



57 / 630 Squadrons' Association

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

Secretary: Gordon Lodge
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Newsletter 2017



Veterans with 57 Squadron Standard Party at East Kirkby

Left to right: Jim Wright DFC, Alma Leedham, Tom Lockett GM, Alex Fraser, Ray Charlton

Details of those on the front page

Following the Service at East Kirkby on the Reunion Sunday five of our Veterans took the opportunity to have a photograph with the 57 Squadron Standard Party in front of "Just Jane" They were;

Tom Lockett GM

A former Mid Upper Gunner with 630 Squadron based at East Kirkby and flew 36 missions. He was subsequently in the Police Force where he was awarded the George Medal for an action against the IRA. Tom is now 96 and still the last to leave the bar on Reunion Saturday!

Jim Wright DFC

At East Kirkby as a Navigator with 630 Squadron, 43 missions, eventually becoming a Wing Commander. Jim is now 95 and for a number of years a leading advocate for a Bomber Command Medal.

Alex Fraser

A Flight Engineer with 630 flying 36 missions from East Kirkby, being mentioned twice in Dispatches. He had a long career in the RAF, retiring in 1982 after serving as an air engineer on many types of aircraft including the VC10.

Ray Charlton

Another Flight Engineer with 35 missions from East Kirkby.

Alma Leedham

In the RAF from 1941 moving to East Kirkby in 1943. In 57 Squadron as a driver collecting bombs from storage and delivering to aircraft. She drove the first lorry on such a mission at East Kirkby.

In Memoriam

Not my favourite article to write, and certainly this year with so many Members and friends being lost. I did not know all these Members personally but had contact with a number over many years who attended Reunions and had a close involvement with the Association.

Stan Bradford

Attended every year and will be remembered for reading the Kohima Prayer at the Memorial.

Alf Dawson

From the Lake District who, with Doreen, came to East Kirkby for many years and we had many telephone conversations over the last few years.

Alan Morris

Whose Father, a Bomb Aimer, flew on the same Lancaster as my Father who was the Navigator.

Peter Nielsen

One of the Danish contingent that came to the Reunions and who entertained the Association Parties that visited the 630 Squadron Graves at Skarrild in Denmark.

Maggie Walsh

Daughter of Buck Buckley a long time supporter of the Association and who came to the Reunions with husband Patrick.

Frank Whitby

At every Reunion with his camera and who collected many signatures to match Crew and Squadron Photos. Marion, his wife, tells me these have been bequeathed to the Association

Allen Hudson

A great friend of mine and many Members. Our Historian and Archivist who held the role for many years and who helped relatives with information on family.

Kenneth Arscott
Arthur Ashby
Harry Evans
Harry Fishman

Emily Lewis
Joyce Libell
Michael Mann
Kenneth Smith
Henry Wilson

Secretary's Note

We continue to have excellent support for the Reunion Events on both Saturday and Sunday. The Saturday had the usual high turnout and was well supported by the Squadron from RAF Cranwell who displayed an interesting method of eating the dessert 'Korean Style' with hands behind their backs and no utensils!! Not to be recommended!



Dinner followed the usual format led by our President ,Group Captain David Houghton, who had flown in from Vietnam where he is Defence Attaché. Squadron Leader Mike Waring, OC 57(R) Squadron from Cranwell, replied on behalf of the Guests with a report on the year with 57 Squadron. On this point the Newsletter contains an excellent note where we are delighted to learn Mike will serve for another three years as OC 57(R) Squadron.

Following the Dinner our Finances were boosted by the Raffle and Auction reflected in our Treasurers report and our strong position for the future. In terms of the future, the Newsletter contains a note from Tony Gunby who has redesigned our Website providing extensive options for Members in terms of communications and receipt of the Newsletter.

The Sunday Service and the laying of Wreaths at the Memorial, supported by some 200 people and the Squadron Standard Party. A welcome address given by Phillip Panton of the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre. The Rev. Richard Benson led the Service and gave his usual thought provoking address. We also had a flypast by a BBMF Spitfire and Hurricane with the taxi run by the East Kirkby Lancaster. This Aircraft is currently undergoing substantial work with a view to it flying in the next 3-4 years, an amazing project.



