



# The 'Never Again' News

An occasional newsletter for members of 225 Entry, RAF Halton, Nov 1971 – Oct 1973

**No 11 – December 2012**

## **OUR FLIGHT COMMANDER**

Following the publication of the HAA magazine that included my report on our reunion I had an exchange of emails with our flight commander, Charles Long, who is now living in retirement down in Devon. He said: 'Please pass on to any other members of your Entry my compliments on being such a very pleasant crowd of chaps, and one I was pleased to be associated with'. Other memories he recalled were when he wrote to the Mayor of Oxford asking that we could incorporate part of his City's Coat of Arms in our entry badge as a picture of an Oxford aircraft was 'deemed a bit weak'!

He also reckons that not much happened that he didn't hear about as he was himself a former apprentice (56<sup>th</sup> Entry 1947 – 1950) and had probably done the same or similar things in his time. He said that he didn't charge anyone during his time 'always preferring some other method of retribution, such as kitchen fatigues' – anyone admit to being caught for some 'crime' and being sent for some 'spud bashing' at the behest of the flight commander? You might well have cursed and blasphemed at the time but he said that 'as an ex Colonial Policeman I had no wish to give young men a criminal record which could blight a future career'.

I have had no firm information on any of our former NCOs, although I did hear that Sgt Cadwallader had died; I last saw 'Larry' Latcham at Lossiemouth as a Flt Sgt in the late 80s, and someone has mentioned that Cpl 'Brick' Holding was living in Malta. Of Cpl Lodge I have had no word whatsoever. There was also another Flt Lt for a while, but I cannot even remember his name.

## HAA TRIENNIAL REUNION

I'll give another plug (not necessarily the last!) to the Triennial reunion on Saturday 21 September 2013. A small number of us are gathering at the Premier Inn at Tring for the weekend so if they've rooms still available (and many hotels in the area are already filling up for that weekend) it's not too late to join us. No doubt some who live reasonably close will attend just for the day and I hope you'll let me know beforehand so we can all meet up.

The leckies are planning their own weekend based at Bicester (if the hotel is built in time – anyone for camping?) and a few of them may also come over for the day; the more the merrier.

So, if you want to come along to the Triennial just sign up for the HAA, if you haven't done so already. Details of membership etc. can be found at [www.oldhaltonians.co.uk](http://www.oldhaltonians.co.uk) and the next edition (Feb 2013) of the HAA magazine will have full details of the Triennial.

## FACEBOOK GROUP

The entry Facebook group is still going well and one of the latest entries is from a weekend get-together the leckies had and, as you can see from the picture, they managed to include a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum to see the Halton Grove into their beer drinking and story telling.



Also a new discussion has appeared regarding the boxing prowess (or lack of in most cases!) amongst the entry that was prompted by Owl Hurst uncovering some old photos and putting them online. If anyone else uncovers photographs of our time at Halton I'm sure we will all be interested to see them.

To find the group go to Facebook and search for 'RAF Halton 225<sup>th</sup> Entry 1971 – 1973', then request to join it. Membership is limited to entry members so it is not visible to all and sundry lurking out there in the darkest recesses of cyberspace.

## **SOME MORE FOUND**

Shortly after the last edition I had a message via the website guestbook from Chris Hill (armourer), who is apparently now living in Australia, although attempts to follow it up have so far proved fruitless. Also Ivor Linington (aka 'Sugar Ray Linington' who says he danced like a bee and stung like a butterfly in the boxing ring!) has made contact and can be added to our still growing list - I now make it 46 out of 85 of the entry accounted for.

Please keep searching out any others that haven't featured on the lists in previous newsletters, copies of which can be found via our web pages on the HAA site at [www.oldhaltonians.co.uk](http://www.oldhaltonians.co.uk)

## **AND FINALLY**

All the best for Christmas and the New Year and I hope to see some of you at the Triennial in September.

*Dickie Bird*