



75 SQUADRON NZ ASSOCIATION

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75 SQN NZ ASSN REUNION 2010

The New Zealand Associations next reunion is now set for the weekend March 26, 27, 28 in 2010. The main accommodation and conference center will be in Palmerston North at the Coachman Motel. Arrivals and meet n greet on Friday night the 26th, the Bi-ennial General Meeting will be held in the Coachman on Saturday morning and then the evening dinner will be in the Palmerston North Convention Center. On the Sunday morning the remembrance service will be in the St Marks Chapel at RNZAF Base Ohakea, and then visiting aircraft and hangars, with lunch in the WOSNCO's Mess and Bar. Application details are included with this newsletter.

BEWARE THE BOGUS 75 SQUADRON BADGE PATCH



Somehow, somewhere someone commercially changed our badge !!!! Cloth embroidered badges of the RNZAF 75 Squadron, used for flying clothing or the like, have been found made in the design of RNZAF badges. The 75 SQN badge is originally an RAF Squadron badge - unique in the RNZAF.



The badge on the right was for sale on Trade-Me! The badge on the left is the correct type and format. We do not know how many are out there, but fortunately we noticed in time for committee members to prevent more being made for an order to the RNZAF Wigram museum. We suggest that the bogus patches are destroyed as they are not the authorised badge of the RNZAF 75 Squadron.

IN SEARCH OF ALL THOSE THAT SERVED ON 75 SQN

Over the past seven years Grp Capt Colin Hanson (rtd) and WgCdr Ron McFarlane (rtd) have been gathering together the history of 75 Squadron from the beginning in 1916, to the 'bitter end' in 2001. Editing and Canberra, Vampire and Mosquito history have been assembled by a number of other 75 Squadron personnel that will be featured in later newsletters. Some six thousand names of those that served on 75 Squadron have been listed and will be published in a separate volume. However, there are many names missing and therefore I have emailed and posted a personal information form to those I can find—or who find me. It has been of medium success, however of those that have sent their 75 history to me their information, stories and pictures have been simply awesome. To ensure your personal 75 history is correct before these volumes go to print, please contact the Secretary for a history form.

Special pages in honour

- Please note the new association postal and email address in the title block.
- A great read.....

AN OBSCURE CHANCE

Maurice Mc Greal, 1994.

A FISTFUL OF SPARKS

Wg Cdr A.G.E. Pugh, 1998.

WEDNESDAY BOMBER BOYS

RAF Bomber Command Assn, NZ, 2005.



The France & Germany Star - obverse view



The France & Germany Star.

Granted for operational service in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany between 6th June, 1944 and the 8th May 1945, inclusive.

Aircrew who flew on operations against the enemy over Europe or over the sea area in direct support of land operations, will qualify by one operational sortie.

The qualification for flying personnel posted or employed on air transport or ferrying duties will be three landings in Europe from bases in the Mediterranean area will be a qualification for the Italy Star and not for the France and Germany Star.



NZ RAF BOMBER COMMAND ASSN MEMORIAL

On the 1st of March 2009, the RAF Bomber Command New Zealand Association unveiled their new Memorial to fallen comrades in the Auckland War Memorial Museum. Designed by Weta workshops and costing NZD\$100,000 the freestanding sculpture made of bronze depicts a Lancaster crew with a marble background. It was unveiled by the RNZAF CAF AVM Lintott and the project manager W/CDR (Rtd.) Bill Simpson, QSO, DFC and President of the BCA.



Jack Meehan (P/OFF, WOAG, Lancasters, 1944), with the BCA memorial.

