



## 33 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION AGM 2018

### Never seen before memorabilia revealed at the Tangmere Military Aviation Museum



Saturday 2 June 2018

After returning to England from Egypt in April 1944, 33 Squadron moved down to the South Coast from North Weald on 17 May to support the D-Day landings. Between 3 July and 31 August, the day that 33 moved to the Advanced Landing Ground at Caen-Carpique known as B-17, it spent 25 days at Tangmere, plus 6 days at Selsey and 26 days at Funtington, both Tangmere satellite airfields. Time on the coast was broken only by a 6-day air to air and air to ground gunnery exercise at Fairwood Common in Wales, now better known now as Swansea Airport. Normally the Committee would have waited until next year to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of 33 Squadron's brief and, according to Jan Linzel's memoirs, pleasant stay there. However, having lost Brian Randall at the start of the year, one of our most enthusiastic and supportive founding members who lived close to Funtington and Chichester, the Committee agreed that it would be fitting to hold the AGM at Brian's local aviation museum where, by chance, a very close friend of Brian's and a former RAF engineer too, Mr Trevor Clark, is the Deputy Curator and archivist.



**Mr. Trevor Clark (centre) briefing the Association members before he commenced a conducted tour around the Museum. Mrs MacKenzie and Mrs Keates (left of picture) both excelled on the Lightning simulator inside.**

The Museum opens its door to the public at 1000 hrs, but had agreed that we could arrive early and set up in the Neville Duke Hall while waiting for our members to arrive from far and wide. Prize winners would include Tony Whitehead, who had travelled down the previous day from York to join us, and our President, Air Commodore Paul Lyall (resplendent in *pantalon vert*) who was over from France. It also allowed the members to enjoy looking at some previously unseen 33 Squadron memorabilia that Mr Clark had uncovered in the Museum's collection. The Squadron crest in the top right hand corner is one piece of the treasure trove, and the sharp eyed amongst you will be able to date it from the word 'Fighter'. Other items that Trevor discovered appear later in this article.

After taking early advantage of a quiet restaurant to stock up on *cappuchinos*, *flat whites* and *lattes* the AGM commenced at 1100. After the usual reports from the Chairman, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, the voting in of the Committee, including a new Secretary, and an excellent brief from Chris Perkins about the forthcoming Association Battlefield Tour this Autumn, there was some interesting, useful and varied discussions before business was closed at 1230. At that point Mr Clark gathered us together and lead us on a personal guided tour of the Museum, which is crammed full of interesting memorabilia



and stories from the beginnings of military aviation, and an enviable number of aircraft exhibits, inside and outside the Museum itself. Having arranged to have lunch at the local Gribble Inn in Oving, a very picturesque place but not a village that 33 Squadron personnel were likely to have spent a lot of time in during the summer of 1944 as it was officially 'dry' then, we were rather pressed for time once the tour was complete and had to dash off without being able to really appreciate everything the Museum has to see. Everyone agreed afterwards that a whole day is need at the Museum to fully enjoy and appreciate the displays and information on offer.

It was around 1600, after enjoying some of the biggest portions of fish and chips we have ever seen, and sampled some of the spectacular beers brewed onsite, the majority of the attendees called it a day and started heading for home, all except a couple of old hands who had booked accommodation locally and settled in to enjoy a few more real ales from the Gribble's micro-brewery, much to the envy of those of us driving! Brian would have enjoyed the day. God bless him, our absent friend.



**We couldn't get Pete McK out of the Lightning simulator for the team photo! And Jerry used to service Phantoms, if you didn't know he would have told you anyway!**



The gentlemen on the left is Squadron Leader Derrick Leslie Gould DFC, who had served at Tangmere with 607 and 213 Squadron in 1940-1941 before being posted to the Middle East, where he joined 274 Squadron at Gerawala. In October 1941 he was posted to 33 Squadron as a flight commander, and took over command of the Squadron in December 1941. He was posted HQ Middle East in May 1942, and took over command of 274 Squadron from July until October 1943. The Squadron crest shown on the front page belonged to Squadron Leader Gould, and it has small hooks attached at the bottom of the board from which he hung his medals, shown above. Derrick Gould left the RAF in 1946, he died in Torbay in 2002. The search for his final resting place, assumed to be in the Torbay area, has begun.

**Overleaf:** Just a few photographs from a 'No. 33 (Bomber) Squadron - Ismailia 1937' album donated to TMAM by Mr Ronald Lardner in 2011.





No. 33 (BOMBER) SQUADRON  
ISMAILIA 1937



ISMAILIA



"B" FLIGHT No. 33 (BOMBER)  
SQUADRON



"B" FLIGHT AT SAMAKH



BREAKFAST AT AQABA

NEW YEARS DAY 1938 - ON THE  
MESS VERANDAH



THE WING COMMANDER'S PROMOTION  
COMES THROUGH - NEW YEARS  
MORNING 1938



THE OFFICERS OF 33 SQUADRON



GAS ALARM



FIRST GLADIATORS AT THE DEPOT



OVER ISMAILIA

