



NEWSLETTER

Xmas Lunch see P7 and book by 10 Dec



Merry Christmas

and a

*Very Happy New
Year*

from

*Your President,
Chairman and
Committee*



LOTTERY FUNDED

Remember 18th December 2019

Christmas Lunch

Meet @ Greenacres 1200 for 1230

Roy Briggs and Poppies

Our very own Roy Briggs featured in most of the daily papers on 11 November. He was not at Whitehall but at RAF North Weald at the behest of Aces High and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. The day started with a Remembrance Service under the wing of the B of B Dakota.

sion. "I am 94, and they are still 20 and 21. They will never be anything else to me,"he said.



Flt Lt George Pritchard and WO Roy Briggs



*Red on, Green on, Load gone
750,000 Poppies*



A 2 seater Spitfire escorts them home to North Weald



*prior to Take-Off
Roy climbs up the Dakota*

As the nation fell silent to remember the fallen, the second world war Dakota plane released 750,000 poppies over the white cliffs of Dover, as hundreds of people packed the nearby Battle of Britain memorial. The former US military transport plane was flanked by two Spitfires as it flew low over the Kent coast to release the biodegradable poppies.

Roy Briggs,, said he spent the flight thinking of a Lancaster crew he knew who lost their lives during a mis-



So many memories to share on the way back
Thank you to Aces High, BoB Memorial Flight and the Press for making it such a fantastic day for Roy, George and all those on board.

A Refuelling Problem

Ed: A few months ago I shared with you a story of an aircraft in Papua New Guinea that was shot at whilst about to depart, well here is another one that happened on 26 November 2019.



Tropicair Cessna 208

The report states simply:

Tropicair say that eight armed men approached the plane as it was refuelling in Gasmata, on the island of New Britain, and forced the pilot to take off. A company spokesman said there were no other passengers on board.

Upon arrival at the airstrip, the armed men stole the baggage and cargo that was on board the aircraft and fled the area, The captain was not injured during this event and the aircraft was not damaged, and has since been returned to Port Moresby,

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported that Tropicair chief executive Craig Chapple said it was a terrifying experience for the young pilot, who was threatened by the men.

"Knives and guns [were used] ... it was terrifying for him. He's a young pilot but he handled the situation extremely well and it was a good outcome because ... going to an unused airstrip, you don't know what the conditions are going to be like," Chapple said.

It is understood the hijackers were looking for cash that was expected to be on board but fled instead with the baggage from the plane.

Chapple said while the incident was unusual, he believed it was not rare.

"We have very detailed security systems, we have procedures that are being tested for years, unfortunately it was at a regional airport where some of the security can be porous but we are working to ad-

dress that with the companies [clients] that do move any valuable cargo," he said.

"We've also done a risk assessment on procedures, and there will be some slight changes made to make everyone comfortable and I want to operate with as least risk as possible."

The Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary confirmed it was investigating the incident.

West New Britain Police Commander John Midi said that "police still have no details on the cargo that was stolen and we will rely on the information given by the complainants".

Gasmata is a remote part of the island's south coast on a route predominantly used by workers on nearby logging projects.

Midi confirmed the pilot was not injured, but may have been traumatised by threats from the armed assailants.



A company Beechcraft King Air C90 at Gasmata

Tropicair is the main charter airline in Papua New Guinea and was formed in 1998. It has the following fleet:

- One (1) Cessna Citation CJ3 jet aircraft
- Three (3) Beechcraft Super King Air B200's
- Three (3) Cessna C208B Caravans
- One (1) Beechcraft King Air C90A
- One (1) De Havilland Canada DHC6 Twin Otter

Ed: Probably one of the youngest pilots with the company, who obviously did as he was told and survived!

November Outing

A party of 16 attended the Shuttleworth Trust at Old Warden for a visit on Wednesday 20th November. Some members had a warning from the Chairman to wrap up warm as the hangars were cold - he wasn't kidding.

