

# Herbert (Tom) Tomlin

100 YEARS ON

Welcome to the story of Herbert (Tom) Tomlin - one of 'Trenchard's Brats' - portrayed through the items he collected and retained over a lifetime of commitment to the RAF.



*Herbert, complete with RAF tie, raising a glass on his 85th birthday.*



*Herbert Tomlin*

## INTRODUCTION

Herbert (Tom) Tomlin was born on 11 August 1904. On 10 February 1920, he enlisted to be trained at RAF Cranwell's Boys' Wing as an Aircraft Apprentice. A hundred years later, an extensive collection of documents, photographs, newspaper clippings and other material collected by Herbert was donated to Cranwell Aviation Heritage Museum (CAHM) by his nephew, Tony Barron.

Many of the items donated are specific to RAF Cranwell and its Boys' Wing. Cataloguing these items has made fascinating reading regarding the life of a man or indeed 'Boy' who joined the RAF in 1920 and who 65 years later was still attending events along with former colleagues commemorating their RAF service.

In this time of uncertainty, Cranwell Aviation Heritage Museum (CAHM) would like to share the story of Herbert Tomlin online as portrayed through just a few of the items he collected. We have resisted the temptation to supplement this project with images already held in CAHM's collection as the sole focus is to tell this story through the items Herbert collected.

Once CAHM resumes its normal opening hours, it is envisaged that many more of the items relating to Herbert and indeed items relating to the Boys' Wing from CAHM's collection will be on public display at our museum.

*All of the images included in our story of Herbert Tomlin are taken from the items he collected and are reproduced courtesy of Tony Barron.*

## RAF CRANWELL'S BOYS' WING

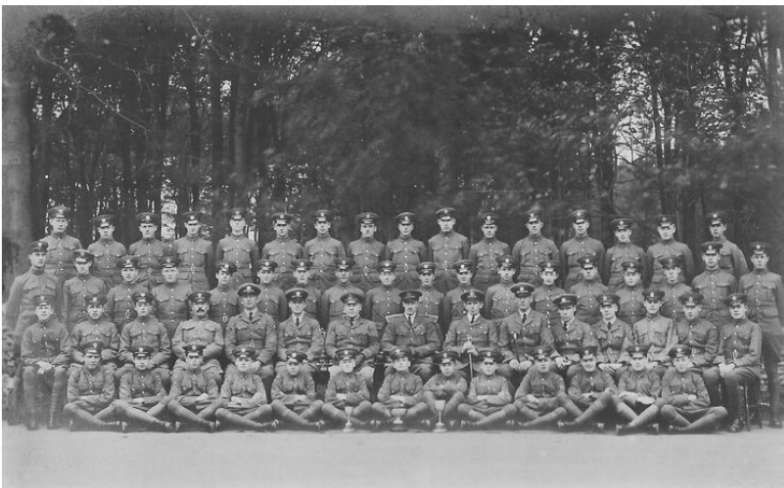
Boys undergoing training at RAF Cranwell enlisted at between 15 and 16½ years of age, and joined for a minimum of twelve years. The Boys' Wing, was set up under the direction of Hugh Trenchard and the 'Boys' were referred to as "Trenchard's Brats". Apparently he would address the first intakes:

**"I'm Hugh Trenchard and you're who work hard."**



*Boys' Wing - 1922*

In Herbert's photo album, most images have handwritten comments on the reverse. One image is of a group of Officers, NCOs and young men. Herbert did not include a written comment on the reverse of this photo. Is this an image of the Boy's Wing? - Young men seated on the ground, Officers and NCOs seated on the first row and young men in the two rows behind.



The Officer in centre of the front row bears a striking resemblance to Wing Commander Kilner, the Officer Commanding (OC) Boys' Wing.



*Wing Commander CF Kilner, DSO - OC Boys' Wing*

## TRAINING AT THE BOYS' WING

After enlistment into the training establishment, the 'Boys' were divided into two Sections. They then would be trained on graded courses, beginning with elementary work, and passing out when tasks within the sphere of their particular trade had been achieved.

The 'Boys' were required to sit written examinations in a number of subjects including: Science, Mathematics, English and Drawing. The images below give just a flavour of the depth of knowledge the 'Boys' were expected to have of two of these subjects.

How the difficulty of these exams compare to those that are sat by 18 year olds today is left to you to decide...

B.M.F.  
22 (2)  
5.

BOY MECHANICS—ROYAL AIR FORCE,

PASSING-OUT EXAMINATION—SCHOOL SUBJECTS,

Christmas, 1922.

ENGLISH PAPER I.

(Time allowed—Three hours.)

PART I.

(You are advised to spend about one hour on the Essay.)

1. Write an essay on ONE of the following subjects:—

- (a) A play by Shakespeare or by Sheridan, or by some modern writer.
- (b) Democracy.
- (c) The Place of Music in Life.
- (d) Trade Unions.
- (e) An Exciting Adventure—imaginary or otherwise.
- (f) English Birds.
- (g) Walking Tours.

PART II.

(Attempt ALL the questions in this Part.)

2. From the standpoint of Imperial communications and defence, what do you consider to be the special importance of the following places:—

Scapa Flow, Fiji Islands, Gibraltar, Falkland Islands, Hongkong, Colombo? Show their approximate position on a sketch map of the world.

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B.M.F.  
22 (2)  
1.

BOY MECHANICS—ROYAL AIR FORCE.

PASSING-OUT EXAMINATION—SCHOOL SUBJECTS.

Christmas, 1922.

MATHEMATICS I.

Time allowed—Three hours.

You should send in answers, if possible, to all the questions in Part I., and to any four in Part II. All rough work should be shown.

PART I.

1. The diameter in feet of a propeller fan delivering Q cubic feet of air per second with a consumption of H horse-power is

$$\sqrt{\frac{0000115Q^3}{H}}$$

If the horse-power is 1.35 and Q = 251 cubic feet per second, find the diameter.

