



57 / 630 Squadrons' Association

*President Group Captain: David Houghton
Vice President: Group Captain Tony Gunby*

Secretary: Gordon Lodge



Newsletter 2016



Centenary Picture presented to 57(R) Squadron

In Memoriam

The one aspect of the Newsletter I do not look forward to compiling as it means we have lost friends and supporters of the Association.
This year I must report the loss of;

Frank Kristensen

Henry Ricketts

Alan Turner

Frank from Denmark attended a couple of Reunions with the Danish Party who look after 630 Squadron Graves in Denmark. On a number of occasions they have hosted visits from the Association on their Remembrance Day.

Henry, who hailed from Perth in Australia had over the years been to a number of Reunions. Alan I had contact with by phone and letter over the years.

Gordon Lodge

President's Piece

I am told by our hyper-efficient Association Secretary Gordon Lodge, that it is now 2017 and therefore time for me to put pen to paper/finger to keyboard and compose a few words for our latest Association Newsletter. Where does the time go?

Frankly, nothing I say can match the wonderful news from OC 57 Squadron elsewhere in this Newsletter that the continued existence of 57 Squadron as an active flying squadron has been secured for the foreseeable future. That fantastic news means that, so soon after we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of 57 Squadron in such fine style, we can look forward to more anniversary celebrations in the future and to the enduring memory of the legacy and spirit of 630 Squadron remaining equally vibrant.

While, in the finest traditions of a phoenix, the roles and 'life' of 57 Squadron have changed over time, in many ways the Squadron's current task of training the next generation of RAF pilots is absolutely critical to the future of Service – without properly trained men and women to fly, maintain and support our aircraft and Service, the RAF would simply be a jolly flying club instead of the cutting-edge, combat ready and vibrant Service that it is. The RAF may not be the largest air force in the world but, as it has demonstrated time and time again over the last 99 years, it was, is and remains the finest air force in the world.

As ever, for those who are unable to attend the Association Reunions or Dining-In Nights, I hope that the information in this Newsletter about the 'goings on' at Woodhall Spa/East Kirkby and on today's 57 Squadron will

show that the spirit of 57 Squadron and 630 Squadron remains in robust health and in safe hands.

Finally, I send my very best wishes to all Association Members and their families for a peaceful 2017 from an unseasonably warm and routinely smog-bound Hanoi, where I now have my feet under the table in my new Post as the UK's Defence Attaché to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. I look forward to seeing all those who can make it at the Annual Reunion in July 2017. Until we meet again, my best wishes to you all.

Group Captain David Houghton

Secretary's Note

A special year for the Squadron and the Association with the 100th Anniversary of 57 Squadron formed on the 8th June 1916. Sections of the Newsletter are given over to the events held to commemorate this historic year.

The Association celebrated this special year with an excellent attendance at the Cranwell Dinner and the July Petwood/ East Kirkby Reunion. You will have seen the Picture on the front of the Newsletter which was presented to the Squadron, by the association, and highlights the 100 years and Aircraft flown. Much more information is available in the Newsletter.



Our ability to commission, and present, such a picture confirms the strength of the Association, the generosity of members and our relationship with the Squadron. This picture is now on display in the Foyer of the Daedalus Mess at R.A.F. Cranwell. The Mess is used by 57 Squadron which is based at Cranwell.

During the year some doubts existed over the future of the Squadron due to proposed rationalisation within the R.A.F. We have, however, learnt the future is secure, welcome news!

Squadron Leader Mike Waring's tour ends early in 2018 with the new C.O., Squadron Leader Jane Mannering taking over during the summer 2017. During Mike Waring's Tour of Duty the relationship between the Squadron and the association has been excellent.

The 2016 Annual Reunion events were well supported both at the Petwood and East Kirkby. The Dinner followed the usual format with speeches by our President Group Captain David Houghton, Squadron Leader Mike Waring with the Loyal Toast by David Francis and Absent Friends by Group Captain Alistair Sutherland who was O.C. 57 at Marham/ Station Commander Marham.

