



Woking and District Aircrew Association www.aircrew.org.uk/woking **Newsletter**

17 April 2021

In Memory of The Duke of Edinburgh 1921 - 2021

HRH Prince Philip had close links with military aviation.

He won his RAF wings and flew both fixed and rotary wing aircraft.



We all feel a great sense of loss after the death of a man who has been a pillar of steadfastness
and royal service for as long as many people can remember.

Our thoughts are with Her Majesty the Queen and all the Royal Family.

May he rest in peace.

Editorial

Another COVID month has passed. More of us have had their second jab and, on current plans, we are nearing the end of major restrictions.

Given the very few responses to my questions last time on the future of Woking ACA, we would like to try again during the monthly ZOOM meeting at 2pm on Tuesday 20 April. Details below.

Topics to address are: lunch dates and their booking arrangements; a 'formal' lunch to fill the gap left by cancellation of Christmas last year; outings; and the longer-term future of Woking ACA.

Please do join us and start the process of reigniting the camaraderie that is at the heart of our local association.

ACAW Zoom Meeting

1400 Tuesday 20 April

Click [HERE](#) to join

Meeting ID: 850 3246 1374 Passcode: 886384

RAF Happenings

Vaccine flown to the Falklands

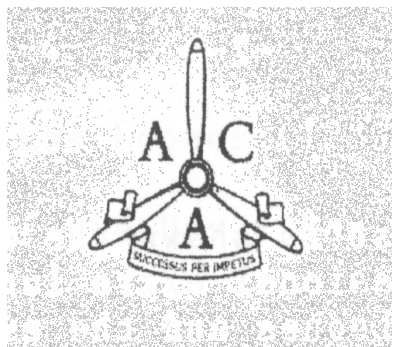
3,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine were flown from RAF Brize Norton by an Airbus A330 Voyager multi-role tanker transport to the Falkland Islands.

Flagship Prepares for Foreign Waters

Aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth is, in its new capacity as the Fleet Flagship, preparing to depart later this year for the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean and East Asia. The ship will carry Lockheed Martin F-35B Lightning II aircraft from the RAF's No 617 Squadron and the United States Marine Corps and Royal Navy AugustaWestland AW101 Merlin helicopters. She will be escorted by RN Type 45 destroyers, Type 23 frigates, a US Navy destroyer and supported by ships of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

Typhoons Hit Islamic State

Two RAF Eurofighter Typhoons have recently carried out an airstrike against Islamic State-held cave systems in Iraq using Raytheon Paveway IV precision guided bombs. All four bombs are reported to have struck their targets accurately.



FLYPAST

The Aircrew Association Costa Blanca

MARCH 2021

[An extract from the latest newsletter of our ACA comrades in Spain. Ed]

Dear Fellow Members,

Here in Spain we continue to look on the UK's roll-out of the vaccine programme with more than a little envy. However, a number of our mature resident Members have been vaccinated and a healthy number have now received their two jabs! Super news! We, the younger Members, continue to bide our time and sustain the compliance with the restrictions! In fact, we must all adhere, regardless of maturity!! The restrictions have been relaxed a little and the freedom to enjoy a lunchtime get together, with a maximum of four to a table at the moment, has proved a welcome relief for many. The current summerlike weather has been very welcome too!

Nevertheless, I am well aware that a number of our Members are feeling frustrated at the travel restrictions, both those Members wanting to depart Spain and those wishing to come to Spain. The immediate future is not guaranteed and I sympathise with all of our Members who are having to live with the current uncertainty. Fingers crossed that all will improve soon.

Having discussed the possibility/feasibility/desirability of holding our first, 2021, lunch in April with a number of our Members I have decided to delay our first 2021 lunch until May! In February's Flypast I had proposed that we hold our Spring semi-formal lunch on the 19th May and that we acknowledge and celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Formation of the Air Engineer Branch of the RAF at that lunch! Due to Covid, one of our two former Air Engineer Branch Members (our Treasurer, John Othen) will probably not be able to be present in May. Consequently, the semi-formal lunch has been postponed until Wednesday, 16th June 2021. Details of this subsidised lunch will follow in due course, when agreed but I hope that the June lunch will be held at the Cumbre Restaurant and the dress will be Red Sea Rig (ACA cummerbunds!) and we will also 'salute' our ladies at that lunch!

