



NEWSLETTER

Book for the Aircrew Lunch (28 Sep 18) on Page 7

July Meeting

Hugh Grainger our scheduled speaker was unfortunately taken to hospital. so Bill George stepped up and gave a talk on 'Memorable Meals'. It was not just on splendid meals but also on locations and on funny things that happened or what was said or even strange food!

Bill explained one funny moment when he was having a meal in Paris with his boss, who enquired of the host "Tell me Jean-Pierre, do you get Nouvelle Quisine over here"!!!!

After Bill's presentation there was a lengthy discussion on meals, good and bad before we tucked into our gourmet Greenacres egg and chips lunch!

Ed: Our grateful thanks to Bill for stepping in at short notice. I did not publicise the change in case some of you thought he would talk about his ^{364.40} National Service flying!!!!

August Meeting



This month our speaker is Winston Chartwell and he will tell us about 'The US Coastguard Service'.

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) is a branch of the United States Armed Forces and one of the country's seven uniformed services. The Coast Guard is a maritime, military, multi-mission service unique

among the U.S. military branches for having a maritime law enforcement mission (with jurisdiction in both domestic and international waters) and a federal regulatory agency mission as part of its mission set. It operates under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security during peacetime, and can be transferred to the U.S. Department of the Navy by the U.S. President at any time, or by the U.S. Congress during times of war. This has happened twice, in 1917, during World War I, and in 1941, during World War II.

The Coast Guard has 40,992 a total workforce of 87,569. The Coast Guard maintains an extensive fleet of 243 coastal and ocean-going patrol ships, tenders, tugs and icebreakers called "Cutters", and 1650 smaller boats, as well as an extensive aviation division consisting of 201 helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. While the U.S. Coast Guard is the smallest of the U.S. military service branches, in terms of size, the U.S. Coast Guard by itself is the world's 12th largest naval force.



Remember 15th August 2018

"The US Coastguard Service"

with

Winston Chartwell

Greenacres 1030 for 1100

The First World War Pilot J M (Jack) Mason
Part 12

Ed: *Extracts from Jack's First World War Logbook, on Active Service. The busy Summer of 1918 continues*

20	DH4	125 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Bouiers Railway Station & Dump. I led this raid for the first time in my life after my promotion to Acting Flight Commander. I made the pace too fast with the result that four machines turned back because they were unable to keep up. One direct hit obtained on the target. Very little AA & no Huns.
21	DH4	130 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Guillemont Village. My second raid as leader. We had as an objective Chaulnes & it was also agreed that we should meet an escort of S.E 5s over Amiens, but we missed each other so I started for Chaulnes without them. As we proceeded, several squadrons of Huns came climbing up under our tails & as the formation was now too good, I decided to attack Guillemont & return home. The whole thing seems to have been a bit of a 'washout' as nobody knew what they had done with their bombs & no photographs were taken.
21	DH4	130 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Chaulnes Railway Station. A very successful raid lead by Capt Gaman. Six direct hits obtained on target, two of which were mine. No E.A & no AA.
22	DH4	127 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Cappy Village. My third raid as leader & a very successful one. Seven direct hits on target obtained, one of which was mine. No E.A. & AA light but very accurate. Very bad visibility indeed & I had very great difficulty in finding my way.
25	DH4	101 mins (PI)	Attempted Raid on Cappy Aerodrome. Leading. There were thick clouds at 3000ft & I tried vainly to find my way without success. So I eventually decided to wash it out & brought the whole formation home without dropping. Much to my surprise the Wing said I had made 'a firm effort'.
27	DH4	110 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Rosieres Railway Station. Leading. Bombs dropped with very good results. No E.A. & very little AA.
28	DH4	106 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Churges Aerodrome. Bombs dropped on target with very good results indeed. Two hangars burnt down & the place badly knocked about. Leading. AA fire very heavy & accurate indeed. A formation of 12 E.A. Followed us but were too cold footed to attack except at long range.
28	DH4	74 mins (PI)	Attempted Bombing Raid on Cappy Aerodrome. On approaching the lines, we ran into thick clouds & mist, so I washed the raid out without crossing the lines.

