

Newsletter No. 5 – September 2016

Editor: Dr Jenifer Harding (daughter of George Hogarth, Co 3)

jen@jennyharding.co.uk



Reflection

A few days ago, I had a letter from someone who was a cadet at Clewiston in 1943. He wrote, "I would not have thought that there was so much interest in such a small part of the war effort as the number of survivors of 5BFTS is diminishing." The latter part of this sentence is sadly true; each 'In Memoriam' notes the death of one or more people directly connected with 5BFTS. This time, we remember our good friend, Gordon Newsham (Course 24), 5BFTS Committee Member, Archivist and organiser of Midland Reunions who passed away in May.

The first part of the sentence, however, is definitely not true! Those of us who were privileged to have attended the 60th Memorial Day Service in Arcadia in May were humbled by the support and interest shown by our friends in America. The Union Jack continues to fly proudly alongside the American Stars and Strips in Clewiston and at Airglades Airfield (Riddle Field), and the City of Clewiston has remodelled their Civic Park where 5BFTS features in the new Memorial Garden. Here in the UK, the National Memorial Arboretum has placed a brand new plaque explaining about the grove of birch trees planted by 5BFTS Association and the Imperial War Museum at Duxford is developing a 5BFTS section for its American Air Museum.

On a personal note, in July, I travelled to Jacksonville in Florida and re-established the links between my family and the Simpson family of Fort Myers who were so kind to my father and three of his cadet friends in 1941-1942. Marion Simpson was aged 7 in 1942. Now 81 years, she welcomed us with true American hospitality and the intervening years fell away! A wonderful experience.

**'Their efforts to preserve the freedom of the world were not in vain
and will never be forgotten'**

Jenifer Harding

Five 5BFTS Facts

Opened in
July 1941 at
Carlstrom
Field

Moved to
Riddle Field
September
25, 1941

26 Courses

1434
graduates
(1325 RAF
and 109
USAAF)

Closed in
September
1945



Useful websites:

Clewiston Museum: <http://www.clewistonmuseum.org>

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Archives: <http://www.alumni.erau.edu/archives>

#5 British Flying Training School: <http://www.5bfts.org.uk>

'George Hogarth – Clewiston and Beyond'. Memoires of George Hogarth, 5BFTS Course 3
<http://commons.erau.edu/clewiston-beyond/1/>

US Contact: Harold Kosola – hkairplane@aol.com

Memorial Day - May 30, 2016

This was such a special and memorable day; the 60th time that a British Memorial Service has been held to remember the 23 RAF Cadets who “*Crossed the river to rest in the shade of the trees*”. Two of these cadets were part of the Arnold Scheme, training with the US school at Carlstrom Field (neither died as a result of an aircraft accident), and 21 died while training at 5BFTS in Clewiston. John Paul Riddle’s ashes are buried alongside the cadets.



February 2008

©Dina Moore (Wife of L O Moore, Co 17)



May 2016

Remembering Memorial Day 1989

This was the first time that the 5BFTS Association formally attended the Memorial Day Service. John Potter, then Chairman of the Association, gave the Address. At the beginning he said, “*It is a privilege for me to say a few words while representing our Association at this quite unique occasion. And surely, it must be unique – for where else in the world would we find a community devoted to honouring, and continuing to honour, a few young men from a foreign land who lost their lives whilst passing through a host country more than forty years ago. Unique is not an extravagant word to describe this.*”

He finished his Address, “*Our little Association was formed some twenty five years ago. In twenty-five years time, there will surely be few of us remaining to mark our Golden Jubilee. But our twenty-three colleagues will still be here and I have no doubt that the good people of Arcadia will still be caring for them. We will always be in your debt for that caring and for your devotion in keeping their memory alive. May God bless the peoples of our two countries and hold them always close together. Thank you*”.

Memorial Day 2016 marked twenty-seven years since John gave that Address. There were more than 200 people at the British Plot on May 30, demonstrating that John’s faith in the people of Arcadia in caring for the 23 who never left Florida was upheld.

After the singing of the two national anthems, the Pledge of Allegiance and the raising of the Union Jack and RAF Ensign, I felt very honoured to be asked to read out the names of those RAF cadets buried in the British Plot so that each in turn could be remembered with a Union Jack and poppy wreath. Later, I read out the names of those placing a floral tribute.

