

# 656 SQUADRON ARMY AIR CORPS

## ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER



656 Squadron  
9 Regiment Army Air Corps  
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Dear Association Member

Since the last association news letter the squadron has undergone many changes. In December 1993 a skeleton 656 Squadron under the command of Major Garry Key packed its bags, bid a fond farewell to Netheravon and commenced its long journey North to Dishforth North Yorkshire.

On arrival at Dishforth 656 Squadron subsumed 672 Squadron. The majority of 656 Squadron's new manpower had come from 672 Squadron, who had until this point been equipped with the new Mark 9 Lynx in support of 24 Airmobile Brigade. This role, along with 9 Regiment's Mark 9 Lynx was transferred to Wattisham and gratefully received by the newly ensconced 3 Regiment Army Air Corps. The aircraft void was filled by 6 Mark 7 Lynx and 6 Gazelle all of which were Gulf War Veterans with plenty of 'character'.

656 Squadron is a fully integrated part of 9 Regiment Army Air Corps whose role is to support 3 United Kingdom Division. The Third Division is a Division for all seasons, which must prepare for conventional war and sub-conventional conflict. It can expect operations to be joint, probably conducted with allies, quite possibly under a United Nations mandate. The Division has three Brigades under its command, two mechanised and one airborne. It is the latter, 5 Airborne Brigade based in Aldershot to which 656 Squadron now has its affiliation and which the Squadron would be most likely (though not exclusively) to go on operations with. The Brigades provide a singular and dynamic range of capabilities. The division may also take other Brigades, British or allied, under its operational command or control; one of these is 3 Commando Brigade. Conversely the Division may not always operate in its entirety.

656 Squadron with its new role, new manpower, new location, new aircraft, new Regimental and Divisional command, has enthusiastically set about an intensive in baulk training period concentrating heavily on Army Tactical Doctrine Note Ten, which sets out in detail the modus operandi for anti tank tactics. This phase has now been completed and the regiment is entering an exercise period to consolidate on these new found or relearned techniques. In short the Squadron has had a very busy start to what will be a very busy year.

I would like to include in the Squadron synopsis a few events or points which you may wish to make use of.

### **TUESDAY 10 MAY 94 GUIDON PARADE**

The Army Air Corps has the honour to be presented a Guidon by a dignified VIP. The event will take place at Middle Wallop and will involve nearly every member of 656 Squadron along with the rest of the Army Air Corps. There will be a parade and large flypast.

### **SATURDAY/SUNDAY 14/15 MAY 94 IAS**

Once again Middle Wallop will host the Army Air Corps International Air Show. 656 Squadron will make a contribution to both ground and air events. It is also proposed that Sunday 15 May 94 be the 656 Association Annual General Meeting at Middle Wallop. The AGM will take place in the Stockwell Hall Lecture Theatre at 1400 hrs.

### **SATURDAY/SUNDAY 2/3 JULY 94** **FREEDOM OF BOROUGHBIDGE PARADE** **REGIMENTAL OPEN DAY, 656 ASSOCIATION DAY**

On Saturday 2 July 9 Regiment Army Air Corps is to be given the freedom of Boroughbridge. This is to be commemorated by a parade through Boroughbridge at 1400 hrs. 656 Squadron will be taking its place along with the rest of the Regiment at this event.

On Sunday 3 July 9 Regiment Army Air Corps will hold its open day. In conjunction with this 656 Squadron will hold its Association Day. As well as the normal open day activities there will be a 656 Association Tent with a bar, historic exhibits, 656 shop and most important of all, a pleasant friendly atmosphere for past and present 656 Squadron members to meet. If there is sufficient demand shown on the proformas, there will be a buffet lunch provided for a small fee.

It is suggested that members may wish to make a weekend of it and combine a visit to 656 Squadron with the chance to enjoy the beautiful North Yorkshire countryside in which we are lucky to live. To this end, Annex A is a list of local accommodation and a sketch map of the local area. It will also help you to find us when you come. If you would like to come along please fill out the proforma at annex B. This is important not only for catering purposes but also for security.

### **KUALA LUMPUR WAR MEMORIAL**

The Squadron has recently received a query as to whether there is a 656 Squadron plaque at the Kuala Lumpur Memorial along with the plaques of other units who fought there. This is under investigation and we are awaiting the replies of The British High Commission To Malaysia and The War Graves Commission. If there is not a 656 Squadron plaque there, we will do everything possible to ensure that one is put in its rightful place.

## 656 SQUADRON SHOP

The shop holds a small stock of 656 Squadron memorabilia. The shop will be open in the 656 Association tent on the Regimental Open Day. It is also able to take orders by post. The following is a list of items that are in stock. If you would like to order anything please send your requirements, along with a cheque (made payable to 'CENTRAL BANK 9 REGIMENT ARMY AIR CORPS') to the 2i/c 656 Squadron.

