

Bristol **BLenheim**

The Journal of the Blenheim Society

List of Contents

<p>Abbreviations for rank:</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>Other Ranks</p> <p>LAC Leading Aircraftsman AC1 Aircraftsman 1st Class AC2 Aircraftsman 2nd Class</p> <p>Other abbreviations</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>Notes & Search Words:</p> <p>Main categories in this column are: People Places Squadrons Dates Bristol Blenheim (BB) Serial numbers</p> <p>For ease of search & consistency: Dates are written as: dd/mm/yyyy or (if mth only): mm/yyyy Squadrons listed as: 18Sq, 21Sq, etc Ref to journals: Issue 56, page 4 = 56/04</p>
---	---	--

Contact details (email, phone, address) given in the journal are not shown here. To respond to any requests for information please use the 'Contact Us' page of the website

GW: this refers to additional information from Graham Warner's book 'The Bristol Blenheim – A complete History'

Jefford: refers to W/Cdr CG Jefford's book 'RAF Squadrons'

'Articles' focus mainly on first-hand experiences & accounts of research

Issue 29: June 1997					
Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Data	Committee for 1997		Lists the name of the President (Ivor Broom), 6 Officers (Hugh George, Ted Sismore, Ron Scott, Betty George, Jeanne Gibbs & Graham Warner) & 6 Members (Freddie Brown, Jon Eames, Anthony Edwards, Mick Ford, Les Gibbs & David Sarll
	1	Report	Chairman's Message	Hugh George	With new committee members work shared out more, esp new Treasurer (Ron Scott) & Editor (Mick Henry). Because of cost BBs trip to 29Sq reunion @ Conningsby almost cancelled but Soc agreed to sponsor & BB flew with 3 Tornadoes. Few responses to Jeane Gibbs' local lunches invitations.
	1		Introducing our New Editor	Betty George	Betty been wearing too many hat, as well as family health issues, so asked Mike Henry (who has proof-read Journal & written book - 'Air Gunner'; 2nd edition due out) to take over as editor. He spent 9 year in RAF with 42 of 54 sorties in BBs (rest in Bostons) with Group 2 (110Sq, 101Sq, 107Sq, 21Sq)
Sgt George Durie	2	Wanted	107 Squadron	CG Anderson	CGA want info re Sgt George Durie, Obs, KIA Stavanger 04/1940. Address give. GW: 24/04/1940, L8750, 107Sq. Took off Lossiemouth, FTR, shot down by Me 110 of ZG 76. P/O J Murphy (Pilot), Sgt G Durie (Obs) & LAC E Weeks KIA. On Runnymede Memorial
	2		Theo Boiten		New address in Netherlands given
	2	Wanted	Wanted by David Kester		WWII Airmen's Flying clothing & equipment for own collection. Address given
Sgt Matthew Houstan	2	Wanted	21 Squadron	J Cathcart	JC's uncle, Sgt Matthew Houstan, 21Sq, KIA Sicily 1942. Pic of Matthew with 3 friends. Can anyone identify friends or tell JC more about his Uncle. Address given. GW: 04/02/1942, Z7341, 21Sq. FTR, Crash into cloud-covered hill on daylight raid on

					<i>Palermo harbour. Sgt M Houston (Pilot), P/O J O'Grady (Obs) & Sgt L Frost (Wop/AG) KIA. Buried Catania War Cemetery.</i>
F/Lt Ralph Eric Tallis, DFC	2	Wanted	82 Squadron 1941	Ralph Tallis	RT's uncle, F/Lt Ralph Tallis, pilot with 82Sq was KIA 29/04/1941 over North Sea with crew, F/Sgt Shaylor & F/Sgt Davis. Posthumously Tallis awarded DFC for self-initiated raid a few weeks previously. Would like info ref this. Address given. <i>GW: 29/04/1941, V6451, 82Sq, shot down into sea off Sola, Norway, by ships' flak. F/Lt R Tallis DFC (Pilot), Sgt D Shaylor (Obs) & Sgt F Davis KIA. Tallis buried Sola; crew on Runnymede memorial.</i>
F/Lt JC Marks, DFC	2	Wanted	114 Squadron	Mrs N Ollerenshaw	NO's brother, F/Lt JC Marks, 114Sq, KIA 17/02/1941 with crew, Sgt H Teeton & Sgt IH Atkins. Left Oulton 0935 for recce Den Helden in Z5902 but shot down by enemy flak. NO want contact with 114Sq members from 1940/41 who may have known brother, esp Angus Nicholson & any Polish aircrew of that time. Contact NO via Kevin Sloper @ City of Norwich Aviation Museum. <i>GW: As above but Wop/AG Sgt I Adkins (aged 20) & shot by flak off Den Helden, crashed into North Sea. All on Runnymede memorial.</i>
AC2 Patrick Ahern	2	Wanted	Can you help?	John A Geary	John seeks info about uncle, Patrick Ahern (625621), 110Sq @ Wattisham in 1940 & KIA when BB shot down on attack Albert Canal Bridges, nr Maastricht – 11/05/1940. BB letters 'VE', but John wants number or other info. Address in Quebec given <i>GW: 14/05/1940, L9217, 110Sq, FTR. Shot down in target area. F/O E Mullins (Pilot) & Sgt R Lowe (Obs) captured & PoWs; AC2 P Aherne (Wop/AG) KIA.</i>
	2-3	Letter	Bombing Palmyra	W/Cdr CG Jefford	Re 27/07 by Fred Atton. Jeffords suggests that 45Sq made some/most of craters in 27/07 Pic. 45Sq missed fort with raids on 28/06/1941 (BB x5, missed), 29/06/1941 (BB x 10, missed), 30/06/1941 (bit better!) & only finally hit target on 01/07/1941 (BBs x 10). Pic: aerial photo of Palmyra fort after 45Sq bombs dropped.
	3		Blenheim Odyssey		Editor visited 'Blenheim Odyssey' author, Len Fearnley. Only 20% of material collected for his book was used/published, rest in IWM. Len can't get out & would welcome visitors. Address given.
	3		Who Needs Friends?	'Joint Services Recognition Journal', June 1965. 'The cost of Mis-identification of One Type of Aircraft Only – 1939-1942'	1939-1942: 20 BBs shot down by friendly forces with 32 crew killed & 7 injured (see below) & further 19 BBs damaged. 15/05/1940: L4852 & N6168 downed by Hurricanes in France (GW: 16/05/1940, L4852, 53Sq, downed by Hurricane, crashed Glisey airfield, caught fire. F/Lt B Daly, Sgt W Currie & AC1 P Blandford all injured; N6168, 59Sq, bad damage by Hurricane, crash-landed Vitry airfield. F/Lt Smithers, Sgt Jones & AC1 D Pitcher – crews 2 nd crash at Vitry in 4 days!) 18/05/1940: L9395, shot down by Hurricane. (GW: L9395, 235Sq, FTR from sortie off Ostend, believed shot down by Hurricane, P/O C Robinson, Sgt D Molseley and LAC

A Waddington KIA, commemorated Runnymede. Not in this report are 21/05/1940, L9325, 18Sq, FTR recce from Watton, shot down by Hurricane nr Arras. P/O C Light, Sgt A Craig & Sgt G Hawkins DFM all KIA, on Runnymede. On same GW page for 22/05/1940: L9266, 59Sq, FTR bombing sortie Boulogne, shot down by RAF Spitfire nr Fricourt & crash-landed. F/O F Bird, Sgt C Brinn & AC2 G Coles KIA) 09/08/1940: L8679, hit by British AA fire. (GW: L8679, 600Sq, FTR Manston, hit by own AA @ night while attacking raider nr Westgate, engine cut, crew baled. F/O S le Rougetel (Pilot) rescued by Ramsgate lifeboat; Sgt E Smith swam ashore) 15/08/1940: L6610, Spitfire shot & wrecked. (GW: L6610, 604Sq, damaged by 609Sq Spitfire of P/O D Crook, belly-landed Middle Wallop. Pilot Sgt Haigh slightly hurt, P/O Evans (Wop/AG) wounded; Sgt Fenton (Obs) uninjured. Aircraft DBR). 24/08/1940: T1804, shot down by Hurricane. (GW: 24/08/1940, T1804, 235Sq, FTR, shot down by 1Sq RCAF Hurricane into Bracklesham Bay. P/O D Woodger (Pilot) & Sgt Don Wright (aged 18) KIA. Z5736 & N3531 of 235Sq also hit by 1Sq RCAF that day but crews OK & BBs repaired) 03/09/1940: L1512, shot down by Hurricane. (GW: 03/09/1940, L1512, 25Sq, FTR. Shot down while on patrol nr North Weald by RAF Hurricane. P/O D Hogg (Pilot) KIA. Sgt W Powell baled out safely. L8656 & L1409 (DBR) also hit by Hurricanes same day; crews uninjured) 13/10/1940: L6637 & K7135 both wrecked by Hurricanes. (GW: 13/10/1940. L6637, 29Sq, FTR, shot down in flames by 312Sq Hurricanes off Point of Ayr, Wirral, Ches. R Stevens (Pilot), Sgt O Sly (Obs) & AC2 A Jackson KIA. Stevens & Sly on Runnymede; Jackson buried (as Sgt) Mexborough, Yorks. K7135, 29Sq, took off Digby, Damaged by Hurricanes south of Liverpool; P/O J Humphries, Sgt E Bee & AC1 J Fizell uninjured. Two days later K7135 destroyed by Ju88 @ Ternhill while being repaired). 26/10/1940: T2057, shot down by RAF fighters. (GW: T2057, 14Sq, mistaken for SM 79 & shot down by RAF fighter during bombing practice @ Port Sudan. F/Lt D Stapleton DFC AFC, Sgt G Bartholomew & Sgt D Farrell all injured) 09/12/1940: N3617, shot down by fire from British convoy. (GW: N3617, 114Sq, hit by AA fire from Allied convoy off Yarmouth & crashed Newport, Norfolk. F/O W Watson (Pilot), Sgt G Boulton (Obs) & Sgt D Shildrick all killed.) 22/01/1941: T2435, shot down by British coastal battery. (GW: T2435, 139Sq, FTR, shot down by RN AA fire off East Coast returning from NW Germany, crashed @ Oulton, Suffolk. F/Lt G Menzies DFC (NZ, aged 20), Sgt E Bonney & Sgt R Tribick

					<p>KIA) <u>04/02/1941</u>: T2115, shot down by Hurricane in ME. (GW: T2115, 14Sq based Port Said, bombed MT @ Keren, attacked by Hurricane, crash-landed @ Teklezan; F/O M MacKenzie, Sgt Farrell & Sgt McConnell safe) <u>28/06/1941</u>: V5755, shot down by AA. (GW: V5755, 75 Wing, shot down by 'friendly' AA fire over Lydd, Kent, 'did not give recognition signals'; aircraft exploded. Sgt W Fenton, F/Sgt S Peach, Sgt R Barnett & F/Sgt B Gardner killed) <u>09/08/1941</u>: Z9550, downed by RAF fighter. (GW: V5990, 113Sq, FTR from raid Bardia. Shot down by own night-fighter off Mersa Matruh. Sgt G Woodroffe (Obs) & Sgt A Greenlees (Wop/AG) KIA, Sgt W Sands (Pilot) injured but survived). <u>15/11/1941</u>: T2324, shot down over Wetherby. (GW: T2324, 54 OTU, attacked by Spitfire of 121Sq, port engine caught fire, spun in nr Wetherby, Yorks. P/O P Cleaver (Pilot) baled out safely, Sgt J Cohen killed) <u>30/11/1941</u>: Z7589, shot down by AA West Africa. (GW: Z7589, W Desert Com Flt, shot down by 'friendly' AA fire & crashed nr Gialo Oasis, Sudan. W/Cdr A McD Bowman, F/Sgt J McLaren (Wop/AG), G/Cpt C Dearlove & Capt F Benn (Army passengers) killed, commemorated on Alamein Memorial) <u>28/12/1941</u>: L1243, shot down by British AA in FE. (GW: L1243, 62Sq, shot down by 'friendly' AA fire nr Port Swettenham. F/Sgt G Dawson & F/Sgt R Burbridge killed, F/Sgt Dutton (Wop/AG) baled out & survived). <u>03/03/1942</u>: Z7627, shot down by Hurricane. (GW: 30/03/1942, Z7627, 14Sq, FTR, shot down in error into sea by Hurricanes. F/Lt H Keck RAAF, F/Sgt J Hibbert & F/Sgt G Rylands KIA, on Alamein Memorial). <u>27/05/1942</u>: V5568, Whirlwinds shot down. (GW: V5568, 1401 Met Flight, shot down in error by 137Sq Whirlwind. F/O W Marshall, Sgt Thimblebee & Sgt Gray reported missing assumed dead)</p>
	3-4		My Love Affair with the Blenheim	George Milson	<p>Seeing, hearing & smelling the BB & its Mercury engines on its maiden journey recalled 24/08/1940 when, after 25hrs dual & 25hrs solo on Magisters, GM left 5 EFTS for 13 OTU, Bicester, (1 of 2 Group 2 OTUs with BBs) in experiment to see if potential Bomber Command pilots could skip FTS & ATS & flying Harvards, Oxfords & Ansons. Normally, after ATS, 3 aircrew (pilot, Obs & Wop/AG) would come together to OTU. Theory by F/Lt Instructor was thorough. Spent only 5hrs on dual BB MkI, then solo over West Country & up Welsh valleys & with 2 BB fuselages in Hangar doing drills blindfolded, etc. Once proficient to BB MkV & teamed with crew, both Sgt got 12/6p a day; as LAC GM got 4/- a day (all recieved 2/- per day flyng pay). Soon GM promoted Sgt too. Then 1st night-flying from Hinton-in-the-Hedges; 3 circuits on dual (but other pilot mostly had control); 2 circuits solo, got</p>

					wings, then crew posted 18Sq, Great Massington on night ops! 04/1941 18Sq to Oulton, billeted Blickling Hall, on low-level shipping sweeps & 'circus' with 24 BBs in 'boxes' of 6 as 'bait' over N France with fighter escort. We survived tour of 30 ops, 90% didn't; average life of Grp 2 BB crew in 1941 was 3 wks! Delivered BBs to ME via Gibraltar & Malta & posted 84Sq, based Mosul. Then Iraq, Amriya, Desert, Egypt & FE, based P2 on Sumatra, then Java. Ron Miller & GM flew 497 hrs in BB together, incl 54 daylight ops & 9 at night. When GM went abroad was only one still flying of the 5 LAC he'd trained with; details fate of other four but doesn't name them.
	4		The Awful Truth!	Mike Henry	To promote 'Air Gunner' publisher, Colin West, arranged photo session with BB on 30/04/1997. MH got his feet in 1 st & 2 nd apertures in side of fuselage – but couldn't move further. 57 yrs ago he did this with flying boots & all equipment to get into turret hatch! In end climbed in through camera hatch under BB belly to sit in turret seat. Getting out was worse! It was easy 57yrs ago! Is this age? Thanks to Graham Warner.
	5-8	Article	Random Recollections – 114 Squadron	Reg Stride	Details how BB MkIs were modified to MkIVs at Wyton for 114Sq, giving Obs own 'office' in new 'nose' (described). This done @ Bristol factory with 114Sq ground crew as 'helpers'. Other minor modifications were 'Mickey Mouse' (electrical stitch for Obs to drop bombs), thick armour behind pilot's seat, self-sealing tanks, rubber de-icing 'boots', balloon-wire cutters, IFF aerials (but no IFF transponders yet), and blanket with pockets for 'ever-hot' bags for Wop's equipment (detailed). Extensive training on MkIVs incl night-flying with blue electric 'glim light' instead of 'goose-neck' paraffin flares. RS saw first Heinkel 111 11/1939 over Wyton, probably on recce; no bombs or warning sirens. 12/1939 – 05/1940: Early 12/1939 114Sq prepares to move to France. Details 'War Equipment Schedules' (all items BB Sq need for several mths), how items packed & recorded, etc. Although move supposedly secret, known that AASF Battle Sqds (in France since 09/1939) needed BB MkIVs. In end 114Sq replaced 15Sq in Vraux Airfield (2km N village). RS in Advance Ground Staff party flying in seat-less Armstrong-Whitworth 'Ensign' so room for essentials. At Vraux La Maison Rouge', on edge airfield, became Airfield HQ (1940 Pic) with Signals Section squeezed into basement. Most airmen accommodated in farmhouse hay-lofts. As 'Sgt Chef' (L/Sgt) RS had bed-sit in farmhouse annex; describes welcoming family. More training incl night flying. Still 'phoney war'; only leaflets dropped over enemy territory by Wop thru camera hatch! In cold Mercury engines froze (canvas covers & paraffin heaters helped), as did accumulators & condensation made wireless equip unreliable so flying restricted. 03/1940: Marconi-Adcock HFDF station at S end

				<p>airstrip. RS did air calibration check with Sgt Hartland; DF will be invaluable. 04/1940 RS to Armament Training Camp, Perpignon & low-flying over Mediterranean (described). Quotes from 114Sq ORB for 10/04/1040 (Germany invades Netherlands, Belgium & Luxemburg; return to Vraux); 11/05/1940 (W/Cdr PM Wright replaces Sq/Ldr Outram as 114Sq CO & 12 Dornier DO17 attack Vraux). Attack detailed: 150x50Kg bombs dropped low level destroyed 5 BBs, set fire to petrol dump, machine guns damaged rest of BBs, left 36 bombs with 168-hr delays; two ground staff injured. Pic: Blenheim after raid. Other aerodromes bombed, but Vraux only low-level raid. 12/05/1940: Royal Engineers repaired aerodrome. 14/05/1940: Recce of Sedan, Givonne & Bouillon; 6 crews to Plivot to use 139Sq a/c. RS on duty 05.00 on 11/05/1940, & details personal experience of raid. Thought Dorniers were Handley Page 'Hampdens'. Dived into slit trench; trembling with fear at first then adrenaline took over. Raid lasted 7 mins. From German side, 45yrs after raid Herr Kruger (in 1935 transferred from German Cavalry to Luftwaffe as Obs in Junkers JU52s) then bomber pilot on Dornier DO17s (Pic of Herr Major Kruger). Raid by 9 Dorniers of 4/KG2 led by Sq/Ldr Lieut Reimers flying Dornier U5-LM; Kruger his Obs. Flew at 2-3metre height & undisturbed over Luxemburg & Maginot Line. Describes raid & what saw. W/O Borner (Obs in another a/c) filmed attack & General Loerzer congratulated No 4 Squadron. On return flight hit tree, attacked by MG fire & Lt Reimers hit in legs & couldn't steer. Wop pulled him from seat & Kruger (with no pilots licence) landed a/c at Frankfurt Rebstock Airport. Reimers had leg amputated. Few days later Germans broke thru to Sedan, Mourmelen heavily bombed & Vraux next. New CO, W/Cdr Wright gathered section heads; couldn't defend Vraux so need to retreat & re-group. Well-written combination of facts (from all sides) & personal experiences. (cont. 30/05)</p>
	7	Obit	We See Their Faces, We Hear Their Voices – to Absent Friends	<p>Mr JG Spinks (younger member; died from leukaimia); Charles Hall (Aviation cartoonist 'Holly'); Mrs Vera Sherring; Mr WAB Martin; Sq/Ldr JH Ratcliffe; Mr A Mortlock; Mr IG Maclaren (whose sons Simon & Hamish have joined Soc); Mr Bert Quinton (daughter Tracey now has his membership number); Mr Tom Mann (who helped with Archives); Mrs Arlette Tedder (called 'Harry' by WWII friends); Mr KW Wyatt; Mr Ted Coote (gave us story of Phantoms of 1940). Thanks for help; condolences to families & friends</p>
	8	Article	The Ghost of Blickling Hall (cont)	<p>From Tommy Thompson (cont from 28/06) Searching graveyard with torch; lengthy reports about ammo & another unresolved mystery. Then about life & work of 114Sq ground crew; growing casualties (life expectancy Group 2 was 6 weeks!); from 09/1940 all days ran together - no weekends. Then 3 more nights of 'footsteps' in the lane, sentry's reaction &</p>

					disbelief of those not having heard them. Well written & atmospheric. Locals at Buckinghamshire Arms ('Buck Arms') say 'Ghost' is 'Four in Hand' which drives through closed front gate (not footsteps!).
--	--	--	--	--	---