Sunday Dinner Dance was held in the Petwood Suite and entertained by Heather Marie with music from the swing/big band era. She has featured as a soloist with the Syd Lawrence Orchestra, Royal Airforce Band and the R.A.F. Cranwell Band. Heather was accompanied by her husband Squadron Leader Matthew Little who is Director of Music in the R.A.F. They have been booked for 2017.

For 2017 could I please ask members to send me the Reunion Form for the Dinner/ Dinner Dance by the end of April as I need to finalise table plans with the Petwood during May. I will be away for most of June so to ensure the "table of your choice" by the end of April please.

During the year we have seen an increase in Membership which augers well for the future.

Have a great 2017 and I look forward everyone at the Reunion.

Gordon Lodge

57 Squadron 100th Anniversary Painting



As many Association Members already know, to mark the 100th Anniversary of 57 Squadron on 8 June 2016, the Association presented the current Officer Commanding 57 Squadron with a painting depicting the various aircraft types the Squadron has flown during its 100 years of Service.

That presentation was made at a formal Dining-In Night held at RAF Cranwell on 3 June 2016 and subsequently professionally-produced prints of the painting were created. These are available to purchase from the Squadron (details elsewhere in this Newsletter).

The original painting was created by the renowned aviation artist Mark Postlethwaite who, working with the Association Committee, devised an original, striking and unique commemoration of 57 Squadron's long and varied Service.

Each aircraft depicted in the painting/prints represents (as closely as possible) a specific aircraft flown by 57 Squadron (rather than just the generic aircraft types). Association Members may be interested in the following brief details of those aircraft.

- **Grob Tutor.**

Pictured centre-left and emblazoned with the 57 Squadron 100th Anniversary logo (designed by Flying Officer Mullins), alongside a modern-day pilot of 57 Squadron.

- **Avro 504.**

Pictured centre-right is Avro 504 E2910, probably the first aircraft taken on-charge by 57 Squadron. Alongside the aircraft is a typically-attired 57 Squadron pilot of 1916 RFC vintage. Behind him and the modern-day pilot, the phoenix rises like the sun.

- **Phoenix Emblem.**

Top-centre is a depiction of the original Squadron phoenix created in 1917 to mark the re-birth of 57 Squadron following the loss (killed, wounded or taken prisoner/missing in action) of the Squadron's entire aircrew complement.

- **BE2c.**

BE2c number 2068 was the first BE2c operated by 57 Squadron.

- **FE2d.**

FE2d number A1949 arrived on 57 Squadron's 'books' on 27 November 1916 and was wrecked in a crash on.....27 November 1916!!

- **DH4.**

The DH4 in the painting depicts the aircraft (A7583) flown by Captain Minot MC and 2nd Lieutenant Leete when they were shot down on 28 July 1917.

- **DH9a.**

The first of the few DH9s operated by 57 Squadron was J577.

- **Hawker Hart.**

Although the RAF Museum has a 57 Squadron Hawker Hart on display, it never actually flew with 57 Squadron! Given this, the Hart depicted in the painting is K3034, which was the last Hart flown by 57 Squadron.

- **Hawker Hind.**

The Hart in the painting is L7187, once the last Hind's received by 57 Squadron. This aircraft was involved in a flying incident in early 1938 which led to the death of the aircraft's gunner and, in 1940, was lost en-route while being transferred to the RNZAF.

- **Bristol Blenheim MkIV.**

An exception in the painting, as the Blenheim MkIV shown depicts a generic aircraft of that type when in service with 57 Squadron.

- **Bristol Blenheim MkI.**

The Blenheim MkI depicted in the painting is L1141, which is the aircraft Flt Lt Michael Casey and his crew were flying when they were shot down on 16 October 1939. As Association Members will know, Michael was one of the 50 airmen murdered by the Nazis following 'The Great Escape' from Stalag Luft 3.

- **Wellington.**

In memory of Wing Commander Peters-Smith and his crew (killed in a raid on Bremen on 27 July 1942), the Wellington depicted is a MkIII, X3653.

- **Manchester.**

Avro Manchester DX-G was one of the few Manchesters operated by 57 Squadron – effectively acting as a 'stepping-stone' for 57 Squadron to the Lancaster.

