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

<b>Issue 69: March 2011</b>					
Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	An Easter Message from our President	Graham Warner	Progress on Mk I BB slow dues to lack of funds. Try to increase sale of Draw tickets. Stall sales by Ron Scott <i>et al</i> doing well.
	1	Report	Chairman's Comments	Andrew Pierce	£26,000 raised in 2010 (& £120,000 in last 10 years) for Blenheim. Current work on engines expensive. Concern that cuts in RAF could affect Air Shows; last displays by a Harrier and Nimrod.
Blenheim Society	2	Data	President and Committee		Names and contact details of 6 society 'officials' and 4 committee members
	2	Report	Editorial	Ian Carter	Sad loss of Shirley Warner and Jackie Dale, both wife's of committee members. £1,155 raised for Bomber Command Appeal. Correction: 69/14 & 69/20. Info from wife of Sgt Trevor Mellows ('Tommy') that 62Sq POWs sailed from FE in <i>HMT Neuralia</i> (not <i>Nortalus</i> , a sub). Also given Ed. copy of Stan Fielding's book ' <i>Life in the Blue with Sixty Two</i> '. Co-incidence of article about 'Tex' Foster and 2 pics from Norman Lamb (113Sq) of Foster's BB knocking cross off school at Asansol (see 69/9). Norman escaped from Burma to India via China.
	3	Report	Membership		New members & absent friends: Welcome to Founder member: Mr Leo Tucker ('Tommy') AC1 armourer 21Sq and 68Sq & 7 new members (incl Andy Cameron, 600Sq Assn). RIP: Members: Jean Dauncey (widow of 'Bill' Dauncey, 114Sq); Shirley Warner; Aubrey Niner; Harold Bishop; Keith Pendray (57Sq); Trevor Burgess; Gerald Walters; John O'Neill (600Sq) and non-members George Memory (30Sq) and Sid Alabaster (21Sq). We still hear their voices and see their faces.
David Clyde Oliphant (405101)	3-4	Obit	David Clyde Oliphant 29/03/1922-30/11/2010	Kay Caley	Born in Boonah, Queensland, joined Airforce Reserves 1940 and RAAF 06/01/1941 & left 09/05/1948. Initial training at Amberley & navigation training at Cootamundra in Avro Ansons, DH84s & DH86s then Bombing & gunnery at Evans Head (Fairy Battles) and

					<p>Astro navigation at Parkes. 11/03/1942 flew with Sgt Forbes Williams (pilot) &amp; Geoff Scott (Wop/AG) in Z9831 from Wadi Natron (Egypt) to Lahore (India) via Aqir, Habbaniya, Shaibah, &amp; Sharjah where Clyde attached to 244Sq while Z9831's engine changed &amp; flew in Vincents over Persian Gulf with Sgt J Chapple. Then in BB again via Jiwani &amp; Karachi arriving Lahore 28/03/1942 to reformed 60Sq. Flew in V6333 from Lahore via Allahabad arriving Asansol 12/05/1942. Flew with Sgt Bill Sykens (pilot) &amp; Ken Gardiner in L7756 from Asansol to Dum Dum for photo recce of Japanese near Kaladan &amp; Mayu rivers on 28/10/1942. Hit over Buthinong (near Akyab); event resulting in Clyde's severe injuries is described. Admitted to British Military Hospitals at Chittagong then Lucknow, travelling to latter via Cutac, India (now Dakkah, Bangladesh). V6333 to Dum Dum where crash landed. Clyde rejoined 60Sq at St Thomas Mount, Madras, on 14/05/1943 until repatriation to UK on 30/10/1943.</p>
F.Lt Frederick Rippingale	4	Obit	F/Lt Frederick Rippingale	Paul Rippingale	<p>Paul writes that his Dad died aged 94. He was in 13 OTU, Bicester, 02-05/1941 then flew BB raids on Dutch/German coast. 17/06/1941 flew to Alexander via Gibraltar &amp; Malta with Sgt Pat Melly (pilot) where joined 45Sq. Extract given from FR's diary. Comments on maps provided and fuel use. 22/11/1941, T2318 shot down by Me 109s near El Adem; Sgt J Halsall (Wop/AG) kia. Pat Melly (pilot) &amp; Rippingale (Obs) injured, captured by Italians &amp; POWs. Escaped Fontanellato Prison 09/1943 and joined SOE. Awarded MBE for work in Northern Italy &amp; married partisan, Maria Berni, in 1945. Mention &amp; pic in 45Sq history ('The Flying Camels' by CG Jefford), but pic captions incorrect. Pics: Frederick with two crew &amp; as P/O.</p>
Kenneth Douglas Spells	5	Obit	Ken Spells	Geoff Spells	<p>Born Dublin 31/07/1921 (2<sup>nd</sup> of three sons) to military family, Ken joined TA in 1938 then regular army. In 1941 volunteered for RAF, gained pilot 'wings' 01/1942 &amp; flew BBs &amp; Beaufighters with 600Sq often testing secret airborne radar. Transferred to 527Sq flying Hurricanes &amp; Spitfire still testing new equipment. Based at Castle Camp where met &amp; married Faith Albon in 02/1944; describes landing there. On RAF discharge moved to Wilmington, Kent &amp; worked Standard Telephone Co, Woolwich, but returned to Haverhill in 1950 where Ken worked for PYE Communications then Acrow (Saffron Walden) &amp; finally services manager at Haverhill Meat Products. He retired 1986. Ken &amp; Faith had two sons &amp; three daughters. In 1950s involved with 1451Sq ATC &amp; later helped organise Castle Camp airfield memorial &amp; active in Blenheim Society. Faith died in 06/2002. In failing health Ken moved to his son's at Swaffham, Norfolk, in 2008 and died 23/12/2010.</p>
	5	Report	From the engineering side: 26	Smudge	<p>Work on starboard engine frame &amp; firewall completed, engine frame mounted &amp; Brian now working on engine nacelles. Tony is making a new starboard bomb bay door. Bill</p>

					has completed & mounted the instrument panel and Colin is working on throttle and mixture linkages; this causing problems & advice required from Ole Ronest (Aalborg) or Finnish Aircraft Museum. Two new volunteers; Steve (ex British Antarctic Surveys) who working on undercarriage, and Conner, aged 13. Thanks for the £26,000!
Committee members 3	6	Article	Andrew Pierce – Chairman since 1999	Andrew Pierce	Andrew describes how he first became interested in aircraft (his father was in the RAF during WWII), how he joined the Blenheim Soc in 1997 (present from his wife) and the importance of the BB and its crew, who becoming better known thanks to Blen Soc, ARC and Graham Warner. Pics: of younger and present Andrew Pierce.
	6	Data	Airshows and events for 2011	Andrew Pierce	Lists 18 airshows & 3 other Society events for 2011, with warning this an initial list so contact committee member to check before travelling long distance to an event.
Committee members 4	7	Article	Ron Scott – Hon. Treasurer since 1997	Ron Scott	Always been interested in how can 'planes fly. Followed progress of first restored BB & its first flight on 20/05/1987 (Ron's 40 <sup>th</sup> birthday!) & saw it fly at Biggin Hill 1987. Followed 2 <sup>nd</sup> restoration; contacted Betty George & given complimentary tickets for its first flight at Duxford 28/05/1993. Interest widened to history of BB and its crew when sat next to man in wheelchair and saw tears in his eyes as the BB flew past – it wasn't just an aircraft but held strong memories for her crews. As Quantity Surveyor Ron was persuaded to become Treasurer in 1997. Seen Society grow and along with it the recognition of the role of the BB & those who made, maintained & flew her. Pic: Ron with a stall 'customer'
	7	Data	Blenheim Society on Tour - 2011	Tony Lowe	Details of the dates, closing dates & deposits for trips to Gellis (13-15/05/2011) & Vraux (11-15/07/2011) with contact details for those interested
219 Squadron	8	Pic	219 Squadron, Catterick, 1940		Two photos of 219Sq crew in front of MkI BB from the late Albert Gregory DFC sent via Ron Bramley. Most crew named as follows: Austin, Baron, Baxter (Adj), Birkett, Carriere, Cook, Coombes, Crook, Dupee, Gee, Goddard, E Grubb, F Grubb, Hall, Head, Hobbis, Hodgkinson, Keatings, Lake, Lambie, Little, Marnet, Nightingale, Sinclair, Topham, Wolf, Worsdell,
113 Squadron Michael Ffolliott-Foster DFC	9	Article	113 Squadron in India 1942-43	Nick Barnard	Nick writes that, aged 19, his father-in-law Michael Ffolliott-Foster, joined 15 EFTS (Carlisle) on 30/09/1940 with his last flight 15/09/1959. DFC awarded 05/04/1946. 01/1942 flew Z7911 from Bicester OTU via Portreath, Spain, Gibraltar, Malta, Bangkok arriving Asansol (India) 03/1942 to join 113Sq fighting Japan. As well as logging 4,547 flying hours, many events recorded in Michael's personal diary, including the St Vincent's cross incident & 2x450 bombs exploding on take off (13/09/1942) killing Obs (F/Sgt LC Tatton) & Michael in Comilla hospital. Later at OTU Ambala than joined 117Sq to fly Dakotas to support Chindits & in Malaysia, SE Asia (incl Changi in Singapore, Thailand and Bali). Nick has documents & literature relating to 113Sq in India. If Nick can be of assistance <a href="#">contact him details via</a>

					<p><a href="#">email address at bottom of web site.</a>  Pics: two views of F/Sgt Ffolliott-Foster' BB demolishing cross on St Vincent's, Asansol by C Walker, via Norman Lamb (ex 113Sq)</p>
	10	Review	'Remember Me: No 110 (Hyderabad) Squadron Royal Air Force' by Sara V Mosher	Bill Carter	<p>An interesting series of 28 'vignettes' from those who took part in 110Sq (H) ops during WWII. Narratives focus on their experiences and reveals bravery and sacrifices of the squadron personal, many being Canadian &amp; VR. ORB info used sparingly. 219 pages. SBN: 978.0.9866891. Available via: <a href="http://www.saravmosher.com">www.saravmosher.com</a> or via Blenheim Society (£23.50 incl p&amp;p) with £2.25 to Society. Discount for 110(H)Sq members serving in WWII &amp; their families.  Pics: 'Remember Me' book cover; Sir Ivor Broom unveiling plaque V5455 crew, 114Sq</p>
	11	Data	Bespoke Model Building	Mark Peacock	<p>The Editor had an email from Mark to say he &amp; fellow modeller, Steve Woodward, ask if there is demand from Society members for bespoke model a/c with which they were/are associated. Egs of estimated time &amp; cost:  Airfix/Frog – 1/72 ~ 4wks, ~£40  MPM -1/72 ~ 6-8wks, ~ £70  Classic airframes – 1/48 ~ £150  Editor has model &amp; recommends! Contact Mark at: <a href="mailto:valiant.wings(AT)btconnect.com">valiant.wings(AT)btconnect.com</a> or <a href="#">via email address at bottom of web site.</a></p>
	11	Pics	18 Squadron Today		<p>1. 'Bomber Jack' author Valerie Calderbank with W/Cdr Mike Westwood, Dr Michael Calderbank, AM Sir Roger Austin, F/Lt Tim Pollard, Sgt Jay Pickett &amp; W/Cdr Reg Barker (18Sq CO)  2. Ron Bramley &amp; ACM Sir Stephen Dalton.</p>
	12	Letter	Letters to the Editor	Stan Dixon (ex 254Sq)	<p>Replies to Derek Proudfoot's letter (68/6):  Sumburgh: Stan was Sgt Navigator in T321 on 28/02/1941 on Bergen raid. On returned diverted to RAF Wick as Sgt RG Hicks' BB (T1953) damaged in raid &amp; belly landed blocking single Sumburgh runway.  Sumatra: Stan quotes from G Warner's 'The Bristol Blenheim'. On 15/02/1942 L1258 crewed by W/O R Willmott (pilot), W/O S Stafford (Obs) &amp; Sgt FJ Hicks all kia on raid from Palembang by Japanese fighters. A third brother (Sgt HJ Hicks) kia in a Stirling over Hanover on 23/09/1943. Stan says: 'A tremendous sacrifice from one family'</p>
	12	Letter		Bob Slight	<p>Responds item on Henri Gustave Lascot (68/16) Bob was at 45 Air School (for Obs) at Oudtshoorn, S Africa (not Port Elizabeth); 61 Air School at George. (AP: 42 Air School was at Port Elizabeth).  Pics: VE day celebrations, 45 Air School at Oudtshoorn; the canteen support team.</p>
	12-13	Letter		Olive Burdekin	<p>Olive, wife of late F/Lt Alan Burdekin, writes from Blenheim, New Zealand to say Alan flew in Defiants then BBs with 600Sq (City of London) during Blitz on London. He felt BBs not given credit, just Hurricanes &amp; Spitfires. They travelled to UK for 35 years to attend Battle of Britain Assn AGM &amp; dinner.</p>
	13	Letter		Ian Gilbert	<p>Ian (once based at RAF Boulmer) expresses appreciation of Journal, frustration of being in Pitlochry, wish to get to Vraux &amp; wit in correcting John Camp's geography (68/17); Greenlaw &amp; Charterhall are in Berwickshire not Northumberland. Recommends Richard Hillary's book &amp; will visit Charterhall, which</p>

					also associated with Jim Clarke. Comments by Editor follow, mentioning Bill Baird.
	13	Letter	Gas Attack Patches	John Perry	John re-read Victor Bingham's book ' <i>Attack</i> ' on BB ops in BoB (06/2940-10/1940) in which mentioned Gas Attack patches & their fitting. These are seen on port wing lead edge (pic in ' <i>Attack</i> ' p22), also seen on side of fuselage or on top near tail. If you know more about these, please contact John via <a href="#">email address at bottom of web site</a> .
	13	Letter		Ken G Garrett	In response to request about photos (see 68/6), Jack Atkinson contacted Ken & 'made his Christmas'. They last met 11/1940 when Ken posted from XVSq/15Sq to 258Sq (Hurricanes). Ken remained in UK when 258Sq went to Singapore in 11/1941.
	13		' <i>Devotion to a Calling</i> '	Editor	Mrs Mellows, wife of Sgt Trevor Mellows, Fitter Engineer, 62Sq phoned Ed to say ship in which 62Sq travelled to Singapore was <i>HMT Neuralia</i> (not <i>Nortalus</i> ). See 68/8
	14	Article	Blenheims and Beauforts	Ron Bramley	On 22/01/1941 Ron's 235Sq crew & F/O Jimmy Hyde on lone recce off Frisian Islands with 4x 500lb bombs & 2x250lbs under wings. Took off 1025 in Beaufort 9854. No ships so attacked Den Helder seaplane base (2 Heinkel seaplanes had attacked Ron & crew 18/11/1940 in spite of their BB escort!) Detailed description of the raid & subsequent attack by two Me 109s on return to North Coates for which pilot (Hyde) awarded DFC. Air tested Beaufort on 24/01/1941 & Torpedo Rover on 27/01/1941 with BB escort from Bircham Newton. On 25/01/1941 235Sq P/O Sharman & crew attacked by ME 109 & crash landed Bircham Newton with cannon in one engine. From: <i>Coastal Command Casualties 24/25<sup>th</sup> January 1941</i> .
	14	Data	Modellers' Corner	Mark Peacock	Hughie Edward's Blenheim IV part of an Airfix/IWM co-operative boxed set labelled ' <i>Victoria Cross Icons</i> ' with James Nicholson's Hurricane Mk I, Donald Garland's Battle & John Hannah's Hampden. Includes details of actions resulting in VCs.
	15-17	Article	Schubin POW Camp	Ian Edgar, John Russell, Simon Briggs	Editors compilation of responses to S/Ldr Charles H Edgar's photos (67/13). From John Russell (Obs, XVSq/15Sq): shot down 02/1941 in Whimby on 23 <sup>rd</sup> raid. Held Stalag Luft I (Baltic), Oflag 6B (Lubeck) than Stalag Luft III (Poland). In photo (67/14) on left is Paul Briggs, 3 <sup>rd</sup> from left Ken Kennedy & 4 <sup>th</sup> Dick Morton. Four shared room from Oflag 6B until 1945. From Simon Briggs: Charles Edgar was Wop/AG to his father (P/O Paul Briggs, Obs) & pilot P/O Derek Kennedy ('Deg') after Harker & Custerson killed (see 67/13). Together shot down 16/06/1941 in Circus 13 attacking Boulogne. Edgar is 1 <sup>st</sup> on left (67/14) which taken at Schubin. Paul died 1993 & Ian researching his Dad's time in RAF using flying log, Theo Boiten's ' <i>Bristol Blenheim</i> ', Tony Eaton's ' <i>Two Different Friends, Two Different Hells</i> ' ('2DF2DH' -with detailed account of Boulogne raid), contacted Ian Robinson (whose Dad in this raid), & identified Oberst Josef 'Pips' Priller of Jagdgeschwader 26 as pilot who shot down Paul Brigg's BB (Z3339, 59Sq). From Simon Briggs to Ian Edgar: Derek

					<p>Kennedy (Deg) died some year before Paul Briggs (PB), but Simon had visited Charles Edgar (CE) &amp; saw photos &amp; log book (the crew of 3 had kept in contact). At TNA (Kew) saw forms 540 &amp; 541 (ORBs) for 59Sq &amp; newly released questionnaires completed by ex-POWs. CE joined Deg (pilot) &amp; PB (Obs) in 03/1941, replacing Sgt Brown as Wop/AG, until shot down 16/06/1941 (Circus 13, Boulogne). PB POW in Stalag III at time of 'Great Escape' &amp; marched around Germany in bitter 1945 winter. PB 'mentioned in dispatches'; probably result of letter CE written about PB rescuing Deg &amp; CE when BB ditched in sea on fire. Deg badly burnt.</p> <p><u>Anecdotes &amp; Incidents:</u> Simon talks with Charles Edgar 28/06/2003 ref 16/06/1941. Queries Ian Robinson's account in '2DF2DH' re bombing-up at Thorney Island; explains why it was Detling. Raid &amp; ditching of Z3339 off Dungeness 16/06/1941 clearly described; Picked up by German E-Boat. Spitfire pilot in next bed to CE had seen ditching.</p> <p><u>A typical day in camp:</u> Letter home from F/O Paul Briggs describing typical POW day's routine, food, etc, &amp; requests from home. Mentions Bill Hartop DFC (shot down over Brest) &amp; Ken (?). Gives a real 'feel' for what it must have been like.</p> <p><u>Pics:</u> A typical POW room at Stalag Luft III: PBs POW room-mates:(unknown), John Russell, Ken Kennedy, Paul Vaillant, 'Joe' Ainsworth, Paul Briggs, Colin Dilly, Dick Morton (also 59Sq) (<i>pic incorrectly labelled</i>)</p>
POW camps	17-19	Article	German POW Camps	Simon Briggs	<p>Describes the 6 POW camps in which Paul Briggs was held, based on his fathers letter/recall &amp; other research by Simon.</p> <p><u>Dulag Luft: 18/06/1941 – 22/06/1941:</u> All RAF POWs sent to Auswertestelle West at Oberursel for interrogation, opened 12/1939. By 1942 3,000 POWs passed through with 400 interrogators by 1944. Describes camp layout, the reception process with bogus Red Cross forms and interrogation. After few days POWs transferred to POW Camp.</p> <p><u>Oflag IX A/H: 22/06/1941-10/1941:</u> Offizier Lager (Oflag) for officers only (A/H=main camp; A/Z= sub-branch) at Spangenberg, Germany, opened 10/1939. PB's first escape attempt with Czech F/O Ricks described. Ricks changed name from Brycks to prevent reprisals against his family in occupied Czechoslovakia. He &amp; British POW, escaped from Schubin 03/1943, joined Polish resistance in Warsaw, recaptured after 3mths &amp; sent by Gestapo to Stalag Luft III.</p> <p><u>Oflag VI B: 10/1941-02/08/1942:</u> At Dossel bei Warburg, Germany. Opened 09/1940 &amp; William Ash says (in 'Under the Wire') its 'nearly as grim as Schubin'. PB &amp; Derek Kennedy took part in escape; tunnel discovered. Transferred to punishment camp.</p> <p><u>Oflag XXIB: 03/08/1942-10/04/1943:</u> At Schubin (Alt-Burgund), Poland. Open 12/1940 to 09/1943. Run by Wehrmacht (not Luftwaffe) as punishment camp. Had been girls school; lay-out &amp; atmosphere detailed. Conditions poor, hunger constant, rations</p>

					described. PB rarely mentioned his time as POW but, after seeing 'The Great Escape' says he'd seen 'wire-happy' POW who deliberately climbs fence & is shot by guards. This probably F/Lt 'Pissy' Edwards who traumatised by crash before capture. Ash describes incident in his book & reaction of other POWs. Although not at Stalag Luft III probably source of Great Escape incident. POWs made several escape attempts. <u>Stalag Luft III: 11/04/1943-28/01/1945:</u> Stammlager (Stalag) Luftwaffe in Sagan, Poland. Opened 1942 & closed 1945 as Russians advanced west. Lay-out described with new compounds in 1942/3 so had 6 compounds & 10,000 POWs by 1944. Great Escape on 24/03/1944 with 76 POWs escaping through tunnel; 3 returned to UK, rest recaptured & 50 executed on Hitlers orders. PB may have been a 'penguin'. <u>Marlag/Milag Nord: 01/02/1945-10/04/1945:</u> 30 kms from Bremen, originally for Royal Navy POWs. PB & British POWs held there on evacuation from Stalag Luft III. Gives feel for life of POWs.
BB potted histories	20	Data	Blenheim Mk 1. L Series continued	Graham Warner	Batch of 450 built Filton & delivered 02/1938 to 03/1939. BB Mk 1: L1233, L1234, L1235, L1236, L1237, L1238, L1239, L1240, L1241, L1242, L1243, L1244, L1245, L1246.
	20		For Sale		Aviation Leathercraft reproduction Irvin Flying Jacket for sale. Size 50, unmarked & hardly worn. Design close to original Irvin so no pocket. Cost £500 new. Now £150 ono. Contact Neil Clennell or Editor <a href="#">via email address at bottom of web site</a>

