment at Khormaksar was 105 RAF firemen and this did not include those firemen stationed at Steamer Point. It is now a depressing thought knowing that there are only 500 RAF firefighters serving today.

Yours truly,

Terry Sedgwick member

636



Photo above shows Terry when serving as Fire Officer at BAE, Warton, Lancashire.

CATTERICK 1962, GDTS, GUNS AND GAITERS COURSE, No B117, 28TH FEBRUARY - 21ST MARCH 1962

Hi Dave,

Just read my article in the April 06 Mag', and realised that I had forgotten to advise you of my Broadband Address. jones813jones@btinternet.com

It is amazing how an article will raise memories and, the one by John Goupillot, gave me a brainstorm! Yep I still have one, and I was there! Catterick 1962, GDTS, Guns and Gaiters Course, No B117, 28th February - 21st March 1962 followed by my Basic Fire Course, No 14, (?).

I recognise some of the lads in John's course photo but can't remember what I looked like back then, but it could be me standing behind Cpl Jarvis? I can support much of John's memories and, must put pen to paper, but am afraid of boring others. Will keep in touch.

Regards.

Brian E Jones member

791

Letters to the Editor

'STEVIE' STEVENSON'S PHOTOS

Dear Dave

I had a look through hundreds of photos and came across the enclosed four. The one outside RAF Scampton, Swales Block, was taken in 67/68 just prior to going on shift. (I was on 'A' shift at the time, Sgt Ben Gunn i/c).



The Farewell party below was for 'Fergie' Ferguson, November 1966: unfortunately, I cannot remember the surnames names of Danny or Taff. The medic, Harry Wilmot, was invited as an outside guest to an otherwise shift party.

The photo above right in Tel Aviv came about when Tiny Pretty, Chris Singh, a medic and myself decided to visit Israel in May 1970 for a ten-day holiday from



Footnote: Is Brian Greenwood in the Swales House shot the Bryan Greenwood member, 146, ex Coordinator for South Yorks/Derbyshire? - Ed.

Akrotiri, (the return airfare on Cyprus



Airways was the equivalent of £13.00).

The final photo is the aftermath of a practice crash at RAF St Mawgan in either 1971 or 1972.



Best Regards,

Photo details - Limasol Cyprus

1996 - 'Fergy's Farewell Party at the Britannia - L/R - George Sillence, 'Taff' Porter, 'Fergy', Henry Wright, 'Lofty' Dunkling, Danny, 'Taff', Stevie Stevenson, Greg Dutton, Harry (Medic).

RAF Scampton 1967/68 - L/R - Brian Greenwood - Dave (Stevie) Stevenson - Dave Sharp

Tel Aviv Israel May 1970 - L/R - Dave (Stevie) Stevenson - 'Tiny' Pretty - Chris Singh

RAF St Mawgan 1971/72 - Aftermath of a Practice Crash - L/R - 'Joe' Brown - Cpl Tommy Laws - Stevie Stevenson - rear facing figure unknown?

ADEN VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION

Dear Mr Feather,

Your name and address was listed in a recent newsletter of "The Dhow", for members of Aden Veterans Association.

During my service in Aden, I was seconded to the Federal Regular Army/South Arabian Army and was based at Ataq for a short time before moving to Mukeiras where I stayed until departure around mid August 1967.

At both locations, there were RAF Fire Crew who were resident with us seconded personnel, full names of whom I've forgotten. For the majority of my time at Mukeiras, the two RAF members were "Noddy" the Corporal; and "Harry". The SAC? I have some small, black and white photos of both fire trucks with one or two of the persons concerned. Also, the fire truck at Ataq had a collision with a DC3 of Aden Airways, of which I do have a photo.

As you know, I'm a member of the Aden Veteran's Association and, if you are able, could you let me know if you are aware of any of those who served in both the two locations mentioned who might be members of your Association? It is my sincere hope that I meet up with some of the people who passed through Mukeiras during my time there? Many thanks, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Brian R Evans (Taff)

NADOLIG LLAWEN A BLWYDDYN
NEWYDD DDA

Brian, I hope I transferred this quotation correctly from your letter and that it isn't something rude? - Ed

Letters to the Editor

Editor's Footnote: Thanks very much for your letter, Brian, and I apologise for not getting back to you sooner but, better late than never eh? This letter was passed on to me by Bob Feather in September 2005 and, due to the backlog of mail from members, has had to wait until I could find space for it. I hope we have members who can relate to Ataq and Mukeiras and Brian's contact details are as follows: email taff73@fsmail.net or tel: 01253 874 141

Photo detail: Top - Ataq 1966 and after effects of a collision between a DC3 aircraft and Fire Truck!

Main picture right – Harry & 'Noddy' (full Cpl) **RAF Fire Crew Mukeiras**.

Lower right - Sgt's Mess, Mukeiras and 'Noddy' ; behind the bar!



STOP PRESS: JOHN ARTHUR MEMORIAL MUSEUM FORCED CLOSURE - "DOWN BUT NOT OUT!"



