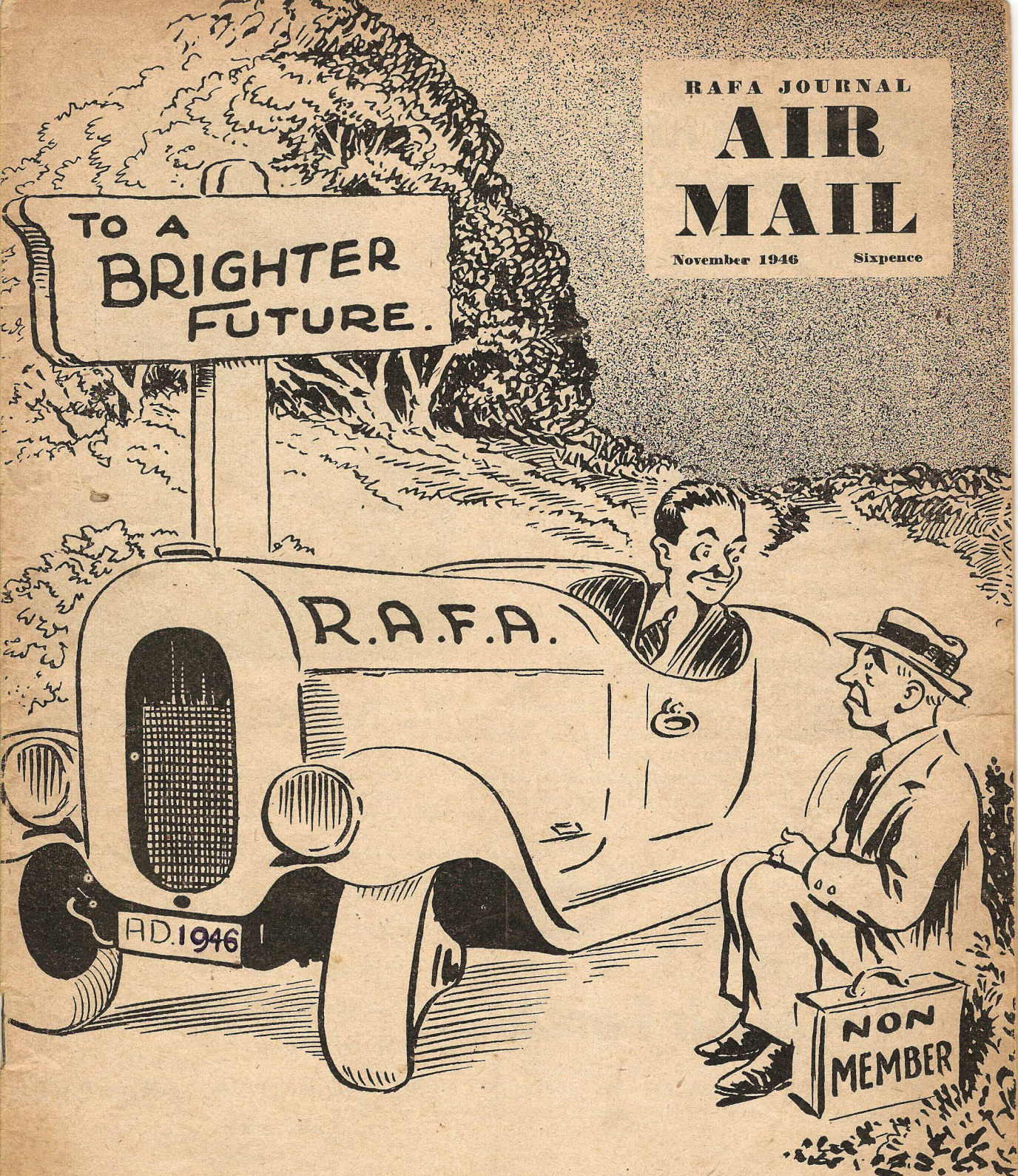


RAFA JOURNAL

AIR MAIL

November 1946

Sixpence



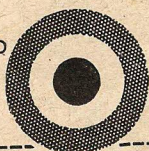
56 "WANT A 'LIFT' CHUM?" Will Paterson



Remember the time you and Bill did a complete plug change — both engines — in twenty minutes? Good going, wasn't it? The Flight Commander made his dusk sortie after all, and got two 88s. *You* had had a big share in those two kills.

There's still room for you in the R.A.F. If you miss the old life, and "civvy street" is not all you expected, here's your opportunity to rejoin. The new Bounty Scheme — worth £125 tax free for 4 years' service on top of increased pay rates — is open to airmen under 42. You keep your old rank. You enjoy improved peace-time conditions.

LONG-TERM SERVICE . . . of 5 or 10 years is open in 100 trades to men of 17½ to 33 from civil life.



*I am interested in * joining/rejoining the*
(* Strike out word which does not apply.)

Royal Air Force

NAME..... No.....

ADDRESS

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Post to:

Air Ministry, I.R., Victory House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2



"My Target's got wheels!"

"Yes, I'm keen as mustard on saving for my Target. Couldn't be keener if I were the Chancellor himself! You see, to me, my target's far more than just a sum of money—it's the price of the 4-door saloon car I've set my heart on. Reckon it's the same for most of us. After all, who *hasn't* something they've set their heart on? And isn't saving the way to get it?"



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RAFA JOURNAL AIR MAIL



Certified Circulation 151,000

Read by 1,000,000

November 1946

Sixpence

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Correspondence

All correspondence, including manuscripts, photographs, advertising and business should be addressed to:

THE EDITOR, AIR MAIL,
Mersey House, 134 Fleet Street,
London, EC4

High rates are paid for light stories and cartoons. Rejected matter will be returned only when a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed. Although every care will be taken, no responsibility can be accepted for the safe return of drawings or manuscripts.

MY DEAR MEMBER,

One authority estimated that 15 million people listened to the RAFA Festival of Reunion at the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday afternoon, September 22—in memory of those of our friends who have passed on, and in tribute to those who remain to keep that memory fresh. Upwards of a hundred of our standards made a colourful background which caught the imagination of everyone present; of light blue and dark blue and gold to the eye, to the mind a symbol of our purpose and of the progress we have made.

Our Reunion was complete to the extent that most branches arranged meetings that afternoon. Our members, and our potential members, all over the world, joined hands across the ether in the spirit of real comradeship—through their memories, and by their determination to stick together. Johnny-Head-in-Air and Johnny-on-the-Ground are pledged to see that the wishes of Johnny-Underground are fulfilled. That is our job.

A point should perhaps be made. It is that what some of us may have done to build the Association towards its future will have been wasted if we do not back up those we elect to guide us; whether in Council or Executive Committee, at Headquarters or in a Branch. We must abide by the decisions of the majority even when we don't applaud them—the one-way street which is leading us to success.

We have been lucky and have not made too many mistakes. Flourishing like the green bay tree, our roots are in good soil and our branches are rapidly growing stronger every day.

The Festival of Reunion, that memorable Sunday, linked as it was all over the world by the radio network, was indeed a happy inspiration. I may be forgiven for wishing it will henceforth become an annual affair, waxing in strength.

Those who saw or heard the broadcast could but have been conscious of a certain something in the air. What was it? The spirit of those who belong to the Air, members all of what I may be forgiven yet again for referring to as the Finest Service in the Greatest Empire the World has ever known.

Yours sincerely,

E. Howard Williams

Chairman of the Executive Committee

RAFA News Room

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At the 61st Meeting held in London on July 30, new branches were approved at: Accrington, Camborne & Redruth, Colne & Nelson, St. Ives (Cornwall), Sherborne, Sidcup, Southall, Stockton, and Trinidad.

Minutes of the Meeting held on July 16, were taken as read and passed.

Matters arising out of the Minutes. After hearing a report by Sir Robert Saundby on his recent visit to Northern Ireland, the Executive Committee recommended that an official letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. Gainford. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Regional Representative of Northern Ireland to ascertain his proposals for the Staff of the Northern Ireland Office, these proposals to include an Employment Officer.

Premises. The Committee agreed to make every endeavour to hasten the work now being carried on at 83 Portland Place.

Conference for Branch Officials—Agenda. The Committee considered and approved the proposed agenda for this Conference.

Staff Sub-Committee Report. The Executive Committee discussed the minutes of the 5th meeting of the staff sub-committee and agreed to recommend to the Council that Liaison Officers' salaries be brought into line with any increase that may be approved for Area Employment Officers.

The proposed draft of distribution of duties and re-grading of staff was held over for further discussion at the next meeting.

The finance sub-committee was given power to act in the matter of loans to branches where the pro-forma has been satisfactorily completed and the granting of such a loan deemed proper.

BRANCH REQUESTS

Liphook. The Committee recommended that those members wishing to form a sub-branch at Liphook should remain on the strength of the Haslemere and Hindhead branch until there were sufficient numbers to form a separate branch at Liphook.

Rushden. The Secretary was instructed to approach Air Ministry to ascertain whether, on the closing down of RAF stations, Station Commanders could be requested to advise local branches of the RAF Association in order that they may be given the opportunity to purchase surplus non-public equipment and office requisites.

Burnley. The Executive Committee considered the request from the Burnley branch, but could not see their way clear to advancing a loan of £150 as requested. The branch was advised to tell Headquarters of the minimum amount required to enable them to launch their proposed entertainments programme, stating the specific purpose for which the loan was required. The matter would then be referred to the finance sub-committee.

RAFA Posters. The Executive Committee considered the price of the new posters and decided to share the cost of posters with branches. This means that posters will now be available to branches at 3d each.

Tees-Side. The Committee approved the change of name of the Tees-side branch to Middlesborough.

Publicity Folders. The Executive Committee approved an expenditure up to £250 for publicity folders for RAFA Week, a number to be distributed free to each branch.

Member Dismissed from the Service. The Committee considered the case of a certain officer, but regretted that, under Rule 8 of the Association's Rules, he was not eligible for membership.

Rifle Club. The Secretary was instructed to write to W/C Pearce, c/o AR8, for further information on this matter.

Trustees. A letter was read from A/C Whitney Straight to the Chairman on his election as Trustee.

Attendance of Council Members at Meetings. The Executive Committee considered a letter criticising non-attendance of

Regional Representatives at Council Meetings, and instructed the Secretary to advise Regional Representatives that if they could not themselves attend such meetings, it was most important to send a deputy.

Any Other Business

Carlisle. The Executive Committee considered a request from the Carlisle branch for a return of 100 per cent of a donation of £100, but did not feel justified in creating a precedent by departing from the accepted procedure. The Secretary was instructed to advise the branch that they could apply for a loan if necessary.

Welfare of South African Wives. The Secretary was instructed to contact the Victoria League to obtain names and addresses of any South African wives of British airmen in Great Britain who would welcome a visit of a lady member or wife of a member of the Association.

At the 62nd Meeting held in London on September 3, new branches were approved at: Alloa, Burnham-on-Sea, Callington, Cannock Chase, Cobham, Crediton, Erfield, Fulham, Fort William, Guernsey, Haverfordwest, Henley-on-Thames, Jamaica, New Milton, Newry, Penarth, Port Talbot, Richmond (Yorks), Saffron Walden, Shepton Mallet, Sidmouth, Stirling, Stratford-on-Avon and Streatham and Norbury.

Minutes of the Meeting held on July 30 were taken as read and passed.

Matters Arising out of the Minutes

Premises. The Acting Secretary reported on the work being carried out at 83 Portland Place and 14 Park Crescent.

Northern Ireland Office. It was reported that the Northern Ireland Office Committee were holding a meeting on September 7, in order to elect a Vice Chairman, and to appoint a Selection Committee for the staff vacancies.

Appointment of Chief Executive Officer. A draft of the advertisement to be published in AIR MAIL for the vacancy of a Chief Executive Officer was approved, and it was agreed that October 31 would be the closing date for receipt of applications.

The Secretary was instructed to refer all correspondence on the subject of this post to Group Officer Dacre, the Honorary Secretary appointed by the Council Sub-Committee.

The Secretary was further instructed to contact Air Ministry and the Appointments Board of the Ministry of Labour with reference to the post, and to arrange for the insertion of an advertisement in the *Times* and *Daily Telegraph*, the copy for which will be handed to him by the Chairman of Council.

Managing Editor. It was resolved that the Association appoint a Managing Editor at a salary of £550 per annum and that an advertisement to this effect be published in the *Times* and *Daily Telegraph*.

The Secretary was instructed to arrange the insertion of the advertisements which would be handed to him by Chairman of Council. This vacancy also to be published in AIR MAIL and notified to Air Ministry and the Appointments Board of the Ministry of Labour.

Air Mail. The Chairman reported that owing to shortage of paper for printing AIR MAIL, all possible reductions would have to be made in bulk supplies that were not considered essential.

The Secretary was instructed to stop the issue of AIR MAIL to all members who had not paid their subscription. It was agreed that in order to speed up despatch, the printers' estimate of an increased charge of 5/- per thousand on individual copies wrapped be accepted.

Next Council Meeting. It was resolved that the next Council Meeting be held on Saturday, October 26, 1946, at the South Kensington Hotel, 41 Queens Gate Terrace, SW7.

RAFA Festival of Reunion. The Chairman reported that the RAFA Festival which was being held at the Royal Albert Hall on Septem-

ber 22, was going ahead satisfactorily, and that arrangements were being made for the Festival to be broadcast.

BRANCH REQUESTS

Grays. A request from the Grays branch to change its name to Thurrock was approved.

Cardiff (Ely). The letter from Cardiff (Ely) branch relating to a certain member was considered and it was agreed that the name of the member concerned should be noted at Headquarters, and appropriate action taken if necessary.

Gosport. The request from Gosport branch that a certain member be allowed to hold dual offices was considered, and it was agreed that permission be given, but that the branch be requested to discontinue the arrangement as soon as it was considered opportune.

Halton and Mid-Bucks. A letter on the question of replacement of Civilian Instructors by service personnel was brought to the notice of the Executive Committee, and the Secretary was instructed to advise the branch regarding Air Ministry policy on this question.

Buckingham Gate. Application from the Buckingham Gate branch to change its name to Roundel branch was considered by the Committee, but was not approved. Further suggestions were invited from the branch.

Branch Dues. In accordance with the resolution of the 14th Meeting of Council, the Secretary was instructed to take appropriate action in respect of the branches concerned.

Remembrance Day. The Secretary reported on arrangements which were being made to obtain allocation of space for representation of the Association at the Remembrance Day celebration in London. As soon as the necessary information was to hand, arrangements would be made to apportion the space between branches desirous of attending.

Unveiling Ceremony—RAF Memorial. Arrangements for the unveiling ceremony of the RAF Memorial on Sunday, September 15, were reported to the Committee. The Memorial is to be unveiled by Lord Trenchard, who will take the salute after the ceremony.

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee. After discussion, the Committee adopted the report of the 4th Meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee, and it was resolved that the Executive Committee approve the suggestion given by the Finance Sub-Committee that the period of repayment to be up to ten years repayable in half yearly instalments.

It was resolved that the Finance Sub-Committee be authorised to approve loans up to two-thirds of valuation, on cost, whichever the lesser, on any property acquired for branch premises.

The monthly financial statement as at July 31, 1946, together with the list of accounts due for payment, were approved.

Association Cups. The Acting Secretary reported that the two cups, formerly held by J. R. Thomas, Esq., had now been received at Headquarters. The Secretary was instructed to ask donors if these could be made available for competition when Rifle, Sports or other sections were formed.

RAFA Film. The Chairman stated that he would make enquiries regarding the film of the "Battle of Britain" for publicity purposes, and would report on its suitability.

Journal—AIR MAIL. The Chairman stated that the Association's lawyers had prepared articles for the formation of the RAFA Publishing Company to take over the publication of AIR MAIL. The Honorary Treasurer agreed to investigate the matter and report to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

Royal Naval Air Service—Clarification in Rules. The Acting Secretary reported that owing to the wording of Rule 8, persons who had served in the Fleet Air Arm, or as it is now known, the Royal Naval Air Service, were applying for membership of the Association. In order to specify that the "Royal Naval Air Service" in rule 8 referred to the RNAS prior to April 1,

RAFA News Room—continued

1918, it was agreed that application forms be altered accordingly. The Secretary was instructed to inform all branches.

Any Other Business. The Acting Secretary read correspondence and was instructed to notify the Company that, in future, correspondence with branches should not convey the wording or impression that they were acting on behalf of, or by arrangement with Headquarters.

The Committee confirmed that no authority had been given by them to any commercial undertaking to circularise branches or members in an endeavour to promote business.

Staff Lunches. It was resolved that the question of subsidised lunches for members of the staff shall be reconsidered by the Executive Committee when graduation of staff has been completed.

At the 63rd Meeting held in London on September 17, new branches were approved at:—Barnoldswick, Chelsea, Coleraine, Dorchester, Hong Kong, Liskeard & Looe, Wellington (Somerset), Woolwich and Workington.

Minutes of the Meeting held on September 3rd were taken as read and passed, subject to the following minor alteration—insert "1945" before subscription.

Apologies. Apologies were received from Squadron Leader J. K. Milne and K. T. Jago, Esq.

Matters arising out of the Minutes

Premises. The Secretary stated there was nothing to report, although work in connection with 83 Portland Place appeared to be going ahead very well.

The Secretary was instructed to expedite the authority from the London County Council for permission to use 14 Park Crescent.

Appointment of Chief Executive Officer. The Secretary reported that advertisements were being inserted in AIR MAIL, the *Times* and *Daily Telegraph*, giving notice that a vacancy exists for a Chief Executive Officer, and that Air Ministry and the Ministry of Labour had also been advised.

Appointment of Managing Editor. The Secretary reported that an advertisement was being inserted in AIR MAIL giving notice that a vacancy exists for a Managing Editor, and that he hoped also to get advertisements inserted in the *Times* and *Daily Telegraph*. The Air Ministry and Ministry of Labour had also been advised.

Persons using the Name of the Association. The Secretary was instructed to notify all branches that it is contrary to the policy of the Association to sponsor any private enterprise, except if approved by the Executive Committee, when a letter will be sent by the Secretary in each instance.

RAFA Festival of Reunion. The Chairman reported that H.M. The King had graciously given his consent for the Royal Box to be used for disabled ex-airmen at the Royal Albert Hall at the RAFA Festival of Reunion on Sunday, September 22, and that these seats were being allocated accordingly. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Royal Albert Hall and reserve it for the Sunday after Battle of Britain Week for the 1947 RAFA Festival.

