

Dear Association Member,

It has been sometime since the last newsletter and during that time 656 Squadron have been kept very busy. We have had heavy commitments In squadron, regimentals brigade and divisional exercises. This constant workload has made a great contribution towards the successful combination of 656 Squadron and 672 Squadron. I am happy to report that 656 Squadron is as well prepared for the future as ever.

656 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

The AGM took place in May during the International Air Show.

The Treasurer / Membership secretary reported that the Association continues to grow with the addition of 62 members joining in 92 and 37 in 93. The membership now stands at 286. Regrettably since the formation of the Association in 1989, 15 members have passed away. The most recent ones being:

1992 Mr A F Stubbe, MaJ P H Barton, Capt N F Gregg, Cal P F Rodwell.
1993 Mr K J Price, Mr T V Seaman, Mr K. G Shaw, Mr W D Dyke, Mr
C Pike, Mr N H McIntyre, Mr E Bowles, Mr V C Wynne-
Woodhouse.

Expressions of condolences were sent to all their families.

THE LATE CAPT JULIAN POOLEY AAC

It is with great regret that I have to announce the death of Capt Julian Pooley (Association member 234). Julian was serving as the Belize detachment commander when he was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident whilst off duty in Mexico. The funeral took place at Glenisla Parish Church In Scotland on Friday 30 September. 656 Squadron was very well represented as bearers, mourners and members of the Firing Party. Those of us who knew Julian will know how much his death is a terrible loss to the Army Air Corps and how much he will be sadly missed.

656 SQUADRON ANNUAL OPEN DAY 3 JULY 94

After sorting out the initial problems of start times the open day was a resounding success. Over 70 Association Members and their guests attended it, as well as the majority of the serving members of 656 squadron. It was a great honour for the Squadron 'to meet so many of its ex-members. I also understand that many old friendships were renewed after over 40 years. You will be pleased to know that in true 656 Squadron style the party went on until the early hours, long after the other squadrons had gone to their beds!

PRESENTATION OF PEWTER TANKARD – CAPT E.W. MASLEN-JONES MC
DFC RA

After taking part in Operation Zipper, which was the reoccupation of Malaya after VJ Day, Capt H F Gregg and Capt B V Maslen-Jones presented each other with identical pewter tankards engraved with the signatures of all those 656 Squadron Air O.P. pilots who were present. Mr Maslen-Jones has kindly donated his tankard to the 656 Squadron collection. Unfortunately Capt Mike Gregg passed away in 1992 so the fate of the twin tankard is unknown.

666 SQUADRON COLLECTION.

666 Squadron has had many things presented to it since its formation. The collection is displayed with pride within the Squadrons lines. 9 Regiment AAC runs a policy whereby there are 4 informal visit days run each year. The visit days give all those who wish to come along a good insight into the way 656 Squadron operates within 9 Regiment AAC. If you wish to attend one of these visit days then please write to me and I will send you details. Needless to say, even if another Squadron is running the day you will be more than welcome to visit 656 Squadron and our collection.

AUSTER MkIII MT 438

Association Member Maj J A Vetch (Seremban 1959-61, OC 1902 Fit ipoh 1961—62) has restored Auster Mk III MT 438, believed to have been with 'C' Flt 656 Squadron in India 1944-45 and flown by Capt Jimmy Jarret. Maj Vetch is researching the history of this aircraft, if anyone has any personal knowledge, information or photographs then please help by contacting Maj Vetch direct or through the Association.

THE ACCUMULATED CAMPAIGN SERVICE MEDAL

This medal will be awarded for 36 months aggregated service since 14 Aug 1969 in those theatres where the GSM 62 with clasp has been awarded. These are :— Northern Ireland AUG 69—?, Dhofar Oct 69 - Sept 76, Lebanon Feb 83 - Mar 84, line Clearance Suez AUG 84 - Oct 84, Gulf Nov 86 - Feb 89, Kuwait Mar 91 - Sept 91, Northern Iraq & Southern Turkey Apr 91 July 91.

If you think that you may qualify for this award then please contact me and I will send you some more details.

656 SQUADRON AND 7 FLIGHT RETURN TO THE FAR EAST.

656 Squadron Is due to take part in Exercise SUMAN WARRIOR 3 Oct-28 Oct. The exercise will take place in Singapore and as part of Five Nations Defence Agreement (S=Singapore, U=United Kingdom, M=Malaysia, A=Australia, N=New Zealand hence S. U. M. A. N) We will be going to Kuala Lumpur and we intend to pursue the trail of the missing memorial plaque. We will give a full report in the December News Letter.

C Flight Army Air Corps has been renamed 7 Flight Army Air Corps and is still located in Brunei. They are very interested in their newly acquired heritage and would like to hear from anyone who served in the region with 7 Flight. The address is 7 Flt AAC, Brunei, BFPO 11.

SUMMARY.

It now only remains for me to bid you good luck, health and happiness. We hope that you will all keep in touch with the Squadron and the Association.

Signed:- N A BANKS Capt, for OC 656 Squadron.