Co-founder of the museum, David Hughes, has reported, that the museum at Halfpenny Green, which has been beset by various problems since it's inception, has now been forced to close, and look for new premises. He assures members, that he'll do everything he possibly can to carry on. Our late founding president, John Arthur, would have been proud of the efforts made in trying to achieve his dream of establishing a museum of our history.

Council Tax Demand and Possible Seizure of Assets! - Recently, Staffordshire County Council imposed a bill for Council Tax on the museum and, following negotiations have refused to consider allowing discretion to zero rate the museum. There is no regular income, other than donations, which falls far short of what would be needed to meet the demand. David Hughes is fully aware of what happened before with other ventures, especially the Shoreham D/Day Museum. His main concern is, that he didn't want a repeat of that; neither did he want a Court Order served on the museum for an unpaid debt, which could have involved the bailiffs seizing property to sell against any liability! He also wants to secure the donated artefacts and mementoes, and record the individual ownership of any items in his care for the future.

Rent Demand from Airport Management - In addition, the airport has placed an extra financial demand on the museum for rent, and a deadline of 1st August 2006, to vacate the site! Originally, the building was donated to the museum free of charge, as it was derelict. With the enthusiastic help of volunteer members, the place was transformed in record time. Now, the airport management has decided that the building is a valuable source of income to them. As the Museum co-founder, he has had no alternative, but to close it and make arrangements to remove all it's artefacts and equipment to a safe storage. Time is of the essence and, with the help of a few volunteers has attempted to catalogue the items and is in the process of removing them. Whilst acknowledging that, not everyone is enthusiastic about old fire vehicles etc, nevertheless it's important to record our history. Also, preserving vehicles, and memorabilia is part of the Aims and Objectives in our Constitution and Rules.

Storage Facilities and Sites – If any member knows the whereabouts of suitable sites, or can provide temporary storage for museum artefacts, please contact David Hughes on: 02380 660 995 or Mobile: 07976 563 740, or contact myself and I'll pass on the info.

Appeal Delay - The problem with any such appeal in Flashpoint, is that there is always a delay in getting the information out to the membership so, please don't think it's too late to offer or pass on information when you read this. They can't do it all on their own and desperately need the help of the membership in their endeavours! After all, Rome wasn't built in a day! So, why not help and be part of trying to build something for the future that will record our history and be a lasting tribute to our founder members! Thank you.

Regards and best wishes,

Dave Kenyon Flashpoint Editor

Catterick Garrison - Marne Barracks Army Open Day - S



PHOTO BELOW - BACK - BOB FEATHER
 JOHN ARNOLD - JOHN GOUPILLOT -
 FRONT - JIM PATERSON - EX - WO



WELCOME TO THE ARMY OPEN DAY AT CATTERICK GARRISON SATURDAY 24th JUNE 2006



I would like to take this opportunity as Commander of Catterick Garrison to welcome you to the Army Open Day here at Marne Barracks. I am delighted that, despite its ongoing commitment to operations, Catterick Garrison has yet again been able to stage an open Day. Albeit primarily intended as a fun family day out, I hope too that, by having an opportunity to meet soldiers and see some of their equipment, people will be able to have a better understanding of what it is their Army does. Importantly as well, income raised from the Open Day is used both to enable adventurous training activities for the Garrison's soldiers and to support local charities. I am sure that all concerned will have an enjoyable day and I am grateful both to those who have helped make it happen, and indeed to those who have come to see what the Open Day is about.
 Colonel Nick Millen June 2006 - (Text taken from programme notes - Ed.)

PhotoTop Left Clockwise - Army Open Day Poster - 2 Shots of old Guardroom
 - Main photo - L/R - Bob Feather - Jim Paterson (Vice-Chairman) - Major
 Gareth Wright - Christine Sykes (Liaison) - George Edwards (Secretary) &



2MT SQUADRON DELIVER WOT1 FR
 AND UPLIFT SUNDAY MORNING 2

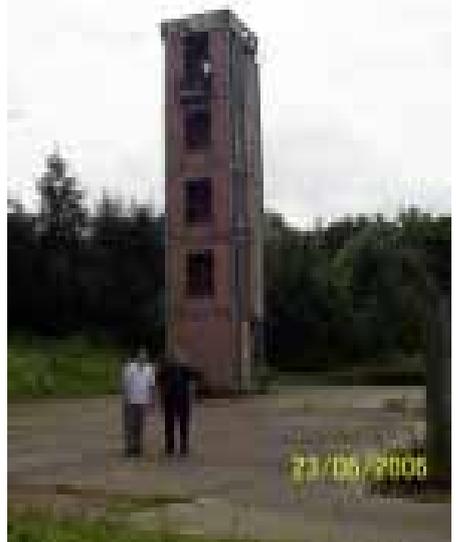
Saturday - 24th June 2006 - Ex - RAF Catterick Fire



