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<p><u>Abbreviations for rank:</u></p> <p>G/Cpt Group Captain W/Cdr Wing Commander Sq/Ldr Squadron Leader F/Lt Flight Lieutenant F/O Flying Officer P/O Pilot Officer NCOs Non Commissioned Officers W/O Warrant Officer F/Sgt Flight Sergeant Sgt Sergeant Cpl Corporal</p>	<p><u>Other Ranks</u></p> <p>LAC Leading Aircraftsman AC1 Aircraftsman 1st Class AC2 Aircraftsman 2nd Class</p> <p><u>Other abbreviations</u></p> <p>CO Commanding Officer Wop/AG Wireless operator/Air gunner Obs Observer (navigator) OTU Operation Training Unit Kia Killed in Action <i>Other less frequently used abbreviations are listed at end</i></p>	<p><u>Notes & Search Words:</u></p> <p>Main categories in this column are: People Places Squadrons Dates Bristol Blenheim (BB) Serial numbers</p> <p>For ease of search & consistency: <u>Dates</u> are written as: dd/mm/yyyy or (if mth only): mm/yyyy <u>Squadrons</u> listed as: 18Sq, 21Sq, etc <u>Ref to journals:</u> Issue 56, page 4 = 56/4</p>
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Contact details (email, phone, address) given in the journal are not shown here. To respond to any requests for information please use the email address at the bottom of the website

Issue 49: June 2004					
Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	Chairman's Comments	Andrew Pierce	Graham Warner to be Society's President; Betty George retiring as secretary (many thanks). £12,000 raised in 2003 Draw. Sad loss of Mike Henry, Les Gibbs, Jeanne Gibbs, Evie Saunders, Ron Scott's mother. Pic: The First Blow. BBs off Wilhelmshaven, 04/09/1939 (Gerald Coulson)
Blenheim Society	2	Data	President and Committee from June 2004		First listing of names and contact details of 7 society 'officials' and 4 committee members. New editor Ron Bramley
Frank Michael Henry, DFC	3	Obit	Mike Henry	Graham Warner	Mike, editor of journal until end 2003, died 01/2004. Was Wop/AG in BBs with 110Sq, 101Sq & 21Sq, 2 Group Bomber Command. From 08/1940 28 raids from UK on Channel ports, Germany, Brest & shipping. Crashed Wattisham in L9310 after Boulogne raid. To Malta 08/1941 with 107Sq, low level anti-shipping raids. Gunnery Instructor at 13 OTU, Bicester, then more ops in Bostons with 107Sq & 88Sq until 07/1944. Awarded DFC. Wrote book 'Air Gunner', pub Crecy. Ron Bramley (previous editor of 'Air Gunners Magazine') also pays tribute to Mike. Pic: Mike Henry presented with DFC by King George VI at RAF Hartford Bridge 06/1944. W/Cdr Townsend, Equerry to King.
G/Cpt Gage Darwent Sise, DSO, DFC	4	Obit	'Bill' Sise	Graham Warner	'A fine New Zealand pilot'. Flew BB Mk IVs with 254Sq off Norway. 28/03/1942, after covering Commando withdrawal from St Nazaire, crash landed in Cornwall. As 254Sq Sq/Ldr on 20/11/1942 led Beaufighter 'Strike Wing' attack off Holland & crash landed in Essex. Later CO 248Sq; completed 150 ops. Awarded DSO & DFC (both with bars) & retired as G/Cpt.
G A Riddle	4	Obit	G A Riddle	Ian Carter & Gordon Chignall	'Jimmy R' was Observer with 211Sq C flight in Western Desert, Greece, Sumatra, Java & 'chased' to Australia by Japs. Then with 31Sq, Burma, to support Chindits. Died 12/01/2004 aged 94.

Ronald Dudman	4	Obit	Ron Dudman (Mick)	Ian Carter & Helen	Comrade of 'Jimmy' Riddle & also in 211Sq C flight. He was fitter, then Fitter/AG in Greece, Sumatra, Java & Australia. Then to India &, on return to UK, to RAE Farnborough where became engineer in charge of Aircraft Department Squadrons. Died 27/01/2004
AVM Antony Greville Dudgeon CBE, DFC	4	Obit	Tony Dudgeon	Graham Warner	Left Cranwell as pilot in 1935 to join 11Sq (XISq) flying Harts in NWF of India. In 1940 was Flight Commander 45Sq flying BBs in ME, then CO 55Sq at Fuka, western desert flying 50 raids in 3 mths & awarded DFC. In 1941 to 4 FTS Habbanyia for 'rest'; describes defending base from Iraqi siege in <i>'The War That Never Was'</i> (republished 2000 as <i>'Hidden Victory'</i>). Retired from RAF in 1968. Also wrote <i>'Luck of the Devil'</i> and <i>'Wings Over North Africa'</i> which describe wartime RAF life in ME.
Jeanne Gibbs	4	Obit	Jeanne Gibbs	Betty George	Jeanne & Les Gibbs (ex RAF) were early & active Society members, Jeane being membership secretary for many years. She was a land-girl during WWII – at London Zoo! Jeanne died 12/01/2004 & Les soon after. Condolences to family.
Fred Atton	4	Obit	Fred Atton	Joan Atton & Ron Scott	A Society member, ex-RAF & structural engineer from South Croyden, Fred died at Christmas while on holiday in Dorset, aged 91.
Evie Saunders	5	Obit	Evie Saunders	Ron Scott	Evie finally achieved a life-long ambition to fly by gaining her PPL aged 69! She flew regularly from Shoreham, supported Society actively, sold her house to buy Piper Warrior (G-EVIE), based at Compton Abbas, with Trust to teach people to fly. Courageous woman.
Bill Baguley	5	Obit	'Bill' Baguley	Ron Bramley	Ex-Fitter 2E with Blenheim Squadrons who is renowned for his research into Bomber Command losses which, along with photos, was passed to Society. Pic: Blenheim Day with Bill & others in front of Blenheim.
	5	Obits	We shall remember them	Editor	Other recent deaths of Society members: WT Fallon (Bill) on 10/04/2004, ex-113Sq in Burma; W Archer (membership no 249); Jack Caslaw from Chigwell who ended up flying gliders for army. £130 donated to Society in Jack's memory.
Blenheim Society	6	Letter	Graham Warner	Brian Jackson	A tribute by member 237 to restored BB G-BPIV at Duxford & the dedication & determination of Graham (GW) after the original G-MKIV crashed at Denham a month after 12yr restoration completed in 05/1987. This 2 nd restoration of G-BPIV took GW, John Romain & team 6yrs & considerable personal cost. In addition to two books on the restoration, GW also researched, wrote & published the definitive work on the BB – <i>'The Bristol Blenheim: a complete history'</i> (pub Crecy), with 2 nd edition in preparation. Blenheim Society was formed autumn 1987 to: bring BB air & ground crew together; research & record BB history; assist British Air Museum put BB back in air. It arose from GW's appeal for 2 nd restoration. Thank you Graham! (GW has now donated BB G-BPIV to Company to repair & operate it). Pic: unknown wartime BB.

	7	Report	Summary report of AGM by chairman	Andrew Pierce	Welcome to our new President, Graham Warner. Thanks to Betty George, secretary since Society's formation & now stepping down, but made vice-President. £5,500 cheque handed to Blenheim (Duxford) Ltd (who now own BB) raised from donations, sale of goods, raffle, etc and books donated by Mike Henry's son (£300 raised at AGM!). Following AGM Jim Nicolson spoke about his uncle F/Lt J B Nicolson, who awarded Fighter Command's only VC in WWII during Battle of Britain, with slides & recording of contemporary report of the action.
	7	Report	From the Engineering Side	Smudge	Blenheim Duxford Ltd now set up, some sponsors money in place & hope to make it a Charitable Trust. Dave Betts collected myriad small parts to send off for cadmium plating (anti-corrosion); apprentice Matt stripped engine frame for X-ray prior to rebuild. Two short-term staff stripping wings to send for stress-check X-rays. Once repaired, wings to be primed, wrapped and stored. Thanks Society for £5,500 donation & Lady Jessica Broom for £1,000 in memory of Sir Ivor.
	8	Report	Visit to Vraux/Champagne, July 2004	Tony Tranter	Tony outlines programme for planned visit to Vraux & Champagne area for 4 days from 12/07/2004 covering Bastille Day ceremony at Maison Rouge, Vraux (front line base in 1940). RAF Lossiemouth supports event. Cost £130. To book, contact Tony.
XV Squadron	9	Letter	Sq/Ldr Philip James Camp DFM	P Camp	Ref article on Blenheim air/ground crew (47/3) P Camp writes Philip J Camp joined 15Sq as Obs in Fairey Battles 30/01/1939. XVSq in AASF, withdrew France 12/1939, re-equipped BBs. After 26 ops trained as pilot at Upwood then W/Cdr Bandon (Earl of 'crash' course for Obs to pilots on BBs. Then posted 37Sq on Wellingtons to ME. If in XVSq 1939-1945 please contact P Camp. Contact details via email address at bottom of web site
110 Squadron	9	Letter		CT Payne	On 20/08/1945 110 (H) Sq flew last sortie of WWII from Hwambe (Rangoon) to Sittang River. 110Sq also in first WWII raid in BBs over Wilhelmshaven in 1939. Payne in 110Sq 11/1941 to 07/1944 (BBs then Vengeances). 110Sq reunions now at Cedars Hotel, Stowmarket (prev held at Wattisham). Numbers dwindling. Any ex-110Sq with news of P/O Robinson, Sgt Pullock & Sgt Parrish (pilots) or Sgt Harris (Wop/AG) please contact Editor: details via email address at bottom of web site
	9	Wanted	Bill Edrich	Ralph Barker	Author & ex-Wop/AG Barker planning new book of 10 RAF WWII stories. Help needed for section on MkIV BBs of 107Sq (2 Group) in 1941, esp about Bill Edrich (cricketer). Contact details via email address at bottom of web site
	9	Letter	Bader's legs	Liz Watts	Liz's uncle's information forwarded to AGA Data Base at Yorkshire Air Museum, Elvington. He (Sgt John Edward Pearson 'Jack', Wop/AG) pushed Bader's legs out of BB hatch! Liz's dad (HJ Pearson 'Joe') wrote poems, one (pub in 'Midland Voices') is included: 'They flew to preserve our freedom...'
	10	Letter	Letter from Graham		GW writes to formally thank Andrew Pierce,

			Warner to the Chairman		Ron Scott, committee & Society membership for £12,000 from 2003 draw & presented at Christmas lunch on 06/12/2003. This passed to John Romain at Blenheim (Duxford) Ltd. GW also explains his decision to donate the Blenheim to the new Company after 25yrs ownership.
	10	Report	Please Welcome to the Blenheim Society		Lists 6 new members.
	11	Review	' <i>Blenheim Over The Balkans</i> ' by James Dunnet		This book is a personal account of 211Sq from Western Desert, Greece, Crete and FE using a variety of primary sources & recollections, incl from TH Wilson (' <i>Wings Over Olympus</i> ') & an account of 211Sq fateful raid on Easter Sunday (13/04/1941). Foreword by Sir Ivor Broom
	11	Report	Balkan Pilgrimage	Ian Carter	On 60 th anniversary of 211Sq tragedy on 13/04/1941, Ian describes his visit to Paramythia, via Athens, Corinth and Agrinion, then to Microlimni, Lake Mikro Prespa, Karia, Trigonon, Florina and Alona to visit sites of BB crashes & graves of crews (incl F/Lt Buchanan) & to hear recollections of locals. He was accompanied by Maria Petroulaki, Hellenic Air Force translator. Full story included as postscript to Dunnet's ' <i>Blenheim Over the Balkans</i> '
P/O Bruce Reynolds (42528)	11-12	Wanted	Help ... SOS	Freda Blight	Bruce (dob 08/01/1914), a pilot in 59Sq, was KIA on 19/08/1940 over North Caen (France) where he was buried before removal to Bayeux Cemetery in 1945 (XXVIII J4); two crew also died. He'd joined RAF in 1938, posted France spring 1940 flying BBs on reconnaissance under AM Barrett. Can anyone from 59Sq help/remember him? <i>Editor's addition:</i> Blenheim R2795 left Thorney Island, 22.00hr, to Caen with P/O B Reynolds 42528, Sgt WGF Whiting 581252, Sgt WGJ Wilkinson 546143. FTR. P/O Reynolds died from wound 20/08/1940 & buried with crew (from ' <i>Costal Command Losses</i> ', Vol 1, by Ross McNeill). Contact, details via email address at bottom of web site, if you have further information
	12	Data	Where will we be this Airshow Season		Lists dates and venues of airshows for 2004
	12	Report	Stop Press from Betty: Visit to Gellik	Betty George	Betty describes the church service at Gellik (Belgium) in 05/2004, taken by Rev Peter Hall & attended by XVSq (15Sq) & locals, the laying of wreaths at Memorials and the lively evening which followed.
	12	Wanted	No 18(B) Squadron Association: request for assistance	W/Cdr Andy Naismith	Request to publish 'recruitment advert' for new association of ex-18Sq members (all ranks/trades) for annual reunion; first planned for spring 2005. Contact: 18(B) Squadron Assn, RAF Odiham, Hook, RG29 1QT
	12	Data	Monument at Horsham St Faith (now Norwich International Airport)		In 08/2002 Mrs Christine Armes advised of her plans for memorial for RAF airmen stationed at Horsham St Faith during WWII. Dedication ceremony on 29/07/2004. Limited places so name & rank to: Contact details via email address at bottom of web site
	13-14		From the Editor	Ron Bramley	Ron explains his take over as Editor from Mike Henry DFC, apologises for lateness, thanks committee for help & outlines his background. After joining RAFVR in 1939

					<p>was in 22Sq on Beauforts, then to No. 5 (Coastal) OTU to fly in BBs as a Wop/AG instructor with pilots on rest from 53Sq, 59Sq, 235Sq & 236Sq. In V5799 when F/Lt Van der Hajden crashed landed at Chivenor 16/02/1942. 06/1942 posted 42Sq with P/O Maurice Adams (pilot), then overseas 08/1942 as Torpedo Bombing Squadron to Malta, ME and Ceylon (in SEAC), then to Army Support in Burma flying Bisleys. Sub-titled 'Ground Attack Squadron' the rest of the article describes conditions in Burma due to weather, lack of spares, poor airfields & quarters, illness, accidents (BA662 on 22/02/1943; 29/08/1943 F/O Newcombe in BA451 crashed near Badarpur; 01/09/1943 BA200/N hit bridge; 12/09/1943 BA103/H in flames). 15/03/1943 BB raid on Irrawaddy with 155Sq Mohawks escort; 03/1943 many crew posted to 217Sq in Ceylon with new crew from 152 OTU. 01/05/1943 42Sq to Kumbhirgram with Sq/Ldr Webster as CO. Medical supplies dropped to Chindwin river patrol by F/O Adams. Trial conversion of BB Vd blister gun turret. 08/07/1943 AHQ signal 034 42Sq & other BB squadron to convert to Hurricanes. 14/07/1943 raid on Makalagon (Japanese HQ for Indaw). Unit non-operational from 01/09/1943; pilots to Yelahanka (Hurricane conversion); from 13/09/1943 BBs ferried to 315 MU Nagpur or Calibration Flights, etc. Other crew to Liberator Conversion in India. Other places mentioned are: Rajyeshwarpur, Surma Valley; Pinlebu (Bisley with F/O Kerr lost); Indaw oil installations; Imphal (used as forward base); Mawlaik (08/1943 last raid by 42Sq with Bisleys). Pic: Ground crew detraining at Rajeshwarpur in 1932.</p>
	14	Report	Constant Endeavour	Ron Bramley	Thanksgiving service at Westminster Abbey paid tribute to RAF Coastal Command, but neglected the BB in its folder; 4 Blenheim squadrons (53Sq, 59Sq, 235Sq & 236Sq) were all in Coastal Command.
	14		39Sq Marauders Assn		Quote ref BBs from 39Sq Assn newsletter 43, summer 2002.
	15-16	Article	By Bisley BA503 to Karachi (9 th to 17 th January 1943)	Ex F/O Dennis Cooke (185711)	Provides background to Takoradi, West Africa to Heliopolis, Egypt, staged route for a/c to ME & FE; 1937 Takoradi air display for George VI's coronation (when Mussolini in Ethiopia & Hitler in Austria); 47Sq flew Vickers Vincents & 216Sq Vickers Valentias. Role of Takoradi in a/c supply route. F/O Cooke Wop/AG in 69Sq ASV Wellingtons, Malta, then posted to ADU, Cairo, 12/1942. On 09/01/1943 flew with Sgt Sid King (pilot) in Pan American DC54 to Wadi Seidna to deliver grounded Bristol Bisley (BA503) to Mauripur Airport, Karachi. Set off 12/01/1943 for Asmara, Ethiopia (describes night out at Kit Cat Cabaret with Italians), then Sheikh Othman (Irving jackets!), RAF Salalah, Masira Island (described), arriving Mauripur 17/01/1943. Mentions T1154 & R1155.
BB potted histories	16	Data	Blenheim Serials Mk I (all from the initial production batch at Filton)	Graham Warner	BB Mk 1: K7081, K7082, K7083, K7084, K7085, K7086, K7087, K7088, K7089, K7090, K7091, K7092. Pic: K7103, 30Sq, Heliopolis, Egypt, 1938

Issue 48: November 2003

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	Chairman's Comments	Andrew Pierce	Year of changes to committee; sad death of President Sir Ivor Broom, retirement of our secretary Betty George, last journal for editor Mike Henry. Dickie Rook will do Presidential role if needed. Ron Bramley taking over as editor. Blenheim repairs estimated to take two years. Money needed; draw doing well; new members joining. Greeting for 2004
	2	Wanted	Information required: Blenheim IV marked K-3	Dott. Roberto Azzalin	Dr Azzalin, a researcher of Italian Royal Aeronautics during WWII wants any info on BB IV (K-3) shot down 10/01/1941 off Capri, Gulf of Naples. Email: sara.robort@libero.it
Sgt H Owen (56204)	2	Wanted	Information about Sgt H Owen of 219 Squadron	A E Prowse (Tony)	Sgt H Owen, 56204, was Wop/AG with 219Sq during Battle of Britain. Any info or pics of 219Sq BBs at that time to: Contact details via email address at bottom of web site or via editor
F/O FE Baker (49319)	2	Wanted	Plea for Help!	Editor	George Checkett needs photo of inscription to F/O FE Baker (49319) on panel 268 of Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, with whom he flew for two tours of ops. Formerly staff pilot at 13 OTU Bicester, Baker converted to Lancasters & was lost 12/03/1945.
	2	Data	'Blenheim Country' Aviation Museum	Editor	Norfolk & Suffolk Aviation Museum incl RAF Bomber Command Museum, 446 th Bomb Group USAAF Museum, Royal Observer Corps Museum, RAF Air-Sea Rescue & Coastal Command Museum & 25 historic aircraft. On B1062 one mile west of Bungay. Free entrance & parking. Tel: 01986 896644
	2	Letter	Thanks for a donation ...	Betsy Hewlett	Thanks to Blen Soc members for donations to Jubilee Sailing Trust (tall ships <i>Lord Nelson</i> & <i>Tenacious</i>) in memory of husband Wilf Hewlett.
	2		My final words as Editor	Editor	Sad to hand over editorship after six year due to own health & role as wife's carer. Hope our BB in air again soon. Thanks to all & to West 4 Printers, esp Joan Scrivener. Mike Henry, founder member No 16
	3	Pic	Andrew Rae's excellent painting of N6189 as it circled Wilhelmshaven	Mike Henry	Painting of N6189 preparing to bomb cruiser 'Emden' on 1 st RAF WWII raid, 04/09/1939. Shows battleship 'Tirpitz'. Five BBs lost. From 107Sq: F/O HB Lightoller (pilot), Sgt O Howells (Obs), AC1 E Lyons (Wop/AG) in N6189; F/Lt W Barton, F/O J Ross, Cpl J Ricketts in N6184; P/O W Murphy, Sgt L Ward, AC2 E Patterman in N6188; Sgt A Prince (Canadian) in N6240 all KIA. Sgt G Booth & AC1 L Slattery (from N6240) first POWs. From 110Sq: F/O H Emden, Sgt R Grossey (Obs from 42Sq), Sgt S Mck Otty, AC2 R Evans also KIA.
Sgt A V Knowles	4	Wanted	Anyone ex-82 Squadron who knew Sgt A V Knowles?	Mrs ME Parker	ME Parker, asks for any info about her brother, Sgt AV Knowles, missing on Gembloux raid 17/05/1940 in P6893. Please contact via email address at bottom of web site
Len Cooper	4	Obit	Friend of Ian Carter dies	Ian Carter	Ex-211Sq fitter, Len Cooper died 07/07/2003 in Canada. Len was with 211Sq in Western Desert, Greece, FE & a Japanese POW.
	4		Your retiring editor apologises	Mike Henry	Ref comment at end of Accolade article in 47/15