Issue 28: March 1997

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	Chairman's Message	Hugh George	Thanks to everyone for support during recent major heart surgery & complications which followed. Now on road to recovery.
	1		Correction		Gives Ron Bramley's address & notice that Blenheim ties from office at £6 (incl p&p)
	1	Obit	R.I.P.		RIP: Paddy Porter , historian, writer & long-term supporter; John Caddy DSO, who, with family, form 'Caddy Clan'; FB Herod , from Bury, Lancs; Roger Peacock , ex-Wop/AG, PoW & author of ' <i>Blenheim Boys</i> ', ' <i>Moving Tents</i> ', etc & poem read by Raymond Baxter on video ' <i>Spirit of Britain First</i> '; Len Knight DFC, who gave his brass Blenheim to Bill Burberry to take to Holland 1996. Also G/Cpt Hamish Mahaddie (not member, but known by many). Condolences to families.
	1	Notes	Blenheims at Palmyra	FCG Fry	Sgt Scott, Sgt Catty & Sgt Fry ferried 110Sq BB from Wattisham to Palestine. 17/06/1940 joined 45Sq at Aqir. On 01/07/1941 attacked Forts at Palmyra in V5926. Fry bomb-aimer & claims some of craters! (pic 27/06)
	2	Notes	Blenheims Norway 27/12/1941	Editor	Response to 27/03: Thanks to Alf Butterworth for info sent to Torstein Saksvik & Emmanuel Cheron (pics 28/07)
Sgt WD Evans	2	Wanted	Help	Monica Brodie	MB asks for anyone who knew her dad, Bill Evans, in 101Sq (Bicester 1938-1939) or Wattisham (09/1939). He flew with F/O Sabine (later Sq/Ldr). Bill now lives NZ; Monica's address given. Pic: Bill then & now.
	2	Wanted	Blenheim Fighters – Jack Caslaw	Jack Caslaw	Jack wants contact with people connected with 23Sq, 29Sq, 64Sq, 68Sq, 92Sq, 141Sq, 145Sq, 212Sq, 222Sq, 229Sq, 234Sq, 235Sq, 242Sq, 248Sq, 600Sq, 601Sq, 604Sq (UK) & overseas 27Sq, 30Sq, 203Sq.
	2	Review	Valiant Wings	Ken Garrett	1 st edition of Norman Frank's ' <i>Valiant Wings</i> ' refers to 'fatal error' by XVsq in continuing op over France with no fighter cover. 2 nd edition appendix includes letter from Hugh George (in only BB returning to base after raid with 4 of 6 crews lost). The letter explains orders were to 'hit the target at all cost', which they did. <i>GW: 18/05/1939, 15Sq, 6 BBs left 1230 from Wyton for le Cateau: L8853 FTR, crash-landed @ Preux-de-Bois; S/Ldr H Lawrence (Pilot) & Sgt R Hopkins (Obs) KIA, LAC E Thomas (Wop/AG) captured & PoW. L8852 FTR, shot down into forest de Mormal; F/O F Dawson-Jones, Sgt W Baxter & LAC C Watts KIA. P6917 FTR, shot down by flak nr le Cateau; F/Ly P Chapman, Sgt C Colbourn & LAC E Fagg KIA. L9030 badly damaged, returned base via Poix but written off, P/O C Robertson, Sgt S Redhead & LAC Horton uninjured. P6913 damaged by flak nr le Cateau, landed Poix & declared written off but F/O L Trent, Sgt W Stephens & Cpl J</i>

					<i>Sutcliffe uninjured & returned Martlesham Heath @ dusk, a/c repaired. (Trent later rewarded VC for leading another raid)</i>
Maurice Williams (Wop/AG)	2	Wanted	Blenheim V5874 of 21 Squadron	Prof MMR Williams	Seeks info about father whose body washed up on Texel island. Has contact with pilot's brother, Bill Corfield; pilot shrapnel wounds, Obs & Wop/AG presumed drowned as undamaged. Address given. (Details 37/08).
	2	Wanted	Isle of Wight	AT Gillam	Seeked detail of following BBs which crashed on Isle of Wight: 22/12/1944, L6686, 23Sq, crashed Brading Down. Crew baled out, F/Sgt Loveridge safe, Sgt Newman & Sgt Southall drowned. 11/03/1941: V5396, 59Sq, force landed at Brook, crew unhurt, BB dismantled. 24/08/1940, BB 1F, victim of friendly fire by Hurricane of 1Sq RCAF GW: 21-22/12/1940, L6686, 23Sq, FTR. Ran out of fuel in bad weather from intruder sortie of French airfields, crew baled out nr Brading, loW; Sgt Loveridge (Pilot) safe; Sgt Newman (Obs) & Sgt Southall (Wop/AG) came down in sea & drowned. 22/03/1941, V5396, 59Sq, damaged by 109s, crash landed loW; P/O Villa & crew slightly injured, aircraft repaired. 24/08/1940, probably T1804, 235Sq (see details 29/03)
	2	Wanted	RAF Ashbourne	SP Lewis	Lewis wants info about Derby Moat, 42 OTU for book about accidents during aircrew training in Derbyshire. Address given.
	2	Wanted	Theo Boiten		After 'Blenheim Strike' (1996) Theo working on book of overall history of Blenheims & crews. Would like photos of BB, air/ground crews, accidents, raids, etc. Address given
	2-3	Letter	Extract	Dave Wyley	Dave is a new member who joined after reading Denis Richard's 'The Hardest Victory' about Bomber Command. He represents Group researching Bradwell Bay were many shot-up BB emergency landed.
Renfrew Airport	3-4	Letter	Can you Beat this for a Youthful Blenheim Boy?	Stephen Powell	Stephen (10yrs) & sister Elizabeth (14yrs) had first flight in BB on 23/04/1943 arranged by father from Ministry of Aircraft Production. Flew from Renfrew Airport (now housing estate) over Clyde for 30-45mins. Enclosed copy of RAF 155 Declaration form (or Blood Chit) with note on reverse to Capt Powell saying his children 'are first to have flown from the new airfield at Renfrew'.
	4		Two Encounters	Douglas Cooper	1. On 10/01/1940 Sq/Ldr Ken Doran led 9 110Sq (Hyderabad) BBs on shipping recce over North Sea at 2000ft. Attacked by ME110s & dropped to wave-top (BBs vulnerable from below). Attack lasted 10 mins & one BB lost (P4859) & one (N6213) flown to Northcoates on 1 engine by P/O Arderne; rest completed recce. Doran got bar on DFC & incident reported in 'Illustrated London News' 03/02/1940. 2. 52yrs later Douglas told Theo Boiten about incident for his book 'Blenheim Strike'. In 02/1993 he received letter from Wolf Falck ('it's time we met again ...'). Friendship developed & holidays together at St Alrich (foot of Austrian Alps). Wolf showed video of himself on 'This is Your Life' with Blen Soc President, Ivor Broom. GW: P4859, see details 32/02. N6213 flown back to Wattisham. Also 10/01/1940 N6203,

					110Sq FTR, damaged by Me 110s of ZG 76 & crash-landed Manby. P/O G Pemberton, Sgt Quarrington & AC1 Roberts only slightly hurt. Aircraft DBR
'Ex-Brats' Halton and Cranfield	4-6	Article	The Ghost of Blickling Hall: 114 Squadron Horsham St Faith and Aulton	Tommy Thompson (see end of notes)	Over 3 issues this is a vivid picture of life on 114Sq in 1940. Author arrived Horsham St Faith, nr Norwich, 06/1960 & met Duncan Townsend who a '33rder' in same class at Halton (ie 01/1036-1938). Describes first night exploring pubs in Mile Cross & consequences! Feeling at home as most ground-crew engineering trades were 'ex-brats' from Halton & Cranfield, many later commissioned or pilots. Interesting & details description of community of 'ex-brats' (ie who entered Halton as boy apprentices, aged 15) who 'a Service within a Service', their practical & theoretical aeronautical knowledge & attitude of other RAF staff towards them. Excellent series of articles giving a detailed feel for life in RAF. (Tommy Thompson denies writing this. Was this written by Edward Thompson DFC who in 33 rd entry at Halton? Edward = 'Ed' = 'Skull'. See 30/07, 88/11 & 89/19)
	6-7	Letter	A Letter from Norway	Torstein Saksvik	Torstein, Halvor Sperbund, Steinar Larsen and Vidar Broch (vice-chair of Oygarden og Sotra Forsvars local defence association) plan to recover wreckage of 114Sq BB from lake and erect memorial plaque. Details bureaucratic problems. Would like to hear from P/O Bob Iredale, Sgt Denis Shanahan, Sgt John Townsend or Sgt Bob Willis who also on 27/12/1941 raid on Herdla by 114Sq, as detailed in Theo Boiten's 'Blenheim Strike'. On 27/12/1997 Torstein & friends went to Bergen cemetery and, at 12.02 (time of raid on Herdia), put candles on graves of aircrew of both crashed 114Sq BBs and wreath on memorial to all Allied WWII soldiers at Mollendal cemetery. Of 45 gravestones, 38 from RAF. Some had wreaths on from UK. Pics: Torstein and friends at cemetery. GW: 27/12/1941, two 114Sq BBs collided and crashed while attaching Herdla airfield. In V6227 F/Sgt R Fisher RAAF, Sgt J Williamson & Sgt W Fletcher KIA. In Z7500 Sgt K Davies, Sgt J Ward and Sgt J Kitley KIA. All buried in Bergen.
	7-8	Article	Random Recollections – 114 Squadron Part 1 – July 1939 to December 1939	Reg Stride	07/1939 Reg in 208Sq Army Co-operation at Heliopolis as WOM on Hawker Audax which once flew 260mph; BB's flew 279mph fully loaded! Saw first BB, K7103, at Heliopolis in 01/1938 on its way to 30Sq at Mosul for overseas testing (see pic 49/16). On return to UK posted as instructor to Radio School at Cranwell for 18 months then joined 114Sq at Wyton with BBs (at last!). Wyton shared with 139Sq, also with BBs. Here Adj F/Lt TT Warriner introduced Reg to CO of 114Sq, W/Cdr Spencer (ex-WWI Obs - felt like WWI film 'Dawn Patrol'). Details interview and questions asked incl if he spoke French, a/c he'd flown in (Bristol Fighter, Fairy Gordon, Handley Page Hyderabad, Westland Wapiti, Vickers Victoria and Hawker Audax). As an aircraft apprentice at Flowerdown in 1928 went to Worthydown to learn how to start

					Falcon engine of old Bristol Fighter. Details how this was done (swinging propellor, picket down harness, etc). Overseas Reg had served in Iraq, Egypt, and Palestine and had passed RAF Higher Education Test in France. Was instantly promoted to F/Sgt but not to mention until it appeared on DRO. Wanted to practice 'ZZ landings' but radio transmission restricted on security grounds. Reg remustered from WOM to WEM in charge of Signals and Electrical sections and responsible for ~ 20 Wop/AGs in need of written and practical tests and Morse Code training. Three months later these up-graded from 'tradesmen' to Sgt by Air Ministry. Refers to Roger Peacock also collecting aircraft cigarette cards, esp BBs (see 07/02).
--	--	--	--	--	--

Issue 27: December 1996

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	President's Message	Ivor Broom	AGM at RAF Museum in Hendon now used for reunion lunch with attendance increasing. Next AGM 12/04/1997. Thanks to committee esp Hugh and Betty George (whose health not good) and Anthony Edwards for organising Grand Flying Draw.
	1	Report	Chairman's Message	Hugh George	Awaiting new aortic valve operation and told to rest, which difficult! Sorry to miss Duxford Airshow. Thanks from self & Betty for support & messages. PS from Betty: Hugh had surgery 07/11/1996 and doing well.
	1	Obit	R.I.P.	Editor	F/Lt EW Applebee DFM (member 88), F/Lt AE Monk AFRAeS (member 489), W/Cdr Bill Russell , ex-CO 84Sq (member 604). Bill refused treatment for liver cancer as useless. Fred Atton wrote article about 84Sq bomb craters in Syria after talking with Bill
	2	Report	Society Notes Grand Flying Draw		10 winners drawn on 13/10/1996 at Duxford. £5,100 raised, double previous Draw, over half from Airshow sales; Vice Chair Ted Sismore alone sold £500-worth. Organiser, Anthony Edwards, thanks Draw sponsors. Expenses were nil, thanks to West 4 printers and the aircraft owners who donated the flights. The ten winners are listed with their towns and ticket numbers.
	2	Report	The RBL's Great British Poppy Chain		This Poppy Chain was laid on 25/08/1996 for 75 miles from Cromer to Great Yarmouth. Jeanne thanks all members who contributed to Blen Soc's section, which raised £51.
Sgt McHouston , 21Sq pilot.	2	Wanted	21 Squadron Malta	James Cathcart	James asks for information about Sgt McHouston, 21Sq pilot in Z2734, who, after only 5 weeks in Malta, was one of 4 BBs which FTR from raid on Palermo, Sicily on 04/02/1942. High losses resulted in 21Sq disbanding 14/03/1942 and reforming in UK. Any photos/info welcome. Address given. <i>GW: 04/02/1942, 21Sq, Z7341. FTR. Crashed into cloud-covered hills on daylight raid on Palermo harbour; Sgt M Houston, P/O J O'Grady and Sgt L Frost KIA, buried Catania War Cemetery. 21Sq's Z9806, Z9812 & Z9824 also crashed on same raid.</i>
	2	Wanted	Malta GC	Lt MA Said	Lt MA Said is associated with Malta Aviation Museum and requests info about BB actions,

					photos, etc for research he's doing for himself. Address in Malta given.
Sgt J Koller	2	Report	City of Norwich Aviation Museum		On 21/11/1941 BB Z7275 of 139Sq left Horsham St Faith on training exercise but crashed on airfield/Brabazon Road boundary. P/O Russell Scott-Worthington (Pilot) killed; F/O DC Taylor (Obs) & Sgt J Koller (Wop/AG) pulled from burning wreck by local people; F/O Taylor died 22/11/1941. Relatives of Scott-Worthington visited Museum and traced/spoke to local people, and are enquiring about fate of Sgt Koller, who visited crash site a month after accident. Search hampered by incorrect serial number, but Len Fearnley and Peter Amos recently identified correct BB at same time as Museum. Museum address (Old Norwich Rd, Horsham St Faith, NR10 3JF) given. <i>GW: 22/11/1941, Z7275, 139Sq: crashed immediately after take-off at Swanton Morley on shipping sortie; P/O Scott-Worthington (Pilot) killed, P/O D Taylor (Obs & Royal Academy of Music professor) died of injuries next day, Sgt J Koller (Wop/AG) injured but recovered.</i> <i>CWGC: P/O Joseph Herbert James Koller, Wop/AG, RAFVR, 146797, 21Sq, KIA 22/06/1943, age 32. Buried Abbeville Communal Cemetery, France. ?same person</i>
Sgt TE Barnes AFM, 114Sq	2	Wanted		DL Barnes	DL Barnes seeks information on Sgt Thomas Edward Barnes AFM (Pilot), 114Sq, KIA 15/02/1941 flying BB T2125, and buried Flushing, Holland. On 03/12/1937 BB K7110 of 114Sq, Wyton, got into difficulties and pilot parachuted out. Obs Tom Barnes took control and landed a/c saving himself and Wop/AG; a/c 'bent'. Barnes awarded AFM. <i>GW: 03/12/1937. K7110, 114Sq; control lost in cloud, pilot bailed out. Obs Cpl Tom Barnes belly-landed at Hinckley, Leics, killing a cow & awarded AFM. A/c DBR,</i>
	2	Wanted	211 Squadron	George Swannick	211 Squadron: Ex-Cpl George Swannick, 1575602 looking for old 211Sq comrades from Allahabad, Cammilla/Comilla, Ranchi, Feni, Charinga/Chiringa and Chittagong. Address provided.
	2	Wanted		Vic Bingham	Vic Bingham: researching for book on Far East Air War and requires contact with ex-RAF air and ground crew. Address given.
	2-3	Wanted		Edward Kanter	Churchill Books Wanted: Edward Kanter would like to buy any handback books written by Churchill or his family. He also has a list of surplus books for interested Blen Soc members. Address given.
15 Squadron	3	Wanted	15 Squadron Photographer	Ken Garrett	Ken Garrett and friends in Vraux request information about un-named RAF man in a photo who was XVSq (15Sq) photographer at Abingdon, Vraux & Wyton. Ken met him at 13 OTU in late 1941. Address provided.
114 Squadron	3	Notice	114 Squadron in Norway	RA Parfitt	Recently discovered photo of 114Sq in Norway available to those interested. Contact Sq/Ldr RA Parfitt (address given)
	3	Wanted	Genuine Collectors Not Dealer	David Kester	David Kester will pay top prices for early wartime Mae Wests, O ₂ masks, helmets, goggles etc. Address given.
	3	Letter	Abandoned Blenheim	Alec McCurdy	In 10/1942 a volunteer crew from 98Sq of 2 Group asked to collect a BB from North