Meanwhile, the May lunch is in 'planning' now. Hopefully, it will take place on the 19th May at the La Bodeguilla Restaurant on the front in Javea Port. We were unable to celebrate our President, Henry Hurth's 100th Birthday appropriately on his actual birthday (26th January) so we will, I hope, be able to enjoy a delayed 100th Birthday Celebration with Henry on the 19th May. Again, fingers crossed! Once I have agreed the details with Carmen, the manageress of La Bodeguilla, I shall invite Members to make their bookings. I sincerely hope that we will be able to make the 19th May a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. By then, I also hope that the majority, if not all, of our Members may have received at least their first 'jab'!

Subscriptions. Can I remind Members that John Othen, our Treasurer, will be advising us all of how to pay out Annual subscriptions once he is back in Spain; hopefully in early June. Meanwhile, please do not take any action. Those Members who have already provided me or Tom Brown, our Secretary, with their subscriptions, do no worry, John will receive your subscriptions when he is 'in town'!

I must also thank Barbra Power for her input concerning what any Member should do to register for the anti-Covid Vaccine, if they do not have a SIP Card. Barbara circulated this item on the 8th March. The item was contributed to by David Wolfe in his reference to an article in the English language translation of the Spanish El Pais newspaper. If any Member is still concerned, please contact Barbara.

From a (gradually) warming Moraira.

My best wishes and hope that you are all well.

As ever,

Max

Some Things to Watch

Translating Space X

Military Movies

Some excellent military movies at Mark F Gelton Productions on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfCKvREB11-fxyotS1ONgww>

Chinese Drone Display

World record number of drones display in China <https://youtu.be/44KvHwRHb3A>

Air Warrior Movies

The [Smithsonian Air Warriors](#) series showcasing a range of military aircraft is viewable on the web. Lots of episodes on different military aircraft, many around \$2, but some are free to watch.

It's also available at a reasonable price from [Amazon Prime Video](#).

Some are also coming up on TV on the Smithsonian Channel on Freeview 56 or Virgin 276.

[Space X](#) had another exciting Starship test flight, this time SN11, on March 30th. The aim was to fly up to 10km and then return to the landing pad.

The launch site was shrouded in thick fog, but the launch was still very spectacular. Unfortunately the fog did preclude ground-based observation of the launch and landing.

All went well until, in the words of Space X, 'Shortly after the landing burn started, SN11 experienced a rapid unscheduled disassembly'.

English translation: 'It blew up' !

This excitement didn't seem to trouble their commentator at all. The joys of unlimited funding!

Watch it from the link above.



FAST Museum

The FAST Museum at Farnborough is a possible local outing. The last time we went there was April 2004 and much has changed since.



Aircraft Maintenance Engineers' 'Gripe Sheets'

More vague reports from pilots producing appropriate responses

Problem or defect reported by pilot

Test flight OK except Auto-land very rough

No 2 ADF needle runs wild

Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces 200 feet per minute descent

Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick

Evidence of leak on right main landing gear

DME volume set unbelievably loud

No 2 propeller seeping prop fluid

Turn and slip indicator ball stuck in centre during turns

Remedial action by maintenance engineer

Auto-land is not installed on this aircraft

Caught and tamed No 2 ADF needle

Cannot reproduce problem on ground

That's what they are there for

Evidence removed

DME volume set to more believable level

No 2 propeller seepage normal.
Nos 1, 3 and 4 propellers lack normal seepage.

Congratulations. You have just made your first coordinated turn.

WW2 Harvesting and the Processor

by Bob Connolly, with thanks to Bill Bawden for getting permission to reproduce this article.