The Petwood Suite was the venue for the Sunday Dinner Dance with music by Heather Marie accompanied by her husband Squadron Leader Matthew Little who is Director of Music in the RAF.

Full details of the 2018 Reunion on the 7/8 July 2018 are in the Newsletter and you may want to note the dates for 2019 the 6/7 July.

A point on the 2018 Reunion. I have heard that the Woodhall Spa Council have chosen to hold their Annual 1940s events on the same weekend. That event is well supported, so Members need to ensure accommodation is booked as soon as possible, not only at the Petwood but elsewhere in Woodhall Spa.

I have held meetings with Emma Brearley, owner of the Petwood, to ensure we have special facilities available to the Association. should the Petwood have an influx of day visitors due to the 1940s weekend.

Finally could Members submit their Reunion Forms to me by the end of April 2018 as I am away most of June and need to finalise arrangements with the Petwood during May.

Gordon Lodge

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

In my mind it seems only moments since we came together with current Members of 57 Squadron to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of The Phoenix, but by the time this Newsletter 'hits the streets' (or the internet), that event will be 18 months in the past. As we look forward to 2018 though, there are other momentous anniversary events to mark. Of course, there's the small matter (!) of the 100th Anniversary of the RAF on 1 April 2018 but, perhaps more importantly for our Association, 15 November 2018 will mark the 75th Anniversary of the formation of 630 Squadron.

We are fortunate that, as well as the memory of 630 Squadron being kept fresh by our joint Association, OC 57 Squadron ensures that the shared history of 630 Squadron and 57 Squadron is part of the ethos of his squadron. While many historic RAF squadrons have come-and-gone during the last 100 years, every squadron has played a pivotal role in shaping the current RAF. Although 630 Squadron was only in physical existence for about 19 months, its legacy and the memory of the bravery shown by all the aircrews and ground crews who served with 630 will never be forgotten.

You will see elsewhere in this Newsletter that the 'new' OC 57 Squadron (who is, in fact, the 'old' OC 57 Squadron – the Boss explains what that means in his article) has kindly invited Members of the Association to join current Members of 57 Squadron at a Dining-In Night at RAF Cranwell on 22 March 2018 – details are at Page 23. That event will give us the opportunity to thank the 'new'/'old' Boss for his fantastic support to the Association, and should also give us an opportunity to celebrate (a little early) the 75th Anniversary of 630 Squadron.

We remain fortunate that our Association has such great links with the current incarnation of 57 Squadron. The role of The Phoenix training the next generation of pilots, ready, willing and able to step into the rather large shoes of their predecessors, lies at the heart of the RAF – without the work carried out by today's 57 Squadron, the RAF would simply be a hollow shell. As it is, thanks to the efforts of 57 Squadron and the innate qualities of the young men and women setting out on their career in the RAF with The Phoenix, the RAF will continue to be what it has always been – simply the finest air force in the world.

For those who are unable to attend the Association Reunions or Dining-In Nights, I hope that the information in this Newsletter about the events at Woodhall Spa/East Kirkby, RAF Cranwell and on today's 57 Squadron will show that the spirit of 57 Squadron and the enduring spirit of 630 Squadron remain in robust health and in safe hands.

Finally, I send my very best wishes to all Association Members and their families for a peaceful and happy 2018 from a hot, humid, chaotic and smog-bound Hanoi, where I continue to Serve 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 Dining-In Night at RAF Cranwell and at the Association's Annual Reunion in July 2018. Until we meet again, my best wishes to you all.

Group Captain David Houghton

2017 at 57(R) Squadron

Whilst 2016 was a year of celebration for 57(R) Squadron, with the memorable Centenary Celebrations, 2017 has been one of significant change, change that will continue into 2018. This report will briefly cover what the Squadron has achieved this year and look ahead to an exciting new chapter in the Squadron's history.

2017 has been another successful period for the Squadron, despite challenges with manning and aircraft serviceability. During the past twelve months we have graduated 33 ab-initio pilots from Elementary Flying Training (EFT), with these moving on to their respective training courses for Fast Jet, Rotary Wing or Multi-Engine pilot training. The Squadron currently has 18 pilots under training; 5 regular stream; 6 Remotely Piloted Air Systems (RPAS) trainees preparing to go to the USAF for training on the Reaper; and 7 Multi Engine Lead-In (MELIN) students who we prepare for their next stage of Multi-Engine Training.