## Issue 68: November 2010

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	A New Year Message from our President	Graham Warner	Hope that our Mk1 Blenheim will fly in 2011, regrets death of many Blenheim Boys since it last flew; thanks committee, Smudge, Colin & Blenheim team for hard work.
	1	Report	Chairman's Comments	Andrew Pierce	Strong year financially & on average a new member/week; Flying Village at Duxford getting better known; 140 at Blenheim Day event; Christmas lunch still to come; Merry Christmas to all from Committee
Blenheim Society	2	Data	President and Committee		Names and contact details of 6 society 'officials' and 4 committee members
	2	Report	Editorial	Ian Carter	Contact with Tom Allett (Ed. of Lincolnshire's 'Lancaster Assn') who supports Memorial flight & other a/c too. Several book reviews; mentions UWDC; thank to 'ladies' & John Romain for Blenheim Day. Committee discussed archiving Blenheim material; if you have material for archiving, please contact Andrew Pierce.
	3	Report	Membership		New members & absent friends: Welcome to Founder member: Mrs Edna Brunt (WAAF 1942-1946. Flight Mechanic/rigger on BB at RAF Manby) & 8 new members. RIP: F/Lt AC Powner (55Sq); J Snell (13 OTU); Albert Gregory DFC (AE). We still see their faces & hear their voices.
P/O Richard	3	Obit	Richard Adrian White	John	Joined RAFVR 1939, w/e flying at Gatwick,

White, 139Sq				White	work in week. As eyesight bad, trained as Navigator & given RAF commission. Flew in 139Sq BBs. After Rotterdam raid BB shot down (see 67/17); Richard survived with broken ankle, but captured & POW for 4 yrs; kept diary. Retired after 33yrs banking in Lloyds Kingston then Richmond branches.
W/Cdr R <b>Rotheram,</b> DFC	3-4	Obit	Wing Commander 'Ronny' Rotheram	Graham Pitchfork	On leaving Cranwell posted 107Sq. 04/1940 in Norwegian campaign & Stavanger raid in BBs. Battle of France: 12/05/1940 attacked Maastricht bridges over Meuse, led by CO Basil Embry. 5 of 12 BBs lost & Rotheram's a/c hit & Obs injured &, later, Wop/AG when forced to crash land (described). Taken to fort at Tildonk & questioned by Belgian King & Sir Roger Keynes before returned to UK, 107Sq & more ops & supporting Dunkirk evacuation. Posted 101Sq (training & reserve unit) the 105Sq as flight commander in raid on ship, Germany & occupied Europe. 05/1943 appointed CO 244Sq (anti-sub, based Sharjah) with Bisleys (problems with engines). Crew sank U-533 in Gulf of Oman. Awarded OBE, retired from RAF 1972, and died 08/04/2010 aged 92 (from <i>'Telegraph'</i> ).
W/Cdr Thomas Norman <b>Hayes</b>	4-5	Obit	Wing Commander Norman Hayes	Graham Pitchfork	Born Walthamstow 26/06/1912, Hayes was called up full-time 08/1939 (as other Auxillary Air Force personel) to 600Sq with BBs. On 10/05/1940 six BB fighters from 600Sq on op to Waalhaven airfield (nr Rotterdam); only Hayes & crew returned to Manston after being attacked by Junker 52s, Luftwaffe fighters & Heinkels (described). Awarded DFC & Wop/AG a DFM. During BoB 600Sq BB were night fighters fitted with top secret airborne interception radar. Squadron moved to Hornchurch 08/1940 then Catterick 10/1940 with Beaufighter. Hayes being CO of Beaufighter Squadron & then had commanding role at West Malling & Biggin Hill before joining staff of 85 Group (plans for invasion of Normandy). Returned to flying 08/1944, left RAF 1946 to family furniture business & rejoined Auxiliary Air Force & CO 600Sq for 2 yrs with Spitfires. 11/1981 to Netherland to lay wreath. Died aged 98. <i>Ed: see 63/2 obit for G/Cpt Dick Haines ref Waalhaven attack. Thanks to Graham &amp; Telegraph for obit.</i>
Cpt Peter Chisholm <b>Ward</b>	5	Obit	Captain Peter Ward	Jonathan Schofield	Joined RAFVR 1939 & flew as Sgt Obs with 101Sq, 104Sq, 258Sq & No.17 OTU. Flew in Venturas & Wellingtons then to S Africa as P/O to learn to fly. Back in UK a pilot in Lancasters with Bomber Command over Germany. After war got commercial pilots license & flew de Haviland Rapides for Air Services (Cardiff to Weston-super-Mare) then to BEA flying from Croyden, Northolt & Heathrow. In 1958 scheduled to fly Manchester United footballers home from Munich, but swapped with Capt James Thain. After retiring from BA rescued a Viscount a/c from Texas (described by Derek McBride). Retired from flying aged 78 and died 07/08/2010 at Great Waldingfield. (Obit from <i>East Anglian Times</i> 12/08/2010)
L1182	5-6	Letter	The Blenheim's Bite. E Folley	Mr Bebbian	Bebbain, as child, remembers crashed L1182 at Aston Abbotts in field of Merrick Chapman (ran in 1908 Olympics). Encloses

					letter from 'Aeroplane' 10/1987 by E Folley, L1182 pilot. Folley at Bassingbourn in 1938 when 104Sq (B) convert to BB from Hinds with CO Sq/Ldr Lasselles. Visits RAF Wyton; tales of crashes! On 27/10/1938 Folley flying L1182 in bad weather near Oxford; engine failed so headed for Henlow. Obs Cpl Payne recorded all instruments. 2nd engine failed so belly landed Aston Abbotts. BAC investigation showed carburettor icing. Later Folley posted Coastal Command OTU & awarded AFC. Comments on reliability & problems of flying BBs.
	6	Letter	A Blenheim Day Thank You	Stan Dixon	In 1940 Sgt Dixon (Obs) in 254Sq Coastal Command flying BB MkIV fighters from Bircham Newton, Lossiemouth & Sumburgh in ops over Low Countries & Norway. Flew with W/Cdr Hal Randall in place of Les Foster (Obs). Esp enjoyed talking with Hal at Blenheim Day lunch. Thanks to all.
	6	Letter	Help Wanted	Ian Marchant	18Sq pic (see 67/8) site identified by French reader as at Meharicourt (not Roye-Amy); he's in contact with 18Sq & 57Sq members. Ian Marchant in contact with Roy Craig, nephew of L9325's Obs.
Sgts <b>Hicks</b> , Wop/AGs	6	Wanted		Derek Proudfoot Cpt RAMC (retired)	3 uncles of wife died in WWII; 2 in BBs. 652673 Sgt RG Hicks, Wop/AG 254Sq, died 28/02/1941 when T1953 crash landed RAF Sumburgh. 534619 F/Sgt FJ Hicks, Wop/AG 27Sq KIA 15/02/1942 in L1258 from P2 (Parabumulih), Java. Also 1316957 Sgt HJ Hicks, Wop/AG in Stirlings, KIA over Hanover 22/09/1943. Any info please to Derek <a href="#">via email address at bottom of web site</a>
	6-7	Wanted	Our friends at Vraux:	Ken Garrett	Request from Vraux to put names to pics: a) A boxer (? Inter-service champion) with cups ~ 1939; b) formal oval pic with 2 RAF men; c) 6 men in RAF uniform (one old high-neck tunic) in front of brick wall. Ken suggests all pics are 114Sq 1939-1940. If can help contact Ken <a href="#">via email address at bottom of web site</a> .
Sgt Reg <b>Cole</b>	7	Wanted	Reginald Percy Cole, 640023, 53 Squadron	Derek Cole	In 1940 Derek's father, Reg, was Wop/AG in 53Sq in BBs with P/O Richard Muspratt (see 64/2) & Sgt Douglas Smart (Obs) in ops over France. He was in RAF 1939-1950 then reserve class E to 1954; left as W/O & Master Signaller. Any further details or where to look welcome. Contact Derek Cole <a href="#">via email address at bottom of web site</a> . Pic: P/O Richard Muspratt, Sgt Doug Smart, Sgt Reg Cole.
	8	Review	'RAF Bomber Command at War' by Rupert Matthews	Ian Gilbert	Author is son of 105Sq pilot who flew BBs & other bombers in WWII. Refreshing combination of history & accounts by crew members. Recommended. Pub: Hale, price £19.99
	8-9	Review	'Devotion to a Calling' by G/Cpt Harley Boxall & Joe Bamford	Bill Carter	Subtitled: FE flying & survival with 62Sq RAF. Part 1 by Boxall is part biography, of interest to historian & shows social/political changes in RAF from pre- to post-war. Part 2 by Bamford finishes off Boxall's life but is less successful as based on official records, etc. Lacks maps, but several interesting photos, incl of Boxall's friend Arthur Scarf VC & details of Scarf's final flight, crash & death at Alor Star. Enjoyable read & rare 1 <sup>st</sup> hand account of early FE campaign. Pub:

					Pen & Sword (with 20% discount & free p&p if call 01226 734222 & mention Blen Soc). Pic: Book's cover showing L4854.
	9	Review	<i>"Bomber Jack' 18 Squadron Bostons'</i> by Valerie Ashton (Calderbank)	Bill Carter	Subtitled: the 2 <sup>nd</sup> WW & its effects on one man's life. Story of bomber pilot Jack Ashton & his experiences in WWII set in historical & family context. Jack flew Bostons with 18Sq during invasion of Italy. Little detail of service life or specific raid & lot of history of world events. Self-published & available from <a href="http://www.lulu.com">www.lulu.com</a>
	9	Letter		Stan Pascoe	Stan recommends series of fiction books by David Fiddimore: <i>'Tuesday's War'</i> , <i>'Charlie's War'</i> , <i>'The Forgotten War'</i> , <i>'The Hidden War'</i> , & <i>'Silent War'</i> about Charlie Bassett (a Lancaster Wop), pub by Pan Books
	9	Review	<i>'Action Stations Revisited'</i> by David Lee	Bill Carter	Subtitled: Britain's Military Airfields: South East England. 3 <sup>rd</sup> in the series it covers airfield in Kent, Sussex, Hampshire up to Swindon in Wiltshire. Well researched & detailed reference book of 93 airfields. A 'gem' for these interested & beautifully produced. Pubs: Crecy. Price £24.95
L9184	10	Report	22 May 1940 – 22 May 2010: Seventy year after - reminder	Norbert Greuet	On recce from Hawkinge to Arras 22/05/1940 57Sq's L9184 hit at Lecluse by AA & crashed at N356/N39 crossroads near Haucourt (14km SSE Arras-Pas de Calais). Crew: P/O Roi Leonard Saunders (pilot), Sgt Samuel Frank Simmons (Obs), AC1 George Ross Pirie (Wop/AG) all KIA & buried Haucourt cemetery in care of community. On 22/05/2010 Mayor Philippe Dubus, council & local people attended commemoration with reps from RAF, CWGC, Armee de l'Air from Epinoy (& servicemen) & family members Rebecca Saunders (& children), Jacqueline Stewart (Pirie's daughter & son); Andrew Simmons unable to attend. After the 500 present marched to cemetery the plaque unveiled. The 3 men billeted 18/10/1939 to 17/05/1940 at Lihons en Santerre, Picardy, where author (aged 11) remembers them & 16 BB of 57Sq. Anthems sung, exhibition of related items & event on TV. Pics: of event, families & the plaque of names.
	11	Report	Blenheim Day 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2010	Andrew Pierce	Over 150 members (incl 15 Blenheim Boys) gathered in ARC hangar. Thanks to 'ladies; for food & John Romain for facilities. Ron Scott ran auction which, with raffle, stall, etc, raised £2,000 on the day. Smudge's target BB MI to fly is 08/2011. Pic: Blenheim Boys & MkI Blenheim (in colour)
Harry Sparkes	12-14	Article	My friend Harry	Philip Wilkes	Philip saw request (see 57/9) from Harry Sparkes &, as had W/Cdr John Berlandina's (JB) log bk, replied re Boston BZ327 on 24/05/1944 when JB pilot, Harry Sparkes (Obs) & F/Sgt Doe (Wop/AG). Later met Harry at home (Penarth, S Wales) to give more info from JB & photo of JB & Harry, St Peter's Sq, Rome in 1944. Several visit followed & article chronicles stories Harry shared. Born 30/04/1911, Blaengarw (nr Bridgend), to Garw Grammar & Prudential. 1941 joined RAFVR; trained as Obs No. 32 ANS (No. 42 Air Obs course, Chartottetown, Canada: 19/01/1942-09/05/1942), & further course to 06/06/1942. Back in UK to No. 10 (Obs) Advanced Flying Unit, Dumfries (26/08/1942-15/09/1942) then No. 42 OTU,

					<p>Silloth, where first crewed with JB. Both posted 13Sq &amp; left Portreath for Oulmene, N Africa (via Gibraltar &amp; Blida) on 11/04/1943 in a Bisley. 1<sup>st</sup> op 26/04/1943 (armed recco near Pont Du Fahs); 2 more Bisley ops then 1<sup>st</sup> Boston III (AL749) sortie 08/06/1943 to Pantellaria. 05/1943 crew to 114Sq (13Sq moved to NW African Coastal Air Force). Next section links Harry's memories to specific op dates as follows: 08/05/1943 (to Cap Bon Peninsula: 'got lost!'); 09/05/1943 (air testing Boston EH335: tyre burst); 10/07/1943 (to Trapam Milo: pathfinding op described); 12/11/1943 (Grottaglie to Albania: weather recco for USAF); 13/11/1943 (Sofia, Bulgaria: weather recco for USAF B25 Mitchells); 19/12/1943 (in Boston III W8363 had mid-air collision with Spitfire, WO Bruce injured); 24/05/1944 (raid on Avezzano, weather bad, bearings by F/Sgt Doe (Wop/AG): Harry got DFC &amp; Doe a DFM; only time crewed with Doe). JB already awarded DFC. More general memories of life recorded &amp; about John LH Berlandina (who commissioned Queen's Royal Regiment 1931; 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Wiltshire Regiment in France; Dunkirk beaches 05/1940; seconded RAF 10/1941 as had pre-WWII Private Pilot's Flying Licence; later F/Lt (Acting Grp Cpt) then W/Cdr Flying, 232 Wing (comprising 13Sq, 18Sq, 55Sq, 114Sq); JB &amp; Harry flew 61 ops together. Copy of DFC citation for Acting F/Lt Harry Sparkes (124532), RAFVR, 114Sq for 24/05/1944. Pics: Harry in training; Harry in N Africa; Harry &amp; wife Gwladys at home.</p>
Committee members 1	15	Article	Graham Warner – President, The Blenheim Society	Graham Warner	<p>Born Battersea, SW London &amp; to Whitton as child in WWII. Elder brother, Alex, KIA aged 20 when returning from Stettin; Halifax shot down. Joined Air Scouts, ATC &amp;, on leaving Chiswick Grammar School, the RAF. Pilot training at 4FTS Heany (Rhodesia) in Tigers &amp; Harvards &amp; at South Cerney. Early 1950 NCO 2<sup>nd</sup> pilot 149Sq at Mildenhall (Lincolns), Brize Norton (Mosquitos), Driffield/Carnaby (Meteor VIIs) &amp; Stradishall (Vampires). 1956 started own Co 'The Chequered Flag' supporting motor racing with 70 winners. World Champs Jim Clark, Graham Hill &amp; Jackie Stewart drove for 'Flag' teams for Brabham then McLaren. Then rallying with Lancia Stratos. 1978 started restoration of Canadian BB MkIV at Duxford thru 'Flag' until hostile take-over in 1984 when funded personally. Flew 1987, but crashed Denham 3 weeks later. Press conference launched Blenheim Appeal; John Romain &amp; team (mainly volunteers) got to work! Hugh &amp; Betty George &amp; AM Sir Ivor Broom were first Chairman, Hon Sec &amp; President ( see details <i>'The Forgotten Bomber'</i> &amp; <i>'Spirit of Britain'</i>). 2<sup>nd</sup> BB flew 1993, damaged 2003; conversion to MkI on-going under John Romain &amp; Blenheim (Duxford) Ltd. Pic: Graham with Lady Broom.</p>
39 Squadron	15	Wanted	RAF 39 Squadron personnel, April 1940, Kallang	Editor	<p>Pic: of 39Sq, 04/1940 (see 67/12). Peter Wright supplied many names, but if others known, please contact Editor <a href="#">via email address at bottom of web site</a>.</p>

F/Lt Henri Gustave Lascot, 81631	16-17		Henri Gustave Lascot	Luc Vanden Eynde	On 65 anniversary of VE Day plaque over grave of F/Lt HG Lascot unveiled (born 22/01/1902). A pilot in Belgian Aeronautique Militaire in 1940 he escaped to UK on 'SS <i>Etterick</i> ', joined 236Sq RAF & flew with Coastal Command in BoB. 15/09/1940 to a 45 Air School (Port Elizabeth, South Africa) as instructor where he married, returning to SA from UK on demob. Also in 4 OTU, 54 OTU (Church Fenton) & 286Sq & HQ/ADGB. In Belgian 1952 died in road accident, aged 52. His unnamed grave only recently identified by Mr Andre Bar. Pics: Chart of Lascot's flying career with pic of Lascot; Group pic which includes Lascot.
F/Lt Richard Hillary	17		Richard Hillary 1919-1943	John Camp	Born 20/04/1919 in Sydney, Australia, educated Trinity college, Oxford & in Air Sq there. Joined RAF 10/1939 & 603Sq (Edinburgh) at Hornchurch 1940, flying Spitfire MkI in BoB. 30/09/1940 shot down by an ME109 & recovered by Margate lifeboat. Badly burnt & to East Grinstead as a 'Guinea Pig' for McIndoe. Wrote book ' <i>The Last Enemy</i> ' in 1942 about experiences. 11/1942 joined 54 OTU at RAF Charterhall flying BB MkV. On 08/01/1943 his a/c BA 194 crashed at Crunklaw Farm (nr Charterhall); he & Sgt Kenneth Wilfred Young Fison (Obs/Wop) died. Memorial (off A697 nr Greenlaw, Northumberland) to all RAF Charterhall losses unveiled 06/11/2001; dedication read by Wilfred's son, Rev Geoffrey Fison. Pics: the Memorial.
Committee members 2	18	Article	Tony Lowe	Tony Lowe	Been Blen Soc member ~ 10yrs after reading ' <i>Britian First</i> ' & ' <i>Forgotten Bomber</i> ' & felt crew needed more recognition; Denis Ager's poem 'Maybe' sums it up (see 54/5). Responsible for web-site, trip organiser & now work on Blenheim. Pics: Tony
	18	Report	Blenheim on tour	Ian Carter	01/2010 request from Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) to display MkIV 'nose' in BoB display. Neil Clennell offered to tow it on trailer. Lot of interest in 'nose' over 2 days at RIAT then returned safely to Hangar 3.
	18	Data	Get the Blenheim Flying Draw		Names & ticket numbers of the six Draw winners.
	19	Report	From the engineering side: 25	Smudge	Wing root fairings & undercarriage bay nacelles now painted & ready to fit. Colin working on stripping starboard engine to remove from frame; much reuseable but engine frame not; firewall to be worked on. Bill working on instrument panel, Brian on leading edge trims, Tony on bomb doors & even Ron Scott cleaning parts! Smudge on nacelles, undercarriage bays & making new rear escape hatch. Next job is fuel tank testing & installing modern low-fuel warning system in them.
Sgt William Ross	19		A fallen Blenheim Boy in a far away land	Editor	Gernot Knop (German) witnessed V5556 of 55Sq crash 28/09/1941 at Bardiyah (nr Sidi Barrani) & returned items collected to Dorothy Bird (DB) post war. Crew, Sgt William Alexander Ross (26, pilot, Glasgow & DB's fiancée), Sgt Charles Johnston (26, Obs, RNZAF, Blenheim NZ) & Sgt Ernest Sprange (19, Wop/AG) all KIA. <i>Daily Telegraph</i> & <i>Daily Express</i> reported items auctioned by DB's daughter & Ed informed by Charlotte White, RA White's daughter.