Art Rimback, Military Heritage Museum, Punta Gorda (www.freedomisntfree.org) in his Memorial Comments, explained how the American board game, Monopoly, came to the aid of British servicemen. The Germans allowed the Red Cross to send parcels including games to POWs held behind enemy lines. Advantage was taken of this to send packages with clandestine escape kits (including compasses, metal files, money and maps).

How was this done? By disguising those kits as Monopoly! Compasses and files disguised as playing pieces; money (French, German, and Italian bank notes) hidden below the Monopoly money; and maps concealed within the board. The Monopoly box was big enough not only to hold the game but also hide everything else POWs needed.

Why Monopoly? John Waddington Ltd, the UK licensee for Monopoly had mastered the technique of printing on silk. The Waddington clandestine silk maps were harder than paper, wouldn't tear or dissolve in water and would be light enough for the user to pack into a boot or cigarette packet at a moment's notice. Silk maps have the added advantage that they don't make any noise while being held or stored - important when you're a prisoner in search of escape.



Gabriel Quave (and sons) raising the flags



Art Rimback giving the address



Floral tributes



*5BFTS Association Tribute
Susan Sweet Phillips, Daughter of Charles Sweet
(USAAF Co 18) and Jenny Harding, Daughter of
George Hogarth (Co 3)*

I should like to thank the Arcadia Rotary Club, and especially, Judy Fitzpatrick, British Memorial Service Chair, for all the hard work and dedication in keeping these memories alive. Expanding on John's words from 1989: I have no doubt that the good people of Arcadia will still be caring for the 23 cadets for many more years to come. Thank you and keep up the good work!



Mayor Susan Coker and Judy Kirkpatrick with the Arcadia Memorial Painting, normally in City Hall. The 5BFTS Association presented this in 1998 to the 'warm-hearted people of Arcadia as a token of respect and gratitude for their continuing devotion to the last resting places of our comrades in Arcadia's Oak Ridge Cemetery'.



Remembering John Paul Riddle

After the service, 33 of us went to Mary Margaret's Tea and Biscuit for an excellent lunch. Friends included representatives from Clewiston, Arcadia, St Andrew's Society of Sarasota, Sarasota Welsh Society, Sarasota British Club and Daughters of the British Empire in the USA¹. We were also joined by Harold Kosola, who distributes this newsletter in the US, and Nick Jordan whose father was John Jordan (Course 13) and who made a special journey from his home in British Columbia to attend the British Memorial Day Service (see next page). Photographs taken by John were in Newsletter 3, and there are more in this newsletter.



1930 Ford, Model A, Deluxe Town Sedan outside Mary Margaret's Tea and Biscuit



Proprietors: Dennis Tyson and Bruce Neveau

The catering at Mary Margaret's is superb – if anyone is visiting the area, do call in and sample their menu. Take it from me – it's great, and their tea is made just as it should be – with boiling water directly poured onto the tealeaves and left for a few minutes!

Many thanks to Bruce and his team for providing a wonderful lunch and putting up with hearing a number of speeches, all of which were impromptu but seemed so right for the occasion.

Mary Margaret's Tea and Biscuit, 10 South Polk Avenue, Arcadia, Florida 34266

For more information about Mary Margaret's Tea and Biscuits, and details of their menu, please visit: <http://marymargaretsteaandbiscuit.com>

¹ With sincere apologies to any groups who were represented at lunch and whom I have neglected to mention by name.

Nick Jordan writes:

British Memorial Service, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Arcadia, Florida - 30 May 2016

As we know twenty-three of the cadets who came to Florida to be trained as part of the 5BFTS contingent during the Second World War died during their training. The good people of Arcadia kindly allocated a plot in the Oak Ridge Cemetery for their interment.

Every year, for the last sixty years, there has been a memorial service held on the American Memorial Day at the British Plot, as it has become to be known. Having just turned sixty myself, and having a connection to 5 BFTS, I decided that this year would be an appropriate one to make the trip from my home in British Columbia, Canada, to be in Florida for the Service.

