



The Surrey Acorn

The Newsletter of Surrey Wing Air Training
Corps

New Series 1

Winter 2001

EDITORIAL

Welcome to this, the first issue of the revamped *Surrey Acorn*, the Wing's quarterly newsletter.

It is the intention that the *Acorn* will act as a vehicle to promote and publicise the varied activities of the Wing, as well as engendering across the Wing amongst both Staff and Cadets alike, an *esprit de corps* - a pride and a sense of belonging to their particular squadron, Surrey Wing and ultimately the Air Training Corps as a whole.

I am conscious that this being the first issue of the *Acorn*, it has been mainly left to me to produce the copy that follows. I would therefore, greatly appreciate Squadron commanders and their staff, as well as those personnel at Area and Wing Headquarters level, to contact me via Wing Headquarters, or by my e-mail that is found at the bottom of Page 4 with any items, ideas etc for inclusion in the next and subsequent issues.

Hopefully, you will all now have had a sight of my memo of 25th August wherein I detailed my responsibilities as Wing CCO and suggested ways in which you can promote your Squadron on the PR front. I am pleased with the response so far in that several Squadrons have forwarded me copies of their latest newsletters. Don't forget that any copy you get published

in your local paper please send a



Wing Commander Osborne, CO Wing, receiving a certificate of appreciation and plaque from Dr B. Coffin, Chairman of Surrey County Council at the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations held at County Hall, Kingston on 24th April.
See Full Story on Page 3.

copy of the cutting to me at Wing HQ.

In closing this first Editorial, please remember that throughout the Wing good work is being performed by the staff and great achievements are being won both individually and jointly by our Cadets; all of which makes good copy primarily for your local press as well as for publication in the *Acorn*.

So, let me know what's happening out there.

John J. Tunesi of Liongam
Pilot Officer
Editor

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DINING OUT OF SQN LDR MC MICHAEL

On the evening of Friday 4th May in London's Piccadilly in the salubrious setting of the Royal Air Force Club, the Wing affectionately bade its farewells to Sqn Ldr Alan McMichael, our erstwhile Wing Ad O.

Sqn Ldr McMichael had served Wing well for a decade commencing his second career in uniform in September 1990. When he entered the portals of 192 Merton Road he brought with him some 27 years uniformed experience gained in a career in the Royal Air Force in which he commenced as a Gunner in the RAF Regiment and progressing to the rank of Wing Commander when he was posted as Station Commander at RAF Bishops Court. Sqn Ldr McMichael's last posting was at HQ NATS, retiring from regular RAF Service in the June of 1990.

During his time at Wing HQ, he brought a professionalism honed by his breadth of experience of man management and administration to the Wing.

The Wing wishes him all the best in his retirement, although we know that he will not rest upon his laurels for we can imagine it will be a busy one.

FOR SERVICES RENDERED

Congratulations to Sqn Ldr Rushton, South West Area's Staff Officer, for recently being awarded a Defence Council Letter of Appreciation for his services rendered to the Corps in general and to the Wing in particular.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE SQUADRONS

323 (Epsom & Ewell) Squadron have had four Cadets undertake their Gliding Induction Course at 618 VGS RAF Odiham, these were Cadets Black, Buley, Hawkins and Scott. Unfortunately due to adverse weather conditions caused by severe cross-winds, only two cadets completed their circuits.

1349 (Woking) Squadron has recently been given a new 15 seater mini-bus by Thales Training and Simulation of Crawley, when their old bus proved to be unrepairable. The keys of the new mini-bus were formally handed over to Flt Lt Alan Talbot, OC 1349, by Cllr Ian Eastwood, the Mayor of Woking in a short ceremony at their Squadron location.

Sgt Mark Frohnsdorff from 323 (Epsom & Ewell) Squadron recently received his Certificate and Brevet on completion of his RAF Flying Scholarship with the Tayside Aviation (Dundee) Club in a Cessna 52.

18F (Wimbledon) Squadron have started to build their flight simulator, so far they have raised around £3,000 towards this project and are presently constructing the simulator's cabin in readiness for the fitting out of the interior and the installation of the instrumentation and electronics.