					Z7374 also shot down in same raid: F/Lt J Wilson (pilot) & F/Sgt A Griffin (Wop/AG) KIA; Sgt E Whites DFM (Obs) survived. Rommel present when Ross & crew buried.
BB potted histories	20	Data	Blenheim Mk 1. L Series continued	Graham Warner	Batch of 450 built Filton & delivered 02/1938 to 03/1939. BB Mk 1: L1219, L1220, L1221, L1222, L1223, L1224, L1225, L1226, L1227, L1228, L1229, L1230, L1231, L1232.
	20		Your Blenheim Needs You		Society part of Community Fund Raiser run by Utility Warehouse Discount Club. To join phone 0800 131 3000 quoting B27563 or go on-line.

## Issue 67: July 2010

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Pic	Betty George BME 01/06/1921 – 25/03/2010		
	1	Report	Chairman's Comments	Andrew Pierce	Regrets death of Hon Vice President Betty George (Hon Sec for many yrs) & Tommy Broom (Obs to our first President Sir Ivor Broom) who spoke at AGM ref escape from France via Spain. Weather meant poor start for airshows. Thanks to Ron Scott who also raises good money at model shows. Any ideas to improve Society welcome.
Blenheim Society	2	Data	President and Committee		Names and contact details of 6 society 'officials' and 4 committee members
	2	Report	Editorial	Ian Carter	Lots of copy for future journal – thanks. Sq/Ldr George Parr gave copy on Takoradi for my first 2 Journals (55 & 56) as Ed; with sadness record his passing & that of Betty George, a Society founder. Any personal memories for obits would be welcome. Bk 'Devotion to a Calling', ref 62Sq in FE 1939-1942, review in next issue. Include phone number/postal address on request for help.
	3	Report	Membership		New members & absent friends: Welcome to Founder member: Clifford Shuttlewood (joined RAF 1939; served as Cpl Fitter on Malta 1942-1945) & 5 new members. RIP: Sq/Ldr George Parr (18Sq); F/Lt R Weeks (107Sq); Stan Websper; Betsy Hewlett (widow of Wilf Hewlett, XVSq); Mike Vivian (pilot, 13Sq & 139Sq); John Coles; Barry Wright. We still see their faces & hear their voices.
Betty George, MBE	3-4	Obit	Betty George MBE 01/06/1921-25/03/2010	Betty's family	Born 1921 in Trinidad to 'colonial' parents (father in Forestry Commission) who later moved to Gold Coast, Betty attended boarding school in England under guardianship of 2 eminent doctors. Training at RADA when WWII broke out & living in Huntingdon, met P/O Hugh George, based at Wyton & married at Houghton 25/05/1940; previous day their best man & many friends KIA. First son, Ronnie, died; later had to daughters. Supported Hugh in Ministry of Aviation &, in 1950s, moved to Edinburgh where both involved with People's Little Theatre &, on return to London, with Tavistock Repertory Company (Tower Theatre, Canonbury Sq) Betty acting/ directing & Hugh on technical side. Early 1970s to Iran with Hugh's work where Betty Chairman of Tehran British

					Assn for which awarded MBE. Left when Shah deposed as Hugh's work made it dangerous to remain. On Hugh's retirement & with Graham Warner, instrumental in informing & running Blenheim Society, with Betty as Hon Sec until Hugh's death in 2000. A remarkable woman. Pic: Betty with Charles Patterson
Sq/Ldr Thomas John <b>Broom</b> , DFC	4-5	Obit	Squadron Leader 'Tommy' Broom DFC 22/01/1914-81/05/2010	Graham Pitchfork	Left school aged 14 & worked in garage until enlisted with RAF aged 18 to train as armourer. Posted ME & Sudan then in 1937 joined 6Sq in Palestine. Returned to UK to train as Obs & in 02/1939 joined 105Sq at Harwell in Fairey Battles; 105Sq in first raid of WWII. After fall of France got to UK via Cherbourg & Squadron re-equipped with BB. 11/1940 BB damaged in Cologne raid & bailed out over UK, then instructor for a year. 01/1942 rejoined 105Sq & in 25/08/1942 raid on Cologne power stations; a/c hit pylon & crashed, with help Belgian resistance to St Jean de Luz (by 'Comet' escape line) & to Spain on 08/09/1942. Became a chief Ground Instructor with Mosquito training until 08/1943 when met & crewed with F/Lt Ivor Broom; 58 ops together (22 to Berlin) initially in 571Sq (part of AVM Don Bennett's Pathfinders). Prior to raid on Ludswigshafen (26/05/1944) their Mosquito embellished with: 'The Flying Brooms' (crossed brooms). 09/08/1944 night raid on Dortmund- Ems canal (described); Tommy was Obs & awarded DFC. 01/01/1945 op on Kaiserslauten tunnel described (bar added to DFC & later a rare 2 <sup>nd</sup> bar). To 163Sq as lead navigator when Ivor Broom became CO & stayed together until end war.
Frank <b>Harbord</b> DFM	5-6	Obit	Frank Harbord DFM 09/1918 – 01/2010	James Harbord	Joined RAF to train as navigator 1938. By 05/1940 flying from Watton bombing German invasion barges at low level & often attacked by Me Bf 109s on return. 05/1941 posted 18Sq (Oulton), billeted Blickling Hall. 06/1941 AVM DF Stevenson (2 Grp Bomber Comand) sent 18Sq congratulations on raid on large power station in France led by Sq/Ldr SJ Monroe DFC with Frank Harbord (Obs) & P/O Eric Applebee DFM (Wop/AG). Posted Malta with 105Sq; raids on Tripoli & shipping; 12/09/1941 reported dinghy position of BB Z7357 crew, who rescued by RN submarine <i>HMS Utmost</i> . Returned to Swanton Morley autumn 1941 on <i>HMS Edinburgh</i> . Early 1942 to ME via Malta (BB guided Spitfire deliveries from <i>HMS Eagle</i> ), Egypt & Iraq to Mauripur (India) where based in Lahore where 60Sq reformed with BBs (01/03/1942). 60Sq to Asansol to attacked Japanese in Irawaddy valley, ships, docks & Akyab airfield. 60Sq then to Jessore, Yelahanka & St Thomas Mount (army support); Frank received Burma star. At Jiwani in charge of Flying Control (air traffic control). In 1944 posted to Transport Command & returned to UK 1946; lucky choice of flying from Egypt in an Avro York as the Dakota he could have taken crashed over France. Awarded DFM. In late 1990's Frank wrote his memories of RAF: ' <i>Familiar Voices</i> ' (Able Publishing, 1998,

					0907616550) in which more details are recorded. Pic: Frank Harbord.
Sq/Ldr John <b>Cater</b> , AFC	6	Obit	S/Ldr John Cater 10/11/1916- 28/10/2009	Jacky Miller	Jacky's father, John Cater, a BB pilot during first part of WWII. She still has a lot of his RAF History to sort through but in 107Sq at Wattisham (06-12/1940) he flew R3816 39 times (19 operational), then BBs on Takoradi route to ME, also from Benghazi & in salvaged Bisley's from Western desert.
Ron <b>Scholefield</b>	6-7	Obit	Ron Scholefield 27/12/1915- 17/11/2009	Jeff Scholefield	Enlisted RAFVR & called up 03/09/1939. Trained as an Obs at No.3 ITW Hastings, No.5 EFTS Hanworth, No.1 ANS Prestwick, No.9 B&GS Penrhos & No.7 OTU Upwood where crewed with Sgt Geoff Jennings (pilot). 08/03/1941 to 139Sq (Jamaica) at Horsham-St-Faith. First op 28/03/1941 to Ems; crash landed High Wycombe! Married 31/05/1941. Transferred to 105Sq, Swanton Morley, crewed with Sgt Jackson DFM; 105Sq move to Malta 28/07/1941. On his 29 <sup>th</sup> Op (22/09/1941) to Homs, collided with other BB (pilot W/Cdr DW Scivier & crew died); Sgt Ivor Broom guided them back to Malta. Wop/AG Sgt Alan Tuppen refused to fly again; pilot Tommy Williams (aged 22) went white haired. 29/09/1941 Tommy, Alan & Ron returned to UK in <i>HMS Kenya</i> . To 13 OTU, Bicester, where accepted for pilot training in Canada, which completed 08/01/1943. Commissioned & remained to teach navigation to trainee pilots. Returned to UK late 1944 & 550Sq flying Lancaster bombers from North Killinghome. On 21/09/1945 returned from Naples with 21 British POWs & discharged next day (& told had new daughter!). Pics: a) Ron Scholefield at RCAF Penhold, Canada, 1943; b) flying an Airspeed Oxford, Canada, 1943
L9325	7-8	Letter	Letters to Editor	Ian Marchant	Ian researching WWII BBs & crews & esp L9325, shot down France 21/05/1940 with P/O Light (pilot), Sgt AE Craig (Obs) & Sgt G Hawkins DFM (Wop/AG, 510166) KIA. Saw Roy Craig seeking info ref AE Craig (see 57/9) & can help; Ian in contact with Hawkins family & would like contact with Craig & Light families. Ian aims to find crash & burial sites. Editor got Roy Craig's address via Sister Laurence Mary of RAF Massington & sent to Ian M. Pic: (from Hawkins family) of 18Sq at Roye-Amy airfield 10/1939 (see 68/6). More info to Ian <a href="#">via email address at bottom of web site</a> .
	8	Letter	Blenheim Society Journal	Don Clark	Thanks for help completing Blen Journal collection; only Nos 1-9 still missing. Contact via: <a href="http://www.211squadron.org">www.211squadron.org</a>
Albert Joseph <b>Young</b>	8-9	Wanted	Will Snuggs Writes	Will Snuggs	Researching great uncle Albert Joseph Young 1269029 (Wop/AG), 114Sq West Raynham, killed when <i>Eagle</i> pub in Kings Lynn bombed 12/06/1942 with Norman Buckenham Day (pilot, 1375479), George Thomas A Robins (Obs, 1284692), Brian William Swaffield (1194408), Joseph Milligan (1117073), Edward Walter Mallett (931919), John Bertram Campbell (1060537) & David Edmund Killelea (115Sq, 1170643). Has service record etc for Albert Young but seeks further info (or for any of above). Contact Will <a href="#">via email address at bottom of web site</a> . Pics: a) AJ Young; b) Wop/AG No

					41 Course, naming Preager, Miller, Rarker, Young, Stewart, Morris, Barton, Parslow, Green, Shaw, Muskett, Cox, Kirk, Klemm, Wilkinson, Percival, Ross.
1940 219Sq photo	9-10	Wanted	John Collier writes:	John Collier	John has identified a photo as 219Sq BB fighter & crew, 'B' flight, Catterick 07/1940 (same pic on p94 of BoB 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary magazine published by 'Flypast'). Some men identified as individual pics also used in bk ' <i>Men of the Battle of Britain</i> '. But 3 are marked by circles in his photo. Is there a list of names somewhere? Any info to John <a href="#">via email address at bottom of web site</a> . Pic: B flight, Catterick, 1940
F/O Guy Grey-Smith	10	Letter	Rob Tideman (see 65/6 on 139Sq & Maastricht)	Rob Tideman	Re: Anne Knevelman's letter (see 66/6) about N6219, lost 12/05/1940, flown by Guy Grey-Smith alongside Sq/Ldr T Tideman in P4923 (both claimed by same BF 109). With info from Anne, Rob has located Guy's family in Australia who delighted to learn about Guy's BB & POW days & will pass to Guy's biographer. Anne has donated card & letter he bought to Guy's family. Thanks to Blen Soc. <i>Editor adds: 'Dicke' Rook used to say 'BB only achieved what it did because of sheer guts of men that flew &amp; serviced them'</i> . Pic: Dicke Rook with pint!
Sgt Gordon Mason	10	Wanted		Rob Tideman	Friend's great-uncle, Sgt Gordon Mason, killed with 19Sq crew (Sgt C Matthws & P/O G Prosser) on 08/06/1941 when T1795 crashed into sea on practice. Any info about Gordon Mason to Rob <a href="#">via email address at bottom of web site</a> .
Sgt Hohn H Davies (pilot, 18Sq)	10-11	Wanted		John Verhagen	Via Ron Scott, JV recently helped daughter of Sgt Davies to visit father's grave at Bergen-op-Zoom for first time. She'd like to contact families of crew KIA with father. Details: 18Sq BB L9422 left Horsham St Faith 02/08/1940 on op to Haamstede airfield; downed by Me 109E, pilot Lt B Malischewski of II/JG54. Sgt John H Davies (pilot, 24, RAFVR), Sgt Kenneth R Bryant (Obs, 21, 955310, son of Thomas Benjamin & Elizabeth Mathan Bryant of Hayes, Bromley) and Sgt Waren Seymons Bassett (Wop/AG, 20, 905832, son of William & Emma Basset of Bugh Castle, Suffolk) KIA. Any info on Sgts Bryant & Bassett to John L Verhagen <a href="#">via email address at bottom of web site</a> . John has voluntarily helped families locate dead aircrew in Netherlands for 37yrs.
LAC William Street (110Sq)	11	Wanted		Mervyn Garton	Researching pre-captivity activities of LAC William Street (Bill), 110Sq, Wattisham who Wop/AG on BB L9214 brought down near Sedan 14/05/1940. Crew (F/O G Wright (pilot) & Sgt John Fancy (Obs) & Bill) taken as POWs until 1945. Street & Fancy ('the mole') together for 5yrs; John Fancy wrote ' <i>Tunnelling to Freedom</i> ' published 1957, re-printed 2010 Aurum Press (ISBN 1845135148) Street died ~1960 & Fancy 09/2008 (aged 95). Any info on Bill Street's pre-POW activities to Mervyn Garton <a href="#">via email address at bottom of web site</a>
	11	Pics	Blenheim Boys and Blenheims		a) George Checkett with 211Sq over Greece, early 1941 b) K7107 of 30Sq after mid-air collision (with K7099) on 23/02/1940: pilot Sgt Archer, with

					LAC Branen & AC Owen.
39 Squadron, Kallang, 1940	12	Pic		Ann P and Peter Wright	39Sq with BB L14??, Kallang airport, Singapore 04/1940. Thanks to Peter Wright for names: Paddy Mandly, Sidney Sills (Soss), Dougie Downs, Jones, GM Hogan (Tubby, KIA 12/08/1940), Bill Wakeling, MacMichael, JS Wright (Peter), JH Wintle (Willie, KIA 20/08/1940), Arthur Ford, Ned Sparkes, Thomas Crehan (Horse, died 24/11/1940), B Thomas, Evans (Goo), White, Lawrence, Peter Stevens, Alfie Bowman (CO 39Sq), Milward, Lewis, Hunter, 'Chiefy', Frank Mason, Manly, Jim Winship. For high resolution copy or more names to faces contact Ann Papageorgiou <a href="#">via email address at bottom of web site</a>
59 Squadron	13-14	Pics		Ian Edgar	From Sq/Ldr CH Edgar (& son Ian) 59Sq: a) Separate pics of Wop/AG Edgar, Obs Harker & Pilot Custerson (Harker & Custerson killed in take-off collision with parked a/c). b) Pic of 59Sq BB with pilot Date (KIA in T2433, Katwijk, by Me 109 of JG1 on 22/03/1941), Wop/AG Couchman & Obs (name n/k). c) Ten 59Sq & 53Sq officers at Schubin POW camp. Help with names to Editor.
XI Squadron	14-16	Pics	XI Squadron at War		Pics taken by F/Lt ELJ Anderson DFC, DFM ('Ted') & sent to Ann Papageorgiou by his son-in-law John Nunn. 11Sq BB in desert aerodrome; belly landing; Obs position in BB MkIV; crashed BB; XISq BB being serviced; Z6454 undergoing repairs; BBs over Syrian mountains; BBs over Ceylon; two unlabelled pics of BB in air; pic of Ted Anderson.
	17-18	Article	Raid on Rotterdam Harbour	Richard Adrian White	Low level raid on Rotterdam harbour by 36 BBs from 5 Squadrons on 16/07/1941 flying in 2 waves; 2 <sup>nd</sup> wave included 6 BBs from 139Sq (Jamaica) led by Sq/Ldr Bill Sydney-Smith DFC crewed with P/O 'Dickie' White (Obs) & F/Sgt Ted Caban DFM (Wop/AG). After the war Sydney-Smith wrote to Caban describing the day, the flight over, bombing the target, being hit & engine on fire, crash landing, his attempts to escape, obtaining cash & eventual capture. A well-written matter-of-fact account of a remarkable experience. Dickie White's addendum states: Sydney-Smith spent 4yrs as POW, ending up in Stalagluft III at Sagan; back in UK was roving reporter for <i>Daily Express</i> , retired to Normandy & died 13/12/2001 (see obit <i>Daily Telegraph</i> 06/02/2002). Ted Caban badly wounded, in Luftwaffe hospital Amsterdam beside Dickie White; after war was hairdresser at Brandon, Suffolk, had 3 sons & died 27/11/2006, aged 86. Dickie White also a POW after leaving hospital & once back in UK returned to Lloyds Bank & married.
	19	Report	Air Gunners' National Standard	Ron Bramley	On 23/04/2010 the AGA dedicated new national standard at Yorkshire Air Museum at Elvington. Present were AGs & widows, AGA guests, reps from RAF, ACA & RAFA. Service conducted by clergy from Museum Chapel & ACA chaplain, Rev Bill Pegg, read message from Queen. Standard bearer from British Legion. National Standard will be in Chapel at Yorkshire Air Museum, later

					to AG Memorial Room (AGA contributed £20,000). AGA had been without Standard since 2003. Pics: of the event.
	20	Report	From the engineering side: 24	Smudge	Work centre on hydraulic system with Bill bending pipes to fit around frames, etc & Smudge sourcing valves. Bill has been working on opening window frames & Brian on fitting the bomb-bay panels. Smudge working on front escape hatch & locking mechanism (fitted post-manufacture!). Problem with Type one Teleflex control system (obsolete in 1939) being resolved.
James White ('Barry')	20	Obit	Barry White	Smudge	From Yorkshire, Barry was a telecom engineer who become involved in vintage a/c electrics at Duxford and joined Robs Lamplough on Messerschmitt 109 & P51 projects. Then joined the Blenheim team & other projects (esp Harvard). On retirement from BT worked f/t for ARC & long-term volunteer on our Blenheim. Was engineer on Blenheim during last accident. Will be missed by all at Duxford.
	20	Report	Utility Warehouse Discount Club (UWDC)	John Braun	As mentioned in Ron Scott's 'Ramblings' UWDC will pay Society £5 for anyone signing up & up to 5% of monthly bill. Phone 0800 131 3000 & quote B27563. Recommend by <i>Which?</i> twice as 'best buy' phone & broadband bundle. Local trained distributor makes process easy.