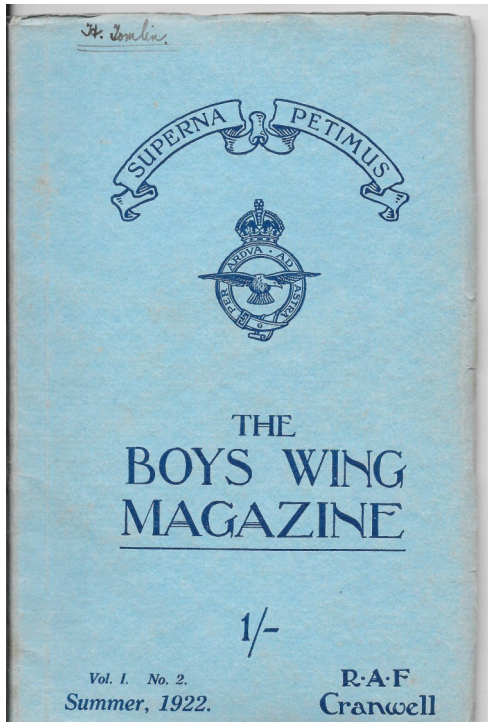
2. The speed in still air of a certain aeroplane flying at various altitudes is given below:—

Altitude (feet)	-	-	2,000	4,000	8,000	12,000	18,000	20,000
Speed (m.p.h.)	-	-	123	117	105	93	66	46

Plot a curve showing variation of speed with height and find from it the speed at altitudes of (a) 14,400 feet; (b) 6,400 feet.

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LIFE AT THE BOYS' WING

Life at the Boys' Wing was clearly not all work and no play. Items from Herbert's collection include copies of:

**The Boys' Wing magazine** - An official style publication including reports and photos of sports and training activities.



[Photo, Walter Lee, Grantham

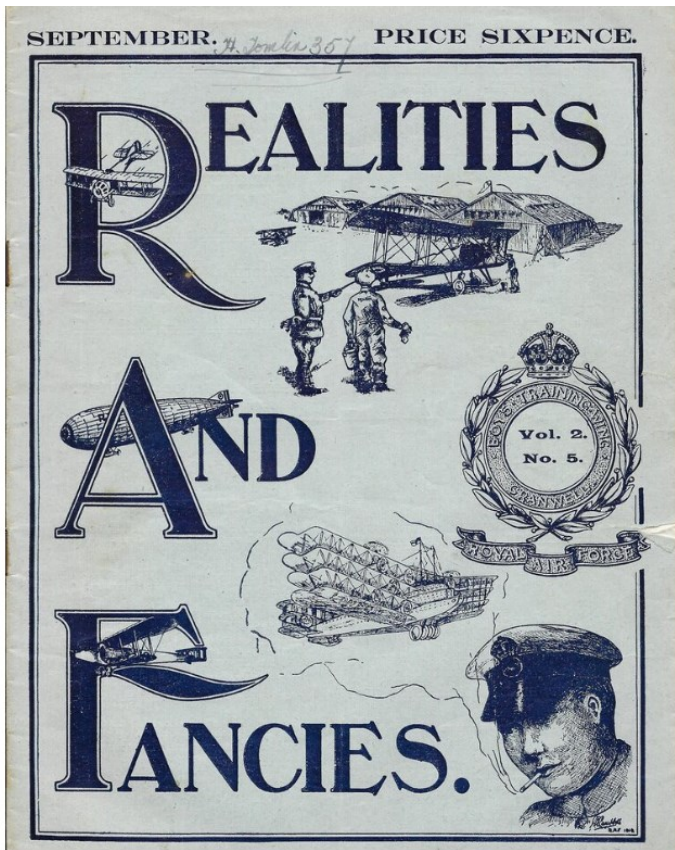
BOYS' WING RUGBY XV, 1921-22.



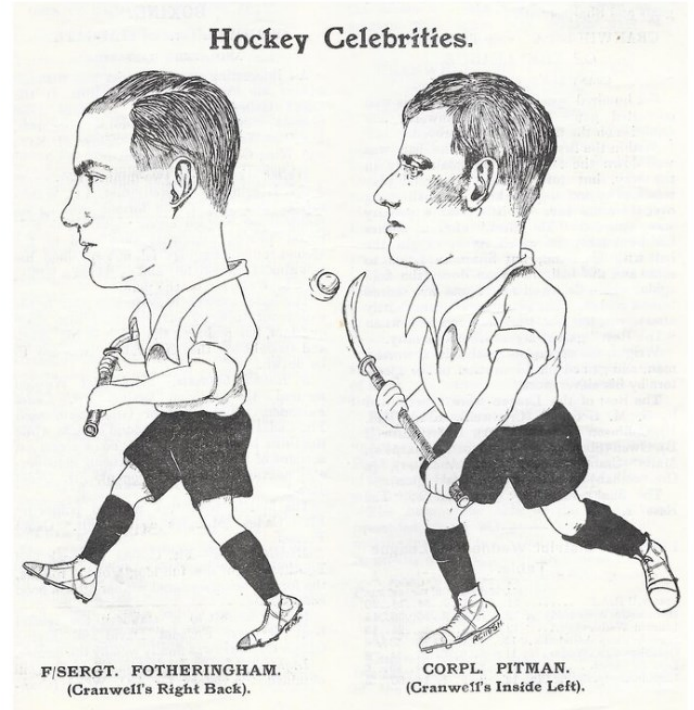
[Photo, C. V. Sherthouse

BOYS' WING ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL XI, 1921-22.

E



**Realities and Fancies** - A much more light hearted publication than the Boys' Wing magazine which contained cartoons and anecdotes of life and indeed the personalities at RAF Cranwell.



