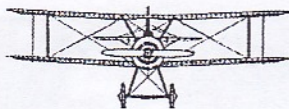


NAVAL EIGHT/208 NEWS

THE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF NAVAL EIGHT/208 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

The Naval Eight/208 Squadron Association Committee:

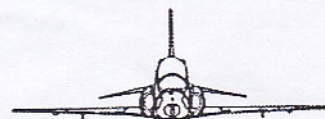


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Wg Cdr N Meadows MA BSc MRAeS RAF (OC 208 Squadron)
Gp Capt A W Cope MBE AFC FRAeS RAF
MW Brown Esq
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Gp Capt N M Huckins MBE BSc RAF
Wg Cdr P K Comer RAF, SE Jefford BSc, Air Commodore GR Pitchfork
MBE, P Steele Esq, TM Webb AFC, Air Vice-Marshal R A Wright AFC
FRAeS RAF, Flt Lt K Hildred RAF (No 208 Sqn).
Dr DG Styles



2001

2001

MORE MEDALS FOR NAVAL EIGHT/208



Left: Before handing them over to the Association, Sid Jefford displays his World War 2 set of medals in company with the Greek Campaign medal that took so long to secure for all those who served in Greece with 208.

On the right we see Sid present his collection to Association President Sir Mike Stear. The medals feature the 1939-45 Star, the Africa Star with clasp "1941-42", the Italy Star, the 1939-45 Defence Medal and the 1939-45 War Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster for Sid's Mention in Despatches.



Following in the wake of the presentation of Sir Geoffrey and Lady Bromet's Orders, Decorations and Medals to the Association by Michael Pooley, grandson of Sir Geoffrey, last year Sid Jefford - long standing Committee Member and Chapter Representative for the Lysander, Hurricane and Spitfire Chapter of the Association - presented his medals to Naval Eight/208 Squadron Association.

Now Sid will be one the first to tell you that his medals don't match the significance or value of Sir Geoffrey Bromet's set, but what Sid won't tell you is the significance of his medals to the Association.

The significance of Sid's medals to us is that they are the first to be presented to the Association by a living member of the Association. But much more: they are the medals of a man who probably served with 208 Squadron for longer than any other individual during the Second World War. Sid joined the Squadron in the Western Desert and progressed with it through the Greek

Campaign, back to the Desert Campaign via Crete. Sid was with the Squadron as it supported the Battle of El Alamein right through to its support of the advance through Italy, culminating at Villa Franca.

Sid Jefford was an Aircraftman 1st Class (AC1) when he joined 208 Squadron, leaving the Squadron as an acting Sergeant four years later to return home to Essex after the war. Since joining the Association Committee several years ago, he has become Chapter Representative for the Lysander, Hurricane and Spitfire Chapter and has worked tirelessly for that Chapter and for the Association.

In actual fact, the period during which Sid served with '208, the Squadron operated Lysanders (the last of which it lost in Greece), Tomahawks, of which very little has been chronicled (*the Editor would be delighted to hear from anybody out there who has pictures and recollections of the Tomahawk in 208 Squadron service*), as well

as two variants of Hurricane (the PR1 [Trop] and the TacR2), no less than five variants of Spitfire - the Vb, the VIII, the IXc, the LFIXe and, very briefly, the XIV.

Many of you will recall that it was Sid Jefford who took up the issue of the Greek government's award of the Greek Campaign Medal to British servicemen on behalf of those who served in that campaign with 208 Squadron. He finally achieved his goal and has presented that medal with the rest of his set to the Association.

We are indebted to Sid for his generosity which, in the spirit of Sir Geoffrey Bromet's original OCA, makes this medal collection one representing the service of all ranks, as does the Association itself.

