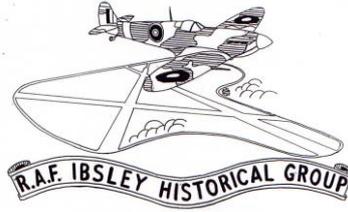


R.A.F. IBSLEY HISTORICAL GROUP

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NEWSLETTER

No. 95

April 2016

ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE, SUNDAY 21st FEBRUARY

We were blessed with a fine and sunny day for our Annual Service in Ringwood Parish Church. Just as well, for only two days before the Priest in Charge of Ringwood Parish, Rev. Dr. David Miell rang to tell me the Church heating had broken down the week before and despite all efforts taken by engineers it would not be repaired until the following week, they needed a part from abroad. I then notified as many local members as I could, also the band, and Standards organiser, telling them to wrap up warm. To me it wasn't too cold in Church, and certainly warmer than the years when we held the Service at the War Graves in Ringwood Cemetery.

Unfortunately three of our ten Committee were unable to attend due to illness, which included our Chairman Bill Dow, who was due to give a reading, and three for other reasons.

The Service itself went well with music provided by Hyde Training Band. Following the entry of the Royal British Legion Standards from Ringwood, Christchurch, Lymington, Lyndhurst, and Eastleigh under County Parade Marshall Steve Forward, Rev. David then gave a Welcome to all present. Group member Fred Spratt read a moving poem written by W/Cdr. C. F. 'Bunny' Currant, D.S.O., D.F.C., C. de G., who was at Ibsley 1941/2. Music for the Service was by Hyde Training Band. Three hymns were sung; Through all the changing scenes of life; Eternal Father, and Abide with me. In the absence of Chairman Bill Dow the Reading from Exodus 3, vs. 1-7 and 10-14, was given by Anthony Howard-Williams, who later laid the Poppy Wreath. Anthony is the Son and nephew of WWII pilots Jeremy and Peter Howard-Williams. A short address was given by Rev. David after which The Last Post was sounded by Bugler Martin Ings, The Exhortation was given by Group Vice-Chairman John Sturges. The Silence and Reveille followed before the Wreath was laid. Prayers were then said before the final hymn, Blessing, National Anthem and departure of Standards. Our thanks to Rev. David for leading our Service this year.

There was a retiring collection which amounted to £65.44 which will be sent to a Service Charity..

Light refreshments, tea, coffee and biscuits were served in the Church Rooms afterwards, and grateful thanks to Brenda Dow for getting the provisions and Wendy Clarke, Pat Hoskins and any others who helped to set out the room with tables and chairs and also washed up and packed everything away so that the Rooms were clean and tidy when we left.

My personal and grateful thanks to Anthony who so kindly offered me a lift to Church. He said he would pick me up at 1.30 p.m. I had all the Service Orders, Poppy Wreath and the Collection Box. 1.15 p.m. I had a phone call from Anthony to say he had a tyre blow-out at Blashford, about a mile and a half from my home, so was changing the wheel, something he hadn't done for years. We made it to the Church with just two minutes to spare!.

GROUP MEETING -THURSDAY 14th APRIL, IBSLEY VILLAGE HALL, 7.30 p.m.
TALK BY ANTHONY HOWARD-WILLIAMS
Subject: 'The Howard-Williams R.A.F Flying History'

More on this talk overleaf.

The Howard-Williams family have 100 years of service with the R.F.C. and R.A.F. from the very beginning in 1915 to now, as carried on by his son Dominic who graduated from R.A.F. College Cranwell in 2015 and is now flying training there.

We have advertised this meeting in the local Link Magazine, which covers the parochial parishes of Hyde, Ellingham and Harbridge, and also in the Ringwood Parish Church Magazine, which also covers a large area, stretching from Poulner to Bisterne. Our thanks to the editors of the two magazines Peter Kinnison and Anne Osborne for giving us space. The Village Hall has a limit on numbers so we will keep some seats for Group Members and friends. Non-members wishing to attend are asked to ring Group Secretary Vera (01425-474026) or e-mail vera.ibsleyhg@btinternet.com so we can prepare a list of names. Admission will be £2.00 and we hope to have a raffle.

**RECEIVED BY E-MAIL FROM GROUP MEMBER KEN HADDLETON
INTERESTING PIECE ON 1940 HEINKEL CRASH AT HALE, NEAR FORDINGBRIDGE**



Hello Vera, I have just come across this poor quality photo of the Heinkel III, which crashed at Downton/Hale

near Fordingbridge on the night of 29th/30th August 1940 which I think you may find interesting !

I wondered if you had any information in your records of the exact location of the crash site ?