	4	Report	Grand Flying Draw winner writes	Richard Jackson-Bass	Draw winner Richard describes his lesson in a Robinson R22 helicopter instructed by Tony Brown from Acorne Sports at Denham.
	5	Article	How things have changed	George Checketts	Commenting of Philip Pleace's article (47/7) George tells of T2179 delivery flight on 03/12/1940 with Sgt FE Baker (pilot), Sgt R Hay (Obs) from Thorney Island to Malta (via Alps!); hand pumping petrol, setting off air-raid warning and empty tank. Then to Abu Sueir, Egypt on 05/12/1940. <i>Ed adds:</i> 45Sq, T2179 FTR from Capuzzu raid 19/05/1941. P/O D Carter (pilot, aka G Reuter) & Sgt H Cassar (Obs) KIA; Sgt G Swanbo (Wop/AG) baled out & PoW.
	5	Article	A pending flame thrower!	Peter Russell	Describes an innovation at 70 OTU, Nakuru, Kenya for cleaning a/c ferried from Takoradi to Khartoum, and truck missing V8 engines.
	6		Three hundred francs – why?	Ron Scholefield	Recount 07/1941 briefing at Portreath for flight to Malta via Gibraltar in BB at which given package of 300 francs (for Cape Finistere or Algeria). 09/1941 105Sq & 107Sq survivors & others to Gourock, Clyde on <i>HMS Kenya</i> (sinking tanker <i>Kota Pinang</i> on way). Train via Carlisle to West Kirby & to Ship Inn, Hoylake were Malta Dog sufferer Jerry Quinn DFM found franc notes useful. Editor lost his notes at Luqa.
	6		From an article 'so many'	Bill Burberry	Looking in the 1940 ' <i>Manchester Guardian</i> ' quote in 47/14, Bill found an paragraph by Churchill recognising the vital role of Bomber Command, high casualty rate & need for special campaign medals for bomber crews.
	6	Data	Grand Flying Draw 2003		Lists winners drawn at Duxford on 12/10/2003.
	7	Report	Those wonderful people of Vraux and Gellik	Tony Tranter	Describes the annual visit by members on 10 th May commemorating RAF crew shot down defending Gellik in 1940, organised by Walther Veugen & friends. Stayed in Mme Odette Geraerts' Apollo Hotel. RAF XV Sq there; tributes laid by Betty George & Rae Eames. At Vraux 15Sq represented by CO W/Cdr Bill Gibson & officers, arriving in Tornados. Vraux museum & Association Maison Rouge commended. Tiger Moth fly-past. Excellent events. Pics: Betty George & W/Cdr Gibson with XV Sq members at Vraux; XV Sq Tornado.
	7		Annual celebration in Belgium and France	Mike Henry	Encouraging members to join Tony Tranter, <i>et al</i> on 2004 trip to Vraux & Gellik
	8	Report	Turning back the clock	Mick Henry	Quotes from article in ' <i>The Journal</i> ' (London Rd N, Lowestoft, NR32 1NB) 29/08/2003 'Hopes high that a grounded wartime plane will fly again' celebrating both 60 th anniv of town adopting 107Sq & the Blenheim. Mentions history & work of Blenheim Society, Graham Warner, W/Cdr Hugh George; the role of BB in Europe, ME, FE & Battle of Britain. Mike Henry DFC (ed), was Wop/AG on BBs & wrote ' <i>Air Gunner</i> '. Contact details via email address at bottom of web site Pic: Mick Henry at Duxford with father Mike.
	9		How I arrived in Malta	Charles Cave	Relates airman's journey from Govan docks to Malta in <i>HMS Argus</i> (with Hurricanes & Blackburn Skuas), dept Greenock 23/07/1940, work as steward, arriving Gibraltar 27/07/1940, visiting <i>Ark Royal</i> , then by submarine <i>Pandora</i> (loaded with

					Hurricane spares) to Malta; others on <i>HMS Proteus</i> . <i>Note</i> : Bill Newman (ed George Cross Island Newsletter No. 58) adds that Charles worked on BBs, Beaufighters & other a/c for 2 years on Malta.
Sq/Ldr John Bernard Fyfe , DFC (24208)	9		Anyone remember John Bernard Fyfe, ex 59 & 107 Squadrons?	Jane Enright	Jane's grandfather was lost with crew Sgt PB Taylor (Obs) & Sgt TO Price (Wop/AG) of 107Sq in BB IV T1850 on 11/08/1940 raid on Dinard airfield. He was also in 59Sq. Little know by family – any info to Jane Enright, Contact details via email address at bottom of web site
	9		Blenheim crews – air & ground	Editor	Good response to request (47/3) for list of surviving Blenheim squadron & OTU air & ground crew. Lists 32 names which will pass on to new editor.
	9	Pic	82Sq Blenheim		See 48/4. ME Parker sent in photo by Sgt Knowles of 82Sq Mk I BB, marked 'OZ'
	10	Pic			Pic by Pat Woodward of Lady Broom & 'Dinty' Moore taken at Blenheim Day lunch, Duxford, 21/09/2003
219 Squadron	10	Review	'From Dusk Till Dawn' by TW Kitching, BA	Mike Henry	Story of 219Sq RAF (1918-1957) which reformed 10/1939 at RAF Catterick under CO Sq/Ldr RLR Atcherley ('Batchy') who flew a German Storch. 219Sq later equipped with AI. Book includes accounts by air & ground crew & quotes from pilot John Topham about 15/08/1940 raid, with 88Sq, over Drifffield, Price £9.90, pub FPD Services Ltd, Pickwick House, Chosen View Rd, Cheltenham GL51 9LY. (Batchy's brother, David Atcherley, served in 2 Group, Brussels, 1945, under Basil Embry.)
	10-11	Review	'Attack!' by Victor Bingham	Mike Henry	A broad view scenario of Group 2 Bomber Command activity over the Battle of Britain period & conditions under which they operated (Chance Lights, gooseneck flare paths, grass airfields, etc), with many pics and notes from Blenheim boys. Book helps highlight the contribution and sacrifices of bombers, incl BBs, in defence of UK prior to Lancasters.
	11		Roll of Honour – help the Blenheim Fund	Mike Henry	Mike has compiled list of BB aircrew KIA between 01/09/1939 & 31/12/1940 (covering 'Phoney' War, Battle of France, Dunkirk & Battle of Britain). Over 1,000 aircrew listed with date, rank, duty, squadron, BB number. Copies available £4 from FM Henry (£2 to Blenheim Fund). (<i>Note: these crews also listed in G Warner's book 'The Bristol Blenheim' & in books on RAF Bomber, Fighter & Coastal Command Losses and RAF ME losses</i>).
	11		Norwich Memorial – update	Editor	Mrs Christine Armes has informed editor that site for the memorial at Norwich airport now agreed, granite block has arrived from India, and dedication planned for spring 2004
	11	Report	AAIB Bulletin No. 11/2003		Aircraft accident report form, submitted by pilot, describing cause of accident to 'our' Blenheim at Duxford on 18/08/2003.
	12	Pic			Pic by Mick Henry (3 rd) of damaged Blenheim.
	12	Poem	'A lady in distress'	Ekim	Poem about the damaged Blenheim
BB potted histories	12	Data	Blenheim Serials (Mk I) continued	Graham Warner	BB Mk 1: K7068, K7069, K7070, K7071, K7072 (became prototype of Mk IV), K7073, K7074, K7075, K7076, K7077, K7078, K7079, K7080.

Issue 47: July 2003

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	Chairman's Comments	Andrew Pierce	At AGM Hon Sec Betty George said she intends to stand down at next AGM. Grand Flying Draw sold £700 to date. Over 30 members attended National Arboretum dedication event in June.
Editorial	1	Report	Editor's Comments	Mike Henry	Being computerless means reliance on post for articles. Why does Air Gunner sculpture only represent those who flew 1943-1945? From 1940 AGs had low pay, no rank yet same risks as other aircrew – & BBs turrets draughtiest ever, except for Fairey Battles.
	2	Wanted	Appeal on behalf of the West Essex & South Herts Far East Prisoner of War (1941-45) Association	George Money (Hon Sec & Treasurer)	Author served in 84Sq 11/1940 to 03/1942 then POW in Java. He wants to contact members 14Sq (09/1940-07/1941) who served with Sgt Harold P Jeudwine (pilot, whose BB shot down Malene 25/05/1941 with loss of all crew) & Sgt Len Small (Obs, transferred 84Sq 07/1941 & executed as POW Java 03/1942). Harold's cousin W/Cdr John Jeudwine was CO of 84Sq in FE in 01/1942 & probably knew Sgt Small. John J one of 12 84Sq crew to escape to Australia & return to UK, but died in air crash 10/1945. Any info about relationship between John & Harold Jeudwine & Len Small appreciated: Contact details via email address at bottom of web site
	2	Letter	Mr Andrew Rae now has his 'letter' & Tim Dean has been given a lead ...	Albert Butterworth	Andrew Rae (46/2) now has letter 'C' to complete painting of F/O Lightoller's a/c (see 48/3). Tim Dean's father (see 46/9) P/O George Earnest Dean
	2		Ex-Blenheim Squadron involved in Iraq war	Ed of '101 Matters'	101Sq with VC10 Tankers trailed Tornados in ME. In 1941 flew BBs from West Raynham, then Wellingtons with Group 3. Awarded Battle of Honour 'Kosovo', then Afghanistan 2001 & now in Iraq.
	2		Issue No. 46 – self administered clanger!	Editor	46/9 'Still Forgotten', 1 st para: 10x12cm should be 10x12 inches
	3	Letter	They'll never forget	Lothair Vanoverbeke (local historian)	Three crews commemorated in the same town. 10/11/2002 Wevelgem (Westflanders, Belgium) council supported inaugurated monuments at three crash sites. 21Sq: Sgt H Rowson (pilot, captured), Sgt Arthur KR Keates (Obs), LAC Donald V Cleaver (Wop/AG), both KIA on 25/05/1940 when BB L8734 crashed Kezelberg/Moorsele. 107Sq: S/Ldr PR Barr (pilot), P/O W Barford, DFC (Obs), P/O Trotter & F/Sgt NSH Phillips (both gunners) KIA 07/11/1942 when Boston III Z2157 crashed Chapel Ter Blest. 432Sq (RCAF): P/O Tommy Martin, F/O L Cannings, F/Eng Philip Mellor (RAF) KIA 09/05/1944 when Halifax III LW583 crashed Wevelgem. From <i>'Bomber Command Newsletter'</i> , April 2003.
	3	Data	Future events		Lists 8 forthcoming air displays & airshows; Society has marquee at Duxford airshow 12/10/2003.
	3	Letter (edited)	A small world	Editor	Ron Scott asked Mick Henry to get 'kit' to Len W Abbs in Lowestoft. Len had joined RAF 07/1938, trained at School of Photography, Farnborough on Hawker Harts. Posted 9Sq with Wellingtons at Honington, then joined 211Sq at El Daba,

					Western Desert on 12/03/1940. In Greece 11/1940 to 04/1941 with 211Sq.
	3		Compilation of those who served on Blenheims whether air or ground crew	Editor	To compile list, editor requests info on name, final service rank/number, squadrons, category served & present residence of all surviving crew connected with BB
	4		For those Blenheim boys who had their backs to the engines!		Pic: hydraulically operated BB (Mk I & IV) gun turret. Description of turret parts & use of twin .303 Browning machine guns & wireless & contortions necessary to use it.
	4		Sculpture of air gunner for RAF Museum	Mike Henry	Quotes from letter by President of Air Gunners Assn at its demise about aim for statue of Air Gunner at RAF Museum. Pam Taylor commissioned to do sculpture of AG in 1943-45 clothing. Editor suggests that in phoney war (Battle of Britain, Battle of France, etc) proportionately more AG KIA as AC2, AC1, LAC & corporal ranks flying BBs, Battles, Hampdens, Whitley's & Wellingtons before AGs made sergeants in 06/1940 & the flew Lancaster, Halifax & Stirling a/c.
	4	Data	For your diary, Blenheim Day	Editor	Blenheim Day lunch on 21/09/2003, with Vraux Champagne & possible flight by BB.
Fred Burton ('Tich')	5	Article	A Blenheim Wop/AG's interesting career		An exact repeat of the article already listed in 51/6 issue (March 2005). N3564 collision at Lossiemouth was on 16/09/1940.
Sgt Eric Chandler	6		Remembering a gallant crew	Mike Henry	Issue 42/6 reproduces AIR 2/8858 which recommends 82Sq F/Lt Watkins for VC & details 22/06/1941 raid on Lampedusa on from Malta in Z9545 when Watkins (pilot) injured, Sgt Sargent (Obs) takes over & Sgt Eric Chandler (Wop/AG). Chandler shot down a CR42 & awarded DFM. Editor met Eric often at 2 Group reunions at RAF Club. Eric now convalescing (details via email address at bottom of web site) & would welcome letters. Pic: Eric Chandler & wife Barbara.
	6		Blenheim chatter!		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many BBs passed to Admiralty, but only K7113 mentioned (Fleet Air Arm 759Sq). What happened to rest? • A crew baled out because radio failed! • Many AC2, AC1, LAC & Cpl ranks KIA before 06/1940 (mostly Wop/AGs, some Obs). Should have been promoted at outbreak of WWII. • Anyone know of stories/facts behind BBs in airforces of Romania, Finland, Greece, Turkey & Yugoslavia?
	6	Wanted	Photograph of V5888	Ian Carter	Photo wanted of 114Sq RT-A V5888. Send to Ian: contact details via email address at bottom of web site .
	7	Article	Sending Blenheims to Malta	Philip Pleace ('Tivvy')	In 1940/41 BBs delivered over France direct to Malta from Thorney Island (shortest route) & 2 Group stations supplied Cpl fitters etc to service BB prior to dept. Based with XVSq (15Sq) at Wyton, Cpl Pleace sent to Thorney Island & describes preparing BBs for long night-flight in batches of 6. One returned from Alps with no petrol to taxi, another landed on Pantellaria island (Italian!). How many actually arrived to join Malta's 3 Gladiators (Faith, Hope & Charity)?
	7	Data	Malta's undersea Blenheim		BB in sea off Xrobb-il Ghagin, Malta, now identified by Sean Morrison & others as Z7858 of 18Sq shot down (by Me109 pilot Lt Herbert Hass of I/NJG2) on shipping raid of Argostoli harbour, 13/12/1941. Sgt Frank

					William Jury (Pilot), Sgt Tom G Black (Obs) & Sgt Danis Ivan Mortimer (Wop/AG) all KIA. Pic: Mercury engine cowling (underwater)
	8	Article	Those wonderful people of Vraux – part 4	Tony Tranter	German occupied Vraux 1940 after 114Sq left. Bernadette, then aged 12, recalls events chronologically, with help of Ken Garrett, including: 11/09/1939 XVSq arrived Vraux; 10/12/1939 15Sq replaced by 114Sq; 19/12/1939 Chamberlain & Daladier visit; 11/01/1941 violent storms, many RAF crew FTR; 10/05/1940 German blitzkrieg, Vraux airfield bombed, lot of refugees; 14/06/1939 order to evacuate Vraux; 17/06/1940 bridges attacked, violent storms, houses ablaze, demoralised France & Belgian troops crossing field, rumours; 05/11/1940 curfew 7pm to 8am; 15/08/1941 new bridge over Marne; 04/1943 villagers used as guards; 17/04/1943 RAF a/c shot down at Aigny; 14/08/1944 Dog fight between US & German a/c, bombs on bridges, German Todt in area conscripting 'forced' local to work on V1 ramp; 28/08/1944 Germans left with 'loot' & Americans arrived; resistance 'Groupe Conde-Vraux' out of hiding, pontoon bridges. Bernadette & Pierre describe occupation life, food, clothing, etc. Interesting insight combining facts & lived experiences. Pic: Pierre & Bernadette Pariset at Red House Memorial.
	9	Report	Gellik revisited, May 2003		Thanks to people of Gellik for hospitality, esp Walter Veugen. Pics: Plaque dedicated by Canon Peter Hall 12/05/1990; Betty George & Red Eames (XVSq) with current 15Sq personnel.
	9	Letter (edited)	Blenheim Observer's grave tended for 50 years by Belgian gentleman	MJ Pitt	M Chretien Jeurissen-Thielen has tended grave of Sgt GF Couzens, Obs in 57Sq BB P6930 shot down 12/05/1940, at Vlijtingen & would like to hear from family, friends or personnel who knew Sgt Couzens. His contact details via email address at bottom of web site . Both P/O GKR Drimmie (pilot) & AC1 R Shuttleworth (Wop/AG) became POWs. Pic: M Jeurissen at Sgt Couzens well-tended grave.
	10	Report	'Smudge' host to visiting gunners		Doug Sutcliffe (AG course at Jurby on BBs) and Joe Hill are shown round BB & workshop at Duxford by Smudge. Pics: Doug sitting inside turret, and alongside BB UX-N.
	10	Report (edited)	Horsham St Faith memorial	Mrs CP Armes	Mrs Armes considers the airport (now Norwich International) from which RAF & USAF flew in WWII a more appropriate site than Fifers Lane. This now agreed by airport officials so plans can progress. Thanks to Jim Moore (Dinty).
	10		Kit Krazy		Plastic & Metal kit retailers, Kit Krazy, will give Society members a 15% discount on orders. 303 The Broadway, Bexleyheath, DA6 8DT. Tel: 0020 8298 7177
	10	Data	A date for your calendar or diary		Deadline for November issue (48) copy is 20/10/2003
	11	Letter	Still hard to convince?	Mike Henry	A copy of Mike's response (<i>Daily Telegraph</i> 31/03/2003) to letter by Lord Tebbit. Entitled 'Bomber Heroes' it welcomes a monument to commemorate the Battle of Britain, but says role of Group 2 medium bombers is ignored. Mentions raids on barges at Calais, Dunkirk, Boulogne, Ostend, from Scotland to Norway in all conditions & with heavy losses from 1 st

