



Ministry
of Defence

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AIR SUPPORT

Mr Ivor R John,
83rd Entry Secretary,
230 West End Road,
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Your Reference:

Our Reference:

Date:
30 September 2013

Dear Ivor

Many thanks for such a wonderful evening at the 83rd Reunion Dinner. It was a real privilege to be invited into such a close knit community and to be so warmly welcomed by everyone I spoke to. It is really gratifying to see the RAF ethos that we all recognise from serving within the engineering fraternity, still very much alive and kicking in an apprentice intake formed six decades ago. Not forgetting the wives of course, who have undoubtedly given as much to the RAF as their husbands over the years in terms of support and understanding. I was fortunate enough to talk to several before, during and after the dinner and was fascinated by the stories they had to tell.

Sadly, many of the places mentioned no longer have a RAF presence which is my loss. However, the changing shape of defence today means my generation will have our own challenges and stories to tell in the future! It was an honour to be able to recount some of my own stories on the night and I hope it was of interest and resonated with Service life of old. As I mentioned, I felt very much the new kid on the block with a meagre 14 years behind me but during attendance a graduation ceremony for Engineer Officers a few days later, I was reminded that we all started out as new recruits once upon a time.

I am also acutely aware that events like these do not organise themselves, so I also thank you for the time and energy you committed into making the evening such a success and for the very kind gift you presented to me, I shall think of you all fondly every time I use it. Please extend my thanks to John Burt, firstly for recommending me as a speaker and secondly for his sterling efforts on the 83rd website of which I am sure you are all justifiably proud.

Kind regards

Hazel

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