In fulfillment of these tasks the Squadron has clocked up a fraction under 2000 flying hours over the year to September. This has been accomplished with contributions from a total of 19 Qualified Flying Instructors (QFIs), but at the time of writing the Squadron is down to only 8 permanent staff. While regular postings have contributed to this, the single largest factor has been

the use of Squadron personnel to develop a brand new EFT course, as detailed below.

As well as student achievements we have gained two new B1 QFI categories and three new A2s, a huge milestone in a QFI's career. The Squadron was once again assessed as 'Excellent' during this year's biennial Central Flying School Standards Visit, a rarely awarded assessment and a fitting reward for the hard work and dedication of my staff. Our annual Formal Staff Visit was also a significant success with the Squadron being commended as the best prepared of the 4 EFT Squadrons.

One of the most rewarding aspects of Commanding an EFT Squadron is seeing the students graduate. During the year we have seen 3 Courses graduate, each of them special events, but on 28 April 2017 57(R) Squadron hosted its first Royal Graduation. Captain Mateen Bolkihah, Prince of Brunei, was among the graduating students of 200 Course. The 57(R) Squadron Standard was on display at the graduation lunch, attended by several members of the Bruneian Royal Family. The event was a significant group effort from all of the staff and students of the Squadron, particularly Flt Lt Martin Killen, whose stewardship ensured the event was a success for Defence Diplomacy. Outside of flying 57(R) Squadron continues to be an active part of station life at RAF Cranwell. We have excelled on the sports field, winning the station's rugby competition and currently sitting in 2nd place in the Commandant's Cup with two events remaining. The Squadron has also contributed personnel at station level in cricket and swimming, and staff and students have attended RAF level events in sports such as skiing (indoor) and bouldering.

The year to September also saw the Squadron continue to contribute to the 57 and 630 Squadrons' Association, a link all concerned are proud to maintain. In November personnel attended a service of Remembrance at East Kirkby, while May saw members of the Association hosted at the annual 57(R) Squadron Dining-In Night at RAF College Cranwell. The Squadron also sent a cadre of students to attend the 57 and 630 Squadrons' Association Reunion Dinner and Memorial Service in July, an event greatly enjoyed by all. Of those students present at these events all but two have now successfully graduated from EFT and been streamed to their respective types for further training, with the remaining students hot on their heels.

Looking ahead to next year, sweeping changes are afoot for flying training, and 57(R) Squadron is set to be at the core of this process. Military flying training is going through significant change. A company called Ascent (a partnership between Lockheed Martin and Babcock) will be responsible for the provision of the UK Military Flying Training under the banner Military Flying Training System (MFTS).

MFTS will bring a suite of new aircraft to the RAF Flying Training Pipeline, the capable Grob 120TP Prefect will be the new EFT aircraft. MFTS will also look to take advantage of new technology, in particular simulators, to improve the way we teach the young student pilots. 57(R) Squadron 'C Flt', commanded by Sqn Ldr Jane Mannering and currently based out of Barkston Heath, is undertaking the task of bringing the Prefect into service, converting the QFIs

onto the aircraft, assisting Ascent to develop the new syllabus, and training the QFIs to instruct it. 57(R) Squadron is due to move across the airfield here at Cranwell from Aircraft Hall into a brand new facility, the 'Sykes Building', named after Sir Fredrick Sykes who was a founding father of military aviation and the second Chief of Air Staff for the RAF. We begin training the first new student pilots in April 2018, concurrent with the RAF's 100th anniversary.

A few weeks ago it seemed I would have no role in the change to MFTS, my role was to ensure that 57(R) Squadron safely ran down the Tutor flying. However, I have now been asked by the RAF to double tour, and so I will now be responsible for ensuring that we transfer to Prefect operations in an effective and safe manner; relationship building with Ascent will be at the forefront of that work. The request for me to stay on for an additional 3 years was eagerly accepted as I continue to enjoy the honour of being at the helm of the Squadron. Eighteen months ago there was a real risk that 57 Squadron was, once again, going to be disbanded but the immediate future of the Squadron is now thankfully assured. We may not need to rise from the ashes again but for certain our body will change. I look forward to updating you on the change at the Annual Dinner, once again as OC 57(R) Squadron!

