



THE HORNET

The Newsletter of the 100 Squadron Association

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Newsletter 110 August 2015

Dear Members,

Those of you who knew John Holford will be greatly saddened to hear the news of his death last week following a serious fall at his home a few weeks ago. He was a stalwart member of this Association and former editor of The Hornet who attended many reunions and indeed those attending this year's reunion had only just seen him at RAF Cosford. He appeared to be in good health and enjoying the occasion. He also enjoyed making the short journey from Wimborne to Bournemouth for the air show and, in past years, I would often see him there, taking photographs of the displaying aircraft. He was a great help to me when I took over the editorship of The Hornet, and I am indebted to him for this. He will be much missed by all those who knew him. We will include an obituary in the next issue.

Nina Crane
(Editor of The Hornet)

Report of the 2015 Reunion

Some years ago, your committee agreed that we should approach RAF Cosford to see if we could hold our annual reunion in the Officers' Mess and combine it with a visit to the Museum; however, the Station Commander turned our bid down because the Cosford Air Show, held every June, is a major task for the station staff and resources. However, last year I stayed at The Buckatree Hall hotel on the outskirts of Telford and thought it could be a suitable venue for both the dinner and to stay overnight. I approached the manager and was very pleased with the offer he made for dinner, bed and breakfast particularly as the dinner would be held in a private room of the Sir John Bayley suite. I told the committee about the offer, and they agreed unanimously that we should accept.

So, on Friday, 18th June, we gathered at the RAF Museum for a snack lunch before dividing into two groups for guided tours of the "Cold War" section of the museum. Some of us were reunited with aircraft we had flown or worked on in earlier years; in some cases, the actual airframes that we greeted as old friends. After the tours, we were free to explore other parts of the museum including: the "Test Flight" with rare airframes such as the Saunders Roe SR2, Fairey Delta FD2, Bristol 188 and TSR2; "War in the Air" with a Bristol Fighter, Sopwith Pup, Spitfire, Hurricane and many fighters of the 1960/70s and – of course – one of 100's, the Avro Lincoln.



There was also a major collection of engines from WWI and WWII and others we knew or had worked on such as the Goblin, Avon, Sapphire, Dart, Spey and Adour. Outside were many larger airframes including an old friend of our new Secretary.



We moved on to the hotel where forty of us met up for pre-dinner drinks at 1845 before settling down to an excellent three-course dinner with wines provided, very generously, by Babcock Engineering. I gave a brief speech welcoming everyone and telling them the sad story of Robin Rochester Jaques who died in a flying accident on 18th August 1923 when the Squadron was based at RAF Grantham (aka RAF Spitalgate.) See Page 12 for the full story. The new Boss, Andy Wright, gave an overview of his earlier time on the Squadron as Deputy Squadron Commander and later on JFACTSU, and followed with his views on the role of 100 today and what he expects for the future. Next morning, there didn't seem to be too many sore heads when we held the Annual General Meeting (see report on page 4.) With final farewells, we departed for home after a most enjoyable reunion; so what about next year?

Norman Bonnor

President

Report of the 2015 Annual General Meeting

The 31st Annual General Meeting at the Buckatree Hall hotel on 14 June 2015 was chaired by the Boss, Wg Cdr Andy Wright, with 20 members in attendance. After welcoming all those attending, he reported that the Squadron's main task continues to be "fast-jet aggressor" support for the Typhoon squadrons and the OCU as well maintaining similar support for Tornado and helicopter units. The other main task is support to the British Army through JFACTSU (Joint Forward Air Controller Training and Standards Unit).

Overseas deployments the past year have included Exercise CIIL in Estonia and Exercise ACE in Sweden. With the current reduced manning, and the major servicing programme for the Hawk, these deployments put additional pressure on resources, but they also provide a good challenge and are very enjoyable. Flypasts have been provided for various events related to Armed Forces Days in the North East and a visit by Her Majesty, The Queen to Catterick. Visitors have include the 3* Air Member for Personnel and Capability, who expressed his satisfaction with the good work done by the Squadron despite reduced manning. Also, AOC 1 Group came to open a new simulator for Close Air Support training. Looking to the future, the Hawk T Mk 1 aircraft is currently due out of service in 2020 but may be extended to 2024 by the forthcoming Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR).

