



# Sky High

The newsletter of 2187 (Canvey Island) Squadron ATC

Issue 9 - March 2009

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## From the Editor



Welcome to the latest edition of the squadron newsletter!!

The last few months have been a bit quieter for the squadron; however we have many events planned for this year, including the Squadron Ball in April, a Battlefields day trip to Ypres in June 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?

- ⊙ FS (ATC) Stockwell, Cdt Sgt H Parker, Cdt Sgt J Knightly, Cdt Sgt D Evans all attended the UK Athletics officials course on the 14<sup>th</sup> March
- ⊙ 2187 Sqn won the Essex Wing Marksmanship Trophy
- ⊙ Cdt Sgt Evans and Cdt Goody attended the Nordic Skiing Course in Garmisch, Germany
- ⊙ We have 2 cadets (out of 8 places for Essex) going to the Normandy Tri-Service Camp
- ⊙ CI Parsons has almost completed his BELA course with Kent Wing
- ⊙ Mr Parsons has become a Weapons Instructor, after completing the course at RAF Uxbridge
- ⊙ We came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Essex Wing Postal Shoot Competition
- ⊙ Cdt Sgt Evans and Cdt Cpl Chadwick represented Essex Wing at the London & South East Region Rugby competition. They are both going the Regional Team trials at RAF Uxbridge this weekend
- ⊙ Cdt Cpl Swan, Cdt Cpl Mizon and Cdt Cpl Robson all represented Essex Wing at the London & South East Netball competition. They are all representing Essex Wing at the London & South East Hockey competition
- ⊙ We have four girls in the Essex Wing 5-a-side Football competition
- ⊙ We have 8 cadet places for October Camp at RAF Wittering
- ⊙ Ex-CWO Jack Watson has passed Officer & Aircrew Selection (OASC), and is soon to apply for pilot. He is currently an Officer Cadet with Bristol University Air Squadron (UAS)
- ⊙ RAF Aircrew Sergeant Stuart Clayton is going to do a presentation on Non-Commissioned Aircrew (NCA) role at 2187 Sqn on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April. He is an Ex-CWO of 2187 Sqn
- ⊙ Flt Lt Weston attended a CVQO 'Train the Trainer' day, the first ever to be held
- ⊙ 12 cadets went AEF Flying at RAF Wyton, in Tutor aircraft
- ⊙ 3 cadets went gliding at MDP Wethersfield, in Vikings

# What's Going On?

Event/Activity	Who can attend?	How much does it cost?
AEF Flying @ RAF Wyton, 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2009	Cadets	Free
Squadron Fundraiser Ball, Oysterfleet Hotel, Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2009	Everyone	£12
Essex Wing Inter-Squadron Athletics Competition, Chelmsford	Everyone	Free
Gliding @ 614 VGS, MDP Wethersfield, 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2009	Cadets	Free
Fieldcraft Weekend, Braintree, 30 <sup>th</sup> and 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2009	Cadets	£15
First World War Battlefields Trip, Ypres, Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2009	Everyone	£45.50
Mess Night and Awards Evening, Oysterfleet Hotel, Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2009	Everyone	TBC
Fundraising Race Night, TBC	Everyone	TBC
Fundraising Quiz Night, TBC	Everyone	TBC



## Nordic Skiing

2 cadets from 2187 (Canvey Island) Squadron attended the ATC Nordic Skiing trip to Garmisch in Germany in January 2009.

By all accounts, both Cdt Sgt Evans and Cdt Goody had a brilliant time and were pleasantly surprised by a visit from the Commandant of the Air Cadet Organisation, Air Commodore Stewart.

## ATC Sunday Thanksgiving Parade

2187 Squadron provided 12 cadets and three staff as part of the Essex Wing contingent of the London & South East Region ATC Sunday Parade held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2009. On a bitterly cold February morning, the Essex Wing contingent marched down Kingsway and the Strand in London, to a service at St Clement Danes, the Central Church for the Royal Air Force. Squadron Leader Robinson was i/c of the Essex Wing section of the parade, with Flt Lt Weston as Flight Commander.





## Congratulations to Pilot Officer Worrall

Congratulations to Plt Off Worrall who has successfully completed his week-long Officers Initial Course (OIC) at RAF Cranwell, and is now a Pilot Officer. We wish him all the best!

## Mr Parsons qualifies as a Weapons Instructor

Well done to Mr Parsons, whom recently added to his impressive list of shooting qualifications, by passing a recent Weapons Instructor course. The intensive 2-day course took place at RAF Uxbridge, and now qualifies him to teach cadets all about the weapons before they can fire them on a range.

Mr Parsons is already qcWHT and Basic Coaching qualified, a Range Qualified Officer for both Long and Short ranges.



## Cpl Chadwick wins the Essex Police Young Person of the Year (YOPEY)



Cpl Damion Chadwick, 16, was almost kicked out of his old secondary school for bad behaviour, but went on to change his ways and become a model student.

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2009, Cpl Chadwick landed top prize at the Essex Police Young People of the Year awards which had been held in a ceremony at Stansted Airport. Damion picked up a cheque for £1,000 and gave half of his winnings to 2187 Squadron.

He was nominated for the award one of his teachers at Furtherwick Park, because of the way he has changed. He was suspended from his previous school, for 15 days in 2007, following repeated fighting and actually faced

expulsion. Instead, he moved to Furtherwick Park School, where he is now a Prefect. He was presented with his prize by Assistant Chief Constable Peter Lowton of Essex Police.

Damion, now thriving at Furtherwick Park School, Canvey, says the help he was given by the Air Training Corps is the main reason for the big change.