BRANCH REQUESTS

Leeds. The proposition from the Leeds branch regarding assistance from the RAF Benevolent Fund for members who wish to emigrate, was considered by the Executive Committee, and the Secretary was instructed to obtain information from the Benevolent Fund.

Chesterfield. The Secretary was instructed to represent the facts contained in a letter from the Chesterfield branch to the Air Ministry through Group Captain Ellerton, and in the meanwhile, to reply to the branch indicating that this is being done and advising the branch on the steps to be taken.

AIR MAIL. The Accountant was instructed to have amended renewal slips inserted

in the November and December editions of AIR MAIL.

The Treasurer was empowered to negotiate for the formation of the RAFA Publishing Company, with the Association's lawyers.

Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the Staff Sub-Committee. The Executive Committee considered the Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the Staff Sub-Committee, and the recommendations made in paragraph 7 were approved.

It was resolved that a special Sub-Committee be appointed to review the general policy of Headquarters organisation, and to make recommendations to the Executive Committee.

The following were elected to this Committee:

F/L Vernon Blunt.
V. Goodhand, Esq.
K. T. Jago, Esq.

Draft Council Agenda. The Executive Committee considered the draft Council Agenda and approved it after several additions have been made. The Agenda will be issued one month before the next meeting of the Council, which is on October 26, 1946.

DWAAF Representative of the Executive Committee. The Chairman reported that Group Officer Dacre had retired as the Air Ministry Representative to the Council and Executive Committee, but that she would remain a member of the Council and Executive Committee in accordance with paragraph 6 of Council Minutes, dated August 31, 1946. Her place was taken by Squadron Officer M. Montefiore.

The Chairman duly welcomed Squadron Officer Montefiore to the Executive Committee.

Battle of Britain Week. The Secretary was instructed to bring forward the question of Battle of Britain Week for the first meeting of the Executive Committee in the New Year.

Annual Conference, 1947. The Secretary read a letter which had been received by W/C Sir Robert Pigot on the question of the Annual Conference, which is to be held in Edinburgh next year. The Secretary was instructed to write to Sir Robert Pigot and thank him for the efforts he had made in this connection.

Remembrance Day. The Secretary reported that the Association had been allocated two columns of 300 persons each, making a total of 600 persons, for the Parade on Remembrance Day, November 10, 1946. The Secretary was instructed to notify all branches. The Secretary was also instructed to apply to the Home Office for window space in Whitehall for 12 members of Council to see the procession. S.E.B.

A donation of £133 has been received by the Peterborough branch from Mr. John Steenson, the branch President, who is also the Manager of the Theatre Royal and Empire, Peterborough. The above donation is the balance of money contributed by patrons of the theatre towards the cigarette fund for the troops, which has been running through the war. This scheme has now been discontinued, and the balance of money in hand has been divided between the British Legion and the Peterborough branch of the RAF Association.

The donation is hereby acknowledged with the grateful thanks of the Council.

THINK ON THIS!

If you work for a man, in Heaven's name work for him. If he pays you wages that supply your bread and butter, work for him; speak well of him; stand by him and stand by the institution he represents. If put to a pinch, an ounce of loyalty is worth a pound of cleverness. If you must vilify, condemn, and eternally disparage, why, resign your position, and, when you are outside, damn to your heart's content. But as long as you are a part of the institution do not condemn it. If you do, you are loosening the tendrils that hold you to the institution, and the first high wind that comes along, you will be uprooted and blown away in the blizzard's track, and probably you will never know why.

ELBERT HUBBARD.

OUR PRESIDENT

Lord Newall, OM, Marshal of the RAF and recent Governor General of New Zealand, has just been unanimously elected President of the Royal Air Forces Association, in which he has always shown considerable interest. Air Marshal Sir Robert Saundby is the Chairman of the Council, and Air Commodore E. L. Howard-Williams is Chairman of the Executive Committee of the RAFA as it is now becoming widely known.

During the last two and a half years this Association has grown from a handful of branches and a few hundred members, to nearly 400 branches and rising 150,000 members. Their aim is 1,000,000 members in 1,000 branches.

Lord Newall's first function for the RAFA was when he attended the Festival of Reunion at the Royal Albert Hall, which the *Daily Telegraph* sponsored. The Festival was broadcast to make the Reunion complete. Arrangements were made for members all over the world to attend at branch centres to hear the broadcast.

Lord Newall at one time commanded the independent brigade of the RFC and was closely associated with Lord Trenchard from those early days. Both Lady Newall and he are indefatigable workers, with a charm of their own. He was Chief of the Air Staff at the outbreak of war until after the Battle of Britain had been fought and won. Lord Trenchard was the former President.

WELFARE

August/September, 1946

Enquiries for assistance and advice on matters appertaining to a variety of subjects, in addition to personal interviews, are still keeping this department busy. Owing to the expansion of the RAFA, by opening new branches, the work has greatly increased.

During August and September the number of letters answered was 602; cards sent 49 and personal interviews 177. In addition, 3 resettlement Government grants were successfully obtained, and 4 licences.

POST BAG

"I must thank you for the good news and wishes conveyed in your letter of the 12th, and also in the telegram. The telegram put an end to what has been a long period of waiting and wondering. The enclosed will, I hope, cover postage, etc., and help to carry on the good work. Thanking you once more."

"Very many thanks for your letter of the 3rd inst. I am very pleased to receive your information re . . . and thank you very much for your very prompt reply. Again thanking you very much."

"I am pleased to inform you that I have been granted a licence . . . I have no doubt that you have helped me considerably and I do sincerely thank you. When I am in the clear financially I will give proof of my gratitude. I am proud to have served in the RAF and equally proud to be a member of the RAFA."

"I am writing to thank you for all you did for me with regard to my grant from the Ministry of . . . I received my money to-day for which I am very grateful. Once again thank you very much, I take this opportunity of wishing the Association every success."

"Thank you very much for your letter. It is really invaluable to have such an infallible and omniscient library of knowledge at one's beck and call."

"Many thanks for your letter and post-card, also for the trouble you've gone to to help me get this position . . . Once again my thanks for all you've done and for the good wishes for my future. I shall certainly do my darnedest to make good."

"I write to tell you that the Committee of the RAF Benevolent Fund (Disablement branch), have generously granted me a loan which covers all my difficulties and enables me to face the future with hope and confidence. I am indeed grateful. At the moment there is no branch of the RAFA in this immediate district, but it won't be my fault if there isn't one soon."

RAFA News Room—continued

LEGAL SECTION

Report for August and September, 1946

Our remarks in this Section in the September number of AIR MAIL have already produced good results; several Honorary Legal Advisors have been added to our Legal Panel and members are, generally speaking, following our directive when submitting their cases. Perhaps a few further hints to our members will be helpful.

Think twice before litigating. I suppose it is only human, after all, to get "hot under the collar" betimes, but it is sometimes possible that there may be a friendly and peaceful way out, without going to the Law. Verb sap, sat! Of course, if you are compelled to litigate, either by the other party, or in defence of your legal rights, that is a different matter. What may you do about it, as a member of the RAFA? You can do this.

(a) Consult the Welfare Officer of your branch. He may have a local Honorary Legal Advisor in the branch, to whom he will refer you. The advisability of this procedure, where it is possible to adopt it, is plainly obvious from the point of view of interviews with a solicitor within easy reach.

(b) If the above course cannot be followed for any reason, then you may state your case in writing to us. Try and give all the facts concisely. At the same time, we do not normally want a day-by-day story of your life (married or single), or the daily diary of your tenancy or such-like. The salient facts will do. And don't forget material dates or documents which are relevant to the case.

(c) If you want advice on any legal problem whatsoever, i.e., to determine your position in regard to the legal rights you may have in a certain matter, even where you do not yet contemplate or envisage legal proceedings, you can act on the line of either (a) or (b) above.

(d) Don't procrastinate. Do it now. To-day.

Furthermore, it is often a prudent measure to have legal advice before the event. Look before you leap! And if you do not know where to look, well, come up and see us some time. If you can write and make an appointment, so much the better. It is sometimes embarrassing for our members—and, to wit, for us—to find ourselves in a queue on our office stairs, just because no one in the queue thought of making an appointment. If you cannot come and see us, there is always the pen and the post available.

Seriously though, you would never think of taking off for a flight, without obtaining a Met. forecast for the route, would you? Surprising the number of our members who take off on a business adventure without seeking advice, as and when necessary, as to whether there may be any legal snags ahead. Some adventures have been known to become misadventures through lack of prudence in this respect. Enough said.

It is also well to remember that there are certain things which we cannot do, such as arbitrarily removing your case from your own solicitor to a member of our legal panel. Or requesting a member of our legal panel to write to another solicitor asking him to get a move on. Or asking the Law Society (SDD) to give your particular case priority over any other. In the legal world, like any other profession, certain things are not and may not be done. We have mentioned a few of them.

Finally, we wish to thank all those members who have written to us expressing their gratitude for the legal advice and assistance which we have been able to procure for them, through the medium of our legal panel who, one and all, when required, have been so helpful and to whom our best thanks are due.

August & September Number of cases 410
August & September

No. of interviews 185

WELFARE (SERVICE MATTERS)

This department, in keeping with other departments of HQ is busy handling an increased number of enquiries on matters connected with service or post service problems. Many mem-

bers write either for advice or perhaps they are "not quite sure" about this or that matter connected with the service.

Typical questions are connected with pecuniary benefits either pertaining to Pay and Allowance entitlements, Gratuities, Post War Credits, Service Pension settlement and assessment, medals, and a large assortment of other subjects even to hastening the provision of dentures for those rendered toothless by the RAF!

We do wish, however, that Service members would bear in mind that we cannot nor do we intend to intervene on their behalf if certain service regulations do not suit their individual tastes. Do please refrain from this practice and save our time and your ultimate disappointment in receiving a negative reply, although at the same time we are willing, so far as we are able, to advise.

A further announcement has been made to this effect that even at this time a large number of War Service Gratuity claims are still outstanding. If you are eligible and have not claimed, do so at once, or write if you think we can advise you.

Many letters indicate that a number of serving personnel awaiting release group promulgation are rather doubtful of the advantages of applying for continuance under the various schemes already made known. Think it well over, particularly if you have not anything in line in "civvy street." Although a considerable number are "glad to be out," there is always the case of the ex-airman whose wishes are to the contrary. No matter how "browned off" you may think you are, the question is worth a thought before you finally leave the service.

We have successfully helped a number of legitimate enquirers in their difficulties, and are equally anxious to help others. Your branch welfare officer may, in the first instance be able to put you on the right track.

We are, in spite of unsuccessful efforts in some cases, able to state that the number of appreciations received do us justice and give us encouragement to continue the good work.

Since the last report, upwards of 500 letters have been handled either in reply or in connection with our particular job.

POST BAG

"Thank you very much for this successful action. I hope that you will have many more successes." A

"I wish to say thanks for your quick and helpful advice which I will most certainly use. There isn't more I can say except thank you once again." B

"Thank you again for your prompt attention to my letter and for the advice." C

"Please accept my grateful thanks for your representation on my behalf and I feel sure no one could be more satisfied with your valuable assistance than I have been." D

"Thank you for the speed in which you have taken this matter up for me and to assist me in getting all squared up with monies due to me." E

"Your kindness and prompt attention is appreciated, thank you very much indeed for your help. I would like to take this opportunity of wishing the RAFA all the success it deserves in the future." F

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for what you are doing for me, and hope I can repay by doing a bit for the RAFA in the near future." G

"Please accept my very best thanks for the interest and thorough investigation made on my behalf." H

"I should like to take this opportunity of recording my thanks to you for achieving such a striking result in such a very short space of time. It says much for the efficiency of the RAFA's organisation." I

"Once again the Association has proved its invaluable help to the ex-RAF, it also convinces me of the weight and influence of the RAFA and the honourable intentions of the staff. My sincere thanks coming from an ex-regular who will always follow the Association and its activities with interest and pride." J

COUNCIL MEETING

The 14th Meeting of the Council was held in London on August 31. Air Marshal Sir Robert Saundby was in the chair.

Apologies were received from:—AVM Sir Charles A. H. Longcroft, A/C W. Whitney Straight, Dame Katherine Trefusis-Forbes, the Right Rev. The Lord Bishop of Croydon, A/C C. E. Benson, W/C W. H. N. Shakespeare, G/C J. Binnie, Maj H. G. Frost, P. C. Richards, Esq., and G. H. Allen Esq.

Northern, North Eastern, North Midland "B," South Western "A," and Wales "A" regions were not represented.

Minutes of the Meeting held on May 25 as circulated, were taken as read and passed.

Before starting the proceedings, the Chairman of Council referred to the resignation of Marshal of the Royal Air Force Viscount Trenchard, and to his suggestion that Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Newall might be willing to accept the position as President of the Association. The Executive Committee understood that Lord Newall would consent.

It was resolved unanimously that Marshal of the RAF Lord Newall, be requested to honour the Association by accepting the Presidency.

It was unanimously agreed to pass a vote of thanks to G/C J. Binnie, the retiring London and South Eastern Regional Representative.

This was carried with acclamation.

Matters Arising out of the Minutes

Premises. The Chairman gave a report on the work now proceeding at 83 Portland Place and 14 Park Crescent.

Secretaries, Treasurer and Welfare Officers Conference. The Chairman gave an outline of the arrangements being made for the Branch Officers' Conference to be held at Central Hall, Westminster, on September 21, 1946.

Provincial Employment Advice Bureaux.

It was resolved that the scheme embodied in the letter dated August 17, 1946, be accepted by this Council with power to the Executive Committee to act as they may see fit in between Council Meetings.

It was resolved that salaries of provincial employment officers should be £400 per year, plus an expenses account not exceeding £8 per month.

Where possible, receipts must be shown for the expenditure of this expenses account. Closing date of applications to be amended to September 30, 1946.

Appointment of Senior Employment Officer. The Council confirmed the appointment of W/C N. R. Melville as Senior Employment Officer.

Liaison Officers. It was resolved that the salaries of Junior Liaison Officers should be raised to £400 per year with effect from September 1. Mr. Hyde voted against.

Headquarters Organisation. The Chairman explained that he and the Executive Committee were concerned about the organisation of the Headquarters in relation to the growth of the Association. The Chairman of the Executive Committee had in the past undertaken responsibilities such as day to day rulings on policy matters, public relations and control of AIR MAIL, which were fast developing into a full time job. In addition, the Executive was overloaded with administrative problems. It was felt that a suitable full time post should be created to take control of the Association's affairs under the direction of the Executive Committee. In addition the appointment of a Managing Editor of AIR MAIL was required.

It was resolved that a Chief Executive Officer be appointed at a salary of £800 per year, plus living accommodation.

It was resolved that the following members of Council be appointed to a special sub-committee to select a suitable individual for appointment as Chief Executive Officer, subject to the final decision of the Executive Committee:—

Chairman of Council
Chairman of Executive Committee
Mr. F. E. Boulton
F/Lt Vernon Blunt
Mr. H. G. Williams

It was resolved that a Company be formed to

RAFA News Room—continued

publish AIR MAIL with power to appoint a Managing Editor.

It was resolved that the appointment of a Public Relations Officer, though desirable, is not immediately necessary, details of his duties, basis of salary and time of appointment to be referred to the Executive Committee for a report to Council.

Appointment of Honorary Treasurer. Mr. F. W. Lindgren was unanimously appointed Honorary Treasurer of the RAFA in succession to Mr. A. R. B. Gill.

Increase in Members of Executive Committee. It was resolved that the number of members of the Executive Committee be increased to fifteen.

It was resolved that Group Officer E. F. Dacre be elected to the Council and to serve on the Executive Committee, and that the following members of Council be elected to the Executive Committee:—

F/L. Vernon Blunt
Mr. C. A. Lewis
Mr. K. T. Jago
S/L J. K. Milne
Mr. C. L. Davies

Accounts. The Treasurer produced a balance sheet as at June 30, 1946, and an income and expenditure account for the six months period ended at that date. The excess of expenditure on general account for six months over income was £818/19/8. The surplus on AIR MAIL for the same period was £546/14/10. The Treasurer stated that the expenditure of the Association was now approaching £30,500 per year, plus AIR MAIL cost of £18,000, making a total expenditure of £48,500 per year. Against this, members' subscriptions £21,000 and dividends £7,000 made an income of £28,000, leaving a balance of £20,500 to be provided out of donations, Albert Hall Pageant, proceeds of functions, etc. The Treasurer also stated that the increase in expenditure now authorised, amounting to a further £16,000 per year, made a total expenditure of £64,500. This meant that there would be a balance of £36,500 to be provided out of donations, functions, etc., or resort would have to be made to realisation of capital.

Date and Place of 1947 Annual Conference. It was resolved that the Annual Conference for 1947 be held in Edinburgh. The date was not fixed, but it is proposed that it be held on two days in early June.

The Council agreed that covering approval should be given for a period of four months notice to be given to branches for the submitting of resolutions for the Annual Conference, and that amendments should be received at Headquarters two months prior to the Annual Conference. Authority to change Rule 18 (c) accordingly to be obtained at the next Annual Conference.

Policy of Big Branches in Cities. It was resolved that where branches reach a membership at which it is no longer possible to conduct their affairs on a basis of voluntary officials, they should either divide into smaller branches or acquire a paid Secretary, payable from branch funds.

Northern Ireland Office. The Chairman outlined the steps which had been taken by the Executive Committee to implement the Council decisions regarding the Northern Ireland office. This involves the appointment of a Secretary, Area Employment Officer, clerk and shorthand typist.

Scottish Office. It was resolved that the Scottish office be authorised to pay the expenses of representatives attending meetings of the Scottish office Committee.

Branches in Arrears with their Accounts. It was resolved that after June 30, branches not having submitted a certified audited account in accordance with the Rules, the Executive Committee have authority to arrange for the books to be forwarded to Headquarters for investigation by the Accounts Department.

The following branches had not submitted balance sheets for the period ended December 31, 1945:—

Alness, Barnet, Clacton, Exeter, Farnborough,

Finchley, Gloucester and Cheltenham, Kingston, Liverpool, London (South East), Portsmouth, Nuneaton.