The President as Acting Secretary, reported that membership stands at 207. The total is down on the year by 2 (7 from the absent friends, but we have gained 3 new Full and 2 Associate Members in the last 12 months.) There are also still three Members who are paying by Standing Order, but for whom we have no current address despite attempts to regain contact through their banks. The Treasurer presented the Accounts for 2014. Expenditure was £2,826.41 mainly driven, as usual, by the Reunion and Newsletter costs; Income was £3,491.20 mainly from subscriptions and Reunion payments. At the end of the financial year, the change of assets was a creditable surplus of £644.79. Association assets at year end totalled £5,762.96.

The President read a report from the Website Manager, which stated that the website is working well. The current design of the website has been in place for two years and will see us through for a while. However, in order to keep the website fresh and appealing to the

public, current thoughts are to unveil a brand new website design at the Squadron's 100th Anniversary weekend in 2017. As mentioned last year, the website is now managed internally, so there were no related costs in 2014, and there will not be any subscription costs of any kind in the future; this will save the Association approximately £80 - £100 year on year. The Newsletter Editor described some of the letters of support she had received in the past year. That said, she wished to encourage more inputs of personal experiences of members which help make "The Hornet" a good read. The online pdf version of The Hornet was clearly a success and was obviously a good saving for the Association in reduced printed and postage costs. The Historian described how he had discovered a lot more information about the Squadron's involvement in WWI and the inter-war years while visiting and consulting the RAF Museum and The National Archive at Kew. This will greatly help his work in updating and revising "The Hornets' Nest". The target date for completing the 2nd Edition of "The Hornets' Nest" is summer 2016. By then, a decision will be needed whether to use a publisher or to self-publish; this would be discussed by the Committee and a recommendation put to next year's AGM.

The Remembrance Sunday Service at our memorial will be held at 1200 on Sunday, 8th November 2015. The lunch gathering will again be held in the new Holten le Clay Community Centre, Picksley Crescent (formerly the Etherington Arms Public House.) Colin and Jean Johnson were disappointed by the lower turnout last year so please make an effort to come if you can.

The Committee agreed to look into the possibility of holding the 2016 Reunion at either RAF Wittering or RAF Wyton, when confirmed, the dates and venue will be published in The Hornet.

Election of the Committee resulted in the following Members and Officers: Air Cdre Norman Bonnor - President, Wg Cdr Andy Wright - Chairman, Sqn Ldr Liz Dawson - Secretary, Mike English - Treasurer, Greg Harrison - Historian, Nina Crane - Editor of The Hornet, John Holford - Distributor of The Hornet, Damien English - Website Manager, Flt Lt Tim Clement - Squadron Liaison Officer (SLO) and Bill Chisholm - Canadian Member

On behalf of Barbara Huxley, Linda McCauley raised the subject of the Waltham Windmill Museum which had suffered weather damage during the winter and had to have its roof replaced. She encouraged members to visit the museum and proposed that the Association make a donation

towards the restoration work as a way of showing appreciation of Roger Stephenson's tireless dedication to maintaining the museum and its living tribute to the men who served on 100 Squadron at RAF Grimsby (aka Waltham). It was agreed to send a donation of £100.

Brian Hulme made presentations of framed citations of the "Poppy Drop" at the dedication of the Bomber Command Memorial to both The Chairman and the daughters of Ron Clark, who had released the poppies over the memorial on 28th June 2012 from "The Phantom of the Ruhr".

Norman Bonnor
Acting Secretary

Memorial Service at Eelde, 4th May 2015

On Wednesday, 20th October 1943, a 100 Squadron Lancaster ED555 was shot down over Eelde in Holland; all of the crew were killed and are buried in the village cemetery. My Uncle, Sergeant Alfred W. N. Lower was the Flight Engineer. He was the brother of my late mother and sadly, the uncle I never knew. He is buried alongside his colleagues – Pilot Officer Theodore Simpson (Pilot), Warrant Officer Douglas Storey (Air Gunner), Sergeant Gerald Godseff (Navigator), Sergeant Clarence Gibb (Air Gunner), Sergeant Peter Cowling (Air Bomber) and Sergeant Leonard Cohen (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner).

