

PRESENTATION OF THE SQUADRON COLOUR



*Colonel David A H Sime OBE MC TD, Master of the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers
Presenting a new Colour to the Squadron*

*Receiving the new Squadron Colour is Cadet Flight Sergeant Leonard Wilson ATC, Haberdashers' Askean.
Sunday 28 April 1991, High Wood Barracks*



HABERDASHERS' HALL

Flight Lieutenant Kevin Mehmet, Officers, NCOs and Cadets of 1475 Squadron Air Training Corps.

It has given me the greatest pleasure to present a New Colour to 1475 Squadron Air Training Corps at this Review which marks your Golden Jubilee. I am delighted that this ceremony could take place in the presence of all the parents of the cadets of the Squadron.

Last May my predecessor, Colonel D A H Sime OBE MC TD, inspected your Squadron and found it to be of a very high standard in all areas of training activity, particularly your standing in, and service to your community. He was also pleased to learn of 1475 Squadron's links with Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham School and I hope that the association continues.

Ever since the allied victories in 1941, to which the Air Training Corps made such a tremendous contribution of supplying a steady flow of manpower to the Royal Air Force, the cadet forces have had a remarkable effect on helping shape our military to a very professional volunteer force. Although no longer a pre-service organisation, the armed services still look to the cadet forces for most of their manpower. Those of your cadets who do not go into the services, also put to good use the training they receive in areas such as discipline, leadership and service, in civilian occupations where such qualities are equally as important. Know that the Haberdashers' Company, commend the part played by 1475 Squadron in its contribution to helping today's young men. I know that 1475 Squadron will maintain the same high standards of operational efficiency as reported to me last May. This Colour is symbolic of the service you have given to your community and the confidence they have in you. It is also a tribute to the cadets whose devotion and loyalty have given the Squadron such a splendid reputation.

Sir John Welch Bt

MASTER 28th April 1991



1475 (DULWICH) SQUADRON AIR TRAINING CORPS

presentation of the
Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund Poignard
and the
Air Training Corps Certificate of Merit

**DULWICH COLLEGE
LONDON**

**Wednesday 30th May 2007
7.30 pm**

**1475 (Dulwich) Squadron
Air Training Corps**

Squadron Parade

*Presentation of the
Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund Poignard
and the
Air Training Corps Certificate of Merit*

REVIEWING OFFICER
Air Chief Marshal Sir Glenn Torpy
KCB CBE DSO ADC BSc (Eng) FRAeS FCGI RAF
Chief of the Air Staff

PRINCIPAL GUEST
Air Marshal Sir Robert Wright
KBE AFC FRAeS FCMI
Controller, Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund

Dulwich College
London SE21

Wednesday 30th May 2007
7.30 pm



With kind permission of the Master, Dulwich College

The ATC falcon hovering over the three trees represents the Squadron's commemoration of the Battle of High Wood and honours the 1100 dead of Dulwich's own regiment.

The Squadron adopted its badge in the present form in 1969 some years after moving from Forest Hill to High Wood Barracks in Dulwich. The Squadron motto is Latin for "Strive to Win" which reflects the Squadron's spirit and character.

BLUE, BLUE & GOLD

The Dark Blue, Light Blue and Yellow, or Blue, Blue & Gold make up the colours of 1475 (Dulwich) Squadron Air Training Corps. They represent the spirit and character of the Squadron. The Dark Blue is the traditional heraldic representation of "service" (from the service dress uniform colour of the British Army). The Yellow is for "loyalty" (in ancient times, a yellow sash or scarf was awarded to a trustworthy officer as recognition of his loyalty, to his King or Emperor, and eventually became a badge of rank). The Light or Sky Blue represents "day" (as in day by day). In short, Blue, Blue & Gold stands for "Loyalty and Service Always." This is not to be confused with the Squadron motto: **Certamus Vincere** (Strive to Win).



*Squadron Colour Bearer 28 April 1996
Cadet Flight Sergeant, now Captain Robert J Bassett Cross MC, Scots Guards*



*1475 Squadron on duty as Heraldic Banner Bearers to the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs and Aldermen
of the City of London, Lord Mayor's Show 2002 Royal Courts of Justice*

when the two London wings, the City of London and County of London, were amalgamated to form the London Wing, the Squadron dropped 3rd from its title becoming simply 1475 (Lewisham) Squadron.