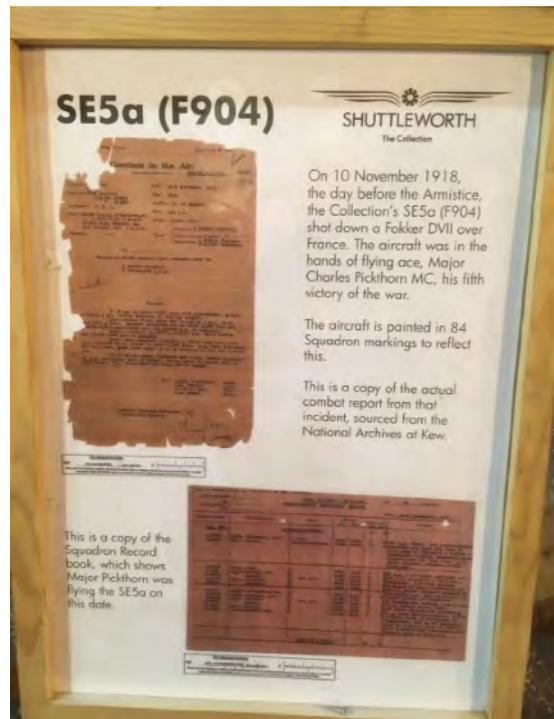
We were met by our guides Geoffrey Silk and Ernest Hart. we were split into two groups and away we went on time at 11 am. There is certainly plenty to see and with the added information supplied by our guides, our tour was given added value.

Lunch was taken in the excellent cafe/restaurant on site and then the parties were back in the hangars and also visited the workshop where a Lysander was undergoing an inspection. Of course the speciality of Shuttleworth is that the aircraft are airworthy and fly regularly. The first world war machines are strictly limited by the weather but it is fantastic that they fly at all.

It was a great pity that a few people had to cancel but we wish Ron Doble and Dennis Swains well and also Katy Bourne (Andrew's daughter) who was rushed to hospital in Nottingham from her University the night before, which of course led to him being unable to bring his father along. We hope all of them will be fit for the Christmas Lunch on 18th December



Amazing that this SE5a still flies



And there were 3 members of 84 Sqn present
Messrs Gilson, Larie and Mason



Lysander undergoing an inspection

We have written to The Shuttleworth Trust thanking them for organising our visit and a particular thank you to our two guides, Geoffrey and Ernest as well as the team behind the scenes. Now some photos.....



Overhauls and Repairs in full swing

CHILTERN AIRCREW ASSOCIATION

Tales from the Tower (well actually 2 boys at play)

Two of our contributors were able to get away from the cold and the floods and proceeded to the West Coast of the United States. Tony Brown MBE our Air Traffic correspondent and Alistair MacPherson who has written ILAFFT (I learnt about flying from that) in his old Jodel, joined forces and had a week away from UK.

Alistair has been travelling a great deal this past 12 months, catching up with his Sportswear company's orders after a spell of very poor health. This entailed a number of visits to the Middle East and the Far East. He was able to take Tony with him on a trip to LAX (Los Angeles). The whole trip was organised in style and they arranged to travel in British Airways First Class.



Tony, more comfortable than Manchester ATC

As Tony says it was very nice to be welcomed on board by name and asked what time he would like them to bring him lunch? Not being a regular in such surroundings his reply of 'Lunch time' was quite understandable. It was also a surprise when he saw Al undress into his PJ's as any regular businessman would always do.

DECEMBER 2019

The trip was full of many surprises for Tony, and once they had managed to battle their way through Mr Trump's immigration team, it was time to pick up their hire car!



The mighty 'Mustang'

Now Tony cycles everywhere, so it was sit back and be driven in style by Al (and driven very well and like most of the Americans, within the speed limit). After a couple of days in LA, it was another flight by American Airlines to San Diego (SAN) International Airport. This California airport was formerly known as Lindbergh Field and is just 3 miles north east of the central business district of San Diego.

One of the highlight in the town is the USS Midway. The aircraft carrier when built in 1945 was the largest ship in the world and the first ship built that was too large to go through the Panama Canal!



USS Midway Museum

Cont'd on Page 6

This is one of the top Museums dealing with military matters. Interestingly one of the guides was heard saying how the US Navy had learnt so much from the British in the design of the ship. The angled deck was a British idea which meant simultaneous take offs and landings were possible.



A bit faster than the Jodel, and the Mustang!

