



The Reunion Dinner

CHEERIOOO

No 46 Squadron Newsletters



CHEERIOOO



The Newsletter of No 46 Squadron RFC and RAF

Issue No 16

June 2011



Dinner:

The following members took dinner:

Andy ADAMS	John AUSTIN	Dougie BARR	John BARTRAM	Derek BENDALL
David BENNETT	Jeff BETHRAY	John BOYD	Dave BRAY	Mike BROOKES
Tim CARTER	Andy CLARK	David CRWYS- WILLIAMS	Bernie DONDEERS	Ian DOW
Dick EASTMENT	Bob EVANS	Don GRAHAM	John GREEDY	Chris HOSEA
Eric KING	Derek LIDDELL	Tim LILES	Peter MILES	Denny O'BRIAN
Laurie POULTER	Stuart PRIEST	Bob RICHARDSON	Les ROCKEL	Terry ROURKE
Jeff SAUNDERS	Keith SAUNDERS	Mac SIBBALD	Chris SIERWALD	Paul SNOOK
Freddie SOWREY	Rusty STEELE- MORGAN	Jim TAYLOR	Ken TEAL	Mike TOM
Dick WARD	Tony WARNER	Jim WHITE	Russell WILSON	Keith WILSON

The following guests took dinner:

Giles Bennett	<i>Guest of</i>	David BENNETT
Nick Brookes	<i>Guest of</i>	Mike BROOKES
Stuart Donders	<i>Guest of</i>	Bernie DONDEERS
Wg Cdr David Jones	<i>Guest of</i>	Eric KING
Cary Sand	<i>Guest of</i>	Ian MASON
Lise-Marie Collins	<i>Guest of</i>	Keith SAUNDERS
Jamie Wilson	<i>Guest of</i>	Russell WILSON
Kevin Pardan		
Chris Saunders		
Timothy Wilson		

A WIN FOR OXFORD!

After 25 years at RAF Lyneham, it was with some trepidation that we held our 94th consecutive Reunion Dinner at Wolfson College in Oxford. We need not have worried. It was a picturesque venue, the food and wine were superb and the staff were exceptionally skilled and friendly. The Cholsey Band were pleased to be a little closer to home and their performance drew praise from everybody. Members remarked that it was good to be in the centre of a city and to be able to combine a short break with the Reunion.

Bearing in mind the difficulties some members now have in attending, I was very pleased with the numbers, at 57 just 3 less than last year. An A cat for effort goes to Les and Pam Rockel who timed their visit from NZ to coincide with the Reunion.

The vote for the date of next year's Reunion was for the 26th of May 2012. While many members were keen to return to Wolfson, we are fortunate that the Station Commander and PMC have agreed to host us at RAF Odiham. It might be that we alternate between Odiham and Oxford. Let me have your views.

Photographs of the Reunion are at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/46-squadron/sets/72157627006283870/>

Please add titles, comments tags as you wish.

Supper:

The following Ladies took supper:

Judy Bartram	Liz Ruane	Pam Rockel	Olga Saunders	Maggie Sibbald
Heather Sierwald	Sylvia Teal	Caroline Wilson		
		<i>Sophie Wilson</i>		

Benefactors:

The following members kindly made donations:

Horst ABROMEIT	Andy ADAMS	David ADAMS	Chris ALCOCK	Dick ARSCOTT
Dougie BARR	John BARTRAM	David BENNETT	John BOYD	Dave BRAY
Chris CARRINGTON	David CARTER	Tim CARTER	Andy CLARK	Dennis CONSTABLE
Bernie DONDEERS	Dave DRAKE	Geoff DRYLAND	Colin EDWARDS	Bob EVANS
Alan EVANS	Vic FAULKNER	Mark GILSON	Colin GOWER	Don GRAHAM
John GREEDY	Frank HUDDLESTON	Terry JOHNSON	Eric KING	George KIRK
Ian LASCHKE	Graham LAURIE	Derek LIDDELL	Tim LILES	Derek LONG
Tony MALLETT	Ian MASON	Don MASON	Brian MERRITT	Paul MINDNER
Denny O'BRIAN	Alan PARKER	Stuart PRIEST	Jeff SAUNDERS	John SCAMBLER
Jenny SEDDON	Mac SIBBALD	Graeme SMITH	Freddie SOWREY	Rusty STEELE-
Tony STEPHENS	Ken TEAL	Bill TURNBULL	Roger UNWIN	Tony WARNER
Russell WILLIAMS	Russell WILSON	Keith WILSON		

Regrets:

The following members were unable to attend:

Horst ABROMEIT	David ADAMS	Chris ALCOCK	Dick ARSCOTT	John BRANSBURY
Roy BUTLER	Chris CARRINGTON	David CARTER	Harry CHAMBERS	Keith CHAPMAN
Don CHAPMAN	John CLEMENTS	Dennis CONSTABLE	John DANIELS	Dave DRAKE
Geoff DRYLAND	Colin EDWARDS	Alan EVANS	Vic FAULKNER	Mark GILSON
Colin GOWER	Alan GREEN	Harry GRIFFITHS	Ian HAMPTON	Dave HIGGS
Pete HOOD	Chris HOOPER-SMITH	Frank HUDDLESTON	Terry JOHNSON	Mike KEMP
George KIRK	Ian LASCHKE	Graham LAURIE	Derek LONG	Tony MALLETT
Eric MARSH	Don MASON	Brian MERRITT	Paul MINDNER	Dougie MORGAN
Kenneth NICHOLS	Adrian OBERTELLI	Alan PARKER	Bob PETERS	Steve ROBSON
John SCAMBLER	Jenny SEDDON	Graeme SMITH	Tony STEPHENS	Steve STEVENSON
Chris TAYLOR	Pat THOMAS	Bill TURNBULL	Roger UNWIN	Pete WALLINGTON
Pete WALSH	Bob WARD	Russell WILLIAMS		

Obituaries:

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of:

John TRITTON 54-58
Met Jav

News, Gossip and Scandal:

Members report:

Chris ALCOCK	Chris never has a dull moment with 12 children (has lost count of the grandchildren). John, 48, the eldest is now nearly 8 years into his post accident coma and the youngest Gina, 28, is getting married next year. The rest are more nuts than their Dad!
John AUSTIN	John visited Seletar in March - a shadow of its former self. Singapore Defence Force has domestic site and only SHQ remains. Officers' Mess demolished some years ago. Old hangars remain on airfield but is being transformed to take budget airlines only. All OMQs remain including Station Commander's house. Did anyone else take tea with Gp Capt Hutton's wife and daughter, Julia??!!
John BOYD	Members may have heard on TV or radio that a horse recently found his way into a swimming pool; the horse belongs to my 14 year old daughter and was rescued by Hampshire Fire & Rescue service in a very professional and slick operation. The horse's name is "Mischief"!
Dave BRAY	Dave recently visited New Zealand and saw XS612 in RNZAF museum in Christchurch before the earthquake! While in Sydney he had lunch with Des Skinner and Dennis Buck
Andy CLARK	Andy Clark is still serving on 101 Sqn, but only just - exit date from the RAF is August 2011. Retirement to the garden (after 40 years in the RAF) beckons!
Dennis CONSTABLE	Dennis sends warm wishes to all members.
David CRWYS-WILLIAMS	David is slowly trimming his trusteeships and so finding time to travel the world even more. Planning to be in Masirah in October for 4 days!
Bernie DONDEERS	Bernie is still soldiering on. He is very much involved with Abergavenny U3A (University of the third age) or the Moonies as my daughter calls it!!
Mark GILSON	Mark is still in Northumberland and welcomes any passing members for a drink.
Tim LILES	Tim is still in Budleigh Salterton, Devon. His 4 grandchildren bring much pleasure and he is running with his new hip. If anyone is nearby - welcome to come over.
Derek LONG	Derek is still flying the Beagle Pup and in reasonable health.
Tony MALLETT	Tony and Fiona visited Thorney Island in February and report there are two R.A. regiments resident now, air defence units with an inert Bloodhound missile on our Squadron lawn! They also visited Chichester Cathedral where the Sqn Standard still proudly flies in St Clements Chapel by the south transept.
Don MASON	Don was coming but has had a fall and is plastered for the wrong reasons.
Keith SAUNDERS	Keith reports lambing has gone well and he is getting plenty of walking and he'll be leading walks in Scotland. One of Keith's guests was Flt Lt Lise-Marie Collins, a navigator on 33 Squadron; "L-M" is the first female to attend our Dinner.
Paul SNOOK	Paul is still very busy - with a new granddaughter to entertain - another task to add to the list but great fun though. Looking forward to meeting everyone at the reunion.
Freddie SOWREY	Sir Freddie is still coaxing our 6 hp Danacq from London - Brighton each November and now has younger family members off solo.
Roger UNWIN	Nasty and Heather are in Maderia to celebrate completion of her cancer treatment.Roger continues to coach football in Cyprus
Russell WILLIAMS	Russell continues as vice-president of the Old Cranwellian Association and President of the Newark Air Cadets.
Russell WILSON	Russell is continuing to operate care homes in the UK. He has a development of new properties in Cyprus - a few for sale.

Those of you with diminished musical taste but long memories might like to listen to the Squadron’s unofficial pop song “Little Arrows”. Ctrl click here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvXDxobNteA>. Leapy Lee now owns and runs "Leapy’s Bar" in Sanat Ponsa, Mallorca. Lee is also a regular columnist with the Euro Weekly News, an English newspaper in the Costa del Sol, Spain

I received this interesting and touching note from Don Mason



Photo enclosed is of a visit to “46” at Thorney Island, mid 70’s, shortly before Squadron was disbanded – pictured with John Bartram the then Liaison Officer and from left, my late wife, myself, Mrs Olive Cox, my skipper Flt Lt Frank Cox RNZAF. This was Frank’s first visit to UK after leaving in October 46; I crewed up with him for my second tour in April 43, we served with 214/620 Squadrons, 3 Group Bomber Command, 620/38 Group, Airborne Support and finally “46” Dec/Jan 44/45-Sept 46.

Frank became Regional Director of the CAA New Zealand, was largely responsible for the development of Christchurch International Airport and in the hot seat when a Civilian Airlines crashed, Mount Erebus, Antarctica, he had to organise rescue services etc.

A great guy, his daughter Lois rang me 10 Jan 96 to say he was terminally ill with bowel cancer, he had expressed a desire regretting we were not to meet again; I hopped on a plane and was with him when he died 7th Feb, such is the bond that aircrews developed during their time together, his family are like my own albeit separated by half a world.

See next page for
David Cryws-William’s
speech.

Speeches.

We had some great speeches and quite a few members have suggested that those who were not present might like to read David C-W’s toast to the Squadron; his thoughtful and topical speech is copied below:

Air Marshal Sir Frederick Sowrey, Guests, members of 46 Squadron.

In 1974 – the then Adjutant General in charge of all Army personnel – one General Sir John Mogg – an ebullient, genial man – was passing an Army recruiting office in Birmingham whilst on leave – and thought he would just pop in and do a quick evaluation of their hopefully persuasive and courteous recruitment style.

As he entered he noticed a sergeant behind the desk engrossed in the Racing Times who didn’t even look up. “I am here” said the general in his civilian clothes “because I thought I might join the Army”. The sergeant slowly raised his head, took one quick look and said “Piss off you jerk, you’re too bloody old”

Well, all of us who served on 46 Sqn. are now getting a bit bloody old, but even though we have had temporarily to forgo the luxury of an officer’s mess for our reunion, we have struck very lucky in being able to be here at Wolfson College tonight, and it is great to again be amongst such friends.

Each year we say this, and each year - for over 20 years it has been so true: that we are blessed indeed that Dougie Barr puts in so much meticulous work and organisation to arrange these occasions. I personally am delighted that he gave me a whole two weeks warning that I would be speaking tonight rather than the usual 24 hours. But yet again, we again owe him a huge debt and are really most grateful - and relieved – Dougie that you continue to do it at all, and that you do it so well.

- 34,333 days ago today on the Messines Ridge in France General Hubert Plummer ordered a massive bombardment of the German lines using 2,300 pieces of artillery and over 300 heavy mortars whilst at 3.10 pm over 600 tons of high explosive that had been buried in tunnels under the German positions were detonated. Some 10,000 German soldiers were killed and the bombardment and blast could be heard in London.
- On that same day in June 1917 the SS Southland was torpedoed en route from Liverpool to Philadelphia by the German submarine U-70 with the loss of 498 lives.
- On 4 June also The London Gazette announce that in just the 7 months from December 1916 to June 1917, under delegated authority from HM the King, General Officers Commanding had awarded 202 DSOs, 381 Meritorious Service Medals, 1,014 Distinguished Conduct Medals, 2,272 Military Crosses and 10,644 Military Medals. And I doubt not that in that hell of the trenches they were all thoroughly deserved
- That month too one Major Frederick Sowrey DSO MC AFC, part of an extraordinary air force dynasty, having shot down the Zeppelin L32 over Billericay some 9 months earlier, was posted on combat duties with 19 Squadron in France.
- And about 34,333 days ago today, in a German prisoner of war camp, some members of 46 Squadron decided to hold the very first squadron reunion and mixed whatever remnants of the bottles of alcohol they had stashed away with some raw eggs and nutmeg and so toasted in the very first Health and Strength.

So for the 94th consecutive time since then we meet, again to tell each other how we haven’t changed one little bit, to reminisce and perhaps say that …” .the RAF can’t be what it was like in our day” – and:..” My God! We were lucky!”

Well, of course we were lucky but the Service changes – it has always done so. When the RAF was formed on 1 April 1918 we were an amalgamation of the RFC and RNAS. Since then we have developed our own style as one of the three services – to my mind we have been more of a meritocracy than the other two.

Perhaps this is because those who run a service from the very top are always drawn from those that actually apply force to the enemy: the infantry, gunners and so on in the Army, the officer sea branch in the Royal Navy and the aircrew in the RAF. And of course for us the aircraft is the great leveller -you need some kind of aptitude: if you can’t fly an aircraft you probably won’t get to be a C in C or on the AFB; the A/C doesn’t care a tinker’s toss if your father was a senior officer or a miner, what school you went to or if you have a plummy accent like me or one like Dougie’s.

Each Service does have its priorities though: when I was CBFFI I once asked some of my senior officers what was the best bit of advice they had ever received. The Army officer, from the cavalry, said “Never hunt if you are south of the River Thames”. My nice sociable Royal Navy captain told me that you “should never drink champagne after port”. It seemed to me that the RAF officer hit the right note when he said “Never make love to your partner in the morning in case something better comes along later in the day”. Times – and needs – do of course change, and we just have to accept it and adapt. In 1918 the RAF had 291,000 officers, NCOs and airmen, 200 operational squadrons, 190 training squadrons and – wait for it – 22,647 aircraft.

By 1935 manned strength was just 32,145. In 1944: 1,183,000. When I joined in 1958 there were 191,000 regulars and the same number of Reservists, and when I left in 1993 in was a quarter of this at 92,000overall.

Today the RAF is 42,750 strong, but by 2015 it will be just 33,000 – back to the same as in 1935.

So we gather tonight at yet another time when the RAF must be so unsettled and in the midst of yet more changes: more contrac-torisation and civilianisation, more rationalisation, reorganisation, rustication and redundancy. And our Servicemen and women have to do this in the midst of vital operations in Afghanistan and now Libya.

You, like me will be extremely proud of their courage, adaptability, reliability and sheer professionalism and I for one am de-lighted that now – perhaps rather late in the day – they are getting the kind of public support and recognition they so richly de-serve. And I hope too that their military masters are heeding the wise advice of Ralph Waldo Emmerson: Trust people and they will be true to you; Treat them greatly, and they will be great”

Fine words indeed, but difficult to put into practice when your bloody navigator has got you lost in a violent thunderstorm, at night, somewhere in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea and won’t admit it: eh Terry? I suppose however that I draw some comfort from knowing that instead of training a navigator for two years at a cost of millions so he can tell you where you are within roughly three miles, the RAF can now go to Halfords and buy a TOM TOM for 80 quid and it is always accurate to with-in three yards!

