

Our Committee

The current committee is:

Derek Whatling	Chairman
Pete Chadwick	President (and reunion organizer)
Jules Rutt	Association Secretary
Brian Tanner	Treasurer
Stewart Cameron Forbes	Sales
Pete Chadwick	Reunion Organiser
Hugh Cumming	Newsletter
Mike Furness	
Mike Hamill	Webmaster
Ian Stephenson	Membership Secretary

The Squadron Commander and Association Liaison Officer, currently Sara Mackmin and Justin Shaw, are *ex officio* members of the Committee.

It is a policy of the Association that the Committee will offer themselves for re-election at each Annual General Meeting and will encourage members to offer themselves or be nominated. The Committee is concerned that we do not finish up with the same people in post endlessly thus stifling a flow of fresh ideas and initiatives.

In the spirit of this , a new newsletter editor is needed . Please contact Hugh

Mucky Duck is published bi-annually in the Spring and Autumn - roughly April and October and, like every newsletter editor in the world, I am very grateful to those who contribute. I am also in varying states of desperation for more contributions as the year goes round.

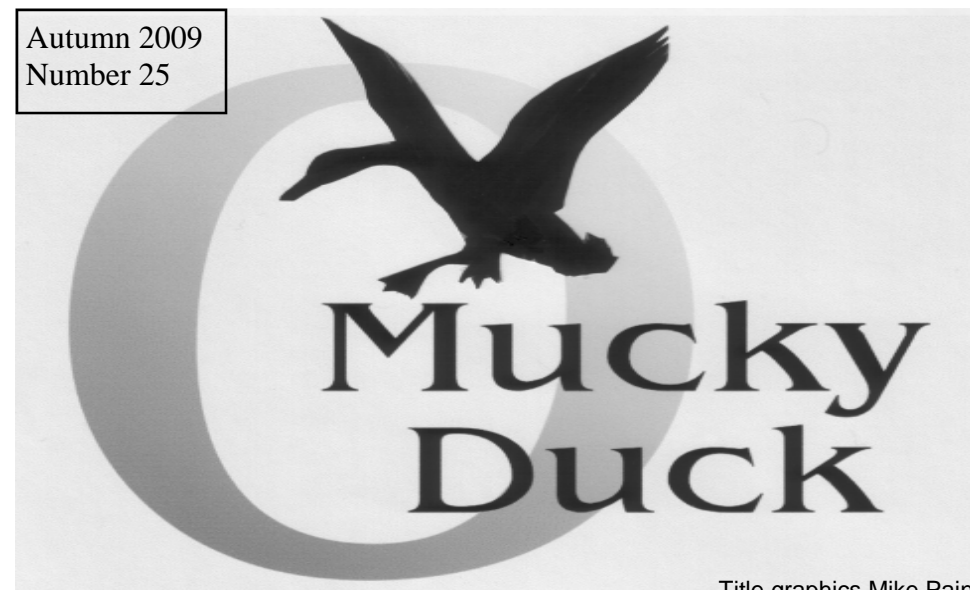
I you have a contribution to make, or just an idea for an article, please let me have it. Best to send it as it occurs and not wait for April or October.

I am in the throes of changing ISP, but postal strikes are no help at all. Until I succeed, please use

hugh@anguspictures.com

I shall pass my new one to regular correspondents when I have it.

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Title graphics Mike Pain

The Newsletter of 202 Squadron Association

www.202-sqn-assoc.co.uk



In with the New

The major event at this year's reunion was the handover of command of the Squadron from Andy Bastaple to Sara Mackmin. The transfer actually took place at our annual dinner.

At the AGM we elected Pete Chadwick to be our new President

Those members who didn't make it to the reunion, will be heartily sick of it by the end of this Mucky duck. Never mind, see page 9 for news of next year's home fixture.

From the Squadron

As seems to be a developing theme with 202 Squadron Association Liaison Officers, I am detached to the Falklands as I write my second instalment to the Mucky Duck. For those of you who have been here, nothing much changes. This morning it was so warm that I could have been sun bathing, but now I sit indoors watching snow fly past the window at 50mph!

Since my last article the Squadron has again been busy. The usual array of jobs has been undertaken at all 3 flights, although we await winter for the really interesting rescues. The squadron has again been out and about: D Flight, Lossiemouth completed a LongSAR (liaison visit) to France; the Squadron Standard has made the trip to Gibraltar twice again this summer and a couple of personnel have been recognised for personal achievements and gallantry.