The Squadron was now in Dulwich and yet a Lewisham Squadron. This led to a degree of confusion and did not truly reflect the unit's home or location, and so to remedy this, on the 1 April 1997, the Officer Commanding, Flt Lt Kevin Mehmet dropped Lewisham from the title and replaced it with Dulwich. The Squadron's full title is now 1475 (Dulwich) Squadron ATC at High Wood Barracks.

In 1988, the Squadron was appointed by the Lord Mayor of the City of London as Heraldic Banner Bearers to the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs and Aldermen of the City of London. This privilege is indeed unique as in its 470 odd year history, it is the first time that the Pike and Musketmen of the Honourable Artillery Company, the Lord Mayor's personal bodyguard has allowed anybody to come between them and the Lord Mayor in procession. In 2003 the then Lord Mayor, Alderman Robert Finch wrote: "...1475 Squadron is the only squadron which has the right to carry the heraldic banner to the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs and senior Aldermen of the City of London at the Lord Mayor's Show..." In 1991, Commandant Air Cadets at RAF Cranwell awarded the Squadron the ATC Certificate of Merit for services to the Lord Mayor and the City of London.

1991 saw a landmark achievement when the Squadron was invited to be associated and later affiliated, to the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers on the grounds of its service to the local community and to the Lord Mayor of London. To mark the occasion, the Haberdashers' Company presented a new Colour to the Squadron. The then Master of the Company, Colonel David Sime OBE MC TD presented the new Colour on 28 April 1991; in its Golden Jubilee year at High Wood Barracks.

In 2001 the Squadron embarked on a project which has led to the award of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund Poignard and the Air Training Corps Certificate of Merit in 2007. To Mark its Diamond Jubilee the Squadron produced a Christmas charity concert, featuring the full chorus of The London Welsh Male Voice Choir dedicated to its patron, the late Jack D Lane DFC in aid of the RAF Benevolent Fund. That concert raised in excess of £5000 and was so popular that the Squadron was encouraged to produce another in 2003 and 2005. To date, the Squadron has raised just under £18000 for the RAFBF. In recognition of that effort, the RAF Benevolent Fund announced in October 2006 that it was going to present a Poignard (the Fund's highest meritorious award) to 1475 Squadron. To put it in to context, since being founded in 1919, the RAF Benevolent Fund has only awarded eight such awards; we are the ninth recipient! In turn, the Air Training Corps to acknowledge our achievement has awarded us its own highest award, the ATC Certificate of Merit. There are 33 squadrons in London but only two holders of the Certificates of Merit, and we are already one of those units (presented in 1991 for services to the City of London). This will be the Squadron's second!

2004 saw another mile stone in 1475 Squadron's fortunes. The HQ the Squadron occupied at High Wood Barracks since 1956 was destined for development. Due to the reduction of Territorial Army (TA) Centres, High Wood Barracks, which was also once home to B Squadron 21 Regiment Special Air Service, B Troop 562 Squadron Royal Logistics Corps, and 78 Cadet Company Grenadier Guards Army Cadet Force, were to close and sold for redevelopment. Having relocated the SAS and RLC units, High Wood Barracks as a TA Centre was closed. A small plot of land to the south of the Barracks complex was retained for a purpose built cadet centre. The air and army cadets, being the two remaining units, were relocated to the cadet centre on 28 February 2004. The name "High Wood" was retained for the new cadet centre because of its historical significance to Dulwich. Both units, 78 Cadet Company Grenadier Guards ACF and 1475 (Dulwich) Squadron ATC, now share the cadet centre. Following a period of settling in, Major General The Duke of Westminster KG OBE TD DL, in his capacity as Assistant Chief of Staff Reserves and Cadets graciously accepted an invitation to officially open the cadet centre on Wednesday evening 15th September 2004. The 15th is poignant as it is the anniversary of the day the Battle of High Wood was fought by the men of Dulwich.

SQUADRON BADGE

The three oak trees on the Squadron's Badge depict its location at High Wood Barracks, Dulwich. The Barracks were named to commemorate the Battle of High Wood fought on the Somme, Northern France by the men from the villages of Dulwich, Camberwell and Peckham who made up the two battalions of Dulwich's own regiment, the 21st County of London Regiment (The First Surreys).