Earlier I started by reminding us of when the squadron was formed, 95 years ago. At other dinners we have often centred our thoughts on those heroic days and deeds of our squadron in 1940 in Norway or the Battle of Britain. But perhaps tonight our thoughts should go to all those in the Armed Forces, whatever service or squadron, ship or regiment. For as Father Dennis O’Bri-an wrote:

It is the serviceman, not the reporter, who has given us the freedom of the press.
It is the serviceman, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the serviceman, not the student activist, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.
It is the Serviceman, not the lawyer, who had given us the right to a fair trial.
It is the serviceman, who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag,
And whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protestor to burn the flag.

We here tonight may not be just the same in all ways as our predecessors who fought over the trenches in France, the fjords of Norway, a London ablaze in 1940, the Pyramids or dunes of Mersa Matruh. This squadron, has been born, re-born, disbanded and reformed so many times in its history, but one thing never changes: the indefinable Spirit of 46, just as that indefinable spirit of the British serviceman. But perhaps if indefinable, it is at least demonstrable:

Some will know that for 12 years after I left the RAF I ran the entertainment charity, SSVC, and also BFBS, CSE and so on. We broadcast worldwide, as they do now, and gave away money and amenities through a welfare fund. At the height of the troubles in the former Yugoslavia an RAF Regiment airman on duty at Pristina airport which, I think sums up the steadfastness, acute observation humour and sense of fair play of all servicemen and women:

“To the BFBS Radio editor or whoever it may concern.

Could you please answer us one question: Why the hell do you play so much shit between midnight and 0700 hours? We the poor sods on night guard are subjected to this crap for 7 long hours. Play something decent please.

Signed: Paveway Lines Night Guard.

P.S. Ta very much for the free radio.

As ever, if anybody should ask you “Whatever happened to 46 – where is it now?” It is here in this room, in the spirit of 46 that brings us together each year, in the memories of those who have gone before us and in the example of those who serve today. To honour all of this I ask you to rise and join with me in a toast to:

“Number 46 Squadron”.



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The Newsletter of No 46 Squadron RFC and RAF

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BACK HOME!

After our very successful Reunion at Wolfson College Oxford last year, we returned to the bosom of the RAF and the splendid Officers’ Mess at RAF Odiham. It was coming home to the Javelin boys who were based there in the 50s. A remarkably fine turnout saw 63 for dinner and 11 ladies sitting down to Supper; our best attendance for 5 years. It was also nice that Terry Rourke and Pat Thomas could attend for pre-Dinner drinks.



The Mess staff looked after us splendidly and the Cholsey Silver Band continued their tradition of entertaining us extremely well.

I thought you would like to read what one of guests wrote who incidentally had never been to a military function before: *“a very carnival evening of light-heartedness, even silly at times, was punctuated with episodes of the reality of war, the responsibility you collectively shared in carrying out your duties for Queen and Country and the fundamental camaraderie which underpinned the unique Spirit of 46”*

More prosaically, recent decisions by MoD and Officers’ Mess Committees, has meant that the costs of holding our Reunions in RAF Messes is now very expensive and without your extraordinary generous donations the cost would have been nearly £90 each; so thank you all. Nevertheless, I shall continue consider RAF stations for future Reunions if members think the extra cost of using a mess is worth it.

Photographs of the Reunion are at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/46-squadron/sets/72157630041752782/> Press Ctrl click to go there. Please add titles, comments tags as you wish.

Next year’s Reunion will be back in Oxford at Wolfson College on the First of June 2013.

Dinner:

The following members took dinner :

Horst ABROMEIT	Andy ADAMS	David ADAMS	Dick ARSCOTT	Dougie BARR
John BARTRAM	David BENNETT	Dave BRAY	Chris CARRINGTON	Andy CLARK
Peter CROUCH	David CRWYS- WILLIAMS	Steve DAY	Bernie DONDERS	Dave DRAKE
Geoff DRYLAND	Dick EASTMENT	Vic FAULKNER	Jim GATHERER	Colin GOWER

John GREEDY	Dave HIGGS	Pete HOOD	Eric KING	Ian LASCHKE
Graham LAURIE	Derek LIDDELL	Tim LILES	Derek LONG	Tony MALLETT
Eric MARSH	Ian MASON	Peter MILES	Denny O'BRIEN	Alan PARKER
Laurie POULTER	Stuart PRIEST	Bob RICHARDSON	Steve ROBSON	Keith SAUNDERS
Jeff SAUNDERS	John SCAMBLER	Rusty STEELE- MORGAN	Tony STEPHENS	Ken TEAL
Pete WALLINGTON	Dick WARD	Jim WHITE	Des WHITE	Russell WILSON
Keith WILSON	Lefty WRIGHT			

The following guests took dinner :

Giles BENNETT	<i>Guest of</i>	David BENNETT
Tom BARR	<i>Guest of</i>	Eric KING
David LONG	<i>Guest of</i>	Derek LONG
Ian TYRELL-MARSH	<i>Guest of</i>	Eric MARSH
Cary SAND	<i>Guest of</i>	Ian MASON
Marcus SAUNDERS	<i>Guest of</i>	Keith SAUNDERS
Mark BARNETT	<i>Guest of</i>	Ken TEAL
Jamie WILSON	<i>Guest of</i>	Russell WILSON
IAN SALVAGE		
Tim Wilson		

Supper:

The following Ladies took supper :

Judy Bartram	Sheila Greedy	Barbara King	Olga Saunders	Sylvia Teal
	<i>Sarah-Jane Greedy</i>	<i>EILEEN BARR</i>		<i>Melanie Bar-</i>
<i>rett</i>				
Caroline Wilson	Sheila Wright			
<i>Sophie Wilson</i>				

Benefactors:

The following members kindly made donations:

David ADAMS TIN	Andy ADAMS	Chris ALCOCK	Dick ARSCOTT	John AUS-
Dougie BARR	John BARTRAM	Derek BENDALL	David BENNETT	John BOYD
John BRANSBURY ENTS	David CARTER	Tim CARTER	Andy CLARK	John CLEM-

Dennis CONSTABLE	Peter CROUCH	John DANIELS	Steve DAY	Bernie DONDERs
Bob EVANS	Alan EVANS	Don GRAHAM	Frank HUDDLESTON	Eric KING
George KIRK	Graham LAURIE	Derek LIDDELL	Tim LILES	Derek LONG
Tony MALLETT	Eric MARSH	Brian MERRITT	Peter MILES	Paul MINDNER
Alan PARKER	Stuart PRIEST	Bob RICHARDSON	Leslie ROBINS	Les ROCKEL
Jeff SAUNDERS	John SCAMBLER	Jenny SEDDON	Mac SIBBALD	Paul SNOOK
Freddie SOWREY	Rusty STEELE-	Steve STEVENSON	Mike TOM	Bill TURNBULL
Roger UNWIN	Pete WALSH	Dick WARD	Russell WILLIAMS	Russell WILSON
Keith WILSON				

Regrets:

The following members were unable to attend:

Chris ALCOCK	John AUSTIN	Graham BAIRSTOW	Derek BENDALL	Jeff BETHRAY
John BLENKINSOP RY	Peter BOLEY	Mike BOLTON	John BOYD	John BRANSBU-
Adrian BROWN MAN	Tim CARTER	David CARTER	Don CHAPMAN	Keith CHAP-
John CLEMENTS	Dennis CONSTABLE	John DANIELS	Ian DOW	Bob EVANS
Alan EVANS	Don GRAHAM	Alan GREEN	Frank HUDDLESTON	Mike KEMP
George KIRK OLS	Brian MERRITT	Paul MINDNER	Dougie MORGAN	Kenneth NICH-
Bob PETERS	Leslie ROBINS	Les ROCKEL	Terry ROURKE	Jenny SEDDON
Mac SIBBALD	Paul SNOOK	Freddie SOWREY	Steve STEVENSON	Mike TOM
Bill TURNBULL LIAMS	Roger UNWIN	Pete WALSH	Tony WARNER	Russell WIL-

Obituaries :

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of :

Bryan WILD 41-44 57-8	Colin EDWARDS 57-61	Terry JOHNSON 53-55	Mike RAYSON 66-67	Darrol STINTON
<i>Beaufighter</i>	<i>Javelin</i>	<i>Met</i>	<i>Andover</i>	<i>Met Jav</i>

Bryan WILD Beaufighter 41□44 . His daughter wrote; I would like to inform you that my father, Bryan Wild, who served with 46 Squadron in North Africa, died last month aged 90. Though he served with numerous other squadrons throughout the war, 46 was truly the one that had a special place in his heart, and he remembered it with great warmth. He was stationed with the Squadron in North Africa, from July 12th 1943 until 28th March 1944. Most of that time was at Idku with a detachment to Nicosia in the mid-dle of it. He attended several reunions after the war (he kept some of the menus which we have still) and kept in touch with a few others, most notably 'Doc' MacDonald, with whom he lived for a while back in 'civvy street'. I hope this information will be of some interest to those who still keep the Spirit of '46 alive

Colin EDWARDS Javelin 57□61 . Colin was a navigator on 46 at Odiham from 1958 to 61 passed away on 7 July 2011, after suffering from cancer for a little over two years. A stalwart of Reunions who will be sorely missed. Eric Marsh was at his funeral and wrote: Colin made his last trip and all went well. There was a quiet 'Cheerrrrio 46, First To-day' on his departure. I was proud to represent the squadron.

Mike RAYSON Andover 66-67 . First Andover squadron commander. A great turnout at his funeral. Just before Mike died in August last year we received a letter from a very enthusiastic serving airman who was responsible for erecting a memorial to the 46 Squadron pilots who were killed while at North Weald. He had been asked by local people to design a memorial to Pilot Officer Peter Gunning **"Blue 3"**of No. 46 Sqn who was shot down and killed by Me109's during a dogfight over the Thames on the 15th October 1940; his Hurricane crashing into a chalk pit quarry in Grays, Thurrock; now the site of a housing estate. He sought a contribution from the Squadron so instead of sending flowers to Mike’s funeral we agreed to pay for the memorial with the following added:

“Presented by No 46 squadron RFC & RAF Association in memory of Pilot Officer Gunning and of Air Commodore M J Rayson, 1928-2011, who was the first Andover C Mk1 squadron commander,”

His daughter wrote: I thought you and other members of 46 Sqn Association might like to know that last Saturday we visited the memorial and met with Rachel Umfreville, the organiser, and her family. Sadly the day was grey and dull but their hospitality was just wonderful and it was lovely to learn how the project started and to hear first hand all the effort that was put in to such a wonderful memorial. We were "fed and watered" and even watched a DVD of all the photographs taken on October 22nd at the unveiling - it was a very memorable day for us and on behalf of the Rayson family may I say thank you to you all again. Kind regards. Karen

Darrol STINTON Javelin 57-58. Darrol was born in New Zealand and grew up in England. His life in aviation began as an aero-nautical engineering apprentice in 1944, with Blackburn Aircraft Limited of Brough, on the River Humber –. Blackburns taught him to fly. Around 1950 he moved to De Havillands, at Hatfield, from where hel joined the RAF and No 46 Squadron in 1953, via the RAFVR. Aircraft, ships and water dominated Darrol's interests and, while still in the RAF, he trained as a Ship's Diving Officer RN. Urged by the team of RAF divers in the sub-aqua club, Seletar, Singapore, he used them to found the now large Royal Air Force Sub-Aqua Association – training the original team to work with the Navy in the event of aircraft accidents in water.

In 1959, Darrol had been accepted for the Empire Test Pilots' School at Farnborough, and from there crossed the runway into exper-imental test flying at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, where the work was most varied, from pure research and development, to in-flight accident investigation, and being a guinea-pig for the RAF Institute of Aviation Medicine. His test flying spanned 35 years and more than 340 types of aircraft, first as an experimental test pilot at Farnborough; then 20 years as airworthiness certification test pilot for the UK Civil Aviation Authority on light aeroplanes and seaplanes, before turning freelance. He has lectured regularly at the Empire Test Pilots’ School, Loughborough University, the Royal Aeronautical Society (of which he is past Vice President), and the Royal Institution of Naval Architects. His company specialized in cross–fertilization between aircraft and marine craft design and operation.

Terry JOHNSON 53-55. Javelin. Terry joined the Squadron a week after it reformed in August 1954. A rare beast as a second tourist he proved to be a great mentor for both pilots and navigators. Like so many of that generation, he completed his short service commission and went back to civvie streetwhere he had a very successful career in the insurance industry. He died in July 2011.

News, Gossip and Scandal :

Members report :

Horst ABROMEIT	After making a superb speech and toasting the Squadron, Horst writes: “We are safe back in Old Germany and start to think about what we have seen in your country. It was a fabulous Reunion, I think. But not only I think that. Many of the Squadron members told me that this was one of the best reunions we ever had.”	Tim LILES	Tim is still living in Budleigh Salterton. New hip being well exercised walking and hill walking. Won his first ever Croquet Association tournament - result!!
Chris ALCOCK	The Queen and Chris's 7th daughter have between them blocked any chance of attending the reunion this year y their Diamond Jubilee and wedding respectively. He would much prefer to come to the Reunion but would never be forgiven!! Looking forward to next year.	Peter BOLEY	Peter has been unable to attend the Reunion for many years as it clashed with his wedding anniversary Unfortunately even though the date has changed this year he is unable to attend as his wife's health has deteriorated dramatically to the point where he is 24/7 carer (Alzheimer’s)
John AUSTIN	John was coming but he had to bring forward a holiday by two weeks owing to a last minute change of a cruise itinerary. He ran the London Marathon in April and is extremely grateful to all his backers who helped raise £1600 for his sponsored charity.	Peter MILES	Both Peter and Gwen are fully retired - from paid work that is; Gwen is a trustee for a sailing charity in Rickmansworth and does wedding flowers for a fee. Peter is a Rotarian and supports Princes Risborough local charities. He is also on the management committee as chief steward for the Kop Hill climb to be held at P. Risborough on 22/23 September 2012. See http://www.kophillclimb.info
John BARTRAM	John is back in Wiltshire, close to Keevil DZ.	Kenneth NICHOLS	Following a marginal improvement in his health, Kenneth hopes to be on holiday in France on the occasion of the 95th Call to Arms. As ever his thoughts are with you all. He has such fond memories of his posting at RAF Odiham.
Derek BENDALL	Derek is unable to attend as he has bought a yacht and will be sailing around Marmaris in May and June. He wishes everyone a great evening.	Steve ROBSON	Steve is involved in aviation organisations in and around the New Forest. One of these is RAF Ib-sley near Stoney Cross where 46 Sqn spent a short time, see www.ibsleytower.info . Volunteers are being sought.
David BENNETT	Dai is still working!	Les ROCKEL	Les sends kind regards to all - great time last year 2011. Please get in touch if you are ever down under or contemplating a visit to NZ - cheers Les
John BOYD	John writes: “It is with much regret that I have to cancel but there is no way that I could cope under my present medical circumstances. The dreaded cancer has really taken the stuffing out of me. I was probably being very optimistic even thinking that I could manage when I have trouble coping in my own home. I wish you all a most splendid evening, especially the Javelin chaps.	Keith SAUNDERS	Keith is still shepherding his flock of Jacob's sheep, running the Saddleworth Walking Club (150 members) and organising events. He is also doing the coast-to-coast walk in October.
Mike BOLTON	Sue and Mike are well and enjoying retired rural village life. Time is filled by family - 4 children and 11 grandchildren, golf, photography, very large garden and chair of local Parish Council.	Mac SIBBALD	Mac writes: "We are sorry we can't be with you this year but as you know I am nearly at the end of my treatment for a lesion on my pharynx. This involved me having 3 months of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. I have lost my hair and most of my teeth. I still have the front ones so am as handsome as ever!!!! Maggie says I look like a white Shrek!!! We will be there next year,. Maggie wants 2 bottles of champagne next year please!"
Andy CLARK	Andy is finding retirement good although it was quite a transition from operational flying over Afghanistan to nothing! However, he has now found the same as everybody else - retirement is busy! Life is good so far.	Paul SNOOK	Paul is sorry to miss the 95th Call to Arms due to a double booking. He hopes to see you all next year and already has it in the diary. Best wishes to all for a super evening.
John CLEMENTS	John is still unemployed, making the most of 2012. He is looking forward to the 96th in 2013. He sends all good wishes to all 46 and 84 members.	Freddie SOWREY	The death of Air Cdr John Sowrey referred to the eight members of the family that had served in the RAF. This exercised a number of authors and Graham Pitchfork has written "The Sowreys" which is due to be published by Grub Street in June in hardback with 120 photos. 1901 Darracq still fighting its way from London to Brighton with a family crew each November.
Steve DAY	Steve travelled all the way from Malaysia to the Reunion. Not quite as outrageous as he was when on the Squadron, Steve was nevertheless great company. We are extremely grateful to Steve for a very substantial and generous donation. In addition to running his vast media empire, Steve finds time to organise the annual Malaysia International Gourmet Festival. Go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nclsLyk-nFg to see his appearance at this year’s final.	Jenny SEDDON	Jenny is Peter Gifkin's daughter and writes "I have enclosed two silver decanter necklaces which are adorned with the Squadron crest and the number 25. I discovered them while clearing Mother's jewellery box. They were presented to Peter on the occasion of the 25 th Reunion he had organised. Not long to go till you match him Dougie! Please use the enclosed donation to drink the health of my father and mother who both loved the Squadron and the spirit of Reunions."
George KIRK	George was unable to attend as his wife is seriously ill. He wishes you all a good party and hopes to join you one year.	Steve STEVENSON	Steve writes :”As you may have gathered I've been quite ill. I had a stroke 2 days before returning from holiday from Sri Lanka but my wife and I were adamant we wanted to come home and I had enough control to persuade the doctor to let us travel or we would still have been there with all the insurance and admin. hassle. To be honest had Sri Lankan Airlines known how ill I was I'm sure they would not have taken me. In the event the travel company-Mercury Direct-whom I can’t praise high enough, bent over backwards for us although a lot of extra admin fell on my wife. We had a 4
Dennis CONSTABLE	Dennis wishes everyone a very enjoyable reunion.		
David CRWYS- WILLIAMS	David is bearing up well considering and still travelling widely. Spent 3 weeks in Oman self-driving a Land Cruiser and sleeping on the roof; visited Firq, Saiq, Nizwa, Trumrayt and had 4 days on a much changed Masirah Island. Crayfish business still flourishes!		
John BLENKINSOP	John is now stuck in a wheelchair as a result of primary progressive multiple sclerosis. Not too easy to attend Reunions! All the best to everyone.		
Mike KEMP	Mike is still alive and kicking, but not quite as swift as he used to be.		
Graham LAURIE	Graham spent the week before the dinner with the Masons and Abromeits in Cornwall. Horst tried to drink St Austell Brewery dry!		

