



**THE ROYAL AIR FORCES
ASSOCIATION**
Rutland Branch
THE FLYING HORSESHOE



Branch Newsletter

August 2012

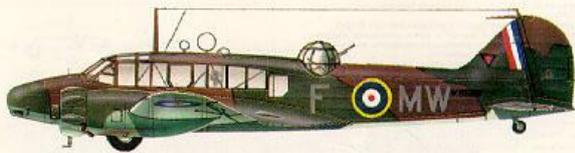
Memories of RAF Cottesmore.

You will recall that I asked last month for your memories of Royal Air Force Cottesmore. I pleased to see that memories are starting to flow. I had a note from someone who was stuck in traffic trying to get to work one morning in 1983. The cars were stationary with the hold-up appearing to be around the SHQ (Station Headquarters) area. The Station Commander eventually resolved the problem by standing down the OO (Orderly Officer) and OS (Orderly Sergeant). The problem had been that the OS, having only recently been promoted, had managed to put the flag up the wrong pole and was unable to budge it. Apparently advice was being offered by the OO as his arm was gradually waning from the salute, but to no avail. I understand that the workshop people were eventually called and had the matter resolved, after taking down the flagpole removing the flag, just in time for lunch.



Reminiscences by David Carlin - RAFA RUTLAND

David Carlin said that his association with RAF Cottesmore began in 1948 when as an ATC (Air Training Corps) cadet from No 1(F) Squadron Leicester he attended a weekend camp. They were billeted in a couple of Nissan Huts behind the Astra Cinema, which I'm sure, many of you, will remember was opposite the Sergeants Mess where the Spar shop stood. These huts were very cold and any attempt to get the coke stove to produce any heat was impossible. David recalls the uncomfortable uniforms, which had high collars with little hooks & Forage caps or side caps, which were issued to the cadets. He was very proud of his until a Leicester Corporation Bus ran over it; fortunately his head wasn't in it at the time.



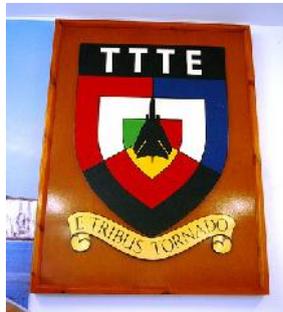
During this encampment No 7 FTS (Flying Training School) were the resident unit and his logbook shows that he had a 40-minute flight in an Anson Mk1. The aircraft was nicknamed the "Glasshouse" with the windows extending all round and the entrance was on the starboard side. In addition to flying in real aircraft ATC cadets had a chance to fly the Link Trainer, the days before the simulators. The following year he returned for a further camp and enjoyed flights again in an Anson as well as in a Tiger Moth.

The brainwashing must have worked as in 1952 he joined the RAF and in 1954, you've guessed it, he was posted back to Royal Air Force Cottesmore, from a course at the Central Gunnery School at Leconfield in Yorkshire he arrived as a JT (Junior Technician) Engine Fitter. He recollects marching from Cottesmore village in full kit with webbing, as was the requirement at that time. The SP's (Service Police) gave him an on the spot inspection to help him understand how things were to be.

In 1952 RAF Cottesmore was home to four Canberra B2 Squadrons No's 15, 44, 57 and 149 Squadron. David wasn't attached to any particular squadron working in ASF (Aircraft Servicing Flight) Hanger. Other memories are that during his tour they were visited by several visiting foreign air force personnel watching them at

work. David thinks that the government must have been involved in a reciprocal training scheme before their air forces were equipped with the aircraft.

During the end of 1954 they learned that the station was to go onto Care & Maintenance to prepare for the arrival of the new shiny white V Bombers. At the news of the temporary closure David was posted out to Singapore.



The end of his service career wasn't to be the end of his involvement with RAF Cottesmore. Some years later after moving from Leicester to Oakham he was part of the British Telecom Team tasked with rewiring the station for the arrival of TTTE (Tornado Tri National Training Establishment). On that eventful day, cold, damp foggy he remembers the first Tornado aircraft landing. Everyone heard it but saw very little until the machine taxied out of the fog on to the dispersal.

Since then the whole family have had a connection with the unit; he has visited the station as an instructor with 2248 Rutland ATC Sqdn, his wife as an employee of RAFA and has been involved with Air Displays on the station. David's daughters both ATC Cadets and spent time on work experience on the station. The whole family will miss RAF Cottesmore.

The First Oktoberfest

The first Oktoberfest was held in the officer's mess, from memory I think that the Officers celebrated on the Friday, with members of the Sergeants Mess using the same facilities on the Saturday evening. As I remember the evening very well, we were all seated at long trestle tables on chairs. Glass's were issued and the beer and the began to flow. Perhaps the food didn't appear soon don't know, but I along with many others was home "Match of the Day" having put the rest of my party to area around the mess looked like a war zone. I didn't that people could sleep outside in that much rain. Most understand the Oktoberfest concept and that Schnapps German Beer don't mix, especially when you are not I think things improved from then on in future years.



started wooden schnapps enough, I before bed. The realise didn't and used to it.

