



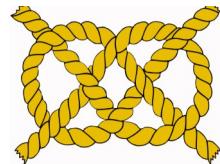
HEREWARD

The Newsletter of
No. II (Army Cooperation) Squadron Association

II (AC) Sqn
Association

March 2013
Issue 26

OC II Hands Over Command



Wg Cdr Nick Tucker-Lowe DSO hands the II(AC) Sqn Wake Knot over to Wg Cdr Jez Holmes signifying the handing over Command of Shiny Two.

To command Number II (Army Cooperation) Squadron has been a great honour and privilege. The Squadron's personnel have worked tirelessly over the past two years when home-based, on exercise and throughout 2 demanding deployments patrolling the skies of Libya and then Afghanistan. I have been immensely impressed by the individual professionalism and determination of every Serviceman and Servicewoman on the Squadron, and have been equally impressed by their inspiring teamwork. With the support of families, friends and our neighbours here in Norfolk, the Squadron continues to go from strength to strength. So I wish my successor Wing Commander Holmes and everyone on Shiny Two every success for the future.

Wing Commander Nick Tucker - Lowe

It is a privilege to be coming back to Marham as the new 'Boss' of Number II (Army Cooperation) Squadron. Norfolk holds many fond memories for my family and I and it will be a pleasure to reacquaint myself with many old friends whilst making new ones.

I am delighted to be the latest Commanding Officer of such a prestigious Squadron, now in its second century. I note the performances in the Squadrons recent history for being as equal in importance to those that it has achieved in the past and look forward to the challenges of the future, wherever they may take us.

Wing Commander Jez Holmes

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"A team effort is a lot of people doing what I say"

Michael Winner





Wg Cdr Nick Tucker-Lowe Farewell Notes From The Outgoing OC II

The following note was received from OCII too late for inclusion in the Christmas Edition.

To say 2012 has been a busy year is an under statement of significant proportion. I am glad therefore that we finish it as we started it, with a moment of well deserved stability and relaxation for all with families and friends over the festive season. That said, I thought I would take this opportunity to reflect on what I think we would all agree has been a uniquely busy, exciting and ultimately tremendously rewarding year for Shiny Two.

As you would expect, the recent months have revolved almost exclusively around our preparation and subsequent deployment to Afghanistan. For many on the Squadron, this was the third summer away from home in successive years; for others it was their first operational deployment. I am delighted to say that our Operation HERRICK deployment was immensely successful. Daily we received plaudits from our UK land forces, our Coalition partners and Afghan forces alike. It is clear that everyone on Shiny Two made a tremendously positive difference. This was mirrored by the superb support provided by our families, friends and neighbours, and in the wonderfully warm welcome home we received when we returned on 20 November. It is good to be back!



Let me take you right back to the beginning of 2012. As the winter fog cleared from RAF Marham's runway, all II(AC) Squadron personnel began their Pre-Deployment Training (or PDT as it is termed) in earnest. The first challenge was the Tornado Standardisation Visit, which took place in early February. From a self-assessment perspective alone, it was important to ensure that we had recuperated to the correct performance standards after Operation ELLAMY and that we had a firm foundation to prepare those new to the Squadron for the summer's deployment. The report left us in no doubt about where we stood and how much we had already achieved. While the results were both pleasing and complimentary, Shiny Two did not rest upon its laurels, as the summer months would still be a challenge.

A trip to the winter sun of Las Vegas then followed. Have no fear though, photographs in national newspapers are not likely to surface as they did for a later more exclusive exercise participant prior to his deployment. The Squadron's sights were fixed firmly on the activities arranged around the range area which encompassed a remarkably wide range of training from realistic Close Air Support (CAS) to multinational composite air operations in highly demanding tactical scenarios.

A period of well earned leave over Easter prepared us well for the most intense period of PDT and gave families the opportunity for an early summer holiday. It also marked the start of the second challenge of the year: to celebrate the Squadron Centenary in style while also accelerating our PDT. The unique events in May to mark the first 100 years' of our history was a glorious success and I was delighted to be able to share the experience with so many of you. For me the highlights were numerous, but the following we're particularly memorable.