## Issue 66: March 2010

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	An Easter Message from our President	Graham Warner	Few members have seen a BB Mk1 in flight; 7 yrs grounded a long time, but progress steady with Smudge & team.
	1	Report	Chairman's Comments	Andrew Pierce	Fairford Tattoo requested Mark IV nose for display in July; shows their interest in BB. At Christmas lunch a record cheque presented for Blenheim.
	1		Bomber Command Memorial	Graham Warner	Bomber Command Assn & <i>Daily Telegraph</i> backing appeal to fund Memorial. With 56,000 Bomber Command aircrew lost in WWII, many from Blenheim Squadron, this well overdue so appropriate Society support. To support appeal make cheques payable to 'The Blenheim Society' (marked 'Bomber Command Memorial on reverse'). Sent to Ron Scott, <a href="#">via email address at bottom of web site</a> , who will pool donation & send cheque from Society.
Blenheim Society	2	Data	President and Committee		Names and contact details of 7 society 'officials' and 4 committee members
	2	Report	Editorial	Ian Carter	Gremlin problems & apologise for any delayed responses; please chase Ian up! Lot of copy waiting, but try to get obits in asap, esp for Blenheim boys. Help if reports are under 1,000 word with pic. No limit to obits & historic research.
	3	Report	Membership		New members & absent friends: Welcome to Founder member Charles Edgar (ex-59Sq Wop/AG, crashed in Channel mid-1940, became POW & on Long March 1945) & 7 other new members. RIP: Arthur Rogers; Sq/Ldr John H Cater, AFC (107Sq); Fred Levitt; Ron Scholefield (105Sq); Jack Bury

					(62Sq); James Wilson (203Sq); Frank Harbord (82Sq). May they rest in peace.
F/Lt Ron <b>Fox</b> , DFM	3	Obit	F/Lt Ron Fox DFM	Bessie Fox & Editor	Ron was Wop/AG with 139Sq flying in BBs with pilot Sydney Smith (pre-war <i>Daily Express</i> reporter), who shot down & taken POW while Ron 'off sick'. Ron flew to end of WWII & mentioned in dispatches.
F/Lt George <b>Milson</b> , DFC	3	Obit	F/Lt George Milson, 84 Squadron, DFC	Editor	See p14/15. Will miss chats with George at AGM on his Iraq & FE experiences.
F/Lt William <b>Baird</b>	3-4	Obit	F/Lt William Baird (Bill), 211 Squadron Wop/AG	Editor	Bill with 211Sq (BBs) from 09/1940 to leaving Java, FE, on <i>Tung Song</i> 03/1942, then with 11Sq in Ceylon (incl Wop/AG in a looping BB!), then attached to 22Sq. He operated in desert v Italians, Greece v Germans & FE v Japanese. In 211Sq flew with CO W/Cdr Bateson. Recently signed certificates to raise money for our Blenheim. Bill died 30/01/2010, aged 89. Pics: a) Bill with James Dunnet (author ' <i>Blenheim Over the Balkans</i> ') & other, Paramythia, Greece; b) from BB; c) Z7853, XISq, Race Course, Colombo, Ceylon (see 211 Squadron website for further info on Bill <a href="http://users.cyberone.com.au/clardo/w_baird.html">http://users.cyberone.com.au/clardo/w_baird.html</a> )
F/Lt Alfred <b>Cody</b> , DFC, AFC, DFM	4-5	Obit	F/Lt Alfred Cody (Lew) DFC, AFC, DFM	Graham Pitchfork	Enlisted 11/1938, trained as Obs, 40Sq with Fairey Battles. To France 02/09/1939, but ditched in Channel; in Battle of France. Re-equipped BBs & heavy losses after Blitzkrieg on 10/05/1940; 35 ops during Battle of Britain, awarded DFM. Trained as pilot & commissioned. Dropped paratroopers on Island of Kos. To ME 07/1942 to join 216Sq flying Hudsons. 09/1942 took Long Range desert Group into Kufra Oasis. Night 23-24/10/1942 flew Hudson behind enemy lines in Battle of El Alamein. Early 1944 joined 233Sq at Blakehill Farm, Swindon & 18-20/09/1944 flew re-supply trips for invasion of Europe. 09/01/1945 flying from Eindhoven his Dakota struck by a/c & lost 6' off wing; landed & awarded AFC. In Operation Varsity crossing the Rhine, Lew towed a Horsa glider. First a/c to land in Copenhagen after war, returning to UK via Lubeck with 30 POWs. Pugnacious & irreverent character; men like Lew 'won the war'. Died 31/10/2009 aged 91. Ed thanks Graham & <i>Daily Telegraph</i> for use of this Obit.
Ronald <b>Wright</b>	5	Obit	Ron ('Tak') Wright, 64 Squadron Fitter IIA	Lyn Wright & Editor	Ron enlisted to RAF 1936, aged 21, & posted to 209Sq, Felixstone, with Short Singapore flying boats. Posted 64Sq Church Fenton with Demons then converted to BB Mk1 (see 53/7). Later to 609Sq & then in 3Sq (1944-1946) for ops against V1 flying bombs, 'mad dash across Europe', refuelling Tempests with jerry-can & starting Napier Sabre engines! Left RAF 1946 for aircraft engineering with BEA/BA, retiring 1979. Was founder member of 3Sq Assn. Thanks to widow Lyn for above info.
	5	Report	Letters to the editor	Mark Peacock	MPM re-launched 1/72 scale 'Special Hobby' Blenheim 1 'Finnish post-war' - SH 72202 Blenheim 1f 'Fighter Version' - SH 72205 Cost: £15-£17. Mark recommends Eduard paint masks (pre-cut kabuki tape) to cover clear areas before painting all BB models. ~£5 from Hannants & LSA Models, Hove.
45 squadron	5	Letter	Don Clark of Australia writes:	Don Clark	Re: 45Sq photo (see 65/16); old style tunics so early date; maybe 06/1939 on conversion

					to BB at Ismailia. A/c name probably 'Mimi'
RAFA	5-6	Letter	Stan Pascoe also of Australia writes:	Stan Pascoe	Gold Coast Queensland branch of RAFA meets monthly & any Blen Soc members on hols in Oz is welcome. Contact Stan <a href="#">contact via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
	6	Letter		Denis Scott	Thanks to all for lovely Blenheim Day 2009, attended with son Michael. One of 13 Blen Boys in photo-shot (Denis is 93!). After 600Sq was posted 250Sq (Sudan) & in Desert, Malta, Sicily, Italy and Algiers then home to finish 6yrs as volunteer. Enjoyed reading ' <i>Spirit of Britain First</i> '; hope around to see Blenheim fly again.
	6	Letter	Calling All Air Gunners	Ron Bramley	Editor of Air Gunners Assn ' <i>Turret Magazine</i> ' Ron writes that Nottingham AGA & director of Yorkshire Air Museum (Elvington) met & decided to produce new National Standard to be dedicated & laid to rest on St George's Day, 23/04/2010, 11.30 in Chapel at Elvington with march past. Later to be framed & displayed in Air Gunners Memorial Room at Museum.
	6	Letter	Blenheim Flying Under Bridges!	Ron Bramley	Q: A Spitfire flew under old Severn Railway Bridge, but also a twin-engine a/c – a BB? A (from Ed): Richard Herbert, James Dunnet & crew flew under Clifton Suspension Bridge
	6	Letter	Drakelow Tunnel	Bernard Rogers	Lives near Drakelow Tunnels, Kidderminster which housed Mercury & Pegasus engines parts & was Rover 1a factory from 10/1942 (cam sleeves) to full production 29/03/1943 - 1945. Floor area 284,931 sq ft; self-contained with concert hall, leisure centre, etc. Site tours ceased for H&S reasons.
F/O Guy Grey-Smith	6-7	Wanted	Blenheim N6219, 139 Squadron, 12 May 1940. Can we find her?	Anne Knevelman	Bought 7 POW cards + letter written by F/O Guy Grey-Smith to Klijnen family, Maastricht. Guy born 1916 in W Australia. Joined RAF 1937; married Helen Stanes 1939; to France late 1939. 12/05/1940 pilot in N6219 in 139Sq fateful raid on Maastricht from Plivot (see 65/9); shot down & injured, Sgts Gray & Taylor KIA (names on Air Forces Memorial, Runnymede). First card to Marthe & Thily Klijnen from Dulag Luft 14/10/1940; next 6 (02/12/1940-07/08/1941) from Oflag IX, castle Spangenberg, near Kassel & last from Oflag VIB on 21/11/1941. Most thank-you letters for gifts & about injured leg. Marthe probably nursed Guy in hospital after crash, but knew whole family. Wife Helen sent drawing material in Red Cross parcels. Guy contracted TB 1943 & to Barcelona 1944. In 1945 to Chelsea Art School; 1947 returned to Helen in W Australia to become famous painter. TB returned 1952; died 1981. Marthe Klijnen married PM J Fizaan, a GP in Vleuten, Utrecht (died 1960; statue erected); Marthe died 2001. What happened to N6219; where exactly did it crash? Contact Anne (a male!) <a href="#">via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
	7	Wanted	114 Squadron John Mitchell	Jason Ruggles	Jason's great uncle, John Mitchell, 114Sq, killed 01/06/1942 returning from op to Venlo airfield. Any info to Jason <a href="#">via email address at bottom of web site.</a> Pic: pilot John Mitchell.
	8	Review	'Coastal Dawn' by Andrew D Bird	Andrew Bird	Subtitled: ' <i>Blenheims in Action from the Phoney War through the Battle of Britain</i> ' this book draws on contemporary diaries, logbooks, periodicals, letters, memoirs &

					interviews with survivors. Historian A Bird reassesses the vital & neglected role played by BBs and their crews allotted to 11 Group in 10/1939 (Hugh Dowling's 'Trade Protection' Squadrons). Losses in 235Sq, 236Sq, 248Sq, 254Sq high in ops over Norway, Holland, France, Dunkirk & Battle of Britain where BBs outclassed by Messerschmitt 109s & 110s. Pub: Grub Street, 2010, ISBN 9781906502690. ~ £20
	8	Review	' <i>Love and Sand</i> ' by Howard M Layton	Bill Carter	Subtitled: An RAF flyer's memoir of love, lies and military mayhem in the World War II Deserts of North Africa. Warning, not mainly about Blenheim & their crews, more a 'novel' of author's chaotic love life in the 'live now' effects of war. Some factual inaccuracies, but an interesting easy read if interested in this period & disruption caused by prolonged postings abroad in 203Sq flying Blenheims. 2 <sup>nd</sup> book in planned trilogy. Pub: Three Spires, 2008. ISBN 0967600855. See also <a href="http://www.loveandsand.com">www.loveandsand.com</a>
	8-9	Review	' <i>Blenheim over the Balkans</i> ' by James Dunnet	Michael O'Connor	Entitled ' <i>Poignant Tale of Solving a WWII Aviation Mystery</i> ', Michael provides a tempting review of Dunnet's (ex-211Sq Obs) book detailing the search to solve the mystery of how, on 13/04/1941 six 211Sq BBs failed to return from a raid defending northern Greece. Incorporates journals, reminiscences, official documents and investigations of crash sites (all shot down by JG 27 Bf 109s). 'A wonderfully written book of wartime flying and sacrifice'. This journal's editor, Ian Carter, played a role in Dunnet's search.
	9	Wanted	' <i>Sixty Squadron: 1916 Royal Flying Corps – RAF 1966</i> ' by AJ Young & DW Warne	Ann Papageorgiou	Subtitled: A history of 50 years service. Ann's father, Frank Mason was 60Sq Obs in NWF 1938-1939 (Wapitis from Miranshah & Ambala) before transferred 27/07/1939 to 39Sq & Blenheims. Book not available thro library system & £50 on internet. Seeks copy to loan. Contact Ann <a href="mailto:ann.papageorgiou@bt.com">via email address at bottom of web site</a> .
	9	Pics	614 Squadron	Dermot Stapleton	Three pics of Blenheim Bisley of 614Sq with crew (prob 'A' flight). Two pic of BA809 (?) includes Dermot's father, Pat Stapleton (see 50/9). Probably taken at Blida, Canrobert or Oulmene (N Africa) 11/1942 – 05/1943. Third pic a 'publicity shot' with F/Lt Ian Maclaren (later W/Cdr) & Squadron mascot
XI Squadron, Ceylon	10-12	Data	11 Squadron 'Battle of Ceylon' chronology	Rob Stuart	Ref to 59/6 by Marcel Comeau is on XI Squadron website (under 'features'). Rob corrects: 261Sq shot down 5 (not 11) a/c (details given); HMT <i>Talma</i> (not <i>Talmar</i> ) took XISq ground crew to Ceylon, with 30Sq rear party, arriving Colombo 18/03/1942. There follows a comprehensive table of events relating to 11Sq between 28/02/1942 & 09/04/1942, with times detailed for 05/04/1942 & 09/04/1942. All info fully referenced from 8 sources, signals reported in full, comments made on contradictions, etc. Essential info for anyone interest in XISq in Ceylon. Search words: Ratamalana, racecourse, RAF China Bay, Trincomalee. Admiral Somerville, V Adm Arbuthnot, Admiral Layton. <i>HMS Warspite, Hermes, Vampire</i> , tankers

					<p><i>British Sargeant &amp; Athelstane, corvette Hollyhock, Hiryu, Haruna, Shokaku, Zuikaku, Kongo TROM, carrier Akagi, cruiser Tone. 413Sq Catalina QL-A (Sq/Ldr Birchall) &amp; QL-Y (F/Lt Thomas), 205Sq Catalina FV-R (F/Lt Graham), 240Sq Catalina BN-L (F/Lt Bradshaw) &amp; BN-K (F/O Round), 788Sq (Swordfish), 30Sq (Hurricanes), 803Sq (Fulmars), 806Sq (Fulmars), 258Sq (Hurricanes), Z7896 (Cpt C Adcock, SAAF), Z9574 (Lt F Knight, SAAF), R3911 (Sgt H Maclennan &amp; Wop/AG Sgt F Nell), Z7803 (W/O N Stevenson, RAAF), V5592 (Sq/Ldr K Ault), Z7759, V6010, Z7506, NAP 1/C Makinoda, Lt Nono.</i></p>
	13	Letter	From 'The Blenheim Company'		To Ron Scott from Directors John Romain & John Smith (Smudge) & Ange Fane (Co Sec) thanking Blenheim Soc for £22,000 donation & bemoaning 'papertrail' required for repairs & consequent slow progress.
F/Lt George Milson, DFC	14-16	Obit	F/Lt George W Milson DFC – an Appreciation	F/Lt JW Moore (Dinty) DFC	<p>Born 26/09/1916, Coningsby, Lincs, 1 of 3 siblings (Eric &amp; Barbara); father proprietor bus company. Attended grammar school &amp; private flying lessons pre-war. Enlisted RAF &amp; posted No.5 EFTS flying Magisters. 24/08/1940 posted 13 OTU, Bicester, flying BBs for No.2 Group – a LAC trainee pilot with Sgts Ron Miller (RNZAF, Obs) &amp; 'Dad' Addison (Wop/AG). 01/1941 posted 18Sq, Great Massingham, flying night ops. Moved 01/04/1941 to Oulton, billeted Blickling Hall (now NT); after recovering from pneumonia (RAF hosp Ely &amp; Blackpool) Dinty replace 'Dad' Addison as Wop/AG. '3M' crew flew 22 night ops from 25/04/1941, one over Flushing described. In next 21 ops a/c damaged by Messerschmitts twice; 17/06/1941 described, with George returning to base on one engine. 07/1941 Milson, Miller &amp; Wop/AG Sgt Jones, DFM, posted ME; Milson commissioned. (Dinty posted 114Sq, Leuchars, to fly with P/O Staples). Collecting a BB MkIV at RAF Watton, Milson &amp; crew (+fitter &amp; rigger) left RAF Portreath to fly to Egypt via Gibraltar &amp; Malta, then posted 84Sq in Iraq under CO W/Cdr Boyce, followed by Desert to support 8<sup>th</sup> Army. End 1941, with 211Sq, to Heliopolis &amp; Malaya (RAF Butterworth). Milson promoted F/Lt &amp; awarded DFC. New CO (W/Cdr Jeudwine); ground crew to travel in SS <i>Yuma</i>. Set off 08/01/1942 via Iraq, Bahrain Island, Sharja, Khartoum, Bombay, Hyderabad, Calcutta, Akyab &amp; Youngoo (in Bermese jungle!), then instructed to Lho'nga airstrip (on Sumatra) &amp; Singapore; airstrip waterlogged – takeoff described! Destination changed &amp;, after refuelling at Medam, arrived Palembang 23/01/1942, many crew lost/stranded <i>en route</i>. Unwelcome, sent to primitive P2 airstrip 60 mls away to fly ops. As Japs in Palembang, on 16/02/1942 to Batavia (Java) then Kalidjati; 211Sq &amp; 84Sq merged &amp; many evacuated in SS <i>Yuma</i>. W/Cdr Jeudwine took command; 211Sq CO (W/Cdr Bateson) joined evacuees. On 28/02/1942, before remaining a/c flown to Bandoeng, Japs at airfield – aircrew walked 50ml thro jungle, several not surviving. 04/03/1942 got</p>

					cars/trucks to Tjilatjap (100ml south); their attempted escape (successful for some) described. Jeudwine & 10 others left 07/03/1942 to sail to Australia (picked up 47 days later by Catalina). Milson & others lasted a month before taken as POWs, ending up in Changi Goal, Singapore, until end WWII. Ship back to UK, but never spoke of this time. Attended annual reunions for 84Sq & for Tjilatjap beach survivors.
	16	Report	Sir Keith Park	Andrew Pierce	Invited to attend unveiling of statue of Sir Keith Park on 4 <sup>th</sup> plinth in Trafalgar Sq for 6mths. Film celebrating 90 year RAF history on screen outside National Portrait Gallery, RAF band played &, at 4pm, Spitfire & new Euro fighter flew in formation over Nelson's column to applause. The 9' statue unveiled by Mashall of RAF with 4 BoB pilots, members of Sir Keith Park's family & mayor Boris Johnson (who gave welcoming speech). Short film on Park's life; like Sir Hugh Dowling, memorial long overdue. Pics: the fly-past; the statue.
Sgt Edward Gibbs	17-19	Article	Raid on Bethune – Circus 13 – Kuhlmann Chemical Works at Choques	Brian Gibbs	Brian's father, Sgt Eddie Gibbs (755466 – 'Gibbo') enlisted 19/07/1939, reported 02/09/1939 & trained as Wop/AG. Posted Southampton, then Mildenhall 01/1940 & 17 OTU Upwood in 03/1940, where retained as instructor. One student was James Moore ('Dinty' – later Wop/AG 18Sq 12/08/1940). 12/08/1940 Gibbs posted 110Sq, Wattisham (det Manston) with Sgt Noel Cathles (pilot) & P/O Sidney Newborough (Obs). By Bethune circus on 17/06/1941, 110Sq at Wattisham. Also involved: 18Sq, 107Sq (not 105Sq), 139Sq. Circus ops designed to entice German fighter into battle with few bombers, backed by fighter cover. Fighters incl 56Sq, 242Sq & 306Sq – 10 fighters for each BB! Lists 110Sq BB & crew involved in Bethune circus: T2227 (W/Cdr TM Hunt, Sgts Tucker & Tripp); V5491 (F/O Forsythe, Sgts Taylor & Mcpherson); Z5800 (P/O Lowe, Sgts Sargent & Lummas); V6071 (P/Os Potier & Griffith-Jones, Sgt Wythe); V6085 (Sgts Twist, Allen & Taylor) & V6429 in which Gibbs & crew flew. Op described: 110Sq joined 107Sq at Great Massington for briefing; 18Sq & 139Sq briefed at Horsham St Faith: totalled 24 BBs in 3x8 vics. James Moore, George Milson (pilot) & Ron Miller (Obs) in last vic. Brian then quotes from transcript of 1941 BBC interview with Sidney Newborough, provided by his cousin, Iris Bonner (see also 53/13), which describes that day. Fighters lost 10 a/c. Details 110Sq ORB for 17/06/1941 (left 1755, returned 2028, 5 tons bombs dropped), appendix (ME 109F 1935 hit), and also from Gibb's log book (starboard engine missing!) and Moore's. V6429 to 110Sq 26/05/1941 & FTR from shipping raid off Norway 27/12/1941. P/O N Cathles (pilot), P/O S Newborough (Obs) & Sgt Child all KIA in 82Sq in Z7409 on 23/07/1941, Sicily. Info: Sidney Newborough's BBC recording; PRO/TNA at Kew; Graham Warner's 'The Bristol Blenheim'; James Moore's 'Churchill's Light Brigade'

	19	Report	From the engineering side: 23	Smudge	Engine frame & firewall complete, ancillaries attached & ready to fit on port wing, then to sort out nacelles. Nose now permanently fitted. Colin working on throttle torque tubes & connecting rods; Brian working on bomb bay side panels; Bill on cockpit opening window frames; Jim continues with stripping & cleaning. Need to find missing items exclusive to British built BB, such as Teleflex controls & hydraulic valves.
	19	Data	Fixtures – Provisional Dates		2010 dates: 18 airshows, Project Propellor, visits Gellik & Vraux, AGM & Blenheim Day.
BB potted histories	20	Data	Blenheim Mk 1. L Series continued	Graham Warner	Batch of 450 built Filton & delivered 02/1938 to 03/1939. BB Mk 1: L1203, L1204, L1205, L1206, L1207, L1208, L1209, L1210, L1211, L1212, L1213, L1214, L1215, L1216, L1217, L1218. Pic: Ron Scott

## Issue 65: November 2009

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Poem	We remember them	Sara Mosher	The poem's title says it all. Pic: 11 Blenheim Boys, 2009 Blenheim Day
Blenheim Society	2	Data	President and Committee		Names and contact details of 7 society 'officials' and 4 committee members
	2	Report	President's Message	Graham Warner	Membership rising gently. Credit given to committee: Andrew Pierce (chairman) & Elizabeth; Ron Scott ('Scotty', Hon Treasurer, stalls, mail orders, events); Freddie Brown (draw promoter) & Pauline; John Smith ('Smudge' membership & Blenheim repairs); Chris Lee McCloud (minutes); Jim Dale (speakers); Ian Carter (journal editor); Tony Lowe (website) and Ann Papageorgiou (these listings!). Friendliest aviation Soc with 'gentle' rise in membership. Dozen 'Blenheim Boys' at 2009 Blenheim Day at Duxford + Lady Jessica Broom (widow of Sir Ivor, Society's first Present).
	3	Report	Chairman's Comments	Andrew Pierce	No subs increase since 1987. Society continues to grow. Contingent at Remembrance Day, Whitehall & unveiling of Sir Keith Park's statue, Trafalgar Square.
	3	Report	Editorial	Ian Carter	Thanks for all contributions. Will now include longer articles in full (eg Rob Tideman's), more requests for info & more pics, esp of BB from <b>all</b> Squadrons. Pics from BBs in FE esp welcome.
	3	Report	Membership		New members & absent friends. Welcome to founder members: F. White; J Brett (13 OTU Bicester 1940-44); H Stephens ('Steve', Wop/AG 101Sq & 18Sq (1939-01/1941), 98Sq, 180Sq, 13 OTU, AAS, AGS, BGS & Boscombe Down 1948-1949); also 11 others. RIP: DJ Vellacott ('Johnnie', 30Sq, in Greece); Ron S Wright (64Sq, Church Fenton, see 53/7); TSR Jordan; Sq/Ldr Cruikshank; DJ Sturmey-Dare ('Dan Dare', 57Sq)
F/Lt Richard Miller	4	Obit	Richard Miller 110H Squadron	Editor	Joined Air Cadets at Haberdashers' Aske's Boys School. In RAF WWII & many BB ops (see 55/12 & 56/12). 1941 posted Southern Rhodesia to train aircrew & given AE award.
	4	Data	The Blenheim Society Draw		Lists those present at draw on 17/10/2009 at Leefe Robinson Restaurant & six winners.