Whilst by the sea there had also to be some sampling of the local cuisine, before the return to UK. Tony decided to try some fish food.



When asked Tony would not say what he had for a Main course!

So after five days in the sun it was time to fly back to UK and back to the floods. After collecting baggage it was time in Tony's case to jump on his bike and cycle home.

AGM 15 January 2020

This is formal notice of our AGM for 2020 is to be held at Greenacres on Wednesday 15th January 2020 at 11.00am

1. Chairman's opening remarks
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 10th January 2020.

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, any stories you remember from your flying days, the good days and the bad days! Many thought Berlin and back was a long sortie but now Qantas plan to fly from UK direct to Sydney in 19 hrs 30 mins!

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

Greetings from Tom Payne

Sadly Tom has decided he is unable to join us for Christmas Lunch but he has asked us to present a signed picture of Bill Reid to Greenacres on his behalf. A big 'Thank You' Tom and we will drink your health during the meal. You may be some distance away but you are always in our thoughts. Next month I hope to publish a story of a young Wellington pilot and it reminded me of how Tom joined up for wartime service.

"I believe we all knew how desperate things were and so many of us added up our age to qualify getting involved. Thought nothing of it at the time. My problem was a condition of deferred service was to get attached to local ATC. This was awkward, the C.O. was my old headmaster, I avoided joining because I wanted to get in RAF so having to go was (I thought) a problem. I met him, he was pleased to see me, I explained and passed him the papers from Recruitment Office - he just said "But you're not old enough" I replied, "You know that, same as do I but they don't" He came round his desk, gripped my hands & said "Well done, Congratulations" Boy was I relieved".



**Chiltern ACA
Christmas Lunch
Green Acres Tavern,
Leys Road, Bennetts End, Hemel Hempstead,
Hertfordshire, HP3 9LZ**

**Wednesday 18th December 2019
1200 Noon for 1230**

Traditional Christmas fare including 1st drink and wine at the table

**Please reserve me tickets for the Christmas Lunch @ £ 20 per person
Widows @ £ 10 per person**

Name

Address

.....

Postcode **Tel No**

Name of Guests

.....

Special Dietary Requirements

**I enclose Cheque for £ payable to ‘The Chiltern Aircrew Association’
or by BACS: Chiltern Aircrew Association 40-43-46 61132806. Please email
me & Ian Mason to confirm you have made a BACS payment and Ian will email
your tickets by return**

**Please Post together with a stamped addressed envelope to:
Rod Finn
67 Hayfield, Chells Manor Village, Stevenage
SG2 7JR**

Closing date: 10 Dec 19

Programme 2019

Events at 1030 for 1100 at Greenacres unless (*)

18 Dec Christmas Lunch*

Programme 2020

15 Jan A.G.M. and 'Open Mic'
Remainder of Programme to follow

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Chairman

Graham Laurie, our very active Committee member, unlike the Chairman, arranged an excellent visit to the Shuttleworth Collection, although we had to be dressed in our Arctic clothing. The Collection itself is always worth a visit and we were looked after by two very knowledgeable guides. The restaurant after also provided very tasty food.

The Chiltern ACA keeps on going approaching some 40 members albeit our historic peak of 99 is very unlikely to be met again.

Being November and no longer marching past the Cenotaph we salute our World War 2 members throughout the remaining ACA and not just Chiltern.

Des

Welfare

A quiet month with the highlight Old Warden and the Shuttleworth visit. An enjoyable day out although a few of our members were poorly at the last moment and could not join us. We wish them well and hope to see them at the Christmas lunch.

David

Secretary

A big thank you for those who supported the visit to Old Warden, I think a flying day visit next year may be in the offing and I will have a word with the Met man and ask for Mediterranean not Arctic conditions, although this of course you may remember could affect the performance of some aircraft!

Graham

Membership Secretary

Please note Page 7. Pay your monies direct to our account by BACS or a cheque to our treasurer. I need to know you are coming so I can issue you with a ticket/ raffle ticket.

Ian

President

Our thanks to Graham and Rod for organising an interesting visit to Old Warden. Another visit on a flying day would be most welcome.

Look forward to seeing a good gathering at the Lunch on 18th December.

Christmas greetings to one and all

Geoff