

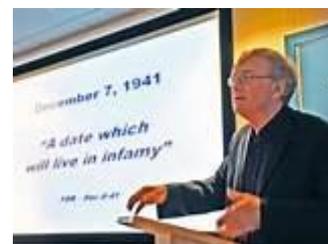
	<p>THE ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION</p> <p>Rutland Branch</p> <p>THE FLYING HORSESHOE</p>	
	<p>Branch Newsletter</p>	<p>February 2013</p>

Speaker Secretary February 2013

This will be my last piece for The Horseshoe as Speaker Secretary as from the AGM I have been asked to edit the magazine. This is a challenge I'm very much looking forward to doing. I have two articles that I was going to use this month but have decided to use just the one, leaving the other for later. You will recall that our Speaker this month was Ken Ellis who has been long associated with the Flypast Magazine. Ken gave a first class account of aspects of the Spitfire perhaps not widely known entitled Spitfire Heroes. I think it was unanimously agreed that this presentation to all including those of us, which would not know one end of a Spitfire from the other, was first class. So I will include a précis of Kens talk next month. So this month we cover the man in his own words. Whoever takes over the Speaker Secretary role there may be a clue to a possible contributor in the last sentence of ken's piece

COMPLETE DRIVEL ABOUT KEN ELLIS

Fifty-something Ken has written for *FlyPast* continually since its prototype days in 1981 and has edited the journal for two sessions. By late 1986 *FlyPast* had outstripped all the opposition to become Britain's top-selling aviation monthly – a position it has held comfortably ever since. In November 2010 after 22 years at the helm, Ken took a step back and became the magazine's Contributing Editor.



In 1988 he was charged with the launch of sister journal *AirForces Monthly* – devoted to 100% modern military aviation. In late 1990 the Stamford-based Key Publishing Group acquired the monthly *Air International* and the then quarterly *Air Enthusiast*. Ken oversaw their migration north and their integration. He was the editor of *Air Enthusiast* until 2003 and has produced more 'one-off' special publications than he cares to remember!

After ten years at the helm of these titles, Ken decided that pastures new beckoned in 1994 took on the editorship of Midland Publishing's range of painstaking, high-quality aviation books. He returned to the helm of *FlyPast* in late 1998.

Outside of *FlyPast*, Ken is best known for *Wrecks & Relics*, the biennial 'bible' of the UK preservation movement, which he took on from the 4th edition in 1974. The 23rd edition was published in 2012. In 2011 he wrote *Lost Aviation of Collections of Britain* and is currently working on a companion volume, *Great Aviation Collections of Britain*. He is author or co-author of a dozen other titles and has many more up his sleeve!

Ken got his private pilot's licence in 1991 and is an avid gardener. He lives and works in the People's Republic of Rutland with former wing-walker Pam and a cat called Rex.

As we go into a new era with the Horseshoe can I please ask, even beg that you all contribute to its content. Someone said only the other day "I'm fed up reading all my own stuff". I'm sure we all concur, so please send in contributions or topics you would like to see included. Also equally important what you don't want.

Peter Hart

February 2013

The RAF Regiment

🕒 **Nickname: Rock Apes** 🕒 **Motto: Per Ardua (Through Adversity)**

After the evacuation of Dunkirk, the invasion of Norway, Greece and the failure of Allied forces in Crete to successfully defend the airfields which led to the fall of the island, it became clear that the Army with its resources severely stretched might not be able to cope with the added burden of defending RAF airfields and installations. It was decided to form a new corps to specialise in defensive operations to secure the airfields from attack and so by Royal Warrant from George VI on the 1st of February 1942 the Corps of the Royal Air Force Regiment was officially formed.

The roots of the Regiment go back even further than that to the 1920s with the introduction of the RAF Armoured Car Companies in the Middle East. No.1 AAC was formed at Heliopolis, Egypt in December 1921, for service in Iraq. No.2 ACC was also formed at Heliopolis on 7th April 1922 for service in Transjordan, and remained at Amman. The Armoured Car Companies were incorporated into the RAF Regiment in 1946.

The gunners of the RAF Regiment are the Royal Air Force's ground troops. Their principle role is that of force protection. 8 Field Squadrons provide ground security for RAF operations. This role is not limited to simple perimeter security but can include aggressive patrols out into the surrounding area. Weaponry and equipment available to field squadrons include MWMIK Jackals, WMIK Land Rovers, [hmgs](#), [gpmgs](#) and 81mm mortars. Other RAF Regiment roles include provision of Tactical Air Control Parties (TACPs), CBRN detection and decontamination, combat search and rescue and special forces support.

The first Depot was opened in Filey with instructional staff seconded from the Brigade of Guards and the Royal Marines. The Depot has since moved 3 times, firstly to Belton Park, then to RAF Catterick in 1946 and most recently to the current "Home of the RAF Regiment" at RAF Honington in 1994.

