

Visit to the Medals Office, Innsworth



DFC



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A visit to the Medals Office at Innsworth took place on the 17th May 2016. James Davies our tour guide amazed us all with his vast subject knowledge ensuring we had a pleasant and informative visit.

Armed Forces Day 2016

19 members and their guests attended the Armed Forces Day commemoration at the Jet Age Museum on Saturday 18 June 2016. Following the Parade of Standards the group retired to the Aviator Restaurant for a well earned lunch where we met the pilots of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. More pictures on page 2.



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Armed Forces Day 2016 Pictures



Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Spitfire and Hurricane at Staverton Airfield.



Don and the Hurricane Pilot.



Heather, Michael and David meet the Spitfire Pilot.

Wings Appeal 2016



In 2015 the Branch achieved a 462% increase in the amount of money collected for Wings Appeal which earned the Branch the "most improved collections for Wings Appeal" trophy. Our thanks goes to the Hereford RAFA "in friendship" group who collected £377.00.

2016 has also started well with £908.44 being collected to date. Your support will help us retain the trophy for another year. Congratulations to Lorraine and all branch members who gave their time to this worthwhile cause.

Ken Farlow 70th VE Day Commemoration Trip

Branch member Ken Farlow attended the Service of Thanksgiving to mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day on Sunday 10th May 2015. Here is Ken's report:



After booking into the "Grand Hotel" my son Andrew wheeled me down to the Cenotaph for the service of remembrance. It was very cold and one kind lady took off her warm silk scarf and wrapped it around my neck.

On the Saturday we went to "Horse Guards Parade" where a large stage was erected for the party show. A Spitfire and Hurricane were located on each side of the stage. The audience of some 14,000 were all waving flags, mostly Union Jacks. One lady noticed I didn't have a flag so she thrust one into my hands. Hundreds were dancing in the aisles—doing the Conga and singing.



On the Sunday we were directed to Westminster Abbey for the service of Thanksgiving. On leaving the Abbey I shook hands with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of London and other dignitaries. After the service we were moved to Horse Guards lead by the band of the Royal Marines and a Scottish band to be greeted by Prince Charles. After lunch the Prime Minister David Cameron sat next to me to have a little chat — no, I did not tell him how to run the country! Then the Chief of the

Air Staff, Air Chief Marshall Sir Andrew Pulford sat next to me. He told me about a forthcoming meeting with Sir Dusty Miller. I told him he lived nearby but he already knew that.

We finished our trip with a visit to the Churchill War Rooms and a ride on the London Eye.

Later, to my surprise, I received the Painswick Beacon newspaper with brief details of my trip to London. As I stepped out of the door the following morning everyone was saying "Good Morning Ken".

Yes, it was a good trip and I am one of the lucky ones.



Your Committee

President: Eric Ede
 Chairman: Ian Beaton
 Deputy Chairman: Noel Phillips
 Treasurer: Chris Hill
 Honorary Secretary:
 Lorraine Wilson
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 Ray Bunnage
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Social Events sub committee:
 Pam Blackhall
 Ruth Aldridge
 Contact Pam on 01242 862685, email:
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Website/Social Media Manager:
 Ray Bunnage

Nicknames

I encountered all of these during my service. DUSTY Miller. CHALKY White. SOOTY Black. TIMBER Wood. SMUDGE Smith. NOBBY Clark. DUTCHY Holland. RAZOR Sharp. BUD Abbott. OLLIE Hardy. FLASH Gordon. TUG Wilson. JACK Robinson. SPUD Murphy. DINGER Bell. LOFTY....anyone over 6ft tall. TICH....anyone of small stature. JOCK....anyone with a Scottish accent. TAFF....anyone with a Welsh accent. PADDY....anyone with an Irish accent. SCOUSE....anyone with a Liverpool accent. GEORDIE....anyone with a Newcastle accent.

The challenge is - can any members add to this list?

David Downie

Editor's note: I recall an OC Admin by the name of Richard Head. He wasn't a fan of nicknames!

181 Air Training Squadron

On the 16th January 2016, 5 cadets collected a grand total of £221.75 for our Wings Appeal. Our thanks go to Edward, Harvey, Lawrence, Nathan and Zoe.

The squadron is holding its Annual General Meeting on Monday 25th July at 7.30pm. All branch members are invited to attend. Contact Ray for more details.

**Portivo Lounge
 First Tuesday of the month.
 Ask Pam for details**

Flowerdown House



Would you like a Wings Break at the beautiful Flowerdown House in Weston-Super-Mare?
 Need Financial help then contact your HWO.