



THE CHINTHE



656 Squadron Association Newsletter

Autumn 2002

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Diary Dates

60th Anniversary - Dishforth - 31st May 2003
See enclosed invitation
AGM.— TBA

Secretary's report

Once again the reunion went very well, and a good time was had by all. Unfortunately numbers were slightly down owing to a clash with another reunion. The Squadron did us proud when they had only about 30% of the unit strength in base. A snack buffet greeted us and the OC brought members up to speed with what was happening within 656. A hangar display of the roll equipment of the Squadron was studied and the night vision goggles again attracted the best number of visitors. 3 Austers from the International Auster Club were on the airfield for folk to look at, however for some reason they were not permitted to fly members on trips.



Most of the diaries have sold now, but I still have some left, still at only £3.60 plus postage at cost. They are a smart herald to our Jubilee year and a future antique for the Association!

Call me quickly if you want one as there will not be any more after these have gone!

I have had a report from John Hoare of the reunion (or get together!) of the ex members of 1903 independent flight (Korea). All attendees had a splendid time and their next meeting is to be sometime between 9—11 September next year, so if you were with 1903 and would like to join in, contact me or John Hoare direct.

Ex 2 Flight members also hold an annual week-end get together, using different locations each time, this helps by spreading the travelling distances. Wilf Knowles is now the organiser so why not call him, or me, and join in next year?

There seems to be from somewhere along the line an idea that I objected to these 'private functions'. Far from it, I welcome them and hope more old comrades from their individual Flights

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will hold these get togethers. This can only strengthen our Association.

The Falklands vets had a first meet for 20 years in May and many of them wanted to see more such gatherings. I hope one of them will take the initiative and start to organise it!

I would like to thank all our members who have completed and returned their 'additional donation' standing order forms. If you feel willing and able, and have not done so already, there is a form enclosed with this newsletter.

For any member thinking of getting a computer:

As more and more people are getting into technology, a persons age is no longer a barrier with the modern PC programs taking the strain! Then you join the internet fraternity and your horizons expand and wonder at the colossal bank of information you can get from it. You also get an 'Email' address for almost instant communication, however, if you are new to this game remember, Email is not delivered to your door, or even your PC, you have to collect it! Also please advise me of you Email address when you join! One last word of caution to the unwary, there are some very sick people out there in cyberspace who get a kick out of writing and sending virus's to infect your PC. It is very false economy not to invest in a good anti-virus program, and keep it regularly up to date. (Ones 'built in' to the machine do not work for long). Some of the new virus's are quite destructive, or are used to pass on information of your use of the PC (ie VISA card transactions, bank accounts etc) to the virus writer.

Enclosed with this newsletter are two important bits of bumph. PLEASE read them and RETURN at least your Jubilee invitation ASAP



DISHFORTH

14 September 2002

Arthur Windscheffel, our Senior member is standing between the OC, Maj Neil Dalton, and the SSM, Peter Tickle. Arthur will be 94 in December and he celebrates his Diamond wedding anniversary on November 28th. I know all members will send him congratulations!

Where Are They???

The names below are members with their last known address, who we have lost touch with, their mail is always returned. IF you know where they are then tell me, or get them to call and give me their new address please.

NAME		Initials	LAST known Address
Barry	Col.	P.F.	Cirencester
Birkenhead	Mr	A	Holme on Spalding Moor
Corbett	Mr	K.	Rotherham
Corbett	Mr	R.	Amesbury
Durrant	Mr	C.	665 Sqn AAC
George	Mr	H.L.	Tolworth
Gibbs	Maj	P.J.	Nr Marlborough
Gillan	WO2	R.M	3 Regt AAC
Hainey	WOII	K	651 AHF Sqn AAC
Hall	Mr	G.J.	Bridport
Hives-Wood	Mr	S.C.	Alton
Hughes	Mr	K.	Didcot
Hughes	Mr	P.G.	Bedale
Nicholas	Capt.	D.A.G.	Wattisham
Pooley	Mr	R.	Stockbridge
Sansom	Mr	W.G.	Thurlaston
Smith	Mr	A.C.	1 Flt AAC
Smith	Mr	J.	657 Squadron AAC
Walter	Mr	S.C.	Woolwich
White	Mr	J.	Nr Wareham

Are you making or amending your will??
If so, please remember to include a small bequest to
the Association, is always appreciated.

This newsletter is shorter than usual as I need to get the invitations sent out. We need to know as soon as we can the exact and also probable numbers who will attend the Jubilee so firm planning can go ahead.

I have been asked if we could register our Association as a charity, thereby gaining tax benefits. I have had dealings with another Military Association who tried in the last couple of years to do this, and I know they spent a lot of time using a solicitor (luckily one of their members) to apply. They were rejected on various grounds. I don't think we would stand a chance to be registered, however, if we have a solicitor amongst our members who would like to take the task on, please step forward. It is rather like my application for a lottery grant towards the cabinet, we just don't seem to qualify.

History and Archives

How many times have you heard that someone regretted when an elderly relation passed away their memorabilia and artefacts were disposed of, as they were meaningless to others? It happens all too often as 'house clearance' men dispose of un-saleable items into the rubbish, or relatives have no care after the initial sorrow phase passes, and dispose of them.

PLEASE do not let this happen to anything you own connected with 656 Squadron. Get your relatives to be aware of it, put it in your will, do what you may but please, ensure that anything, no matter how minor it may seem, is sent to the Secretary of the Association. Photo's, letters, diaries all contain an historic aspect of the Squadron.