The Queen's Birthday Parade in Gibraltar this year was a fantastic occasion for the Squadron. Once again we were privileged enough to be invited to parade the Squadron Standard at the 'Pillars of Hercules'. As you know, this was also the venue for the Association Annual Dinner. All those present at the dinner witnessed the exchange of command of 202 Squadron from Wing Commander Andy Bastable to Wing Commander Sara Mackmin, with the ceremonial handing over of the 'The Drake's' cuff links. This, along with a visit to the cemetery to remember fallen comrades as well as several excursions, made for a memorable week. On a personal note, may I say it was an honour to meet so many members of the Association, however, please don't make drink with you again, my liver can not handle it!

In September Sergeant Jim Bethell was award the Queen's Commendation for Bravery in the Air (QCBA). This commendation is awarded for specific acts of gallantry whilst serving as a member of the Armed Forces. Jim was the winchman during a rescue near Sunderland in summer 2008. Due to the treacherous weather conditions, and 15 foot high waves that were throwing spray up to 25 feet, the on-scene lifeboat and coastguard teams were unable to attempt a recovery. Rescue 131 from RAF Boulmer was scrambled and on scene within minutes. Realising that an immediate rescue was required and despite the risk to his personal safety, Jim insisted on being lowered towards the casualty in turbulent waters that were within 15 meters of the breakwater. During the rescue, several large waves engulfed both Jim and the casualty. Each of these waves carried them ever closer towards the breakwater and at times, they were fully immersed and obscured from the view from the helicopter. Displaying extraordinary grit,

The Squadron Fund Shop

Shopkeepers: Flt Lt Steve Johnson
Cpl Rachel Davies

Crest mug	£2.50
Crest Sticker	£0.40
Sea King Pin	£2.00
Crested Tankard	£16.00
Tie Pin	£4.00
Cummerbund	£20.00
Sea King XL Sticker	£1.20
Tie	£6.00
Plaque	£21.00
Cloth Crest	£3.90
Sea King Print	£5.00
SAR T-shirt	£10.00
Cloth Badge	£1.50

For illustrations of the sale items, please see the Spring Mucky duck.

In addition to the items available from the Squadron, the association tie is on sale from Stew.

Membership

We currently have 153 members of which only 97 are paid up. Steve will be reminding you, but please check yourself

For photographs in this edition of Mucky duck, I am indebted to John Malcolm, Justin Shaw and Pete Wyatt.

Thus next year's Reunion will be 9/10th April 2010, **put it in your diaries!** I'm negotiating hotels at the moment. Shifnal are playing hard to get and it is a long way from Shawbury. So, I might look nearer to Shrewsbury - which is good for Saturday shopping for those who might not wish to do the Station visit!

CU there!



FINANCE CORNER

As at 1 September 2009 the Association has £6,436 in the Accounts held at Lloyds Bank.

In June we received a generous Legacy of £2,000 from the estate of Ron Moseley - former Honorary President, who died in January.

Expenditure on the Gibraltar Reunion slightly exceeded income [well worth it !]

Other outgoings have been routine. Bank interest - a 'few pennies' per month these days !

Brian Tanner

and skill, Jim recovered the casualty and, despite being exhausted from the rescue, he continued to administer CPR during the transit to Sunderland General Hospital.

Master Aircrew Ron Webb clocked up a monumental record this summer. Ron achieved his 10,000th Sea king hour (equivalent to 1 year, 1 month and 20 days in the air) in a helicopter from A Flight, 202 Squadron. Whilst celebrating with family and colleagues, he said:

'Reaching 10,000 hours in the Sea King was never a target; it's just that I've been around for a long time! But having achieved it I feel quite proud.'

Ron, the sole remaining member of No 1 Sea King OCU, has been scrambled an impressive 920 times. Rescues have included: searching for survivors from the collapsed oil rig 'Alexander Keiland' in the North Sea; working in the aftermath of the Lockerbie bombing; and more recently he assisted in floods in Carlisle (2005) and Sheffield (2007). Ron continues to be a great example to all of us: he commands great respect for his professional approach to the job he loves and it remains our pleasure to work with him.