					Front Gibraltar which had belly landed on route to Malta in 03/1942 with only props bent. Alec asks why Group 2 should want this BB Mk IV back when 18Sq & 114Sq were re-equipping with Bisleys (BB MkV) to form Bisley Wing for 'Torch' campaign in North Africa with 13Sq & 614Sq. Who originated this request, which gave Alec chance to jump ship at Gibraltar and rejoin 18Sq? Address given. <i>GW: could this be V6310 OADU which belly-landed Gibraltar 04/04/1942?</i>
L8374 and L8536	3	Letter	Blenheims in Albania	Geoffrey Briggs	Mr G Briggs of British Embassy in Albania is investigating allied a/c crash sites. Based on info from ex-WWII Albanian partisan Briggs went to Permet (SE Albania), then 3½ hr off-road journey on mountain paths to a/c wreckage of BB L8374 from 84Sq. RAF Historical branch provided an archive crash report. Briggs also investigating crash of L8536 (211Sq) in Topove (S Albania) & a BB which ditched in sea off Albanian coast. Address for Mr GS Briggs at Foreign and Commonwealth Office given. Editor encourages members to support Briggs as this an area of research only recently open to Westerners. <i>GW: 22/12/1940, L8374, 84Sq FTR. Damaged by fighters on raid on Kucera oilfield: F/O J Evans (Pilot) & Sgt H Offord (Obs) baled out. Evans landed in stable yard and thigh broken by mule's kick. Sgt A Sargent (Wop/AG) did not bale out, KIA, on Alamein Memorial. 06/01/1941, L8536, 211Sq FTR. Damaged by fighters on raid of Valona & crashed at Kelcyre. F/O L Delaney, Sgt V Pollard and Sgt T McCord KIA and on Alamein Memorial.</i>
	3	Wanted	British Expeditionary Force	Emmanuel Cheron	Cheron is researching Coulommiers-Voisins Airfield, 35 miles east of Paris. Believes a BB squadron was stationed there as BEF, but few details. Address given.
	3	Wanted	27/12/1941 Norway	Torstein Saksvik	Torstein is in a group salvaging two BB that crashed into sea off Norway's west coast. Info needed to identify crews for a plaque in their memory. Address given (see 28/6)
	3	Data	Blenheim IV	Editor	Blenheim IV: Readers concerned about lack/inaccuracy of info in Jack Caslaw's piece on Notes to Pilots (26/08). DW Warne has sent Editor a photocopy of actual 'Handling Instructions' for BB written in 1938, which does lack the info in later manuals. Another copy of 'Handling Instruction', this time UK issued, has been sent in by Peter Smith.
	3	Wanted	Blenheim Squadrons in Cornwall	Peter London	Peter is writing a history of aviation in Cornwall from 1910 and requests info, esp about 236Sq at St Evals in 08/1940 and 53Sq in 02/1941.
	3	Wanted	Members ...		Members needed to help on Society's stalls and to sell Draw tickets and goods
	4	Wanted	1997 Advertising Budget	Ron Bramley	Ron and Editor plan to raise awareness of Blen Soc in press, preferable cost free, and requests any press contacts or interesting items for journalists. Ron's contact given.
	4	Data	1997 AGM		AGM takes place on 12/04/1997. Apply early for tickets and lunch.
	4-5	Report	Dronton Pilgrimage	Bill	Dronton is a new village on land reclaimed

				<p>Burberry (ex 114Sq and 12Sq)</p>	<p>from Ijesselmeer & has been hosting annual pilgrimages for 20yrs. In Journal 23/04 Bill reported on his first visit, noted BBs not mentioned in local museums (in spite of many losses over Holland – see Theo Boiten’s ‘<i>Blenheim Strike</i>’) and requested BB models for the museums. Thanks Mike Simpson (MkIVF in display case), Mike Marshall (brass MkI) and former BB MkIV pilot Len Knight (brass MkIV – No 3 of 30 with authentication letters). Bill commissioned stand for MkIV & plaque saying from Blen Soc and AGA. Some 100 Air Gunners arrived in Dronton on 01/05/1996 & met hosts, along with contingent from RAF. Next day to school in Vassen where history teacher Harry Bouman and children performed Air Gunner’s Tree of Remembrance and laid wreaths at shrine in forest and Bill presented M Simpson’s boxed BB. Three days later Bill gave address, in Dutch, at Mayor of Dronton’s reception and presented model BB and Group 2’s 114Sq shield (‘With speed I strike’) for the Air Gunner’s Memorial Museum. Major, Mayoress and Theo Boiten (from Groningen) welcomed his Dutch speech! Bill had Dutch friend, Joop Knol. After dinner were services at church and Town Hall monument, formally rescued from Zuider Zee by Lancaster aircrew. Due to lack of time Bill’s host and wife (Airie Kouman, former concentration camp internee) will present BB models from Len Knight and Mike Marshall to museum at Lelystad. Via Mike Marshall communicated with Dr Mike Williams who sought info about his father, P/O Maurice Williams (Wop/AG) who was in 21Sq based at Watton and KIA 12/08/1941 with crew on Koln Quadrath power station raid, one of 12 BBs lost. Dutch authorities encouraging other schools to adopt WWII aircrew; Dutch school-children already more knowledgeable about WWII than UK counterpart, but then we weren’t occupied and starved. <i>GW: see details Journal 37/08</i></p>
	5-6	Article	Memories of the Birth and Development of the Blenheim	Ray Bullack	<p>Encouraged by Dinty Moore and George Milson, Ray relates his first contact with a Blenheim 142 when, as an apprentice working on main spar ribs of Hawker Audax wing, he was sent to experimental dept at Filton and saw full-size plywood model of Blenheim and shiny metal proto-type; the first monoplane he’d seen. He describes tactics used to observe Blenheim progress in spite of security once RAF involved. Ray was involved in production of wings and describes how the rivets were treated for the new ‘stressed skin’ method used on the BB. Details the various jobs he did (installing Browning cradle, chain & cable for ailerons) and issues over pay. He describes the new assembly hall at Filton with wings and fuselages in various stages, and all component parts put together so complete Blenheim emerged, which was towed down to Company’s airfield at Patchway for flight testing before delivery to RAF. Experiments had already started on Beaufighter at Filton</p>

					and BB's sub-contracted to other companies. In early 1940s Ray joined Service Dept and travelled to RAF stations to repair BBs. Describes a frightening incidents being wedged inside tail of BB when it was attacked in its hangar. Ray's association with BB and Beaufighters ended when he joined the Fleet Air Arm.
	6	Pic		Fred Atton	Craters at Palmyra
	7	Report	Blenheims at Palmyra	Fred Atton & Bill Russell	On 27/02/1996 Fred (ex-airfield engineer) in Palmyra on tour of Syria & shown bomb craters 'made by British in 1941'. Later visited Bill Russell and wife Marguerita in Caversham, Perth (WA); Bill CO of 84Sq (Blenheims) in summer 1941 at Aqir, Habbaniya and Mosul operating against Vichy French in Syria. Bill said main targets for 84Sq were Aleppo and Deir Ez Zor 84Sq and visited Palmyra (and Ryak) only once on 15/05/1941 - to drop leaflets after bombing Damascus runway. Bill reminisces about Damascus raid; escorting Tomahawks lost but French Dewoitine escorted them (unaware of bombing) and Vichy French Gov in Syria complained that airport bombed before war declared! Bill had questioned the order with AOC Palestine & Transjordan. Bill's Wop/AG, Alan Blackburn sent him 'Flypast' (01/1996) in which Len Page (211Sq in Greece with 84Sq at Menidi & later based Lydda, Palestine, operating against Syria) mentioned sortie against Palmyra on 26/05/1941 by 211Sq with direct hits on hangars with 250lb bombs &, on 28/05/1941, machine-gunned a/c at Palmyra & bombed Ryak.
	7-8	Article	Further Chronicles of a Charmed Life	Jack Bartley	From declaration of war in 1939 to German invasion of Low Countries in 05/1940 dubbed 'phony war', it wasn't this for Bomber Command who attacked off-shore naval target with severe losses by stronger Luftwaffe. At Watton 21Sq undertook 5-hour reces and bombing raids interspersed with long periods stand-by playing 'Ukkers' (Ludo). In 06/1940 Wop/AG were promoted to Sgt from 'other ranks' so avoided guard duties, etc between raids, got a pay raise/leave pass (both detailed). As a Wop/AG Jack describes his duties on 07/04/1940 (standby, daily inspection of radio, form 700, then Ukkers) before started at 3pm and train to London. On return to Watton learnt Johnny Ball, his replacement Wop/AG, killed with pilot and Obs due to engine failure on take-off. Jack had left his helmet on crashed Blenheim, needed that day to fly to Maintenance Unit at Shawbury. Describes gruesome search of wreckage to find it's remains in order to get new helmet. <i>GW: 06/04/1940, L8740, 21Sq, took off from Watton 0400 on anti-submarine sortie, FTR, crashed few mins after take-off near Attleborough. P/O I Stapledon, Sgt W Whetton & LAC J Ball KIA.</i>
	8	Report		Betty George	After 13/10/1996 airshow at Duxford Betty was shown BB with 'covers' made to wartime specification and bought with donations from members. Next Smudge Smith and Colin plan to purchase lifting equipment.

	8	Wanted	Archive News		Computer now ready to input 500 collected 'anecdotes'. Requests more, however mundane, from members, friends & families to help future researchers & add a 'colourful pastiche' to this important period of history.
	8	Pic			Pic: The Blenheim with new covers on.

Issue 26: July 1996

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	Chairman's Message	Hugh George	Draw tickets enclosed. Money needed for operating Blenheim, esp as our main source of income, Airshows, are cutting back. Fund-raising Blenheim Day event planned. On 06/05/1996 Airport Authorities underestimated crowd at Duxford and some ticket holders turned away; refunds being sorted out.
	1	Obit	RIP		Mr H Stokes (member 505); Sq/Ldr JH Ratcliff (member 658); Sq/Ldr RS Pritchard (member 69); Mr CB Pickering (ex XVSq/15Sq – member 605); Mr OB Mortimer (ex 59Sq – member 113); F/Lt JG Parsons (member 98); Mr H Parfett (ex 8Sq & 88Sq – member 733); G/Cpt F Rothwell (member 452); F/Lt Eric Shipley (member 386). Sympathy and condolences to families and friends.
	1	Data	Society Notes		Stop Press: Bill Burberry given out donated brass Blenheims in Holland. Details 04/27.
	1	Letter	RAF Auxillary 'Tung Song'	DR Neale	In 08/1941 Mr Ron Lovell posted to 549-ton RAF Auxillary ship 'Tung Song', requisitioned from Straits Steamship Co by FE Command. After Japanese war started it sailed around Indian Ocean near Singapore, Sumatra & Java with 5 Vickers Gas Operated guns ready. On 02/03/1942 sailed from Tjilatjap (S Java) arriving Freemantle 12/03/1942 with members of 205Sq and 211Sq (195 in total) plus 3 wives & 1 Royal Artillery captain. Remained in Freemantle until 09/1942 when unit disbanded. Ron, who then served with 54Sq in Darwin and now lives in Australia, would like to hear from anyone on that voyage. Contact Ron via DR Neale whose address provided.
	1	Wanted	Fairey Battles	Ken Garrett	Requests plan view of Battle and $\frac{3}{4}$ rear view for copying/redrawing.
	2	Wanted	Wing Commander CG Jefford		Sq/Ldr Peter Bell identified himself in photo shown in 03/24 which taken in India. Jefford still seeks a photo of Sq/Ldr Frederick John Austin ('Bunny'), Sq/Ldr Leonard Frank Penny and Sq/Ldr Samuel Beeston all with 45Sq in 1941-1942. Pic of another 45Sq crew taken Western Desert late 1941. Is this crew these Burns/Reeve/Wilcock, Stewart/Colway/Catton, Percival/Ainslie/Cay or Bennet/Nullis/Twydell? Jefford's address given.
	2	Wanted	Oulton 1940-43		National Trust volunteers exhibition about Oulton and Blickling Hall may move from Barn to Sergeant's Mess. Advice needed. Contact Beryl Griffiths or RAF Project, NR1 16NF
	2	Wanted	Wattisham Airfield Historical Society	TM Bletchley	Bletchley, chair of Historical Society, requests pictures of BBs of 107Sq & 110Sq

					while stationed at Wattisham and addresses of former BB air/ground crew to invite them to see collection in old Station church.
F/Sgt Eric Chapman	2		55 Squadron	Mr C Dollery	Eric Chapman was 54Sq navigator in Egypt shot down 14/12/1940. His widow requests info about this and his life in 55Sq. Her step-son's contact details given. <i>GW: 14/12/1940, L8790, 55Sq, FTR from raid to Barbia, shot down by CR.42s. F/O M Singleton, Sgt E Chapman and Sgt B Fox KIA. Commemorated on Alamein Memorial.</i>
	2	Wanted	222 (Natal) Squadron	Ian Wright	Requests info/pics etc of 222Sq (Natal) when it flew BBs for book on 222Sq. Contact Ian at 222 ATC Sq, address given.
	2	Wanted	30 Squadron	Chris Darch	Chris's father in 30Sq on Crete in 1941 and awarded Military Medal in Battle of Malene. Chris and son want BB codes, numbers, colours of BB MkI at time for accurate model. Address given.
Sgt JCV Colmer, 1182047	2	Wanted	226 Squadron	Mr P Colmer	Mr Colmer requests info about career of his uncle, JCV Colmer, 226Sq, KIA 20/09/1941 attacking convoy off Hook of Holland from Wattisham flying V6422 with Sgt GK Bartlett RAAF and Sgt L Trevor. Address given. <i>GW: 20/09/1941, V6422, 226Sq, FTR: crashed into sea caught by own bomb-blast. Sgt J Colmer (aged 20), Sgt G Bartley (RAAF) and Sgt L Trevor KIA. Leslie Trevor no known grave, others buried Amsterdam.</i>
	2	Wanted	27 (R) Squadron	Sgt MJ Harris	27Sq historian, MJ Harris, seeks ex-27Sq members and info about 1941 when flying BBs and based Kallang, Singapore (02/1941 - 12/1941) under CO Sq/Ldr FRC Fowl and flying from Butterworth (05/1941 and 12/1941) and Sungei Patani (08/1941). Also members from 34Sq and 39Sq flying Wapitis and Hinds in India and BBs in Singapore alongside 27Sq, and 139Sq flying BBs in Burma 1942 before absorbed by 62Sq. Address at RAF Odiham given.
FB Brandwood	2	Wanted	FB 'Bill' Brandwood 82, 105 571 Squadrons	David Brandwood-Spencer	David requests info from anyone who knew his father in 82Sq, 105Sq, 571Sq or 17 OTU. Address provided.
	3	Wanted	Drs Theo Boiten	Theo Boiten	Writing new book on BBs Mks I, IV and V (1935-1950). As with 'Blenheim Strike' will include stories from BB air/ground crews. Details area to cover, incl OTUs, ops abroad and BBs with foreign forces. Any written memories and/or photos of BB requested. Photos returned. Potential book name 'Tales of the Blenheim'. Netherlands address given.
	3	Report	Oulton Again		George Milson, Jim Moore and Norma Moore represented Blen Soc at dedication service for 114Sq crew P/O LC Mitchell, Cpl G Henderson and AC1 CA Smith whose BB crashed in hailstorm 11/02/1938. Crew's relatives & North Walsham ATC also present. Oulton Hall owner, Bolton Agnew (who researched the crash) planted tree & plaque. <i>GW: 11/02/1938, K7119, 114Sq, flew into hailstorm and hit tree during turn at Oulton, Norfolk. Destroyed by fire. P/O L Mitchell, Cpl G Henderson and AC1 C Smith killed.</i>
	3	Letter	Gliders and the First Army Air Corp	Jack Caslaw	Jack 1 of 7 to receive first Army Air Corps blue wings from General Browning ('Boy'), along with Fred Strathdee. Had to remove

					RAF wings first! Fred and Peter Doig were regiments first KIA on flight to Heavy Water Plant in Norway. Did anyone else fly Albemarle bombers, used to tow troop-carrying bombers? Jack saw pic in Telegraph of Prince Charles wearing army uniform and RAF wings. KIA 10/11/1942 flying for the Glider Pilot Regiment. An internet search for Frederick Strathdee and Peter Doig (cwgc 19/11/1942) brings up lots of info.
	3	Wanted	Genuine Collector not Dealer	David Kester	Requests WWII flying clothes and accessories. Top prices paid. Address given.
	3		Aviation Artist	R Baden Lane	Paints pictures to personal requirements. Address give.
	3	Review	'The Spirit of Britain First' by Graham Warner"		Book covers the whole of Blenheim restoration from 1970s purchase by Ormond Haydon-Baillie to John Romain and ARC team. Book cost £19.99 from Patrick Stephens Ltd. Great book.
	3	Cartoon			'Early unsuccessful experiment in ground to air communication ...' Unknown cartoonist.
	4	Wanted	Skyhooks?	Ken Garrett	In autumn 1940 15Sq BB taxied into maintenance section at Wyton and pilot said it kept dropping 1,000ft out of formation for no reason. Not even engineers from Bristol could identify cause. BB still on tressels when Ken left XVSq on 23/11/1940. Ken interested to know if cause ever identified.
	4	Notice	Mountain Air and No Traffic	Bob & Georgette Carey	Society members welcome to stay at Carey's house in Switzerland on reasobanle terms. Address provided.
	4	Report	Duxford 6 May		On 06/05/1996 Blen Soc shared tent with Gurkas at Duxford. Event so popular people turned away, including Soc members with tickets. Duxford sorting this out. Will be at Duxford again 10/1996
	4	Notice	Duxford Again - Blenheim Day	Editor	Suggestion that Society members take up John Romain's invitation to meet ARC staff, see BB and take photos one weekday, when quiet. Maybe lunch too. If interested contact Betty George or Jeanne Gibbs.
	4	Report	Gellik Memorial near Maastricht 1996		On 12/05/1940 half XVSq lost on daylight raid on Maastricht's bridges; lost crew buried around Gellik. Each year the British, Belgian & French remember 15Sq crews with church service by Canon Hall, son of Sgt Hall who KIA on Gellick canal banks with crew Sgt Perrin and LAC McDonnell. Ceremony and parade attended by British, French & Canadian Military Attaches, Mayors of Lanagen and Vraux, French Air Force veterans, CO of XVSq etc. Canadian crew who crashed in 1944 also honoured. Hugh George & Betty attended for Society. GW: 12/05/1940, P6914, XVSq, FTR, shot down by flak and crashed into Albert Canal, Belgium. Sgt H Hall, Sgt E Perrin and LAC P McDonnell KIA and buried Hotton War Cemetery. Other XVSq BB shot down same day are N6151 (Pepper, Booth & Scott PoWs),