My father, John, was trained as part of Course 13 in Clewiston, from January to July 1943. Unfortunately one of the cadets in his course, Forbes Robertson, was killed in a flying accident on April 24th. So it was with a great sense of honour and humility that I was able to place a memorial cross on Forbes' grave during the ceremony.

I think that (through our fathers) Jenny and myself were the only two attendees at the Service, and the lovely luncheon afterwards, with a direct link to 5 BFTS. However there was a significant attendance from residents of the area with a "British connection".

It was a tremendously moving experience, and I for one was humbled by the show of community support that was shown by the local residents.

In Memoriam

Gordon Newsham (Co 24) died May 16, 2016



Course 24 A Flight



*With Alma at Old Hall Cottage,
Bardon Hill*

Midlands Reunion 2001



*5BFTS Association Final
Reunion, Bedford*

September 2013

Gordon, born September 13, 1923, died peacefully at home at Bardon Hill, near Coalville, Leicestershire, on Monday May 16, 2016, aged 92 years. He and his wife, Alma, had four children, Madeline, Clair, Catherine and Ian, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Gordon was on Course 24 (January 22 – August 25, 1945). He told me that after VE Day on May 8, 1945, they were expecting to be sent to help in the fight against Japan when they graduated. When Japan suddenly surrendered, these plans changed and Gordon was then sent to help with reconstruction work in Africa. No flying involved!

Gordon was a member of the 5BFTS Association from the early days and was one of the 11 survivors who were able to attend the final Reunion Dinner in September 2013. My father,

George, was the original 5BFTS archivist and had, with Gordon's help, organised Midland Reunions for many years. When George became too frail to continue in 2002, Gordon willingly took over the archives and organisation of Midland Reunions. By then, they were usually a pub lunch followed by refreshments at Old Hall Cottage with excellent cakes baked by mostly by Alma. I was fortunate enough to attend several of these when I was acted as a chauffeur for my parents – wonderful company and hospitality led by Gordon and Alma.

Gordon and Alma took a lead role in the original arrangements for the 5BFTS Grove at the National Memorial Arboretum. Gordon wrote, "We visited the NMA on Tuesday February 6 2001. The project looks very worthwhile and I think that 5BFTS should support. The idea of a living memorial as opposed to a stone one seems very sensible as it can be changed over the years". Gordon knew that the NMA had agreed to replace the plaque by the trees and he was delighted with this, but sadly, he died before just before the plaque was installed and so never saw a photo of the new plaque (see 'Notes from the Old World').

Edward A Curry Jr (Co 16) Died January 16, 2016



Edward Curry USAAF Course 16 Cadet

Ed Curry lived in Los Angeles, California. He was aged 95 years when he died and had been a 5BFTS Association US member for many years. After Clewiston, he was posted to the 401st Bomb Group (8th Air Force) and flew B-17 Flying Fortresses from Deenethorpe, Northamptonshire, from November 1943 to June 1945. Beginning missions in 1943, the focus was very much on the coming invasion attempt of France planned for the following summer. Ed attained the rank of Staff Sergeant.

We remember with thanks these two pilots who have handed in their logbooks, and to other pilots, Riddle Field staff and friends known to us who have done so much to keep their memories alive.

WE ARE HERE BECAUSE THEY WERE THERE!

Notes from the 'Old World'	
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Three really exciting things have happened since I wrote the March newsletter.

1. The new 5BFTS Plaque at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) is now installed

The new plaque is now in place in the 5BFTS grove of three North American birch trees and two English Birch trees (5 for Number 5). This is at the entrance of the RAF Wing, which comprises three sections with trees dedicated to various RAF organisations and a further section remembering the RAF Servicing Commando.

If you live in the UK or are visiting the UK sometime soon, a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) is worth considering. The centrally located National Memorial Arboretum, home to the iconic Armed Forces Memorial, comprises 150 acres of trees and memorials devoted to the theme of Remembrance. It is situated near Lichfield and within the National Forest in Staffordshire.

For more information, visit www.thenma.org.uk



The Grove of 5 birch trees with the two English birch trees in the centre – August 2016



John Potter planting one of the birch trees 2002



Harold Kosola by one of the birch trees 2002



The Old from 2002



And the New – installed August 2016

On behalf of 5BFTS, I have thanked Rachel Haynes, Grounds Administrator, who coordinated the production of the new plaque and installed it on August 4, 2016.

