



75 SQUADRON NZ ASSOCIATION

President: Graham Bethell
Secretary/Treasurer: Glen Turner
75 SQN NZ Association
c/- 3 Pain Street, Bulls 4818
New Zealand
75sqn.assnz@windwslive.com
Website: 75squadron-raf-rnzaf.com



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Special notes on borrow

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

THE RESTLESS SKY

AVM G E KAY CB, CBE, DFC, 1964.

UNDER A BOMBER'S MOON

STEPHEN HARRIS, 2009

INTO THE DRINK

IAN A MILLETT, 2000.

THE BALL BEARING RUN

WALTER WINWARD, 1981

THE HARDEST VICTORY

DENIS RICHARDS, 1994



75 SQN NZ ASSN REUNION 2010

The 75 Squadron Association of New Zealand held their biennial reunion in Palmerston North over the weekend 26-28 March 2010. The Coachman Hotel was the base of operations with the meet-n-greet and General Meeting held in their conference rooms. Tours to the Palmerston North Boys High School War Memorial Hall, the Massey School of Aviation to look at their new training aircraft, Dr Dave Baldwin's Flying Doctor hangar at Milson Airport and the Navalmen's Association Clubrooms were highlights of the organised events on Saturday. The formal evening Saturday dinner was held at the Palmerston North Convention Centre, with ex 75 Sqn Commanding Officer, Air Cdre Steve Moore providing the words of wisdom, experience and mirth as the guest speaker. The reunion was attended by some 140 people over the weekend at the various events - including 18 WW2 veterans, ex-CO's, ex-squadron serving personnel, family and associate members from all later eras of the Squadrons operations (including five families from Australia). The Sunday events were based at Ohakea with the Remembrance Service held outside St Marks Chapel in cold weather conditions. The special significance of this service was the unveiling and dedication of a new memorial monument to honour all those that have served on the No. 75 Squadron of the RFC, RAF and the RNZAF. It is copied from the two monuments at RAF Feltwell and RAF Mepal in England that were erected by



the 75 Squadron UK Assn, to honour those airmen that flew from these RAF Stations during WW2 in Wellington, Stirling and Lancaster bombers as part of No. 75(NZ) Squadron RAF. The Ohakea monument, is positioned on the grounds outside the St Marks Chapel's 75 Squadron stained glass window. Inside above the window hangs the second RNZAF 75 Squadron Standard and in the foyer is one of the two official 'Rolls of Honour' of the Squadrons battle losses. The other ROH is displayed in the Church of St Andrew at Sutton-in-the-Isle in England. Secretary of the New Zealand 75 Squadron Association SGT Glen Turner, decided that New Zealand needed a memorial that ex 75 Squadron personnel from all era's could utilise for remembrance and commemorative services so therefore gained approval from Ohakea senior Officers, and began building a new memorial in February. With the help of Higgins Bulls, Mr Mike Hay (bricklayer), Placemakers PN, Monier bricks and Professional Plaques Otaki, Sgt Turner completed building the Ohakea memorial just two days before the reunion. Mr Allan Alexander (75 SQN Stirling pilot of 30 Op's, DFC, 91 yrs old) assisted the Association President Mr Graham Bethell in unveiling the monument, and Flt Lt Murray Thompson was the officiating RNZAF Padre. Wreaths, wooden crosses and poppies were laid by all those attending in remembrance of family, friends and colleagues lost, absent or since departed. The reunion was completed after the service with lunch in the Ohakea Officers Mess, and an inspection of some aircraft in No. 1 hangar that included a Spitfire, Vampire, Skyhawk, Tiger Moth, Airtrainer and Harvard. The weekend was thoroughly enjoyed by all and the President announced his appreciation and gratitude to the Secretary and his team for the enormous efforts in organising the reunion. A special newsletter edition of photos from the Reunion will be published in due course.





