



The 'Never Again' News

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

No 13 – December 2013

HAA TRIENNIAL REUNION

On Saturday 21 September 2013 about 950 of Trenchard's Brats attended the Triennial reunion, ranging from the oldest who had seen wartime service to the youngest who joined long after we had left. From the 225s myself, Paul Farrall and Tony Frost all met up and stayed at Tring for a couple of nights, and on the day Owl Hurst, Pat Minister, Dave Baines and Dave Moore met us at Halton.





Are you doing the washing up or am I?



Stop talking on parade you horrible lot!



Just in time (just out of their pits?!) to meet up with us at the end of the afternoon Chris Birch and Derek Webster joined us from Bicester, where a sizeable group of the Leckies had been having their own get-together (See report on Page 3).

Just in case you don't recognise us (due to your poor eyesight rather than the fact that we have aged badly!) from left to right we have: - Paul Farrall, Derek Webster, Dickie Bird, Tony Frost, Owl Hurst, Pat Minister, Dave Moore, Chris Birch, Dave Baines.

LECKIES ANNUAL REUNION

The Leckies seem to have got their act together by organising regular reunions and Chris Birch has kindly submitted a brief account of their weekend: -

The Leckies had their annual reunion over the weekend of 20th / 21st September at the Premier Inn, Bicester. Eight guys attended with four apologies and still looking for the four missing, Ian Powell, Stan Kyte, Dave Phillips and John Minshull. Derek Webster joined us for the first time travelling over from Gander, Newfoundland. Some of us hadn't seen him since we left Halton 40 years ago!

We had a few beers both evenings, the first one ending up in Derek's room helping him consume the malt he brought with him from Canada. The second was a bit quieter as our livers take longer to recover these days.

Some guys visited Halton / Wendover area on the Saturday and a couple of others went into Oxford. We dispersed on Sunday morning and are planning to meet again next September in the Burton area. We are looking forward to the "new boy" Bob Newton joining us for the first time.



From left to right in the front are: - Bob Couch, Dave Moore, Jim McWilliams, Dennis Kelly and hiding at the back are Dave Baines, Chris Birch, Martin Daynes and Derek Webster.

IT'S AMAZING WHAT YOU FIND

Chris Birch recently found an old wallet in which there were some tickets from our Halton days (rumours that there was also a one pound note and he went out the other day to try and buy three gallons of petrol with it have not been confirmed!). How times have changed – concert tickets for top acts for less than a pound, and the description of the Harlem Globetrotters as ‘the famous all-negro team’ wouldn’t go down too well in today’s PC world!

Our illustrious sergeant, Larry Latcham, organised coach trips down to some of these events and I certainly remember seeing the Harlem Globetrotters, but didn’t go to the others; you may well have memories of the trips that you could share – certainly there is talk on the entry Facebook pages about coming back with a large figure of Colonel Sanders from outside a KFC on one occasion!



SOME MORE FOUND

Since the last edition we can add Bob Newton and Tony Preston to the list. Tony is another who has deserted the 'charms' of the UK and is now living on Prince Edward Island on the eastern coast of Canada. Also in late November Nigel Morse visited our website and left a message, however, as he didn't leave his email address I'm afraid that I've not been able to contact him directly yet. I've left a reply on the website asking him to contact me and hope that he will look again and do so. With these latest additions we now have 49 out of 85 accounted for, almost 60% of the entry – not bad as when I first started to look for everyone back in 2009 I only knew the whereabouts of Paul Farrall! As always, if you have any leads on those that are still 'missing' please follow them up.

THE A3s TRYING TO LOOK INTERESTED?

In the last edition I included a picture of the A3s by what I thought looked like a Lightning T-Bird. I have been informed, by more than one person, that it was a prototype Lightning that was in the corner of workshops. I hadn't remembered it at all, but thanks guys for pointing out the limitations of my memory bank.

ENTRY RECORDS

Following my appeal for volunteers to go to the Trenchard Museum to sift through the entry's records, Pete Schneider very kindly did the honours and spent a few hours scanning them for us. I have asked about getting them onto the HAA website (password protected), but as yet they have not appeared – I'll chase them up again.

AND FINALLY x 3

It was great to see those of you who made it to Halton in September, and I hope that a few more will make the effort to get to the next Triennial which will, presumably, be in September 2016.

As always feel free to contribute to this worthy publication – there is a danger that I will run out of things to say! Thanks to Chris Birch for his input to this edition, please feel free to follow his excellent example.

Have a good Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Dickie Bird