The parade to receive our new Squadron Standard on its own would have been a glorious event. To be so fortunate with the weather, with the quality of drill to rival any London parade, to be graced with a such a prestigious guest list and then to finish the day with a Mess dinner for over 120 invited personnel of every rank, new and old friends and family, firmly set the tone and tempo for the rest of the Centenary weekend.

The families and Association theme for the Saturday was a delightful contrast. The weather remained warm and clear for us and the static line of aircraft old, new and from far and wide set the scene perfectly and poignantly. The demonstration by our friends 'The Blades' was magnificent and the lone spitfire that followed evocatively captured everyone's attention until it took its position in pride of place next to our recently 'painted lady' and the BE2.



A late start to the Sunday was definitely welcome after the HAS Bash the previous evening and the subsequent dancing long into the night. For me, the Service of Thanksgiving at Ely Cathedral could not have been bettered. As we prepared to lay up the decommissioned Squadron Standard in perpetuity and the lone spitfire again graced us with its low venture over the city, the poignancy was absolute. I was humbled by the excellent turnout of so many friends and acquaintances and equally honoured to be joined by Sir Hereward Wake. The Centenary was a weekend for all to remember and one that will remain with me vividly as a highlight of my career, a comment I heard repeated by many during and after the events; I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did and have equally fond memories.

Continued on page 3.....



Farewell Notes From The Outgoing OC II (Cont...)

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Literally as soon as the Centenary weekend FOD-Plod was complete, the Squadron's personnel started intensifying both flying activity and ground liaison with fervour, supporting the incoming UK Brigade as they too undertook their PDT. The culmination of all these activities was our War Week. The improvements made over time to ensure that War Week was fully representative of the Afghan tempo ensured that we were all as well prepared as possible. Before we knew it, we had deployed and were in the thick of the action.



Amid the clamour of continuous operations in Afghanistan, the dedication of the Squadron Association Memorial in September gave all of us that were deployed a brief but wonderful opportunity to stop and reflect for a moment. Furthermore the sense of brotherhood from the simultaneous services in Alrewas and Kandahar was truly remarkable; although we were over 3500 miles away, we felt very close to home. To all of you who assisted in the planning and organisation of the dedication and all of those who attended, you have my sincerest thanks. To dedicate the memorial when the Squadron was deployed added considerable complexity and placed a burden on many in the Association, but looking back, I could not have wished for a more appropriate time for the dedication of any Squadron Memorial than when the Squadron is fighting for Queen and Country.

It seems only a short time since I was writing both introductory notes and then the notes to encapsulate 2011 and here I am one year on from the latter. My time in command of Shiny Two is drawing rapidly to an end too. In late January I am due to relinquish command to Wing Commander Jez Holmes who many of you may already have had the privilege of meeting. For those that have not, rest assured Shiny Two will be in good hands! So as we see out the end of the old year and welcome in the beginning of a new one I wish to finish with a series of thank you messages and farewells.



The support from my outgoing Executive Officers (Sqn Ldrs Jim Beck, Charlie Donald, Dave Smith and Phil Leighton) has been superb. They all have departed for pastures new and all take forward the good name of the Squadron and our thoughts and thanks with them. This brings me onto the next thank you to Gary Walker. His passion and drive in supporting the II(AC) Squadron calendar has ensured the continued success of events in the wider community. The Association committee too has been called upon to support the personnel it represents throughout the whole of this year. Events such as the Arboretum Memorial Service and the Anniversary weekend can only truly be considered a success if supported by the hard work and dedication of individuals behind the scenes. They have delivered in spades and can be very proud of what has been achieved. They however are always on the look out for continued support so please feel free to be an active part in the Squadrons future by volunteering now.

When I arrived on the Squadron it was clear that it was already in very good shape. I envisaged what I would wish for the Squadron: A happy, vibrant Squadron that works together to strive for excellence, grasps every opportunity and gets the job done. A Squadron that deploys Combat Air Power that is Second to None.

