

## **FOUND! FOOTAGE OF 33 SQUADRON ARRIVING AT BENINA AIRFIELD IN LIBYA DURING WORLD WAR TWO**

**LONDON:** Friday 29 March 2019

On a wonderfully pleasant Spring morning, four members of the Association and one representative from 33 Squadron converged on a large yet fairly anonymous building in a street behind the Imperial War Museum in London. They were there to view some archive footage that had not been out of the can for 77 years, which recorded the arrival of 33 Squadron's 'B' Party convoy at Benina airfield in Libya on 29 November 1942. The convoy, consisting of 15 prime movers, 5 trailers, a jeep and a staff car, had driven 318 miles in 47 hours from the Advanced Landing Ground at El Adem, a few miles south of Tobruk. The convoy was met by the CO, Squadron Leader S.C. Norris D.F.C. .

The viewing marked the end of a search that had been going on for several months after Dave Stewart decided to research the entry in the ORB that said the arrival was filmed by No.1 RAF Film Production Unit. Emails and calls to the Imperial War Museum Research offices led to Chris Perkins visiting the IWM Photography Archive just before Christmas to search their immense cardex records. After working out the relevant series codes within the cardex, Chris was able to track down the Daily Progress Reports and Dope Sheets, detailing the location, scene numbers, detailed descriptions and footage used. Chris then passed all of the details to the curator, Helen Upcraft, who confirmed that the films were in good condition and stored at the IWM Duxford site. Clips from the film will be shown at the 33 Squadron Association AGM on Saturday 18 May and a longer article will be published in the May edition of 'Loyalty'.



**British convoy move in the Western Desert in 1942**