2001 REUNION DINNER

**OCTOBER 20th
6.30 FOR 7.30 PM - RAF CLUB**

Naval Eight - 208 in pictures



On the left is Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire presenting to Flt Lt Al Allsop the Geoffrey Bromet Memorial Trophy for the year 2000. Retiring Squadron Boss Sqn Ldr Simon Stocker looks on. Below, an impromptu shot of Don Groom, from 208's Spitfire era, chatting to Professor Gordon Hodson, no doubt about the merits of the Spitfire versus the Hawk!



Above left, we have ACM Sir Peter Squire, last year's Guest of Honour telling us how it is at the centre, while a relaxed Simon Stocker (centre) tells us how it is at the Squadron. Lady Lizzie Stear, sitting at Simon's left, was either amused by the last comment, or was asking her neighbour: "Do you really believe that?" On the right, another picture of Al Allsop, last year's recipient of the Geoffrey Bromet Memorial Trophy complete with trophy.



Above: After last year's picture of the "Meteor Mob", your editor was press-ganged into taking this shot of the "Spitfire Set" (with guest). The "Set" comprises Don Groom on the extreme left, accompanied by Gordon Hodson (actually more of Hawk fame), Sid Jefford, Ken Pugh, John Nicoll and Reg Porritt.

On the left, not to be outdone, the "Hawk Heavies", members of the present-day 208(R) Squadron, based at RAF Valley. The editor apologises for not gathering names from this shot, but was anxious to make a clean escape with camera intact!

8/208 RUMBLINGS:

208's NEW BOSS

**WING COMMANDER
NEIL MEADOWS
MA BSc MRAeS RAF**



Wing Commander Neil Meadows is the new OC No 208 (Reserve) Squadron. Born in Meriden, Warwickshire on 16 September 1961, he went to Headlands School, Swindon, then joined the Royal Air Force in August 1980 on a University Cadetship to read Aeronautical Engineering at Bristol University. He graduated in 1983 with a First Class Honours Degree winning both the Royal Aeronautical Society Prize for Aeronautics, and the Albert Fry Prize for Academic Distinction, Without Regard to Department. At Bristol UAS, he was awarded the Langley Challenge Trophy for the Best Student Contribution to the Squadron in 1982 and 1984, as well as the Ewins Trophy for the Best All-Round Student in 1984.

Neil joined the Royal Air Force 'proper' in October 1983, remaining at Cranwell for Basic Flying Training on the Jet Provost. He won the Hicks Memorial Trophy for the Highest Aggregate Marks in Ground School, then joined No 128 Hawk Course at Valley in September 1985, winning both the Vafeas Trophy for Ground School and the Paul Gay Trophy for Outstanding Leadership Officer Qualities. Shortly afterwards, he married Ingrid at Castle Combe in Wiltshire and, after a short honeymoon, joined No 43 Course at Brawdy where he won the Weapons Trophy for the Best Student Weaponeer. Following his Tactical Weapons Course, he moved to the an operational tour with No 17(F) Squadron's Tornados at RAF Brüggen in Germany, which was foreshortened by an internal move to 14 Squadron.

In August 1990, Neil was posted to No 346 Course at CFS at Scampton to train as a QFI on the Jet Provost, graduating with a Distinguished Pass and winning both the Gross Trophy and the CFS Trophy. His first instructional tour began at Cranwell in January 1991 with No 1 Squadron where he recategorised as a 'B1' instructor in June 1991 after only 5 months in post. In September 1991, He took a brief sabbatical as the Course Lecturer for the Flying Authorisers' and Flying Supervisors' courses at the Department of Air Warfare. Returning to flying in January 1992, he converted to the Tucano and was appointed Flight Commander of 'A' Flight of No 1 Squadron. In the busy year that followed, he qualified as both an Instrument Rating Examiner and as an 'A2' Qualified Flying Instructor.