Any Other Business. It was resolved that the Council shall meet at two monthly periods rather than quarterly—one month's notice to be given by branches through regions of items for inclusion on the agenda.

The Council decided that no item can in future be accepted under the heading of "any other business," which has not previously been notified in writing to the Secretary. S.E.B.

V.I.P. ASSOCIATION

by R. Tremblay

(A few notes from Gunley Hall, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, the headquarters at which G/C L. Cheshire. VC, DSO, DFC, is the Chief)

Our previous bulletin brought a good response. Many members, and associate members, offered their services. Visitors have come to visit us on the average of one per day. Some of them were woodworkers, others had done handicraft work and were willing to devote their spare time to the making up of our models or of models of their own. One lady is doing some knitting, hand smocking and making all sorts of children's wear. Among gifts received are rabbits and chickens. Two Labrador puppies were secured for us by another member at a very attractive price.

Our Arts and Crafts department has been producing to capacity. They are accumulating stock and finished products in our stockrooms. Some machinery has been delivered to our workshops and a company has offered the gift of two lathes and of an electric welder.

Restrictions still exist, as you know, and every day we are faced with limitations, quotas, shortages, and the general difficulty of obtaining supplies. We are, therefore, obliged to ask for your co-operation.

We are in need of felt. Bright-coloured, good quality felt. Wholesalers can only supply in small quantities. It is coupon free and we are paying 8/- to 10/- a yard, 72in. wide. You may have to pay more, but we will reimburse you the cost of the material plus carriage charges.

We can also use remnants or small pieces of gingham, or printed material, bits of silk or velvet for making toys or small dolls.

Would you contact your local leather merchant and obtain from him any good quality skins he may have in stock? He may even set some aside for you if you tell him the purpose of your purchase and the use they are going to be put to. We can turn them into handbags, purses, belts and even gloves. Small pieces can be utilised in making ornaments of every description; skivvers will also be useful.

The next item is wood. Each member can buy his £1 worth and send it to us by express. You may also have small pieces of hard wood which are not being used. Our woodwork section will make the most of them.

Purchases of material used in manufacture can be bought free of purchase tax if you quote our registration number, Market Harborough 64 when making purchases. For your guidance and protection we must warn you that the use of this registration No. for any other purpose than the one mentioned above is illegal and individuals are liable to severe penalties.

The association will reimburse you of all expenses. Parcels can be sent by post to the above address, or by express to Kibworth station.

Please keep the association in your mind always. Think up new ideas, offer your suggestions. Do you know a retailer or a wholesaler who handles the type of goods we want? Let us know. We will contact him. We want to thank everyone of you for your help. Through it we will prove that we can make a success of our enterprise.

NEW RAFA POSTERS

Samples of our New Posters have already been sent to all branches.

It will obviate delay if branch orders could be kept separate from ordinary correspondence.

PLEASE ORDER NOW.

MEMORIES OF STALAG LUFT 111

During the long weary months of 1944 the RAF officers of Stalag Luft 111 published a weekly newspaper called *Scangriff* ("Scandal Sheet"). Now the men who produced this newspaper have published "Spotlight on Stalag Luft 111," as a memorial "To those who escaped, but did not return."

The editor is F/L M. S. Winston, a former newspaper editor, who was shot down on Hitler's birthday, 1943, in a raid on Rostock. The book contains an account of the now well-known escape in which 50 RAF officers perished. The work of compiling the book was started before the war was over. It was decided to give the profits to the RAF Benevolent Fund, which to date has received £325.

During the march from Silesia the manuscript of the book was carried in a mess tin and finally flown to England on VE Day. Unfortunately many paper cheques for subscription were lost on the way.

Among the interesting stories in "Spotlight on Stalag Luft 111" is an account of a P/W who was known as the "luckiest man alive." He was W/O A. S. Alkamede of Loughborough. W/O Alkamede was tail-gunner in a Lancaster, shot after bombing Berlin in March, 1944. He fell 18,000 ft. without a parachute, and lived to tell the tale.

The book has been privately printed. Any subscribers who have not received their copies are asked to write to M. S. Winston, Esq., County Borough Police Court, Halifax. A few more copies are still available at one guinea.

BRANCHES BEING FORMED

It is desired to form branches at the places shown below. Members whose home address is at any of these places are requested to write to the organiser at the address given.

Bacup. Organiser: J. Crickmore, 173A Newchurch Rd., Stacksteads, nr. Bacup Lancs.

Baldock. Organiser: B. F. Thompson, 42 Chiltern Rd., Baldock, Herts.

Broxburn. Organiser: F/L W. Vanna, 55 Middleton Rd., Uphall, Broxburn, West Lothian.

Brussels. Organiser: A. Plowman, 23 Ave, Marnix, Brussels.

Chepstow. Organiser: E. E. Hillman, Ye Olde Bush Htl., Chepstow, Mon.

Dagenham. Organiser: T. A. Wilder, 433A Porters Av., Dagenham, Essex.

Fakenham. Organiser: L. Pierce, The Vines, Gt. Ryburgh, nr. Fakenham, Norfolk.

Fowey. Organiser: J. B. Irving, Clear, Fowey, Cornwall.

Holyhead. Organiser: J. S. Williams, 5 Station St., Holyhead, Anglesey, N. Wales.

Mitcham. Organiser: H. Sheppard, 5 Cranmer Rd., Mitcham, Surrey.

North Walsham. Organiser: G/C C. F. Chinery, OBE., Priory Cottage, Bacton, nr. N. Walsham, Norfolk.

Pontypool. Organiser: W. C. Weekes, 18 Tranch Rd., Pontypool, Mon.

Skegness. Organiser: W. Etheridge, 158A Wainfleet Rd., Skegness, Lincs.

St. Blazey. Organiser: S. J. Bowdon, 28 Rose Hill, St. Blazey, Par, Cornwall.

West Hartlepool. Organiser: N. S. Armstrong, 22 Chatham Rd., W. Hartlepool, co Durham.

Wotton-under-Edge. Organiser: F/L H. S. Hopkins, Lloyds Bank House, Wotton-under-Edge, Glos.

RAFA News Room—continued

PENSIONS DEPARTMENT

During the past two months, the Pensions Department has been working at unprecedented pressure as ever increasing numbers of members are seeking advice and assistance on pensions matters.

All enquiries, no matter how trivial, are welcome, and this Department is at all times happy to do everything possible to help members.

Owing to a partial recess of the Tribunals, the number of cases handled during the current period has been less than usual, but from the statistics annotated below, it will be seen that a substantial measure of success continues to be secured.

The number of cases deferred is larger than usual, and is mainly due to the fact that the Ministry of Pensions have asked for further time to consider certain cases. It is therefore anticipated that a good proportion of these deferrals will have a successful outcome. Application to proceed to High Court has also been made in connection with certain appeals, and in the event of the necessary permission not being secured in any individual case, action will be taken, where possible, to take the appeal to the special Arbitration Court.

In accordance with the established practice of the Department, all appeals which are considered to have been erroneously rejected by the Pensions Appeal Tribunals on a point or points of

law, are passed to our Legal Advisors, with a view to High Court action being considered.

Correspondence both into and emanating from the Department has reached record figures, but every endeavour is being made to deal with letters as expeditiously as possible.

Members are reminded that the Pensions Department is now located at the Osnaburgh House, Osnaburgh Street, London, NW1, and whilst every effort will be made to attend to casual callers with as little delay as possible, it is in the interest of those seeking personal advice to make an appointment either by letter or by telephone (Euston 1048, Extension 7).

It is not yet possible to give much information regarding either the Assessment Tribunals or the special Arbitration Courts, but further particulars will be published as soon as the details become available.

The following is a summary of the Pensions Department work for August and September, 1946.

Successful cases	36
Unsuccessful cases	8
Results not yet notified	9
Deferred cases	13
Adjourned	7
Withdrawn	3
Total cases	76
Letters in	1,551
Letters out	3,475
Interviews	164

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE—THE FEW

Sons of Britain, Flyers all
From all professions heard the call
Britain supports the right and so must fight
Lest the yoke of Tyranny o'er the world doth fall.
They came along from every 'shire
The Air Force Reserve, the week-end flyer
With few machines and sleepless hours
They defended these shores with all their powers.
Little time had they to spare, for most of the day
they were in the air
Few even they against the foe, and time and
again they saw a Pal go
Down to earth, yet did they despair
He'd been one of the Team who was proud to
share

The perils and dangers of the air.
And as time went on the enemy knew
That these boys were made of sterner stuff
Of material tried and true
Many of them died or were maimed in defence
of our shores

And much is owed by mine and yours
To the gallant crew of whom Dear Winston said
So much is owed by so many to so few
For those who've passed on there's little to do
But here left behind are the gallant few
The Pilot, the Navis' the Sparks and the
Crew

Do they want pity, no not they, comfort Yes
in these times of stress

So show you now, your appreciation
By supporting for them the RAF ASSOCIATION.

By a member of 2036 Squadron, ATC,
Brenford and Chiswick.

Milton Abbey (A Home for Nervous Patients) by a Padre

The nervous patient is a great problem. For no very obvious reason he is in a state of being chronically over-tired, though probably not actually ill, he is just unable to face the future, for one reason or another. He may be 'neurasthenic,' and feel that he lacks the strength to do his ordinary work; or rebellious and 'up against things,' with that frustrated feeling which is always hoping for some better hole to go to, and is always disappointed when the hope is realised, or nobly carrying on in spite of difficulties, with an increasing sense of strain and final breakdown. There may of course be more obviously neurotic symptoms, such as the fear of victimisation, feeling of guilt, extreme jealousy and so on, but in general the patient is weighed down by a deep depression and a hopeless sense of inadequacy.

It must be said at once there is usually very little hope of the patient recovering his nerve in his ordinary surroundings. In the first place far too many people know him and feel him to be a failure; we are not always very kind to our weaker brethren. The patient knows this and builds up a protective armour round his deeper feelings, which makes exploration of his difficulties almost impossible. In the second place, if he is loafing about at home, he gets no real rest and there is nothing to occupy his mind apart from his own troubles; he feels that he is a burden to his family and his friends, and he starts thinking that he would be far better out of this life for good.

A racehorse trainer once told me that if a racehorse is overtrained, there is nothing to be done except put it out to grass to recover itself and then start all over again from scratch; something rather similar is true of human beings. Thirty years ago doctors told their nervous patients to pull themselves together and carry on; we are beginning to know better now. Nervous patients must have a complete emotional rest, away from their ordinary surroundings. When the feeling of strain wears off and their defences are down, one can begin re-educating them afresh; many of them have to learn a new technique of living, so that they can face and overcome their particular problems.

During this resting period they must be preserved from boredom; excitement is bad for them, but interest is excellent, as it takes them

out of themselves. That means, for most cases, some form of occupational therapy; though the best form of occupational therapy for nervous patients (always assuming that they are well enough), is some simple manual work out of doors. Digging the garden involves no emotional strain and is one of the best forms of physical exercise.

More important than this is the emotional background. The patient must feel that he is in a friendly atmosphere. This must not be too openly sympathetic, for the neurotic (rather like the blind), must be encouraged to stand on his own feet. Encouragement and good-will are the right notes to strike; a little encouragement goes a long way with all of us, and the nervous sufferer, who starts with a pronounced 'inferiority complex' needs as much encouragement as we can give him.

Milton Abbey is run by an RAF Padre, and it is no way confined to members of any particular denomination. It is equally open to those who are not at all certain what their religious beliefs are or whether they have any. The atmosphere of the place is not 'pious' (in the common meaning of the word), but common-sense, level-headed, and practical. The religious background is there, and the atmosphere of the place, as the patient will very quickly realise, derives its strength and its warmer qualities from that background; but it is not forced on the patient in any way, and it is left to him to make what use of it he feels inclined. Most people find it a very great help and welcome the opportunity of finding out what a real religion means; but the religious atmosphere of the place is entirely 'free' and there is no attempt to coerce the patient's opinions. The full resources of a spiritual religion are there for the patient who needs them, and most patients find that they do.

One of the main charms of the place is the beauty of its natural surroundings. Milton Abbey is a country house in the heart of Dorset, about half-way between Blandford and Dorchester in a fold of the downs. The present house was put up in 1771 round part of the original monastic buildings, which have been turned into the house Chapel, a new wing was added just before the war. The XIV century Abbey Church is a stone's throw from the main

building. There is an estate of 800 acres, with a farm and market garden, surrounded by beech woods.

The home is financed on the same lines as a voluntary hospital. The average cost per patient will not be less than £5 or £6 a week. No one is refused on financial grounds, but patients are asked to pay what they can. In the case of ex-service patients it will often be possible to get help from one of the service benevolent funds. We hope too, that if we can help a patient through his difficulties, he may be able later on to send us an occasional subscription which will help in turn to pay for some other patient in a similar position.

Milton Abbey is a delightful spot, and we do our best to make it a place of real friendliness and peace of mind for anyone suffering from strained nerves. We try and strike a happy medium between leaving the patient to be quiet by himself and encouraging him with tact, and patience, to mix with others and forget what is the matter with him. The 'institutional atmosphere' is kept to a minimum. We are not in a position to make the fullest use of our resources, due to staff, fuel, and other difficulties, but we shall have room this winter for 20-25 patients, men and women, and ex-service patients will have the preference. We are obliged to refuse bed-patients for the moment owing to the shortage of nurses, and patients who need constant supervision for the same reason. But there are many who are not ill enough to receive institutional treatment, and others who need a period of convalescence and rehabilitation after receiving medical treatment elsewhere, and for these we will do our best.

Enquiries should be addressed to the Warden, Milton Abbey, Blandford, Dorset, and medical enquiries to the Medical Officer, at the same address. The home will be ready to receive patients by the middle of October. It will be a great help to us to have a brief general description of the patient and the nature of the trouble, and also (wherever possible) the details of his medical history; these should be put in a separate envelope, marked confidential, and will be passed to the medical officer direct. Visitors to the Abbey are welcome at any time, but we like to know when to expect them.

RAFA Third Annual Conference *(Continued from September issue)*

DELEGATE: How can Headquarters exist without their 10 per cent from branches? It is up to the individual branches to organise. I think Headquarters should continue to receive that.

STEPNEY: Would the Secretary advise us whether the War Charities Act affects this resolution at all.

CHAIRMAN: I can answer that. The law is that the whole of the money raised by the branches must be forwarded to Headquarters. The only way in which the War Charities Act affects us is that the money must be sent to Headquarters and cannot be retained by branches.

AIR COMMODORE HOWARD-WILLIAMS: I am going back in history to say a few words. Formerly 100 per cent was obtained from branches and none of it came back. Then we brought it down to 50 per cent and later as an act of good faith of the Council, we had a lot of debate over it and we said "let us trust our branches, we want strong branches, and give them 90 per cent they won't mind our keeping 10 per cent."

Those were the terms on which your Council considered this and returned 90 per cent. You have heard the arguments. We have to have an organisation. You don't want us to raise money by flag days. For a big organisation like ours, we must have some income. The income is not vast. I thought the lady in the centre put it neatly when she said the purpose is to help the weaker branches.

CHAIRMAN: I think we have fully discussed this and I propose to put this to the vote in two parts. Part 1. All those in favour? Lost. Part 2. Those in favour? Lost.

The next resolution is one from Birmingham.

"It is suggested that a Paid Welfare and Pensions Officer be appointed to handle cases for members, which should be dealt with by Royal Air Forces Association and not any other ex-Service organisation. Swansea have put an amendment.

DORKING: I would like to say something on this point. On my Committee there is a lawyer. If all organisations had some local solicitor and local doctor who would act for them, they would have no difficulty, I am certain, with the pensions. The legal profession and the medical profession are willing to help in these cases. You don't employ a coal miner to make a suit, and it is no use employing any man who has not legal or medical training to deal with pensions.

CHAIRMAN: I think we should put this to the vote. It is a little complicated. We will take the Swansea resolution first, that a paid pension officer should be appointed. Those in favour? That is lost.

Now the original resolution by Birmingham.

BIRMINGHAM: I withdraw.

CHAIRMAN: It is suggested a paid Welfare and Pensions Officer be appointed. Those in favour? That is lost.

I would like to say that the spirit underlying this resolution is fully accepted by the Council and I am sure, by members of the association. But it is a matter of practicability, and what should come first.

CHAIRMAN: Next resolution—to provide a metal car badge.

WEYBRIDGE: We feel it is open to a lot of abuse. The idea is good, but it has not been realised how this may lead to abuse.

EASTBOURNE: I can't help feeling Birmingham has an axe to grind here. Perhaps they make them there. Can they provide a car to fit the badge.

CHAIRMAN: I put it to the vote. Those in favour? Carried.

CHAIRMAN: The next resolution is put by Scarborough: "That branch activities be resumed in AIR MAIL, but instead of these being monthly bulletins they be published every second month, i.e., every other month."

SCARBOROUGH: We should like to see in AIR MAIL what other branches are doing, in the way of raising money for a Building Fund. Ours is in its beginning stage and we would like to see what they are doing.

DELEGATE: I support this. We feel that as much space should be devoted to the activities of branches as possible.

PERTH: I would like to speak against this. Every opportunity is afforded members of branches of putting in news sheets in AIR MAIL—but don't give us all those notices of meetings at such and such a time at such and such a place.

CREWE: I would like to support this. We feel a lot of space is wasted in branch activities. In AIR MAIL you have facts which interest only a small percentage of members.

CRANWELL: I support this because it gives members overseas, news. It will also raise a healthy rivalry between branches.

DELEGATE: I am supporting the inclusion of branch reports to give Headquarters an opportunity to pick our news from branches and then they can write to those who have asked for money, telling them to read AIR MAIL.

CHAIRMAN: AIR MAIL is always a headache, because so many people want to include that which is out, and cut out what is in. We are doing our best and within reason we are able to alter it in any way that members wish—we could cut out the jokes and put in branch news.

GENERAL VOICE: No.

CHAIRMAN: Any branch can send to the Secretary a letter in roneo form and it can go out to your branches with your magazine. That is one of the facilities. The Executive Committee decided to rule out the branch particulars and let branches send their own letters in AIR MAIL. We considered the question of branch particulars and came to the con-

clusion while we are forming branches at this time, it is not the time to take out those particulars. We felt that a lot of people would want to know what branches they can join.

CHAIRMAN: I think we have debated that fully.