**Sqn Ldr Mike Waring
OC 57(R) Squadron**

**An Interesting Great War Photo with 57 Squadron Connections:
107th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, "A" Company
Subalterns, Lens, France, 29 July 1917**

Submitted by John Moses
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

It is worth noting in the attached postcard dated 29 July 1917, that the correspondent identifies two of the officers as Indigenous North American Indians ("First Nations", in current Canadian usage) from Canada. Number 1 shown is Lt. Oliver Milton Martin, Mohawk, from Ohsweken, the village centre of the Six Nations of the Grand River Indian Reserve near Brantford, Ontario, Canada. Number 6 is the correspondent himself (and my great uncle), Lt James David Moses, from Smooth Town, the Delaware district on the same reserve. Lt. Moses was writing home to his father, Nelson Moses, in the days preceding the rotation of the 107th Battalion CEF into the lines north of Lens, for what would transpire as the heavy fighting for Hill 70. Next to Vimy Ridge in April, 1917, the fighting north of Lens during August, 1917, was perhaps the pre-eminent Canadian engagement of the entire First World War.

The photo documents one of Canada's largely Indigenous formations of the Great War. Originally recruited around Winnipeg, Manitoba, the 107th Battalion was augmented upon its arrival in France with selected members of the recently disbanded 114th Battalion, CEF, "Brock's Rangers", which had been recruited in and around the Six Nations Reserve, and into which unit both Martin and Moses had originally been attested. Like the 114th Battalion, approximately half of the 107th Battalion's eight hundred-man strength

including commissioned officers and soldiers, was comprised of First Nations and Metis troops from across the Canadian provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. The photo is an interesting commentary on the rising sense of Canadian nationalism and identity that unfolded during the course of the War. In writing home, Moses found it worth noting the ethnicity of his brother officers: once could claim "Canada" as their country, while still claiming "Delaware" or "Mohawk" (or "Scotch" or "Irish" or "English") as their nation.

Subsequently posted for flight training with the Royal Flying Corps in September, 1917, Lts. Moses' and Martin's war service records are noteworthy in that these two men from Six Nations were among only three Canadian Indians who would hold commissions as flying officers in the British flying services during the Great War. The third was John Randolph Stacey, a Mohawk from Kahnawake near Montreal, Quebec, who qualified as an RAF pilot, but who was killed in a flying accident in England on 8 April 1918, just a week after Lt. Moses would be reported missing on 1 April 1918 whilst in the service of 57 Squadron as an aerial observer and air gunner. Lt. Martin survived the War as a pilot, remained active in the Canadian militia during the inter-War years, and was recalled to active service during the Second World War, as brigadier in charge of infantry training of Canada's west coast.

Martin's appointment as brigadier remains the highest rank yet attained by an Indigenous person in the ranks of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Lt. Moses and his pilot, 2nd Lt. Douglas Trollip (a South African) were reported missing by the RAF on the first day of its operational existence on 1 April 1918 - the day on which the former RNAS and RFC amalgamated to create the RAF proper. Further, it has been disclosed that the destruction of the 57 Squadron DH4 aircraft (serial no. A7872) in which Moses and Trollip were crewing that day was attributed by the German Army Air Force to one Ltn. Hans Joachim Wolff, a member of Jagdgeschwader von Richtofen, more commonly known in English as the Red Baron's Flying Circus.¹ These particular facts notwithstanding, the training Moses received as an observer and air gunner was typical for an aspiring aviator from the Canadian dominion during the Great War.