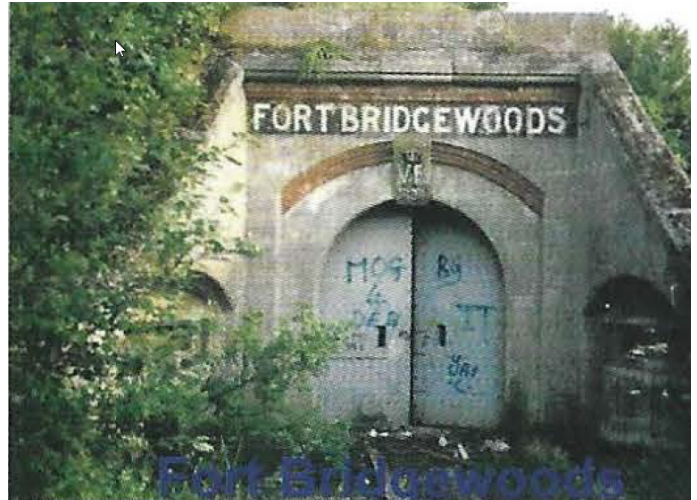
I am sure that all of you have heard of Bletchley Park and some of you have even worked there at one time. Its wartime role was as the National Code Breaking Centre where staff worked hard to break the coded signals intercepted between Germany and its forces and its role in breaking the codes sent by the German Enigma machine. However, I wonder how many of you were aware that the enemy transmissions were not exactly received at Bletchley Park but at special wireless intercept stations, referred to as Y stations located away from Bletchley. The RAF and Royal Navy had their own wireless intercept stations at Chicksands and Flowerdown respectively. However, what became the largest intercept team was probably Special Y Group (SYG), later called War Office Y Group (WOYG), that came under the control of MI8C and the Foreign Office.

SYG initially operated from a deep bunker that was constructed under Fort Bridgewoods for Y service work and this had direct telephone lines to Intelligence Service Headquarters in London. Many of the intercept staff who worked there were hand-picked by their commanding officer, Lt. Commander Ellingworth RN Rtd, who was given the rank of Major. My father had joined the Royal Navy in 1933 as a boy and became a wireless telegraphist, working mainly at shore stations, although he also spend some time at sea. He returned from a tour of duty in Aden in late 1938 to Chatham (HMS Pembroke) where he was married in the summer of 1939. According to his Royal Navy Certificate of Service he left the Royal Navy on 20 March 1940 and the reason stated on this document states "below naval physical standard", interestingly written in pencil. After a couple of weeks leave, he then joined Y Service at Fort Bridgewoods. Interestingly he still held his rank and was transferred to the Royal Naval Reserve. He remained with Y service until November 1946 when his period of naval service would have normally finished if he had remained with them.

A couple of things do not ring 100% true with his service record. Firstly, he was still physically fit and in fact after leaving WOYG service retrained as a primary school teacher specialising in physical training. Secondly, if he was actually not up to required naval fitness standard it is unlikely that he would have been placed in the RNR. Also being in the middle of a war, it is not likely the navy would have given him up easily for any voluntary transfer to Y Service. This would suggest that Ellingworth actually requested him join Y service as it seems likely that only Ellingworth himself could pull enough strings to allow this to happen.

In October 1940 the Fort Bridgewoods area was bombed and an oil bomb exploded at the entrance. This is one of the very few stories my father told me about his work with SYG. He was going on duty at the time it happened and apparently dived under a lorry for cover. There were a couple of lorries there that had just arrived, bringing the ATS girls for the

shift change over. One of these suffered a direct hit killing a number of ATS girls on board. Following this incident combined with the increasing threat of invasion it was decided to move SYG to the RAF Y station at Chicksands. However, when they arrived there it was found that there was not enough operating space available.



As a result, Ellingworth travelled to London to complain directly to senior officials and it was then decided that a new station would be designed and rapidly built at Beaumanor, not far away. Beaumanor at that Beaumanor time was being used by the Army intelligence corps as an Intelligence School. The set rooms at Beaumanor were designed to look like buildings found on a normal country estate, for example cart sheds, workers cottages and the teleprinter room was designed to look like a cricket pavilion complete with false clock tower. The buildings were well spaced in case of bombing and the walls were blast proof up to above head height and had false windows painted on the exterior walls. The civilian wireless intercept operators were called Experimental Wireless Assistants (EWA). There was a walkway down the centre of the set rooms with a supervisor's desk at the end that had several telephones.



