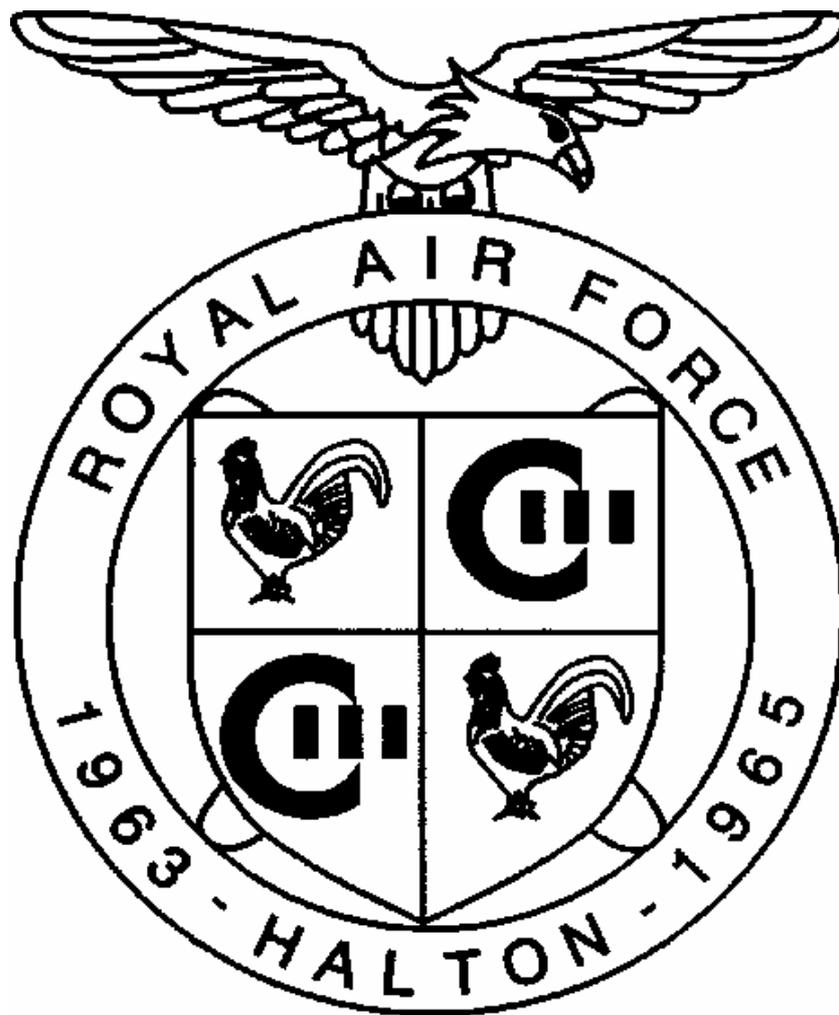


103rd Entry Association

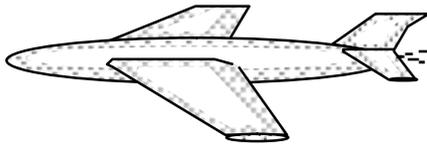
Newsletter



No. 13

January 1997

Editor: MHF Watts



Paul Gallagher

It is with much regret that the Association has to announce the passing of Paul Gallagher on Sunday the 19th of January 1997.

Paul's funeral took place on Thursday the 23rd of January 1997.

Our thoughts and sympathy go to Sue and Paul's family at this tragic time.

Editorial

This was to be the last newsletter of 1996 but then the news from Sue Gallagher about Paul persuaded me to delay publication until more was known about his condition. Sadly things didn't work out as well as expected and earlier this month Paul was transferred to a hospice, where he spent his last days.

Sue wrote to us just before Christmas, and her letter is reproduced below. As I write, final arrangements for Paul's funeral are being finalised. Our Association will be represented by Les Garden and John Bromley, who have both performed magnificently in mobilising support for Sue and spreading the news.

Sadly, that is not all the bad news. As you will also read, Cyril Griffiths has also had his share of bad luck.

It is at times like this when the Association should come into its own. On this occasion, I shall be mailing this newsletter to both paid-up members and to all ex-Ton Threes whose address we currently hold. Our thoughts must be with Sue and Cyril and their families, and if anyone wishes to drop them a line, I'm sure that it would be most welcome.

