



Six –Oh –Two
The Newsletter of the 602 Museum Association

Issue 2

Nov. 2009

Greetings from 518

Our first Newsletter appears to have been a success so we will ' chance our arm ' and issue another !

Personnel Occurrence Reports (P.O.R.s)

A number of our friends and colleagues have departed on their final posting.

Life Members - A.F.Davis, M. Francis, M. Goodchap, M. Hampton, J.A.Horsfall, N.MacKay.

Associate Members - W.Hopekirk

Honorary Members - J. Exton, R. Finucane, J.R. McCracken.

Remember them.

On a brighter note ,one of our Patrons, Air Marshal I.D. MacFadyen has taken up the post of Governor of Windsor Castle. Heartiest congratulations to him. Does this mean we have a friend at Court?

On 23 June 2009 Flt.Lt. Jim Johnstone DFC, with unerring application of his right index finger, launched the Museum Association into cyberspace. We now have our own website which can be accessed at www.602squadronmuseum.org.uk. It has already attracted a great deal of attention. There is a Forum to help us keep in touch with one another, particularly those who have served with the Squadron. Photos from our past history are displayed as well as photos from current events. Have a look and get involved.

We have put together a Roll of Honour of all who made the Supreme Sacrifice while serving with 602 Squadron during W.W.2. A brief statement of how each man died and his final resting place will be available via a clickable link at each name. We will go online in the near future. If there are any omissions please notify us asap.

The design of the proposed plaque in Glasgow Cathedral has just been cleared so we can go ahead and have it manufactured. There will be an unveiling ceremony at the Cathedral early in 2010. We hope to have many 'Old Boys' present that day. Medals will be worn, so get polishing !

On the subject of ' Old Boys' we have been aware for some time that the position of the Museum, seventy steps up and no lift ' makes it difficult if not impossible for those on the ' Bus Pass' to visit. There is no easy solution. We are proposing to make a DVD of our artefacts which could be shown at a lower level and allow our more Senior Members to feel part of the 'family'. If it is successful it could be made available to those members who are too far away to visit. We will give it a try with our friends from the Hunterian Museum. It would also give us the opportunity to coax you old war horses into taking part in our ' Lions Rampant' project which is still on going. Wash your face and get your fifteen minutes of fame !!

There is still a steady demand by various organisations to give presentations on the history of 602 Squadron. The audiences are mainly of senior citizens who regularly express amazement at the Squadrons involvement in pre war aviation and its contribution in World War II. It is quite astonishing the interest these talks generate.

In September our Honorary Chairman, Ian MacDonald accompanied by Bill Thomson laid a wreath on behalf of the Association at the annual Dowding Commemoration at Moffat. The excellent weather allowed a fly-past by a Spitfire from Rolls-Royce.

We were invited to attend an Open Forum with 603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron Association at the Museum of Flight. The subject matter was the Raid on the Forth on 16 October 1939. I represented 602 with Sqn.Ldr. Blanche from 603 together with Bill Simpson an aviation author. It was well attended and apparently we destroyed some myths. The session was filmed for use in the Museum of Flight's Learning Programme.

We commemorated this event with a Lunch for invited guests at R.H.F, Sauchiehall Street. Among the guests we were pleased to welcome two people from 602 and two from 603 who were present during the raid. We presented an audio visual account of the events and this was well received. We even managed some news time on STV.

A special limited edition poster based on Dugald Cameron's famous painting of the action was signed by Dugald and sold later for the RAF Benevolent Fund. There are still some available at the Museum.

A framed poster was presented by our Chairman to Sqn. Ldr. Graeme Lyall O.C. 602 Squadron for display at Sqn. H.Q., in Avenuepark Street. A photo of this presentation is shown on the website.

The Squadron is now settled in Maryhill and new recruits are coming forward. It has been taking part in exercises in Norway and in some familiarisation trips in Puma helicopters. It was good to note that once again 602 Squadron is part of the Remembrance Parade in Glasgow.

The Honorary Air Commodore Sir Fred Goodwin has resigned from his post with 602. Any suitable candidates? Don't call me, call the Squadron Commander.

We had our Annual 'Party' at Sauchiehall Street in the week following the Commemoration Lunch. As always it was well attended. The presentation of the audio-visual version of the events of 16 October 1939 was given and again it was well received. It is not only the BBC who can put on repeats, 602 can do it too, but ours are better quality.

For many years the vexed question of a Squadron Memorial has been chewed over based on a statement in 1941 by the then Lord Provost Sir Paddy Dollan. At the annual party a young sculptor showed a design he has been working on. We have agreed to have a serious look at it. The Spitfire in Kelvingrove is an exhibit not a memorial as 603 Squadron have at Edinburgh Airport. Should we strive to have a dedicated memorial to 602 in the City? We cannot take on a project of this size without careful consideration. Is it feasible? Do we want our own memorial? Let us have feedback either by Email or post.

We have already spoken of our website but at this point we as a Committee would like to express our thanks to David Taylor who is doing some sterling work in developing the site in spite of the Editor of this newsletter!! We now have a good working relationship. What do you want from the website? Give us a clue!

As the Christmas and New Year season approaches the Honorary Chairman and Committee hope you have a Happy Christmas and a Guid New Year.

For those who are far away from us may we echo that oft heard Glasgow greeting.

AWRABEST

Complaints

Plaudits and Treasure Trove

roddyhonsec@btinternet.com

pgt602ma@blueyonder.co.uk

STAND EASY