

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 75

AUTUMN 2007

BAE SYSTEMS, AIRBUS & DERIVED COMPANIES
RETIRED MANAGEMENT STAFF ASSOCIATION

Chairman's Report Autumn 2007

It is with great sadness that I write this Chairman's Report, most of you will know by now that our Newsletter Editor died on the 28th of June 2007. It was very sudden as we were enjoying lunch the day before at the White Horse, and were making arrangements for Bill to visit me and install Publisher on my computer, so that if he was in any way unable to complete the newsletter we would at least have some knowledge of how it was done. At 7.30 on Friday morning his son Michael rang me to tell me his father had died the night before. I can tell you it was a severe shock, particularly as Esme and I were involved in a medical emergency at Weymouth, we were preparing to drive to Weymouth, so it required some urgent telephoning before we could set off. I am sorry if I did not tell everyone but it really was a rush, and I had to leave it to other members of the committee to spread the very sad news. This now means we are without a newsletter editor, your committee have circulated an appeal to anyone who is just a little computer literate, and feels they could do this job to come forward and make themselves known to any committee member. Bill would indeed be a tough act to follow, but we would not want his successor to necessarily follow in his footsteps, Bill has left on disc the basics for the next 10 newsletters, which may be of use as a guide. Ken Strange and I with the help of Tom Coggins have cobbled together this newsletter using material Bill had either put into a draft copy or had available. Neither Tom, Ken or myself would be able to do the newsletter on a permanent basis but I think it is important that some form of a newsletter should be available.

In spite of reminding members who have not paid their subscriptions for 2007 by two newsletters, one containing the dreaded stamp reminding the member that he / she have not paid their subs due in January of this year, this year it was some 70 members having not paid by June. The stamp is so much used that we think it is time it was renewed or perhaps better still a slip should be included reminding members who have not paid by June it was about time they coughed up with the large sum of £2 for all the benefits they get from the RMSA. With this newsletter is the warning to those 35 members who have still not paid, that they will be lapsed at the end of 2007. All this means a lot of unnecessary work for the Membership Secretary the Treasurer and other committee members engaged in preparing the newsletters.

On a more happy note the day out to Weymouth was as usual (by David's good communication with

ARTICLE	PAGE
Chairmans Report	1
Input from Iain Gray	2
2007 Summer Day Out.	3
History Lesson	4
Chance Meeting.	5
Wartime Dispersals	5
Soldiers of Bristol	6
.Round the Horn Pt. 4	7—8
Apropos of nothing	8
More Soldiers	9
New members / Obituaries	10
From the Treasurer	10

someone) accompanied by reasonable weather, Ken Tooze has a write up in this newsletter.

Before I complete the Chairman's Report I would like to repeat the appeal for someone to come forward as Newsletter Editor. The letter we sent out to all our members in early August produced the not surprising result of not a single reply, this was most disappointing as I thought that somewhere amongst our 430 members one or two would have responded. I have virtually completed the newsletter 75 Autumn 2007 it was not too difficult, and I learnt a lot about the computer, I just cannot take on this job as I have a fair bit to do now. If you feel that you are unable to be an Editor perhaps you could produce some interesting copy so that the temporary Editor has something to work on. Maybe your holiday or your hobby, in fact **anything** interesting. I have very little copy for the next newsletter. If you have anything to input please note my e-mail address has changed to a much simpler one, it is shown on the back page. Thanks for bearing with me for this rather long report.

Frank.

Retired Managers Association – Input from Iain Gray

I very much appreciate the opportunity to keep the communication links between the Company and the Association alive and let you know some of the things going on in the Airbus business.

As I am sure you are all aware, the past year has been a time of huge change across the whole of Airbus, and especially so for the Filton site.

The first six months of 2007 has seen some fantastic achievements. The A380 aircraft has visited the Filton facility twice, in March and again in July, as part of its fuel system test programme and we now look forward to it entering into service with Singapore in October.

We delivered our first set of flying wings for the A400M – the first composite wings on an Airbus airplane – and are now moving towards first flight milestone next year.

Indeed on one day in July we had the A380 parked over by the main assembly hangars, and we had the Beluga over by North Field being loaded with the A400M wings – and with Concorde in the distance we had past, present and future of Filton site all present on the same day.

We have delivered a record number of single aisle aircraft in the first half of 2007, a product that is a credit to many of you who were so actively involved in its development.

