



NEWSLETTER

£10 SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE FOR 2019

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

On Wednesday 12th December 60 Members and friends joined together at Greenacres for a very successful Christmas Lunch. As usual Stephanie and the team provided excellent fayre and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

We had guests from Woking ACA, Mildenhall ACA and the recently defunct Oxford ACA, with other guests from the Bomber Command Association. Sadly as usual we had one or two cry offs but the places were filled by latecomers which worked really well.

Our thanks are due to Ian Mason for masterminding the ticket sales and to Rod Finn for running the raffle, which proved very popular, as the ticket was also your raffle ticket. The event was introduced by our President Geoff Hulett before Ian Mason said Grace. There was constant chatter throughout the meal and the service was excellent. Following the Toasts we held the raffle and the lunch was brought to a close by the President around 3 pm. A photographic record can be seen on Page 4.

Derek Gurney

Sadly at the beginning of the week following the Christmas Lunch, we learnt of the passing of our longest serving member (No 9). We only had 3 days to get the information out but thanks to those members who attended the cremation at Garston. It was Derek's wish to have the RAF Ensign draped on his coffin and thanks to RAFA Halton this was achieved. We hope to have further details of his career both flying in the RAF, Gliding at Dunstable and of course his other passion Ballroom Dancing.



AGM 16 January 2019

This is formal notice of our AGM for 2019 to be held at Greenacres on Wednesday 16th January 2019 at 11.00am

1. Chairman's opening remarks (To be performed by a Committee Member)
2. Committee reports
3. Election of Officers
4. Any other business

Please be prompt as we would like to get the AGM over quickly. If you have any matters for 'Any Other Business' please ensure they are with the Secretary by Friday 11th January 2019.

Following the AGM we will have another 'Open Mic' session, which has proved so popular in the past. The floor is open to all on any topic. For instance why has it taken Airports so long to come to terms with the possibility of drone attacks/ flying over major airfields?

Please make an effort to attend, after all it is your Association and as our membership has dwindled somewhat we do need your support

Graham

Remember 16TH JANUARY 2019

'ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING'

Greenacres 1100 AM.

The First World War Pilot J M (Jack) Mason**Part 15**

Ed: Extracts from Jack's First World War Logbook, on Active Service, as the War slowly comes to an end and he is sent back to UK on Instructional duties after becoming the Acting Commanding Officer of 205 Squadron

AUGUST 1918

10	DH4	98 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Brie Bridge. Leading. Results obscured by cloud. No AA & no EA.
10	DH4	96 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Brie Bridge. Leading. The formation was heavily attacked by 11 Fokker biplanes & 5 Pheaz scouts. No results observed owing to the attack. They came from all sides starting by diving on the leader & then going round & attacking the rear machines. Sgt Middleton (his gunner) shot down one in flames. 2nd Lt Withers with Lt Clarke go another completely out of control. 2nd Lt Hamilton flying with Lt Chalmers also got one completely out of control. No AA. We lost no machines but 2nd Lt Hoptan, flying with Lt Kers was very badly wounded. Altogether a jolly good show for the squadron. Lt Hoptan died in hospital 12 Aug 18.
11	DH4	123 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Peronne Railway Station & Sidings. Leading. A very good raid. Both my bombs fell on the sidings. Several other direct hits observed including one on a train standing in the station. Heavily attacked again but we suffered no casualties. Three Huns were brought down. Very little AA.
11	DH4	80 mins (PI)	Local. Engine Test. Unsatisfactory. Engine still throwing out too much oil.
11	DH4	129 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Peronne Railway station & Sidings. Leading. The formation was again heavily attacked by Huns. Lt Clarke got one with his front guns & 2nd Lt Leach, flying with Lt Grossant hit one that was underneath & knocked its left hand wings off. No AA.
11	DH4	20 mins (PI)	Local. Engine test. OK.
11	DH4	125 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Peronne Railway Station & Sidings. Leading. The formation again attacked by Huns. We had an escort by 48 Squadron (Bristol Fighters) & as soon as the Huns attacked they went for them. We did not get any but 48 got two. No AA.
12	DH4	157 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Peronne Railway Station & Sidings. Leading. Quite a good raid. Several of the bombs fell on the sidings. We had an escort from 23 Squadrons (Sopwith Dolphins). No EA observed. AA very heavy & accurate indeed.
13	DH9A	80 mins (PI)	Local. Testing this new type of machine & engine. I was the first to fly it on the Squadron. I don't like either the engine or the machine so much as the DG4 but shall probably get to like it all right. A very good take off & fairly good landing.

14	DH4	146 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Peronne Railway Station & Sidings. Leading. A very good raid. I obtained two direct hits & there were six others. AA heavy & accurate. Six Fokkers who did not attack.
15	DH4	150 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Peronnes Railway Station & Sidings. Leading. Very thick clouds obscured results of the bombs. No EA but AA very heavy & accurate.
16	DH4	90 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Peronne Railway station & Sidings. McAfee leading. He got an engine failure & everybody turned round to follow him home rather than follow me.
19	DH4	174 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on Doight Station. Leading. Very Cloudy. No AA. No EA.
21	DH9A	140 mins (PI)	Local. Testing new machine with full load of bombs & guns.