Moses had previously served as an infantry officer with the 37th Haldimand Rifles of Canadian Militia, and with the 114th and 107th Battalions of the CEF, from the date of his enlistment on 19 November 1915, until he was seconded to the RFC. Moses was in action with his battalion as an infantry officer at various locales across the Somme and on the Ypres Salient from the time of the 107th's arrival on the continent in February, 1917, and he was present at the heavy fighting for Hill 70 near Lens from 15 – 25 August 1917. On 3

September 1917 he was transferred for duty as an Army Observer with the Royal Flying Corps. He began flight training with 98 Squadron as an air gunner and artillery observer in England on 19 September 1917; and on 3 January 1918 he returned to France where on 8 January he was attached for duty with 57 Squadron RFC, based then at St. Marie Cappel and, later, Boisdingham near St. Omer.

57 Squadron at this stage of the War was a reconnaissance and bombing squadron equipped with De Havilland DH4 two-seater aircraft, and as events transpired, it would soon be heavily involved in air operations and ground support missions aimed at countering the great German Spring Offensive of March, 1918. From 21 January through 31 March 1918, Moses as an artillery observer and air gunner successfully completed a total of thirteen bombing raids and seventeen photographic, artillery spotting, and related reconnaissance flights.

On 1 April 1918, the day on which the former RNAS and RFC were amalgamated to create the Royal Air Force, Moses and Trollip were reported "Missing" near Bapaume, France, following their fourteenth daylight bombing run together. The names of Lt. James David Moses, aged 28, and 2nd Lt. Douglas Price Trollip, aged 23, are duly inscribed on the Monument to the Missing of the Air Services at Arras. The German Air Force records referred to previously indicate their aircraft was brought down near Grevillers. It is possible their graves are amongst those marked "Known unto God" in Grevillers British Military Cemetery, which I have visited on pilgrimage, as well as the Monument at Arras.

The Moses family today on the Six Nations Reserve retains in its possession a set of original correspondence and related documents and photographs shedding light on the war service record and brief First World War flying career of Lt. Moses. The letters, photographs and telegrams comprising this record are of interest on a number of levels. Technically, they provide insight into RFC/RAF photo reconnaissance work, artillery spotting, ground support, and day bombing operations on the Western Front at the height of the final great German offensive of the War; and they provide enthralling detail into the genesis of close air support and ground attack by air power operating in support of infantry. Politically, they shed light on the Great War military service of one Native Canadian in the forces of the British Empire, recalling an alliance between the British Crown and the Six Nations Confederacy of Iroquois and allied Indian nations that originated in the 18th century (known as the "Covenanat Chain", symbolic of trading and economic partnerships in peace, and military alliance in war). Finally, on a humanitarian level, they testify to some of the last recorded thoughts and feelings of a young aviator engaged in the hazardous duty of flying operations over the Western Front in the final year of the First World War.

James Moses in peacetime had been a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse on the Six Nations reserve. The cumulative effects of his months of war service both as an infantry officer and subsequently as an air gunner and observer, are apparent in the graphic quality of the letters he wrote home to his father. One extract will suffice, from what would prove to be his final letter home:

France, March 30, 1918

Dear Dad ...Just a few lines to let you know that I am getting along O.K ... My pilot and I have had some very thrilling experiences just lately. We bombed the German troops from a very low height and had the pleasure of shooting hundreds of rounds into dense masses of them with my machine gun. They

simply scattered and tumbled in all directions. Needless to say we got it pretty hot and when we got back to the aerodrome found that our machine was pretty well shot up.

Lt. Moses was reported missing two days later, his father receiving the following telegram dated 5 April 1918,

Sir

I am commanded by the Air Council to confirm a telegram from this office to notify you that Lt. J.D. Moses of the Royal Air Force is missing. I am to point out this does not necessarily mean that he is killed or wounded and to say that you shall be immediately informed as soon as any definite news is received. Should you receive any further information from any source I am to request that you will communicate immediately with this office.

Nelson Moses, father of Lt. Moses, wrote a moving poem entitled *The Missing Airman* upon receiving word of the fate of his son. The poem was subsequently published in a local newspaper, likely the *Brantford Expositor*.¹ An obituary concerning the fate of Lt. John Randolph Stacey, the other First Nations casualty of the RAF, appeared in the *Toronto Evening Telegram* on 12 April 1918 (one week following notification of the loss of James Moses) under the following headline,

Killed While Flying ~ Lieut. John R. Stacey, A Young Iroquois Officer
Meets His Death ~ Lieut. John Randolph Stacey, one of the four Iroquois officers who went overseas in Brock's Rangers, has met his death through an airplane accident.

