

# Christmas Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2007

Compiled by LARRY CROSS

[www.olddux.org](http://www.olddux.org)

## Dear Members

Our meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> October was attended by some 61 members and guests. The weather was absolutely perfect, the airfield was busy and people and young families were picnicking and generally enjoying the sunshine.

**Bob Hope** opened the meeting by welcoming us all which included three new members. Derek Cutts, G/crew 56 & 66 Sqns 1948. Terry Dean, Photo/Sect 1958-61(not present) and John Cossins RSF & 64 Sqn 1956-5 who was present. Bob went on to say that Len Thorne and Taff Wilkins are going through difficult times healthwise and that our hearts and prayers are with them.

Efforts to contact Tony Murkowski, C.O. at Duxford 1962 were to no avail and is assumed deceased. Also gone, Ron Townsend a founder member and T. Thurgood 64Sqn Radio Sect. A minutes silence was observed for those and others who have gone before. Two other members seem to have gone adrift, Steve Cotton, Ass.Member and Tony Murphy Radio RSF 1957-57, anyone know of them? The meeting agreed to having an annual dinner in 2008 which will again be held at the Heydon Grange Golf & Country Club, a provisional date was set as Saturday **MAY 10<sup>th</sup> 2008** our **AGM** will then follow on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>**.

**Apologies.** It was remiss of me not to take the opportunity at the meeting to comment on the website. A belated 'Happy Birthday' to the Olddux.org. would have been in order, - 12months old on 18<sup>th</sup>. October. In that time there has been over 1500 'hits' but can claim only two new members, it will improve I'm sure. The Newsletter is always included but the format is somewhat restricted by minor technicalities. There are other features which I would like to see installed, a shop window perhaps, displaying the associations Ties, Scarves & Badges etc. Members could display items of their arts & crafts skills, even a chat room to keep members in touch, especially with overseas. We have a wonderful tool at our fingertips, (*Oh, Please*)... at the flick of a switch we can be chatting to Australia, Canada ...even Bognor Regis. Please let me know what you think...(via the little used Guestbook if you

like) and how you would like the website to evolve. L.C.

**John Rogers** gave an impassioned plea for help from members with regards to a book he is writing. He anxiously glanced at the faces present and possibly being alarmed at what he saw, urged us to act sooner rather than later. The book about Betty's Café (we've all been there) will be titled and published in the New Year. If I remember rightly, Wednesday's sports afternoons were often energetically spent there in 'suitable company' holding hands, drinking tea and eating homemade cakes....not easy!. And who remembers the wooden propeller hanging behind the counter? Home from home, what! ...not that we had a propeller hanging over our fireplace at home, but it was a cosy environment especially to the American airmen who were there in the mid-forties and so far from home. I'd bet that Bet missed those boys when they shipped out!

John has done his research thoroughly, going back to when Pontius was a pilot, but would still like to hear from you with your memories of times spent there. Contact :- John Rogers 45, Chase Close, Arlesley, Beds. SG15 6UU or Tel.01462 731506

**Allan McRae** has been busy cleverly designing and printing Christmas cards, size 210 x 148mm (C5) The five old ducks pulling Santa's Sleigh I take to be the committee! ...the agile one clearing the hurdle with easy grace could be George Poole?

Contact: Allan on 01604 491836 Cost: 60p ea. inc Postage.

CHRISTMAS CARDS  
PRINTED





**Ian Swindale** spoke for a few minutes saying that through his dealings with various other associations he has become aware of pensions and benefits that some of us may be entitled to through the Veterans Agency. He went on to explain various aspects of claiming but explained it more fully in his email to me (Below)

“ Basically, everyone who has served, for **even one day**, whether Regular, National Service, Hostilities Only or, "joined and thought better of it" is qualified to apply for a "War Pension"; you don't even have to have served in any "Unpleasantness" - (apart from AOC's Inspection in the rain - or was that Sick Parade!?) Simply contact "Veteran's Agency" on your computer, look for claims. Fill in the form or download the claims form and send it by post, better still, get your grandchild to do it.

There are those who will say "Ah, but I wasn't in The War so don't qualify etc., etc., " BUT if you have Tinnitus through not being issued with Ear Defenders whilst on the range or running up those engines, or the S.W.O questioning your ability to dress yourself unaided, or from constant high frequencies on the RT, then - CLAIM ! Bad back from ejector seat use OR TRAINING or, "lift-and-carry" injuries; the main source of rehabilitation programme work for the P Ed Branch - then, claim !

