



THE ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION

Rutland Branch

THE FLYING HORSESHOE



No 120

Branch Newsletter

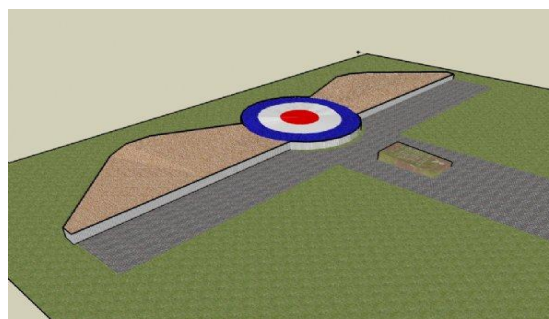
May 2008



Has anyone seen this man who has been caught impersonating a policeman. ??????????

Fred Prestwood has been in hospital for a knee operation and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Fred is the Branch Social Secretary and is arranging several visits for the future. One of the visits is to the **National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, nr. Lichfield, Staffordshire, DE137AR. Tel: 01283 792333**
Website www.thenma.org.uk



As our dedication states we will remember them. What better way to remember our comrades and friends by remembering them in a special place where family, friends and comrades can go and visit and celebrate the lives of departed loved ones.

Sunset Ceremony RAF Uxbridge 28th July 2008



It was a long journey of more than 6 hours but it was a memorable occasion and most certainly the best parade I have ever taken part in. Also the longest rehearsal I have ever done. The audience of more than one thousand far exceeding the estimated attendance of 800.

After incidental music performed by the Royal Air Forces Association President's Band, a Chinook arrived overhead, stirring the leaves on nearby trees and more than one of the ladies hats, to herald the arrival of the Royal Air Force Ensign. The Chinook made a spectacular, and near vertical exit and it was our turn to begin.

The Standards of the South and South Eastern Area and totalling 81 marched into the arena for the opening ceremony, to stirring music of the Central Band of the Royal Air Force. After performing the Standard Drill we marched off to warm applause.

We then had a short break where we had time to watch the immaculate display of The Queens Colour Squadron, the arrival by helicopter of two police dogs and their handlers of the Metropolitan Police.

We were then treated to a display of the British Airways Pipe Band, followed by a demonstration of the Metropolitan Police Dog Unit, where the audience were encouraged to cheer on their chosen team. A Mexican Wave followed their departure which went so well, that it was performed twice more in slow and quick time.

There followed a wonderful display by the Central Band of the Royal Air Force and all too soon it was time for the finale. All participants marched on in turn to warm applause and it was time for the closing ceremony.

If you have never heard the Evening Hymn performed by a large band and accompanied by a pipe band, I can thoroughly recommend that you put it on your things to do list. It was one of the most moving things it has been my pleasure to hear.

Francis Humphries

GET OUT OF JAIL FREE

Starting in 1941, increasing numbers of British airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape. Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful, accurate map, one showing not only where-stuff-was, but also showing the locations of "safe houses" a POW on-the-lam could go to for food and shelter.

Paper maps had real drawbacks: they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear-out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush. Someone in the MI-5 branch (one hopes it was the youthful incarnation of "Q!"), got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatever. At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington, Ltd. When approached by HM Government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington's was also the U.K. licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, "games and pastimes" was a category of item qualified for insertion into "CARE packages" dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war of all belligerents.

Under strictest secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were located (Red Cross packages were delivered to prisoners in accordance with that same regional system). When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add: A playing token containing a small magnetic compass A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian and French currency hidden within the piles of Monopoly money! British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first missions, on how to identify a "rigged" Monopoly set - by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square! Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWS who successfully escaped, perhaps one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely - HM Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in another, future war.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honoured in a public ceremony. At any rate, it's always nice when you can play that "Get Out of Jail Free" card.

