



57 & 630 Squadrons' Association

President: Group Captain David Houghton



Dear Members,

57 & 630 SQUADRONS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION

In my message to you of 30 April, I promised to give you a 'GO/NO GO' decision on our Annual Reunion once the UK Government had completed its latest review of the COVID-19 restrictions.

At the forefront of our considerations has been the safety of Members and the many organisations and individuals that routinely help us deliver the Reunion. As we have heard from the scientists and Government, there is some light at the end of the tunnel. However, it is now clear that the tunnel is long and that the COVID-19 restrictions will not be sufficiently relaxed by July for us to hold a Reunion in which we could participate with full confidence.

Over the past couple of weeks, we have been exploring the feasibility of postponing the Reunion until later in the year. However, even when the hospitality industry begins to re-open, it seems probable that social-distancing measures will continue to be in place for several more months.

Regrettably, therefore, the decision has been taken to cancel the 2020 Annual Reunion.

While cancelling the Reunion, we still propose to support the Annual Service of Remembrance that is held at East Kirkby, and which this year falls on Sunday 8 November. This short service is routinely held at the Association Memorial and is attended by local villagers, Association Members, and the 57 Squadron Standard Party. We would encourage Association Members to attend this Act of Remembrance and, should the conditions allow it, we will try to arrange an informal social gathering/lunch to follow. Further details will be posted on our website (www.57-630sqnassoc.org) once they are available.

Returning to the Annual Reunion, we would encourage you to cancel any hotel reservations that you have for this year or transfer your reservation to next year. Although the Petwood House Hotel is currently closed, the reservations staff can be reached by email (reception@petwood.co.uk). We will monitor this process to ensure that everyone cancels or transfers their reservations in a timely fashion. The 2021 Reunion will be held over the weekend of Friday 2 July- Sunday 4 July 2021 - full booking details will be published in the Newsletter in early December and we will also alert you to these by email.

I realise that the cancellation of our 2020 Reunion will come as a disappointment, but I hope that I shall see some of you at the Remembrance Service on 8 November at East Kirkby. Looking further ahead, I think we should be hopeful of a more certain and safer 2021 in which we will once again be able to meet in our customary fashion.

Until then please keep healthy, keep safe and keep in touch.

David Houghton
11 May 2020