In February 1993, Flight Lieutenant Meadows "flew a desk" as Flight Lieutenant Flying Training Desk Officer at HQ RAF Support Command at Brampton and, in February 1994, was promoted Acting Squadron Leader to become both Tucano Fleet Manager and Flying Training Desk Officer responsible for all RAF Basic Flying Training at the newly-formed HQ Personnel and Training Command at RAF Innsworth. Sqn Ldr Meadows was appointed OC No 1 Squadron at Cranwell when the post suddenly became vacant in July 1994, though as a result of the Defence Costs Study, No 1 Squadron was disbanded in December 1994 and he was transferred to RAF Linton-on-Ouse to complete his squadron leader flying tour in 3 appointments: firstly as Project Officer for the implementation of the Defence Cost Study recommendations for Basic Flying Training; secondly as CO of No 1 Squadron and, latterly, as the Deputy Chief Instructor. It was during these 2 extremely enjoyable years that his 2 children were born: Andrew on 9 April 1995 and Jennifer on 20 December 1996, thus completing the family.

This tour was foreshortened by a posting to the Plans Branch at Headquarters Strike Command, as Plans 3c, the Desk Officer responsible for policy relating to resources for Royal Air Force Tornado and Canberra Ground Attack and Reconnaissance units, for associated

non-flying units, and for the introduction of the Airborne Stand-Off Radar System. Just 15 months later, he was on the move again, this time to the Advanced Command and Staff Course at the Joint Services Command and Staff College, Bracknell where, in addition to his military studies, he also completed a Master of Arts Degree in Defence Studies, including a sub-specialisation in Media-Military Relations. On completion of the Staff Course, he was posted to the Ministry of Defence to lead the External Communication branch of the Directorate of Corporate Communication (Royal Air Force). In this extremely high-pressure ground appointment, he was responsible for several major projects, including the 2000 series of BBC 2's 'The Air Show' on Military Air Power, the Low Flying Public Information Video 'An Essential Skill,' and several episodes of 'Blue Peter.' Wing Commander Meadows took up his current appointment as the Officer Commanding No 208(Reserve) Squadron on 5th March 2001.

Outside the RAF, Wing Commander Meadows' interests tend towards the cerebral, rather than the physical, although he is a Class 3 Association Football Referee, currently inactive due to pressure of work, and is a strong supporter of Bath Rugby. In addition to his family and a black Labrador named Lucy, he supports 3 computers, a brace of peripherals and an almost compulsive Information Technology habit. He is extremely keen on plastic aircraft model making although, since the arrival of his children, he has concentrated his practical skills on the construction of a fully-electrified model railway layout for his son and a twelfth-scale dolls house for his daughter. Neil is, albeit reluctant to admit, an aficionado of the Star Trek series and, in his very limited spare time, likes to read for relaxation, particularly the works of Tom Clancy and Bernard Cornwell.

.... AND OF OTHER FOLK:

Wing Commander Malcolm Brown will, by the time you read this, have retired from the RAF and taken up residence in a permanent abode where he can enjoy being Hon Sec at greater leisure.

Membership Secretary **Group Captain Nigel Huckins** is returning to this country at the end of his tour in Germany to take up a post at the Air Warfare Centre at High Wycombe.

Squadron Leader Simon Stocker remains with 208 Squadron as a Flight Commander under the new command structure.

Wing Commander Paul Comer, former OC 208, returns to RAF Valley to take command of 19 (R) Squadron, but is still a 208-er at heart, having taken on the new role of Hawk Chapter Representative.

Our Chairman, **Group Captain Bill Cope**, is retiring from the Royal Air Force in February next year.

Congratulations to **Flight Lieutenant Peter Sharp**, who has been selected from No 208 Squadron's team to fly as RAF Valley's Hawk Aerobatic Pilot this year.

Finally, **Mike Bradley**, former Hon Sec and longstanding Meteor Chapter Rep is standing down and handing over to **Des Penrose** (see Page 7)

We nearly ran out of space, but had to fit in these two pictures of the beautiful 208 Squadron stained glass window created by Mrs Karen Newby, at St Mihangel's Church at Valley, together with, below, Bishop John Kirkham, Bishop to HM Forces, who consecrated it in January. He is accompanied by Archdeacon Peter Bishop and RAF Valley's own Padre Ken Wilson.