However, despite this the future of the company demanded action it was taken to protect our future. Airbus posted a negative result in 2006 following the A380 delays and high investment in future projects, specifically the A350 XWB.

These factors, along with the huge impact of the weakening dollar-to-euro exchange rate (we sell aircraft in dollars, with most of our cost base in Euros), have forced Airbus to make some difficult decisions. The dollar weakness has led to a 20 per cent loss of competitiveness in only six years!

The list of challenges means that the management at Airbus has decided to create a “New Airbus”. This will mean lighter and more cost-efficient processes, refocusing the industrial base on core activities, developing large industrial partners and creating a truly integrated organisation. The key challenges in the UK and especially Filton, are to reduce overhead costs (ROC) and focus our industrial base on core activities.

We have a local challenge of reducing headcount by roughly 1,000 people in Filton, split 50:50 between temporary and permanent labour. We all hope to achieve this by voluntary redundancy and early retirement and hope to meet the targets by 2010. Of course, this is a difficult time for many. You will have read in the press over the recent months about the move to sell the operations side of the business at Filton. This will include mainly the manufacturing facilities, but will also affect some of the support staff such as Financial and HR to allow the new business to stand-alone.

We have had a very busy few months preparing the site for sale and we are currently in detailed discussions with two bidders. The sale will give the Filton site a great opportunity for growth. In particular we will be looking for the winning bidder to make big investments in the composite manufacturing facilities required for A350XWB and beyond.

In this time of change and challenge we need to remember that Airbus remains active in a growth market of some 22,000 new aircraft in the next 20 years. We have an order backlog of four to five years of production and the company continues to deliver record numbers of new aircraft.

Although the changes are far-reaching, it is also an opportunity to implement the necessary measures that will allow us to continue growing the business successfully for many years to come. I thank you for your support in the past and know we count on your support into the future.

Iain Gray

We are very grateful for this input from Iain Gray and appreciate his continued support of our Association.

It is hoped that he will be with us at our Christmas Lunch, on Friday December 7th 2007.

Frank Webb.

2007 Summer Day Out

The weather was, just a bit indifferent as we walked along the Seafront of the Jurassic Coast resort of Weymouth, and there was an important decision to be made - like where to have lunch. We settle for a small cafe just off the Seafront.

It's July and we were on the RMSA's 2007 summer day-out. The Rover European coach was nearly full. Many of us are regulars on these trips and it was great to see some 'new' faces. We are all as is said, 'of a certain age' and are a friendly lot. Anyhow, your committee's efforts - which are mainly Dave and Janet's - were well supported. Wish I could always put names to faces though.

We'd had a leisurely drive down with the usual traffic queue into Weymouth and got out near the Queen Victoria Jubilee Clock on the Seafront. We could have if we had wished, gone on to where the coach parked up and visited the Sea Life Park at Radipole Lake Nature Reserve, just a short way away. As Dave said, 'this is a DIY trip, just do your own thing and see you back here at half past five'.

I was a bit surprised to hear that not everyone in our party had visited Weymouth before, as King George 111 no less, was once a frequent visitor, taking a fashionable dip in the waters of the English Channel for health reasons using one of the first bathing machines. George a popular monarch was nevertheless prone all his life to bouts of insanity; he lost us the American Colonies too, so he needed some somewhere to switch off I suppose. He is credited with establishing Weymouth as a major seaside resort and bought a house on the Seafront. It's still there, converted into luxury apartments.

The good folk of Weymouth have erected a splendid monument to him on the Seafront. Yes, he was very well thought of.

For many years it's been a favourite of seaside visit of mine, with an excellent beach, safe sea bathing, great fun for kids, and plenty of pubs and entertainment with, in the early days, visits of the Big Bands to the elegant Edwardian Ritz Theatre, on the pier (now rebuilt as the Pavilion Theatre). I remember especially, seeing Ted Heath and his Music there. His band was the best of them. The whole of the pier area is now revamped into a major ferry terminal, a sure sign that Weymouth is not stuck in the past.

There were not many people 'partaking the waters' the weather was struggling to stay sunny, and the beach was pretty deserted for July, it's been that sort of summer.

We can all fly off to the 'Med' quite easily now if we want to get some 'guaranteed' holiday sun, I suppose. So there is no great problem getting a tan.