**Amateur dramatics** -  
Theatre programmes from  
shows at RAF Cranwell's  
theatre.



**"THE IDEAS."**

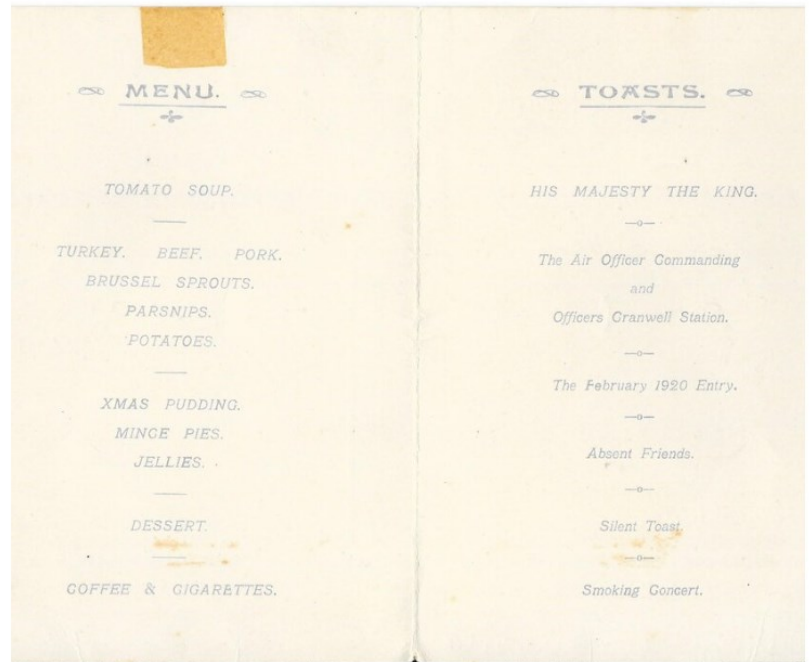
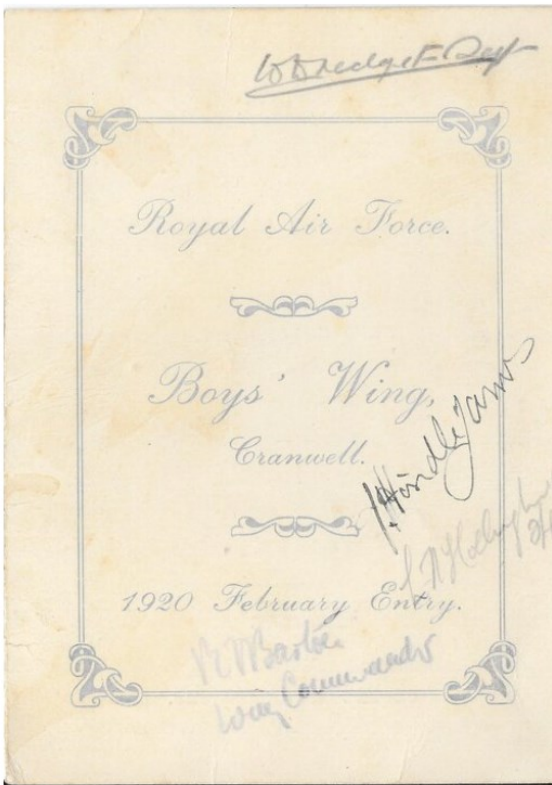
PART I.	PART II.
1. Introducing the CRANWELL "IDEAS" ... The Company.	1. WANGLE AND SPOOF, ... Cpls. Jamieson & Heaver.
2. ABOUT HIMSELF, ... .. Cpl. Heaver.	2. A MOMENT IN JAPAN, ... .. Cpl. Payne.
3. SONG, ... .. A/C. Dickson.	3. FROM DEVON, ... .. A/C. Mason.
4. TWO "IDEAS" ... .. Cpls. Payne & Brading.	4. SOME TEA SHOP, ... .. Cpl. Heaver & Gaby.
5. MONOLOGUE, ... .. A/C. Mason.	5. A TEARFUL A.B.C. ... { Cpls. Payne, Heaver, A/C. Mason & Dickson.
6. THE BOLSHEVIK FOUR, ... { Cpls. Payne, Heaver, Brading, A/C. Mason.	6. MELON TIME IN DIXIE-LAND, ... { Cpl. Brading. The Noise: Cpl. Heaver.
7. ANOTHER FAVOURITE, ... .. Cpl. Brading.	7. ANOTHER SONG, .. ... A/C. Dickson.
8. THE LITTLE FELLOW, ... .. Cpl. Payne.	8. THE THEATRICAL AGENCY, <small>CARTE</small> { THE MANAGER - CPL PAYNE BOBBIE - CPL BRADING THE TENOR - A.C. DICKSON THE BASS - CPL HEAVER DEBTS, AN ACTRESS - A.C. GABY
9. SOMETHING ORIENTAL, ... .. Gaby & Company.	9. CLOSING CHORUS, ... .. The Company.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

PRODUCED BY Cpl. PAYNE.

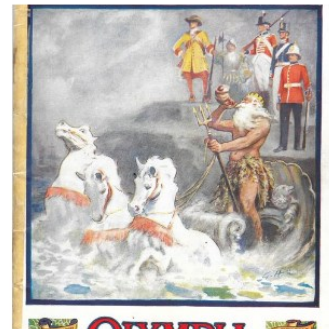
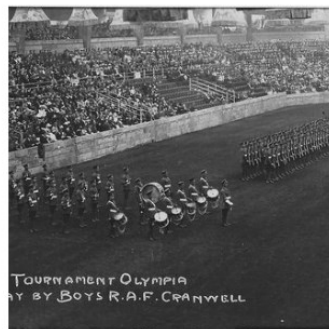
Cigarettes by ABDULLA.	Stage Manager - - - - Cpl. WHITE.	Dresses by LUCILLE.
Lighting Effects by SPARKS.	Musical Director - - - - MR. HALFORD, B.M.	Scenery by NIGHT
Dances & Ensembles by Cpl. Payne & Gaby.	Advertising Manager - - - - L.A.C. RAE-REVES.	Costumes by TAILOR.