Reproduced with the approval of :- Mike Howard "Old Thatch", East Street,, Ipplepen Devon TQ12 5SU

Submitted by Peter Thomas

STAMP COLLECTING

I would be obliged if you could mention in the next NL when printed that I am collecting used **British & Foreign postage stamps** all year round in aid of RAFA Wings Appeal, and would welcome members' support by bringing along to the meeting stamps with approx. one quarter of an inch of envelope left around the stamp. If not attending the meeting hand to any committee or phone me and I will happily collect. Many charities collect this way so we might as well give it a whirl!

Angie Humphries

CARTRIDGE COLLECTION

The RAF Benevolent Fund can now convert your used inkjet printer cartridges into money which helps to fund our valuable welfare work. Recycling also helps to conserve our planet for the future. The Fund receives £1 for each inkjet printer cartridge we recycle!

No Epson or Laser cartridges thank you.

'Empties' to Peter Thomas please

We're gonna pull a Harrier!!

2248 (Rutland) Squadron Air Cadets

On the 22nd August 2008 Air Cadets from 2248 (Rutland) Squadron will be taking part in a Harrier aircraft pull at RAF Cottesmore with the aim of raising money for the Air Ambulance, Air Cadets and the Royal Air Forces Association. Together with Air Cadets from Stamford & Melton they will compete to see who can pull a Harrier along a set distance in the shortest time. This is the first time that Air Cadets have taken on a challenge of this nature. Full details of how you can sponsor the cadets is included with this newsletter.

Brew for the Few. RAF Coningsby - September 2nd 2008

Derek Bury has received the following letter

We are delighted to enclose an invitation for Rutland Branch RAFA members to attend our special event at RAF Coningsby, to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Royal Air Force and to launch the Wings Appeal 2008.

The event commences at 3pm with champagne and canapés at the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Hangar, followed by an aerial display by the Spitfire and Typhoon. A welcome 'brew' will then be served with entertainment from the RAF Music Services' Shades of Blue.

We are strictly limited to a 500 capacity therefore tickets will be issued on a first come first served basis. There is no charge for this event; however travel will be at the Branch/individual's own expense.

It has been suggested that a visit to Lincoln could be planned for the morning but Derek must have **responses no later than 12th August**

Queen's Birthday Honours List 2008

To coincide with the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2008, the following were awarded National Presidential Certificates:

<u>Name</u>	<u>RAF Association Branch</u>	<u>Area</u>
Chf Tech David Craven	RAFALO, RAF Cottesmore	South East & Eastern

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION

Rutland Branch

COMMITTEE 2008

<u>President:</u>	Group Captain K.B. McCann RAF	Station commander RAF Cottesmore
<u>Chairman:</u>	Rob Toy	01572 812355
<u>Vice-Chairman:</u>	Duncan Manderson	01664 474274
<u>Secretary:</u>	Derek Bury	01572 755969
<u>Treasurer & PRO:</u>	Gordon Diffey	01572 737854
<u>Membership Secretary:</u>	Angie Humphreys	01572 756120
<u>Honorary Welfare Officer:</u>	Val Kelly	01572 813454
<u>Assistant Welfare Officer:</u>	Alf Dewis	01572 723161
<u>Wings Appeal Organiser:</u>	Jim Tibbott	01572 724631
<u>Standard Bearer:</u>	Francis Humphreys	01572 756120
<u>Social Secretary:</u>	Fred Prestwood	01572 737443
<u>Meetings Coordinator:</u>	Malcolm Sutton	01572 813080
<u>Newsletter Editor:</u>	Phil Marston	01572 822731
<u>Other Committee Members:</u>	Diana Toy	01572 812355
	Jo Tibbott	01572 724631
	Val Bury	01572 755969
	Kathryn Manderson	01664 474274

BRANCH NOTES

The *Flying Horseshoe* is prepared by the end of each calendar month. Contributions can be sent to either:

Phil Marston at 12 Seaton Road, Uppingham, LE15 9QX (joyphilmarston@btinternet.com) or
Derek Bury at 39 Lonsdale Road, Oakham, LE15 6LP (rafarutland923@yahoo.co.uk).

It is your newsletter and needs your support. If there is anything you like or dislike (colour/font etc) please let us know.

November Meeting will be held on 12 November 2008(note date change)

All meetings will be in **Cottesmore** until further notice.