



The 'Never Again' News

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

No 12 – May 2013

OUR 'FAVORITE' DRILL INSTRUCTOR

Having heard that Cpl Rod 'Brick' Holding was living in Malta I did an search and came up with a phone number. I gave it a try and lo and behold it worked. Brick is living in the sun enjoying retirement (you may recall that his wife was from Malta) although he is very deaf and has some problems with his legs. So, that's a former flight commander and one DI accounted for (plus I've heard that Sgt Cadwallader has died), has anyone any info on the others?

HAA TRIENNIAL REUNION

This will almost certainly be the last plug from me before the Triennial reunion on Saturday 21 September 2013. Some of us are gathering at the Premier Inn at Tring for the weekend so if they've rooms still available it's not too late to join us there.

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 and if they don't include information in the joining pack-up about the Triennial just get in contact with the office at Halton to get an application form.

Would everyone who is looking to attend, be it for the whole weekend or just on the Saturday, let me know so we can make an effort to all meet up at some stage.

NO MORE FOUND

I'm afraid to report that I've no new members of the entry to add to the list and the total therefore still stands at 46 out of 85 accounted for. There are 39 more out there somewhere, so please follow up any leads that you may have to help track down the missing ones. If you aren't sure whether I've already made contact with someone just drop me an email and I'll let you know.

THE A3s TRYING TO LOOK INTERESTED?

Here's a picture unearthed by Pete Schneider showing most of the A3s. It looks very much like a Lightning T-Bird they're leaning on – I don't remember one at Halton, but that may just be a matter of brain fade on my part, or was it taken somewhere else?



For those who need a prompt they are from L to R: -
Standing: Malcolm Spicer, Nigel Morse, Dave Patterson, Robert Scales, **Dave Rouget**,
Pete Schneider, Richard Tribe, **Graham Wilson**, **Mick Ogle**.
Sat on their backsides: **Ian Whaplington**, **Merv Roberts**.

(Those in green being the ones that I've been able to track down).

ONE FOR THE ENTRY OLDIES

As the 'old boys' amongst you are now rapidly approaching 60 I thought I'd take the chance to remind any that didn't complete at least 22 years and run away with an Immediate Pension, that you may be entitled to a Preserved Pension payable from your 60th birthday. The details are quite complex (no surprise there!) but basically if you served after 6 April 1975 (and were therefore presumably on the AFPS75 scheme) and were over 26 when you left you should be OK. However don't take my word for it (I'd hate to think that anyone lost out due to my duff advice), get in touch with the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SVPA) to confirm your status. Their helpline number is 0800 0853600. More details can be found on their website at: -

<https://www.gov.uk/pensions-and-compensation-for-veterans#pensions>

The problem is that they will not give it to you unless you ask for it and if you apply late I believe they only pay it from the date of your application and will not backdate it. So, check up with the SVPA to see if you are eligible, and if you are apply 3 months before your 60th birthday using the APFS Form 8 that can be downloaded from the website. The system works, as witnessed by the story of my brother-in-law who served in the Army for 9 years, came out in the 80s, and from last year has been getting about £200 a month. The pension is index linked thereafter and, even better, it was also kicked off with a very handy lump sum of three times the annual rate (about £7,000 in his case).

IT'S BETTER IN YOUR POCKET THAN IN THEIRS!

I'd be delighted to hear if I've actually succeeded in informing anyone who didn't know, or have reminded anyone who had forgotten that they were entitled to a Preserved Pension – my financial advice comes at very reasonable rates for the successful applicants!

AND FINALLY – VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Entries have been invited to send two representatives to the Trenchard Museum to sift through their entry's paper records in the archives to select the items they wish to enter onto the computer database. Some entries, such as the 223s and the 120s, already have their records available on the database and available to entry members – the information is password protected and the password is obtained through the entry representatives to ensure they are only accessed by authorized persons. Is there anyone who lives reasonably close to Halton who would be willing to devote some time to going through our stuff and do the selecting on behalf of us all?

Dickie Bird