GRP CAPT ROY MAX, DSO, DFC

From 30 August 1943 to 15 May 1944 WgCdr Roy Douglas Max commanded 75 (NZ) SQN at RAF Mepal. Born near Nelson in 1918, Max joined the RNZAF in 1937, transferring to the RAF a year later and flew Fairey Battles and Wellingtons on 103 Sqn early in the war. For a mission over France he was awarded the Croix de Guerre but in the chaos of the collapsing French administration Max did not receive the honour. As a result of his nine months flying Stirlings and Lancasters, WgCdr Roy Max became a very popular and highly respected CO of 75 SQN. It was his wish that after his death, his medals were kept in New Zealand by the 75 SQN Association. Roy Max died aged 88 in England on 1 July 2007, and so his daughter presented the medals at a ceremony on the 19 December 2008 to the 75 SQN NZ Association President.

The Association has contracted the RNZAF Museum at Wigram to display the medals in safekeeping.



RON MCFARLANE

Ron entered the RNZAF in 1943, and trained in Canada as a Wireless/Air Gunner. Back to NZ Dec 1944, posted to 4(BR) SQN Venturas. Deployed to Solomons, (Pacific) May 1945 for long range bombing. After VJ day supported Corsairs back to NZ. Briefly with 2 Sqn, then 5 Sqn Hudsons and Catalinas in Fiji until 1949. 75 Sqn at Ohakea with Mosquitos until April 1952. Then 42 Sqn for 5 years, commissioned and awarded the AFC. 1957, Canberra training in the UK, flying jets to Tengah for 75 Sqn. Back to NZ Nov 1959, posted to 14 Sqn. Promoted to Sqn Ldr 1963. Nov 1964 to Dec 1969 HQ WGTN. Retired Feb 1970. Civil Aviation Division WGTN for 14 years. April 1984 retired at 60 years old and 40 years in government service. Olympic class board sailer, oil painter and winemaking.

NEW 75 SQN HISTORY



Ron and Colin have been collating the squadron history for seven years which will produce the most definitive detail of 75 SQN.

COLIN HANSON

Colin is from Invercargill, and joined the Home Guard in 1941 and the Air Training Corps in 1942. Enlisted in the RNZAF Dec 1942, and sent to Canada for WOAG training. Various Mosquito conversions in Canada and UK including Tiger Force. RTNZ Jan 1946. Reserve until 1947, then 75 SQN Mosquito—ADJ, Nav/WV, Nav Ldr. Devon ferry UK—NZ 1953, Canberra conv in RAAF and RAF, ferry Canberra UK to NZ 1958. Tengah to 1960, RNZAF HQ to 1962, various Intel appointments. Promoted SqnLdr, WgCdr and GrpCapt. OBE Jan 1974. Retired from RNZAF 8Sep 1977. Appointed founding director Government Communications Security Bureau—Sep 1977 to Feb 1988. Retired in Upper Hutt. Author "BY SUCH DEEDS", 1999.



SGT E.W. HARVEY MEMORIAL RESTORED IN NORWICH

On the night of 16 Dec 1942, an RAF 75 SQN Short Stirling R9245 (AA-N) was taking off from Newmarket on a mining mission to Bordeaux in France. The starboard wheel clipped the Devils Dyke and the aircraft crashed, exploding and killing all seven crew. The Air Bomber was SGT Edgar William Harvey, NZ41902 born in Milson, Auckland. He was buried in Lakenham at the St John Baptist Churchyard near Norwich. During bad weather in early 2008, the headstone was damaged. An RAF airwoman Cpl Dee Boneham, who is based at RAF Honington but living in Norwich, noticed this damage and made enquiries about Sgt Harvey to NZ that included the Auckland War Memorial Museum and 75 SQN NZ ASSN. Dee was supplied with all the archive details and a photo of Sgt Harvey. With this she cleaned and repaired the memorial to honour his sacrifice.



Coincidentally Sgt Harvey's nephew Chris Strong was looking for information about his Uncle back in May 2004. The 75 Squadron NZ Association sincerely thanks Cpl Dee Boneham for her dedication to honouring a New Zealand airman from WWII.