The 2nd Battalion fought in Egypt while the 1st Battalion on the Somme. The Battle of High Wood began in the afternoon of 15 September 1916 when 550 men led by 19 officers of "The First Surreys" were ordered to make a direct attack on a line of German fortifications which was separating two wings of a British force. When the battalion reached the ridge of High Wood, they came into full view of the enemy guns. The leading platoons were wiped out by heavy German fire, but the survivors kept steadily on until they were able to make a final assault on the German trenches. The engagement had lasted for one hour, during which time "The First Surreys" were virtually annihilated, and when they were ordered to withdraw the following morning, 60 men and two officers returned.

COMMANDING OFFICER Flight Lieutenant Kevin Mehmet RAFVR(T)



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this very special event to witness the presentation to the Squadron of two very prestigious awards, the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund Poignard and for the second time the Air Training Corps Commandant's Certificate of Merit, in recognition of our charity work.

In 2001 we produced a concert to mark our Diamond Jubilee in aid of the RAF Benevolent Fund. The concert was so successful that we were encouraged to produce further concerts in 2003 and 2005. The sums raised by the Squadron through those concerts for the RAF Benevolent Fund were just below £18,000. For a unit of our size and limited resources, that really is a most impressive sum!

The RAF Benevolent Fund which was set up in 1919 and exists to maintain the RAF War Memorial situated on the Victoria Embankment, London, and offer relief and assistance to past and present members of the RAF and their dependents by all available means. Those principles were deeply ingrained in the heart of our patron, the late Jack D Lane DFC, who generously supported the Fund and this Squadron. The Squadron benefited immensely through Jack Lane and now that he is no longer with us, it is pay back time and so the Fund's motto "*the debt we owe*"

also rings true here. I have therefore, made a commitment to continue where Jack Lane left off and do all that we can, here at 1475 Squadron, to support the work of the RAF Benevolent Fund. We have, judging from these accolades, been successful in our endeavour thus far.

In recognising that endeavour, the then Controller of the RAF Benevolent Fund, Air Chief Marshal Sir David Cousins announced last October that the Fund was going to present its Poignard (the Fund's highest meritorious award) to 1475 Squadron. It is a tremendous achievement and today is history in the making for the Squadron. Of course, the cadets, and my dedicated staff for their excellent leadership, deserve all the credit for this achievement as it is they who make a Squadron what it is. So I congratulate and thank them and their predecessors who have set the standards that we now follow.

I am delighted to welcome representatives of The Worshipful Company of Haberdashers and the Companies of the Dyers, Wheelwrights, Glovers, the Royal Society of St George (City of London Branch), the Dulwich Society, the Chairman and representatives of The London Welsh Male Voice Choir and the civic representative of the London Boroughs of Southwark and Lewisham. I am grateful to Mr Graham Able, Master of Dulwich College for allowing us (needing a larger venue) to mount the parade in such a magnificent setting. This is an important day for 1475 Squadron. The cadets on parade will not only be representing their unit, but also the 6,000 or so former cadets that have passed through this remarkable Squadron since our founding on 12 June 1941. It will be a special and memorable day. I am also delighted to welcome our reviewing officer, Air Chief Marshal Sir Glenn Torpy, Chief of the Air Staff and Haberdasher and Air Marshal Sir Rob Wright, Controller of the RAF Benevolent Fund. I am most grateful to both of them for finding the time to be with us this evening. I thank all of you, especially the parents of the cadets, for your continued support. I know I speak for all members of the Squadron past and present when I say that we are deeply touched and at the same time honoured to be recognized in this way. On their behalf I thank the Controller of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, his Trustees and Directors and the Commandant Air Cadets for their faith in 1475 (Dulwich) Squadron Air Training Corps.