THANK YOU RACHEL AND THE NMA!

2. Time does not stand still - an extraordinary tale.....

In March, Mike Altuccini contacted the 5BFTS website for help.

Mike lives in Bury St Edmunds Suffolk and about 18 years ago, was in Petworth, West Sussex, on a family visit to his Son and Daughter in-law. Wandering through the town, they noticed the small community centre had a sale of bric-a-brac, and on one stall, Mike found a bag containing old watches and parts. His idea was to use the parts in a collage of watches and paid about £5.00 for the complete bag. This bag of watches and parts has been sitting in a draw since then, but one watch in particular has intrigued Mike for many years (he was in the RAF himself) but his investigations always came to a blank. Until now.....

The watch is a RENSIE WATER PROOF INCABLOC and the back is inscribed "**Riddle McKay Aero College N.C.TUFNELL. Best Overall Cadet Course 6**" and is dated 8.5.42. Trawling the Internet, Mike found various mentions and stories of the Cadets and finally came upon a photograph of Course 6 including cadet N C H Tufnell.

We know a little about N C H Tufnell. Nevill Charles Hilder Tufnell was an outstanding cadet. Each course named the best ground school cadet, the best flying cadet and the best overall cadet. Of the 17 courses for which I have complete records, Nevill Tufnell was the only cadet to receive all three awards. Some had two, but no one else appears to have had three. Course 6 graduated in August 1942, and two years later, he was promoted to Ft Lt². While with No.225 Squadron, a tactical reconnaissance squadron, he was awarded a DFC in July 1945. His citation reads:

"Flight Lieutenant Tufnell has displayed a high degree of skill and courage in air operations. He has completed a very large number of sorties, including many reconnaissances on which he has obtained information of great value. On one occasion this officer was detailed for a photographic reconnaissance along the strongly defended line of the Brenner Pass. Undeterred by intense enemy opposition, he secured good photographs of every bridge from Reverso, along the Adige River to the coast. Throughout two tours of operational duty, Flight Lieutenant Tufnell has shown great efficiency and keenness and his determination to make every sortie a success has won much praise." (London Gazette 13 July 1945 page 3620).

Nevill Tufnell was born in 1922. He attended Eton College and died in 1995. The story is unfolding and I have now managed to make contact with some of Nevill's relatives. There will be more in the next newsletter.

The watch does not have a strap but amazingly still works although in need of overhaul.

THANK YOU MIKE



N C H Tufnell Watch face



N C H Tufnell Watch inscription

Photos taken by Michael Altuccini

² The vast majority of the cadets who graduated from 5BFTS were promoted to Flight Lieutenant two years after graduation.

3. Hello Duxford.....

In April 2016, Anne Hughes contacted the website. She wrote, "*I am a volunteer researcher at Imperial War Museum, Duxford, England, and for the last year have been researching 5BFTS. We were given a copy of the first commemorative book for Clewiston and it is full of autographs of students and staff from Courses 12-13, including John Paul Riddle.*" She explained what research she had been doing and ended, "*Hoping this is of interest to you and that you would like to be involved with this.*"

I met with Anne in May, and then went over to Duxford in August to talk to Anne and research staff. I haven't been there before (although I know that several visits have been made by 5BFTS Association members during Annual Reunions, most recently in 2005 and 2011) and found it fascinating. Duxford dates back to 1918 and WW1, and played a vital role during WW2. During the Second World War thousands of Americans serving with the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) arrived in Britain and fought alongside the RAF in the battle against Nazi Germany. Duxford was home to the USAAF from 1943 to 1945. In recognition of this, and the continued contribution made by the USAAF post war, Duxford has an American Air Museum section. Here, I saw at very close quarters, a Stearman PT-17 and a Harvard (Texan) AT-6 – Wow!

Anne takes up the story.....

The First Anniversary Book of 5 British Flying Training School – Clewiston 1942

When a copy of the 1941-42 *No 5 B.F.T.S. Royal Air Force* book was donated to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, UK, it was decided that it should be used in a display in the American Air Museum, which was to re-open in 2016 after major refurbishment.