					<i>L8849 (Douglass & Shortland KIA, Davies PoW), L8847 (Bassett, Middlemass & Cavanagh KIA), P6911 (Oakley, Avent & Woods KIA), P6912 (Frankish, Robert & Cooper KIA). L8851 damaged but returned to base with Webster, Stone & Hunter.</i>
	4	Article	We had Search Lights too ...	Major David Buxton	DB joined Territorial Army (TA) 05/1939. 07/1939 camping on river Blackwater near Heybridge learning about searchlights and a/c identification when BB flew over very low. 13/08/1939 443 company (1/6th Searchlight Rgt) to training camp of Middlesex; brief description of searchlight training. On 24/08/1939 whole TA embodied in regular army. Taken to Weybourne (east of Sheringham) in red London buses! Then on 28/08/1939 to Company HQ south-west of Kings Lynn, living under canvas. Lorries delivered 24 searchlights and paraphernalia. After midnight & raining before at platoon HQ. Set up searchlight next morning; commander used phone at local post office!
	5	Article	With 139 Sqn at Horsham St Faith	LG Spong	On 12/08/1940, after its retreat from France, Spong joined 139Sqn at Horsham St Faith from 17 OTU. Describes rules and problems around using 'cloud-cover' to prevent further losses. Single Vickers K-guns replaced with twin Brownings which test fired into ground and ricocheted. This before RAF Regiment formed and base defended by army gunners with a single Bofors, who practiced weekly by firing at BBs. Accompanying Spong on one such flight Lt Parsons (army officer in charge) asked that it be 'more realistic'. Spong describes flying at zero level around airfield and bending a propellor! CO W/Cdr Kyle ('Digger') not pleased. Practice rules change to min height of 300ft on straight run!
	5-6	Article	Account of a Flight to the Middle East in a Bisley in 1942	W/Cdr E Donovan OBE, DFC, RAF (Retd)	20/07/1942 Donovan, P/O Willis (Obs) and F/Sgt Stuart collected BB MkV ('Bisley') from Filton and returned to Bicester. Donovan and Willis from Army and recommissioned from 2 nd Lt to P/Os. Willis returning to flying from accident in Whitley when burned. Crew volunteered to go to ME where Rommel gaining ground over 8 th Army in Egypt. To Portreath, Cornwall on 30/07/1942 and left 24/08/1942 for Gibraltar. Describes 8hr flight; Me 110 'on tail', Bisley 150mph and slower than Blenheim Mk IV; bomb-bay full of petrol which Navigator hand-pumped into wing tanks. From Gibraltar a Beaufort was routed to Takoradi, W Africa, but Bisley didn't have range so they left for Malta 26/08/1942. After 3hrs describes flight and scare when the 'constant speed' props slowed down to 140 rev and a/c lost height and sent out SOS. After 7hrs arrived Malta where tanker 'Ohio' had just docked. Air raid taking place and shot through tail by 'friendly fire' and landed to apologies at Luqa. Describes the strain of air-crew on Malta whose Beauforts attacking Rommel's supply line and having heavy losses, and the battered 'Ohio' at Valetta. Left on 31/08/1942 for Alexandria flying over Mediterranean. Describes flight and seeing

					enemy ship and a/c near Crete. Lorry took then through Cairo to Almazara transit camp where learned they'd been reported 'missing' because of SOS call! Donovan then to 14Sq with W/Cdr Maydwell and to canal zone flying B26A Maraunders.
	7	Article	A Close Call for Gib	Bill Gatling	Early 1942 Bill's squadron moved from East Anglia to India as Japanese advanced. Most travelled by sea, but 4 crew to fly on 'special mission' via Gibraltar. These 4 BBs left Portreath separately on 20/03/1942 day-flying via Bay of Biscay (avoiding JU 88s & Focke-Wulf Condors which aimed to stop flow of a/c from UK to ME & FE). At Gibraltar reported to HM aircraft carrier ' <i>Eagle</i> ' and told Navy and RAF combining to save embattled Malta and BB to 'guide' Spitfires to Malta to reinforce fighter power. The 4 BBs to rendezvous with ' <i>Eagle</i> ' near Balearic Islands, but Bill's a/c last and undercarriage collapsed! Crew returned to UK by sea. Colourfully written.
	7	Pic	Advice for those Facing a Very Dry Summer		Photos of naked man in a saucepan!
	8	Data	Blenheim Aircraft 'Maker's Instruction'	Jack Caslow	Copy of P/O Caslow's flying instructions for Blenheim (or 'pilot's notes') - all two pages of it covering: General Notes on Handling, Take Off, Climbing and Level Flight, Sideslipping, The Approach, Landing, and Taxying. Editor comments that S/Ldr Peter Saril and AM Gareth Clayton ('Tubby') always said dearth of written instruction, esp for BB MkI & MkIV.

Issue 25: February 1996

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	Chairman's Message	Hugh George	At end of 1995 Society funds running low due to low rate membership renewals. However, good response to appeal in Journal 24, so thanks to everyone.
	1	Obit	RIP		S/Ldr C Wright (292), Mr EA Murrin (518), Mr JG Llewelyn (628), Mr JV Davis (363) ex-21Sq and 55Sq, Mr R Mount (717) ex XVSq/15Sq. Condolences to all family and friends.
	1	Notice	Reunion Lunch and AGM		13/04/1996, Hendon Museum at 11am with W/Cdr Jefford (author ' <i>Flying Camels</i> ') speaking on BBs in 45Sq and Theo Boiten and Stuart Scott signing ' <i>Blenheim Strike</i> ' and ' <i>Battleaxe Blenheim</i> ' respectively. Costs given
	2	Notice	Advance Notice of Local Lunches		13/03/1996 – Risle Park, Nottingham 31/03/1999 – Blue Boar, Hendon 13/04/1996 – Lunch with AGM, Hendon 05/06/1996 - Royal Foresters, Ascot 24/07/1996 – North Weald Payment and booking details via Society Sec.
	2	Report	Airshow Duxford Monday May 6		06/05/1996: Spitfire Anniversary. Blen Soc sharing tent with Gurkas. Ticket costs given.
	2	Notice	Five Day Break Visiting Vraux 12-16 July		12/07/1996-16/07/1996. Four nights Reims, travelling from Gatwick. Cost £179.35. Details from Sec
	2	Wanted	Help, Malta's Aviation Museum		Malta's Aviation Foundation setting up Mueum at Ta'Qali historic airfield. Address

					given for donations.
Z7314	2	Wanted	Gibraltar North Front	Alec McCurdy	Alec, ex-18Sq pilot, seeks info ref BB Z7314 which pilot Sgt Rule, on detachment from 18Sq to Luqa, left in Bellman Hangar on Gib North Front in 03/1942 with only prop tips damaged. F/Lt McCurdy and crew collected Z7314 10/1942 to rejoin 18Sq in North Africa 12/1942. Alec's address given for info about this BB. <i>GW: 01/05/1943, Z7314, 18Sq, forced-landing in bad weather, crashed near Ain Beida, Tunisia. 18Sq had converted from BBs to Bostons by then.</i>
F/Lt Francis Wall Strover Mansfield RAFVR (122761)	2	Letter	114 Squadron 1940s	Mrs Gwen Tofts	Gwen has many photos of pilot Francis Mansfield ('The Marshal') and his crew which may be of interest to their families. <i>GW: 29/10/1944, Z6176, RAF Film Unit; hit colliery cables in low cloud and crashed at Coxmoor Golf Club, near Mansfield, Notts. F/Lt F Mansfield (solo pilot) killed. CWGC: Age 29, Buried Herne Bay Cemetery</i>
	2	Wanted	Ashfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts	Malcolm Bryan	Malcolm seeks info re RAF men/women who lost lives 1939-1945 in Ashfield & Sutton-in-Ashfield area of Notts. Address given.
	2		Fenland Aviation Museum		Directions, opening times and prices given. On B198 off Wisbech by-pass. PE14 7DA,
William Bernhard Nelson	2	Wanted	William Bernhard Nelson	Pat Crawford	Pat requests info about her father F/Sgt Nelson, a Wop/AG in 74 Signals wing 08/09/1940 to 10/1942. Address given.
F/O John R Laing	2	Wanted	F/O John R Laing	Roy Davie	Ask is anyone has details of John Laing's RAF career. Roy's address in USA given
	2	Wanted	Channel Islands Occupation Society (Guernsey)	John D Goodwin	Requests any info ref following ops: 09/08/1940. 139Sq, P/O Glaister, Sgt Cymbalist, Sgt Dower; 09/08/1940. 59Sq, F/Lt Palmer, Sgt Wells, Sgt Buckley; P/O Sandes, Sgt Crosher, Sgt Gates; P/O Witeman (Obs & Wop/AG unknown); P/O Grece, Sgt Ryan, Sgt Frost; P/O Carruthers, Sgt Shelton, Sgt Salmon; P/O Archer, Agt Walker, Sgt Vale; P/O Palmer, Sgt Robinson, Sgt Walters; P/O Dellow, Sgt Edwards, Sgt Bettis; P/O Hovenier, Sgt Magee, Sgt Scothmere (FTR); 16/12/1040. 59Sq, P/O Trim, Sgt Blake, Sgt Jones. Replies direct to La Capelle de Haut, Guernsey. <i>GW: 28/08/1940. R2794, 59Sq, FTR from raid on Caen aerodrome, flew into high ground in bad visibility nr Littlehampton. P/O J Dellow, Sgt K Edwards and Sgt L Betts KIA. 20/09/1940, R3635, 59Sq, FTR from sortie to Cherbourg. P/O K Palmer, Sgt E Wright & Sgt D Walters KIA, buried Le Vast Churchyard, Manche, Fr. 29/11/1940, N3614, 59Sq, FTR, shot down by Me 109 of JG2 into sea, P/O A Hovenier, Sgt J Scothmere and Sgt Magee KIA, commemorated Runnymede.</i>
	2	Report	Gurkha's Sponsored Cycle Ride		£112,000 raised
	2		Genuine Collector, Not Dealer	David Kestler	Requests WWII flying clothes and accessories. Top prices paid. Address given.
	2		Apologies ...	Editor	Correction: 24/06: 'Dinty' Moore took photo of BB at Swanton Marley; Raymond Baxter was mis-named as Stanley Baxter – apologies.
L8748	3-5	Article	Phantoms	Ted Coote	Ted in 107Sq which, in 05/1939 moved from Harwell and, with 110Sq opened new RAF station at Wattisham were Ted a Wop/AG in BBs. On 12/05/1940 returning from Maastricht Bridge raid in L8748 force landed

					<p>in Belgium. Describes the crash, being trapped, attempts to destroy his IFF unit, injuries to Obs Sgt Brown, arrival of van with RAF personnel with 'P' on tunic shoulder. Was told 'P' was for Phantom. Crew taken to Belgian GQG where F/O Rotheram (their uninjured pilot) talking with Admiral Sir Roger Keynes and King Leopold of the Belgians. Ted and Brown treated Brussels hospital and next day at Ghent before being separated. Ted in hospital train to Le Touquet. After week Germans overran place and Ted became a PoW. His log bk destroyed while a PoW. In early 1990s Ted phoned by W/O Paddy Porter who researching RAF Wattisham. Via Paddy, Ted contacted by Stan Durban who researching 3 107Sq aircrew whose graves he'd seen in Belgium, KIA 12/05/1940, and whom Ted had known. Stan took Ted to PRO at Kew to view his ops record in Lossiemouth and Wattisham on microfilm of 107Sq ORB, including their crash near Belgian GQG. Then searched for 'Phantoms'. The Belgian Musee Royal de l'Armee et Histoire Militaire showed L8748 had crashed near Breendonk and Belgian GQG at Fort Breendonk. In 1994 found PRO file 'No 3 Air Mission (Phantom)' containing two messages dated 12/05/1940 concerning forced landing of L8748 (which reproduced on pages 4-5). The combined British Mission consisted RAF, No3 Air Mission; the Army, the Hopkinson Mission. The Missions aimed to co-ordinate Allied and Belgian air force actions and transmit this info to AOC with BAFF (Source PRO Air 35 230, and also 'Phantom' by Philip Warner). Also found signal from Air Attache Brussels about L8748 crash naming crew and a P/O Bixof, which quoted. Ted to Fort Breendonk in 1994, which Germans used as a concentration camp and is now a museum. Ted thanks Stan Durban for help. Interesting article. <i>GW: 12/05/1940, L8748, 107Sq, FTR. Damaged by flak and crashed in Belgium. F/O R Rotheram DFC (Pilot) and Sgt R Brown escaped but LAC C Coote (Wop/AG) wounded, captured and became PoW.</i></p>
	4-5	Report	Message Form		Copies of Form 98A with messages from 'Phantom' to North Eagle, HQ Bomber Command and No.2 Group. Details above event. Interesting!
	6	Letter	Ken Garrett writes:	Ken Garratt	Ken recalls the attack on Krefelt/Krefeld when his unit flew Typhoons in close support of army. Once town taken went in jeep to see damage. Details encounter with US soldier who mistook RAF uniforms as Germans.
	6	Letter	Mrs Betty Ager writes:	Betty Ager	In 1942 Denis Ager was Obs crewed with S/Ldr Ian Maclaren (Pilot) and Patrick Stapleton (Wop/AG) in 614Sq. They received Christmas greeting from both. Betty asks if there are other complete crews in contact.
	6		Beaufighters	Editor	Reader says there is a Beaufighter at RAF Museum, Hendon
	6	Pic		Mr RG Foster	Portraits of three aircrew with airborne BB MkIV in foreground, signed by 'Philip'. Can anyone throw light on this? Address given.
	6-7	Review	Blenhms over Iraq	Geoffrey Chapman	As President of 30Sq RAFA, AVM AD Dick researched history of 30Sq from 01/11/1918

					<p>to 03/09/1939 when squadron, based in Iraq, was first in ME to have BBs in 1938. There follows extract from 5 30Sq members taken from David Dick's booklet. LAC Arthur Henderson ('Ginger'): joined 30Sq 09/1937 from 'Hendon' as BB introduced, fabric workers lost jobs, lists the multiple roles he now did. Cpl Armament Fitter Ron Croxton: describes filling smoke bombs for pilots to practice on BBs, shortage of crews and now other trades trained as air-crew (Obs, AGs & Wops). In 1939 Ron replaced 'Twiggy' Branch as 'A' Flight armourer when he became aircrew. LAC Freddie Greenhalgh: describes days work routine in the hangars and the hot metal of BBs landing in 120° F. Also details flight to Mosul in K7189 (pilot Sgt Wilson ('Tug'), new Obs and Freddie as Wop/AG); K7181 (pilot Lydell with 'Paddy' McKee); and K7177 (pilot F/Sgt Innes-Smith with 'Timber' Wood), accompanied by Iraqi Air Force flying Hawker Harts with Pegasus engines. To 'show the flag' after British Consulate burnt and Consul murder. Describes trip around Mosul in horse drawn carriage. Details another trip to Ismailia from Habbanayia in K7180 with Sgt Wilson – 4hrs following oil pipe-line, over Dead Sea, Suez Canal & Kantara landing Ismailia with tanks empty. Sometimes stopped in Amman where 14Sq based with Vickers Wellesleys. Describes Amman & surrounds. RAF personel from Iraq looked ill compared to those in Ismailia/Cairo. Johnny Vellacott (Wop/AG) describes conversion to BB MkIs & training of Short Termed Commissioned Officers, names instructor Sgt Archer ('Chota') and CO Sq/Ldr George Stainforth (of Schneider Trophy fame). Details photographic, bombing, navigational and high flying practice. Pilot F/Lt AL Bocking with Obs Sgt C Pease & Wop AC1 Vellacott flew at 32,800', iced up and emergency landed Shaiba before returning Habbaniya. Routine flight to Mosul & Bagdad. In 09/1939 gun-turrets fitted to BBs and Wops had to practice using Lewis guns. Pack-up trials practiced, Sq insignia removed, but letter 'V1' remained on a/c until 05/1941 Crete evacuation. During Munich crisis 30Sq moved to Heliopolis, Egypt. Details trials by S/Ldr Stainforth (crewed with Sgt Charlie Pease and AC1 Vellacott) to find 'lag angle' of .303 bullet by flying over Lake Habbaniya and how this measured with quadrant and Aldis sight. Armourer Ron Croxton also involved in these trails and describes his role in setting up etc. Names F/O Walker and F/Sgt Hawkins who i/c of armoury.</p>
	7-8	Article	From 'Chronicles of a Charmed Life'	Jack Bartley	<p>In 05/1940 21Sq at Watton undertook low-level bombing of German Panzers advancing on Maastricht-Tongres road. Details bombing raid on 11/05/1940 when Jack was Wop/AG. Describes seeing ground through hole in turret's platform, but no corresponding exit. Describes what mechanic later found and his lucky escape (saved by a screw-driver!).</p>
	8	Article	Constructing Airstrips for No 84 Squadron	Fred Atton	<p>In 1941 Fred an airfield civil engineer for RAF at Habbaniya, Iraq, when it besieged by</p>

					<p>Rashid Ali's forces on 03/05/1941. Describes situation. Heinkel 111s bombed, Gladiators of No 4 FTS buzzed around, Messerschmitt 109s low-level over Euphrates with machine guns, Airspeed Oxfords taking off from hangars. Mentions fearless W/Cdr CWV Ling, Chief Flying Instructor. New runway cut through golf course. On 12/05/1940 Tony Plinston led 6 BBs of 84Sq into Habbaniya. On 14/05/1941 raid on Palmyra by 2 BBs piloted by P/O Taylor and F/O Ken Linton (later in 211Sq and killed in Java). On 16/05/1941 raid on Bagdad-Monsul railway. On 23/05/1941 rest of 84Sq BBs arrived and ground crew set off for Habbaniya led by equipment officer P/O Bongard. After seige bridges, etc repaired for army's arrival (codename 'Habforce'). Then Colonel H de L Panet (chief engineer) sent Fred to Mosul with Quartermaster Sgt Edward Shand of Royal Engineers to build airstrips for 84Sq at Monsul, Ain Zala and Quayara. Given money, but no equipment, explain how could negotiate in French. Describes work, problems of heat on equipment, Gurkhas, problems encountered, negotiations with Sheik Awas el Hithmy at Quayara to use 200 tribesmen with shovels. Clouds of dust as BBs took off. Notes lift from Habbaniya to Mosul in airgunner's cockpit of Hawker Hind piloted by W/Cdr John Hawtry (who made CO of Mosul in 08/1941) and force landing in desert, using starter handle to re-start engine. On return to UK 08/1941 Fred lost contact with 84Sq, but knows went to Western Desert under W/Cdr ADC Boyce (later AVM) and then to FE in 01/1942. Fred appointed Hon Member 84Sq Assn in 08/1993. He notes a flying Hawker Hind in Shuttleworth collection.</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--

Issue 24: December 1995

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	President's Message	Ivor Broom	Drop in subscription renewals. Even with Graham Warner ensuring Blenheim flying, records of Blenheim crews collected and social get-togethers occurring, work needs to continue. BB insurance cost £20,000pa, so continued membership important.
	1	Report	Chairman's Message	Hugh George	50 years since war ended with lots of memories for ex-Blenheim crews. Also money still needed to keep BB in air and repay loan to BAM, cover running cost, insurance and maintenance. Reminds members to renew subs.
	1	Obit	RIP		Sq/Ldr Sid Sills (Member 210) died 16/03/1995; F/Lt Paddy Quirke , ex-107Sq, (196) died late summer 1995
	2	Notice	Renewal due January 1 1996	Roy Kendrick	Reminder from Hon Treasurer that this last Journal sent to those who haven't renewed!
	2	Notice	Advance Notice	Editor	AGM to be held 13/04/1996, 2.30pm, RAF Museum, Hendon Lecture Theatre. In Dermont Boyle Gallery in morning & for lunch. After AGM W/Cdr Jefford talking about research on 45Sq; his book details enclosed.

