



**Six – Oh – Two**

**The Newsletter of the 602 Squadron Museum Association**

**Issue 2**

**November 2010**

Greetings from 518 Sauchiehall Street

***Personnel Occurrence Reports (PORs)***

Sadly a number of personnel have been posted on terminal leave to the Great Hangar in the Sky.

- **Founder Member** Honorary Air Commodore the Duke of Hamilton.
- **Life Members** Max Baerlein, J.H.Connolly, A.F.Davis, Ian Sutherland W. Outch, Wg. Cdr. N. MacLean.
- **Associate Members** R. Gallagher

Two former 602 Squadron personnel Wg.Cdr. John Kempe and Wg.Cdr. John Freeborn are added to this roll call.

Let us remember them.

The Roll of Honour of those who made the supreme sacrifice in W.W.2 is now on line. Please have a browse and let us know of any errors or omissions.

The project to have the temporary Book of Remembrance properly bound is on hand. Copies will be displayed in the Museum and at 602 Squadron H.Q.

The '602 Family ' continues to grow. We have had visits from relatives of Ian Sutherland, Donald Jack, Alec Fraser and the relatives of Bruce Oliver and Danny Morgan all the way from New Zealand.

At last we have made contact with Julian Marryshow after some two and a half years of trying. Thanks to sterling work by the Jamaican Consul in Grenada Julian was contacted sitting under an almond tree in Barbados having found the secret of long life. RAF Museum

Hendon hopes to interview him at home early in the new year. Your Editor has offered to make the introductions but so far no takers !

Representatives of the Association and 602 Squadron were invited to man a stall at a 'Glasgow Heritage Day' in the City Chambers. This attracted a great deal of attention and was an opportunity to promote ourselves and the Squadron. It is odd how many people do not realise that 602 Squadron operated outwith the Glasgow area during WW2.

The ' Open Doors' day in Glasgow afforded an opportunity for the people of Glasgow to see our Museum. Over 30 people took advantage of this and left suitably impressed. Another success.!

The interest in the history of 602 Squadron continues to grow with enquiries from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, France, Holland and even Brazil in addition to those from U.K. Many enquiries are from relatives of those who served with the Squadron during the War years. Quite a number of these enquiries come via the website.

The Association was represented at the annual ceremony at the Lord Dowding Memorial at Moffat . A fly past by a Spitfire and Hurricane of BBMF was enjoyed by the assembled crowd while those travelling down the M74 enjoyed the added bonus of the Lancaster flying parallel to the motorway. Participants in the wreath laying were made most welcome at Dowding House afterwards. This is always an opportunity to meet old friends.

602 Squadron welcomed a new Honorary Air Commodore at Squadron H.Q. and representatives of the Association were invited guests. The new HAC is Iain McMillan CBE who is Director of the CBI.

Our Chairman presented him with a print of Nicolas Trudgian's painting ' Head to Head ' depicting Sandy Johnstone in action during the Battle of Britain. A similar presentation was made to O.C. Sqn. to mark the occasion.

This year of course marked the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and a multimedia presentation devised by Gerry Traynor and Jim Devine was shown at a Commemorative Lunch for invited Guests including the Lord Provost of Glasgow, the Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire, The Lord Dean of Guild, and the Deacon Convener from the Trades House. Honorary Air Commodore Iain McMillan, Sqn. Ldr. Sue Freeman, O.C.UGSAS and Sqn. Ldr. Graeme Lyall , O.C.602 Sqn with three of his staff represented the uniformed side.

The Guest of Honour was our own Squadron Leader Nigel Rose who is our last surviving pilot in U.K from the Battle of Britain. He proved to be worthy of his status and indeed there is an interview with him on the website. As a memento of his visit our Chairman presented him with an inscribed quaich. Nigel continued to be seen regularly on T.V. News clips over the period as well as being interviewed by the Press. A standard greeting became 'Did you see Nigel on .....? '. Long may he be with us.

Another Battle of Britain veteran making news in the Press and on TV was the evergreen Joe Parker. Every member of the media I spoke to was really enthusiastic about Joe. He even got to kiss the glamour girls, Miss Scotland and glamour gardener Charlie Dimmock from 'Ground Force ' . Joe still has that gleam in his eye.

602 Association members are justifiably proud of Nigel and Joe for their part in ensuring victory in the Battle of Britain. Both gentlemen added that little extra to the presentation with memories of Westhampnett, after all 'they were there!!'.

The presentation was repeated at our annual 'party' and was well received by the audience, including those who were seeing it for the second time. They thought it was another TV repeat!!

A further showing to the Historical Society resulted in a cheque for £ 45 being donated to 'Help for Heroes' on our behalf.

Alec Davie, a member from Edinburgh (he was granted Naturalisation!!) kindly presented the Museum with a case of mounted artefacts from the Humber Heinkel. It is amazing that we are still receiving parts 71 years after the event.

At Squadron H.Q there is now a full complement and this was recognised by the AOC's Commendation to the Recruiting Team. Sgt. Sean Toner has retired after 30 years service and we wish him a long and happy retirement. His replacement is Sgt. Paul Wilson and we welcome him to Glasgow and wish him every success in his new posting.

The feasibility study on the provision of a memorial to 602 Squadron has been completed and discussed. It would appear that the most favourable site would be on the river bank near the 'Squinty Bridge' at Tradeston. A Working Party chaired by Jim Devine has been set up to develop this project.

We are still looking for volunteers for the 'Lions Rampant' project. Have a look at the interviews on the website. Feedback in the Press suggests that there is a lack of knowledge about WW2 in the younger generations. You can help put that right by contacting Jim Devine.

It would appear that we may be about to enter a period of uncertainty. Lt.Col. Bobby Steele, Regimental Secretary has cautioned that we may be affected by the current Defence Review. The Domesday Scenario is that we lose our home in RHF. No decision has been taken yet despite rumours. We can but wait and see but we do have to have contingency plans if everything should go pear shaped. Any sensible suggestions are welcome. We can only take 'soundings' until there is an announcement. It is anticipated that we would have about 12 months grace from that point. Hopefully the Royal Highland Fusiliers will avoid the axe and we will be left unscathed. Fingers crossed!

Let us put such news on the back burner for the present.

The Chairman and Committee wish everyone, 'A Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year'.

Let us look forward with confidence to 2011.

To those who swapped the 1250 for the Bus Pass, 'Take care and may your God go with you.'

### **CAVE LEONEM CRUCIATUM**