

Heritage Report 31Goup ROCA January 2021

Our ROC Displays at **Ulster Aviation Heritage Site** have been closed to visitors for long periods since March 2020 owing to the Cov-19 restrictions. ROCA volunteers call occasionally to keep check on our Displays. The Hangars, being open sometimes, with some very small group visits booked well in advance, socially distanced.

Paddy submitted an article to the **RAF AirMail “Lighting the Way Home”** which appeared in the October issue. It explains how during WW11 the ROC assisted enormously in saving over 7,000 aircraft and the lives of approx 50,000 airmen lost and returning from raids on enemy territory. This was phenomenal. A further article on **ROC Seaborne** was submitted also to **RAF News**. Then an article, sanctioned by **Lawrence Holmes MBE Truro**, relating to the **V1 attacks** on Britain and the **vital part, again played by the ROC**. Publication awaited.

Thanks to **Bill Warwick BEM** Lincoln Group, for briefing us about the **Scampton Airfield Memorial Window** to which **31Group** has, among other Groups, paid for a panel remembering **Obs Jack Kelway** killed going on duty in 1945. **The ROC Badge** will be shown in a beautifully bound **Memorial Window Book** available for all visitors to view beside the Window.

Meanwhile Alistair McCann at **Portadown Post**, sadly due to Cov-19 closed to visitors since 2019 **has been very active in other ways.**

He obtained **Post Construction Plans** on e-bay and professionally digitilised. Then, he made available, copies to Post Restorers and Collectors. He had previously done this with Recruitment Posters. Similarly, he recorded a number of online videos from Portadown Post. These give a virtual guided tour of Portadown Post showing Cold War equipment and have proved very popular. Followed up online interviews with fellow Post restorers and former ROC Members. Amazingly, these have been viewed about 6k times on both Facebook and U-tube.

His U-tube channel now has over 2,000 subscribers which is phenomenal. A huge boost for **ROC Heritage**.

His most recent acquisition is a **Carrier Control Unit (CCP)** which came from Gavin Saxby in Dundee restored Sector Ops. He intends, with assistance from Mike Scott 28 Group to wire, enabling visitors to inject Attack Warnings. Very interesting indeed for visitors in future. We have of course a **CCP Unit at our Main ROC Displays** in the UAS Heritage Site, near Lisburn which Alistair also wired to our replica underground Post and is a **great attraction for visitors**.

31Group has been moving ahead despite all our recent set-backs.