29	DH4	135 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Chaulnes Railway Station. This raid was led by Siedle & was an awful mess up. He took us miles down south – was very nearly brought down by archie. He was forced to return home & the formation instructor officer ran as deputy leader, simply split up, dropped their bombs anywhere & made for home as fast as they could. This was one of the hairiest expeditions this squadron has put up. No E.A.. AA very heavy & accurate indeed. I bombed Caix aerodrome as I passed by it on the way home.
30	DH4	143 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Chaulnes Railway Station. Leading. All bombs dropped on the target with very good results. Both our bombs were direct hits. The formation was attacked by 7 Huns but there was no decisive result. AA fire light & inaccurate.
31	DH4	118 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Flaque Dump. Leading. Several direct hits obtained on the target. No E.A. & very little AA fire. Altogether a very “cushy” raid.
JUNE 1918			
1	DH4	110 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Rosieres Station & Dump. Leading. One of the best raids we have ever done. Seven or eight direct hits obtained on the target causing two fires & a very large explosion. A formation of Huns climbed up under us but they were unable to reach us. AA light & inaccurate. The photographs taken by the last man in the formation show five large fires & or ten bombs erupting on the dump.
1	DH4	130 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Orniécourt Dump. Leading. Not very good results, most bombs seemed to have fallen short & very heavy shelling from archie. Three formations of Huns who, however, were kept off by S.E 5s of 24 Sqn, who gave us a wonderful escort.
2	DH4	128 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Rosieres Station & Dump. Leading. The formation was very bad & several people got the 'wind up' of archie & broke away. Both our bombs fell wide & there doesn't seem to have been very much damage.
2	DH4	122 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Orniécourt Dump. Bombs dropped with very good results. Three fires caused, two of which were my bombs. AA fairly heavy but inaccurate. No Huns to be seen. Leading.

Who said flying was dangerous?

Protesters in Papua New Guinea Highlands set fire to plane and shut Mendi airport

Protesters in the Papua New Guinea Southern Highlands town of Mendi have torched an Air Niugini Dash 8 aircraft and closed the airport.



The Air Niugini aircraft earlier

Earlier, the local police station commander Gideon Kauke had said police were guarding the aircraft to ensure there was no further damage after its tyres had been flattened.

But he said his team of about 10 police could not contain a mob of “uncountable numbers”, particularly after missiles were thrown, forcing them to retreat.

“We were guarding the plane but compared to them we were outnumbered and they came in all directions, all corners. Missiles were thrown, bush knives were thrown,” Kauke said.



After the attack

He added some of the protesters, continued to behave “menacingly” in Mendi as their numbers built up, and were carrying guns.

He said the protest was in response to a court ruling in Waigani confirming the election of the Southern Highlands Governor William Powi. Governor Powi’s success in last year’s PNG general election had been challenged by Joseph Kobol and Bernard Peter Kaku.

A few days later another flight was attacked whilst taxiing and both pilots were shot and injured

A ‘Shaggy Dog’ Story from Moscow



Aeroflot Boeing 737-800 VQ-BWE

On 22 July whilst performing flight SU-43 from St Petersburg to Moscow (Sheremetyevo) the crew received an indication that the forward cargo door had opened, as they were passing FL90 in descent. An emergency was declared and they landed safely.

Military personnel were sent to the aircraft, no doubt suspecting stowaways! They inspected the door and found it just over 6” open. They opened the door fully and a dog, which had escaped from its transport cage, was found free in the cargo compartment. Multiple traces of the dog’s claws were found on the inside surface of the door and the door opening handle.



*Laika, the only Russian flying
dog I could find!*



Our President was at the front on The Mall for the RAF100 flypast and here is his report:



At 12.30 pm I joined the good-natured crowd outside Buckingham Palace and waited patiently for the fly-past to commence, meanwhile listening to the band on the forecourt and the gentle voice of Gp Capt Anne-Marie Houghton in charge

of the parade. With the cloud base at 2000 feet, rumours swept the crowd that the fly-past had been cancelled.

Not so. At 12.59 the first of the helicopters arrived and from then on we were enthralled by a spectacular display by the RAF at its best. The biggest cheer



The stars of the show the BBMF

rippled through the crowd as the Battle of Britain flight passed overhead



The "Red's" colourful tribute"

There was also much applause for the fast jets and Red Arrows.

Congratulations to Wing Commander Kevin Gatland for his expertise in planning and executing such an inspiring display

Lunch in the Hurricane suite at the RAF Club with Liverymen of the Worshipful Company of Distillers was a fitting climax to a remarkable event.