1349 (Woking) Squadron's Flight Sergeant Ben White has relinquished his post as co-ordinator of 1349's Newsletter, *Airborne* on his departure to the groves of academe at Coventry University.



The eight Cadets of 18F with their Bronze D of E Award Certificates and Badges

Eight Cadets from 18F (Wimbledon) Squadron were recently presented with their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award Certificates and Badges by their Commanding Officer, Flt Lt Allan Cleeter. The eight were: Flt Sgt Abraham, Cpl Karolak, Cdts Ahmed, Butterfield, Lloyd, Macey, Migliozzi and Selverajah.

The Band of 135 (Reigate & Redhill) Sqn recently achieved success in the London and South East Region Band Competition held at RAF Uxbridge. The Band competed with five representative bands from the region and gained an overall 3rd place. It was all the more remarkable as this was their first attempt at the competition having only 2 weeks notice!

COUNTY HOSTS DIAMOND JUBILEE RECEPTION

On Tuesday 24th April, the Chairman of Surrey County Council, Dr B. Coffin, hosted an evening reception at County Hall in Kingston-upon-Thames for Surrey Wing Air Training Corps in order to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the formation of the Corps in 1941. The principal guest was the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Mrs Timothy Goad. The Wing was well represented and provided a contingent from 15 Squadrons that are located within the administrative county of Surrey, consisting of Cadets, Officers, Adult Warrant Officers and Civilian Instructors as well as representatives of the Civilian Committees of the Squadrons attending.

During the course of the evening, the Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Goad, and the Chairman of the County Council, Dr Coffin, along with all other invited guests had a chance to speak to Staff and Cadets alike when viewing the displays within the Grand Hall. Each Squadron attending set up a display focussing upon the activities they undertake during their training year.

As an interlude during the evening, the Band of 135 (Reigate & Redhill) Squadron played a medley of music on the forecourt of County Hall to entertain guests, staff and cadets.

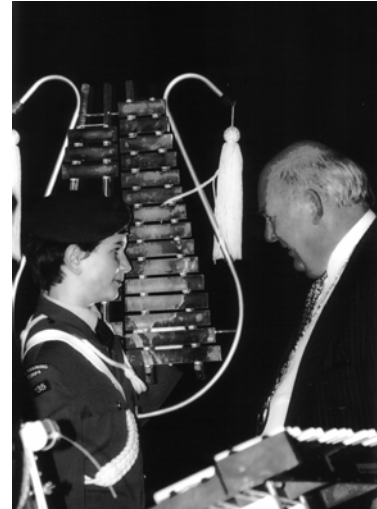
At the end of the evening, a series of presentations took place, made by the Lord Lieutenant and the Chairman of the County Council, preceded by a short talk describing the benefits she has experienced by being a member of the Corps, by CWO

Elisia Mason of 1254 (Godalming) Squadron.

Presentations were made by Dr Coffin to Flt Sgt Scrivens of 261 (Guildford) Squadron of the Cadet 100 badge; to Cdt Lynch of 408 (Dorking) Squadron of the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award; to Cdt Palmer of 450 (Kenley) Squadron of a Gliding Induction Certificate; to Cpl Cooper of 229 (Farnham) Squadron and Flt Sgt Wilde of 1268 (Haslemere) Squadron of Gliding Scholarship Certificates and to Flt Sgt White of 1349 (Woking) Squadron of a Flying Scholarship Certificate.

Further presentations were made by Mrs Goad to CWO Mercer of 450 (Kenley) Squadron of a Certificate of Appointment as a CWO; to Flt Lt Talbot, OC 1349 (Woking) Squadron of the Cadet Forces Medal and to Wg Cdr Osborne, OC Wing, the second Bar to the Cadet Forces Medal.

At the conclusion of the evening, Wg Cdr Osborne presented to Dr Coffin a representation of the Wing Badge, whilst Dr Coffin reciprocated by presenting to Wg Cdr Osborne a plaque of the coat of arms of the County Council, together with a Certificate of Appreciation from the County Council to Surrey Wing.



