



TEMPSFORD VETERANS AND RELATIVES ASSOCIATION

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023



Bob's diary

The Remembrance Sunday Service was well attended, as usual. We are grateful to Rev Margaret for conducting the service.



TVARA - past and present

This is the **FINAL** TVARA newsletter - don't worry, TVARA is continuing, but we have decided that the time has come...so, in the spirit of a "run through" of the last 20+ years, here are a selection of highlights. First and foremost - veterans!



Ken Tatersall, Harold Watson,
Tommy Thomas



Mike Gibbons, Len Ratcliff,
Tommy Thomas, Bob Large



Ken Hazlewood



Harold Watson & Ken Tatersall - this is
your Tempsford life!



Harold Watson and Ron Morris, with cadets from
No 161 (Highland) Squadron ATC



Ron Morris meets one of his “passengers” - Dutch agent Harry Weelinck.



Bob caught out by Harold Watson, with Edwin Bryce



Operation “Temsford Brooch” - Len Ratcliff presenting the “original” brooch to Lady Laline Hay



Birthday greetings to centenarian, New Zealander Naylor Hillary



The Tempsford Squadrons rightly commemorated - at St Clement Danes’ church, and at the National Memorial Arboretum

A BIG DATE - further reminder

The previous two pages feature Tempsford veterans - those who came home. Sadly, they are no longer with us, but we were all fortunate to get to know them, and to acknowledge their service.

We are anxious to give further focus to those who did not come back. Many of you will be aware that the website - www.tempsford-squadrons.info - includes a section titled "In Memoriam", containing pictures of members of Tempsford aircrew who made the ultimate sacrifice.

612 members of the Tempsford Squadrons were killed on active service. They are all listed on the Rolls of Honour on the website, but I would dearly love to include more of them on "In Memoriam". May 2025 marks 80 years since the end of the war in Europe, and my aim is to have photographs of as many as possible of these young men included by that time.

It is now up to you! If you have a photograph of your relative and/or his grave, please let me have it to include. If there is no grave, and he is commemorated at the Air Forces ' Memorial at Runnymede, this is acknowledged, so don't let that put you off. All these young men were someone's son/husband/brother/cousin/father/uncle, and we owe it to them, I think, to show who they were - not just one in a long list of names. You can send the photos to the usual email address.

Many thanks.

Helen

As mentioned on p3, we won't be sending out any further newsletters. Information about events will continue to be sent by email, so PLEASE let us know if you change your email details, otherwise you will miss out! You can always contact us via the email addresses on the website, if you happen to mislay ours.

In order to bring us full circle, and for those who are newer members. The TVARA came about because of Bob's research into the loss of his uncle, F/L John (Ian) Menzies, who was KIA over the Zuidersee in 1944. The bodies of his crew and the agents they were transporting were recovered at the time, but F/L Menzies went to the bottom of the Zuidersee (now called the IJsselmeer) with his aircraft, which was located in 1997 - 53 years to the day after it crashed. F/L Menzies was buried with full military honours in the churchyard in Makkum, Friesland, alongside his crew and close to where the aircraft crashed.

In memory of these 8 young men, and all others who perished in the cause of freedom.



Clockwise from top left:
F/L John (Ian) Menzies
F/O Kenneth Bunney
Sgt Eric Eliot
Sgt Dennis Withers



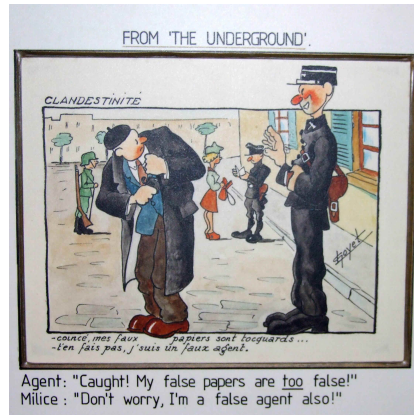
Clockwise from top left:



Jan Bockma
Pieter Kwint
Johannes Walter
Pleun Verhoef



...and finally, all in one place, the contemporary cartoons provided by Tangmere Museum.



138 & 161 Special Duties Squadrons

Special then

Special now

Special always

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Websites

www.tempsford-squadrons.info

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