hour journey to the airport where they put me in a wheelchair in an airline office and left me to it while my wife did the admin. They then prioritised us through departures and left us in the departure lounge till boarding when we were put on first with an improved seat. We then had an 11 hour direct flight to LHR, although it went by in a haze for me. I do remember everybody around doing everything they could for us. We arrived at 8 pm and last off the flight got out of the airport at 9 pm to be met by a shocked son who was not aware of my condition. I was brought direct to our local hospital where I was almost directly into A&E at 11 pm at the end of a 21 hour day. They put me into a stroke ward at 0630 following morning with the plan to transfer me to a neuro-surgical hospital to have a blood clot removed but after 2 days I had started to improve and they decided it wouldn't be necessary as it was starting to disperse itself and co-ordination was returning. And that is where I am now with the stroke although they say it may take weeks or months to get back to normal and the consultant thinks I was lucky to survive the journey. The sad thing is that while carrying out the tests they discovered I have Leukaemia and that is now the long haul, and which has put the kybosh on our plans for the foreseeable future. I'm now in the Haematology Ward starting Chemotherapy, just had the first dose and been let home for the week-end. Back on Monday for a small Op. and more Chemo., but what the hell I'm home and alive.” **Update 2 June.** “Just home from another 2 weeks in hospital having another awful dose of Chemo-therapy. Literally 8 days continuous infusion. Back again on Thursday for a shorter course of tablets so hopefully it will get better from here. Give my best wishes to the membership.”

Tony STEPHENS

Tony writes after the Reunion: "Prompted by "Bones", Bernie Donders and several others, I spoke to Dougie Tew last week to pass on their best wishes; he was very chatty and Ronni and I hope to visit him before long. Although, he was never on the Squadron he is still holds his links with great affection and appreciated the call.

Bill TURNBULL

Bill's son Stuart reports that Bill is almost totally blind now but he still enjoys hearing all the news. He sends best wishes to all.

Roger UNWIN

Roger and Heather are still enjoying Cyprus but are now considering returning to the UK after 22 years in the sun. Heather is now well after receiving first class treatment from the health service in Cyprus for her cancer scare and Nasty is still a finely honed athlete!! Golden wedding this year.

Russell WILLIAMS

Russell continues as Vice-President of the Old Cranwellians Association. He has endured two or three trips into hospital over the last 18 months - broken bones etc. This has restricted his driving and golf. He sends best wishes to all.

Russell WILSON

Russ is full-time MD of expanding care home group. Recently opened new facility at Kidderminster. Cyprus properties available for sale at discount. He is staying relatively healthy with the help of a few spare parts and medical devices.

Keith WILSON

If anyone is debating whether or not to go rafting down the Grand Canyon - do it! A fantastic experience.

Dougie BARR

Dougie is still working as an IT consultant which is odd as he knows very little about IT. His place in the South of France has vacancies for August if anyone is interested at very good mate's rates.

Keith CHAPMAN

Keith is unable to make the Reunion this year as they are committed to hosting French visitors that weekend with their village twinning association

Spirit of 46.

The histories and scrapbooks have been combined into one volume which appears on the Squadron website (46squadron.info). I have now reformatted the website into landscape and with the generosity of Bob Richardson which we have printed it on top quality paper and bound in a very smart binder. I have made a PDF version of the "Spirit of 46" which, together with JPEG copies of all the photographs within it, is on a CD. If you would like a CD it will cost you £5 (to Sqn funds) plus P&P (about £1 for the UK). The binder is loose-leaf and therefore much easier to update than before. Please let me have copies of your photographs and memorabilia for inclusion. If necessary send me the originals and I will scan and return them.

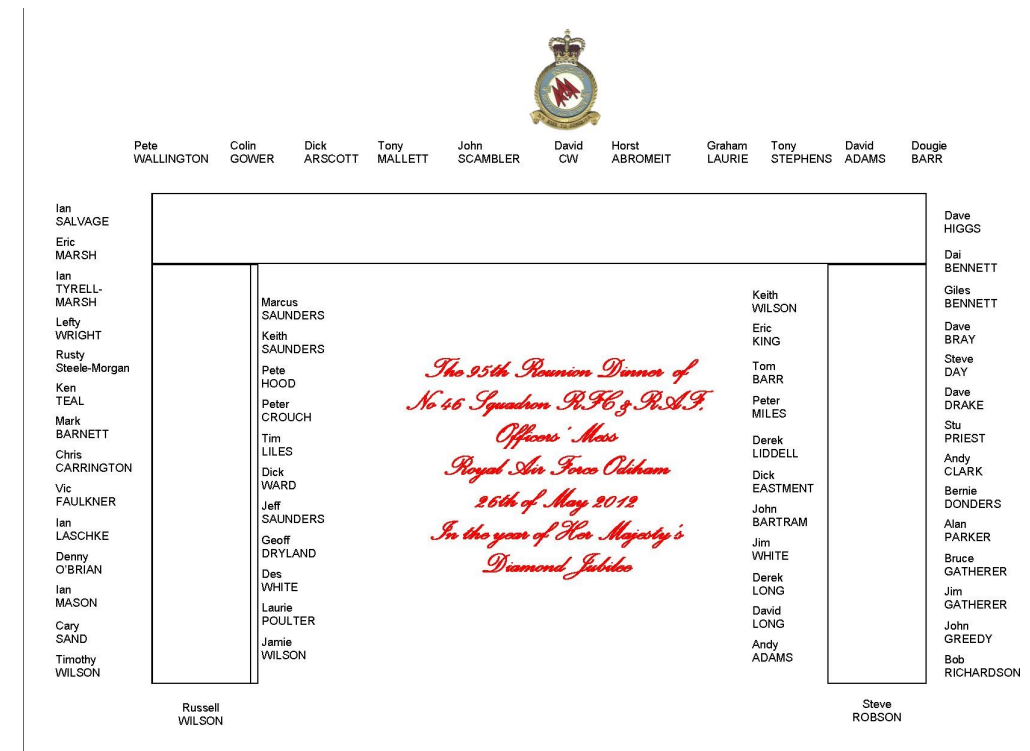
Website

We now have 3 addresses for the website:

www.46squadron.net;

www.46squadron.info;

www.46squadron.org





CHEERIOOO



The Newsletter of No 46 Squadron RFC and RAF

Issue No 18

June 2013

OXFORD WINS AGAIN!

We had another great Reunion at Wolfson College. Smashing venue, lovely location, excellent food and wine but most importantly, outstanding company. A number of new faces were there – Steve Garvin and Paul Osborn attended after an absence of over 25 years; Brian Meinke attended his first ever Reunion although having just had an op on his back he was only there for the pre-drinks as was the indomitable Pat Thomas. We welcomed our first daughter, Sqn Ldr Jemma Austin as well as 7 sons of members. Just a few short of 60 sat down to Dinner which is a very satisfying number. Thanks again go to our benefactors whose kind donations defrayed the admin and entertainment costs as well as providing free drinks all evening. Again a special thank you goes to Steve Day for his incredibly generous donation.



Photographs of the Reunion are at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/53681045@N07/sets/72157634343286260/>

Press Ctrl click to go there. Please add titles, comments tags as you wish.

**Next year's Reunion will be in the historic Rothschild mansion
Halton House Officers' Mess, RAF Halton on Saturday 7 June 2014.**

Dinner:

The following members took dinner:

Andy ADAMS	David ADAMS	John AUSTIN	Dougie BARR	John BARTRAM
David BENNETT	Jeff BETHRAY	John BOYD	Andy CLARK	Bernie DONDERS
Ian DOW	Bob EVANS	Steve GARVIN	Colin GOWER	Don GRAHAM
Jimmy JAMES	Eric KING	Graham LAURIE	Derek LIDDELL	Derek LONG
Eric MARSH	Ian MASON	Dougie MORGAN	Paul OSBORN	Stuart PRIEST
Bob RICHARDSON	Steve ROBSON	Terry ROURKE	Jeff SAUNDERS	Keith SAUNDERS
Mac SIBBALD	Paul SNOOK	Freddie SOWREY	Rusty STEELE-MORGAN	Tony STEPHENS
Ken TEAL	Mike TOM	Russell WILSON	Keith WILSON	

The following guests took dinner:

Leslie W Stonnel	<i>Guest of</i>	David ADAMS
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Jemma Austin	Toby Steward
Giles Bennett	
Stuart Donders	
Malcolm Bradford	
Miles Shea	
David Long	
Ian Salvage	Thomas Swincoe
Alastair Mason	Cary Sand
Chris Saunders	Lise-Marie Collins
Mark Sibbald	
Jamie Wilson	Tim Wilson
James Barr	

Supper:

The following Ladies took supper:

Judy Bartram in	Maggie Sibbald	Sylvia Teal	Caroline Wilson	Joanna Garv-
	Melissa Sibbald		Sophie Wilson	
Jimmy James Daughter Sarah Archer-Palmer				

Benefactors:

The following members kindly made donations:

Andy ADAMS	David ADAMS	Chris ALCOCK	Dick ARSCOTT	Dougie BARR
John BARTRAM	John BOYD	John BRANSBURY	Dave BRAY	Chris CARRING-
TON	Tim CARTER	David CARTER	Andy CLARK	Dennis CONSTA-
BLE				David CRWYS-
WILLIAMS	Steve DAY	Bernie DONDERS	Ian DOW	Dave DRAKE
Geoff DRYLAND	Bob EVANS	Vic FAULKNER	Steve GARVIN	Don GRAHAM
Alan GREEN	Ian HAMPTON	Frank HUDDLESTON	Eric KING	George KIRK
Ian LASCHKE	Tim LILES	Derek LONG	Tony MALLETT	Eric MARSH
Don MASON	Brian MERRITT	Paul MINDNER	Kenneth NICHOLS	Denny O'BRIAN
Paul OSBORN	Alan PARKER	Stuart PRIEST		Bob RICHARD-
SON	Jeff SAUNDERS	Mac SIBBALD	Freddie SOWREY	Rusty STEELE-
Steve STEVENSON	Bill TURNBULL	Roger UNWIN	Dick WARD	Jim WHITE
Russell WILLIAMS	Russell WILSON	Keith WILSON		

Regrets:

The following members were unable to attend:

Chris ALCOCK	Dick ARSCOTT	Graham BAIRSTOW	Derek BENDALL	Peter
BOLEY	Mike BOLTON	John BRANSBURY	Dave BRAY	Adrian

BROWN	Roy BUTLER	Chris CARRINGTON	Tim CARTER	David CARTER
Don CHAPMAN			Keith CHAPMAN	Dennis CON-
STABLE	David CRWYS-	Steve DAY	Dave DRAKE	Geoff DRY-
LAND	WILLIAMS	Vic FAULKNER	Jim GATHERER	Mark GILSON
John GREEDY	Alan GREEN	Ian HAMPTON	Dave HIGGS	Pete HOOD
Frank HUDDLESTON	Mike KEMP	George KIRK	Ian LASCHKE	Tim LILES
Tony MALLETT	Brian MERRITT	Peter MILES	Paul MINDNER	Dougie MORGAN
Kenneth NICHOLS	Adrian OBERTELLI	Alan PARKER	Laurie POULTER	Les ROCKEL
Jenny SEDDON	Chris SIERWALD	Steve STEVENSON	Pat THOMAS	Bill TURNBULL
George TYLER	Roger UNWIN	Pete WALLINGTON	Pete WALSH	Dick WARD
Tony WARNER	Jim WHITE	Des WHITE	Russell WILLIAMS	Lefty WRIGHT

Obituaries :

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of :

Tony Wheeler. One of our few remaining Dakota boys was killed in a fire at his home in August 2012, Tony or Sam as he was known by his friends flew Dakotas in India during the War and did heroic work during the tragedy of Partition. He returned to the UK and joined 46 Squadron at Oakington. Dick Arscott, Tony and their crews had the privilege of being the first Allied aircraft into Berlin after the Russians brought the barriers down a full 7 days before the official Berlin Airlift started. For his efforts during the airlift he was awarded an AFC. Tony left 46 to train on Hastings and managed to return to the Airlift just before it finished. He continued in the RAF on various transport and tanker aircraft including an exchange tour with the USAF.

Al Brindle. Andover captain 68 –71; died on 4 Nov 2009 after being bed-bound for some years. A great character and superb pilot, as anyone who had the privilege of flying with him will testify. He was an ex-Hunter pilot and it showed! Awarded the AFC and was one of the famous 22 Hunter formation that looped and rolled at the 1958 Farnborough Air Show.

John Turner. Andover co-pilot. Never came to Reunions and it was only through Pat Thomas’s dogged searching for old mates that we know he died several years ago in Cornwall.

Mark Andrews a good friend of the Squadron who’s brother was killed flying Hurricanes while serving with 46.

News, Gossip and Scandal :

Members report :

Chris ALCOCK	Chris wanted to attend this year's Reunion but not possible - hopes to make it next year.
John BARTRAM	John is still living near Keevil DZ in West Wiltshire.
Derek BENDALL	Derek writes: Unfortunately I will not be able to make it this year as I will be sailing in Turkish waters
Mike BOLTON	Mike is fully retired but keeps busy with, amongst other interests, 11 grandchildren!
David CARTER	David is unable to attend as his wife is currently undergoing the rigours of post breast cancer treatment and we are hoping she will be well enough to go on holiday end of May/early June.
Andy CLARK	Andy is still enjoying retirement. Having completed West Highland Way last year he plans to do

Great Glen Way in May. Carolyn takes him Scottish country dancing 3-4 times a week!

George KIRK George is sorry not to attend but his good lady wife is not in good health and cannot be left. Have a wonderful time.

Dennis CONSTABLE Dennis sends his warmest and most sincere greetings from sunny Northern Ireland to all members

David CRWYS- WILLIAMS David is very sorry that he cannot make it this year but we are just off to drive across Namibia, the Kalahari, Botswana and then to Zambia on another of our Land Rover Rooftent adventures! keeping generally very fit and travelling much when my several charity duties allow.

Ian DOW Ian sees Adrian Obertelli at Oxford Aviation Gatwick where he does some ground school instruction. Ian instructs and examines on the A320 sims there too.

