



Happy New Year to You All

Dear All,

I have been a little concerned that I may air to many of my own views and not so many of yours. However with this New Year I'm hoping that you will be full of new inspiration and be able to share your thoughts and experiences with us. In October last year we had an interesting article from Bob Tacy on 264 Squadron. Perhaps you have something to say and share with us.

The Few or Not so Few

On Saturday 9th November 2013 along with my wife and other RAFA members I attended The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance in The Royal Albert Hall. We travelled to London from Peterborough by rail which is relevant to the story.

If you have not attended this event you should



really make the effort to do so it's so moving and the atmosphere is electric. It appears that Remembrance is becoming more prominent and it's worth mentioning that church service attendance for Remembrance is second only to Christmas and higher attendance in churches than at Easter, few things are better now than they used to be but the Festival is one of them. There are two performances, if one can use that expression, one in the afternoon, and one in the evening, the combination of which forms the television programme transmitted later that evening on BBC 1. Having worked for the Royal British Legion I understood that the number of poppy petals dropped during the 2 minutes

silence are 1,092,237 – one petal in memory of each of the Empire's dead. This year it appeared to us that the poppies were a little sparse. We could be wrong.

The reason I have called this "The few or not so few" stems from a conversation I had with two ladies who we sat next to on the train on our way home. I had the Programme on my lap and they asked me if I had been to a show. I explained that we had attended The RBL Festival of Remembrance at The Royal Albert Hall expecting that would answer her question. Which it didn't. These ladies were very well to do wearing their poppies, I expect with pride, yet they were not aware of the Festival. Instead of explaining what it was all about I suggested that perhaps they should go home and watch the programme latter on the television.

We may assume that as everyone wears a poppy from around 24th October and the media coverage that Remembrance weekend attracts that everyone knows what it's all about but they don't.

Are we all doing our bit?

Peter

Hi All

May I take this opportunity to remind everyone that the January meeting will be on 8 Jan 2014.

I will be giving a presentation on 'My Early Life or How I joined the Royal Air Force'.

There will be slides, music, humour and even bad language!!!

Come along and have a change from the winter weather.

A Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year to you, your family and friends.

Cheers

Phil



THE RUTLAND FLYING HORSESHOE

A view of Monarch Airlines.

During a recent visit to Duxford, I was walking down the flight line passing their Monarch Airlines Bristol Britannia, when I was reminded of another incident that took place during my posting to RAF Akrotiri's Transport Aircraft Servicing Flight.(TASF), involving one of these aircraft.

You may recall that Monarch started operations in the early 60s and along with a number of other airlines carried troops and families to the many overseas units we had at the time.



So to my story the Monarch Britannia taxied in on to the dispersal carrying some army personal and their families for onward transit to their bases north of the island.

After off loading, I was called to the aircraft and asked to go and speak to the crew. They apparently had a problem where both of their VHF radios were faulty and asked me if I could do anything about it. At the time, in the early 60s, I'm sure you will recall, that the air force also flew a number of Britannia's of their own logically therefore we should have spares. Or at the very least be able to fix their radios for them. As it happened we could have done either with a little co-operation.

Unfortunately Supply Sqn had so many reasons why the radios could not be replaced by service items and OC Elect Eng had no manpower to fix one.

I returned to the crew apologising but unable to help although I could arrange to get one sent out from the UK within a few hours. This was not acceptable to the Monarch crew. So we were at stale mate!. We had an aircraft with no VHF radio (Local Radio) but serviceable HF radio (Long Range). In other words the aircraft could talk to Airways but not to local approach & airfield controllers. I left them to it, as far as I could see they were going nowhere that day.

A little later still within their turnaround time I was called back to the aircraft and told that they had decided to go and could I help.

So on that sunny Cyprus morning this is how the Monarch Airlines Bristol Britannia left Akrotiri for Heathrow. The aircraft taxied out behind a Follow Me vehicle to the end of the runway.

Its takeoff was cleared by a green light from the tower, when airborne they contacted Nicosia Centre on there HF radio and went on his way to the UK with next to no communications.

Did you follow this?

How they managed to land at Heathrow is anyone's guess. He must have made it as we heard nothing more about it or did it divert to Duxford?

If the passengers only knew!!.