Others will say "There are people more worthy than I; the attitude of the Agency is that they have a mountain of money just accruing interest; they would much rather dish it out to the troops! SO, - CLAIM !!! er, like, er, - TODAY.

I **WILL** BE ASKING QUESTIONS AT THE NEXT MEETING OH! AND MINE'S A PINT!.....Cheers, Swinny.

Members without PC's can access the Internet at their local library, assistants are there to help. There may be a small charge.

#### Can anyone help on this research ?

Members of the history Group within the Chinnor U3A (University of the third Age) are researching the history of Chinnor village. (Oxfordshire)

In the course of this research we have produced a memorial book showing details of the men who are commemorated on the village war memorial. In addition to these men there is a window in St. Andrew's church dedicated to the memory of three airmen who were killed in a flying accident in 1941 The accident occurred in fields near the village.

Flt/L A.W.Lacey. LAC. P.A.Hoare. LAC. W. Harris.

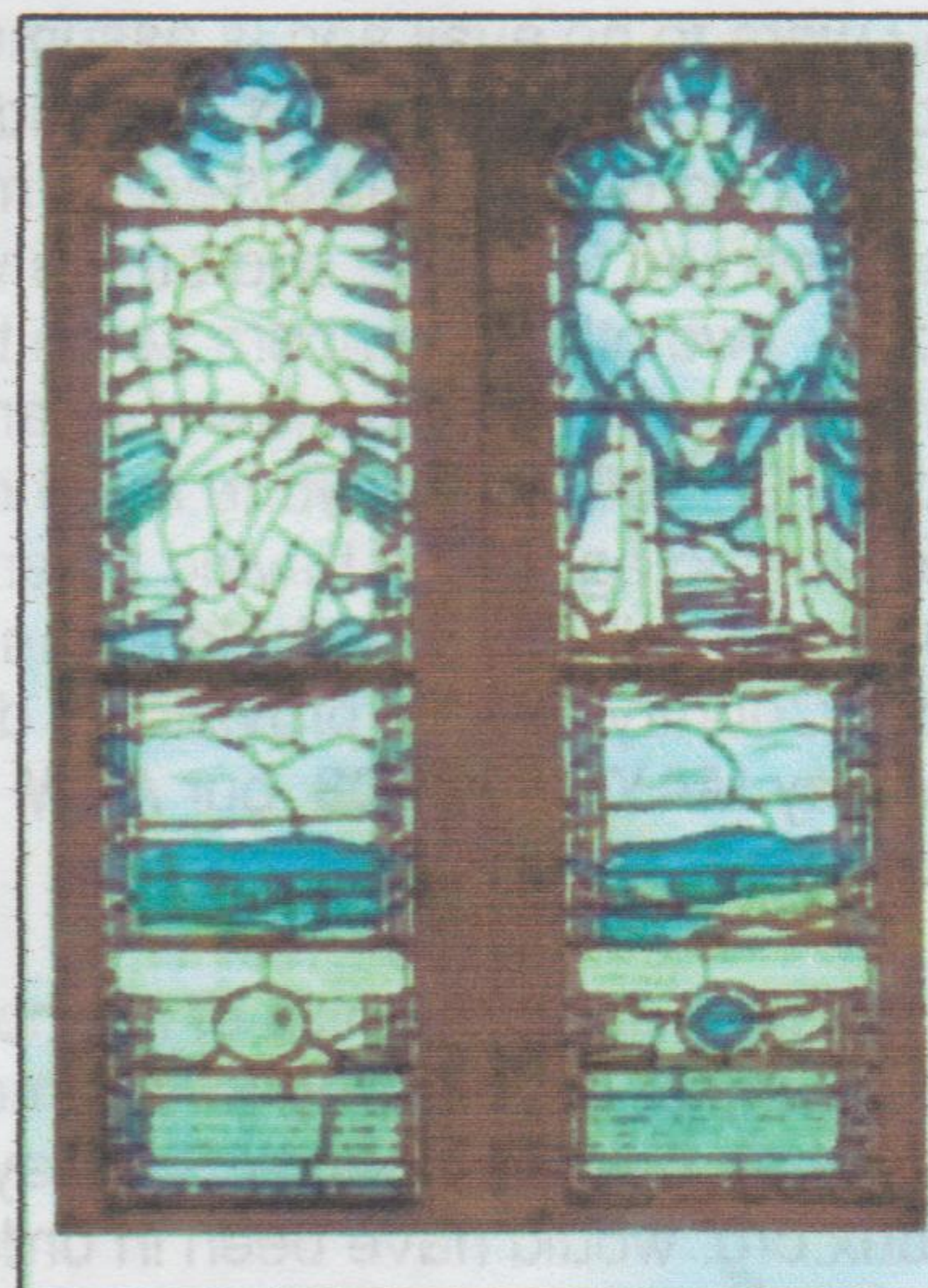
We have researched details of these three men but would very much like to know what type of aircraft they were flying and the exact location of the accident