Bob EVANS Chris Hosea is recovering from prostate cancer, in France. He hopes to attend the reunion in 2014.

Don GRAHAM Sad news: Don's dear wife, Maureen, passed away last December. All very sudden and unexpected. Very much missed.

Ian HAMPTON Ian writes: I have been in recent e-contact with Pat Thomas and Mark Gilson with a bit of lamp-swinging and putting the world to rights (privilege of grumpy old men).A couple of weeks ago Louise and I managed to meet up with John and Carol Blenkinsop, which was a super day. John is now fully wheelchair bound which is a real nuisance, but he still gets out and about and has his own car with hand-controls. He drives around as fast as ever, which I found a bit disconcerting at first. A photo of the pair of us is at the end of the newsletter so you can see we are still alive (if not kicking). Pass on our regards to all and sundry please.

Graham LAURIE Graham will be running another 'Aircrew lunch' at The Black Horse, Abingdon on Friday 27 September 2013, 12:30. Full details and menu from graham@kitty4.co.uk

Tim LILES Tim is still climbing (crawling!) hills and playing croquet. Anyone down my way, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, do look me up.

Tony MALLETT Tony writes: Much as I was looking forward to visiting Wolfson College, I regret that we will be visiting old sailing waters in the South of France that week. Poor planning I know! We've sold the Brittany cottage so now are foot loose and fancy free! Both Fiona and I are in robust health, despite being almost 80.

Don MASON Don wishes us all an enjoyable time.

Paul MINDNER Paul writes -It's 40 years since I left Thorney Island - Lucy will be 41 next week -10 years since my retirement, the 'after-work-hammock' still fits perfectly. Good health to all of you!! Cheerio!

Kenneth NICHOLS Kenneth sends good wishes to all who are too embarrassed to admit ever knowing him!!

Denny O’BRIAN Denny was instrumental in making the initial contact with RAF Halton to ask if we could hold our Reunion there next year.

Alan PARKER Alan is sorry not to make it this year - dates clash with specialists and hospital treatment, but fingers crossed for next year.

Les ROCKEL Les writes: Pam & I have no plans to join the festivities until the big 100th in four years time. Having said that, you never quite know, these days, best laid plans can very quickly turn to custard rather quickly. Things are still going well for Pam & myself here in the far north of NZ, as well as the Air Patrol work, I am carrying on with my painting when I can & somehow I've found myself President of the Kerikeri Mens Probus Club for this year. So the odd bit of work & admin to take care off, quite often, but all great fun as well, most of the time anyway! Please do pass on my very best wishes to everybody at the Reunion, I'm sure it will be another super evening & the invitation definitely remains, for anyone who finds themselves down here, please do get in touch.

Keith SAUNDERS

Keith did Wainwright's Coast-to-Coast walk (St Bees-Robin Hood Bay) in late October 12. Two hundred miles - tough at times but finished in good shape. Gave up sheep/small holding December 12.

Steve STEVENSON

Steve writes: If all goes well there's a chance I may make it next year and rather that than go up the chimney. The consultant tells me I'm in no danger of croaking in the near future. My Leukaemia is in remission, has been for quite a while but I have to have maintenance Chemotherapy every couple of months to keep it so. The difficulties come with the possible side effects of the two strokes I had last year, the second of which caused me to come face to face with Jim Reaper, but I was too much for him on account of my association with 46 Squadron and not good enough for that lot up there for the same reason. Anyway an emergency operation to open my skull and remove a blood clot from above my brain (apparently I do have one) saved me. I'm not allowed to drive any more, nor fly to exotic locations - any locations come to that. I am mobile to a certain extent and get around locally on my invalid buggy with my golf bag on the back as I'm hoping to get back on the golf course next week. The upshot is I do not feel up to attending this year. I enclose 10 drinking vouchers towards the festivities. Please give my best wishes to everyone and I hope to see you next year.

Bill TURNBULL

Bill's son, Stuart writes that his Dad is now completely blind and chooses not to go out too often, but still wishes to be remembered to all his friends on the Squadron.

Roger UNWIN

Nasty and Heather are still resident in Cyprus, although looking to return to the UK on sale of the villa. Heather is now on a 6-monthly regime of checks for cancer with Nasty recovering well from the removal of his prostate. Now only a 'honed affleet' unfortunately!

Jim WHITE

From Jim - another year older, but probably not much smarter. Hope to see you next year, when we shall all be even older.

Russell WILSON

Russell continues with full time employment (approaching 67 years). He now has 8 care homes plus new dementia unit. Still has 10 Cyprus villas to sell - down to £1 each now!


Tony WELLER

Tony Weller, one of our few remaining Dakota boys was killed in a fire at his home, his wife survived but is obviously very shocked.

Steve GARVIN

Steve left the RAF in 1975, then -Oil Industry Aberdeen to 1978; Britannia Airways to 1992 737 767; Training Captain with All Nippon Airways to 1995 767; EVA AIR (Taiwan) to 2000 on 757 767 747-400 ; AAI Trainer on 757,767 to 2008. Jumped to Globespan and went bust; Joined Qatar Airways and now am SFI on B777. Got four kids and live in Shropshire on a smallholding...Same wife and five grandchildren!!!!

Other Stuff:

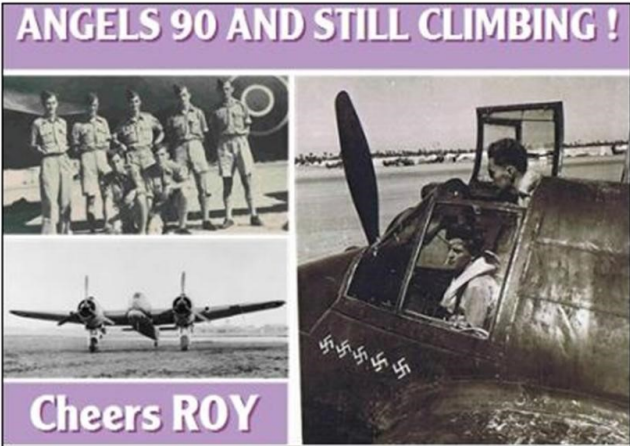


Eric MARSH	Colin GOWER	Rusty Steele-Morgan	Jimmy JAMES	Freddie SOWREY	Leslie STONELL	David ADAMS	Tony STEPHENS	Dougie BARR
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Thomas SWINCOE	Keith SAUNDERS	Graham LAURIE	Bernie DONDERS	Keith WILSON	James BARR
Ian SALVAGE	Lise-Marie COLLINS	Eric KING	Stuart DONDERS	Dai BENNETT	Giles BENNETT
Chris SAUNDERS	Steve ROBSON	Don GRAHAM	Malcolm BRADFORD	Stu PRIEST	Toby STEWARD
Ken TEAL	Mark SIBBALD	Brian MEINKE	Ian DOW	Paul OSBORN	John AUSTIN
Paul SNOOK	Mac SIBBALD	Bob RICHARDSON	Jamie WILSON	Steve GARVIN	Jemma AUSTIN
Andy CLARK	Bob EVANS	Timothy WILSON	Russell WILSON	Terry ROURKE	Mike TOM
John BARTRAM	Jeff BETHRAY	Miles SHEA	Alastair MASON	Derek LIDDELL	David LONG
John BOYD	Jeff SAUNDERS	Cary SAND	Ian MASON	Andy ADAMS	Derek LONG

The 96th Reunion Dinner of No 46 Squadron, Wolfson College Oxford 1 June 2013

Our Senior Member Reaches 90 on 19 March 2013



ANGELS 90 AND STILL CLIMBING !

Cheers ROY


Warrant Officer
Roy Butler
Distinguished Flying Cross
Royal Air Force Retired

To our Senior Member

Happy 90th Birthday
Roy

From your friends on
No 46 Squadron
RFC and RAF


The Squadron sent this card to Roy as he celebrated his 90th birthday in Florida USA.



Link to a video message from Roy:

This model of a Bristol Beaufighter Mk VI, was commissioned by the Squadron and is an exact replica of the one flown by Roy and his navigator Warrant Officer Ray Graham (deceased) on their DFC winning sortie. A vivid account by Roy of operations from Gambut during the second World War is contained in the Squadron Website at:

http://www.46squadron.info/index_files/Page1345.htm





Ian Hampton and John Blenkinsop trying to prove they are alive if not necessarily kicking

Parish Notices 2013.

- Her Majesty was gracious enough to reply to our Loyal greetings
- My personal thanks for the help and support of Louise Gordon, the Wolfson College Events Manager.
- Cholsey Silver Band, although we pay a fee, none of the players receive any money. A big thank you.
- The more astute will have noticed the new biblical quotes in the menu; here is one more. Luke 15 Verse 31. “And the Lord said it was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.” I refer of course to the 3 members who have returned to the fold after some time or in one case for the first time.
- Jimmy James a Javelin man who was temporarily CO of the Squadron before Freddie. His exploits in the Second World War have passed into legend as the pilot of a Bristol Bombay Transport aircraft that was carrying General Gott and was shot down in Aug 1942. There will be link to the full story on the website.
- Steve Garvin joins us after a lifetime of flying overseas in Japan, the Far East and the Gulf. Kanichiwa Steve
- Brian Meinke. This is Brian’s first Reunion. Brian has also has a very successful career in Civil Aviation and was a leading light with BALPA. Unfortunately, Brian was only able to make the pre-drinks.
- Every year I highlight the generosity of our benefactors whose contributions allows us to drinks at no extra cost. Many of them tell me how much they appreciate receiving defaced menus with messages from comrades. Benefactor’s menus have a highlighter in the corner so please sign.
- Yet again I’d like to acknowledge the particularly generous donation of Dato’ Steve Day, a four figure sum which has made my book balancing task a lot easier.
- The single volume scrapbook has been updated with pictures of last year’s Reunion and the addition of some historic snaps that have been sent by Members. Please keep sending me your memories of 46. The book forms the basis of our website. It is available with lots of extra pictures on disk for £5.
- A new batch of Squadron cufflinks are also available for purchase at £10 a pair.
- Our last surviving Beaufighter member is Warrant Officer Roy Butler who lives in Florida. It was his 90th birthday in March and we sent him a special card a copy of which is on the notice board. To celebrate we commissioned an exact scale model of the aircraft he flew on the most successful operational mission undertaken by No 46 Squadron on the first and second of October 1944



CHEERIOOO



The Newsletter of No 46 Squadron RFC and RAF

Issue No 19

July 2014

HALTON HOUSE NEAR RECORD ATTENDANCE

We had a great Reunion at Halton House. Historic venue, excellent food and wine but most importantly outstanding company. We had the best turnout since the 90th with 66 sitting down to Dinner of which 52 were members! Thanks again go to our benefactors whose kind donations defrayed the admin and entertainment costs as well as providing free drinks all evening. Again a special thank you goes to Steve Day for his incredibly generous donation. Thanks also to Charlie Appleyard for the silver model Hurricane presented in memory of his father Gus. Terry Rourke made a fantastic toast to the Squadron, entertaining and heartfelt. Finally, Carole and I would like to thank you all for the wonderful presents you gave us to mark the 25th Reunion that it has been my pleasure to organize.

Photographs of the Reunion are at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53681045@N07/sets/72157645048055988/>
Press Ctrl click to go there. Please add titles, comments tags as you wish.

**Next year's Reunion will be back at Wolfson College Oxford
on Saturday 6 June 2015.**

Dinner:

The following members took dinner:

David ADAMS	Andy ADAMS	Chris ALCOCK	John AUSTIN	Dougie BARR
John BARTRAM TON	David BENNETT	John BOYD	Dave BRAY	Chris CARRING-
Keith CHAPMAN	Andy CLARK	David CRWYS- WILLIAMS	Bernie DONDEERS	Ian DOW
Bob EVANS	Vic FAULKNER	Jim GATHERER	Colin GOWER	Jimmy JAMES

Eric KING	Graham LAURIE	Derek LIDDELL	Tim LILES	Derek LONG
Eric MARSH	Ian MASON	Peter MILES	Adrian OBERTELLI	Denny O'BRIEN
Paul OSBORN	Alan PARKER	Bob PETERS	John PLUMLEY	Laurie POULTER
Stuart PRIEST	Bob RICHARDSON	Steve ROBSON	Terry ROURKE	Jeff SAUNDERS
Keith SAUNDERS	Mac SIBBALD	Chris SIERWALD	Freddie SOWREY	Rusty STEELE- MORGAN
Tony STEPHENS	Ken TEAL	Mike TOM	Dick WARD	Des WHITE
Russell WILSON	Keith WILSON			

The following guests took dinner:

Giles Bennett	<i>Guest of</i> David BENNETT
Stuart Gatherer	<i>Guest of</i> Jim GATHERER
Ian Salvage	<i>Guest of</i> Eric MARSH
Alastair Mason	<i>Guest of</i> Ian MASON
Graham Turner	<i>Guest of</i> Adrian OBERTELLI
Gp Capt John McCarty	<i>Guest of</i> Bob RICHARDSON
Marcus Saunders	<i>Guest of</i> Keith SAUNDERS
Mark Sibbald	<i>Guest of</i> Mac SIBBALD
Peter Sowrey	<i>Guest of</i> Freddie SOWREY
Jamie Wilson	<i>Guest of</i> Russell WILSON
Dr Vic Robinson	<i>Guest of</i> Dougie BARR

Supper:

The following Ladies took supper:

Judy Bartram	Maggie Sibbald Melissa Sibbald	Sylvia Teal Melanie Barnett	Caroline Wilson
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Benefactors:

The following members kindly made donations:

Andy ADAMS	David ADAMS	Chris ALCOCK	Charlie APPLEYARD	
Dick ARSCOTT				
Dougie BARR RY	John BARTRAM	Derek BENDALL	John BOYD	John BRANSBU-
David CARTER DRAKE	Dennis CONSTABLE	Peter CROUCH	Steve DAY	Dave
Geoff DRYLAND GREEN	Steve GARVIN	Mark GILSON	Don GRAHAM	Alan
Frank HUDDLESTON	Ian LASCHKE	Graham LAURIE	Derek LIDDELL	Tim LILES

Peter MILES PARKER	Paul MINDNER	Kenneth NICHOLS	Denny O'BRIEN	Alan
Bob PETERS SKINNER	Bob RICHARDSON	Jenny SEDDON	Mac SIBBALD	Des
Paul SNOOK TEAL	Freddie SOWREY	Rusty STEELE-	Steve STEVENSON	Ken
Pat THOMAS George KIRK	Bill TURNBULL	Roger UNWIN	Jim WHITE	Des WHITE Keith WILSON

Regrets:

The following members were unable to attend:

Charlie APPLEYARD BURY	Dick ARSCOTT	Derek BENDALL	Jeff BETHRAY	John BRANS-
David CARTER CROUCH	Don CHAPMAN	John CLEMENTS	Dennis CONSTABLE	Peter
Dave DRAKE GILSON	Geoff DRYLAND	Dick EASTMENT	Steve GARVIN	Mark
Don GRAHAM SEA	Alan GREEN	Pete HOOD	Chris HOOPER-SMITH	Chris HO-
Frank HUDDLESTON	Mike KEMP	George KIRK	Ian LASCHKE	Tony MALLETT
Brian MEINKE	Brian MERRITT	Paul MINDNER	Dougie MORGAN	Kenneth NICHOLS
Les ROCKEL	Jenny SEDDON	Des SKINNER	Paul SNOOK	Steve STEVENSON
Chris TAYLOR	Pat THOMAS	Bill TURNBULL	Roger UNWIN	Pete WALLINGTON
Tony WARNER	Jim WHITE	George KIRK		

Obituaries:

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of:

John GREEDY 71-75 <i>Andover</i>	Pete WALSH 54-58 <i>Met Jav</i>
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News, Gossip and Scandal:

Members report:

John BARTRAM John is happily retired and living near Keevil on the edge of Salisbury Plain. Judy and he became grandparents in February 2014 - a beautiful baby boy, Lucas Edward. So, the youngest member of 46Sqn RFC/RAF is now a Gramps!!

Derek BENDALL Unfortunately, Derek is unable to attend as he will be sailing in Turkey, but plans to be around for the 100th anniversary.

David CARTER Dave will be in France with his wife who is now through chemo, so is looking forward to the holiday. However this is over the reunion date so he is unable to attend.

Andy CLARK Carolyn and Andy are fortunate to have the health and the means to continue with the things we enjoy in retirement including lots of walking and dancing.

