

The Servicing Commando Association

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2006

Chairman - Alan Robinson,.

Secretary - Ed Stevens

Treasurer - Don Thorogood.

(Remember - It isn't the price you paid to join, it's the price you paid to be eligible)

Chairman's Message

This will be my final "Chairman's Remarks" in a newsletter the amalgamation with T.S.W. having been finalised at the last Annual General Meeting. The date set is 1st January 2007 and as both Ed and Don wish to retire from office I shall do the same although I have agreed to continue as a Vice-President of the Association in order to keep an eye on our interests. There are a few matters to finalise, one of which is to liaise with the Force Development Training Squadron, Defence College of Aeronautical Engineering at Cosford. I have received a letter from Squadron Leader N.R.Manders on behalf of the Air Commodore Commandant which follows some contact with Wing Commander Simon Ellard, the author of the article in "Air Power Review" regarding our roll in World War 2, at the Defence logistics Organisation. It seems that we are becoming much more well known (better late than never) and bearing in mind operations in Iraq, Afghanistan etc. the importance of our wartime experiences is becoming increasingly relevant. In this matter I propose to visit Cosford with as much information as possible and I would ask if any one has a spare copy of "Spectacles, Testicles, fags and Matches" I would very much appreciate this to pass on to Cosford.

Now that a proper set of articles of association has been drawn up by Group Captain Duncan Grant, examined and agreed I intend to write once more to HRH Prince Philip this time to ask if, in view of his connection with our founder Lord Louis Mountbatten, he would consider becoming our Patron. Royal patronage would I feel be the finest act of recognition we could ask for.

George Revell has been conducting some correspondence following the agreement at the last Annual General Meeting regarding the possibility of some kind of memorial in Normandy and I would suggest that George makes contact with Group Captain Duncan Grant . giving details and asking for the matter to be included in the agenda for the Annual General meeting to be held at Stafford on Saturday 9th June 2007.

The Annual General meeting will be held at RAF Stafford as usual, this time under the Chairmanship of Group Captain and the Tillington has been booked for the Reunion Dinner at which I am hoping we will have a substantial turn out.

Finally I would like to pay tribute to the work done by both Ed Stevens and Don Thorogood, it is very much due to their efforts that the Association has continued to thrive. I would like also to thank the various Liaison Officers for their work. For myself, I have enjoyed my years as your Chairman and I hope that my efforts have afforded a contribution to our continued existence.

My best wishes to our remaining members and their families and I pray that we may continue to meet for for a good number of years to come. God bless you all.

Alan B.Robinson

A.G.M. 2006



The Dinner



The top table .



The Pointings relax after the meal.



Don Fisher shows Flo his latest camera.



Draw Ticket time

.RAF Museum Hendon

The museum has been creating a display featuring RAF Servicing Commandos and has been taking pains to authenticate uniforms and equipment.

The display stand will be on show at the Chiltern Open Air Museum , Chalfont St Peter on 26th and 27th May where there is a possibility of them sharing the airfield with an RAF group and their Auster aircraft. Any Association members able to attend are assured of a warm welcome.

The following week the display will be at the museum at Hendon where the display will be smaller due to space available.

Generous sponsorship.

The museum is also to sponsor the RAF Servicing Commando crest for the RAF Heraldry Trust, The aim of the Trust is to create a complete record of the RAF's Heraldic insignia presented to the RAF College Library at Cranwell.

Because of the costs involved the sponsorship is required and the Museum have agreed to sponsor the Servicing Commando crest on our behalf.

This is a very generous offer and will go a long way to ensuring that our our history will not be forgotten

Treasurer's Report

There is not much to report as Treasurer. I received subs last year from 98 members but this year is well up already. The amount of money at the Bank as at Dec 31 3006 was £2820.60. I have already received £500 from the R.A.F. funds Stafford. It was raised at the open day in June for the RAFSC and TSW Association.

I received notification a few weeks ago that Tactical Communications Wing is putting together a museum at RAF Leeming with special interest in WW11 Servicing Commandos. I wrote to Chief Tec Steve Stain forth and received this reply.

“ Thank you for your letter , it was great to hear from you on behalf of your Association. Since being asked by Group Captain Tim Bishop, with the development of an Airfield and Signals Museum I have been fascinated to learn about the SCU during WW!! . Although TCW90 SU have slightly different objectives, ours being the activation of airfields, Fobs and C2 communications and the SCU with the servicing of aircraft at an FOB I feel that the ethos, working environment and goals of both units are very similar. As an additional note, having visited most of the RAF museums and collections in the country, I am amazed to find that there are no real exhibits concerning the work of the SCUs. consequently , I decided to include an SCU display consisting of mannequins, diorama and information boards within our museum. This was endorsed by the AOVC.CIS Kirkpatrick as he believes this is an important part of the history of the R.A.F. and as very little credit is given to the ground elements especially given the importance of their success during WW1. On that note if you could possibly help with personal accounts, photographs, memorabilia or artefacts from WW11 it would be greatly appreciated.

Regards

Steve Stainforth .

Has anyone a spare copy of either of our publications?

IN REMEMBRANCE

(Sadly we have to advise of the deaths of the following members and extend our deepest sympathy to their families)

1 SP H.Armstrong died in December 2004

3201 Cyril Fear died on 18th December 2005 following a heart attack.

3205 J.Grainger died on 18th December after a long illness
A.Harrison died in hospital on 5th October 2006 after a long illness.

3206 Eddie Pritchard died in June 2006. Eddie and wife Gwyneth were founders of the Association and organised it in the early years.

M.Jobling died on 11th June 2006.

Andrew Carter died during August. No further details.

Les Almond died on 30th January 2006 aged nearly 93. Les a regular at reunions was a keen rambler who did many walks for charity..

3207 D.Lucket died in June 2006. The funeral was attended by Dennis and Barbara Munns.

Lois Leo died on 4th September 2007.

3208 D.English died on 7th July 2006. Doug died peacefully at a residential home.

3231 Eric Moon died during August 2006.

Servicing Parties. Bill McLellan passed away in his sleep on 4th August 2006. Bill was an honorary member of the ASSOCIATION OF THE REGIMENT and three members of the association attended the funeral.

ARMED FORCES MEMORIAL

National Arboretum - Alrewas

The memorial is being constructed to commemorate members of the UK Armed forces killed on duty or as a result of terrorist action since 1948.

The design comprises a large grass mound in the form of a which will spiral up the mound providing a route to the top. Ceremonial stairs lead to the top of the axis. Here a 43 metre diameter structure will be carved with the names of those men and women who have lost their lives in service., currently over 16000.

The memorial will be sited at the end of a causeway running from close to the Polar Bear and leading in the direction of the RNLI plot.

SERVICING COMMANDO PLOT

Don Thorogood sacrificed the delights of the Open Day at Stafford on a blazing hot June afternoon to make a quick visit to the arboretum.

He reports that all the trees on the Servicing Commando plot were in good fettle but four of them had lost the unit number tags. The plaque on the site had been refurbished.