- **Lancaster.**

So many to choose from, but the Lancaster in the painting is a Lancaster MkI, W4189. This Lancaster was the first from 57 Squadron to take part in an operational bombing raid against Germany, but failed to return from the mission.

- **Lincoln B2.**

The aircraft depicted is RE374, which was lost in a catastrophic mid-air collision in September 1949.

- **Washington B1.**

The Washington depicted is WF555, which suffered a catastrophic engine failure and subsequent crash landing on 29 September 1951 (all the crew survived).

- **Canberra B2.**

The aircraft shown is WJ621, which was the aircraft flown by an illustrious former President of the 57 & 630 Squadrons' Association (Air Marshal Sir Ivor Broom) when he led a group of 57 Squadron Canberra B2 aircraft on a tour of the Middle East in 1954 (when OC 57 Squadron and a squadron leader).

- **Victor B1.**

The aircraft shown is XH649, which had a long a varied career with 57 Squadron (it was converted into a K1 tanker and continued with 57

Squadron when the Squadron switched to that role), and now resides at the IWM Duxford, albeit in K1 guise.

- **Victor K1A.**

The Victor K1A shown depicts XH618, which crashed (with the loss of 4 crew members) on 24 March 1975.

- **Hercules C-130K.**

The C-130K in the painting depicts XV193, which crashed in Scotland in 1993 with the loss of some members of 57 Squadron. 1 1975 (photo attached).

- **Hercules C-130J.**

The C-130J depicts the first of this type operated by 57 Squadron as part of the C-130J development programme.

Group Captain David Houghton

75 Years On - Remembering The Crew of Wellington X9978

In June 2016, the Squadron Association were contacted by Mr Bas Bruls, a resident of Grevenbicht, Holland. For a number of years, Bas had been conducting research about the crew of 57 Squadron Vickers Wellington X9978, which was lost on a bombing raid on the night of 15 October 1941, crashing near the Dutch village of Grevenbicht with the loss of all 6 crewmembers.

One of 34 aircraft (27 Wellingtons and 7 Stirlings) sent to bomb Cologne on the night of 15/16 October 1941, X9978 took-off from 57 Squadron's base at RAF Feltwell at 1835 hours, and was one of 3 aircraft (all Wellingtons) that failed to return from the mission. It was later reported that X9978 had been shot down by a night-fighter piloted by Feldwebel (Technical Sergeant) Maier, of I./NJG1 (No. 1 Group/No. 1 Nachtjagdgeschwader [Night-fighter] Squadron), and had crashed at 2117 hours at Grevenbicht, on the East bank of the Maas, 8 km North-West of Sittard, Holland, with the loss of all 6 members of the crew aboard. The crew were originally buried at Venlo, but their bodies were later re-interred in Jonkerbos War Cemetery. The crew of X9978 were;

Pilot Officer Keith Miller RAAF (Pilot)



Sergeant Neville Lewery RAFVR (2nd Pilot)



Sergeant Ernest Christie RAFVR (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner)



Sergeant Brynmor Jones RAFVR (Air Gunner)

Sergeant David Jennings RAFVR (Observer)

Sergeant George Jackson RAFVR (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner)

Bas and other residents from around Grevenbicht were determined to mark appropriately the sacrifice and courage of the crew of X9978 on the 75th Anniversary of the night the aircraft was lost and, given the wonderful efforts made by Bas and other residents of Grevenbicht, the Officer Commanding 57 Squadron, Squadron Leader Mike Waring, arranged for a number of his officers to attend the commemoration events in Grevenbicht on 15 October 2016. So, on Friday 14 October, Flight Lieutenant Paul 'Tweds' Tweddle and Flying Officers James Bailey, Scott Llewellyn-Beard and Kris Pickworth travelled to Grevenbicht to commemorate the lives of the crew of X9978.

