



The Royal Air Force Servicing Commando and Tactical Supply Wing Association



Representing a Common Heritage

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Note: To reduce spamming we have replaced the '@' in the email addresses above with a '+'. Please remember to change '+' back to '@' before sending an email.

NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2007

Introduction by Chairman

This is the first Newsletter to be released under the "new management." We are indebted to the support of the Wing in assisting in its compilation; however, that does not extend to postage! Accordingly, a number of you will receive this Newsletter by e-mail. The format is somewhat different too, but we hope that you will still enjoy it.

Your committee is keen to build on the successes of its predecessors and reflect the needs of the whole cross section of Membership. Let us have your views please! Of course, we have a hard act to follow and renewed thanks go to Alan Robinson, Ed Stevens and Don Thorogood for easing the transition.

Much of the early part of the year has been spent in bringing TSW Members onto the "books" and working up to the very successful AGM and Dinner. We still need more – younger – members of course! Please do all you can to recruit. The Association website (maintained by

Tim Newstead) www.tswscdoassn.co.uk is an excellent source of information.

We were particularly fortunate (and grateful) to benefit from the financial legacy of our predecessors, and we are very conscious of the need to spend this money and your subscriptions and donations wisely. I mentioned postage – one of our bigger expenses – earlier. We have a number of ex Servicing Commandos on the books, many of whom have lapsed subscriptions; this will be the last Newsletter that we will post to members who have not kept their subscriptions up to date. **So, if you want to receive future Newsletters, please pay your subscriptions!**

Unfortunately, the ravages of time do not escape any of us and impact particularly upon our older Members. The information we have on those who have left us is attached. On a brighter note, we had our first Centenarian this Year – many congratulations to Bill Stell ex 3201 SC!



The AGM and Dinner – 9 June 2007

The outcome of the AGM is summarised on both the website and as an attachment to this Newsletter. For those who feel they need a copy of the full Record of Decisions, please send an SAE of A4 size to the Chairman.

Following the AGM, TSW again laid on an excellent Families' Day. The Association focal point was much enhanced and we can use some of the material on future occasions. Many thanks to the Families' Day Committee for their help. Of course, the Wing Warrant Officer – Bob McBey – was also an essential pillar of support!



We were particularly pleased to welcome TSW founder members (and not just John C-G) for the day – a number having travelled a fair distance to make the event. Probably the major event of the Dinner, was the Message to the Association from Prince Philip, Duke of

Edinburgh. This was announced by our President, Sir Joe French. A copy of the Message is attached to this Newsletter.

TSW News

In April of this year Wing Commander Clive Watson handed over the refuelling nozzle of Officer Commanding to Wing Commander Nick Atkinson. This is Nick's 3rd tour on TSW; his 1st tour saw him deploy to Op GRANBY for the 1st Gulf War and his 2nd tour saw him deploy to Op TELIC in 2003. Who knows what his 3rd tour holds!



Nick is ably supported by his 2 Squadron Commanders: Squadron Leader Greg Waterworth – Officer Commanding Tactical Fuels Squadron, on his 2nd tour with TSW and Squadron Leader Craig Veitch – Officer Commanding Headquarters Squadron. Although not officially his 2nd tour with the Wing, he

provided TSW training on a previous tour at Stafford with the Expeditionary Logistics Wing. Craig is our main point of contact with TSW for all Association matters.

TSW is fully committed to current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and the majority of personnel on the Wing will undertake tours in both locations during their nominal 3 years on TSW. Additionally, TSW runs 2 refuelling sites at Hill Cove and Fox Bay in the Falkland Islands, where, as well as carrying out their refuelling duties, the airmen have helped the communities with lambing and other novel activities. Last November saw TSW finally withdraw from Bosnia after 13 years, but more recently on 31 July 2007, TSW withdrew from Northern Ireland (NI) after an un-precedented 35 years of unbroken service in the Province. We believe that TSW were the longest serving RAF unit in NI. The occasion was marked by a small ceremony in NI that OC TSW, Nick Atkinson and the Wing Warrant Officer, Bob McBey attended.

However, it has not been all work and no play! A small group of 10 TSW personnel (including OC Headquarters Sqn, Craig Veitch and the Wing Warrant Officer, Bob McBey), walked the full length of Hadrian's Wall from Bowness-on-Solway on the west coast to Wallsend on the east coast, a total of 84 miles in 6 days, and got the blisters to prove it!

In the recent Queen's Birthday honours, TSW personnel received the following awards:

Member of the British Empire:
Flight Sergeant Mark Farrell
Meritorious Service Medal:
Warrant Officer Bob McBey

Commander Joint Helicopter Command's Commendation:

Sergeant Gaz Middleton
Sergeant Nev Williams
Corporal Chris Baker

All in all, although the first half of the year has been very busy, it has been a most productive and rewarding time for the Wing.

Servicing Commando Members

Our "senior" members continue to take an active interest in events regaling your committee (and encouraging them) to keep flying the flag! We continue to hold in high regard the variety, enthusiasm and commitment of our WWII Founder Members, and we have been most grateful for their many telephone calls and letters of encouragement and support, not to mention their advice. We will not forget the debt we owe, and indeed have action in hand with the RAF Museum (thanks to the good offices of our President) to, perhaps, gain a permanent feature at Hendon.