	5	Report	Blenheim Day, 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2009	Editor	Over 100 attended incl 13 Blenheim Boys. Welcomed by Ron Scott to ARC hangar with doors open to let in sun & watch practicing a/c outside. Good food, two raffles, quiz, visit to 'our' BB, pics taken & auction. Over £1,000 raised. Pic: Lady Broom & Graham Warner
	5	Letter	Thank you 1	Pat Brookes	To Ron Scott & Crew – thanks for excellent Blenheim Day
	5	Letter	Thank you 2	Mike Batten	To Ian Carter – thanks esp to Anna McDowell, John Smith ('Smudge') & Dave Ratcliffe ('Rats') for flight in Harvard, Mike's Draw prize.
139 Squadron, Maastricht Raid	6-13	Article	'The Maastricht Raid' – No. 139 Squadron	Rob Tideman	From reports by ex139Sq Norman Chapman (see 62/12) & Jim King, documents & re-collection of his grandfather, Sq/Ldr Tom Tideman, Rob had compiled a detailed description of 12/05/1940 'Maastricht Raid'. 10/05/1940: Germany invades Holland, Belgium & France. 139Sq (at Plivot) & 114Sq (at Conde-Vraux, where all BBs u/s after Dornier 17s attack) part of AASF. Late 11/05/1940: informed German column on Maastricht to Tongres Road. 12/05/1940 1am 139Sq CO W/CDr Louis Dickens to deploy nine BBs 'before dawn' after Wellington attack on column & with possible French Potez fighter escort. Describes how ground & air-crews woken from billets in farms, etc to prepare a/c & get briefings. 8 BBs took off 5am led by W/Cdr Dickens (N6225, Sgt J Paine (Obs), LAC Crowley (Wop/AG)) & F/O Neville Pepper DFC (L9416, Sgt Thomas Hyde (Obs), AC Hill (Wop/AG)). LAC Chapman prepared P4923 crewed by Tideman (pilot), Sgt GS Thomas (Obs) & LAC John Rooney ('Mickey' Wop/AG) & leading 'B' flight with F/O Andrew McPherson DFC on his port (N6215, Sgt F Gregory (Obs), LAC H Over (Wop/AG) & F/O G Grey-Smith on starboard ( N6219, Sgt P Gray (Obs), Sgt C Taylor (Wop/AG)). 'A' flight led by Sq/Ldr William Scott (N6216, Sgt T Davis (Obs), LAC W McFadden (Wop/AG)) with F/Lt A Lee (P4826, Sgt J Keegan (Obs), LAC C Child (Wop/AG)) & Sgt T Harrison (N6229, Sgt N Jones (Obs), LAC H Garbett (Wop/AG)). P/O Guy Menzies (BB n/k, Sgt E Bonney (Obs), AC R Tribbick (Wop/AG)) set off late. Target was advanced German tank/troop column 200ml NE Plivot; approach tactics described. 30 fighters spotted by Crowley not French but Messerschmitt 109s. Attack on BBs from above & AA from below as they prepared for low level bombing is vividly described. Near Rekem 'A' flight wiped out by direct hit on Scott's bomb bay & explosion caused Lee & Harrison to crash; all nine crew died. 'B' flights McPherson had wing blown off by Me109 & crashed; all three crew died. Details how Tideman's a/c hit, engines on fire and belly landed. Tideman & Thomas got out but John Rooney (aged 20) trapped in turret & died in fire. The two escapees then strafed on ground. Tideman had recurrent nightmare about Rooney's death. Grey-Smith down in flames; injured, he was taken POW, but crew (Gray & Taylor) killed. Two

remaining BBs (Dickens & Pepper) dashed for home at roof height with Wop/AGs Crowley & Hill firing at Me110s & Me109s. Pepper forced to crash land; Pepper & Hyde escaped; Hill injured & taken as POW. In N6225 Crowley hit & treated/replaced by Paine (Obs). Of 8 a/c, only N6225 returned & this DBR. Dicken awarded DFC & Paine a DFM. Menzies flew alone to target, bombed, & returned safely to Plivot! Hauptman Walter Adolph, a Staffelnkaptain of Jagdgeschwader 1, (who'd served in Spain & Poland) probably shot down all 3 'B' flight a/c. He'd also shot down 138Sq N6231 on 01/10/1939 (pilot F/O A Maclachlan) with 25 'victories'. 18/09/1941 Adolph led 8 Focke-Wulf 190s in attack of BBs over Ostend & downed by Cyril Babbage's 41Sq Spitfire. P4923 crashed at Herstal-Rhees (4k NE Liege); Tideman & Thomas got pass & requisition form from French artillery Captain Pire (these recently found; Sgt Hale incorrectly named in all other records). How they returned to Plivot unknown; Jim King (139Sq pilot at time) says by tank. Pepper & Hyde returned to Plivot by 'borrowed' car. The reasons for the disaster are explored; inaccurate intelligence, overwhelming force and no fighter support. Table list a/c, crews and their fate. 139Sq evacuated Plivot 18/05/1940 to Southampton, via Cherbourg, 29/05/1940 with no a/c & 25 aircrew killed, captured or wounded in 2wks. To RAF West Raynham then Horsham St Faith to reform with 114Sq. Tom Tideman joined RAF 1934, flew Avro tutor, Tiger Moth, Bristol Bulldog, Hawker Audax (26Sq) & Westland Wapiti (28Sq on NWF), also Hawker Hart & Fairey Battle. He joined 139Sq 03/1938 flying BB MkI & MkIV & flew several times with Norman Chapman. 139Sq moved from RAF Wyton to France 03/12/1939. After France Tom lost hearing & stood down from op flying 09/1941 to be stationed in op room at West Raynham (18Sq & 101Sq, both flying BBs). 04/1941 became Chief Ground Instructor 17 OTU, Upwood, then CO at RAF Towyn, Wales, with Hawker Hendley & Miles Martinet. CO of RAF recovery unit in N France at war end in 05/1945. Tom died 1990 having rarely spoken of war experiences. Treasured silver salver with 139Sq officer signatures etched on, a 03/1940 wedding present.

Notes: LAC John Rooney buried Herstal-Rhees cemetery, Belgium. F/O Pepper become W/Cdr with DFC but KIA 03/06/1941 from Malta & named at Runnymede. Sgt Hyde (Peppers Obs for 18mths) injured & died Tripoli hospital; Sgt Pickford survived. P/O Menzies (later F/Lt with DFC) hit by RN 'friendly' fire over Lowestoft; their 139Sq BB crashed Oulton, Suffolk & Menzies killed with Sgt Edwin Bonney & AC R Tribbick. McPherson got DFC for first WWII mission over Wilhelmshaven 03/09/1938.

Pics: p7) 139Sq N6225 XD-M maintenance, Plivot, 1940. DBR & abandoned 19/05/1940 as Squadron withdrew. Chapman in pic;

					p10) Walter Adolph: p12) Tom Tideman ~03/1940: p13) 139Sq BBs over France ~05/1940 Rob Tideman (Australian Border Protection) & cousin Joshua Finch (USAF) both fly.
	13	Quiz	Christmas Quiz		25 question quiz to identify a/c
Sgt William Merrick Roberts, RAFVR	14	Wanted	53 Squadron William Roberts	Chris Roberts	Sgt Roberts (948880), Wop/AG with 53Sq Coastal Command, based St Eval, Cornwall & crewed with P/O Norman D McLennan (J3735, RCAF) & Sgt Dennis C Taylor (754263), returning in V5933 from op to St Nazaire, France, on 11/06/1941 flew into Brown Willy Tor; crew died & Sgt Roberts commemorated St Tudno's Church, Great Orme, Llandudno. Any further info to Chris whose <a href="#">contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
Ernest William Sabini	14	Wanted	Blenheim Z7589	Colin Selby	Z7589 of Western Desert Communication Flight shot down by friendly fire 30/11/1941. Pic: Sabini (later changed name to Selby) & Z7589 in N Africa. Any info on Sabini or Z7589 to Colin: <a href="#">contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
139 Squadron	14	Wanted	139 Squadron	Michael Godfrey	Michael's father, Samuel Godfrey, an RAF ground tradesman 1934-1944 with 139Sq in France 1939/1940 (part of BEF), at Plivot 05/1940 & evacuated with 'Operational Aerial' from Brest 16-14/06/1940. Any info about life in 139Sq at Plivot or during evacuation to Michael: <a href="#">contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
110 Squadron	14	Wanted	110H Squadron	Sara Mosher	Researching her father, F/O Kenneth B Mosher (Wop/AG) of 110Sq (Hyderabad) in Burma, piloted by F/Sgt PF Robinson ('Robbie'), both POWs in Afghanistan 1943. Sara has contacted pilots Reg Duncan & Edward Helliwell & Billie Carmichael's relatives (Tom Lawton, Rodney Topley, Robert Thompson, Wilfred Allen & George Davey). Wants more info ref 110Sq & to share info she has. Sara's <a href="#">contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
	14	Wanted	Blenheim Odyssey		John Green seeks copy of Len Fearnley's 'A <i>Blenheim Odyssey</i> '. John's <a href="#">contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
600 Squadron	14	Wanted	600 Squadron	Peter Fawke	Seeks pic of L6684, crashed Hornchurch on 07/09/1040, or other 600Sq BBs stationed at Hornchurch/Manston during Battle of Britain. Peter's <a href="#">contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
	15	Wanted		Guy Hudson	Pics: of Blenheim pilots in 'Picture Post' & on front of 'Match', and 1941 pic by Robert Capa of 21Sq American pilot at Watton, Are all 21Sq? What are their names? Any info to Guy <a href="#">via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
	15	Wanted		Neil Hadley	Pic of airman stood on BB wing with 'RAF Perranporth' on reverse & dated 09/1941. Any info ref links between BB & Perranport or on man's identify (found on death of grandma) to Neil ( <a href="#">contact details via email address at bottom of web site</a> )
45 Squadron	15-16		45 Squadron	Michael Troughton-Smith	Michael's father, Sq/Ldr Patrick Philip Troughton-Smith (PPT-S) flew BB from Helwan 1938-1942 & became CO 45Sq when CO Sq/Ldr John Dellamore KIA in L8452 on 02/10/1940. Names 'British formation' as Dellamore (L8478), F/O Williams (L8469). Sgt Thurlow (L8519), F/Lt

					<p>Troughton-Smith (L8481), P/O Gibbs (L4923), Sgt Bower (L8476), F/O Rixson (L8524) &amp; F/O Finch (L8466). 1942 PPT-S to RAF Long Kesh (N Ireland) to train Queen's University air cadets &amp; died 01/1946.</p> <p>Pic: 45Sq at ?Fuka with BB ('Mimi') and naming PPT-S &amp; F/O Woodroff ('Woodie' KIA 13/10/1940 &amp; PPT-S's best man in 01/1940 at marriage to Dorothy Anderson). Michael has original photo of 50 45Sq crew. <a href="#">Contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a></p>
	16	Wanted	84 Squadron: John Chambers	Editor	<p>From John Chambers, via Ron Hicks, to Society (John &amp; Ron both deceased) come two pics &amp; a story. Story: Returning from 84Sq raid John clipped hangar with BB wing &amp; was moved to Reconnaissance &amp; weather unit, Egypt. His 84Sq crew (from Australia &amp; NZ) to FE with new pilot &amp; force landed in sea (?off Singapore, Sumatra or Java), got ashore, but were beheaded. Pic: a) three aircrew &amp; b) two aircrew (John's 84Sq Obs &amp; Wop/AG?). Names/other info to Ed, please, <a href="#">via email address at bottom of web site.</a></p>
	17	Letter	Letters to the editor	Luc Vanden Eynde	<p>Letter about recent death of Leopold Heimes, last Belgium survivor of Battle of Britain (flew in BBs). Additional info courtesy of Mr Andre Bar (compiled comprehensive database of Belgians in RAF &amp; SAAF 1940-45) &amp; Mr Duwetz both of Brussels Museum.</p>
Leopold Heimes	17-18	Obit	Heimes, Leopold	Luc Vanden Eynde (with Mr Bar & Mr Duwetz)	<p>Born 30/08/1916 at Merbes-le-Chateau near Thuin; 1933 to Fairey Co; 1936 Belgian Aeronautique Militaire; pilot training Wevelgem with Dumonceau de Bergendal, Delorme, Brosteau &amp; d'Ursel; gunnery course; 10/05/1940 is Sgt gunner 5<sup>th</sup> Sq IIIrd Grp of 2<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Regiment flying Fairey Foxes. Based Nivelles, CO Capitaine Boussa; first mission from Aalter with pilot Adjudant Renard. 15/05/1940 retreat from France via Saint-Jean-de-Luz &amp; on <i>MS Ettrick</i> to Plymouth; 27/06/1940 to St Athan &amp; Coastal Command 235Sq on 26/08/1940, crewed with Olivier Lejeune (pilot) &amp; Albert Michiels (Obs) flying BBs. 20/11/1940 to 272Sq, still in BBs; 04/1941 starts pilot training &amp; joins 350Sq (Belgian) 19/11/1941. 08/01/1943 to RAE Farnborough for 'blacking-out' trials. 11/1945 flying Dakotas &amp; posted 76Sq in India; 1946 525Sq Transport Command; 1949 in Berlin Airleft. 1951 left RAF to join 'Air Survey Company' mapping flights. Flew Dakota in film '<i>A Bridge Too Far</i>'. Retired 1981.</p> <p>Pics: page on Leopold Heimes from Andre Bar's website database 'Belgians in RAF &amp; SAAF 1940-1945'; Leopold sat under BB MkIV at presentation at Brussels Museum 10/05/2008.</p>
V5651	19	Letter		Albert Norton	<p>As armament F/Sgt at fighter OTU Sutton Bridge, Albert asks why BB V5651 was there. On 17/09/1941 he manned the turret with W/Cdr Harold Maquire as pilot but had u/c problems &amp; crash landed. Graham Warner replied: V5651 to RAF 03/1941 with 101Sq (West Rayham) then 21Sq at Watton, but not to Malta 12/1941 with 21Sq. With OADU to 11Sq in Colombo, Ceylon 01/1942</p>

					& to Baigachi & Fenni (India) early 1943 (XISq). 02/1944 to 1302 (Met) flight at Yelahanka & St Thomas Mount 03/1944 & SOC 11/05/1945. Further info for Albert via Editor ( <a href="#">email address at bottom of web site</a> ).
	19	Letter	Vraux 2009	Gerard Faux	Letter from Assn Maison Rouge Museum thanking Blenheim Society for glass paintings of XVSq Fairey Battle & 114Sq BB by Steve Foster. Pic: Denis Rigollet & Gerard Faux holding the paintings.
BB potted histories	20	Data	Blenheim Mk 1. L Series continued	Graham Warner	Batch of 450 built Filton & delivered 02/1938 to 03/1939. BB Mk 1: L1190, L1191, L1192, L1193, L1194, L1195, L1196, L1197, L1198, L1199, L1200, L1201, L1202.
	20	Report	From the engineering side: 22	Smudge	Mk1 nose now on fuselage! Glazing difficult but seat frame, throttle box & rudder pedals fitted. Cockpit small & filling up; difficult to get all instruments in with radio, transponder & GPS. Working on first engine frame & end fittings being tested. The eight Cera-Chromed cylinders now returned from US. Pic: Blenheim Boys under BB Mk1 new nose
	20	Data	Answers to Christmas quizz		25 up-side-down answers (well, it is a Christmas quiz)

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Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	Chairman's Comments	Andrew Pierce	New site of stall at Duxford hard to find; takings down. Thanks to Tony Lowe for good Gellick trip.
	1	Report	Editorial	Ian Carter	Correction to legend 63/16 pic; apols to Ian Blair. Importance of correct info; mistakes easily become facts.Thanks for copy sent in.
Blenheim Society	2	Data	President and Committee		Names and contact details of 7 society 'officials' and 4 committee members
	2	Report	Membership		New members & absent friends. RIP: Mr Philip Felton, F/Lt LW Ross-Gower, Mr TSR Jordon, Mrs V Williams, Mr B Sabin
Sq/Ldr Richard <b>Muspratt</b>	2/3	Obit	Squadron Leader Richard (Dick) Muspratt DFC	Vicky Peterson & Editor	Born 1917 to Indian Army major, educated at Oudle then (1935) Chelsea College of Aeronautical Engineering. Commissioned in RAF 1940; to 53Sq on photo reconnaissance (see 64/14 ref 18/06/1940). Posted 140Sq 1941 in Spitfires; recco of Dieppe 05 & 06/08/1942 for raid on 19/08/1942. Joined AM Sir Ralph Sorley's Empire Test Pilots' Training School at Boscombe Down in 1943. Promoted Sq/Ldr & to Hawkers to test-fly new fighters. 1947 joined Ferguson tractors & to Australia as director of Harry-Ferguson of Aust Ltd. Returned Leaming Spa 1960; ~1972-1985 owned engineering co. Scar Bank, Warwick. Married to Jane. Memorial service July 2009
Sq/Ldr Percy <b>Eames</b>	3	Obit	Sq/Ldr Percy (Red) Eames	Percy's family	Joined RAF 1937 & by 1938 a P/O in 15Sq (XVSq, bomber) at Wyton (Cams). On 12/05/1940 raid on Maastricht Bridge his BB hit, although badly injured he flew a/c home. On 30/07/1940 a/c hit off Hook of Holland; picked up by German & POW ending up in Stalag Luft III at Sagan. Released 11/1945 to wife Muriel & first sight of 5yr old daughter Christine. Retired from RAF 1958. Became Civil Servant with Ministry of Transport & Civil Aviation; incl 11 yrs at Gatwick.