LETTER FROM THE SQUADRON:

Wg Cdr Neil Meadows

It was my great honour to take command of 208 Sqn on 5th March this year as part of the restructuring of No 4 Flying Training School at RAF Valley. Now that 208 is once again a recognised Command, it was also my very great pleasure to reintroduce what I hope will be the first of many historical traditions by presenting the outgoing Boss, Squadron Leader Simon Stocker, with his command pennant at the Squadron Ladies Guest Night on 2nd March. As you will be aware, Simon has been the 'acting' Boss since September of last year when Squadron Leader Paul Comer left for the Joint Services Command and Staff College at Shrivenham. However, it is a hell of an 'act' to follow and I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the current Squadron Members to thank him for his enthusiasm, dedication and energy in command of what is probably now the busiest squadron in the Royal Air Force. I should also like to ensure that his time in command is recorded appropriately in the Squadron history, not as 'acting,' but properly as the Officer Commanding No 208 Squadron from 11th September 2000 to 4th March 2001.

In my report to the Association Committee on 22nd March, I summarised a few of the notable occurrences on 208 Squadron since last year's Dinner. As I mentioned, Squadron Leader Paul Comer left for the Staff College in September, but is due to return this September, on promotion, as the Officer Commanding No 19(F) Squadron (our sister Squadron at RAF Valley) when the current incumbent, Wing Commander Paul Sutton (previously the Chief Instructor at RAF Valley if you are following all of the recent changes) moves on to pastures new.

I arrived at RAF Valley in early December 2000 to begin my conversion to the Hawk and, on 10th January this year, was delighted to take part in the Service of Dedication for the 208 Squadron stained glass window in St Mihangel's Church. This outstanding work was designed and produced by the Station Commander's wife, Mrs Karen Newby and was dedicated by the Rt Reverend J D G Kirkham, the Bishop to Her Majesty's Forces. The window commemorates the courage and dedication of all 208 Squadron members, as well as the current role of the Squadron in maintaining the standards of flying within the fast-jet stream of Royal Air Force flying training. In detail, the Squadron crest surmounts a pair of pilots' wings, under which is written 'They shall rise upon wings as eagles' - the blessing from Isaiah 40 that is used in the dedication service when the students graduate and are presented with their 'wings.' I sincerely hope that Association members will be able to view this outstanding work on future visits to RAF Valley.

In April, the new Squadron markings were, at last, approved and the first aircraft have now begun to appear on the flight line. The new scheme is intended to reflect the whole history of 'official' Squadron markings as part of an overall effort to inculcate a sense of historical pride in our student population, for whom 208 is their very first 'proper' Squadron. For those who have not yet seen the new markings, they comprise 3 elements. Firstly, the Eye of Horus emblazoned on the fin to reflect the Squadron's heritage as a desert reconnaissance unit. Secondly, a new set of horizontal blue and yellow bands has been added to either side of the fuselage roundel to reflect the 'sky and the sand' of the Meteor and Hunter chapters. Lastly, the Buccaneer era is also represented by the blue and yellow chevron painted on the nose. In the next few weeks, I hope that the Squadron Print will be amended to reflect these changes and I am also hoping to invite RAF News to cover the new scheme in an historical article.

This historic theme will be pursued in a number of other ways. As part of the recent changes to the administration of flying training, each student must now be given a written arrival brief about the Squadron, its current operations and what is expected of them. In my view, a vital part of that brief will be a comprehensive Squadron history to encourage and reinforce the ethos of service. To reinforce that message and to bring it right up to date, I am also preparing a series of wall displays to illustrate 208 Squadron's

historic contribution to the generation of air power as reflected in modern doctrine (AP 3000). Integral to these displays will be an explanation of the various Squadron insignia, such as the Eye of Horus and the 'Sky and the Sand.' I have also asked the senior students to design an appropriate replacement for the 'Naked Lady' badge that the students are given on their arrival, to fully reflect the Squadron history, to reinforce their sense of pride in belonging, and to properly reflect the Squadron's current training role.