I went with my parents to see the grave in 2005, and my mother took great comfort in seeing how well the graves of the crew were cared for by the community of Eelde. The visit made quite a lasting impression on me and, in 2012, I joined the 100 Squadron Association in the hope I may find someone who had known my uncle. Sadly that was not to be; however, I was introduced to Hendrik Cazemier, an honorary member of the Association and a resident of Eelde, who has spent the last 25 years researching the loss of ED555 and its crew. Hendrik has provided valuable information about ED555 and through him I and my husband were able to attend the Remembrance Day commemorations on 4th May in Eelde to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of the war.

I had no idea of what to expect and thought we would simply be amongst the crowd, but the day was very special, thanks to Hendrik and the village Organising Committee. The day started with the

unveiling of a memorial stone surrounded by 7 trees to represent the crew. Photographs of all of the crew were on display and that made it all the more meaningful.



100 Squadron was represented by Flt. Lt. Tim Clement, who carried the Squadron Standard, while Cpl Paul Hutchinson and SAC Donna Dobson provided the Standard Escort. I was invited by Mr Otto Bakker, Chair of the Organising Committee and Mrs Engels, Deputy Mayor to take part in the unveiling of the stone. It was such an honour, and we were made to feel so much a part of the commemoration. It was lovely to see the involvement of local children in the ceremony as they laid flowers around the memorial.

In the evening, we were guests at the Remembrance Service and the traditional walk to the cemetery. The service was very moving, and we felt deeply honoured to be with the community who had their own memories of lost loved ones to remember. The seven graves of the crew are beautifully maintained, and were planted in yellow and blue to represent the colours of 100 Squadron. A guard of honour was provided by Reservist Soldiers, and the wreaths were carried by young people from the local Scouts. The Squadron Standard was carried in the procession to the cemetery where a wreath was laid by the escorts. A wreath was very thoughtfully provided for me to place on my uncle's grave.





Again, children laid flowers on all of the graves. I find it astounding and humbling to know that, 72 years after the fateful crash, the crew of ED555 continue to be remembered by the community of Eelde and that they care enough to ensure that their memory lives on.

Our special thanks go to Hendrik Cazemier, who has meticulously collected and recorded information about the crew and ED555. Amazingly, he was able to show me where the main body of the plane came down, I found that very moving. Hendrik also maintains a close link with 100 Squadron and the surviving relatives, and he has already provided us with photographs of the day, some of which are included in this article.

Eelde is a very special place to me, the memories of the day and the people will stay with me forever!

Vivienne Skinner

Restoration Works at Marly

In The Hornet issues 104 and 107, we reported on the ceremonies at Marly in France to commemorate the loss of JB 604 when five crew members perished when they were shot down on 24th February 1944. The mural commemorating the crew has been repainted and restored as shown by the picture provided by Stephane Cotel below.



Appeal to Canadian Members

Bob Chisholm is no longer able to reprint and mail out The Hornet to Canadian members. We would therefore like to deliver it electronically to as many as possible through a relative or friendly neighbour if we can obtain appropriate e-mail addresses. If anyone over the pond knows how we can contact other Canadian members electronically, please let us know.

Subscription Reminder

Just a reminder to those who pay by cheque rather than Standing Order that the Association's financial year started on 1 August 2015, so subscriptions for 2015/16 are now due. If you would like to change to a Standing Order payment, please contact the Treasurer at the address or e-mail shown on the front cover, and he will be pleased to send you the SO mandate form.

Remembrance Sunday

Our Remembrance Service will be held at 12 noon on Sunday, 8th November 2015 at the memorial off the A16 at Holten le Clay. The lunch gathering will be held in the new Village Community Centre, Picksley Crescent (formerly the Etherington Arms Public House.) Colin and Jean Johnson have again offered to host us for lunch at a very reasonable cost of £6. Last year's turnout was rather disappointing, so please join us if you can.

