



NEWSLETTER

October 1995

Another successful meeting

In spite of the weather there was a good turn-out for the second meeting of 1995, a mixture of veterans of the May meeting and some new members attending for the first time. As before the rallying point was by the control tower for some preliminary gossip followed by the now traditional group photograph in front of the Hunter then on to the class room for the formal bit of the meeting.

Bob Hope gave his usual welcoming speech which also gave him the opportunity to thank Steve Woolford for organising the entrance and room facilities. Allan McRae then gave a brief statement regarding the Data Protection Act and that the membership currently stood at 42 fully paid up members.

Apologies for absence were received from ;

Dez & Heather Winder
John & Hilda Sills
Eddie Vincent
George Wall
Mike & Mrs Knighton
Willy Woodward
Bob & Jean Way
Jim Goldsmith
Trevor Collins
John Smith

A general debate then took place which resulted in the following proposals:

1/ That members partners be given I/D badges when attending.

2/ That future meetings will be held every May & September.

3/ The search to continue for a suitable and economical supply of badges.

4/ The committee to investigate the feasibility of holding a more formal function i.e. Dinner in the officers mess, early in 1996, or as part of the May meeting.

That concluded the formal part of the meeting, members then dispersed to do there own thing. Steve Woolford took the opportunity to meet with the ladies and to record their recollections of work and play whilst serving at Duxford.

This was the last meeting of 1995 but hopefully the initial enthusiasm will be maintained until we meet again next May, in the meantime talk or write to each other, try and

find new members, and remember we need your suggestions. Submissions to this newsletter will be gratefully received, try and avoid date sensitive issues as a guaranteed publication date is not possible, however every effort will be made to find topics for inclusion so that you are kept in touch with happenings that affect the association.

Finally could those of you who have yet to return you Data permission forms do so, then provided there are no objections each member will be given a copy of the membership list giving names, addresses, etc. The permit statement has now been included in the membership application forms so that will make things simpler in the future. A sample of the revised application form is included so you can use it when you recruit new members!

Photo Appeal

Due to technical difficulties beyond our control, the camera of the official photographer failed to capture the meeting on film, so if any of you who attended the meeting and took photographs of the group could lend the negatives to Bob Hope for printing, (safe return of the negatives is assured.) we would be most grateful. Please send them direct to Bob then he can send a print to all members.

Aircraft news.

Whilst waiting at the rally point we were fortunate to be entertained by a take off and then a fly-by of 4 Spitfires that included a T9 flown by Carolyn Grace, who had also given a display at the Duxford September show the previous weekend. Another aeroplane that was parked near-by and aroused some curiosity was eventually identified as a rare Max Holste MH1521 Broussard as used by the French army.

On the model front Airfix have a plastic kit available of a Javelin 9/9R complete with 64 Sqdn transfers, the model No is 04045, series 4, 1/72 scale, for those of you who fancy an earlier type it is possible with a bit of cut and fill to convert it to a MK7.

Car Sticker

If you can colour the enclosed drawing of our badge, then cut it

out you should be able to fit it into the tax disc holder (supplied by Bob) then display it on your car.this will be a good bit of colourful publicity that should last until we can get proper one's made.The colours are;

Feet-Orange

Beak- Yellow

Inside mouth-Red

Flash- Blue

Top background- Pale sky blue

Lower background-Light green

Coloured pencils or water colours would do, but poster paints may be more fade resistant-have a go.

"Parade Shun"

A Duxford Parade in the 1950 period.

Royal Air Force types will know that parade procedure follows a pattern governed by the size of the RAF station. The average parade would comprise three wings, each wing consisting of two or more squadrons. These would, in turn, be split into flights if there was a large number of personnel. The object of this explanation is to imprint a clearer picture of what occurred on parade during an annual inspection of a typical RAF operational station by the Air Officer Commanding the group.

It was one of those idyllic English summer days, when the drone of bees is preferable to the drone of planes. The thought of the impending inspection seemed to cast a pall of uneasiness over the station, and the day , glorious as it was, did nothing to dispel this gloom.

Perfectly normal men were hurrying hither and thither in their immaculate uniforms, medals clinking (on those who had any) trying to appear without care, but now and then stooping to flick dust from their shoes or pick up pieces of paper. ("Put that man on a charge Sergeant, he disturbed the gravel") The parade formed up into three wings on the airfield track, with Wing Commanders strutting back and forth like nervous hens. The Band, to one side of the parade, tuned up, whilst the Bandmaster kept a wary eye open for the arrival of the staff cars.

At the foot of the flag staff a service policeman stood clutching the flag lines. The furled flag was at the top of the flag staff ready to be struck when the band played the General Salute.

The A.O.C. arrived and stepped onto the dais in front of the flag staff. At the same moment the parade was called to attention and ordered to "present arms" whilst the band blared forth the General Salute. This was the moment to strike the flag, the policeman pulled on the flag lines once, then twice, pulling harder and harder each time until it seemed he was literally hanging on the lines. The band struck up once more, the parade still held at the present, and the A.O.C. remained at the salute. At last the flag unfurled, and there in the light summer breeze the flag flew-upside down!! A slight titter and murmuring wafted through the ranks, whilst the sweating policeman stood stiffly at attention, wishing fervently that the ground would open up.

The Parade Commander then gave the order "Open order march", causing the lines of troops hurriedly to 'Order arms' from the 'present' and shuffle backward or forward to form the correct lines.

Seeming to overlook this 'faux pas' the A.O.C. marched forward to inspect the parade followed by his retinue and accompanied by a selection of light music played by the band. The first line of troops was negotiated ,but , as he turned to proceed along the second line he slipped then staggered to regain his balance. Unfortunately this incident coincided with the playing of the tune 'Dance Ballerina Dance' causing further amusement to be felt throughout the ranks. Alas,English humour was not with the A.O.C. that morning, and he strode furiously through the remaining lines, and thence to the dais.

The Wing Commanders then ordered their respective wings to 'Close order march'-'Right dress'-'Slope arms'-and finally 'Right turn' ready to commence the march past, by the now, puce and near apoplectic A.O.C.

Marching at the head of his wing, number one Wing Commander boldly shouted "Number Wing Wong, Mick Quarch", this was the proverbial last straw, from all ranks a snigger became a muffled laugh. It also had a 'sucking a lemon' effect on the band, and try as they may , the 'March past' music would not blare forth.



One may ask, what was the outcome of these unfortunate incidents?, the answer to this question never materialised. The A.O.C. was not seen again that day, rumour has it, that a through dressing down was administered to the higher ranks by the god -like figure of the A.O.C. The Station Commander was ordered to lay on another inspection for the following week. The Officers mess fund became extremely solvent, whilst the Mess members descended into debt. In fact it was said, that the M.O. became an authority on nervous breakdowns in the short span of that week.

This short tale was submitted by **Terry Crowley** in response to our appeal for members participation, any one else got anything?