

**THE 83RD ENTRY
RAF HALTON APPRENTICES**

**50TH ANNIVERSARY
GRADUATION REUNION**



1959 – 2009



This souvenir booklet commemorates the
50th Anniversary of the Graduation
from
No. 1 School of Technical Training at RAF Halton
of the
83rd Entry Aircraft Apprentices
on 25th March 1959

A special day to remember.



83rd ENTRY GRADUATION 50th ANNIVERSARY REUNION ITINERARY

Thursday, June 11th 2009

- Before 12.30 Book into RAF Uxbridge Guardroom for a special visit to the RAF Uxbridge WW2 Bunker (38 Group Operations room) starting at 13.00.
- PM onwards Arrive at The Lambert Arms on London Road, Aston Rowant, Oxon OX49 5SB. Check-in for your stay and then meet and greet old friends in the Bar or on the Terrace.
- 19.00 Doors open at St. Georges Church, RAF Halton for a Concert to be given by the RAF Halton Area Band (30 plus musicians) with piano solos by Mark Bishop (son of Steve Bishop – 83rd). Whilst commemorating the 83rd Entry Graduation in 1959 this event is also open to the public with proceeds going to charity. See Concert Programme at back of Booklet.

Friday, June 12th 2009

- 07.00 – 09.00 Breakfast in The Lambert Arms Restaurant then travel to RAF Northolt (approx. 45 mins) or other places of personal choice.
- 10.00 onwards Visits arranged at RAF Northolt.
- 17.20 Depart from Hotel for RAF Halton (approx 30 mins).
- 18.00 Visit to the Trenchard Museum.
- 19.00 Arrive at Henderson Mess for Pre-Dinner drinks.

19.30 Dinner at RAF Halton Henderson Mess with a Menu replicating the original 83rd Entry Graduation Dinner Menu in 1959 (Dress: semi-formal).

Saturday, June 13th 2009

07.00 – 10.00 Breakfast in The Lambert Arms Restaurant.

AM / PM Free day to go visiting local sites of interest (e.g. RAF Museum, Hendon) or maybe have a round of Golf.

19.00 Gather in The Lambert Arms Bar or on the Patio for Pre-Dinner drinks.

19.20 Assemble for Piping-in to Dinner by the Entry Piper (Johnny Walker)

19.30 Reunion Dinner in the Oxford Room
(Jacket and tie for gentlemen)

Dinner Guest:

Wg Cmdr Richard Morin BA DMS, OC Support Wing, RAF Halton.

After Dinner The Traditional Entry Group Photographs

Sunday, June 14th 2009

07.00 – 10.00 Breakfast in The Lambert Arms Restaurant.

As required Farewells and Depart The Lambert Arms

**MARSHALL OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE,
THE VISCOUNT TRENCHARD
GCB OM GCVO DSO**

(1873 – 1956)



Father of the Royal Air Force and founder of No. 1 School of Technical Training at RAF Halton (1922 to 1993) immortalised by the stained glass window in St. George's Church at RAF Halton. The image in the window is based on an original portrait of Viscount Trenchard displayed in the Officers Mess at RAF Cranwell.

This is the man that made it all possible and gave us our destiny.

Hugh Trenchard was born on 3 February 1873, the second son of Henry Montague Trenchard, solicitor, and his wife, Georgina.

Trenchard entered the Army in September 1893, as second lieutenant in the 2nd battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers, first serving in India, then on the outbreak of the Second Boer War in October 1899, being sent to South Africa. Promoted to captain in February 1900, he was severely wounded, and invalided home to England in December, but insisted on returning to South Africa in May 1901. While on leave at the end of the war Trenchard was made assistant commandant of the South Nigeria regiment in October 1903, first as major, then as lieutenant-colonel. In 1908 he was appointed to command his regiment, but was again invalided home in 1910. On recovering, he rejoined the Royal Scots, dropped in rank to major and served in Ulster until 1912.

In 1912, looking for a new challenge, Trenchard decided to learn to fly. After only two weeks tuition, he qualified as a pilot on 31 July. The Royal Flying Corps having been formed in May of that year, Trenchard was sent to the RFC's Central Flying School at Upavon in Wiltshire. In spite of having only just qualified, he was appointed to the staff as assistant commandant.

