



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

Issue 1

March 2009

Greetings from 518 Sauchiehall Street

This is our first newsletter. It could become a collector's item so hang on to it!
The objective is to keep our members informed of happenings at the Museum and at the Squadron.
At present our only contact is via the AGM and our annual 'party'. We want to improve on that by issuing a newsletter perhaps twice per annum and improving communications all round.

One of our Patrons, Air Marshal I.D. Macfadyen CB OBE FRAeS has been appointed Inspector General R.Aux.A.F wef 1st January 2009. Our congratulations to him and we wish him every success in his new post.

The Grim Reaper has been on his rounds again so let us remember our recently dead.
Air Commodore Peter Brothers who commanded the Squadron from June 1942 to October 1942.
Flt.Lt. Peter Davey (New Zealand) who flew with the Squadron in 1942/1943.
George Outch who joined 602 (Bomber) Squadron in 1938 and served during World War II.
Sqn.Ldr.Rev. D. Noel Fisher who was Squadron Padre in the 1950's.
Mrs. Hermoine Wright, widow of Flt.Lt. C.C. Hodder 602 Sqn. Adjutant at the outbreak of World War II.
Mrs. Rachael MacLean, widow of Wg.Cdr. Hector MacLean 602 Sqn., a Founder Member of our Association.

On a brighter note we have had contact with the sons of former Squadron members. They have either joined or are in the process of joining the Association. This is welcome news to keep the 602 'family' alive. Recent contacts were:
Major Christopher Hanbury, son of Squadron Leader 'Pedro' Hanbury who fought with 602 in the Battle of Britain.

Gordon Phillips whose father Randall was the first 'tradesman' to become a Sergeant pilot in the Auxiliary Air Force. He was with 602 in the Battle of Britain.

Graham Sutherland son of Flt.Lt.Ian Sutherland and nephew of Sqn.Ldr. R.A.'Max' Sutherland. Gareth and Martin MacGuire sons of Flt. Lt. Johnny MacGuire who flew with 602 from 1946 to 1957.

We are still dealing with enquiries from relatives and friends of former Squadron members. These come from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and surprisingly Argentina. Sqn.Ldr. Ken Charney was Argentinean! Another pilot from a far off land was Julian A Marryshow from Grenada who flew with 602 in 1942/43. 602 was truly an international squadron. W/O Max Baerlein once stated that the reason for our success was the rousing song ' I belong to Glasgow' which no other squadron could match! Has it been sung since in so many different accents?

We are grateful for the assistance we receive from our Honorary Member at RAF Museum Hendon in answering these enquiries. It almost becomes a full time post on occasions but it is very rewarding if we can provide relevant information. We can only deal with enquiries about 602 Squadron.

Please note that details of a person's Service Record can only be obtained from RAF Disclosures, Room 221b, Trenchard Hall, RAF Cranwell, Sleaford, Lincs. NG34 8HB.

A number of authors are in touch seeking information about 602 Squadron and its exploits. It is quite astonishing how much interest there is. This year sees the 70th anniversary of the early action in World War 2. There is the possibility of a television programme on the action around the Forth Bridge on 16 October 1939. Discussions are on going and we will be kept informed. The producers are trying to identify personnel who took part. Were you around then? Our link is Henry Buckton author of ' Birth of the Few '. We will devise a suitable window display to mark this period in our history.

Many of you will be aware that the Squadron Standard presented in 1957 is laid up in Glasgow Cathedral. It is positioned rather high on the wall as military Standards usually are in churches. Visitors may not realise its significance, if they notice it at all. Discussions are ongoing with Historic Scotland about a wall plaque at eye level in the proximity of the Standard. Indications are that the idea is regarded favourably by Historic Scotland and the Kirk Session of the Cathedral. The constraint is that the plaque must be in keeping with other plaques on display. A design is being prepared for submission to these two bodies. It is hoped to have an unveiling ceremony later in the year with members of the Association and serving personnel of 602 Squadron present.

In the Cathedral there is a Prayer Chair which carries the RAF Crest together with the Crests of the RAFVR and 602 Squadron. Does anyone know the provenance of this Chair?

602 Squadron has a new Honorary Air Commodore. He is Sir Fred Goodwin who needs no introduction. His Dining -In Night was at RAF Leuchars with the Officers of the Squadron wearing the Grey Douglas Kilts in No 5 Mess Dress for the first time since 1957.

The Squadron has established its Headquarters at 60 Avenuepark Street in Maryhill . Administration is in Edinburgh while Operational Training is based at RAF Leuchars. A small detachment is also operating at RAF Kinloss.

The H.Q. is still in the process of refurbishment. The window with the Squadron Crest from Coplaw Street which adorned the RAFA Club in Ashley Street for many years is now installed at Avenuepark Street. Link to H.Q. is 0141 948 0084

We would like to have as much information as possible for the Squadron Archives in particular photos, preferably with details of the scene. It is intended to save them to discs covering a) Pre-war b) Wartime and c) Postwar. Photos will be scanned and returned to the owner. Photos should not be bigger than A4 (because that is the biggest the scanner can take). We are also interested in anecdotes (not rude) of Squadron life.

Remember : We shot 'em up, we shot 'em down,
We shot 'em left and right
But the best of 'em we ever shot
Was in the BAR at night. (Anon)

For some time we have had a project underway to record the memories of people who took part in conflict. This consists of a ten minute interview by two young people asking questions that are agreed with the interviewee beforehand. The recording is by a professional cameraman and the venue can be at the Museum or even in your own home, if requested. To date we have made recordings from our friends in the Royal Highland Fusiliers and their associated regiments and organisations. From the Royal Air Force we have only had Sqn. Ldr. Ian Blair of 602 Squadron, and he had come up from London!! This is rather embarrassing since we started the project and indeed received some funding to help us.

The project is being driven by Jim Devine, a member of our Committee who is Head of Multi Media at the Hunterian Museum . We feel it important that future generations should learn of people's experiences of conflict. Are there no former Royal Air Force personnel in Scotland who wish to relate their experiences, good or bad, to future generations?

We hope you have found this newsletter useful. We would welcome some feedback from you.

Plaudits should be addressed to Email: pgt602ma@blueyonder.co.uk

Complaints should be sent somewhere else!!

Letters, food parcels, cheques, postal orders and anything of value will be gratefully received by all at:

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STAND EASY.