The Distinguished Flying Cross - obverse view



The Distinguished Flying Cross

The Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) was established on 3 June 1918. It was awarded to junior officers and senior non commissioned officers of the Royal Air Force for 'an act or acts of valour, courage and devotion to duty performed whilst flying in active operations against the enemy'. DFC's have been awarded to 877 New Zealanders, DFC + Bar 62, DFC + two Bars 3. There were 153 DFC's awarded to airman that flew on 75 (NZ) SQN, with 5 of these being awarded a bar to their DFC. The most recent awards were for service in Vietnam. Since 1993 the DFC has been made available to all ranks in the United Kingdom.

In 1999 the DFC was replaced in NZ by the *New Zealand Gallantry Decoration*.

DESMOND HORGAN (NZ39012)

Desmond George Geddes HORGAN from Temuka joined the RNZAF in September 1939 at the age of 25, and qualified as a NCO Pilot. He joined No.75(NZ) Squadron in August 1943 at RAF Mepal flying the Short Stirling. As a F/SGT and later a W/O,



Des was aircraft captain of 22 operations over Germany, France, Belgium and Italy laying mines and bombing Essen, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, rail yards and V1 sites. On at least two of these raids, Des brought his crippled aircraft back to Mepal and ensured his crew were safe before successfully crash landing. After converting to the Avro Lancaster in April 1944, Des and his crew flew another 8 Operations completing their tour five weeks later. Des was adamant that these operations were amongst the toughest in Bomber Commands strategy at the time. As the only Pilot Warrant Officer there, Des

became involved with mentoring and counselling the many aircrew that approached him for support and guidance during a very difficult period which had the Squadron known as the "The chop squadron!". For this exemplary work he earned the gratitude of the crews and the Base CO, but unfortunately not his Squadron Commanders - their personal opinions of Des denied him of any formal RAF recognition. Des also featured in the film "75 Squadron and Bomber Command Night after Night". So despite Des Horgan's outstanding



Operational record, he was not recommended by his CO's for the DFC that he so deserved. After leaving 75 Sqn, Des was promoted to FLTLT and flew as a test pilot on 31 and 73 RAF bases. For this work he was awarded the "Citation Mention in Despatches for meritorious service". Des retired from the RNZAF in January 1946, but remained as a Reservist until Jun 1956. He managed a successful Construction Company and family long after the war, and has maintained an impeccable personal standing at the age of 95 years old. It is unfortunate that the Association cannot formally recognise Des's wartime work with a DFC, but we do acknowledge the extraordinary personal skills and dedication to his service work during WW2, 66 years ago. We salute and thank you Des.

MEDALS FOR VALOUR ARE NOT 'WON'!

Editors comment: The recognition of courageous and brave acts during active service or otherwise, is usually by the awarding of a suitable medal, (ie. DFC, DFM, VC, etc.) as recommended to higher authorities by the chain of command (eg. CO to AirHQ to Govt/HRH). However, many reporters or writers of history often use the term 'won' or 'winning' when referencing these instances. Terminology is important, so when it is described that Sgt James Ward 'won' a Victoria Cross (VC) by climbing out on the wing of his aircraft while in flight—this is quite incorrect. Sgt Ward's CO recommended to his superiors that he be awarded a medal for his courageous actions. The VC was duly bestowed on him by King George VI. He did not run a race and came first! These airman did not climb into their aircraft each night thinking — "I'm going to win me a medal tonight!" Writers should get this prose correct and not use the term 'won' with respect to the awarding of medals for valour.

RNZAF NEWS

Check out the Vol 25, # 1 edition of the RNZAF News. Features an article about Desmond Horgan and the 75 Sqn Assn March 2010 Reunion.

OUR 75 SQN STORY ON CD/DVD

The complete and concise history of the four lives of 75 SQN RAF and RNZAF will be published in a DVD format. The huge amount of data and pictures to make and print a glossy book will be economically impossible, so the new Editor-in-Chief of the Project Stu Boys (A/Cdr), has announced that a DVD disc will be produced at a more acceptable cost for all.