In total, more than three hundred men from the Six Nations of the Grand River volunteered for duty with the Canadian Expeditionary Force or other armed services of the British Empire during the Great War. Two hundred and ninety-two finally shipped overseas. Of these, thirty-eight, including James Moses, failed to return. One female Six Nations resident, Edith Anderson Monture (my maternal grandmother), served as a nurse with the U.S. Army Nurse Corps of the American Expeditionary Force. Across Canada, more than four thousand First Nations citizens volunteered for service during the Great War, notwithstanding that their legal status and later treaties with the dominion of Canada exempted them from any such obligation. 57 Squadron today may recall with just pride its Great War origins as a diverse force, reflective of the diversity of the Commonwealth and Empire.

i See Kilduff, Peter (1997), *The Red Baron Combat Wing: Jagdgeschwader Richtofen in Battle*, London: Arms and Armour Press, pp. 188 and 201.

ii Photocopy of press clipping and other documents in the author's possession.

Dining In Night 2017

On 25 May 2017 57(R) Squadron hosted a Formal Guest Night at Daedalus Officers' Mess, RAF College Cranwell. The Guest Night was an official RAF College Cranwell event with attendees dominated by the staff and students of 57(R) Squadron but also attended by members of 3 Flying Training Squadron HQ, 674 Army Air Corps and 703 Naval Air Squadron and notably 13 members of the 57 & 630 Squadron Association attended the event. The Guest of Honour was Air Commodore Harvey Smyth who has recently completed Higher Command and Staff College and is shortly to take on the role of Combined Air & Space Operations Centre Director at Al Udeid; prior to Staff College he was the Lightning II (Joint Strike Fighter) Force Commander and paved the way for the imminent introduction of Lightning II into the RAF's inventory.

The evening was a rare opportunity for the Squadron to relax but also an opportunity to say goodbye to a number of 57(R) Squadron's staff who were either moving to a new fleet or transitioning to the new Elementary Flying Training aircraft, the Grob 120 TP (Prefect). Flt Lt Tom Gallagher who joined the Squadron when it was still at RAF Wyton is shortly to be posted to 99 Squadron to fly the C-17 and Full Time Reserve Service Qualified Flying Instructors Flt Lt Killen (Gp Capt Ret'd) and Flt Lt Foote (Sqn Ldr Ret'd) are on the first cohorts of RAF instructors to convert to the Prefect.

The next year will be a challenge for 57(R) Squadron as it transitions to the Prefect, with manpower being a particular issue as the Squadron's task has not significantly reduced. Next year's Dining In Night will be on 22nd March 2018 and will mark the Squadron forming as the first unit to fly the Prefect under the new civilian contracted 'Military Flying Training System' (MFTS) which will be run by Ascent from 26 March 2018; testing but exciting times.

Group Captain Wendy Rothery

www.57-630sqnassoc.org

The Committee is pleased to announce the launch of the all-new 57 & 630 Squadrons' Association website.



The Home Page is your gateway to the rest of the site which includes a section covering each Squadron's history and a selection of stories through the ages. Check-out the events calendar and News, buy that Association tie you have always wanted from the Store, get involved with some of the chats in the Forum, and see how you can start to do that bit of family research you've always told yourself you were going to do.

Quick links to email your Committee members and the latest Stop Press are also on the Home Page, as well as an easy way of getting in touch with 'the Management' and finally some quick links to other useful websites.

Registration: If you are already an Association Member and you've let us know your email address, you should by now have received an email registration request. Set your own account password and off you go – get posting! We have 93 members registered so far. If you haven't heard from us, it's probably because we don't have a valid email for you.

No need to worry, you can register yourself on the website. Just go to the Forum and Register, following the easy instructions:





We will need your email and an obvious username (first name/surname: something like bill bloggs). Once 'the Management' verify you as an Association Member you will get full access to the entire site. A comprehensive User Guide is posted in the Association News area of the Forum to help you navigate the website.