					day of WWII (5 of 10 BBs lost 04/09/1939 Wilhelmshaven raid); all deserve recognition.
	11	Data	Presidential coincidences		Lists six similarities between the data on US President Lincoln and, a century later, President Kennedy.
	11	Report	We shall remember them		RIP to following members: Mrs EB Sopwith (Hadleigh, Suffolk); Mr MJ Underwood (Banstead, Surrey); Mr KV Thompsett (Fakenham, Norfolk); W/Cdr WJL Sheehan (Brentford, Middlesex, died 02/02/2002); F/Lt WH Hewlett ('Wilf' from Rickmansworth, Herts, joined RAF Cranwell 1937, later XVSq Abingdon, flew over France in Fairey Battles & BBs; active in society with wife Betsy).
	11		Blenheim Chatter	Mike Henry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many non-op BB crashes during pilot transition to BBs from bi-planes; several common causes are detailed. Many resulted in casualties. • Collisions of a/c on air & ground, esp when formatting at OTUs, often resulted in a/c write-offs – examples given. Any memories of near-misses?
	12/13	Report	From the engineering side of 'our' Blenheim	John 'Smudge' Smith	Part 1: Mk I BB nose rescued by Ralph Nelson (electrical engineer) at end WWII from scrap yard at Filton & converted into electric car with Austin 7 chassis. Remains of this & 'cut off bits' given to Duxford team. Stage of nose rebuild reported; hope to join to Canadian-built fuselage. Time & money limit progress (works with Debs Perrott). From manufacturers plate identified as nose as Avro built L6739, delivered to 23Sq 02/09/1939 (Ed: damaged 14/09/1939 by F/O MJ Loudon, struck off 31/12/1940). Night fighter in Battle of Britain. On BB concern about oil burn rate of port engine; Ron Scott helped with cleaning! General maintenance. Part 2: Cause of oil leak found. In 2002 the 18 cylinder of the 2 Mercury XX engines ceramic coated to restore bore size, 10 with 'Nu-Chrome' & 8 with 'Channel-Chrome'; the latter leaked oil. These re-honed & given new rings. Maintenance/checks on magnetos, ignition harness, propellers, flaps, etc & test flight 28/05/2003 & to Coventry & Shuttleworth airshows 30/05/2003.
	13/14	Article	600 Squadron in 1940	Richard Haine	Prior to Battle of Britain six 600Sq BBs led by CO flew to Walhaven airport, Rotterdam in vain attempt to prevent Ju 52s landing; only 1 a/c returned. Author's L1514 (ZK-N) shot down at Overflakki; to UK in frigate with AG & Queen Wilhelmina! 600Sq to Northolt then returned to share Manston with Spitfire & Hurricane squadrons, who flew in day while BBs bombed at night. Vividly contrasts the different lives & experiences of fighter & bomber crews; the long dark flights, unreliable radar & radios, target searching, fatigue & frustration, avoiding balloon barrage & friendly fire to find way home to blacked out airport, the sleepless days due to raids by Dornier & Heinkel a/c, the distress of watching BB crash in sea off Broadstairs, avoiding runway bomb-craters in the dark. Move west to Hornchurch was little better, then to grass airfield at Redhill. BBs slowly replaced by Beaufighters with better radar & armaments. Then to Highland

					for rest. Well written article. Obit, see 63/2
	14		The debt to our airmen		'Manchester Guardian' extract 21/08/1940 about courage & skills of RAF day-time bomber crew & importance of their task in defeating Nazis (who might appear victorious in Caspian, Black Sea & approach to India) by destroying German infrastructure
	15	Report	The final accolade	Richard Rook ('Dickie')	Report on service of thanksgiving to AM Sir Ivor Broom KCB, CBE, DSO, DFC, AFC at St Clement Danes Church, 28/05/2003 at which ACM Sir Michael Stear gave address covering Sir Ivor's life and incl pre-WWII, his Blenheim & Mosquito days, suite named after him at Gatwick. Author had known Sir Ivor over 60 years. Several ex-Blenheim aircrew & society members present at overflowing church, incl Graham & Shirley Warner. Sir Ivor was Blenheim Society President, with active support of Lady Jess, to whom sincere condolences sent.
BB potted histories	15-16	Data	Blenheim Mk1 serials and brief histories.	Graham Warner	BB Mk 1: K7033 (prototype Mk1), K7034, K7035, K7036, K7037, K7038, K7039, K7040, K7041, K7042, K7043, K7044, K7045, K7046, K7047, K7048, K7049, K7050, K7051, K7052, K7053, K7054, K7055, K7056, K7057, K7058, K7059, K7060, K7061 (crashed with N6144), K7062, K7063, K7064, K7065, K7066, K7067

Issue 46: March 2003

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
AM Sir Ivor Broom	1	Obit	Air Marshal Sir Ivor Broom KCB, CBE, DSO, DFC**, AFC		Sir Ivor Broom died 24/01/2003. Pic: Sir Ivor in Malta 2001, 60 years after serving there.
	2	Report	Chairman's Comments	Andrew Pierce	Condolences to Sir Ivor's family. AGM on 05/04/2003. Graham Warner's 'The Bristol Blenheim' having 2 nd print run. Grand draw star prize is de Havilland Vampire flight.
	2		Sir Ivor's funeral		Donations, if wished, to The Peace Hospice at Watford or RAFA. John 'Smudge' Smith apologises that BB flypast 'missed' the funeral in spite of John Romain's readings from Bovington VOR; slight engine problem.
	2	Wanted	A missing letter – please help!		Andrew Rae painting of 107Sq & 110Sq BBs attack on German fleet, Wilhelmshaven 04/09/1939, esp N6189 (pilot F/O H Lightoller). Has Sq letter, OM, but needs a/c letter (see 42/7). Help to Mr Rae: Contact details via email address at bottom of web site . Lightoller son of 2 nd officer on <i>Titanic</i> . See completed pic 48/3.
	2	Data	Future Events		Lists 8 forthcoming events involving the Society.
	3	Pics	Illustrating the grand finale of a memorable Blenheim Day, September 2002		Three pics from 2002 Blenheim Day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gift of Vraux champagne • 'our' Blenheim before low-level display • Blenheim landing
	3	Data	Reminders 1 & 2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blenheim VC Commemoration at National Arboretum on 07/06/2003 • Issue 47 copy closing date 20/06/2003
	3	Data	Glad I stayed on Mk IVs	Editor	Bill Burberry sent copy of BB Mk V pilot notes; loaded a/c unstable under 150mph so Navigator to stay in nose! (cg 47" aft)
	4		Wartime press snippets		'Italy's Abyssinia air link threatened by RAF', <i>Daily Mirror</i> 30/08/1940. RAF in Cairo report

					reccos over Kufra (landmark for Italian a/c) & raids on shipping in Derna Harbour, Nocra Island & Harrar (Italian East Africa) by BBs. Raid also on Dessie (Abyssinia).
	4		Blenheims in Libya	Ron Bramley & editor	Pic: 'British bombers swoop from desert skies', <i>'The War Illustrated'</i> 24/01/1941. Relentless raids on Marshal Graziani's forces, Italian aerodromes, etc. RAF credit for fall of Bardia.
Bill McGrath & Ian Blair	4-5	Article	Two among many remarkable Blenheim Boys	Graham Warner	In 1940, aged 20, Bill McGrath joined 82Sq at RAF Watton as Obs on BBs, posted there after 82Sq lost 11 BBs on 17/05/1940 attack on Panzer column near Gembloux (& last BB DBR). With heavy Luftwaffe damage on RAF Driffield from Jutland, on 13/08/1940 82Sq attacked (German held) Aalborg airfield with 12 BBs led by W/Cdr EC de V Lart DSO; heavy flak & ME 109s. Bill's pilot bombed the airfield, but hit & crashed landed; Bill lost eye & damaged hip. 20 aircrew KIA & buried Vadum cemetery, 10 + Bills crew became POWs. Danes still tend graves. Bill escaped from hospital, walked across Europe to Barcelona & returned to UK via Gibraltar; awarded Military Medal. Always had limp. In mid-30s Ian Blair joined RAF as boy-entrant armourer then volunteered & trained as Wop/AG & flew with 113Sq in ME. Later trained as obs/navigator & sat next to pilot in BB MkI when Italian bullet killed pilot. Ian took over control; Wop/AG pulled body into 'well' & they flew BB 300mls over desert & landed safely. Awarded DFM & later trained as pilot. Both Ian & Bill were interviewed for TV programme <i>'Spirit of Britain First'</i> . Pic: 604Sq Wop/AGs 'Lacey' Miller & 'Pip' Pierce by BB at North Weald (thanks Ron Bramley)
107 Squadron	6	Article	Blenheim Squadron adopted 60 years ago	Mike Henry	107Sq formed at Lake Down, Salisbury, 05/1918 under Major JR Howett with DH9s. Reformed 08/1936 at Andover, moved to Sarum 02/1937, then Harwell & Wattisham. On 1 st day WWII (04/09/1939) 107Sq followed 110Sq on raid on German fleet off Wilhelmshaven. 4 BBs shot down, one FTR & 1 st POW captured. 04/1940 107Sq at Lossiemouth from where W/Cdr Embry led 12 BBs on raid to Stavanger airfield Norway. Quotes from letter by AC1 DM Merrett ref armourers work. At Wattisham 107Sq involved in Dunkirk & Basil Embry shot down (see <i>'Wingless Victory'</i> by Anthony Richardson, ex-107Sq Adjutant). In 1946 CO W/Cdr Paddy Maher KIA in Mosquito. The rewards to 107Sq aircrew are listed. In 04/1943 107Sq adopted by Lowesoft; Mike's son interested editor of local paper in 60 th anniversary of this. Mike in 107Sq on BBs in Malta & Bostons in UK. Pic: 107Sq emblem.
F/Lt Arthur Adrian Percy Weller, DFC	7	Review	<i>"Desert Wings"</i> by Peter Holloway	Mike Henry	Subtitled <i>'A Hurricane Pilot in the Western Desert'</i> book's focus on F/Lt Arthur Weller's (DFC) experiences in 80Sq & 274Sq 1939-1941 flying Hawker's Hart & Audax, Gloster Gladiators & Hurricane MkIs. 'Sam' Weller met & married Nellie in Alexandria & owned an Isotta Fraschini open tourer. Benina airfield (near Benghazi) supplying Rommel. 274Sq's CO, Sq/Ldr Hawkins asked F/O Arthur Weller (aged 23) to pilot a lone Hurricane & fly over 400mls to attack a/c at

					Benina on 27/04/1941. Chapter 11 details the attack in which 7 JU 52s destroyed & 880mls flown; F/O Weller awarded DFC. 'Sam' also with 15 th /19 th Royal Hussars. Well illustrated A5 paperback costs £15 from Melverley Publishing, Bryn Mair, Alexandra Park, LL34 6YH (milverleypub@aol.com), 01492 622 347. A few copies at £18 signed by W/Cdr EH Dean ('Dixie') & W/Cdr RF Martin ('Dicky') OBE, DFC, AFC (£3 to RAF Benevolent Fund). Highly recommended.
	7	Review	'No Hero, Just a Survivor' by Bob Willis	Mike Henry	Extract from review by Eric Atkins, Editor of 'The Mossie' (Mosquito Aircrew Assn). Bob joined RAFVR in 04/1941 &, teamed with Tommy Thompson, they were 'most efficient fighting unit' 11/1943 to 06/1945 with 47Sq in flying Beaufighters & Mosquitos, first in Libya then in India & Burma. Describes horrendous condition in FE. Price £18+p&p from Robert Willis Associates Ltd, 19 Rectory Lane, Emley, Huddersfield HD8 9RR (mail@robertwillis.co.uk)
	8	Report			Pics from Christmas Luncheon at Leefe Robinson Beefeater, Stanmore, 07/12/2002. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sir Ivor hands over cheque for £10,750 to Graham Warner (from 2002 Draw) Fred Atton, aged 90, holding picture of BB as prize for winning competition. Card of Steve Foster 'Aircraft Glass Profiles' who produced above picture. Ex RAF Steve will produce glass paintings of any a/c & Squadron crests. Order from: Contact details via email address at bottom of web site
	8-9		Mast-high over Rotterdam		Narration by a BB Wop/AG from Salford which printed in 'We speak from the air: broadcasts by the RAF', pub in 1942 by Ministry of Information (hence no names, dates, squadrons, etc). Article describes very low flying over flat Dutch countryside to bomb shipping in Rotterdam harbour at 4.55pm & viewing the results. Also quote from Air Ministry Communique about 'successful daylight raid' on Rotterdam docks by several Blenheim Squadrons of Bomber Command.
	9		Still forgotten?	Editor	After looking through RG Grant's massive book 'Flight, hundred years of aviation' (2002), Editor finds only one BB picture (of QY-C), and very little mention of BBs or their Squadrons; eg section on Battle of France says Fairey Battle 'took the stick'; loss of 300 of 500 BBs lost in 10 days not mentioned. Says BBs entered RAF 1938, however Sq44, Sq90, Sq110, Sq114, Sq139 & Sq144 were Flying Blenheim in 1937.
Sgt Edward George Dean (403153)	9	Wanted	Information required-139 & 14 Squadrons	Tim Dean	Tim's father, Edward George Dean, joined RAAF 06/1940 under Empire Air Training Scheme in Calgary, Canada. Then to 139Sq in UK & 14Sq in Western Desert flying BBs & Mosquitos. Can anyone help clarify dates, missions, a/c he flew in, etc? Also has photos of RAAF airmen in 14Sq. Any help, contact Tim: contact details via email address at bottom of web site .
	10	Report	New Members	Editor	Lists 10 new Members & one new Life Member, Alan Ballands from Jersey. Alan had crashed Z6271 on Kent cliffs returning from 'circus' after attack by Me 109 in which

					AG/Wop Sgt K Sanders was killed. Editor flew 2 sorties with Alan from Malta 09/1941. Thanks to Mick Henry for donation.
	10	Pic			Spooky pic of Treasurer, Ron Scott taken by Andrew Pierce, Shuttleworth 09/2002
	10-11	Report	The Engineering side of 'our' Blenheim	John 'Smudge' Smith	On a trip to make contacts & find spares on 31/10/2002 Smudge & Colin Swann flew to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum (based at Commonwealth Air Training Plan Airfield, Mount Hope, Hamilton) where an enthusiastic volunteer team are restoring a Bolingbroke. They plan to use Pratt & Whitney 1530 Wasp Junior engine (15 of 620 Bolingbrokes built with these) rather than Bristol Mercury engines. Some Mercury engines in 'open' storage have spares potential. On to Assiniboia, Saskatchewan to see a Lysander & Hurricane, then to Brandon, Manitoba (where Bolingbroke airframes already gutted). To MacDonald Airfield, Manitoba where met Charlie Collins who has a complete Bolingbroke in his back yard. Useful contacts made.
	11	Article	Those wonderful people of Vraux - Part 3	Tony Tranter	Tony introduces us to Bernard Pauzie & his wife Mado. After studying at Chalons sur Marne & Radio School in Paris, Bernard got his Radio Ops certificate in 1949 &, after military service, joined Air France flying in Super Constellations, Viscounts, then (in Algeria) DC3s, DC4s & Breguet 763s, returning to Vraux 1986 for reunion of British, French & US servicemen. In mid-1980s he'd helped Gerard Faux & Denis Rigollet collect wartime material for the Museum of the Association Maison Rouge, establish 1994. In 1987 Bernard & Gerard had visited Hugh George at founding of Blenheim Society. Bernard then retrained as a flight engineer & flew on 747 Jumbos, Caravelles & Boeing 707s as flight engineer. Now retired, he is treasurer of Maison Rouge Assn in Vraux. Pic: Bernard & Mado Pauzie.
	12	Letter (edited)	From Blenheims to Liberators	Graham Burrell	Graham served as aircrew with 114Sq, West Raynham 08/1941 to 03/1942, then posted to 17 OTU Upwood. He then took the place of a newly married colleague & posted to FE on dive bombers at Peshwar. Later to 215Sq on Liberators at Dhubalia, near Calcutta with 13½ hr bombing raid to Bangkok on 24/03/1945. To Indonesia flying Dakotas before returning to UK, peacetime RAF & marriage. 1949: badly injured in crash at Tangmere & time at East Grinstead.
	12		Something to think about		Humorous advice.
	12		To absent friends		Informed by solicitors that Leonard Hunt (member No 67) died on 17/09/2002. No further detail. Condolences to family.
	12	Pic			Cartoon with BB by 'Holly': 'And would we have a visiting card, Sir' (undated)

Issue 45: November 2002

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	President's Message	Ivor Broom	Thanks to Graham Warner not just for the only flying Blenheim, but also for his

					'complete' history too. For 1 st time over 100 attended annual lunch at Duxford. Thanks to all & best wishes for 2003
	1	Report	Chairman's Comments	Andrew Pierce	Highlight of year is publication of Graham Warner's <i>'The Bristol Blenheim'</i> after many year of work; it furthers Society's aims of preserving memories of aircrew & gets more recognition for BB. Good to see President looking so well again at Blenheim Day lunch.
Frank Warren	2	Wanted	Info required re Frank Warren	Dick Froggatt	Email asking info about Frank Warren, a pilot in 59Sq who took part in shipping raid from Thorney Island 22/06/1940 (? year). One ship said to carry 120 Luftwaffe pilots
	2	Wanted	23 Squadron and 25 Squadron	PJ Mason	Info about P/O E Orgias of 23Sq & Sgt Friend of 25Sq for names to be inscribed on Battle of Britain Monument. Info to PJ Mason (contact details via email address at bottom of web site).
	2		The National Arboretum		Fourth tree to honour all 'other' Blenheim squadron, air and ground crew.
	2		Please be patient when calling		If phoning Society Secretary Betty George, please leave phone to ring plenty of time
	2		Praise indeed		39Sq 'Marauder Assn' Newsletter describes the BB as underpowered & under-gunned, but excellent & highly regarded!
	2	Wanted	Appeal for photographs	Sean Morrison	Compiling list of BB crews who served in Malta in WWII, esp 107Sq (lists 17 aircrew names), 18Sq (8 names), 82Sq (14 names). Contact Sean: contact details via email address at bottom of web site . Thanks for help already given.
	3		Question and answer	Fred Newby	<i>Daily Mail</i> question: was RAF Sgt Booth really the first POW of WWII? Who was first German? Fred's reply: 04/09/1939 107Sq & 110Sq of 2 Group Bomber Command raided Wilhelmhaven. BB N6240 (from Wattisham) shot down; Sgt AS Prince (pilot) KIA, Sgt GF Booth (Obs) & AC1 LJ Slattery (Wop/AG) captured so first POWs. Three other BB from 107Sq & one from 110Sq also shot down with all 12 crew killed. On 26/09/1939 three Luftwaffe Dornier 18D flying boats downed off Great Fisher bank, one by Skuas of 803Sq, FFA on <i>Ark Royal</i> . Leutenants von Reitenstein & Korner, plus 2 other rescued by <i>HMS Somali</i> & imprisoned.
	3	Report	Another satisfied winner	Evie Haine	Evie, a 2001 draw winner, wrote to Ron Scott thanking him for voucher & helicopter flight details. Evie (aged 84) gives a lovely description of the flight over London.
	3	Data	Grand flying draw 2002 results		Lists the 6 winners & 2 reserve of the 2002 draw.
	3		Who has lost a copy of Graham's book?	Editor	Found, <i>The Bristol Blenheim</i> signed 'To Sarah Jane' by author & now with Crecy publishers awaiting collection by owner.
	4	Report	Draw winner Dave Lowe gets airborne in a Yak 52	Mike Henry	On 20/07/2002 John De Quincey took draw winner & ex-WWII navigator Dave Lowe in Yak 52 from Sywell to Silverstone; with Dave at control some of the hour-long flight. Pic: John & Dave beside Yak 52 G-BWOD.
	4	Letter (edited)	Follow-up from Bill Dauncy	Bill Dauncy	In response to his earlier letter (43/6) Bill had a letter from AG Rhodes ('Dusty') who billeted with Varmier family in Vraux & had similar experiences after 11/05/1940, travelling via Orlens, Loire & Liseur to Nantes, then Cherbourg, Southampton, Wattisham (for eggs & bacon!) to Horsham St Faith, Norwich. Dusty joined XVSq at