If anyone has any information that might help us in we would be very grateful.

Contact Molly Milne on : 01844352441 [molly@armsresearch.co.uk](mailto:molly@armsresearch.co.uk)

or Ann Gange on 01844 352836 [annegange@aol.com](mailto:annegange@aol.com)

St Andrew's North Window



#### Mind your Grammar

Harry is getting on in years and finds that he is unable to perform as he used to so he finally goes to his doctor, who tries a few things but nothing seems to work. The doctor refers him to an Indian medicine man. The medicine man says, "I think I can help you." That said, he throws a white powder into a flame, and there is a flash with billowing blue smoke. "This is powerful medicine, you can use it only once a year, all you have to do is say '123' and it will rise for as long as you wish!" Harry then asks, "What happens when it's over, and I don't want to continue?" The medicine man replies: "All you or your partner has to say is 1234, and it will go down.... But be warned – it will not work again for another year!"

That night he decides to surprise his wife Joyce, he showers, shaves, and puts on his most exotic shaving lotion, gets into bed, and lying next to her says, "123." He suddenly becomes more aroused than at anytime in his life ... just as the medicine man had promised. ...Joyce, who had been facing away, turns over and asks, "What did you say 123 for ?"

And that, my friends, is why you shouldn't end a sentence with a preposition !





### A Blast from the Past

Sept 1957. These Directives must have affected quite a few of us at the time, so did it all come to Pass ?

The ROYAL AIR FORCE is to intensify its drive for regular recruits. The secretary of State for Air has emphasized that there will be a *continuous* need for aircrew volunteers for many years to come. Official statements say that the strength of the WRAF, too, is to be increased and, if possible, doubled. How does all this line up with "Service cuts," surplus personnel and the Policy of scaling down the RAF to a strength of about 150,000 by the end of 1962. The plain fact is that recruiting, and not redundancy, is the RAF's major problem. Present strength of the RAF is somewhere around 220,000. But, of this total, nearly 70,000 are National Servicemen. Under the new Defence Policy, National Service is to end with the last call-up at the end of 1960. The RAF from 1962 onwards, consequently, will have to be an *-all-regular* force. Further, it will have to meet the additional heavy commitment of operating not only air-to-air but ground-to-air and, with the powered bomb, air-to-ground missiles, as well as its full "V bomber force."

Set against the need to prune wisely to forge a balanced regular force, to eliminate the bulges and bottle-necks in trades and branches, to provide worthy promotion and career prospects for its future "professionals," and achieve more with less personnel are problems of much greater intensity than the "cuts" which have been so much in the news of late. An early assessment of those who will be asked to retire or be discharged prematurely is only about 700 officers and a thousand warrant officers and senior N.C.Os. It is because the numbers involved are so small and the compensation terms sufficiently generous that it is believed that the scaling down can be largely achieved through the voluntary retirement or discharge of officers and airmen who, in any case, are nearing the end of their current engagements. Personnel affected, as the first categories published indicate, will lie largely in the ranks of Squadron Leaders and above and with airmen, as far as can be seen, no technicians, corporals or aircraftman ranks will be involved. Further categories will follow the policy of balancing out ages, qualifications and skills so that the RAF of 1962 onwards will not only be "streamlined" but proportioned.