FOR SALE

A very astute association member and veteran of our Squadron purchased some time ago a vehicle number plate for a good sum of money. He now however would like to give some other lucky 75'er the prestige of owning these valuable plates. If you would like to be that person, please contact the Secretary and you will be put in touch with the plates owners.

75 SQDN

LOVE & MARRIAGE

There must be stories out there from some of you about working with, meeting, falling in love and getting married to fellow 75-ers. I know of one couple back in the late nineties. Anyone care to share a story?

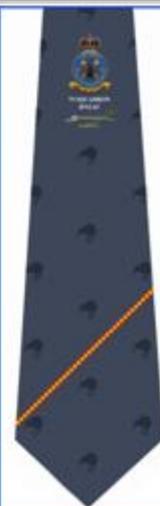
75 SQN CAP ON TOUR IN JAPAN + PHILLIPINES + HK++

F/SGT Mike Heikell at Ohakea recently gave me this cap that he had bought at a garage sale in Palmerston North. Source unknown, but has "Photographic" and "JIM", amongst place names embroidered into the cap. Any history would be welcome.



NEW SQN TIES

I have designed a new Squadron tie that has the badge and aircraft of each era. From Wellington's to Skyhawks. The kiwi's symbolise the aircraft roundels and the red stripe with gold diamonds the squadron colours. Costs to follow, production from orders.



ACF FLEETS STILL IN NZ

The Skyhawk and AerMacchi former RNZAF Air Combat Fleets disbanded and put up for sale by the NZ Government in 2001, are still in New Zealand. The MB339's are being looked after by a team from SAFEAir at Ohakea and flown once a month. The A4 fleet is parked outside at Woodbourne, each aircraft covered in latex, pending their sale with the MB339's as a combined fleet.

14 SQN REUNION

2010 is the year for air force reunions it seems! I have just been advised by Ian Uffindell that 14 Squadron personnel that served in Cyprus and Malaya from February 1952 to May 1958 will gather in Blenheim over the weekend March 8/9/10. With our reunion three weekends later, we hope that no one will be inconvenienced if they would like to attend both shows. Ian's contact is ianuff@xtra.co.nz

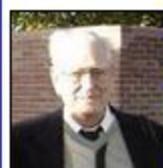
STIRLING PROJECT

A dedicated crew in England are researching to build part of a WW2 Short Stirling four engine heavy bomber. Of the 2383 built, no example exists today. Check out the website below and the data about this aircraft type that 75 (NZ) SQN RAF flew. <http://www.stirlingproject.co.uk/>

**LAST POST**

The Last Post is one of a number of bugle calls in military tradition which mark the phases of the day with origins in the 17th century. "Last Post" was incorporated into funeral and memorial services as a final farewell and symbolises that the duty of the dead is over and that they can rest in peace.

PLEASE ADVISE THE SECRETARY FOR LAST POST NOTICES.

RATTLE, Raymond Leo

1629141, SGT, FLIGHT ENGINEER, RAF. MAR to NOV 1944. Crewed with D. C. Brown.

Long time member of 75 SQN UK ASSN with wife Connie. Died 23 Jun 2008, suddenly in England.

Service held in Banbury.

Memorial service in October at Mepal plinth.

McLERNON, John Somers, 'Jock'

NZ4212768, FG OFF, PILOT, 28FEB to 4OCT 1945, TIGER FORCE. Crewed with R. Pearson. Jock was a valued Life Member of the 75 SQN Association, and enjoyed a long career flying for NAC and Air NZ after the war. Died 23 Dec 2008, aged 86 years in Opotiki.

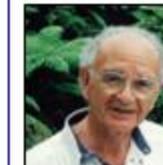
McLEOD, Hector Duncan

NZ4213273, FLT SGT, NAVIGATOR, 28NOV 1944 to 1MAY 1945. Crewed with L.W. Hannan, and completed 29 operational missions by VE day. Hector never married but was very involved with the local community in Marton, including the RSA and in the council as Deputy Mayor of Marton. Died 27 March 2009, aged 87 years in Marton.

