



Roger Hyde brought the following to our attention:



Bring Back the VC10

This story was taken from a BBC Article on the internet:-

The RAF has "grounded" its fleet of military Voyager transport planes following, what the Ministry of Defence calls an "in-flight issue". The BBC has been told a Voyager carrying British troops back to Afghanistan dropped a few thousand feet while in Turkish airspace. As a precaution the pilot diverted the plane to Incirlik - a US military base in southern Turkey. About 200 military personnel were on board.

"Paramount concern"

A few passengers suffered minor injuries when the plane suddenly lost altitude recently.

A Ministry of Defence (MoD) spokesman said: "The safety of all our aircrews and passengers is our paramount concern; therefore it's been decided to temporarily pause military registered Voyager aircraft flying while a full investigation is completed."

The Voyager only came into service with the RAF last year.

A total of 14 of the planes are being bought for military use under a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract that is costing more than £10bn. The MoD has replaced the RAF's VC-10 and Tri-Star planes both as a transport plane, and as an air-to-air refuelling tanker.

Sir Jock Kennedy Memorial Service

Sir Jock's Memorial Service will be held in All Saints Church Oakham on Wednesday 2nd April at 14.00hrs. RAFA & RBL Standards will be in attendance. All members are welcome to attend the service that will commemorate the life of a fine man as well as being a long time President of RAFA Rutland.



Did you know that you can save hundreds of pounds each year by switching your utilities providers?

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Happy switching!

Thanks to Gerry for this.





THE RUTLAND FLYING HORSESHOE

**WORLD WAR I
COMMEMORATION DAY
SUNDAY 15th JUNE 2014 At
KENDREW BARRACKS**

Join Arts for Rutland from **10am until 6pm** for a family friendly day of; music, art, performance and display to commemorate the centenary of the beginning of World War I.

Throughout the day there will be music from; Rutland Sinfonia, Rutland Concert Band and the Marching Cadet Band, with additional performances by Chilwell Military Wives Choir, the Military Drill Display team and a specially commissioned Massed Choral Finale starring students from primary schools across Rutland.

The Main event will be the international premier of a spectacular aerial dance production with a narrator telling the tale of two soldiers; one from WWI, the other serving in modern day Afghanistan. Performed by Gravity and Levity 'Rites of War' will fuse music, film and animation in an interactive military environment.

Across the base there will be plenty of activities for all the family to experience and a series of tents showcasing local groups including; the Women's Institute, the British Legion, representatives from the local Sikh community and many more.

Entrance is free to this event for the entire family.

For full details, updates and a schedule for the day visit www.mobilisation.org.uk.
Kendrew Barracks, Cottesmore, Oakham, Rutland LE15 7BL.

Helen Gibson
Youth Community Manager



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The Menin Gate, Ypres at Easter 2014

The Menin Gate is a war memorial in Ypres Belgium. It is dedicated to the British and Commonwealth soldiers, who were killed on the Ypres Salient in WW1 and whose graves are still unknown.

The Memorial is located at the Eastern exit of the town and marks the starting point for one of the main roads out of the town that led Allied soldiers to the front line.

Designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and built by the British Government, the Menin Gate Memorial was unveiled on the 24th July 1927. Yes it took so long!

Ypres, or as our soldiers famously called it "Wipers" occupied a strategic position, as it stood in the German planned sweep across the rest of Belgium, as had been called the Schieffen Plan. The geographical importance of the town is reflected in the 5 major battles that occurred there.

Most well known to the British is the 3rd battle commonly referred to as Passchendaele, or as my father, who was born in 1885, and who lost 3 brothers in WW1, called it Pashion Dale Wood.

Some 300,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers were killed on the Ypres Salient and of these 90,000 have no known graves.

