

6th Triennial Halton Reunion

1998



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Two Weeks Warning

Whilst working at Lucent Technologies in 1998 from March to October, at both Malmesbury and Chippenham, Wiltshire some two weeks before the 6th Triennial event I met a guy who was a member of the 120th Entry. Unfortunately, I am unable to recall his name but seemingly he was still on the reserve strength of the RAF and was required to do a number of flying hours each year to maintain his license to fly the C130. After hearing and enjoying some of his RAF stories he told me there was a reunion in two weeks time.

John Hannaford wasn't able to attend but when I rang Barry Donovan's Father-in-law, to find out where Barry was, I learned to my pleasure that he was currently on leave from Hong Kong and was staying in Malvern. Barry came to my home in Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire and stayed overnight. On Saturday we drove independently to Halton and parked at the arrivals area, a short distance from the airfield. We walked around for a while amid the amazing variety of flying model aircraft that were dotted around at the edge of the field:



We eventually spotted Andy Folliard and Chris Cho-Young:



Chris had recently retired from the RAF. Andy was working in Cheltenham. We also met Andy's brother, still a currently serving Warrant Officer. Barry was flying with Cathay Pacific and living in Hong Kong. Dianne, Barry's wife, was spending most of her time in New Zealand to set up home in preparation for Barry's imminent retirement.

Flying Display

The display given by a 2nd World War 'War-Bird' Mustang was most entertaining:



The Golden Oldies



A Vulcan B1

A flying model was receiving great interest:



A successful take off and landing was performed:



Museum

This was located in was in one the ex Workshop Buildings. From memory I think it was probably where the Electrician (Air) AA's were trained. I recall noticing a Sperry Mk 10 Autopilot Gyro Unit on the floor and upon

informing Barry and Chris I entered into conversation with Francis Hanford, the Curator, who was currently collecting and restoring the artifacts and memorabilia in the Museum. I learned that there was a possibility that the redundant Henderson Grove Gymnasium on the parade square between 1 and 2 Wings, might become the new site for the Museum.

The march up the hill to 1 and 2 Wings was led by the Golden Oldies but we did not take part. At Main Point Barry and I said our goodbye's to Chris and returned back to our cars where we said our farewells too.