Fire Services Association



MIKE CLAPTON - MIKE GOLDING
JOE SHACKLETON - ? - JACK KING
RON SHEARN - GEORGE EDWARDS



FRIDAY 23RD JUNE 2006 @ 1000 HOURS
SATURDAY 24TH JUNE 2006 @ 1030 HOURS

PICTURES OF OLD FIREGROUND AND OPEN DAY EVENT
 - **CLOCKWISE FROM THE TOP:** - DRILL TOWER AND OPEN WATER TANK -
 STORAGE BUILDINGS - OPEN WATER PUMP BASE ACCESS TO RIVER SWALE
 - **BOB FEATHER AND JIM PATERSON** ENJOYING A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE
 - **AUSTIN CHAMP** OWNED BY R DAWSON, CATTERICK - **1943 WILLYS JEEP**
 OWNED BY MIKE BUTLER WITH FRIEND, TIM BEVAN - **MEMBERS ENJOYING**
THE DAY OUT - L/R - RON GAUNT - ABERDEEN ? - JOE SHACKLETON - JOHN
 GOUPILLOT - JOHN ARNOLD - BOB FEATHER - OLIVE ARNOLD - JIM PATERSON
 - GEORGE EDWARDS - ? - VERA GOUPILLOT - PHIL WEBB OWNER OF TACR2
 ON DISPLAY - **FIRE HELMET DISPLAY** WITH JOHN & OLIVE ARNOLD AND VERA
 & JOHN GOUPILLOT - **WOT1** - L/R - JOE SHACKLETON - JOHN GOUPILLOT
 - GEORGE EDWARDS

Spotlight on Royal Air Force Catterick Fire Squadron -



1980 The Birmingham City Austin K6 CO2 Crash Fire Tender outside the Fire Hangar at RAF Catterick

The Fire School faired well at Catterick and we helped to produce some good quality fire fighters. Most of us enjoyed our tour there, and I heard very few complaints. I am sure that most that served there will have friends in the Regiment and in the local area. I have to say that, because my daughter married a Rock, he has however been converted. He is now a Fire Officer at Leeds Bradford



International Airport, His dad is ex Fire Sergeant George Nicholls, (1950s).

"Oh you didn't go to Catterick then?"

We say, with a sneer, to those who now train at RAF Manston at the Fire Services Central Training Establishment, (FSCTE). Wherever we trained, Cranfield, Weeton, Sutton, Catterick, or Manston the one thing we had in common was the Fire Service marching song to the tune of 'Lilly of the Lamp Light.' (It is everybody else's marching tune as well, but with words to suit themselves)!

Round and round the peri track at 90 miles an hour



We are the Fire Section we are a bloody shower

We can't change up and we can't change down

The gearbox is in but it's upside down

We are the Fire Section we are a bloody shower!

If you know of any other verses/versions and they are reasonably clean, let's have them for the next Flashpoint? - John

Footnote: The Austin CO2 Gas Truck was introduced into RAF 1946. As per the Fordson CO2 Gas Truck except for 2 x 12 lb CO2 Trolleys behind the cab and the Austin had a smaller 2-man cab.



Above photo shows John and Vera at their son's wedding and was first published in Flashpoint, page 19, December 2004. Their son, Michael, is a member and employed by Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and married a Fire Controller, Susan Hinds.

Left to right: Michael, Sue, Vera, John and Toastmaster, member



John Savage.

1958 to 1988 - "Oh! You Didn't Go To Sutton Then?"

Some readers will remember the black plastic caged area in the Fire Hangar, and the isolated



Canberra aircraft across the airfield. These were used for Radiation Safety Training courses, Special Safety Training SST, and Senior Officers Study Periods SOSP. We would chase people around the airfield in white suits and S6 respirators, planting little flags as they learned about radiation detection and decontamination. Some



of the more gullible students believed that we had hidden nuclear weapons for them to find, and if they weren't careful, they would be of no further use to the girls!!

A fine example of inter-service cooperation.

The School played a major part, as did other units, in the training of military personnel to cope with the Local Authority Fire Service Strike of 1977 and earlier at Glasgow in 1973. They were code named Operation Burberry and Operation Bravado in Northern Ireland. At Catterick we had about 15 Green Goddesses, and we trained 4629 Army and Marines and 4129 RAF personnel. Each had only 4 hours training before being sent onto the streets of the UK to protect the public. Vera and I had an anxious time when our Son Mike, member 358, just 18 at the time, was sent to Fort George in Londonderry, as part of the BA team for the Black Watch Goddesses crews. "I got my GSM on the streets not behind

the wire fence at Bishops Court" he says to me!

1977 A smart line-up of Goddesses awaiting deployment in Northern Ireland for Operation Bravado

At one time we were sent to Scorton Village to pump out the floodwaters. Nature drained the water away, but we got the credit, the butties and the cakes, and the glad eye from the local girls. It can be so hard being a fire-fighter!!