John CLEMENTS John says last time he was at Halton was a Summer Ball and on the lawn there were rides in a tethered hot air balloon - great fun!

Andy CLARK Carolyn and Andy are fortunate to have the health and the means to continue with the things we enjoy in retirement including lots of walking and dancing.

John CLEMENTS John says last time he was at Halton was a Summer Ball and on the lawn there were rides in a tethered hot air balloon - great fun!

Dennis CONSTABLE Dennis sends his warmest and most heartfelt wishes to all for a very enjoyable reunion.

Peter CROUCH Peter is still mobile and enjoying life at 91, but is lonely without Mary.

David CRWYS- WILLIAMS David is still travelling a great deal and the rest of the time spent as a trustee of various charities. Lucky to be in good health - but not counting chickens (we have nine!).

Steve DAY Steve made another remarkably generous donation without which this year’s Reunion would have been seriously over budget.

Ian DOW Ian is retired but still working in A320 simulators for a variety of different airlines. He sees Adrian Obertelli regularly at CAE's training centre at Gatwick.

Dick EASTMENT Dick writes: I am very disappointed to have to report that, due to family reasons, I am unable to attend our reunion this year. I really would have liked to have been there. I finally retired as an AEF pilot in March, so I must have been one of the last Sqn members to have been flying Her Majesty’s aircraft. After 46 years of military flying it has been something of a wrench! I still do some consultancy, mainly for the MoD, and do not want to retire just yet! I hope you all have an outstanding re-union, and hope to see you all next year.

Charlie APPLEYARD Charlie regrets he cannot make it this year but is determined to make the 98th. He asked me to present a silver model of a Hurricane to the Squadron in memory of his much missed father Gus.

Mark GILSON Mark's house is on the market and we hope to move back down south. Gilly thinks it's to be nearer the family, but it's really to be nearer Rourke!!

Don GRAHAM Don is overcommitted for prep. of son's wedding!

Chris HOOPER-SMITH Chris is now divorced and living in Jersey. Sailing his boat in June as usual, so will sadly be unable to attend.

Chris HOSEA Bob Evans writes: I have recently spoken with Chris Hosea & he expressed his regret at being unable to attend this year due to ongoing health issues. He did however, ask me to pass on his very best wishes to all association members, & he hopes to be present at the 100th

Mike KEMP Mike's last contact with Meteor crew from RAF Odiham was with Pete Woodham and Pete Walsh at a reunion a few years ago. Alas, both are now gone.

Ian LASCHKE Ian in retirement is busier than when in full time employment! He wanted to get there this year but just not enough time. Best wishes to all. Hope I can make it next year.

Graham LAURIE Jo and Graham spent a week before Christmas with Horst and Ulla. As usual, much wine, beer and gluhwein consumed - even had some myself!!!

Tim LILES Tim is still walking Scottish mountains (slowly), playing croquet (not always well) and living in Budleigh Salterton.

Tony MALLETT Tony is again committed to the Classic Yacht Regatta in Antibes so is unable to attend the Reunion. His 80th last summer in the West Mersea Yacht Club 'went with a bang'; not so an earlier flight and landing in a Piper 28 which was, of course, as smooth as silk. Now he has grown up and is leaving sailing and flying behind and so will definitely be attending next year.

Peter MILES Gwen is recovering from a cancer scare, otherwise he continues a busy life in retirement.

Paul MINDNER Paul writes - nothing new really. "Little daughter's" 30th (!) birthday has just reminded him that the number of birthdays increases steadily for everybody! Have fun and stay fit!!!

Kenneth NICHOLS Kenneth writes: It hardly seems 60 years have passed since Colin Gower and I stepped through the gates at RAF Odiham from the OCU at RAF Leeming in the summer of 1954. I hope there are still many survivors of that time. Congratulations to them all and have a great Reunion.

Alan PARKER Alan is looking forward to seeing all those attending on the 97th.

Laurie POULTER Laurie is looking forward to returning to Halton. He was, in turn, an apprentice and a flight commander - during the latter tour he lived in Halton House.

Les ROCKEL Les writes: Pam & I are coming to the UK later this year, but not until the end of July, to do the proud Grandparents bit, so we will have to miss this one I'm afraid. We are most definitely looking at the big 100th, in three years' time, that is if we cannot get to one before that.

Des SKINNER Des is still dominating OZ Bowls but hastens to add not on the bowling greens. "I have hardly played for a couple of years through a succession of troublesome issues - tennis elbow followed by a frozen shoulder then a sciatic nerve problem. All under reasonable control but has prevented me from playing as often as I would like. I am now into my 8th year on the Board of Bowls Australia, my second as President. Never has there been a better time to be in that position. Our National teams (Men and Women) are number 1 in the world and I get a freebie to the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in July for 10 days or so. I am also heading to Scotland in May for a couple of days for meetings relating to the Games, World Bowls and the Commonwealth Games Association. I am looking forward to making serious plans to attend the 100th, but will not make this one.

Paul SNOOK Paul is having a knee replaced so is unable to attend this year. Best wishes to all and hope to see you next year. Have a super night.

Freddie SOWREY Sir Freddie sends many thanks for all your wonderful cards on his 90th. The new chain saw from the family is performing well - lots of logs! Freddie presented the Squadron with a copy of the book "The Sowreys"; the remarkable record of one family's sixty-five years of distinguished RAF service. If you would like to borrow it please contact Dougie.

Ken TEAL Ken bumped into Nigel Watson recently - living in Ford near Colerne.

Bill TURNBULL Bill (and Stuart) send their best regards to the chaps for 7 June.

Roger UNWIN Roger reports all going well after the latest "physical" setback. Many thanks to all who sent best wishes for a speedy recovery. Still planning on being in the UK after sale of the villa here. Am afraid not even an "ATHLETE" now, never mind "finely honed". Best wishes to all.

Pete WALSH Pete died on 4 Sept 2013. His wife, Georgina, ask me to thank the Squadron for the great time Pete had at our Reunions. She said that the Reunions meant a lot to him.

Dick WARD Dick has just retired after 16 years as a lay member of the Valuation Tribunal of England on reaching the age of 72 years.

Tony WARNER Tony is due to go in to Brompton Hospital for lung op, so will be convalescing.

Jim WHITE Jim is sorry he can't make it this year as somewhere off the Norwegian coast at the time.

Russell WILSON Russ remains as MD of Royal Bay Care Homes. He had a serious road accident in January this year - hit by truck. Multiple fractures and other injuries, but now out of wheelchair and recovering slowly.

Dougie BARR Dougie continues to work as a consultant assessing large Government and commercial projects. The house in France has been sold, so you missed your chance of a cheap holiday in the Cote d'Azur!

Steve GARVIN Steve made a very generous contribution of 24 bottles of bubbly for the Ladies. Although they did not drink all them, they did make a very impressive show trying!**J**

on PLUMLEY Jon recently retired from working for Serco as senior Chinook instructor at medium support helicopter aircrew training facility at RAF Benson.

Parish Notices

Her Majesty has been gracious enough to reply to our Loyal greetings
Cholsey Silver Band, although we pay a fee, none of the players receive any money. Big thank you.
RAF Messes seem to have been bitten by the profit bug. I thought Odiham was expensive but we paid £20 a head just to use the Mess here and that was with a discount kindly given by the PMC. The good news is that Dennie O'Brian is now an Honorary Member of the Mess and things should be considerably cheaper if we decide to come here again. In the meantime, I am delighted to announce that Wolfson College have agreed that we can hold our 78th there on the 6th of June 2015.

Every year I highlight the generosity of our benefactors whose contributions defray the admin costs and allows us to drinks at no extra cost. The actual cost of tonight's dinner is £90, so you will realise what a huge contribution our Benefactors make to our enjoyment. Many of them tell me how much they appreciate receiving defaced menus with messages from comrades. Benefactors' menus have a highlighter in the corner so please sign.

Yet again I'd like to acknowledge the particularly generous donation of Dato' Steve Day, a four figure sum which has made my book balancing task a lot easier.

New entries to the scrapbook are:

- Last year's pictures
- Copies of the scrapbook that Normie Dimmock kept during his service with 46 in WW1. Kindly scanned by his son John. A really interesting set of pictures
- Sales stuff. Cufflinks are available at £10 a pair. CDs of the scrapbooks £5. Just email me

Aircrew Lunch. Graham Laurie is organising another of the hugely successful lunches for military and civil aircrew and partners at the Black Horse, Gozzard's Ford Abingdon on Friday 26 September 2014. Great value at £20 a head. Contact Graham for more details. 01494 863492, 07798 703022. graham@kitty4.co.uk

Squadron Website. I am having problems with the Squadron website. Please be patient as we try and fix it.



CHEERIOOO

The Newsletter of No 46 Squadron RFC and RAF
Issue No 20 July 2015



SERVICE DINNER

No 46 Squadron RFC and RAF Air Vice-Marshal David Crwys-Williams presided at the 98th consecutive reunion dinner of No 46 Squadron RFC and RAF held at Wolfson College, Oxford, on Saturday. Flt Lt Keith Saunders also spoke.

Daily Telegraph.
Monday 8 June 2013

OXFORD WINS AGAIN!

We had another great Reunion at Wolfson College. Smashing venue, lovely location, excellent food and wine but most importantly outstanding company. Terry Rourke had hoped to make it even after his recent major operation but had to pull out at the last minute as did Dick Arscott. The indomitable Pat Thomas came for the pre-Dinner Champagne Reception with canapés! Just a few short of 60 sat down to Dinner which is a very satisfying number. Thanks again go to our benefactors whose kind donations defrayed the admin and entertainment costs as well as providing free drinks all evening. Again a special thank-you goes to Steve Day and Charlie Appleyard for their incredibly generous donations. Soundings for the venue for the 100th Reunion suggest that the favourite is an Officers' Mess at an operational station with RAF Odiham as first choice with RAF Benson a fall-back. Please let me know what you think.

Photographs of the Reunion are at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53681045@N07/sets/72157654393811521>

Press Ctrl click to go there. Please add titles, comments tags as you wish.

Next year's Reunion will be held at RAF Benson on Saturday 3 June 2016

Dinner:

The following members took dinner:

Horst ABROMEIT	Andy ADAMS	David ADAMS	Chris ALCOCK	
Dougie BARR	John BARTRAM	Derek BENDALL	David BENNETT	Jeff BETHRAY
Dave BRAY	Keith CHAPMAN	Andy CLARK	David CRWYS-WILLIAMS	Ian DOW
Dave DRAKE	Dick EASTMENT	Bob EVANS	Don GRAHAM	Frank HUDDLESTON
Eric KING	George KIRK	Graham LAURIE	Derek LIDDELL	Derek LONG
Eric MARSH	Ian MASON	Brian MEINKE	Peter MILES	Paul OSBORN
Alan PARKER	John PLUMLEY	Stuart PRIEST	Bob RICHARDSON	Keith SAUNDERS
Jeff SAUNDERS	Mac SIBBALD	Paul SNOOK	Rusty STEELE-MORGAN	Tony STEPHENS
Ken TEAL	Mike TOM	Russell WILSON	Keith WILSON	

The following guests took dinner:

Jeffrey Alcock	<i>Guest of</i>	Chris ALCOCK
Giles Bennett	<i>Guest of</i>	David BENNETT
Roland Brown	<i>Guest of</i>	George KIRK
Andrew Dow	<i>Guests of</i>	Ian DOW
Keith Padron	<i>Guest of</i>	Dick EASTMENT

Ian Salvage	Tom Swinscoe
Cary Sand	
Chris Saunders	
Mark Barnett	Tim Wilson
Jamie Wilson	
Vic Robinson	

<i>Guests of</i>	Eric MARSH
<i>Guest of</i>	Ian MASON
<i>Guest of</i>	Keith SAUNDERS
<i>Guest of</i>	Ken TEAL
<i>Guests of</i>	Russell WILSON
<i>Guest of</i>	Dougie BARR

Supper:

The following Ladies took supper:

Judy Bartram	Valerie Bendall	Sylvia Huddleston	Maggie Sibbald
Sylvia Teal			
Melanie Barnett	Caroline Wilson	Peggy Hooton	Sophie Wilson
Amy Wilson			

Benefactors:

The following members kindly made donations:

David ADAMS ARSCOTT	Andy ADAMS	Chris ALCOCK	Charlie APPLEYARD	Dick
Dougie BARR Dave BRAY	John BARTRAM	John BOYD	John BRANSBURY	
Chris CARRINGTON CLEMENTS	Tim CARTER	Keith CHAPMAN	Andy CLARK	John
Dennis CONSTABLE Bob EVANS	Steve DAY	Ian DOW	Geoff DRYLAND	
Vic FAULKNER HOOPER-SMITH	Jim GATHERER	Don GRAHAM	Alan GREEN	Chris
Eric KING Derek LIDDELL	George KIRK	Ian LASCHKE	Graham LAURIE	
Tim LILES Brian MEINKE	Derek LONG	Tony MALLETT	Eric MARSH	
Brian MERRITT Paul OSBORN	Peter MILES	Paul MINDNER	Adrian OBERTELLI	
Alan PARKER Jeff SAUNDERS	Stuart PRIEST	Bob RICHARDSON	Les ROCKEL	
Mac SIBBALD STEVENSON	Paul SNOOK	Freddie SOWREY	Rusty STEELE-	Steve
Ken TEAL Jim WHITE	Bill TURNBULL	Roger UNWIN	Dick WARD	Pat THOMAS
Des WHITE BENNETT	Russell WILSON	Keith WILSON	Denny O'BRIAN	Dai

Regrets:

The following members were unable to attend:

Charlie APPLEYARD CARRINGTON	John BOYD	John BRANSBURY	Adrian BROWN	Chris
Tim CARTER Steve DAY	Don CHAPMAN	John CLEMENTS	Dennis CONSTABLE	

Geoff DRYLAND	Vic FAULKNER	Jim GATHERER	Alan GREEN	Dave HIGGS
Chris HOOPER-SMITH	Ian LASCHKE	Tim LILES	Tony MALLETT	Matt MATHIAS
Brian MERRITT	Paul MINDNER	Dougie MORGAN	Adrian OBERTELLI	Laurie POULTER
Les ROCKEL	Paul SNOOK	Freddie SOWREY	Brian STANFORD	Trevor STEPHENS
Colin STEVENS	Chris TAYLOR	Pat THOMAS	Bill TURNBULL	Roger UNWIN
Pete WALLINGTON	Dick WARD	Jim WHITE	Des WHITE	Denny O'BRIAN
Bob PETERS	Brian SANDFORD	Dick ARSCOTT		

Obituaries:
It is with great sadness that we announce the death of:

Bernie DONDERS 64-67 <i>Andover</i>	Colin GOWER 54-55 <i>Meteor</i>	Jimmy JAMES <i>Javelin</i>	Russell WILLIAMS 75 <i>Andover</i>	Vic BURT 67-72 <i>Andover</i>
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News, Gossip and Scandal:

Members report:

Andy ADAMS	Andy writes: really sad about poor Vic Burt - my first captain on 46. The Grim Reaper getting busi-er.
Dick ARSCOTT	Dick was coming but had a nasty fall on Thursday and could not make it.
John BARTRAM	John is still living close to Keevil DZ with Judy and very happy grandparents to Lucas. Just real-ised I am 65 the year of the 100th annual Reunion. The youngest member gains his state pen-sion!
David BENNETT	Dai is definitely retiring this year!
Adrian BROWN	Adrian sends best wishes to all and intends to make the 100th.
Chris CARRINGTON	Chris is sorry he can't make it this year as he will be in Rome.
Andy CLARK	Andy in retirement and still as busy as ever. Too many funerals but fortunately my attendance is still voluntary!
George KIRK	George has had two sad losses - his wife died on 21 March this year and his navigator Warrant Officer S Carr died last year.
Dennis CONSTABLE	Dennis sends his best wishes to all and hope you enjoy the reunion.
Eric KING	Eric's nephew, Cameron piped us into Dinner and gave a rousing couple of pibrochs while we ate.
David CRWYS- WILLIAMS	David is still travelling madly but still upright and trying to shed trusteeships but without much luck.
Dick EASTMENT	Dick is still doing some consultancy, but is trying to only work 3 days a week to concentrate on golf. He finally gave up flying on 2AEF last year after 48 years. "Was I the last 46 Sqn pilot flying for RAF?
Ian LASCHKE	Ian cannot make it this year but hopes to be there next year as practice for the 100th
Graham LAURIE	Graham and Jo Horst and Ulla Abromeit and Ian and Judy Mason are going to the Lake District for a week of walking... if you believe that!!!!
Tim LILES	Tim is still in Budleigh Salterton playing croquet, walking, and gardening. Had operation on left knee to counter-balance right replaced hip, but hope to get back on the hills in May 15. If any members are in the area, do look him up 01395 442784 - you will be most welcome.
Tony MALLETT	Tony regrets having booked the Classic Yacht Regatta in France which clashes with the 98th Re-union. He and Fiona remain in good health and are enjoying trips to France and small ship cruises.