To help the Johnsons to cater for the numbers on the day.

**PLEASE LET THE SECRETARY KNOW IF
YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND**

Contact details for our new Secretary, Liz Dawson, are on the front cover.

Robin Rochester Jaques (1897-1923)

Robin Jaques was born in the Heaton area of Newcastle. He was the son of a billiard room manager. The eldest son of eight children, sometimes he was called Robert in his younger days. He was a keen sportsman and became a semi-professional footballer. He signed for Clapton Orient and Fulham FC, but his career was cut short when he died young.

He had joined the Middlesex Regiment as a private and served in France during the First World War. He later rose to 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Scots Fusiliers but was transferred to the reserves at after WWI so decided to join the newly formed Royal Air Force in April 1923. He was posted to RAF Spittlegate, near Grantham as a trainee pilot on 100 Squadron, and on 8th August 1923 Flying Officer Jaques took off for a solo trip in an AVRO 504 bi-plane. Flying at 10,000 feet and attempting some aerobatic manoeuvres, he stalled the aircraft. Control was lost and he was killed instantly when the aircraft hit the ground. He was buried in an unmarked grave in Grantham Cemetery only two days after the accident. A court of inquiry judged he had not used the controls of the aircraft correctly due to over-confidence in his ability. There were no faults with the aircraft so it was adjudged as "pilot error!"

Robin had married a 20-year-old nurse Mary Adelaide Thorn less than three years earlier at St Luke's Church, Chelsea. She had borne him two children. Their son Robin was three years old and daughter Josephine was just 18 months when they lost their father. They lived at Newton, East of Grantham. Mary had been left just £180 to bring up her two children and had to move back to live with her parents in Chelsea.

Young Josephine showed promise at dancing and acting. She worked as a hairdresser and then followed in her mother's footsteps as a Voluntary Aid Detachment Nurse until World War Two broke out. Josephine and her brother changed their surname from Jaques to Jacques, by inserting the "c" to make it sound more French. Josephine, whose nickname was Hattie, went on to become one of Britain's best loved actresses.

What a carry on!

Research thanks to Peter Reichelt and Lincolnshire Archives



When Peter Reichelt and Graham Wheat (an ex-Mayor of Grantham) realised that the grave had remained unmarked for more than 70 years, they began fund-raising and, with the generosity of the businesses and people of Grantham, they commissioned an appropriate headstone. At a dedication service held on Saturday, 8th August, officiated by The Venerable Canon Brian Lucas, Archdeacon Emeritus of the RAF, the headstone was unveiled marking the grave of Flying Officer Robin Jaques. Some 50 people attended including, members of the Grantham branch of the Royal British Legion, the Malayan and Borneo Veterans Association, the Grantham-based Air Training Corps of 47F Squadron and the Grantham Royal Air Force Association who each paraded their standards. A rendition of The Last Post was delivered on the trumpet before a one minute silence; after which three wreaths were laid, one from the Royal Air Force Association, another from the trustees of the Robin Jaques Memorial Fund and the third from our Association. Tom Whitby and his wife Gillian, and I and my wife Miggs represented the Association.

Norman Bonnor

President



Updated Annexes for The Hornets' Nest

As part of the effort to produce a new edition and update Arthur White's splendid history "The Hornets' Nest" first published in 1994, I have updated the annexes showing the lists of the Squadron's Commanding Officers and the Squadron's Bases and Aircraft. In each case, I believe the months and years shown are correct, but I should much appreciate any inputs of more precise dates or amendments if something is wrong.

