



# The Surrey Acorn

The Newsletter of Surrey Wing Air Training  
Corps

New Series 2

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## EDITORIAL

Since the appearance of the first issue of *The Surrey Acorn*, late last year, I have been both heartened and encouraged by the response coming from the Squadrons within the Wing.

I have been invited to, or have had my attention drawn to events that have occurred within the Wing, some of which appear within the following pages. I am also now receiving copy to reproduce which is pleasing to say the least and I would further encourage those of you who wish to appear in print to contact me or send me copy, preferably typed, via Wing HQ.

As I have said before, there is plenty of good copy out there amongst the Squadrons of Surrey Wing. Please do not hide your light under a bushel. A good story well written is the best advertisement for your Squadron and as all the best people in the advertising profession are wont to say, "it pays to advertise".

I am also receiving for my information Squadron Newsletters when produced for my archive. In this context, may I send my congratulations to 43F Squadron on the excellent production of their first Newsletter.

John J. Tunesi of Liongam  
Pilot Officer  
Editor



The Band of 135 (Reigate and Redhill ) Squadron performing at the Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium on their recent visit. *See full story Page 2.*

Photo: Paul Harris



Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal  
announced.  
*See details Page 4.*

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## ST CLEMENT DANES SERVICE

Sunday, 3rd February saw the 33rd Annual Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication for London and South East Region Air Cadets at the Central Church of the RAF, St Clement Danes, in the Strand.

Along with the other Wings that make up the Region, Surrey Wing was well represented by a contingent of some 80 cadets and adult staff, together with a Banner Party. This year, the contingent was drawn from North East Area of the Wing.

The Wing Banner was carried ably by Cadet Flight Sergeant Stuart Longdon of 1924 (Shirley) Squadron. Eighteen year old FS Longdon is studying for 'A' Levels, in Business Studies and Geography at Kingston-upon-Thames College. By the time of publication, FS Longdon will have attended the Army's Regular Commissions Board at Westbury, Wiltshire, as he wishes to pursue a career as an Officer in the Army!



FS Longdon with the Wing Banner at St Clement Danes prior to the Annual Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication.

Photo: Plt Off Tunesi

## 135's BAND VISIT TO THE CONTINENT

By Paul Harris  
CI 135 (Reigate & Redhill) Sqn

For the second successive year the Band of 135 (Reigate & Redhill) Squadron had the honour of playing 'The Last Post' at the Menin Gate at Ypres in Belgium.

31 cadets plus members of staff had the opportunity of a two day visit to Belgium and France. After a delayed ferry crossing to Calais the party arrived at Ypres in the early afternoon for a tour of some of the battlefields and cemeteries in the area. Following an evening meal, the Band formed up by the Cloth Halls in the town prior to marching, the few hundred metres to the Menin Gate whilst playing a medley of tunes.



Cadets and Staff of 135 examining restored trenches in the Somme region during their recent visit to Belgium and France.

Photo: Paul Harris

At the Menin Gate, the Band's Drum Major, Cadet Flight Sergeant Stephen Harris, laid a wreath on behalf of the Squadron to the memory of over 56,000 servicemen with no known grave whose names are

inscribed upon the memorial.

Following the ceremony, the Band countermarched to a second medley of tunes and received the appreciation of the many spectators.

The second day saw the party returning through the Somme region viewing Battlefields and memorials. They stopped for lunch at a small restaurant where restored trenches and a cellar, used a field dressing station and military prison were viewed.

For many of the cadets this was the first trip to experience the enormity of the conflict that we know today as the First World War, and more poignantly as The Great War in which untold numbers of British and Allied servicemen lost their lives in the service of their King and Country, as well as for mankind as a whole.

Although the visit lasted only two very hectic days, both cadets and staff enjoyed the experience as well as the camaraderie amongst all participants. It is hoped to arrange a further visit next year.



## WING RADIO NEWS

By Alan G. Hobbs  
Wing Radio Officer

At the 1924 (Shirley) Squadron Dining-In Night, held on the 15th December 2001, Cadet Warrant Officer Edward O'Neal was presented with his Air Cadet Communicator Badge. Not only is this a first for 1924 (Shirley) Squadron, but it is the first Air Cadet Communicator Badge to be presented within Surrey Wing. CWO O'Neal is to be congratulated upon his achievement, which has taken several years of dedication and hard work.

Over the weekend of 20/21st October 2001, 1924 (Shirley) Squadron was host to a pilot Foundation Amateur Radio Licence Course organised and run by LaSER Radio Team. Twenty cadets from across the Region took part in the course, with 13 of the Cadets satisfactorily completing the written examination and the Morse Code sending and receiving assessment. Two of the cadets who completed the course were Cadet R. Hizzey and CWO E. O'Neal, both of 1924 (Shirley) Squadron. The Foundation Amateur Radio Licences that they have obtained will allow them to contact other Licensed Radio Amateurs throughout the world. It is proposed to run further courses to achieve Licensed Amateur Radio status during 2002. Details can be obtained from the Wing Radio



Cadets of 323 (Epsom & Ewell) Squadron with Wg Cdr Osborne, Flt Lt Dunlop and Mr Ron Dixon proudly displaying their certificate awarded by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Mrs Timothy Goad, on behalf of the Royal British Legion.

