

HALTON REUNION 1980

1920



1980

No. 1 SCHOOL OF TECHNICAL TRAINING
RAF HALTON

Reunion of Aircraft Apprentices

SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 1980

WHY AN ASSOCIATION ?

Why is it that former aircraft apprentices are willing to travel the length of the country - even across the world - to renew acquaintance with Halton.

There are as many answers to that as there are "Ex-Brats" here today, but it's a safe bet that the replies will concern gratitude for all that Halton did for us in our formative years and the hope of renewing those friendships that were fostered during apprenticeship.

It seems only right, therefore, that something should be done to keep such gratitude and renewal of friendships in being for longer than the few hours brought about by such get-togethers as we have today.

The need for an active organisation for ex-Aircraft Apprentices was stressed many times in countless letters received by the Reunion Committee after the reunion for Entries 1-55 in October 1978. Indeed, the hundreds of applications for membership of the proposed association have been strong proof of the need for such.

With help and encouragement from RAF Halton, and side by side with planning today's diamond jubilee reunion, the Reunion Committee have given considerable thought to the formation of an RAF Halton Aircraft Apprentices Association. You will all have received a copy of the suggested constitution together with an application form for membership.

At a meeting early this afternoon, it is hoped to get the formation of the association formally proposed, seconded and agreed, and officers elected to serve the first term of office. Having laid this foundation, those elected to office will become responsible.

Membership will, it is hoped, be numbered in thousands. An annual subscription was considered to be unworkable, so it was decided to ask for a registration fee of £1 per member, and to appeal for donations to the association as and when necessary.

WELCOME BY OFFICER COMMANDING

It gives me great pleasure to welcome back to Halton today the ex-apprentices who received their training here. I also hope the Old Haltonians will not mind if I extend a special welcome to the members of the first four entries of Aircraft Apprentices who unfortunately were not able to come to Halton for their training because the facilities were not quite ready at the time. As most of you will see the fabric of Halton has changed little from any of your days, though the use of Maitland Parade Square as a car park will not please you. Your two committees have worked hard to provide you with an interesting programme for the day, and you will be able to see your old Barrack Block, Classroom or Workshops in the spare time available from the formal events and there will be someone to show you around. This day is for each and every one of you and I hope you thoroughly enjoy it.

FINE AND WET WEATHER PROGRAMME

- 1200 Arrival at Airfield. Please sign in on arrival. Identity tags will be issued. Luncheon boxes, souvenir plaques and diamond jubilee postal covers will be available for collection. Please have your receipts with you. Bars open.
- 1330 Meeting to form RAF Halton Aircraft Apprentices Association.
- 1400 Flying Display.
- 1545 Forty-five minute service in St George's Church, Chestnut Avenue. Please make a special effort to attend.
- 1630 Walk about school and workshops.
- 1730 March up behind Pipes and Drums to Groves/Henderson Square. Parade forms up in Swann Road. No "Excused Marching" chits, but shoes may be worn.
- 1830 Sunset Ceremony and walkabout accommodation.
- 1830 Bars open at Entry Rallying Points to be announced.
- 2000 Bars close.

In the event of inclement weather there will be no March up or Sunset Ceremony.
A gymnastics display will take the place of the flying display at 1400.

It is with regret that the Reunion Committee have been unable to publish a diamond jubilee souvenir newspaper. Arrangements were made with a local company for its publication, but they subsequently withdrew their arrangement to print it. The Reunion Committee are grateful to everyone who sent contributions, words and pictures, for inclusion in the souvenir publication; consideration will be given to using them in another publication at a later date.