Norman Bonnor

President

Squadron Commanding Officers

Major M. G. Christie CMG DSO MC	21st March, 1917
Major W. J. Tempest DSO MC	11th December, 1917
Major C. G. Burge OBE	16th June, 1918
Squadron Leader Hon. L. J. E. Twistleton-Wykeham-Fiennes	1st February, 1920
Squadron Leader J. V. Steel OBE	30th November, 1920
Squadron Leader F. Sowrey	19th February, 1921
Squadron Leader N. M. Martin CBE	10th August, 1922
Squadron Leader H. F. A. Gordon	10th September, 1923
Squadron Leader L. T. N. Gould	10th October, 1925
Squadron Leader W. B. Farrington	16th January, 1929
Squadron Leader L. G. Le B. Croke	13th January, 1931
Squadron Leader A. H. Paull	18th November, 1935
Squadron Leader J. G. Walser	20th November, 1936
Squadron Leader G. F. Simond	13th September, 1937
Wing Commander R. N. McKern	16th January, 1939
Squadron Leader J. G. Kerby	5th September, 1941
Squadron Leader A. W. D. Miller	11th December, 1941
Wing Commander J. G. W. Swain	26th December, 1942
Wing Commander R. V. McIntyre DFC	24th April, 1943
Wing Commander D. W. Holford	20th November, 1943
Wing Commander J. F. Dilworth	17th December, 1943
Wing Commander R. V. L. Pattison DSO DFC	3rd March, 1944
Wing Commander A. F. Hamilton DSO DFC	20th September, 1944
Wing Commander T. B. Morton DSO DFC	7th March, 1945
Wing Commander E. E. C. Davies	1st July, 1945
Wing Commander G. J. Bell	1st April, 1946
Squadron Leader D. G. O'Brien	23rd May, 1948
Squadron Leader R. A. Jell DFC AFC	17th July, 1950
Squadron Leader R. I. Alexander DFC	1st December, 1952
Squadron Leader H. B. Hunt DSO DFC AFC	21st April, 1954
Squadron Leader C. P. H. Kunkler	10th January, 1955
Squadron Leader R. A. McPhie	14th January, 1957
Wing Commander M. M. J. Robinson	1st May, 1962
Wing Commander W. J. Herrington	30th September, 1964
Wing Commander H. M. Archer AFC AFRAeS	4th January, 1967
Wing Commander B. M. Burley	1st February, 1972
Wing Commander B. Harcourt-Smith	10th December, 1973
Wing Commander J. D. Harvey	5th January, 1976
Wing Commander P. N. Le Marquand	31st December, 1976
Wing Commander J. W. Blockey	December, 1978