WELLINGTON's WERE NOT RNZAF

A photograph of a line-up of Vickers Wellington Mk1c's that has often been used in publications, books and articles for the RNZAF, about the NZ Squadron at RAF Marham or No. 75 (NZ) Squadron at RAF Feltwell has been identified as taken at RAF Stradishall, several months before the beginning of WW2. No Squadron markings are evident, but the single gun in the nose shows these aircraft to be before the Fraser-Nash multi gun turrets were fitted. While visiting RAF Station Honington last year the Secretary discovered that No. 215 Squadron RAF also named them as their aircraft. The photo archives at RAF Northolt however, showed that this picture was taken on the 10th of July 1939 at RAF Stradishall in Suffolk. After researching the daily station records of RAF Stradishall and Honington at the Kew archives in London, these Wellington's are most likely to be ten aircraft from No. 9 Squadron preparing for deployment to Brussels as a show of RAF strength conducted by several RAF Squadrons at the time. No. 9 Squadron later had a very distinctive badge with a green bat painted below the pilots window and also shared Stradishall with No.148 squadron, until No.75(B) Squadron from Honington swapped with No.9 Squadron a week after this photo was taken! As No's 148 and 75(B) Squadrons were training units, RAF Stradishall ceased to be an Operational base on the 15th July 1939 and became the No. 3 Group Training Station. Meanwhile The NZ Bomber Squadron (or Flight!) was assembling at RAF Marham in Norfolk about this time and had only received 6 of the 30 new Wellington 1c's before moving to RAF Harwell. Therefore, this picture is **not** of the NZ Flight or personnel and should **not** be used with reference to 75 (NZ) SQN.



FANSHAW HISTORY REQUIRED

Flt Lt Fanshaw spent many years with 75 Squadron, on deployment in NZ and Asia, as well as numerous 'stolen' trips around the world by other enemy forces! He was a special member of the Squadron and was displayed in the Ohakea Museum for some six years after disbandment. When the RNZAF Museum closed the Ohakea wing in 2007 he was 'posted' away to Wigram Christchurch. His life events is now being sought to establish his pedigree and family tree. If anyone has pictures, stories or history about the famous 75 Squadron Panda bear in flying clothing, please email or post to the Secretary.



NEW WEBSITE

The 75 Squadron Association now has a new website. The domain name has been purchased and construction has begun. It is hoped that the first set of online pages will be available in the next few months. The site will cover all four lives of the RAF and RNZAF No. 75 SQN.

JOHN MARSHALL - ARTIST

John Marshall remembers vividly the Lancaster's of 100 Sqn at the nearby airfield of RAF Waltham, flying over his house for night Operations across Europe during WW2. This special memory has lead John to develop a talent for painting Lancaster's, amongst other aircraft and subjects, here in New Zealand. John and his wife Jackie immigrated to NZ in 1973 and moved to Marton in 2005. Two years ago, a local bookshop owner (Ross Marshall) kindly allowed John the use of some 'office space' for a studio and he has been busy since painting Lancaster, Spitfire and Stirling aircraft for customers and friends. Many of his aviation paintings have been commandeered by Dave Baldwin for display in his hangar at Palmerston North airport. For the 75 Sqn Association's reunion just held in March, John painted a fantastic copy of the photo of the 100th Op 'bomb' being applied onto the nose of the *Captain's Fancy*. If you would like a painting of your aircraft or your relatives aircraft they flew in with it's own numbers and markings; in flight, on the ground, being bombed up or your crew standing by, then John can paint this for you.



John Marshall lives in Feilding and can be contacted through the 75SqnAssn Secretary.

ASSN LANYARDS

The Secretary has designed and purchased 700 lanyards featuring the aircraft profiles created by Mel Douglas used on the new Assn ties.

Cost \$6 each



**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.

SIMPSON, Alexander Dunbar (Sam)

NZ427055, FGOFF, PILOT, DFC
12OCT 1944 to 10MAR 1945
131800, FLT LT, PILOT RNZAF Reserve to 7Feb 1957.