The group of four officers arrived mid-morning in the village and were met by Bas Bruls and Roy Jacobs and were warmly welcomed into Roy's home, which is both a 16th Century water mill and a museum dedicated to artefacts from the First and Second World Wars. After a fascinating personal tour of the museum, the group were shown artefacts from X9978 which had been discovered during the course of Bas' research, along with a vast array of information pertaining to the aircraft and its fate. The group were then invited in to Roy's dining room where his wife had kindly laid on a wonderful meal for all present before the four officers dressed for the ceremony.

At 2100 hours on the evening of 15 October, the ceremony began with a crowd of nearly 100 present, made up from people of a wide number of backgrounds ranging from local dignitaries to a 92-year-old eye-witness of X9978's crash. The ceremony was concluded with the Last Post and a minutes silence at 2117 hours - exactly 75 years after the crash. Bas and Roy then unveiled a plaque dedicated to the memory of the men who lost their

lives and the four officers from today's 57 Squadron laid a wreath and presented the museum with a print of the Squadron Centenary Painting.

After the ceremony, the group stayed behind to socialise with the locals and learn more about X9978. The evening was concluded with some quiet drinks in Roy's home reflecting over the sacrifices made by those men many years ago. The one thought that was on everybody's mind was simply - for our tomorrow, they gave their today.



Members of 57 Squadron, Bas Bruls and Roy Jacobs in front of the Memorial Plaque dedicated to the crew of X9978.



The newly-unveiled Memorial Plaque in the village of Grevenbicht to the crew of X9978.



57 Squadron 100th Anniversary Events – 3 June 2016



On 8 June 2016, 57 Squadron marked 100 years of Service for 'The Phoenix', which continues to carry with it the enduring spirit of 630 Squadron.

To celebrate the occasion, the current Officer Commanding 57 Squadron, Squadron Leader Mike Waring, kindly invited 57 & 630 Squadrons' Association Members to join current Members of 57 Squadron at a formal Dining-In Night (DIN) at RAF College Cranwell on Friday 3 June 2016.

The DIN was preceded by a barbeque held at 57 Squadron's HQ, where Squadron Members, families of newly-graduated pilots and Association Members were treated to flypasts and the odd sample or two of a specially-commissioned 'Phoenix Rising' beer.



Association Members chatting with young 57 Squadron pilots at the barbeque.



As if by magic.....the Phoenix Rising ale specially commissioned to mark the 100th Anniversary of The Phoenix morphs into '57'.....but shouldn't that be 'LVII'?



In a salute to a previous incarnation of 57 Squadron, a C-130J Hercules carries out a low flypast during the barbeque celebrations.



Association guests gather for the DIN.





Association guests gather for the DIN.





The 57 Squadron Standard is marched into the DIN and placed next to the Laurence Minot Trophy (presented to 57 Squadron in 1926 by the family of Captain Laurence Minot MC RFC, who was killed in 1917 while Serving with 57 Squadron).

Subsequent to the DIN held at RAF College Cranwell on 3 June, Members of 57 Squadron held a Thanksgiving Service at St. Giles' Church, Copmanthorpe on 8 June 2016.

Held on the 100th Anniversary of The Phoenix, the service at St. Giles' reflected the formation of 57 Squadron at Copmanthorpe Airfield on 8 June 1916.

Later, OC 57 Squadron and many of his personnel travelled to Elvington where they renewed 57 Squadron's acquaintance with Victor XL231 'Lusty Linda', which saw service with 57 Squadron from 1977 to 1986.



OC 57 Squadron and his personnel with the clergy from St. Giles' Church, Copmanthorpe.



The 57 Squadron Standard being marched into St. Giles' Church.



OC 57 Squadron, Squadron Leader Mike Waring, addresses the congregation at the Thanksgiving Service.



Members of 57 Squadron meet-up with ex-57 Squadron Victor K2 XL231 at Elvington.

Group Captain David Houghton

Squadron News

No 57 Squadron Royal Flying Corps, was formed at Copmanthorpe, Yorkshire, on the 8th June 1916, and this year commemorates a 100 years of service. To mark this significant occasion a number of events were organised involving current staff and students, alongside a number of ex-serving personnel. These included a visit to the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre (the former Bomber Command base of East Kirkby), a Sqn families' day followed by a Dining in night, and a Sqn 'Staff Ride' to RAF Linton-on-Ouse and Copmanthorpe to discover a little about the Sqn's illustrious past.