Were the Royal Flying Corps present? Naturally they were. For a shining example, Major Lanoe Hawker, VC., DSO., born December 30th 1890, died 23rd November 1916, aged 25, was finally shot down by the famous Red Baron, Von Richthoven, his 11th victim. Before this tragic end, having been shot in the foot, Major Lanoe had to be carried to his aircraft on many occasions., What a man! What an example of courage!

Angie and I will be going the Menin Gate, over Easter, together with representatives from Melton Mowbray RAFA Branch, to pay our respects to these heroes, who suffered so much in the trenches in conditions 100 years ago, which most of those who returned home would never speak about. I shall be proud to parade the Rutland Branch Standard at the daily ceremonies and will be joined by the Melton Mowbray Standard Bearer, Phil Taylor.

Francis Humphreys, Standard Bearer

THE RUTLAND FLYING HORSESHOE



The Bike.

It was a very pleasant summer evening in 1956 at RAF Linton-on-Ouse in Yorkshire. 264 Squadron were scheduled for night flying, which was not unusual as they were a night fighter Squadron, flying Meteor NF 14s.

On this particular evening I was not working, I was on shift the next morning to recover the aircraft for flying later in the day. As it was such a nice evening I was sitting on my bed with the window wide open, writing a few letters as that was about the only means of communication in those days.

It had been decided that an Engineering Officer should be present on the Squadron when night flying was taking place. As we did not have one resident on the squadron someone would come from another unit on the Station. This evening it was the turn of a Warrant Officer from Tech. Wing. He arrived on a bike having cycled from married quarters.

My friend Denis (Boots) Williams an airframe mechanic was on duty that evening. All the aircraft were on the line and had been made ready. His first job would be starter crew on one or more of "A" Flight's aircraft. We did not have a line hut in those days, the aircrew would sign the F700 in the hangar office and then tap on our crew room window as they went out to the line.

Returning to the hangar with the rest of the ground crew after the aircraft had departed on their night flying sorties. Boots began to search his pockets for his cigarettes, none found, must be in my jacket in the crew room, not there. I must have left them in the barrack block he thinks, but this was some distance to walk to. Suddenly he remembers seeing a bike outside the office, Boots knocked on the office door and went in to find the Sgt. i/c and the Warrant Officer engineer, he asked if he could borrow the bike to go to the block and the Engineering Officer gave his permission. So Boots jumped on to the bike and set off.



I was still sitting by window wondering what to write about in those letters. It was not quite dark yet. Looking up I saw Boots arrive on a bike, he propped it against the kerb and ran into the block. The swing doors at the block entrance had hardly closed when the bike fell into the road, at the same time a Land Rover came round the corner and ran straight over it. The Land Rover then stopped and the passenger got out and put the bike back against the kerb, it then drove off. Still running Boots came out of the block and got on the bike to find nothing would move wheels, pedals and handlebars. He picked up the bike and still more or less running went back to the hangar.

A few people had seen what had happened and Boots was asked if he would have to pay for a new bike. "No" he said the Warrant Officer was quite reasonable about it. He said, "take anything off it that is OK and put the rest in the scrap metal bin". Well the only thing Boots found to be working was the pump. Later on that evening a Warrant Officer was seen walking towards married quarters holding a bike pump in his hand.

Bob Tacey

Many thanks to all our contributors for some good stories and observations. Perhaps we can print yours next month.

Peter



The Gazette

Dates For Your Diary



2nd April	Rob Abell	Will Planning Solutions to talk about lasting powers of attorney.
7th May	Helen Gibson	RAFA Youth Community Manager
4th June	Sandy Saunders	Being a member of the Guinea Pig Club
2nd July	TBA	
6th August	Derek Bury	Quiz Night

What's on Forthcoming Events 2014

D-Day Anniversary Duxford Air Show - Sunday 25th May 2014. **National Memorial Arboretum** – Tuesday 17th June or Wednesday /18th June. **Canal Boat Trip** – July. (Date to be confirmed).
RBL Band Concert Uppingham – Saturday 18th October,

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)

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