					Abingdon in 1939 & to France on 03/09/1939 as squadron photographer. When 15Sg to UK, Dusty posted to 114Sg & 'lived rough' but has original photos of Vraux after bombing & destruction of 114Sg. Also photo of aircrew & Simon Maude at Horsham. AG Rhodes' contact details via email address at bottom of web site
LAC AG Rhodes	5	Article	Introduction to active service	Tony Rhodes ('Dusty')	An amusing description of the journey from Abingdon to France, via Southampton & an overcrowded Channel ferry, of LAC AG Rhodes & rest of XVsg on 02/09/1939 with the focus on (lack of) rations. He transferred to 114Sg in 12/1939, again as photographer, & then to Bicester 03/11/1941.
G/Cpt Duncan McGill	5		Not a Blenheim but a Mosquito		' <i>Llancafarn Newsletter 104</i> ' (05/2001) claims Duncan McGill, RAF & test pilot for Bristol Aeroplane Company was first to land a/c on a carrier. Untrue; <i>Guinness Book of Aircraft Records</i> states 1 st twin engine landing on carrier was Sea Mosquito, pilot Lt Cdr EM Brown in 1944. Also report of McGill flying Tiger Moth from Tremorfa (Cardiff) airport low up Ford Valley.
F/Lt Douglas Attenborough ('Dougie')	6	Obit	Tribute to a Blenheim pilot		Pic: BB flying over Manuden Church as a tribute to Douglas Attenborough, with his son Ron watching. Attenborough joined the RAF in 1939 at Debden, then Wop/AG at Bodney Norfolk & flew in BBs. He died aged 92 & buried St Mary the Virgin Church, Manuden.
	6		Honouring airmen who served at RAF Horsham St Faith	James W Moore ('Dinty')	' <i>Intercom</i> ' (ACA's journal) write that Mrs Christine P Armes is organising a plaque for airmen serving at Horsham St Faith; 2 Group before 09/1942 (incl 114Sg, 139Sg, 18Sg with BBs), then Americans.
P/O Wylie Baser (87459)	6	Wanted	139 Squadron – info wanted	Richard Moore	Richard would like photos of P/O Wylie Baser with crew & a/c, or group pic of 139Sg early 1941. P/O Baser was KIA over De Kooy airfield on 04/06/1941 in BB R3903 (XD-R). Richard address: Contact details via email address at bottom of web site
	6	Report	An even better attendance than last year – Duxford 22 nd September 2002	Mike Henry	105 attended annual luncheon at Officers Mess, Duxford 22/09/2002. Graham Warner & book ' <i>The Bristol Blenheim</i> ' there, also Evie Saunders, Sir Ivor Broom & wife, & Ole Ronnest. Flying display by the Blenheim.
	7	Pic	Air and ground make contact in the desert		Pic: from ' <i>The War Illustrated</i> ', 04/1940 shows BB passing low over MT. Sent in by Ron Bramley.
	7	Letter	110 Squadron – latter days	Charles T Payne	Ref 'Hairy moments with 110Sg' (44/4) Payne write that, as Wop/AG crewed with P/O Topley (pilot) & P/O Cox (Obs) coming from 13Sg Army Co-operation Unit to 110Sg at Wattisham, they took part in last 110Sg op from UK searching for ' <i>Scharnhorst</i> ' & ' <i>Gneisenau</i> '. He describes the 'chaotic' op. Remembers NZ pilot W/O Dave McIlroy, CO W/Cdr Cree (ed: retired to Australia), S/Ldr Smith & S/Ldr Waiters. 110Sg to India & Paynes last BB flight was Karachi to Lahore, then on Vultee Vengeances (ed: mentions Bill Gatling). Would like to see other ex-110Sg at reunions. Charles address: Contact details via email address at bottom of web site
	7		A donation from down under	Editor	Cheque to Society from Monica Brodie (daughter of Bill Evans from 110Sg & 101Sg early WWII) & Mike in New Zealand.

	8-9	Report & Pics	Vraux 2002 – small party, big show	Andrew Pierce	<p>7 Society members met at Plough Inn, Dover, took ferry to Ypres, saw Mennen Gate ceremony, drove to Lille &, next day, to Rheims were met 4 XVSq delegates. Arrived Vraux day early so to Bethenville to lay wreaths (civilian & RAF aircrew). Sunday – wreath-laying at Red House (side of WWII airfield) with 15Sq: bugler from RAF Central Band & Betty George spoke. Then shown round XVSq's two Tornados. Pics taken by Andrew (AP) & Philip Maclagan (PM).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W/Cdr Bill Gibson, CO 15Sq with Garry (bugler) (PM) • Betty George with Stewart (driver) Serge Maigrot & his wife Marie-France (PM). • Andrew Pierce by MH1521 Broussard cowling, Serge & Marie-France Maigrot & Stewart (PM). • Close up of BB propeller Memorial (AP) • Andrew placing wreath at Memorial (PM)
	10	Article	Those wonderful people of Vraux – part 2	Tony Tranter	<p>Tony introduces Gerard Faux, co-founder Association Maison Rouge in early 1993. From early 1980s he & Denis Rogollet researched Conde-Vraux's airfield history, purchased local farm & set up museum & the assn. Born 1949 Reutlingen, Germany, to engineering family, after military service Gerard was helicopter mechanic & now quality control engineer at Reims Aviation Co & has just gained pilots licence from their Aero Club. Denis Rigollet, born Vraux 1950, qualified as pilot aged 17 & had long interest in former Vraux airfield's WWII history, & collected WWII photos from locals for 1984 feature. These showed lot of British servicemen at Vraux from 09/1939 to 05/1940 & led to 'Red House' Assn. Pics: Gerard Faux by plaque to S/Lt Jean Marseille, S/Lt Julien Jaquet & Sgt Roger Pinatel; Denis Rogollet, wife Evelyne with Antoine, Geoffrey & Gaelle.</p>
G/Cpt John Cunningham CBE, DSO, DFC, AE	11	Obit	G/Cpt John Cunningham	Edited (from <i>The Times</i>)	<p>Born 27/07/1917, G/Cpt Cunningham joined RAF 08/1938 as night fighter pilot on BBs patrolling over North Sea. After Battle of Britain with 604Sq flew first ops with AI radar & using this shot down JU 88 on 20/11/1940 over Sussex. Died 21/07/2002. (As press, Editor flew with Cunningham 30/08/1962 in Trident G-ARDB test flight from Hatfield.)</p>
AVM Edward Crew	11	Obit	Air Vice-Marshal Edward Crew, CB, DSO, DFC	Mike Henry	<p>While in 604Sq Edward Crew destroyed 21 V-1 flying bombs. The BBs had early airborne radar, operated by his Wop/AG Sgt Gus Guthrie. See also letter (44/11) from AVM Crew asking about his brother William. Edward Crew's death, aged 84, announced in <i>Daily Telegraph</i> 22/08/2002.</p>
Trevor Mellowes	11	Obit	Trevor Mellowes	Mike Henry	<p>Born in Blackpool, on leaving Bolton Grammar School in 1935 Trevor joined RAF School of Technical Training at Halton. He was posted to 62Sq in Singapore 1939, captured in Java 1942 & sent to Ambon POW camp, Moluccas, for 3½ horrendous yrs. On return to UK lived in Horwich, married Margaret Whittle in 1951, had one daughter (Jane) & worked as aerospace engineer inspector at de Havillands. Keen jazz fan. Died 06/2002, aged 83</p>
V Proctor	11	Obit	W/O V Proctor ('Bill')	James W	<p>From Long Oreston, N Yorkshire, Bill joined</p>

('Bill')				Moore ('Dinty')	RAF at start of WWII & qualified as Wop/AG. Early 1941 to 18Sq at Great Massington, then Oulton flying in BBs. 06/1941, with crew, joined 84Sq at Monsul, Iraq (ME Command), & later 8 th Army support in Desert. Late 1941 to Sumatra & Java where airfield overrun by Japanese & survivors escaped south to Tjilatjap (only 12 of 64 airmen reached Australia). Bill captured by Japanese & POW for 3½ yrs, ending up in copper mine. Died 27/07/2002, aged 85.
	12	Pic	Bungee for Blenheims		Warning cartoon for armourers by Charles Hall ('Holly'). Details of 'open' bombs doors requested for painting. John Romain of ARC explained these were held closed by bungee cord, opened by weight of bombs & then snapped shut.
G/Cpt Geoff Wyatt	12	Letter	A new member writes ...	G/Cpt Geoff Wyatt	G Wyatt writes of his Blenheim days. From 5 FTS joined 57Sq at Upper Heyford 06/1936 flying Hinds. 04/1938 re-equipped with defenceless BBs & minimal training. On 30/09/1939 57Sq flew to Arny, France for long-distance photo reconnaissance over Germany. No 'phoney war' as lot of crew KIA or POWs, incl CO, W/Cdr Day ('Happy') DSO. Got Mk IV BBs & moved to Rosieres-en-Santerre. After 10/05/1941, a lot of casualties, including author. Recommends ' <i>Valiant Wings</i> ' by Norman Franks (1988; William Kimber Ltd)* for good account of BBs & Battle squadrons in that campaign. Briefly in ME (09/1941) in 211Sq (which briefly an OTU), then Sudan (where ill). *Ed: Geoff Wyatt & Hugh George contributed.
	13	Data	New Members		Names of 22 new members, including JE Cumber ('Johnny'), Ex-59Sq Wop/AG 1940-1941.
	13	Report	The engineering side of 'our' Blenheim	John Smith ('Smudge')	At Dieppe on 31/08/2002 the Blenheim had problems to left engine. After obtaining details from crew, Smudge & Colin Swann got spare cylinder ready &, next morning, Derek Gunning flew them from Fowlmere to Dieppe. Removing post studs from cylinder head difficult (Percy Verence managed it!) & it took another 2hrs to change cylinder 5 & get engines running.
	14-15	Review	<i>'The Bristol Blenheim – a complete history'</i> by Graham Warner, MBE	Mike Henry	This 637-page history/reference book, published by Crecy is chronologically organised with losses (operational & non-operational) in appendices at each chapter's end. Each chapter covers a particular period of BBs history & are divided into 4 parts. Part 1 covers BBs 'Genesis' (Frank Barnwell, the designer; engine designer Roy Feddon efforts to get variable pitch propellers; export of BBs to many countries, etc). Part 2: Wartime Service (with separate chapters for various phases/years of war in Northern Europe). Part 3: Blenheims in the ME & FE theatres of war (incl Desert, East Africa, Greece & Balkans, Iraq, Malta, Ceylon, India, Malaya, Burma etc). Part 4: Blenheim in the Background (support & training). As well as the facts & figures, the people who made, maintained, flew in (& too often died in) this aircraft are given due credit. Pics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 06/09/2002; Graham Warner & Vyvyan Harmsworth with book at Duxford

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some 24 ex-Blenheim crews with BB at celebration of <i>'The Bristol Blenheim'</i> publication, 06/09/2002, Vyvyan Harmworth centre, Duxford Post-presentation flying display by Battle of Britain trio; Blenheim, Spitfire & Hurricane (not forgetting Fairey Battles)
	16		How to fly a Jenny (JN4)	Percy Hampton (WWI pilot)	Sent in, via Joe Hill, from Don Morrison (President RCAF POW Assn), this amusing piece given a frightening idea of what pilots faced in flying early aircraft.
	16		Why I want to be a pilot		Amusing extract from a schoolboy's essay sent in by S/Ldr Taylor (RAF retired). Only downside: chasing away the girls!

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Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	Chairman's Comments	Andrew Pierce	AGM in April: 10% of members attended with Ted Sismore as speaker. Committee agreed donation to work on Blenheim & to plant 4 trees at National Arboretum in Shropshire. Thanks to Betty & Stewart for organising Vraux trip.
	1		Les and Jeanne Gibbs lose their son	Editor	Condolences to Les, Jeanne, daughter in law Trudie & John's daughters
	1		A plea to those in the enclosure	Editor	Request for those in front row not to stand to take photos as blocks view of others.
	2		Surprise, surprise!	Editor	In <i>'Bomber Command Newsletter'</i> No 43 (ed Nigel J Parker) is item from <i>'Airlife'</i> about 82Sq by P/O Frank Metcalfe (pilot) & his crew Sgt George Martin (Obs) & Sgt Sidney Merrett (Wop/AG). Includes 11/11/1940 pic of above crew with BB T2280, R-UX.
	2	Wanted	59 Squadron, Thorney Island, September 1940 to May 1941	F/Lt John Cumber (RAF ret'd)	Ex-59Sq Sgt Johnny Cumber asks for any news of his crew 09/1940 to 05/1941; P/O Knill (pilot) & Sgt Bill Bailey (Obs). Any info to John (contact details via email address at bottom of web site)
Sgt John Edward Pearson	2	Wanted	Info re Sgt 'Jack' Pearson, 18 Squadron	Liz Watts	Sgt 'Jack' Pearson flew with Jack Nickleson (pilot) from Ontario & Walter Meadows (Obs) from Yorkshire in 18Sq. Crew in 1 st daylight raid on Cologne & 'Jack' threw Douglas Bader's spare legs from BB hatch! On 20/09/1941 crew KIA off Zanvoort, Holland. Any info about 'Jack' to Liz (contact details via email address at bottom of web site)
	2		Wop/AG school, West Raynham, 1939/40		In WWII 101Sq (2 Group Training Squadron) had own Wop/AG school at RAF West Raynham, which disbanded when Sq went operational. Were you one of 5 electricians at School 1939-1940? If so contact Membership Sec, G/Cpt John Rees. Contact details via email address at bottom of web site.
	2	Letter (edited)	Blenheim production at Speke	Mrs Bone	Following DH Suttcliffe's letter (43/14) Mrs Bone writes that, aged 25, her late husband (previously an apprentice tool-maker) 'head-hunter' people to set up shadow factories in Speke. Post-war he set up his own business with to-scale 3-D factory layout models then precision engineering work for a/c industry.
	2		Erratum corner	Editor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Meeting with the old enemy' (43/3) author S/Ldr DH Cooper & Sir Ivor Broom both agreed that 1988 (line 3) should be 1998 & (last para) President's name is Allan Vial (not Vial Allen)

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43/16 Don McFarlane corrects his German; 'Jagdgeschwader 54' (not 'Jagdgschaffer') • Mr Wray points out misspelt names (43/12 '114Sq error'): 114Sq's W/Cdr W Nicol (not Nichol) & 18Sq's W/Cdr Kercher (not Kircher). Same misspelling are in Theo Boiten's '<i>Blenheim Strike</i>'
Bill Brandwood	2	Wanted	13 OTU Bicester and 17 OTU Upwood	David Brandwood-Spencer	David request info about his father Bill Brandwood who was at 13 OTU 16/03/1941 to 01/07/1941 when joined 82Sq. Then at 17 OTU Upwood 1941 to 1944. Any info to David (contact details via email address at bottom of web site)
	3	Letter	Aborted take-off	RG Dawson	On 20/10/1942 a 14Sq BB was taking off from landing ground near El Alamein when both engines cut. With 4X250lb bomb load it belly-landed. No serious injuries. Soon after 14Sq re-equipped with Martin B26 Marauders. Pic: The above MkIV BB. Thanks to <i>Daily Mail</i> .
	3	Article	From Malta to the Wirral	Ron Scholefield	Having arrived at Gourock (Clyde) via Gibraltar on <i>HMS Kenya</i> Ron describes the train journey south, destination unknown, via Shap & Carlisle. Passengers were: aircrew survivors from Malta, RAF ground-crew from Gibraltar, but most were escapees who had made their way via France to Spain. Detained at Upton & in awaiting RAF truck to West Kirby & welcome meal. Next am. given £3 advance pay. Vividly described short piece. Ed adds: he got sixpence & railway warrant to Norfolk. Aircrew posted abroad only had 12lb personal kit allowance.
	3	Review	'The Blenheim at war and peace'	Mike Henry	Review of this video of archive footage & modern reconstruction, including Aalborg raid, with contributions by Bill McGrath & Sgt Greenwood. Recommended. Available from 'DD Video', Unit 1, Pool Bank Business Park, Chester CH3 8JH. Tel: 01829 741 490.
	4	Pics	More POW Pictures		S/Ldr HDH Cooper, MBE, DFC sent 2 photos of RAF POWs taken in 1942 at Schubin, Poland. 1943: all to Stalag Luft III. Pics: Ulster RAF at Oflag XXI B, Poland: P/O M'Connell (Omagh), F/Lt Kenneth Mackenzie DFC (Enniskillen), S/Ldr DH Cooper DFC (Strabane), P/O Brown (Belfast), P/O Thallen (Holywood), P/O RS Ayton (Derry), P/O Buckley & P/O Hanna (both Belfast). 110Sq 'Blenheim boys': F/Lt Stevens, F/Lt Gericke, S/Ldr DH Cooper, S/Ldr Ken Doran (1 st WWII pilot awarded DFC), F/Lt Wright (one unnamed)
	4		Please note	Editor	Final copy Nov (No. 45) issue: 14/10/2002
	4-5	Article (edited)	Hairy moments with 110 Squadron	F/Lt Douglas Cooper	Author recalls that, on 10/01/1940, 9 110Sq BBs left RAF Wattisham for recce of German shipping in North Sea, led by S/Ldr Ken Doran (DFC after Wilhelmshaven raid 1 st day WWII). Describes attack by Me110s in which one BB shot down, another badly shot up & crash-landed at Wattisham (Sgt Bill Evans one of crew). Cooper's crew was P/O Arderne & LAC Tippet. BB of Sgts Hanne & Williams & AC1 Vick went into sea. One BB (probably N6203 VE) flown by P/O Pemberton crash-landed at Manby, Lincs. Sgt Hannes BB exploded; Hauptmann Falck had downed 5 BBs. Parts extracted from