Geoff

Ed: *There were so many memorable sights that day, I thought a few pictures here and on page 6 were in order*



The "100" Formation



'Little and Large, a C17 leads the diminutive BAe 146'



3 x F-35 Lightnings, our newest weapon



The giant Airbus "Voyager"



Hawks of 100 Sqn

A Sad Farewell
During July these two great characters from WW 2 sadly passed away



Geoffrey Wellum DFC - 4 Aug 21 - 18 Jul 18
Battle of Britain Spitfire pilot and author



Mary Ellis - 2 Feb 17 - 24 Jul 18
Held a PPL from pre war. Joined ATA in 1941 flying 76 types. Post War Mary continued to ferry aircraft for the RAF including the Meteor. Later became manager of Sandown Airport and formed IOW Aero Club.

Aircrew Lunch**Friday 28th September 2018 (12 Noon for 1230)****The Black Horse,
Faringdon Rd, Gozzards Ford, Abingdon, OX13 6JH**

We will be holding our annual 'Aircrew Lunch' on Friday 28th September at the usual venue just outside Abingdon. The event is open to all members and non members of the Aircrew Association (those branches still functioning) and anyone with an interest in Aviation male or female, oh and if you have never been stationed at RAF Upavon, WRAF Officers as well! The idea is to meet, enjoy the company and the food.

Please select your menu choice and return to the address below with your cheque payable to "The Black Horse" by the closing date of 21 September. If any have particular dietary requirements please get in touch and I will arrange it with the Landlord.

MAIN COURSE

Slices of Ham, two free range fried eggs all served with crispy chunky chips and a slice of bread & butter for the ultimate 'Northern Chip Butty'.

Chicken Tikka Masala served with Basmati Rice, Naan Bread, Popadoms and Mango chutney

Steak & Ale Pie served with crispy chunky chips, fresh vegetables and an extra side of gravy (V pie option available)

Traditional hand beer-battered Cod served with crispy chunky chips, mushy peas and home-made tartare sauce

Home-made Fish Pie - Mix of cod, smoked haddock, salmon and prawns, in a creamy dill sauce and topped with cheesy mash and fresh vegetables on the side

Roasted Stuffed Peppers - Peppers stuffed with couscous and garlic roasted vegetables, topped with melted Taw Valley Cheddar cheese, served with new potatoes and green beans (V)

DESSERT

Ice Cream Sundae - choose from vanilla, chocolate or strawberry ice cream

Apple Pie served with double cream or vanilla ice cream

Homemade Sticky Toffee Pudding served with homemade toffee sauce, cream, custard or ice cream

Chef's homemade cheesecake of the week

Homemade crumble served with a jug of custard

Cheeseboard with Taw Valley Mature Cheddar, French Brie and Tuxford & Tebbutt Stilton served with Grapes, chutney and butter

Tea and Coffee

Please send cheque for £ 22.00 per person payable to "The Black Horse" and your menu choice to Graham Laurie, 19 High St, Prestwood, Gt Missenden, Bucks HP16 9EE.

Any queries Tel: 01494 863492 (H) 07798 703022 (M) or graham@kitty4.co.uk

Programme 2018

Events at 1030 for 1100 at Greenacres unless (*)

2018

15 Aug US Coastguard Service -Winston Chartwell

19 Sep

28 Sep Aircrew Lunch @ Black Horse* 1200

17 Oct 'Stag Lane Aerodrome 1917-1934' - Stuart McKay

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Welfare

I guess Bill will report on his gastronomic talk which was most entertaining.

My normal telephone calls revealed that members were as well as could be expected. Tom Payne seems well even though he is on a shorter lead than he would like.

David

Secretary/Editor

As regular attendees will know our numbers have dwindled at our meetings, In an effort to get the numbers higher and therefore not embarrass our speakers we will invite the ladies to join us. So please try to encourage them to come along. OK they may have heard some of your stories but not many have heard of Bill's ^{364.40} hours during his National Service!

Graham

Speaker Secretary

If we are to continue to find speakers of quality for our meetings next year, I really do need your help. If you have heard a speaker or have heard reports of one that would be suitable then please do let me have their details. At the moment the cupboard is bare!

Bill

President

It really was a pleasure to attend the RAF 100 celebrations in London on 10 July 2018. The parade, flypast and event planning were a great credit to all those involved. It made you proud to have been part of it!

Geoff

Memory Lane - The RAF at 50

Jet Provosts at RAF Abingdon on 15 June 1968