**Christmas at the Boys' Wing** - What they ate for Christmas dinner, followed by cigarettes with their coffee.



### THE ROYAL TOURNAMENT 1921

In 1921, Herbert was part of the Boys' Wing contingent that paraded at the Royal Tournament at Olympia, London. This was clearly a memorable event for him, as aside from photos, Herbert collected numerous newspaper clippings relating to the event, as well as a well-thumbed copy of the Tournament's programme, inside which was his own personal souvenir of the pageant.



### RAF CRANWELL IN 1922

From the same era, Herbert's photo album includes images of RAF Cranwell's original Fire Brigade and other images of buildings and aircraft at Cranwell as at 1922. Captions beneath the images are as Herbert wrote on the reverse of his photos. A commercial album of 'Photographic Views of Cranwell Camp' was also included in the items donated.



Cranwell's Fire Brigade 1922

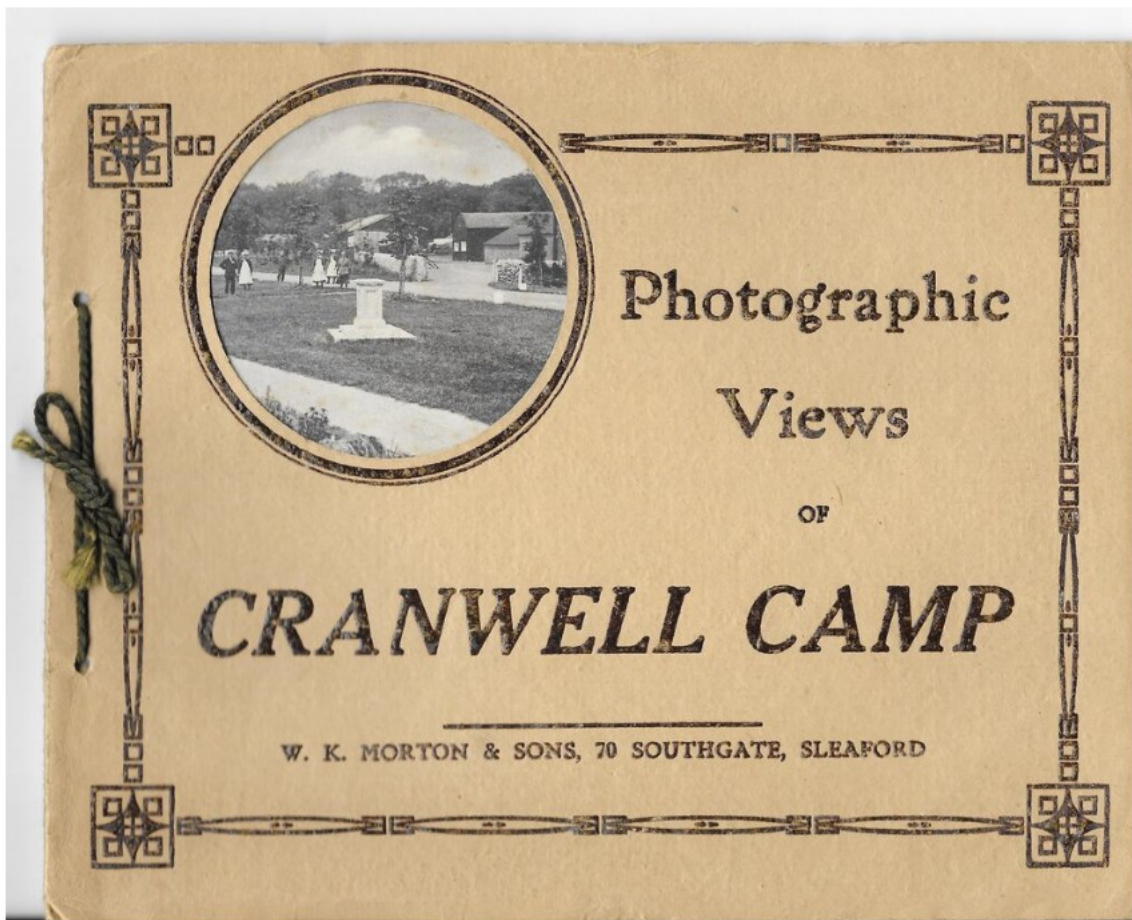
West Camp 1922



Lighter Than Air Section



Handley Page - Cranwell 1922



## HERBERT'S SUBSEQUENT RAF CAREER

Herbert was promoted to Aircraftman First Class in December 1922. Three years later he was promoted to Leading Aircraftman (LAC).

As to why LAC Tomlin was in Spain in 1925, please read the resume of his full RAF career which has been compiled by Tony and can be found at the bottom of the page.



*Corporal Tomlin - 1931*



*Spain 1925 - LAC Tomlin (front row right, holding a cane)*

In August 1927, Herbert was promoted to Corporal.

To be promoted to Sergeant, Herbert had to be both qualified and pass written examinations. Copies of the examination papers he sat are included in the items donated.

On 1 June 1933, Herbert was promoted to Sergeant and five years later, to the day was promoted to the rank of Flight Sergeant (FS).

On 24 September 1941, FS Tomlin was Mentioned in Dispatches (MiD) for 'distinguished service' for reasons he did not discuss.



Searching the London Gazette confirms the award, but sadly does not shed any light as to the actions FS Tomlin performed to be recognised in such a manner.

Herbert was serving In North Africa when he was MiD, yet as you will see from the image of his medals, the MiD Oak Leaf is attached to his War Medal.

L-R: India General Service Medal (1936), 1939-1945 Star, Africa Star, Defence Medal, War Medal with MiD Oak Leaf, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal



In 1947, after completing 27 years of service, Warrant Officer Tomlin was discharged from the RAF.

R.A.F. Form 2520/14

**ROYAL AIR FORCE  
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE AND RELEASE**

**SERVICE PARTICULARS**

Service Number } 335357 Rank W/O.