**The compensation terms, both in scope and rewards, have no parallel in Service history. In effect, they will confer pension and terminal grant rights on personnel who have only half the normal qualifying periods of service. In addition, personnel involved will receive capital sums tax-free which range up to £6,000 for officers and £1,250 for airmen**

The Government has further underwritten its obligation to those displaced by setting up a Re-Settlement Board on which all sides of industry and commerce will be represented, with Air Chief Marshal Sir Ronald Ivelaw-Chapman at present Vice-Chief of the Air Staff, as Director of Re-settlement. Service "channels" have been set aside in order to give officers and airmen affected direct liaison with those who will implement their applications for release. Officers concerned can write directly to Air Ministry AR.3, while airmen similarly can apply directly to AOC, RAF Record Office, Gloucester. It is safe to prophesy that, in the next five years, more amenities will be provided for officers and airmen. And the WRAF will fully share in the new benefits—among which not the least may be much more glamorous uniforms!—B. H.

### Just like that !

1. Ireland 's worst air disaster occurred early this morning when a small two-seater Cessna plane crashed into a cemetery. Irish search and rescue workers have recovered 826 bodies so far and expect that number to climb as digging continues into the night
2. A guy walks into the psychiatrist wearing only Clingfilm for shorts. The shrink says, "Well, I can clearly see you're nuts."
3. I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any
4. Our ice cream man was found lying on the floor of his van covered with hundreds and thousands. Police say that he topped himself.
5. Man goes to the doctor, with a strawberry growing out of his head. The Doc says "I've got some cream for that."
6. Guy goes into the doctor's. "Doc, I've got a cricket ball stuck up my jaxy." "How's that?"..... "Don't you start."
7. So I was getting into my car, and this bloke says to me "Can you give me a lift?" I said, "Sure, you look great, the world's your oyster, go for it"
8. Apparently, 1 in 5 people in the world are Chinese. There are 5 people in my family, so it must be one of them. It's either my mum or my dad, or my older brother Colin, or my younger brother Ho-Cha-Chu..... I think its Colin.
9. Two fat blokes in a pub, one says to the other "Your round." The other one says "who are you calling round,... you fat bast\*\*d!"
10. A man walked into the doctors, he said, "I've hurt my arm in several places." The doctor said, "Well don't go there anymore."







On a recent trip to see our son and his family in California Doreen and I visited The Pacific Coast Air Museum, close to Sonoma County airport, named after Charles B. Schultz of Peanuts fame.

The museum, founded in 1989, sits on three acres on the southeast corner of the airport, with 25 restored aircraft, from the Cold War era the display is spread over a field and includes, a F4C Phantom, F14A Tomcat, and an AV8C Harrier.

As with most museums of this size they exist mainly through the enthusiasm and dedication of voluntary help and public donations.

We entered through the well stocked gift shop and as we browsed, I caught sight of a slightly familiar emblem framed on the wall, there was no mistaking the Duxford crest, with a citation below.... what a find! The citation reads :-

THE DUXFORD CREST  
"WE SWEEP THE SKY"

1917 Duxford field built for flight training

1924 Began 37 yrs as a Fighter Station

1940 Duxford plays major role in Battle of Britain

1943 - 45 US Air Force assumes command.

78<sup>th</sup>. Fighter Group with P47 Thunderbolts and later

P51 Mustangs, flew fighter escorts for daylight bombing raids over occupied Europe and Germany and then as air cover for the D-Day invasion.

1961 Last operational Royal Air Force flight.

Now part of the Imperial War Museum, Established as Europe's centre of aviation history, including WWI to Gulf War aircraft and an American museum built as tribute to the 30,000 U.S. airmen flying from British bases who lost their lives during WW II. (Courtesy of Ed Nelson formerly of Great Britain, now a PCAM Volunteer)

We chatted briefly to the vets helping out and told them of our connection to the Duxford Crest. On going out to the display, there next to the openair dining area was Ed, serving up giant Hotdogs or Burgers, with crisps and a Coke at \$5 a throw .....we did have a nice day ! L.C