					<i>'Night Fighters'</i> by David P Williams, pubs Messrs Tempus Publishing; discount to members if ordered direct from: Publishing Manager, The Mill, Brimscombe Part, Stroud, GL5 2QG (ie £17.99 not £19.99)
	5	Letter (edited)	The other Dunkirk	W Telford Fallon	Fallon flew BBs MkI, MkIV & MkV variously from Hinton-in-the-Hedge: 13 OTU Bicester, 2 Group; El Bullah, MERC; Suez area; No 2 Ferry Control; Wadi Seidna; Asmara, Aden, Yemen, Baluchistan, Karachi; No 3 Intercontinental ADU; India with 113Sq. To escape Japanese Ord Wingate & Chindits, Big Bill Hemard of 14 th Army (incl Charlie Bingham) & remains 1 st Ghurka Regiment had to cross River Naf, where it enters Bay of Bengal at Maung Dam, to get to India. Royal Indian Navy, under Sir Geoffrey Miles, got destroyers into river with all boat over side to help them cross, with air cover by 113Sq, 60Sq & 45Sq. They did it!
	5-7		A short history of 53 squadron January 1938 – December 1940	S/Ldr Richard Muspratt DFC	Follow up from 43/5 Richard writes that 53Sq reformed 1937 at Farnborough with Major P Hannay, MC (from Cameron Highlanders) as CO & flying Hawker Hectors crewed by pilot & AG. Early 1938 53Sq moved to new airfield at RAF Odiham to join 4Sq & 13Sq Army Co-operation squadrons flying Westland Lysanders. On 26/08/1938 9 Hectors took off on annual long-distance flight via Sealand, Abbotsinch, Montrose, Evanton to Kirkwall (Orkney) retuning via Montrose, Driffield & Mildenhall. At end 1938 53Sq first equipped with BB MkIVs & by 06/1939 most crew had completed conversion & night flying at RAF Harwell & Brize Norton, with armament practice at Leuchars; P/O Hyde put 6 bullets through Fairey Gordon towing the target! Major Hannay given silver model Hawker Hector when replaced with S/Ldr W Murray. 18/09/1939, under command of Capt Daly (from Lancashire Fusiliers), 53Sq left Odiham, via Cherbourg, to Plivot (near Epernay, Marne valley) arriving 25/09/1939. First visitor to Mess was Ms Pol Roget, local vine-yard owner! 8 raids over Germany from Plivot (route: Metz, Ruhr, Osnabruck, Borkum, Mildenhall) taking vertical air photos of enemy airfields. On 14/09/1939 author carried out daylight reconnaissance of Flushing & River Scheldt with lot of flak (AG was Sgt Nisbett). Joe Mahoney repeated trip next day but FTR. Tactics of night bombing raid on Channel ports are described. 09/1940 W/Cdr Edwards & crew KIA over Rotterdam (info mths later via International Red Cross to Air Ministry) & replaced by W/Cdr Bill Murray. 11/1940 most a/c on detachment to Thorney Island to bomb U-boat base at Lorient & French airfields. Relates story of Brian Daly who, on return to 53Sq after crash & serious burns, refused 'safe' posts with School of Army Cooperation & Flight Commander post, but FTR after Cherbourg raid; a courageous man.
	6	Data	Aalborg 1940	Mike Henry	Further to article in 43/7 a map of Aalborg shows sites of 11 82Sq Blenheim crashes: T1933, R3800, R2772, R3821, R3829, R3904, T1827, R3802, R3913, T1934,

					T1889. For each the exact site is named.
	7	Pic	Please come again	Mike Henry	Pic of 2001 Society luncheon attended by 93 members
	7		A friendly hint		Amusing advice
	7		How to keep a health level of insanity		More amusing advice
	8	Pic	A well-named hostelry		Pic of 'The Blenheim' pub, High Street, Ventor, Isle of Wight.
F/Sgt Stanley William Lee , AFC, DFM	8	Letter	Seeking news of Stanley William Lee	Peter M Backshall	Peter bought a box of docs from charity shop relating to F/Sgt SW Lee's (904238), incl his flying logbook, UK CAA Flight Navigators Licence, Radio Telegraphy Ops Licence, South Rhodesia Navigators Cert & Licence, & Rhodesian Nyasaland Flight Crew Licence. F/Sgt Lee enlisted in RAF 09/1939 at Uxbridge, flew in BBs in 18Sq & 113Sq, Wellingtons in 148Sq, Hudsons in 24Sq, Dakotas in 512Sq & Stirlings in 46Sq. He was in Operation Market Garden at Arnheim. Letter 10/01/1991 from JW Siepermann (of Dutch Airwar Research Assn) refers to RAF men setting up radar station Arnhem area 18/09/1944. If have more info about SW Lee, contact PM Backshall (contact details via email address at bottom of web site). Ed sent letter to Theo Boiten
AVM Alfred Mulock Bentley	8	Wanted	Alfred M Bentley Ex-113 Squadron	George H Bentley	GH Bentley (Cpt, United Airlines) sent email about relative, AM Bentley who, in 1940, posted 113Sq to command 'B' flight in Egypt where wounded. End of WWII returned to Rhodesia were served as AVM in Rhodesian Air Force. Any info to George (a society member) via current editor (contact details via email address at bottom of web site)
	8		Ex-ground crew member of XV Squadron looks back	Victor Bingham	Victor recall summer 1940 when XVSq (15Sq) ground crew on call 24/7, falling asleep under a/c & long wait for 'his kite' & crew who FTR. Later defending Iceland with Hurricanes & Battles, a Hudson Squadron, Northrop N-3PB (Norwegian floatplane) Squadron & Catalinas, without radar & no warning of FW Condor attack. Preferred team-work on BBs etc to work on larger Wellingtons, Stirlings & Lancasters. Looks at photos of 'Hugh' & Ron Clarke aged 18 (taken Wyton & France 1939) & reflects how these events led him to become aircrew.
Edward George Dean (40353)	9	Wanted	Info wanted – Sgt E G Dean, ex-139 and 14 Squadrons	Tim Dean	Tim's wants info about his father, ex-39Sq & 14Sq. This item virtually identical to same info & request summarised in 46/9. Contact details via email address at bottom of web site .
'Terry' Frawley	9	Wanted	Tim Frawley seeks information about his father 'Terry' Frawley	Tim Frawley	Tim writes that his father (an Obs & trained Wop/AG) flew in BBs with 113Sq in East Africa & Burma. His 'unofficial' logbook covers 11/1942 to 06/1943, details raids in Burma against Japanese & names some 113Sq personnel. Tim recalls his father meeting ex-RAF colleague, Ron Lockwood in ~1967 at Charmouth, Dorset; Ron was connected with radar installation on Stonebarrow Hill. Any info about 'Terry' Frawley to Tim (contact details via email address at bottom of web site)
	9	Letter (edited)	14 Squadron Western Desert	Ray Ball	Ref Ray's article (13/3-4), as 14Sq cook/butcher in desert 1941-1942, Ray reminds readers that aircrew had same rations as troops. His earlier article mentioned 'Bebe'

					the pig (after Bebe Daniels) & rich Austrian Baron von Manesch living in Egypt. Ed comments that (unshown) pic of pyramids & BB has code 'GB' (105Sq) not CX (for 14Sq)
Kenneth Wolstenholme	9	Obit	To absent friends: Kenneth Wolstenholme ex 107 Squadron and voice of football on BBC has died, aged 81		As RAFVR at outbreak of WWII Kenneth soon called up &, in 1941, posted 107Sq at Great Massingham flying BBs until transfer to 105Sq (Mosquitos) early 1943 & Don Bennett's No 8 (Pathfinder) Group (formerly a 2 Group Squadron). He completed 100 raids over Europe & awarded DFC in 1944. Also in 107Sq was Norfolk-born cricketer Bill Edrich who received DFC for sinking 5000-tonne German ship off Norway (& playing at Lords in pm!)
W/Cdr George Shinnie DFC	9-10	Obit	Another Blenheim Boy has 'left' us	James Moore ('Dinty')	On 04/03/2002 George Shinnie ('Jock') died. From Aberdeen, he joined Auxillary Air Force pre-WWII & trained as Wop/AG, posted Upwood then joined 139Sq. After tour of ops in 1941, posted to Bicester where commissioned. In 1942 he was crewed with W/Cdr Young AFC, commanding 464Sq (RAAF) flying Venturas from Feltwell after which awarded DFC. George then trained as pilot in Canada, remained in RAF post-war in admin role & retired as W/Cdr in 1975.
	10	Letter	A letter from a new member	William Purser	William writes that, having re-read Richard Passmore's ' <i>Blenheim Boys</i> ' & Max Hastings' ' <i>Bomber Command</i> ' etc, he found Betty George & Society on Web, joined & aims to go on Vraux trip. After 4 yrs ATC (& several flights 'hitched' in a/c, incl a Lincoln over North sea, Hastings, Shackletons, Britannias & Canberra; describes 'hitching' tactics! Also piloted an AVM in an Anson), author failed aircrew medical in 1960, but retained interest in RAF history; now retired to France this rekindled (esp after reading Mike Henry's book ' <i>Air Gunner</i> '). William's Dad never spoke of his WWI experiences (incl Dunkirk & Salerno). Important to learn from/about lesser-known WWII campaigns & support Society. Anyone like exchange of historical BB or Group 2 matters? Contact William Purser (contact details via email address at bottom of web site).
	11	Letter/ Data	Crashes in the West Country 1939-45	Frank Harper	Frank has long researched RAF losses in Cornwall, Devon & surrounding area 1939-1945 & has identified 1,583 a/c (77 of which are BBs) & 3,679 aircrew killed or missing. He gives an example of info collected for each: 27/03/1941; 53Sq; BBIV V5865, PZ-P; based St Eval; Op: anti-shipping; Crash site: downed in sea by Bf109s (of II/JG77); Pilot: P/O JM Fothergill MC, 43715, RAF; Obs: Sgt TPO'kT Coady, 914505, RAFVR; Wop/AG: Sgt PR Parker, 755738, RAFVR; Buried: MIA Runnymede Memorial, panels 32, 41 & 50 respectively. This research done as tribute to those lost. In 2001 Frank & his wife (with support from local newspaper) raised money for Book of Remembrance of 986 names held in St Eval Church (incl many BB crew). If any Society members need info on aircrew lost in West Country in WWII, Frank pleased to help. Contact details via email address at bottom of web site
F/O William Crew	11	Letter/ Pic		AVM Edward	Edward Crew sent a photo of his brother, William Crew & 6 colleagues from 82Sq sat

				Crew	around a bomb with BB F-UX fuselage behind. They served under Sam Elworthy & 'Attie' Atkinson, based at Bodney. After rest at Nakuru, William joined 55Sq flying Baltimores & shot down near Migano. Any info about William or his colleagues to Edward Crew (Contact details via email address at bottom of web site)
	11		Apologies to subscribers	Mike Henry	Apologies that no space for all items contributed. Maybe next issue 16 pages.
	11		Blenheim Odyssey for sale		Edited by late Len Fearnley, only 100 copies of ' <i>Blenheim Odyssey</i> ' printed. Copy for sale for £50. Phone number given.
AVM Sir Laurence Sinclair, GC	12	Obit	AVM Sir Laurence Sinclair, GC. dies	Mike Henry	Quoting from obit to 'Laurie' Sinclair in <i>Daily Telegraph</i> (15/05/2002), incident on night of 30/09/1940 detailed. W/Cdr Sinclair was 110Sq CO at RAF Wattisham when loaded bomber's engine cut at 150' & it crashed. Although one bomb exploded, Sinclair & station Dr dragged AG free from flames. AG died later; Sinclair cited. Pic: Laurie Sinclair at Duxford airshow. Editor was in 110Sq in 1940 when Sinclair CO.
	12	Data	New Members		Lists 19 new members, including 6 new full members & Mrs EM Holman who was WAAF equipment assistant at RAF Watton & remembers the arrival there of first BBs (seen again at 2001 Shoreham Air Show)
F/Lt RHA Lee	12	Letter	29 Squadron, Debden, ex-members?	Miss Welsford	Miss Welsford would like any info about F/Lt 'Dicky' Lee, 85Sq, served at Debden 1937-1940. 29Sq based Debden same time with BBs. Any info on Dicky Lee to Ms Welsford (contact details via email address at bottom of web site)
	13	Report & wanted	Blenheim maintenance update		Main focus on Bristol Mercury engines, esp cylinders in which ridge forming due to 'nodding' pistons. Old bores need 'Channel Croming' with ceramic chrome. As only done in USA, shipping expensive. Also new exhaust valves & guides; new deeper piston rings & new spark plugs fitted. Two 'new' engines are at various stages of preparation. No serious problems with airframe. However the Blenheim's inner tubes are 60yrs old & no spares available in required size. <i>Tyres of Short Skyvan fit, but these tubeless & BB has 12" split-hub wheels (ie not airtight). Need inner tubes to fit 36x13x12 tyre, or (slightly smaller) original 12.25x12, with 4½" valve at 90°. If can help, contact Ron Scott (via email address at bottom of web site) or Editor. Ed: on 27/04/2002 Society Committee agreed extra donation of £3,000 to ARC. Pic: a 'cut' engine cylinder.</i>
	14	Article	Those wonderful people of Vraux	Tony Tranter	Society regularly visits Vraux, near Rheims, France. Connection stems from 10/05/1940 when BBs flying from Vraux against German Blitzkrieg suffered heavy losses. The Assn Maison Rouge in Vraux has built museum in HQ/Control Tower (the 'Red House') of the original Vraux airfield & an annual memorial ceremony takes place each Bastille Day (14 th July). Serge Maigrot & wife Marie-France own a Tiger Moth & 'fly-past' each event. Serge also flies replica Spitfire MkIX. For their honeymoon in 1983 they flew in (& won) the 1 st Aerospatial Toulouse to St Louis (Senegal) & Dakar. While in the France Air Force Serge went to Indo-China (Vietnam),

					Morocco, Germany & Italy, some of time as gliding instructor (won gold Insignia when took glider 30,000 ft over St Auban). In civilian life Serge a profession pilot for gliders, a/c & helicopters & qualified in aerobatics, etc. With Reims Aviation Co he delivered F406 jet a/c to Australia, S Africa & Zimbabwe; 15,000 flying hrs. While pilot at Aeroclub de Champagne at Reims-Prunay airport met Marie-France. Pics x 3: Serge & Marie-France Maigrot with their Tiger Moth.
	15-16	Report	Gellick – a memorable visit	Ron Scott	Ron reports on trip to Gellick (Belgium) about 10/05/2002 with Betty George & grandsons James & Tim to join event in memory of French, Belgian & British airmen charged with destroying bridges over Albert canal & river Meuse (at Maastricht) in daylight to stem Germans. Representatives from La Maison Rouge Museum (Vraux), Belgian (gov & air force), Dutch, Canadian Embassy (Canadian aircrew KIA in Halifax), XVSq members, Michael Pitt (12Sq veteran) & relatives of those KIA in area. Rev Peter Hall, whose father killed then, took multi-dominational service before memorial service; local band played RAF march. After food, tombola, drink & disco. Thanks to all, esp Walter Veugen & wife; Walter's research & efforts led to the Gellick memorial. Lovely place & people. Pics x 5: Walter Veugen & Betty George; Floral tributes on Memorial at Gellick; Rev Peter Hall, Bill Gibson (XVSq CO), Michel Knockaert-Hoebus; Betty George with 15Sq members, incl Bill Gibson; Betty George with grandsons James & Tim, Rev Peter Hall (son of Sgt Hall on memorial) & Irene Murphy (brother lost in 1940)

Issue 43: March 2002

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	Chairman's Comments	Andrew Pierce	2001 highlights: trips to Vraux & Malta (with Hawker Hurricane Society) & wet weekends! Members at events up, as is Grand Flying Draw takings (£10,500 to Graham Warner). Work by ARC on BB engines means many more years of flying. AGM/ Business lunch on 06/04/2002. Thanks to all for hard work.
	1	Wanted	Royal Aero Club Trust seeks youth air sport adviser	Editor	Part-time unsalaried volunteer wanted to help with 'Flying for Youth' programme. If interested contact Fred Marsh with CV at 36 Edwardes Square, London W8 6HH or email: chairman@royalaeroclubtrust.org . More info: www.royalaeroclubtrust-org
	2	Pic	During a visit to Malta, recently, a gravestone caused Betty and Sir Ivor to stop in their tracks		Pic: Betty George & Sir Ivor Broom by gravestone in Malta to 'G Burns, Shipwright 2 nd CI RN M/14047. HMS Blenheim, 27 th February 1916' (27/02/1916)
	2	Report	XV Squadron Tornados and Betty	Betty George	In 10/2001 Martyn Ford Jones gave Betty lift to Lossiemouth were XVSq (now XV(R)) train Tornado aircrew; 15Sq was Hugh George's squadron. Betty describes the 4 days she was 'let loose' in the crew rooms & the experience of sitting at end of runway as Tornados took off in dark. Thanks ex-XVSq people for arranging (naming Simon, Shandy

					& Martyn) & present 15(R)Sq staff.
8 Squadron	2	Data		Editor	On Malta, at High Commissioner's reception, Betty George was asked about 8Sq which operated BBs. Articles about 8Sq in journals 9/8, 12/7, 22/8, 26/1 & 35/10. Further (short) contributions about 8Sq welcome.
	2	Letter (edited)	Ex-fuel pumper from 21 Squadron	Norman Wight	Letter to Ron Scott. Norman left Watton on 25/12/1941 in Blenheim YH-S as fitter tasked with pumping 100 Octane from extra to main tanks. Pilot was P/O Booth (who survived Malta; 21Sq); Obs was from New Zealand. Norman wants to contact GR Bryden ('Dagwood'), last address at Ravenglass, Cumbria, who trained as pilot with Norman in Rhodesia. From Newcastle upon Tyne, Norman now lives in Dallas, USA. Contact details via email address at bottom of web site
	3	Letter	Meeting with the 'old enemy'	S/Ldr DH Cooper	In 1988 Colonel Wolfgang Falck of Luftwaffe Fighter Pilots' Assn invited DH Cooper & Betty George to reunion at Bischofsheim, near Strasburg. Wreath laying by various Air Forces very moving*. In 1990 invited to Wolfgang's 90 th birthday at Luftwaffe Fighter Group 74 officers mess, near Neuburg Donau. Guests incl Vial Allan (President, Australian Pathfinder Club) & Robert Little (Wolfgang's biographer). After lunch there was a surprise 'Fly Past' of various gliders & a/c incl last flyable Messerschmitt ME109! *See similar event reported by Sir Ivor Broom in 31/5. Pic: Vial Allan, Wolfgang Falck & hosts.
	3		Malta VC recommended	Mike Henry	Editor reports phone call from A/Cdr Ted Sismore ref 42/6 saying it was only intervention of W/Cdr Atkinson ('Atty'; CO 82Sq) which saved F/Lt Watkins' leg from amputation. Ed: 'Atty' was Freddy Laker's 'right hand man'. As Press member editor flew with him on 31/05/1963, Gatwick to Genoa, on inaugural Viscount flight
	3	Letter (edited)	Another reference to the Malta VC article	Philip Fenton	Flying on BB Z6422, Sgt Philip Fenton (Obs), S/Ldr John Harrison-Broadley (pilot) & Stewart Thompson (Wop/AG) led first 82Sq vic from Malta on 22/06/1941. Philip vividly describes the attack on cargo ship, the crash & being picked up by Italian destroyed & taken as POWs. He has copy of Harrison-Broadley's citation & story of Watkins ('Wattie') in 1964 boys magazine, <i>The Victor</i> .
244 Squadron	4		An unusual Squadron badge		Via Ron Scott, Arthur Lesadd (Canvey Island & ex-244Sq) sent '244 Squadron & Kindred Spirits Assn' newsletter 4 with item on Sq badge with picture & description of badge submitted to Air Ministry in 1944 (& refused). Later Don James sent in Newsletter 24 with additional info. 244Sq reformed Shaibah 11/1940 with anti-sub & shipping escort role in Persian Gulf flying BB MkVs (Bisleys). 244Sq moved to Sharjah 05/1942. On 16/10/1943 Sgt Chapman (DFM) & crew sunk German sub (U533) in Gulf of Oman with sole survivor taken to Sharjah by Royal Navy. On that day Wop/AG Ken Igglesden (MBE) was crewed with Sgt David Illenden (pilot) & F/Sgt Lawrie ('Pop Fenwick'; Obs) was on anti-sub sweep & took pics of subs oil slick before returning to Jask. 244Sq