On the outbreak of war in August 1914 Trenchard took command of Farnborough, Hampshire. A few months later in November, he was on the western front as an operational commander. From 1915, Trenchard pressed hard for more powerful aircraft and particularly for more aggression among pilots. In August 1915 Trenchard succeeded Sir David Henderson as head of the Royal Flying Corps in France and was promoted to brigadier-general. Reluctantly, Trenchard became Chief of the Air Staff in January 1918, but resigned a few months later in April as a result of a campaign led by the Air Minister, 1st Lord Rothermere, against his hero General Sir Douglas Haig. Trenchard then returned to France later that month as head of a small force of bombers.

Trenchard was created a baronet in October 1919 and resumed his post as Chief of the Air Staff in May 1920. He was knighted again (GCB) in January 1924 and became the first Marshal of the RAF in 1927. He retired on 31 December 1929 and was made a baron next day. Although Winston Churchill offered him command of Britain's home forces and also a role in military intelligence during the Second World War, Trenchard refused both posts, but was tireless in promoting his belief in the bomber as the mainstay of air power.

In July 1920 Trenchard had married Katherine Isabel Salvin (d. 1959), having two sons. He died on 10 February 1956, aged 83.

THE 83rd ENTRY

(7th May 1956 – 25th March 1959)

In the Spring of 1956, 215 young lads made their way to the No. 1 School of Technical Training at RAF Halton from cities, towns and villages in the United Kingdom and far away places such as New Zealand, Rhodesia and several other countries around the world.

The 83rd was truly an entry of Commonwealth dimensions and on 7th May 1956 they embarked on their new life as “Trenchard Brats” (RAF Aircraft Apprentices).

Over the period of three years at Halton, 95 of those young lads were to falter in their studies. For many different reasons some were re-coursed to later entries, to skilled trades or were discharged. 24 members of previous entries joined the 83rd to complete their aircraft apprentice training.

The entry graduated on 25 March 1959 and 144 young men ventured forth into a new world to start full time careers as airmen. There were junior technicians and corporals (accelerated promotion) in engines, airframes, electrical, instruments and armament. Some went forward as pilot and technical officer cadets and others went direct to aircrew training as flight engineers, navigators, etc.

The future saw some members of the 83rd complete full service careers of 22 years or more. However, others elected to leave the RAF after they had completed their initial 12 year engagement or less. Many have since carved out successful second careers in civilian life. Sadly, some of our colleagues have passed on, long before their time. They will never be forgotten.

The common bond for those young men who graduated in 1959 is they are ex. “Brats” of the 83rd Entry. They each served their country and wore their colours with great pride.

TRENCHARD BRATS

The term “Brat” springs from the fact that in 1920, Marshal of the RAF, Viscount Trenchard (affectionately known as “Boom”), who is looked upon as the founding father of the Royal Air Force, conceived the idea of setting up training schools to provide a cadre of well trained and rounded individuals to be the backbone of aircraft servicing and maintenance in the RAF. These young men, many of whom were aged fifteen and a half when they joined, were still in some cases under normal recruiting age when they finished their training and entered RAF service proper. Their knowledge put the noses of some of the old hands out of joint and they became known as Trenchard’s Brats. The name has stuck and they now happily call themselves such.

OUR ENTRY REUNIONS

33 years after graduation, in April 1992, 22 members of our Entry and their ladies reunited at the Southlands Hotel in Sheringham, Norfolk for our first Reunion. This very successful event brought together members from various places in the UK and overseas including New Zealand and the USA. It was to be the first of twelve annual pilgrimages to Sheringham during the period 1992 to 2004.

Only once did we change the venue when, in 1996, our annual Reunion coincided with the RAFHAAA Triennial and on that occasion we stayed at the Rose & Crown Hotel in Tring.

Following closure of Southlands Hotel we held our 2005 Reunion at the Corus Hotel at Honiley in Warwick and in 2006, the year that marked the 50th Anniversary of starting our apprenticeships at RAF Halton; we stayed at The Holiday Inn, Aston Clinton. In 2007 our reunion coincided with the 9th RAFHAAA Triennial at RAF Halton and during the planning phase we discovered The Peacock Inn at Henton with its great charm and hospitality. We returned to The Peacock for our 2008 Reunion.

In 2009 we selected the Lambert Arms at Aston Rowant because The Peacock is unable to accommodate the increase in numbers attending the 50th Anniversary Reunion of our graduation.