ITEM	PRICE	P&P	TOTAL
656 Squadron mug	2.85	.50	3.35
656 Squadron print	2.00	.50	2.50
Lynx print	2.00	.50	2.50
656 Squadron cloth badge	3.00	.25	3.25
656 Squadron 'T' shirt	5.00	1.00	6.00
656 Squadron Tie(Polyester)	5.10	.25	5.35
656 Squadron Tie(Silk/Poly)	9.90	.25	10.15
656 Squadron Chinthe	76.00	P.O.A.	
Mark 9 Lynx print	3.00	.50	3.50

## 7TH DIVISION ADMINISTRATION BOX SIEGE

4-24 February 1944

BY REGINALD W BAILEY C FLIGHT 656 SQUADRON

This personal account of the events is available from the Squadron. Just send an A4 self addressed envelope to the Squadron with your request for a copy.

## 656 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

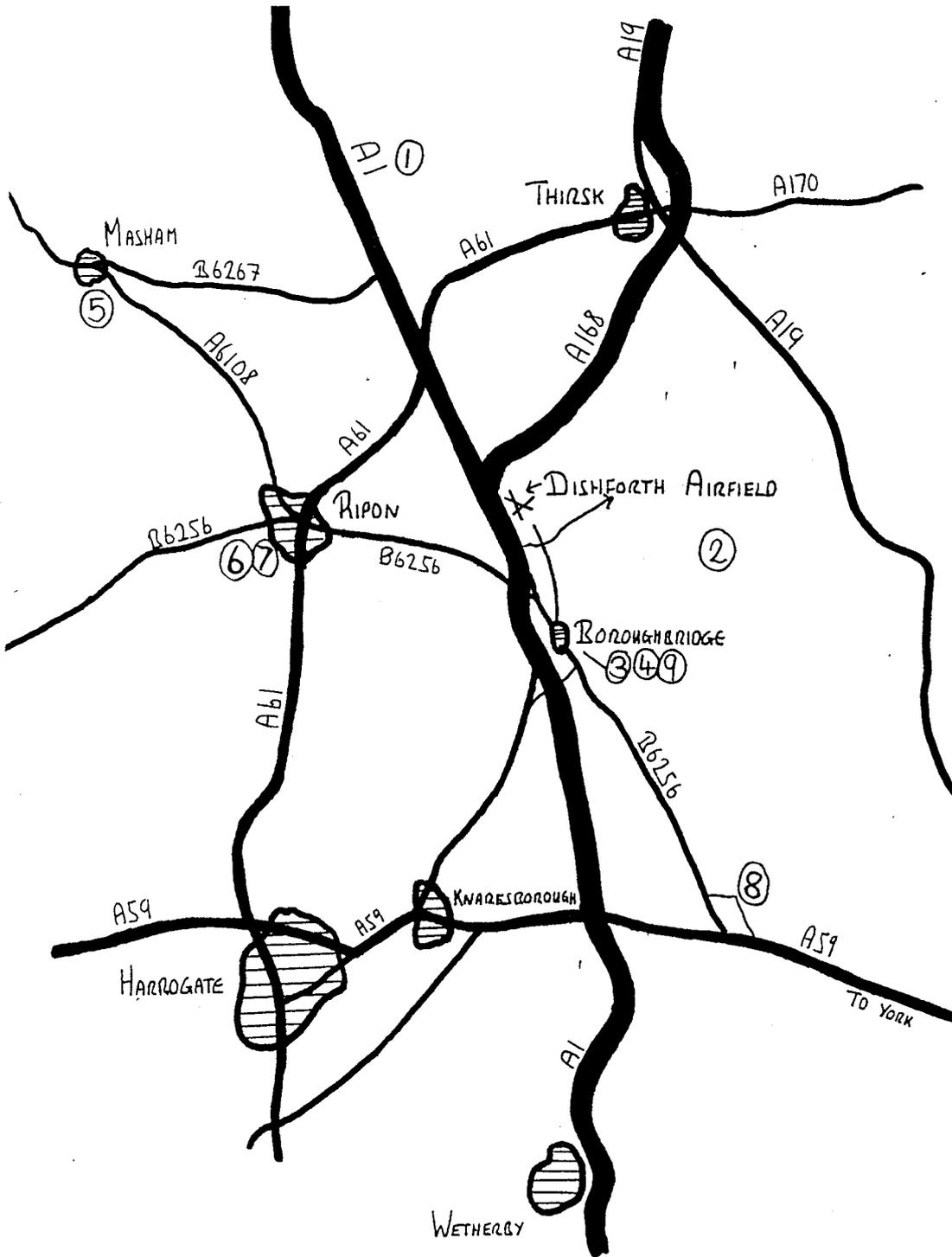
The Squadron has a nominated representative to deal with Association matters. This is currently Captain Nigel Banks AAC. If you wish to write to the Squadron please address your correspondence to '656 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION'. This will ensure prompt attention if Capt Banks is away.

It only remains to wish you all the best for the future and that we hope to see you all at the 656 Squadron Association Day in July



N A BANKS  
Capt  
for OC 656 Sqn

DISHFORTH AREA SKETCH MAP



5 MILES