Alan PARKER	Alan writes all is well on the Eastern front (Med) and looking forward to seeing everyone again.
Brian SANDFORD	Brian has made contact after many years in the wilderness. He sent a recording of the last Brown Banana Show to be broadcast in Masirah. If you would like a copy, contact Dougie..
Paul SNOOK	Paul had planned to come but his life-long best friend died and he had to attend his fu-neral.
Freddie SOWREY	Sir Freddie writes - A book on the Javelin is being produced by Mike Napier (Tornado and Hawks) who recently wrote the history of 14 Squadron. Contributions are being made by air and ground crews and I have been asked to produce a Foreword.
Steve STEVENSON	Steve is not up to attending yet, but is improving no end .Leukaemia now in complete remission and he is in the process of getting his driving licence back. He has every in-tention of making it next year.
Roger UNWIN	Roger is now in residence in the UK overlooking Lyneham runway at Bradenstoke. No more medical emergencies at moment although taking too many pills. Naturally missing the sea and sun after 24 years in Cyprus, but keeping busy here with family, music and soccer.
Russell WILSON	After his serious traffic accident Russell still relies on wheelchairs and crutches. Final op due soon to restore mobility. He remains full time MD of his care company. This year will be the first time in 98 years that 3 generations of one family are attending the Reun-ion.
Dougie BARR	Dougie continues to work part time as a Business Consultant while fitting in numerous holidays including a return to skiing.
Geoff DRYLAND	Geoff is unable to attend this year due to pending surgery for gallstones. He wishes everyone a great night.



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CHEERIOOO



The Newsletter of No 46 Squadron RFC and RAF

Issue No 21

July 2016

Service Dinner

No 46 Squadron RFC and RAF

Air Vice-Marshal David Crwys-Williams presided at the 99th consecutive reunion dinner of No 46 Squadron RFC and RAF held in the Officers' Mess, RAF Benson, on Saturday. Wg Cdr Tony Mallett proposed the health of the Squadron.

Brilliant BENSON

Our first time at RAF Benson turned out to be a resounding success. Everything went perfectly with fantastic service from the RAF chefs and stewards. The quality of the food at Reunions rarely gets a mention but this year it was of near Michelin star standard. I have never had so much positive feedback. So I am delighted to announce that we will be holding the 100th Reunion in the Officers' Mess RAF Benson on Saturday the 3rd of June 2017. Demand for the 120 available seats will be high so please read the piece at the end of this Newsletter setting out next year's arrangements and please action accordingly.

Photographs of the 99th Reunion taken by Geoff Dryland and Keith Saunders are at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53681045@N07/sets/72157670395485451/>

Photographs of previous Reunions are at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53681045@N07/collections/72157633984549324/>

Press Ctrl click to go there. Please add titles, comments tags as you wish.

Dinner:

The following members took dinner:

Andy ADAMS	David ADAMS	Dick ARSCOTT	John AUSTIN	Dougie BARR
John BARTRAM	David BENNETT	Jeff BETHRAY	John BOYD	Dave BRAY
Chris CARRINGTON	Keith CHAPMAN	Andy CLARK	David CRWYS- WILLIAMS	
Geoff DRYLAND	Dick EASTMENT	Jim GATHERER	Ian LASCHKE	Graham LAURIE
Derek LIDDELL	Tim LILES	Derek LONG	Tony MALLETT	Eric MARSH
Ian MASON	Brian MEINKE	Adrian OBERTELLI	Denny O'BRIEN	Bob RICHARDSON
Jeff SAUNDERS	Keith SAUNDERS	Colin SCARTH	Chris SIERWALD	Paul SNOOK
Tony STEPHENS	Jim TAYLOR	Ken TEAL	Mike TOM	Dick WARD
Des WHITE	Russell WILSON	Keith WILSON		

The following guests took dinner:

Bob Tee	<i>Guest of</i> David BENNETT
Bruce Gatherer	<i>Guest of</i> Jim GATHERER
Ian Salvage	<i>Guest of</i> Eric MARSH
Tom Swinscoe	

Andrew Birrell

Chris Saunders

Geoff Walker

Andrew Ashton

Jamie Wilson

Paul Blackford

Marcus Saunders

Tim Wilson

Guest of Adrian OBERTELLI

Guest of Keith SAUNDERS

Guest of Tony STEPHENS

Guest of Des WHITE

Guest of Russell WILSON

Guest of Dougie BARR

Supper:

The following Ladies took supper:

Mavis Hopkins	Nancy Eldridge	Sylvia Teal	Caroline Wilson
Aileen Meinke	Sophie Wilson	Amy Williams	Judy Bartram

Benefactors:

The following members kindly made donations:

Andy ADAMS	David ADAMS	Chris ALCOCK	Dick ARSCOTT	Dougie BARR
John BARTRAM	David BENNETT	Jeff BETHRAY	John BOYD	John BRANSBURY
Dave BRAY	Chris CARRINGTON	David CARTER	Tim CARTER	Keith CHAPMAN
Andy CLARK	Dennis CONSTABLE	Peter CROUCH	John DANIELS	Steve DAY
Ian DOW	Dave DRAKE	Bob EVANS	Vic FAULKNER	Steve GARVIN
Don GRAHAM	Frank HUDDLESTON	John KANE	Mike KEMP	Eric KING
George KIRK	Graham LAURIE	Derek LIDDELL	Derek LONG	Tony MALLETT
Eric MARSH	Don MASON	Ian MASON	Brian MEINKE	Brian MERRITT
Peter MILES	Paul MINDNER	Kenneth NICHOLS	Adrian OBERTELLI	
Denny O'BRIEN	Alan PARKER	Stuart PRIEST	Bob RICHARDSON	Les ROCKEL
Jeff SAUNDERS	Keith SAUNDERS	John SCAMBLER	Mac SIBBALD	Chris SIERWALD
Des SKINNER	Paul SNOOK	Freddie SOWREY	Rusty STEELE-MORGAN	
Ken TEAL	Mike TOM	Bill TURNBULL	Roger UNWIN	Jim WHITE
Des WHITE	Keith WILSON	Jennie SEDDON		

Regrets:

The following members were unable to attend:

Chris ALCOCK	John BRANSBURY	Tim CARTER	David CARTER	Dennis CONSTABLE
Peter CROUCH	John DANIELS	Steve DAY	Ian DOW	Dave DRAKE
Bob EVANS	Vic FAULKNER	Steve GARVIN	Don GRAHAM	Frank HUDDLESTON
John KANE	Mike KEMP	Eric KING	George KIRK	Don MASON
Brian MERRITT	Peter MILES	Paul MINDNER	Kenneth NICHOLS	Paul OSBORN
Alan PARKER	Bob PETERS	John PLUMLEY	Stuart PRIEST	Les ROCKEL
John SCAMBLER	Des SKINNER	Freddie SOWREY	Pat THOMAS	Bill TURNBULL
Roger UNWIN	Pete WALLINGTON	Jim WHITE		

Obituaries:

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of:

Terry ROURKE 69-73 *Andover* Brian SANFORD ? *Andover* Colin STEVENS 67-69 *Andover*

Steve STEVENSON 74/75 *Andover* Roger COCKSEGE ? Andover

Tony WARNER 56-59 *Javelin*

Dai Bennett’s Absent Friends Eulogy

Roger Cocksedge Sadly, we seem to have missed news of Roger’s demise which we understand occurred in November 2012. Roger served on 46 and 84 Andover Squadrons, After leaving 46 Squadron in 1975 Roger went on to serve with SOAF as an Ops officer for some 15 years in Oman and later became a taxi driver, but we have little detail of his life after that.

Brian Sandford. Brian joined the RAF via 87 Entry at Cranwell and served on 84 Sqn Beverlys in Aden, followed by a tour on a Comms Sqn – probably 207 Sqn where he flew Devon and Basset. He then flew as a Chipmunk QFI which we suspect was with Northumbria UAS before joining 46 Sqn at Thorney Island. At some point he served as an ADC at 18 Gp. Brian took redundancy just as the oil crisis struck and went into the wine business but after 5 years joined civilian airlines initially with, and later with Trans-Meridian, Span, Air Atlanta. Eventually flew with Air2000 before retiring for the first time at 60. Then the rules changed and he managed another 5 years with DHL. He did not come to Reunions but late last year contacted Dougie for a Squadron tie and promised to attend this year. Tragically, he died suddenly at the age of 72 at the beginning of May this year.

Terry Rourke It is 46 years since I re-joined 46 Sqn from a tour in the Far East on 52 Squadron. On arrival at, what was to me, the new Sqn headquarters on the NE side of Abingdon airfield, I stumbled into a hotbed of activity where I met for the first time a lively individual of relatively small stature whose personality seemed to infect all those who came into contact with him. He tried to sell me a stake in some venture whereby one could make a vast profit from selling ‘Sparkle’, a new wonder cleaner, which Terry was using to clean the Sqn headquarters – It must have been a clean-up for an AOC’s inspection or something of the like. The young Sqn Ldr OC of No 46 Sqn, one David Crwys-Williams was struggling to cope with his squadron having become a repository for a whole series of lively and colourful characters amongst whom Terry Rourke was one of the most characterful. Terry kept up his lively ebullient character to the end and was a regular attendee at these Reunions. Who will ever forget the occasion at the RAF Club where Rourke stood to ‘take wine with all those wearing a policeman’s helmet’. Terry had acquired the helmet at the club’s reception desk where John Boyd was narrowly escaping a police caution for parking his Irish registered Scimitar GTE on double yellow lines and the pavement at the height of the Irish Troubles of the 70’s. Terry lifted the policeman’s helmet whilst the policeman’s back was turned and immediately put it to good use in the club dining room. Terry was notorious for his escapades and he must have been the bane of the lives of his various Sqn and Flt Cdrs who would have had a whole dictionary of adjectives to be used in their Annual Confidential Reports/F1369 but perhaps the most apt for Terry would have been the word ‘irrepressible’. He went on to serve on 84 Sqn in Sharjah and Bahrain and later on one of the Britannia squadrons, before leaving the RAF to work at SITA the flight information organisation. It might reasonably be said that Terry enjoyed a drink and a cigarette and it is sad to record that his absence at last year’s Reunion, the first absence for many years, was the harbinger of his death which occurred shortly afterwards. Terry will be fondly remembered by many of those of us who knew him the

Tony Warner pilot Javelins 56-59.Sir Freddie says Tony was an excellent pilot and one of those chaps who would happily take on any task he was given. Described as relaxed and really good fun. Whilst on the Squadron, Tony won the annual Wilkinson Sword for Escape and Evasion in Germany.

Colin Stephens - sorry no details.

Steve Stevenson. Alan George Stevenson but known to the rest of us as Steve, served with No 46 Sqn in the 70’s at Thorney Island and on detachment in Masirah. Steve initially served in the RAF as a National Serviceman and then went on to become an Air Traffic Controller before re-joining the RAF in the early 1960’s as a Navigator. He then went on to serve for 32 years, finally after the disbandment of No 46 Sqn in 1975 Steve went on to fly with 33 Sqn helicopters at RAF Odiham. Ever cheerful, and vocal, Steve was often the life and soul of a party and became close friends with Terry Rourke. It is sad to record that their deaths were so close together. Steve’s wife Catherine contacted Dougie as she knew that Steve greatly enjoyed attending the reunions and that he regularly made a donation to the Association funds. The family felt that he would have liked them to make a donation to boost the drinks kitty for those attending, or help to pay for someone who is a bit hard up to attend. All they asked in return was for a glass to be raised and a toast to be drunk in his memory at the next reunion. Steve’s wife Cathy sends her best wishes to everyone attending the reunion and hopes that you would all have a very enjoyable night. I’m sure Dougie will send a note in response, probably with a suitably inscribed menu card indicating that we have carried out her wishes and enjoyed the contribution. Again, we will miss Steve, and regret that he was unable to stay around long enough for the 100th.

Master Navigator Tony Melton A squadron member from the Meteor and Javelin era. Tony died aged 91 on Nov 30 2015. He joined the RAF qualifying as a Navigator just before the end of WWII. Having left the RAF briefly at the end of the war he re-joined in 1947 and flew served on night fighters in the UK, Egypt Malta and Cyprus. His particular favourite aircraft was the Mosquito but later flew Meteors and Javelin. His Daily Telegraph obituary in December told of how he ejected from a Javelin over the East Pakistan jungle on ferry flight from East Anglia to Singapore in 1961. Tony lost his survival pack during his descent into the tall trees, from which he had to cut himself free. His pilot was killed. After 3 days alone surviving in thick jungle, a Singapore based Shackleton tracked him through his Locator Beacon, and dropped a survival pack to him. He was subsequently rescued from a larger river by an ex-RAF civilian pilot flying a Grumman Goose. He became an instructor at the Combat Survival and Rescue School at Mountbatten, then joined 152 Sqn Twin Pioneers in the Persian Gulf. In July 1971 he joined the RAF Search and Rescue helicopter force for a further 11 years , being awarded a Queen’s Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air before retiring at 60 as the oldest RAF aircrew member flying on a front line squadron. He retired to Kent where he became the un-elected leader of a group of elderly reprobates offering free advice to players of the Sandwich Cricket Club

Perhaps, as a final note, we should also remember on this weekend those members of the Squadron who lost their lives on board HMS Glorious on 8th June, 76 years ago. This weekend the GLARAC Association (Glorious, Acasta and Ardent) re-member the event in their reunion in Plymouth.

Therefore, I would ask you all to rise and drink a toast to ‘ABSENT FRIENDS’

Members report:

Andy ADAMS	Andy says Steve Stevenson had a great send off.
Chris ALCOCK	Chris writes that if he did a line check on his driving he would probably fail, so the mad dash to the south is not for him anymore, although at 82 he frightens people by still riding a motor bike. He intends to make it next year come hell or high heaven particularly if the reunion is at Odiham, where in 1964, he trained on the Twin Pin.
John BARTRAM	John is still living near Keevil DZ and the Westbury White Horse. Proud grandparents to little Lucas. Keeping busy as a Parish Councillor and volunteering; Judy plays lots of tennis and badminton. This was the last Reunion that he was the only Member not entitled to the State Pension (but only by 6 day!).
David BENNETT	Dai is now fully retired and meandering about Europe in the motorhome rather than in an Andover as he used to do.
David CARTER	David is still going strong, but unable to attend this year's Reunion as he will be abroad. He will argue hard to attend the 100th.
Andy CLARK	Andy becomes an OAP this year! At least he will qualify for a concessionary season ticket at Gloucester Rugby - they weren't worth full price this season!
George KIRK	George is unable to attend as family affairs are intruding - Grandson is getting married.
Dennis CONSTABLE	Dennis sends warmest wishes to all and hopes to meet for the 100 th .
Steve ROBSON	Steve writes: Busy down here in Bournemouth giving talks to aviation groups and progressing plans for a memorial to Charles Rolls (of Rolls-Royce) and the first International Aviation Meeting held in Great Britain. On committees for aviation interest groups and involved in voluntary work at the local Aviation museum, local hospital and Remap, an organisation that uses retired engineers to modify equipment for people with mobility problems. If the sun shines and the tide is ok then I go sailing and I might finish refurbishing the house within the the next 10 years but anyway next year I will be at the 100th.
Peter CROUCH	Peter sends best wishes to all.
David CRWYS- WILLIAMS	David is still travelling a good deal: Morocco, USA, Bahamas, Cuba and India this year - and still upright most of the time!
John DANIELS	John and Marion were coming but had to withdraw because of John's ill health.
Steve DAY	Steve was unable to attend but yet again made an extremely generous donation to our drinking fund!
Ian DOW	Ian was coming but got struck down with a nasty virus.
Don GRAHAM	Don is having a hip replacement April 2016 and doubts he will be fit enough to travel. Hopefully see you all next year.
Mike KEMP	Mike writes: Mike's forced departure from a Meteor 14 nightfighter on 25 Jan 55 will be one of the stories in "Meteor Boys" by Dr Steve Bond to be launched at Duxford in September.
Tim LILES	Tim writes - Same old, Same old! Mountains climbed each year get steeper, so fewer climbed. Chuffed with winning an Association croquet trophy last season. If in Devon, do call in at Budleigh Salterton. Cheerio!!
Tony MALLETT	Tony has just had a knee replacement, otherwise straight and level on full power. Life continues as usual with Fiona and I enjoying visits to France and the occasional little ship cruise.
Don MASON	Don hopes to make the 100th if able.
Brian MERRITT	Brian hopes, God willing, both Roz and he will make the 100th.
Peter MILES	Peter is supporting Gwen at her College Reunion in June so is unable to attend this year but we will be there for the 100th. Apart from Anno Domini catching up with us, both Gwen and I are well - at the moment.
Paul MINDNER	Paul sends regards and best wishes to all present and absent members.
Kenneth NICHOLS	Kenneth would be only too pleased to hear from his contemporaries if there are any out there, now that Colin Gower has left us.
Alan PARKER	Alan is sorry to inform you that he has been visited by the Big C. He has a tumour just above the entrance to the stomach. Fortunately he is no longer fed by tube as radio and chemotherapy seem to be shrinking its size, but he has still managed to lose 50lbs. Docs are very good here at the University Hospital, Ioannina on the mainland, so keeping fingers crossed for the 100th. <i>Sadly we have learned that Noddy passed away just 3 days after the Reunion.</i>

Tim CARTER	Tim writes - the Doctor tells me I have heart condition so can't attend this year. Will hope to attend the 100th.
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John SCAMBLER John is recovering from a heart condition and has been told to take things easy. He did not feel up to attending the Dinner but he and Edit were able to come to the Reception to see everybody."