The Heinkel was serial 3438 / IG + EL of 1 / KG27.

Crew all baled, but one died of injuries.

Shot down by Spitfire of 92 Sqdn. Flown by Pilot Off. A.R. WRIGHT.

Would it be possible for you to send me a short brief of the conclusion to where the picture may have been taken?

This is something I had not heard about before, so I set about seeing what I could find in Books. My first idea was to look in ACES HIGH for the Spitfire Pilot A. R. Wright. I found he was listed as Wing Commander Alan Richard Wright, who was very successful during the war, with 29/30th August amongst his many victims. I immediately phoned Ken and told him. He said he had the book and would look into it further.

In a second e-mail Ken says - Following our interesting chat on the phone this morning, I went on the computer determined to find out the facts of the Heinkel III crash at Hale nr. Fordingbridge on the night of 29/30 August 1940. Proved difficult at first to get the detailed facts, but by going onto the Airfield Information Exchange provided first hand details of the event, in the words of the pilot himself. I traced that 92 Squadron was flying from a small airfield in Gloucestershire at this time, named BIBURY, where they stayed until 3rd September 1940, when they moved to Biggin Hill.

This is what Ken found. August 29th 92 Squadron scored another kill in the words of the pilot, Alan 'Ricky' Wright.

“Our mission was to get bombers that were attacking Bristol under cover of darkness. Patrolling in the Spitfire at night was extremely difficult. There were three exhausts on each side of the engine in front which sometimes shot out flames. This ruined your night vision. We also had no means of homing and had to depend on being picked up by ground radar to be guided back to the airfield. We lost two planes because they had been out of touch with ground radar and could not see a place to land – the pilots bailed out.

On the night of 29th August I must have been about 25,000 feet – in any case I was above the clouds, because I could see the stars. I saw two pink glows close together, and closed to investigate. Sure enough they turned out to be the exhaust flames of an He111, but I couldn't see the plane itself until I got within 50 yards of it. I almost overshot. As I pulled the throttle back white flames shot out of my exhausts, blinding me until I coarsened the pitch of my propellor and pushed the throttle forward a bit. It was very difficult to keep behind the slower Heinkel firing whenever I could

between and at the two glows. The Heinkel itself was only the dimmest of shadows. Eventually one engine flamed up. The other must have stopped and the Heinkel was only gliding. I continued firing at the bomber until I feared that I was getting out of range of ground control. Sometime after landing I learned that the Heinkel had crashed near the Isle of Wight, on fire with both engines out. All crew were wounded and were taken prisoner, one later died.”

I have now written and sent the picture to the local newspaper Sallisbury Journal, which has a New Forest edition covering the area, and trust they may publish something on this crash in the hope someone may recall where it happened, but 29/30 August 1940 is nearly seventy six years ago.

PLEASED TO HELP YOU JENNY

On Saturday 12th March a letter came via my postman, franked Gatwick Mail Centre. It was addressed ‘For the attention of Mr. Graham Steele, R.A.F. Ibsley Historical Group, near Ringwood, Hants, BH24’. As it wasn’t addressed to me I rang Graham (Group Treasurer) to ask if he wanted me to forward it to him. He said “No open it and read it to me”. This is what the letter said.

Czech Air Force

During WW2 a Czech Airman lived with my family in Bromley, Kent. I believed that he died about 1943 as sadly his effects were sent to my parents (Mr. and Mrs. W. Bartlett) as a letter was found in his pocket with our address on him. His name Jan Stastny.

I believe from your Newsletter No. 84 that he may have been in 312 Squadron. I would be very grateful to hear of any information that you may have on him please.

I have tried to send an e-mail to you at enquiries@rafibsley.co.uk and also to rafibsleyhistoricalgroup@virginmedia.com – both have been returned unknown.

With thanks, Jenny Poll (nee Bartlett).

P.S. I still have and treasure the little book “Open the Gates” by Clare Fred which Jan gave to me. (propaganda book)

The next morning I telephoned Jenny and spoke to her for best part of an hour, to give her some information I had found on Jan Stastny in Volume 2 of Norman Franks Fighter Command Losses of the Second World War, Aircraft and Crew 1942-1943, as follows: -

13th June 1943.

312 Sqdn Spitfire Vb, EP240 Escort to Bostons attacking Bethune, a.m. See also 25th October 1943. A/c suffered Cat B damage, F/O Stastny safe. See 13th November 1943.

25th October 1943.

312 Sqdn Spitfire Vc , AB372 Ramrod 95, escorting B-25s. Flak over Brest baled out mid-Channel, not found. F/O J. Stastny not found +

Note: See 13th November entry makes reference to EP240 flying again with Spitfire number then being EP240c.