A card vote is proposed and seconded. We are voting for the re-insertion of branch activities in AIR MAIL every two months.

The card vote resulted in the resolution being carried by 30,719 votes to 18,575.

CHAIRMAN: The next resolution is put by Scarborough: "That the Annual Conference for 1947 be held at a provincial centre at the discretion of the Executive Committee."

CRANWELL: I second it.

CHAIRMAN: We tried to do it for this year, but left it too late. I don't think there is any reason for not putting it to the vote now. What I suggest is, if this resolution be carried, branches should put forward suggestions as to places and we would investigate the various suggestions. Those in favour of the resolution? Those against? This is carried.

The next resolution is from Kidderminster: "That this conference directs the Council to authorise the issue of AIR MAIL in bulk to branches that desire to make their own distribution."

KIDDERMINSTER: My branch has asked me to bring forward this resolution in the interest of branches on their own. The question of finance has been brought up at this Conference, and we feel something would be saved if AIR MAIL was sent direct to branch secretaries, if they made their own arrangements. Their weekly news letter could be enclosed and each branch would be responsible that each one of their members had AIR MAIL. Since January in my branch, the copies of AIR MAIL have not been received by a good many members of the branch who are fully paid up members. Taking a second point, it would absolve the responsibility Headquarters have of the distribution, cost of postage to each individual and if they would send to each Secretary, they would have only one postage amount and one package. I do feel people should support this resolution which is put forward in your own interest because you will be sure of each of your members getting a copy.

WEYMOUTH: We have been asked to oppose this. We feel the machinery set up at Headquarters for distribution of AIR MAIL is beyond reproach.

BEXHILL: If this suggestion is carried out, would it make some difference to the penny farthing and to the branch fund.

CHAIRMAN: I will ask the Chairman of the Executive Committee to speak.

AIR COMMODORE HOWARD-WILLIAMS: That was the original arrangement some time ago with another journal. I believe I am right in saying a very great percentage of these journals finished in the waste paper basket of the branch Secretary, who couldn't find time to send them out. Rightly or wrongly the Executive Committee have set up the addressograph to save the branch Secretaries work. Our idea was to make certain members as far as possible got their journal on their breakfast tables without worrying the Secretary. I feel that if a branch want to have it, there is no reason why they should not write the secretary and ask for it to be sent in bulk. He will put a red label on the addressograph and it will go out in a bulk. I can't help feeling they will be very unwise in putting all that work on the Secretary. Somebody pointed out there were many members in some branches. The physical act of writing the labels would be too much.

CHAIRMAN: Those in favour? That is defeated.

CHAIRMAN: The next resolution and last, is put by KIDDERMINSTER

"That this Conference directs the Council to make representations to the committee of the RAF Benevolent Fund to establish the principle that grants may be made to branches of the Association towards the setting up of Social Centres and branch Headquarters." I must tell you that the Benevolent Fund are precluded by the terms of their charter from spending money on anything except the relief of distress and welfare work. They can't spend money on social centres. It would be no use asking this.

KIDDERMINSTER: In view of the earlier remarks of the meeting, Headquarters are now prepared to consider making a loan. Could we withdraw this resolution?

CHAIRMAN: Item 6. Any other business? This can be discussed, but not voted upon.

COVENTRY: My branch wishes me to put to you the question of the salary offered to Regional Employment Officers. In their opinion £350 is not going to provide the type of man you want. If you want him you must pay £500 to £600 a year so that he may meet the right type of person. It is a bare living wage in any city.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to say at once, I entirely agree with the principle, but the point is we have not got unlimited money. We must do these things as economically as we can.

COVENTRY: In view of those remarks of the Chairman's suggesting we cannot afford to spend money because we have not got it, and we can get a man at a lower figure, might I suggest that engaging a man who is not the correct man at a lower figure, we are throwing it away. If we can't have the right man, we might save £350 a year.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Surely the local machinery is sufficient?

CHAIRMAN: That is apparently not the experience of the delegates

RAFA News Room—continued

ROUNDEL ENCLOSURE SIGNS

Arrangements have been made whereby branches, business men, and private individuals may now buy the RAFA Roundel "Enclosure" signs for use with office correspondence, direct from the Secretary, RAFA, 105A Gloucester Road, London SW7, at the following rates:

250 (Trial packet)	..	..	£	s	d
500 .. .. .	..	..	3	0	
1,000 .. .. .	..	..	5	6	
5,000 .. .. .	..	..	10	0	
	..	..	2	10	0

Members please note: You will help publicise the RAFA by this means.
All profits go to our funds.

New Life Members—August

54 Life Members joined Headquarters in August, compared with 54 in July and 58 in June, 1946.

New Life Members (branches) August

423 Life Members have been notified by branches in August, compared with 399 in July and 306 in June, 1946.

New Life Members—September

63 Life Members joined Headquarters in September, compared with 54 in August, and 54 in July, 1946.

New Life Members (branches)—September

454 Life members have been notified by branches in September, compared with 423 in August, and 399 in July, 1946.

BACK NUMBERS—AIR MAIL

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Annual Conference—continued from page 3

here. We get enormous numbers of enquiries at Headquarters and we only scratch the surface of the job. It seemed to us that during this period of resettlement it was most important that we should do what we can to help people who served in the Air Forces to resettle themselves in civilian life.

BALING: Wouldn't it be possible to substitute for this scheme (six officers or so to be stationed in various parts of the country) three officers who are first class men travelling to localities where there are these difficulties and where the situation is more acute than in others, and get men of more experience and better paid to go and visit localities and advise them on their plans. Three good travelling officers instead of half a dozen men not as well paid.

CHAIRMAN: It is important that these should be localised and establish contacts and get to know their districts, get to know the right people and the whole work of resettlement. I don't think a man, however brilliant, could do much good settling people in employment if he is mobile. He would have no time to study the problems.

COVENTRY: In view of the suggestion that on £7 a week you could meet the right type of people, I am sure he could not meet my managing director.

READING: Might I suggest that the British Legion for a large number of years has dealt with this question of employment without employing paid employment officers. This was suspended during the war, but has started up again. We have no difficulty in finding one man in the area who is well known and can act as employment officer. It seems unnecessary to spend money on a full time employment officer when it can be done on a voluntary basis.

DORKING: In principle, I am in favour of these officers being appointed, because I think to-day there is a special problem which needs special treatment, but I am unhappy on two things; first, the salary is much too low. If you appoint men at that salary, I think you will get men whose qualifications are insufficient for the job and you will be throwing money away. Secondly, I would ask the Council to suggest limiting the number of officers it is going to appoint and covering only special regions for the time being.

DELEGATE: I agree with the last speaker, but would like to add an amendment to this suggestion—that the Council be asked to give special consideration to districts such as Sheffield, Birmingham, Newcastle, Glasgow (where the people know something of engineering) for the appointment of an employment officer who knows about engineering. I don't think you can advise people on employment for engineering unless you know about it. For people in Glasgow, Newcastle, Birmingham, Sheffield and heavy industry centres, where engineering is prevalent, I think a man with engineering qualifications should be appointed. You won't get that at £350 a year.

MALVERN: There is one other point. Is it possible to take distressed areas in, even putting in a part time man. If you can't afford the money otherwise, allocate so much and try and get a part time agent for distressed areas. Talking about my area, we have no unemployment question at the moment.

CHAIRMAN: It is a difficult thing to get part time people. Perhaps I might answer one or two of these points.

The question of qualifications: these men will be appointed by the regions themselves and they will have the majority say in the selection.

I am rather unhappy about this figure of £350 a year. I would like to ask the Chairman of the Executive Committee to consider this very fully.

AIR COMMODORE HOWARD-WILLIAMS: I must say it is one of the great advantages of this Annual Conference that we get your views, which we hear and take far more notice of than you realise. All the time notes are being taken and afterwards they are carefully analysed. We are grateful to hear what you think. We in the Council thought it was a good thing we should appoint officers in the large cities, the seven large cities—that was the idea. I must say I agree, and I thought at the time, £350 a year was too little, but we always remember that we are spending your money and we perhaps rather err on the side of being a little too economical. I now shall go back to the Executive Committee with the feeling of the branches that this is too little, and shall raise the idea of offering a higher salary. The Chairman has pointed out that we shall let

the regions select the men for their own job and they will have the responsibility of choosing a suitable man, who, say, in the engineering area, understands the whole question.

DELEGATE: I think when the Chairman of the Executive Committee considers the matter in his committee, he should also consider the matter of the liaison officers, who are doing a very good job of work.

CHAIRMAN: From what point of view.

DELEGATE: Their salaries.

BROMLEY: We would like to know how much Headquarters gets from the RAF Benevolent Fund, and how much the Earl Haig fund pays to the RAF Benevolent Fund each year.

CHAIRMAN: On the Benevolent Fund point, the answer is nothing.

CRANWELL: Are we receiving anything from the Earl Haig Poppy Fund?

CHAIRMAN: I don't know, I think not.

AIR COMMODORE HOWARD-WILLIAMS: It may help if I say a few words here. One thing we have tried to avoid is to interfere with our closest allied organisation, the RAF Benevolent Fund, and to avoid doing anything which might conflict with them.

At the last Council Meeting, the Council were very strongly against our embarking on flag days as a matter of principle. They felt that while our needs might be great, it wasn't the way we should do this thing.

I think, on the question coming from Cranwell, we will try and find out where it does go, but anything going to the RAF Benevolent Fund each year, is a matter between them and the Legion and not, I suggest, between us and the Legion.

DELEGATE: My branch has received applications for membership of the Association from members of the Royal Observer Corps. I would like to test the feeling of the Conference whether other branches have received application for membership.

DELEGATE: ISLE OF THANET: It happens that many RAF men were transferred during their service to the Fleet Air Arm. What happens to them?

CHAIRMAN: The answer is that if they were ever in the Royal Air Force they are eligible.

NORTHAMPTON: The question has been brought up of getting branch centres, on the formation of new branches. The question also arises of how we are going to furnish them. Couldn't the Council approach the Air Ministry with a view to purchasing surplus RAF furniture?

CHAIRMAN: That matter is being pursued.

ISLE OF THANET: If anybody wishes to make a contribution to a branch for the purpose of acquiring branch premises, would that be subject to 10 per cent reduction?

CHAIRMAN: Yes, under the War Charities Act.

ISLE OF THANET: If the donor gave this for a definite purpose?

CHAIRMAN: Yes.

This concluded the business of the Conference.

CHAIRMAN:

Before you go, I would like to thank you all very much for turning up here to-day and for giving us so much worth while advice and letting us know your opinion. I can't tell you how valuable and stimulating it is for members of the Council to meet the general body of the Association and hear their views in these matters. I know, from the working of the Executive Committee, that we are always anxious to avoid spending money, but I was delighted to hear again the general feeling of the conference is that we should not take that too far, and offer people a decent living wage. That will encourage the Executive Committee very much. In many other ways a breath of fresh air gets let into the life of the Council by meeting the delegates and hearing at first hand the views of branches. I would like to thank them very much for the extreme patience which they and all of you have shown with the extremely bad acoustics of this hall, and the difficulties of being able to hear each other. Thank you all very much.

AIR COMMODORE HOWARD-WILLIAMS: I am sure you will want someone to thank and congratulate our chairman upon the fine way he has handled his first meeting. (Applause).

RAFA News Room—continued

PRIVATE DONATIONS

The following donations have been generously made by private subscribers in August, and are hereby acknowledged with the grateful thanks of the Council.

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R. Shaw	3	6	
J. Stewart	3	6	
L. Wagstaff	3	6	
E. L. Waldram	3	5	
V. W. Byre	2	6	
W/O G. Hales	1	0	
C. E. Hodgkinson	1	0	
	£87	16	10

The following donations have been generously made by private subscribers during September, and are hereby acknowledged with the grateful thanks of the Council.

	£	s	d
J. Stevenson (Peterborough branch)	133	0	0
British Entertainment Corps (Brighton branch)	25	0	0
BBC Receiving Station Tatsfield	8	11	0
S/L W. Hamley (Southall branch)	5	0	0
E. N. R. Guthrie	5	0	0
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K. N. Ramsden	2	6	
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W. F. Fortune	2	0	
Mrs. D. Jaffray	2	0	
F. C. Bennett	1	0	
W. T. Dewhurst	1	0	
J. Hewitt	1	0	
W. L. Lang	1	0	
G. A. Thompson	1	0	
	£180	9	0

RAF DONATIONS TO RAFA

The following amounts have been generously donated to the RAFA by the RAF Units and formations indicated. Letters of thanks have been sent to these our friends.

	£	s	d
August			
RAF Rugby Union	300	0	0
Units with AHQ. (Ops) BAFO	155	1	0
Stations within Bomber Command	128	5	8
PSI 14 MU Carlisle (Carlisle branch)	100	0	0
PSI Flying Training Command	52	11	6
Sgts' Mess RAF Rifacaw	22	8	5
Officers' Messes Flying Training Command	21	18	7
Sgts' Messes Flying Training Command	19	2	7
Officers' Mess RAF Upwood (Peterborough branch)	15	0	0
Officers' Mess RAF Hullavington (Chippenhams branch)	10	10	0
Sgts' Mess RAF Hullavington (Chippenhams branch)	10	10	0
Sgts' Mess 418 ASP. BAFO	10	0	0
Units within No. 90 Group RAF	6	17	0
PSI Hullavington (Chippenhams branch)	5	5	0
	£857	9	9

	£	s	d
September			
PSI Silloth (Silloth branch)	75	0	0
Stations within Transport Command	67	19	7
Sgts. Mess Silloth (Silloth branch)	50	0	0
RAF Binbrook (Grimsby branch)	47	2	0
Officers' Mess RAF Uxbridge	25	0	0
Stations within Fighter Command	16	1	3
Officers' Mess RAF, Kirkham	10	0	0
Officers' Mess RAF, Oakington	10	0	0
RAFA Members RAF Little Rissington	8	5	8
90 Embarkation Unit Detachment, BAFO	3	0	0
Officers' Mess RAF, Melksham	1	1	0
	£313	9	6

ACCOUNTS and MEMBERSHIP NOTES

The end of September saw the completion of the 1946 membership, for, as is well known, although the financial year does not end until December 31 all new members enrolling on or after October 1, 1946, are accepted as 1947 members.

During the twelve months ending September 30, 4,994 life members, and 80,182 new annual members enrolled, 32,221 1945 members renewed their subscriptions, which gave us, with previous life members, a total 1946 paid-up membership of 120,896.

Throughout the year there has not been any real falling off in the numbers of new members; in fact, the number enrolled during October, 1945, was 5,024, whereas in August and September, 1946, the numbers were over 8,000. July was the biggest month, with 8,896.

Now the time has come for renewing subscriptions, and a renewal slip is enclosed in this number of AIR MAIL. If you are an annual subscriber, please help your branch Secretary and Headquarters by sending in the form with your five shillings as soon as possible, and please send it to the Secretary of your branch. The only ones which should be sent to Headquarters are those for members who are on Headquarters roll.

The end of the financial year is drawing near, and it is not too soon for branch Committees to begin thinking about balance sheets and if necessary soliciting the advice of accountants to ensure the accounts are on the right lines before the audit.

BRANCHES VISITED BY THE SECRETARY

S/L A. J. O. Warner visited the following branches during September: Ealing and Wellingborough.

BRANCH FUNCTIONS

During August and September the following sums were received from the branches named, a result of functions organised by them. The amounts shown in the second column have been returned or are returnable to the branches.

Under the War Charities Act all monies so raised have to be sent to HQ, under a ruling of the RAFA Council 90 per cent is returnable to the branches. Some realise how essential it is for HQ to be strong, and are often content to leave appreciably more than 10 per cent to help further progress and expansion.