Through tremendously successful operations over Libya and Afghanistan that have given ordinary people the chance for freedom that they otherwise would not have had, through Centenary celebrations that drew people from across the globe and which attracted the attention of prime time television programmes such as the Antiques Road show, and through the consistent determination of everyone who serves or supports the Squadron, Shiny Two has achieved that vision.

Shiny Two is, quite simply, Second to None.

The Boss.



Officer Commanding

Number II (Army Cooperation) Squadron RAF

Wing Commander Jez Holmes joined the Royal Air Force as a pilot in 1994. On completion of fast jet training he was posted to the Tri-nation Tornado Training Establishment at Cottesmore to begin conversion to the Tornado GR1 which he completed with XV(R) Squadron at Lossiemouth in 1999.

His first tour was with 617 Squadron, with whom twice deployed Kuwait on Operation RESINATE SOUTH to police the southern no-fly zone over Iraq, in addition to deploying on exercise to Canada, Oman, Cyprus, Belgium and the USA. In 2002 he was posted back to XV(R) Squadron as an Instructor, where he completed the Qualified Weapons Instructor Course.



**Wg Cdr
J D Holmes
MA RAF**

In 2003 he was posted to IX(B) Squadron at Marham as the Qualified Weapon Instructor pilot, completing a further two operational deployments, this time on Operation TELIC over Iraq together with deployments on exercises in Cyprus, the USA, Canada and France. On promotion in 2006 he was posted to II (AC) Squadron at Marham to complete a Flight Commander tour this including a further two operational deployments on Operation TELIC, in addition to deployments on exercises in the USA and the Czech Republic.

In 2008, Jez was posted to Air Command as Personal Staff Officer to the Deputy Commander-in-Chief Operations before being promoted to Wing Commander in 2010. He subsequently successfully completed the Advanced Command and Staff Course at the United Kingdom Defence Academy where he gained an MA in Defence Studies from King's College London. This was followed by a posting to Capability Deep Target Attack in the Ministry of Defence, where he held the role of Assistant Head of Weapons. College. He took Command of II (Army Cooperation) Squadron in January 2013.

Wing Commander Holmes is married with three sons, and he enjoys shooting, motorcycling and occasional visits to the golf course.





Association AGM and Annual Reunion Dinner

Hallmark Inn Derby

11—12 May 13

This years AGM will take place at the Hallmark Inn, Derby on Saturday 11th May 13. It will be followed by a formal Association Reunion Dinner. It is planned to make the Reunion Dinner an Annual event, to be held in May as near to the date of the Sqn birthday as possible and at different locations around the country that have been associated with the Squadron in the past. That is the general idea although much will depend on the amount of interest shown for such an event.

The venue this year has been chosen due to its close proximity to the National Arboretum Memorial in order to allow Association members the opportunity to visit the Sqn Memorial for a simple wreath laying ceremony during the morning of Sun 12th May.

Special rates have been negotiated with the hotel for both Bed and Breakfast accommodation and the Reunion Dinner. It is hoped that that as many Association members as possible will take advantage of this opportunity to attend both the AGM and this the first Association Reunion Dinner. The visit to the NMA will also be a special opportunity to view the II (AC) Sqn Memorial and to join together afterwards for lunch in the nearby Royal British Legion Club,



Hallmark Inn ,Derby.

Details of the event have already been mailed to the membership but anybody wishing for more information should contact Pamela Austin by email

at :chicbiker@stanhoe.org



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Revised accommodation charges have been negotiated with the hotel. See separate booking form for full details on the reduced cost of B&B.