### WORLD'S EASIEST QUIZ (Passing requires 4 correct answers)

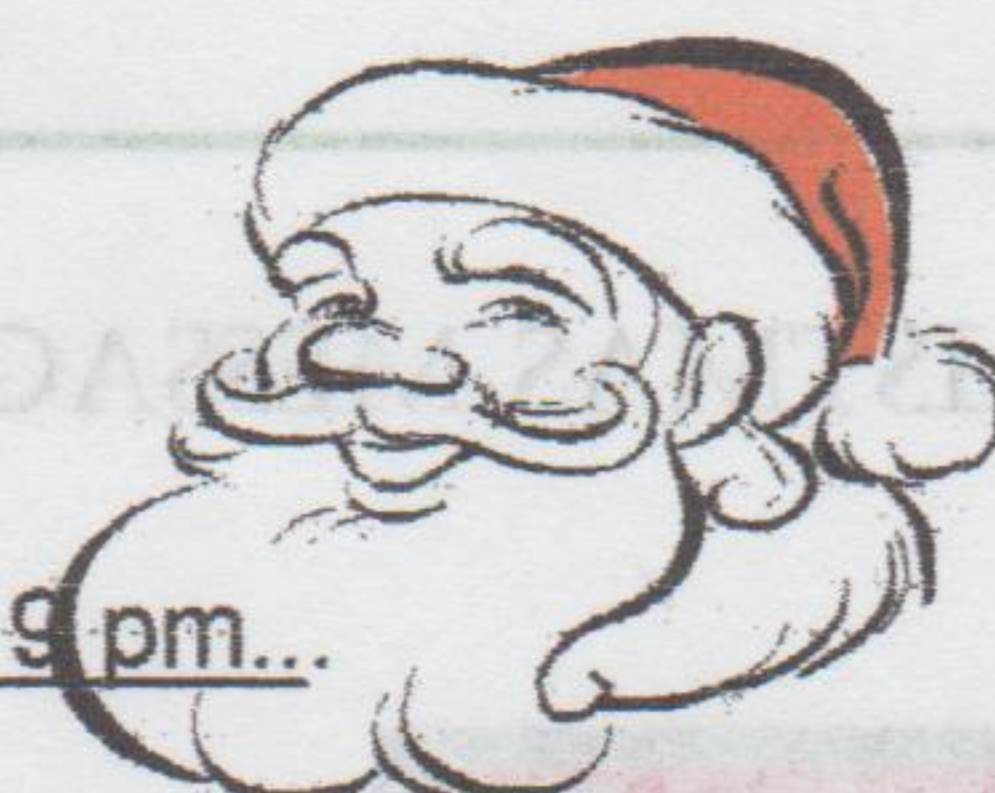
- 1) How long did the Hundred Years' War last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut?
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
- 7) What was King George VI's first name?
- 8) What color is a purple finch?
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- 10) What is the colour of the black box in a commercial airplane?





## 65 SQUADRON PARTY 1960

At the Chanteclair, Nicosia — Friday 9th December - 9 pm...



1. The Chanteclair is certainly the best night club on the island and offers, comparatively, excellent value for money. The cabaret is considered to be one of the best the night club has obtained and is far superior to any of its contemporaries.
2. With the money available it has been possible to organise:—
  - a. A chicken dinner.
  - b. Wine with the meal.
  - c. Cabaret — starting at 10.15 p.m..
  - d. No cover charges.
3. Everyone is reminded that drinks obtained at the bar are very expensive. i.e. beer 5/-, shorts 4/- 5/- - and before you set your sights on the hostesses remember that their charge for services (dancing) or drinks is even more exorbitant. (in the order of 10/-).
4. It would be appreciated if personnel would wear suitable clothes, in keeping with a 'couth' night club.
5. It is hoped to have service transport, leaving the Airmens Mess at 8.30p.m.. This will be confirmed later.
6. Free ale will be available to the airmen in the N.A.A.F.I. as from 7.45 p.m.. This is due entirely to the efforts of Chf. Tech. Miller in organising the soft drinks swindle
7. The charge will be:— Officers £2. 0. 0 - SNCO's £1. 10. 0 - Airmen £1. 0. 0.