Branch	Money Received			Money Refunded		
	£	s	d	£	s	d
Ashford	27	14	9	24	19	4
Aireborough	33	9	1	30	2	2
Blairgowrie	16	17	6	15	3	9
Bexhill	25	8	4	22	17	6
Brighton	10	7	0	9	6	3
Brexley Heath	22	16	1	20	10	5
Bromley	12	5	3	11	0	9
Blackburn	162	14	6	146	9	1
Bude & Stratton	8	2	0	7	5	10
Blairgowrie	6	16	7	6	2	11
Barnmouth	9	15	6	8	15	11
Bishops Stortford	2	3	0	1	18	8
Barnstaple	181	4	9	163	2	3
Bridlington	17	7	0	15	12	3
Bromsgrove	2	2	0	1	17	10
Cirencester	3	19	3	3	11	4
Chippenhams	26	5	0	23	12	6
Carrickfergus	28	7	8	25	10	11
Carlisle	100	0	0	90	0	0
Carmarthen	3	3	6	2	17	2
Dorking	3	6	6	2	19	10
Durham	15	0	0	13	6	
Durham	2	17	2	2	11	5
Dumfries	14	2	6	12	14	3
Dunfermline	5	3	0	4	12	8
Exeter	66	4	2	59	11	9
Elgin	28	11	6	25	14	4
Evesham	82	7	0	74	2	4
Falkirk	16	6	9	14	14	1
Folkestone	124	5	6	111	17	0
Grantham	1	14	9	1	11	3
Gravesend	53	8	6	48	1	8
Grimsby	21	0	0	18	18	0
Gainsborough	41	6	9	37	4	0
Galashiels	5	12	0	5	0	10
Harrow	11	6	5	10	3	5
Huddersfield	4	6	10	2	3	5
Haywards Heath	8	14	6	7	17	0
Hampstead	7	4	0	6	9	6
Inverness	12	6	0	12	6	
Isle of Sheppey	26	4	11	23	12	5
Ipswich	121	11	6	109	8	4
Kidderminster	32	6	0	29	1	4
London NE	1	1	0	18	11	
Malvern	46	15	8	42	2	1
Malvern	29	0	2	26	2	2
Maesteg	17	2	0	15	7	9
Marlborough	6	0	0	5	8	0
Macclesfield	60	4	0	54	3	7
Norwich	7	1	11	6	7	9
Newport	24	1	0	21	12	11
Peterborough	15	0	0	13	10	0
Paisley	36	11	6	32	18	4
Peterborough	133	0	0	119	14	0
Ripley	37	14	7	33	19	2
Ruislip	2	2	9	1	18	6
Rushden	10	7	11	9	7	2
Selby	9	19	4	8	19	5
Stourbridge	36	10	2	33	4	2
Southgate	2	11	6	2	1	
Southall	5	5	0	4	14	6
St. Athan	10	0	0	10	0	
Sheffield	34	1	0	30	12	11
Southgate	12	12	0	11	6	10
Southall	14	8	0	12	19	2
St. Ives	1	3	1	1	0	9
Southend	5	9	2	4	18	3
Selby	9	19	4	8	19	5
Silloth	75	0	0	67	10	5
Uxbridge	22	12	0	20	6	9
Uxbridge	86	15	5	65	1	7
Warrington	29	15	8	26	16	1
Winchester	22	18	3	20	12	5
Wakefield	3	14	6	3	7	1
Windsor	12	0	0	10	16	0
Workshop	29	12	0	26	12	10
Wimbledon	7	6	8	6	12	0
Woodley	1	6	0	1	3	4
Yarmouth	25	5	5	22	14	10
Yardley	5	16	0	5	4	5

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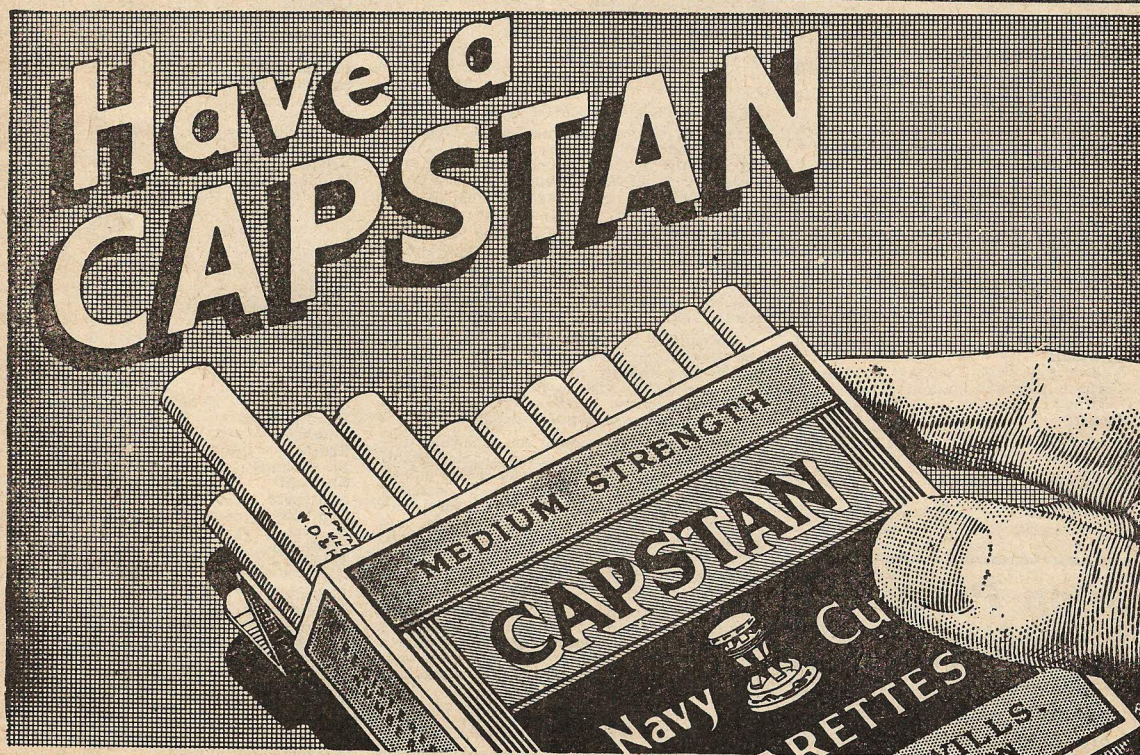
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C.C.711D.H.

RAFA Branch Letters

ALTRINCHAM BRANCH

At the time of writing the final balance of our RAFA WEEK is not known, but it is safe to say the profits on the Week will prove satisfactory. The WAAF Band from RAF Handforth opened the Week with a parade through the main streets, afterwards giving a demonstration of marching and counter-marching on the Altrincham football ground. The Altrincham WJAC Band also turned out for us and put on a very good show. Col. F. J. Erroll, MP, attended the Dinner on Sept. 9, and officially declared RAFA WEEK open. The Mayors and Mayoresses of Altrincham and Sale and a number of other distinguished guests were also present. Two dances were organised during the Week, and "Free Style" wrestling contests between national champions and stars. This latter event proved the high-spot of the Week, some 800 odd spectators being present.

The Public Relations Committee have already got down to examining the lessons learned from this year and making plans for the 1947 RAFA WEEK. To all members, their wives and friends, and to the many friends and helpers outside the Association who worked with us to make the Week a success, we send our grateful thanks.

One result of RAFA Week has been a change of Headquarters. With effect from October 10, the branch will meet every alternate Thursday, at 8 p.m., at the Malt Shovels Hotel, Stanford Street, Altrincham.

Our last word. Please send your 1947 renewals along. It will help the Secretary greatly if he doesn't have to send reminders out. Thanks! V.E.H.

BOLTON BRANCH

The Dance held in the Albert Hall, Bolton, on Friday, September 13, was very successful, about 500 attending. As a result of this, and other activities during RAFA Week, we are hoping to forward quite a respectable cheque to RAF Benevolent Fund.

On Battle of Britain Sunday we laid a wreath on the Cenotaph and marched to St. John's Church, where the service was conducted by the Rev. J. N. Mitchell, an RAFA member. Unfortunately, the attendance was not up to expectations.

On the last visit paid to us by Bury branch, we won the Quiz Contest, thereby wiping out the defeat they inflicted on us in the Games Contest when they paid us their first visit. In October, we return the visit and are hoping to win the Spelling Bee and even matters, as they won the Quiz Contest on our previous visit to their Headquarters.

Just a reminder to you all. Our Headquarters are open every week night and we have a billiards table, three dart boards, a table tennis table and packs of cards, so try and call in some night and enjoy yourselves. Our socials committee is now engaged in arranging a winter programme, so if any of you have any ideas they will be welcome.

Best wishes to all.

S.C.H.

CAMBRIDGE BRANCH

Branch membership continues to increase. Our enrolments during the nine months of this year ending September 30 amount to 600. This is encouraging, and gives rise to the thought that a real home for the branch must be found as early as possible. Members may rest assured that the Committee are wide awake to this fact. All will agree the acquisition of premises is not an easy matter these days, but it is being tackled.

On Thursday and Saturday of Battle of Britain Week, the branch sponsored an Aero Display at the Cambridge Airport. For the success of this, our sincere thanks are due to Wing Commander Burnett (22 EFTS), who gave so much time and thought to the matter.

We are also indebted to the members of the Royal Observer Corps, who attended on both days to give interesting displays and assistance generally; of our Committee, who were basically responsible for the show, may I mention W/C Evans, Mr. Dobson (branch Treasurer), and Messrs. Barber and Smith. A very successful Dance was arranged for the Friday evening at the "Dorothy." The Week finished with the special service at St. Mary the Great, which, in addition to branch members, was attended by the Mayoress (Lady Bragg), G/C N. C. Singer (commanding RAF station, Waterbeach), detachments of RAF and WAAF personnel from Waterbeach and Oakington, the Chief Constable of the borough, members of the police force and the British Legion. The lessons were read by the branch Chairman, W/C E. G. Barwell (a Battle of Britain Pilot) and W/C D. J. Evans.

We have some very live and enthusiastic members living in Sawston, who are doing all they can to put the Association on the map. Recently under the chairmanship of W/C Evans, they got together and ran a Dance at the village College, which resulted in this branch receiving a donation from them of £50/14/7. Thank you Messrs. Barnes, Page, Powell, Kendall, Stephens, Moore and Thompson. We take our hats off to you.

The branch will be arranging Dances at the "Dorothy" in November and December, the exact dates not yet known, but they will be announced in the press, and by the usual poster.

In conclusion, I would like to mention how much those of us who were fortunate to be present, enjoyed the festival of Reunion, at the Albert Hall, on September 22. It was good to see our branch Standard among the many ranged behind the RAF Central Band.

As always, my best wishes to you all.

C.A.A.

CHELTENHAM BRANCH

Our branch continues to enrol new members steadily, although we are still short of the 250 mark, which is not good for a town of this size. However, we hope that resulting from the publicity given and the untiring efforts of our Entertainments Committee during the Battle of Britain Week we shall soon have passed the 500 mark, but not without the full support and wholehearted co-operation of all our members. Unfortunately, we like the majority of branches, are greatly handicapped by the unsuitability of our rendezvous, as this particularly affects lady members. We hope before long to be in a position to welcome members in more suitable and congenial surroundings.

Due to a series of unfortunate last minute cancellations, our programme of events for the Battle of Britain Week was greatly curtailed—beginning with our usual weekly Whist Drive at Emmanuel Hall, on Wednesday evening, which, largely due to Mr. Lane's efforts, proved a success financially. This was followed by a Non-Stop Dance at the Rotunda on Thursday, but, despite much advertising, it was poorly attended and we barely covered expenses. A poor response indeed by those members who, although so ready with suggestions and criticism of the branch's lack of social activities in the past, have so poorly responded to the opportunity given in the present of showing their practical help and financial support.

Our two local aerodromes—Little Rissington and South Cerney—were at Home to the public on Saturday, and large crowds watched some fine flying displays. A large congregation attended the Dedication Service of our new Standard at the Parish Church, at 11 o'clock, followed by a stirring address by the curate, Rev. D. R. Griffiths, who served for many years in the services.

The week ended literally in a blaze of excitement and even more wonderful—sunshine, with a most successful combined effort on the part of Gloucester and Cheltenham branches with a Motor Cycle Grass Track Meeting, on the

Gloucester aerodrome on Sunday afternoon, which lasted well into the evening, proving a great success both financially and also from a racing enthusiast's point of view. T.D.D.

DOVER BRANCH

This is our first report and we must take the opportunity of thanking Canterbury branch for their best wishes.

We have not been long in existence, but have already found time to arrange two successful functions, namely an outing to good old Margate and a dinner to round off RAFA Week. A really big dance is already in our minds to take place in the near future, and we hope to see some of our neighbouring branches at that "do."

Don't forget all you people still serving in the area, we are pleased to see you at any of our meetings, so come along and join us in a "jug

T.E.D.

EALING BRANCH

Battle of Britain Week proved successful. The Whist Drive and Ball were both run to capacity. On the Sunday morning, a strong contingent of past and present RAF and WAAF, all of whom were members, supported by the ATC with their band and WJAC, marched to the War Memorial where a wreath was laid. For the Parade Service which followed, St. Mary's Church was packed. The Week concluded with a special RAF Service of Remembrance in the Town Hall. Throughout the Week the co-operation and presence of the Mayor and Mayoress, representatives from Headquarters, other branches, local organisations and residents were much appreciated. Arrangements are going well ahead for the winter season. During October, the dramatic section will produce "Flare Path," the Chamber of Commerce are running a Dance at the Town Hall in aid of our funds, for which a charity rugby football match is being played between Barclay's Bank and Ealing. Until we get our own much-needed premises, the Bell Hotel Restaurant will remain our Headquarters with meetings on the 1st Monday in each month, and there will be additional branch meetings in other parts of the borough. This is now being organised. Already, additional branch meetings have been arranged to be held at the Old Field Hotel, Greenford Green, where a dance will be held on December 10. There will be a Christmas and New Year Party at the Town Hall, on Saturday, December 28. The new musical, soccer, badminton and table tennis sections have made good starts. Branch meetings are well-attended. Membership by Christmas should be past the 1,000 mark.

R.C.P.

GRANTHAM BRANCH

RAFA Week was a great success, but we are hoping that next year it will be a really great event.

We were very sorry that a show could not be arranged in the Empire Theatre, but we are sincerely hoping that one can be arranged later.

The main event was the memorial service and the march past. About 800 RAF and WAAF, a squadron of ATC and about 40 of our members paraded, in glorious weather, with our branch standard carried by Mr. S. Webb, and led by the Town Band playing the well known march of the RAF.

Special services were held in the various churches, the service at St. Wulframs being taken by the Spitalgate padre, S/L Perfect, CF. Those attending included the Mayor (Ald. A. Roberts) and Corporation, and Mr. W. D. Kendall, MP.

Following the service, a wreath was laid on the war memorial by our new President—Lord Brownlow, and the salute at the Guildhall was taken by the Mayor. He was accompanied by two Battle of Britain pilots, F/L G. Stroud and F/L D. Fopp, AFC., the Town Clerk, Mr. J. Guile, Lord Brownlow, LL, JP, A/C Hawtrey G/C Blunt and S/L Kane.

The Committee wish to thank all members

Branch letters—contd.

and others who so kindly help to make this week a success.

The Entertainments Committee are very anxious to form our own dance band. Will any member interested, please contact Mr. D. Gorin, tobacconist, High Street, Grantham.

Our Rifle team seems to have created a good impression with the other members of the league and under the guidance of their popular Captain, Mr. B. Paice, they intend to muster a first rate team next season. Any members interested?

Don't forget the Dance at the Guildhall on Saturday, December 7.

Best wishes.

F.W.

HAYWARDS HEATH

Since our Inaugural Meeting on June 18, membership has increased rapidly and is now over 100 strong. In less than four months this response is most gratifying. The branch is blessed with an enthusiastic President, in G/C Lywood and an equally keen Chairman in W/C McCarthy.

Well attended meetings at the ATC Headquarters have taken place and it was thought desirable to procure a more spacious club room before we were actually squeezed out! Our energetic Treasurer, Mr. Botting, promptly acquired the use of St. Richard's Parish Hall and meetings are held on the first Tuesday in each month, at 8 p.m.

We are happy to note that WAAF are enthusiastic members. An Entertainment Committee has been elected and are planning wizard "do's" for the coming winter. During RAFA Week, the programme of events was poorly attended by members. (Members are earnestly requested to support branch officials by attending these functions).

Our plan for the future is to cater for our members who reside outside the town, and if these members will give the Committee some lead as to their requirements, we will do our best to fulfil them. We wish to fashion our branch on a true "help your comrades" policy. By banding ourselves together in such an Association as ours, we shall keep alive that wonderful spirit which we all treasured so much when serving in the finest service in the greatest Empire the world will ever know.

My best wishes to you all and good luck to all other "rookie" branches, particularly our close neighbours, Lewes.

C.F.C.

HENLOW and HITCHIN BRANCH

Since we were last in the news we have lost our old President, A/C E. J. D. Townsend, on his retirement. Thanks and appreciation of his work with the branch were extended by S/L W. T. Richardson (rtd.), the Chairman. A/C Townsend, in reply, said that he had been very happy during his period of office, and had enjoyed being associated with the work of the branch. He said that when he became President three years ago, there were only 25 members, but to-day they were 1,000 strong, which spoke well for the future of the branch.

The new President elected was A/C H. E. Forrow, CB, OBE, Officer Commanding RAF Henlow.

A full programme was arranged during the Battle of Britain Week, which included an RAF Show "Starlight," dances, old and modern, and an all-star variety show, proceeds from which alone were £130.

Battle of Britain Sunday was commemorated by a Parade and Drumhead Service in Hitchin, in which local uniformed organisations took part.

J.M.S.

LEICESTER BRANCH

When remitting 1947 sub; please send membership card. Fully paid up branch membership to date (Sept. 25), 2,250, including 66 life members. Ex-WAAF members number 137, have their own Committee, all active and enthusiastic. Hockey and Swimming Clubs have been formed. Our HQ the Allied Flying

Services Club, also prospers greatly; started 3½ years ago on proceeds of two dances and raffle (when branch membership was 54), now employs 9 staff. Membership 760 (not including service members who are given honorary membership).

Increase welfare work commensurate with growth of branch. Many local manufacturers, our good friends, find employment for a big percentage of our members. In dealing with RAF Benevolent Fund, we continue to work through SSAFA, their professional experience and advice is invaluable. RAF Benevolent Fund Midland Area Office (11 counties), opened in Leicester. G/C A. ap Ellis in charge. A compliment to Leicester, a great help to us. Our Battle of Britain Week programme was most successful, chief events—football match between victorious Leicester Boys and Cranwell RAF Cadets. Leicester won 3-2. Dance at de Montfort Hall, selection of RAFA Queen, Drumhead Service, Town Hall Square, September 15, about 200 guests and service personnel, entertained to tea at the Club after the service.

R.D.B.

MAIDENHEAD BRANCH

Membership continues to increase rapidly, and by the time these notes are in print, the 200 mark should have been well passed. Thanks are due to the many members who have either brought new faces along to the Club Room or asked me to write a personal letter of invitation to join us. Our goal is 300 members by the end of the year, and I think we are going to make it.

Our first dance on September 11 was an overwhelming success; in fact, the trouble seemed to be how to keep people away, not to get them in! I understand these dances are to be held at frequent intervals, the next being early in November. As we all like to do a few fancy steps now and again, accommodation will be limited, so get fixed up with tickets early. Quite a few faithfuls attended the Church service at St. Mary's on Battle of Britain Sunday, followed by the placing of a wreath to our fallen comrades at the local War Memorial.

By this time, the first winners of the monthly competition amongst members for the darts cup loaned to us by St. Dunstan's will have been decided. We are giving away sets of darts to the winners, so don't forget to have a go, members! The Entertainments Committee are busy on future events in many other ways for the enjoyment of members. These all take time, of course, but if you want to keep genned up, come along regularly on Monday evenings to the Club Room. The RAF Ensign looks pretty good, doesn't it—when you're out!

Our new Chairman, Mr. L. J. Blackstone, is now "digging in" nicely, and we are all very grateful to our first President, W/C W. D. David, DFC, AFC, for having accepted office. The choice of members in this respect was unanimous. By the way, we now have quite a few ex-WAAF members, so keep it up, girls! One last word, don't forget it's "Monday Night at 8."

Best wishes to all Maidenhead members.

N.R.

MAESTEG

RAFA Week in Maesteg was an outstanding success, both socially and financially. The organiser, Garfield Thomas, and the band of loyal workers who gave their support, can justly feel proud of their efforts. Events held at the Town Hall included a concert by the Nattyfyllon Juvenile Choir, "Gen" Show, Whist Drive, Grand Ball, the play—"Happy Breed," children's party, and a dance. A mid-week Rugger match attracted a large crowd. Another feature was the Photographic Exhibition. The branch padre gave the address at the service at St. Michael's on Battle of Britain Sunday.