Any problems; no problem – just drop me an email to;

vicepresident@57-630sqnassoc.org

Tony Gunby
Doha, 1 November 2017

Information Officer

I must start by paying tribute to Allen Hudson who sadly passed away earlier this year. He was a remarkable man, having contributed significantly to the war effort as a member of 57 Squadron, a loyal supporter of the Association, and a great friend to us all. From a personal perspective, he also did a magnificent job as Association Information Officer over many years, laying the foundations by cataloguing a wealth of Information relating to the history of 57 Squadron and 630 Squadron that would enable ready responses to the many enquiries that have been received over the years. Farewell and blue skies Allen, you are much missed.

Enquiries over the last year have continued at a similar rate, from as far afield as Australia and Canada as well as across Europe. It is particularly gratifying to be able to fill in some of the gaps for families whose loved ones served with 57 Squadron or 630 Squadron, especially when there are links drawn with other crews who were on the same mission, and also to provide friends in Europe who have tended graves in their villages over the years with more details about crew members who didn't return home.

If you would like more information about anyone who has served with 57 Squadron or 630 Squadron, please get in touch at: rotheryw@yahoo.co.uk

**Gp Capt Wendy Rothery
Information Officer**

Remembrance Sunday

On Remembrance Sunday I attended the Service held at the Memorial in East Kirkby. This Service is organised by Mike Chatterton, a retired Nimrod and BBMF Lancaster Pilot. Around 70 people gather from the village including the Panton family and 57(R) Squadron from Cranwell. Squadron Leader Mike Waring led some 10 Squadron members and the Standard Party with Flt Lt Paul Tweddle bearing The Standard which in a strong wind was no easy task. Other representatives included Wg Cdr Butterworth from RAF Coningsby with Canon Holdaway from Horncastle leading the Service. Following the laying of Wreaths all adjourned to the NAAFI for hot drinks after which I took the Cranwell party to the Petwood for some "cold drinks"

Gordon Lodge

Reunion 2018 Friday 6 July- Monday 9 July

Petwood Hotel Saturday 7 July 2018

Afternoon Tea from 2.30pm
Dinner 7.00pm for 7.30pm Woodland Suite
Dress-Lounge suits/blazers
Guest Speaker OC 57(R) Squadron

Sunday Service 8 July 2018 East Kirkby

11.45 am 57 Squadron Standard Party and Service-Medals
Memorial-Last Post-Wreaths
3.00pm BBMF Flypast
Taxi Run-Just Jane

Sunday Dinner Dance 9 July 2018

7.00pm for 7.30pm Dress informal-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/Dinner Dance Function Costs where applicable. 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.

Forms by the end of April Please

4 Nights

£410 pp includes accommodation / breakfast
1 Restaurant Dinner and 2 Function Dinners

3 Nights

£315 pp includes accommodation / breakfast
1 Restaurant Dinner and 2 Function Dinners

2 Nights

£210 pp Friday/Saturday accommodation/breakfast
1 Restaurant Dinner and 1 Function Dinner
£215 pp Saturday/Sunday accommodation/breakfast
2 function Dinners

1 Night

Saturday Night

£115 pp includes accommodation/breakfast

1 Function Dinner

Non Petwood Resident

£45 pp for each Function Dinner

Cheque needed with Reunion Form

The Reunion Form is at the back of the Newsletter. Forms by the end of April to ensure your Table requirements/seating arrangements can be met.

Gordon Lodge

Special Arrangements for 2018 Reunion Weekend

Following meetings with the Petwood special arrangements have been made to ensure as smooth an operation as possible.

To put the situation into perspective, the Woodhall Spa 1940s weekend will see around 40,000 people (YES 40,000) arriving in Woodhall over the Friday/Saturday and Sunday up to around 4pm. This will put tremendous strain on parking with roads partially closed and out of town parking facilities. To avoid this affecting the Association the arrangements are;

1. For those staying at the Petwood you will, during June, receive a travel/parking pass for the Petwood. This will ease your movement through the town and provide parking at the Hotel. There will be Attendants on the entrance. It will also enable travel to East Kirkby on the Sunday although you will need to allow ample time.
2. For those staying elsewhere you will need to ensure your Hotel has parking arrangements. Those at the Saturday Dinner and wanting to park at the Petwood will need to contact Jackie Baker at the Petwood, during June (01526 352411), to obtain a parking pass for the Petwood.
3. To ensure we have private facilities over the Saturday, in particular, the Woodland Suite, bar and terrace will be for our sole use during the day including the Saturday afternoon tea. Other areas of the Hotel are available.
4. There will clearly be pressure on rooms in Woodhall so those staying away from the Petwood should make arrangements as soon as possible. If you have any problems I have a number of rooms for the Association at the Petwood and available to members. I cannot hold these rooms indefinitely so early action is needed.