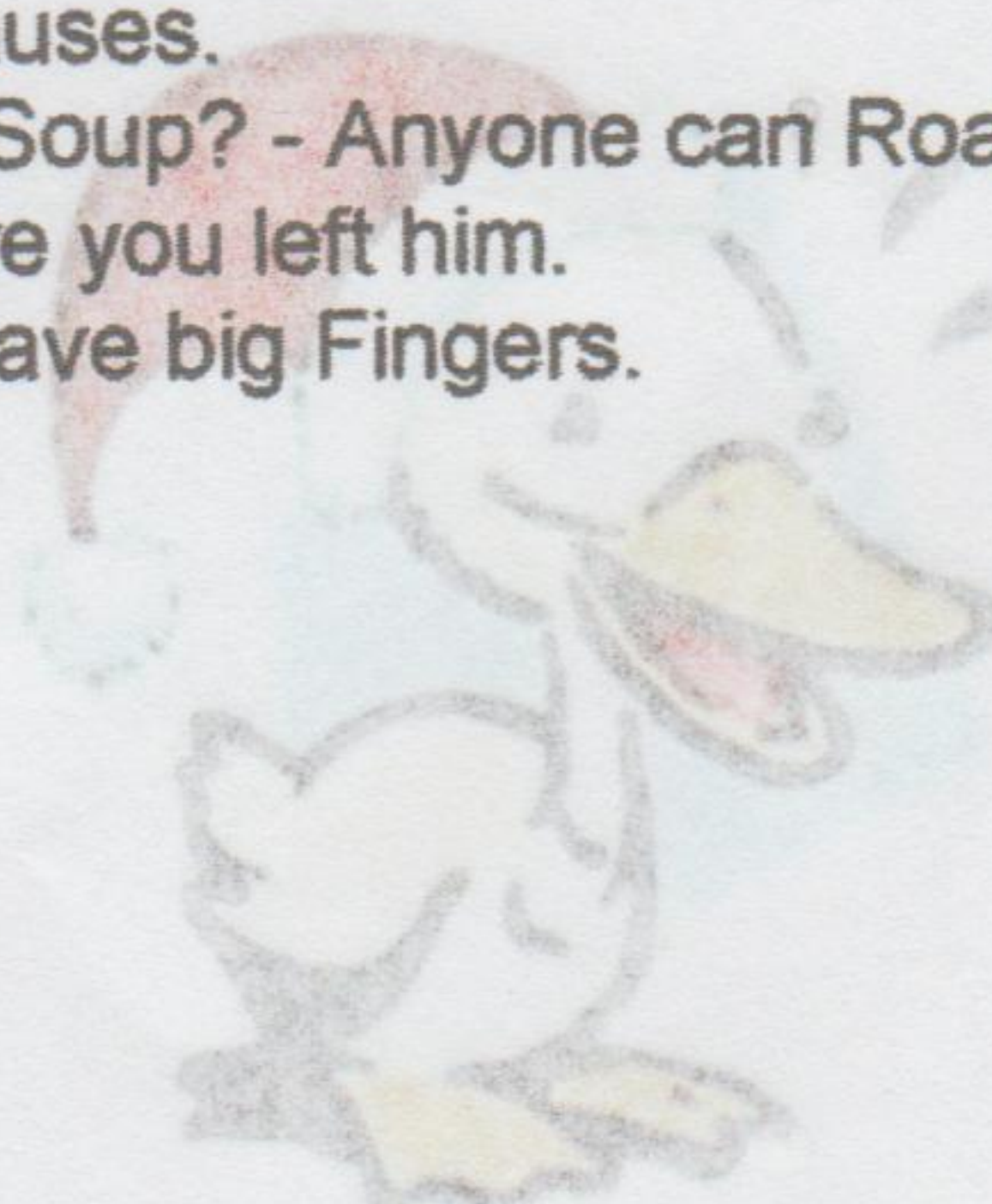
This will be collected at the pay parade on Thursday. To facilitate organisation I would like an accurate list of the number of people attending. The provisional list is below — please make additions or deletions as soon as possible.

F./S PriorChf./Tech. MillerChf./Tech. StaceySgt. NevisonSgt. StreaterSgt. SandersSgt. StoddartChf./Tech. Mewes Sgt. DrawbridgeCpl. VincentCpl. Latimer Cpl. MooreCpl. BurdenJ/T Wiseman J/T Trowell J/T HarrisLAC Ellis Cpl. Murphy J/T BrownJ/T Roberts SAC Draper Cpl. T. Gent Cpl. Lindsay J/T Phillips SAC Billingham \*J/T Stephens J/T Tunesi Cpl. Willis J/T Bakewell Cpl. Smith J/T Elms SAC Martin Cpl. Houlihan Cpl. Duncan SAC Peacock A/C Fox SAC Murray LAC Blundred LAC Holder SAC Baker SAC Ford Cpl. Howes SAC McCallum SAC Harrison LAC McLachlan Cpl. Evans LAC Lodge SAC Tasker

Supplied by Peter Stephens. The party celebrated the end of their annual detachment in Cyprus. Can you see your name up there and can anyone come up with the list of Officers attending? .....Happy Daze!