	4-6	Letter	From Sq/Ldr GER Parr, 16/08/2008	Sq/Ldr GER Parr	In response to Dan Mcleod's obit (see 61/3) Parr (581117) describes his experiences of lack of preparation for war in 1939 & loss of two friends; Stan Kybird (kia in Wellington over Brest on 2 <sup>nd</sup> sortie) & Jimmy Parvin (581118, kia 08/08/1940 on 1 <sup>st</sup> raid). Ansty to 9 E&RFTS; 09/1939 as Acting Sgt to 31TW, Hastings; 12/1939-02/1940 Penrhos to 9 Bombing & Gunnery School with Battles, Hawker Demons & Vickers K gun (details problems) & then to Hullavington to 'teach' pilots! Met Cadet Leonard Cheshire. Describes posting to Advanced Airstrike Force in France, the Ensign, Repair & Service Unit of BEF at Glisy. Series of disasters: the French retreat & own evacuation, mentioning P/O Bird in Hurricane, French Cavalry, Pont Remy, Dunkirk, the Mona's Queen, WRVS at Dover & eventually Gatwick (grass racecourse, one building!) where 18Sq reformed; most a/c & crew lost in France. Joe Strong senior Obs. Flew with F/O Douch (Oxford Uni Air Sq). To West Raynham then Great Massingham. First op 01/08/1940 to Brussels/Evere airfield – recalled. Second to Wenzendorf (SE of Hamburg) but bombed Leewarden – describes mistakes made. 50yrs later Theo Boiten asked if he knew Sgt Bullivant; informed a/c destroyed at Leewarden! A lesson in realities of war. Eds note: Sgt Frederick Finckill Parvin of 18Sq, shot down off Holland 08/08/1940 in L9472 on Schipol & Valkenberg op with pilot Sgt Jack Saville & Wop/AG Victor Land.
	6	Letter	Bomber Command Memorial	Ron Bramley	Questions support of another memorial. Where does it end? Need to look forward. Beauforts, Gneisenau, Brest, 22Sq, 42Sq.
	6	Review	'RAF Bomber Command' by Rupert Matthews	Ian Gilbert	RM's father was 105Sq pilot who flew BB & others. 235 page book refreshing mixture of history & personal accounts. Pub by Hale
	6	Letter	Gt Massingham RAF Museum	Sister Laurence Mary	Dates Museum on display at St Mary's Church, Great Massingham, in July 2008
L871	6	Letter	Blenheim L8771	John Holmes	John's friend, historian Hans van Lith from Voorburg, Holland, say BB L8771 been unearthed. JH trained in this 12/01/1940 with P/O Jacoby, 40Sq.
	6	Letter	To Rob Tideman	Editor	Email trouble, please contact ref article
21 Squadron, Malta, 1941/1942	7-9	Article	This is third and final part of Norman's experiences with 21 Squadron	Norman Wight	Continues from 63/5. 21Sq at Luqa, Malta 12/1941 to 03/1942. Norman describes life & incidents there, mentioning stay in hospital, food, Safi airstrip, F/O Booth, Acting Sq/Ldr F/O White, Wellington mis-directed by Germans, gold bullion to Yugoslav resistance, Warburton (pilot) recce in Maryland & raid Sicily airfield by 82Sq, supply problems, Alexandria, Valetta's air-raid shelters & Grand Harbour, <i>Wizard of Oz</i> , air-raids, fear, new Spitfires destroyed at Ta Kali, flight to Egypt, Cyprus, Mesa Matru. Tommy Tailforth, Jimmy Dewar, Robin Bryant (Dagwood), Norman White, found disbanded 21Sq at Heliopolis (Cairo). Norman's Blenheim (YH-S) cannibalised; 'I could have cried'. Gives a real feeling of what it was like to be here.
84 Squadron nose-art	9	Wanted		Stewart Waring	Nose-art (fish with 'Cleo') ? from L1391, 84Sq. Eds reply: shot down 18/04/1941 in

					sea near Mt Olympus after raid Katerine/Grevena area. Crew Sq/Ldr HD Jones, F/Sgt Webb, Sgt Keen in Phalerone war cemetery, Athens. Disney character nose-art by F/Lt WT Russell: Cleo for 'C' flight (ref ' <i>Scorpions Sting</i> ' by Don Neate). More info to Stewart. <a href="#">Contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
	9	Data	Not Blenheims but Dunkirk Little Ships up the Thames, 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Jean Mathews	Ian Gilbert arranging this event again. Any Dunkirk veterans, esp RAF, contact Jean (via Editor) see contact details at bottom of website.
	9/10	Wanted	107 Squadron	Chris Anderson	Researching Sgt George C Durie, No 2 Air Obs School, Acklington, 90Sq (15/04/1939), 101Sq (05/10/1939) & 107Sq (18/10/1939). KIA 24/04/1940, Stavanger raid (Norway) from Lossiemouth. CO W/Cdr Basil Embry. Sgt Len S Fearnley on raid. Anyone got copy of his book ' <i>Blenheim Odyssey</i> '? Also ' <i>Nous y Serons; history of 107Sq</i> '?. Contact Chris: <a href="#">Contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a> Pic: 107Sq ORB for 24/04/1940
Sandakan	10	Article	Sandakan: a Final Message	Tony Stephens	Follow-up of 54/15, Steve Mockridge's report on Sandakan march memorial (N Borneo) on which 1,787 Australians & 641 British died, incl 45 Blenheim Boys of 211Sq. This report from Sydney Morning Herald (22/09/2008). Neil & Lynette Silver (historian) & Tham Yau Kong located POW camps along 265km route. Outside one POW hut found 'Australian Military Forces' brass buttons as only ID. Site, 8km south Ranau; owner Dr Othman Minudin to preserve. Private Keith Botterill (1 of 6 survivors) quoted. Last POWs shot 01/08/1945 & 27/08/1945.
11 Squadron, 1942-1943	11-14	Article	Interview with 404160 F/Lt ELJ Anderson DFC, DFM, at War History Section, Melbourne, with RAAF Narrator (F/Lt NK Welsh) on 1 <sup>st</sup> October 1945		After Britain, Western desert, Syria & Iraq in Ceylon, with XISq in 1942. Based Ratmalana then Colombo Racecourse. Crew: Sgts A McFadzean (Obs), DK Brown (Wop/AG). 05/04/1942 describes attack by Japanese a/c; Hurricane & 6 Swordfish from Tricomalee lost. CO W/Cdr AJM Smyth. Search for Japanese fleet S Dondra Head. 09/04/1942 of 10 BBs took off for 3 <sup>rd</sup> search, P/O WR Mathieson returned. Ack ack at Tricomalee; carried 2x500lb SAP; 1 a/c had anti-sub bombs. Fleet located; larger than expected. Describes attack, led by Sq/Ldr K Ault. Sgt NL Stevenson shot down with crew (AW Donald (Obs, see 60/11) & JCA Bell (Wop/AG)), also Lt Derek FG Knight (P/O DH Evans & Sgt LE McAuley). Describes last sight S/Ldr Ault & crew (Sgt SD Whiles & Sgt GK Eckersley) & flight back with Sgt R Garnham & crew (Sgts Boltwood & Alderton) for which awarded DFM. Others on raid: Sgts H McLennan (AR Travers & FJG Nell) shot down; Cpt C Adcock (P/O GS Burgen & Sgt MC Gray) shot down; Lt Girvan & crew (Sgts EW Bonfield & CL Cubitt); P/O WH Annon (Sgts J Cruise & RT Hooking). 11Sq to Baigachi, India 01/1943. 04/02/1943 attacked Aungdaung; 07/02/1943 with 60Sq bombed Prome-Taungup road, led by W/Cdr Harley C Stumm. 15/02/1943 raid on Yegyanbyin; 20/02/1943 recce Mayu Peninsular, Donbaik-Laungchaung-Foul Point area with Hurricane escort. 21/02/1943

					<p>famous Australia (11Sq) v English (60Sq) 'match' on Prome-Taungup road. 26/02/1943 raid on Myohaung. 03/03/1943 bombed Pinlebu-Wuntho Rd. 08/03/1943 (to help trapped troops Kaladan river) raid of 12 BBs with Hurricane support on Japanese troop Kanzauk-Penpechaung area, Donbaik (14/03/1943), Lamudaingywa (16/03/193). 18/03/1943 raid on Chittagong from Feni; on Taungup on 21/03/1943. New a/c from Allahabad &amp; on 02/04/1943 raid on Thinganet. Describes 05/04/1943 when Sq/Ldr Mathieson &amp; F/Sgt Harvey Bealey collided, 79Sq escort to Meiktila. Raid on Magyichaung 08/04/1943 &amp; with 113Sq on Anguman (09/04/1943). Paletwa on 12/04/1943, vics led by W/Cdr Stumm &amp; Sgt PL Payne. 18/04/1943 bombed troops at Myinhlut &amp; F/Sgt RH Malcolm (Ewing Bros navigator) killed by propeller. Raids Kadywa (19/04/1943), Maunghnama (21/04/1943) &amp; troops near Buthidaung (28/04/1943). Took W/Cdr Stumm to Dum Dum on 02/05/1943 as W/Cdr AW Pennington-Legh took over as CO XISq. He led 12/05/1943 raid on Rathedaung, Yegyanbyin, Narigan &amp; Chaungne. Raids on Taungup (18/05/1943), Myohaung &amp; Minbya (19/05/1943), Letpan &amp; Pywegu (20/05/1943). Hospital with malaria then raid on Sakanmaw (17/07/1943), Rathedaung &amp; Minbya (19/07/1943), Buthidaung (21/07/1943), Kyauktaw (25/07/1943). Last raid with BBs 31/07/1943 Myingyan railway station. Awarded DFC. Left 11Sq when converted to Hurricanes; to Check &amp; Conversion Flight, Karachi. Joined 45Sq (Mosquito). Liberator conversion course at Tocumwal (Australia) &amp; ops in Pacific 05/1945 to end war with 12Sq. Thanks to John &amp; Wendy Nunn.</p>
	14/15	Article	A Blenheim Pilot Remembers	Sq/Ldr Richard (Dick) Muspratt DFC	<p>06/1940: Paris taken, German's moving South; Churchill wants to keep France, &amp; its fleet at Oran, on allied side. 18/06/1940 2 53Sq BBs fly Gatwick to Jersey to recce German advance. RM, in R3911, Cherbourg, La Haye, Carentan, Jersey &amp; phoned War Office from Jersey airport on troop positions. Returned RAF Odiham. RM trained on Tiger Moths, Harts &amp; Oxfords. Saw first BB 1939 when at FTS Brize Norton. To 6 OTU then posted 53Sq Detling in 06/1940. 16 Group Coastal Command (53Sq &amp; 59Sq) to RAF Thorney Island (described) to cover Lorient &amp; Brest docks &amp; subs. Describes typical sortie in 12/1940. Preparation of PZ-S, gyro testing, crew Sgt Doug Smart (obs) &amp; Sgt Reg Cole (Wop/AG), Sidcot suits, paraffin flare path, Mercury XV engine, goes thro processes from taking off 'blind' to 'economy cruise'. Describes cumulus in moonlight, laying bombs along dock, flight back over St Albans Head, Anvil Point &amp; parent's house at Swanage, Bournemouth Bay, Solent &amp; Spithead to Thorney. Excellent read &amp; explanations. Sent in by Richard's daughter, Vicky Peterson, anyone remember her Dad from then? <a href="#">Contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a></p>
	16	Report	From the engineering	Smudge	Awaiting cockpit top glazing panels; other

			side: 22		panels trial-fitted & work continues on control system. Seat, control column, pedals, etc fitted in nose. Recruited retired detail metal worker, ex-Marshalls Aerospace, to work on engine nacelles 1 day/week.
BB potted histories	16	Data	Blenheim Mk 1. L Series continued	Graham Warner	Batch of 450 built Filton & delivered 02/1938 to 03/1939. BB Mk 1: L1176, L1177, L1178, L1179, L1180, L1181, L1182, L1183, L1184, L1185, L1186, L1187, L1188, L1189.

### Issue 63: March 2009

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	Chairman's Comments	Andrew Pierce	£21,000 raised for Blenheim restoration; this progressing well. Society's stall at Duxford to move to 'flying village' area. Impact of bad weather on 2008 airshows.
	1	Report	Editorial	Ian Carter	Computer gremlins and thanks to Liz Pierce.
Blenheim Society	2	Data	President and Committee		Names and contact details of 7 society 'officials' and 4 committee members
	2	Report	Membership		New members & absent friends. RIP: Mr Hunter, Mrs Wells, Mrs Curtis, Sq/Ldr Muspratt, Sq/Ldr Lacy, Mr Calvert
G/Cpt Richard Cummins Haine	2/3	Obit	Group Captain Dickie Haines	Ian Carter	Died 30/09/2008 aged 91. Joined 25Sq flying Hawker Fury bi-planes, then flew BBs on 1 <sup>st</sup> night raid of WWII. 01/02/1940 joined 600Sq at Manston, Kent, then Hornchurch. After attack on Waalhaven, crash landed. Night fighter force with Defiants and Beaufighters. By 06/1943 was W/Cdr & in 01/1944 CO 488Sq (NZ) flying Mosquitoes. Shot down Junkers 88s on 04/08/1944 (Normandy) & 01/09/1944 (Caen). Later 302 wing & help repatriate POW from Pacific region. 2005 memoir <i>From Fury to Phantom</i> .
Andrew George Linsley	3	Obit	Andrew Linsley	Ian Carter, Ron Scott	Was Observer and ship's diver. Helped recover Blackburn Skua airframe from lake in Norway, now in Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton. Tireless worker/fundraiser for RNHF. Lived in Staithes, N Yorks.
	4	Letter	The Blenheim Company		Copy of letter of thanks to Ron Scott for £21,000 raised for Blenheim restoration, signed by John Romain, John Smith (Smudge) & Ange Fane.
21 squadron, Malta, 1941	5-7	Article	With Norman Wight 21 squadron to Malta (part II of III)	Norman Wight	Continues from 62/8. Short intro by Editor: 21Sq (A flight) to Malta 04/1941 & 11/1941. Disbanded 04/1942 after 14 a/c lost (incl 4 of 6, 14/02/1942 raid Palermo harbour, Sicily). N Wight gives a vivid & humane description of RAF life on Malta in early 1942. Luqa airport, constant air raids, Junkers 88s, Luftwaffe ME 109s, Rommel's Africa Corps, Naples, Tripoli, North Africa, Royal Navy, Ta' Qali fighter base, Hurricanes, Valletta, Sliema, Tarranto, Palermo, Italy, John Cameron (NZ pilot), Jimmy Dewar (Jock). Pics: Reg Leavers (pilot), Sgt I Overhue (Obs), 21Sq, Malta 1941, both DFM & kia with Sgt J Phelps (Wop/AG) in V6034 16/06/1941; BB IV, Z7958 (?) 110Sq, Luqa, 13/12/1941.
	7	Data	Blenheim Society Events 2009		List of airshows and other events and plans for 2009
Sydney Lewis Bennett (RAFVR)	8/9	Article	There remains a corner of a foreign land that will be	Chris Bennett	Follow-on from 59/12 (Nov '07) issue. With help of Ian Carter, Roderick Bailey (author: <i>The Wildest Province</i> ) & Cdr Sean Steeds,

742975			forever England		additional info from MoD Historical Branch obtained about Sgt Sydney Bennett (pilot), Sgt Leslie Ronald France & Sgt WH Tunstall of 211Sq (B flight), kia 31/12/1940, after Valona raid in BB L1540. Witness reports from other aircrew & info from War Office, Mediterranean Forces graves services, Italian Red Cross; graves near Manrova, Albania. 1947 & 1950 letters from Italians to No 5 Missing Research & Enquiry Unit with pics of graves & site. Pics x 2, of graves.
	9/10	Report	With the Bleheim Association to Vraux and France	Henrik Mjoman	On 12/07/2008 Henrik, with Tony Lowe, Martin Jones (15Sq historian), Bill & Betty Morgan, met XVSq in Reims. The interesting report covers the trip day by day and mentions Monsieurs Garnet (in Mardeuil) & Denis Rigollet, the Maison Rouge, Gellick orchestra, Sedan, Maginot Line, St Omer airbase, & other info.
	9	Pic	Draw Prize winner		Lancaster at East Kirby with Draw prize winner Paul Blackmore
F/Lt Maison Charles <b>Cleary</b> , DFM	11	Letter	82 Squadron	Jonathan Shipley	Researching F/Lt MC Cleary, DFM of 82Sq, Wop/AG in BB P8858 on 17/05/1940 raid on Gembloux. Later flew with 'Atty' Atkinson. Any BB aircrew, esp if 82Sq, please contact J Shipley, School of Historical Studies, Uni of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 7RU, or 07736428813
Albert V <b>Knowles</b>	11	Letter	82 Squadron	Muriel Parker	Muriel wants any information about her brother, Albert V Knowles, missing 17/05/1940 or contact with any ex-82Sq crew at time. M Parker's <a href="#">contact details via email address at bottom of web site</a> (or via editor)
	11	Wanted		Don Clark	Request for missing Blenheim Journals to complete set: see 211 squadron website ( <a href="http://users.cyberone.com.au/clardo/enquiries.html">http://users.cyberone.com.au/clardo/enquiries.html</a> )
Drift Sight	11	Wanted	Drift Sight	Richard Page-Blair	Request for working drift sight typically used for navigation in WWII. <a href="#">Contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
	11	Wanted	Plastic kits		Donations of unmade plastic kits to sell on Blenheim Society stalls to raise funds. Contact Ron Scott.
F/O William Henry <b>Edwards</b> DFC	11	Letter		Ross Edwards	F/O WH Edwards (40045), 211Sq & 107Sq. Ted Coote (Wop/AG) with F/O Ronny Rotheram DFC shot down by JG27 pilot on same 107Sq mission as Ross's grandfather, WH Edwards (see 'Phantoms' by T Coote in Feb '96 issue). Ronny, please re-contact Ross. Anyone news on Ted Coote? <a href="#">Contact details for Ross via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
RAF Meir	11	Letter	Meir Aerodrome	William Cooke	Any info on RAF Meir or Rootes aircraft factory, Blythe Bridge (esp during WWII) to W Cooke: <a href="#">Contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
	11/12	Data	Feedback 1	Graham Warner	Nick Fenton's request ref father (see 61/16). BB V6258 of 139Sq left Horsham-St-Faith 01/07/1941 on Oldenburg raid and was shot down by Fw Friedrich K Bachmann in a 109 of III/JG52. Ditched in sea (NW Vieland). Sgts K Fenton (pilot), A Fuller (Obs) & R McDonald (Wop/AG) all became POWs.
	12		Feedback 2		Hugh Wheeler, contact Kelvin Youngs ( <a href="http://www.aircrewrememberancesociety.com">www.aircrewrememberancesociety.com</a> ) or Editor for info on VA Bain from his family.
RAF Porthreath	12/13	Report	RAF Porthreath Memorial	James 'Dinty' Moore	Describes a recent visit to this base on north Cornwall coast, now a radar station. BB crews left from Porthreath for Malta & ME.

					Author there 05/1941 as detachment from 18Sq based at RAF Oulton. Blenheim crews from Grp 2 sqds not included on plaques. Pics: Portreath Memorial (front & back plaques); George Milson (pilot), Ron Miller (Obs), Bill Proctor (Wop/AG), Jim Moore.
	13	Report	Bomber Command Memorial	Graham Warner	Society supporting this Memorial appeal as many BB crews amongst Bomber Command losses; individual donations to Ron Scott (payable to 'Bomber Command Memorial'). Society will add from funds too.
Massingham	13	Report	Massingham Museum News	Sister Laurie	Lot of visitors to church. Land donated for museum. Plans to set up historical society and 'friends' of the RAF museum; hope for grant. Views about these ideas welcome: <a href="#">Contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
	14	Report	Bolingbroke 9048 Progress – 4 <sup>th</sup> half-yearly report. January 2009	David Bradley	Report by restoration manager at Bristol Aero Collection.
	15	Report	From the engineering side – 21	Smudge	Work on Mk I nose continues; nearly 70 pieces to be remade, obs and pilots seat & other items ready to fit (some of 'Tufnol'). Ceramic coating to cylinder in USA. Thanks for amazing £21,000! Pic: Andrew, Freddie, Ron. Another Blenheim?
BB potted histories	16	Data	Blenheim Mk 1. L Series continued	Graham Warner	Batch 450, Filton, 02/1938 to 03/1939. BB Mk 1: L1161, L1162, L1163, L1164, L1165, L1166, L1167, L1168, L1169, L1170, L1171, L1172, L1173, L1174, L1175. Pic: L1527, Heliopolis, 12/06/1939, 113Sq. Please contact editor with any pics of L series BB.

