



# 244 SQUADRON & KINDRED SPIRITS ASSOCIATION



## Newsletter No. 5

### Jim Says...

A happy, healthy and prosperous New Year from Don and myself to all our 124 members.

This issue contains outline details of this year's reunion.

In 1991 we had 62 persons in attendance. We must hit the 100 mark this time (for reasons explained in previous issues). Come on, you lads from Oz, do a 'Phil Watson,' and show up at the big 'DO' ! We already have 32 plus bookings for the Scarisbrick, so early application is advisable.

We have many enquires over badges etc. Approximate prices are:-

Plaques - £20; Ties - £10; Blazer Badges - £18; Lapel Badges - £2 (we must have 100 orders).

A copy of the 1993 Southport Tourist Guide will be sent to all members as soon as available. This will give our newer members some idea of our attractive resort.

Also, a questionnaire is enclosed for our latest applicants. This information is required in order to bring our large Nominal Roll board up to date. Please complete and return as soon as possible.

### Treasurers Report...

1993 dawns, and we are now seriously involved with the coming Reunion (Friday and Saturday 1st & 2nd October) The Scarisbrick has again been booked, but this time we will have the Isherwood Suite (the big Room) on both evenings. In connection with all this, we have had to find 'money up front' for booking deposits (£325). This leaves out 'cupboard bare'!

Will all members who may (or will) attend our big 'shindig', please forward a deposit of £10 per person, as soon as possible. We now have a bank account in the name of "244 Squadron and Kindred Spirits Association", so cheque should be made payable to this account.

All menus have been agreed, and will be as good, or better than '91. Also a room has been booked for the AGM on the Saturday. As you know, our only source of income is your subscriptions. This year's subs are now due, and so far only 28 have paid up. Also, sadly, there are still three members who have yet to settle for 91/92 (they will be informed separately). Our Newsletter (for which we receive much praise) costs over £50 to produce and send. You will therefore understand our position.

Anyway, friends, read the Reunion details carefully, and hope to see you in October.

## Reunion Price Guide

### Package Deal at the Scarisbrick Hotel

Double Room (2 nights bed/breakfast)

plus buffet (Friday) plus banquet (Saturday) £99 per person  
as above, but Single Room occupancy £109 " "

Special Offer: If Sunday evening is booked this will cost an additional £25 (includes bed/breakfast and Sunday carvery. Any other night booked will cost £35 (bed/breakfast)

### Package Deal at New Savoia Hotel

Double Room (en suite) -

2 nights (bed/breakfast) plus buffet (Friday) plus banquet (Saturday) = £64 per person

Single Room (en suite) -

2 nights (bed/breakfast) plus buffet (Friday) plus banquet (Saturday) = £68 per "

### Details of payment:-

£10 deposit per person by return

50% of balance payable by 30th June

50% " " " by 31st August

Any queries, ring Don.

## The Masirah State Railway

In 1943 a narrow gauge railway was built on Masirah. This was a joint British/American project. Its job was to transport fuel, water etc., from the jetty to storage near the airfield. Being the only railway in the Arabian peninsula, it was 12 miles long.

During a boom of post war activity it was used extensively until mid - 1946, when the island went into a long period of decline. New policies in 1955 saw a revival of Masirah's status, and the petrol-engined Locomotive was replaced by two diesel engines. However, 1964 saw the installation of an undersea pipeline, rendering the line obsolete.

Later, a new camp was built, and this led to an unexpected revival of the line. It was re-laid and refurbished as a passenger facility between beach and camp. (All work being done by voluntary enthusiasts). The Locomotive now appeared in green livery, and the line was officially opened by singer Julie Rogers on 2nd April '70 (She was visiting with an entertainment unit). It was known as "Masirah State Railway".

The line was eventually closed on 9/1/77, and after hurricane damage, the track was taken up for scrap. A Rushton engine was returned to U.K. resplendent in green livery, and was stored at R.A.F. Cosford.

(acknowledgement to W.E. Simms Esq.)

Tom Hazell has been unwell, and has recently moved to 10A Sherwood Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS18 1BD. He apologises for interruption in any correspondence.

**Jim Heslop**

**Don James**