I welcome any names for future speakers and for ideas of who you would like to hear, also of course your memories of RAF Cottesmore.

Peter Hart

July 2012

Keep sending in your stories to the editor.



Wings Appeal 2012

"This years Wings Appeal collection kicked off at Tesco's on the 13th and 14th of July. As you can see from the photo our new table and tablecloth were on display for the first time. As well as taking donations we also sold items of RAFA memorabilia. Although the weather was a little bit mixed we still managed to make almost £800 on both the Friday and Saturday combined which was outstanding. I would like to thank all those who took part in the collection on Friday and Saturday giving their time freely. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to equally successful collections in September. At our next meeting I will be handing out the collection boxes for the street and door-to-door collections."

Dave Craven



Coast to Coast the Wainwright Way.

You may remember that some years ago one of the branch members Mr Fred Burgess did a sponsored walk around Rutland water for the branch wings appeal collection. This year (September) Fred once again is putting on his walking boots and participating in a 10 day walking experience coast to coast. Following in the footsteps of Alfred Wainwright the route begins at St Bees in Cumbria, on the Irish Sea. It then crosses the West Cumbrian coastal plain and on into the Lake District. Once in Yorkshire it crosses the Pennines and then into the Dales, Vale of York and the North York Moors to reach the North Sea coast at Robin Hood's Bay. (192 miles) Fred has generously offered to do the walk as a sponsored event for this years RAFA Rutland Wings Appeal as he did on the previous occasion.

Fred has already received sponsorship from some branch members who he wishes to thank. If you feel you wish to sponsor Fred in this charitable event please email your donation (pledge) to davecraven@hotmail.com or fill in the form on page 4. [David Craven](#).



An Olympic Task



The 3 mobile catering squadron (3 MCS) based at RAF Wittering were responsible for feeding the 3,500 service personnel at the temporary camp in Hainault forest country park east London during the Olympics. The Wittering staff supported by caterers from other units within the RAF and territorial army chefs from Grantham all made an outstanding contribution to the success of the Olympic games. In a 24 hour period the chefs provided 19 hours of food service which I think you will agree is some feat. Dinner meal was served continuous from 4pm till midnight. 3 MCS also helped with support staff in deployments in Ilford, Grove park and RAF Northolt. Well done all concerned.

[Derek Bury](#)

High Peak Air Crash Sites



The High Peak and White Peak areas of Derbyshire are noted for their remoteness and isolation and account for over three hundred air crashes. Flying at night from their sea level bases in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire meant seemingly safe alter meter readings of 2,000 feet but, these often concealed the dangers of the upper moorland. A comprehensive report and research by air historian Pat Cunningham can be found in his book High Peak Air crash sites published in 2010. His book not only lists the ten digit grid reference numbers but sites with debris. Pages of photographs and a full account of the circumstances which led to the crash been discovered are also included.

Branch Notice board

- WHATS ON -

Forthcoming Events:

1. **September Thursday 6th** - Baldwin Trust - Canal Boat trip from Raynsway Marina at Pinfold Road Thurmaston, Leicester through Syston, Cossington towards Mountsorrel and Barrow start time 10.00am.

2. Friday 12th October – A Diamond Jubilee Celebration Concert Oakham – Band of the Parachute Regiment and the Minden Band of the Queens Division .Venue THE OAKHAM SCHOOL CHAPEL . *TICKETS (£15) Music and More, Oakham High Street, (01572 756578), Uppingham Sports and Books (01572 822211) and Uppingham School Theatre Box Office (01572 820820) .From 1 September 2012, also from Oakham School Box Office, (01572 758820)*

For further details on forth coming events Tel: 01572 755969 or email rafarutland923@yahoo.co.uk
Derek Bury

DATES for Your DIARY

5th September	No Speaker	Cottesmore Sports & Social Club
Wednesday 5 th December	Christmas Dinner	Greetham Valley Golf Club

Branch Meetings are 1st Wed every month – Next Meeting September 5th

Venue: Cottesmore Sports & Social Club – 7.00 for 7.30pm

Branch Contact Numbers

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Honorary Welfare Officer – Christine Ward , email christine.e.ward@hotmail.co.uk



COAST TO COAST

(WAINWRIGHT'S COAST TO COAST WALK)

10TH September 2012

St Bees Head, Cumbria To Robin Hoods Bay, Yorkshire

RAFA RUTLAND

Registered Charity

Number 1078934

Sponsorship form

Name	Address	Postcode	Amount	Gift aid ✓

Please return to: Mr Dave Craven. 23 Schofield Rd, Oakham ,Rutland .LE15 6FW or email your pledge to davecraven@hotmail.com