Dr Coffin, Chairman of Surrey County Council speaking to a member of 135 (Reigate & Redhill) Squadron's Band after their performance outside County Hall.



CWO Elisia Mason of 1254 (Godalming) Squadron

Photographs by Jeremy Hall



Cadets & Staff of 323 (Epsom & Ewell) Sqn with their display at County Hall

WING DRILL COMPETITION RESULTS

The Annual Wing Drill Competition was held this year on Sunday 7th October at Brunswick Barracks, Pirbright.

The Results were as follows:-

The Croydon Times Cup

- 1st - 1924 (Shirley)
- 2nd - 97 (Croydon)
- 3rd - 450 (Kenley)
- 4th - 323 (Epsom & Ewell)
- 5th - 261 (Guildford)
- 6th - 328 (Kingston)
- 7th - 1349 (Woking)
- 8th - 1172 (Esher)

The McMichael Shield

- 1st - 323 (Epsom & Ewell)
- 2nd - 1924 (Shirley)
- 3rd - 328 (Kingston)
- 4th - 1349 (Woking)
- 5th - 1408 (Dorking)
- 6th - 43F (Merton & Morden)

Best NCO

- 1st - Sgt Fowler
261 (Guildford)
- 2nd - CWO O'Neal
1924 (Shirley)
- 3rd - CWO Worthington
323 (Epsom & Ewell)
- 4th - CWO Wishaw
328 (Kingston)
- 5th - CWO McDonald
97 (Croydon)
- 6th - CWO Mercer
450 (Kenley)
- 7th - Cpl Knapp
1172 (Esher)
- 8th - Sgt Sturt
1349 (Woking)

All the participants, both Squadrons and individuals alike, were considered by the judges and staff that had administered the competition, to have a high de-

gree of enthusiasm and dedication that produced on the day, an overall standard of drill and turnout of an extremely high calibre.

Congratulations to 1924 (Shirley) Squadron for taking the Croydon Cup home for another year.

ROYAL VISIT AT BATTS HILL

On the evening of Monday 19th November HRH The Duke of Kent made a visit to the TA Centre, Batts Hill, Redhill in order to meet with local Sea, Army and Air Cadets. The visit was at the end of the Duke's visit to Redhill where he had earlier visited a local school. The Duke requested that he might see and speak with local service cadets and the opportunity was taken to assemble at the TA Centre at Batts Hill.

135 (Reigate & Redhill) Sqn took the opportunity to ask the Duke to unveil a plaque commemorating the gift of a fuselage of the Devon aircraft type.

Wing Commander Osborne was also in attendance.

EX 66 CADET DOWN UNDER

Pilot Officer Rick Redgwell, a former cadet from 66 (Selsdon) Sqn, has recently been in attendance as a student pilot at No 2 Flying Training School at RAAF Pearce in Australia. He graduated and received his Wings after 41 weeks training on the Pilatus PC-9/A aircraft. He has now returned to the UK and is continuing his training at RAF Valley on the Hawk.

WING REVIEW 2002

By this date all of you should have seen a sight of, or at least be aware of, Flt Lt Johnson's Memo of 15th October, publishing the date on which the Wing will be reviewed by the Air Officer Commanding Air Cadets. The date being Sunday, 29th September 2002.

As can be appreciated the day is at present in its early planning stages and as such the venue has not yet been confirmed, although in all probability the Review will take place on an RAF Station within easy access of London if operational constraints allow.

As stated in the Memo of 15th October, the AOC has intimated that he would prefer the day to be targeted toward the cadets having a fun day, but with a small and brief formal parade to begin the proceedings.

So watch this space for further developments as well as looking out for news and announcements in your weekly post from Wing HQ.

STOP PRESS

An appeal to all budding photographers out there to get your lenses polished and your 'f' stops set for the 2002 Wing Photographic Competition. Your Editor will be sending out details in the early new year.

COPY DEADLINE FOR SPRING ISSUE

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