I would like to mention some members who contributed so much to the success of the Week. Phil Jones, Edgar Morris (what a bar!), Merlin Harris (any two bob "gen" show tickets), Bill Watts, Sid Hood, Dan Jones, Jack (stage

door) Phipps, D. J. Davies, Lin. Thomas, Em. Bowser and Edgar Lewis. The branch is proud of its President—he is no figurehead, but a very live wire—Tom King Davies, also the two schoolmasters, Chairman and Treasurer—Ted Prosser and Gus John.

A fitting climax to the week is the news that our membership total now stands at 200. We hope to increase this number soon.

Lin. Thomas is our new Entertainments Officer, and we expect some good social events arranged for this winter.

We appeal to our ex-WAAF members to attend our meetings. Don't forget chums—keep the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays free—Star Hotel, 7 p.m.

Good Luck!

R.H.I.

ROMFORD BRANCH

Good work, Romford! The branch membership has now topped the 500 mark, so we are half way to our target of 1,000 members. Don't forget that after October 1, new members may join for next year, so how about all existing members introducing at least one new member—thus putting us right on target?

Attention of all members is drawn to the fact that the First Annual General Meeting of the branch will be held on November 13. For further details, please see the "Gen" letter circulated with this AIR MAIL.

The winter's activities are now getting well under way: our first Dance was held in RAFA Week, and seems to have been well received. By the time these notes appear, our first Dance in Hornchurch will have taken place. As the branch covers such a large area, it is the intention of the Committee to organise functions throughout the area. Our next Dance will be held at the King's Hall, on November 21, and should be well worth a visit, so come along members and bring all your friends!

With the dark evenings, Wednesdays at the Golden Lion Headquarters are getting better and better attended, and everybody is beginning to get to know everybody else. The dartboard and Russian billiards are always the centre of attraction, the ladies in particular steering a course for the cues! We mere males had better look to our laurels!

Keep it up everybody.

E.L.P.

SALISBURY BRANCH

The branch maintains its excellent record, and membership is still increasing. We have now passed the 500 mark. During September, our activities were numerous, chief amongst them were:—

1. Masked Fancy Dress Ball, in the Guildhall.
2. Parade Service in Salisbury Cathedral for the anniversary of the Battle of Britain. In the parade, we were joined by the Amesbury branch and the 1010 Squadron, ATC. The Mayor and Corporation attended the Service in state. The address was given by our Chaplain, the very Reverend H. C. Robins, Dean of Salisbury. At the March Past after the service, the salute was taken by A/C H. P. Fraser, CBE, AFC, and the Mayor.
3. Our Concert Party has made a very successful debut. Produced by John Edwards, the show is called "Out of the Brew," and has been playing to packed houses, both in Salisbury and the local RAF Stations.

To our Lady members, may I appeal for you to come along and help in our social activities?

G.S.H.

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

The rapid expansion in our membership makes it imperative that suitable premises centrally situated are found at an early date. The Executive Committee are exploring the matter fully, and many enquiries have already been made, but we shall welcome any suggestions from members on this important subject. Incidentally, we do welcome suggestions and

Branch letters—contd.

constructive criticism on all matters connected with the branch. I hope those interested have made contact with Mr. A. A. Hawkins, 1 Lisbon Road, re football, hockey, etc. He will announce the fixtures when the teams have been completed. As a result of the Cambridge-shire Draw, a sum of well over £100 will be added to our funds, and I want to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Moulard for his untiring work in this connection. He tells me that he has plans for a bigger and better one on the Grand National, so please make a note of this. Full details will be given in my monthly letter for December.

A.W.E.

ST. ATHAN, CADOC and BARRY

On Battle of Britain Sunday, the Rector at the branch Church service took for the theme of his address, "The Few." He gave some past examples of how it was always left to the few—I could have added another one. The branch was represented by 35 members at the Dedication of the branch Standard.

Our attempts during the week to raise funds for the RAF Benevolent Fund and the RAFA were not crowned with a lot of success, and again it would have helped if some of our local members had given the Committee a bit more support.

Members living away from the district may like to know that we organised an exhibition of Aircraft Equipment for six days, also a Whist Drive, Concert, Boxing, Football Match and two Dances. A combined Dance was run in the camp by 19 and 32 MU on our behalf.

J.Q.MCC.

STOKE NEWINGTON BRANCH

Reports from a cross-section of the folks attending the dance at the Stoke Newington Town Hall, on September 9, are, almost without exception, favourable. We learned a great deal that will be of value to us in arranging further functions of this kind and any criticisms will be welcomed. Remember, criticisms—not insults!

The auspiciousness of the occasion was enhanced when the Mayor of Stoke Newington kindly consented to become a member of our branch. The Mayor served in the Royal Naval Air Service during the 1914-18 war.

The coach trip to Margate, which took place on September 1, was attended by real English summer weather. In fact, it rained so hard and so often it became difficult to distinguish where the sea ended and the shore began. However, apart from getting wet and dry alternately, we did manage to have some fun. In Dreamland where middle-aged men and women enter feeling twenty years younger and come out feeling twenty years older, we saw some of our members enter their second childhood, and gained an insight into the sort of characters they possessed as children. Some were undoubtedly model youngsters, but for the rest, I can only assume that their parents were extremely fond of babies.

The branch was successful in a darts match against the Walthamstow branch on September 13. As far as we know, the scorer was impartial and the players won on their merits.

C.H.J.

SURBITON BRANCH

The Surbiton branch, which has more than trebled its membership in the past year, went all out during Battle of Britain Week to make itself known to the local public. For this purpose a Battle of Britain Week Committee was appointed and together they put on a series of events far exceeding anything before attempted.

Opening with a Drumhead ceremony on Sunday, September 8, at which our new Standard was dedicated, we were fortunate in having the services of the RAF assistant Chaplain-in-Chief, Rev. J. F. Cox, MC, and of the RAF Central Band, under the direction of F/L A. E. Sims, Director of Music, RAF. The branch also offered two dances, a variety concert and a three-day fair during the week, ending with a

special local Church service on the 15th itself. The mayor of Surbiton, Councillors, the local ATC and the public in general warmly supported and attended the various functions, which have brought large financial benefit to the RAF Benevolent Fund and ourselves. Special thanks go to the Commanding Officer of RAF station, Chessington, who assisted us throughout and put the facilities of the camp at our disposal on three separate occasions. Congratulations to the whole Committee—the Chairman, Mr. W. A. Bosson, and his able assistants, Mrs. Comley and Messrs. B. C. Field, A. Gossling, P. M. McKenzie, R. V. Robbins and H. A. Simester.

Mr. McKenzie, assisted by Mrs. Comley and Mr. Yendall, attended the RAF Memorial Ceremony on Sunday, September 15, and made an impressive showing with our new Standard.

A.L.S.

WORCESTER BRANCH

This branch is now 217 strong.

During Battle of Britain Week, the branch held a very successful dance on Wednesday, and a formal Dinner on the Saturday at the Guildhall, Worcester, by kind permission of the Mayor. The Dance was attended by upwards of 400 people, while 50 members sat down to dinner. The Mayor, G/C Macdonald, and F/L Cardell (Battle of Britain pilot), were the principle guests, together with British Legion and ATC representatives.

On Sunday, a theatre show was held, again attended by the Mayor, the branch President, G/C the Hon. G. R. Ward, MP, was, unfortunately, absent from all the gatherings, but the Chairman and Executive Committee attended, and special thanks are due to the Entertainments sub-committee for the hard work they performed to make these events a success.

The following Wednesday a social and informal Dance was held for members and friends at branch HQ. This again was well attended and enjoyed by all.

It is rumoured the Treasurer and Entertainments officer are resigning, owing to pressure of business; the latter has a stiff legal examination in front of him, and the branch wish him success.

We want more members, especially live members, and every effort should be made to secure them. We can promise them, everything, with their active co-operation, shall be done to make this branch a success. The question should be "What can I put into it?" NOT "What do I get out of it?"

N.J.L.

SCOTTISH OFFICE

We have now so many branches in Scotland that it is impracticable here to speak individually of them. What we hope is that every Scottish branch will send its own note to AIR MAIL, so that each of us knows what the others are doing.

The work is going ahead. This time last year there were barely a dozen Scottish branches; now there are just on 40. But our aim is 100, and we shan't be happy until we reach it. We ask members living in places where a branch has not yet been formed to let the office know as soon as ever the possibility of forging another link exists. Give us a contact and we'll get going.

Our branches did nobly in Battle of Britain Week, and are to be congratulated on the care and thought put into their programmes. Months of hard work produced results of which Scotland may well be proud. The foulest weather of the whole year could do not more than prevent us from being still more pleased with the result of our efforts.

Now a couple of personal matters. First, heartiest congratulations to S/L J. K. Milne, Secretary of the Glasgow Branch on his appointment to the Executive Committee. The second strikes a sadder note. Mr. Robertson Marshall, Secretary of the Perth branch and Representative for the Highland Region, has been very ill, and is now under doctor's orders to abstain from all activities for some time. This means that he has had to resign his office as Representative.

What Mr. Marshall has meant to the Perth branch and to the Association generally would be hard to say, and we send him our most sincere wishes for a complete recovery. His place as Regional Representative has been taken by F/L J. M. McBain, Vice-President of the Arbroath branch, who during Mr. Marshall's illness has deputised for him. The new Deputy Representative is S/L C. N. Ramsay, Chairman of the Dundee branch.

For the first time in the history of the Association, the Annual Conference will last for two days and will be held outside London. Edinburgh is to have the honour of welcoming the Association on June 7 and 8, and we hope to make it a memorable occasion.

W.G.

RAFA BUSINESS ADVICE BUREAU

The following suggestions submitted by one of our branches are repeated for the guidance of other branches.

1. The formation of an RAFA Business Advice Bureau to collect lists of RAFA members who have their own business or an interest in one, and to make details of these lists available to other branch members by means of their monthly bulletin circulated with AIR MAIL. The list to be classified under heading and towns and trades or professions.
2. The maintenance of a list of stores available for disposal from the Ministry of Supply disposal board for publication amongst members, inviting requests for items indicating quantities required. The Ministry of Supply have indicated their willingness to supply such lists.

WHERE'S MY AIR MAIL!

If you know of members who do not get their AIR MAIL please ask them to contact their branch Secretaries, and to notify the Secretary in London. From our experience several things can happen, including the following:—

1. Some branches do not notify HQ of the names of new members. Delays of many months have on occasion taken place, much to the concern of members who have paid their subscriptions to the branch Secretary. So please see your branch Secretary first to make certain that he has forwarded your name and address to HQ.
2. If you are a new member there is sometimes a natural delay of a few weeks due to our rapid expansion. This cannot be avoided, but should be rectified within a month or so.
3. At the present moment the paper shortage means that we may not have enough AIR MAILs because the Ministry of Supply have not issued us with enough paper.

The great point is that if members do not get their AIR MAIL regularly they should notify their Secretary, and ask him to take the matter up with HQ.

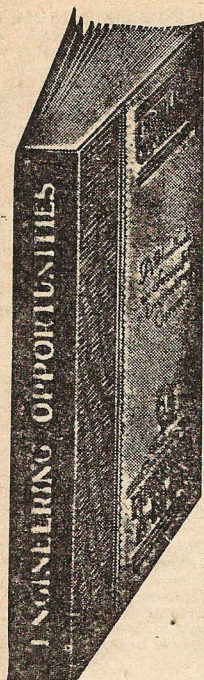
By the way, owing to the large number of AIR MAILs now being delivered on your breakfast tables (120,000) each issue takes a fortnight to despatch, so do not begin to worry until the 20th of the month, to give time also for postal delays.

PSI, PMC, PSM

Do you know that your Mess Committee and the Services Institute are encouraged to subscribe to RAFA funds—vide AMO 650/199? We shall be glad if you will raise this at the next meeting and see we receive as large a grant as practicable.

Where stations have not previously subscribed very much over the last six years, they may like to make amends, within the spirit of the AMO.

Thank you.



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HAVE YOU HAD YOUR COPY OF "ENGINEERING OPPORTUNITIES"?

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THE B.I.E.T. IS THE LEADING INSTITUTE OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD

The Truth about Salesmanship as a Career

by a Squadron Leader

Many men, on leaving the Services, are finding that civilian conditions do not come up to expectations.

Some have gone back to their jobs, only to find that what was once a comfortable, living wage, is now a beggarly pittance.

Some, not so fortunate, have no jobs waiting for them.

Numbers of them imagined that salesmanship did not necessarily imply a knowledge of "selling." It was, so they thought, merely a matter of personality and the possession of the "gift of the gab," and that there were employers only too willing to take on as salesmen, presentable men, even if they entirely lacked experience.

They thought they could learn their jobs as they went along.

Others, with some pre-war salesmanship experience, did not realise that they were out of date, and were astonished that they could not find the employment they desired, with an adequate remuneration.

THE FACTS

The facts are of course, that reputable firms, with all the good-will in the world, cannot afford to employ men of no experience, or men who have lost touch with current selling conditions. They cannot afford to "stand the racket" while these men pick up the rudiments of their jobs.

True, there are certain get-rich-quick firms who employ so-called "salesmen" on commission only. This type of "salesmen" is a door-to-door canvasser and should rightly be described as a hawker.

Commission only offers of employment should be closely investigated before they are accepted since few reputable firms work on this basis.

WHAT ARE THE TRUE PROSPECTS TO-DAY?

Many manufacturers are concentrating on the Export Markets of the world. This has, to some extent, affected the home markets, and although one may observe a steadily increasing assortment of goods on offer, the fact remains that until home production is in full swing, the vacancies for salesmen will remain low, and only the experienced, up-to-date and trained man will secure a post at this precise time.

BUT THE PROSPECTS FOR THE NEAR FUTURE ARE NOT WITHOUT HOPE as there are many indications that home production is improving in unison with the increase of available labour.

The President of the Board of Trade recently announced an increase in the supply of domestic hardware, furniture and fabrics, whilst numbers of manufacturers have promised increased output as and when their staffs are augmented by the release of workers from the Services.

Therefore, men who are still in the Services, and who have no jobs awaiting them, have an opportunity to train as salesmen, ready for the time when they are released and the promised trade boom commences.

Even for those who have no intent of becoming salesmen the course will be an experience and an asset as it will train their mind and widen their outlook. It is a background that will always be of use.

AN INEXPENSIVE, CONCISE COURSE

THE INSTITUTE OF PRACTICAL SALESMANSHIP OF ST. ALBANS was founded by the "Squadron Leader" to meet a demand which, hitherto, had not been satisfactorily met. He had the interests of the Service and ex-Service men at heart. He compiled the I.P.S. Course in collaboration with a body of experts in marketing, selling and advertising.

The I.P.S. Course is the most up-to-date and scientific course of training in salesmanship ever compiled. It takes the student through the whole gamut of selling practice. It brings him physical fitness. It gives him courage, self-reliance, confidence and knowledge.

The course is given by correspondence, with the exception of the Final Lesson, when parties of the students are taken through practical demonstrations by the Principal in person.

NO "GRATUITY EXPLOITATION"

The "Squadron Leader" has laid down strict rules for the proper conduct of the Institute. Every applicant has to complete a searching Questionnaire, and many are rejected at once as obviously unsuitable. For instance,

Those who want a job immediately and think the I.P.S. Course is a "short cut" to a well-paid job.

Those on Demobilization leave, with no jobs, and only their Gratuities and Leave Pay.

Those who do not possess the requisite educational standard or pre-Service experience.

Applicants are frankly told of their prospects, and are warned that they must not expect a salesman's post in a hurry, the only exceptions being those who have outstanding ability and experience, or who have had previous "selling" experience.

Some, who have taken the Course, we find from their answers to the Lessons, are unsuitable, and we return their fees with some friendly advice.

On the other hand, Students are at any time, entitled to claim a refund of whatever fees they have paid. This is done, without question or deduction on our part, within 24 hours.

SPECIAL TERMS TO THE SERVICES

Special arrangements have been made for a considerable reduction in fees to all Service and ex-Service personnel; they can also be paid to suit the student's convenience.

To those who are seeking to prepare for the future; the "Squadron Leader" invites them to write for the interesting Brochure, "The Art of Practical Salesmanship" which will be sent post free on application to: **The Squadron Leader, THE INSTITUTE OF PRACTICAL SALESMANSHIP, LTD., ST. ALBANS, HERTS.**



Branch Dramatic Clubs

by Cecil Norman

With the approach of the winter season many of our branches will be planning their programmes and considering how best they can spend their time during the duller hours of the year.

One hears of a very successful production of "Flare Path" by a certain London Branch. Will there not be many more branches searching for histrionic talent this year? I sincerely hope so, for in what way could members spend their leisure time more profitably and enjoyably! It is impossible to over-estimate the educational, cultural, and recreational value of these activities, which in addition to entertaining our friends, do so much to publicise our Association and are a useful means of raising funds for branch work and for various charities.

During the war it was my privilege, during off-duty periods, to form Dramatic Societies on various camps in this country and I was astounded by the amount of latent talent which was brought to light. In many instances, a new member who has confessed absolute ignor-

ance of stage work has developed immense enthusiasm and, after a few weeks of rehearsal, has appeared in a local theatre and given a performance of which many a professional actor might justly feel proud.

In India an all-RAF production of "Journey's End" met with conspicuous success—yet only two members of the cast had had previous experience of amateur dramatics in this country, a third member had played a minor role in "Saloon Bar" in India—that being his first part ever! The presentation was so successful that I was asked to adapt and produce a broadcast version for Deccan Radio. I was the only member of the cast with previous microphone experience and yet the reception of the play was "excellent."

Numerous cases could be cited where serving personnel in isolated parts of Bengal and Assam, fighting against the disadvantages of tropical heat, malaria, dysentery, shortage—nay absence—of adequate equipment and lighting, and with every imaginable inconvenience, have con-

structed their own bamboo theatre and props and still made their stage debut an outstanding success.

These men, of whose performances we were so proud, are now home again. Their opportunities to-day are unprecedented. They do not have to seek them, they are on their doorstep. Their experiences under much more adverse conditions will have made them more strongly individualistic and imaginative. Encouraged, then, by the conviction that acting is good, both for the personality of the actor himself, and as a means of developing the corporate spirit which should form the basis of social life in the community, it is hoped that every support will be accorded all efforts at establishing a theatrical group at every branch.