Royal International Air Tattoo RAF Fairford 11th-13th July 2014

Next year is the 50th Anniversary of the Red Arrows and an additional day (Friday 11th July) the 'Reds' Pit Day' is being added to celebrate this. People planning to attend next summer's Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford, who purchase their tickets before 31st January 2014, will enjoy a saving of £10 on the price of admission.



Special Super Earlybird tickets are available until 31st January and are priced at £24 for a Friday ticket, £34 for a Saturday ticket and £34 for a Sunday ticket.

Between 1st February and 31st May, Earlybird tickets will be available priced at £29 for the Friday ticket, £39 for a Saturday ticket and £39 for the Sunday ticket.

After 3rd April, the standard advance ticket will go on sale, priced at £34 for the Friday ticket £44 for the Saturday ticket and £44 for Sunday ticket and will be subject to a £2.50 admin fee per order.

For full admission ticket details and to see the wide range of optional upgrades designed to enhance your enjoyment of the Royal International Air Tattoo 2014, visit www.airtattoo.com.

THE RUTLAND FLYING HORSESHOE



Air Chief Marshal Sir "Jock" Kennedy



As we all know our former President Sir Jock, as we affectionately knew him, passed away on 18th November 2013.

I felt that it was fitting that we recorded our own obituary that was more about the man we knew than the formal write-ups in the Press.

Real name Thomas Lawrie Kennedy, he was born on 19 May 1928 in Hawick, Scotland and educated at Hawick High School. We all know that he one of the most senior officers in the Royal Air Force. Subsequently he became a Director of the Dowty Group, was Deputy Lieutenant of Leicestershire, and later became Lord Lieutenant of our own County of Rutland.

It is well known that he was much admired and respected throughout the RAF – we have seen in the "official obituaries" that colleagues remember him as "an outstanding officer". All this is true, but I will remember Sir Jock as a quiet spoken, thoughtful man who wandered about Manton chatting to all - a definite gentleman who had a quiet word for everyone.

He was a fair and most caring man. I recall him stopping me in the street and saying, "you know about this computer stuff, can you help me set Skype up". I spent a very enjoyable hour getting him connected with his friend in Australia whilst having the most engaging of discussion about so many subjects.

Whilst being a man of strong opinions, he was a great respecter of other peoples' points of view.

With Lady Margaret, he was a regular attendee of St Mary's Church in the Village he also helped keep the church grounds tidy. He had been married for 54 years to Lady Margaret who survives him with their son and 2 daughters.

RAFA Rutland will remember him as someone who did not flaunt his rank, indeed he was chatty, witty and pleasant to chat to. His dry sense of humour, was matched with a splendid ability to poke fun at himself. As well as being our President, Sir Jock was also president of the Rutland branch of the Royal British Legion and of Voluntary Action Rutland. It can be truly said of him that he continued to put much back into the community he served right up until his death.

He contributed immensely to life in Rutland, Peterborough Cathedral, Leicestershire – this list goes on. He truly put much back into society, he was someone who never forgot he started at the bottom of the Royal Air Force rank structure, even though he achieved one of the highest ranks in our beloved Service.

Despite failing health, he continued to enjoy golf and had spent the morning of his death with some golfing friends.

Sir Jock Kennedy's funeral took place in his home village of Manton on Tuesday 3rd December and is for his family and the Manton Church and community. In the Spring, on a date yet to be decided, there will be a service of thanksgiving and celebration of his life, at which his wide circle of friends and colleagues will be welcome.

Sir Jock – you will be remembered with much respect and great affection.

**Gordon Diffey
December 2013**



The Gazette



Dates For Your Diary

8th January	Phil Marston	'My Early Life or How I joined the RAF'
5th February	TBA	
5th March	TBA	
2nd April	Rob Abell	Will Planning Solutions to talk about lasting powers of attorney.

What's on Forthcoming Events

Membership Secretary

Branch Meeting

Branch Meetings are First Wednesday every month
Venue: Cottesmore Sports & Social Club 7.00 for 7.30pm

Branch Committee Members

President: Air Marshal Sir John M D Sutton KCB (Retd)

Chairman: Duncan Manderson, Pickwell Grange, Whissendine, LE15 7ER, 01664 474274

Vice Chairman: Gordon Diffey. Tel 01572 722068

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