I was somewhat bemused, therefore, to find myself the subject of a 4-day personal attack by The Sun newspaper over my 'bombshell decision' to 'ban' the badge on the grounds of Political Correctness. Warhol did predict that in the future, everybody will be world famous for 15 minutes, but I did not think that my moment would be on Page 3 of The Sun. However, at the risk of introducing fact to this highly entertaining story, Association members may wish to know the following. For those who are unaware of recent practice, the 'Naked Lady' badge was given to student pilots on their arrival to differentiate them from the staff. The badge is not (and never has been) worn by the qualified Squadron pilots, who wear the official 'Gizah Sphinx' crest with pride. There has been no 'ban,' although I have asked the Squadron Adjutant not to order any more stocks of the old badge in anticipation of the new design being ready for production in the next few weeks. Certainly, I did not 'order all 80 fliers at RAF Valley to remove it' (as The Sun claimed) as that would have been both churlish and impossible (there are only ever 3 dozen - currently 19 - students who would be likely to be wearing it, out of a total Squadron complement of some 70 aircrew). Nos 57 and 58 Courses continue to wear it but, now that stocks are depleted, it will go out of circulation with the graduation of 58 Course on 27th July. The Sun's claim that 'aircrew at the base begged for a copy of the poster' (of the Page 3 model posed as the 'Naked Lady') is also highly dubious. Firstly, the reporter claims to have spoken to the aircrew on Good Friday - some 2 days into the Easter stand down and, secondly (and perhaps disappointingly) I am unaware of any member of the Squadron who ordered a copy. The comments from 'RAF insiders' quoted in The Sun did not come from 208 Squadron pilots, but were taken directly from an unofficial internet website from individuals who were, evidently (by the content of those comments), unaware of the facts. I have never claimed that the badge 'upset women' and I have never uttered the words 'gender offensive' (in fact, The Sun did not speak to me on this issue at all - I was on leave at the time). Also, far from being 'furious,' 'shocked' or 'outraged,' I have had strong support from within the Squadron for my decision to replace the 'Naked Lady' with something more fully reflective of our history and more appropriate to our current training role. Lastly, I have not 'axed' the badge (as claimed by The Sun) because I 'thought it politically incorrect.' However, the badge is completely at odds with the RAF's Equal Opportunities policy, which is to achieve universal acceptance and application of a working environment free from harassment, intimidation and unlawful discrimination. It is also counter to the Squadron's current training remit to treat each individual fairly, with dignity and respect, and without prejudice. After equally lurid headlines in the same newspaper, I doubt that I need to elaborate on the legal consequences in the modern era of forcing an individual to wear an emblem that reinforces that individual's inferiority in the organisation, and comprises a picture of a naked woman (straddling another object) with the word 'penetrate' underneath. After a number of 'friendly' warnings, I know where my responsibilities lie. Notwithstanding the glorious chapter of Squadron history that the badge represents, it is time to move on.

In May, the Squadron appeared in The Sun once again, but this time it was The Toronto Sun, which covered our visit to Canada to meet Flt Lt Henry Botterell, the only known surviving fighter pilot from WWI, and an ex-member of 208 Squadron. The

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES' NAMES AND ADDRESSES NAVAL EIGHT/208 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

HURRICANE/ SPITFIRE : **SE Jefford BSc,**
METEOR : **JD Penrose,**
HUNTER : **TM Webb AFC,**
BUCCANEER/HON SEC : **Wg Cdr MW Brown,**
HAWK : **Wg Cdr PK Coker,**
GROUNDCREW : **P Steele Esq,**
HISTORIAN /EDITOR : **Dr DG Styles MBA PhD FBIM FInstSMM FIMI,**
MEMBERSHIP SEC : **Gp Capt NM Huckins MBE BSc RAF,**