Again there have been many changes amongst the HQ and Flight personnel. Of note, my current boss here on 1564 Flight, in the Falklands, is Squadron Leader Duncan Clarke who replaces Mark Vickery as the boss at A Flight in November. Squadron Leader Clarke has finally seen the light and joined the mighty 202 Squadron having previously completing two tours on 22 Squadron, before a tour as an instructor at RAF Shawbury. Mark completes a direct swap with Duncan, by moving him and his family down south to take the reins as OC 1564 Flight. In the HQ, Jon Everitt rejoins the Squadron after a stint with the Navy, followed by a tour on the OCU, 203 Squadron. Jon replaces Squadron Leader Chris Mace at OC Squadron Training Team (STT) and Chris returns to E Flight, Leconfield. Also being replaced on the STT is MACR Steve Larke, who also returns to Leconfield and MACR Rik Maving replaces him. Finally of note, MACR Mark Stevens returns from the dark side. Mark has completed a tour on Sea King Standards (previously HSU) and is due to return to Boulmer in November. MACR Harry Harrison from Leconfield replaces Mark.

I wish you all the best for the New Year from the squadron and look forward to meeting more members of the Association in the future.

Justin Shaw

Wreath Laying at Gibraltar

On the morning of Thursday 11th June several members of the Association went to lay a wreath at the cemetery at North Front. The North Front (or Garrison) Cemetery, located next to the airport, stands on the low peninsula between the "Devil's Tower" and the Neutral Ground. The majority of the men who lost their lives while at Gibraltar during the 1939-1945 War are buried here. Most of their graves are in two adjacent plots at the northern end of the cemetery, but some are also scattered in other parts.

Transport to and from the cemetery was organised by Flight Lieutenant Mick Wood, whose assistance during the reunion visit to Gibraltar was invaluable. At the cemetery we were met by a Gibraltarian who was, I believe, employed at the cemetery. He led us to the northern end of the cemetery where most of the military graves are located, indicating several others on the way. He also drew our attention to some interesting civilian graves.



We spent some time quietly contemplating the many military graves in the two largest plots (Plots 1 and 2). We then elected to lay our wreath on the graves of a Royal Air Force crew who lost their lives on 21st January 1942. Wing Commander Bryn Lewis said some appropriate and moving words in commemoration of 202 Squadron members who had given their lives, before laying the wreath. A minute's silence followed.

I took photographs of the graves of the eight aircrew, and on return home was able to confirm via the Commonwealth War Graves Commission web site that they were a 202 Squadron crew. Subsequently, Association member Pat Simm (who created the 202 Squadron Memorial Plaque which was dedicated in King's Chapel later on the Thursday morning) kindly sent me the full list of the ninety-seven Gibraltar related 202 Squadron casualties for 1939 to 1947. That list shows that the graves are those of the crew of Catalina AJ157.

REUNION 2010

Before telling you of the plans for next year's reunion, best I tell you the results of the survey we carried out after the Reunion in Gibraltar. You'll remember that the choices of venue were Aldergrove; Shawbury; Valley; or Lossiemouth. I asked you to give me your 1st and 2nd choices.

Before announcing the results, I need to say that I was keen to go to Aldergrove and so, whilst awaiting the survey returns, I took advice, from a number of informed sources, on the practicalities of such a visit. That advice was not encouraging. Firstly, although the organisation which would be in place next year in Aldergrove (it would no longer be a RAF station by that time) could probably do us a formal dinner, there would be little, if any, other Service support. Secondly, there was strong advice that the security situation was not as benign as it might currently appear - whilst the threat to individuals was not perhaps so great - a group of military connected civilians might attract the wrong kind of attention. So, attractive as the idea might sound on the face of it, it would fly in the face of acceptable risk to go there for the moment.

So, to the results - I asked members to give me their 1st and 2nd choices from the 4 alternatives. 44 members (25%-ish) voted, which I'm told is statistically a good return. Some gave only 1 choice, whilst others told me also where they would never go! I'll just stick to the 1st and 2nd choices.

The results were as follows:

1 st Choice:		2 nd Choice:	
Aldergrove	09	Aldergrove	00
Shawbury	18	Shawbury	07
Valley	12	Valley	13
Lossiemouth	05	Lossiemouth	06

Shawbury and Valley have the same total of votes, but Shawbury has the greater number of 1st choices. Hence Shawbury takes it.

The Mess at Shawbury are going to do us a Formal Dinner on Saturday 10th April, 2010, and we shall have a visit to the station on the same day.

A Message from the President

First, may I tell you how honoured I feel that you have chosen me to be your new president. Albeit, so I'm told, that some of you only voted for me on the understanding that I would keep on looking after the reunions - fear not, see elsewhere for reunion news.