					disbanded 05/1945. Pics: of two 244Sq badges with Arabic characters.
	4	Wanted	614 Squadron request from a new member	Allan Milner	Allan's brother was Wop/AG flying with P/O David Smyth in 614Sq. There 1 st op was to Twente on 30/05/1942; on Dieppe raid on 19/08/1942 & in 12/1942 to Algeria with Sq for 22mths & some 50 Ops. P/O Smyth later KIA over Sicily. Allan brother went on to work with BOAC & Qantas (died 2000). If anyone knows of Obs/navigator who flew with Allan's brother, please contact him (contact details via email address at bottom of web site)
53 Squadron	5	Article	53 Squadron pilot remembers	S/Ldr Richard Muspratt, DFC	At FTS, Brize Norton winter 1939 author saw first BB (MkI). Following conversion course at 6 OTU in early 1940, posted to 53Sq, Detling, Kent as 'replacement crew'. 16 Group Coastal Command then moved 53Sq & 59Sq to Thorney Island for ops on docks & submarine pens at Lorient & Brest. Describes typical 12/1940 joint 53Sq & 59Sq op in BB MkIV PZ-S1 against Lorient, crewed with Sgt Doug Smart (Obs; later KIA on D-Day over Aramanche in Dakota) & Sgt Reg Cole (Wop/AG). Mentions Portsmouth blackout, Mercury XV engines, flying over St Albans Head, Anvil Point, parent's home at Swanage, Bournemouth Bay, the Solent & Spithead to land at Thorney Island on Christmas Eve. See 64/14 for expanded version of article. Pic: S/Ldr Muspratt, Sgt Doug Smart & Sgt Reg Cole (misnamed as Smith & Colt) in front of BB MkIV.
114 Squadron	6	Letter (edited)	He who 'drew' the Cobra	Bill Dauncey	Ref 41/8 (& cobra motif) Bill writes that he was posted to 114Sq at Wyton when it reformed in 1936. ~1937 the CO, W/Cdr 'Joe' Vincent asked Henry Austin (a former commercial artist) to produce a Squadron crest; this became the official crest with words 'With Speed I Strike'. Joe Vincent, who often flew an Avro Tutor, was known for his erratic approach to landing (? he was cook in Royal Marines in WWI). At 60 th Vraux anniversary met another pre-WWII 114Sq airman, an Obs who flew with 'Simon' Maude (pilot) known for his sea-level flying. In early 1940, when 114Sq based at St Laurent de la Salanque (near Perpignan) Bill recounts flying as 'ballast' on a BB MkIV test flight with Maude as pilot & experienced a terrific bump; year later told by Bernie Adams (fitter/mechanic on test flight) that Maude had put wingtip in the sea. Bill left 114Sq 09/1940 after 'long days & short nights on Blickling Hall straw'. Commenting on 41/8, in which Mike Henry writes that 114Sq returned to UK few days after 11/05/1940 Conde/Vraux, Bill says that many 114Sq ground crew were wandering France weeks later. Bill & Jean Dauncey live in Stroud. Pic: drawing (unattributed) of BB low flying over waves.
	7		Aalborg, August 1940	Mike Henry	On 13/08/1940 12 BBs of 82Sq took off from RAF Watton (A flight) & its satellite Bodney (B flight) to target Luftwaffe-occupied airfield at Aalborg, Jutland. Sgt Baron in R3915 turned back (fuel shortage), but remaining 11 BBs were shot down with loss of 20 (of 33) aircrew; 5 pilots, 8 obs & 7 Wop/AGs.

					Obs Sgt McGrath escaped & made way home via Spain (awarded Military Medal). Article lists serial numbers, codes & positions of BBs on raid (T1934, T1889, R3913, T1827, R3802, R3904, R3829, R3915, R3821, R3800, R3772, T1933) & the names all aircrew. Author was due to fly as Wop/AG with P/O Newland in R3904 but replace by Sgt Turner (who KIA). Pics: BB R3800 crashing near German seaplane, Limfjord; F/Lt Syms (pilot) & Sgt Wright (Obs) survived; body Sgt Turner (Wop/AG) found in wreckage by Feldweibel Klein (Luftwaffe armourer). Pics from publishers of <i>'After the Battle'</i> issue 72 (code A072) which has 12-page article, lots of photos, maps etc of raid. Contact details: After the Battle, Church House, Church St, London E15 3JA. Tel:020 8534 8833. www.afterthebattle.com
	8	Pics	Duxford, October 2001		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ron Scott (Treasurer), Andrew Pierce (Chairman) & Amanda. • Betty George (Hon Sec) • Mike Henry (Editor)
W/Cdr HC Randall, DFC	8-9	Book Review	<i>'Moths to Mosquitos: the wartime diaries of W/Cdr HC Randall, DFC'</i> by Hal Randall	Mike Henry	Hal Randall's ('Tubby') account of 28 years in RAF, which he joined in 1937. Commissioned in 1939, he was posted to 144Sq at Hemswell (flying Hampdens) then School of Navigation at Manston (which transferred to South Wales on outbreak WWII). Later to No. 2 CPF at Abottsinch, then Brize Norton flying Tiger Moths (last flown 12/1939). Other a/c mentioned: Avro Tutor, Hawker Audax & Hawker Furys. 15/01/1940 posted to Bircham Newton where Coastal Command 254Sq arrived with BBs to which Hal posted; BBs fitted with under-belly 'pod' of 4x.303 Brownings. After a brief spell at RN station in Orkneys (Hatston) in 04/1940 returned to Bircham Newton. For rest – read the book! Author's style chatty & modest & book well-illustrated. Author persuaded to publish by friend Martin Mace. Book costs £6.99 (+p&p) from Historic Military Press, HMP, Freepost Sea 11014, Pulborough, RH20 4BA. Pic (from bk): 6 254Sq BB IVs in echelon starboard.
G/Cpt AJM Smyth, OBE, DFC	9	Book Review	<i>'Abrupt Sierras'</i> by AJM Smyth	Mike Henry	Autobiography focusing on Tony Smyth's first 30 year & his 3 main interests; long-distance cycling (London-Athens, Gibraltar-Munich), climbing & flying. Joined RAF in 01/1937 (aged 21) flying Tiger Moths, Harts, Audaxes, Westland Wallaces & Airspeed Envoy a/c & became PA & pilot to AVM Paul Maltby, AOC No. 24 (Technical Training Grp) Halton. After start WWII posted Bicester training on BBs, then to West Rayham (101Sq (reserves)) in 01/1940. To 214Sq flying Wellingtons then 115Sq at Marham where engine caught fire on take-off. On Stavanger raid he & other crew injured & a/c belly-landed at Kinross. Posted 101Sq, completed 17 ops, promoted F/Lt & on 01/09/1040 in charge of 6 BBs flying to ME (Ismailia) via Malta. Posted to Training Unit & Reserve Pool ferrying a/c from Delta to Habbaniyah & Sudan (mostly BBs). 1941 to 55Sq at Fuka as Senior Flight Commander supporting Gen Wavell's advance on Cyrenaica. Then to Cyprus as

					Sq/Ldr & senior officer (belly-landed a Hurricane!), then to Ops Room at King David Hotel, Jerusalem. 10 ops with 14Sq as Senior Flight Commander then, 12/1941, promoted to W/Cdr & posted as CO 11Sq. 03/1942 XISq moved from Helwan to Ceylon (Colombo Racecourse) & in April didn't find the Japanese fleet (see 64/11 for report from pilot who did!). To Bengal & Calcutta as Bomber Operations Officer (& 2 weeks climbing in Himalayas & 19,300ft Lama Anden). 12/1942 attached HQ 15 Indian Corps, Arakan, then Liaison Officer HQ 14 Indian Division, Bawli Bazaar with one Tiger Moth running on MT fuel. Book direct from G/Cpt AJM Smyth, OBE, DFC, Bruton BA10 OHS, price £15. Pic: Tony Smyth when married in York, 10/12/1949. (Tony died 22/11/2007 aged 92)
	10		So you wannabe the Chairman		An amusing moan about the trials & tribulations of chairmanship of a committee of sleepers, noddors & chatterboxes.
	11	Data	New members		Lists 20 new members (of whom 6 are Full Members, incl G/Cpt Richard Haine of Shotley). New member Peter Rackliff of Newport Pagnall is co-author of <i>'Even the Birds were Walking'</i> . The Blenheim Group (formed after RAFA Club closed at Ipswich & closely associated with RAF Wattisham) joined as a Corporate Member. Donation from Peter Rook (Dickie Rook's brother). 45 new members in last 12 months.
	11		Please don't laugh	Mike Henry	Anecdote about age, memory & mixed medicines.
	11	Data		Editor	Deadline for filing copy for Issue 44 (July 2002) is Monday 17 th June.
Sgt Frank Burrell	12	Letter (edited)	Sgt Frank Burrell, 107 Squadron	Ron Scholefield	Responding to Sydney Burrell's letter about his brother Frank (see 42/2) (KIA Malta) Ron sent a detailed report (forwarded to Sydney). In summary, on 17/09/1941 four a/c located & attacked 2 petrol-laden schooners heading for Tripoli. 107Sq a/c flown by P/O Robinson with Sgt Brooks (Obs) & Frank Burrell (Wop/AG). One schooner attacked by Sq/Ldr Smithers & Sgt Bendall (Bendall & crew hit cable between masts & KIA). Sgt Williams & P/O Robinson attacked 2 nd schooner; Robinson's a/c (Z7755) 'erupted into a fireball'; this unlikely to be AA fire. Letter proposes possible cause; maybe Wellington bomb with instant fuse loaded by mistake?
	12	Letter	'Bush' Kennedy	Mr Red Eames	Responding to Angus Kennedy's request (see 42/10) Red writes that Bush told him that, on Vraux airfield 05/1940, he saw Dorniers approaching & all airmen dispersed rapidly; no human casualties, many a/c hit.
P/O Wylie Baser	12	Wanted	139 Squadron – info wanted	Richard Moore	See identical request 45/6.
	12		114 squadron error	Editor	Ref 41/9: W/Cdr Kircher (18Sq) led raid on Quadrath power station, & W/Cdr W Nicols of 114Sq led Knapsack raid (not W/Cdr Hughie Edwards, who led 105Sq on low-level daylight raid of Bremen with 107Sq & awarded VC).
	12	Obit	Obituary – Dennis Mitchell, ex-2 group	Editor	From <i>Daily Telegraph</i> (17/01/2002), A/Cdr Dennis Mitchell, DFC, AFC died aged 83. Appointed CVO 1961 & KBE 1977, he served with 2 group HQ, BAFO & 84 Group,

					was deputy Capt to Queen's flight (1956-9) & ADC to Queen.
	13	Article (edited)	Blenheim seen in Norfolk again!	James Moore ('Dinty')	Jim recruited to RAF at Bradford, then square-bashing at ITW (Padgate) & trained as wireless operator at West Drayton before posted to Yatesbury where he joined military band as alto-sax player & flew in DH Dragon Rapid. In 04/1940 posted 254Sq at RAF Leconfield as 'accumulator-charger'. 254Sq moved to Drem (nr Edinburgh) 05/1940, but Jim posted to 5 B&GS, Jurby, IoM, &, once qualified, to 17 OTU at Upwood. His first crew were Roger Speedy (pilot) & Bob Weston (Obs). After short time on air firing exercises at Blackpool, joined 18Sq at West Raynham. Pic: model of Jim's 18Sq a/c at his home in North Walsham (made by neighbour)
	13	Letter	244 Squadron badge – postscript	Jim Heslop (244Sq Assn Hon Sec)	Info from Jim sent in via Don James. A 1993 application to MoD for 244Sq crest refused (as Sq disbanded 07/05/1945) so 'unofficial' badge designed with crossed Kunja knives over sea (symbolising sea searches in Omani area) with Arabic logo 'Over the Sea' (see 4/43). Request for badge finally granted 1998; now registered with College of Heraldry & on display in RAF Museum, Hendon.
	13	Report	New from Massingham	Sister Laurence Mary	Massingham village Roll of Honour remains popular & 3 rd edition of book-form sold out, but she continues work with History Society. Now planning a memorial to aircrew. Kenneth Wolstenholme (ex 107Sq) opened redesigned 'Sister Laurence RAF Museum' at Massingham.
	13	Obit	To absent friends	Editor	Condolences to family of Sq/Ldr DA Taylor, society member who died 30/07/2001.
	14	Pic	Blenheim MkI production		Pic: Blenheim MkI assembly line at Roote's Speke factory, 04/1939. Sent in by Mr DH Sutcliffe (as photocopy of photo given him by a guest) who would like to hear from others interested in that period. DH Sutcliffe's contact details via email address at bottom of web site . Original must be really excellent photo & gives amazing concept of size of factory & workforce, uncluttered by robots!
	14	Letter (edited)	From groundcrew eyes	Victor Bingham	Victor served in Bomber, Coastal & Fighter Commands as both ground-crew & aircrew. These extracts describe the unique bond between Blenheim air & ground crew in 1939-1940 period, the long hours, extra duties, modifications to BB for overseas, how a small Bomber Command struck at Germany's Luftwaffe during Battle of Britain (ignored by media & historians); aerial photos of Germany's modified Rhine & Baltic barges show the 12% damage inflicted. As footnote adds that in ME a 20-mm Breda cannon fitted to BB MkIVs. Pre-war BB aerobatics & flying in clouds forbidden!
F/Sgt Bill Sydney-Smith	15	Obit	Ex-139 Squadron pilot dies		Bill was commissioned 11/1940 & in 05/1941 was in 138Sq flying BBs from Luqa, Malta. On 03/06/1940 awarded DFC for attack on convoy with escort & JU88 cover; Norman Shepherd (Obs) received DFM. Ron Scholefield flew with Bill at 17 OTU, Upwood & describes F24 pic of Shewsbury station – from 40 feet! In 07/1941 during raid on Rotterdam harbour, a/c hit & crash landed in street to zoo. Crash & injuries to Obs &

					Wop/AG described; rescued by Dutch but imprisoned by Germans. Obit to Bill in <i>Daily Telegraph</i> (06/02/2002) incorrectly names Bill as 'Sydney Smith'.
	15	Letter	110 Squadron – a mystery resolved	Henry Emden	A 1989 report of Wilhelmshaven raid on 04/09/1939 states that P/O Emden crashed into German cruiser ' <i>Emden</i> '. Henry (P/O Emden's son) researched this with help of Ministry of Defence & Dr Englehardt (from German County of Gottingen who watched 2 Group BBs attack the warships). He records that of the 15 BBs; 5 from 139Sq didn't bomb (Nav error); 3 from 110Sq surprise attacked battleship <i>Admiral von Scheer</i> , one lost contact & one (piloted by P/O Emden) was shot down by <i>Scheer's</i> guard ship <i>Diether von Roeder</i> at 17.57; 4 of 107Sq BBs were shot down, one crashing into <i>Emden</i> , probably piloted by F/O Lightoller, with 11 sailors killed & 30 injured. P/O Emden recovered from sea by minesweeper <i>Hmar</i> , 05/09/1939. P/O Emden & crew likely to be first casualties of WWII (not F/Lt Barton of 107Sq). 14 British aircrew killed & 2 taken POW (one was Sgt Booth, Obs); can identify each crash site & accounted for all crew but one. Henry & family visited Wilhelmshaven & Emden, were subject of German TV film, entertained on frigate <i>Emden</i> , been to site of father's crash & made many friends.
W/Cdr John Dunlop	16	Obit	Coming to the aid of Blenheim survivors		W/Cdr John Dunlop, WWII fighter pilot, died in Australia, 07/2001. At Montrose, Scotland, in early 1940 he got a message to say BBs returning from Skagerrak were low on petrol. He was refused access to station HQ by station commander so, with several auxillary airmen, broke into night flying hangar to get equipment to lay flarepath & BBs landed safely with wounded. Dunlop threatened with court martial, but had support of Group. (Obit from ' <i>The Herald</i> ' Glasgow). Pic: John Dunlop.
	16	Article	Blenheim UX-N of 82 Squadron	Don McFarlane DFM	On 17/05/1940 12 BBs from 82Sq attacked troops at Gembloux, Belgium; 11 were shot down & 12 th DBR; Don not flying that day! R3821 (UX-N), one of replacement a/c, was one of 11 BBs shot down 13/08/1940, Aalborg aerodrome raid; crew FTR. In 1995 R3821 retrieved from crater & crew remains buried. Of the 45 hrs R3821 flew, Don was Obs for 36 hrs with same pilot & Wop/AG, mainly North Sea sweeps, attacks on German army, etc. But on 07/08/1940 12 BBs (incl R3821) attacked Haamsteede aerodrome, Holland. Climbed to 20,000ft, other a/c broke formation, descended thro cloud & on target so bombed group Me109s alone. Years later a letter from Dutch author stated Dutch & German records say single a/c (on same day, time & place) dropped bombs on Me 109s of 4 Staffel, Jagdgeschaffer 54 which cause removal of Squadron from Battle of Britain role!
	16		2 Group Officers' Luncheon Club		Invitation to 5 th Annual Luncheon on 27/04/2002, 12 noon for 1pm, RAF Club, Piccadilly, London. All welcome, incl ladies & guests. Enquiries: Ian Linney, OBE, DL.