(information on potential new members and existing members seeking to renew contacts should be addressed to the Membership Secretary)

2000 NAVAL EIGHT/208 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION REUNION DINNER RESPONSES FROM MEMBERS

The following Members and their Guests were present at the 2000 Reunion Dinner:

G K Bradshaw	R Hymans	J Pratt	D G Styles
M W Brown	S E Jefford	J K T Pugh	M A Telford
A W Cope	M Kemp	I L Schwaiger	K L Trow
J B Craig	B C Laite	J E Shaw	P Turville
W Crookes	E D Mee	Sir Peter	M M Ward
D L Groom	F J Nicholl	Squire	K Whiley
E R Gwilliam	J Pascoe-Watson	Sir Michael	R J White
Professor K G	G R Pitchfork	Stear	
Hodson	W F Plumpton	P Steele	
N M Huckins	R S Porritt	G J Storey	

The following Members sent their greetings to the 2000 Reunion, as they were unable to attend:

M Asher	G Goodman	P Perry
J K L Babraff	R J Hardiman	E Sharp
L F Boyce	W F Henderson	M P Shaw
M G Bradley	T Heyes	K W Smith
C K Bushe	P H James	A G Smith
R Calvert	D C Johns	D R Stanley
J R J Clark	P R C Jones	H Tapner
G S Cooper	G C W Jones	I D C Tite
J W Coulson	K J Lambden	J N Tomes
A F Cutt	P Large	R Turner
R B Davidson	A J Munro	P F White
J H Dent	P O'Donohue	
G P Frankcom	O G Patterson	



In Memoriam

We regret to inform members of the death of Marlane, wife of Air Commodore Graham Pitchfork, in November 2000. Marlane had been seriously ill for a number of years. All who knew her will regret the passing of a vivacious, attractive lady who gave great support to, and was closely associated with, No 208 Squadron.
 May she rest in peace.

GUEST OF HONOUR 2001

This year's Guest of Honour is Air Marshal Sir Christopher Coville, Air Member for Personnel and AOC-in-C Personnel and Training Command (thus 208 Squadron's own AOC). Sir Christopher was born in Liverpool and joined the Royal Air Force in 1964 as a Flight Cadet at Cranwell. After flying training, he flew Lightnings with 5 Squadron, then returned to 229 OCU as an instructor. In 1973, he converted to Phantoms and served with 43 Squadron. Whilst with 43, he qualified as a Weapons Instructor and achieved his BA through the Open University. The newly-promoted Squadron Leader Coville joined the Phantom OCU, then in 1977 was posted to the Central Tactics and Trials Unit as the fighter specialist. In 1980, he completed the Advanced Staff Course at the RAF Staff College at Bracknell.

Following a tour as PSO to UKMILREP at NATO HQ in Brussels, he served as OC Operations Wing at RAF Stanley in the Falklands. Wing Commander Coville was OC 111 Squadron at Leuchars before being appointed Group Captain Air at HQ 11 Group, Strike Command. As Station Commander of RAF Coningsby, he flew the Tornado F3 and displayed the Hurricane and Spitfire of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. After the Royal College of Defence Studies, he became Air Commodore Flying Training at HQ Support Command. In July 1992, he became AOC Training Units. Then, on the formation of Personnel and Training Command, he led the Training Group. In September 1994, he became Assistant Chief of Defence Operational Requirements (Air Systems). Air Marshal Coville became Deputy C-in-C, Allied Forces Central Europe in August 1998. Awarded the CB in 1995, he became a KCB in the New Year Honours List of 2000 and took up his present post in March 2001. Sir Christopher is married to Irene and has a son and two daughters. Microlight flying, shooting and mountaineering occupy his spare time, whilst he is also President of the Royal Air Force Football Association.



