



A BLAST FROM THE PAST !

from: **EDWINA HOLDEN**

Some interesting Newspaper cuttings and papers
originating in **6 Group Norwich**.

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OBSERVER COMMANDER

C. F. HILL, M.B.E.,

H.Q. No. 6 Group,

Royal Observer Corps,

Old Catton, Constitution Hill,
Norwich.

NOTE:

**OBSERVER COMMANDER C. F. HILL MBE WAS
GROUP COMMANDANT NORWICH FROM 1943 –
1945. And from 1952 to 1970**

R.O.C. GROUP QUIZ FINAL GOES TO ECHO CLUSTER

Echo Cluster of No. 6 Group of the Royal Observer Corps were the winners of the group quiz. In the final which took place at No. 6 Group headquarters at Norwich last week they beat Charlie Cluster 53½–46½.

The group covers Norfolk and parts of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely, and Echo Cluster includes the Thetford area. The winning team was represented by P. Aisthorpe, of Southery, C. Bates, of Narborough, D. Clayden, of Mundford, and E. G. Harris, of Thetford.

Charlie Cluster were represented by E. R. T. Gant, of Mundesley, G. H. White of Mundesley, G. E. Wells, of West Beckham, and J. Taylor, of Norwich.

Questions were on Observer Corp knowledge, and Echo were behind until the last two rounds when they pulled up to win. The winners were presented with an ash tray bearing the Royal Observer Corps crest by the Group Commandant, Observer Commander G. H. Hill.

THE PAPERS BELOW WERE ISSUED DURING WW2 in NORWICH GROUP

"S" LINE REPORT

OBS/LT. E. G. FUTTER

Being a priority security matter not generally known to members of the Royal Observer Corps, a warning line direct to Sandringham was operated from No. 6 Group, Norwich, almost throughout the whole of World War II. It is believed that this was the only line to any Observer Corps Centre existing for this purpose.

This telephone line was connected to the Warning Officers' panel when the Home Office introduced their own warning personnel into R. O. C. operations rooms in the earlier years of the war.

Min of. Security

The initial decision that general air raid warnings should be given was made by the Duty Controller, when an unidentified aircraft was given a "yellow" symbol, i.e. "unidentified", "x-raid" or "hostile". The warning officer's duty immediately included a warning on the "S" Line, as it was known, to "Sandringham House". The Warning Officer could not act without the institution of the "yellow" state of operation by the Duty Controller.

Only two officers now continue to serve in No. 6 Group who were responsible for this decision which affected Sandringham - Obs/Lt. E. G. Futter and Obs/Lt. H. Butcher.

Two sons of the 6th Earl of Harewood were responsible for warning operations at Sandringham House, and on one occasion visited No. 6 Group Headquarters at Norwich to acquaint themselves with the method of operating the warnings. The writer was spoken to by them on this occasion.

CONT:

"S" Line operating was always regarded as a priority, but special attention was given when the Royal Family was in residence.

The preceding matter is confirmed by Observer Lt. H. Butcher and the Group Commandant Observer Commander C. F. Hill.

Edgar J. Fuller
Obs/Lt.

The group number during this period was No 16.