Photo: Plt Off Tunesi

## LORD LIEUTENANT OF SURREY POPPY APPEAL CADET COMPETITION AWARDS

Officer.

This event being the first of its kind was inaugurated by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Mrs Timothy Goad and was held at St John's School, Leatherhead on the evening of 25th February.

The competition was envisaged to raise the awareness amongst cadets of the work of the Royal British Legion and its annual Poppy Appeal and to recognise the work of the three Cadet service organisations in support of this worthy cause.

Five cadets from 323 (Epsom and Ewell) Squadron, CWO Robert Worthington, CWO Leslie Worthington, Cdt Richard Clark, Cdt Kevin White and Cdt Andrew Richardson along with their CO Flt Lt Carol Dunlop attended as Surrey Wing's winning fundraising Squadron for the Poppy Appeal within the

county. They raised as a Squadron £833.10. They were assisted by their local Poppy Appeal organiser, Mr Ron Dixson. One other presentation to a cadet from Surrey Wing by the Lord Lieutenant, was to Cdt Holly Cooper of 1268 (Haslemere) Sqn on managing to individually raise £185.16 for the Appeal.

The total raised by the cadets of Surrey was £7,705.85.



Cadet Holly Cooper of 1268 (Haslemere) Sqn with Mrs Goad.

Photo: Plt Off Tunesi

## **QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE MEDAL**

In common with all members of the Armed Forces, Her Majesty The Queen has signified her approval that the Medal to commemorate her Golden Jubilee is to be issued to personnel of the Air Training Corps with five years' service on the fiftieth anniversary of Her Majesty's Accession, this being 6th February 2002.

For VR(T) Officers and Adult Warrant Officers a total of five training years' service, not necessarily continuous, and any regular, reserve or other cadet service can count. Any service must have started on or before 7th February 1997 and service with the cadets before 31st August 2001. As stated above, personnel must be in effective service on 6th February 2002, be in an established post, and the training year 2001/2 must be one of the qualifying years to count.

The RAF Personnel Management Agency, at RAF Innsworth, will issue the medal to those eligible. No applications are required and given the large number of medals to be distributed, issue may take some little time.

The medal or its ribbon may not be worn until an individuals entitlement has been confirmed and may not be worn before 4th June 2002. The ribbon shall not be worn before 7th February 2002. As with other medals and decorations, the Royal Mint is currently producing miniatures to be worn on Mess Kit or evening dress.

## **18F SQUADRON SPRING DRAW RESULTS**

18F (Wimbledon) Squadrons' Spring Draw took place at 192 Merton Road on Wednesday 6th March. The draw was made by Wg Cdr Osborne, OC Surrey Wing. The ticket sales throughout the Wing have raised around £2,000 for the Squadron Simulator Project. Flt Lt Cleeter, OC 18F Squadron, said he was pleased with the response from those squadrons who participated in selling tickets and sends on behalf of the cadets and civilian committee of 18F their most sincere thanks for all the support received.

The prize winners were:

1st Prize (Pair of return tickets with BEA) - Mrs Henwood of Carshalton

2nd Prize (A pair of tickets to England v Italy International football) - Mr David C-D

3rd Prize (Flight in a Biplane) - Mr M. Siggers - of 1349 (Woking) Squadron.

4th Prize (Trial gliding lesson at Surrey Hills Gliding Club - Miss Ray of Brockley.

5th Prize (Pair of Tickets for Wimbledon Theatre) - Mr Lloyd of Wimbledon.

6th Prize (Pair of Vouchers for Chessington World of Adventures) - Mr D. Boyce of Morden.

7th Prize (3 tickets for Legoland, Windsor) - Mrs Tye of Sunbury on Thames

8th Prize (Pair of Tickets to Sutton Superbowl) - Miss Latham of London SW6.

9th Prize (Pair of Tickets for the Odeon Cinema, Wimbledon) - Miss McEneaney of Sutton.

Joint 10th Prize (Pair of complimentary passes to Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium) - Mr Berry of Bexley; Mr & Mrs Ogg of Mitcham; Mr Roberts of Bagshot; Mr Milner of Shirley; Miss Fosbrook of Shirley and Miss Becker of Shirley.

## **WING REVIEW 2002**

As you will have read in the regular updates you are receiving via Wing HQ it would seem that the venue for the Wing Review on Sunday 29th September is set for RAF Odiham. Reccees have been carried out by designated personnel in order to plan the logistics for the day with the support of the Station personnel.

## **WING PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

As was common in years past, the Wing Photographic Competition is to be held together with the Wing Modelling and Aircraft Recognition Competition that is to take place on Friday, 6th September, at 323 (Epsom & Ewell) Squadron. Details of entry and conditions will appear in your mailing from Wing HQ shortly.

## **COPY DEADLINE FOR SUMMER ISSUE**

13th May 2002

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