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ACTING OFFICER COMMANDING No 205 SQN.

SEPTEMBER 1918

4	DH4	146 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on St Quintin. Leading. A very good raid. Numerous direct hits on the target.
5	DH4	147 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid SE Corner of St Quintin. Leading. No results observed owing to being heavily attacked by about 40 EA. AA heavy & accurate.
6	DH4	134 mins (PI)	Bombing Raid on SE Corner of St Quintin. Leading. A very good raid indeed. Numerous direct hits on the target. The whole of Hunland burning from the Somme to the Hindenburg line.

EASTCHURCH (MARINE OBSERVERS SCHOOL)

OCTOBER 1918

25	DH9	53 mins (PI)	Local. First flight as an instructor at Eastchurch. Also first time in a DH9. Liked machine very much. Very misty & cloudy.
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ED

We will continue to follow Jacks career for the remainder of the War and what he did later which does make very interesting reading.

Christmas Lunch in Pictures



Tales from the Tower
by
Tony Brown MBE

Some of the more senior amongst you will recall that in the old days R/T discipline was not like it is today. The intercom was also used to chat to colleagues on other sectors. I vividly remember listening to the story of the farmer's daughter and the commercial traveller. Unfortunately there was a minor incident shortly afterwards and the boss's secretary had to transcribe the tape recordings for the subsequent enquiry. No one could look her in the face for weeks afterwards.

Anyway I digress. A retired RAF navigator joined our team. To protect the innocent we will call him Dave. He had spent 22 years on V bombers operationally and as an examiner and instructor. On joining civil air traffic someone forgot to give him a copy of the standard phrase book, well if they did he never read it. His instructions were given as a friendly chat such as "GDC zip along the railway line". or "Aer Lingus now then young man toddle on up to flight level 120.". I can relate all this without contradiction as your editor, whenever he was transiting the Manchester TMA, would scan all the frequencies to see if Dave was talking.

Now I really need you all to be familiar with a television advert from the eighties. This was for a carpet cleaner called "a Thousand and One". Commercial TV repeated the ditty "cleans a big big carpet for less than half a crown" over and over again. Now you remember it !

It was a quiet Sunday afternoon with very few aircraft. The Manchester QNH was 998 and rapidly rising. The childish excitement in the ops was rising at the same speed. It rose and an aircraft was told to descend to 4000 ft on all the nines, It rose to 1000 mb shortly afterwards. We knew what was coming. And then the victim comes on frequency

Dave "Speedbird 123 descend to 4000 feet carpet cleaners"

Aircraft. " Speedbird 123 descending 4000 feet QNH. WHAT WAS THAT?

Dave "You know, cleans a big big carpet for less than half a crown"

Aircraft. Oh.yes of course. Sorry, descending 4000 feet carpet cleaners".



Ed: Tony, many thanks for that and yes it does bring back memories of Dave, he was a real character. I seem to remember he always cycled to work but along the active taxiway! Much to the dislike of the Watch Manager! There were quite a few characters around ATC in those days, I always remember one particular chap at Heathrow with the perfect 'English Gentleman's voice', it turned out in his spare time he was a Councillor in Reading.

Nowadays there is no time for that sort of thing, too much traffic into the same amount of airspace.

Programme 2018/9

Events at 1030 for 1100 at Greenacres unless (*)

2019

16 Jan AGM + Subscriptions due
 20 Feb Deception in WW2 - Hugh Grainger
 19 Mar Brief History of Radlett and Handley
 Page - Chris Scivyer
 20 Apr Burma - Sherry Scott

Your 2018 Committee**President**

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Welfare

I have been sailing around the carribevn since be-
 fore Christmas but should be back in time for the
 AGM

Secretary/Editor

Sadly I will not be able to attend our AGM but will
 no doubt be kept up to date by the Committee

Graham

Membership Secretary

It is time for the Subscriptions again but just hold on
 until after the AGM, in case there are any changes. I
 cannot see them go up but there may be a surprise
 for some of you.

Ian

Treasurer

The Christmas Dinner accounts worked out
 well in spite of addition subsidies. I will be able
 to give you an up to date set of figures at the
 AGM

Rod

Programme Secretary

We are doing well with the 2019 programme
 and I hope to have the whole year covered
 shortly. I am just waiting for a couple of confir-
 mations.

Bill

President

Christmas lunch was well supported and a
 great success thanks to the hard work of the
 committee and the staff of Greenacres.

I have heard whispers of a 'volunteer' to take
 on the role of Chairman
 of Chiltern. All will be revealed at the AGM in
 January.

Wishing you well in 2019

Geoff