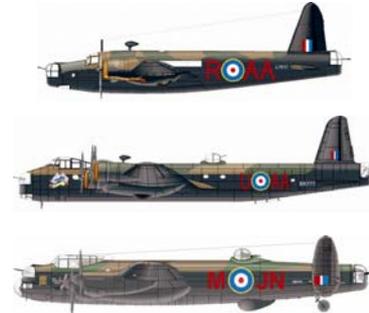


**Friends of
75 (NZ) SQUADRON RAF
ASSOCIATION
UNITED KINGDOM
AUGUST 2012**

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**FROM THE SECRETARY**

For all those who couldn't make the summer reunion it was a fabulous day with the Kiwi Delegation on Saturday the 30th June, but more on that later.

WINTER REUNION 2012

We are having our winter reunion at the Dolphin Inn, St Ives in Cambridgeshire about 15 minutes from Mepal, on the weekend of 10-11 November. The cost is £118 per person for the 2 nights and it includes dinner, bed and breakfast. There is plenty to do in the area; Jack assures me there are some lovely villages within driving distance. Plus the Pathfinder Museum at RAF Wyton but we will have all that organised for you when you arrive. If you would like accommodation please let me know, Margaret Still on 01621 843935, or email me at mstill81@hotmail.com - we already have 30 coming so don't leave it too late.

SUMMER REUNION 2012

As you are all aware 33 New Zealand veterans came over courtesy of the NZ Government for the Bomber Command Memorial unveiling Thursday 28th June, and then came to us on the Saturday. What a great time we had with the 12 New Zealand 75 Squadron members, and 21 other Kiwis who flew with different BC squadrons. They rest of the 'NZ Delegation' included the RNZAF Chief AVM Peter Stockwell and his PA Squadron Leader Scott McKenzie, Wing Commander Nick Olney from NZ House in London, and Principle Chaplain of the RNZAF Wing Commander Padre Ant Hawes. We had father and son Phil and Sean Newey, who now live in America - over for the Bomber Command Memorial Service and they came to us for the weekend, Phil's father flew with 75 NZ Squadron. Also Les Gordon, a 75er AG from 1945 was brought over from Perth, Australia by his daughter Barbara Dundas, wife Molly and grandson who lives in London. For those interested the twelve 75er's were Nick Carter, Jack Wakefield, Ron Mayhill, Jack Meehan, Dick Lempriere, Ken Dalzell, Clive Estcourt, Arnel Meyer, John Morris, Alan Spiers, Ray Tait, Sid (Buzz) Spilman, John Boyd, . The UK Veterans were, Jack Richards, Mike Moloney, John deHoop, Donald Hills, Beryl Eccles and Ron Brown. Our lovely Brenda Parker always comes along, now in her 90's - you are looking good Brenda.

We are also very lucky to have on board Simon and Bev Sommerville, Simon's sister Sandra Doel, and Mrs Sommerville Snr. Always great to get new younger members. Bev and Helen de Hoop did a great job selling raffle tickets. Also Mike Wells and Iain Hook who were really helpful on the Saturday. Can't miss out Rory Viner who is by far the youngest member at 20. Rory - I do love your young legs to help me out. In fact all of our members are only too happy to help at the reunion weekends and we can always ask David and Jean Church, our lovely Brandon mob, Peter, Rita Walker and Pam Wilson who are only too willing to lend a hand. On the Saturday night Rosie Plumpton came along for dinner. Rosie was married to a Kiwi and sat with her friend Nick Carter for the evening.

We met the two bus loads of Kiwis at our plinth in Mepal at 11.15 on the Saturday morning and thankfully it wasn't raining and the plinth looked really lovely with the red & yellow roses in full bloom. We can't usually get a band as we have our services at the plinth on the Remembrance Day every year and they are all busy, but we managed to get the City of Ely Military Band. Originally only five members were coming but in the end all twenty five were there in their bright red uniforms. When I said to them that they played God Defend NZ really well, one said to me he was a rugby fan, so knew the tune. I was going to sing it with all my heart but I ended up crying. I usually sing it at rugby games but this was far more emotional.

Wreaths were laid and then we went to the village hall for lunch. A big thank you to our Honouree Padre, Ernie Barlow who along with W/C Ant Hawes conducted the service. Jack Richards - our Chairman, has had a model of a Stirling built. It is about 5 metres in length and Jack's friend bought it along to display it on the village green for us. Everyone was impressed as you can imagine.



L to R, W/C Ant Hawes, Ernie Barlow, S/Ldr Scott McKenzie, Margaret Still and seated Ron Mayhill



The model Stirling being admired by Jack and W/C Nick Olney



AVM Peter Stockwell giving the address

We left Mepal at 1.30 and called into our marker which is where the air field used to be, then on to Newmarket Racecourse where the 75 NZ Squadron was based with Stirlings. Wreaths were laid there and then on to Feltwell where the Kiwis flew out of at the beginning of the war with Wellingtons. We were going to visit the Feltwell Air Base now occupied by Americans but because of security issues we cancelled that and instead visited the cemetery where 13 New Zealanders are buried. We laid wreaths again and put roses on all the Kiwis graves. Because we couldn't go to the base to see the Jimmy Ward VC Centre the young American airman who I was liaising with, SSGT Steven Saffell, bought the paintings etc down and had a display at the marker, Nick Olney the Wing Commander from NZ House knew Jimmy Wards nephew as he is from Wanganui.