The fire staff and students played an important role in supporting all kinds of social and sporting activities on camp and in the local area. From clearing weeds from the village stream, getting involved with the annual Fete, helping with Scouting, discos, St John Ambulance Brigade and organising parties for the Mentally handicapped and deprived children. These children were brought in by ex Fire WO Bobby Breen through the Royal British Legion. We took part in local and inter-service football, cricket and various indoor activities; Royal visits and Station open days.

RAF Catterick parading through the streets of Richmond with a Mk10 fire truck proudly leading the way.

Instructional staff helped to maintain the Station Regiment/Fire Service Museum, until the fire side was closed down when the Fire Service was moved from Regiment control. Most of the exhibits were disposed of to the British Fire Services National Museum, now at Weedon Barracks, Northamptonshire. It was a sad time



for us all but we were powerless to intervene.

The WOT1 right down to bare metal in the hangar

Our late Founding Chairman, John Arthur, arranged for this WOT1 to be donated to the Fire Squadron by Lydd Airport in Kent. Graham Bones set to, with the help of others, to get the thing renovated. When he left, Dave Brown organised the completion of the project with the help of the rest of us. It was used on various parades and as a chariot for a number of guys en-route to retirement or posting. It now sits in the Spitfire Museum at RAF Manston, Kent.

Now gleaming in pride of place in the Spitfire Museum at Manston Kent.

We also had an Austin Gas Truck donated from the City of Birmingham Airport Fire Service; I believe it is now at Weedon Barracks. It does go out on loan to museums, air shows etc.

In Memoriam - a sincere tribute to members recently passed

Basil Cotton 10th April 2006

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you of the death of Basil Cotton, member 13 on the 10th April 2006. He leaves a son and daughter.

He was a founder member and a keen supporter of the Museum project. In March, at Peterborough, many members had expected to see him there as usual, but he didn't arrive. I was later notified via two members, Eric Chivers, and Ian Black, from Southampton, that Basil was seriously ill.



On Wednesday 15th March, I rang Basil and he told me that he'd been diagnosed with both prostate and lung cancer and had only a few weeks to live and apologised for missing the Peterborough reunion! He said he was very disappointed to miss it, as it was only the second time that he'd missed a reunion since joining as a founder member in 1995. The first time being when his wife was seriously ill.

He was very upbeat and organised and we had a few laughs as well during our chat and he said how much he'd enjoyed his time in the Association and the twice-yearly reunions. He told me that he'd designed his footstone for the family grave and would await his timeout with a tot of rum, or two, 'When the sun was over the yardarm and at lights out!'

I first met Basil at a reunion some years ago, when he sat with us, and I kept wondering where the smell of strong rum was coming from and thought it must have been my imagination, until he produced his hip flask filled with navy strength rum!

The photograph was taken at the Museum Saturday 1st October 2005, when he turned up for a few hours visit. He said he was with a Naval Association reunion in Walsall; had a few hours to spare, and decided to 'pop' over by taxi, to see what we were up to? The return journey cost him around £100, for about 3 hours visit, but he thought it was money well spent! All those who knew Basil will sadly miss him.

Dave Kenyon member 239

Ken King 2006

Awaiting info

Brian Whiting 28th April 2006

It's with deep sorrow, that I report the passing of my friend, and fellow member, Brian Whiting, (629). He suffered a heart attack on the 28th April and passed away at Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley. He leaves a wife, Margaret, two daughters, Carol Anne and Jacqueline and three grandchildren.

Brian, and I, served on the Fire Section together at RAF Honiley, West Midlands, from 1953 to 1956 and stayed in touch since demob. His cremation was on Thursday 11th May at 1230 at Gornal Wood, Dudley.

Frank Smith, friend and member, 593

John Taylor 1941 - 2006

John's funeral was held at Middlesborough Crematorium on Wednesday 26th July and was well attended by family, friends and Association members, including, John Goupillot, Barry and Anne Hartley, John and Muriel Meirs, Stan Readman, Arthur Gettings and Jim Adams (ex Army friend). John Goupillot brought the Guard of Honour to attention as the funeral party entered.

John was a dedicated member of our Association and the Redcar RAFA group.

Joe Shackleton friend and member 22

Footnote: I intend to run a story in the December 06 edition, written by John from his working life; including photographs and sent in by his friend, Joe - Ed.

'Spud' Murphy February 2006

Awaiting for info via George

RAF & DEFENCE FIRE SERVICES ASSOCIATION RAF&DFSA ENTERPRISES

Those of you who have been able to attend the reunions will be aware that we have a range of promotional **RAF&DFSA goods for sale**, all profits of which go to **Association funds**. Goods are also available by mail order via **Sue Brooks (Chairman's wife)** - (see **WHO TO CONTACT** on page for full address details) and via the **Association website** shown at the bottom of each page.

We have several new items this year including a new tie, Commemorative FSCTE print, self cling car stickers, as well as new fire engine thimbles and keyrings. We look forward to seeing you at the reunions.

Regards and best wishes, Sue Brooks and Bob Feather. Below is an updated stock and price list for your information.