## Issue 62: November 2008

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	President's Message	Graham Warner	Steady growth of membership & events well supported, included by 'Blenheim Boys' (now in late 80s or 90s) to whom tribute paid. BB rebuild progress slow but sure; thanks to Pauline & Freddie Brown, Ron Scott & Andrew Pierce for organising draw & rest of committee for making society & journal success. Best wishes for 2009.
Blenheim Society	2	Data	President and Committee		Names and contact details of 7 society 'officials' and 4 committee members
	2	Report	Chairman's Comments	Andrew Pierce	Some airshows cancelled due to rain, but Blenheim Day meal great success with 100+ members (incl 14 Blenheim Boys) attending. Tribute to 'Dickie' Rook & condolences to his family. Christmas lunch 13/12/2008 at Leefe Robinson.
	2-3	Report	Editorial	Ian Carter	Many thanks for all 'copy' sent in. Computer problems; helpful to have phone number as well as email/postal address. Beware word 'English' when mean 'British'! Thanks to John Romain for use of hangar at Duxford for Blenheim Day; food great.
	3		Blenheim Day – a Thank You		Ron Scott sent several 'thank you' letters for Blenheim Day event – includes quotes from two to pass on to all organisers & helpers.
	3	Report	Membership		New members & absent friends. New founder member: W/Cdr Eric Braun (BEM) in 70 OTU at Nakuru, Kenya & Shandur, Egypt. Also Keith Thompson (brother to Sgt Pilot

					Peter Thompson, died in Mk 1 24/10/1941, age 19) and Chris Tideman (son Sq/Ldr Tideman, 139Sq (see 62/12)). RIP: Mrs Hughes-D'Aeth, Mr R Welch AFC.
Alan <b>Burdekin</b>	3	Obit	Alan Burdekin	Ian Carter	Wop/AG in Fighter Command, took part in Battle of Britain. In 264Sq, 125Sq, 600Sq, 557Sq & involved in airborne radar trials in BBs. Born Lancashire 1917, married Olive; 1947 emigrated to Blenheim, New Zealand.
Sq/Ldr Richard <b>Rook</b>	4	Obit	Squadron Leader Richard (Dickie) Rook: An Appreciation	Ian Carter	Joined RAF pre-war & in 08/1939 at North Coates bombing & gunnery school. Posted 502Sq, Aldergrove, flying Ansons in Coastal Command. Briefly at 17 OTU, Upwood, then 114Sq in 07/1940 at Horsham St Faiths & Oulton (billeted Blickling Hall). 17/11/1940 had serious crash (see G Warner's <i>'The Bristol Blenheim'</i> , p 286/7). To 105Sq at Swanton Morley 04/1941 with pilot F/Lt Judson & back to 114Sq 05/1941 and Cologne Power Station raid when he led 2 <sup>nd</sup> flight of 6 BBs. Posted instructor 13 OTU, commissioned & Sq/Ldr 08/1944 & 'Captain of Aircraft'. To 30 OTU Hexon 04/1945, seconded to BOAC, BEA & Skyways Ltd (11/1946) & left RAF 09/1947 after 119 ops. Took PPL 1977 & stopped flying 05/1979 after 2800hrs flying. Dickie told Ian about 114Sq navigator Sgt J West (John Lenden West) who k/a over Cologne 12/08/1941. Thanks to Dicke's family & grandson Barney.
	5		Richard Rook	Maggi	Dickie's daughter recalls shared experiences with her Dad when he took to the skies again, aged 60, to gain his PPL and she was his navigator in the 175 Cessna. Pic: Dickie Rook & Charles Patterson at wedding of Ian (Ed) & Victoria Carter 05/2005
Sq/Ldr Charles <b>Patterson</b> DSO, DFC	6-7	Obit	An Appreciation: Part 2 – The Mosquito Years	Ian Carter	Anecdotes told to Ian by Charles Patterson; see A/Cdr Graham Pitchfork's <i>'Men Behind the Medals'</i> for detailed wartime career. Working as instructor 17OTU, Upwood on Bostons. Asked Hughie Edwards (VC, DFC) to join 1 <sup>st</sup> Mosquito squadron (105Sq). Flew Mosquito Mk IV DZ414 to film damage 15 mins after raid. Not attached to squadron. Weather report for Bomber Harris in DK336. Asked by AVM Basil Embry to return to Grp 2 to convert 21Sq, 464Sq (RAAF) & 487Sq (RNZAF) to Mosquito Mk VI at Sculthorpe (09/1943). Badly hit by flak 03/10/1943. Last op over Cherburg 27/06/1944 from Hunsdon. Acting Sq/Ldr aged 21; took part in Knapsack, Eindhoven & Jena, received DSO and left RAF, aged 25.
21 Squadron, Malta, 1941	8-9	Article	With 21 Squadron to Malta (part I of III)	Norman Wight	N Wight was Wop/AG & maintenance on BBs for 21Sq. Part I of III covers training (American Stromberg carburettor at Gloucester 09/1941; 9-cylinder Pegasus, 1000hp), the preparations for departure from Watton (25/12/1941; extra fuel tanks; a/c markings S-YH), stop-over near Lands End, individual flight to Gibraltar (with its short runway) & 4-day stay there, formation flight & arrival in Malta (1 a/c ditched). Well written description of places, conditions, instructions & incidents not found in formal reports. Mentions: Lossiemouth, Norway, Watton, Spain, Portugal, Cape Bon, Pantelleria island, P/O Booth & tales of 'Black Watch' regiment at Gibraltar.

	9	Data	Stop Press The Bristol Blenheim 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition		18-page addendum now finalised. Copies from Graham Warner by sending him an A4 sae. <a href="#">Contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
Belgian Military Museum	10	Report	'Over There'	Andrew Pierce	Report on visit to Belgian Military Museum, Brussels; display soon to be dispersed to restore building. Only 2 ½ hrs from St Pancras to Museum (nr Meronde Metro) by Eurostar (£59); free entry. Large display includes Fokker Triplane, Sud Caravelle, JU52, Spitfire chasing V1 & many original WWI a/c. Photos permitted. Well worth a visit. Pics: general view inside Museum; Battle; Blenheim; Mosquito.
	11	Letter	Beaufort Rebuild	Stan Pascoe	Pics: 3 of Beaufort Restoration, 1 of ANZAC Day reunion, 05/04/2008, Australia. More info? Contact organisers (& Stan) via Editor.
139 Squadron	12-13	Article	A Couple of Days to Remember: September 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> 1939	LAC Norman Chapman 624763	Describes work of Flight Mechanics LACs Geordie Bullimore, Norman Chapman & Tubby Coates working on N6217 R-XD (1 <sup>st</sup> a/c to cross German frontier) on 03/09/1939 & 04/09/1939. 139Sq B-flight Sq/Ldr Tideman. W/Cdr Dickens CO 139Sq. Recon op for N6215 PX-D then prepare N6217 for F/O Andrew McPherson (pilot), Cmdr Thompson (navy) as Obs/Nav, Cpl Vincent Arrowsmith (Wop/AG, kia 24/09/1940, T1794) – has no hydraulics until take-off. To Kiel; bad weather & cancelled. Later Dennis & Thornycroft lorries to Huntington goods station to move 55 tons 250lb bombs to Wyton. First raid 04/09/1939 15 BBs; 107Sq & 110Sq lost 5 a/c; 139Sq returned. 99Sq & 149Sq Wellington raid on Brunsbüttel Kiel canal; 2 a/c lost. McPherson (kia 12/05/1940 over Belgium) & F/Lt Doran (110Sq) awarded DFC by George VI, 10/12/1939 at Wyton. Sgt Booth (Obs 107Sq) first POW. N6217 damaged Upper Heyford, then to 40Sq, Wyton. W/Cdr Barlow & crew kia Dinnat, France 1940. P4923 R-XD lost France 12/05/1940. Extract from 139Sq ORB. Interesting details on how flight mechanics part of Blenheim 'team'
59 Squadron	13	Wanted	59 Squadron	Lorenzo del Mann	Australian film-maker & grandson of F/Lt Hervey Longmuir (RAAF), Obs/Navigator, 59Sq, who flew with Sq/Ldr Dunkerley (1941-1942), W/Cdr Bartlett (09/1942-11/1942), P/O Barson (1942-1943), F/Os Charlton, Moran & Blair (12/1942-09/1943) on Coastal Command & Millennium II. Any info on Coastal Command, esp 59Sq and above aircrews, eg written records, memoirs, etc to Lorenzo. <a href="#">Contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
	13	Wanted	105 Squadron	Kenneth Wallden	Anyone remember Len Healy, Obs/navigator 105Sq or got Squadron photos? Also seeking copy of Len Fearnly's ' <i>Blenheim Odyssey</i> '? <a href="#">Contact details via email address at bottom of web site</a> or via Ed.
	14	Report	From the Engineering Side: 20	Smudge	M1 nose removed again to work on glazing it. The double-curvature panels put out to contract; costly, but saves time. Throttle box & its shelf, rudder bar & instrument panel fitted. Control column as new and refitted. Now fitting seat frame (from Mk IV) which proved difficult; Mk I seat retrievable. Pic: Pilots seat frame, inside BB Mk I nose.
R3905	14	Letter	9-10 September 1940	Theo	Re: Ted Cox's letter (61/11) about R3905.

				Boiten	On 09/09/1940 Fw Sommer of 5/NJG1 flew Do-17 G9+DN & claimed BB shot down over Waddington airport. In fact BB of XVSq damaged over RAF Wyton. See Theo's new book 'The Nachtjagd War Diaries', published by Red Kite, due out 10/2008.
	14	Pics	Blenheim Day		Two pics of inside the ARC hangar, Duxford
	15	Report	Modeller's Corner	Mark Peacock	Special Hobby BB Mk IVf in 1/72 scale is reboxed MPM BB IV with additions & box art by Max Aikens. Mark compares the two kits & provides detailed construction tips. Decal options: Z5722 WM-Z 68Sq, Catterick; V5735 QY-D 254Sq Coastal Command, Aldergrove, 07/1941; Z5728 FAFL Groupe Reserve de Bombardement 1, Fort-Larny, 12/1940. Include fighter gun packs. Check websites (hannants.co.uk & eduard.com) for canopy mask kits. Also SH72063 1:72 Blenheim Mk IVF with decals for 68Sq (Czechoslovakian), RAF Coastal Command & Free French.
	15	Data	Blenheim Draw		Lists six winners of 2008 draw taken at Leefe Robinson restaurant, 11/10/2008.
BB potted histories	16	Data	Blenheim Mk I L Series continued	Graham Warner	BB Mk 1: L1147, L1148, L1149, L1150, L1151, L1152, L1153, L1154, L1155, L1156, L1157, L1158, L1159, L1160. Pic: interior of Blenheim showing progress on Mk1 nose.

## Issue 61: July 2008

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	Chairman's Comments	Andrew Pierce	Sorry to miss Graham Warner at AGM, which Ron Scott chaired. Blenheim looks like a 'plane now. Draw ticket sales going well.
	1	Pic			Smudge with Short Nose (BB Mk I)
	2	Data	President and Committee		Names and contact details of 7 society 'officials' and 4 committee members
	2	Report	Membership		New members & absent friends. RIP: Ivy Adland, Bill Corfield, Mr Ivey, Mr Rieck, Betty Abderson, Sq/Ldr Charles Patterson DSO, DFC (02/03/2008)
Donald Arthur Gordon <b>McLeod</b> (581236)	3-5	Obit	Don McLeod (1921-2008)	Ian Carter	Born 16/09/1921 son of Percy McLeod. Don was in TA, worked in Post Office, joined RAF 1939 as Sgt Obs at St George's College, Northampton, learning Direct Reckoning navigation. Bombing/gunnery course at Pyle, Porthcrawl. Vivid description of navigating in Fairey Battle. 01/1940 posted 53Sq, Poix, SW Amiens, flying BBs. Describes living conditions at Madam Le Clerce's & raid from Croixrault airfield on 16/05/1940 against 109s with Hurricanes cover & Vickers Gas gun; hit & landed near Perweltz. To Le Treport, then Grand Hotel, Deauville, Cherbourg & evacuated to UK. While recovering trained as Navigation instructor & to Hamilton, Ontario. Taught Jimmy Edwards (comedian). After war to Cambridge University to be an architect & lecturer & married Ruth. 1988 to Duxford for founding of Blenheim Society & Belgian visit. Died Addenbrookes, Cambridge on 02/01/2008.
Edmund Francis Keith <b>Denny</b> (Tim)	5/6	Obit	Sq/Ldr Tim Denny DFC	Ian Carter	Born Shepperton, Middx, 14/09/1920 moved to Lilydale, Tasmania 1922 where father, Charles Denny, set up lavender plantation 'Bridestowe'. Educated Tasmania & Victoria

					<p>&amp; to Christ's College, Cambridge 1938 to read engineering. Studied distillery in Grasse (Fr) &amp; French Alps. Joined RAF &amp; trained as Obs, then 114Sq, Norfolk. Description of crash after Eidenhoven raid on 26/04/1942 (see 60/16) with Bob Moleswoth &amp; Bill Burberry, whom Tim rescued. On 1000 Bomber Raid, 30/05/1942 &amp; in 11/1942 114Sq to N Africa &amp; operation Torch flying from Blida. 1943 training US crews for Tactical Bomber Force. Lead navigators during Tunisian campaign; awarded DFC 07/1943. 09/1943 joined 18Sq in Sicily &amp; Italy flying Bostons. 11/1944 to UK. Left RAF 08/1946 &amp; to Tasmania &amp; family lavender business. Married Joan Markham 1945. Pub: <i>Field Distillation of Herbaceous Oils</i> (2001) in which a world expert. (Thanks to A/Cdr Pitchfork for use of <i>Telegraph</i> Obit.)</p>
	6	Obit	A personal tribute to Tim Denny	Bill Burberry (F/Lt RAF ret)	<p>Crew of three: Bob Molesworth, pilot &amp; owner of 'paddock', Coleraine, Victoria, Australia (see 56/4), Bill Burberry (Wop/AG) and Tim Denny (Obs), who saved Bill's life from BB T2430 (see Theo Boiten's <i>'Blenheim Strike'</i>, p230/1 &amp; pic p224) met early 1941 at 17 OTU, Upwood training on BBs, then to 114Sq West Rayham; 19 raids incl 1000 Bomber raid, Cologne &amp; Essen 30/05/1942 &amp; 01/06/1942. 11/1942, flying BB Vb's to N Africa for Operation Torch. Tim moved to DB7s &amp; USAAC, then 18Sq led by A/Cdr LF Sinclair (GC), in Sicily &amp; Italy. Awarded DFC &amp; Bar as was Tommy Broom (Obs to AM Sir Ivor Broom). Pics x 2: Tim alone &amp; with Bob Molesworth</p>
Sq/Ldr Charles <b>Patterson</b> DSO, DFC	7	Obit	An Appreciation: Part 1 – The Blenheim Years	Ian Carter	<p>Obit to Charles Patterson (29/11/1919-02/03/2008) by A/Cdr Graham Pitchfork in Daily Telegraph 07/03/2008. Ian describes Patterson's character, mentions Hugh Edwards, AVM Basil Embry &amp; G/Cpt Pickard. After joining RAF was at EFTS, Prestwick, first flight in DH82 N9430 with Sgt Elder. Posted 2 FTS, Brize Norton &amp; on 06/08/1940 dual control in Oxford R6317 with F/Lt De-Sarigny; Brize Norton bombed by Ju88s on 16/08/1940. Flying Whitley's at 19 OTU in Kinross before achieving transfer to Blenheims. In L1315 with P/O Pearse, then at 17 OTU flew L8546 (F/Lt Watson) &amp; N4391, crewed with Sgt Shaddick &amp; Sgt Griffith (Wop/AG). Crew transferred to 114Sq, Thornaby 27/04/1941 for convoy escort in V5888 (see 55/10) &amp; V6446. Flew with W/Cdr Hull, P/O Baker (see 55/3), F/Sgt Hibbs, Sgt Matthews (Obs), Sgt Ryan (Obs), Sgt Rook (Obs), Sgt Sheppard (Obs), Sgt Havens (Obs), F/Lt Rogers. Aalborg-Esbjerg leaflet drop. 114Sq to Leuchars 13/05/1941. 20/05/1941 force landing near Frazerburgh. 3 'beats': Stavanger-Egersund-Mandel-Christainsund. With Sgt Terry Stables (Tim Stables' father) in search for Lutzow (see Theo Boiten's <i>'Blenheim Strike'</i>, p80-81). Incident over Cairngormes/Dyce for which Griffith awarded DFM. From West Raynham on Knapsack Power Station raid. 20/10/1941, instructors course at CFS Upaven &amp; 17 OTU at Upwood. Awarded</p>

					DFC. To Molesworth in V5699 with dog 'Jamie'; incident in L1179 with P/O Kerr. 08/1942 to 226Sq at Swanton Morley, 88Sq at Attlebridge in Boston Ills, & 105Sq at Horsham-St-Faith with Mosquitos. Would like to hear from Sgt Griffiths or others.
11 Squadron	9-11	Article	XI Squadron Report	F/Lt Frank Reginald Mason	Written by Frank Mason (Obs) ~09/1978 covering letter & report XISq 28/07/1939-26/02/1941. From 60Sq at Ambala posted to No 2 Indian Wing, Risalpur 07/1939. This comprised 29Sq & 11Sq flying new BBs (from Hawker Harts & Wapitis). 06/08/1939 to Singapore via Ambala, Allahbad, Cawnpore, Calcutta, Rangoon, Alors Star, arriving 12/08/1939. Half BB's crashed; W/Cdr Ankers & crew died. Tengah airport, then Singapore city (Kallang). 18/04/1940 to Lahore (India) via Mergui, Rangoon, Akyab, Calcutta, Allahabad. Recalled from Murree Hills & 05/05/1940 to Egypt via Karachi. Jiwani, Sharjah, Shaibah, Habbaniya, Heliopolis arriving Helio 13/05/1940. 39Sq to Aden & XISq to Western Desert then Aden (Sheikh Othman) via Wadi Halfa, Abu Hammed, Port Sudan & Kumara Island 07/1939 to rejoin 39Sq in raids over Eriterea, Abyssinia & Somaliland. 17/08/1940 Sq/Ldr Peter Stevens became CO XISq with crew (incl Frank Mason). Parim Island camp for Desseye raids, other targets Dire Dowa, Laferug, Assab & Macacca. Gladiators. Raid on Alomata 10/1940 – CR32s & CR42s. 29/11/1940 moved to Helwan (Egypt) via Port Sudan & Wadi Halfa. 05/12/1940 'A' flight joined 55Sq at Fuka with F/Lt Lawrence. Joint raids on El Adem, Tobruck, Bandia & Gazala – Wavell against Italians. Sq11 reunited end 1940 (now with BB IVs). To Athens (Eleusis) 25/01/1941 (a/c lost), then Larissa. 12/02/1941 raid on Elbasan. 23/02/1941 XISq to Paramythia (a/c lost), raids Tepelene & Fieri, returned Larissa 26/02/1941. Earthquake 01/03/1941; tents again! Report ends; Frank remained with 11Sq & returned to UK from Ceylon in 08/1942
Officer Air Gunner	11	Letter		Ted Cox	Pic: damaged R3905 of XVSq 09/09/1940. At 90 Ted writes that he enlisted as Obs in VR in 1939. To ITW at Hastings, Boulton Paul Defiant. Interview at room 275, Adastral house, 02/11/1939, then AG course at West Freugh with Lewis gun from Heyfords. 01/1940 commissioned as Acting Pilot Officer; 27/01/1940 to 76Sq at Upper Heyford, Finningly & Catfoss. 17/06/1940 to 15Sq at Wyton on Blenheims with Vickers guns & Fraser Nash turret. All other AGs were NCOs. Learnt Morse code. 09/07/1940 first op with Sq/Ldr Singer, then raids on Brest, Emden & Bremen with P/O Kee. Last BB flight 11/1940. In 01/1941 crewed with F/Lt St John in Wellingtons. Last raid on Kiel 12/03/1941. With 15Sq 07/06/1940-16/07/1941. Then Moreton-in-Marsh as Gunnery instructor with 20 & 21 OTUs. 03/1942 to 13 ITW, Cranwell & AFU for pilot training & to 29Sq flying Intruders (28/09/1943-06/12/1944), then RAAF (Aux) as A1 Controller. Would like news of E

					Anderton, F Frayn, J Drewry, M Sainty and T Taylor from 4 Bombing & Gunnery School, West Freugh, Scotland 1939, all finished as P/O on probation. Also Baker, Drysdale, Cunningham & Palmer. Contact Ted via Ed.
'Darts Match'	12-13	Letter		Joe Keep	Response to letter (60/16). In 114Sq at Canrobert with L/Ft Bob Molesworth, F/Lt Tim Denny (Obs) & Bill Burberry (Wop/AG) & crewed with F/Sgt Aicheson (Obs) & F/Sgt Jock Cummings. In 03/1943 to Marrakesh with Sandy Jenkins (from 'Kings Cross') to collect Bostons won in darts match. Returned via Blida, Setif, Canrobert & Grombalia. One Boston to 18Sq.
	13	Letter		John Green (816)	Pic: BB Mk1, ...98. Photo found at Royal British Legion, Repton, Derbyshire. How did it get there? Nearest airfield Burnaston. Two aircrew not recognised. Could be any one of 12 BB's ending in ...98. Any info to John - <a href="#">contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
	13	Letter	Better late then never?	Tony Gilbert	Father, F/Sgt Dennis Gilbert (pilot), crewed with Sgt WT Wiggall (Obs) & Sgt FE Hughes (Wop/AG) in 114Sq. Shot down in BA991 on 19/01/1943 over Tunisia, captured & POWs. See G Warner's 'The Bristol Blenheim' p535. Pic: Hughes, Gilbert and Wiggall. Further info to Tony: <a href="#">Contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
	13-14	Letter	'My husband was headed for the doghouse'	Dinty Moore	Origins of name 'Dinty'. Interviewed by NT about Blickling Hall. Dinty Moore Beef Stew still sold in US. Also from comic strip by George McManus. Pic: cartoon advert for Beef Stew
	14		Harry Sparkes		Phone call to Ed: has course photo of 10 ITW in May 1941 (see p15). If anyone recognised contact Harry: <a href="#">Contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
BB T2254	14	Wanted	Blenheim T2254 1-00	Walter Lindekens	Walter has researched BB T2254 (see 57/10). Page 387 of Graham Warner's 'The Bristol Blenheim' shows nose sirens on 2 13Sq BBs. This probably 'still' of 04/1942 army co-operation newsreel footage, with BB in background T2254. Anyone know origins of this photo? Walter's <a href="#">contact details via email address at bottom of web site</a> or via Ed.
	14	Wanted	The Aircrew Remembrance Society	Kelvin Young	Wrote to Tony Lowe. Aircrew Remembrance Soc (voluntary assn) wants article, photos, first-hand stories, etc from WWII aircrew. See: <a href="http://www.aircrewremembrancesociety.com">www.aircrewremembrancesociety.com</a>
1Sq, May 1941	15	Pic		Harry Sparkes	Pic: No 2 flight, No 1 Squadron, 10 ITW, May 1941 (see p 14 above)
P/O DA Payne	16	Wanted	Pilot Officer Douglas A Payne	John Palliser	P/O Payne crewed with Sgt Golding (Obs) & Sgt Bodey (Wop/AG) in 53Sq in late 1940, based at Thorney Island. Info from Payne's log book, and books by Graham Warner & Chaz Bowyer. What happened to Golding & Bodey? John's <a href="#">contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
BB L9175	16	Wanted	Blenheim IV L9175, 110 Squadron	Luc Swinnen	Luc from Kaggevinne (Belguim) writes that BB IV L9175 shot down by Oblt Gerhard Homuth (I/JG 27) on 11/05/1940 over Ballaerstreet (nr Diest). F/O Gordon Reginald Gratton (pilot) KIA, Sgt T Patterson (Obs) POW at Stalag Luft 383 Hohenfels, LAC Allam Frederick John DFM (Wop/AG), aged 20 from Ilford, Essex. Would welcome