I suppose that now is an appropriate time to remind everyone that the Association is here for you. Obviously there are limitations in what we can do, but should illness strike or even more serious problems arise, not only can we use our nationwide network of 'chums', but the Association can, if necessary, get the relevant bodies (British Legion and HAAA) involved. MHFW

Paul Gallagher

I am enclosing this letter to all our friends who I consider would like to know how things are with us.

Everything was going along fine 'fine and dandy' until the 8th of November last, when Paul had a visit from our local GP after a recent scan, to be told that yet again 'the tumour' was causing problems. We were both shocked 'again' and waited for a call from Mr. Mohan, the Consultant in charge of Paul at Derriford Hospital in Plymouth. Well the call came 10 days later and away Paul went for a third operation on his brain on the 20th of November.

The operation itself went well and once again they removed two-thirds of it. Initially they were concerned about Paul's speech and short term memory, but on the Saturday when I visited him, they were very concerned and took him down for another scan to see why he wasn't progressing as well as he should. I have to tell you all, that in all honesty, I thought that he was dying that day and they couldn't tell me until 6.30pm that evening that the problem was a post operation swelling.

Once they had diagnosed that it was a swelling, they obviously acted upon it because on the following Sunday morning, he was a lot brighter. The nurse who was looking after him that day had given him a bath and it was only whilst they were drying him that they noticed that his right leg was very inflamed and swollen. This time he had thrombosis in his leg, so yet there was another problem to deal with. Very, very slowly he became better, but obviously because of the problem with his leg, they couldn't let him out of bed.

Paul was eventually transferred to Treliske Hospital in Truro on the 5th of December, only to be left in the Admissions Unit because they didn't have a bed on the appropriate ward. Finally he was allowed home

on the 9th of December. He is still extremely weak and the progress with the brain is slow, but it is going in the right direction. He doesn't talk as much as he should, and his memory is a bit 'iffy', but I'm sure that eventually that will all come back. He has taken a considerable hammering this time, and the fact that he has come out of a third operation relatively intact is a considerable achievement in itself.

As I write, we are not sure what is going to happen now. Paul has an appointment to see the Radiotherapist on the 7th of January '97, so we will just have to wait and see.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year, and if any of you are in the habit of praying, just spare one for Paul, because he certainly deserves your prayers.

Sue Gallagher
21 Bospolvans Rd, St Columb Major, Cornwall TR9 6SG

Cyril Griffiths

On the 11th December we were notified that Cyril Griffiths had been badly injured in an accident. Our best wishes go out to him and his family, and hope that by the time that this newsletter reaches you, Cyril will be back to his old self. Queries to Brian Lee.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Procon Electronics - 28th September 1996

Present: L Shardlow, B Neal, L Garden, M Watts

Apologies: C Wales, N Smith, J Bromley

1. The AGM was cancelled due to no members other than the above attending. As a result the Committee were asked to remain in office until the next AGM can be arranged. All Committee members present agreed.
2. A request to review the Entry Constitution was made. It was suggested that only three ordinary Committee members need to be present at an AGM in order to make a quorum. All Association members are invited to comment on this proposal.
3. Date of next meeting is Saturday 7th December 1996 at Procon, Haddenham.

LG

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Procon Electronics - 7th December 1996

Present: L Shardlow, C Wales, N Smith, J Bromley, L Garden, M Watts

Apologies: B Neal

1. The treasurer gave a brief statement of account, which showed a combined credit of £1116.04 from both accounts.
2. The RAFHAAA are to raise a memorial to the apprentice tradition outside Schools. (See more on this subject further on in this newsletter -Ed). It was proposed by LG and seconded by LS, that the Entry fund donates £50 to the RAFHAAA to meet the cost of the sculpture. Action: NS
3. CW to investigate the cost of printing one each of the group photos taken at the '95 reunion for each member that attended. Proposed cost not to exceed £50, distribution to be with the first '97 newsletter.
4. It was suggested that we use the Internet to see if we can locate more of the 'missing' members of the Entry. NS to investigate.
5. The date of the next meeting is Saturday the 15th March 1997 at Procon, Haddenham.