High Wood Barracks
30 May 2007

1475 (DULWICH) SQUADRON AIR TRAINING CORPS

High Wood Barracks
Lordship Lane
London SE22 8LE

Affiliated to the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers

PATRON

J D Lane Esq DFC MA

PRESIDENT

Air Vice-Marshal Christopher N Harper CBE MA FCMI RAF

Chief of Staff (Operations)

CHAIRMAN

Jonathan M Nicholson Esq

SECRETARY

Dr Anthony J Smoker

TREASURER

Mrs Ruth D Mehmet MSc RGN RSCN RHV

SENIOR CHAPAIN

The Venerable (Air Vice-Marshal) Robin Turner CB AKC BA MTh FRSA

Former Chaplain in Chief RAF

CHAPLAIN

The Revd (Group Captain) Richard Lee QHC FRSA AKC df RAF

Resident Chaplain RAF St Clement Danes

SQUADRON STAFF

Flight Lieutenant Matthew J Impey BEng (Hons) RAFVR(T)

*Officer Commanding Operations
Second in Command*

Flying Officer Richard J Wash BA (Hons) RAFVR(T)

Adjutant

Warrant Officer Mark S Bird LCGI ATC

Squadron Warrant Officer

SERVICE LIAISON OFFICER

Flying Officer Paul J Taylor BEng (Hons) RAF

RAF Liaison

STAFF DESIGNATE

Flight Lieutenant Thomas A Hawkins RAF (Rtd)

Mr David White

HISTORY

The Air Training Corps is made up of Squadrons and was in existence to provide manpower for the Royal Air Force, Royal Navy Air Service (later to become the RN Fleet Air Arm) and the Army Glider Pilot Regiment (later the Army Air Corps). The training cadets received in the ATC prior to reaching the minimum age for military service ensured that they could be effective far more quickly in the country's war effort.

1475 Squadron was founded by the London Borough of Lewisham on the 12th June 1941 at Kelvin Grove School as No 1475 (3rd Lewisham) Squadron Air Training Corps. The Commanding Officer was Flight Lieutenant Percy Rees. Flt Lt Rees was in the Royal Navy during the First World War (1918 to 1914) and was too old to serve in the forces during the Second World War and so he remained in his pre-war job as school master at Colfe's School teaching Mathematics. He was also a keen rigger player and coached his school's teams. 1475 Squadron was part of the London Area ATC and shortly after it was formed it moved to headquarters situated on the Phoenix Insurance (the Phoenix Club) sports ground in Catford at the bottom of Rutland Walk SE6.

Every borough considered it their duty to raise as many ATC squadrons as possible and Lewisham managed nine units. They were six squadrons, plus three school flights (which were actually raised by the schools but were sponsored by Lewisham). The flights became school squadrons after the war. The Lewisham units were:

21F (1st Lewisham) formerly an Air Defence Cadet Corps Squadron.

619 (St Dunstons College) Flight

665 (Colfe's Grammar School) Flight

768 (Brockley County School) Flight

1229 (2nd Lewisham) Squadron

1475 (3rd Lewisham) Squadron

1887 (4th Lewisham) Squadron

1921 (5th Lewisham) Squadron

2035 (6th Lewisham) Squadron

These units were commanded and staffed by ex-regular officers and SNCOs who for one reason or another, e.g. age, were not serving in the navy, army or air force at the time. During the war years 1475 Squadron's strength was around 150 to 200 cadets. As demand for squadrons increased, new ones were formed. At the end of 1941, the 4th Lewisham Squadron grew out directly from 1475 Squadron and was given the number 1887. The new 1887 Squadron was commanded by Flt Lt G C Duncan-Wiggins and was given headquarters in an adjacent sports ground, the Commercial Union's, in Elm Lane, SE6.

The need for airman was reduced considerably after D-Day (June 1944) and by November of that year, recruiting into the RAF ceased. ATC cadets now found themselves being drafted into the army and also for service down the coal mines (the "Bevin Boys"); the latter by a lottery system. Numbers joining the ATC therefore declined. Some squadrons as a result had to close and No 1887 was one of those. In 1945 number 1887 Squadron was amalgamated with 1475 and because the latter was the senior as 3rd Lewisham the former lost its number and became part of 1475 Squadron. When the war ended, the need for manpower was not so great and thus the strength of the ATC began to decline and squadrons started to close. Of the six Lewisham squadrons only two remain; numbers 1475 and 1921. 665 Squadron became a unit of the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) at Colfe's School, on 1st January 1996.

After the war, in 1946, the insurance company reclaimed its land from military requisition. Therefore, 1475 Squadron was moved from the Phoenix Insurance sports ground to Standstead Lodge on the junction of Standstead Road and Blythe Vale SE6. A year later in 1947 the Squadron moved again to West Depot, the site of an old brewery (later to become a United Dairies milk depot), situated in Perry Vale, Forest Hill SE23 and was then known as 1475 (Lewisham West Depot) Squadron.