Issue 42: November 2001

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	President's Message	Ivor Broom	Over 90 at Blenheim lunch at Oxford, incl younger members & 2 from Australia. Many sat in Blenheim cockpit. Thanks to Andrew Pierce, Ron Scott & others for all work done.
	1	Report	Chairman's Comments	Andrew Pierce	Grand Flying Draw going well; Evie Saunders alone sold 1,400 tickets. Cost of insurance after US 11 th Sept event could mean even more veteran a/c unable to fly.
Sgt Frank Burrell (Wop/AG)	2	Letter (edited)	Sgt Frank Burrell – his brother seeks news	Sydney Burrell	Frank Burrell was crewed with P/O PEC Robinson (pilot) & Sgt BF Brooks (Obs) in 107Sq at Great Massingham. 12/08/1941: in Z7288 survived Knapsack (nr Cologne) raid, escorted by Whirlwinds. 14/08/1941: in Z7494 attacked E-Boats, Boulogne Harbour, Spitfire escort, part of 'Circus'. 16/08/1941: in V6395 patrol of coast off Borkum. 17/08/1941: in Z7288 shipping sweep off Dutch coast. 19/08/1941: in Z7494 attacked Hazelbruck marshalling yard; flak damage. 21/08/1941: in V5726 attacked Ijmuiden steel works, fighter escort. Then dispatched to ME with refuelling at Malta, but retained at Luqa. 17/09/1941 KIA with crew off Malta. Sydney would welcome more info about his brothers last days & can be contacted via email address at bottom of web site
F/Lt Bill Evans	2	Obit	Ex-Blenheim boy's RAF history		Bill was Wop 04/1931-05/1932 at Gosport; then Cranwell to 07/1933, Upavon to 03/1934. Posted 47Sq Khartoum to 05/1936, then Aboukir, Egypt to 01/1938. To No 1 AOS at North Coates on Air Obs course 01/1938-05/1938 then posted 101Sq at Bicester to 05/1939 flying BBs & moved with Sq to West Raynham. 10/1939 to 110Sq at Wattisham &, as P/O, 'rested' as instructor at Bicester 08/1940. Flying in BBs from Upwood 10/1940-01/1941 then pilot's course at No 8 EFTS (Woodley) then 17 EFTS (Luffenham) 'til 04/1941, then 06/1941 was F/O & instructor at 6 EFTS (Sywell). Continued as instructor at No 34 EFTS in Canada as F/Lt (08/1942) & by 12/1942 instructor at 31 OTU then Woodley, Booker, Northolt before going to 2 nd TAF Belgium & Germany in 1945. With Berlin Air Command 07/1945-04/1946, then HQ Bomber Command 10/1946 & retired 05/1948. Info from Monica Brodie, Bill daughter who would welcome contact with anyone who knew Bill.
	2		A wonderful idea!	Editor	Note on wall of transit hotel, Hawaii.
Bob Hale Wop/AG	3	Letter (edited)	Ex-139 Squadron crew member, Bob Hale	RD Simpson	Bob Hale, Wop/AG with 139Sq, was shot down 07/05/1941 off Frisian coast & taken as POW to Stalag 357, Kopernikus. His pre-war address was Russell St, Coventry. He was a widower with son (now in 60s). Mr Simpson would like to contact Bob or son. His contact details via email address at bottom of web site .
	3	Wanted	Area Co-ordinators	Andrew Pierce	In early years Society split into regions so members had local contacts. Most events in South, Duxford & Wash areas, but active members in E Midlands, Bristol area & NE England. Committee has discussed reinstating regions. Anyone with time to be

					area co-ordinator locally for Society? If so, contact Andrew via email address at bottom of web site
	3	Poem	Do you just belong?		Unattributed poem contrasting active & inactive members of an organisations - & encouraging more involvement. Its good!
	3	Pic	You know, someday we're going to get too old for this ...		Pic postcard from Bill Burberry of two elderly walkers on mountain peak.
	4	Report	Blenheim Society's annual lunch	Mike Henry	93 people attended the lunch at the Officer's Mess, Duxford. Each table had special 'Conde/Vraux champagne with BBs on (pic of label). Sir Ivor Broom praised Evie Saunder's draw ticket sales (£1,4000).
Michael Willis	4	Report/letter	To repay a debt of honour	Mike Henry	Michael Willis (65), who did his National Service with 2 nd Gurka Rifles & has raised £80,000 for Gurka Welfare by marathons and cycling, has now climbed Mont Blanc! His letter informing Betty George mentioned Major Geoffrey Lloyd, Hon Sec Gurka Welfare Trust (East Anglia). Ron Scott to send donation from Blenheim Society.
TW Little	5	Letter (edited)	114 Squadron - reflections	TW Little	TW Little (age 93) joined RAF as education officer (civilian post) in 09/1935 & to Wyton 1936 were 139Sq & 114Sq reformed (03/09/1936 & 01/12/1936 respectively). Recalls some fatal crashes. Received VR commission as Intelligence Officer in 1939. To AASF 12/1939 (replacing XVsq & 40Sq Battles with 139Sq & 114Sq BBs). Mentions 11/1938 Officer's list for 114Sq & 139Sq. In 1950s re-met Freebody (now A/Cdr) on visit to RAF school at Cosford. Little in Aden 1959. His Cambridge address given
Fred Dolman	5	Article	Memories of Blenheims in the Desert	Charles Hall (Holly)	Fred, of No 4 Refuelling & Rearming Party, spend 20 th birthday on P&O's <i>Viceroy of India</i> on way to Amiriya (Alexandria). Then drove to Sidi Barrani (LG 05) to service Marylands, Baltimores & Bostons with SAAF and Kittyhawks of 112Sq. As Rommel advanced, they retreated to Gianacis (Nile Delta) where Wellingtons, Beauforts and BBs based (in 1942). Describes how 250lb bombs loaded on BBs; being small Fred provided the 'back'. Fred living in Ipswich when wrote this to Charles Hall in 1992. Pic by 'Holly' of bomb being loaded on BB.
Brian L Porter	5	Apology	Flightpath of Friendship	Ed	Editor apologises to Brian L Porter (member International Society Poets) for omitting his name from this poem in issue 41/10.
F/Lt Thomas John Watkins	6-7	Report	Malta 1941: 82 Squadron pilot recommended for a VC		Slightly edited reproduction of AIR 2/8858 (from TNA) sent in by Shaun Morrison who researching 2 Group BBs in Malta for book. Describes 22/06/1941 82Sq attack on shipping off Lampedusa by 6 BBs. Sq/Ldr Harrison Broadley landed in sea near convoy. Pilot F/Lt Watkins (in Z9545) completed raid, despite severe injury. Sgt Sargent (Obs) took over controls for 90 mile return to Malta, but Watkins managed to land a/c & recommended for VC. Signed W/Cdr LVE Atkinson, CO 82Sq, 03/07/1941. Supported by AVM DP Stevenson, 2 Group Bomber Command (mentions AVM HP Lloyd). F/Lt Watkins awarded DSO & Sgts J Sargent & E Chandler (Wop/AG) got DFMs.
	7-8	Book Review	'Clean Sweep' by Tony Spooner,	Mike Henry	This book tell the life of AM Sir Ivor Broom, born Cardiff 06/1920, to tax work in Banbury

			DSO, DFC		& enlisting in RAF in 10/1940, to 13 OTU 05/1941 then 114Sq, operation 'Circus' & 12/08/1941 Cologne raids. On 18/09/1941 flew BB to Malta, flying with 105Sq, then to ME where 'kidnapped' by AOC Hugh Pughe Lloyd for 107Sq and raid on Tripoli. On 09/11/1941 left billet at Marsaxlokk to become officer based at Luqa. Awarded DFC with 107Sq, 'bar' with 571Sq flying Mosquitos, 2 nd bar with 128Sq and DSO when W/Cdr with 163Sq and AFC for his work at Flying College, etc. This illustrated book is published by Crecy, Manchester, UK, 2001, price £5.99. ISBN 0907579183
	8	Book Review	' <i>Blenheim over the Balkans</i> ' by James Dunnet	Mike Henry	This well-written book is a collection of personal experiences (including of his perilous 8h 50m non-stop BB flight to Malta in a storm on 24/09/1940 with pilot 'Herby' & Wop/AG Bill Young); what lead him to research 211Sq & its tragic losses on 13/04/1941 & to write the book (credit to Ian Carter); impressions of Egypt, Greece, Athens, Tatoi, etc, and a collection of personal accounts from Tommy Wisdom's book ' <i>Wings over Olympus</i> ', Obs & ground crew diaries and letters, log books, etc. A 'must read' for anyone interested in Greece 1940/41. Published 2001, Pentland Books, Durham. ISBN 1-85821-882-9, price £17.50.
	9	Letter	A pertinent website for members	Sir George White	In letter to Andrew Pierce, G White (whose grandfather founded of Bristol Aeroplane Company in 1910) writes of website he's launched (www.bristol-aeroplane.com) to record family's achievements & as research resource. Includes colour pic of 'Britain First' a/c (on which BB based) in stained glass window by Jan Juta (~1935) in Co's HQ (New Filton Hse), now abandoned by BAe. Magnificent window & carvings (of 'Britian First' & 'Mercury') in danger of deteriorating. Pic by 'arthur' 1942: Mercury pulls Blenheim
114 Squadron	9	Report	Honouring the crew of Z7278, 114 Squadron		114Sq BB Z7278 crashed on exercise on 14/10/1941 at Clenchwarton, near King's Lynn, Norfolk with all 3 crew killed (Sgts W Anstey, A Southwood & J Kerrison – not named in this report). Names added to other 22 on Clenchwarton village Aircrew Memorial 14/10/2001. Organised by Kings Lynn & District RAFA, Hon Sec Mr Michael Foster.
Sq/Ldr Melville Neil Macfadyen Kennedy	10	Wanted	News wanted about Melville Neil Macfadyen 'Bush' Kennedy	Angus Kennedy	Angus wants any info about his father 'Bush' Kennedy, born in Cape town, commissioned RAF 1936, XVSq (15Sq) 07/1936 to 1937 then Signals Sq, Cranwell to 12/1939 flying Wallace, Wapiti, Valencia and Harvard a/c. With 104Sq (B), West Raynham flying BBs until posted 114Sq at Vraux 04/1940. Then to Horsham St Faith 05/1940 where flew with Sgt Lamb and White in L9267, L9265, R3809, R3813, N3532 & R3891. 07/1940 posted acting Sq/Ldr, B flight. 31/07/1940 flying in R3895 with P/O J Hanlan (?Hanlon) & Sgt G Remnant (?Reinhart) in raid on Aalborg hit & crashed in flames at Lemvig, Denmark and taken PoWs; in Stalag Luft III. Any info to Angus (contact details via email address at bottom of web site) Pics: 'Bush' Kennedy & wrecked R3895
	10		Chicago bound?		A 'dumb blonde' anecdote

	10	Data	113 Squadron	Sq/Ldr Blair	In 41/6 article by Pat Woodward about 113Sq reference is made to BB Mk I 'fighters'. Sq/Ldr Blair points out that BB Mk Is were bombers, but 113Sq had both Mk I & Mk IV BBs from 06/1940 to 09/1940.
Frank Joseph	11	Letter/Obit	The late Frank Joseph	Marilyn Hampton	41/11 obits mention Frank's death. His daughter Marilyn sent photo & gives more detail of Frank's funeral, last years and wartime experiences (an Obs flying in BBs who transferred to 36Sq Wellingtons in 1942, commissioned & flew on Coastal Command). Pic: Frank in RAF uniform
	11	Data	First operational Lancaster Squadron takes ex-Blenheim Squadron number	Editor	44Sq equipped with Mk 1 BBs in 12/1937, with letter 'JW'. During WWII these changed to 'KM' and No 44 (Rhodesia) Sq adopted 'JW' letters on Lancasters in 12/1941.
	11	Report	To Absent Friends	Editor	RIP: Leslie Wilson (ex-105Sq), WL Foster, Mr Curtis (brother-in-law FTR 17/05/1940 over North Sea), Richard Todd (died Zimbabwe 04/06/2001)
	12	Data	Stalag Luft III Sagan	F J Newby (& Graham Warner)	A keen WWII historian, Newby has compiled list of the 50 RAF POWs executed by Gestapo after the 'Great Escape' (24-25/03/1944) & 50 who died escaping, incl rank, number, Sq, date died. All Squadrons are listed, but details and pics provided for BB Sq aircrew: Sq/Ldr RJ Bushell (90120, 601Sq, 29/03/1944); F/Lt MJ Casey (39024, 57Sq, 31/03/1944); F/Lt ES Humphreys (44177, 107Sq, 31/03/1944: shot down 19-20/12/1940 in T1860); Sq/Ldr TG Kirby-Green (39103, 40Sq, 29/03/1944); F/Lt HJ Milford (103586, 226Sq, 06/04/1944); F/Lt Cyril D Swain (37658, 105Sq, 31/03/1944: shot down 28-29/11/1940 in T1893); F/Lt JF Williams (106173, 107Sq, 06/04/1944). Addition info provided by Graham Warner: LAC Roland Townsend-Coles (18Sq) also died at Stalag III. Other BB POWs there were W/Cdr 'Wings' Day (57Sq, shot down 13/10/1939 in L1138 & a 'born escapee') & Sgt Bill McGrath (82Sq, shot down during Aalborg raid, 08/1940, who escaped via Spain)
	12		A short-tempered lot!		German air-traffic controller anecdote
	12		Blenheim Mk Is sent to the Admiralty!	Editor	Three BBs Mk Is sent to Admiralty: K7113 to FAA 759Sq in 1943; L1375 in 1943 & L6764 in 1944. Also several Mk IVs. Why?
	13	Report	Welcome to new members		Lists 8 new 'full' members incl: Norman Wright (ex 21Sq); Len Cooper (ex 211Sq); Arthur Harris (ex 114Sq & 31Sq); CJ Hunchcliffe (ex 13Sq & 326 Wing in Tunisia). Also 11 associate members listed.
	13		Apology to Ian Carter	Editor	Error in 41/11 – Knott Ian's son!
	13		Request from Ian Carter		Request to Editor (via Ron Scott) for list of NE members so local meetings can be held.
	14	Report	Visit to Vraux - 2001	Sq/Ldr Philip Camp, DFM	Speech by W/Cdr Simon K Dobb (CO XVVSq) at dinner by Vraux villagers rekindled memories of 1940 when Phil Camp was in France flying Fairey Battles. 'Shorty' Philips, who slept in a coffin to keep warm & later got DSO when Obs for Sq/Ldr Trent. 'Scharnhorst' Roberts, who carved model of this German battleship but was kia in 1940 Maastricht raid before it was finished. Benny Piff, shot down by ME 109 but carried parachute back to UK & broke the Squadron 'Rolls, Razor' jinx. Also 'Cuff' & his secret

					fertilizer for veg growing, and 'Sloan' who wore kid gloves & had a Jowett with cushions & gramophone! Pic: Ron Scott, Freddie Brown, Phil Camp
Sgt Archie Hook, 647887	14	Wanted	Request re 248 Squadron. Information about 'Archie' Hook	Mark Whitnall	Info &/or photo of Archie Hook (of Beeston, Nottingham), who joined 248Sq 10/09/1940 & died 13/12/1940 (age 18) when BB L9455 & R3625 collided over sea on move from Sumburgh to Wick. Mark's contact details via email address at bottom of web site.
	15	Report	Grand flying draw – Evie Saunder's amazing effort	Editor	Under the revealing title 'Happiness is Big Bristols' Evie sold £1,426-worth of draw tickets by 18/08/2001; last sold to Lady Bader. Pic: Evie Saunders with Lady Bader
105 Squadron	15	Pic	105 Squadron, August 1941		Pic: 45 members of 105Sq, taken 08/1941, with name & rank of each listed.
	15-16	Report	Operating the Blenheim	Graham Warner	Graham details the maintenance & conservation work undertaken over the winter on BB, now in its 7 th year. New duplicated control cables; bearings for port elevator & aileron; pressure vessel; bushes on starboard starter-motor; artificial horizon; ten new bushes made & fitted to sprocket spindles; cooling-gill rings; 18 worn cylinder barrels sent to USA for ceramic chroming; new valves & valve guides fitted; annual major inspection required for CAA Permit to Fly, incl inspection of wing spar with Boroscope. All this very expensive, but necessary. Carried out by ARC under Managing Director John Romain with 'Smudge' Smith, Colin Swann, Barry Wright, James Gilmour & Ian Arnold. BB invited to fewer air-shows in 2001 than 2000 (60 th anniversary of Battle of Britain), but at Duxford Spring Show (06/05/2001) & BAe Open Day at BB birthplace, Filton (06/2001). At Flying Legends, Duxford & Wyton in July; Rougham, Bury St Edmunds in August, then RAF Valley, then in Sept to Raydon, RAFA Display at Shoreham and Duxford Display on 08-09/09/2001. Disappointing that many major airshows didn't want the BB! This now has 2 Group Bomber Command 1940 colours & 82Sq markings (R3821; UX-N) & single Vickers VGO gun & part of B of B exhibition at Duxford. Thanks to all who made this possible by supporting Grand Flying Draw; esp Andrew Pierce, Ron Scott, Evie Saunders. Also Derek Baden, Freddie Brown, Mick Ford & rest of committee who support Society in all weathers.
	Pic		'Graham's Workshop'		Cartoon by the late Charles Hall ('Holly')

Issue 41: July 2001

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	Chairman's Comments	Andrew Pierce	Over 50 at AGM & lunch at which 'Smudge' Smith spoke on BB restoration. Grand draw tickets enclosed. Duxford in May saw BB escorted by 2 Hurricanes. Editor, Mike Henry, welcomes pics & copy for journal.
	1		Would you believe it? Blenheim Mk 1 oddities		T1945 pilot on exercise with No 2 OTU, strayed, shot down & POW in Stalag Luft III, Sagan. K7110's pilot abandoned a/c which landed by passenger but DBR.

	1	Obit	Stop Press Obituary	Editor	Wife of Bill Bishop, ex-Coastal Command, has died. Condolences.
	2	Report	Annual General Meeting - 2001	Editor	55 members attended the AGM held at Wyllyotts, Potters Bar, London. Usual format. Thanks to Liz Pierce for editing last two Journals. Informative slide show by 'Smudge' on BB.
Sq/Ldr WH Edwards DFC 40045	2	Wanted	Is ex-107 VGL Luter still alive?	Ross Lindsay Edwards	Ross's Australian grandfather, Sq/Ldr WH Edwards of 107Sq, was shot down in BB P4905, 12/05/1940 on Maastricht bridge raids & POW. Wop/AG LAC WE Palmer died & buried Bettincourt cemetery, Belgium. Sgt VGL Luter also captured & POW in Stalag 357, Kopernikus. If still alive or any info on VGL Luter welcome. Contact details via email address at bottom of web site
Sgt Joseph Edward Mortimer (107Sq)	2-3	Wanted	Out of the blue	Mike Henry	Angus Dixon wants info about his cousin, Sgt Joe Mortimer, who shot down off Malta 12/09/1941. Editor on same op of BBs (four each from 105Sq & 107Sq) in response to 69Sq Maryland recce report of convoy off N African coast; 5 cargo ships with fighter & seven-destroyer escort. Attacking in line abreast, Joe Mortimer with Sgt Douglas John Reid (BSc Hons, Obs) & F/O Charles Duncan Owen (S African) in Z9603 were one of three crews shot down: one crew rescued by Royal Navy. Angus applied to be pilot at 17, but finally got PPL aged 65. He would welcome info about Joe: Contact details via email address at bottom of web site . Pic: Doug Reid, Charles Owen (whose wife was a secretary to Churchill!), Joe Mortimer.
	3	Wanted	Help Please. Sgts D Adams and A Avery	Mr H Evans	On 13/07/1940 R3756 of 82Sq was shot down during raid on Amsterdam docks. H Evans' brother, Sgt A Evans (Wop/AG), aged 18, KIA. Sgt D Adams (pilot) & Sgt A Avery (Obs) POWs in Stalag Luft VI & Stalag Luft 357 respectively. Any info on Adams & Avery to H Evans: Contact details via email address at bottom of web site
	3		Let's get quizzical!		Answers to the quiz in 40/9
	3	Wanted	<i>'The other few'</i>		Larry Donnelly (Bomber Command Assn) compiling material for book (<i>'The Other Few'</i>) on Bomber & Coastal Command Squadrons in Battle of Britain in which 718 bomber & 230 coastal aircrew died, as well as 537 fighter pilots. Accounts/recollections from those involved between 07/1940 & 10/1940 to Larry: Contact details via email address at bottom of web site . (Editor sent his 8 raid accounts)
	3	Wanted	All contributions gratefully accepted!	Liz Pierce	Request from temporary editor, Liz, about need for contributions to the journal; pics, stories, reminiscences, etc
	4	Report	Grand Flying Draw A satisfied winner	Mike Chadwick	Mike, who won draw in 1999, wrote to Ron Scott that he finally had helicopter flight on 16/11/2000 with Hields Aviation from Sherburn Aero Club, N Yorks, in Robinson R22 (larger Bell 47 being overhauled). Praises the idea of such exciting prizes.
	4	Letter (edited)	WAAF – resistance wireless operators	Bob Lyndall	While 'on rest' at Bicester Crew Training Centre had to teach ~12 WAAFs Morse. One, Lilian Rolfe, stood out; she'd come from Brazil, was small, spoke several languages & learnt fast. Bob later read about Lilian in book by Nigel West on French Resistance agents; she was captured,