Air Crew Category and/or R.A.F. trade FITT. I

Air Crew Badges awarded (if any) None.

Overseas Service IRAQ. 15/10/36-6/18/39. FAR EAST 6/1/39-1/12/40. MIDDLE EAST. 1/12/40-20/10/41.

R.A.F. Character Very Good. (see notes on back of certificate on opposite page)

Proficiency A — ( " " )

" B Superior ( " " )

Decorations, Medals, Clasps, Mention in Despatches, Commendations, etc. MENTION IN DESPATCHES. I.G.S. AFRICA STAR. 1939/45 STAR. DEFENCE + WAR MEDALS. L.S. & G.C. MEDAL.

Educational and Vocational Training Courses and Results None.

**DESCRIPTION**

Date of Birth 11.8.1904 Height 5' 11"

Marks and Scars None.

Specimen Signature of Airman Tomlin.

of HERBERT TOMLIN.  
(Block Letters)

The above-named airman served in the R.A.F. on full-time service, from 10/2/30. to 5/2/47.  
(Last day of service in unit before leaving for release and release leave).

Particulars of his Service are shown in the margin of this Certificate.

Brief statement of any special aptitudes or qualities or any special types of employment for which recommended:—

*An airman with considerable organising & administrative experience. He has always been most efficient & capable.*

Date 5.2.47 *P. Williams Group Captain*  
Signature of Officer Commanding

### LIFE AFTER LEAVING THE RAF

Following his release from the RAF, the now 'Mr' Tomlin was employed as a senior aircraft inspector at the Royal Naval Air Yard, Fleetlands in Gosport.

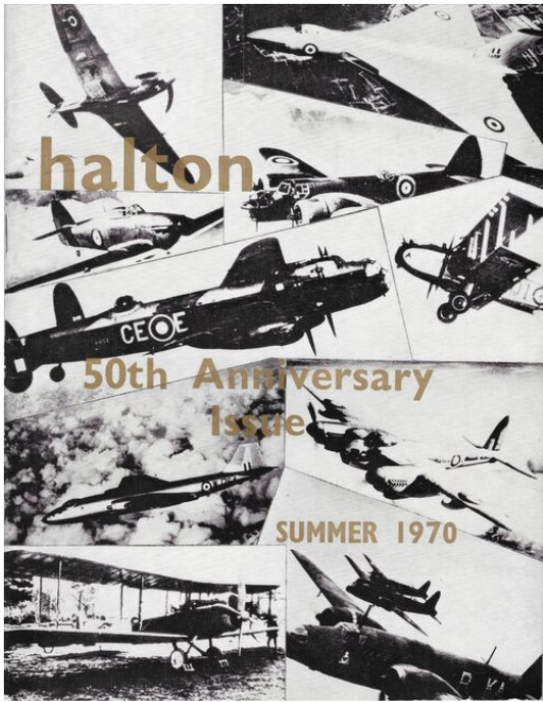
Herbert married rather late in life at the age of 53. Tony had just returned from National Service in West Africa and was privileged to be the best man at Herbert's marriage to Phyllis.



Herbert and Phyllis



Tony, standing next to Herbert. Beside Tony is Herbert's sister (Tony's mother)



## RAF REUNIONS

Over the following decades, Herbert attended at least three RAF reunions, the first in 1970, the last in 1985.

**Halton Golden Jubilee** - In 1970, Herbert attended RAF Halton's Golden Jubilee celebrations.

### HALTON GOLDEN JUBILEE

DEAR Mr Young

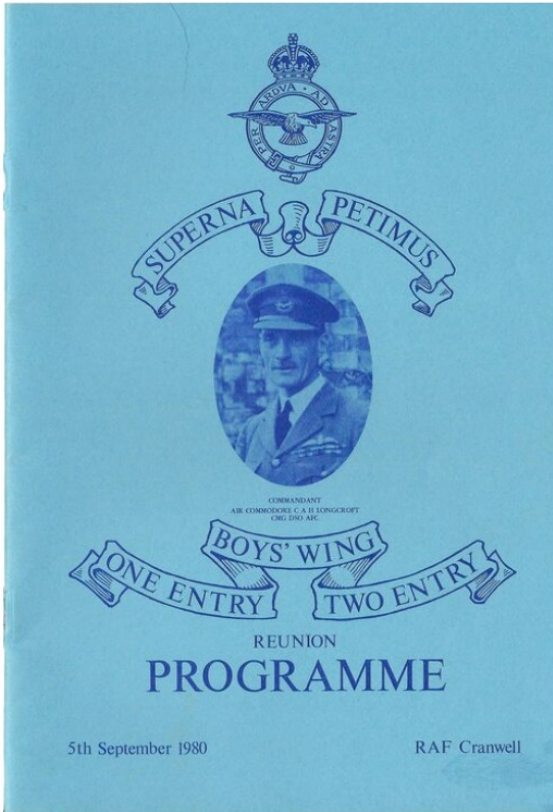
A COACH HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR THE HALTON VISIT ON 1ST AUGUST (41 SEATER). THE CHARGE PER PERSON IS 15/- WHICH INCLUDES THE DRIVERS TIP. TO ENABLE ME TO COMPLETE THE COACH ARRANGEMENTS AND FURNISH HALTON WITH THE INFO. THEY REQUIRE, PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED PRO-FORMA AND RETURN TO ME AT T.D.OLE) TOGETHER WITH ANY MONIES DUE BY FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY.

A DEPOSIT OF 10/- PER SEAT IS REQUIRED (NON RETURNABLE). YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED OF TIME OF PICK UP IN DUE COURSE. IT WILL START AT APPROX 8 O'CLOCK. LEAVE HALTON FOR RETURN AT APPROX 1800 HRS.

