



The 'Never Again' News

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

No 6 – February 2011

A FEW MORE ON THE LIST

Since last writing in October I have managed to establish / re-establish contact with some more of the entry and thanks are due to those of you who helped out – please keep up the good work. I can therefore add to the list Ian Whappington, Pete Firth, Tony Borrett (all living in 'middle England'), and I'm also pleased to add the first plumbers to the list with George Fairbairn (Yorkshire) and Chris Desborough (Washington State, USA). I also managed to catch Gordon Graham as he was in the throes of retiring from the RAF at Leuchars and got his email address before he disappeared into civvy street. That now gives a total of 19 of us: -

Dickie Bird	Tony Borrett	Dave Cottrell	Martin Crown
Chris Desborough	George Fairbairn	Paul Farrall	Pete Firth
Gordon Graham	Owl Hurst	Tony Killick	Pete Knowles
Pat Minister	Iain Montgomerie	Mick Ogle	Dave Rouget
Pete Schneider	Ian Whappington	Bob Wilson	

It would be appreciated if you can continue your efforts to try and contact any of the others not on the list – there's about another 60 or so out there somewhere!

ENTRY 40th ANNIVERSARY REUNION

With regard to having a 40th anniversary reunion I have made a provisional booking with the HAA for Sunday 6th November. I have chosen that date as both the HAA and the RAF prefer to have such events on Sundays, and of course it's the nearest to our day of joining up. Being at the weekend it should mean that most of you can get probably there and home again without impinging on the

working week and I suggest that we all assemble on the Saturday afternoon / evening and have a meal and a few beers in a hotel within easy striking range of Halton. On the Sunday the HAA will lay on a programme of visits; the usual format being a mid-morning start with a guided tour of Halton House, a church service (especially if we can organize an entry window to have dedicated at the same time), a photo opportunity at the 'Tribute' (the apprentices' memorial), lunch in one of the messes before rounding off the day with a visit to the Apprentice Museum, finishing mid-afternoon. Obviously the costs will be a hotel room and evening meal, plus beers, and a modest sum to cover the visit to Halton (mainly for the lunch). I may also look at the possibility of hiring a coach so that no one has to worry about driving before the effects of the Saturday night have worn off, and that may have benefits from the HAA's point of view in keeping the group together and minimizing the number of vehicles needing to be booked on to camp.

So, please mark the 6th November in your diary, arrange time off work if necessary, and let me know as soon as possible whether you will come (it would also be helpful if you can tell me if you are definitely not coming). By all means bring your other halves along as well - hopefully after the years spent with you they will be used to lots of light swinging and pulling up of sandbags!

STAINED GLASS WINDOW

I am still keen to pursue the idea of an entry window in St George's Church. There have been some difficulties making contact with stained glass artists (one for example having retired since doing the 223's window) but Min Larkin at the HAA is actively trying to find someone quite close to Halton who would be suitable and I await information from him. Going on previous windows the cost is likely to be somewhere in the range of £800 - £1,000. I'm happy to make a decent contribution towards it (up to £100), but I need to know whether you would also like to donate – I certainly don't want to end up paying for the whole thing!

My idea of a design for the entry window (having had no other suggestions!) is to take cues from the entry badge and have a country scene with an bull (ox) crossing a stream (alluding to Oxford) in the foreground. Behind it some beech trees from the badge of No 1 S of TT, perhaps six of them to symbolize those of the entry we know have died, and flying over the top a Spitfire. At top and bottom there would be space for the entry number and dates, as well as our motto. Let me know your thoughts on that, whether you would like to contribute towards the cost of the window and how much you would be prepared to give.

FOR THE NEWCOMERS

For those of you receiving this as your first copy of the 'Never Again' News the previous editions are available on the HAA website at www.oldhaltonians.co.uk Just follow the link to 'Entries', scroll down to near the bottom of the page and click on our entry badge. Also while on the website it's worth having a look round to see things like the stained glass windows that have already been installed, as well as many other aspects of the HAA, the history of Halton and the apprentice scheme over the years.

CAPTION COMPETITION

Pete Schneider has sent me this photograph of him and Pat Minister outside the block and he thought that it may solicit a few funny captions. There is no prize except, perhaps, the joy of taking the p - - s out of them after all these years!



If you have any photos from our time at Halton you'd like to share please send them to me (a reasonable resolution scan attached to an email is fine) and I'll happily put them in future editions.

AND FINALLY

May I wish you all the very best for the rest of 2011 and I hope to see everyone in November.

Dickie Bird