A great tide of new interest in amateur dramatics is sweeping the country and time and effort spent on branch productions will create entertainment and delight for many. Will YOUR branch play its part in this national revival of an art at once cultural and entertaining?

New Branches Formed

ABERGELE (605)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: C. R. M. Andrews, Melbecks, Tan-y-Fron Rd., Abergele, Denbighshire.
MEET.

ALTON (Hants.) (612)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: F. W. Andrews, 9 High St., Alton, Hants.
MEET.

BARNOLDSWICK (601)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: Miss I. Green, 2, Roundell Terr., Barnoldswick, via Colne, Lancs.
MEET.

BEDLINGTONSHIRE (608)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: R. Graham, 13, Victoria Rd., Barrington, Bedlingtonshire, Northumberland.
MEET.

BOURNE (619)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: E. S. Hemsell, 1 Harrington St., Bourne, Lincs.
MEET.

BURNHAM-ON-SEA (591)

Pres.: A/C E. W. Norton
Chair.: R. Choules.
Sec.: D. J. Ward, 53 Esplanade, Burnham-on-Crouch, Som.
MEET. Railway Htl., alt. Thur. 8.30 p.m.

CALLINGTON (577)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: F/L H. F. D. Monk, 49, Fore St. Callington, Cornwall.
MEET.

CHELSEA (602)

Pres.: A/C M. Sir Christopher Courtney, KCB, CBE, DSO
Chair.: R. J. Montgomery-Moore
Sec.: R. B. Fredericke, 21 Godfrey St., Chelsea, SW3
MEET. The Beehive, Chelsea Manor St., 1st and 3rd Tue., 8 p.m.

COBHAM (578)

Pres.: Rt. Hon. Earl of Drogheda, CMG.
Chair.: F/L R. W. Rogers
Sec.: F. J. Childs, 25, Hogs Hill Lane, Cobham, Surrey.
MEET. Bear Htl., last Thur., 8 p.m.

COLERAINE (596)

Pres.: A/C G. R. Beamish, CB, CBE
Chair.: F/O P. F. Darley-Jones
Sec.: J. H. McCandless, Lodge Rd., Coleraine, Co. Derry
MEET. Cafe, last Wed., 8 p.m.

CRANBROOK (609)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: E. R. Weller, 3, North Grove, Highgate, Hawkhurst, Kent.
MEET.

CREDITON (587)

Pres.:
Chair.: F/L A. W. Grove
Sec.: C. W. Thompson, Roath, Bell Ave., Crediton, Devon
MEET. Ship Htl., last Fri., 7.30 p.m.

DEVIZES (613)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: G. A. Wiltshire, 30 St. John St., Devizes, Wilts.
MEET.

DORCHESTER (599)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: Mrs. B. C. Mackenzie, Bridge Htl. Bungalow, High East St., Dorchester, Dorset
MEET.

DOWNHAM MARKET (620)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: A. J. Wilson, Ryston End, Downham Market, Norfolk

DUDLEY (621)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: A. C. Townsend, 17 Dingle Rd., Oakham, Dudley, Worcs.
MEET.

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Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: S. Ball, 120, Beaconsfield Rd., Enfield, Middx.
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MEET.

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Pres.: S/L E. Edwards, AFC
Chair.: F/L J. Grey, DFC
Sec.: D. L. Davies, 12 The Mariners Sq.,
Haverfordwest, Pems.
MEET. Kings Arms, Dew St., 1st and 3rd
Fri., 7.30 p.m.

HONG KONG (603)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: J. F. C. Kingsley, GPO, Box 42, Hong
Kong
MEET.

JAMAICA (580)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: L. Anderson, c/o F/L Thompson, 112,
East St., Kingston, Jamaica, BWI.
MEET.

LEEK (616)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: J. Dawson, 1 Glebeville, Leek, Staffs.
MEET.

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Pres.:
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MEET.

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Chair.:
Sec.: E. J. Moyle, 2 Byron Rd., Littlehampton,
Sussex
MEET.

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Chair.:
Sec.: H. J. Bradsell, Teneriffe, Liskeard,
Cornwall
MEET.

LOUTH (625)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: G. G. Ness, 47 Newmarket, Louth, Lincs.
MEET.

MALTBY (626)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: J. Adams, 17 Highfield Park, Maltby,
S. Yorks
MEET.

NARBETH (627)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: W. C. Rees, Stafford Villa, Jesse Rd.,
Narebeth, Pems.
MEET.

NEATH (617)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: J. E. Booton, 5 Richmond St., Neath,
Glam.
MEET.

NEW MILTON (589)

Pres.: A/C/M Sir Philip Joubert, KCB,
CMG, DSO
Chair.: W. W. MacLellan
Sec.: H. R. Pink, "Easton," Solent Rd.,
Walkford, High Cliffe, Hants.
MEET. Milton Htl. Pavilion, Tue., 7.30
p.m.

NEWRY (583)

Pres.: Dr. C. J. Shortall
Chair.: L. Garland
Sec.: L. P. Nicholl, 40A, Boat St., Newry,
Co. Down NI
MEET. Ruddle & Co., 47-49, Water St.,
4th Wed., 8 p.m.

PENARTH (593)

Pres.: G/C Leach
Chair.: Councillor W. Jeffcott
Sec.: E. J. Perkins, 3, Byron Plc., Penarth,
Glam.
MEET. Promenade Cafe (Esplanade Htl.),
2nd and 4th Tue., 7.30 p.m.

PENZANCE (628)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: H. W. J. Rutland, Poltreen, Penzance,
Cornwall
MEET.

PORT TALBOT (584)

Pres.:
Chair.: C. Roderick, BSc
Sec.: E. R. Morgan, 6, Maesycwrt Terr.,
Port Talbot, Glam.
MEET. Grand Htl., Wed., 7.30 p.m.

RHONDDA VALLEY (629)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: M. T. Williams, 92 Aberrhondda Rd.,
Porth, Glam.
MEET.

ROSSENDALE (630)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: W. T. Hopkins, 19 Beech St., Bacup,
Lancs.
MEET.

SAFFRON WALDEN (594)

Pres.: Dr. G. Gray
Chair.: F/L W. J. Finch
Sec.: G. Harris, 3 Market Hill, Saffron Walden,
Essex
MEET. ATC HQ, London Rd., 1st and 3rd
Fri., 8 p.m.

SCUNTHORPE (618)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: A. D. Hotchin, 115 Burringham Rd.,
Scunthorpe, Lincs.
MEET.

SIDMOUTH (595)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: L. Eaton, 1, Eaton Terr., Temple St.,
Sidmouth, Devon
MEET.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON (581)

Pres.:
Chair.: F/L A. L. Robotham, DFC
Sec.: G. A. Ruff, Armscote, Stratford-on-Avon
MEET. Green Dragon, Arden St., 2nd and
4th Thur., 8 p.m.

STREATHAM and NORBURY (585)

Pres.:
Chair.: G/C V. F. Whaling
Sec.: Miss J. Rolfe, 196, Barcombe Ave.,
Streatham Hill, SW2
MEET. White Lion Ht., Streatham High
Rd., Tue., 7.30 p.m.

SUNNINGHILL (611)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: G. Elsbury, Kington Stores, Sunninghill,
Berks.
MEET.

THURROCK (558)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: K. W. Peart, 14, The Circle, Tilbury,
Essex
MEET.

TROWBRIDGE (631)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: H. C. E. Downer, 44 Whiterow Park,
Trowbridge, Wilts.
MEET.

WELLINGTON (Som.) (600)

Pres.:
Chair.: S/L D. Clyde-Smith, DSO, DFC
Sec.: F. C. Parrott, 11 Owen St., Wellington,
Som.
MEET. Dolphin Inn, 1st and 3rd Wed.,
7.30 p.m.

WOLVERTON (607)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: A. Richardson, 27, Ledsam St., Wolverton,
Bucks.
MEET.

WOOLWICH (597)

Pres.:
Chair.: W. Sparkes
Sec.: R. L. Reason, 34 Crescent Rd., Plum-
stead, SE18
MEET. Queens Arms Htl., Burrage Rd.,
Plumstead, Wed., 8 p.m.

WORKINGTON (598)

Pres.:
Chair.: R. Cannon
Sec.: K. Byers, 9, Lawrence St., Workington,
Cumberland
MEET. Veterans Club, Christian St., last
Wed., 8 p.m.

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ALLOA (586)

Pres.:
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Sec.: H. Maule, 22, Greenfield St., Alloa,
Clackmannanshire
MEET. Townhead Inst., 2nd and 4th
Mon., 7.45 p.m.

FORT WILLIAM (588)

Pres.:
Chair.: S/L H. Woodhouse
Sec.: M. Smith, c/o Gowan Brae, Union
Rd., Fort William, Inverness-shire
MEET. K.K. Cameron's Tea Room, 3rd
Thur., 7.30 p.m.

STIRLING (590)

Pres.:
Chair.:
Sec.: A. Barrow, 42, Berry Hill, Cowig,
Stirling
MEET.

STRANRAER (610)

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Back Door to Fleet Street

by R. H. Warburton

The advice of any successful free-lance journalist to those about to take up the profession would be much the same as Mr. Punch's famous remark to young men about to be married—"Don't." And to that advice, if the aspirant still persisted, might be added much of Mr. Churchill's inspired phrase: "I have nothing to offer you . . . tears, toil, and sweat." Is it so bad? Judge for yourselves.

H. G. Wells, Somerset Maugham and Edgar Wallace wrote for many years and collected hundreds of rejections before the cheques began to come in. One writer of popular "best-sellers" has said that he had seven hundred and fifty "editor regrets" before he sold an article. But times have changed. There is more scope for the outsider, now-a-days.

Broadly speaking, there are three main facets of free-lance journalism, news, feature articles, and the short story. Of the three, news is the journalists main—and most regular—source of income. What kind of news? Certainly not the news which appears daily in the national press, and which is supplied as a general rule by accredited correspondents who are on the staff. You must aim lower than that.

Every trade, every profession, every branch of human activity, has its own magazine. There is your news market. Find out what trades in your district are not getting space in their appropriate trade paper. Make yourself known to important personnel in those trades. Find out what is happening and tell the trade press about it. Births, marriages, deaths, and appointments are all sure-fire news. The trade paper editor, if he likes your stuff, will tell you what are his further requirements. Rates paid are usually 1d a line, with a minimum of 2/6 per item. Not fame and fortune, but an adequate living when you have achieved a connection.

If a really good news story should break under your nose, phone in the bare details to your

favourite daily, giving your name and address first. The news editor may ask you to cover the story. More likely he will send out a man. But in any case you will be liberally paid for your information.

Feature articles are the things you probably send regularly, and as regularly receive back again from whatever paper is favoured with your typewritten views. Here again the advice is, start low.

Write only of what you know; your trade, your hobby, anything in which you are interested and of which you have a real knowledge. Remember that whatever you may have to say has been said before. Try for a new angle on the subject. Write it, revise it, and write it again if necessary. Prune it mercilessly. And, when you have said something new on an old subject, in as few words as possible, submit it to the paper of your choice.

If you can write readable short-stories, you are indeed fortunate. The market is wide open to you. One popular magazine alone is now offering £250 in prizes for really good yarns. But please study your editor's requirements. Send him the kind of story he normally uses. And if he does not usually publish a story, don't imagine that your masterpiece will change the whole policy of his paper.

It is only possible here to give a broad outline of a profession, which embraces almost everything that goes into print. There are several good books on the subject, and there are schools which can give you the rudiments of it. There are also several societies which give help to the would-be writer.

Particulars of all these aids to good writing can be obtained from the "Writers and Artists Year Book," published by Blacks. Most municipal reference libraries have a copy on their shelves. Without the aid of the year book you

can hardly make a start in free-lance journalism.

There are one or two golden rules. Don't write unnecessary letters to editors, and certainly never call on an editor except at his request. Finally, don't forget to enclose a stamped and addressed envelope with your MS.

There is a living in free-lance journalism. I know men who make a four-figure income, but they work as hard for it as do most other men in the same salary bracket. Moreover, they have specialized knowledge and ability.

From the aspirant to the profession, if he is to be saved from suicide, I would demand four qualifications. Determination, determination, and still more determination; ability to write; news sense; and either a little capital, or small private income.

On the subject of private income, perhaps I might quote from a letter I received some years ago from a well-known writer on air topics.

"Free-lancing," he said, "is a tricky business unless you are able to write one or two 'best sellers.' You would be well advised to have . . . a sheet anchor in the shape of a regular job with a regular salary . . ."

There you are. As a money-making hobby, there is none more fascinating. As a profession free-lancing offers illimitable opportunities. There are no examinations to be passed, but there is also no tenure of professional status except by proven ability and a constant output of good work.

If you must write: if there is no other life for you, by all means take the risk of starving to death, with the possibility of an equally slow rise to the heights. There is no high road to fame. But if you are only tinkering with the idea, forget it.

Good writing!

On the Road

"As a new reader of AIR MAIL, I was particularly interested in the article "On the Road" (page 15, October issue), but feel that it was not sufficiently comprehensive to fill the needs of the man contemplating travelling as a career. So far as the article goes, I am in complete agreement with all that "A Commercial" has to say, but would add that in my opinion, the first and most necessary question a would-be salesman should ask himself is "Can, and do I discipline myself?"

"Particularly at the present time many employers are finding it necessary in the interests of their employees and themselves, to put a man on a flat salary, with expenses paid, and unless the salesman is capable of self-discipline, he may quickly lose interest and sit back and draw his salary. This state of affairs would not last for ever, for Sales Managers have not served their time on the road for nothing. But a smart man could make his job last quite a long time in this fashion.

"There is a vast difference in selling goods to a retailer for re-sale to the public and selling articles or material for use and consumption by the buyer. In the first case the buyer (being a seller) is concerned with (a) appeal to the public taste, (b) margin of profit for himself, and why the article you are offering is a better proposition than that offered by Mr. So and So. In the second case the user (or consumer) is concerned with the immediate economic advantages accruing through the use of your material. Will it do my job better? he asks. Can you maintain the quality, price, delivery etc.? His manufacturing programme is necessarily based

and planned on the maintenance of supplies, whether they be fabricated, semi-fabricated or in the raw state.

"Fortunate is the salesman who is sensitive to 'atmosphere.' To be able to judge if and when the Buyer, Works Manager or whoever may be giving the interview, has heard enough, is to be able to conclude the interview, if not with an order, then at least with the satisfaction of knowing that you have left a good impression behind you. You will be welcomed here the next time you call.

"Too little respect is shown to the commercial man, or his calling, by large numbers of the general public. Who has not heard the remark, often accompanied by a sneer, "Oh, he's only a commercial." Take it from me, the good Salesman be he a technical representative or not, is worth a lot of money to his employer. Over a period, he builds and develops an area for the benefit of the Company for whom he travels, and in so doing builds for himself a reputation for honest dealing, service and consideration which, in time, becomes his own 'goodwill.' In other words the Buyer very often sees Mr. Brown as himself *not* as the representative of John Smith & Co. This is your stock in trade. Your value to your employer has increased and it is not necessary to draw attention to the vast difference in the income frequently enjoyed by the 'Commercial,' and the pittance often paid to the man in the office.

"To those contemplating a career 'on the road' I say GO TO IT—IF, and this is a big IF, you are prepared to work long and hard. Providing you have confidence, firstly in your self and abilities, secondly in your employer, and

lastly in the article you are going out to sell, then real effort will bring the desired results."

H. R. OUGHTON

Desert Church Re-union in London

In June 1943 a church built by airmen was opened at an RAF Station in Egypt. The first service was recorded by the BBC and later broadcast to listeners at home. Many listeners subsequently sent gifts for the 'Desert Church,' as it was known in those days.

The story of this church of St. Michael's, Tura, was told in a commemorative booklet published in the Middle East towards the end of 1945. Proceeds from sales of this booklet in the Middle East were given to the Red Cross and St. John Fund, and in this country copies have been sold to benefit the re-building funds of destroyed churches.

On Saturday, September 28th, 1946, a re-union dinner was held at the Charing Cross Hotel, London, for the Friends of St. Michael's, Tura, at which the guest of honour was the founder-padre, the Rev. K. V. Ensor. Ex-airmen and airwomen from many distant parts of the country attended, from Wales, Yorkshire, Lancashire, the West Country, East Anglia, the Midlands, London and the home counties. Amongst them were some of the actual builders, while the majority were those who knew and worshipped at St. Michael's, Tura, during their RAF service overseas. The following day, Sunday, September 29th, 1946, Michaelmas Day, a special re-union service was held at noon at St. Michael's, Chester Square, London, SW1. The service was conducted by the Rev. J. H. Piper, one-time padre "incumbent" of St. Michael's, Tura, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. K. V. Ensor.

RAFA News Room—continued

AS ONE MEMBER TO ANOTHER

A typical example of our purpose came to our notice a few days since. We were at Fowey, in Cornwall and ran into a badge. It was a fortuitous meeting. The badge had just started an engineering business with a partner.

We were impressed by the extensive workshops they had secured, by the remarkably fine range of working tools they had gathered together, and by the whole tone of the outfit. They looked the part, and, as it turned out, proved as competent as they looked. Welding, forging, engine overhaul and storage, whether for cars or boats, or in practice anything with a nut and a bolt anywhere near it, that is their line and they are bang on the beam with it.

They will soon be full of work. Why? They are shaping right, they know their onions, their fingers are out.

Have we ex-RAF and ex-WAAF something some of the others haven't got? Just that extra verve and knowledge, that extra charm and common bond with all men and women, no matter what their calling.

Good luck, my friends. If we have been able to give you a helping hand, it is because your aim was outstretched in comradeship. Yours is but one example of why we exist as an Association—to help each other.

Members all! Wear your badge and watch it work! Listen to the Good Mornings which will greet you. From perfect strangers? Perfect perhaps, strangers never.

"Digitus extractus," said someone to Master John Horner, "there is a job to be done."

PENSIONS APPEAL

Pensions appellants in Northern Ireland are reminded that if they require RAF Association assistance, their Forms MPT 21 should be forwarded to the Secretary, RAF Association, 13 Clifton Street, Belfast.