					info & esp photos for book. <a href="#">Luc's contact details via email address at bottom of web site</a> or via Ed.
	16	Wanted		Nick Fenton	Father flew in 139Sq, crashed 01/07/1941 off Holland, taken POW to Stalag IX C, Stalag Lufts 3, 6 & 357, Thorn & Fallenbostal. Any further info to Nick: <a href="#">Contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
	16	Letter	Ron Fullman		Ron has audited Blen Soc accounts for 12 yrs & writes to Ron Scott (treasurer) that giving year's notice of retirement. Not onerous job as good treasurer & meet interest people (Betty & Hugh George, Sir Ivor Broom, etc). Ed thanks Ron F for his work.
Norway night patrols	17-18	Article	Norge Patrol	Roger G Napier (ex RCAF)	Excellent description of what it is like on a routine low-level night patrol over Norwegian Fjords in November 1940 from a Blenheim navigator's perspective, including navigational details. 11/1940, 404Sq, Coastal & Bomber Commands. Pilot 'Woody' Woodrough; Wop/AG is 'Joe' with Browning guns. Bergen. Bubble sextant use, DR (direct reckoning) and QDM. Read this & you are there with Napier in the Blenheim
	19	Report	From the Engineering Side: 19	Smudge	Mk I nose trial fitted to fuselage allowing measurement for controls etc. Rescuing a seat frame and need to make moulds for cockpit top glazing. Employing engineer f/t to work on Mercury engines. Pic: BB with new Mk I nose.
110 Squadron	19	Letter	110 Squadron follow-up	Brian Gibbs	Update on article in 53/13 about Brian's father Arthur Edgar Gibbs (Eddie), 110Sq, in which discrepancies found between records by Sidney Newborough & Gibbs concerning 17/05/1941 shipping attack on <i>Hardelot</i> or <i>Capedenhague</i> . Ted Sismore (ex 110Sq) responded; pilot was Noel Cathles flying BB R3772. The 2 ships in line, one bombed, other mast hit! Final of R3772's 64 sorties was 11/06/1941 in Wesner-Ems canal (crewed by Cathles, Gibbs & Newborough). 110Sq to Malta & R3772 left with 17 OTU, Upwood, 28/08/1941 & DBR 30/03/1942. Now researching Bethune raid. Anyone know about pigeons sent out with aircrew? Contact Brian: <a href="#">Contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
BB potted histories	20	Data	Blenheim Mk I L Series continued	Graham Warner	BB Mk 1: L1133, L1134, L1135, L1136, L1137, L1138, L1139, L1140, L1141, L1142, L1143, L1144, L1145, L1146
	20	Editorial		Ian Carter	Got copy from Norman Chapman, Norman Wight & Stan Saunders and more welcome. Thanks to Victoria & in-laws for help with new son! Warning: dog with franking desires

## Issue 60: March 2008

Topic	Page	Type	Title	Author	Notes & Search Words
	1	Report	Chairman's Comments	Andrew Pierce	£20,000 raised by Society for Blenheim. Tony Tranter will be missed. Graham Warner guest speaker at AGM, Potters Bar.
Editorial	1	Report	Editorial	Ian Carter	Thanks to all who send in copy; lack of space can mean delays in including them. Items of info can lead to articles – see F/O

					Alexander Donald, 11Sq (XISq)
	2	Data	President and Committee		Names and contact details of 7 society 'officials' and 4 committee members
	2	Data	Membership		New members & absent friends. RIP: Sq/Ldr DAG McLeod (Don), 53Sq; Roy Roberts; JW Harris; Tim Denny DFC; also see separate obits.
Terence P O'Brien DFC	2/3	Obit	Acting Sq/Ldr TP O'Brien DFC & Bar	Graham Warner	Born in Maitland, NSW, Australia, Terence O'Brien ('Pat') flew to UK to join RAF at Uxbridge as AC2 in Dec 1939. Flew BBs with 41Sq March-autumn 1941 over Brest with 53Sq. Early 1942 took Hudsons to FE for 62Sq. Ops in Dutch East Indies, incl Palembang (Sumatra), survived Endau raid & evacuated to Java March 1942 & Ceylon on <i>Kota Gede</i> . Late 1943 was RAF Army Liaison in Japanese-held Burma with Chindits & Morris Force, then 357Sq 'special duties' over Burma in Dakotas. Wrote 3 books: <i>Chasing After Danger</i> , <i>Out of the Blue</i> and <i>The Moonlight War</i> & quoted in D Vincent's <i>The RAAF Hudson Story</i> and Shores & Cull's <i>Bloody Shambles</i> . Married Timmie, had several jobs. Died 10/09/2007
P/O Jo Cargill Stevenson	3/4	Obit	P/O Joseph Cargill Stevenson (39766)	Ian Carter	'Joe' was born Edinburgh 05/12/1912 & to Dundee High School. 28/01/1939 joined RAF (40Sq) at Abingdon flying Fairy Battles, then to Betheniville (near Rheims), returning to Wyton, UK, to convert to BBs Dec 1939. Flew with Sgt Usher (Wop/AG) & LAC Corney (Obs) (both kia 30/09/1941 45Sq, East Africa) on recco over Wilhelmshaven 16/04/1940 & saw <i>Tirpitz</i> (G/Cpt Lawrence). Obit gives Jo's account of Ypenburg raid and names Hugh Smeddle (who wounded) & P/O Peter Wakefield. Filming of 'March of Time' at Wyton June 1940. Married Desiree 1939. Jo's RAF experiences in <i>Sweeping the Skies</i> by David Gunby.
Tony Tranter	4	Obit	Tony Tranter	Ron Scott	Active society member, historian (see 60/9) and linguist who organised society trips to Vraux & Gellick, Arranged William Leefe Robinson's VC grave clean up. Married to Rosie to whom society sends condolences.
W/O Stan Gale	4/5	Obit	Warrant Officer Stan Gale	Ian Carter	Halton 30 <sup>th</sup> entry as a/c apprentice in Aug 1934. Posted 25Sq at RAF Hawkinge as AC1 in Dec 1939 with BB Mk Is. To France with 59Sq & left 'in hurry'. To Eastchurch then Thorney Island. Posted ME, Western Desert, invasion of Sicily then on Malta with Air Sea Rescue & to Naples on VE Day.
Rev Leonard Rivett	5	Obit	The Reverend Leonard Rivett	Ian Carter	Born 19/03/1923, joined RAF 12/05/1941 to train as Navigator, then to S Africa. In <i>Dutchess of Atholl</i> when sank (see 56/6). Posted to 42 OTU, Ashbourne (UK), 14/11/1942. Crewed with F/O Trevalion & Sgt Chapman & on 22/05/1943 they left for Blida Algeria & 13Sq in a Bisley. Did 50 ops with 13Sq (see 57/5). Trained as cleric St John's College, Durham, to York 1957, retired 1988 as rector of Elvington. Founder member Yorkshire Air Museum. Married to Jean. Funeral at York Minster.
F/Lt Douglas Hallowell Sutcliffe	5	Obit	F/Lt Douglas Hallowell Sutcliffe	Ian Carter	Born Stainland, Halifax, 16/11/1920. Joined RAF 1940, trained as AG/Wop at Evanton, Manby & Jurby. Joined 139Sq, Horsham St Faith in Dec 1941 on BBs and Hudsons. With 139Sq & 62Sq in Burma. Left RAF 1946, qualified as chartered surveyor,

					moved to Coventry, wrote 'Airborne over Burma' & to Burma 2005 with Heroes Return scheme.
Robert Walker Lyndall	5/6	Obit	Robert Walker Lyndall	Ian Carter (thanks to Bob's family for info)	Bob was born Derby, educated at Bemrose Grammar and joined RAF in 1940 as AC2. At 13 OTU, Bicester, then posted 105Sq Swanton Morley 12/07/1941, crewed with P/O Alfred L Duncan & Obs Edward Smith & flew Z9603 to RAF Luqa, Malta via Portreath & Gibraltar to start ops on 01/08/1941. Stuart R Scott's book 'Battle-Axe-Blenheims' to which Bob contributed, describes airmen's conditions, mentions Lampedusa & Frank Harbord (Obs), Z9612 & Sq/Ldr BW Smithers DFC. 18/09/1941 to UK on HMS <i>Hermione</i> in convoy with <i>Prince of Wales</i> , <i>Rodney</i> , <i>Ark Royal</i> , <i>Kenya</i> , <i>Edinburgh</i> , <i>Sheffield</i> & <i>Euryalus</i> . 03/11/1941 reunited at Portreath with Duncan & Smith flying R3669. 1943 posted to 13 OTU, Bicester, to train aircrew, including WAAF group, in morse. One was Lilian Rolfe ('Nadine') of SOE (who captured, sent to Ravensbruck & executed with Violet Szabo ('Louise') & Denise Bloch ('Ambrose') (see film 'Carve her name with pride'). Bob kept contact with Rolfe family. Demobbed 1946 as F/O, trained as teacher in Special Needs. Married to Audrey & in George Cross Island Assn.
	6	Data	Events 2008		Lists airshows, society & other 2008 events.
	7	Pics	A Look Back at 2007		Six pics including Mark Peacock, Jean Matthews (at Shuttleworth), John & Jean Braun & Alan Price (at Shoreham), Tony Lowe & Denis Rigollet's daughter Gale (at Vraux) & group pic of 14 founder members.
Sq/Ldr TG Tideman	8	Letter	139 Squadron	Rob Tideman	Jim Kings letter (54/11) mentions Rob's grandfather, TG Tideman, in 139Sq. Any one remember him? Contact Rob in Australia via editor. Pic: 16 members 139Sq probably taken late 1939/early 1940.
	8	Letter	145 Squadron	Edna Rose	Letter & photo to Tony Lowe showing Edna's late father, WHA Rose, armour / fitter in 145Sq with BB marked SO-R.
	9	Article	The Battle of Blenheim 1704	Tony Tranter	Written just before his sudden death, Tony describes how, in 1704, France (King Louis XIV) supported the Jacobite (James Stuart) & not Britain's Queen Anne. Louis sent army to attack Britain's ally, Austria. John Churchill (1 <sup>st</sup> Duke of Marlborough) marched army 300 miles to meet Prince Eugene of Savoy. With Lord Cutts they met Franco-Bavarian army (led by Marquis de Clerambault) between Blenheim & Oberglaue villages. Colonel Palmes successfully attacked French Marshal Tallard & battle won. As a reward Blenheim (near Woodstock) built for John Churchill, where Winston born 1874. Pic: Marlborough leads battle of Blenheim.
	10	Letter	The Blenheim Company		Copy of letter of thanks to Ron Scott for £20,000 raised for Blenheim restoration, signed by John Romain, John Smith (Smudge) & Ange Fane.
F/O Alexander Watt Donald ('Sandy')	11-13	Article	F/O Alexander Watts Donald. Service No. 78989 1921 - 1942	Robert Steen	Bob write about his uncle Sandy, born 23/04/1921 at Cambuslang to Alexander Watt Donald (served in Highland Light Infantry & Royal Engineers in WWI, incl Messines Ridge) & Jean Brockie Donald. Sandy attended Hutchensons Boys'

					Grammar School & joined RAFVVR, then No 4 Air Obs School July 1939 & on 05/11/1939 posted to Training Centre No 2, Grosvenor Rd, SW1. No more info until letters from 52Sq in Egypt (HQ RAFME Cairo) on 14/10/1941 ref problems with post taking 6 mths (girlfriend was Nancy Kerr), etc. By 23/11/1941 was in 113Sq in Libya. Last letter dated 15/01/1942 from Strat Reconnaissance Unit RAF ME. From here posted 11Sq (XISq) & to Colombo race-course (Ceylon). On 09/04/1942 in Z7803 attacked Japanese fleet & shot down by Zeros; all crew died. Useful book about this: <i>RAF 1939-1945 Vol II; The Fight Avails</i> (D Richards, HG Saunders, 1954); <i>The Most Dangerous Moment</i> (M Tomlinson, 1976); <i>The Forgotten Air Force. The RAF in war against Japan 1941-45</i> (A/Cdr H Probert 1945); <i>The Bristol Blenheim</i> (G Warner 2002). Any info or names to photos to author: <a href="#">Contact details via email address at bottom of web site</a> . Pics: formal group of 30 crew; Sandy in Blenheim; Sandy + 3 by tent in desert (?Sq113).
	13	Report	Watton's Rededication at Last!		On 26/05/1990 A/Cdr Sir Timothy Elworthy (son of MRAF Lord Elworthy ('Sam') 21Sq, 82Sq at Walton 1940) unveiled Memorial at RAF Walton (& Bodney). This a propeller from R3800, 82Sq, shot down 13/08/1941 over Aalborg. Wartime Walton Museum closed 1996; Memorial neglected. Now site owned by Cofton Ltd who developing 'Blenheim Grange'. With support of Adam Owen re-sited Memorial to be re-dedicated 21/06/2008 opposite American Memorial at entrance. Info from Julian Horn
	14	Report	RAF Bircham Newton Memorial Project	Neil Grant, D Jacklin, Brian Hall, Keith Benn	Sept 2007. Pic MRAF Sir Michael Beecham & David Jacklin at dedication of new memorial at RAF Docking (on B1153, 1 mile N of Docking) by Rev Andrew Butcher, made by H Brett & son, Watton. Also present No 42FSq (King's Lynn) ATC, RAFA, RBL, Salvation army, Frank Goff (ex-206Sq & 279Sq ASR). Flypast by Stearman biplane from Old Buckenham Aero Club. Birham Memorial funded by National Construction College. RAF Admin Apprentices Assn attended open day 30/09/2007.
	15	Report	Bolingbroke 9048 Progress		See <i>Flypast</i> editorial Feb 2007 for 9048's background. Arrived Filton (Bristol) in bits 2006, fuselage to Bristol Aero Collection, Kemble. Workshop set up at Patchway (adj Filton Airfield) supported by Rolls Royce. Restoration provides training for students at City of Bristol College & Messier Services (Cheltenham, Filton College & Hartcliffe Engineering Community College). Rest of a/c moving to Patchway by Airbus UK. Many volunteers; steady restoration progress.
	16	Letters	The Blenheims of 114 Squadron	Bill Burberry	Ref to G Warner article (59/18). Page 20, 2 <sup>nd</sup> para: Bill (Wop/AG), crewed with Bob Molesworth (pilot) & Tim Denny (Obs), details incident in which T2430 hit by Ju88 returning from Eidenhoven 27/04/1942; Bill injured. Then, over Lowestoft, hit by 'friendly' AA battery & crashed Pulham airfield 3am in flames. Tim rescued Bill. 2 <sup>nd</sup> point relates to 114Sq conversion from

					BB Vs to DB7s (aka Boston IIIs or A20s). Based at Canrobert & Souk-el-Khemis ('Kings Cross') in early 1943, 114Sq crews flew to West Raynham & Bob Molesworth (see 56/4), Bill & new Obs returned to Blida (Algeria) in new Boston (DB7) 08/04/1943, to Canrobert 10/04/1943 & to Kings Cross 17/04/1943 – but conversion was in UK. Flew Bostons until 12/05/1943 when transferred to 13Sq & BB Vs again. Dart match A/Cdr Sinclair v Major General Spaatz (US). Tim Denny died 23/02/2008.
John <b>Holmes</b> (529519)	16	Letter	Old Blenheim Boy	John Holmes	Joined RAF Jan 1936 (529519) flew in BBs as Sgt Obs, 40Sq. After spell in hospital reverted to Cpl & metal rigger. Interesting description of painting underside of BBs in 57Sq before they got Wellington 1Cs.
	17	Letter	Samson and Hercules Memories	Pat Woodward	In response to Dinty Moore's piece (59/5) Pat (Ex 113Sq, Thunderbolts) writes that lived in Norwich & danced in the 'Samson' in 1941-42 as ATC cadet. American 8 <sup>th</sup> Air Force also in Norfolk. Remembers effect of Luftwaffe's Baedeker Campaign on Norfolk & other cathedral cities. 'Samson' & Lido (Aylsham Rd) both swimming pools in summer & dance halls in winter.
	17	Letter	11 Squadron Ceylon	Lawrence Wheatley	Two incidents described: 11Sq (XISq) Ceylon 1942. W/Cdr Bateson did roll in BB over race-course &, later, he saw a BB do a 'loop'. Bill Baird adds that he & Peter Dennis with Bateson on 31/05/1942 in Z9597 when loop done. Names Sgt Charger Cameron.
	17	Letter		Brian Gibbs	Refers to <i>Aeroplane</i> article reprint, p 17. Pic caption should be 110Sq (not 40Sq) - see p242 'The Bristol Blenheim'. The dog (on plane!) is 'Nelson'
	18	Notice	Modeller's Corner	Mark Peacock	MPM have re-leased BB Mk I model & Special Hobby a fighter version of BB Mk IV
	18	Letter	Help wanted	Steve Zane Elderfield	Writing history of RAF Eastchurch (Isle of Sheppey). 21Sq (15/08/1938 – 01/03/1939; 59Sq & 53Sq arrived 31/05/1940 with BBs. Any info re life, duties, personnel, BBs, etc to Steve: <a href="#">Contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
F/Sgt Philip Edwin <b>Gatehouse</b>	18	Letter	Help wanted	Ian Gatehouse	Ian's uncle Philip Edwin Gatehouse DFM (later P/O) was navigator to Lord David Douglas-Hamilton (F/Lt then W/Cdr) in Malta (has photos), & later RAF Benson. Both killed in Mosquito 1945. Update: S/Ldr D Douglas-Hamilton, CO 603Sq, Malta, from April 1942 (Spitfires); see ' <i>Thanks for the Memory</i> ' (Laddie Lucas) & ' <i>The Air Battle for Malta</i> ' (James Douglas-Hamilton). Any info to Ian: <a href="#">Contact details via email address at bottom of web site.</a>
	18/19	Report	From the Engineering Side: 18	Smudge	Continue work on Mk I nose; all ribs now fitted & curved skins ready to paint. Once riveted in place can remove glazing bars. Rudder pedal bar & throttle box prepared for replacing; several engine components being worked on. 'Speechless' on receipt of £20,000 from Society at Xmas lunch!
BB potted histories	20	Data	L Series Blenheim Mark Is	Graham Warner	BB Mk 1: L1121, L1122, L1123, L1124, L1125, L1126, L1127, L1128, L1129, L1130, L1131, L1132. Pic: 'Jinking Time', Alexandra, Egypt.

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 Reserve
POW	Prisoner of War	AM	Air Marshal	VR	Voluntary Reserve
LG	Landing Ground	AVM	Air Vice Marshal	RCAF	Royal Canadian Air Force
SWO	Station (or Senior) Warrant Officer	A/Cdr	Air Commodore	SAAF	South African Air Force
AOC	Air Officer Commanding	DFM	Distinguished Flying Medal	RAFA	RAF Association
FIS	Fighter Instructors School	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	BAC	Bristol Aero Collection, Kemble
CFS	Central Flying School	CG	Centre of Gravity	BAC	Bristol Aircraft Company
ME	Middle East	ADC	Aide-de-Camp	RNHF	Royal Navy Historic Flight
FE	Far East	Adj	Adjutant (admin assistant to CO)	MoD	Ministry of Defence
DBR	Damaged Beyond Repair	SOE	Special Operations Executive	RAE	Royal Aircraft Establishment (Farnborough)
IFF	Identification Friend or Foe	ASR	Air Sea Rescue	RIAT	Royal International Air Tattoo
ORB	Operations Record Book	BEM	British Empire Medal	BEA	British European Airways
FTS	Flying Training School	AAS	Air Armament School <i>No.1 Manby</i> (1943)	BA	British Airways (was BEA)
EFTS	Elementary Flying Training School	AGS	Air Gunnery School	hp	Horse Power
ITW	Initial Training Wing	B&GS	Bombing & Gunnery School	ITW	Initial Training Wing – <i>Blackpool</i>
AFU	Advanced Flying Unit	AE	Air Efficiency award	ANS	Air Navigation School
DR	Dead Reckoning	OADU	Overseas Aircraft Delivery Unit	ADGB	Air Defence of Great Britain
QDM	Magnetic bearing to a DF station	SOC	Struck Off Charge	BoB	Battle of Britain
ETA	Expected time of arrival				
E&RFTS	Elementary & Reserve Flying Training School				
IAS	Indicated Air Speed				
AUW	All Up Weight				
ATC	Air Training Corps				
AE	Aeronautical Engineer				