THE 83rd ENTRY STAINED GLASS WINDOW

In 1997, the Padre of St. George's Church and the RAFHAA invited Apprentice Entries to have a stained glass window installed in the Church to commemorate their time at RAF Halton. At the 1998 Annual 83rd Entry Reunion in Sheringham, Norfolk members agreed to have a window installed.

Julie Cuthbert, an artist and stained glass window maker was commissioned to do the work. Julie is one of just a few people who, in recent years, have been formally trained in the original art and craft of traditional stained glass window manufacture.

The window artwork was prepared by Julie and agreed by members in early 2000. Features of the window are the entry badge originally designed by A J (Tony) Gassner of the Royal Rhodesian Air Force. Cap badges also show our proud links with the Royal New Zealand and Royal Rhodesian Air Forces, as well as the Royal Air Force. The bagpipes remind us of a significant feature of our daily life at Halton, marching to schools and workshops to the stirring sound of the pipes and drums.

When making the window, Julie used traditional stained glass techniques that are well over 900 years old. Various pieces of special 'mouth blown' coloured antique glass were used to make the window. The detailed cap badges and bagpipes were first painted onto the glass using special glass paints before firing. Similarly, the red dragon has been acid etched onto the red glass and subsequently fired. These processes have produced the cameo effect and vibrant colours.

Bernard Seaton installed the window in its chosen place in Bay 99, in St. George's Church at the end of December 2000.

We believe the window is a long lasting and fitting memorial to every one of those "Trenchard Brats" who were members of the 83rd Entry.

**THE ENTRY WINDOW IN
St. GEORGE'S CHURCH AT RAF HALTON**



**Dedicated in the presence of
83rd Entry members, families and friends
Friday, 30th March 2001**

IN MEMORIUM

To our friends and comrades and members of the Entry Family whose departure from this life we are sadly aware.

681800	N F (Mark) Whittingham	3 Wing	22 nd December 1962
78266 (NZ)	R B (Kiwi) Thompson	1 Wing	30 th November 1964
681887	R C (Roger) Verrinder	2 Wing	6 th November 1973
681812	B L (Jock) Thompson	3 Wing	1979
681840	A (Albert) Male	3 Wing	14 th October 1989
78265 (NZ)	G M (Graham) Cockran	1 Wing	March 1991
681803	F G (George) Harvey	3 Wing	6 th April 1992
681841	J K (Johnny) Hayward	3 Wing	1996
681863	L C (Les) Shields	2 Wing	14 th January 1997
681828	P R (Pete) Chillingworth	3Wing	18 th May 2001
681842	K (Ken) Little	3 Wing	3 rd November 2001
681891	R A (Arthur) Rutter	2 Wing	15 th December 2004
681929	C J (Wally) Rogers	1 Wing	July 2005
681600	C (Colin) Haslett	? Wing	August 2005
	Elaine Tuckman		March 2007
681865	H A J (John) Bradbrook	2 Wing	2007
	Libby Armiger (NZ)		August 2007
681886	P J (Peter) Matthey	2 Wing	31 st December 2007
681798	J (Jon) Philipson	3 Wing	31 st March 2009

We will always remember them.



RAF HALTON AREA BAND

Director of Music: M J. Pegram FVCM ARCM psm

PROGRAMME OF MUSIC FOR:

APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION CONCERT,
11th JUNE 2009

March:	HOLYROOD	Kenneth Alford
Welsh folk tune:	DAVID OF THE WHITE ROCK	Arr. Philip Sparke
Flugel horn solo:	REVERIE (Soloist; Matt Warman)	Michael Pegram
Guest Artist:	Cherry-Anne Evans	
Original band piece:	LIGHT WALK	Barrie Gott
Novelty piece:	HEYKEN'S SERENADE	Arr. R. Tomlinson
Piano solo:	Mark Bishop	
Classic pop:	The BEATLES: ECHOES OF AN ERA	Arr. John Higgins
Film theme:	HYMN TO THE FALLEN	John Williams

Film music:	SUPERMAN	John Williams
Big band music:	TRIBUTE TO COUNT BASIE	Arr. John Moss
Clarinet solo:	SWINGTIME FOR CLARINET (Soloist; Veronica Tredwell)	Michael Pegram
Guest Artist:	Cherry-Anne Evans	
Novelty piece:	CARTOON CAPERS	Stephen Bulla
Piano solo:	Mark Bishop	
Film music:	The DAMBUSTERS MARCH	Eric Coates
Ceremonial:	AT CLOSE OF DAY	Trevor Sharpe