HALTON ARE ISSUING A COMBINED TICKET FOR LUNCH AND TEA AT A CHARGE OF 11/-

A COLD BUFFET LUNCH IS AVAILABLE FROM 1200-1400 HRS AT THE AIRFIELD. IT WILL CONSIST OF COLD CHICKEN, SALAD, MAYONNAISE, POTATOES, ROLL & BUTTER, CRACKERS & CHEESE AND A FRUIT PIE. AFTER THE DISPLAY TEA, CAKES, BISCUITS, ETC WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE SAME HANGAR.

A SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE HALTON MAG WHICH WILL APPEAR ON 1ST AUGUST WILL CONTAIN IN THE MAIN REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST 50 YEARS BY OLD HALTONIANS. (3/- PER COPY) — PAY ON THE DAY.



**Boys' Wing '60 Years On' Reunion** - On 5 September 1980, Herbert attended the 60 years-on reunion of the Boys' Wing at RAF Cranwell.

1920 BOYS' WING, R.A.F. CRANWELL

**60 YEARS-ON-REUNION**

AT

**ROYAL AIR FORCE COLLEGE,  
CRANWELL**

**FRIDAY, 5th SEPTEMBER, 1980**

*By kind permission of the A.O.C. and Commandant,  
Air Vice-Marshal B. Brownlow, O.B.E., A.F.C., R.A.F.*

1030 to 1800 hrs.

Lounge Suit

The reunion covered many activities, detailed below:

Page 1.

<u>5 Sept. 80</u>	
1530-1615	Tour engineering training facilities including Aircraft Hall. Party to be in 2 groups. Return to College Hall.
1615-1620	Interval.
1620-1720	Tour campus by coach, stopping at points of interest.
1720-1745	Tea available in College Hall Lecture Hall.
Early evening	Some members depart Cranwell.
1745-1900	Those staying overnight have an opportunity to relax.
1900-2000	Dinner.
2000-2030	Period of relaxation.
2030-A/R	Films to be shown in College Hall Lecture Hall by Mr. Ken Adams.
Overnight	College Hall Officers' Mess.
<u>6 Sept. 80</u>	
A/R	Members depart Cranwell after breakfast.
<u>Church Service</u>	
(a)	Ecumenical in form.
(b)	Service will be taken by the Senior C.O.F. E. Chaplain - Padre T.J.B. Jenkyns.
(c)	Unfortunately, it will not be possible to have RC or CSFC clerical representation.
(d)	The lesson will be read by the AOC and COMDT.
(e)	The sermon will be delivered by Padre Jenkyns.
(f)	There will be a retiring collection for the RAF Ben. Fund.
(g)	The service will end with the National Anthem.
<u>Lunch Details</u>	
(a)	Lunch will consist of a starter, assorted cold roast meats and salads, gateaux and coffee.
(b)	Light white wine will be served.
(c)	There will be a top seating plan to include:
	Air Chf. Mshl. Beetham
	AVM Cannon
	AVM Brownlow
	Air Cdre. Alcock
	Gp. Capt. Coleman
	Gp. Capt. Travis

Page 2.

Programme for Reunion

<u>4 Sept 80</u>	
Afternoon and early evening	Arrive RAF College. Book in at reception at College Hall. Shown to accommodation.
1900-2000	Dinner.
Overnight	College Hall Officers' Mess.
<u>5 Sept. 80</u>	
By 1055	Rest of members arrive at College Hall.
1030-1100	Coffee in College Hall Lecture Hall.
1100-1105	Welcoming address by AOC and Comdt.
1105-1125	Short talk by Air Cdre Alcock on the development of apprentice training.
1125-1130	Interval.
1130-1145	Short talk by Gp. Capt. Travis about the RAF COLLEGE.
1145-1150	Interval.
1150-1157	Walk to St. Michael and All Angels Church (coach if wet weather).
1200-1230	Service of thanksgiving and remembrance in St. Michael and All Angels Church. Service to be led by Rev. (Wg. Cdr.) Jenkyns.
1230-1240	Walk to College Hall front steps (coach if wet weather).
1240	Doors opened on CAS' aircraft. CAS is met by AOC and Comdt. and taken to College Hall.
1240-1245	Preparation for group photographs.
1245	CAS arrives at front steps of College Hall.
1246-1250	Group photographs are taken. (In Rotunda if wet weather)
1250-1310	Pre-lunch sherry in Lancaster Room.
1310-1410	Buffet lunch in dining room. Light wine.
1410-1420	Presentation of rose bowl by the 1920 Boys' Wing for display in Trenchard Hall Officers' Mess.
1420-1430	Interval.
1430-1525	Tour of College Hall conducted by Mr. Ken Adams.
1525-1530	Interval.

## Menu

Florida Cocktail



Roast Sirloin of Beef

York Ham

Roast Suffolk Chicken



Coleslaw

Potato Salad

Russian Salad

Waldorf Salad



Strawberry Gateau

Black Forest Gateau

Fresh Cream



Coffee

Wine: Domkellerstolz

## Programme of Music

by

THE BAND ENSEMBLE OF  
THE CENTRAL BAND OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

Director of Music

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT C R TOMSETT LRAM ARCM RAF

.....

"1920's Selection"

The Lincolnshire Poacher

Post Horn Galop

A copy of the dinner menu.

Herbert retained three photographs from the event; a group photograph, the 'Boys' on parade and the presentation of a rose bowl by the 1920 Boys' Wing to be displayed In Trenchard Hall Officers' Mess.



**65 Years-On Reunion** – On 6 September 1985, Herbert, accompanied by Tony, attended the 65 years-on reunion of the Boys' Wing at RAF Cranwell. By this time, the 'Boys' attending were in their early eighties.