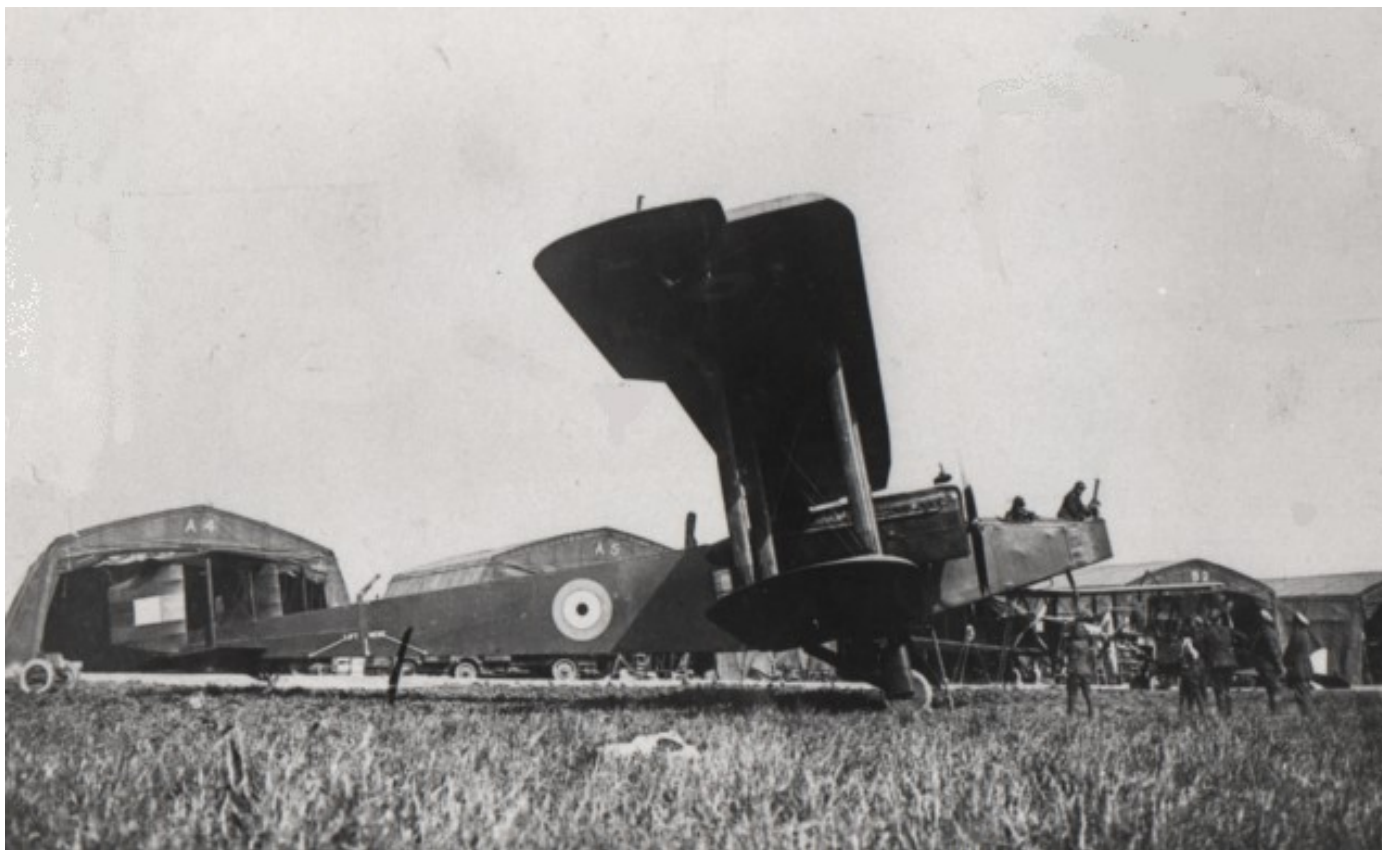
Wing Commander J. N. Landeryou MBIM	December, 1980
Wing Commander C. R. Adams AFC	August, 1982
Wing Commander M. J. Purdie	October, 1983
Wing Commander R. J. McKendrick	June, 1986
Wing Commander K. M. Douglas MBIM	December, 1988
Wing Commander R. Metcalfe MBIM	June, 1991
Wing Commander J. Pitts	1st January, 1992
Wing Commander J. C. Vincent BSc	August, 1994
Wing Commander G. C. A. Buckley DFC	March, 1997
Wing Commander N. I. M. Seward	14 November, 1999
Wing Commander M. J. Simpson	November, 2001
Wing Commander W. A. White MA DEM	May, 2004
Squadron Leader D. E. Owen	March 2006
Wing Commander D. A. C. Legg MBE	October, 2006
Wing Commander P. J. M. Squires	April, 2009
Wing Commander C. Gleave MA	9th April, 2011
Wing Commander A. Cann MA(Cantab) MA	19th April, 2013
Wing Commander A. Wright MA BSc	7th May, 2015

Squadron Bases and Aircraft

<u>Base</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Aircraft Type</u>
South Farnborough, Hants	23rd February, 1917	FE2b & d & BE2e
St. Andre Aux Bois	21st March, 1917	
Izel le Hameau	1st April, 1917	
Treizennes	16th May, 1917	
Ochey	5th October, 1917	
Villeseneux	1st April, 1918	
Ochey	12th May, 1918	Handley Page 0-400
Xaffevillers	10th August, 1918	
Ligescourt	16th November, 1918	
Detached, St. Ingelvert	March, 1919	
Detached, Quilen	March, 1919	
St. Inglevert	June, 1919	
Returned to England	September, 1919	
Baldonnel, Co. Dublin	September, 1919	Bristol F 2b
Spitalgate, Lincs	4th February, 1922	Avro 504K & DH9A
Eastchurch, Kent	May, 1924	Vickers Vimy
Spitalgate, Lincs	July, 1924	Fairey Fawn
Weston Zoyland	11th June, 1926	Hawker Horsley
Spitalgate, Lincs	30th August, 1926	