### **How Do you.....**

1. How Do you catch a Unique bird? - Unique Up On It.
2. How Do you catch a Tame bird? - Tame Way, Unique Up On It
3. How Do crazy people go through the Forest? -They take the Psycho Path
4. How Do you get Holy Water? -You boil the Hell Out Of It.
5. What Do fish say when they hit a concrete wall? - Dam!
6. What Do Eskimos get from sitting on the Ice too long? - Polaroid's
7. What Do you call a Boomerang that doesn't work? - A Stick.!
8. What Do you call cheese that isn't yours? - Nacho Cheese
9. What Do you call Santa's Helpers? - Subordinate Clauses.
10. What's the difference between Roast Beef and Pea Soup? - Anyone can Roast Beef.
11. Where Do you find a dog with no Legs? - Right where you left him.
12. Why do Gorillas have big Nostrils? - Because they have big Fingers.





A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO ALL OUR MEMBERS FROM THE COMMITTEE



WISHING YOU ALL  
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS &  
A HAPPY & PEACEFUL NEW YEAR



**Tony Capstick Remembers**

I'll never forget that first day at 'pit.

Me an' mi father worked a 72 hour shift, then wi walked home 43 mile through t'snow in us bare feet, huddled inside us clothes med out o' old sacks.

Eventually we trudged overt t'hill until wi could see t'street lights twinklin' in our village.

Mi father smiled down at mi through t'icicles hangin' off his nose. "Nearly home now lad", he said. We stumbled into t'house and stood there freezin' cold and tired out, shiverin' and miserable, in front o' t' meagre fire. Any road, mi mam says "Cheer up, lads. I've got you some nice brown bread and butter for yer tea."

Eeee ! mi father went crackers. He reached out and gently pulled mi mam towards 'im by t'throat. "You big fat, idle ugly wart", he said. "You gret useless spawny-eyed parrot-faced wazzock." ('E had a way wi words, mi father. He'd bin to college, y'know). "You've been out playin' bingo all afternoon instead o' gettin' some proper snap ready for me an' this lad", he explained to mi poor, little, purple-faced mam.

Then turnin' to me he said "Arthur", (He could never remember mi name), "here's half a crown. Nip down to t'chip 'oyl an' get us a nice piece o' 'addock for us tea. Man cannot live by bread alone." ..He were a reyt tater, mi father.

He said as 'ow workin' folk should have some dignity an' pride an' self respect, an' as 'ow they should come home to summat warm an' cheerful. ...An' then he threw mi mam on t'fire.

We didn't 'ave no tellies or shoes or bedclothes. We med us own fun in them days.

Do you know, when I were a lad you could get a tram down into t'town, buy three new suits an' an overcoat, four pair o' good boots, go an' see George Formby at t'Palace Theatre, get blind drunk, 'ave some steak an' chips, bunch o' bananas an' three stone o' monkey nuts an' still 'ave change out of a farthing.

We'd lots o' things in them days they 'aven't got today - rickets, diphtheria, Hitler.... and my, we did look well goin' to school wi' no backside in us trousers an' all us little 'eads painted purple because we 'ad ringworm.

They don't know they're born today!!!

**Historical Matters**

I, Caesar, when I learned of the fame  
Of Cleopatra, I straightway laid claim.  
Ahead of my legions,  
I invaded her regions,  
I saw, I conquered, I came.

King Richard, in one of his rages,  
Forsook his good lady for ages,  
He rested in bed,  
With a good book instead,  
Or, preferably, one of his pages

There was a crusader of Parma,  
Who went to bed with his charma,  
She, of course nude,  
Said, "Don't think me rude,  
But do you think you could take off your arma?"



A crusader's wife slipped from the garrison,  
And had an affair with a Saracen;  
She was not over-sexed,  
Or jealous or vexed,  
She just wanted to make a comparison.

There was a young monarch called Ed,  
Who took Mrs. Simpson to bed,  
As they bounced up and down,  
He said, "Bugger the crown!  
We'll give it to Albert instead."

Said Wellington, "What's the location  
Of this battle I've won for the nation?"  
They replied, "Waterloo."  
He said, "That'll do,  
What a wonderful name for a station!"