Des SKINNER Des plans to make the 100th he has already bought his ticket. He is expecting Roger Unwin to turn up at his place in NSW sometime in late May but says Roger's ETAs are notoriously unreliable!

Freddie SOWREY Sir Freddie writes - A new book on the Javelin has just been published by Pen and Sword. Written by Michael Napier (Hawks and Tornado) it draws on the experience of both air and ground crews. Thanks to Dougie, 46 is well represented and I have provided the Foreword. (Copy was available at the Reunion)

Rusty STEELE-MORGAN Rusty was coming but in the end did not feel up to the long journey from darkest South Wales. However, like so many others he is determined to make the 100th.

Bill TURNBULL Stuart (son) writes - Bill is rather fed up and doesn't want to leave the house nowadays! He struggles about the place but still enjoys a glass of red each evening. He sends a donation to the fund together with his best wishes.

Pete WALLINGTON Unfortunately, Pete fell recently and broke his hip resulting in surgery for a hip replacement and his recovery has not been as quick as he had hoped. He is determined to attend the hundredth.

Jim WHITE Jim is sorry not to attend this year's reunion but is looking forward to seeing you all at the 100th.

Russell WILSON	Russ is almost back to fitness - no more wheelchairs or zimmers. He continues to work in his health care company (Royal Bay Care Homes Ltd)
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John KANE John writes both he and Anita have finally retired to Bournemouth-by-the-Sea. Sorry they can't make it this year as we are on holiday - but will be there for the 100th.

Steve GARVIN Steve writes he is unable to make it this year as retirement is far busier than they ever imagined. They have sent a case of bubbles and ask that you raise a glass to dear old Terry Rourke on their behalf.

Brian MEINKE	Brian did his last flight for Britannia/Thomson PDG-AAN in 2009. He now occasionally flies light aircraft at Fair Oaks.
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Chas MORGAN Muriel writes that Chas has been suffering from Dementia for the past 8 years. He now no longer recognises family or friends and is living in a care home in Malmsbury. She sent her best wishes to everybody and particularly those who knew Chas when he was well.



	Eric MARSH	Dick ARSCOTT	Keith CHAPMAN	Geoff WALKER	Tony STEPHENS	David C-W	Tony MALLETT	Chris CARRINGTON	Dave ADAMS	Paul BLACKFORD	Dougie BARR
Ian SALVAGE	Thomas SWNSCOE				Graham LAURIE	Dick WARD				Dai BENNETT	Keith WILSON
Keith SAUNDERS	Chris SAUNDERS				Chris SIERWALD	Tim LILES				Bob TEE	Dick EASTMENT
Russell WILSON	Jamie WILSON				John BOYD	Dave BRAY				John AUSTIN	Denny O'BRIEN
Andrew ASHTON	Timothy WILSON				John BARTRAM	Geoff DRYLAND				Adrian OBERTELLI	Jim GATHERER
Des WHITE	Jeff BETHRAY				Ian LASCHKE	Paul SNOOK				Andrew BIRRELL	Bruce GATHERER
Colin SCARTH	Jim TAYLOR				Brian MEINKE	Ian MASON				Bob RICHARDSON	Andy CLARK
Jeff SAUNDERS	Ken TEAL				Derek LONG	Andy ADAMS				Derek LIDDELL	Mike TOM

The 99th Reunion Dinner of No 46 Squadron, Officers' Mess, R.A.F Benson 4 June 2016

No 46 Squadron Aircraft Paintings



Sopwith Camel of No 46 Squadron over the Western Front during the First World War



Gauntlets of No 46 Squadron.
Note the Squadron markings used for the first time



Hurricanes of No 46 Squadron
landing on HMS Glorious off Norway 8th of June 1940.

The Squadron is blessed to have an outstanding aviation artist in its Association. Michael "Rusty" Steele-Morgan flew as a navigator on Javelins in the late '50. Rusty is an Associate Member of the Guild of Aviation Artists; a selection of his paintings of No 46 Squadron aircraft is shown below. Rusty's work includes many other aviation areas; if you would like copies of any of Rusty's pictures, please contact the Secretary of the Association

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Beaufighter of NO 46 Squadron
Over North Africa during the Second World War.

Squadron Aircraft Paintings



Dakota KN945 of No 46 Squadron



Meteor WS 724 of No 46 Squadron



Javelins of No 46 Squadron



Andover XS 603 of No 46 Squadron dropping a One Ton Container over Salisbury Plain.

No 46 SQUADRON - LOCATIONS

Wyton	Apr 1916 - Oct 1916
Droglandts	Nov 1916— Apr 1917
Boisdenghem	May 1917 - May 1917
La Gorgue	May 1917 - Jul 1917
Bruay	Jul 1917 - Jul 1917
Sutton's Farm	Jul 1917 - Aug 1917
St Marie Cappel	Aug 1917 - Sep 1917
Le Hameau	Sep 1917 - May 1918
Liettres	May 1918 - Jun 1918
Serny	Jun 1918 - Aug 1918
Poulainville	Aug 1918 - Sep 1918
Cappy	Sep 1918 - Oct 1918
Athies	Oct 1918 - Oct 1918
Busigny	Oct 1918 - Nov 1918
Baizieux	Nov 1918 - Feb 1919
Rendcombe	Feb 1919 (disbanded)
Reformed out of 'B; Flt No 17 Sqn on 3 Sep 1936.	
Kenley	Sep 1936 - Nov 1937
Digby	Nov 1937 - Nov 1939
Acklington	Nov 1939 - Jan 1940
Digby	Jan 1940 - May 1940

HMS Glorious	May 1940 - May 1940
Skaanland	May 1940 - May 1940
Bardufoss	May 1940 - Jun 1940
HMS Glorious	Jun 1940 - Jun 1940
Digby	Jun 1940 - Sep 1940
Stapleford	Sep 1940 - Nov 1940
North Weald	Nov 1940 - Dec 1940
Digby	Dec 1940 - Feb 1941
Church Fenton	Feb 1941 - Mar 1941
Sherburn in Elemt	Mar 1941 - May 1941
En-route Egypt	May 1941 - Jul 1941
Abu Sueir	Jul 1941 - Sep 1941
Kilo 17	Sep 1941 - May 1942
Idku	May 1942 - Dec 1944
Stoney Cross	Jan 1945 - Oct 1946
Manston	Oct 1946 - Dec 1946
Abington	Dec 1946 - Aug 1949
Oakington	Aug 1949 - Feb 1950 (disbanded)
Odiham	Aug 1954 - Jul 1959
Waterbeach	Jul 1959 - Jun 1961 (disbanded)
Abingdon	Sep 1966 - Sep 1970
Thorney Island	Sep 1970 - Aug 1975 (disbanded)

No 46 SQUADRON - AIRCRAFT	
Nieuport 12	Apr 1916 - Apr 1917
BE 2c	Nov 1916 - Apr 1917
BE 2e	Feb 1917 - Apr 1917
Pup	Apr 1917 - Nov 1917
Camel	Nov 1917 - Feb 1919
Gauntlet II	Sep 1936 - Feb 1939
Hurricane I	Feb 1939 - Dec 1940
Hurricane IIA	Dec 1940 - May 1941
Hurricane IIC	May 1941 - Jun 1941
Beaufighter I	May 1942 - Jul 1942
Beaufighter VI	May 1942 - Dec 1944
Beaufighter X	Apr 1944 - Jul 1944
Mosquito XII	Apr 1944 - Jul 1944
Stirling V	Feb 1945 - Feb 1946
Dakota III, IV	Feb 1946 - Feb 1950
Meteor NF 12	Aug 1954 - Mar 1956
Meteor NF 14	Aug 1956 - Mar 1956
Javelin FAW 1	Mar 1956 - Nov 1957
Javelin FAW 2	Aug 1957 - Jun 1961
Javelin FAW 6	May 1958 - Jun 1961
Andover C 1	Dec 1966 - Aug 1975

No 46 SQUADRON - COMMANDING OFFICERS	
Major G E Todd	April 1916
Major E L Conran	May 1916
Major L Dawes	May 1916
Major P Babington	July 1916
Major R H S Mealing	December 1917
Major A H O'Hara Wood	July 1918
Major G Allen	October 1918
Squadron Leader M F Calder	September 1936
Squadron Leader P R Barwell	June 1937
Squadron Leader K B B Cross	October 1939
Squadron Leader J R MacLachlan	June 1940
Squadron Leader A R Collins	October 1940
Squadron Leader L M Gaunce	October 1940
Squadron Leader A C Rabagliatti	December 1940
Wing Commander G A Reid	May 1942
Wing Commander T P K Seade	October 1943
Wing Commander R W Dennison	June 1944
Squadron Leader G E Robertson	Aug-Nov1944
((Temp Command)

Wing Commander B A Coventry	January 1945
Wing Commander S G Baggott	December 1945
Wing Commander R G Dutton	March 1946
Wing Commander G Burges	July 1946
Squadron Leader E Moody	October 1947
Squadron Leader A G Salter	April 1948
Squadron Leader A Reece	August 1949
Squadron Leader D F C Ross	August 1954 (on re-forming)
Wing Commander F E W Birchfield	March 1955
Wing Commander H E White	June 1956
Wing Commander F B Sowrey	May 1958
Wing Commander D B Wills	June 1960
Squadron Leader M T Rayson	Sep 1966 (on re-forming)
Squadron Leader J B Gratton	December 1967
Squadron Leader D O Crwys Williams	January 1970
Wing Commander F A Mallett	February 1971
Wing Commander J A Scambler	April 1973
Wing Commander S Hitchen	March 1975

No 46 SQUADRON BATTLE HONOURS	
Western Front	1916-1918
Messines	1917 *
Home Defence	1917 *
Cambrai	1917 *
Somme	1918 *
Hindenburg Line	1918 *
Norway	1940 *
Battle of Britain	1940 *
Home Defence	1940-1941
Fortress Europe	1941
Malta	1941-1942 *
Egypt and Libya	1942-1943
El Alamein	*
Mediterranean	1942-1943
South East Europe	1944 *
*Honours on Squadron Standard	
-	

Squadron Code Letters

RJ: Gauntlet, Hurricane to Sep 39

PO: Hurricane

XK: Stirling and Dakota

Squadron Badge

Description: “Two arrow heads surmounted by a third, all in bend.”

Explanation: “The arrows stand for speed in getting into action and their position is meant to give the impression of 3 aircraft climbing rapidly

Motto: “We rise to conquer”

Authority: King George VI, June 1937

It is believed that the original idea for the badge came from the wife of the Squadron CO in 1937, Sqn Ldr Barwell

Squadron Name

“Uganda”



THE SQUADRON STANDARD

The Standard was awarded on 3 Jul 1968 and was presented on 13 Oct 1969 at RAF Abingdon by HM King Olav of Norway.

The Standard was laid-up in Chichester Cathedral on 31 August 1975.

History of 46 Squadron

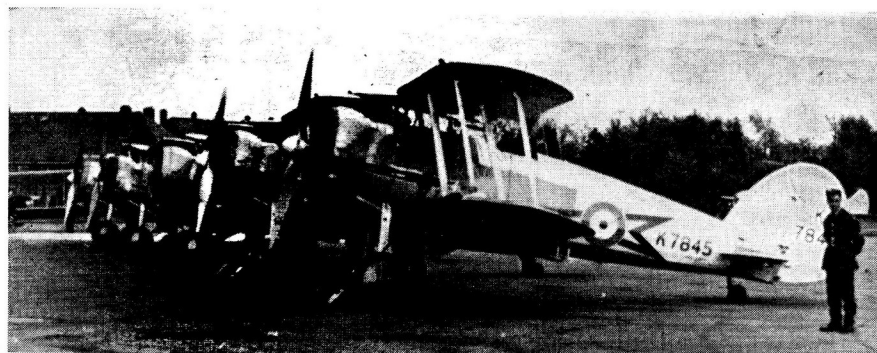
by J. D. R. Rawlings



ABINGDON'S BUSY ANDOVER squadron, No. 46, has, during its various lives, lived a somewhat Jekyll and Hyde existence. For most of the time it has been one of the R.A.F.'s foremost fighter squadrons and yet there have been two distinct periods when it has made an important contribution to Transport Command, of which, of course, it is a part today.

Like most of the early R.F.C. squadrons it began life as a Corps squadron and was formed for this purpose at Wyton from a nucleus of No. 2 Reserve Squadron on 19th April 1916. It eventually went to France for active service in October and, based at Droglandt, made its first operational flight on 4th November, a photo-recce. sortie which included artillery-observation as well. This virtually sums up No. 46's duties throughout that winter; flying for the guns, reconnoitring for the Army and photographing the line positions. However, in April 1917 its Nieuport two-seaters were replaced by Sopwith Pups and the squadron became a scout unit.

Operational patrols began in May but it was a month later that the first victory was scored when Lt. Luxmore managed to shoot down one of three Albatros attacking him. Shortly after that the squadron was



A line-up of No. 46 Squadron Gauntlet IIs outside Kenley's hangars. Note the squadron's distinctive red arrow-head marking (Photo: "The Aeroplane")

recalled to Sutton's Farm in Essex to provide fighter defence against the daylight Gotha raids on London. No activity came No. 46's way but it was a useful period in that the squadron acquired prowess at scrambling, being able to get its eighteen aircraft off the ground within 5 minutes of receiving a warning. After six weeks without finding an enemy aircraft the squadron returned to France in time for the Battle of Messines in which it not only flew O.P.s but also went down to ground level to strafe the battlefield.

This ground-attack work was continued in the Cambrai attack in November but with the subtle difference that No. 46 had re-equipped with Camels and was thus even more effective. Routine patrolling followed throughout the winter but in March 1918 came the big German offensive and No. 46, flying from Le Hameau, was very busily engaged. Lt. G. R. Maclaren had a good day on 2nd March when he destroyed two L.V.G.s and a kite-balloon in one sortie and on the 23rd the squadron flew 60 operational hours.

With this offensive finally repelled and the Allied advance beginning, the period of the big air battles over the Front began. No. 46 was in on these and acquitted itself well all through the summer of 1918. It was again called upon from time to time to come down to the fighting line and strafe the German positions; in fact, on one occasion, in October, a German gun battery was chased along the roads until it was finally driven to an Allied position and captured. During these final months of the fighting it was almost all ground attack

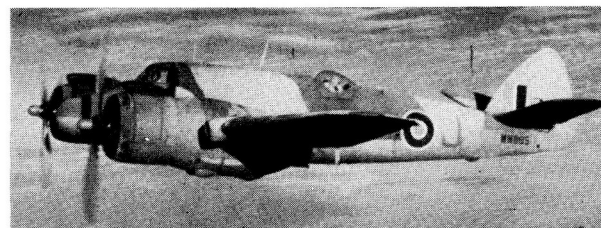
work and the last sorties were flown on 10th November, the day before the Armistice was signed.