Flying the Avro Lancaster, the Sqn were based out of East Kirby from August 1942 until the end of the War. Therefore, it was fitting to visit the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre, which was built as a memorial to Bomber Command and a tribute to the owners' eldest brother Christopher Panton, who was shot down and killed on a bombing raid over Nuremberg in March 1944. The visit culminated in the famous "Just Jane" Lancaster taxiing display. This allowed staff and students to experience the vibrations, smells, sounds and atmosphere of a real Lancaster Bomber operating on a real ex-Bomber Command airfield in front of an original WW2 Control Tower. This magnificent sight symbolised the wartime exploits and sacrifices endured by 57 Sqn during the Second World War.

Later in the week, families and friends were invited to Aircraft Hall, the home of the present 57(R) Sqn, for a tour and BBQ. The Sqn were privileged to witness a flypast from a Hercules C130J, a Hurricane of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, and an aerobatics flying display from Flt Lt Shirley, a Sqn flying instructor, in his Vans RV4 aircraft. The formal dining in night celebrating the centenary was held in the evening. Guests included both current and past Sqn members with fond reminisces and stories of former times entertaining the new cadre of trainees well into the night. The occasion proved invaluable in allowing the assembled to remember those that had given their lives on the Sqn.

Wednesday 8th saw the staff and students of 57(R) Sqn heading north from RAFC Cranwell to the birthplace of the Sqn in North Yorkshire. Eight staff flew the Grob Tutor in a formation of four aircraft to RAF Linton-on-Ouse in challenging weather conditions, arriving at the home of the Shorts Tucano T1 and Basic Fast Jet Training. The visitors were given an in depth tour around the Tucano to see how it differs to the Tutor. The RAF Linton-on-Ouse Memorial Room was also visited. The memorial room gives a fascinating insight into life here during the Second World War and contains hundreds of exhibits, photographs and first-hand accounts from that period. It is still regularly visited by the families of veterans who were based at Linton-on-Ouse during the War. It was founded by the late Sergeant Bill Steel, who was constantly asked by relatives where they could find a monument to their loved ones. There wasn't one, so Mr Steel appealed on national radio for photos

and artefacts of the base and its crews. All received donations found the newly created memorial room a humbling home.

Little remains of the old Royal Flying Corps Aerodrome of Copmanthorpe, as it was returned to farmland at the end of the First World War. However, determined to visit the origins of the Sqn, and dressed in number one uniform, the Linton visitors drove to the St Giles' Church in Copmanthorpe for a Service of Remembrance; honouring those who had served and died on 57 Sqn on every type of aircraft to fly under the emblem of The Phoenix. This was followed by a visit to Copmanthorpe Aerodrome, the exact location where the 57 Sqn Phoenix was born. Whilst here Flying Officers Mulvaney and Howard-Williams narrated the written experiences of long past Sqn members and examined further the life of our former wartime Sqn.

On their final day in North Yorkshire the now enlightened team from 57(R) Sqn journeyed to the Yorkshire Air Museum, which sits on the site of former RAF Elvington in North Yorkshire. The airfield was used extensively by Allied bomber crews during World War Two; it is also the home of The Allied Air Forces Memorial and a number of post Second World War Two and Cold War aircraft. In particular, the collection includes Victor K1 Tanker XL231 'Lusty lindy' a South Atlantic and Gulf War One Veteran and former 57 Sqn mount. To date she is maintained to serviceable and taxiable condition by a team of dedicated volunteers. This then brought the Sqn Centenary Celebrations to a fitting close.

Even though 57(R) Squadron is currently a small Squadron, it took on a huge task in celebrating its centenary. On reflection, the body of the Sqn has changed in terms of personnel, aircraft and roles; however, the spirit still keeps alive owing to the sacrifice made by its airman during our Nations darkest days, earning the Sqn its deserved emblem of The Phoenix 'Corpus non animum muto'.

Here's to another 100 years!