The Corps first units were little more than platoons or "flights" in strength and equipped with a variety of machine guns and 20mm Hispano cannon. From these beginnings the RAF Regiment developed 2 distinct types of squadron in response to the ground and air threats to RAF installations. The light anti-aircraft units were equipped with Bofors L40/60 guns; whilst the rifle or field squadrons deployed with the same variety of infantry weapons available to the Army. Squadron organisation varied and their armouries included 3inch mortars, anti-tank guns and armoured cars.

The RAF had operated armoured car companies in the Middle East during the inter-war years and these, together with the Iraqi Levies, provided the nucleus of the new Corps in that theatre. These units were the first in the Corps to see action within WWII. Throughout the North African Campaign, 5 field squadrons and 5 anti-aircraft flights earned reputations a robust hard-hitting force. During the "Torch" landings, the RAF Regiment moved inland from Algiers, Oran and Casablanca to undertake offensive operations, proving that the best form of defence is attack. In these operations the RAF

Regiment captured considerable numbers of aircraft and some 3,000 prisoners.

The RAF Regiment was also heavily committed within mainland Europe indeed men of the Corps were also the first Allied forces to land in Greece. Following D-Day the RAF Regiment expanded to its peak strength of 85,000 officers and men organised into 240 squadrons.

The Corps played a significant role in the Far East, operating ostensibly in India and Burma. It was in Burma that the RAF Regiment fought the battle for which it had been raised. The airstrip of Meiktila was deep behind enemy lines, for 10 long days the Japanese soldiers were repelled in order to allow air operations to continue.

RAF Regiment units were deployed all round the world during the war years, Squadrons providing garrisons across the globe. At the end of WWII, RAF Regiment units were tasked with the occupation of areas previously occupied by the enemy.

These territories were generally highly unstable and RAF Regiment units found themselves in "Bush Fire" wars and on peacekeeping operations around the world since 1945. Turmoil in the Far East precipitated the formation of RAF Regiment (Malaya), manned by Malays but with officers and some SNCOs from the RAF Regiment. This force worked effectively during the Malayan Emergency and was also detached to Hong Kong for internal security duties.

The Corps also saw service in the Aden Protectorate, skirmishing with hostile tribesmen. Between 1949 and closer to home the RAF Regiment deployed to Northern Ireland as a last minute replacement for a Royal Marine Commando unit in 1969. Among the first security forces to deploy during the recent troubles, they have been providing a continuous presence in the Province for over 30 years. In 1972 the RAF Regiment deployed personnel to Belize, formerly British Honduras, in order to dissuade territorial claims on the region by Guatemala. Indeed members of the Corps maintained an official presence until withdrawal in 1991.

Following the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974 RAF Regiment personnel were flown to reinforce the British Sovereign Base Area at Akrotiri. This augmented force protected RAF installations and evacuated British civilians from threatened areas to safety, in a divided island. RAF Regiment personnel remain serving in Cyprus to this day.

No. 2 Squadron

No.2 Squadron are an elite parachute-trained field squadron that are capable of jumping in and seizing airfields and securing refuelling points. The RAF Regiment contribution to the Special Forces Support Group (SFSG) is drawn from the ranks of No. 2 Squadron. Their role within the SFSG is thought to include force protection and the provision of Tactical Air Control Parties (TACPs) and sniper teams. No. 2 Squadron are based at RAF Honington in Suffolk. Their motto is *Nunquam Non Paratus* (Never Unprepared).

Taken from www.raf.mod.uk/rafregiments 23.02.13

The Flying Horse Shoe needs Your Stories and 'tells'

I am aware that at least one of our members was a part of the prestigious 'RAF Regiment'. Perhaps we could hear of some of the events and camaraderie you experienced

Kathryn Manderson



The Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment

Director of Music Flight Lieutenant Matthew Little



The Drill Hall, Lincoln
7.30pm Thursday 11 April 2013

Tickets £12 (£10 Concessions)

Box Office 01522 873894

Proceeds in aid of the Royal Air Force Music Charitable Trust

The Band plays by kind permission of the Air Force Board of the Defence Council

www.rafmusic.org.uk

New Member

We are please to welcome a new Branch Associate member, Mrs Jackie Towl of Oakham.

[Angie Humphreys](#)

Dear All

This is the last FH magazine I shall edit as due to other commitments I can no longer give the time the magazine warrants. The FH is a means for us to communicate with each other and I wish to thank all of those who have contributed by sending me articles. I wish Peter every success as he 'takes up this baton' or should I say 'propeller'

Kathryn Manderson

- WHATS ON -

Forthcoming Events: If you have any requests or details on forth coming events then Tel: 01572 755969 or email rafarutland923@yahoo.co.uk

Proposed visits to **National Memorial Arboretum** -Friday May 24th. **RAF Waddington International Air Show Sunday July 7th**. If you wish to go on any of these visits contact me for details or email me by 6th March 2013.

Derek Bury

DATES for Your DIARY

March 6th	None	AGM
April 3 rd	Air Commodore Peter Gover Chairman VAR	VAR & It's Services.
Wed 1 st May	DTUS RAF Student Cadets	Defence Technical Undergraduate Scheme (DTUS)

Branch Meetings are 1st Wed every month – Next Meeting(AGM) March 6th

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

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