ANNUAL REUNION DINNER 2001, SATURDAY 27th OCTOBER

It is imperative you send back the reply slip below if you wish to attend the 2001 Naval Eight/208 Squadron Association Annual Reunion Dinner at the Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, London W1V 0PY on Saturday 27th October. Dress is lounge suits and Members may bring male or female guests. It is important that you name your guest/s on the booking slip and that you indicate your period of service with the Squadron for the seating plan. Timing is 6.30pm for 7.30pm and the cost this year is again £25.00 per head, including a glass of port. Please complete the booking slip as early as possible and return to: Wg Cdr MW Brown, Hon Secretary, Naval Eight/208 Squadron Association, Even if you are unable to attend, please return the reply slip, as it is our only way of ensuring continuing contact with you.

NAVAL EIGHT/208 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION - REUNION BOOKING SLIP - 2001

MORE ON MEDALS

You will remember that, two years ago, the Association was presented with the Bromet medals (those of Sir Geoffrey and Dame Jean), the collection being placed in the care of the Royal Air Force Museum at Hendon. Well, those orders, decorations and medals are now on public display at the Royal Air Force Museum and, as you've seen announced on the front page of this issue, Committee Member/Lysander-Hurricane-Spitfire Chapter Representative Sid Jefford has generously donated his medals to the Association, ultimately to join the Squadron display which we hope to see in the fullness of time at Hendon.

On the subject of our full-size medal programme, Air Commodore Graham Pitchfork reports that the RAF Museum's Medals Hall project proceeds slowly and is currently resting on the horns of a Lottery Fund Grant. Our Miniature Medals project, on the other hand, is progressing well and we are hopeful of having a complete display of miniatures, representing the Bromet collection as well as all the Orders, Decorations and Medals awarded to personnel of Naval Eight and 208 down the years.

The miniature display will be framed and the medals in the frame will be set in groups to add interest and personalise the display more. For example, there will be the double DSO and DSC of Flt Lt RA Little (Australia's top-scoring WWI Fighter Ace with 47 enemy aircraft to his credit), the triple DSC and first 208 DFC of Major Robert Compston, as well as the DCM of Chief Petty Officer JA Rosling. Second World War groups will include the DFC of Flt Lt Peter Perry (one of 26 awarded to 208 members) and (we hope) Sid Jefford's Greek medal. Coming more up to date, we will feature Group Captain Bill Cope's Order of Bahrain and AFC, whilst Sir Geoffrey Bromet's whole career awards will be mounted down the centre of the display. The background colours for the medals will be the Squadron's Faded Blue and Desert Yellow flash colours, but positioned vertically. When not on display at Association events, the collection will be on view at the Squadron's home, Royal Air Force Valley.

Still we continue to promote the sale of the A3 print of the magnificent 208 Squadron Blazon of Arms painted a few years ago by Mrs Mary Denton for the Heraldic Trust. The print is on high quality heavy weight art paper, **priced at £9.00 a copy**, including UK postage and packing. The prints are despatched in sturdy card-board tubes.

Proceeds from sales, after the deduction of production and mailing costs will continue to go to the Association's Medal Project. We hope you'll give this worthy venture your support.

In addition to the prints, you can still buy Association Christmas cards, featuring the same image in much smaller scale. Printed in landscape format, the picture on the Christmas card is bordered in blue and gold. The message reads: "With Best Wishes for Christmas and the coming New Year". An order form is included in the tear-off Reunion booking slip in this Newsletter. **The price is £3.50 for a pack of 10 cards with envelopes**, plus post and packing. **Inland and BFPO postage is 57p per pack, whilst Australia & New Zealand members face postage of £3.96!** A pack of ten cards weigh 168 grams, so members overseas should allow for that weight in their provision for postage when ordering.

All orders to the Hon Secretary, via the Reunion booking slip, please.

