



## National Heritage Report – from our ‘Isolation Cells’

In these strange times I thought I should let you know that the Heritage Team are well and as active as ever.

**Paddy** commemorated **VE Day** very well as will be seen from the attached photographs on my email message. He is particularly active in keeping in touch with other organisations, publicising the ROC, recently submitting an article to the UAS Magazine about the VI. He recently asked me whether the ROC were permitted to wear the Cold War medal? My understanding is that this can be purchased and worn on the right hand side of the blazer.

**Cheryl** too commemorated **VE Day** – she managed to get to the Museum in the extremely bad weather to raise the flag, she couldn't put up bunting as it was too windy and wet, see attached photographs. Frank and Bob lit a Beacon with sound effects of a siren and music at Skelmorlie. Cheryl keeps in touch with the Post Restorers and her team of helpers in Scotland.

**Simon** has added a new strand on his excellent website [www.roc-heritage.co.uk](http://www.roc-heritage.co.uk) under 'Further Research'- 'Urban Exploration', they have similar aims to us. There has been a problem with the Post map on the website which Simon will rectify. Simon and Nicki are both key workers, Simon with his Red Cross volunteering and Nicki working in a hospital.

**John Shere's** presentation to History Groups etc are on hold but he is busy replying to questions from the website. Recent replies have been to a chap in Spain who is writing about the Battle of Britain and the involvement by the ROC, and a USAF chap based at Mildenhall who wants to buy a Post Instrument as he is doing a degree on military history, John has sent him a great deal of information but not a Post Instrument! Another from an architect who needs to know the dimensions of Post as a Post in a garden seems to extend into next door, and many more interesting questions. He is currently in communication with Heritage England to pursue the preservation of the Orlit B Post in Cambridgeshire, this is a much rarer version than the A as it sits on legs.

**Keith** has accepted a great deal of aircraft recognition memorabilia from a chap who was not a member of the Corps, before getting in touch with us he had put some on eBay but when he learned of our interest he removed it. This gentleman advised us to get in touch with sellers if there was something we required on eBay, saying we have the ROC archive and ask whether they would donate it? Apparently this is happening and some people will donate free of charge to those saying they have collections etc. The ethics of the Heritage Team would never allow us to beg for items, but interesting to know it is happening.

**Andrew's** wife had the 'virus' and has made a slow recovery, this meant Andrew had to isolate too. With the lock-down he has been unable to go to the archive to unload the boxes of memorabilia I gave him some time ago or to work with Keith on logging and filing the documents. Hopefully Janine doesn't mind all the boxes being stored in her home. There are very few days when I do not receive a forwarded enquiry from the Heritage website. If I am unable to answer a question it is forwarded to the appropriate member of the Team. When enquiries for membership records are received I now have to send the 'Membership enquiry form' to the enquirer who must fill it in and post it to Neville, some need a little help if they can't print or don't have a cheque book.

Today I have received an enquiry from an ex-Group Chairman, he is writing an article on National Grid, UTM and Georef used in the Group Controls. Fortunately, having considered these recently for Tim when he needed a refresher before his TV broadcast from York Ops Room it was an easy reply to make.

It is heartening when Groups put the Heritage Report in their newsletters. I mentioned Arborfield Post and the Boulder which Balfour Beatty have commissioned, this caused a member in Horsham to ask for further information as he had researched the Post in the past. Andrew visited the Arborfield History Group some 18 months ago, met the Group and took photographs of their ROC display, reading old Journals I have now discovered that a member of the Post went on the Seaborne mission. The History Group are keen to know more.

I am currently trying to trace the 4 name plates from the 'ROC trains' together with the badge and ribbon. We can account for 3 plates and will continue the research. I was reminded of the plates when Tony Whittle died recently because he had suggested the naming of the train in 1982 and it was taken up by Air Commodore Black who took it forward. Unfortunately the Martello Tower event could not take place during VE weekend however we will honour our promise of sending them a wartime pop-up for their Open Days when they are able to open again.

I can't finish the report without mentioning **Jim Mackie** who is doing the most fantastic research on the newspaper history website – it is absolutely amazing what he is finding every day. As he made the folders of 'ROC members who died in the war but not on duty' so he is to make folders of the history he is now finding to include in the archive. As appropriate I am passing on to Newsletter Editors anything which applies to their Group, to be credited to Jim Mackie.

As ever, I thank the fantastic Heritage Team who always go the extra mile and never tire of the amazing service they give to the Association.

**Edwina Holden**

National Heritage Officer - May 2020.

**CHERYL managed despite the high winds and rain'.**





**PADDY MALONE with 31 Group Standard  
VE Day 75**