The Squadron remained at West Depot until 1955. After a short six months spell, at sharing a HQ with 1921 Squadron in Bromley Road, Catford, the Squadron moved once more in 1956 to High Wood Barracks (a Territorial Army Centre), Lordship Lane SE22. "West Depot" was dropped from its title and the Squadron reverted to being known as 1475 (3rd Lewisham). Having completed 25 years of distinguished service to the Corps and community the Squadron adopted its badge in 1969. With the badge, the Squadron adopted Certamus Vincere (pronounced: Kert-a-mus Win-ker-e), Latin for "Strive to Win" as its motto which reflects the unit's spirit and character. In 1973

1475 SQUADRON



*Flight Lieutenant
Matthew J Impey BEng (Hons)
RAFVR(T)*

Officer Commanding Operations

"The Squadron's aim is clearly set out in its mission statement (our Aim). As OC Ops, I make sure that the cadets are trained to achieve the objectives in that statement. In effect, the CO directs the Squadron's strategy and what we have to do in line with our Aim, and my job is to make it happen and carry out the will of the Commanding Officer."



*Flying Officer
Richard J Wash BA (Hons)
RAFVR(T)*

Adjutant

"There is a considerable amount of administration involved in running the Squadron. My job is to lift that burden off the boss (the CO). I am responsible for the implementation of orders and to support operations in getting things done."



*Warrant Officer
Mark S Bird LCGI ATC*

Squadron Warrant Officer

"An effective unit needs disciplined cadets. My job is to instil and maintain discipline and encourage our cadets to recognise the need for it and develop it within themselves. I am the eyes and ears of the CO making sure that he is aware of the state of morale within the unit."



Joint Parade Commemorating High Wood Day, 15 September 2006

1475 SQUADRON ATC

AIM

To develop in cadets, through the concept of formal military discipline, a sense of responsibility, self-discipline, effective intelligence, initiative, pride, confidence, loyalty, determination and motivation, by teaching and providing them with skills in areas of communication, awareness, leadership, planning, organising and team working through a host of practical initiatives centred on competition in as many areas of Squadron Training activity as possible; mainly sport and adventure training.

The Squadron's commitment to competition is in keeping with its spirit and character justly summed up in its motto. Competition provides the medium for developing and learning all the above qualities and skills in the cadet.

CERTAMUS VINCERE

SQUADRON NCO CADRE



Cadet Sergeant Jake Hay ATC
*SNCO Commanding Squadron NCO Cadre
Parade Commander*



Cadet Corporal Stephen Coulstock ATC
*NCO Commanding A Flight
No 1 Guard Commander*



Cadet Sergeant Alexander Ramrattan ATC
Squadron Colour Bearer



Cadet Corporal Jonathan Glenny ATC
*NCO Commanding B Flight
No 2 Guard Commander*



Cadet Corporal Daniel Davila ATC
*Squadron Drill Instructor
Parade NCO*



Squadron NCO Cadre

*Back Row: Cdt Cpl S Coulstock, Cdt Cpl J Stapleton,
Cdt Cpl R Lim, Cdt Cpl D Davila, Cdt Sgt J Hay*

*Front Row: Cdt Sgt B Wiles, WO M Bird,
Cdt Sgt A Ramrattan, Cdt Cpl J Glenny*

PROGRAMME

- 1900 Parents and Guests arrive at Dulwich College
- Reviewing Officer arrives at High Wood Barracks for tour and inspection of Squadron Headquarters

- 1925 Reviewing Officer leaves SHQ for Dulwich College

- 1930 Squadron March on Parade

- 1940 The arrival of the Reviewing Officer
(Guests are required to stand)

- 1945 Reviewing Officer on Parade, General Salute
(Gentlemen wearing hats are to remove them for the General Salute)

- 1950 The Reviewing Officer inspects Cadets
(Guests may be seated)
- Presentation of Awards
- March Pass
(Guest are required to stand)

- 2020 Reception
(Guests are to make their way to the reception)

- 2055 Speeches

- 2115 Finish

Music

Crystal Palace Silver Band
Musical Director
Mr Malcolm Gray

