



Royal Observer Corps Association

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

SNIPPETS

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26th August 2020

News & Information for your members

BATTLE OF BRITAIN 80 ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION SERVICE

Message from the RAF Ceremonial Team

The RAF Ceremonial team would like to thank you for your patience with regard to the planning of the Service at Westminster Abbey on 20th September to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Regrettably, due to COVID-19 and in line with the guidance issued by the Government and the clergy of Westminster Abbey, we are unable to issue you with tickets this year.

There is to be a 'symbolic' Service in the Abbey to mark this very important occasion, however, this will be with very limited numbers; a carefully chosen congregation will consist of representatives for a cross-section of all those traditionally attending. Unfortunately, we do not expect that this Service will be televised.

I am sure you will share our sadness that we cannot conduct the Service in the usual way this year, but hope that you will fully understand the circumstances for this. Hopefully, we can look forward to welcoming you to the Battle of Britain Service next year.

We recognise the opportunity we now have as a result of a possible change, to place the 'spotlight' onto veterans in a unique way this year. **We would like to ask if any members of your association are, or indeed know of, any Veterans who served in any capacity with the RAF during the Battle of Britain or World War II.** In particular, veterans who have a connection to any personnel currently serving, who would be willing to possibly give an interview possibly to the BBC in aid of the Battle of Britain 80th Anniversary Commemoration.

WWII veterans may still be required we will be in contact with those who have responded with more information on this matter in due course.

ROCA Members who served or know of a Veteran who served in the ROC during WW11 please contact either Tim Kitching or me if you are willing to give an interview as requested above.

NATIONAL REUNION 2020 CANCELLED

In July based on what we knew the Adelphi Hotel Liverpool could offer and the Covid19 restrictions for gatherings it was with great reluctance and heavy heart that for the first time in this our 31st year that the National Committee had little choice other than to cancel the Reunion. The Area Reps gave careful consideration on the viability to hold the Reunion in October based on the response to the straw poll and restrictions at the hotel. Thanks to you all for your help to contact members to gage numbers.

Next Year note the date -The hotel has made a provisional booking for 8th 9th 10th October 2021.

THE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE WESTMINSTER - 5 November 2020 –

It is a pleasure to confirm that this event **is to take place**. Metropolitan Area turn for tickets, Area Rep Wendy Harvey will represent us in front of the plot and a 4 Group member will be in support to stand behind. I may be able to obtain 2 further tickets to stand behind the Plot. Please let me know asap if you would like a ticket. Currently the security details required from attendees is name and address.

CENOTAPH PARADE OF REMEMBRANCE LONDON

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2020

The latest from The Royal British Legion on the planning and issue of tickets is as follows:

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are continually reviewing our events and to ensure better clarity on the situation in November, the Legion will communicate its full plans for this year's Cenotaph in early autumn.

Please note the Legion is working closely with all the relevant Government agencies to ensure that this year's Cenotaph Dispersal can go ahead in some form. A range of representative options are under consideration by the Government. We will keep you informed as and when plans progress.

For Associations expecting to hear confirmation of their allocations, please note that we will be deferring this until we have some clearer guidance from the Government.

Arboretum Seaborne Memorial –Jenny Major is in regular contact with the Stone Mason. If all goes well it is planned to have the Memorial installed alongside the Seaborne Tree ready for the special unveiling 15th May 2021.

The Boscombe Down Aircraft Collection Old Sarum - ROC Museum Winchester permanent ROC display ~ Boscombe Aircraft Collection at Old Sarum now houses a permanent ROC Museum exhibition in the main hanger. It is open to the public well worth a visit check their web site for opening times. At a date to be advised in 2021 there will be a special ROCM/ROCA opening to which members will be invited and welcome. If you are able visit the collection now includes the new RFC Gallery, Spitfire to commemorate secret factory and the ROC display. Former ROC are volunteer guides and there on a Friday.

A SPECIAL PERSONAL MESSAGE TO ALL MEMBERS - Due to an unrelated covid19 illness I am currently heavily involved with a close family relative care that limits the time I am able to devote to ROCA admin. I am extremely grateful for the help and support from Tim Kitching and your Area Reps during this very difficult time. You may not be receiving the usual regular contacts from me. In addition similar to us all I am sure you feel very isolated unable for us to meet and socialise with ROCA friends. I reassure you that behind the scenes the Association continues to thrive and I hear lots done locally for members to stay in touch please seek these out if you haven't heard from local members recently. We continue to be valued by all organisations and to receive invites and updates for all National events.

Please stay in touch and send your Area Reps any local news and how you are all coping with the lockdown. I have heard some of your great ideas to stay in touch. Newsletters continue to keep us all informed with brilliant articles. Please ensure you have a read of them on our website. The Association remains vibrant proactive ready to take up the baton next year –We will meet again just hang in there, stay safe and well and in touch through your continued membership of the ROCA.



R E M E M B E R ! www.rafbf.org

The **Royal Observer Corps Benevolent Fund** is still there for those that are in need.

It may not be you, but it could be someone that you know

Visit www.rafbf.org/help or contact RAF Benevolent Fund on 0800 169 2942

**2021 PARADES CEREMONIES EVENTS
SPECIAL ROC ANNIVERSARIES WE WILL COMMEMORATE IN 2021
NATIONALLY AND LOCALLY**

Dates to be published as we all plan and Government Guidelines known for 2021
Full up to the minute details available at www.rocatwentytwelve.org, for specific
heritage related items see www.roc-heritage.co.uk

April - St Clement Danes Service

9th May - Guernsey Liberation Parade

May 15th - ROC GROVE - ROCA Parade & Seaborne Memorial Stone Unveiled

June - Newhaven Fort Museum ROCA Open Day

Weston Super Mare Air Festival & Parade

ROCA Display in the Veterans Village

July - Capel Le Ferne Dover Service Battle of Britain National Parade

July - Friday/ Saturday/ Sunday - Royal International Air Tattoo Fairford

National ROCA Heritage Display Veterans Village

September - Bentley Priory Battle of Britain Commemorative Day

National ROCA Display

8th to 10th October - National Reunion & ADM the Adelphi Hotel Liverpool

**ROC SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES ALL START YOUR PLANS NOW ON HOW YOU WILL
COMMEMORATE THIS SPECIAL YEAR** you will no doubt think of others not listed

80 years George V1 grant of the title Royal 1941 - 2021

80 years Women joined the Corps 1941 - 2021

30 years since Stand down 1991 - 2021

35 years Formation of The ROCA 1986 - 2021

95 years Bentley Priory - OC HQ 1936 - 2021

The National Committee currently planning on how we will celebrate 100 years since
the ROC formation in 1925 - thanks to those who have already sent us your ideas these
are under consideration.

NEXT SCHEDULED ISSUE OF SNIPPETS OR AN UPDATE

**Area Reps Committee Meeting ~ Those Area Reps and Vice Presidents who are able to
attend we plan to hold a face to face National Committee meeting at the Union Jack
Club in October 2020. The next scheduled issue of snippets will follow in October/
November with an update whether the Meeting goes ahead or not.**