	2	Report	Vraux 1995		31 members visited Vraux. Saw Tiger Moth circle Red House Memorial and drop field flowers. Also Spitfire from Rheims Aero Club low flying. VXSq (15Sq) Torado crew asked about low flying in WWII; chorus responded that 'regulation height was 14 inches'. Society Petanque team lost game!
	2	Report	Duxford 15 October		Clear weather, good site near Control Tower and 90 members attended, assisted by 3 girls from 104 (DF) Linton ATC who raised £239 for 'Keep the Blenheim in the Air' box.
	2	Report	Lunches		North Weald: lunch & guided museum tour. Croydon: lunch & history tour of old airfield. Christmas lunch to be at Leefe Robinson VC at Stanmore. Thanks to Don Andersen & Betty, to Jon Eames and Laurie, and to Jeanne Gibbs for co-ordinating.
	2	Report	Bomber Airfield Society		Swanton Morley airfield lost, but sights set on North Coates
	2	Notice	Theo Boiten		'Blenheim Strike' launched. Theo working with Micheal Bowman on another book.
P/O S Newborough	2	Wanted	110 Squadron	K Main	Newborough went to Malta and died in Sicily His widow has died and her 2 nd husband has sent Blen Soc Newborough's logbook and medals. He, and relatives, wish to hear from anyone who knew. K Main's address given. <i>GW: 23/07/1941, Z7409, 82Sq, FTR; hit sea while being attacked by CR.42, crash landed in Sicily; crew Sgt P/O N Cathles, P/O S Newborough and Sgt B Child KIA, buried Catania War Cemetery.</i>
	2	Review	40 Squadron History		'Sweeping the Skies', by David Gunby is meticulously researched history of 40Sq, survivor narratives, casualty lists, lots of photos and maps. Evocatively covers life in 40Sq 1916-1956.
	2	Notice	18 Squadron 1936-1946	H.V. Hand	Informal reunion of 18Sq air & ground crew 14-25/05/1996 at Ashby-de-la-Zouch. Address given.
	2	Report		Ron Hicks	Ron took children from Bristol Football Club to Waterwijk Football Club, Holland, where delivered Blenheim Trophy, visited Lelystad Museum, learned about Aircraft Recovery Group 40-45 Assendalft and BB they've found buried in 3-4 meters of mud.
	2	Report	Duke of Edinburgh's Award		Sarah Ward, who sells raffle tickets at Blen dance and Duxford has won Gold DoE award. Lists some of the projects Sarah did. Sarah is presently i/c of Huntingdon Girls Venture Air Cadets. Betty and Hugh George presented Sarah's Gold award.
	3		Replies	Editor	23/04: Len Knight and Mike Simpson have offered model BBs, also Blenheim prints, which Bill Burberry will present to Dronton. 23/02: News from R Wright about crash on Yorkshire Moors. 23 (enclosure) & 20/02: Appreciation of Ken Whittle's final letter. 23/02: Wilf Jessop has received news about his uncle, Basil Yarwood.
	3	Wanted	Direct Entry Observers	Don Mcleod & Frank Harbord	Don and Frank wish to contact anyone who joined at Northampton, attended Nav course at St George's College, flew from Sywell airfield and has no. beginning 581.... Phone given.
	3	Wanted	Genuine Collector, Not Dealer	David Kestler	Requests WWII 'early wartime green' Mae Wests, O ₂ masks, helmets, goggles, etc. Top prices paid. Address given.

	3	Wanted		E Lewis	Requests news of any preserved Beaufighter – address given.
	3	Wanted	23 October 1940	R Heymans	Request news of BB raid on 23/10/1940 when 14 a/c bombed French airfields, 2 bombed shipping and 1 an Antwerp factory. Address in Belgium given
	3	Wanted		W/Cdr Jefford	CG Jefford seeks confirmation that the photo shown is of S/Ldr Frederick John Austin ('Bunny') who joined 45Sq in ME on 17/09/1941 as OC 'A' flight. He went to Burma with 45Sq early 1942, wounded Akyab 03/1942 and to UK 23/07/1942. Or is photo S/Ldr Peter Bell who flew Hudsons with 62Sq during fall of Burma. Also Jefford wants to hear from any ex-45Sq members for his book. Address given. Photo of airman.
	3-4	Article	Fifty Years On	Ted Sismore	Reports on two visits to Denmark in 1995. Gestapo's WWII Copenhagen HQ in Dansk Shell company ('Shellhouse') attacked 21/03/1945 by 18 Mosquitos escorted by 34 Mustangs. Committee chaired by John Neilson and Derek Carter have ensured memorials now in place for Resistance and school-children killed in raid and plaques for 4 Mosquito and 1 Mustang crews KIA. On 21/03/1995, 11am (exactly 50yrs after raid) Ole Lippman, Resistance/SOE member who authorised raid, and Ted unveiled memorial after Service at English Church and wreath laying in Bispebjerg Churchyard. Evening reception British Ambassador and Dinner by Danish Foreign Minister with AOC 2 Group, AVM Goodhall, Baron Donnet (Mustang leader), Jas Storar (Squadron commander) and Mosquito aircrew. 22/03/1995: lunch at RDAF Station Vaerlose. Shellhouse near centre Copenhagen; memorials outside and in entrance hall. Second visit: Ted guest Danish Gov and met Commanding General of Danish Tactical Airforce, Major General Tophoj at Airstation Aalborg. VCDS AM Sir John Willis flew in from Northolt to Aalborg escorted by 2 RDAF F16s. Visited grave of Blenheim crews KIA in 1940 raid on Aalborg at Vadum Churchyard. Ted describes meal in evening. Next day to Tebild memorial for allied airmen from RAF, RAAF, RCAF and USAAF. Brief details of speeches by two SOE/Resistance leaders, Ole Lippmann and Fleming Juncker. On to wartime Guild of Christian IV pub in Aalborg then Sea King helicopter to Copenhagen to join other guests. On 03/05/1995 reception by Crown Prince Frederick in Amalienborg Palace then dinner by Minister of Foreign Affairs. On 04/05/1995 reception in Parliament Building and visit to Resistance Memorial Park at Ryvangen then to a play written by resistance worker killed in 1945; presented to Queen in interval. 05/05/1995; parade in Main Sq, outside City Hall, with speech by Queen. Ted and few others then flown in Sea King to Jutland to WWII supply drop zone which A/Cdr Burnett recognised when he flew Stirlings. Describes parachutist dropped from a C130 almost landing on the Queen! Then to Hvidsten village to meet Fiil family, renowned for wartime activities and suffering.

					<p>Queen laid wreath, Red Arrows by-pass flanked by Danish F16s. Back in Copenhagen Crown Prince hosted meal at Divan 11 Resturant in Tivoli Gardens. 06/05/1995: Flew back to Northolt in a Gulfstream, then Ted and Peter Lake (Australian Mosquito navigator) to RAF Club for 2 Group Officers Assn annual lunch. Prints of painting by Terry Fox of attack on Shellhouse, signed by Mosquito and Mustang aircrew and Danish Resistance members. (£90, unsigned £25 with proceeds to charity). Address in Denmark given.</p>
	4-6	Report	Report to Members on Operating the Blenheim	Graham Warner	<p>Since our BBs first flight in 05/1993 seen by 4m at airshows; no longer 'forgotten' bomber and alongside Spitfire, Mosquito, Hurricane, Gladiators and Lysander. Describes how two derelect hulks rescued from Canadian scrap; lists airshow visited in 1993 (Mildenhall, RAF Cosford, Biggin Hill, Duxford, Fairford, Sunderland, Leicester, Alconbury, Zoersel (Belgium), Wroughton and RAF Finningley). Also at closure of RAF Wattisham (Group 2 airfield of 107Sq and 110 Sq in 1939 and later 236Sq, 18Sq and 13Sq) so BB were both first and last a/c to fly there. Due to bad weather couldn't fly at 1993 Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne with Spitfire and Hurricane as arranged with W/Cdr Geoffrey Page. With recession only 2 UK airshow in 1994 (Farnborough & North Weald where John Romain won Trophy), but flew at Le Bourget, Falaise, La Ferte Alais & Lyons in France, Tirstrup in Denmark and Eindhoven in Holland. Fewer airshows caused problems repaying loan and interest. Blenheim Dance profits bought GPS Navigation system (1994) and half insurance (1995). Details 1994 'good-will' trips to Hendon RAF Museum, Royal Yacht (D-Day anniversary), Filton (with two Luftwaffe Tornados), Bristol Aero Collection (parked next to a Concorde), BAe at Lostock, RAF Castle Camps (for Memorial opening), but missed Steeple Morden event. Also at closure of RAF West Raynham where 101Sq, 139Sq, 114Sq, 614Sq and 18Sq based flying BBs. Details event, recalls how W/Cdr Hugh Malcolm awarded VC, Red Arrows there and AOC 11 Group AVM John Allison took salute, with our BB last a/c to take off and fly low over final lowering of RAF Ensign. Stephen Connor wrote/directed '<i>The Spirit of Britain First</i>' video, narrated by Stanley Baxter, including Roger Peacock's Blenheim poem. Both this video and '<i>Flight of the Blenheim</i>' recommended (both sold at Duxford). 1995 VE celebration flights at Duxford, Southend, Chatham and over Buckingham Palace, and displays at North Weald, Mildenhall, RAF Cosford, RAF Halton, IAT at Fairford, 'Flying Legends' & IWM display at Duxford, Elvington (Yorks), Shoreham, Shepway, Newtonwards (N Ireland), B of B events at Biggin Hill and Eindhoven. Goodwill flights to Capel-le-Ferne and Filton, incl funeral of famous designer Sir Arthur Russell who worked at Bristol's drawing office 1925 – 1969. Flew at closure of RAF Swanton</p>

					<p>Morley (09/1995) where 105Sq based at it's 1940 opening. Mentions Hughie Edwards and Bremen raid in BB marked GB-D. AVM Richard Kyle, son of ACM Sir Wallace Kyle (G/Cpt 'Digger' Kyle), took salute; event described. At Duxford airshow (10/1995) new Trevor Lay painting 'Blenheim Boys' on display showing Coastal Command BBs returning from sortie. BB to be repainted to camouflage from black. Describes 15/10/1995 Battle of Britain memorial flight when John Romain flew BB flanked by Hurricane and early Spitfire with Merlin and Mercury engines described as 'perfect tribute' to WWII RAF aircrew. Pic: BB flying low over RAF Swanton Morley.</p>
	7		Posting to 114 Squadron	Bill Burberry	<p>As NCO passing through Sergeant's Mess to Nissen Hut Bill comments on notice mentioning W/O Screech, F/Sgt Howling and Sgt Yelling. Did anyone else see this? (from 'The Turret', with editors permission)</p>
	7		Brighton Bull ****	Sid Sills	<p>In 1942, having passed PNB Board at Heaton Park (Manchester) and staying at Hotel Metropole (Brighton) awaiting his move to EFTS, Sid describes an incident when on drill as a supernumerary involving a drill instructor he encountered; neither instructor nor CO understood Sid's position.</p>
	7-8		The Outbreak of War	H Robson	<p>02/09/1939 110Sq dispersed to Ipswich airport for raid on Oldenburg airfield, Hamburg. Old 10" to mile OS maps replaced by new 500,000 maps of north Germany. On 04/09/1939 5 BBs (not 6) targetted warships off Schillig Road. N6203, with pilot Canadian P/O Goulder and Robson as Obs, was stood down. Several months later, on return to Wattisham, describes pilot jettisoning bombs rather than waiting for armourers; worry when only one 'A' flight BB returned; the AG's 'Flying Bullet' insignia and 1/6 a day pay disappearing; details what happened to the crews on 04/09/1939, first raid of WWII, naming Sgt Harme (shot down by 5 Me 110s 'Destroyers'), F/Lt Doran and Sgt Abbot (lost over Stavanger), Robson flew with Sgt Miller and attacked by Me 109s but returned Lossiemouth. Doran PoW for 5yrs then died in DC 10 crash. Also names F/O Lings. In 05/1940 W/Cdr Sinclair became 110Sq CO and gave party at 'Swan' in Lavenham with a drinking competition; results described. Four aircrew named 'Robson' in 110Sq known as A1, A2, B1 & B2. Details how senior Obs Dave Pennington navigated in bad weather at wave-top height, he was source of 'washing hanging out' on German battleship story. At that time Ipswich had a grass airfield with NCO billeted in terraced houses and a field kitchen. Describes one 'prang'. <i>GW: All 110Sq on 1st RAF raid of WWII on 04/09/1939; N6204, F/Lt K Doran, P/O S Henderson (attached from 42Sq Coastal Command), Sgt D Pennington, AC J Smith; N6201, P/O G Lings, Sgt T Hammond, AC W Bingham; N6198, Sgt J Hanne, Sgt C Beavis, AC B Gray; N6197, Sgt R Abbott, Sgt L Bancroft, AC J Rosemond; N6199 FTR, F/O H Emden, Sgt R Grossey (attached from 42Sq Coastal Command –</i></p>

					<i>commemorated Runnymede), Sgt S McK Otty, AC R Evans KIA. Emden, Grossey & Otty buried Sage War Cemetery, Oldenburg.</i>
	8	Cartoon	'Ark the 'Erald Angles Sing	'Holly'	Cartoon of four young carol-singers at a front door

Issue 23: August 1995

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	Chairman's Message	Hugh George	Mentions 50 th anniversary of VE day, but not to forget FE prison camps for PoWs and civilians (Dutch & British), jungle fighting, etc, which went on much longer. Support Gurkha Welfare Trust appeal; our allies from Nepal in British army for over century.
	1	Data	Committee for 1995		Names all 12 Committee Members.
	1	Obits	May They Rest in Peace		Mrs S Sill (wife of Sid Sills, member 210); Mr James Murray (186, died in garden 23/12/1994); Sq/Ldr Bunny Moffatt (627, Obs to Hugh George in XV Sq 1940; heart attack 08/03/1995); Doug Pole (121, died 04/1995); Sq/Ldr Peter Travers-Wakeford (410, ex-40Sq, died 05/1995, cheered when TV showed BB over Buckingham Palace); Jack Swaffer (317, ex-21Sq, died 06/1995, joined RAF with friend Peter Sarll); Ken Whittle (743, died 05/1995, farewell letter 'flier' in journal). Sympathies to all friends and families
	1-2		Apologies		Incorrect date for Autumn Airshow at Duxford in 22/01 which is on 15/10/1995. Book early; form enclosed. Society tent on flight-line. Correction: 22/02 - Mr KP Collins is alive! So who is K Collins whose death reported? Correction: Albert Butterworth denies writing item on 62Sq (22/07) which is from JJ Halley's book 'The Squadrons of the RAF'. Clarification: (22/02) author of 'History of the DFM' is not also author 'History of the DFC'
CE Coote, Wop/AG, 107Sq	2	Wanted	Research	CE Coote	On 12/05/1940 Maastricht raid Coote shot down and taken as PoW to Lamsdorf. With other RAF PoWs taken to Stalag Luft 111 at Sagan where met Larry Slattery and George Booth. Larry gave him photo from German newspaper of German warship with remains of a/c on deck, fuselage at 45° upward slant showing letter 'C'. This was N6189 which crashed at Emden. Newspaper photo lost at end of war. Coote asks if anyone could find it in German Newspaper archives. <i>GW: 04/09/1939, N6189, 107Sq. FTR hit by flak from unidentified warship and crashed on shore before it could attack. F/O H Lightoller, Sgt O Howells and AC1 E Lyon KIA.</i>
L1476 L6800	2	Wanted	Peak National Park	SF Lewes	Lewes seeks more info/photos about BB crashes in Peak National Park. 30/01/1939, L1476, flying from Church Fenton, P/O SJD Robinson and A/P/O JE Thomas died. Also L6800 from 2(5) OTU 22 Group based Andover; pilot GF Kilburn survived crash; a/c repaired. Lewes' address given. <i>GW: 30/01/1939, L1476, 64Sq, aircraft flew into high ground in cloud at Bleaklow Moor, Derbyshire, P/O S Robinson and P/O J</i>