Cheques and Postal Orders payable to RAF&DFSA Enterprises

Note:- For Mail Order Postage & Packing please add 17% to prices quoted. Minimum Postage charge £1.00

STOCK AND PRICE LIST 2006

RAF FIREFIGHTING & RESCUE

STICKERS x 2 (RAF Fire Service).....	£0.50
CAP BADGE (RAF Crash Fire Service).....	£10.00
EMBROIDERED PATCH BADGE.....	£3.50

RAF & DEFENCE FIRE SERVICES ASSOCIATION

CAR STICKER - self cling.....	£1.20
KEYRING.....	£2.00
MUG.....	£4.75
PEN.....	£0.50
BOOKMARKS.....	£1.00
FIRE ENGINE THIMBLES.....	£1.50
POCKET CALCULATOR.....	£2.99
WALL PLAQUE.....	£26.00
OLD SUTTON-ON-HULL MAGAZINE.....	£1.00
BLAZER BADGE (Gold Wired).....	£10.00
LAPEL BADGE.....	£3.00
TIE - NEW DESIGN Dk Blue + Red/White stripes & badge.....	£9.00
SWEATSHIRT (Navy, Grey, Green, White) (Sm. Med. Lg. XL. XXL).....	£16.99
POLO SHIRT - Navy (Sm. Med. Lg. XL. XXL).....	£10.00
T SHIRT (Red, Black, Navy, White) (Sm. Med. Lg. XL. XXL).....	£6.50
FLEECE (Navy & Black to order only) (Sm. Med. Lg. XL, XXL).....	£35.00
BASEBALL CAP (Navy, Black, Green, Natural).....	£6.00

MISCELLANEOUS

FIRE ENGINE PRINT.....	£5.00
COMMEMORATIVE FSCTE PRINT*.....	£1.99
TEA TOWELS - Fire Fighter & Cadbury's Cocoa.....	£3.50
OUT OF THE BLUE an Airman's Tale 1995 - 2005.....	£9.95

* The Commemorative FSCTE Print is taken from an original painting by Eric Day, commissioned by Air Commodore Witherow and presented to the FSCTE, RAF Manston. It represents the combining of the RAF and DFS Fire Services Training establishments of Catterick and Manston. The prints are smaller than the originals from 1991, and are available to students who use them for col-



MoD's £100,000 Sarin Pay-Off

The family of an RAF serviceman who underwent lethal nerve gas tests more than 50 years ago has won £100,000 in compensation from the Ministry of Defence. Leading Aircraftsman Ronald Maddison, from Consett, Co Durham, died aged 20 after having droplets of Sarin dabbed on to his arm at Porton Down chemical warfare testing facility on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire, in 1953.

Winston Churchill's government ordered the initial inquest into Mr Maddison's death, which reached a verdict of misadventure. But after years of campaigning by Mr Maddison's family, Wiltshire Police launched an inquiry in 1999.

In 2002, Lord Chief Justice Lord Woolf granted permission for a second inquest, and a Wiltshire coroner's jury returned an unlawful killing verdict in November 2004.

The MoD reached a settlement with the family when it agreed to accept the verdict on the basis that Mr Maddison had died as a result of "gross negligence" in respect of the "conduct and planning" of the experiment. But it successfully argued that the unlawful killing verdict could not imply that Mr Maddison did not consent to the experiment or there had been a failure to obtain his consent.

Mr Maddison's sister, Liliias Craik, of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, said she was pleased about the compensation award.

"It is a great relief. I am still angry at what happened, but I am pleased it is over. I can't forget what they did and I can't forgive them," she told the BBC. "The compensation will not make us rich but it does bring this to an end. They took his life and should be made to pay for it."

In a statement, the MoD said: "We very much regret the unfortunate death of Ronald Maddison. We are extremely pleased that an amicable settlement has been reached."

Lawyers representing up to 500 veterans of Porton Down say they are preparing to launch a lawsuit against the MoD to seek damages for their injuries.

Source: Ananova - MoD Oracle NEWS - Friday, May 26, 2006

For more information click on or go to <http://www.ananova.com>

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'BIG' JIM CRABTREE ILL!

Wilf Longmire, member 83, informs us that Jim isn't too well.

He has been a regular at our twice-yearly reunions and could be usually found with a big smile on his face in the company of a pint! He turned up at Peterborough, in March this year, all the way



from Cornwall by taxi, which cost him a fortune, but he was prepared to pay the price.

We wish him all the very best and hope that he recovers enough to join us again at a future reunion? From all your many friends and colleagues in the Association.

Note - Photo was taken at Peterborough, Saturday 11th March 2006 - Ed.

REMINDER RE FORTHCOMING COMMITTEE CHANGES DUE OCTOBER 2006

JIM & BOB STANDING DOWN - I have to inform you that our Vice Chairman, Jim Paterson, has decided to hang up his briefcase and has resigned from this post with effect from our AGM in October this year. One of Jim's many tasks was the organisation of our reunions with his sidekick, Bob Feather. They will be vacating this role at the 2006 October reunion.