**Royal Air Force College**

**Cranwell Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 8HB**

Telephone Cranwell (STD 0400) 61201 Ext Main 400

Mr H Tomlin

2a Redlands Lane

Foreham

Hants

PO 14 1EY

Your reference

Our reference

RAF/C/HQ/549/7/Org

Date

15 July 1985

BOYS WING (FIRST AND SECOND ENTRIES 1920) 65 YEARS-ON REUNION

You may or may not be aware of the sad passing of Mr Sidney Johnson. His duties as Secretary were passed to Mr Bert Unwin who, through his own ill health, was able to action few outstanding secretarial matters. As an interim measure, I have taken over the task of arranging the 65 years-on Reunion of the Boys Wing, which is scheduled for Friday 6 September 1985.

The proposed programme is as follows:

- |            |                                                                                                        |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1050 hours | Arrive at York House Officers' Mess, RAF College Cranwell. Coffee in Main Ante Room.                   |
| 1115 hours | Welcoming address by Air Officer Commanding and Commandant.                                            |
| 1130 hours | Presentation on College History by Wing Commander College Secretariat.                                 |
| 1220 hours | Pre-lunch drinks and buffet lunch in No 2 IOT Mess with Department of Initial Officer Training Cadets. |
| 1350 hours | Thank you speech by Chairman.                                                                          |
| 1410 hours | Coach tour of Cranwell.                                                                                |
| 1510 hours | Afternoon Tea in York House Officers' Mess.                                                            |
| 1545 hours | Depart RAF College Cranwell.                                                                           |



Sadly, Herbert's wife predeceased him in 1984. Herbert lived on until 1990 and died aged 86.

His obituary entitled "Death of a Trenchard Brat" was published in the Southern Echo, on 12 December 1990.

It is not known if any further Boys' Wing reunions took place after the one held in 1985.

## 335357 HERBERT (TOM) TOMLIN, RAF

### RAF CAREER : AN IN-DEPTH LOOK

**10 February 1920** - Enlisted Boys service at RAF Cranwell as an Aircraft Apprentice.

**11 August 1922** - Man service commenced with rank of Aircraftman Second Class, ACH Rigger.



*Vickers Vinny used in Riggers' Flight, Cranwell*

It has not been confirmed where Herbert was posted to on leaving RAF Cranwell. It is thought that it may have been to Grange Field, Gosport, his home town.

**6 December 1922** - Herbert was promoted to Aircraftman First Class.

**1924 and 1925** - Served on board Aircraft Carrier HMS Eagle with No. 422 Fleet Spotter Flight. During this period, HMS Eagle was based in Malta but tasked with cruising the Mediterranean to "show the flag". It should be remembered that the RAF provided the aircraft and flight crews for the carriers, although the pilots could however have been Royal Navy.

The main carrier based aircraft at the time, seemed to be a Blackburn TSR Blackburn. It had a crew of three or four - a pilot, navigator/observer and wireless operator, of which Herbert was one.

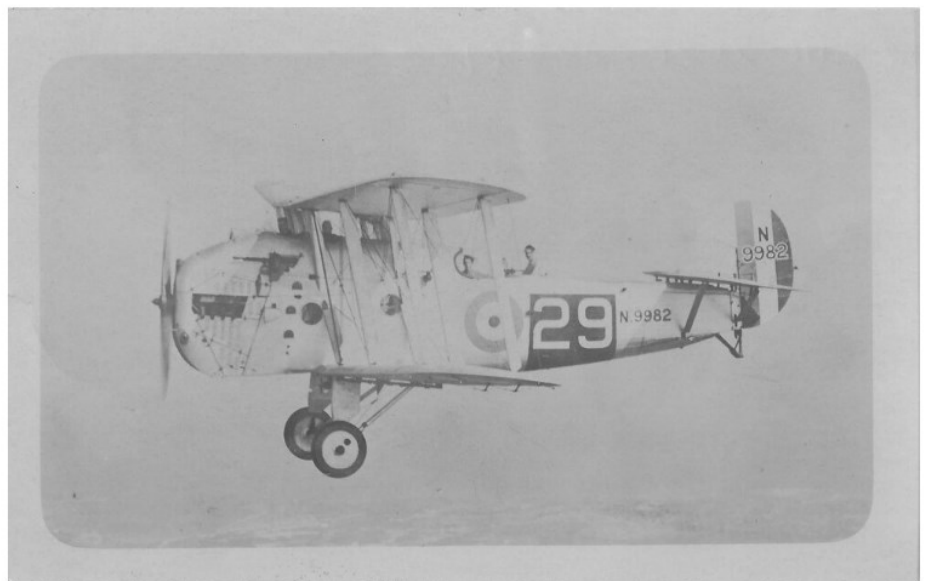
On a notable occasion their 'plane crashed into the sea and they were rescued by SS Odin, see photo of three bedraggled airmen, and taken to Malta. Their aircraft N 9681, or what was left of it, was recovered by destroyer HMS Walrus.



*Herbert Tomlin, left*

After the crash they had a new 'plane.

HMS Eagle, and therefore Herbert, visited many towns and cities along the Spanish, Italian, Greek and Adriatic coastlines during these two cruises and he collected post cards from most.



*Blackburn TSR Blackburn II*

**1 January 1925** - Herbert was promoted to the rank of Leading Aircraftman (LAC).

**1926** - HMS Eagle returns to UK and No. 422 Flight (including LAC Tomlin) was based at Grange Field, Gosport.



No. 422 Flight

**1927 to 1931** - Herbert served with No. 7 Bombing Squadron at RAF Worthy Down.

There seem to have been a large number of crashes at Worthy Down! The photos below are from Herbert's collection complete with his handwritten comments relating to each crash.

*"My first machine at No. 7 Bombing Squadron Worthydown.*

*Crashed on Oct 20th 1927 Pilot. Sgt Hanson was uninjured and flying solo.*

*Made bad approach and wing tip touched ground when he opened up and banked."*



*"Vickers Virginia belonging to No. 58 (B) Squadron. Crashed at Worthy Down on the night of March 24th 1930. Two officers killed, one officer and two airmen injured."*





"V. Virginia of No. 7 Sqd. Crashed into Headquarter's Offices on landing in Jan. 1931 2 officers & wireless operator killed."