Even better, why not send them now so you can guarantee they are preserved. We can then decide if and where items should be best kept or copied

Isn't this fun - Working in a Call Centre

Samsung Electronics

- Caller: "Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?"
Operator: "I'm sorry sir, I don't understand what you are talking about!"
Caller: "On page 1, section 5 of the user guide it states clearly that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone jack before cleaning. Now can you give me the number for Jack?"
Operator: "I think you mean the telephone point on the wall!"
-

RAC Motoring Services

- Caller: "Does the European Breakdown Policy cover me when I am travelling in Australia?"
Operator: "Doesn't the product give you a clue?"

Another caller: "If I register my car in France, do I have to change the steering wheel to the other side of the car?"

Directory Enquiries

- Caller: "I'd like the number for Argoed Fish Bar in Cardiff please"
Operator: "I'm sorry there's no listing. Is it spelt correctly?"
Caller: "Well, it used to be called the Bargoed Fish bar but the 'B' fell off!"
-

Then there was the caller who asked for a Knitwear company in Woven.

- Operator: "Woven? Are you sure?"
Caller: "Yes, that's what it says on the label - Woven in Scotland"
-

- Caller: "I'd like the RSPCA please"
Operator: "Where are you calling from?"
Caller: "The living room"
-

On another occasion, a man making heavy breathing sounds from a phone box told a worried operator: "I haven't got a pen, so I'm streaming up the windows to write the number on!"

Computer Capers

Tech Support: "I need you to right click on the Open Desktop"
Customer: "OK"
Tech Support: "Did you get the pop up menu?"
Customer: "No"
Tech Support: "OK. Right click again. Do you see a pop up menu?"
Customer: "No"
Tech Support: "OK sir. Can you tell me what you have done up until this point?"
Customer: "Sure. You told me to write 'click' and I wrote 'click'"
Tech Support: "OK at the bottom left hand side of your screen, can you see the 'OK' button displayed?"
Customer: "Wow, how can you see my screen from there?"

Caller: "I deleted a file from my PC last week and I have just realised that I need it. If I turn my system clock back two weeks, will I have my file back?"

British Rail

Customer: "How much does it cost to Bath on the train?"
Operator: "If you can get your feet in the sink then its free!"

The Bank

Caller: "I would like to borrow £2,000 please"
Operator: "Certainly sir, over how long?"
Caller: "Three years please"
Operator: "OK sir. That will be £75 per month for 365 months, is that OK?"
Caller: "No, not at all. I want it all at once!"

Customer: "I've been ringing 0700-2300 for 2 days and can't get through to enquiries, can you help?"
Operator: "Where did you get the number from sir?"
Customer: "It was on the door of the travel centre"
Operator: "Sir, they are our opening hours"

NOTICES

NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER			
583	Mr Russell N	AAC	81-84 F'bro, N'avon, Falklands
584	Mr Ness C	AAC	81-83 F'bro, N'avon, Kenya, Falklands
585	Mr Keil I MiD	REME	64-67 11 Flt Kluang & Brunei
586	Mr Barrow J	RHA	74-75 H.Kong
587	Miss Hadley J	Associate	Daughter of Ralph, Burma/Java period
588	Mr Meek G	AAC	87-88 N'Avon
589	Mr Paradine B	RA/AAC	64-? 10 Flight
590	Mr Murphy P	REME	58-61 KL, Ipoh, S'Pore
591	WO1 Doyle E	AAC	02- ? Dishforth

Please remember to

notify the General Secretary of any change of address, or phone numbers. The members using **Email**, remember, when you change your ISP you lose your old address. The ability to send you these newsletters by Email saves quite a cost to the Association in postage, stationery and labour! Not to mention full colour pages!

I know we don't like to talk about it, but please, leave clear instructions for your next of kin to contact membership records, so firstly, if possible, we can get a representative to attend the funeral, and then to also avoid sending distressing correspondence. As Membership is open to any relatives of persons connected to 656, they may wish to continue with the Association in their own rights.

BENNETT's Bed & Breakfast

Four Diamond

English Tourist Board Classification

To any members of the Association holidaying in Wiltshire, or just passing through, Joyce and I offer half price accommodation in our Bed & Breakfast. Situated on the outskirts of Chippenham facing open countryside. Within easy access to Bath, Bristol, Cirencester, Swindon, the Cotswolds and Somerset. Visit the website www.holywell-house.co.uk, any Tourist Information Office, or just ring us on 01249-652922



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No more aching arms. No more plastic bags. No more searching for a £1 coin. Simply wheel it round, select your purchases, unload on to check-out belt, reload trolley, wheel it out and load into car or wheel it home, straight into the kitchen.

Use it as a laundry aid - *No more bending*

Conveniently carries washing from machine to line. Dry laundry is folded into top basket, ready for ironing.

Use it as a gardening aid - *Keep everything with you as you work*

Carry tools etc. in the bottom basket and collect garden rubbish in the top basket.

Baskets nest and frame easily folds flat for convenient storage

Price £39.95. Members £29.95 plus carriage at cost

Call: John Heyes: 01352 770100

Or Email : heyes@whsmithnet.co.uk

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(This advert has been paid for, to advertise your goods or services contact the General Secretary)

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&
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SPECIAL OFFER

To 656 Squadron Association Members only:
Limited edition prints, **signed by David Shepherd**
Print only £80 each. Framed £140 each



656 Squadron, Auster in N. Malaya 1962
by David Shepherd oae



Falklands Casavac by David Shepherd oae

If you would like a copy of these fine pictures, or to find out what other paintings are in stock, please call Dave Whiteley direct. (David is a member of the Association)

This is a paid advert. To promote your business in the newsletter, call John Bennett