THANKS TO BOTH - Before we go any further I would like to thank Jim for his support to me personally and both Jim and Bob for their hard work over the last 5 years in finding some wonderful venues for us to enjoy. I know that they have put in a lot of time and effort in researching possible hotels and then making several visits to negotiate acceptable terms for us.

RAFFLE - Jim and Brenda have run the raffle very successfully for the last few years but have decided that it is time for someone else to take over. It is an important part of our income generation at the reunions, and a big thank you goes to both from myself, and the Association.

I AM SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR VICE CHAIRMAN & 2 REUNION ORGANISERS to be elected by members at the AGM. The Vice Chairman assists, supports and stands in for the Chairman when necessary. The Reunion Organisers are answerable to the Committee and responsible for all the weekend activities for members and wives including reunion raffles.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 11 - CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS - All nominations for these posts must be forwarded to our Secretary, George Edwards, at least 28 days prior to the meeting. George's details are on the Who to Contact page of Flashpoint. If anyone would like more information, or wishes to discuss these posts, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Roger Brooks - Chairman

Remembrance Day Parade

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE WHITEHALL - LONDON - SUNDAY 12th. NOVEMBER 2006

Attendance at the Parade is by ticket only and you must be a fully paid up Association member and complete a ticket application and *send to Ron Brown without delay.

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



All ticket applications must be in to me no later than early September 2006

Surname: First name: Membership number:

Address:

.....

..... Postcode: Tel No:

Signed: Dated: 2006

To avoid damaging your copy of Flashpoint, photocopy it, or print the details clearly on a separate sheet of paper.

Please enclose an SAE with your application for the return of your ticket and assembly details etc.

Send to:- Ron Brown, 38 Sedgebrook, Liden, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 6EY - Tel: 01793 496 307
or email: ron@brown3840.fsnet.co.uk

Tickets will be dispatched as soon as I receive them from the Royal British Legion.

Late application - Anyone *not* applying for a ticket immediately but finding later, that they may be able to attend the Parade on the day after all, can ring me direct as I *may* have a spare ticket available, but don't leave it too late!

Tel. 01793 496 307

Note:- Travel and accommodation are your responsibility, but I may be able to help as follows:-

The Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London Tel. 020 7928 481- Single room without breakfast, shower/bathroom or T.V. £30 per night.

Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF Tel: 020 7616 8302 Fax: 020 7616 8344 email: mem@vsc.co.uk

Single room shared facilities with B&B £39 per night.

Please check prices before booking.

Dress on this special occasion - Blazer & Badge, Medals and Beret with RAF or Crash Fire Rescue Badge please.**

- 1)** It helps to show up the badge on Parade by placing a circle of red material behind it as per photo right.
- 2) Badges are available from, Bob Feather, or Sue Brooks, and cost £10 plus P&P, unless you are going to attend the AGM at Coventry in October when you could buy direct.

See RAF&DFSA Enterprises Shop page for mail order details in this issue of Flashpoint.



Mobile phones must be switched off before entering Horse Guards Parade.

Please make every effort to attend. Thank you.



Ron Brown member 294

Photographic Memories

RAF ABINGDON CRASH VEHICLES 1958



Alvis Pyrene MK6 23 AG 81 and the 'Bruntingthorpe' 6?

Dear Dave,

Ref 23AG81, I was posted from Hendon, when it closed as a flying station in 1957, to RAF Abingdon (now Dalton Barracks) near Oxford. The MK6 arrived there brand new soon afterwards. I wasn't qualified to drive it but we had local training on operating procedures etc. We would also go out as a crew on local public roads for familiarity training. Our driver was a Cpl Bob Lyons who lived in Kent, but we never got that far! However the MK6 always attracted a lot of attention out on the roads.

YOU WILL SEE 23AG81 CAME TO GRIEF and, believe me it was 23AG81, in a ditch at the end of Abingdon's runway 36. I don't know who was driving at the time? As far as I can remember it was sent for repair by contractor and that is all I know.



The cutting came from the 'Air Clues' flight safety magazine.

I LEFT THE RAF before the Fire Service got involved with the RAF Regiment and worked for MOD on Abingdon Airfield aircraft handling flight, driving and operating refuellers, aircraft tugs, runway sweepers and ground equipment etc. Then I was transferred to the No1 Parachute Training School, (PTS), support unit moving squaddies and parachute equipment to DZ's, (drop zones), and training areas. When PTS moved to RAF Brize Norton I was back on the airfield duties again.

I THOUGHT IT WAS TIME FOR A CHANGE and applied to join what is now the MOD Police and Guarding Agency as a Dog Handler. I was lucky to be accepted and so moved to the West Midlands to work for the Army, which was a very different ball game, but a very satisfying occupation. I have now retired.

THE FIRST PICTURE you had of the MK6 was taken outside the Fire Section block at Abingdon; the enclosed was outside the airfield crash bay. I had intended to give you some information about Carmichael International Ltd of Worcester, which has built a lot of Crash Trucks for the MOD, but I think the cuttings will explain it all. We shall still see and hear the new vehicles on road test around the Worcester ring road.