We headed for the Old Harbour and wandered among the fishing and leisure boats, where there is always a lot going on, giving the Brewers Quay Shopping Centre a miss this time, and walked out on the promontory to the Nothe Fort and Gardens overlooking Portland Harbour. The Fort protecting the harbour was in active service until 1956, and has now reopened as a visitor attraction after a major restoration. Unfortunately we didn't have time to go in, and spent the remainder of the afternoon in the gardens enjoying the super view of Portland Harbour and Breakwater. No Royal Navy ships now, but hey! The 2012 Olympic Sailing Events will take place here. Surely there is no better place.

So it was back to the Clock Tower to pick up the coach and head home. Thanks to Dave and Janet, we'd had a good day out at the seaside.

No photos this time - Bill is a hard act to follow

This article would have been put together by Bill. I hope it is somewhere near the very high standard he would have produced.

Ken Tooze
28 July 2007



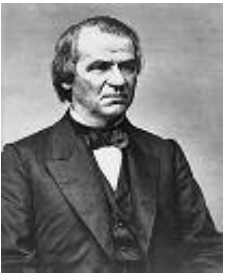
One of my nieces sent me an e-mail containing the attached History Lesson.
Perhaps there are historians among you who could verify/disprove the
validity of the content

HISTORY LESSON

Have a history teacher explain this...if they can

Abraham Lincoln was elected to congress in 1846
John F Kennedy was elected to congress in 1946

Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860
John F Kennedy was elected President in 1960



Both Presidents were shot on a Friday
Both Presidents were shot in the head

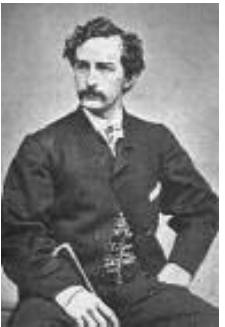
Now it gets really weird

Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy
Kennedy's secretary was named Lincoln



Both were assassinated by Southerners.
Both were succeeded by Southerners named Johnson

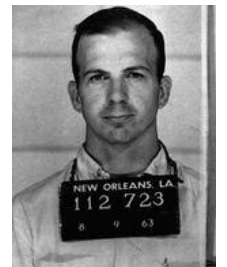
Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln was born in 1808
Lyndon Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy was born in 1908



John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated Lincoln, was born in 1839
Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated Kennedy, was born in 1939

Both assassins were known by their three names.
Both names are composed of fifteen letters

Now hang onto your seat!



Lincoln was shot in the theatre named 'Ford'
Kennedy was shot in a car called 'Lincoln' made by 'Ford'

Lincoln was shot in a theatre and his assassin ran and hid in a warehouse
Kennedy was shot from a warehouse and his assassin ran and hid in a theatre

Booth and Oswald were assassinated before their trials

And here's the kicker

A week before Lincoln was shot, he was in Monroe, Maryland.
A week before Kennedy was shot, he was with Marilyn Monroe

CREEPY HUH?



Stan Lock

A MILLION TO ONE CHANCE MEETING

This concerns two “bosom pals” one in the Army (myself) stationed near Preston in Lancashire and a lifelong pal who I had known since our schooldays in Lee on Solent, near Portsmouth. This was in 1946, towards the end of the war, and John Harmer was a Chief Petty Officer R.N. stationed at the time in HMS Anthorn in Carlisle. (a stone frigate!). John had been all over the world serving on Fleet Carriers, finally ending up in Australian waters where the ship paid off and all the crew flown home. John still had the remainder of his “X” years to serve, so was posted to HMS Anthorn to serve out his time.

At this distance in time I cannot recall what arrangements we made with our respective “bosses” but I used to visit John in HMS Anthorn quite regularly, staying in the Naval Barracks, and John would come to stay at my Army unit in Preston. The extraordinary meeting that occurred was in Preston in 1946, and here is what happened.

I was returning to Preston with John from my unit, and we were waiting in the Bus Station in Fishergate in Preston for John to get his bus back to Carlisle. As we stood there waiting, another bus pulled into the Bus Station, going from Burnley to Blackpool. The Conductor got off while his passengers for Preston alighted, and I believe he lit a cigarette while he waited.

He glanced idly around and spied a Naval uniform standing there – and a look of recognition came over his face as he hugged John! They had last seen each other on the Carrier in Australian waters! John was still to serve out his time but his oppo. from the Carrier had already flown home and found himself a job on the buses, and it was a very brief meeting because he had to continue his journey to Blackpool.