One or 2 Servicing Commando Liaison Members now wish to relinquish their positions; in particular, Trevor Stocks, the Servicing Parties Liaison Member has decided to stand down – if any SC members would like to take on the role on behalf of their own unit's members, please let us know. A list of the current Liaison Members is shown over the page

Incidentally, at present, Tim Newstead is looking after the membership database for Servicing Commando members on behalf of Tigger McTigue who is concentrating on maintaining the growing list of TSW members.

Servicing Commando Liaison members:

3201 SC: Mr C M Creasey
3202 SC: Mr Ted Dale
3203 SC: Mr Les Baker
3204 SC: Mrs E Dodd
3205 SC: Mr J H Marsh
3206 SC: Mrs Gwyneth Pritchard
3207 SC: Mr George Revell
3208 SC: Mrs K Aldridge
3209 SC: Mr Gwyn (Tich) George
3210 SC: Mr Dougie Blair
3225 SC: Mr Sandy Ellis
3226 SC: Mr Syd Hargrave
3230 SC: Mr Ken Sturgeon
3231 SC: Mr Albert Hayes
3232 SC: Mr Jeff Davies
SPs: Vacant

The Year Ahead

We now wish to build on the success of our first 12 months by attracting more members. Every assistance is welcome – if you are in contact with any ex TSW colleagues, please commend the Association to them. Membership Applications are available on the website or, by post, from any of the Committee.

We have booked the date for the next formal get together which will, again, be combined with the TSW Families' Day.

We have mapped out the lessons learned from the 2007 Reunion and, of course, have more time to put together an interesting day. Expect to hear from Duncan Grant early in the New Year.

Before then we have a mind to arrange an informal "Works Outing" possibly to the RAF Museum at Cosford. Any other ideas welcome!

We will also see the first "President's Award" to the TSW young airman or airwoman of the year. This is an Award sponsored by JCB and which will also see the individual gain a permanent momento of the Award.

Our History

One aspect that rapidly became clear to the new committee was that our senior members are passionate about the history of the Servicing Commandos and there is a vital need to capture this. Of course, this need also applies to Tactical Supply Wing. Much information has already been given to the new committee, but we would welcome more – particularly photographs and memories of your service; please do not be concerned about spelling or grammar, we just need to capture your thoughts and memories. Following the AGM, Sqn Ldr (Ret'd) Peter Berry volunteered to become the Association's Historical Focal Point, so you can send things to him at PWBerry132+AOL.com.

Finally

Please make sure that you keep us updated with any changes of your postal or e-mail address so that we are able to keep you appraised of progress and developments.

In Remembrance

We record with sadness the passing of the following members:

3202 SC	Mr Brian Sherwood	
	Mr Bill Williams	
3203 SC	Mr Thomas Aitken	
3205 SC	Sqn Ldr P Siddle	Died 2006
	Mr F A Pinnock	Died July 2007
	Mr A Drummond	Died 22 July 2007
3206 SC	Mr Arthur Nock	Died February 2007
3208 SC	Mr C F Holland	Died April 2007
3209 SC	Mr Frank Eardley	Died July 2007
3210 SC	Mr Ken Beeson	Died 1 st November 2006
	Mr Bill Geddes	Died 7 th June 2007 after several years of very restricted mobility
	Mr Tom Atkinson	Died 27 th June 2007 following a heart attack. Tom was the compiler of the memoirs of the Servicing Commandos "Spectacles, Testicles, Fags and Matches"
3225 SC	Mr R Hemsley	Died 16 January 2007
3226 SC	Mr Denis Basten	
	Mr Stanley Lester	Died June 2007
3231 SC	Mr John King	Died 11 April 2007 following a short illness
3232 SC	Mr Ron Whitelock	Died 24 th April 2007

**RAFSC&TSW Association AGM held at the Tillington Hall Hotel, Stafford
on 9 June 2007**

The main points arising from the AGM were as follows:

- Following a pause for reflection, Wing Commander Nick Atkinson, the new OC TSW, gave an update on the Wing's activities over the previous year.
- The new Association's founding committee members and Articles of Association were formally accepted, and the membership categories and Treasurers' Reports were endorsed.
- Current paid up membership stood at 98 Servicing Commandos and 124 TSW members.
- Other topics of discussion included:
 - The way ahead on a proposed Normandy memorial - more work was needed with consideration being given to alternative solutions.
 - The design and procurement of new Association insignia (ties, lapel badges, ladies scarves etc).
 - A donation of £500 was to be made to the RAF Benevolent Fund signifying the transition to the new Association.
 - The channelling of welfare advice and support for members in need.
 - Future events between the annual reunions.
 - The President's Award that would be made to the young airman/airwoman who had contributed most to the Wing or Service in a calendar year.
 - The preservation, handling and public historical recognition of the history of the RAF Servicing Commandos and, more latterly, TSW. It was agreed that an approach would be made to the RAF Museum.
 - Following the Reunion weekend, retired Squadron Leader Peter Berry – ex TSW – volunteered to become the Association's Historical Focal Point.
- It was agreed that the next AGM and social gathering would be held in June 2008.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

I am delighted to have this opportunity to send my congratulations and best wishes to everyone attending the Commemorative Dinner to mark the 65th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Air Force Servicing Commando, and the Silver Jubilee of the inauguration of the Royal Air Force Servicing Commando Association.

It is very important that the valiant war time actions of the Servicing Commandos should be recognised and remembered. I am also pleased to know that membership of the Association is open to those who have served more recently with the Tactical Supply Wing, the successor organisation.