

102 (CEYLON) SQUADRON ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2011

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*'And when you come to 102
And think that you will get through
There's many a fool who thought like you
It's suicide but its fun.'*

(Anonymous 102 Squadron member, 1941).

To My Friends and Colleagues,

I would like to apologise for leaving you all in the dark.

I'm now trying to recommence our 'News Letter' with the assistance of many friends.

Although I'm unable to get out and about as I used to, but I'm hoping to regain the use of my legs in the near future.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The association's finances are in a somewhat perilous state. It would therefore help if everyone could send their annual subscription, of £5 to the secretary, as early as possible. Many thanks,



'Lest We Forget'



Mike Cummings will be attending St Catherine's Church Barmby Moor for this years 'Remembrance Service', followed by a 'Wreath Laying Ceremony' at the airfield memorial. Mike has organised the wreaths for both occasions.

**Mikes' contact details are; Tel/Answer phone: 01923-711818 when leaving a message
Please prefix with 102 Squadron, or email as above.**

Tom Wingham

102 Squadron Annual Meeting 23rd July 2011



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Attendees

Back Row (Left to right)

Chris Harper, Mike Cummings, Mrs. Bosworth, Cllr, Graham Perry,
Simon Kularatne, Graham Horton, Peter Everett.

Front Row (Left to right)

Tom Sayer, Harry Hughes, John Bosworth, John Everett,
Mrs Ibbotson, Larry Taylor, James Ibbotson.

Our afternoon meeting commenced at 14:30 hours on the above date, the squadron members were entertained by the Mayor of Pocklington Cllr Graham Perry, with tea and biscuits followed by a film.

After the film Cllr Graham Perry suggested the obvious, we require a chairman to conduct this meeting.

After much discussion it was obvious none of the members wanted this job, the only person to volunteer was Michael (Mike) D Cummings, an associate member.

Mike was elected by a unanimous show of hands by all present.

Cllr Graham Perry stated that the Pocklington Town council is pleased to be associated with the 102 Squadron Association and will be pleased to offer limited support, however and whatever format the association continues.

Mike, as chairman thanked him for his kind words and the offer of continued support by the town council. This support we graciously accepted.

One suggestion was to wind up the association!

This suggestion, to wind up the association was received like a lead balloon.

At this point Mike stated he considered the object of 'The 102 Squadron Association' must be to continue and go forward all the time we have members from WWII and the members who served with '102' until the final disbanding, during August 1956.

After further healthy discussions it was resolved the association would continue in some form in spite of the suggestion to wind up the association. I do need some help and assistance. Mike Cummings and Chris Harper have offered their services to assist me.

The above was unanimously voted for in favour, by a show of all hands.

I accepted the above offer. Mike has helped me to prepare your September 2011 newsletter and Chris Harper offered to set up a 102 Squadron Website, this I'm reliably informed is taking shape.

The only other matter to be voted on was the 2012 Annual Meeting, Mike suggested Saturday 21st July 2012 for our meeting followed by the church service on Sunday 22nd July 2012.

The above was unanimously voted for all in favour, by a show of hands.

These will probably be combined next year. I will advise you know in the "Spring" when dates for the unveiling have been finalized. *(Please see next paragraph).*

ANNUAL DINNER 2012 & BOMBER COMMAND MEMORIAL UNVEILING

Would all members of '102 Squadron' interested in attending this major event please contact your secretary by telephone 01284-765224 or email at

tomw102@btinternet.com

† 'NOT FORGOTTEN' †

Powell, F William. (Sandy); Sadly passed away 14/May/2011 after suffering for many years with Alzheimer's. W/Op with 102 during 1943, Sandy was with Alan Gibson for a full tour, and then went on to complete another one with 640 Squadron. Married to Mary for 67 years, father of one much loved daughter.

Lewis, Jared B: Jared, Sadly passed away 13/March/2011. He was an A/G from September 1944 to February 1945 and according to Jo his wife, he was involved in three crashes all of which he survived.

BOMBER COMMAND MEMORIAL



ARTISTS IMPRESSION

102 Squadron Annual Diner

23rd July 2011

The annual diner was held at the 'Wolds Gliding Club'. Our rendezvous was at 19:00hrs for 19:30hrs. There was a good layout in the dinning room. With our guests of honour present, we all repaired to the dining room.

Our guests of honour were, Cllr Graham Perry the Mayor of Pocklington accompanied by his wife Mrs June Perry Mayoress. Major Jason Furlong RCAF. Ian Roger. Revd. Canon Valerie Hewetson, associate member, Squadron Padre for the evening.

The meal was served at 19:30hrs (I think the caterers did us proud), three courses followed by tea and coffee.

The Mayor of Pocklington Cllr Graham Perry opened the evening with a brief speech of welcome to all, including our guests, Major Jason Furlong RCAF. Ian Roger and Valerie Hewetson, associate member and Padre.

Grace was said by Cannon Valerie Hewetson, our Padre for this occasion.