Think of the odds of that meeting – John was waiting for the Carlisle bus which he very infrequently caught, and has a fleeting chance meeting with a chap he had not seen since they were serving on Carriers in Australian waters. John’s mate was also passing through from Burnley to Blackpool, and can you quote the odds of that happening?

I was there too and saw it all.

Ray Foot.

MEMORIES OF WARTIME DISPERSALS-Part 2

The Zoo pavilion: us and the animals.

Then the Drawing Office and Stress Office were moved from Clevedon into Bristol Zoo, occupying the first floor of the Zoo pavilion.

The Section Leaders were at the front, ensuring they would be first out for lunch, as supplies were limited in the canteen. Next were the draughtsmen, and at the very back the Stress office, who often had to eat what little was left. There was little we could do about that but we discovered that banging our feet on the floor would provoke a mass exodus at three minutes before lunch time.

One day, one person discovered half a cockroach in his soup. Despite a frantic search, the other half was never found. One week we had good meaty soups and it was rumoured that this was because a camel had died.

We now had ladies in the office forming the Comptometer Section under Margaret Sutton.

Winnie had qualified as an engineer at Bristol Poly but was denied a place in the Stress Office because of male prejudice.

Jean married a stress man and years later her son Peter Townsend became the British Golf Champion.

We used to walk round the zoo after lunch and it soon became clear that one of the blue bottomed male apes had taken a fancy to Margaret, in a manner which was only too plain to see. People would wait by the cage in the hope of seeing this encounter.

The pavilion balcony had a beautiful view of the Zoo gardens, and in fine weather it was tempting to take our work there until one day the wind scattered our secret calculations down below.

One of the parrots was a regular guest on the Bristol radio Children’s Hour and some of the draughtsmen decided to teach it to swear.

Fortunately we were sent to the next dispersal before they succeeded.

David Farar

Soldiers of Bristol Part 2.

What of the Saturday night soldiers; The Volunteers and the Territorial's ?

Here the story is a long tale. It starts with a trained band of martial men with its base in Bristol Castle yard in 1625 and evolved into the Militia of Gloucestershire with headquarters in Bristol in 1750. By 1797, in order to defend against the French, volunteer corps were raised, the Bristol Volunteer Infantry came into being and, with the Militia, became the Bristol Garrison.

In 1802 the Volunteers had been disbanded but by 1803 a grateful government hastily recalled them to the Colours to meet again the renewed French threat. Thus the Bristol Volunteers came again into being. They had a longer life than most of the volunteer battalions in the rest of the country, for they were the forerunners of the 4th (City of Bristol) Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. In 1803 the Honorary Colonel was the Lord Mayor of Bristol. In 1872 the militia and the volunteers came under a unified command. By 1881 the Militia became the 3rd Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, and at the same time the City of Bristol rifle Volunteers became the 1st (City of Bristol) Volunteer Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment. The 3rd Volunteer Battalion were raised in the City in 1901, inspired by the Boer War, they were known as "Mardon's

Cockatoos", having a feather cockade in their hats and having been raised by Mr. Mardon of Mardon Son and Hall.

With the 1908 Haldane reforms of the army, the Militia became reservists, their role being to reinforce the regular battalions in time of war. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Volunteer Battalions becoming the 4th (City of Bristol) Battalion the Gloucestershire Regiment TF. The 5th Glosters TF, and the 6th Glosters TF, the TF standing for Territorial Force which in 1922 was changed to the Territorial Army.

By 1938 the threat of war meant the reinforcement of anti aircraft and armoured units was necessary.

Accordingly the 4th Glosters (TA) became the 66th Searchlight Regiment (Royal Artillery) and the 6th Glosters (TA) converted to become the 44th Royal Tank Regiment.

The 5th Glosters (TA) remained as infantry and at the outbreak of war in 1939 served in France where they fought gallantly in the rearguard force which covered the evacuation from Dunkirk, Having taken many casualties they reformed after Dunkirk but in 1941 their role changed and they were mechanised and became the 43rd Reconnaissance Regiment. After the war in 1947 they reformed to become again the 5th Glosters (TA) with two companies based in Bristol.

In the post war years, successive governments, unable to leave well alone, constantly reduced the strength of the Territorial Army and in 1967 the 5th Glosters (TA) became part of the Wessex Regiment (Rifle Volunteers) .

The Wessex Regiment had a distinguished existence but following the emergence of the RGBW in 1994, pressure having been applied, the government were persuaded to permit the formation of a TA unit to be called 2nd (Volunteer) Battalion Royal Gloucestershire Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment. Companies were recruited around the counties and B (City of Bristol) Company came into being in 1995.