57(R)Squadron at R.A.F Coningsby

Flt.Lt.Paul Tweddle 57(R)Sqd.QFI

Historian Research

It is always interesting to see the help and information Group Captain Wendy Rothery can produce from enquiries and in the process new members.

The following is an example;

Dear Mr Winter,

Very many thanks for your enquiry which has been passed to me as the Information Officer/Historian for the 57/630 Squadrons Association. I am sorry it has taken some time to get back to you; I have recently moved jobs and home and have been a little pre-occupied over the last few weeks!

I am very pleased to report that I have been able to find details of almost all of your Father's operational service with 57 Squadron. By coincidence, my Grandfather, Flight Lieutenant Bill Martin DFC flew with 57 Squadron and completed 32 operational missions from RAF East Kirkby in Lincolnshire from April - August 1944 and may well have known your Father, especially since they flew on a number of the same missions, albeit on different airframes. My Grandfather was also very fortunate to survive the war, especially after a full tour of operations, but sadly also died at an early age in 1980. He was however able to attend the inaugural annual reunion of the 57/630 Squadrons Association in 1979, which my parents and I also attended. I was just a small child at the time but remember him having great fun swapping stories with his crew members and re-living their experiences. The annual reunions still continue to this day and I am very privileged to be involved as an honorary member of 57 Squadron which remains active as a training unit teaching Elementary Flying Training to junior RAF pilots. Of course as your Father flew with 57 Squadron, you would be very welcome to attend these annual reunions which take place at RAF East Kirkby in Lincolnshire in July every year. Please let me know if this is something that would interest you and I will arrange for the Secretary to forward the details.

As a further coincidence, I have responded to another enquiry today from Australia, from a gentleman whose Great Uncle was a pilot with the Royal Australian Air Force and carried out his first operational mission with Flying Officer Mallinson and his crew on 6th October as the 2nd pilot (known as 2nd Dickie). This was normal practice as it gave new pilots experience of an operation before they had to lead their own crew on operations. The aircraft was tasked with a raid against Bremen and the Lancaster was a Mark I, code named LM231. You will see from the information below that your Father was on board! Your Father's crew was clearly very capable and well thought of on the Squadron as they were trusted with exposing 5 new captains to operations.

Your Father's crew was as follows:

Flying Officer G Mallinson, Pilot
Sergeant W Wilson, Flight Engineer
Sergeant A Showler, Navigator
Flight Sergeant A Rabbitts, Air Bomber
Sergeant B Warman, Wireless Operator
Sergeant R Winter, Mid Upper Gunner
Sergeant J Nixon, Rear Gunner

It would appear that the crew was posted onto 57 Squadron in July 1944 as they first appear in the Operational Record Book on 19th July, shortly before Mallinson received his commission. Their operational missions were as follows:

19/20 July, Lancaster Mark III, LM579, target Creil (Thiverny Supply Dump).
20/21 July, Lancaster Mark III, LM522, target Courtrai (Marshalling Yards).
24/25 July, Lancaster Mark III, LM626, target St Nazaire (Oil Storage).
25/26 July, Lancaster Mark III, LM626, target Stuttgart.
30 July, Lancaster Mark III, LM626, target Aunay Sur Odon (Daylight sortie, whole mission aborted en route, perhaps due to weather).
31 July, Lancaster Mark I, LL940, target Joigny Laroche (Marshalling Yards).
11/12 August, Lancaster Mark III, LM579, target Givors (Marshalling Yards).
12/13 August, Lancaster Mark I, LL940, target Brunswick.
14 August, Lancaster Mark I, LM279, target Brest (attacking a battleship in the harbour).
15 August, Lancaster Mark I, LM279, target Deelen Airfield.
16/17 August, Lancaster Mark I, LM279, target Stettin.
18 August, Lancaster Mark III, LM626, target L'isle Adam (Flying Bomb Storage).
25/26 August, Lancaster Mark I, LM279, target Darmstadt.
26/27 August, Lancaster Mark I, LM279, target Konigsberg.
29/30 August, Lancaster Mark III, LM579, target Konigsberg.
31 August, Lancaster Mark I, LM279, target Berqueneuse (Daylight mission, Flying Bomb Storage).
3 September, Lancaster Mark III, LM653, target Deelen Airfield (Daylight Mission).
9 September, Lancaster Mark III, ND977, target Munchen-Gladbach.
11/12 September, Lancaster Mark I, LM231, target Darmstadt.
12/13 September, Lancaster Mark I, LM231, target Stuttgart.
5 October, Lancaster Mark I, LM231, target Wilhelmshaven (Daylight Mission).
6 October, Lancaster Mark I, LM231, target Bremen.
14/15 October, Lancaster Mark I, LM231, target Brunswick.
19/20 October, Lancaster Mark I, LM231, target Nuremberg.
24/25 October, Lancaster Mark I, LM231, target Gardening Operations (mine laying, landed at RAF Lossiemouth so possibly anti submarine mines to protect allied forces Arctic convoys).