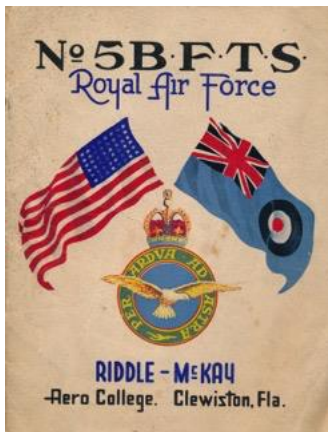
Though rich in its selection of photos of the time, the book was very short on narrative, which made its history and context difficult to determine. However, it was unique in that it was inscribed with 60 autographs of the staff and students of the time, a few with comments and many with addresses.

The book was handed over to me, as a volunteer researcher for IWM Duxford, as it was deemed that I would have the time to follow the many leads we hoped we would find. In fact, after an initial analysis the 'journey' of unravelling the history and the personal stories of those who signed the book became almost obsessive and led to Will Largent's book, *RAF Wings over Florida*, and the website of the Clewiston Museum. The link to the Embry-Riddle *Flypapers* also proved invaluable as a source of first-hand accounts, photos and poetry written at the time.

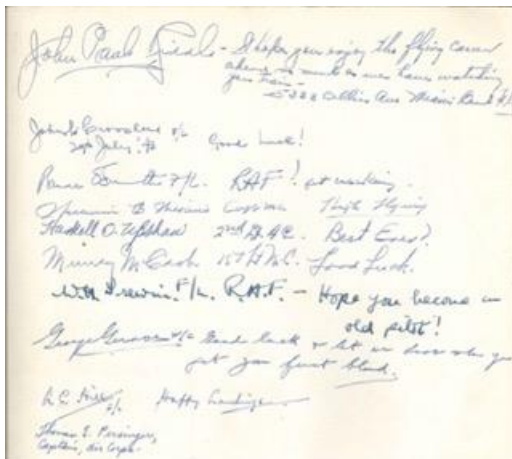
Eventually the trail led to personal contact with Dr. Jenny Harding and the wealth of research she has already done about 5 BFTS. We are now at the beginning of putting our combined research on to the AAM website (<http://www.americanairmuseum.com/>), where it can be shared internationally. Hopefully, an even larger archive can be built up to celebrate the lives of those involved in the British Flying Training Schools in Florida.

In the next few months we are planning an evening in the American Air Museum at Duxford to highlight this work, and to forge a deeper link with our American veterans and their families, in turn remembering the RAF trainees who spent many months overseas preparing for active service in the Second World War.

Watch this space – this story is only just starting!

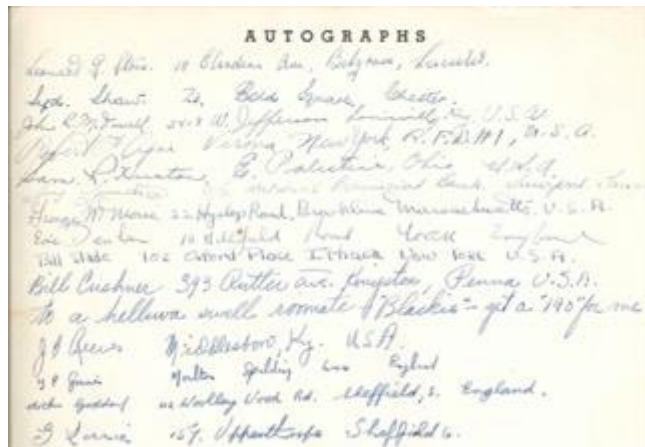


5BFTS First Anniversary Book



Autographs on page 3

(Note John Paul Riddle at the top)



Autographs on page 39

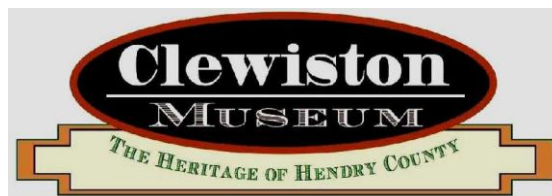


#5 British Flying Training School Clewiston, Florida. Website Update



No specific update this time, but the story of Nevill Tufnell's watch and the work at Duxford show how useful the website can be in making connections.....!

