



Sky High

60 years

The newsletter of 2187 (Canvey Island) Squadron ATC
Issue 3 - March 2008

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From the Editor



Welcome to the third edition of the squadron newsletter.

This is a special year for the squadron as it is our 60th Anniversary and we hope that you join in with us to celebrate. We have many events planned for this year, including the Ball in March and the Mess Night in October. All are welcome!

Remember, we want to spread the word about what we do and what you can get out of being a cadet therefore if you know of anyone that would like to receive a copy of this newsletter, please let us know.

Read on - and enjoy!

Hazel Weston,
Editor and Secretary to Civilian welfare Committee

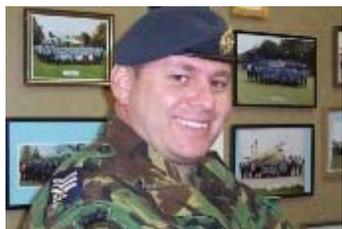
What's Been Happening?

- ⊙ RAF Lakenheath visit to 48th Fighter Wing on 21st February 2008
- ⊙ Carver Barracks Adventure Training weekend on 23rd 24th February 2008
- ⊙ Cadets represent Essex Wing and the London and South East Region in Rugby and Hockey
- ⊙ Sgt Kemp passes Sgt's course - due to attend Drill Instructor course in April 2008
- ⊙ CI Parsons completes Weapons Handling Training course
- ⊙ Sgt McNish attended Aerospace camp
- ⊙ 2187 Sqn came 3rd in the Essex Wing Postal Shooting competition

Gift Aid...

Did you know that **all** parents can complete Gift Aid forms to benefit our squadron, regardless if you pay subs by Standing Order or not? Please help us by completing these forms, as the Government then helps us for every form completed, even if you pay subs by cash. Thank you!

Welcome Back Sgt Stockwell and Sgt McDermott



The squadron would like to extend a warm welcome back to Sgt McDermott and Sgt Stockwell who have returned to 2187 (Canvey Island) Squadron after a short absence.



What's Going On?

Event/Activity	Who can attend?	How much does it cost?
Grob Tutor flying @ RAF Wyton, 16 th March 2008	Cadets	NA
Wing 5-a-side Football, 16 th March 2008	Cadets	NA
60 th Anniversary Ball and Reunion, Oysterfleet 22 nd March 2008	Everyone	£15 per ticket
RAF Cosford March, 26 th -27 th April 2008	Cadets	TBC
Falklands Competition, 26 th - 27 th April 2008	Cadets	NA
Fundraising Indian Dinner, 15 th May 2008, 7.30pm @ Maharajah	Everyone	£12 per ticket
Fundraising Quiz Night, 14 th June, The Admiral Jellicoe pub	Everyone	TBC
Expedition to French Pyrenees	Cadets	TBC
Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition to Northern Ireland, August	Cadets	TBC
Mess Night and Awards Evening, Oysterfleet, 3 rd October 2008	Everyone	TBC



Canvey Air Cadets Visit US Air Force Base

20 staff and cadets recently had a rare opportunity to visit the 48th Fighter Wing of the United States Air Force base at RAF Lakenheath. Cadets were given a tour of the base, including the airfield and survival equipment section, and chatted to pilots about their job in the crew room. The highlight of the day was an excellent talk by a USAF pilot, whom took the cadets around an F-15 aircraft in one of the hangars, and answered lots of questions. The cadets were also treated to a meal in the recreational centre, as well as the deafening take off of several very loud F-15s!

The Cosford and Nijmegen Marches

The Nijmegen International Four Days Marches are held annually in Nijmegen in the Netherlands with approximately 40,000 participants from all over the world taking part. The Marches take place over four consecutive days, commencing on Tuesday and finishing Friday. Each day's march covers a different route. However, they all start and finish at the same place. Each day's march covers 25 miles.

Approximately 8,000 military personnel, both male and female, from some 20 countries take part each year. They form the 'Official Military Contingents' and as such are permitted to march in uniform. These invited foreign military contingents contribute considerably to the colourful unique nature and atmosphere of the Marches, and are the focal point of the triumphal entry into Nijmegen on the last day. The British Military Contingent of 1,200 is the largest of the foreign military contingents. Its numbers are drawn from the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Air Force, Territorial and Volunteer Reserve Forces and the Cadet organisations.



This year the Essex Wing Air Cadets, led by the staff from 2187 (Canvey Island) squadron are training to take part, starting with the Cosford March (2 days marching) on 26/27th April. If you wish to find out more please contact the squadron direct.

Nice to Meet You

Every newsletter we do an in-depth interview from one member of the squadron - this edition it is the opportunity for Sergeant Chris Bradford to have his say:

Name:

Chris Bradford,

Rank and Position at Squadron:

Sgt, Training/ Duke of Edinburgh Officer/ Shooting Officer

How long have you been at 2187 Squadron?

9 Years

How long have you been involved with the ATC?

15 years

How did you get to where you are today?

Blood Sweat and Tears!

