

Abridged transcript of:— ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER~ 8th AUG 1995.

Dear Association Member,

You may remember that in the March Association News letter I reported that the Squadron forecast of events was particularly full. With worldwide training commitments, the Squadron personnel have been very busy. With the advent of the Rapid Reaction Force in the former Republic of Yugoslavia and the heavy aviation commitment to this force the workload has again increased. In addition to the normal commitments the Squadron has provided men to fill temporary posts which have been vacated by Regiments ear marked for deployment to Bosnia. It is because of our impressive level of training, especially in night flying, that the Squadron has been the first port of call for those squadrons and regiments who were seeking to boost their own numbers to fill their establishments. Two members of the Squadron are now in Bosnia and ten are earmarked to deploy if required. The result of the above is a very heavily tasked light Squadron remaining in Dishforth. The ground crew are working especially hard with extra duties on top of normal Squadron tasks.

#### SQUADRON OPEN DAY 22 JULY 95

On 22 July 95 656 Squadron organised an Open Day, the aim of which was to provide entertainment for 9 Regt AAC and its families whilst also promoting sound community relations. To achieve this, the following events were organised: Death slide, aircraft static displays, static vehicle displays, craft fair, new car displays, children's tents, bar, car boot sale, clay pigeon shoot, abseil display, airmobile section attack, police 'battle bus', glider rides, civilian helicopter rides, dog display, police vehicles, fire service crash display, Pipes and Drums of 1 Royal Irish Regiment, rifle range, parachute display, fairground rides and amusements, survival equipment stand, meteorological office stand and above all a friendly atmosphere. The day was a resounding success, and was attended by over 1000 people. The association tent was located conveniently next to the bar and housed an excellent turn out from as far away as Devon. Hobby once again displayed an ever increasing collection of 656 Squadron historic albums. Many of the exhibits from the Squadron lines were also shown. Both ourselves and Nobby are very keen to increase our collections of historical exhibits, if you have anything which you believe may be of interest, we would be happy to give it a good home.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 10 Sept 95

The date for the 1995 AGM has been set to coincide with the Wallop Challenge. The meeting will be in the Museum of Army Flying and will commence at 1100 hrs.

#### WALLOP CHALLENGE – 10 Sept 95

The Wallop challenge will take the normal format. It will run from 1000 -1700 hrs. For the less familiar, it is a competition for those who are gravitationally gifted (pilots and parachutists) who will demonstrate their aerobatic and aviation skills (show off). There are 4 teams, RN, RAF, Army and Air Squadron. The entry fee for spectators is £4 though members of the AAC and AOP Associations get complimentary tickets. There will be a 656 Squadron Association stand in the AAC Association Tent. Lunch is available in the AAC tent for approx £11- £12.

## 656 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Captain Nigel Banks has been dealing with Association affairs since assuming the position of Second in Command. He is to be posted to 667 Squadron in September. Captain Guy Owen will take the helm with effect 4 Sept 95.

On a personal note, it has been an honour to carry out my duties as 656 Squadron Association representative and to meet so many of you. I will of course, remain an active member of the association after my move to 657 Sqn.

### SUMMARY.

it now only remains for me to bid you good luck, health and happiness. We hope that you will, all keep in touch with the Squadron and the Association.

Signed:— N G Banks. Captain for OC 656 Squadron.