**29 August 1927** - Promoted to the rank of Corporal (Cpl).

**Early 1930s** - It is not known where Cpl Tomlin served during this period, but it is believed that he was based in the UK.

**1 June 1933** - Herbert was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

**29 August 1927** - Promoted to the rank of Corporal (Cpl).

**Early 1930s** - It is not known where Cpl Tomlin served during this period, but it is believed that he was based in the UK.

**1 June 1933** - Herbert was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

**5 October 1936 to 6 August 1939** - Overseas service including Iraq (pronounced eyrack! in those days).

**1 June 1938** - Promoted to the rank of Flight Sergeant (FS).

**6 August 1939 to 1 December 1940** - Overseas service in Far East – Singapore and Malaya. Luckily for FS Tomlin that he had left the Far East long before the Japanese invaded the region in 1941/2.

It is thought that the photo below is one of FS Tomlin with his Squadron in front of a Bristol Blenheim, possibly in Singapore.



**1 December 1940 to 20 October 1941** - Overseas (war time) service in Middle East/North Africa.

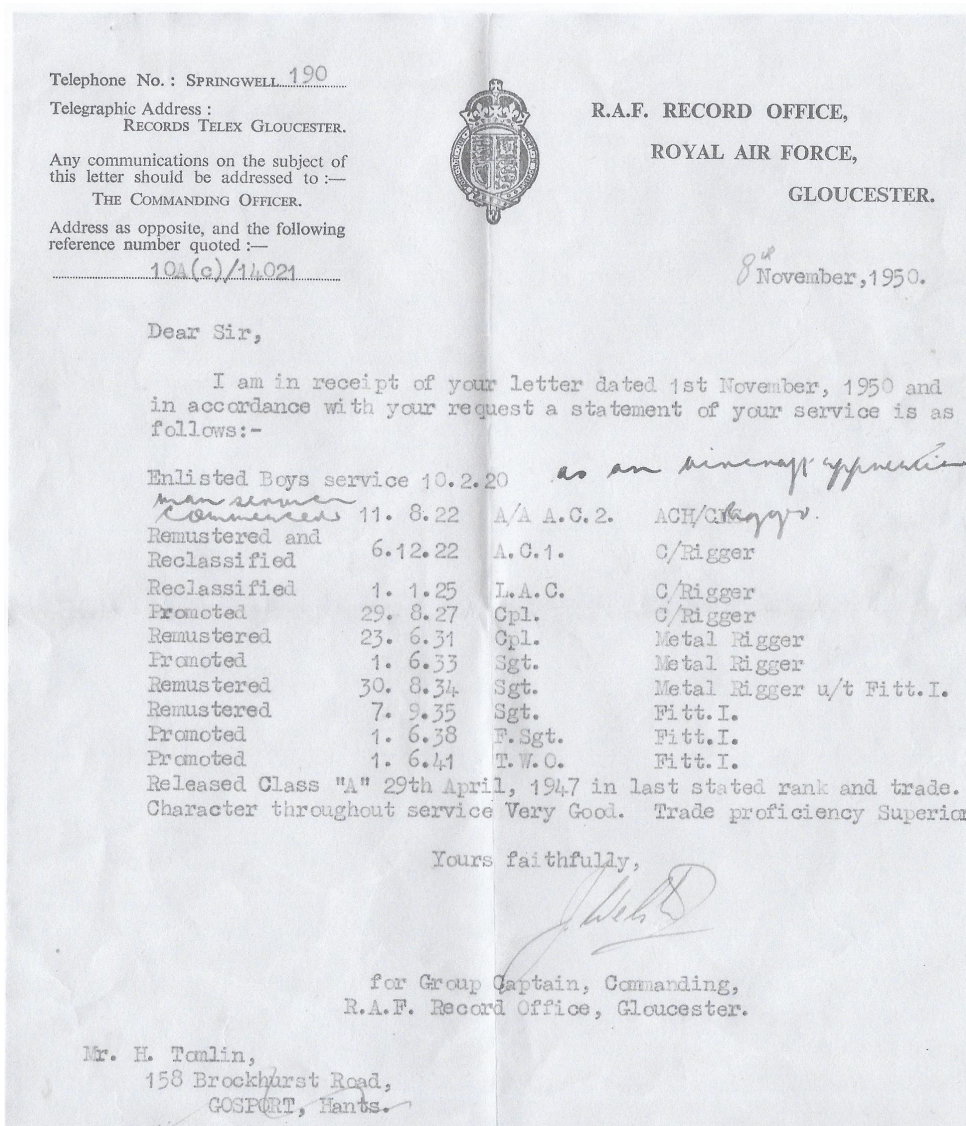
It seems that Herbert must have been abroad for 5 years without any home leave – 1936 to 1941 – but that’s how things were then. Mentioned in Dispatches in N Africa, for reasons he did not discuss.

**1 June 1941** - Promoted to the rank of Temporary Warrant Officer.

It is thought that he spent the remainder of the war in the UK. Tony has a large photo of a factory in Cardiff in 1945 with a hundred or more staff and employees with Warrant Officer Tomlin in the front rank. It is assumed that the factory was producing war materials for the RAF and needed one senior RAF personnel to supervise/check on production. It is interesting that all the employees seem either middle aged or elderly – and most wearing “flat hats” - or girls. All young men would have been serving in the forces.

**1947** - Released Class “A” in last stated rank and trade, ie Warrant Officer.

**1950** - Three years after Leaving the RAF, Herbert requested a ‘statement of service’ from the RAF Record Office. The image below shows full detail of Herbert’s progression through the ranks and the trade groups he was employed in.



**We sincerely hope you enjoyed reading about Herbert’s life in and after the RAF - we’d love to share the response with Herbert’s family, so please email any questions or feedback to [cranwellaviation@n-kesteven.gov.uk](mailto:cranwellaviation@n-kesteven.gov.uk)**