I was born one fine day in March 1986, and grew up on the Island of Canvey. My Brother was a cadet and my Mum and Dad were involved with the squadron so from the age of about 7 I was being dragged around all sorts of cadet activities. I joined as a cadet at the age of 13 and worked my way up to the rank of Cadet Warrant Officer. When I was too old to be a cadet, I became an Adult Sergeant and here I am. I am currently going through the process of becoming an Officer.

What do you do for a day job?

Police Officer. I police the mean streets of Rayleigh and Rochford

Can you play an instrument? And if so, what one and how good are you?

I can't read music but I can make a noise out of a trumpet and do enjoy hitting a drum! I was both Lead Trumpeter and Lead Drummer as a Cadet, on some occasions I did both at the same time!

What is your favourite drink?

Tea White two sugars, Honest!

What is your favourite food?

Chicken Madras or Jalfrezi

What is your favourite Pastime?

Going out with friends and having fun.

What is your favourite band/music?

I like everything, except for the stuff I don't like, which is rubbish. In short anything that gets me onto the dance floor!

What makes you happy?

Giving people fines for using their mobile phones whilst driving. That's right I'm watching you....

What makes you sad?

Having to get up early in the morning.

Describe yourself in 3 words

Ambitious, Hard Working, Stubborn

What has been your greatest achievement in your life?

Either.... Becoming a Store Manager of WHSmith at the age of 20 years and 3 days. Or being successful in getting in the police.

Tell us something about yourself that we probably don't know.

I can't roll my tongue



Lets Meet the Squadron Band



Canvey Cadets have always been justly proud of their musical abilities, having had a band since the very early days of the squadron's history. Such is the talent and enthusiasm of 2187 Sqn's cadets that many organisations from all over Essex request the bands presence. For very many years they led the Canvey Carnival, but also appeared at Basildon, Maldon and Witham carnivals, as well as other events in Chelmsford, Rettendon, Fobbing, Southend, Brentwood, Pitsea, and at Hadleigh Castle. They were honoured to provide the band for the disbanding parade of the Royal Observer Corps at Colchester Garrison in 1991, as well as appearing twice at the Royal Tournament in London in different years. In 1995, 2187 Squadron won the East Essex Wing Band Competition, and went on to represent the Wing at the Central & East Region competition at RAF Henlow.

The band consists of a **Bandmaster**, **Drum Major** and **Bandsmen** (also known as Band Cadets or Musicians). Bandsmen consists of drummers, trumpeters and percussionists that make up the main body of the band.



The **Band Master** is usually a member of staff whom is responsible for the teaching of musicians, music style and display by the band, and it's equipment. Sgt Kemp is the bandmaster for 2187 (Canvey Island) Squadron ATC and he is assisted by CI Kerry Maltby.



The **Drum Major** is normally a cadet, and when on a band parade, is the senior figure in a band. The rest of the band will take their directions from the Drum Major, and orders are often demonstrated by use of their Mace - as it is very difficult to give verbal commands when the band is playing, bandsmen have to carefully watch for the Drum Major's signal with the mace. It is also the Drum Major's job to ensure the bandsmen are smartly turned out, and works closely with the Bandmaster on deciding display formats and new tunes.



Drummer



Trumpeter



Percussionist



Adventure Training at Carver Barracks

20 Air Cadets from 2187 (Canvey Island) Squadron, recently had their skills tested on an adventure training weekend at Carver Barracks, Saffron Waldon. The cadets joined others from around Essex, to face such challenges as an assault course, leadership tasks, first aid scenarios, and even trying their hand at archery. Cadets were taught about campcraft and field ration packs, and completed various team exercises. The Canvey Air Cadets have many similar weekends planned in the next few months, so why not get involved and make some new friends?



Nice to meet you again

Did you know it is the 60th Anniversary of 2187 (Canvey Island) Squadron ATC this year? Are you a current or former cadet, staff member, parent or committee member? Would you like to meet up with old friends? Would you like to make some new friends? Or do you just want to get dressed up and party!!!! Then.....

We are holding an 60th Anniversary Reunion Ball on Saturday 22nd March 2008 at the Oysterfleet Hotel, Canvey Island. If you are interested in attending please contact us to get your ticket. Tickets cost £15 per person.

Do you Want to Write Something for the next Issue?

We really want to hear from you, so if you want to write something for the next newsletter please note that the deadline for all submissions is Sunday 27th April 2008. All suggestions and/or articles are to be sent to newsletter2187canvey@hotmail.co.uk

Contact Us

Interested in joining as an Air Cadet or as a volunteer member of Adult Staff? Do you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter or would you prefer this newsletter in an alternative format (i.e. paper or electronic) - Telephone or email us, or simply drop in on our parade nights

Squadron Headquarters Address - (Note: the HQ has NO facilities to receive post)
2187 (Canvey Island) Squadron ATC , Drill Hall, Runnymede Road, Canvey Island, Essex, SS8 0EF

Parade Evenings - Monday and Friday evenings 1915 - 2145 hrs (all year round, except Bank Holidays and Christmas)

Telephone - 01268 694528 (HQ, at above times only)

Squadron Email - 2187sqn@essex-aircadets.org

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