In June 1998 the 2nd Battalion was presented its Colours by the Colonel in Chief of the Regiment, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, at Windsor Castle. However by July 1999 the 2nd Battalion was no more. A government review confirmed its disbandment and occasioned the formation of two volunteer battalions to cover the south west. Accordingly the regiment is now represented in the city by 3 Platoon of the RGBW Company, The Rifle Volunteers.

That's more or less the story to date, but I cannot finish this tale without recalling the 9 Battalions of the Home Guard raised in Bristol between 1940 and 1945. No less than thirteen thousand men and women served therein, and they all wore the Back badge.

Surely the Freedoms have been well earned.

Colonel F.J.J. Bartlett O.B.E.

Round the Horn - and back – Part 4

Feb. 18th. Up at 3.30am, left the ship at 4.40am for 6,30am flight to Cusco to start our five day extension to the cruise. It was advised that when we land at Cusco to take things slowly – no four minute miles – as if. Cusco is 11,000 ft above sea level and does make you puff a little if you hurry. However we were given coca tea to drink, this is supposed to alleviate the effects of altitude sickness. It might have done some good but we were not very keen on the taste. Plenty of oxygen for anyone who needed it, both at the hotel and on the tour coaches. Our hotel was in the centre of Cusco and had been modernised in the Spanish style, very rambling with plenty of places to sit for a rest. After lunch we had a tour of Cusco, the Inca's most sacred building in Cusco is the Temple of the Sun. This city is known as the archaeological capital of the Americas. Many houses built on the hills surrounding the city, the views are excellent but the higher up the hill you build, the services, water, electricity and roads etc. are virtually non-existent so the rent is cheap.

Feb. 19th. A visit to the Sacred Valley of the Incas; given this name because of its good climate, richness of its flower and fauna, and the river that runs through it all the year. There were remains of many temples built with huge stones all cut by hand using hammers made of bronze or hematite – they did not have iron. How they ever lifted the stones is truly amazing. There is a large central area which is used every June for the Festival of the Sun. After lunch we drove to Ollantaytambo for more archaeological wonders. We stopped on the way and met some friendly local people, the ladies all wearing long heavy skirts and straw brimmed hats. Many were weaving by the side of the road. They walk for miles carrying loads on their backs. Ollantaytambo is a small bustling village surrounded by mountains with tops covered in snow. There is a very steep terrace leading to the Temple of the Sun. We declined the offer to walk up, those that did had many stops for a drink and a rest and a talk. The local bus service was a three wheeled vehicle with a small canvas roof. One small home with a very suspect roof had a Satellite dish, and next door was a bar selling wood fire oven pizzas and decorative blankets. They were also laying foundations for a new building. The system seem to be, find a container, fill it with cement - no ready-mix here – climb about thirty steps then empty your container over a wall. For this effort after many trips from the mixer the men were given soup and bread whilst the next shift worked. We had our lunch in a very attractive house nearby, with the usual alpacas waiting to be photographed. Our next stop was Pizac Market, where the moths were freed from Frank's wallet to buy some jewellery from one of the stalls – Esme's dollars were running out.



Ollantaytambo

Feb. 20th. Off early on a full day trip to Machu Picchu. We travelled on the Hiram Bingham train named after the explorer who found Machu Picchu for the world in 1911. On the train champagne flowed freely, it is amazing how much can be drunk, even early in the morning, when you do not have to pay for it. Even before lunch there were quite a few red faces and heads were nodding, missing all the fascinating scenery from this very comfortable train and its attentive staff. Until 1911, Machu Picchu was the Inca's best kept secret and Hiram Bingham was glad he had a good camera and the sun was shining so that no one could doubt his findings. After leaving the train our coach had to negotiate 16 hairpin bends to get to the site. This route also was inaugurated in 1948 by Hiram Bingham and bears his name. On the site are many high terraces with retaining walls built for agricultural purposes with small houses on the side of the terraces used by those in charge of that particular sector.



Terraces and houses

The Incas made the most of the streams and the water-courses. Evidence of corn was found as part of the agriculture cycle and of course potatoes, which the Incas made known to the world. This sanctuary was lost for centuries as it is in the most inaccessible corner of this part of the Andes with precipices frequently a thousand feet sheer drop. The buildings are still very recognisable, although too many to see in a short time. There are stone steps everywhere; the Incas used the sloping angle of the land to advantage. Part of the fascination of Machu Picchu is the lack of accurate information on the origin of the place and why the Incas decided to occupy and settle there.