Secondly, I'd like to pay tribute to our past President, Mr Ron Moseley, who, sadly, passed away late last year. Many of you will remember him from earlier reunions, but Ron has been quite unwell during the last few years and has been unable to join us. Nonetheless he continued to take a keen interest in the Association and much enjoyed his copies of the "Mucky Duck". We have more tangible reasons to be grateful to him, of which many of you might not be aware. Ron, a wartime Catalina pilot, was one of the earlier members to join the Association when we first got going and were having annual lunches in the RAF Club. When I invited him to become our first President, he showed his commitment by donating £500 to our funds. He has since further demonstrated this by leaving us another £2000 in his will. We're immensely grateful.

The answer to the next question is - No!

One principle I tried to establish in our early days was that our Committee would not be static and unchanging. Sadly, although we've had one or two recruits to the Committee, who are very welcome, it is still largely the same Committee as when we started out over 10 years ago. So, please may I plead again for some of you who can spare a little time for the Association to come forward. We don't necessarily need you to do a specific job, in the first place just add your thoughts and ideas to our discussions. Jules would love to hear from you.

See you at the next Reunion!
In Comradeship,

Pete Chadwick

They are:

85256	F/O	Derrick RC	Pilot
955811	Sgt	Godderidge W	W Op/ Air Gunner
639106	Sgt	Johnstone J	W Op/ Air Gunner
531079	Sgt	Roberts TI	Air Gunner
40752	F/L	Romer SC	Pilot
923776	Sgt	Taylor GG	Air Observer
617565	FS	Turnbull J	F Mech/Air Gunner
1251526	Sgt	Westkelsey FA	W Op/ Air Gunner

Unconfirmed Internet sources (in English and Spanish) have the following information:

Catalina AJ157. Op: A/S Sweep, New Camp, 07:02 hrs.
Flew into a hill 3 miles north east of Carnero Point, Spain at approx. 07:15 hrs.

John Malcolm

Closure of RAF Aldergrove

"Steve" Stephenson was passed me a link for a BBC News item on the closure of RAF Aldergrove. It is:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/1/hi/northern_ireland/8265882.stm

It is most unlikely to be the same flag, but quite a few members will remember the flagpole from stints as Orderly Officer and Orderly Sergeant.

I can't believe that there is any truth in the rumour that the occasional Orderly Sergeant overslept for the flag raising and that a RAF policeman had to be recruited to blow his whistle.



And still she gazed and still her wonder grew



Probably the greatest treat laid on for the reunion trip was invitations for all to attend the Queen's Birthday Parade in Casemate Square by The Royal Regiment of Gibraltar with 202 Squadron's Standard on parade. As experts, we felt obliged agree that a higher standard of drill was unlikely to be seen on London's Horseguards.

Another spectacle attended by members was a gun salute to HRH Prince Phillip Duke of Edinburgh. It was obvious that the 202 sense of humour continues when one member was overheard asking the way to Prince Phillip's firing squad and another, looking out to Algecerais, complained that he could not see the fall of shot.



202 SQN STANDARD - ORIGINS

The origin of Royal Air Force Colours and Standards dates back to World War II when, on the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the Royal Air Force, King George VI announced his intention to award ceremonial flags, to be known as Standards, to operational squadrons. To qualify for the award of a Standard, the King decreed that a squadron must have completed either 25 years of service in the Royal Air Force, Royal Auxiliary Air Force, Royal Naval Air Service or Royal Flying Corps, or have earned the King's appreciation for outstanding operations.

Unlike Colours (which, in ceremonial terms, have precedence over Standards on the parade ground and can only be presented by the Sovereign), Standards are generally presented by the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Command to which the squadron belongs. Upon its presentation, the Standard is blessed by an officiating chaplain at a dedication ceremony.

All Squadron 2ft 8in in size and In the centre is s q u a d r o n ' s on either side maximum of 10

Award of No. 202 standard was announced on 15 be effective from was presented by Sir Douglas Evill 1957. The presented with a Air Chief Marshal 1987 and the was laid up in St in The Cathedral

in Gibraltar. The squadron's 5 Battle Honours are proudly displayed on the standard for its noteworthy role in operations on the Western Front and in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, North Africa and Biscay between 1916 and 1944.



Standards are 4ft x hand-made in silk. embroidered the badge, with scrolls detailing up to a battle honours.

Squadron's originally January 1952, to 1 April 1951 and Air Chief Marshal on 6 September squadron was new standard by Sir Peter Terry in original standard George's Chapel of the Holy Trinity