The 5BFTS website can be found at www.5bfts.org.uk



Clewiston Museum Update

Jeff Barwick has not been too well recently and we wish him a speedy recovery. So no update this time from Jeff – get well soon! The Garden of Remembrance area in Clewiston's Civic Center Park was looking great when I saw it in June – many thanks to those who care for this area and tend the garden.

The Museum website www.clewistonmuseum.com has display information and links to connect to photographs and other archives on the subject of 5 BFTS.

Update on the flying jacket donated to the museum by Dina Moore (5BFTS Family Association) and which Lawrence Moore (Course 17) was wearing when he crashed in his Lancaster in 1946 (see photo below). When I spoke to Butch in June, he told me that he was hoping to obtain a mannequin and get the jacket on display over the summer months.



Garden of Remembrance June 1, 2016



Lawrence Moore (Co 17)'s Flying Jacket

Jenny Harding writes: *“On behalf of 5BFTS, please can I, once again, thank Clewiston Museum, Jeff Barwick and Curator, Butch Wilson, for looking after the 5BFTS archives and doing such a wonderful job keeping 5BFTS alive for the visitors to the museum.”*

Restoring Carlstrom Army Air Field

A reminder that Frank Baltra (archivist) and the American Ideals Foundation are still appealing for support and encouragement as they restore Carlstrom Field. Frank is particularly asking for help in three ways:

1. Copies of any contemporaneous photographs (of Carlstrom and Clewiston) showing the base, the cadets, the aircraft, etc; in fact, anything connected with Carlstrom Field and Riddle Field;
2. Artifacts that people might wish to donate for the new museum;
3. Letters of endorsement from organisations in Florida, the wider US and the UK.

Can you help? If you can, please contact Frank at email: mvpaffc@gmail.com

Hey, Do You Read Me? By Donald (Don) W Mangold

Don was a mechanic at 5BFTS from 1943 to 1944. In 2006, he published a book called ‘Hey, Do You Read Me?’ In this newsletter, we hear a little about the Night Line Crew.

In 1943, the night flying line crew at Riddle Field (BFTS No 5) at Clewiston Florida was headed by a medium height, slender man named Winafred Wingate. The only person I ever heard call him Winafred was his wife; everyone else called him Booger.

Most of the night flying crew line was made up of native-born Floridians. They were not in the US Army Air Corps Reserve as the instructors and mechanics were, as they were too young, too old or physically unfit for military service. Riddle Field gave these men a good, steady form of employment close to their homes.

At night, there were several things you had to be careful about. We operated from dark at night until dawn, and you had to be able to know instantly the position of an airplane that was

on the ground by the navigation lights. We had to work around whirling propellers and moving airplanes. At the same time we worked in a swarm of mosquitoes, and kept our ears open for the buzz of a rattlesnake. The snakes moved away from the flight lines but they had to have time to do that. I heard a snake near me and flashed the light around my feet but I couldn't see him. As the airplane got closer, he must have moved away, as I never saw him.

Another time, I was guiding a PT-17 in, and when he got close I saw that a set of chocks was directly in front of him. I signaled him to stop and went up to get the chocks. As I was about to bend down, I realised the prop was too close. I got down on my belly and crawled over and got the chock.

On the AT-6 line, late one night, a 6's engine would not idle down for the cadet. It had just come out of the repair hanger, and the idle was set too high. I got the left hand side cowling off, stepped back and asked the cadet if the throttle was pulled back too hard. When I stepped forward, I stepped right off the leading edge of the wing. As I fell forward my right hand slid along the top of the airplane and caught on the top boot cowl edge. This threw me up against the ring cowling, and saved my life. I crawled back and set the idle, and promised myself to be more careful. God just had something more for me to do.

When Booger left to go to the Florida Wildlife Department, they made me temporary Night Line Chief until they found a permanent man to fill that job. Booger and I had spent a lot of time together and he had taught me what I needed to know.

More from Don Mangold in the next newsletters...

Lois Heflin Blount - Riddle Field Remembered

In May 1943, Lois Heflin was 16 years old. She had just graduated from high school and was about to start her first job as a secretary at Riddle –McKay Aero College.