No. 46 did not long survive the end of the war, being reduced to cadre in January 1919 and returning to the U.K. the next month. On 31st December 1919 it was officially disbanded at Rendcombe.

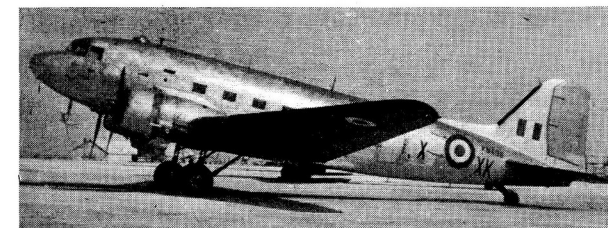
In the mid-thirties the R.A.F. was hurriedly expanding to meet the threat of a resurgent German power. A new 46 Squadron arose, once again as a fighter squadron, being formed by taking "B" Flight of No. 17 Squadron at Kenley and expanding it to full squadron strength. It was equipped with Gauntlets (re-forming date was 3rd September 1936) and these were emblazoned with No. 46's red arrow-head marking. After a year in the London area it moved to 12 Group, becoming part of the Digby scene. When the Munich crisis came it was still flying Gauntlets and indeed kept them until March 1939 when it at last received Hurricanes.

When World War II broke out No. 46 was fully operational and flew East Coast patrols. These were to provide the squadron with an early combat for in October it discovered a formation of Heinkel He 115s near a convoy and waded in, shooting down three and so damaging one that it landed on the sea. Such activity was the exception, however, and for the most part the squadron was engaged in flying routine and monotonous patrols with no action. A move to Acklington in November provided more scrambles but with little tangible success and in the New Year No. 46 returned to Digby. In March it was operational at night and in April was alerted to relieve one of the squadrons in France but this move was cancelled.

On 10th May 1940 the squadron boarded H.M.S. *Glorious* for Norway. Some delay was experienced due to unsuitable landing grounds but eventually, on the 26th, the squadron flew off the aircraft-carrier and landed at Skaanland, two aircraft crashing on landing because of the soft surface. The next day, after another crash, the squadron was diverted to Bardufoss and there began regular operational patrols in defence of Narvik. A week of hectic fighting took place in which No. 46 was given little time to do other than fly and fight. On the 28th a Junkers Ju 88 and



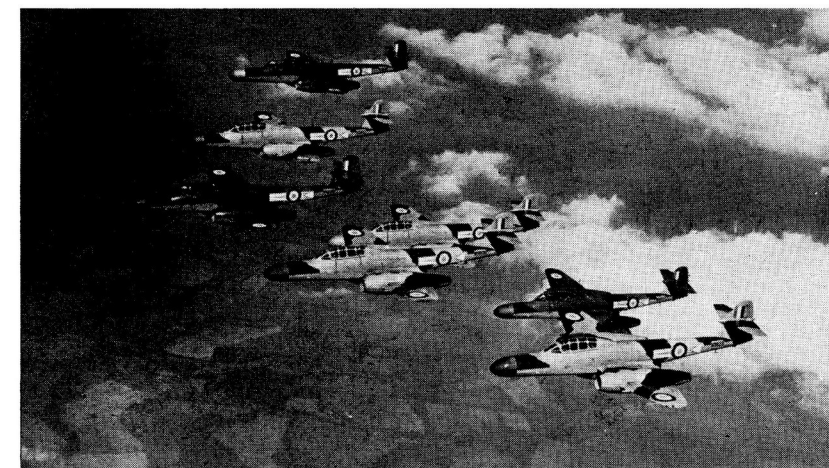
LEFT: Towards the end of the war in the "Med." No. 46's Beaufighter VIFs flew night-intruder sorties over enemy-held islands (Photo: Dr. A. P. Macdonald). RIGHT: Post-war, No. 46 Sqn. operated Dakotas to Europe and Middle East



two Dornier Do 26 flying-boats were shot down. The 29th was even more hectic, with four attacks in which six German aircraft were destroyed, but three of No. 46's pilots were shot down, two being killed and one picked up by a naval ship. From then on the squadron's task was to cover evacuation plans for the British Army, and once that was done No. 46 itself re-embarked in *Glorious*, on 7th June, after several more combats had taken place. The next day *Glorious* was sunk and only the C.O., S/Ldr. K. B. B. Cross, and a Flight Commander, F/Lt. Jameson, were saved out of the entire aircrew.

A new 46 Squadron was formed under S/Ldr. J. R. Maclachlan, and was operational by 25th June, based at Digby but using Wellingore as an advanced base for night readiness. As the fighting over Britain grew so No. 46 became gradually more involved although it was not in the south. However, in September, as the Battle of Britain was growing to its height, the squadron joined the North Weald Sector and was immediately thrown into the thick of the fighting. At first its losses were as high as its victories but soon the latter mounted as No. 46 again and again waded into the large formations flying in over the Thames Estuary. The pace was only relieved by occasional days of bad weather but these were few during that beautiful autumn. By October the *Luftwaffe* had resorted to sending over large formations of Messerschmitt 109s and No. 46 had many combats with them, scoring well but at a high cost. One of the most successful pilots on the squadron during its Battle of Britain period was F/Lt. A. C. Rabagliati; it was he who flew the squadron's four-cannon Hurricane I, V7360, with which he destroyed at least one Bf 109. In December he took over command of the squadron.

The next year, 1941, saw No. 46 again



In 1953 No. 46 became a fighter unit once more and the red arrow-head reappeared on the squadron's NF Meteors, seen here over Hampshire

taking an interest in night-fighting and eventually "C" Flight was formed for this purpose but little success attended its efforts. The squadron's first offensive sorties were flown on 10th February when its aircraft escorted Blenheims bombing Calais; one pilot was lost. In the event little more fighting took place for No. 46 in the U.K.—on 1st May it was declared non-operational but moved overseas to Egypt in July 1941 without aircraft and aircrew, its pilots being absorbed by No. 126 Squadron at Malta.

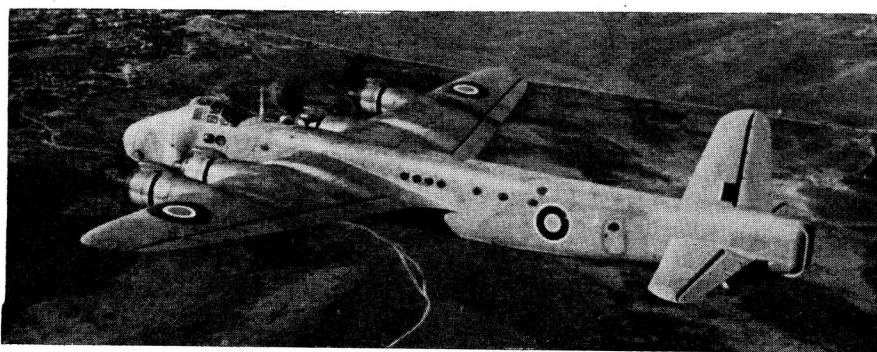
For nearly a year No. 46 was a squadron in number only, performing maintenance work in the Canal Zone and eventually forming No. 108 M.U. In May 1942 it swallowed up the detachment of No. 89 Squadron at Idku and thus became a night-fighter squadron with Beaufighters and aircrew. Then began one of No. 46's most successful periods of operations. On

16th June F/Lt. Clegg and Sgt. Taylor scored the squadron's first night victory, off Alexandria. Two weeks later two more were added to the score, one confirmed, one probable; and in July activity was fast and furious—on the 4th one Ju 88 destroyed, on the 7th two He 111s by the same crew (Clegg and Taylor again), the next night two more He 111s, and so on. Convoy patrols were also flown and these provided two German and two Italian aircraft to add to No. 46's tally. August continued to be busy for the squadron; unfortunately one of its kills that month was a B-25 Mitchell. The squadron's best night however was 4th September 1942 when one Ju 88 and two Cant Z.1007s were destroyed.

Thereafter the night raiding on Egypt fell off sharply and the squadron spent more time on convoy patrols. In October it flew some night interdiction sorties to the west of Mersa Matruh and this type of work provided No. 46's main operational task for the next five or six weeks, with a certain amount of patrol work off Sicily for coastal duties. In January 1943, however, it reverted to its primary role of night-fighting and with a detachment at Tobruk from 5th February began destroying enemy aircraft once more. By April it had detachments as far west as St. Jean; it was also experimenting in flying interceptions under the control of R.N. ships.

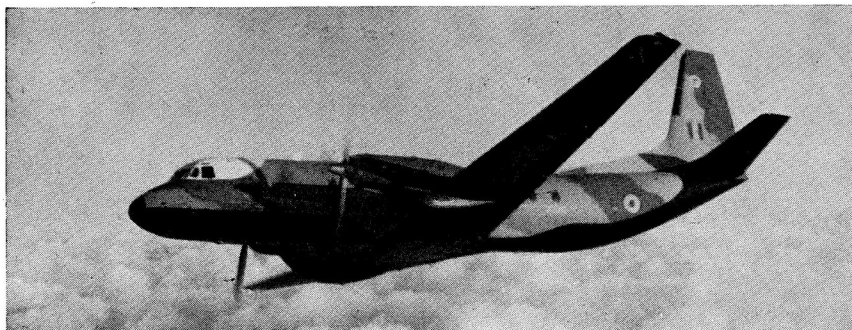
The squadron provided cover patrols for the Sicily invasion but found little opportunity for action. More activity transpired

After a notable existence as fighter unit No. 46 turned to transport duties, at first operating Stirling Vs to India (Photo: Imperial War Museum)



Having pioneered the Javelin FAW.1 into service, No. 46 Squadron converted to FAW.2s in 1957. Both types can be seen here: FAW.1 XA620 "E" in the lead with FAW.2 XA776 "N" behind

JUNE 1967



And finally back to transports—one of No. 46 Squadron's current Andover C.1s

No. 46 Squadron . . .

in September when it moved to the Dodecanese, ground-strafting the airfields and flying night-intruder sorties over Rhodes. For these operations the squadron was detached to Cyprus but it was often flying at extreme range which reduced its effectiveness. On occasion, too, the squadron was severely mauled, as on 3rd October when, in an attack on Cos, four Beaufighters were shot down into the sea. The following months maintained the same pattern, with the squadron split into many detachments, the H.Q. still at Idku finding occasional night interception activity over the Delta and some of the detachments being fairly busy on night-intruder work.

In 1944 the squadron's activities followed much the same lines; three Ju 52s were destroyed during intruding over Rhodes in February, and more in March but then there were no more successes until June. Mosquitoes at last replaced the Beaufighters in August and September, and October provided plenty of activity for the Gambut detachment which, controlled by the G.C.I. ship *Ulster Queen*, flew intruders in the Aegean and destroyed eleven enemy aircraft in three days. This activity dropped off towards the end of the month, and in November no operations were flown at all. No. 46 was no longer required in the Mediterranean.

Its personnel returned to the U.K. in December; the demand now was for an expanding transport force, so No. 46 began a new existence as a long-distance transport unit. For this it was based at Stoney Cross in the New Forest and equipped initially with Stirling Vs. Its task was to fly freight schedules to India and this it began in

April 1945, after a lengthy work-up. Dum Dum, St. Thomas Mount and Ratmalana were its termini in India and regular schedules were flown. In July it also incorporated shuttle services between Cairo and Mauripur. All this was short-lived for in August the squadron was re-routed to the Middle East, serving Luqa and Maison Blanche. By and large the flying was routine and monotonous but it was not without its trials and tribulations, as when PJ904 ploughed through a canteen at Lyneham in November 1945, killing two people.

In 1946 the Stirlings gave way to Dakotas and No. 46's role and routes were modified accordingly, much of its flying being into Europe. This was to advantage when the squadron was called upon to take part in the Berlin Airlift, which became another time of high pressure for No. 46, being based in this country at Waterbeach but flying from West German advanced bases up and down the corridor into Berlin. The airlift eventually tailed off as the blockade was eased and was followed by a brisk axing of Transport Command; No. 46 fell foul of the axe and was disbanded in March 1950.

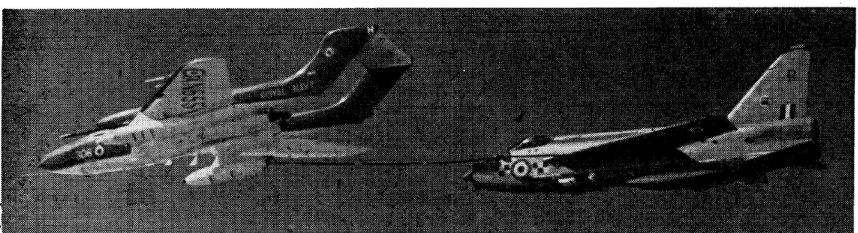
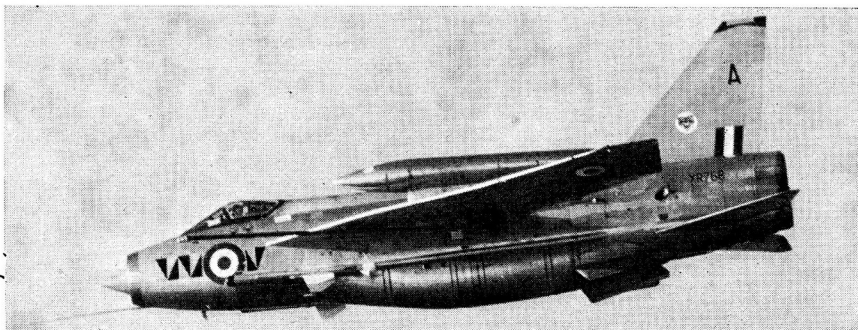
It reappeared as a fighter squadron in 1953, flying night-fighter Meteors at Leuchars. The following year it moved down to Odiham where its NF. Meteors,

emblazoned with the squadron's red arrow-head once more, flew alongside Nos. 54 and 247 Squadrons' Meteor F.8s and Hunters. In February 1956 No. 46 acquired its own niche in R.A.F. history by becoming the first Javelin squadron. Its task was to work this advanced all-weather fighter into service, a task not without danger as the C.O. was lost in June. No. 46's pioneering was successfully accomplished, however, and the squadron became the precursor of many Javelin units in the U.K. and overseas. In 1957 it received the FAW.2 version of the Javelin, a version which it retained for the rest of its fighter service. Most of this was flown at Odiham, although the squadron was frequently on detachment, until Odiham closed as a fighter station in July 1959. The squadron then moved to Waterbeach where it continued as part of Fighter Command's defence force until disbandment came in April 1961.

No. 46 then lay dormant until last year when it reappeared in its alternative role of transport squadron, becoming the first operational squadron in the R.A.F. flying Andovers. It is now worked-up fully on this type and flying it regularly, both on the Transport Command routes and in the many exercises with the Army in which 38 Group, of which it is a part, specialises, exploiting the Andover's STOL capabilities to the full.

Representative aircraft

Nieuport 1½ Strutter A309; Sopwith Pup B1719 "4"; Sopwith Camel D6491; Gloster Gauntlet II K7794; Hawker Hurricane I P3597; Bristol Beaufighter IF X7766 "A"; Bristol Beaufighter VIF MM875 "N"; Stirling V PJ952 "XK:F"; Dakota C.4 KN241 "XK:K"; Gloster Meteor NF.12 WS623 "Q"; Gloster Meteor NF.14 WS808 "U"; Gloster Javelin FAW.1 XA621 "F"; Gloster Javelin FAW.2 XA777 "R"; Andover C.1 XS609.



OVERSEAS LIGHTNINGS—TOP: The F.6s of No. 74 Squadron, formerly at Leuchars, are now on their way to their new base at Tengah, Singapore. **BOTTOM:** Already established at Akrotiri, Cyprus, is No. 56 Squadron, ex-Wattisham, with shorter-range F.3s, one of which is here being refuelled from a Royal Navy Sea Vixen FAW.2 of No. 892 Squadron, H.M.S. Hermes, while off Cyprus