Beaumanor

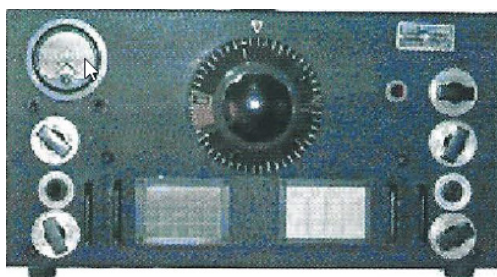
Beside the Beaumanor site various antennas were located for the intercept work and they were also

hidden from view. In fact, the RAF flight checked the antenna site to ensure that it was not visible from the air. It also had its own Adcock direction finder (D/F) antenna although it was directly linked to other D/F sites across the UK including Gilnahirk, a D/F and important comms stations for the North Atlantic, located just outside Belfast. At the outbreak of the WW2, it had been hoped that the Irish authorities would have permitted a D/F station to be located in Dingle, Southwest Ireland but it was refused



Chatham DST-100 Receiver

Initially DST-100 Chatham receivers, designed to Ellingworth's specifications, were used for WW2 intercept work but these were later changed to American HRO receivers. Wireless telegraphy signals received were transcribed by hand while being received, collected for the operators by ATS staff and then sorted into priority with some being sent to Bletchley by teleprinter and more urgent signals being despatched by motorcycle courier. When a new signal was received, Beaumanor would immediately contact several D/F sites to tune into the signal and take bearings. Where the bearing lines crossed would indicate the location of the signal. Beaumanor and its out stations were, in essence, the ears of Bletchley, without them and the intercept out stations the code breakers would not have had many signals to work with. One could say that the intercept stations harvested the seeds for Bletchley to process.



HRO Receiver

The Beaumanor site became part of the GCHQ organisation several years after the war and eventually closed as an intercept station in the late 1960's. The site still remains in existence, complete with the spaced out set rooms, but is now an educational site that is not normally open to the public. However, I was fortunate to have been able to visit it several years ago with a couple of retired experts on a beautiful sunny spring day that, for me, was very emotional. It was a special day, not just for me but also for the site as it had just received listed status from English Heritage that morning.



Examples of the disguised set huts at Beaumanor



Author with guides at Beaumanor

As we returned to the car park there was another surprise waiting for me. Another contact had arrived on site and opened the boot of his car to reveal an Enigma machine that he had recently purchased for his private collection. About two years later I had an email from my contacts telling me they were holding a small exhibition of spy radio transceivers in one of the rooms in Beaumanor hall. This inspired me for another trip to the site as I was not able to gain access to the manor house on my previous trip. On that trip I saw two wall murals in one of the main hallways that were a tribute to the war time work of WYOG. BSM refers to the Beaumanor staff magazine that developed from a tongue in cheek typed single sheet of paper that one wit produced soon after the unit's arrival at Beaumanor and written in biblical form as "The Chronicles of St. Upid" The first four issues were produced this way before the official BSM was born. My father had fortunately retained his copies of the original four typed sheets.



Enigma machine

More Humour?

I have a pencil that used to be owned by William Shakespeare but he chewed it a lot. Now I can't tell if it's 2B or not 2B

Said Hamlet to Ophelia "I'll make a sketch of thee. Now, which pencil shall I use? 2B or not 2B....."

Astronomers got tired of watching the moon go round the earth for 24 hours, so they decided to call it a day.

I relabelled all of the jars in my wife's spice rack. I'm not in trouble yet but the thyme is cumin.

The nurse came in and said doctor there's a man in the waiting room who thinks he's invisible, what should I tell him? The doctor said tell him I can't see him today.

Before my surgery, the anaesthetist offered to knock me out with gas or a boat paddle. It was an ether/oar situation.

And the latest government plan is to make everyone scrap their cars as the scientists have assured them this would stop the spread of car-owner virus.

I bought my son a fridge for Christmas. I can't wait to see his face light up when he opens it.

Struck up a conversation with a spider today. Seems nice. He's a web designer.

When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.

Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.

Last night the missus asked me if I'd seen the dog bowl. I said "to be honest I didn't even know he played cricket"

The king of Spain has been quarantined on his private jet. That means the reign in Spain stays mainly on the plane.

Had I known in March that it was the last time I would be in a restaurant I would have ordered the dessert.

Don't let them take your temperature on your forehead as you enter the supermarket because it erases your memory. I went for macaroni and cheese and came home with two cases of lager

It's a five minute walk from my house to the pub It's a 35 minute walk from the pub to my house. The difference is staggering.