					<i>Thomas killed. 25/07/1941, L6800, 17 OTU, crashed on landing at Upwqood, Sgt A Johnson (solo pilot) killed.</i>
	2	Wanted	Basil H Yarwood	Wilf Jessop	Wilf owns labelled photos taken by his uncle, Basil Yarwood, between 05/1941 & 08/1942. He seeks info from those named. Places: Bulawayo, Benap Gold Mine, Woonaa, Kumalo, Johannesburg (Jo'burg), Durban, Nauvasha (Kenya), Kisimu, Gil Gil, Muhoroni, Nairobi, Naburn, Habbaniya, Baghdad. People: E Maitland, Herist, BWE Epstein, Polland, Gordon, Hampson, Ron, Dicky, Betty, Moira, Cherry, Bob, Cameron, Syd, Melvin, Ted Grant, Roy Price, T Russell, Gus Curry, Fred Mason, Harry Sherratt, Eric TH Maclean, Chummy, Dyer, Jack Warburton, Jeff Harnett, Mrs Nottidge, Ken Roberts, RD Cotterell, D Todhunter, Norman Gilmour, Claude Lee, Fred Giblett, Harry (Aussie), D Fairclough. Wilf's address given.
Sq/Ldr WH Edwards	2	Wanted	107 Squadron	Ross Lindsay Edwards	Ross seeks info ref grandparents 107Sq Sq/Ldr William Henry Edwards, also Cypher Officer Monica Hay Fenton Wingate. Address in Australia given.
Sgt Arthur Edgar Gibbs	2	Wanted	110 Squadron	Brian Gibbs	Info wanted about Sgt AE Gibbs and his pilot, Sgt Cathles, of 110Sq based Wattisham 03/1940 – 06/1941 by former's son. Address provided.
Sgt RA Bowmann ('Tony')	2	Wanted	101Sq/107Sq		Bowman's wife and daughter (2mths old when orphaned) request photo as one they had is lost. Paddy Porter, who knew Tony, said he was Obs with 107Sq who took off from Wattisham in L9325 at 1025hrs on 09/06/1940 to bomb German armoury near Poix. Hit by flak and crashed at Torcy-le-Petit, near Dieppe. Sgt Bowman and pilot F/O Bomford KIA; Wop/AG P/O Frayn injured but survived. Tony had a Austin saloon UV8625. Group photo, but which is Tony? <i>GW: 09/06/1940, L9323, 107Sq, FTR on raid to Boray, shot down leaving battle area. F/O C Bomford (Pilot) and Sgt R Bowman (Obs) KIA. P/O F Frayn (Wop/AG) injured.</i>
	2	Wanted	Bircham Newton	Keith R Webster	Keith requests info/photos for book about Bircham Newton from anyone who served there. Address given
	3	Wanted	Belgium May 1940	Peter Taghon	Peter has published 3 books (' <i>Belgique Mai 40-Belgique 44</i> ', ' <i>La Liberation – Belgique 44-45</i> ' and ' <i>La Bataille d'Ardennes</i> ') and seeks memories and stories for 4 th book about events of 05/1940. Editor recommends his books; Peter's address given.
	3	Wanted	' <i>Blenheim Strike</i> '	Dr Theo Boiten	' <i>Blenheim Strike</i> ' out late 1995, £24.95. Photos and crew stories needed for 2 nd book on history of BB 1935–1945, incl Bisleys and Bolingbrokes, all theatres of war and BBs bought by other countries. Address given.
	3	Wanted	Dilip Sarkar	D Sarkar	Dilip preparing book on W/Cdr Bader, 05/1941 – 11/1941. Esp wants Blenheim crew memories of 'Nonstop Offensive' and escorting Spitfires. Address given.
	3	Data	Exhibition in Nieu Land Poldermuseum, Oostvaardersdijk, April 12 to November 30.		Exhibition similar to 'Battle of Britain experience' at Hendon, but about Holland, esp Zuider Zee, in WW2. Many items recovered from ditched a/c and restored. Runs 12/04/1995-30/11/1995. All welcome, esp

					ex-RAF. Nr Amsterdam so if interested in coach trip there in 09/1995 contact Betty or Jeanne.
	3	Wanted	Blickling Hall	Beryl Griffiths	National Trust (NT) volunteers require memories, photos and info for display about RAF at Blickling Hall and Oulton in WW2. May become permanent exhibition.
	3	Wanted	Also	B Agnew	A commemorative plaque to crew of BB which crashed in Oulton Hall grounds found in store cupboard. Plan to have this dedicated in Oulton Church 10/1995. Need to trace crew's relative. See details 26/03
	3		Swanton Morley		Army wants to use this airfield so Bomber Airfield Association may have to move to West Raynham.
	3	Report	Society Events - AGM		AGM and lunch followed by Doug Ratcliffe of Bomber Command Association talking about progress of film they're making.
	3	Report	North Weald		Don Anderson and Betty hosted meal after which visited Museum and left flowers at Norwegian memorial as do at Leefe Robinson's grave.
	3	Report	VE at Duxford		Cold day for Duxford VE Commorative Airshow and tent not in flight-line as previously. Donna and Kirsty from ATC helped set up; GW offered them flight as reward! Retun to Duxford in October.
	3-4	Report	Gellick, Lanaken, Belgium		Six Society members, Colour Party, Standard and 9 members XV Sq (R), Mayors of Lanaken and Vraux, G/Cpt from RAFA Brussels, Military Attache from Canadian Embassy, Officers from Assn Maison Rouge and others from Belgian, Holland, Britain and USA attended Memorial Ceremonies at Gellick War Memorial and RAF Memorial on 50 th anniversary with procession led by 15 wartime US Army vehicles. Also exhibition of WW1 and WW2 memorabilia; Walter Veugen showed local school children around. Children all helped with wreath laying.
	4	Report	Dronton '95 Annual Air Gunners Pilgrimage	Bill Burberry (ex 114Sq & ex-13Sq)	On 30/04/1995 150 AGs accepted invitation to Dronton and area SE of Ijselmeer (was Zuider Zee) for a cost-free week. Bill describes hospitality, exhibition to all allied AGs at Dronton Town Hall (incl 1945 Operation Manna) and school at Vassen, street decorations, including Canadian flags (Canadian army helped liberated Holland 1945). Week ended with service at Dronton Church and parade to Air Gunners Memorial, with wreaths by AGA, Air Attaches from Embassies at Hague, New Zealand Air Minister, Lt General of Norwegian Air Force and fly-past by RAF Historic Flight (Lancaster & Spitfire) and Sally B (Fortress from Duxford). Comments that museums at Dronton Town Hall and Lelystad/Schiphol showed nothing about 1942 a/c and Squadron attacking Germans in Holland (Bill recalls night intruder raids on Schiphol, Soesterburg, Eindhoven, Leeuwarden). Bill gave museum copy ' <i>Spirit of Britain First</i> ' and plans to present both museums with model BBs. Let Betty know if have models. Contact John Fenn to join AGA if wish to attend in 1996 (address given).
	4-5	Poem	The Air Gunners		Poem praising the role of the Wop/AG send

			Lament		in by Jim Moore. Author's name not given; search showed very similar poem credited to Canadian airman George Harding.
	5	Letter		Mike Henry DFC	Muses on meaning of 'VE' which letters on 110Sq (Hyderabad). First raid of WW2 on 04/09/1939 was 15 BBs of Group 2 RAF (5 139Sq, 5 110Sq and 5 107Sq, latter two from RAF Wattisham). Targets were German fleet off Wilhelmshaven, and Jade & Schilling Roads. Mike details the 3 flights; 139Sq didn't find target; 110Sq (led by Sq/Ldr Doran) attacked Admiral Scheer and lost 1 BB; 107Sq lost 4 BBs and Obs George Booth first PoW. Mike joined 110Sq 08/1940 for 16 ops with 38 ops in other BB squadrons <i>GW: see 24/7-8 above for details.</i>
	5	Pics	This is Your Life	Mrs Arlette Tedder.	Sir Ivor Broom 'caught' by Michael Aspell outside St Clement Dane's Church on 02/04/1995. Programme made by Thames TV Studios at Teddington Lock. 2 nd pic shows Arlette Tedder with Bill Corfield (Barnet) and Al Glazer (Canada)
	5-6	Article	Summary of Events of Bombing Raid on Ayab and Subsequent Air Battle on 22 nd May 1942	F/Lt WM Huggard RAF (ret'd)	On 22/05/1942 plan for 6 113Sq BBs to attack barges on Mayu river (Arakan Peninsula) with 3 60Sq BBs attacking Akyab airfield simultaneously; details given. W/O Boyd (60Sq, a/c 3) didn't take off & F/Sgt Braithwaite (a/c 2) returned to base (both due to engine problems), leaving Z9808 with Huggard (Pilot), Sgt John Howitt (Obs) and F/Sgt Jock McLuckie (Wop/AG) to follow 113Sq a/c. As lone a/c Huggard describes decision that needed to be taken and the consequences. Includes info from Yoshito Yasuda about attack on Z9808 by three pairs of Japanese pilots from 64 th Senta JAF flying Oscars (Nakajima Ki-43, Hayabusas). Pilots named as Yasuda and Capt Masuzo Otani (killed NW Chittigong 25/12/1942) both hit but landed Akyab; Col Takeo Kato (CO 64 th Flying Sentai) was killed, and Sgt Itoh (KIA Akyab 10/11/1942); then Sgt Kondo and Sgt Kikuchi (who both KIA 19/09/1942 off Da-Nang). Huggard estimates receiving 25 attacks in 35 minutes. BB arrived back Dum-Dum airfield after 4hr 55mins but under-carriage damaged; describes landed on one wheel. Interesting article esp with data from Japanese side too. <i>GW: 22/05/1942, Z9809, 60Sq, damaged in action shooting down Oscar, belly-landed Dum Dum, Calcutta; W/O M Huggard, Sgt J Howitt and F/Sgt J McLuckie uninjured, aircraft repaired.</i>
	6	Article	These Blenheims Never Made It into the Air	JAS Watson MBE	On 02/09/1939 SS <i>Manaar</i> of T & J Brocklebank, captained by Campbell Shaw, left Liverpool for India with crated BBs on deck for RAF Alexandria. On 06/09/1939 70 miles W Cape Roca, Portugal, encountered U Boat U38 (KT Liebe). Watson describes the incident, shots exchanged and SS <i>Manaar</i> torpedoed; crew took to lifeboats. This 4 th sinking of war
	6-8	Article	A Friendly Favour	Bill O'Connell (via Peter Saunders)	On 04/08/1941 226Sq left Wattisham for detachment to Manston to relieve 18Sq (Group 2) attacking German convoys in Dover Straits. Details 'stand-by' and 'stand-to' and 'stand-down' rota. Convoys detailed (armed, flakship & fighters). 09/08/1941 'A'

					<p>flight (O'Connell, Peter Saunders and Les Harrell) on 'stand-by' at 1pm (double BST). O'Connell and friend 'Ossie' Osborne ('B' flight) trained together as Sgt pilots in RCAF attached to RAF. Osborne met lady in Ramgate and Margate; O'Connell details how Flights A and B swapped rotas so Ossie could keep appt with lady on 10/08/1941. Bill vividly describes returning to Mess after lunch to learn that 'A' Flight had lost 5 of 6 BBs by Me 109s convoy escorts; Hurricane escort found no survivors. Epilogue: Wop/AG Sgt GW Goult ('Bill') from Ely/Newmarket area, was on the only surviving BB. On 26/08/1941 Bill's Wop/AG, Les Harrell wounded by flak on convoy raid in North Sea near Ijmuiden & leg amputated; Goult joined Saunders and O'Connell and crewed together until 06/1942. P/O GW Goult DFM KIA when B-25 Mitchell of 2nd Tactical Air Force exploded in winter 1943/44; pilot was W/Cdr Wheeler ('Digger'). Note: record show two 226Sq BB's lost, not five. Article give human side behind the facts below. <i>GW: both 10/08/1941, Z7280, 226Sq, FTR, shot down into Channel by Me.109S while attacking shipping. Sgt J Osborne RCAF, Sgt K McManus RCAF and Sgt W Roberts KIA. Sgt Osborne buried at Sagan. V5854, 226Sq, FTR, shot down off Holland leading attack on shipping; Sq/Ldr M Waddington, F/Sgt I Forsyth and F/Sgt D Palmer KIA; commemorated Runnymede.</i></p>
	8		Memories		<p>Reminder about the 'forgotten war' in Far East and VJ day. Blen Soc stall next to Gurkhas at Duxford, who asked for support for Gurkha Welfare Trust's work in Nepal which affected by Army funding cuts. Enclose sponsorship form for cycle ride Land's End to John o' Groats. Contact Betty for copy of video showing work of Gurkha Welfare Trust in Nepal - £9 (£3.50 to GWT)</p>
	8	Letter		Jack Bennett	<p>As flight mechanic for Phil Fougere at Wyton in 1940, Jack went on several test flights. Recalls being first a/c to land at newly built runway at Alconbury. On take-off Phil circled low over workers still laying drains beside North Road/A1.</p>
	8		One Way to Work on Blenheims	Malcolm W Hewlett	<p>1939 Malcolm Hewlett working on a/c electric wiring at BAC Filton, Bristol. Volunteered for aircraft mechanic on BB and to Manston then North Weald (Essex), Silloth (Cumbria), Thornaby-on-Tees and Dunstable (details BB crash in wheatfield). Then to Gatwick Aerodrome, Catfoss (nr Hornsea). This was BB repair training station; with many crashes staff here grew from 5 to almost 100 over 3 years. RAF ground staff responsible for a/c engines.</p>
	8	Cartoon	'I didn't know which you preferred'	Holly	<p>As the mechanic fitting BB with guns said to the pilot</p>

Issue 22: March 1995

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	Chairman's Message	Hugh George	Expresses concern about wife's health (Betty George, editor). Recommends Graham

					Warner's new video ' <i>Spirit of Britain First</i> ' esp Roger Baxter reading Roger Peacock's poem. Suggests we all badger air-shows to book the Blenheim.
	1	Data	Society Notes		Lists dates and venue of 1995 airshows and other events.
	2	Obits	Deaths		Harold Robson (Member 85) held Finnish Winter War Medal, died 07/08/1994; Sq/Ldr Don Richardson (306) ex-114Sq, died 08/1994; Mr Charlish (472) died 30/12/1994; Mr KP Collins (551, no details). Sympathies to families and friends.
Sgt R Gunning DFM Sq/Ldr R Spencer DFC	2	Wanted	107, 211 and 113 Squadrons	A/Cdr GR Pitchfork, MBE, BA, FRAES	Researching Sgt Richard Gunning (later Sq/Ldr), Wattisham, awarded DFM for sinking sub 03/1941. Also Sq/Ldr Roderick Spencer DFC, 211Sq in Egypt, then 113Sq in Greece & N Africa, KIA 08/1941 on Benghazi harbour raid. Requests photos of men and 107Sq BBs. Address given. <i>GW: 31/08/1941, V6136, 113Sq, FTR to LG14 from raid on Benghazi; W/Cdr R Spencer DFC, P/O W Spears and F/Sgt P Robinson-Pratt KIA, commemorated Alamein memorial.</i>
	2	Wanted	Drs Theo Boiten	Theo Boiten	Seeks contact with BB crews involved with Airborne Radar experiments 1939-1948, esp involved with AI radar were 25Sq, 600Sq and 604Sq, Fighter Interception Unit (FIU) and Special Duty Flight at Martlesham Heath. Address given.
	2	Wanted	P Pouwels	P Pouwels	Asks ex-114Sq crews for info about 114Sq BB, R3847 or R3897 shot down 31/12/1940 near Eishout. Crew Sgt Young, Sgt Brown and Sgt Coates KIA. Contact given. <i>GW: 31/12/1940, 114Sq, FTR from sortie to Gilze-Rijen airfield, shot down by light flak over target and exploded. Sgt L Young, Sgt J Brown and Sgt J Coates (age 19) KIA & buried Bergen-op-Zoom</i>
F/O PJH Rowan , 36133	2	Wanted	Peter C Louis	Peter Louis	Peter is vice-chair RBL Amsterdam and seeking relatives of F/O Percival John Hamilton Rowan (36133), 40Sq, Wyton, shot down 10/05/1940, for special ceremony on 05/1995 at Rozenburg where he is buried. Expenses paid. Address given. <i>GW: 10/05/1940, L8828, 40Sq, shot down in sea off Rotterdam by Me 110s. P/O P Rowan, Sgt G Beardwood, & Cpl T Clark KIA; bodies washed ashore & buried Rozenburg, South Gravenzande & Rockanje, respectively.</i>
G/Cpt D Roe	2	Wanted	Group Captain Derek Roe DSO DFC	Robert H Ward	D Roe at Watton where Robert's father, F/Lt Ward, Adjutant. Robert request info about him and a pilot from Tottersett called Morton based at West Raynham who looped BB on return from ops. Contact given.
	2	Notice	History of DFC	Alf Butterworth	Three volumes history of DFC listing all WW2 DFCs & citations available from I Tavender, author of ' <i>Distinguished Flying Medal; a Record of Courage 1918 to 1991</i> '. Address given. Note: This may be ' <i>The Distinguished Flying Cross and How It Was Won, 1918-95</i> ' by Nick Carter & Carol Carter (<i>almost 2000pgs</i>)
	2	Notice	Illustrated British Military Aircraft of World War II	Peter Jeevar	Written and drawn by Jeevar, 150 A4 monochrome prints of WWII british military a/c. Hard backs available from Ketton Publishing in Haverhill. Price £16.99

	2	Notice	Wilhelmshaven Association	Mrs Hilary N Seabourne	Pupils and staff at Prince Rupert School 1947-1972 invited to re-union in 06/1995. Contact for Hilary Seaborne provided.
	2	Notice	Distinguished Members	Editor	Congratulations to Junior member, Andrew Griffiths, who sang soprano at Christmas with Stuart Burrows.
263 Squadron	2-3	Article	An Airman Looks Back	Pat Griffith-Jones	In over 6 years in RAF Pat describes St Eval as his worst posting (food, accommodation, feuds, etc) when dispersed away from 263Sq HQ, with its Westland Whirlwinds, and next to a Beaufort Squadron. Describes detachment to Aldergrove (near Belfast), route, stop-over at Silloth (near Carlisle), conditions, flying there in Handley Page Harrows and returning by ship to Heysham. Later 236Sq moved to Carew Cheriton, Pembrokeshire; describes 24hr train journey incl air-raid at Plymouth. Main work of 263Sq at St Eval and Carew was convoy escort; refers to Fastnet Rock's location. Recalls events at Carew; all a/c being used in hunt for Bismark; painting egg-blue underside of BB's black for night ops (believes 1,000 bomber raid); below-tree level pass over Carew by CO F/Lt Power (RAAF); effects of air raid incident on base; double BST duty rotas; days off to Tenby or Carmarthen, lifts in lorries and one with lady in MG!; names Sgt Parish (later commissioned), his Sgt pilot friend 'Tiger' and P/O Stevens DFM. <i>Jefford: Dates: 236Sq moved to St Eval 08/08/1940 & to Carew Cheriton 21/03/1941</i>
Maintenance	3	Letter	From W McFarlane ...	W McFarlane	10/05/1940 McFarlane, RAF ground crew on pass in London, heard news of German invasion of Low Countries and Churchill took over from Chamberlain. 11/05/1940 gets recall telegram & sent direct to Maintenance Hanger. Describes 'patching up' and modifying a/c, 7am starts, frequent 24hour shifts with 6hrs off, but also a week off as 'rest'. Describes some a/c damage encountered. Asks truth about Canadian ex-bush-pilot fitter-mechanic who supposedly stole an a/c & RAF shot down over Channel in 07/1940. Note: Article illustrates pressure on Maintenance staff.
Early Blenheim flying	4-5	Article	Landings	Sq/Ldr G Haworth DFC DFM	In 1938 Sq/Ldr Haworth was at Waddington with 44Sq where new BB bombers based. Haworth contrast experience as Obs in open cockpits single engine bi-planes with his first BB flight. There was no 'study course' for BB pilots, who learnt on the job; speed, two engines, retractable wheels, landing flaps, adjustable airscrew all caused problems. Also lack of training, no set 'crews' or pre-flight planning and expectation that could 'scamble' bombers. Details seeing worried look on pilots face and clear view of fast approaching ground, old convention of 'dead stick' (no throttle) landing all made early landings nerve-wracking. Describes his pilot landing at BAC, Filton in front of crowd of workers at 3 rd attempt and comments from Mr Cyril Unwin, senior test pilot with Bristol Company, about use of landing flaps. Dilemma of when an Obs should advise a pilot! Well written, very interesting article with gives insight into impact of flying/landing new BBs in 1938 & the high crash rate.

