



# The 'Never Again' News

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

**No 20 – May 2021**

## **A SHORT NEWSLETTER**

In the last edition I expressed my hopes that we would be able to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of joining up in November. To that end Owl Hurst has been trying to do some preliminary work on hotels, transport etc. however, even though the Covid situation is beginning to ease, many he spoke to were not able to confirm at this stage what services they might be able to provide. This makes detailed planning next to impossible.

Obviously with a good number of our entry living abroad it is only reasonable to give them a sensible lead time to make their travel arrangements, however, the situation with world-wide travel and requirements for vaccinations and quarantine rules (both coming into UK and possibly back into their countries of residence) is still obscure, with no signs of clarity emerging in the near future.

Therefore, as those of you on the Facebook group already know, we have reluctantly decided to postpone the reunion until a time when the situation is hopefully much clearer and those living abroad can join us without the risk of running into onerous restrictions.

I suggest that a weekend in late October 2023 to coincide with our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of passing out would be suitable.

## **AN EARLY TRIP TO LONDON**

I published a similar picture some time ago as many of you appear to have 'escaped' down to London at the first opportunity to be crapped upon by the pigeons in Trafalgar Square, and this one was kindly sent to me by Mal Spicer.



L to R: Dave Paterson, Robert Scales, Dave Rouget, Mal Spicer and Ian Whappington.

## **A TRAGIC END**

In correspondence with Mal Spicer he said he'd heard that Richard 'Apache' Tribe had died soon after being discharged, possibly from a drug overdose (apparently he had developed a 'liking' for MEK fumes having encountered the stuff on advanced airframes, which may have led him down that route). I therefore did some research and was quite shocked by what I discovered. He was actually discharged while we were at Halton (June 1973), and he died on 8 April 2001 at a privately run hostel in Catford, London, for people suffering from mental health issues related to alcohol and drug use. He was sitting in the dining room with a female friend when a porter / security guard from the hostel (who had apparently been in a relationship with the woman) attacked them both. The woman was injured, but Richard suffered multiple stab wounds and despite the best efforts of paramedics, and emergency surgery by a doctor from the air ambulance, he died at the scene. The assailant was subsequently found guilty of murder and given 'life' in prison, but no doubt was back on the streets after a few years.

We have lost some of our number through all manner of accidents over the years, and more recently several have succumbed to various illnesses as old age begins to take its toll, however, I never imagined that one of our entry would be murdered. Richard Tribe's story is a sorry tale and as Mal Spicer put it "A sad end to a nice chap" – RIP Apache.

## **FIND THE 'MISSING' ONES**

I make no excuses for re-publishing the list of the ones that are still 'missing' in the hope that it spurs you on to try and locate any of your old mates who feature on it.

As well as accounting for Richard Tribe, we have now also made contact with Gary Davey who joined us from the 224s in June 1973; he is living in the USA. Also Dave Paterson has joined our Facebook group, and Owl has obtained an email address for Phil Green. This means we are now in contact, to some degree or other, with over 60 of the entry, but as shown below there are still plenty more to find out there somewhere.

**Airframes: -**

Robert 'Paddy' Coburn  
Anthony 'Russ' Fenn  
Jonathon 'Bob' Hope  
Andrew McCormack  
Dave McNeir  
Trev Millard – Discharged Oct 72.  
Dave Millington  
Nigel Morse – left a message on our website in 2013, but didn't give contact details.  
Robert Scales  
Ken Scott – Discharged Nov 72.  
Graham Willis – Discharged Dec 71.  
G. 'Mid' Myers – Joined us from 223<sup>rd</sup> Entry in Mar 72.

**Armourers: -**

Steven Barnard – Discharged Jan 72.  
John Duncan – John Lawson has been trying to contact.  
Paul Edwards  
Andrew Gayfer  
William Kane – Discharged Jan 72.  
Brian Odell – John Lawson has been trying to contact.  
Alan Parker  
Steve Pritchard  
Roger Taylor – Discharged March 73.  
Nigel Winn

**Ground Electricians: -**

Gareth 'Stan' Kyte – Tony Frost investigating his whereabouts; possibly in South Wales.

**AND FINALLY**

Despite the disappointment of not being able to plan a gathering this November I do hope that you will all keep in touch with a view to coming to a reunion in 2023 and making it a success.

Take care and keep steering well clear of the dreaded Covid; although hopefully being 'old codgers' we are all jabbed up by now and not at too much risk.

Dickie Bird