28/29 October, Lancaster Mark I, LM231, target Bergen.

21 November, Lancaster Mark I, LM114, target Gravenhorst (Dortmund-Ems Canal).

6 December, Lancaster Mark III LM673, target Giessen (Mission not completed as Port outer engine failed and they had an intercom problem en route so returned to base).

8 December, Lancaster Mark III LM673, target Heimbach (Attacking Urpt Dam).

You can also obtain your Father's full Service record, which is held by the RAF as part of the Gov.UK system; there is a process for this and you can find it [here](#). You can also obtain details of his service online via the National Archive website, linked below, (for a small fee), or you can visit Kew and access it there. Alternatively you could pay for someone else to conduct some research:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

I do hope that this information has proved helpful to your research into your family history. Thank you again for your enquiry and for your interest in 57 Squadron.

Very best wishes,

**Group Captain Wendy Rothery
Information Officer/Historian
57/630 Squadrons Association**

Remembrance Sunday East Kirkby

On Sunday 13th November Diana And I attended the Service at East Kirkby . This Service occurs each year, originally arranged many years ago by Will Chatterton and now carried on by his nephew Mike Chatterton who many of you will know.

The Service is well attended by the village, some members,a representative of R.A.F. Coningsby, and 57 Squadron from Cranwell. The Squadron Standard Party was also present as you will see from the photos. After the Service everyone adjourned to the NAAFI for warm drinks and food. I then took the Squadron guys to the Petwood for a pint or two!!



Gordon Lodge

Reunion 2017

Friday 30th June-Monday 3rd July

Petwood Hotel Saturday 1st July

Afternoon tea from 2.30pm
Dinner 7.00pm for 7.30pm Woodland Suite
Dress - Lounge Suits/Blazers
Chief Guest/Speaker O.C. 57 Squadron

Sunday Service 2nd July East Kirkby

11.45am 57 Squadron Standard Party and Service - Medals
Memorial-Last Post - Laying of Wreaths
3.00pm BBMF - Fly Past

Sunday Dinner Dance

7.00pm for 7.30pm informal in the Petwood Suite
Music by Heather Marie

Costs

Those staying at the Petwood for any period will have their costs charged to their room and will include Dinner/Function Costs Those staying elsewhere will need to send me a cheque for the Dinner and/or Dinner Dance together with the Reunion Form. Cheques payable to 57/630 Squadrons Association. Members staying at the Petwood still need to send me the Reunion Form.

4 Nights

£ 390 pp includes accommodation/ breakfast
2 restaurant dinners and 2 function dinners

3 Nights

£300 pp includes accommodation/breakfast
1 restaurant dinner and 2 function dinners

2 Nights

£200 pp Friday/Saturday accommodation/breakfast
1 function dinner and 1 restaurant dinner
£205 pp Saturday/Sunday accommodation/breakfast
2 function dinners

1 night

£110 pp includes accommodation/breakfast
1 function dinner

Non Resident

£42 pp for each function dinner Cheque needed with Reunion Form
The Reunion Form is at the end of the Newsletter. Forms by the end of April please to ensure your table requirements are met.

**Forms by the end
of April Please**