					<i>Jefford: At Waddington 44Sq had BB Mk 1 12/1937 to 02/1939 and 110Sq 01/1938 to 05/1939. GW: Pics – 110Sq, K7144 burst tyre & tipped up on landing 1938 (DBR 14/03/1939 when engine cut and belly-landed). N6196 Mk IV DBR 26/06/1939 when brakes failed & over-ran at Wattisham</i>
	5-6	Article	Flight Mechanic at 17 OTU Upwood	JD Bottle	After Flight Mechanics course at Morecombe Bottle posted 17 OTU at RAF Upwood with BB Mk I & Mk IV on 'C' flight. Long working hours & recalls 1,000 bomber Cologne raid when BB's used to rescue ditched air-crews. Occasional 'test flight' and describes 'hedge-hopping' near Ramsey, Huntingdonshire. Describes a BB crash at 50' on take-off. Some flight mechanics trained in aerodrome defence; describes practice with low-flying BB. 17 OTU later moved to Silverstone with Wellingtons. Later Upwood's grass replaced with hard runways; 156Sq and 139Sq there with Lancasters on Pathfinder duties
14 Squadron	6-7	Article	14 Squadron	John Willis	Extracts from John's long & careful report on 14Sq using some info from PRO. This showed 14Sq's last op in East Africa on 03/04/1941 with 7 BBs (pilots Stapleton, Hill, Buchanan, Le Cavalier, Lewis, McKenzie and Illsley). It then moved from Port Sudan to LG 21 (7miles SW Daba) on 31/03/1941. On 05/05/1941 8 BBs bombed MT at Tobruk, Bir Aziz & Barbia; 10/05/1941 bombed Derna Satellite & 3 BBs recce Tobruk, Gambut & El Adem; Sgt Taylor attacked by CR42 & crash landed E of Sollum. 11/05/1941 4 BBs on night raid, one crashed Aboukir. 15/05/1941 8 BBs bombed MT nr Sollum/Halfa Pass. 18/05/1941 again bombing. Following week 5 of 7 BBs lost over Capuzzo & Tobruk, and 5 more lost on raid on Maleme, Crete by JU52s. This explains why 14Sq 'depressed' when Willis (& 4 others from 70 OTU Ismailia) joined 14Sq at LG 21 on 04/06/1941 as 'replacement' crew with 23hrs flying on BB Mk I, Hart and Audax a/c at 4 SFTS Habbaniyah. Sq/Ldr Stapleton taught conversion to Mk IV, use of 9lb 'boost' (to outfly 109s) & tight formation flying. First op 17/06/1941 in Sisi Omar then Sollum areas. Vichy French in Syria so 14Sq moved to Tetah Tiqva, Palestine on 09/07/1941. Details incidents and accommodation, his spell in Haila Army hospital, and convalescence near Jerusalem where he and Paul Reynolds befriended by family from Tel Aviv. 14Sq spent 08/1941 formation training ending near Mosul in N Iraq/Persia and leafletting raids over Tehran where saw Hawker Biplanes. Mosul hot (described); John flew COs Audax to Habbaniyah for FFI treatment for wayward lad; CO Stapleton left 14Sq at end 10/1941.
	7	Article	The Far East	G/Cpt CH Boxall	Writing from Zimbabwe, Boxall recalls that on 1 st raid against Germany in 04/09/1939 BB Mk IVs used; when Japanese invading Malaya first raid on 08/12/1941 by 62Sq with BB Mk Is! 62Sq equipped with Mk Is 1938, flew to Singapore 1939, no BB spares or replacements reached FE; by 12/1941 flight radius restricted by oil consumption! Reinforced with few more MK 1s and fight against Japanese continued until all BBs

	7	Article	62 Squadron	A Butterworth	lost/destroyed and most crew killed or MIA. Butterworth gives a potted history of 62Sq from 09/1939 to 31/01/1963 covering costal patrols/trainig at Singapore; after 12/1941 invasion, attacks on Japanese shipping off Thailand from Malaya; loss of most of 62Sq BBs at airfield; re-equipment with Hudsons and withdrawal to Sumatra; move to Burma and absorbing remnants of 139Sq; continued shipping/airfield attacks & recces over Bay of Bengal; 05/1943 62Sq withdrew, converted to Dakotas and, from 07/01/1944, dropping supplies to 14 th Army Front in Burma; from end WWII on general transport duties until disbanded 15/03/1946; 01/09/1946 76Sq re-numbered 62Sq at Mingaladon, Rangoon, flying Dakotas; in 03/1947 moved to India, re-equipped, but disbanded 10/08/1947; 08/12/1947 62Sq re-formed at Waterbeach, flew Dakotas on Berlin Airlift until disbanded 01/06/1949; re-formed 01/02/1960 at Woolfox Lodge as ground-to-air missile unit; until finally disbanded 31/01/1963.
62 Squadron In Far East	7-8	Article	62 Squadron Singapore	PW Smith DFC	62Sq equipped with BBs 1938 and left Cranfield for Singapore 08/1939 with 12 BBs (L1339 crashed en route). Stationed Alor Star (N Malaya) when Japanese attacked; lost most of their 11 a/c. Sq/Ldr Scarf earned VC (see <i>'Bristol Blenheim'</i> by Chas Bowyer). With rapid Japanese advance 62Sq returned to Singapore where still attacked daily so evacuated to Palembang, Sumatra. In 1941 Smith with 59Sq, Thorney Island, flying ops over Channel in BBs. Re-equipped Hudsons 09/1941. In 12/1941 half 62Sq crew told going to Singapore, as were half 53Sq from St Eval. Tested new Hudsons at Kemble & left 07/01/1942; other crews left earlier or later. Some arrived Singapore before evacuation; Smith got to Palembang and 62Sq on 26/01/1942, others only made Calcutta as Rangoon re-fuelling stop captured. Two Palembang airfields; P1 Dutch with Hurricanes, P2 a jungle clearing. Describes chaos with crew from Squadrons (incl RAAF 8Sq) from all over SE Asia, few a/c (Hudsons and BBs) and no admin. Suddenly told to evacuate & destroy everything as Japs at P1 and get to port in south Samatra. Describes evacuation to airfield in Java, which soon attacked; no defences, a Buffalo fighter tried but not seen again. Packed into Dutch merchant ship <i>'Kota Gede'</i> ; terrible conditions, Captain took them to Ceylon which probably saved their lives as ship to Australia sunk by Japanese fleet. Describes journey to Cuttack (east coast of India) via Colombo and Karachi where 62Sq re-formed, some raids on Burma from India, but a/c spares non-existent. 11/1943 moved to Rawlpindi (NW Frontier) and learnt to fly/drop supplies from Dakotas. Returned to Bengal and pressure on; in 02/1944 Smith did 30 ops trip to Burma in 26 days. Smith returned to UK for invasion of Europe, but 62Sq in India/Burma until WWII ended. <i>GW: 17/09/1939, L1339, 62Sq, crashed on landing at Trang, Siam, en route to Tengah,</i>

Issue 21: December 1994

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	The President's Message	Ivor Broom	Good to see Blenheim flying at events, thanks to Graham Warner but continued support needed; shared Spitfire Soc tent at Biggin Hill but own tent at Duxford. Last AGM at RAF Museum like a re-union lunch; next on 25/03/1995.
	1	Report	Messages from the Secretaries		Betty and Jeanne thank members for support given to Society events, esp financial support 11/09/1994.
	1	Report	Chairman's Message	Hugh George	Eighth Christmas as a Society in which lot achieved; financial aid to GW and Blenheim, putting people in contact, correcting misconceptions about WWII. Book out about Soc President Sir Ivor Broom (see enclosed)
	1	Obits	Deaths		Ted Radford (member 586), Babs Drew's brother died of heart attack; William Tulloch (117) died 03/1994; RE Butcher (265) ex-105Sq died of heart attack 27/06/1994; W/Cdr FA Buckingham (647) died 01/1994; AVM Sir Ian Spencer CB, DFC (49). Condolences to families and friends.
	2	Report	Society Notes Trip to France		Report of enjoyable trip to France with thanks to Jeanne Gibbs, Irene Murphy, Renee Bysouth, Laurie Eames and Vic Bingham for organising. Gerard Bernard and Denis renovating Museum at 28 rue Basse which 'treasure of information' on RAF overseas camps 1939/40. Details reactment of 'American' troops advance into village.
	2		Later Note		John Morton wrote to Queen Mother requesting photo of Queen Elizabeth and King George IV; she sent signed copy to Bernard Pauzed, President of Assn Maison Rouge. Extract from letter by Ken Garrett (ex XVSq/15Sq) about visit, seeing 'Red' Eames, recalling incident from Wyton, re-meeting Madame Pariset in the same farm 114Sq had billeted in 1939 when she was aged 11. Ken vividly describes events from those days, cost of farm products, help with homework and old postcard she's kept, etc.
	2	Notice	Reunion Lunch, AGM and Talk		AGM on 25/03/1995 at RAF Museum, Hendon with reunion lunch and talk by BCA about TV coverage of Bomber Command. Prices and times given, also a reminder about Blen Soc subs due 01/01/1995
	2	Report	Local Lunches	Editor	Jeanne has arranged 4 lunches: Three Swams, Market Harborough by Len Hayes; Marsham Arms, nr Norwich by Bill Burbery (with Chaz Bowyer as Guest of Honour); San Clu in Ramsgate by June Humphreys; Christmas lunch will be at Leefe Robinson VC. Please phone Jeanne ref future lunches as expensive to send notices to everyone.
	3	Notice	Advance Notice: Closure of Swanton Morley		Those wishing to attend event on 06/11/1995 should contact Sq/Ldr ME Daniels (rtd) at RAF Swanton Morley
	3	Letter	RAF Castle Camps Memorial Trust	Ken Spells	Ken was active bringing Memorial Trust into being (see GW's report) & sent leaflet about it's history (next item)

	3	Article	A Brief History of RAF Castle Camps	<p>85Sq Hurricanes first at Castle Camps (SW Havershill), satellite of Debden, under Peter Townsend ('A' flight) and 'Dickie' Lee ('B' flight) between 27/06/1940 and 05/09/1940. 73Sq next (under canvas) until move to ME 11/1940. 18/04/1941: opened as full RAF base under Sq/Ldr Coote-Robinson & guarded by King's Royal Rifle Corps. 157Sq re-formed there 18/12/1941 under W/Cdr Gordon Slade; Mosquitos arrived 01/1942 with first ops from Castle Camp (CC) 27/04/1942. Duke of Kent visited 08/06/1942. 157Sq moved to Bradwell Bay 03/1943 and replaced by 605Sq making intruder missions with RAF Regiment on guard & Searchlight & Gun Units around base. 527Sq on North side of base for 8mths testing new Radar with BBs and Hurricanes. Then Canadian 410Sq with 26 Mosquitos & one Magister there until 04/1944. 02/1944 91Sq there for 8 days with Spitfires; NZ 486Sq arrived with Typhoons then Tempests leaving 04/1944. Many Czech pilot in 68Sq Mosquitos at CC 06/1944 to 10/1944 followed by Polish 307Sq for 3 mths until 03/1945 (Mosquitos again). 25Sq at CC 10/1944 until moved to Boxford 20/12/1945, sharing field with 85Sq from 06/1945 until 85Sq moved to Tangmere 10/1945. On 17/01/1946 last RAF/WRAF personnel moved out and RAF CC closed down. Occupied 05/1947 to 09/1947 by RAOC for vehicle storage and repairs by REME.</p>
	3-4	Article	Visit to Wittes 18 th September 1994	<p>Betty George</p> <p>On 30/06/1940 raid on Merville 3 BBs from 107Sq shot down by ME109s; one crashed at Wittes (between St Omer & Aire sur la Lys). Describes scene. P/O Bennett, Sgt Langford and LAC Harrison buried in local church and honoured by villagers each 11th Nov. On 18/09/1994 Wittes celebrated liberation by Polish troops in 1944 at Polish memorial; many Poles moved to Wittes in 1920s to work in sulphur mines. Blen Soc contacted via Alan Blackburn for ex-107Sq members to join memorial of RAF crew; Ted Coote, Len Fearnley and Paddy Quirke (who shot down in same 30/06/1940 raid) unable to attend, but Hugh George and Betty did on way to Bayeux. Betty reports on event with 3 bands, choirs, British, Polish & French officials, and ex-service organisation and French Army, etc. Describes crowded village church, laying of wreaths at French & Polish memorials and three RAF graves and meal and concert that followed. Site of crash, which accessible to vehicles, visited and described. Hugh able to reassure guide that crew member with unopened parachute was pilot but that all 3 killed in the a/c.</p> <p><i>GW: On 30/06/1940 following 3 BBs of 107Sq FTR to Wattisham from Merville; R3823 shot down by flak at Wittes, nr St Omer; crew P/O R Bennett, Sgt A Langford and Sgt D Harrison KIA and buried at Wittes. L9467 shot down in target area; crew P/O J Quirke ('Paddy'), Sgt D Hawkins and Sgt K Murray captured and became PoWs. R3870 shot down by flak near Ecques, Sq/Ldr H Pilling AFC (Pilot) and Sgt H</i></p>

					<i>Denison(Wop/AG) KIA, Sgt F Roche (Obs) captured and became PoW.</i>
	4	Notice	For Sale	Mike Henry	Print of Gerald Coulsen's 'The First Blow' of 04/09/1939 raid on German ship at Keil.
	4	Notice		DS Buxton	Print 'The First Blow' by Gerald Coulsen (signed BCA crest) also 'Safe Escort' by Tim Mitchell of Lancaster over cliffs returning from ops escorted by Spitfire and Hurricane
	4	Notice	235 Squadron Reunion	Andrew D Bird	235Sq RAF Coastal Command reunion 15 – 17/09/1995 for air & ground crew. Contact given for Andrew.
F/Sgt HF Hancock	4	Wanted	Mrs Joan Philips	Joan Philips	Joan seeks info about her brother F/Sgt Hancock 580443 (aka 'Andy' or 'Hank') who joined 105Sq 22/08/1939. Shot down over North Sea 08/05/1941 in V5828 when Obs to W/Cdr Christian. Does anyone remember him? Address given. <i>GW: 08/05/1941, V5828, 105Sq, FTR; shot down on fire by flak into Hafns Fjord, Norway, on anti-shipping strike; W/Cdr A Christian, F/Sgt H Hancock and Sgt G Wade KIA and commemorated Runnymede. W/Cdr Arnold Christian was 105Sq CO</i>
	4	Wanted	Winston O'Dell Harper	W/Cdr JE Jeffrey BA, MRAS	Texan Winston O'Dell Harper from Big Spring served in RCAF, ? flew in BBs 1942 near Spitalgate. Later transferred to USAF. W/Cdr Jeffery seeks info; address given.
	4	Wanted	Mrs J Collier		Mrs Collier seeks info re 23Sq 1940-1941
Sgt R Worthington, Wop/AG	4	Wanted	Wop/AG Sgt Robert Worthington	Stephen McBride	Sgt Worthington, 97Sq, KIA 21/10/1941 on Bremen raid in Manchester L7462. Stephen researching his life. Contact details given.
	4	Notice	Warning !! Travelling to France?	Editor	Advice for those trying to use a Barclaycard Visa in France.
	5	Photo	Christmas Card from RAF Middle East, 1941		To Blenheim Society from Blenheim Boys of 113Sq! Needs 3d value stamp affixed.
	5-6	Article	Operating the Blenheim	Graham Warner	After 'First Flight and Naming Ceremony' at Duxford 28/05/1993 our Blenheim had busy year with events at Mildenhall, Biggin Hill, Cosford, Alconbury, Sunderland, Leicester, the IAT at Fairford, Finningley, 'Great Warbirds' at Wroughton, the Zoersel in Belgium and 'Classic Fighter' and Main displays at Duxford. See by over 2 million people. Fact sheets handed out. Also at RAF Wattisham closure (where 107Sq, 110Sq, 18Sq, 13Sq & 226Sq based) Ipswich airport and Bleheim Palace; present Duke of Marlborough recalls BBs at 13 OTU. Good media coverage and income. Missed events at Steeple Morden (home 17 OTU with BBs 13/01/1943-04/05/1943) and HM Queen Mother at B of B Memorial on Cliffs of Dover due to atrocious weather. John Romain flew BB; no events missed. 1994 disappointing; only Flying Legends at Duxford invited Blenheim back. Romain won trophy for display at North Weald 05/1994. Air Displays at Le Bourget, La Ferte Alais and Falaise in France, Tistrup in Denmark and Eindhoven in Netherlands hardly covered costs so income down and none of loan repaid. BB made goodwill visits to RAF Museum (Hendon), B of B Memorial (Dover), Castle Camp, D-Day flypast over Britannia, BAe at Lostock and Filton (home of BAC); contrasts with poor treatment at SBAC Farnborough. Closure of RAF West Raynham very moving;