Contact Jackie Baker at the Hotel or myself. Bear in mind I am away most of June.

Gordon Lodge

Mr Gordon Lodge
 Association Secretary
 Email: secretary@57-630sqnassoc.org

RE-UNION RESERVATION FORM (6 July – 9 July inc.) 2018

From:
 Name: First Names:
 Address:

 Post Code: Tel No:
 Email address:

Squadron No.

Please make the following reservations:-

Staying at the Petwood, function costs included and charged to room	
	DINNER
	INFORMAL DINNER DANCE

Staying elsewhere, cheque to Association when submitting Reunion Form		Total (£)						
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%; text-align: center;">DINNER</td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: right;">@ £45.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">INFORMAL DINNER DANCE</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">@ £45.00</td> </tr> </table>	DINNER		@ £45.00	INFORMAL DINNER DANCE		@ £45.00		
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Sub Total								
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"><u>Cheques payable to:-</u> <u>The 57/630 Squadrons Association</u></td> </tr> </table>	<u>Cheques payable to:-</u> <u>The 57/630 Squadrons Association</u>	DONATION to Association Funds						
<u>Cheques payable to:-</u> <u>The 57/630 Squadrons Association</u>								
Total Enclosed								

There will be in my party at the Memorial Service

PLEASE COMPLETE FURTHER DETAILS OVERLEAF:-

Signature:.....
 Date:.....

STAMPED AND ADDRESSED ENVELOPE PLEASE

Receipt No.

I require Vegetarian Meals for of my party.

I would wish to sit with:-

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

**The following are the names of my party (for place Cards)
(Surname and First Names Please.)**

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

I require the following facilities (Wheelchair etc.)

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Remarks or suggestions:-

.....
.....
.....



57 Squadron Dining-In Night RAF College Cranwell 22 March 2018



Group Captain David Houghton

Dear Association Members,

I am delighted to announce that the current Officer Commanding 57 Squadron, Squadron Leader Mike Waring, has kindly agreed to host Association Members and their partners at a Dining-In Night to be held at RAF College Cranwell on the evening of Thursday 22 March 2018. This very special event will celebrate the illustrious history to-date of 57 Squadron which, in its current incarnation, continues to carry with it the spirit and ethos of 630 Squadron – the event is open to all Association Members. This Dining-In Night will also mark the departure of Squadron Leader Waring as he hands over the helm of 57 Squadron to his successor.

As for previous Dining-In nights, dress for the event will be 'black tie'/dinner jacket for the gentlemen and evening dress for the ladies – miniature medals and decorations may be worn (dress for Serving officers is No.5 HD or equivalent with miniature medals/decorations. Retired Senior officers may also wear No.5 SD if they wish). The cost of the Dining-In Night is anticipated to be c.£35 per person (excluding accommodation and breakfast). For those who require it, overnight accommodation will be available at RAF Cranwell for the night of 22 March 2018.

If you would like to attend, I would be grateful if you would complete the form/table on the next page and either e-mail the form send the requested details by e-mail to: president@57-630sqnassoc.org

I/we would like to attend the Association Dining-In Night at RAF Cranwell on 22 March 2018		
Name(s) of those attending	Contact Address	Details of vehicle you will travel to RAF Cranwell in (if known)
		Make/Model
Do you require overnight accommodation at RAF Cranwell on 22 March 2018?	Contact Telephone Number and Contact e-mail	Colour
YES/NO		
Special Accommodation Requirements (e.g. Ground Floor Room)	Special Dietary requirements (e.g. Vegetarian)	Registration Number