YOUR HELP REQUESTED!

The Executive Committee are of the opinion that the time has come when all meetings and conferences of the Association whether Annual, Council, or branch (but not necessarily Committee) should be preceded by an extortion on the lines: "We shall remember them."

They decided to ask branches and members to forward to the Secretary any ideas they may have on the subject, including particularly suggestions for the phraseology, which must obviously be dignified, short, and to the point, and should refer to those of our comrades who have passed on as well as to those who remain to salute their memory.

From the Chairman of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MY DEAR MEMBER,

You may like to know that the "Wear the Badge" campaign is going ahead like a house on fire. We have received ample evidence that members are benefitting mutually from the amazing number of contacts they are making among each other.

Our badge is a symbol of our purpose, something we can all proudly wear in our button-holes, in tribute to those of our friends who have passed on and those who came through. We must make quite certain this time that we stick together, in a new world which will reward those who take the trouble to be strong—synonymous these days with unity.

Our first RAFA week has come and gone. RAFA Day, September 15, was this year celebrated on a Sunday, to support our closest friends, the RAF Benevolent Fund. We have not yet been able closely to study the result throughout the country, but already have ample evidence that it has been an unqualified success. The Air Ministry threw open certain RAF stations and let the commanders know they were expected to help us, which helped the lucky localities enormously.

Some branches ran their engines flat out throughout the week, with a date on every day, using the local RAF station to "raise the wind" for both the RAF Benevolent Fund and the branch to considerable purpose. Next year branches will have more time to organise matters even better.

Perhaps it will help if I make the procedure clear. The policy agreed by the Council is that we can justly raise monies publicly for the Benevolent Fund and ourselves jointly, on a fifty-fifty basis, when something is provided for the entertainment and pleasure of those who are invited to drop a coin or a note in the box or tin. This cuts out Flag Days, but makes Battle of Britain Saturday the main occasion when branches can see to their annual revenue. On Battle of Britain Sunday we go through the gate to back up the RAF Benevolent Fund, without thought for ourselves. We celebrate RAFA Day, September 15, with the dignity which becomes so great a date in the world's story.

As I may not be with you next year, may I at this distance of time wish you even better luck next year, as I congratulate all of you who took part so successfully this year? I have seen some inspiring programmes of events, which make me proud of any part I may have played.

You may like to know that your Executive Committee are appointing a special sub-committee early next January—to prepare for the next RAFA week. Branches please copy!

All good wishes always,

Yours sincerely,

E. Howard Williams

Chairman of the Executive Committee

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134 FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.4

Please send me a copy of AIR MAIL every month for a period of twelve months for which I enclose 6/-

Signed.....(IN BLOCK LETTERS)

Address.....

EMPLOYMENT ADVICE SECTION
Report for August and September, 1946
Section is still located at Osnaburgh Hotel, Osnaburgh Street, London, NW1 (Tel: Euston 1048). Telephone calls are still difficult owing to many calls in and out of the building—additional lines difficult to obtain owing to short tenancy. Write whenever possible.

Area Offices

Plans are proceeding, but will be slightly delayed owing to additional time allowed for applications to fill Area Officer vacancies. (Now September 30, 1946). Advances to Senior Employment Officer regarding suitable three roomed offices, other than in RAFA branches will be appreciated in following centres: Cardiff, Birmingham, Leeds and Newcastle.

Records will be modelled on London Employment Section methods, to maintain standardisation throughout the country.

Kardex Cabinets

A number (up to 8) of these are wanted for use in London and Area offices. Size of cards 8 by 6 in. any assistance in obtaining these will be welcomed, either as gifts or at reasonable prices.

Honorary Branch Employment Officers

An index of these is now being maintained—has yours been notified yet? It is proving useful to employers and applicants alike.

Notification of Interval Results

Suitable cards have now been obtained for use of employers and applicants. Please make use of them and so save wasted effort on our part.

Appreciations Received (just a selection from many applicants).

"May I thank you and the RAFA... express my appreciation for helpful manner... application dealt with by your Department."

"... I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all the staff for the courtesy and spirit of helpfulness shown on all occasions."

"May I express my very grateful thanks for your kindness... and help which you personally and the RAFA have given me."

Appreciation from Employer

"I would like to thank you very much for the trouble to which you have been to get us suitable people for our Sales staff. I must say your picking has been absolutely outstanding. Practically all your people have proved to be just what the doctor ordered."

I append list of the members of our Sales force who were at one time in the RAFA. They rank from airmen to Wing Commanders."

Note: (28 names listed—positions worth approximately £500 per annum).

To All Employers

If the RAFA can do this for one influential firm, we can do it for you. We have well over 1,000 employers on our records. We would like to fill your vacancies—please give us the opportunity, no matter where you are located—we cover the world.

Employment Section Records—August and September

	AUG.	SEPT.	TOTAL
Interviews by			
Appointment	290	368	658
Casual Callers	79	153	232
Letters Out	1,104	1,473	2,577
Vacancies	71	102	173

CORRECTION

Apologies are tendered Sunderland branch, which was inadvertently included in the list of branches in arrear with their accounts reported to the Executive Committee, on June 4 last, as stated on page 25 of the September issue of AIR MAIL.

Stop Press!

New members may now join RAFA for next year. Branches are asked to inaugurate a drive to double their membership during the next three months.

The utmost care is taken to exclude announcements of an undesirable character or from doubtful sources. It is obvious, however, that no guarantee can be given about the good faith of everyone who has access to this page, which has been instituted to help members.

SMALLS

5/- a line one insertion
4/- a line each of three insertions
3/- a line each of six insertions
40 letters or spaces in a line.
AIR MAIL, 134 Fleet Street, E.C.4

PERSONAL

Jack Hobbs and His Band of "All Stars" for your Association Dances, Socials, etc. Write 30 Buchanan Gardens, London, NW10.

Ealing Squash Courts, W5. (Gilbert Jacob, propr e.or). Four championship courts, open to the public. Phone: Perivale 3449.

Sunny Cornwall. Spend your leave or holidays at Kabo House, West Looe, Cornwall. H & C in all bedrooms. Golf, boating, tennis, fishing, etc. Under personal supervision of F/L Clarke ("Nobby"), Ex-S. Rhodesia, Heaton Park, Kingsdown, etc. Bookings from Sept. Write for terms or phone Looe 348.

Snooker-Billiards. Tables for sale or hire. Every size in stock. Specialists in all types of billiard table repairs. B. Hawkes, Greenwood, Uxbridge Rd., Hayes, Middx. Tel: Hayes 318.

Oriental Rugs, etc., wanted by private purchaser. Please state type, size, colourings and price required. Box 11.

Full Dress RAF Uniform, only worn twice, built by Pope & Bradley, F/L rank, complete with helmet, plume, patent leather Wellington boots (8½) and belt. Height 5ft. 10½ins. Chest 38½ins. £30. Box 12.

Westcliff-on-Sea. On the cliffs facing sea. An excellent billet with first class messing. Worcester Private Hotel, The Cliffs. Phone: Southend-on-Sea 495211.

Printing. Business stationery, cards, etc. Send your order or enquiry to 70 Kinafauns Road, Ilford, Essex.

Kennel Club Registered Champion Pedigree Bull Terriers, specially bred at the Lavenet Kennels. Write, phone, or call at any time. Brooklyn Cottage, Old Bosham, Sussex. Phone: Bosham 3195.

British, Colonial and Foreign stamps on approval, suitable for beginners and medium collectors. Enquiries and Want Lists welcomed. T. Matthews, 13 Forest Gate, London, NW9.

Printing, Commercial and Private. Branch work, etc. Prompt delivery. Martin (ex-RAF), 159 Brent St., Hendon, London, NW4.

Music for the Million. Teach yourself to play the piano. McGuire's method is genuine and standard notation is used. NO TRICKS. Send now for particulars of this fascinating method of "Learning to play the Piano," also courses in "Theory of Music," to: McGuire's Correspondence Courses, Dept. LBr, 85 Stanbridge Rd., Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

Open Air Life. Ex Aircrew type with 68 acre farm in South Devon would welcome contact with one or two chaps interested in outdoor existence and who have a little capital to invest as partners. Only single gentlemen please. Write F/L Webber, Risiton Barton, Halwell, nr. Totnes, Devon.

Empire and Foreign Postage Stamps. Albums and Accessories for Collectors. Thomas Lawford, BPA, 15 London Rd., Reading. Tel: 60692 and 131A High St., Aldershot.

You Want Them! Tools and Garage Equipment. Send to Coles and Stubbings, 6 Ruskin Rd., Eastleigh, Hants (ex-75 Wing, RAFNI, HQ 2nd TAF, SHAEF).

Stamps Wanted, Jap occupation issues, Colonials, airmails, air mail envelopes, air-graphs, collections. Any quantity. Send registered, quoting price. We sell stamps, price lists 1/- for 12 issues. Stephen, Heswall Hill, Cheshire.

Orchestras—Concerts—Cabaret—consult F/L 'Scruffy' Dale, DFC, Jack Payne Ltd., 80 Regent St., W.1 Regent 2421.

RAF Calendars and Xmas Cards illustrated and die stamped. Samples, Toni Roberts, 93 Goldsmith St., Nottingham. Tel: 75465.

Hastings for sunshine, scenery and shows. No restrictions. Children welcomed. 5 mins walk sea. Fires in bedrooms. Special terms for servicemen. Mr. and Mrs. Everard, 120 Braybrook Rd. Tel: 874.

Silver Menu Holders, set of 12 for sale. Very suitable for mess or club. Price £7/15/0. Box 18.

WAAF Officers Uniform. Great coat, good condition. Two tunics and skirts, one as new. Height 5ft. 6ins., bust 34ins. Box 20.

Fur Coats. No coupons! Dyed GENET latest style, hardly worn, long, small size, 55 gns. Also short ANTELOPE, 5 gns. Box 21.

Bodrihan Hotel, Looe. (Tel: Looe 265). Wonderful views of sea and river, harbour, woods. A unique opportunity to spend your leave or holiday in perfect surroundings. 4 excellent meals per day. Terms 7 gns. per week Oct.—June. A real welcome awaits you. (Thanks for passing on the news). F/L J. Jenny.

A. J. Cull (Ex-RAF). Now in partnership with HILL & Co., 4 Prospect Hill, Redditch, Worcs, will arrange Hire Purchase for vehicles, radio sets, etc., also re-finance vehicles already purchased. Insurance. Buying and selling of businesses. Accounts prepared. Special rates and attention for members of RAFA.

Bobby Clanford, vari-voced Accordionist, late Gang Show; socials, cabaret, etc., up to 8 artists. 35 Cedars Rd., London, SW4. MACaulay 1993.

Merriland Guest House, The Vale, Broadstairs, for your leave, holidays, or week-ends. Fishing, Boating, Golf, lovely sands. Immediate vacancies. Book now for Xmas. Phone: 1064.

Ex-Ralph Readers' Gang Show comedians, etc. For Dinners, Re-unions. BM/RXGJ, London, WCI.

"Stop Binding." Recall humour of the Service with the funniest RAF book ever. Price 1/-, from Boots, Wymans, Smiths, Menzies, or Punch Bowl Press, Starkie Chambers, Preston.

City of Exeter. Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. RESIDENT COOK required now at Mowbray House Municipal Maternity Home, Fore Street, Heavitree, Exeter. The wage will be between £150 and £200 a year according to experience together with free board, lodging and laundry. Applications should be addressed to G. B. Page, Medical Officer of Health, 5 Southernhay West, Exeter.

RAF Officers Greatcoat—Raincoat, uniform (as new). Chest 42, Height 6ft. £14 the lot. Box 22.

Wanted to Buy Clean Cigarette Cards. Write first particulars and price, to Box 23.

Boarding Houses, private hotels, businesses, etc. Auctioneers and Estate Agents, Norton & Co., Norton House, Leicester; Norton House, Gt. Yarmouth; Norton House, Lowestoft; Clock Tower Chambers, Skegness; and Bouverie Road West, Folkestone, can offer you particulars, and a free selection on hearing your requirements will be sent.

Lady Entertainer and Pianist—available for functions. Apply Box 24.

Cliff Hailes ex-RAF Central Band presents his dance-band. Enquiries: Malden 1779. 94 Malden Road, New Malden, Surrey.

Ex-WAAF and Husband (Ex-Army Officer) require small self-contained unfurnished flat N or NE London. Box 25.

Have a Talkie Film Show at your kiddies' party. Low fees. Also 9.5 mm & 16 mm Hire. Laurel Cine Exchange, Bath Road, Cranford, Middx. Phone: Hayes Middx 742. (Ex-RAF).

Motor Insurance. Many members of the RAFA have taken advantage of the Special Reduced Motor Insurance Rates offered exclusively to them by Hunt & Co., 11 Little St. James's Street, London, SW1. (Regent 1589). You too can save! Apply for details from Hunt & Co., or from your Branch Secretary.

RE-UNIONS

Ex-XI Squadron Aircrew invited contact. Merton Naydler, 34 Gunterstone Rd., W14.

Anti Locust Flight (ME). Write Playford, Hutchings, Horley, Surrey.

Squadrons 172, 217, 236, 248. Write Box 1.

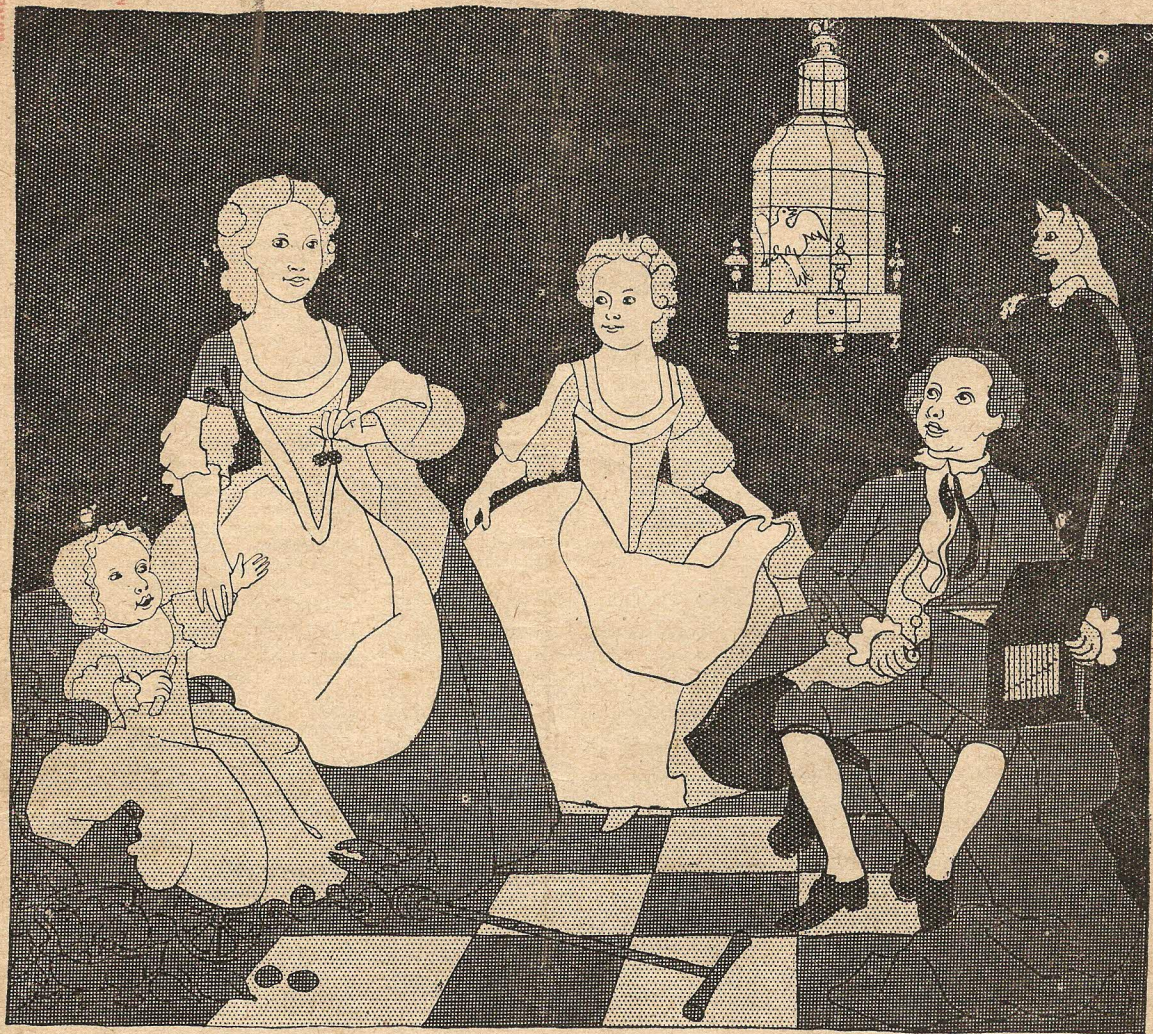
959 Squadron. It is proposed to hold a re-union in London late November or December. All interested communicate with H. Mitchell, 203 Yorkland Avenue, Welling, Kent.

HQ 55 Maintenance Wing. All past and serving officers (RAF & WAAF) who served at Wing HQ or its Units are invited to attend a dinner to be held in London in December. Apply M. W. Maxwell, 3 Chancery Lane, London, WC2.



At the suggestion of one of our members we have procured blocks to use on private notepaper or envelopes. If branches require supplies of these blocks for re-sale to members, application should be made to Assn. HQ. The blocks, specimens of which appear on this page, cost 2/6 each. Please state which one you want—shield, oval, or circle.

★ LEARN FROM THE MASTERS



*The Graham Children, by Hogarth.
(A line simplification based on the original painting in the National Gallery.)*

★ FAMILY GROUP

In this family group, formally posed, the principal character is the tallest girl. She has been placed to one side, not symmetrically in the centre. Yet the picture is "balanced" by the visual weight of the other girl, with outspread skirts, and the boy. The eye at once goes to the principal figure, because she alone is regarding the observer. Incidental interest is lent by the cat and the bird, forming a story within the picture.

ILFORD LIMITED ILFORD LONDON

POINTS FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

When posing a group of people, decide beforehand which is to be the principal. Give main prominence to this figure, but avoid a central position as too dull. Dispose minor figures so that the complete group is "balanced." Let none but the principal be shown looking at the camera.

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