In May, I had the honour of meeting with Lois at her Clewiston home in E Avenida Del Rio. I also met her middle son, Raymond, and heard a little more about her time at Riddle Field. Lois started working for George Sloan in the Personnel Department and in July 1943, moved to the General Manager's office and became secretary to Mr Durden when his secretary started to work for Mr Tyson. About eight ladies were working at Riddle Field. One of these was Hazel Townsend. Hazel married one of the Riddle Field mechanics, Guy Green.

Lois told me that, in September 1945 when Riddle Field closed, Hendry County could have bought the camp and converted it into a 'fly-in' resort. The plan, favoured by local Clewiston residents would have turned the camp into a holiday destination complete with restaurant (the Mess Hall), swimming pool, tennis courts and en-suite accommodation; however, the County took a different view and raised the building to the ground with a bulldozer! In retrospect, what a missed opportunity to save our joint heritage!



Riddle Field from the air looking South



Riddle Field from the air looking North

Photos from Lois Blount

Lois and her husband, Lewis, had three sons, Richard, Raymond and Robert. Richard

became a pilot (influence of Riddle Field in his life perhaps?). Raymond also has the flying bug but from a different angle – he prefers coming down – by parachute (or sky diving to use a more up to date expression!). Skydive Spaceland Florida is based at Airglades and Raymond has more than 50 dives to his credit.



Lois Heflin - 1945



Lois Heflin Blount and Raymond May 2016

There will be more memories from Lois in the next newsletter.

Photographs from family collections

Roy Mather DFC (Course 12)

You may remember that in the last newsletter I reported that Rob Mather, Roy's son, and Peter Allam, whose father trained at No 1 BFTS (Terrell, Texas), had been in touch, both seeking information about Roy. Rob has provided the photograph below taken at Riddle Field and titled "Roy and his mates plotting a course".



John Jordan (Course 13 – January-July 1943)

Nick Jordan has told me more about his father, John. John, the son of a Plymouth Brethren missionary, was born in Guling, China in 1923, the eldest of four siblings. Apart from one trip to England in 1927/28, he lived and was educated in China until he was 15. To finish his education he was put on a boat and travelled back to England by himself. Whilst on the boat the war started. As soon as he could in summer 1942, John signed up to join the RAF. He never saw action, since he became a flying instructor himself. When the war in Europe ended it seemed like the war in the Pacific was likely to carry on, so he transferred to the Fleet Air Arm in the hopes of seeing some action. Nobody, of course, knew about the atom bomb. Needless to say John never left England and was demobbed from the FAA in 1946, to start a career in construction administration, working primarily all over southern England in the 'new' towns which were then being built.

It was very exciting to meet Nick Jordan on Memorial Day 2016. When he got home, Nick did two things - he sent me some more photos belonging to his father John Jordan (Course 13) and wrote to Eric Denham (Course 13) who is pictured with John in some of the photos. Eric lives in Oxfordshire. I had Eric's address in an old 5BFTS Association Directory, gave it to Nick. Since then, Eric and Nick have made contact and I have written to Eric as well to give him a copy of the last newsletter and the 2016 Memorial Day Service details. This shows how Riddle Field has reached out and touched so many people and places. Nick now lives in

British Columbia, Canada, and Eric is in Oxfordshire but Riddle Field has drawn them together!

This selection of photos from Nick is collectively called 'A Time to Relax' and all were taken between January and July 1943.



Swimming Gala - July 4, 1943

William J Hastings (Course 24 – January to August 1945)

More photos provided by Brian Hastings, William's son.



Red arrow shows William in the centre



In the camp

Do these photographs jog any memories? Please let us know. You can get in touch with Rob, Brian and/or Nick via me (jen@jennyharding.co.uk).

The next newsletter will be published in March 2017 (there will be a short Christmas newsletter in December 2016). Please can you let me have any articles, information, etc, by the end of February 2017. The more you tell me, the more interesting the newsletter will be – and I would especially like to hear if anyone worked with, or knows, any of the people mentioned in this newsletter. Anecdotes, stories and pictures would be great. So - over to you and ***“Until we meet again, “good-bye to y’all”.***