"Being in the ATC has taught me a lot about discipline, particularly self discipline and leadership skills," he explained. "The great thing about the ATC is it wasn't judgmental. It didn't matter what I'd done in the past. I was just another recruit."

Cpl Chadwick also added: "When I found out I'd won, I just couldn't believe it. I thought there were loads of other people in the room who deserved it far more than me."





## Congratulations Cpl Bennett!

Many congratulations to Cdt Cpl Bennett who was recently promoted to the rank of Cdt Sgt. Well done and we wish him all the best!



## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2009. All suggestions and/or articles are to be sent to newsletter2187canvey@hotmail.co.uk



## We are Going to Have a Ball!!!!

Following the success of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ball last year we have decided that we should make this a regular feature of our social calendar. Again it is an opportunity for you to dress up, have good time and dance to a live band.

So what are the details?

When? - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009;

Where? - at The Oysterfleet Hotel, Canvey Island;

What Time? - From 7.30 - 12.30;

How much? - £12 per person (price includes a light buffet)

If you are interested in coming along please contact us to get yourself a ticket - please note that entrance will be by ticket only.

## Cdt Sgt Parker Receives a Commendation

Congratulations to Cdt Sgt Parker who received a Commandants Special certificate of Commendation, which is a Corps wide award. She was presented with her certificate at the Essex Wing Presentation Night, held in Chelmsford on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

Flt Lt Weston had nominated Cdt Sgt Parker for this award for her quick-thinking action in a first aid situation last year on a day trip to RAF Duxford. Flt Lt Weston said that he was very proud of Sgt Parker and the way she calmly and quickly took control of the situation.



## 11 More Cadets Gain First Aid Badges



Congratulations to Cdt Marshall, Cdt White, Cdt Lee, Cdt Stevens, Cdt Mayo, Cdt McKean, Cdt Fleming, Cdt Cartwright, Cdt Kingston, Cdt Licence and Cdt Sgt Green-muid who recently received their First Aid Qualification.

# 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 Mr Dennis Palmer, Civilian Welfare Committee Chairman to have his say:

**Name:**

Mr Dennis Palmer (retired)

**Position at Squadron:**

I am the chairman of the Civilian Welfare Committee for 2187 (Canvey Island) Squadron ATC.

**How long have you been at 2187 Squadron/ with the ATC?**

Many years ago I was the Warrant Officer for the aforesaid squadron, in the time of when Flt Lt Bob Maltby was the Commanding Officer. I was at the squadron for 5 or 6 years, and then after my change of employment I unfortunately had to leave the squadron. This time I have been back with the squadron for 4 years or so



**How did you get to where you are today?**

Many, many years passed, then one day I moved house, only a few years ago. One evening I was out walking the dog, as I now lived very close to the squadron headquarters, when a familiar voice from the past shouted 'good evening Sir', and that is how I became Chairman of the Civilian Welfare Committee. The voice, in fact, was that of one of my old cadets Doug Norman, now an Officer and CO of Rayleigh Squadron.

In my early days I was an apprentice compositor working in many printers, both locally and in London. I was also a regular in the RAF, serving both in England and in Cyprus. After my demob from the RAF I resumed my job as compositor, mainly working at night in London. A very memorable time. During the recession in the 1970's I was made redundant. Then, after some months out of work I gained employment as a security warden in the British Museum, Great Russell Street. A beautiful job! After that I went back to printing, but found by this time print had left me behind. My next job was with Social Services as a Day Centre Officer. I stayed in this job, working with people with learning difficulties, for the remainder of my working days.

**What do you do for a day job?**

Now I am retired, and find that I am working just as much, but not getting paid for it.

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

I play the piano accordion, and am in desperate need of some practice

**What is your favourite drink?**

This has got to be a cup of tea, or a glass of whiskey

**What is your favourite food?**

One of many is jellied eels

**What is your favourite Pastime?**

Model railways and preservation societies

**What is your favourite band/music?**

Classical and military

**What makes you happy?**

Talking to, and being with decent and respectful young people

**What makes you sad?**

Vandalism and lack of respect for people and their property

**Describe yourself in 3 words**

Overweight, Indolent, Old gentleman

**What has been your greatest achievement in your life?**

Having twin boys, who used to be in this squadron, and who have both become very successful in the jobs that they do.

Tell us something about yourself that we probably don't know.  
I am quite a good cribbage player (or used to be)



## Cdt Sgt Parker Gets Her Gliding Wings

Congratulations to Cdt Sgt Parker who has completed her Gliding Scholarship at 614 VGS at MDP (Ministry of Defence Police) Wethersfield, nr Braintree after only a few weeks.

The backbone of the winch-launch fleet is the Grob Viking, a two seat glider used for all types of glider training. Cadets can aim to gain Gliding Scholarships and achieve different levels of gliding 'wings'. Many Air Cadets from our squadron have gained different levels of 'wings' in recent years.

Gliding Scholarship courses can be over several weekends, or on a continuous week course and at the end there are opportunities to become a Staff Cadet on the gliding squadron.

The ATC also uses the Grob Vigilant glider, which has an engine - this means it can climb to height on its own power, then switch it off at the right height to act in the same way as a winch-launched glider. This provides a quicker turnaround time in between launches.



## WWI Battlefield Tour to Ypres

Just a quick forward mention that we have arranged for a fully guided tour of the WWI battlefields in Ypres, Belgium on Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> 2009. This very popular battlefield tour includes visits to -

- Sanctuary Wood
- Hill 60
- Essex Farm
- Tyne Cot
- Hooge Crater
- Ypres and the Last Post Ceremony

The cost will be £55 each and all are welcome. Please contact the squadron direct if you are interested in coming along.



## 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

**Newsletter Email** - newsletter2187canvey@hotmail.co.uk