					interrogated & shot. Her cell-mate, Violette Szabo better known (<i>'Carve Her Name with Pride'</i>). Bob asks if all 12 WAAFs had similar fate. Does this feature in 13 OTU records?
	4-5		Aalborg – Mystery solved	Mike Henry	Several responses to 40/10 request for info about 82Sq raid on Aalborg, Denmark, on 13/08/1940; Graham Warner; Don McFarlane (33 ops with 82Sq) who provided CWGC info about R3904 crew Sgt G Ankers (Obs) & Sgt K V Turner (Wop/AG, 937492) who KIA, P/O BJN Newland (pilot) survived & captured; Victor Bingham (author <i>'Attack'</i>), credited Ole Ronnest of Aalborg for info; Alan C Turner (younger brother of KV Turner) personal details: Sgt Turner & Ankers buried in Vadum Cemetery; Alec Sennion; quote from John Simpson's letter (Manningtree, Essex): 2 nd vic of 3 hit worst, P/O 'Binjy' Newland hit in left shoulder & knew Cyril Anker & Kenneth Turner also injured. Pic: BB UX-N R3821, 82Sq, with Don McFarlane (Obs), Sgt Peter Eames (Wop/AG) & P/O Don Wellings (pilot).
211 Squadron	5-6	Article	Balkan Pilgrimage	Ian Carter	Ian Carter describes his return to NW Greece 60 years after 211Sq lost 6 BBs on 13/04/1941 (Easter Sunday). With Maria Petroulaki (translator for Hellenic Air Force) they travel from Athens to Agrinion & Paramythia. After stop at 'Aerodrome Café' continued to Yannina & next day to Mikrolimni & Lake Mikro Prespa (from which L1434 recovered). Located memorial to F/Lt L Buchanan (DFC); short memorial with names read out. Visited crash sites at Karia, Trigonon & (after night at Florina) Alona; eye-witness description of BB crash into Mount Tumbitsa. Emotional trip; more to find out. James Dunnet added Ian's fuller account as PS to his book <i>'Blenheims over the Balkans'</i>
113 Squadron	6	Article	No 113 (Crusader) Squadron	Pat Woodward	A brief history of 113Sq; formed Egypt 1917, disbanded 1920. Reformed 1937, Egypt 05/1938. First Libyan campaign (06/1940-02/1941) in BB MkIs; bombed Italians 10/06/1941. Advance on Sid Barrani 12/1940, then Heliopolis & BB MkIVs. To Niamata (Greece) where on 15/04/1941 all a/c destroyed on ground by Me109s. Evacuated to Crete then Alexandria (by 09/05/1941). Reformed Ramleh (Palestine) then 2 nd Libyan campaign (06/1941-12/1941) & posted to Burma, arriving Rangoon 07/01/1942. Moved north to Toungoo with detachments to Magwe & Zayatkwinn. Forced to evacuate (many on foot to India or China). 113Sq reformed 06/04/1942 in United Provinces, action Arakan front & Burma. Re-equipped with Hurricane IIc 08/1943 &, later, P47 Thunderbolts.
113 Squadron	6		113 Squadron – Malta Casualties	Shaun Morrison	31/08/1941 in BB V6136: W/Cdr Roderick Harvey Spencer, DFC; P/O William James Sears; F/Sgt Philip James Robertson Pratt. 31/08/1941 in BB T2066: Sgt Geoffrey Ledfrie Rees Sulman; Sgt Douglas Lewin Rhodes; Sgt Philip Thacker. 28/09/1941 in T1821: F/Sgt Harry Crossley; F/Sgt John Swan; F/Sgt Albert Edward Smith. ? V6136 & T2066 in Malta to refuel or on detachment.
113 Squadron	7	Data	From 'Operation Record		113Sq aircraft operations from Luqa, Malta.

			Book'		List 113Sq ORB for 26/09/1941, 27/09/1941, 28/09/1941 (straffing e-boat base at Pantellaria; T1821 FTR) & 30/09/1941. Convoy & anti-submarine patrols from Malta, where a 113Sq Flight on attachment. Pic: 211Sq BB at Menidi, Greece: Sgts George Checketts (Wop/AG), Frank Baker (pilot, later KIA), Bob Hay (Obs)
	7		I can remember that..		Amusing anecdote about age & memory loss
Stalag Luft III	8	Data	Blenheim Boys in Stalag Luft III, Sagan	Mike Henry	List the date, BB serial No, Squadron, rank, name & duty of 29 BB aircrew interned in Stalag Luft III (of 'The Great Escape' fame) between 10/05/1940 & 18/04/1942 (may be others). L8776, L9189, L8849, N3593, L9447, R3738, R3619, R3764, R3892, T2282, R3905, V5687, V6258, Z7362, V6035, Z7438, V6423, Z7448, V6497, T1945 (from 2 OTU), Z7289, V5825, Z7430. These from: XVSq, 18Sq, 21Sq, 40Sq, 59Sq, 82Sq, 107Sq, 110Sq, 114Sq, 139Sq, 235Sq, 226Sq. Sq/Ldr MLC McColm (21Sq pilot, T2223, 28-29/12/1940) in Colditz.
114 Squadron	8-9	Article	Years of a snake!	Mike Henry	Snakes on crests: 88Sq & 114Sq (pic). History of 114Sq: formed 09/1917 & to NWF with BE2cs, BE2es, Farmans & FE2bs. 01/1920 renumbered to 28Sq. Reformed Wyton 01/12/1936, in 3 group Bomber Command, with Hawker Hinds & Audax; First Sq with BB Mk Is (03/1937); difficulties of conversion. BB Mk IVs 05/1939 & to France 12/1939 (with AASF), recce work (Netherlands & Belgium), then bombing raids. 11/05/1940 base at Conde/Vraux attacked & most a/c destroyed. In UK 114Sq reformd 07/1940 within 2 Group Bomber Command attaching Channel ports. 03/1941 to Coastal Command over North Sea then, based at Leuchars, ops over Norway & Denmark. Returned to Bomber Command 07/1941 with daylight targets, including Knapsack raid, led by W/Cdr W Nicols (<i>this corrected, see 43/12</i>). 11/1942 to Blida (Algeria) with 18Sq & flying BB Mk Vs (Bisley) for Operation Torch. Raids on ports of Bizerta & Tunis. Converted to Bostons from 04/1943. Next section lists serial No & fate of each 114Sq BB Mkl delivered to 114Sq between 04/03/1937 & end 1938: K7035, K7036, K7037, K7038, K7039, K7040, K7041, K7042, K7043, K7044, K7045, K7046, K7057, K7087, K7088, K7111 (hit by Hawker Hind K6728), K7112, K7122, K7123, K7124, K7125, L1099, L1198, L1307, L1308, L1311, L1312, L1313, L1326, L1329, L1340. Just 3 BB Mk IVs are mentioned: L8800, L9209 & L9382, with fate of each described.
	10	Letter	Blenheims and aerobatics?	Brian Taylor/ Mike Henry	Brian asks if it was 'normal practice' for BBs (Mk1s & MkIVs) to 'engage in aerobatics' (esp as engine stalls!). Editor responds: Aerobatics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K7078, 44Sq on 27/01/1938 • L1140, 42 OTU on 08/10/1942 • L1132, 2 OTU on 1942 (borderline) Low flying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L1139, 57Sq, 1944 (hit haystack) • L1204, 13 OTU (hit tree & power cables) • L1263, 13 OTU 1940 (hit tree, pilot died)

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L1471, 5 OTU, 1940 (hit sandbank) • L6620, 13 OTU, 1943 (power cables) • L8669, 2 OTU, 1941 (hit house) <p>Additional info please to Editor or B Taylor (contact details via email address at bottom of web site)</p>
	10	Poem	Flightpath to Friendship	Brian L Porter	Written to commemorate mtg of Luftwaffe Night Fighters Assn & RAF Gunners Assn at Laage, 08/2000. Poem starts: 'Now friends, once enemies of old ...
	10	Data	Ambitious Boffins!		BB Mk1, L6594 fitted at Boscombe Down with 37mm Coventry Ordnance Works canon to fire downwards.
	11		An appeal to our younger members	Editor	Outlines aims of Society & encourages younger members to become involved on committee. Gives contact details for Hon Sec, Mrs Betty George, MBE.
	11		Welcome to new members	Editor	Three new members & Doncaster Branch of the RAFA. New full Members: Frank Shaw Baker, from BC, Canada, ex-FME in 21Sq 1940/41; FW Lewis, ex-XVSq (1940) & 243Sq (Singapore).
	11	Obits	We still see their faces and hear their voices – to absent friends		RIP: Bunny Lynch-Blosse (26/11/2000, wife of Hugh, see 38/11); Peter Sarll, DFC (19/02/2001); FCG Fry ('Freddie', 27/03/2001); Kenneth Courtney (ex-145Sq, 16/02/2001); Frank Joseph (ex-Coastal Command, 16/05/2001). Condolences to all relatives & friends.
	12	Wanted	Who would like to be Hon Sec?		An amusing piece about the trails & tribulations of being Honorary Secretary to the Society (& compliments to Hon Sec Betty George for surviving these)
	12		Weasenham Hall memories	Editor	In 38/4 Dinty Moore wrote of demolition of Weasenham Hall, Norfolk where Major Richard Coke (recently died) was born; his father (son of 2 nd Earl of Leicester) & the 'Pheas' hosted West Raynham aircrew (incl BB). Editor there 1941 with 101Sq & 114Sq

Issue 40: March 2001

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	Chairman's Comments	Andrew Pierce	Season of air-shows, etc here again. Long-standing & active Committee member Mike Ford standing down. Society members aged 9 to 90 & world-wide; let us know what else you'd like committee to organise.
	1	Pic	Thanks everyone		Pic: Sir Ivor Broom presenting Graham Warner with £7,000 cheque from 2000 Draw
	2	Data	The <i>Forgotten Bomber?</i>	Andrew Pierce	See issue 39/11. Using Master Atlas of Greater London Andrew lists the roads named after WWII a/c: Blenheim comes 3 rd after Wellington & Lancaster (or could it be people/places they're named after?)
	2	Letter	The Queen Mum		Reply to Betty George from Queen Mother's Private Secretary at Clarence House in response to Get Well card from Society.
Editorial	2	Report	Editor's Comments	Liz Pierce	Liz's 2 nd issue as temporary editor; Mike Henry back to edit July issue (closing date 25/05/2001). Thanks to Tony Hughes & other for kind comments/contributions
	3	Review	<i>'Even the Birds Were Walking'</i> by John A Kington & Peter G Rackliffe	Mike Henry	This book covers the history of the meteorological service from early balloonist (John Jefferies, Jean-Pierre Blanchard) to Capt Douglas of RFC in WWI, then inter-war

					Met flights from Andover in Bristol F2Bs & Sopwith Snipes (11Sq). In 1940 Bomber Command required accurate Met info & in 10/1940 Air Ministry agreed to Met Recce Flight (2 over Atlantic, 1 over North Sea). In absence of Lockheed Hudsons, ten modified BB MkIVs used 04/1941 based at Bircham Newton, St Eval & Aldergrove. By 1942 Hudsons, Hampdens, Fortresses, Warwicks, Ansons & even modified Mosquitos involved. Met Flights from Iceland 04/1942 & USAAF (25 th Bomb Grp) Met unit based at Watton. Description of extreme conditions in which MAO worked. Halifax, Liberators, Hurricanes, Gladiators, Spitfires & Hastings all used in Met Recce flights. Only after 19 MAO killed & Sir Sholto Douglas (AOC Coastal Command) intervened was 'M' flying badge officially awarded in 04/1945. Describes EPICURE flights of BBs over Bay of Biscay, seeing U-boats, etc. Published by Tempus at £24.99, its worth reading. Pic: 'wing' of the Met aircrew
	4	Wanted	Junior Members		Dale Barswell (Hawkes Bay, New Zealand) won junior quizz. F/O Steve Pendlebury (RAFVR(T)) of 114Sq will help with Air Cadet side of junior membership. 82Sq (based Wansworth) & 101Sq (Kenton & Kingbury) has joined Society. 101Sq researching squadron WWII history; any info on/contacts with 101Sq to Society chairman (Contact details via email address at bottom of web site)
	4		Junior Members picture contest		Winner: ATC Cadet Sean O'Brien gets flight in Chipmunk. Runner-up: Elizabeth Carr wins family ticket to Duxford show. Pics: of the two winning Blenheim drawings.
	5	Pics	Summer revisited		Pics: five lovely photographs of 'our' MkIV BB; three flying & two on the ground.
	6	Article	The trails, tribulations and joy of 'working' an air show	Liz Pierce (temporary editor)	Entertaining account of how she became involved in airshows (by meeting Andrew Pierce) & a typical airshow day during the summer months. Ron Scott arrives first!
	7	Letter	A wee problem!	Tony Rhodes	Tony (from Victoria, W Australia) was at Bicester 1941/1942 in charge of Camera section (with 5 others changed a/c cameras). 02/1942 these replace with WAAF, who issued with trousers! As showing first WAAF how to fit camera, trainee aircrew arrived and, as normal practice 'clustered around the tail wheel to attend the wants of nature' not knowing WAAF looking down!
	7	Letter	News from the Brodies	Monica & Mike Brodie	Monica's ex-Blenheim father, Bill Evans, died 11/1998 (see 34/5). They are emigrating to New Zealand 2001. Pic: Mike collecting money for Pitlochry Community Groups at Atholl Festival.
	8		Who would like to be Treasurer?	Ron Scott (Treasurer)	A tongue in cheek account of the trials & tribulations of being the Society's Treasurer.
	8		It's a cat's life!	Liz & Andrew Pierce	Up date on BJ-the-cat (see 39/2)
	9	Review	'The 'C' Flight Line Book' by Tony Hobson	Andrew Pierce	Unusual look at service life through 'line shoots' recorded at time they were said; collected & well illustrated by author. Pub 1995 by Square One. Recommended.
	9	Pic	The Blenheim at Sleep		Pic: Blenheim at Shropshire Aero Club airshow at Sleep, 2000, with John Webb

					(pilot), F/Lt Gardiner (flew BBs with 11Sq in FE), Sq/Ldr Fry (Obs, 110Sq, Europe & 45Sq ME) & Ian Arnold (crew)
	9		Let's get quizzical!		20 questions about BBs, their crews & other WWII a/c. No prizes; answers in 41/3
	10	Data	What's in a name?		Interesting piece on how a/c were named in 1932: Fighters (speed/aggressive words); day bombers (animals); night bombers (towns). 1937: all bombers after towns starting with 'B'. This short-lived!
	10	Wanted	New Venue	Andrew Pierce	Help to identify County shows in Kent, Herts, Sussex, Essex, Berks & Bucks for stalls to promote Blenheim. Info to Freddie Brown.
	10		In passing		Amusing piece about Larry LaPrise, who wrote ' <i>Hokey Cokey</i> ', & his coffin!
Sgt Harry Warman	10	Wanted	Can U help?	David J Parker	Harry Warman, 107Sq, KIA 27/05/1940 with John Mahoney & Charles Paish. Anyone with memories of them or pics of 107Sq BBs N6192, P4864, N6190, N4909 or N6191 pls contact David (contact details via email address at bottom of web site)
	10	Wanted	Aalborg – mystery almost solved	Mike Henry	Late 1940's Mike (Wop/AG) crewed with P/O Newland (pilot) at 13 OTU, Bicester. CFI Sq/Ldr Sam Elworthy retained Mike as instructor. Theo Bointen's book has photo of Newland as POW. BB shot down over Aalborg 08/1040 when all 11 of 82Sq BBs destroyed. Does anyone know name & fate of Wop/AG who replaced Mike?
Christabel Leighton Porter	11	Obit	"Jane"		Christabel was model for <i>Daily Mirror</i> war-time cartoon series "Jane". She was popular guest at 1998 Blen Soc lunch. Died aged 87 on 06/12/2000. Pic: "Jane" with Blenheim
	11	Obits	Obituaries		RIP: GAB Lord, ex 500Sq (see 39/9); ex-Sq/Ldr HG Brittain ('Britt') on 19/06/2000, aged 82; Eric Reginald Moss on 10/05/2000. Condolences to families.
	12	Wanted	Tony's Travels	Andrew Pierce	30+ names received by Tony Tranter for Vraux trip. If you have any photos, artefacts or memorabilia from 1939/40 for Vraux museum please contact Tony/Andrew via email address at bottom of web site .
	12	Notice	News just in		Hurricane Soc trip to Malta in 09/2001. Contact Andrew Norris (phone given)
	12	Report	Welcome New Members		Ron Donger (Ground crew Sgt, 70 OTU in Kenya) & 6 others, incl Maria Petroulakis (see 41/5)
	12	Notice	Change of address		Chairman's new address
	12	Report	Stop Press Watton Museum		Watton Museum to close. Many items with BB connection. Details to follow.

Other abbreviations (in no particular order at present)

CWGC Commonwealth War Graves Commission	MRAF Marshal of the Royal Air Force	RAF Royal Air Force
a/c Aircraft	ACM Air Chief Marshal	RAFVR RAF Voluntary Reserves
POW Prisoner of War	AM Air Marshal	RCAF Royal Canadian Air Force
LG Landing Ground	AVM Air Vice Marshal	SAAF South African Air Force
SWO Station (or Senior) Warrant Officer	A/Cdr Air Commodore	RAFA RAF Association
AOC Air Officer Commanding	DFM Distinguished Flying Medal	ARC Aircraft Restoration Co.
FIS	DFC Distinguished Flying Cross	RSU Repair & Service Unit
BC Bomber Command	DSO Distinguished Service Order	MU Maintenance Unit
MT Military Transport	GC George Cross	RNZAF Royal New Zealand Air Force
IRCC International Red Cross Committee	AFC Air Force Cross	MEAF Middle East Air Force
KD Khaki Drill	VC Victoria Cross	RAAF Royal Auxiliary Air Force
FG (American) Flight Group	TD	RBL Royal British Legion
U/T Under Training	RDF Radio Direction Finding	RFC Royal Flying Corps
FTR Failed to Return	AGA Air Gunners Association	BAC Bristol Aero Collection, Kemble
CFS Central Flying School	ACA Aircrew Association	RAE Royal Aircraft Establishment (Farnborough)
ME Middle East	CG Centre of Gravity	

FE	Far East	IAS	(58/5)	FAA	Fleet Air Arm
DBR	Damaged Beyond Repair	ADC	(50/9)	AHQ	Air Headquarters
IFF	Identification Friend or Foe	SOE	Special Operations Executive	TNA	The National Archives, Kew
FTS	Flying Training School	ASR	Air/sea Rescue	PRO	Public Records Office (now TNA)
EFTS	Elementary Flying Training School	NWF	North West Frontier (of India, now Pakistan)	MAO	Meteorological Air Observer
AASF	Advanced Air Striking Force, France 1939/40	SEAC	South East Asia Command (1942/3)	WAAF	Women's Auxiliary Air Force
ADU	Aircraft Delivery Unit	AAIB	Air Accidents Investigation Branch	ATC	Air Training Corps
ASV	Air to Surface Vessel (radar)	KIA	Killed in Action	TAF	Tactical Air Force
AI	Airborne Interception	MIA	Missing in Action	BAFO	British Air Forces of Occupation
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority	F/Eng	Flight Engineer	AASF	Advanced Air Strike Force
CPF	Coastal Patrol Flight (Coastal Command subunit)	VOR	VHF Omni-directional Radio Range	KBE	Order of the British Empire
ITW	Initial Training Wing	VR	Voluntary Reserves	CVO	Commander Royal Victorian Order
B&GS	Bomber & Gunnery School	CWGC	Commonwealth War Graves Commission		
IoM	Isle of Man	FME	Flight Mechanic Engines		
MERC		CFI	Chief Flying Instructor		