The Loyal toast to Her Majesty the Queen was proposed by Our OC for the evening Larry Taylor DFC, followed by the appropriate response by all present.

Major Jason Furlong, brought greetings from the Royal Canadian Air Force. Jason talked about his career in the RCAF as a Flight Navigator involving search and rescue in the North Sea and mainland Canada. Other engagements he was involved in was tracking unknowns! The Majors present function is within the Canadian Embassy. Jason was applauded and warmly thanked. (Information for those who are not au fait with these changes in the RCAF 'Major' = Squadron Leader).

Our next speaker, Ian Roger, gave us a presentation regarding the proposed 'Memorial for Bomber Command'. The talk on this topic was accompanied by a slide presentation showing various aspects of the design and proposed construction, the materials used and how the statues were conceived and who they're modeled on.

This was exceedingly well received by all present but I did hear various comments, re 'C.Eng', this was between Ian and Graham, obviously an association which these gentlemen appeared to be members of.

After the official speeches, our OC, Larry, proceeded to regale us with stories, (sorties) of his and at least one other member, concerning the letting off of steam during non operational periods.



The one story I remember seemed to revolve around escorting WAAF's to various hostelry's and other venues of entertainment in and around Pocklington. (WAAF's in civvies of course). The mode of transport in a few of these sorties appears to have been various bicycles made for one with said maidens on the cross bars, if all is to be believed, many times riders and passengers contrived to fall off, for reasons known only to the participants. Larry is a raconteur and certainly livened up the latter part of the evening.

Larry. I think a few more stories of that ilk for the squadron news letter would make for humorous reading.

The last toast of the evening was 'To Absent Friends' in the capable hands of Harry Hughes DFC again followed by the appropriate response with feelings by all present.

The evenings festivities started to wind down at approximately 22:00hrs for carriages at 22:30hrs.

The new 102 (Ceylon) Squadron Web Site <http://www.102ceylonsquadron.co.uk>

As most members of the Association now know, 102 Squadron has its own web site, and about time too we say...

As of the 30th Sep, we have 167 separate pages, covering all sorts of different people and topics. In that time I have also been in contact with 43 original 102 members!!!

I have broken down what you can find on the site, just in case some of you fancy popping down to the library and taking a look.

Within the **History** section we have so far got a list of all the good books that mention 102 Squadron and Bomber Command. A section on 'Pocka Gen', the newsletter that started in 1944 and was sent out around the base, we have three copies so far,

DO YOU HAVE ANY WE COULD BORROW OR COPY??

Our thanks go out to EVERYONE who has sent photographs and information; in the next news letter I will be mentioning these people by name. For now, we still need YOUR story. 'My family has never ever seen a crew photo of my great Uncle Joe until one was sent by someone living in New Zealand. My mum sat and cried when She saw it for the first time'....Can you please make someone's day.

Webmaster Chris Harper. (H) 01253-313004 (M) 0785-231-5875

Ken Kiddell & MZ289

On the night of 18th September 1944 a 102 Sqn Halifax III MZ289 – DY-J took off from Pocklington. According to 'The Halifax File', published by Air Britain, it was lost over the North Sea on a practice bombing exercise.

The pilot was Capt. Ronald Thompson SAAF, Bomb Aimer was Sgt. Robert White RAFVR.

We've recently been contacted by Sgt White's nephew who has provided photographs proving the crews in the next two photographs are not of Capt. Thompson's crew.

Last month I received a selection of photographs from Mrs Joyce Kiddell, the widow of Sgt. Kenneth Kiddell. Ken was part of the ground crew at Pocklington and clearly shows Ken in front of MZ289. This photograph is not included here.

Three crew members of MZ289

Who are they??



Can you put a name to any of them??

We are currently looking through the Operational Record Book's to see if these crews who flew MZ289 from June 1944, (when MZ289 arrived at Pocklington), to September 1944 when the aircraft reportedly crashed in Holland.....if could be a very long list.

For now can you help in identifying who this crew are??

We have included a photograph here in the hope that someone might be able to recognize them, or maybe even put a date to the photograph.

To see all these photographs full size on the internet, please go to the 102 web site, and then to the memories page, there you will find Ken Kiddell's page.



All seven crew members of MZ289.

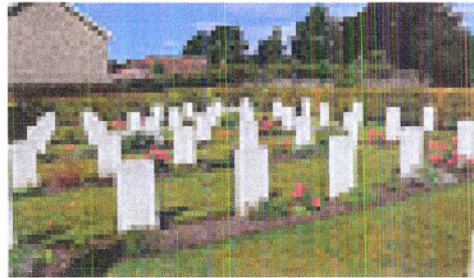
Can you put a name to any of them??

Webmaster Chris Harper (H) 01253-313004 (M) 0785-231-5875



Sunday 24th July 2011.

I'm pleased we were able to attend this part of our meeting at 'Barmby Moor' church.



After the service the members returned to the Wolds Gliding Club to lay a wreath,



Followed by R & R watching the gliders.





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