Houses of the senior residents

It was well worth the visit and we can only hope that Machu Picchu will not get too commercialised – no McDonalds, please. Back on the train for a good dinner and a late arrival at the hotel. in Cusco

Feb. 21, Flight back to Lima and after lunch a tour of Pachamac which is an archaeological site not far from Lima, although you could be miles away. You are almost back to the desert with houses built on the sand – doubt if they have any facilities. The main site includes a Temple 1100 – 1500 AD and a Palace 1400 – 1533. Roads have been discovered and also a large Convent where Nuns educated young girls to enter their Order. All this was built on sand and is in remarkably good condition. The land next to all this desert is very fertile and was being ploughed the old way, one man one horse. Back on the coach for our overnight stop at the Swiss hotel, Lima; Very comfortable indeed. They have outside lifts and one of our party who considered herself the fountain of all knowledge remarked to lift attendant “ I would have thought a hotel of this size could have afforded lifts inside” Needless to say the attendant made some non committal but polite reply – but we think she got the message.



Lima Beach

Feb. 22. We had lunch at a very good restaurant in Lima positioned at the end of a pier from which you could watch people wind-surfing, very good food and after another tour of Lima we were off to the airport for a flight to Heathrow via Madrid in an Airbus 340, very comfortable.

Feb. 23. Arrived Heathrow and guess what, our luggage was still in Madrid. It did get to us two days later, so no harm done. Glad we had a taxi from Heathrow and we hoped our neighbour had left us the customary bread cheese and milk – she came up trumps again. We had a wonderful holiday, well done Fred Olsen! We cruised 5,571 miles with you on Black Watch and this plus the extension was very well organised. If you have read this story and have survived our narrative; we can say South America is a fascinating country and well worth a visit. We are sure our Treasurer Tug Wilson and his wife will second this.

The end

Frank & Esme Webb

A propos of nothing

“Can you help?” said the voice on the telephone “We are desperate for copy for the September newsletter. Something amusing – maybe something from your sailing or fishing or birdwatching activities? Oh! we don’t want the story of how you spent the afternoon of your seventieth birthday in a Dublin hotel – this is a family newsletter” Recognising Esme I foolishly agreed to make a contribution – but what?

Sailing alternates between moments of pleasure and terror rather than humour, but I suppose there was that time I slid gracefully over the stern of the dinghy to find myself firmly hooked on the rudder gudgeon pin that had passed up between my thigh and bathing costume. Unable to lift myself high enough to get free and with a knife just an inch beyond my outstretched fingers I hung there for about twenty minutes I suppose, providing entertainment for the folks sunning themselves on Kingsand beach fifty yards away. Or there was the time I took my old friend and colleague Tom Markham sailing for the first time. Safely back on shore he confided that he had never understood how people knew which side of the boat they should be on, but he knew now – the side furthest away from the water!

Then there is a lifetime of fishing, but not much that is funny unless you include the times I have fallen in – and that was funnier to those watching than to myself. Still, the memories of the mink that came to within a yard of me or the family of no less than seven sunlit kingfishers flying upstream in line astern will live with me for ever.

Birdwatching – hmm. Well there was the time in New Zealand when we made a night time excursion to the nesting site of Westland Petrels. These birds are unusual for sea birds in that they nest in dense woodland. The sound of the adults crashing into the treetops is amazing, and to get back into the air they must claw their way up the sole dead tree stump with access to a hole on the foliage and launch themselves off. They nest on the west coast but hunt for food off the east coast, so they have to fly considerable distances around the north tip of the island with the food supplies for their chicks. One of these (they only emerge after dark) was bold enough to clamber over my feet. “Hey” I said to the guide “These birds are pretty fearless”. “Nah” came the instant New Zealand reply “He is just hungry – I expect your socks smell like week old squid!”