Got back to our hotel at 5.30 and dinner was served at 6 for 109 guests, the food was brilliant. Forgot to tell everyone that I had asked for roast pumpkin and sweet potatoes for dinner with the pork because that is not the norm here in England but in NZ that is what we call a roast dinner. After the meal we finished up sitting outside where we held an auction and raffle which was enjoyed by all. I was presented with a RNZAF pen and a lovely wooden box with paua on from the AVM to thank me for my work, lovely but not necessary. The Kiwis left at 10 and I am sure were exhausted as they aren't spring chickens.

Sunday we went to Mildenhall Air Base to a church service. 75 NZ Squadron also briefly flew out of there during the war. RAF Mildenhall is operational with 21,000 on the base and there is a stained glass window of the 75 Squadron badge in the chapel.

Margaret Still



Jack Meehan and Norma Ibbot reunited



Veterans at Newmarket



The City of Ely Military Band

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I was privileged to attend the unveiling of the Bomber Command Memorial at Green Park in London. When the Queen unveiled the Memorial I don't think there was a dry eye anywhere. The seven figures depicting a crew just returned from an operation is so lifelike. 67 years late in coming, but what a Memorial to those that died and served in Bomber Command.

Peter Walker has taken over the role of treasurer from John Ellis. I would like to thank John for his hard work in keeping us solvent.

The following requests have been made for information regarding former members of the squadron. If you have any information on any those mentioned please contact me. (Kevin)

F/O Ronald Gordon KIA 20-11-44

F/S Russell Alexander Gil

F/O Bernard Peter Daines 9-3-44 to 16-8-44

F/L John Charles Golightly A NZer who joined the RAF as an airman in 1938. Survived the sinking of HMS Courageous in September 1939. Joined 75 in August 1940. Leaving in mid 1941 for pilot training. Commissioned in 1943. Transferred to the RNZAF 1945.

Sgt Arthur John Bishop KIA 1-9-43

Simon Sommerville is setting up a web site that will complement the one set up by Glen Turner. If you would like to contribute to the site (material, not money) please email him at info@75nzsquadron.com

Denis Jacobson who was unable to attend the reunion due to ill health is now well on the mend and hoping to join us in November with his wife, Margaret.

A big thank you to Dee Boneham for printing the newsletter.

Glen Turner, the NZ Assn Secretary also joined us for the reunion, after visiting cemeteries in and around Holland to photograph our crew's headstones for the 75 website, attended the BC memorial unveiling with Dee in London, and donated a banner and standard for our reunions.

75 (NZ) SQUADRON MEMORIAL GARDEN

For many years now the Memorial Garden in the centre of Mepal Village has been a focal point not only for members and visitors in the UK, but members and visitors from overseas. Those visiting the garden and for those that attend the Remembrance Day service, it is a special place to reflect and give thanks for the sacrifices made.

At the outset of the Memorial Garden a committee was set up, (The 75 (NZ) Squadron Memorial Trust), to ensure that the garden and memorial were kept to a good standard. The trust was endowed with a sum of money to achieve this. Over the past three years a large amount of that money has had to be spent on major works on the garden. This has left the amount of money available for future maintenance in a poor state. We now need to increase the amount of funds to secure the future of the Memorial Garden.

The Committee are asking for donations from the membership so that the Memorial Garden can be maintained to the high standard to which it is already kept.

We do not normally ask for donations but in this case we feel that we must. I am sure that you would want to see that the Memorial Garden is there for future generations to enjoy. By donating you can make this happen.

Please make cheques payable to **The Friends of 75 (NZ) Squadron Association**, and send to our treasurer Peter Walker.

Thank you.

Kevin King: Chairman

For, and on behalf of the President and Committee.

OBITUARIES

It is with sadness that I have to report the deaths of the following members;

Stan Sharp. Stan served as ground crew from 1942-1945. One of the unsung heroes who kept the aircraft flying.

Jack Wall, DFC. Completed two tours. 1943 and 1945.

Colin Fowler. Colin was a 19 year old flight engineer when he was shot down over Denmark in September 1944. Colin and NZer Jack Wilcox were the only survivors. Sadly the aircraft crashed on a farmhouse killing all those inside. Jack had to be handed over to the Germans as his injuries required immediate attention. Colin was hidden by the Danes, and at great risk to themselves got him to Sweden from where he was flown back to the UK. Colin never forgot the kindness shown to him by the Danes. In the 90's Colin made an emotional trip to Denmark, visiting the graves of the five crew members who were killed. Among the floral tributes at Colin's funeral was a wreath from the Danish ambassador.

Kevin King

Ake Ake Kia Kaha

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