<u>Base</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Aircraft Type</u>
Bicester	10th January, 1928	
Weston Zoyland	14th April, 1928	
Bicester	19th May, 1928	
Donibristle, Fife	3rd November, 1930	
Gosport	3rd June, 1932	
Catfoss, Yorkshire	15th June, 1932	
Donibristle, Fife	27th August, 1932	
	November, 1932	Vickers Wildebeest
Gosport	8th June, 1933	
Donibristle, Fife	30th June, 1933	
Seletar, Singapore	5th January, 1934	
Disbanded	February, 1942	
Grimsby (Waltham)	15th December, 1942	Avro Lancaster
Elsham Wolds	1st April, 1945	
Scampton	3rd December, 1945	
Lindholme	8th May, 1946	Avro Lincoln
Hemswell	28th October, 1946	
Detached to Chile, Malta		
Shallufa (Egypt)		
Waddington	23rd March, 1950	
Detached to Tengah		
Tengah	31st May, 1950	
Waddington	22nd December, 1950	
Shallufa (Egypt)	20th May, 1952	
Waddington	18th August, 1952	
Wittering	2nd August, 1953	
Eastleigh, Kenya	7th January, 1954	
Wittering	22nd March, 1954	Canberra B2, B6 PR7 at Wyton
Dets. at Gaydon, Wyton & Christmas Island		
Disbanded	1st September, 1959	
Wittering	1st May, 1962	HP Victor B2
Disbanded	30th September, 1968	
West Raynham	1st February, 1972	Canberra B2, PR7, E15 & TT18
Marham	5th January, 1976	
Wyton	5th January, 1982	
	January, 1992	
Finningley	September, 1993	BAe Hawk T1A
Leeming	September, 1995	

Some old photographs of a different era



HP 0-400 showing Pilot: Lieutenant Roy, Observer: Lieutenant Loftus



Hawker Horsley and Squadron personnel at Weston Zoyland 1927

Note the Squadron Standard, the walking sticks and puttees!



100 Squadron personnel on the P&O Liner "SS Rampura" at Tilbury docks prior to departure for Singapore in December 1933



Vilderbeest MkIIs at Seletar, Singapore - January 1937

ASSOCIATION MEMORABILIA

Squadron Association Ties, blue and maroon	£12.50
Blazer Badges (specify King's or Queen's crown)	£12.50
"The Hornets Nest" History of 100 Squadron	£12.50
Supplement to above	£4.50
"Aircraft of 100 Squadron" Montage	£5.50
DVD "100 at 90"	£5.00

Postage and Packaging is included in all of the above. Please make cheques payable to "100 Squadron Association".

To order any of the above, please contact the Treasurer.

100 SQUADRON MEMORABILIA

Cloth 100 Squadron crest badge	£5.00
Cloth skull and bones badge	£3.00
100 Squadron crest zap	£1.00
Skull and bones zap	£1.00
100 Squadron print (blank)	£5.00
95th Anniversary Squadron print (signed)	£10.00
100 Squadron shield (wooden)	£33.00
Framed embroidered crest	£33.00
Mini hip flask	£5.00
Skull and bones baseball cap	£7.00
100 Squadron T-shirt Skull or Hawk (state size)	£10.00
100 Squadron polo shirt (state size)	£14.00
(Sizes of T-shirts and Polo shirts are S, M, L, XL and XXL)	
100 Squadron cummerbund (blue-yellow check - other side Skull and Bones white on black) (state waist size)	£33.00
100 Squadron bow tie (blue-yellow check) S, M, L	£15.00
100 Squadron engraved tankard	Price on application

To order any of the Squadron Memorabilia, contact the Squadron Liaison Officer (Flt Lt T Clement) at 100 Squadron, RAF Leeming.