I now live 100 yards from the manned Malvern fire station, which is interesting, as it always seems to be busy. They have a special appliance to get up on to the hills and a rescue unit for the people who get stuck trying the climb up the old quarries.

Best wishes and regards.

David Edgerton member 187

Footnote - In the last issue, I promised an update on the MK6. In March 2001, the vehicle was located at Bruntingthorpe Airfield, Leicestershire and, following negotiations, was donated to the Association with the intention that the Vehicle Restoration Team were going to take responsibility for it.

However, the team folded and the 6 languished at Bruntingthorpe for a further 4 years until March 2005 when it was uplifted by 2MT and transported to the RAF Fire Service Museum at Halfpenny Green, (Wolverhampton Airport), Bob Feather, Terry Matson and myself, were present and, whilst it was being secured to the trailer the engine covers were placed in the cab for safety and it was noticed that, hand written inside both sides was, 23 AG 81!

Imagine my surprise, and delight, when David Edgerton sent me a selection of photographs that included one which, when enlarged, showed clearly the registration, 23 AG 81.

The vehicle is parked at the Museum, with an uncertain future, which is a real shame as it was hoped to renovate it to at least a static display item. In my opinion, it will be a sad loss if it ends up at the scrappers after 'finding' it in 2001 - Ed.



MK6 23AG81- loaded by 2 MT & ready for the off - 3 March 2005 - L/R - Dave Kenyon - Bob Feather - Terry Matson



Above - Crash Crew - Mike Clapton far right

Below - "Anyone found our DP2" - first left - Mike Clapton



Footnote: I had Mike's photos in the April 06 Flashpoint, but had to remove them for an urgent item, and I promised him I'd put them in the August 06 issue. The Blackburn Beverley's are from the archive, but are of the type that flew at Dishforth

A SIMULATED NIMROD CRASH AND MAJOR FUEL SPILL AT RAF KINLOSS!

Grampian firefighters, ambulances and police vehicles raced to Kinloss to help RAF emergency services cope with a simulated Nimrod crash and major fuel spill as part of the station's major incident exercise.

The scenario involved a Nimrod with 11 crew on board, which theoretically crashed at the end of the runway (conveniently next to the fire trainer), and if this wasn't enough to deal with, a loaded fuel bowser with a driver distracted by the smoke and flames, crashed into another vehicle causing a major fuel spill.

Station and civilian fire personnel, paramedics and police officers attended both incidents, gaining valuable training and testing the station's plans, particularly for fuel spills. The exercise was held as part of the yearly training programme, and also in preparation for the family and friends' day on June 24.

The station commander, Gp Capt Chris Birks, said: "Overall, the exercise was a great success. All personnel, RAF and civilian, reacted quickly and efficiently and in accordance with procedures. "As with any exercise of this nature, there are, of course, learning points which we have picked up and which we will incorporate into our major incident plan."

Source – RAF NEWS - page 12 - 9th June 2006



Next Issue

- Reunion report on Coventry 20th to 22nd October 06
- RAF Fairford (RIAT) report
- RAF Marham - Family's Day 27th July 2006 & the Canberra!
- The late, WO Charles Framingham's, Fire Section Memorial Garden project?
- Remembrance Parade report for November 2006
- Museum update

NELL'S ON THE LINE WITH SSAFA FORCES HELP!

Forces sweetheart Nell McAndrew (below) has joined up with SSAFA Forces Help to help raise awareness of their confidential support line. An exclusive photograph of Nell will appear on one side of a 'limited edition' beer mat that will shortly hit service clubs and bars around the world.



Contact details and information about the confidential support line will appear on the other side of the mat. Nell said: "The Confidential Support Line provides a great service to our forces and I think it's really important for people to know that the line exists if they ever need it." "It's difficult to imagine how tough service life can be sometimes, particularly when deployed on operations. The support line gives servicemen and women, and their families, a chance to chat in total confidence about any problems they may be facing, however big or small."

"We're hoping that serving men and women will pick up the mats because of Nell's picture and then they'll have the number and contact details if they need it later," said Myra Orr, manager of the Confidential Support Line. "We also want everyone to know that we're planning a follow-on beer mat with a male heart throb on it so the girls won't be left out!"

NAAFI is helping SSAFA to distribute 100,000 of the beer mats. The mats will be available in nearly 200 clubs and locations across the world for all three services. The 'limited edition' mats featuring Nell will only be supplied for a short period of time, before being replaced by other designs.

The confidential support line aims to provide a reliable, supportive, listening service for serving, ex-serving military personnel and their families. It is outside the chain of command so callers can freely discuss their difficulties in confidence and be assisted to find an appropriate option to help resolve their problems. Source – RAF NEWS, page 10, 23rd June 2006.