What about golf I thought – there are probably several RMSA members who, like me, took up playing golf after retirement thinking it might be a nice relaxing way to get some exercise and company. Little did they know that they were swapping the sadism of work in the aerospace industry for the machoschism of the golf course. It’s a bit like listening to the Wee Free minister delivering a sermon on the perils of strong drink (or dancing, or laughing, or ... you name it). “When you are writhing in the eternal torture of the fires of hell, you will look up to the Lord and say ‘Lord, I dinna’ ken; I dinna’ ken’. And the Lord, in His infinite mercy will look down on you in that fiery pit and say ‘Well, ye ken the ‘noo’”

Just a couple of quotes to round it off

“Golf is a game in which you shout Fore, shoot six and write down five” Paul Harvey

“Golfers play golf to prove that they can mentally overcome the pressures that golf puts upon them. The fact that if they didn’t play golf at all they would not have to endure or overcome its pressures may not occur to them” Peter Gammond

Clive Leyman

MORE SOLDIERS OF BRISTOL

Further to John Bartlett's History of "Soldiers of Bristol!" I would like to draw attention to two Bristol Territorial Army units which were created prior to the outbreak of WW2. The idea of a unique Artillery unit providing a survey service, observation posts using "Flash Spotting" and "Sound Ranging" to locate enemy guns and bring counter battery fire to bear back was first used during WW1 when the 1st Surry Regiment, Royal Artillery was created.

In 1934 the War Office decided to raise "Artillery Survey Sections" in the Territorial Army - thus the "3rd Survey Section, RA, TA was formed on 1st April! 1934; Its Headquarters was established at Redcliffe Parade, Bristol and consisted of 1 Officer, 1 Instructor and 6 other ranks. By 1937 the strength of the Section had grown to the point where it was classified as a "Company" and by the autumn of 1938 (when I enlisted) the unit with a strength of 16 Officers and 190 other ranks became the 3rd Survey Regiment RA, TA, And moved to new headquarters in Cotham Park. Recruitment continued apace throughout the period up to July 1939 when a sister regiment, the 5th Survey was formed to absorb the establishment excess from the 3rd. Mobilisation for War commenced on 27th August 1939.

Subsequently the 3rd Survey saw action with the B.E.F., in France returning via Dunkirk. The next two and a half years were spent in the UK providing a Survey, Flash spotting and Sound Ranging service to Royal Artillery Field Regiments at practice ranges in Northern Ireland, Wales and Okehampton. In January 1943 the regiment was posted to the Middle East to join the 8th Army. It took part in the invasion of Sicily and Italy where it remained until demobilisation in 1946. In total the Regiment lost 24 killed in action.

The 5th Survey Regiment moved from Bristol to Stroud as soon as they were mobilised and spent the next 3 years in the UK providing a similar service to that of the 3rd.

In November 1942 they were posted to North Africa to serve with the 5th Corps and subsequently in November 1943 to Italy, where, like the 3rd, they remained until demobilisation. In total the unit lost 19 personnel killed in action.

Both Regiments were disbanded in 1946/47.

To the best of my knowledge three employees of Bristol Aeroplane Company(Aircraft Division) served as territorials in these two Regiments and returned to work unscathed in 1946 - thanks to God. They were:-

Arthur (Dick) George	5th
L. (Bob) Sanderson	5th
Myself-Reg Hurd	3rd

Reg Hurd

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

If, when you receive correspondence from the RMSA, such as your Newsletter; should you notice any discrepancy in your address or any other details, would you please communicate any such corrections to our Membership Secretary to facilitate correction and update of our records.

THANK YOU



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Since our last Newsletter we have acquired new members.

Mr. & Mrs. P.T. & J.C. Sayers.

Mrs. V. C. England.

Mr. & Mrs. H. G. & R. Crick.

OBITUARIES

It is with sadness that we report former colleagues known to have passed away since the publication of our last Newsletter

Mr. W.G.Brand

Mr. W. J.Dowden

Mr. W. H. Evans

Mr. W. Kelso.

Mr. R. B. Mattin.

Mr. P. W. Thomas.

Mr. L. J. King.

Our sympathy is extended to the families and all next of kin

**THE NEWSLETTER
IS PUBLISHED
BY THE R M S A**

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in articles published within this Newsletter are the views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the committee or indeed the association.

Newsletter Editor

SUBSCRIPTIONS

We are now over half way through the year and, as ever, there are members who have “forgotten” to pay their 2007 subscription. Those members who have not yet paid will be lapsed at the end of the year. December 31st. We do not want to lose any member so I look forward to a flood of subscriptions arriving soon! (You will find a payment slip on page 10 for 2008 of the printed version of this Newsletter, use this to pay for 2007)

Alternatively you can pay by Standing Order, contact me for the information you need.

Tug Wilson