McLELLAN, Ian Dudley

NZ4216740, W/O, AIR BOMBARDIER 23APR to 27SEP 1945, TIGER FORCE.

Ian initially joined the NZ Army in May 1942, and transferred to the RNZAF in Dec 1942, training in Canada and then Britain by May 1944. Flights including POW repatriation and Dutch food drops. From 1954 to 1965 commissioned in the Air Training Corps, retired as Sqn Ldr. Appointed RNZAF Relations Officer for Buller in 2004 until 2008. Died 28 November 2008, in Westport from cancer.

WOONTON, Colin William Hannam

NZ429055, PLT OFF, NAVIGATOR, 25MAY 1944 to 8JAN1945.

Colin was instrumental in fundraising for the building materials for the hangar which houses the Lancaster at Meola Road, Auckland (MOTAT). A commissioned painting of the Lancaster which Colin was the navigator of was donated by him to MOTAT accompanied by a commemorative plaque in his name. Colin is survived by his wife Maree, and their children, grand-children and great grandchildren. Died 14 March 2009 aged 89 years in Auckland, peacefully after a brief illness.

TAIT, James Calvert U'Ren

NZ431105, F/SGT, AIRGUNNER, 16FEB to 3JUL 1945. Crewed with T.C. Cox as Rear Gunner.

Flights including POW repatriation and Dutch food drops. Calvert became a respected physician in Wairoa, with credentials including M.B., CH.B., DIP. OBST., M.N.Z.C.G.P. Died 27 Sep 2008 aged 84 years in Wairoa.

WHITEMAN, Neville Morris, 'Turk'

J86718, GSH, ARMAMENT, OHAKEA

Turk worked for the Armament Engineering Squadron at RNZAF Ohakea from 1973 as the Raumai Range plotter, scorer, cook, coach, fireman, fisherman, instructor to all Armament tradesman and Aircrew RSO's alike, until his retirement at aged 60 in 1992! With his love of horses Turk trained successful winners at Raumai, such as *Viceroy*, *Ipleadinsanitee* and *Winknblink*. Died 26th Aug 2008 aged 76 years in Bulls.

WHITE, William Marshall Sibbald, 'Bill'

NZ4215816, FLT SGT, PILOT/FLIGHT ENGINEER, 16JUL to 30SEP 1945. TIGER FORCE. Crewed with A.G. Daly. Trained for pilots wings in Canada, with operational flights over Germany and Italy.

Returned to NZ and qualified as an Electrical Engineer. Working for the Tasman District Power Board, Bill was responsible for safety and serviceability inspections from Christchurch to the Marlborough Sounds and Nelson. Awarded a commendation for his services. Dedicated member of the Bomber Command Association and RNZAF with wife Barbara. Died 01Jan 2009 aged 87 years in Richmond, Nelson after a long illness.

SHEARER, Donald Babington

NZ4210512, PLT OFF, PILOT, 28FEB to 21JUL 1945. Crewed with S.L. Spilman.

Trained for pilots wings in Canada, with operational flights over Germany and Italy. On returning to New Zealand Don flew top dressing aircraft in the South Island. Later he was a successful accountant and spent many years in the local Bowling Club as Treasurer. Died 26 November 2008 aged 87 years in Mt Maunganui after a long illness.

THURSTON, Bary Ruthven

H77793, AIRCRAFT TECHNICIAN, LAC; 1AUG 1957 to 14FEB 1959. W/O; 8MAY 1978 to 18AUG 1980.

Bary joined the RNZAF in Jan 1955 and retired in July 1986, returning to work at Technical Planning as a civilian until March 1995. Bary was awarded the MBE in 1981 and the MSM in 1986. Significant contributions to 75 Sqn as maintenance W/O and Standard Party W/O at 75 Sqn Assn UK Reunion. Passionate interest in special cars and race vehicles. Died suddenly 7 March 2009, aged 71 years in Palmerston North.