**DEADLINE
FOR ENTRIES
FOR NEXT
FLASHPOINT
ISSUE DUE
DECEMBER 06
1 NOVEMBER
2006**

Brief History of the Royal Air Force Fire Service



the circumstances. This they certainly did, if listening to some of our "Elder Statesmen" is anything to go by! A School of Firefighting and Rescue was then established on an

RAF Balloon Unit, north of the City of Hull, as RAF Sutton-on-Hull, until its closure in 1959, when the School moved to RAF Catterick, North Yorkshire and, later, to RAF Manston in Kent as the Fire Services Central Training Establishment (FSCTE) which still continues to this day.

When you see the way uniform, equipment, technology and appliances have developed since then, it seems a very different job today. But it's not! Today's personnel are doing exactly what those early pioneers did then, whilst still maintaining necessary high

The Trade of Fireman was first introduced in 1943 within Trade Group 9, to train personnel in Aircraft Crash Rescue and Firefighting techniques and included an Advanced Trade in Air Traffic Control. Prior to this, personnel on general and aircraft handling duties were used to carry out fire fighting responsibilities; with vehicles being driven by M.T. drivers. It was mainly a case of turning up for duty and being detailed on the day.

No insult intended, but it was down to the "Odds & Sods" to do the best they could in

standards of training, expertise and efficiency.

They are carrying on the same traditions, skills, expertise, enthusiasm and dedication, to which we can all relate from our own personal experiences, via whatever branch of the Fire Services we did our time.

Today, the service is very much depleted from those days following the War years plus, when the Cold War eventually came to an end, many Overseas and Home Stations closed, with the choice of postings being reduced and numbers of personnel and equipment being gradually cut back to the service levels of today.

Like the Defence Fire Services, (DFS), reviews are ongoing and the future role of the RAF Fire Service is unsure. Hopefully it will remain a viable force in the long term. - Ed

Pictured is an MFV producing 'On the run' courtesy of Howard Harper, member 682 and Cambridge coordinator, on an Association visit to RAF Marham Wednesday 23rd



Brief History of the Defence Fire and Rescue Services



In the late 1950's, the RAF Fire Service was amalgamated with the RAF Regiment for several years until being reinstated as an independent Trade in it's own right.

The early 1960's also saw the gradual civilianisation of certain Stations starting with Flying Training Command. Many

personnel recruited were ex RAF, Navy and Army, and formed an experienced nucleus for the change over.

Some recruits hadn't experienced service camaraderie before; although it developed by nature of the job itself. This is no reflection on those individuals whatsoever, or on their abilities as fire fighters, it was just a complete change in the way things were done when previously manned by Regular Volunteers and National Service personnel.

Some of those early recruits went on to become Senior Officers, Training School Commandants at Manston, and Command Fire Officers throughout the RAF and DFS, both home and abroad. Another change was that many recruits were now older, married and lived off camp, so the days of the young, single, living on camp serviceman sadly, in my opinion, came to an untimely end!

I was recently informed, by two of our serving members, that the DFS had now acquired a new badge, which is reproduced alongside the old one for comparison. The badge centre remains the same, but the name has changed to **Defence Fire and Rescue Service** Basically, it appears to be a name change only recognising the rescue role. If, and when, I have any official detail explaining



the changes, I'll keep you informed. The job will still tend to attract those personnel with similar characteristics, personalities, and vocation, as all those who have gone before Long may it remain so! Thanks to members, Steve Brown (Stafford) and Gordon 'Smudge' Smith (Leeming) for their input - Ed.



Photo courtesy of Gordon 'Smudge' Smith, member 64, and shows one of the Fireground Simulators at Teeside Fire Training School.

Ex - RAF Catterick Fire and Rescue Squadron - 1982



Back – Cpl Richie SAC Scarr SAC Taylor SAC Ayles SAC Brown SAC Taylor SAC Harrison SAC Bolster SAC Trafford LAC Gorst - **Middle** - Sgt Farrell Cpl Syme Cpl Jones Cpl McCreath Cpl Spanswick Cpl Johannsen Cpl Shaw Cpl Wynne SAC Webster - **Front** - Sgt Furmage Sgt Shiell Sgt Lawrence WO Balfour Flt Lt Lohse Sqn Ldr Markey Flt Lt James Flt Sgt Goupillot Sgt Laughton Sgt Traynor - **Front & Centre** – ‘Nimrod’ - the



Our late Founding Chairman, John Arthur, arranged for this WOT1, to be donated to the Fire Squadron by Lydd Airport in Kent. Graham Bones set to, with the help of others, to get the thing renovated. When he left, Dave Brown organised the completion of the project with the help of the rest of us. It was used on various parades and as a chariot for a number of guys en-route to retirement or posting. It now sits in the Spitfire Museum at RAF Manston, Kent. **Text** - John Goupillot - **Photo** - Saved magazine - Edition 5 - Spring 1990 - Published by Brodie Publishing, Liverpool, for the ‘Friends of the Fire Services National Museum Trust’, c/o Humberside Fire Brigade Headquarters, Hull, HU4 7BB - Ed.