					BB first and last to fly with Spitfire, Canberra Hunter, VCIO, Jaguar, Tornado and Red Arrows between. AM John Allison, current AOC 11 group, in BB cockpit for final flypast; watching was Ivor Broom, former AOC 11 group. From 05/1939 to 11/1942 West Raynham base for 101Sq, 139Sq, 18Sq, 114Sq, and 614Sq. GW just filmed ' <i>Spirit of Britain First</i> ' TV film/video which he recommends; vast improvement on earlier ' <i>Forgotten Bomber</i> '. Discussion on colour and markings of 'only airworthy Blenheim in the world'; intend to change these every couple of years. Restoration of Mk I 'nose' has started.
	7-8	Article	A Wattisham Prang	Sq/Ldr WJJ O'Connell	Jounal (ref) mentions 226Sq BB crash on take off from Wattisham for Rotterdam raid on 28/08/1941. O'Connell, then a Sgt in RCAF attached to RAF, was the pilot crewed with Sgt Peter Saunders (Obs) and P/O Wes Robertson (Wop/AG), flying No 2 in close formation. Describes hurried take-off, not wearing Sutton harness, use of 9lb boost, and exactly what he remembers of the engine failure at 40', the accident and their escape in clear, detailed and amusing prose – and how he recounted it to his 'date' in 'The Pumpkin' cafe that evening. Incident reported to Sq/Ldr JS Kennedy ('Ginger') <i>GW: 28/08/1941, Z7299, 226Sq, crashed at Wittisham on take-off for raid; crew Sgt R O'Connell RCAF, Sgt P Saunders and Sgt Robertson thrown clear with slight injuries, aircraft destroyed by fire.</i>
Maintenance	8	Article	The Fitters Tale	E Unsworth	First saw BBs 02/1941 at Church Fenton, nr Leeds, when fitter/2/engines on Hurricanes. 05/1941 posted to ME, Kasfaree transit camp then 16/07/1941 to 102 MU at Abu Sueir (nr Ismailia) with Wellingtons, BBs Mk I & Mk II and Gladiators. He worked on backlog of BB from Greece and Crete to be used against supply ships, convoys, etc. Did engine changes, repairs & inspections. Describes devastation caused by night bombing from 11/08/1941 with hangars/workshops unusable by 19/08/1941 so gradually moved to Kilo 17 near Cairo. He & 2 others left outside repairing last 3 BB – and then filling wing tanks from 4 gallon cans! Kilo 7 formed as 108 MU with Wellingtons, more BBs, 2 Vicker Valentias & 2 Bombay transports. Describes crated BB's route via Takoradi (Gold Coast) where BBs assembled and flown to 108 MU for desert air intakes to be fitted, etc & inspected. Lot crashed <i>en route</i> . Describes change in work routine 11/1941 due to amount of work, preparing BB for Turkish Air Force, new hangar making work easier, normal procedure with crews leaving BB for repair, going to Cairo, returning to check BB with fitter/rigger and test fly (detailed) before returning to Squadron. Interesting article <i>GW: total of 56 BBs to Turkey in two batches</i>
70 OTU	8	Article	An Account of Blenheims in East Africa	Sq/Ldr WJ Evans (retd)	70 OTU had about 85 BBs (most Mk IV) at Nakuru, Kenya. At over 7,000 ft and hot, Evans details problems caused to BB; over-heated engines cutting at take-off, burst tyres due to long run at take off/landings,

					<p>lack of spares (esp piston rings & tyres), high oil consumption, frequent engine changes. Evans flew to RAF Aden via Addis Abbaba for spares. After year Evans commissioned and to Eastleigh (5,500 ft) as technical Adjutant to G/Cpt McDonald (Engineer) who Station Commander of 133 MU Eastleigh & in charge engine repair section. Evans loaned to South African BB Squadron based at Kilifi (on coast north Mombassa) where Blenheim being sabotaged; details incident. Good team spirit. BB Mk V's weren't liked. Note: interesting article about neglected area. 70 OTU moved to Nakuru 07/1941 <i>GW: p600, pic 70 OTU's V6468 force-landed near Nakuru, Kenya, 15/12/1941.</i></p>
--	--	--	--	--	--

Issue 20: July 1994					
Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	Chairman's Message	Hugh George	Refers to D-Day and spirit of 1940s. Getting Blenheim flying is one of Soc aims, but need funding to keep it there and to continue with our other aims.
	1	Data	Committee for 1994		Lists names of President, 5 Officers and 7 other Committee Members
	1		Society Notes Airshows		Refers to 02/05/1994 D-day Commemoration at Duxford; Soc tent etc cost £822 so can't subsidise entrance price. Blen cost £2,000/hr to fly. Inform early if need disabled parking.
	1		Remembrance Day March Past the Cenotaph		Soc been invited to Remembrance Day March Past; contact Betty or Jeanne if want to take part; lunch after at Union Jack Club.
	2	Notice	Duxford Family Day 11 September 1994	Betty George	Cost of ticket for 11/09/1994 & how to obtain. D-Day video from Jeanne or buy at Manston, Biggin & Duxford.
	2	Report	The AGM		Held at Hendon RAF Museum 26/03/1994. Launch of Ken Whittle's book ' <i>An Electrician Goes to War</i> '. Drs Theo Boiten spoke on Blenheim action over Netherlands. Minutes and accounts to follow.
	2	Wanted	Special Request from Drs Theo Boiten	Theo Boiten	Channel Operations. Battle of Britain Strikes Against Invasion Barges and Luftwaffe Airfields. Drs Boiten wants to hear from anyone on these ops or on 'Intruder' ops over Holland in 1942. Address given.
	2	Report	Maastricht RAF Memorial at Gellik		Hugh George, Betty George and other Members from France and UK attended to honour dead from Maastricht 12/05/1940
	2	Obits			G/Cpt Ken Batchelor (Member 744) past President of BCA and Mildenhall Register and associated with Polish & Czech units in RAF and statue of Bomber Harris outside St Clement Dane's Church; Sq/Ldr Dick Couchman DFM AE (91) ex-59Sq, 62Sq, 518Sq & 236Sq died 31/01/1994; widow died 17/03/1994, info from son Richard, also Soc member. Mrs J Williams (481), Mr JA Dodds (569). Sympathy to families & friends.
	2	Report	Lunches		On 02/02/1994 gathering of Members at 'Leefe Robinson VC' and another organised by Milke Ford at 'Blue Boar' on 08/04/1994.
	2	Report	The Faithful Four of the Blenheim in the Sticks		Eric Shipley continues to hosts lunches in Yorkshire. In response to lapse of memory about date J Moore sent in following poem:
	2	Poem	'I'm Fine Thank You'		Amusing poem about getting old and saying

					'I'm fine' rather than moaning. <i>Note: on-line search credits slightly longer version of this poem to Constance O'Neon (1953-54)</i>
	3	Notice	Allied Bomber Airfield Association Ltd	Editor	ABAA Ltd looking at feasibility & funding of Bomber Airfield Society purchasing airfield as Memorial to Bomber Command with museum, holiday accomodation, etc.
	3	Notice	For Sale	Mike Henry	Print of Gerald Coulsen's ' <i>The First Blow</i> ' of 04/09/1939 raid on German ship at Keil.
	3	Notice	Aviation Postcard Club (International)	Ray Billings	Club promotes interest/research into Aviation Postcard. Ray's address given
	3	Pics	100 Group/RAF Oulton Memorial		On 15/05/1994 350 people attend unveiling of 100 Group/RAF Oulton Memorial, incl Les Gibbs and Jeanne (represent Blen Soc); 'Dinty' Moore read poem he'd written. Also Thanksgiving service and Memorial Book dedication at Blickling Parish Church. Pics 1: 18Sq survivors Frank Harbord DFM (Obs), George Milson DFC (Pilot), JM Moore DFC (Wop/AG), R Kirk (ground crew). Pic 2: RAF Oulton Memorial
AC1 Raymond Trew (Wop/AG)	3-5	Article	Finland Remembers – Fifty Years On	W/Cdr Peter Green - 1990	Vivid account of a secret mission to deliver 12 BBs to Finland. Six volunteers from Watton sent to RAF Bicester in civilian clothes; one was AC1 Ray Trew (Wop/AG) of 21Sq. At Bicester were 36 'civilian' BB aircrews from various Squadrons and 12 BB Mkls to deliver to Finnish Air Force in fight against Russia. The BBs were unarmed and Finnish swastika-like insignias were white-washed over. Uneventful flight via Dyce (Aberdeen) on Day 1, Stavangar (Norway) on Day 2, Vasteras (Sweden) Day 3, then Lake Juva (Finland) on 26/02/1940. Coach to Helsinki on 27/02/1940 where Finnish appreciation described. Next day to Turko Abo airfield & flown in Ju 52 to Stockholm; details stay there with Leo Lightfoot (Wop/AG). On 12/03/1940 21Sq crew flown to Perth via Oslo in Ju 52. Back at Watton Trew completed 25 more ops against Wehrmach before leaving 21Sq. Leo Lightfoot awarded DFM when he shot down an ME109. On 06/12/1990 at Finnish Ambassador's residence Winter War Commemorative Medal awarded to Ray Trew & families of other crew members. Leo received his Medal in Aukland, New Zealand (where he lives). Leo and Ray both Blen Soc members. Ray would welcome contact with others on this 1940 BB delivery to Finland. Pics: Blenheim with Finnish swastika white-washed, Bicester 1940; Two BB taking off at Bicester for Finland. Both pics by Ray Trew. <i>GW: p172, 12 BBs (including L1345, L1347, L1354, L 1362) left Bicester for Dyce then to Juva, via Stavanger & Vasternas arriving 26/02/1940. BBs re-numbered in Finland BL-134 to 145, some given ski-undercarriages and used in 105-day 'Winter War' against Russia; Finland surrendered 13/03/1940.</i>
	5	Article	Planely Paradoxical	Lord Deramore	In 1942 at 70 OTU, Nakuru (Kenya), Navigation Instructor Australian W/O Barry DFM ('Bush'), who got his DFM as Obs in Maryland over Taranto by landing a/c in ME for wounded/killed pilot, wanted to be pilot so practiced on Link Trainer. One day flew with F/Lt pilot & Cpl as Wop/AG and in turbulence BB hatch open, pilot disappeared through it

					and a/c into spin. Pilot survived. Details incident and how 'Bush' landed BB & offered AFC by CO, but wanted pilots course. Author posted to ME Pool & ran into 'Bush' in Cairo still with Obs wings. He'd failed pilots course as couldn't land a/c!
	6	Cartoon	'And would we have a visting card Sir?'	Holly	Crew of crashed BB approach door of mansion ...
	6	Wanted	Ejection Seat for Blenheims?	Mike Bennett	Mike is a school teacher collecting information on ejection seats, escape capsules, assisted aircrew escapes, extraction systems etc. from first (1910 his earliest). Has contacted manufacturers world-wide and ejectees: names Doddy Hay, Jo Lancaster (1 st Brit ejectee), Behgt Jarkenstedt (1 st Swedish ejectee), widow of Rechliner Erprobungsspringer Wilhelm Buss (Ju-87B in 1941) & a Heinkel He219 crew (1944-1945). Requests info on further ejectees. Lists info he'd need ref time/place/type aircraft, seat details, etc. Would like any ejection drawings, unused 'patents' etc, related items (however small) and Folland or ML Aviation seats pics. From article in 1947 Air Reserve Gazette he traced people who worked on a Vickers Supermarine ejection seat (only 2 made).
	7-8	Article	21 Squadron Disaster at Stavanger – July 1940	F/Lt Harry G Huckins DFC	<p>Following disaster after 11/05/1940 at Maastricht (5 of 6 21Sq BBs lost; mentions LAC Guest Wop/AG), Dunkirk & 'Les Amdelys' raid, 21Sq posted Scotland (24/06/1940); describes Lossiemouth, near Inverness, relief and fun of summer evenings ('Grand Hotel' Elgin). Huckins, P/O Dick Rogers and Bill Bradshaw about only 21Sq crew to survive 2 months & 20 raids after 'blitz' of 10/05/1940; mentions 'sprogs', Luftwaffe's role; article he'd written about escape from France; practicing formation flying, 2 a/c lost (see below). On 11/08/1940 12 BBs (6 each from 21Sq & 139Sq or 115Sq 'A' flights) took off for Stavanger. Only 3 BBs returned as formation, ill equipped with Vicker K turret gun, met 'horde' of fighters; no 21Sq BBs returned; CO W/Cdr Bennett & crew washed ashore in dinghy in Denmark. Little info on rest of 21Sq as no survivors. After this disaster raids limited to 50 miles off Norwegian coast. Describes raid on Lossiemouth by Heinkels at 50'; 2 BBs destroyed. 30/10/1940 21Sq returned to Watton. Mentioned Castlvetrand raid form Malta 12/1942 as 'pay-back' for 21Sq's earlier losses when Huckins lead Obs and 44 a/c destroyed.</p> <p>Ed note: Blegian members say Maastricht bridges were mined, but this sabotaged.</p> <p>Note: Found this a rather confusing reminiscence of 21Sq's historic role, but good on life at Lossiemouth and vagueness of info received by surviving crews.</p> <p><i>GW: both 23/07/1940, 21Sq; R3820 spun into sea 1 mile off Lossiemouth during practice bombing on sea marker; crew P/O T Powell, Sgt C Smewin & Sgt D Mobberley killed. R3872, overshot landing Lossiemouth. Ran into Watch Office, P/O Carson safe.</i></p> <p><i>GW: 09/07/1940, 21Sq, following FTR to Lossiemouth from Stavanger, all shot down</i></p>

					<p><i>into sea (except R3914), all commemmorated on Runnymede Memorial unless outwise stated: R3732, crew W/Cdr L Bennett, Sgt A Summers & Sgt C Burt KIA. W/Crd Bennett's was washed ashore nr Lonstrupp, Jutland 29/09/1940 & buried Lonstrupp churchyard; R3822, crew P/O J Heath-Brown, Sgt W Hamlyn, and Sgt E Williams KIA; R3876 crew Sgt J Brown, Sgt C Stevens & Sgt J Morton KIA, Sgt Brown buried Trondheim cemetry; N3619, crew P/O W Macley, Sgt W Rawson & Sgt J Dorrington KIA; L8872, crew F/Lt J Murray (NZ), Sgt W Hartley & Sgt G Duck KIA; R3914 not lost but badly damaged & crash-landed at base, P/O Rodger (pilor) & Sgt Spillard (Obs) injured, a/c repaired. 57Sq losses on same 09/07/1940 raid; R3750, crew P/O R Hopkinson, Sgt J Andrew & Sgt G Miles KIA; R3847, crew Sgt F Mills, Sgt S Newcombe & Sgt T Jervis KIA.</i></p>
Sgt W McConnell	8	Article	Survival in the Desert	WJ McConell	<p>27/05/1941 14Sq WJ McConnell Wop/AG on raid to Meleme airport & Suda Bay, Crete, with F/O McKenzie (Pilot) & Sgt Fearn (Obs); details parachute problems. 3 BBs took off, McKenzie leading; one returned with engine trouble. Describes raid & encounter with Ju 52s and Messerschmitts. Reached Egyptian coast midnight low on fuel and with two fused bombs unreleased. Describes baling out, problems with 'chute & lost water bottle. Crew arranged to meet at crash site. Details how he found his way in desert & located water but no food. By day 6 very weak but saw ridge (turned out to be Quatara Depression south of Mersa Metruh). Saw 216Sq Harrow and was later picked up later as was Robert Arthur Fearn (Obs) who had followed McConell's arrows and used his water-holes! 3 day search around crash site by Military Police Motor-cycle Patrol didn't find pilot (detailed). In sick bay eiyh Bob Fearn. NCO Cpl Simon explained 'chute problem. McConell lost 5 stone & posted to Ferry Unit. Never heard more about McKenzie or Fearn. Well written account. <i>GW: 27/05/1941, 2338, 14Sq, FTR; abondoned in air while lost after raid on Maleme airfield; F/Lt M McKenzie (Pilot) never found, Sgt M Fearn and Sgt W McConnell survived 5 days in desert, rescued by Army patrol.</i></p>

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	RHAF	Royal Hellenic Air Force
AOC	Air Officer Commanding	DFM	Distinguished Flying Medal	RAFA	RAF Association
FIS		DFC	Distinguished Flying Cross	ARC	Aircraft Restoration Co.
BC	Bomber Command	DSO	Distinguished Service Order	RSU	Repair & Service Unit
MT	Military Transport	GC	George Cross	MU	Maintenance Unit
IRCC	International Red Cross Committee	AFC	Air Force Cross	RNZAF	Royal New Zealand Air Force
KD	Khaki Drill	VC	Victoria Cross	MEAF	Middle East Air Force
FG	(American) Flight Group	TD		RAAF	Royal Auxiliary Air Force
U/T	Under Training	RDF	Radio Direction Finding	RBL	Royal British Legion
FTR	Failed to Return	AGA	Air Gunners Association	RFC	Royal Flying Corps
CFS	Central Flying School	ACA	Aircrew Association	BAC	Bristol Aero Collection, Kemble

ME Middle East	CG Centre of Gravity	BAC Filton ? British Aircraft Company
FE Far East	IAS (58/5)	RAE Royal Aircraft Establishment (Farnborough)
DBR Damaged Beyond Repair	ADC (50/9)	FAA Fleet Air Arm
IFF Identification Friend or Foe	SOE Special Operations Executive	FAAS Fleet Air Arm Society
FTS Flying Training School	ASR Air/sea Rescue	AHQ Air Headquarters
EFTS Elementary Flying Training School	NWF North West Frontier (of India, now Pakistan)	TNA The National Archives, Kew
AASF Advanced Air Striking Force, France 1939/40	SEAC South East Asia Command (1942/3)	PRO Public Records Office (now TNA)
ADU Aircraft Delivery Unit	AAIB Air Accidents Investigation Branch	MAO Meteorological Air Observer
ASV Air to Surface Vessel (radar)	KIA Killed in Action	WAAF Women's Auxiliary Air Force
AI Airborne Interception	MIA Missing in Action	ATC Air Training Corps
CAA Civil Aviation Authority	F/Eng Flight Engineer	TAF Tactical Air Force
CPF Coastal Patrol Flight (Coastal Command subunit)	VOR VHF Omni-directional Radio Range	BAFO British Air Forces of Occupation
ITW Initial Training Wing	VR Voluntary Reserves	AASF Advanced Air Strike Force
B&GS Bomber & Gunnery School	CWGC Commonwealth War Graves Commission	KBE Order of the British Empire
IoM Isle of Man	FME Flight Mechanic Engines	CVO Commander Royal Victorian Order
MERC	FIEE or F2E Fitter II (Engines)	ATC Air Training Corps
VGO Vickers Gas Operated (gun)	CFI Chief Flying Instructor	SOC Struck Off Charge
HMIS His Majesty's Indian Ship	EFT Elementary Flying Training	QDM Magnetic Bearing to a DF station (DF = Direction Finding)
AOS Air Observers School	ATS	BEF – British Expeditionary Force
HQME Head-quarters Middle East	AFU Advanced Flying Unit	AFM – Air Force Medal
CTO Chief Technical Officer	E&RTS/E&RFTS Elementary & Reserve (Flying) Training School	RDAF – Royal Danish Air Force
OCU Operational Conversion Unit	ITW Initial Training Wing	BAC - British Aeoplane Company
IFF Identification Friend/Foe	B&GS Bombing & Gunner School	SFTS - Service Flying Training School
WOM Wireless Operator Mechanic	PNB – Pilot Navigational Bomber	ARDUA
WEM Wireless and Electrical Mechanic.	SBAC – Society of British Aircraft Constructors (now Aerospace Companies)	BCA – Bomber Command Association
DRO Daily Routine Orders		RAOC Royal Army Ordnance Corps
FIU Fighter Interception Unit		REME Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers
ORB Operations Record Book		
HFDF High Frequency Direction Finding		