LG

Changes of Address

Tony (Charlie) Chaplin, 105 Stuart Road, Aylsham, Norwich, Norfolk NR11 6HN

Bob Gamble, Pax Vobis, 2 Marine Close, Wroughton, Swindon, Wilts SN4 9SG
(Now retired from BA and remarried - congratulations)

Barry Neal, 4 Bushell Green, Bushey Heath, Herts WD12 1JY
(Now with the Inspectorate of Flight Safety)

Congratulations

Al Simmonds has been promoted to Warrant Officer and is believed to have gone to RAF Manston.

HAAA Benevolent Membership

An important function of the HAAA is to provide welfare for those less fortunate ex-apprentices who have fallen on hard times either through illness, financial difficulty, or other modern day problems. There is a scheme whereby such ex-apprentices can have their HAAA subscriptions paid for them until they

Dates for your Diary:

15th March 1997 – Committee Meeting, Procon
7th June 1997 – RAFHAAA AGM, RAF Halton

are back on their feet again. This, of course, is in addition to other forms of help that can be given. HAAA Branches have been urged to be alert to any of their members who may qualify.

Sculpture to Commemorate the RAF Halton Apprentice Scheme

As many of you are aware, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the creation of the RAF Halton Apprentice Scheme, a sculpture is to be unveiled on the Station.

The sculpture, designed by an ex-apprentice, is a representation of the first workshop task undertaken by most apprentices in their basic fitting phase. This exercise introduced apprentices to the use of hand tools and developed their ability to work accurately to tight specifications. It involved chipping the scale from a block of cast iron and filing it to precise dimensions before an accurate inch square hole in the centre. A brass cube had then to be filed to fit precisely into the hole. The exercise remains an abiding memory for all ex-apprentices, and makes a wryly appropriate commemoration!

The cast iron block will be represented in Welsh slate. The brass cube will be constructed in gilded York stone and bolted on the front of the main structure as shown in the artist's impression. The apprentices' arm badge, a four bladed propeller encircled by a brass ring (known colloquially as the 'wheel'), shown inscribed on the front of the sculpture, will also be gilded. Etched on the sides of the main structure will be an inscription explaining the reason for the sculpture and what it represents. The whole structure, set in a submerged concrete base, will be erected in front of Kermod Hall, which was the Apprentices School.

The last edition of the Haltonian showed the proposed design for the commemoration sculpture. Things have moved on and the design has been modified slightly to make it more practical. A company has been chosen to construct the sculpture and work will start soon. Inevitably, the cost has increased from the original rough estimate and now stands at £14000.

The increase in costs, of course presents an even greater challenge for us all to find the necessary funds through the appeal. Aerospace firms are being approached to give donations, and the latest HAAA newsletter gives wide publicity to the appeal and will hopefully produce individual donations from HAAA members.

As you will see from the Committee minutes that we have made a small donation on behalf of the 103rd.

RAFHAAA - 75th Anniversary Dinner

This year will mark the 75th anniversary of the arrival of aircraft apprentices at RAF Halton, to be commemorated by an anniversary dinner on Saturday the 25th of January 1997. The Guest of Honour will be Air Chief Marshall Sir Michael Armitage and Lady Armitage, with the RAF Halton Station Commander, Gp Capt ODL Delany and Mrs Delany also among the guests.

RAF Halton Station Museum

Work has begun to set up the Halton Museum in Bay 6 of Old Workshops. Among the exhibits to be mounted by the RAFHAAA is a collection of apprentice coloured capbands, squadron discs and brass badges. Items needed to complete the collection include a light blue cap band, a black squadron disc and a brass piper's badge. If you know where any of these items can be obtained, please get in touch with The Secretary, RAFHAAA.

And finally:

In the next newsletter I intend to provide a full update of all known TonThree addresses. If you have moved recently or are aware of anyone who has recently moved, please get in touch with me at the address below.

In the next edition I also hope to provide details of our first flirtations with the World Wide Web. Meanwhile don't forget to send your contribution for the next newsletter to me at:

162 Main Rd, Naphill, High Wycombe, Bucks HP14 4RU

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15th march 1997 – Committee Meeting, Procon
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