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Squadron History Given Go Ahead

The Committee has finally been able to agree the go ahead for the publishing of the Sqn History (3rd Edition), appropriately titled “Hereward The History of No. II (Army Co-operation) Squadron RFC—RAF 1912—2012”

A good start has already been made in fund raising to cover the cost of the Publisher set-up fees. Suffice it to say an undertaking such as this is not without cost but the Committee is confident that with help from the Membership we can achieve the target required. Details of the fund raising effort can be found on the Sqn Association website: <http://www.twosqnassoc.co.uk/>

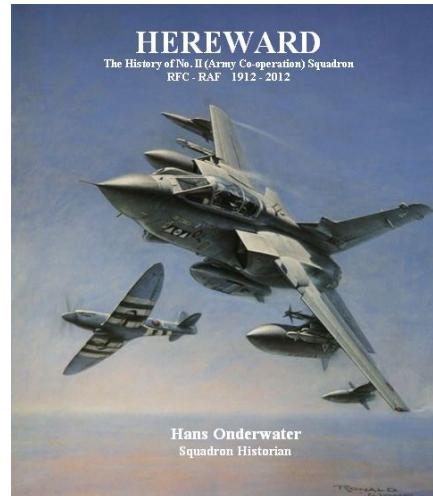
The History, which has been painstakingly complied by Hans Onderwater, the Sqn Historian, is a completely new rewrite and contains many newly researched items which have not been previously published in the earlier editions.

The book, which will be approx. 700 pages with over 200 images and illustrations, will be published on a ‘print to order’ basis at the beginning of October, with orders being taken from the beginning of June.

The cost of the book will be £39.95 and although this is more than was first estimated it better reflects the size and scope of the illustrious history of what is, without question, the oldest and finest fixed wing Squadron in the world.

It is planned to coincide the launch of the book with a Sqn Charity Cycle Ride, from Farnborough to Montrose in early June, this to commemorate the first deployment of the Sqn in 1913, to what was then the first purpose built airfield in the country. It is hoped to complete the journey by cycle in considerably less time than it took the Sqn to fly from Farnborough to Montrose in those pioneering days back at the beginning of the last century!!

Further details of how to order the book will be provided in the next edition of the Newsletter.



Picture Puzzle

Following my note in the last Newsletter for information on the photographs from the Phantom era, the following reply was received from Ursula Jellico, whose husband Brian served with the Sqn at the time:

Dear Gary, re the photo taken at Laarbruch possibly in 1973, my late husband Flt Lt Brian Jellicoe is 2nd from the left and amongst the others pictured are Ken McCullum, Ken Simpson, Mike Holmes, Brian Anderson, Jim Anderson, Bill Pike...



Since then however, Ursula has had time to look at the picture in more detail and has added the following comment:

Many thanks Gary, this is also a much clearer picture and in fact it is not my husband Brian Jellicoe second from left after all, am forwarding this to several friends whose husbands are in the photo including Daphne Pike, widow of Bill, with kind regards Ursula Jellicoe.

Anybody with other interesting pictures from earlier eras of the Sqn which they would like published are asked to pass them to the Editor.



Squadron Centenary Watches

The Sqn Centenary Watches ordered during the Centenary weekend have now been received by the Sqn and distributed to those who purchased them., since when several enquiries have been received from Members who still wish to order one. Unfortunately, they were a limited numbered edition and were all sold during the Centenary Weekend.

However, it is believed that some may now be available for resale and anybody still wishing to purchase a Watch is advised to contact the Memorabilia Secretary who will follow up the enquiry with the Sqn.

Sqn Lapel Badges



Lapel Badges are now available from the Memorabilia Secretary at a cost of £3.00 each plus P & P.

Anybody wishing to purchase a badge should contact Stephen Sanderson at MRM-TMS-@mod.uk



Squadron Ties



Sqn ties are available in blue and in red, priced at £17.50 each inclusive of postage and packing. Applications via the Association Treasurer. Contact details can be found on Page 6.

Back Copies

Back copies of "Hereward" are available from the Editor whose contact details can be found on Page 8.



Hereward

Do you have an article that you would like to see in the next Edition of Hereward?

Please contact the Editor with the details

SHINY TWO WEBSITE

www.twosqgnassoc.co.uk

The Association Website is well worth a look and the Webmaster is always looking for interesting items and articles to add to those already published. Please do contact Clive if you have anything you wish to add.



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