Initially from Wanganui, Sam joined the RNZAF in July 1942, and trained as a pilot. He joined 75(NZ) Sqn in Oct44 and completed 35 Ops all over Europe in 5 months. His 22nd Op, was as the pilot of NE181 (JN-M) "The Captains Fancy" on it's 101st Op - a day raid to Ludwigshaven on 5Jan45. Posted to 1688 BDTF as a Fighter simulator instructor Mar45, he taught bomber pilots to corkscrew the Lancaster and evade enemy fighters. On 23Sep45 Sam flew a Lancaster into Gatow-Berlin to tour the city 'observing' the Allied bombing damage from the ground. He flew more than 400hrs in the Lancaster and was awarded the DFC in Nov45 for his 75(NZ) Sqn duty. From 1946, Sam flew for Rural Aviation in New Plymouth and Feilding until 1958 and with wife Nora had three children. Moving to Sydney Sam sold Cessnas for Myles King-Rex Aviation until 1964, then moved to Perth and later Queensland. Sam returned to NZ growing strawberries near Mangonui in Northland, and has five grand-children. Sam is survived by his wife Robbie in Cable Bay. Died 13 October 2009 aged 85 years, in Kaitia.

BENTON-MANDENO, Eleanor Joyce

Wife of Cpl Arthur M. (Ben) BENTON,
NZ41461, RNZAF Armaments Fitter,
75(NZ) SQN, Mepal.

Eleanor and her daughter Melanie have for many years been instrumental in the regular meetings, functions and contact for the Auckland Area 75(NZ) Squadron members. Their most recent major event was the organising and hosting of the 2008 Association Biennial Reunion in Auckland. Eleanor was a huge driving force keeping the veterans together, and is greatly missed by all members and family. Died 11 March 2009 aged 78 years, suddenly in Auckland.

SMITH, Keith James Stockley (Jimmy)

NZ411783, FSGT, WIRELESS OPERATOR/AIRGUNNER,
q/w J. McCullough as W/Op
11AUG 1942 to 3FEB 1943

After training as a WOP/AG, Jimmy joined 75(NZ) Sqn in August 1942. He survived several crashes, but was on his 29th Op in Stirling #BK604, AA-S, when they were shot down by a night-fighter over Holland on 3rd February 1943. After hospital treatment he was interred in Stalag Lamsdorf as POW No. 27557. Later promoted to W/O, he endured and survived the Nazi's forced march of POW's across Germany before VE day. Back in NZ, Jimmy had a great business career in the oil industry with Atlantic and Mobil, retiring from senior management in 1982. Jimmy was a top golfer, playing in his first NZ amateur champs at 17 in 1939, while after the war he was senior rep of 5 provinces, and champion of 4 different clubs over a 15 year period, was involved with golfing administration, and was one of NZ's early Golfing Eagles. A life member of the Shandon Golf Club, Jimmy was one of four brothers, who all served in action overseas during WW2 and also Korea. The husband of the late Lorna and father of Mike, Pam and Ian. Dearly loved husband of Irene of the last four years. Died 13 October 2009 aged 87 years, in Wellington.

EGGLESTONE, Valentine Richard (Dick)

NZ429998, FLT LT, PILOT
24DEC 1944 to 30APR 1945

Originally from Otane, Dick piloted 27 Lancaster Operations from Mepal and was immensely proud of his 75(NZ) Sqn service. Back in NZ, he completed a carpentry course in Hastings, and became a Drum Major of the local brass band. Lured to Te Awamutu to play in their brass band in 1951, he worked in a joinery and specialised in making wooden blinds. This became his business - "The Blind Man", with wife Shirley. He supplied blinds to John Garland and Frank Stott for years before they realised they had all been on 75(NZ) Sqn together! In 1985, Dick 'officially' retired, and became an original Patron of the RSA "Wheelchair wagon trust". Husband of Shirley, father of Lesley, Vicki, Kim and Paul deJong. Grandfather to Ethan, Bradley and Bianca. Died 1 November 2009 aged 86 years, in Te Awamutu.

OHAKA MEMORIAL DEDICATION