My thanks to Ken Haddleton who found this photo of Jan on the internet which I have sent to Jenny.



F/O Jan Stastny, 312 Sqdn

A FEW OPERATIONAL CODE NAMES OF ROYAL AIR FORCE FIGHTER COMMAND IN WWII

Circus = Bombers havily escorted by fighters to bring enemy fighters into combat.

Ramrod = Bomber raid escorted by fighters aimed at destruction of a particular target in daylight operation.

Rhubarb = Freelance fighter sorties on a small scale against ground targets of opportunity.

Roadstead = A low level attack on coastal shipping.

Rodeo = Fighter sweep without bombers.

Scramble = The general term for fighters being given the order to get airborne quickly.

Sweep = An offensive formation of fighters or fighter bombers over enemy territory, designed to draw the enemy.

SATURDAY 6th and SUNDAY 7th AUGUST

IBSLEY PAST AND PRESENT -IBSLEY VILLAGE HALL

This will be a mainly photographic exhibition featuring old photos of the Ibsley area, and the Village Hall, local clubs and societies of yesteryear and today. Already we have photographs promised for copying featuring the 1950's Motor Racing – cars and motor cycles and hopefully Ibsley Eagles Cycle Speedway team, champions of the New Forest League in 1952. We hope to have something on the Perce Simon Motor Cycle Trials, still held today. Some history of Ibsley Church, redundant in 1990, Cross Lanes Chapel, Ibsley Bridge, from one arch to three, etc., etc.

After the War hundreds of the R.A.F. Service huts were used to house, in the 1950's, families who had been evacuated to the area to live with families in the local areas when their own homes in many parts of the UK were damaged or considered at risk. My family in Ringwood had evacuees living with us, I was about six at the time. What a surprise I had when going through a list I was loaned recently, of over a hundred, who were living in the former R.A.F. huts at any one time, I came across their unusual name. In 1953 they were living in Hut 386, Site 2, South Gorley. Then there were names too of families whose children I went to school with and I will be trying to make contact with some in the hope they may have old photos which they are prepared to loan for copying, but not too many people had cameras during that era. Times and more details of the event in July Newsletter.

Please if anyone has any old photos we could copy, or pictures we could display over what promises to be an interesting and enlightening weekend please get in touch with Vera Smith 01425 474026 or e-mail vera.ibsleyhg@btinternet.com

R.A.F. DAKOTA TO SALUTE ARMED FORCES DAY IN RINGWOOD

SATURDAY 25th JUNE from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m

Carvers Recreation Ground, Southampton Road.

Organisers of Ringwood Armed Forces Day are flying high after hearing that The RAF events team has agreed that a historic Dakota from the Memorial Flight will perform a flypast in June. It will circle the Carvers showground while the 'load master' waves at the crowds from the open door. Dakotas were at Ibsley with No. 1 Glider Pick Up Training Flight from 27th March to 28th October 1945 with WACO/Hadrian Gliders.

There will be a large range of activities, including military vehicles, fair rides, military stands, charity stalls, live music, re-enactors and food stalls.

For more information ring Sam on 07973863203 or visit Facebook Ringwood Events Committee.-

FAWLEY HERITAGE EVENT – CHANGE OF DATE

Received e-mail from Rev.Canon Stuart Holt. We have moved our two day July heritage event to co-ordinate with Armed Forces day. Fawley Parish Council are running the Armed Forces day event on Saturday 25th June.

ON SUNDAY 26th JUNE we are running our Heritage event. We are having a heritage display organised by Annabella Villers who has been in our planning group as part of Waterside Heritage. It would be great if you could bring your table top exhibition to this, which we provisionally accepted to do when in July. Any volunteers for the new date. There will be various activities going on in the Jubilee Hall in Fawley village and in the Church.

PROGRAMME: Jubilee Hall Fawley 9 a.m. – 4 p.m Heritage displays, 2 p.m. Hythe Ukelele Band concert, with light refreshments served all day.

Village Green Fawley – Classic car display (all day) and Families vintage sports and games events from 2 – 3 p.m.

All Saints Church Fawley – 10.45 a.m. Parade of Flags from Jubilee Hall to All Saints Fawley.

11. a.m. Commemoration service for the Allied flags with representatives from Government and Councils. 12 noon light refreshments in church.

3 p.m. Community sing along of songs from the 30's and 40's with guest choirs. Evacuees entertain; children's concert with prize giving. Stay blessed, Stuart.

Did you receive this Newsletter by post but have e-mail? If so please could we send it to you this way, so saving the group money, and you will have it earlier. Please e-mail me vera.ibsleyhg@btinternet.com Thanks